

## A Snapshot of Australia

**Please Note:** Percentages displayed in this Snapshot are calculated relevant to the applicable population for each topic (see topic sub-headings). Percentages may not always total one hundred as the less significant and not stated categories are not displayed in all cases.

### Census Counts

Applicable to all persons (including overseas visitors)

On Census Night, 7 August 2001, there were 18,972,350 people (9,365,941 males and 9,606,409 females) counted in Australia <sup>(1)</sup>. This represents an increase of 1,079,927 people (**6.0%**) since the 1996 Census, and an increase of 2,122,016 people (**12.6%**) since the 1991 Census (see **Table 2**). Of those people counted on Census Night, 17,936,986 people (**94.5%**) were counted at home.

The State or Territory in Australia with the highest population growth since the 1996 Census was Queensland, with population growth of **8.5%**, while the State or Territory in Australia with the lowest population growth since the 1996 Census was Tasmania, with a population decrease of **0.7%**.

### People of Indigenous Origin <sup>(2)</sup>

Applicable to all persons (excluding overseas visitors)

There were 410,003 people (**2.2%**) (202,954 males and 207,049 females) in Australia who identified as being of Indigenous origin in the 2001 Census. This represents an increase of 57,033 people (**16.2%**) (28,157 males and 28,876 females) since the 1996 Census, and an increase of 144,632 people (**54.5%**) (70,598 males and 74,034 females) since the 1991 Census.

In the 1996 Census, there were 352,970 people (**2.0%**) (173,831 males and 179,139 females) who identified as being of Indigenous origin, and 265,371 people (**1.6%**) (131,390 males and 133,981 females) who identified as being of Indigenous origin in the 1991 Census.

The State or Territory in Australia with the highest percentage of people who identified as being of Indigenous origin in the 2001 Census was the Northern Territory (**25.1%**), while the State or Territory in Australia with the lowest percentage of people who identified as being of Indigenous origin in the 2001 Census was Victoria (**0.5%**).

**Footnote 2:** The 1996 and 2001 Census questions on Indigenous origin asked whether each person was of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin. In the 1991 Census, respondents could select either Aboriginal only or Torres Strait Islander only.

### Age <sup>(3)</sup>

Applicable to all persons (excluding overseas visitors)

The median age of people in the 2001 Census was 35 years (34 years for males and 36 years for females). In the 1996 Census the median age of people was 34 years (33 years for males and 34 years for females), while in the 1991 Census the median age of people was 32 years (31 years for males and 33 years for females). See **Table 3** for the counts of selected age groups in the 2001 Census.

The State or Territory in Australia with the highest percentage of people aged less than 15 years in the 2001 Census was the Northern Territory (**24.2%**), while the State or Territory in Australia with the highest percentage of people aged 65 years and over in the 2001 Census was South Australia (**14.5%**).

**Footnote 3:** Median ages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

## **Birthplace**

Applicable to all persons (excluding overseas visitors)

In the 2001 Census, 13,629,685 people (**72.6%**) stated they were Australian-born. This compares with 13,227,996 people (**74.5%**) in the 1996 Census and 12,719,726 (**75.8%**) in the 1991 Census.

The number of people born overseas in the 2001 Census was 4,105,444 (**21.9%**) compared with 3,907,993 (**22.0%**) in the 1996 Census and 3,688,385 (**22.0%**) in the 1991 Census.

Of those born overseas, the three main countries of birth in the 2001 Census were:

United Kingdom: 1,036,245 (**5.5%**)  
New Zealand: 355,765 (**1.9%**) and;  
Italy: 218,718 (**1.2%**).

Of those born overseas in the 1996 Census, the three main countries of birth were United Kingdom 1,072,562 (**6.0%**), New Zealand 291,388 (**1.6%**), and Italy 238,246 (**1.3%**). Of those born overseas in the 1991 Census, the three main countries of birth were United Kingdom 1,107,337 (**6.6%**), New Zealand 264,123 (**1.6%**), and Italy 253,417 (**1.5%**).

The State or Territory in Australia with the highest percentage of people who were born overseas in the 2001 Census was Western Australia (**27.0%**), while the State or Territory in Australia with the lowest percentage of people who were born overseas in the 2001 Census was Tasmania (**10.0%**).

