

# Welcoming Cities

Data analysis

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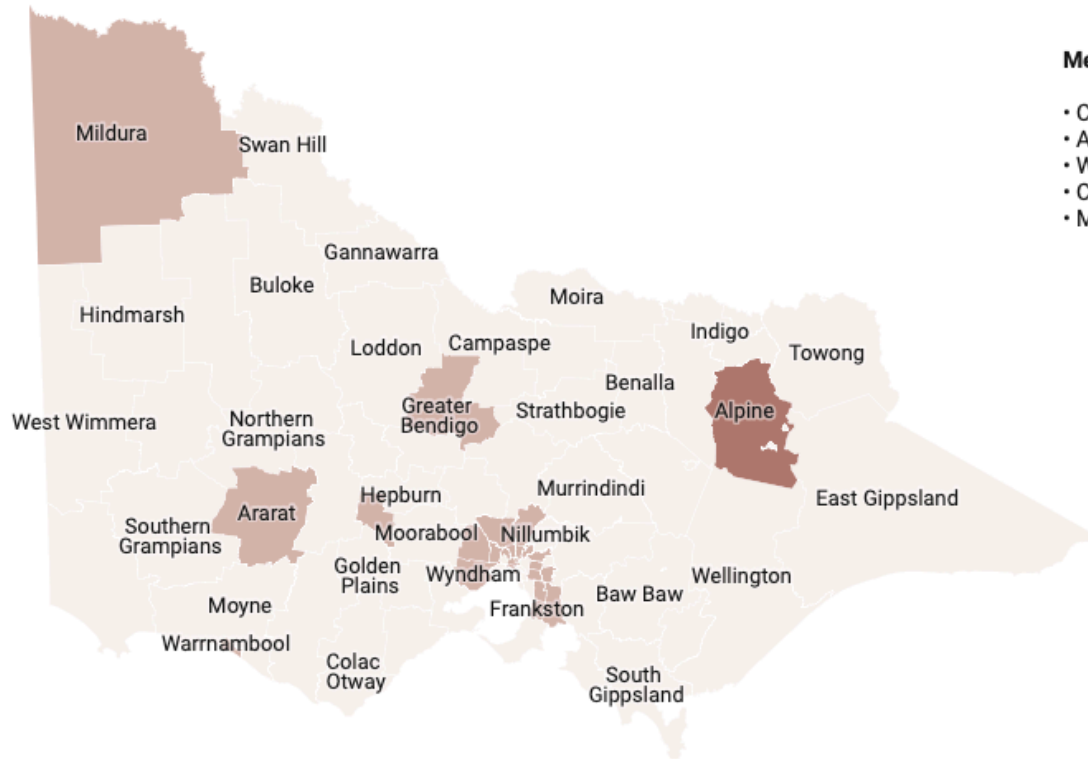
Alpine



# Welcoming Cities – Victoria

## Victoria

Regional



### Member Councils

- City of Greater Bendigo
- Ararat Rural City Council
- Warrnambool City Council
- City of Ballarat
- Mildura Rural City Council

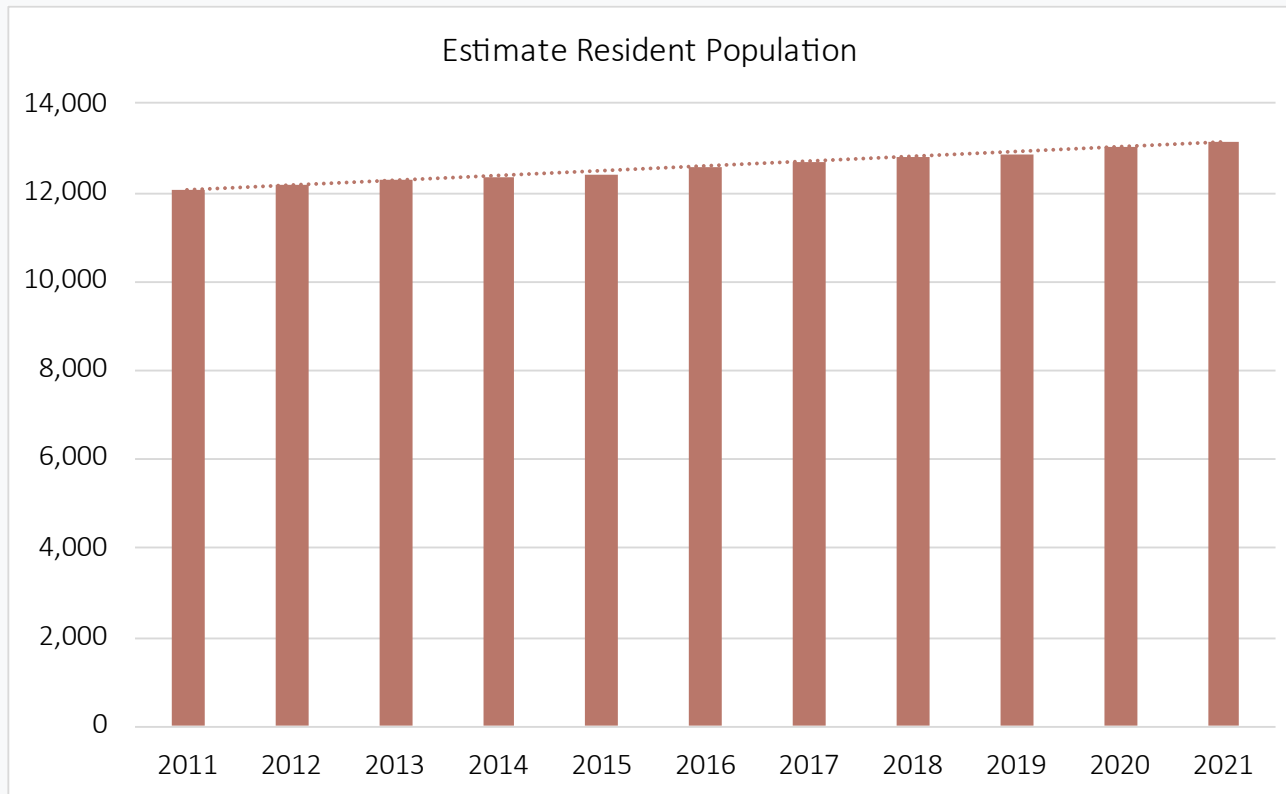
25 councils have become member councils of Welcoming Cities in Victoria, covering more than 52% of the state's population.



