



# Western Australian Community Profiles 2006 Census

## Bosnia and Herzegovina-born

### Population

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**Significant migration from Bosnia-Herzegovina to Western Australia (WA) began in the 1990s as a result of conflict in the Balkans. Between 1996 and 2006 the number of Bosnia and Herzegovina-born people almost doubled to 2561. In 2006, Bosnia and Herzegovina born people represented approximately 0.1% of the total WA population.\***

The cohort of Bosnia and Herzegovina-born Western Australians aged below 15 decreased from 2001 and 2006 (14.9% to 5.3%). This was significantly less than for the total WA population (20%). The cohort aged 45–64 increased over the same period (23.5 to 31.4%). The cohort aged 65 and over also increased slightly (4% to 5.8%), but was lower than the same age cohort in the total WA population (12%).

Men outnumbered women in all age cohorts. In 2006, the sex ratio (number of males per 100 females) was estimated at 101.6. This was lower than in 2001 (117), but slightly higher compared with the total WA population (99.5).

### Family pattern

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More than half (53.4%) of Bosnia and Herzegovina-born Western Australians lived in couple families with children. This was significantly less than in 2001 (74.4%),

but higher than for the total WA population (38.5%). The proportion of Bosnia and Herzegovina-born people living in couple families without children increased between 2001 and 2006 (9.9% to 14.1%), but was lower than for the total WA population (19.4%).

### Geographical distribution

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Between 2001 and 2006, the settlement patterns for Bosnia and Herzegovina-born Western Australians remained consistent, with more than 97% living within the Perth Statistical Division (SD). The Local Government Areas (LGAs) with relatively higher concentrations of Bosnia and Herzegovina-born people were Stirling (24.3%), Swan (13.1%), Cockburn (12.6%), Wanneroo (12.2%), Bayswater (8.3%) and Joondalup (5%).

### Religious affiliation

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The majority of Bosnia and Herzegovina-born Western Australians identified Christianity (45%) or Islam (30.8%) as their religion, compared with 58.7% and 1.2% for the total WA population, respectively. Between 2001 and 2006, the proportion of Bosnia and Herzegovina-born people identifying Islam as their religion decreased (by 13.1%) while the proportion identifying no religious affiliation increased (to 17.1%).



## Languages

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In 2006, 95% of Bosnia and Herzegovina-born Western Australians spoke a language other than English—mainly Bosnian and Croatian—at home. The proportion of people who reported speaking English very well or well increased from 32.5% to 73.9% between 2001 and 2006. The proportion of Bosnia and Herzegovina-born people who reported speaking English not at all or not well, decreased during the same period (25.4% to 20.2%).

## Education

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Almost one-third (31%) of Bosnia and Herzegovina-born adults were qualified at advanced diploma, diploma or certificate level compared with one-quarter (25%) of the total adult WA population. The majority (66%) had completed Year 12 or equivalent, significantly higher than the total WA adult population (41.8%). The proportion of adults who did not go to school fell slightly between 2001 (3.1%) and 2006 (2.1%), but remained high compared with the total WA adult population (0.6%).

## Employment

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The proportion of Bosnia and Herzegovina-born Western Australians in employment increased between 2001 and 2006 (46.6% to 56.8%), reaching a level comparable to the total WA adult population (59.1%). The proportion of Bosnia and Herzegovina-born people unemployed declined (9.2% to 3.2%) for the same period, as did the proportion of people not in the labour force (53.4% to 37.8%).

More Bosnia and Herzegovina-born men (65%) were employed than women (49%). Women were more than twice as likely to be unemployed as men (5% compared with 2%).

Bosnia and Herzegovina-born men were mainly employed as technicians and trade workers (26.5%), labourers (24%), machinery operators and drivers (19.3%) and managers and professionals (13.9%). A similar proportion of women were employed as managers and professionals (13.2%) and a larger proportion were employed as labourers (29.9%) compared with their male cohorts. Women were mainly employed as community and personal service workers (14.5%), sales workers (13.2%) and clerical and administrative workers (12.9%). Between 2001 and 2006, there was a decrease in the proportion of Bosnia and Herzegovina-born men (34.1% to 24%) and women (42.5% to 29.9%) employed as labourers.