## **Ancestry<sup>(4)</sup>**

Applicable to all persons (excluding overseas visitors)

In the 2001 Census, the three most common ancestries identified with were:

Australian: 6,739,594 people (**35.9%**),  
English: 6,358,880 people (**33.9%**) and;  
Irish: 1,919,727 people (**10.2%**).

**Footnote 4:** People were asked to consider the ancestry with which they identified. Multiple responses could be provided. If more than two responses were provided, the first two were recorded. Comparative figures are not available for this item as this question was not asked in the 1991 or 1996 Censuses.

## **Language Spoken at Home<sup>(5)</sup>**

Applicable to all persons (excluding overseas visitors)

English was stated as the only language spoken at home by 15,013,965 people (**80.0%**) in the 2001 Census. This compares with 14,564,924 people (**82.0%**) in the 1996 Census and 13,902,408 people (**82.9%**) in the 1991 Census.

The three most common languages spoken at home other than English in the 2001 Census were:

Chinese languages: 401,357 (**2.1%**),  
Italian 353,605 (**1.9%**) and;  
Greek 263,717 (**1.4%**).

The three most common languages spoken at home other than English in the 1996 Census were Italian 375,754 (**2.1%**), Chinese languages 344,319 (**1.9%**) and Greek 269,775 (**1.5%**). The three most common languages spoken at home other than English in the 1991 Census were Italian 418,801 (**2.5%**), Greek 285,702 (**1.7%**) and Chinese languages 261,654 (**1.6%**).

**Footnote 5:** These statistics are based on 2001 Census methodology which includes all persons. For the 1991 and 1996 Censuses, previously published figures exclude persons under the age of 5 years.

## **Computers and the Internet<sup>(6)</sup>**

Applicable to all persons (excluding overseas visitors)

In the week preceding the 2001 Census, 7,881,983 people (**42.0%**) had used a personal computer at home. Of these, usage of a personal computer at home by specific age groups reflected 2,663,168 people aged 0-19 years (**14.2%**), 3,359,214 people aged 20-44 years (**17.9%**), 1,628,051 people aged 45-64 years (**8.7%**) and 231,550 people aged 65 years and over (**1.2%**).

The total number of persons who had used the Internet in the week preceding the 2001 Census was 6,966,687. There were 1,018,463 people (**5.4%**) who had used the Internet at work only, 3,505,235 people (**18.7%**) who had used the Internet at home only and 716,155 people (**3.8%**) who had used the Internet elsewhere only.

There were 1,726,834 people (**9.2%**) who provided a multiple response to the question of Internet use. There were 1,221,430 (**6.5%**) who had used the Internet at home and at work, 371,902 (**2.0%**) who had used the Internet at home and elsewhere, 32,783 (**0.2%**) who had used the Internet at work and elsewhere, and 100,719 (**0.5%**) who had used the Internet at home, work and elsewhere.

The State or Territory in Australia with the highest percentage of people who had used a personal computer in the week preceding the 2001 Census was the Australian Capital Territory (**56.7%**).

**Footnote 6:** People were asked to indicate whether, in the week preceding the Census, they had used a personal computer at home and whether they had used the Internet at home, at work or elsewhere. Multiple responses could be given for use of the Internet. Comparative figures are not available as these questions were not asked in the 1991 or 1996 Censuses.

## **Registered Marital Status**

Applicable to persons aged 15 years and over (excluding overseas visitors)

In the 2001 Census, there were 7,635,947 married people (**50.7%**) (3,814,844 males and 3,821,103 females), 509,923 separated people (**3.4%**) (232,808 males and 277,115 females), 1,099,391 divorced people (**7.4%**) (480,130 males and 619,261 females), 919,904 widowed people (**6.2%**) (181,507 males and 738,397 females) and 4,691,609 people who had never been married (**31.6%**) (2,553,255 males and 2,138,354 females).

In the 1996 Census, there were 7,415,104 married people (**53.3%**) (3,704,684 males and 3,710,420 females), 469,148 separated people (**3.4%**) (215,065 males and 254,083 females), 893,895 divorced people (**6.4%**) (393,020 males and 500,875 females), 892,199 widowed people (**6.4%**) (169,987 males and 722,212 females) and 4,244,551 people who had never been married (**30.5%**) (2,334,052 males and 1,910,499 females).