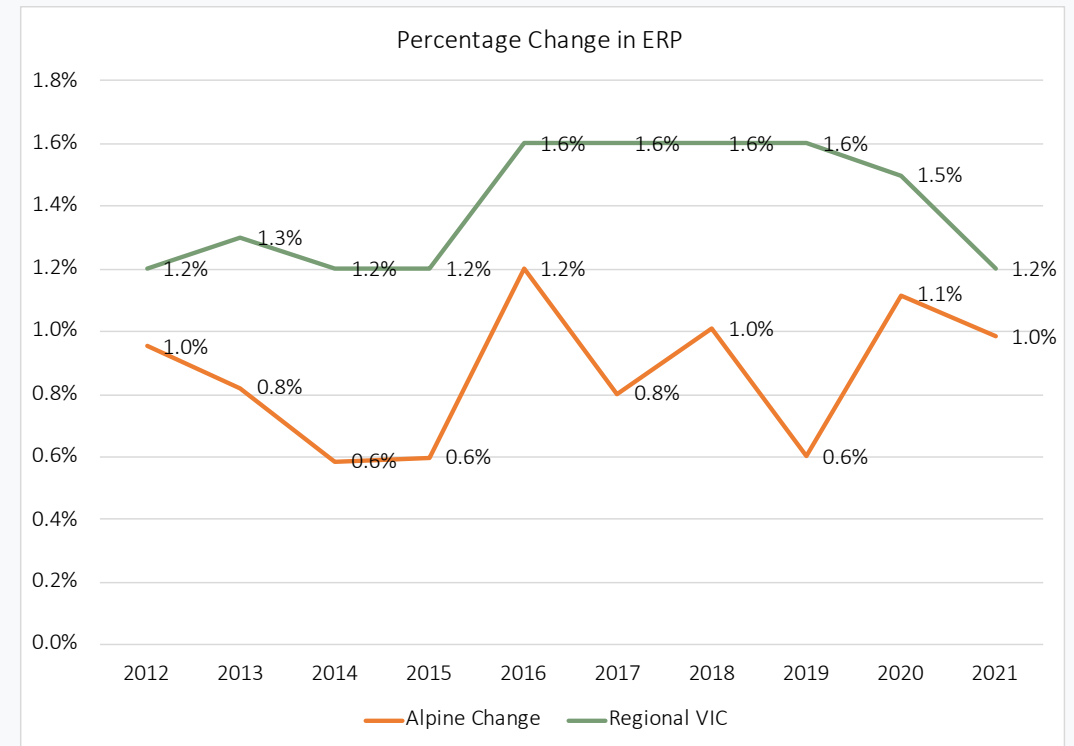
# Community

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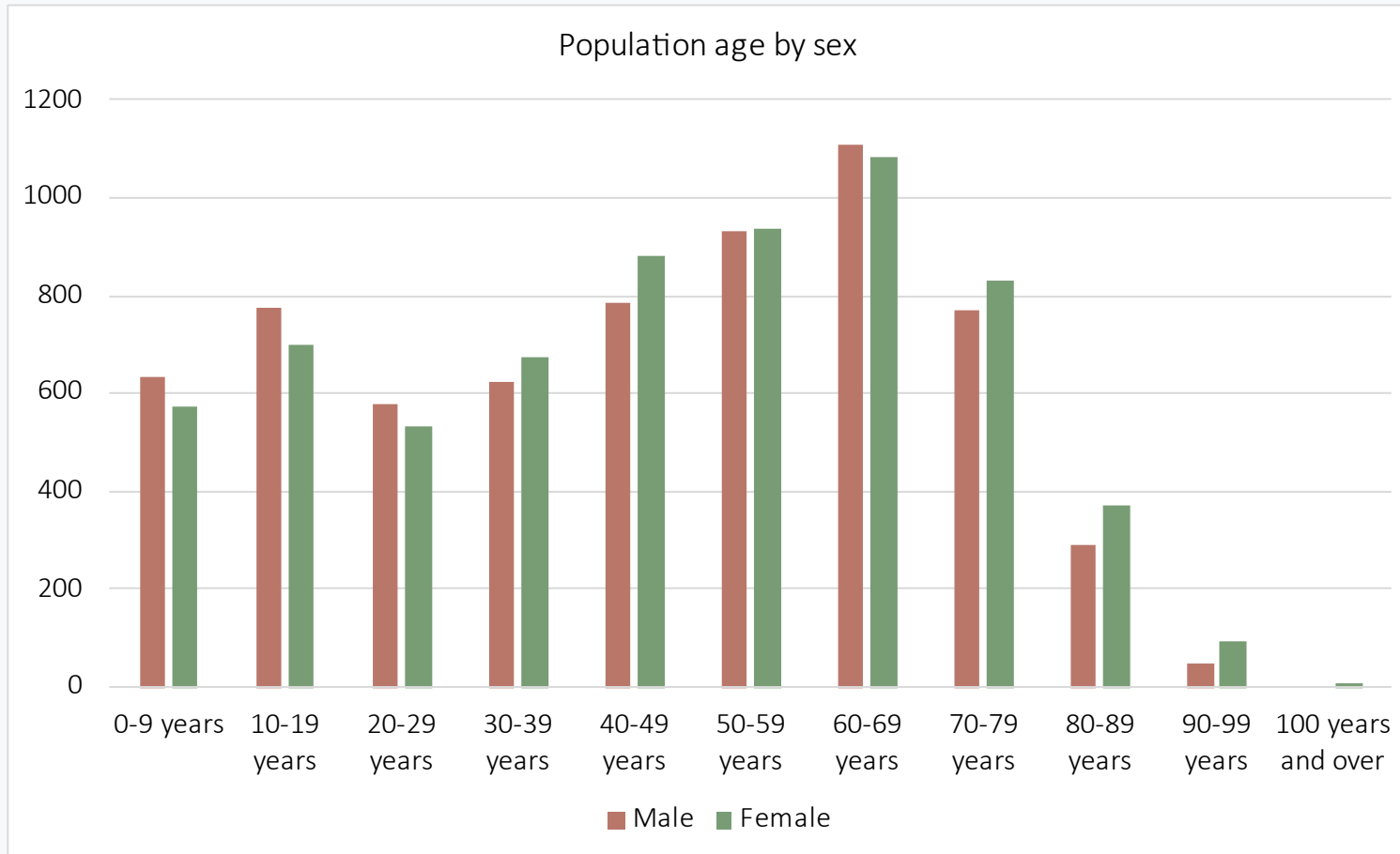
# Estimated Resident Population



- Alpine population growth rate is lower than of Regional VIC
- Average annual growth rate is approximately 0.9% (since 2007)



# Population age profile

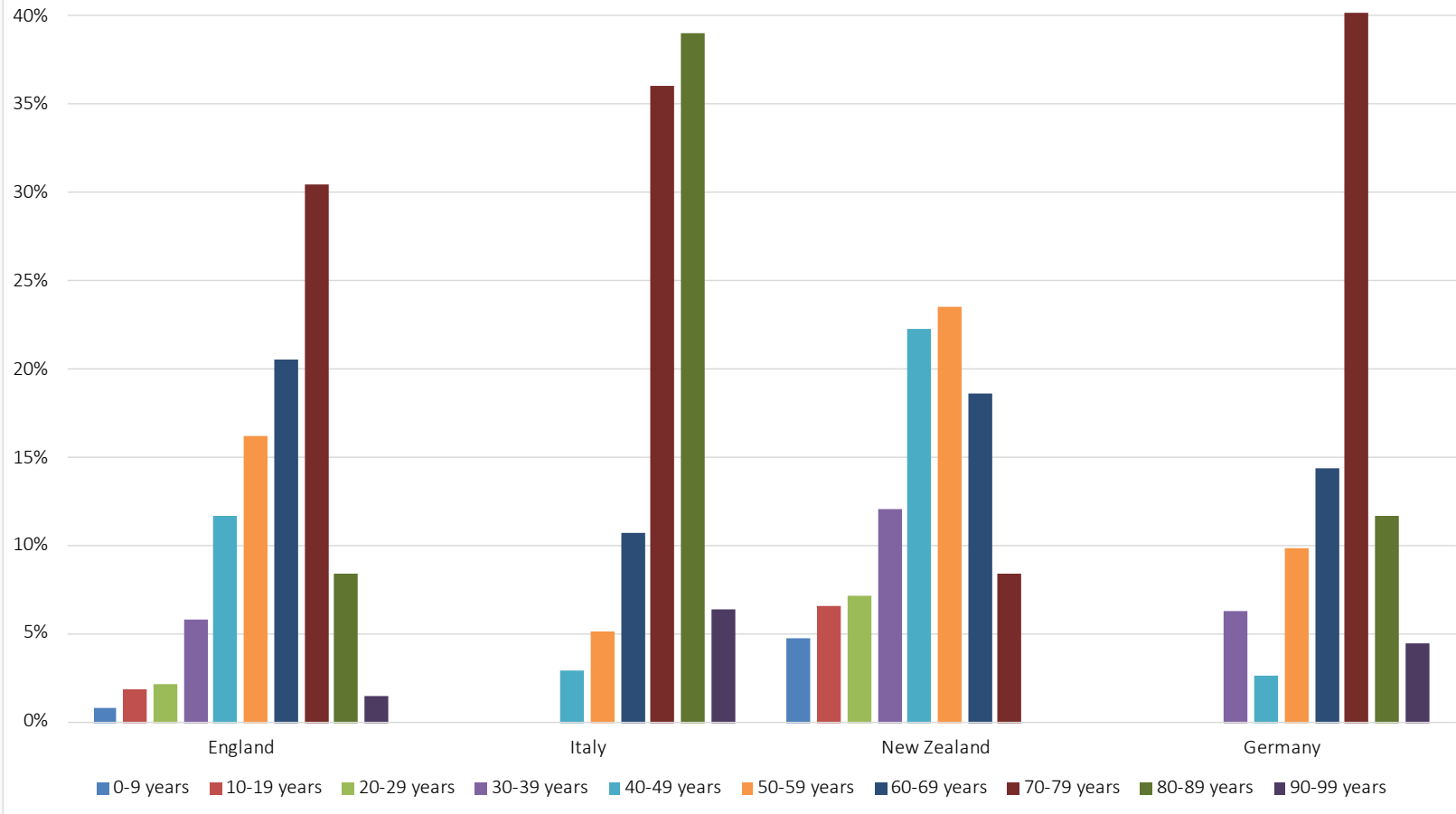


- 38.5% of population in Alpine is under 40 years old.
- Alpine median age (49) is significantly higher than that of VIC (38) and Australia (38).
- Sex ratio is 98.4 (males per 100 females)

# Cultural Diversity – Country of Birth



Age profile by country of birth (communities larger than 100 people)



- 14.2% of people residing in Alpine were born overseas
- Communities larger than 100 ppl:
  - England (463)
  - Italy (233)
  - New Zealand (166)
  - Germany (111)
- More than 60% of people born in England, Italy and Germany are over 60 years old. (92% of people born in Italy are over 60)

# Cultural Diversity - Languages spoken at home



Language	Number of speakers
Italian	333
German	60
Filipino	47

Language	Number of speakers reporting low ELP	% reporting low English proficiency in the community
Mandarin	10	31%
Italian	41	12%

- 1% of the residents in Alpine identify is either Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander or both.
- 86.3% of the population of Alpine reports speaking only English at home.
- Mandarin and Italian speaking communities report highest level of low English proficiency.