## Income

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The proportion of Bosnia and Herzegovina-born Western Australians earning \$1000 per week or more increased (2.4% to 11.9%). The proportion earning less than \$250 per week also decreased for the same period (from 55.6% to 32.5%), and was much higher than for the total WA population (19.2%).

Between 2001 and 2006, the proportion of Bosnia and Herzegovina-born people earning between \$250 and less than \$1000 per week increased (from 32.5% to 43.2%). The proportion of people earning no income also increased from 5.2% to 7.8%, slightly more than for the total WA population (6.4%).

Bosnia and Herzegovina women were almost twice as likely as men to be earning no income (10.9% compared with 5.5%) and less likely to be earning \$1000 (9.4% compared with 18.9%). This pattern was comparable to the total WA population in which 8.1% of women earned no income and 10.4% earned over \$1000.

## Summary table

Variables	Bosnia and Herzegovina-born 2006			Bosnia and Herzegovina-born 2001	Total Western Australian population 2006		
	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
<b>AGE GROUP /GENDER</b>							
0–14	6.3	6.3	6.3	14.9	20.6	19.5	20.0
15–24	22.5	19.8	21.2	17.2	14.6	13.8	14.2
25–44	32.2	38.6	35.4	40.3	28.4	28.5	28.5
45–64	32.2	30.3	31.3	23.5	25.4	25.1	25.2
65+	6.6	4.9	5.8	4.0	11.0	13.1	12.0
All (Number)	1291	1270	2561	2608	990,642	995,607	1,986,249
Sex-ratio			101.6	110			99.5
<b>FAMILY TYPE</b>							
Couple family without children	13.8	14.4	14.1	9.9	19.2	19.6	19.4
Couple family with children	53.5	53.3	53.4	74.4	38.7	38.3	38.5
One-parent family	5.9	11.4	8.6	7.9	7.9	12.1	10.0
<b>LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY</b>							
Speaks English only	5.4	4.5	5.0	3.9	80.6	81.3	80.9
Speaks other language and English; very well or well	75.7	72.0	73.9	69.1	9.6	9.9	9.8
Speaks other language and English; not well or not at all	18.0	22.4	20.2	25.4	1.5	2.0	1.7
<b>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (15 YEARS AND OVER)</b>							
Degree level	9.4	11.9	10.6	7.6	13.4	15.1	14.3
Advanced diploma/diploma/ certificate	35.4	26.5	31.0	29.8	30.3	19.2	24.7
Completed Year 12 schooling	67.4	64.5	66.0	54.4	40.8	42.9	41.8
Did not attend school	1.1	3.2	2.1	3.1	0.5	0.7	0.6
<b>LABOUR FORCE (15 YEARS AND OVER)</b>							
Employed	64.7	48.8	56.8	46.6	65.5	52.7	59.1
Unemployed	1.9	4.6	3.2	9.2	2.4	2.2	2.3
Not in LF	30.6	45.2	37.8	43.4	23.2	37.4	30.3
<b>WEEKLY INCOME (15 YEARS AND OVER)</b>							
None	5.5	10.9	7.8	5.2	4.6	8.1	6.4
<\$250	27.1	37.9	32.5	55.6	13.8	24.4	19.2
<\$1000	43.3	43.1	43.2	32.5	39.7	46.7	43.2
\$1000 and more	18.9	9.4	11.9	2.4	29.9	10.4	20.0

Note: Totals do not always add up to 100% due to the use of selected indicators.

\* The 2006 Census recorded a total WA population of 1,959,095 people.

\*\* For 2001, the cut-off point was \$299.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2001 and 2006 Census of Population and Housing.

