



Migration from Venezuela and the dynamics of integration

Summary

- > The Venezuelan-born population is the eighth largest migrant group from Latin America resident in Australia. Over the last 20 years, Venezuelans have moved from the tenth largest migrant group from Latin America to the eighth largest.
- > In 2018 there were an estimated 7,060 Venezuelan-born residents of Australia, representing an increase of 460.3% since 2001.
- > In 2019 there are 1,838 Venezuelan migrants on temporary visas in Australia.
- > 33.2% of Australia's Venezuelan-born population resides in New South Wales, followed by 23.3% in Victoria.

Dynamics of migration

History of migration to Australia

The 1911 Census recorded two Venezuelan-born residents in Australia. During the 1960s, small numbers of Venezuelan migrants arrived in Australia. The 1971 Census recorded 261 Venezuelan-born residents in Australia. The largest period of Venezuelan migration occurred from 2010 to 2016, with the largest growth occurring during 2013.

The 2016 Census asked people who were born overseas what year they first arrived in Australia. It did not measure all migrant arrivals, as the overseas-born population recorded in the Census excluded migrants who resided in Australia for less than a year, re-migrated or those who died. In 2016, the majority of Venezuelans resident in Australia arrived after 2010 onwards (54%).

Figure 1. Venezuelan-born population of Australia by year of arrival, 2016

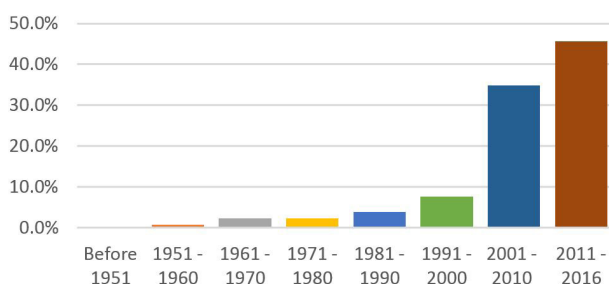
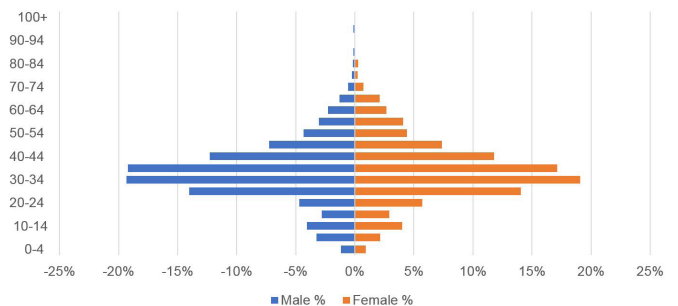


Figure 2. Venezuelan-born population of Australia by age and sex, 2016



Demographic composition

The median age of the Venezuelan-born population of Australia was 25, whereas the median age of the Australian population was 38 in 2016. A third (33.3%) of the Venezuelan-born population was between the ages of 25 to 34 years. Close to two-thirds (63.6%) of Venezuelan migrants were between the ages of 25 and 44 years. Among the Venezuelan-born population, 2.9% were over 65 years old and 7.7% were under 15 years old.

Of the total Venezuelan-born population of Australia, 49.2% were men and 50.8% were women. The sex ratio was 96.9 males per 100 females which compared to a sex ratio of 97.2 for the total Australian population.

Geography of settlement

In 2016, 33.9% of Venezuelan migrants resided in New South Wales (NSW). Of these, 92.9% lived in greater Sydney. The second leading state of residence was Victoria, where 23.3% of Venezuelan migrants lived. Of these, 95.1% lived in greater Melbourne.

Australia-wide, the most popular areas for residence were Perth City in Western Australia, North Lakes and Mango Hill in Queensland and Waitara and Wahroonga West in NSW.

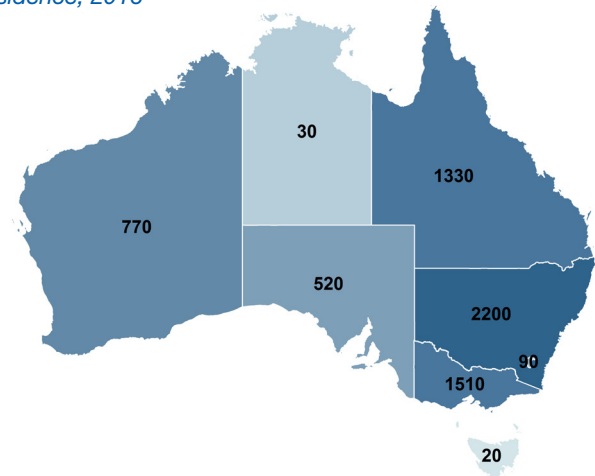
The distribution of Venezuelan migrants across Australia has changed over time. Whilst NSW has remained the state with the largest proportion of Venezuelan migrants, this declined from 49.2% to 33.9% between 2001 and 2016. Queensland increased its share of Venezuelan-born residents in Australia by 8.7% during the same period and there was a 5% increase in population share in Victoria.

Pathways to integration

Economic impact

The 2016 Census recorded that the accommodation and food services industry was the largest employer of Venezuelans, comprising 13.8% of Venezuelan employment across all industries. The employment in the industry was split evenly between males and females.

Figure 3. Venezuelan-born population of Australia by state of residence, 2016



The professional, scientific and technical services industry (13.6%) and the health care and social assistance industry (8.6%) were the second and third largest employers of Venezuelans.

The accommodation and food services industry was the largest employer of females (14.8%), whereas the professional, scientific and technical services industry was the largest employer of males (15.2%).

In 2011, the three largest industries were the professional, scientific and technical services industry, followed by the accommodation and food services and manufacturing industries.

Figure 4. Venezuelan-born population of Australia by industry of employment, 2016



Education

Two-thirds (66.9%) of Australia’s Venezuelan-born population aged 15 and over had completed a university Bachelor degree level qualification or above. This compares to 20.4% for the Australian-born population. A growing share of the Venezuelan migrant population are university educated—in 2011 the Census recorded that 61% of Australia’s Venezuelan-born population had a Bachelor degree qualification or above.

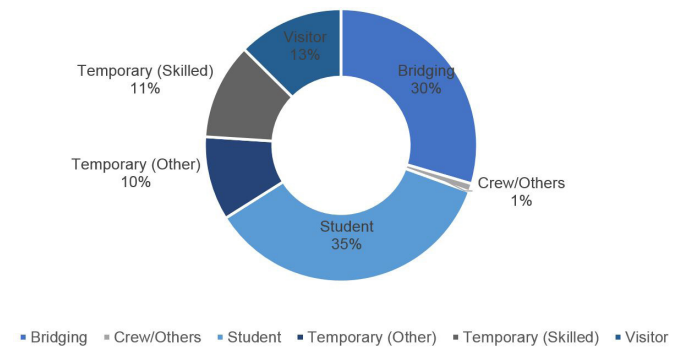
Contemporary migration

The number of Venezuelan migrants in Australia on temporary visas has seen a slight increase, from 1,234 in 2014 to 1,838 in 2019. The main types of temporary visas are bridging visas and student visas. The number of Venezuelans on student visas in Australia has decreased slightly, from 719 in 2014 to 653 in 2019. However, the number of Venezuelans on bridging visas has increased significantly, from 63 in 2014 to 543 in 2019.

Identity and community

The Australian Census captures data from both people born in Venezuela who have migrated to Australia (known as the First Generation) and those who have one or both parents born in Venezuela (Second Generation). In the 2016 Census 48.1% of Australia’s Venezuelan-born population were Australian citizens. This reflects the fact that the largest period of Venezuelan migration

Figure 5. Types of temporary visas held by Venezuelans in Australia, March 2019



to Australia occurred relatively recently. As a bilingual population 93.4% of First Generation Venezuelans speak English well or very well, while 88.0% also speak Spanish at home.

In 2016, the total size of the Second Generation Venezuelan population in Australia was 2,009 persons. The largest group was those aged zero to four years, totalling 703 persons. There were 1,469 Second Generation persons aged under 20, and 448 persons aged from 20 to 39 years.

The Australian Census asks respondents to self-identify their ancestry to provide further detail on their ethnic or cultural identity beyond their place of birth or citizenship. Latin American migrants may identify their ancestry with

Figure 6. Age profile of First and Second Generation Venezuelans in Australia, 2016

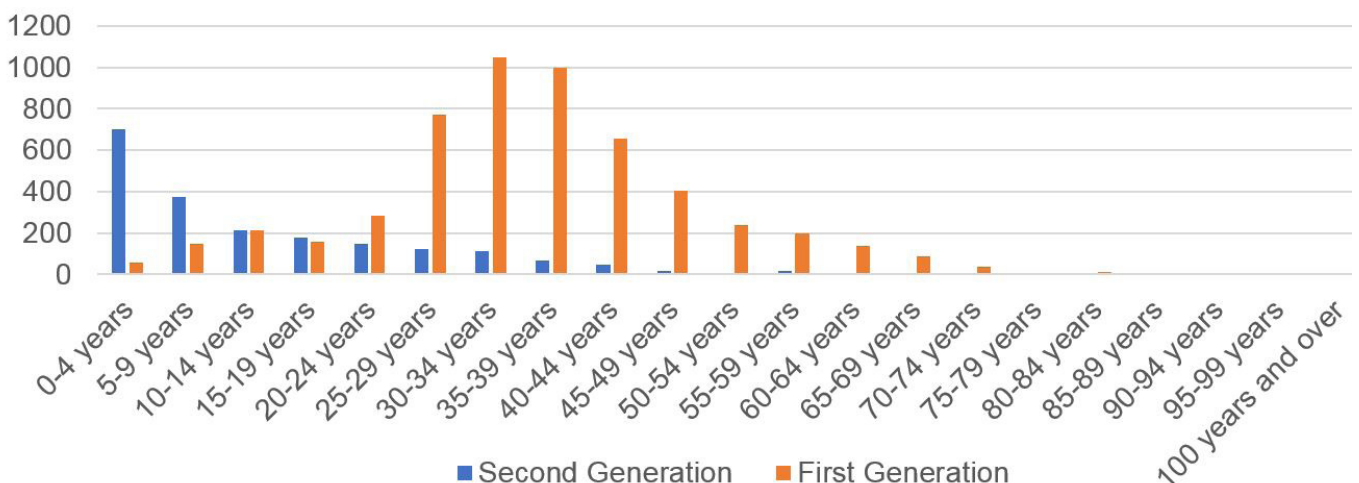
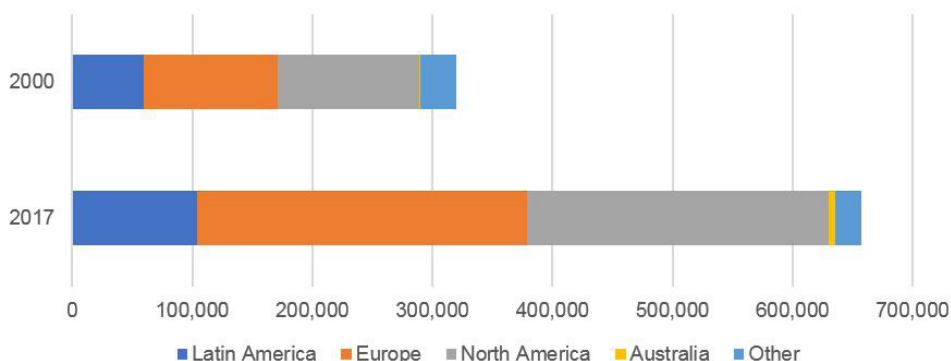


Figure 7. Global distribution of Venezuelan migrants in 2000 and 2017



one or two specific countries, an indigenous identity (such as Mayan), a regional identity (South or Central American) or other types of ancestry (for example European, Asian, African or American). There were 3,877 persons who identified in the 2016 Census as having Venezuelan ancestry, of whom 1.1% had both parents born in Australia and 7.3% had one parent born in Australia.

Global connections

Recent migration to Australia from Venezuela has been affected by broader changes to the internal economies of Latin America and to their external migration flows, caused by globalisation. The population of Venezuela in 2017 was 40 million persons. Another 657,439 Venezuelans were estimated to be living outside their country of birth in 2017. Of this diaspora

- > 103,694 Venezuelan-born migrants were resident in Latin America

- > 275,162 Venezuelan-born migrants were resident in Europe
- > 251,056 Venezuelan-born migrants were resident in North America

The number of Venezuelan migrants has increased by 111% between 2000 and 2017. From 2016, this emigration has been transformed by the economic crisis in Venezuela. In July 2019 the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration estimated that the Venezuelan diaspora had increased to 4 million, with 3.3 million Venezuelan refugees and migrants dispersed across Latin America and the Caribbean.

According to the World Bank, remittances to Venezuela totalled US\$293 million in 2017, with US\$2 million of these funds being sent from Australia.

Data sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2019) *Migration, Australia 2017–18*; Australian Bureau of Statistics (2016) *Census*; Department of Home Affairs (2019) *Temporary Visa Holders in Australia Dataset*; Department of Home Affairs (2018) *Historical Migration Statistics*; United Nations (2017) *Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2017 Revision*; World Bank (2018) *Bilateral Remittance Estimates for 2017*.

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