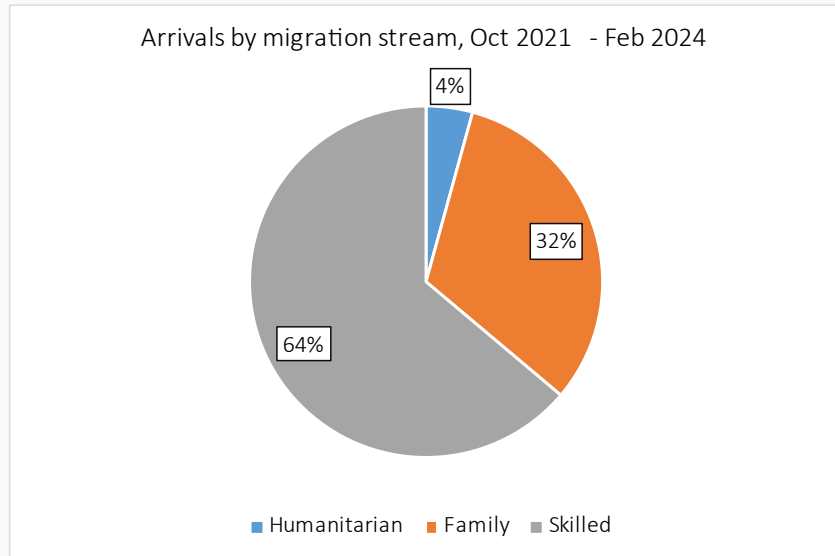
# Cultural Diversity - Citizenship

More than 80% in the community* hold Australian citizenship	Less than 40% in the community* hold Australian citizenship
Italy	Philippines

- 51.4% of people born overseas are Australian citizens
- 88.7% of people living in Alpine are Australian citizens



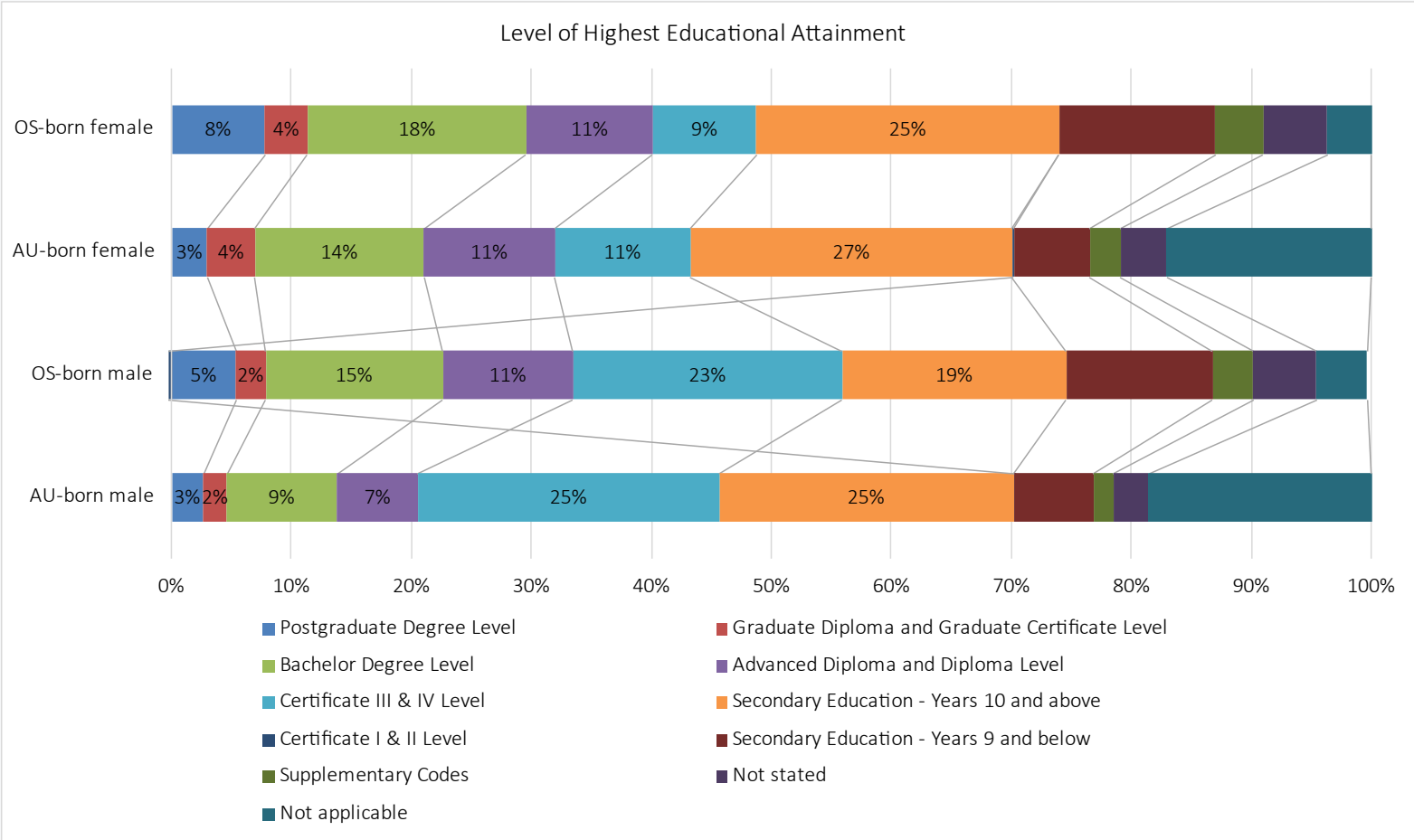
# Settlers by migration stream



- Settlers in: Skilled (64%), Family (32%), Humanitarian (%)
- There were less than 5 humanitarian settlers between September 2021 and February 2024

Gender	Migration Stream		
	Humanitarian	Family	Skilled
Female	N/A	N/A	16
Male	N/A	N/A	14
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>&lt;5</b>	<b>&lt;20</b>	<b>30</b>

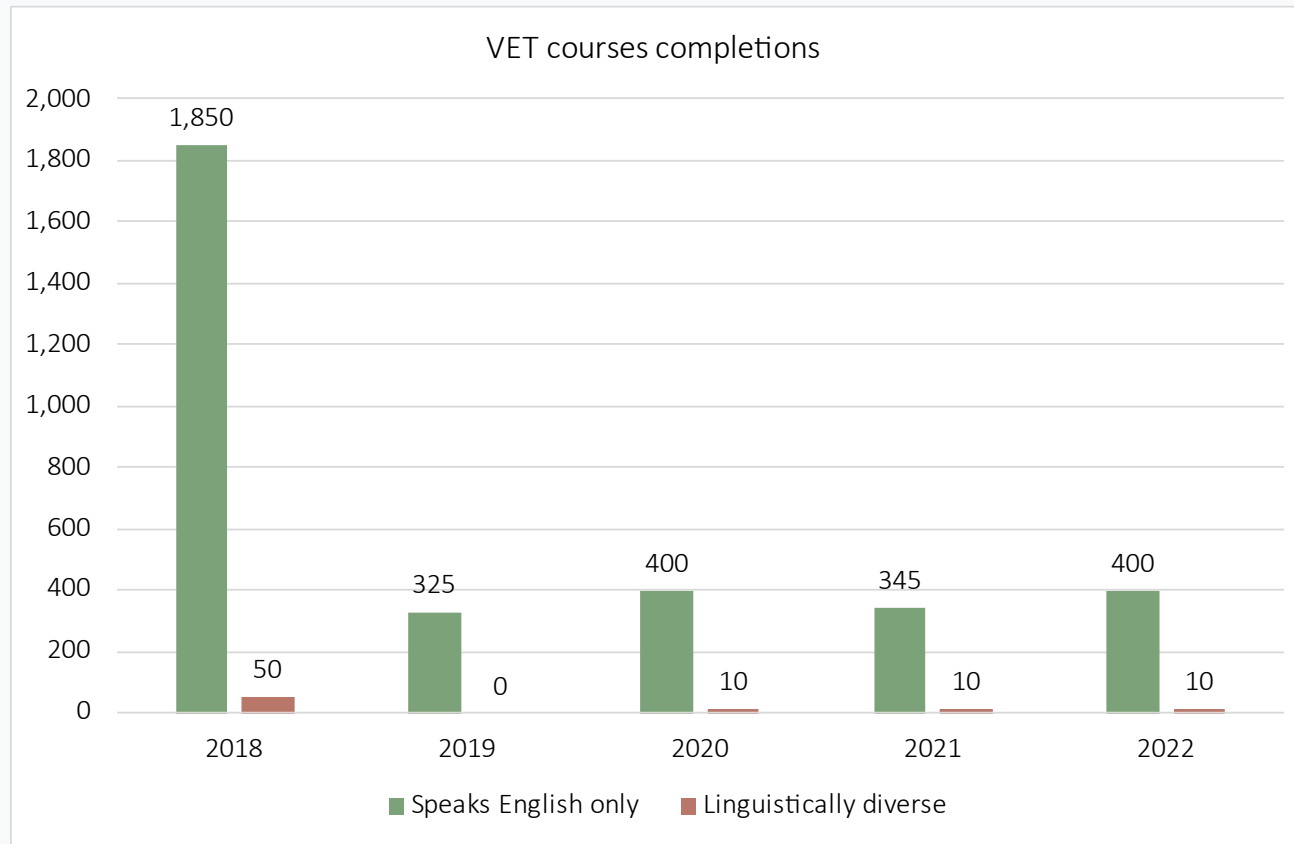
# General educational attainment by place of birth, by sex



- Overseas born individuals are more likely to hold Bachelors Degree or higher than Australia born individuals.
- Overseas born women have the highest proportion of people with Bachelor Degree or higher (30%).
- Australia born men have the lowest proportion of people with Bachelor degree or higher (14%).

Source: ABS CENSUS 2021

# VET students and courses



- Top fields of study in 2022:
  - Engineering & Related Technology
  - Health
  - Society & Culture

# Long Term Health Condition and Need for Assistance

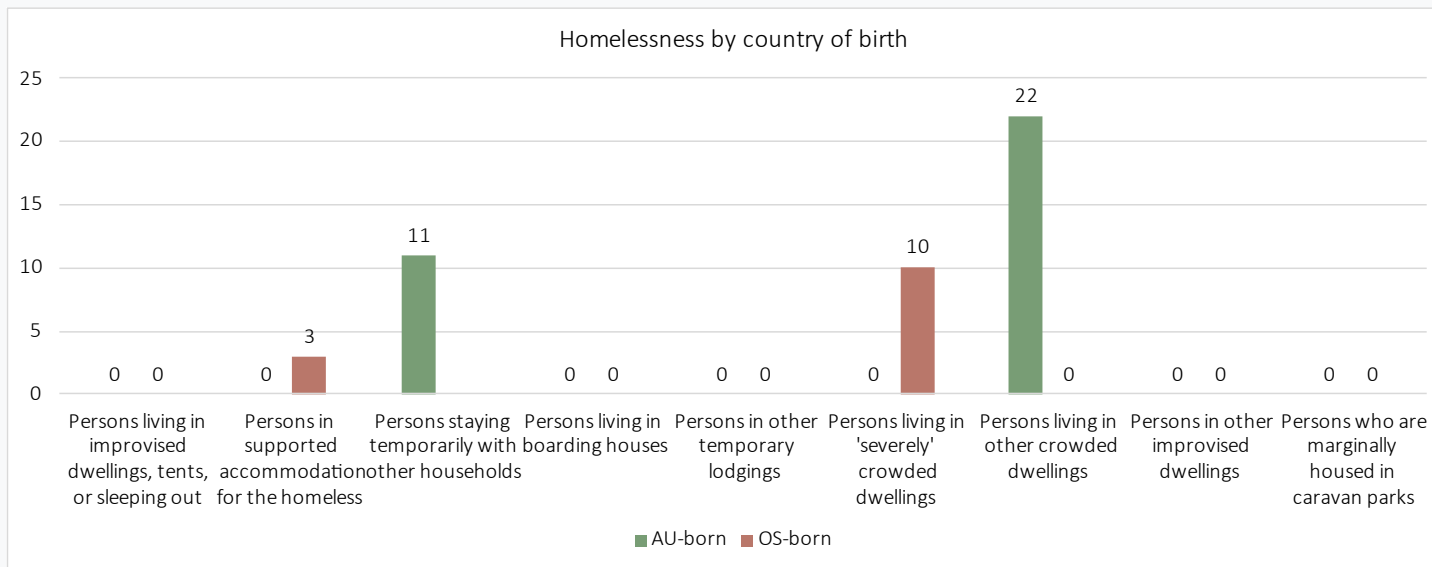
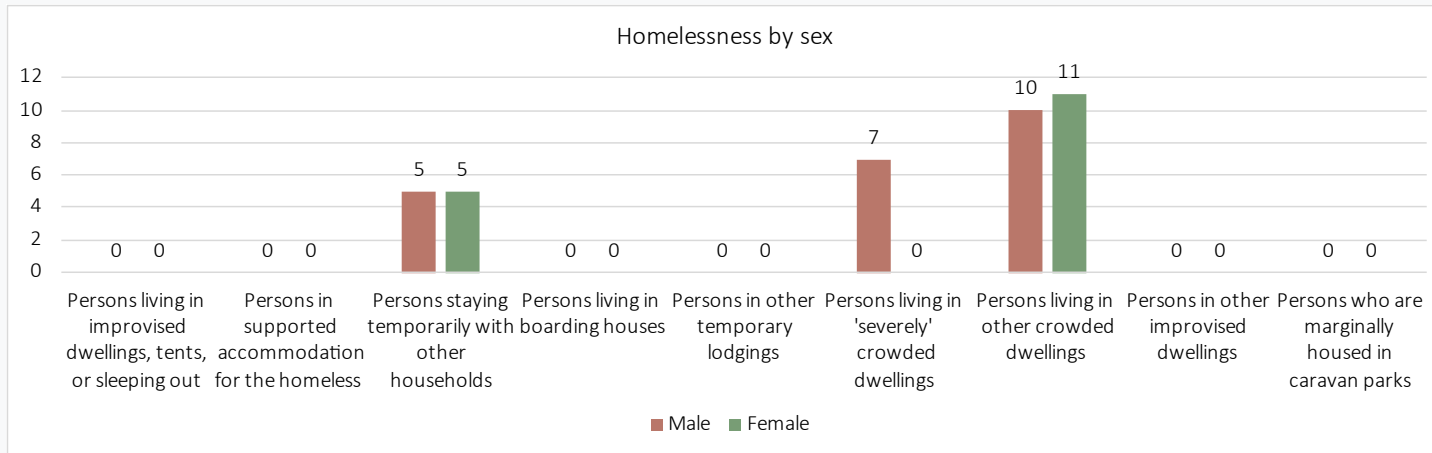
- 720 people have a need for assistance with core activities (5% have low English language proficiency).

Long-term health condition	Number of people total	Number of people with low ELP	% of total population
Arthritis	1415	25	11%
Asthma	1010	0	8%
Cancer (including remission)	495	9	4%
Dementia (including Alzheimer's)	113	3	1%
Diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes)	568	12	4%
Heart disease (including heart attack or angina)	679	14	5%
Kidney disease	159	6	1%
Lung condition (including COPD or emphysema)	269	3	2%
Mental health condition (including depression or anxiety)	1166	4	9%
Stroke	158	3	1%
Any other long-term health condition(s)	989	18	7%

# Benefit and Payment Recipients, Dec 2023

Type of support	Number of recipients
ABSTUDY (Living allowance)	5
ABSTUDY (Non-living allowance)	5
Age Pension	1,890
Austudy	5
Carer Allowance	275
Carer Allowance (Child Health Care Card only)	0
Carer Payment	110
Commonwealth Rent Assistance	480
Commonwealth Seniors Health Card	435
Disability Support Pension	340
Family Tax Benefit A	590
Family Tax Benefit B	385
Health Care Card	515
JobSeeker Payment	265
Low Income Card	135
Parenting Payment Partnered	15
Parenting Payment Single	70
Pension Concession Card	2,610
Special Benefit	0
Youth Allowance (other)	15
Youth Allowance (student and apprentice)	20

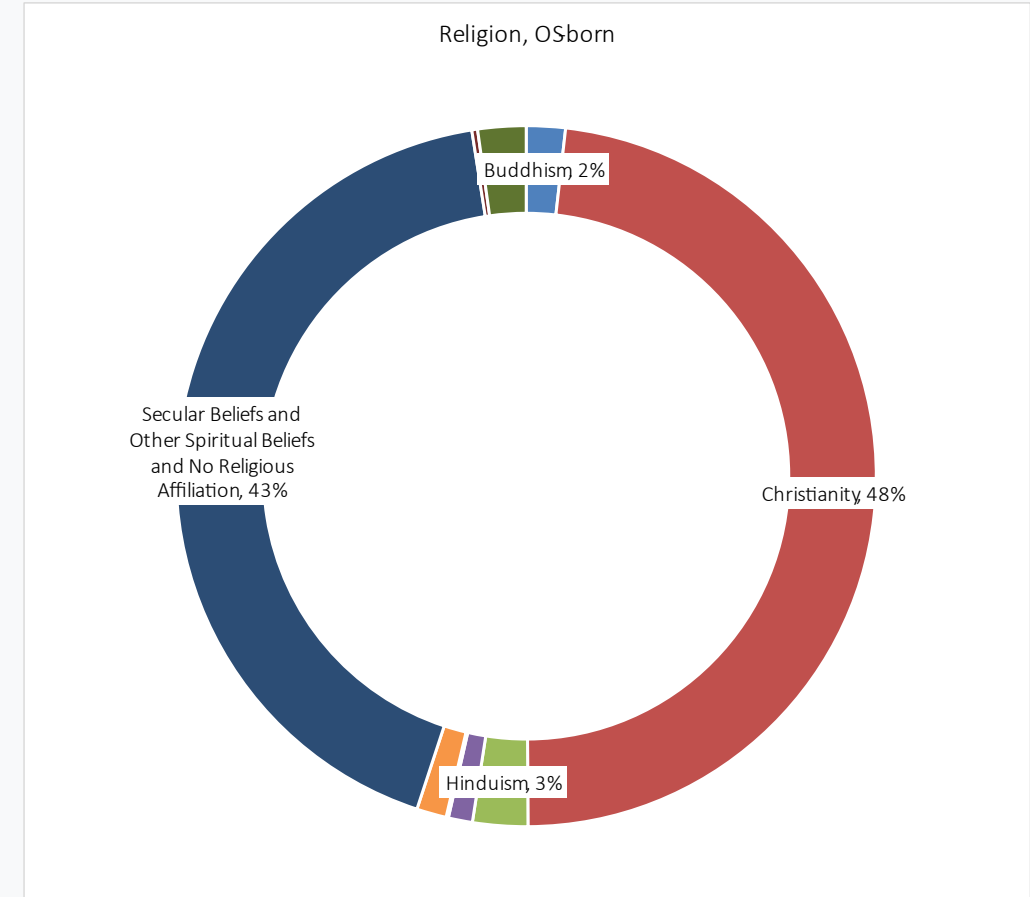
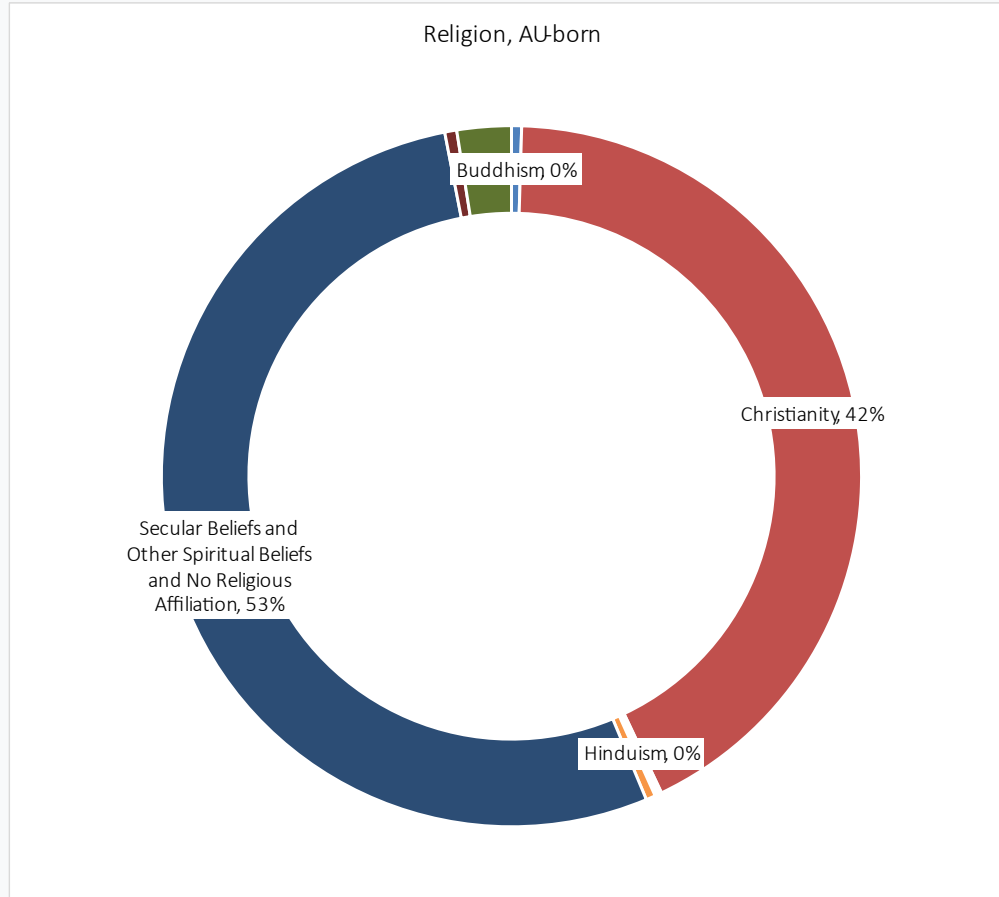
# Homelessness Estimates



- 0.3% or 45 individuals of the population report being homeless
- There is slightly more homeless men than women.
- Homelessness in the Australia born community is slightly higher than in overseas one (0.3% for AU-born, 0.1% for OS-born)

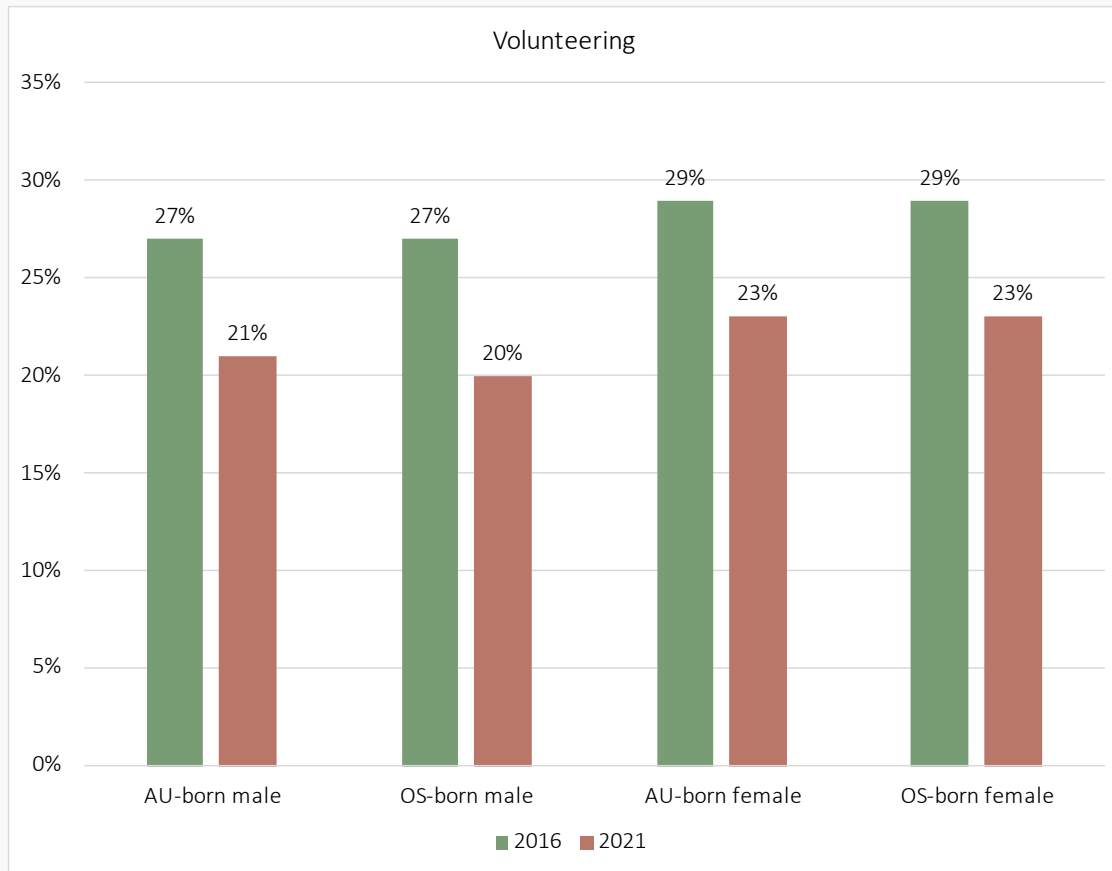
The sums of the indicators might differ in the graphs due to the CENSUS privacy protection data practices

# Religious Affiliation



- 41% of individuals residing in Alpine report their religion to be 'Christianity' and 48% report having 'Secular Beliefs and Other Spiritual Beliefs and No Religious Affiliation'.
- Individuals reporting all other religions represent over 2.4% of total population of Alpine combined.

# Volunteering



- More than 20% of residents of Alpine report being a volunteer
- Women are more likely to volunteer than men.
- There is a significant decrease in volunteering since 2016, especially amongst OS-born male population (possibly due to the pandemic and volunteering fatigue).



# Social Cohesion and Democracy



**52.1**

(+0.25% from national average 2022)  
Social Cohesion Index



**47.9**

(+1.14% from national average 2022)  
Democracy Index



Domains	2021	2022	2023	Trend	National average
Sense of belonging	64.8	62.4	61.6		59.0
Sense of worth	58.1	58.1	58.0		56.2
Social Inclusion & Justice	52.6	52.1	51.8		47.4
Political Participation	35.5	36.9	38.9		32.4
Acceptance and Rejection	53.1	50.7	50.1		55.2

The color coding in the column 2023 indicated comparison to national average, red for lower, orange for the same, green for higher.



# Economy

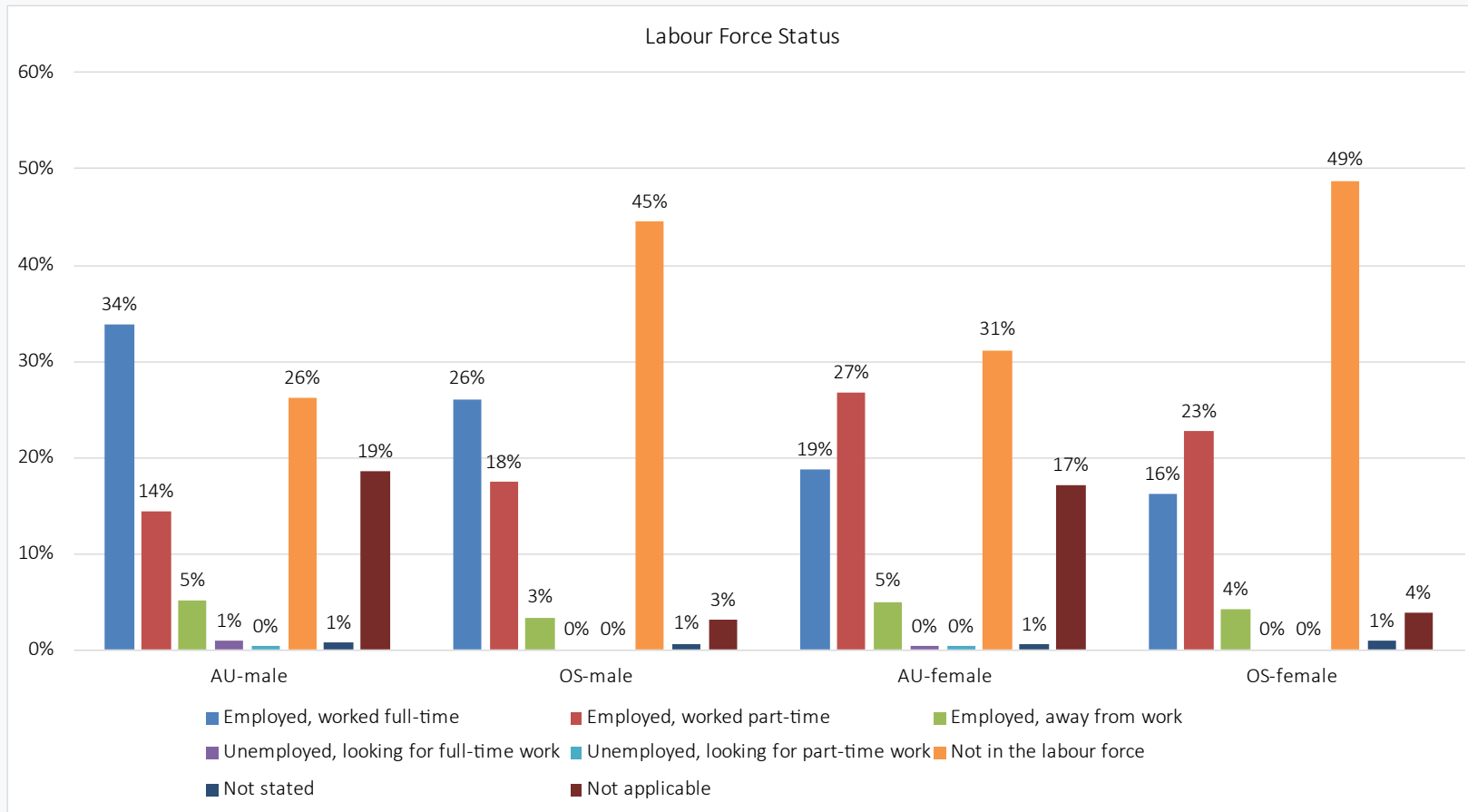
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# Unemployment rates 2011-2023



- Alpine unemployment rates generally follow those of Victoria.
- Unemployment rate had a declining trend since 2013.

# Labour force status



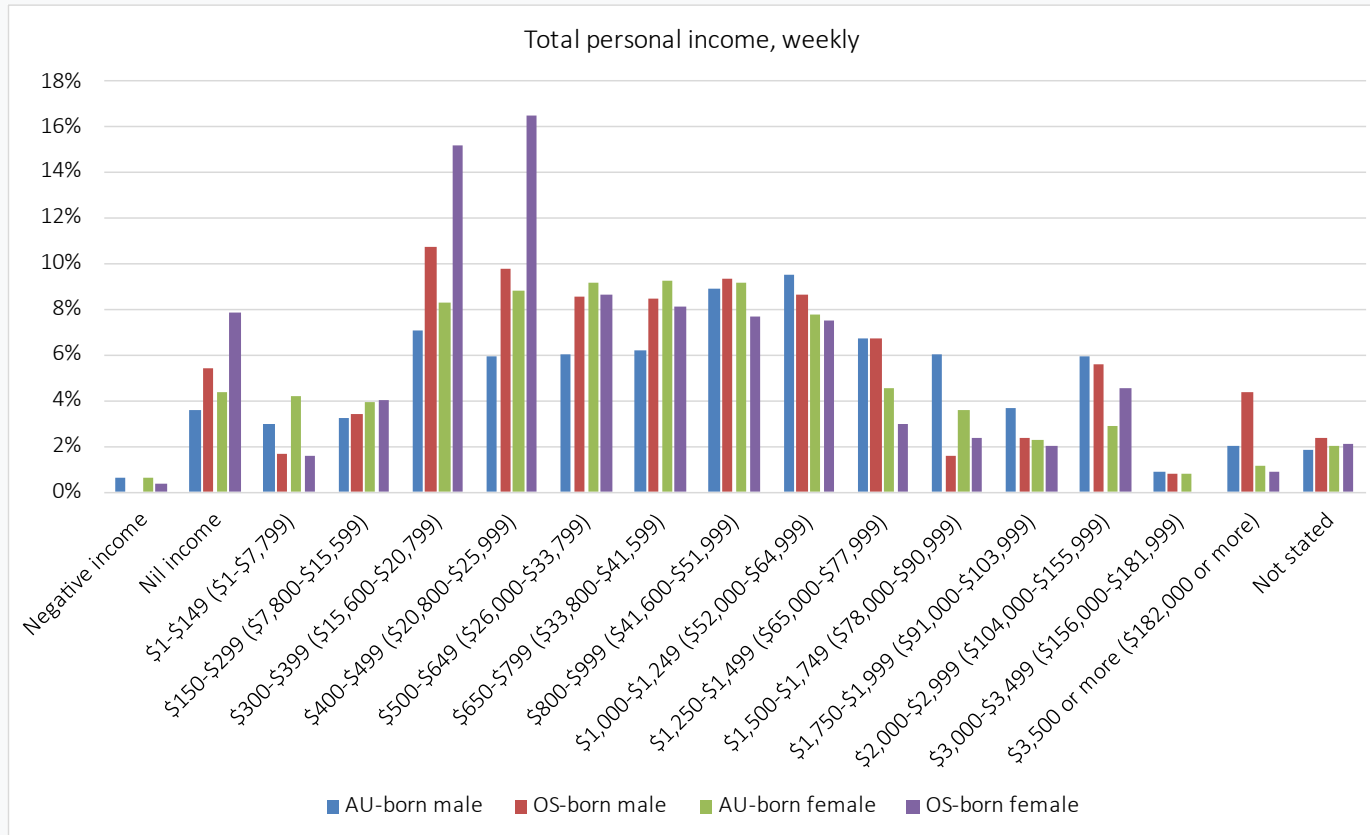
- Unemployment rate: 2.0%
- Participation rate: 57.4%

Note: The chart reflects the proportions of all residents who answered Census questions about labour force status.

- The participation rate refers only to people in the labour force: i.e. everyone who was either employed, or unemployed and looking for work.
- The unemployment rate refers only to people in the labour force who did not have work, but were looking for work.
- People not in the labour force are neither employed, nor looking for work.

For more detail on labour force definitions see [ABS \(2021\)](#).

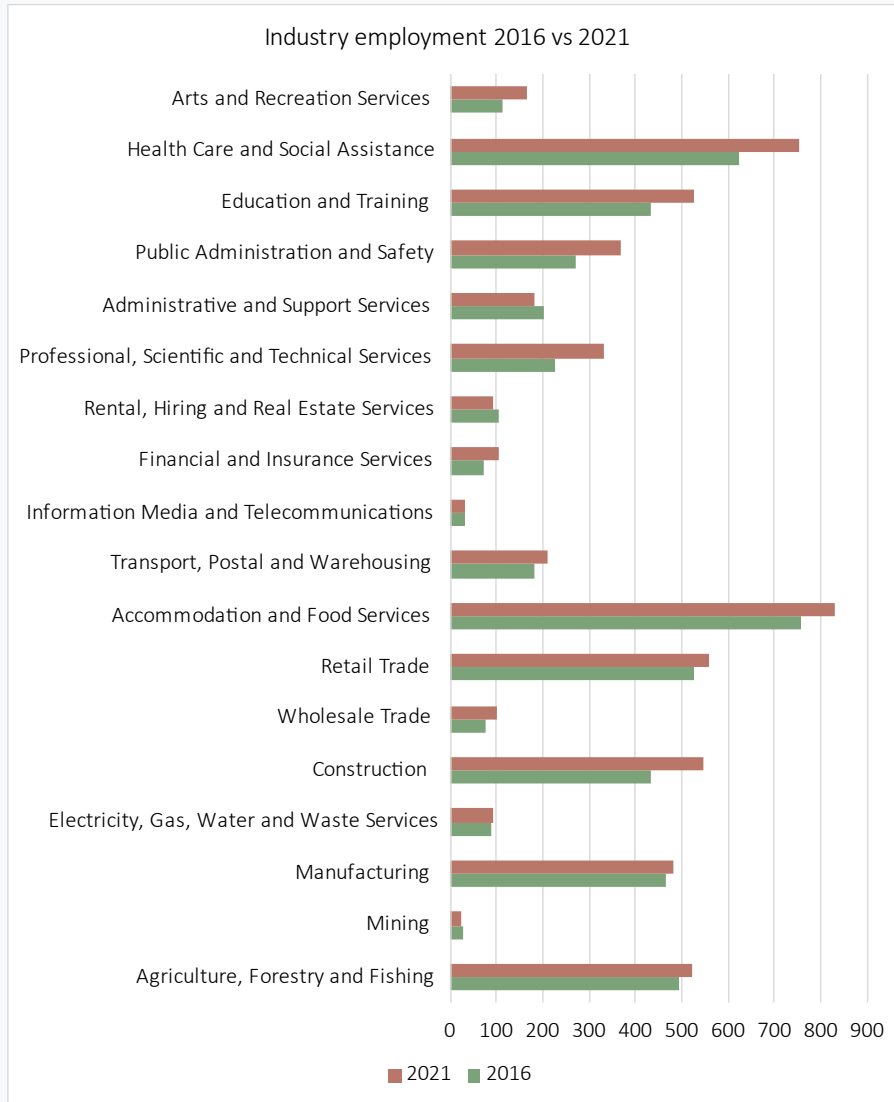
# Total personal income, by place of birth, by sex



- Women are more likely to be on negative or nil income.
- The proportion of overseas born women and Australia born women that earn less than their counterparts is higher.
- Men are more likely to earn high income than other cohorts.

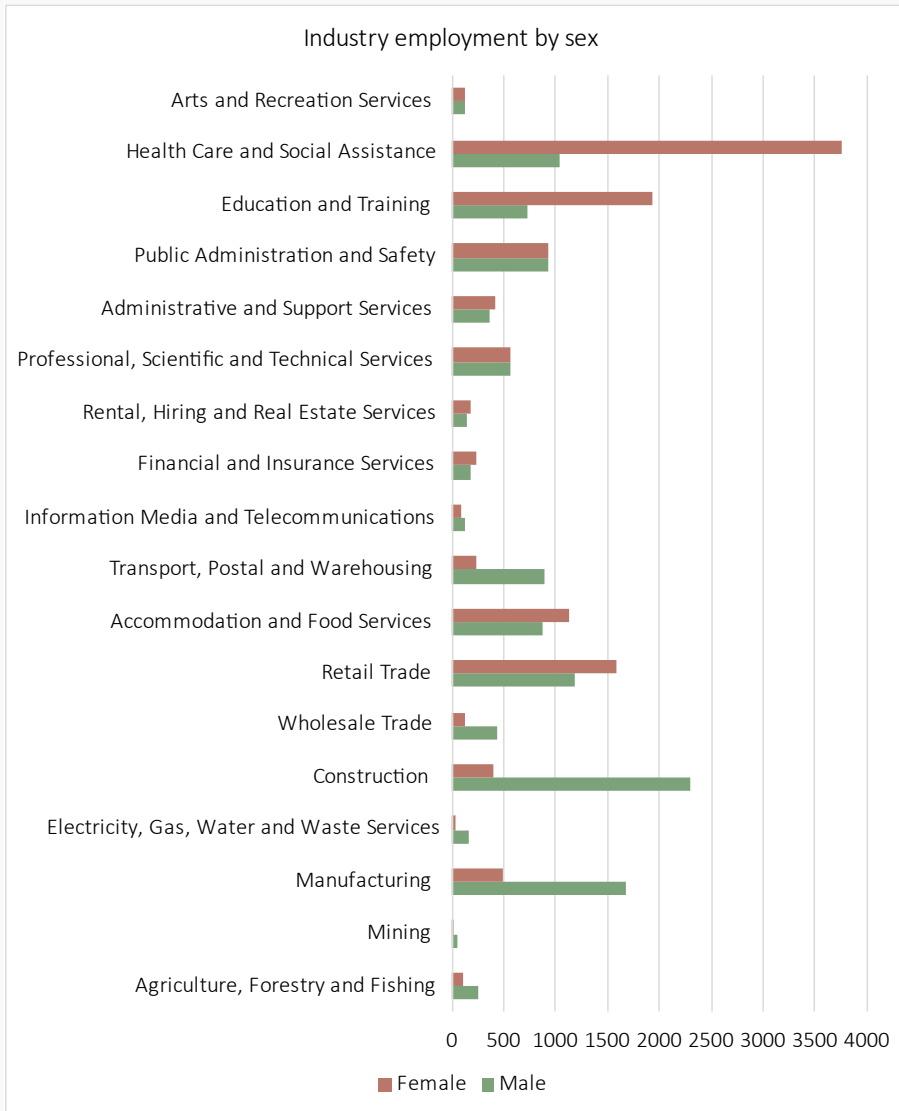
Cohort	% earning more than \$91,000 annually
AU-born male	13%
OS-born male	13%
AU-born female	7%
OS-born female	8%

# Industry of Employment, 2016 vs 2021



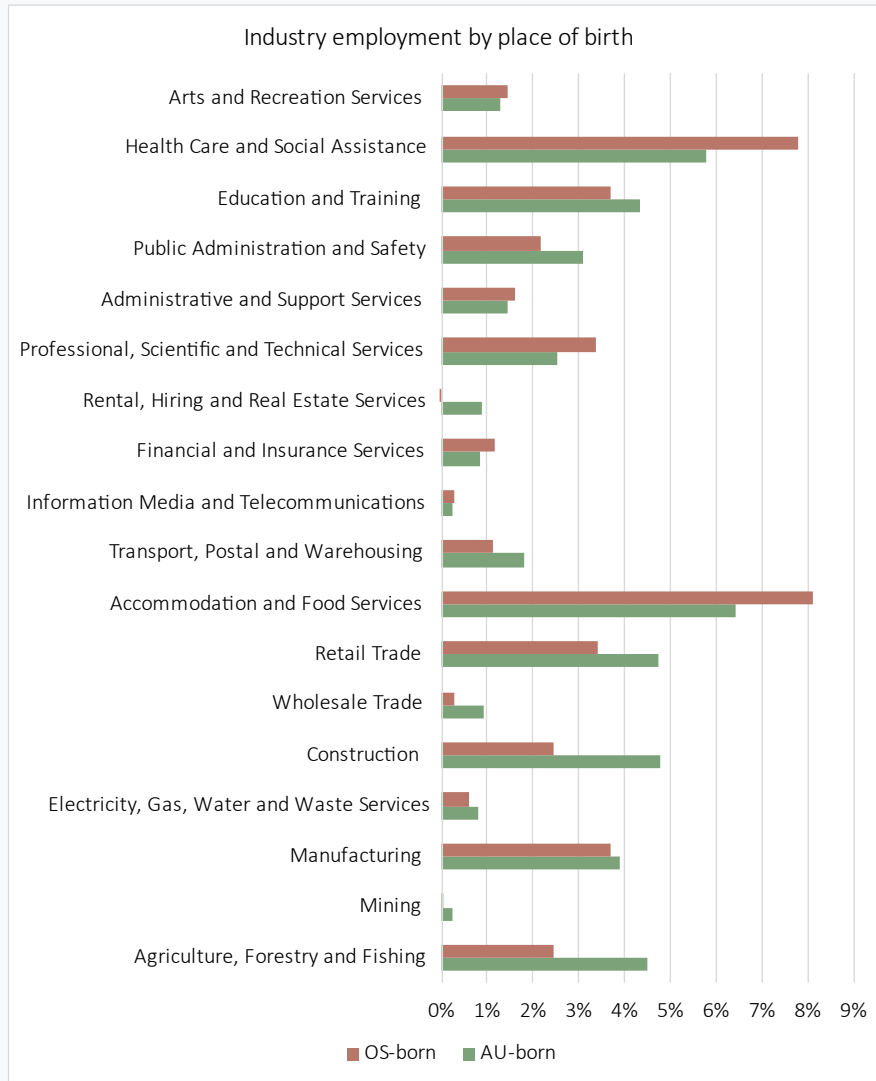
- Strongest growth:
  - Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (47%)
  - Financial and Insurance Services (47%)
  - Arts and Recreation Services (46%)
  - Public Administration and Safety (36%)
  - Wholesale Trade (31%)
- Decline:
  - Rental, Hiring and Real Estate (-12%)
  - Administrative and Support Services (-10%)
  - Information Media and Telecommunications (-3%)

# Industry of employment by sex



- Women are almost 4 times more likely to work in Health Care and Social Assistance and 3 times more likely to work in Education and Training.
- Men are almost 5 times more likely to work in Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services, 3 times more likely to work in Transport, Postal and Warehousing, and 2 times more likely to work in Wholesale Trade, Manufacturing, Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing.

