



# Census

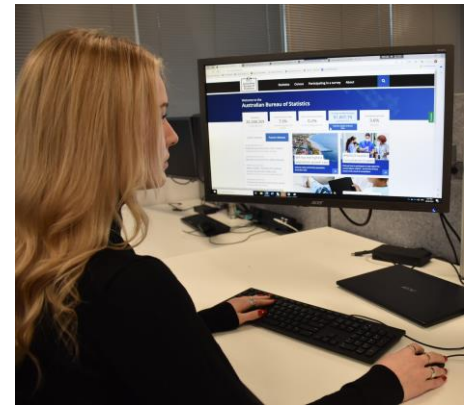
## Learn about Census data



## About the Census

Every five years, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) counts every person and household in Australia. We call this the Census of Population and Housing.

The last Census was on Tuesday 10 August 2021. Planning for the next Census in 2026 is currently underway.



The Census is the most comprehensive snapshot of the country and tells the story of how we are changing. Census data tells us about the economic, social and cultural make-up of the country.

The Census collects information from people, and in this way, it's like a big survey. However, surveys only select a sample of people to participate, whereas the Census includes everybody in the population.

To complete the Census, the ABS contacts households in a few different ways. Letters and paper forms are delivered in some areas, and in other areas, visits are made to households. Households complete the Census form and submit it online or send it back in the mail.

The Census form asks questions about your age, country of birth, religious affiliation, ancestry, language used at home, work and education. Only a Census can provide this information for the entire country, including small geographic areas and small population groups.

Census data helps inform services that improve the lives of people, families and communities. For example:

- Royal Flying Doctor Service uses the information to make sure people in rural Australia can get the health care they need.
- Playgroup Australia uses the information to help plan where a playgroup would be beneficial to local families.
- Some public libraries use the information to identify language needs in the local community to build their bilingual book collections and source language support materials.

The data collected in the Census is available for everyone to access at [www.abs.gov.au/census](http://www.abs.gov.au/census)

Source: [The Australian Census | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](http://www.abs.gov.au/census)

## Find Census data for your local area

QuickStats are a simple way to understand an area at a glance. They provide a summary of an area including demographics and tables on key characteristics of the people living in the area, their families, and their dwellings.

Community Profiles are tools for researching, planning, and analysing geographic areas for a number of social, economic and demographic characteristics.

Community Profiles provide a comprehensive statistical picture of an area in Excel spreadsheets, delivering data relating to people, families, and dwellings.

You can search by postcode, suburb, town, local government area or state. Or use the zoom function on the online map.

Head to [Search Census data](http://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/search-by-area) at [www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/search-by-area](http://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/search-by-area)

In *Search by area name*, type in your Commonwealth or State Electoral Division, Postcode, Suburb, Local Government Area (LGA) or State.

The screenshot shows the 'Search Census data' page on the Australian Bureau of Statistics website. The page has a dark header with the ABS logo and navigation links: 'Statistics', 'Census', 'Participating in a survey', and 'About'. A search icon is in the top right. Below the header, the breadcrumb trail reads 'Home > Census > Find Census data > Search Census data'. The main heading is 'Search Census data'. A sub-heading explains that users can view summary statistics for all persons or the Indigenous population, and can download a Community Profile spreadsheet. The page features two main search sections: 'Search by area name' and 'Search by map'. The 'Search by area name' section is highlighted with a yellow border and includes a dropdown for the year (set to 2021) and a text input field for location, postcode, or geography. Below it are four expandable search options: 'Search by geography', 'Search by address', and 'Search by country of birth'. The 'Search by map' section includes a dropdown for the year (2021) and a dropdown for State/Territory. It features an interactive map of Australia and its surrounding regions (Malaysia, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Antarctica) with zoom and home controls. The map is powered by Esri and uses OpenStreetMap data.

The tool will provide a map so you can confirm the selected area is correct.

The screenshot shows the Australian Bureau of Statistics website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Statistics', 'Census', 'Participating in a survey', and 'About'. Below this is a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > Census > Find Census data > Search Census data'. The main heading is 'Search Census data'. A sub-heading reads: 'To view Census data, use the search options on the left of the page or select an area using the map. The data is accessed by links that will appear below the map. You can view summary statistics for the area as QuickStats for all persons, or for the Indigenous population specifically. To view more detailed statistics, you can download a Community Profile spreadsheet. For summary statistics on people born overseas, you can use the Country of birth search on the left.'

On the left side, there are four search options, each with a dropdown arrow:
 

- Search by area name**: Includes a year selector (2021) and a text input field containing 'Canberra'.
- Search by geography**: A dropdown arrow pointing down.
- Search by address**: A dropdown arrow pointing down.
- Search by country of birth**: A dropdown arrow pointing down.

On the right side, there is a 'Search by map' section. It includes a year selector (2021) and a dropdown menu for 'Commonwealth Electoral Division'. Below this is a map of Canberra with a blue outline highlighting the city area. The map includes labels for various suburbs like Gungahlin, Belconnen, North Canberra, Canberra, South Canberra, and Queanbeyan.

You will then be able access and download the QuickStats profile or Community Profile.

This screenshot is similar to the one above, but it highlights the 'Search results' section with a yellow box. The 'Search results' section contains:
 

- Two buttons: 'View QuickStats' and 'View Community Profiles'.
- Two more buttons: 'All persons' and 'Community Profiles'.
- Text: 'Selected area Canberra (Commonwealth Electoral Division)'
- Text: 'Selected Census year 2021'

## Find Census data by topic

Stories, articles and visualisations that relate to Census data on topics of interest can be found at [Census data by topic](#). These topics include:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples includes information about languages and ancestry.
- Cultural and linguistic diversity includes information about country of birth, year of arrival, ancestry, language and religious affiliation.
- Disability and caring includes information on core activity need for assistance.
- Education and training includes information on qualifications, educational attendance and type of educational institution.
- Health includes information on long-term health conditions.
- Household and family includes information on relationships within households and families.
- Housing includes the types of housing and housing costs.
- Homelessness includes the estimates of people who were experiencing homelessness at the time of the Census.
- Income and work includes information on individual and family income, occupation and employment.
- Location includes information on where people live, where they moved and where they worked.
- Population includes information on people's sex and age.
- Service with the Australian Defence Force includes information on people who have current or former military service.
- Transport includes information on the number of motor vehicles at a dwelling and how they travelled to work.
- Unpaid work and care provides information on unpaid domestic work, unpaid childcare and voluntary work.

## Data visualisation within social media

The @absstats social media channels share insights into Census and other ABS data through easy to read and understand data visualisations.