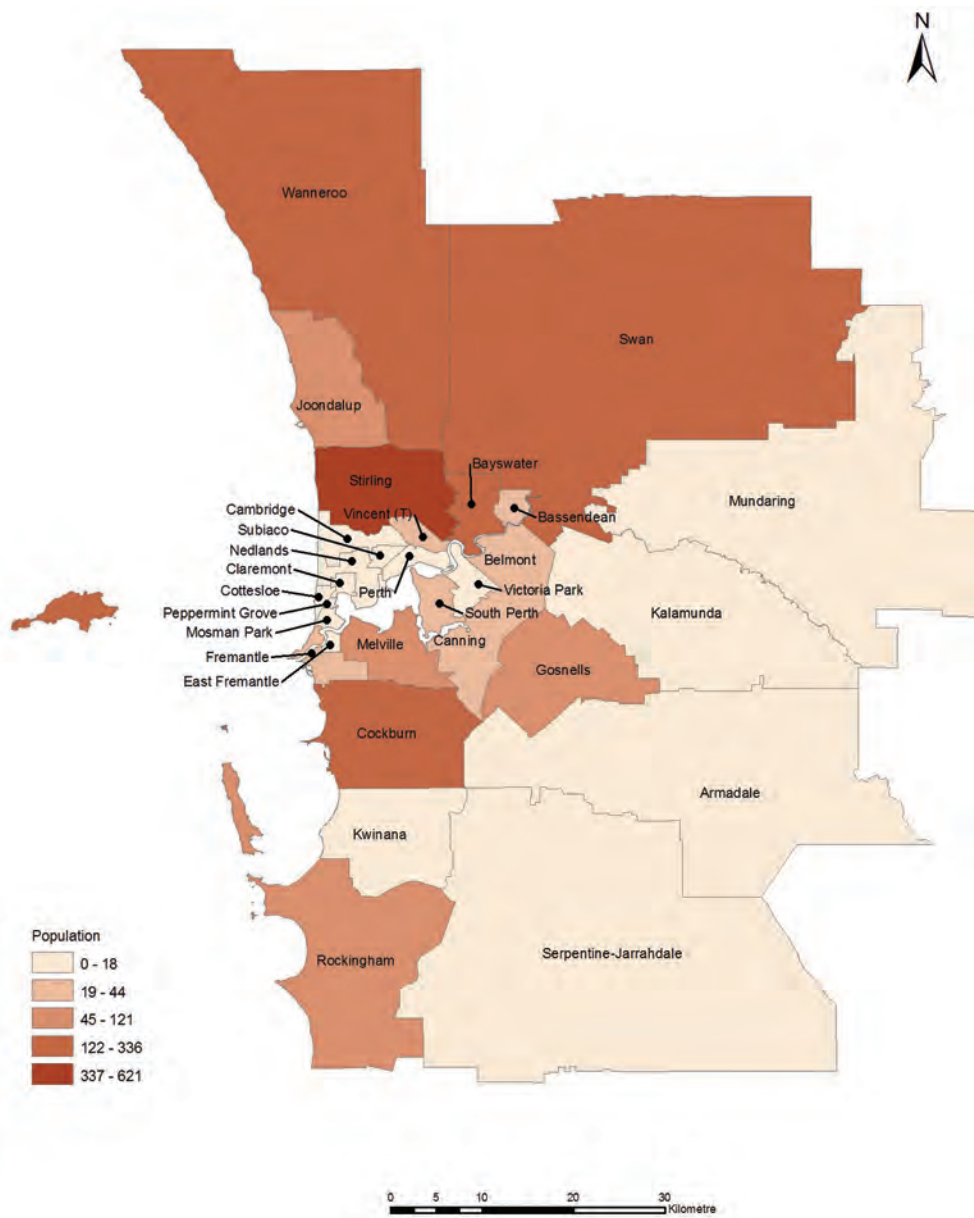


Figure 1: Distribution of Bosnia and Herzegovina-born people by settlement pattern in the LGAs of the Perth Metropolitan Area (Data source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing).