

Total and Chinese Miners on Victorian Goldfields 1855 - 1861

	Ballarat		Bendigo		Castlemaine		Ovens		Maryborough		Ararat		Total	
	Total	Chinese	Total	Chinese	Total	Chinese	Total	Chinese	Total	Chinese	Total	Chinese	Total	Chinese
Dec.1855	44,998	3,498	12,303	5,303	27,173	7,007	4,391	36	20,800	3,400			109,655	19,244
Dec.1856	30,800	4,795	15,364	4,364	21,100	4,500	12,470	2,850	34,534	1,600			115,348	18,109
Dec.1857	37,814	5,694	15,440	4,281	22,601	7,400	17,071	3,786	38,232	5,160			132,358	26,321
Dec.1858	37,894	6,394	11,700	3,000	28,449	9,727	23,588	5,547	23,922	4,474	21,805	4,525	147,352	33,667
Dec.1859	40,892	4,852	12,630	3,760	20,893	5,974	29,740	6,311	34,207	3,330	9,868	1,809	139,230	26,036
Dec.1860*	18,347	3,974	14,360	1,266	13,301	4,859	19,211	5,975	37,805	3,120	5,538	1,376	108,562	20,570
Dec.1861*	17,225	4,547	11,468	1,319	15,738	7,481	16,634	4,849	26,568	4,798	12,830	1,550	100,463	24,544

Note: Total statistics for 1855 to 1859 are adult males on the goldfields as estimated by Commissioners and wardens. *Totals for 1860 and 1861 are numbers of miners as reported in mining surveyors' returns. The two sources were often vastly different.

Source: Geoffrey Searle, *The Golden Age: A History of the colony of Victoria 1851 -1861*, Melbourne University Press, 1977, (Appendix 4 Page 388 and 389)

Activities

1. How are the statistics for 1860 and 1861 different to the other years? Can we accurately compare the two?
2. In what year and what place was the highest number of Chinese located? What percentage of the total population of that place was Chinese?
3. What was the highest total population of Chinese on the goldfields? What year? What percentage of the total population of the Victorian goldfields was Chinese?
4. Create a graph to show **Total and Chinese Miners in Victoria in 1858**. You might like to use Microsoft Excel to help. (Hint – Total Population includes Chinese!). Write a sentence to describe what this graph shows.