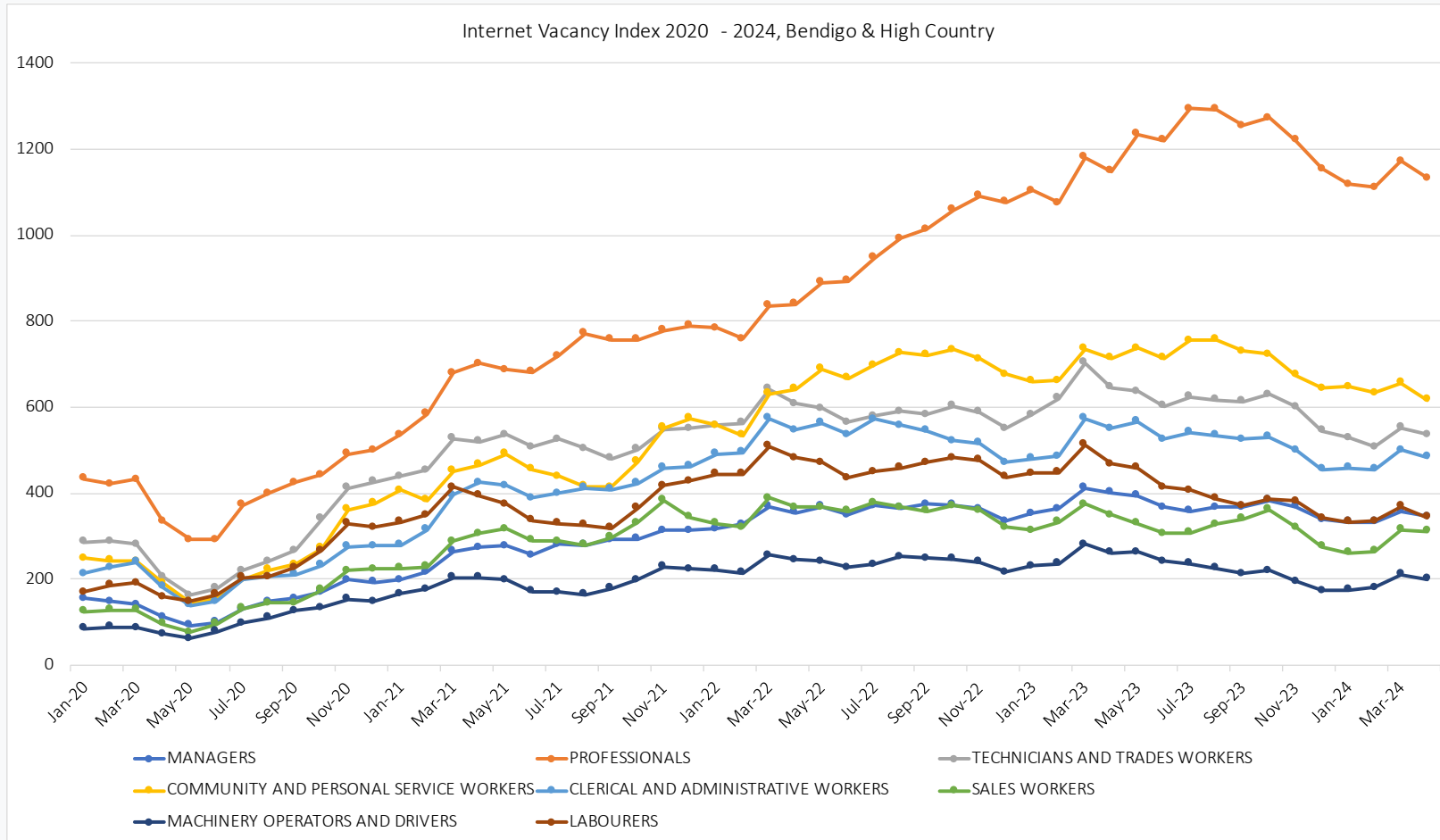
# Industry of employment by place of birth



- Overseas born individuals are more likely to work in Health Care and Social Services and in Accommodation and Food Services
- Australia born individuals are more likely in every other industry.



# Jobs and Internet Vacancies



As of 28<sup>th</sup> of May 2024 in Alpine:

- The average pay for jobs is **\$84K per year**.
- Entry-level positions start at **\$30K per year**, while the most experienced workers can earn up to **\$350K per year**.
- **95 companies** are currently advertising jobs including [ACCOR](#), [The Just Group](#), [Domino's](#), [G8 Education](#) and [Sussan](#).
- Top skills include: OPERATIONS, TEAM PLAYER, MANAGEMENT, BILLING and TRADING.

# Tourism Statistics

Domestic Overnight	Visitors	Nights
Interstate	94000	306000
Intrastate	383000	1159000

## Top International markets:

- United States of America
- United Kingdom
- Germany

## Main reasons for visiting for Domestic Overnight:

- Holiday
- Visiting family and relatives

Key Stats	International	Domestic Overnight	Domestic Day	Total
Visitors	10000	477000	300000	786000
Nights	100000	1465000	-	1565000
Average nights	10	3	-	3
Expenditure (M)	\$6	\$246	\$25	\$277
Spend per trip	\$560	\$517	\$83	\$352
Spend per night	\$56	\$168	-	\$161

Note: Data is based on four year average from 2016 to 2019



**0.41%**

Current Vacancy rate



**37**

Rental Stock available



**16.97%**

Rental population



- Median price change for a house is -0.29% in 1 year and 11.94% in 2 years.
- Median weekly rent for a house is \$460 and \$345 for a unit.
- realestate.com.au has 258 houses and 17 apartments and units listed for sale.



**200**

Current unmet need



**25%**

Current social and affordable housing as a proportion of need



**8.1%**

Annual growth of social and affordable housing required



- The main source of unmet need is rent stress.
- 300 households are projected to have unmet housing needs by 2041 based on overall projected household for the region

# Hidden accommodation and Housing Suitability



	n	%
Households requiring larger dwelling	84	1%
Current dwelling is suitable	680	12%
Households reporting unutilized rooms	4244	73%

- 1434 private dwelling were unoccupied on CENSUS night
- 73% or 4244 of occupied households have spare room capacity

- Alpine population growth rate is lower than of Regional VIC
- Median age of the population in Alpine (49) is significantly higher than of VIC (38) and Australia (38).
- 14.2% of people residing in Alpine were born overseas
- 86.3% of the population of Alpine reports speaking only English at home.
- 88.7% of people living in Alpine are Australian citizens
- Overseas born women have the highest proportion of people with Bachelor Degree or higher (30%).
- 720 people have a need for assistance with core activities (5% have low English language proficiency).
- There is a significant decrease in volunteering since 2016, especially amongst OS-born male population.
- Women are more likely to be on negative or nil income.
- Low vacancy rate (0.41%), despite the existence of 1434 empty houses.
- 200 households experience unmet housing needs

# Migrant settlement in Alpine: SWOR analysis



## Strengths

- Total economic output of 1.5 billion in 2019
- Community is reported to having high levels of social cohesion
- Existing visitor economy due to significant natural assets
- Highly productive agricultural land



## Weaknesses

- Ageing population
- Significant increases in rental prices and house market prices
- Low vacancy rates and hidden accommodation
- High rental prices for accommodation
- Low socio-economic outcomes for women from migrant and refugee background despite their educational achievements
- Decreased levels of volunteering, especially amongst overseas born population



## Opportunities

- Strong continuous demand for skilled workers, especially in healthcare
- Tapping into unutilised expertise of migrant and refugees by utilising welcoming practices within the work of council but also in workplaces
- Continuous development of visitor economy will create jobs and assist economic development of the region
- Engaging migrant workers in the growth of agricultural industry
- Implement welcoming workplaces practice to attract and retain diverse workforce
- Implementing welcoming initiatives to improve the attractiveness of the region



## Risks

- Growth in house prices/ reduced housing affordability
- Decreased social cohesion and community engagement
- Inability to meet community needs due to ageing population and low migration into the area.
- Low population retention and lack of migration to the region
- Climate change and bushfire impacts on the region