In the 1991 Census, there were 7,312,879 married people (**56.2%**) (3,645,108 males and 3,667,771 females), 373,952 separated people (**2.9%**) (172,093 males and 201,859 females), 688,658 divorced people (**5.3%**) (304,844 males and 383,814 females), 824,965 widowed people (**6.3%**) (159,367 males and 665,598 females) and 3,817,236 people who had never been married (**29.3%**) (2,118,006 males and 1,699,230 females).

The State or Territory in Australia with the highest percentage of married people in the 2001 Census was New South Wales (**51.7%**), while the State or Territory in Australia with the lowest percentage of married people in the 2001 Census was the Northern Territory (**47.5%**).

## **Non-School Qualification: Level of Education<sup>(7)</sup>**

Applicable to persons aged 15 years and over (excluding overseas visitors)

In the 2001 Census, 472,970 (**3.2%**) people (241,796 males and 231,174 females) held a postgraduate degree, graduate diploma or graduate certificate. This compares with 373,927 (**2.7%**) people (196,303 males and 177,624 females) in the 1996 Census and 249,624 (**1.9%**) people (136,772 males and 112,852 females) in the 1991 Census.

In the 2001 Census, 1,445,943 (**9.7%**) people (668,522 males and 777,421 females) held a bachelor

degree compared with 1,076,934 (**7.7%**) people (537,830 males and 539,104 females) in the 1996 Census and 736,424 (**5.7%**) people (402,279 males and 334,145 females) in the 1991 Census.

There were 3,234,300 (**21.8%**) people (2,067,241 males and 1,167,059 females) with an advanced diploma, diploma or certificate in the 2001 Census compared with 2,728,288 (**19.6%**) people (1,782,172 males and 946,116 females) in the 1996 Census and 2,451,151 (**18.8%**) people (1,600,853 males and 850,298 females) in the 1991 Census.

In the 2001 Census, 9,703,561 (**65.3%**) people (4,281,065 males and 5,422,496 females) did not have a qualification, did not state a qualification or stated a qualification outside of the scope of the standard classification. This compares with 9,735,748 (**70.0%**) people (4,300,503 males and 5,435,245 females) in the 1996 Census and 9,580,491 (**73.6%**) people (4,259,514 males and 5,320,977 females) in the 1991 Census.

**Footnote 7:** The Non-School Qualification: Level of Education classification excludes all schooling up to year 12.

### **Labour Force Status<sup>(8)</sup>**

Applicable to persons aged 15 years and over (excluding overseas visitors)

During the week prior to Census Night 2001, 8,298,606 people in Australia (4,546,783 males and 3,751,823 females) were employed, representing **92.6%** of the labour force. Of these, 5,360,693 (**64.6%**) people (3,487,853 males and 1,872,840 females) were working full-time and 2,689,709 (**32.4%**) people (916,450 males and 1,773,259 females) were working part-time. This compares with 7,636,319 (**90.8%**) people (4,272,051 males and 3,364,268 females) who were employed in the 1996 Census and 7,086,175 (**88.4%**) people (4,068,763 males and 3,017,412 females) who were employed in the 1991 Census.

In the 2001 Census, 660,709 people (393,967 males and 266,742 females) were unemployed, representing **7.4%** of the labour force. Of these, 472,513 (**71.5%**) people (321,987 males and 150,526 females) were looking for full-time work and 188,196 (**28.5%**) people (71,980 males and 116,216 females) were looking for part-time work. In the 1996 Census, there were 771,970 (**9.2%**) unemployed people (467,925 males and 304,045 females) and 929,257 (**11.6%**) unemployed people (573,298 males and 355,959 females) in the 1991 Census.

The State or Territory in Australia with the highest percentage of employed persons during the week prior to the 2001 Census was the Australian Capital Territory (**94.9%**).

**Footnote 8:** Working full-time is defined as having worked 35 hours or more in all jobs during the week prior to Census Night.

### **Occupation<sup>(9)</sup>**

Applicable to employed persons aged 15 years and over (excluding overseas visitors)

In the 2001 Census, 764,823 (**9.2%**) people (550,655 males and 214,168 females) were employed as Managers and Administrators which compares with 709,925 (**9.3%**) people (515,371 males and 194,554 females) in the 1996 Census and 693,861 (**9.8%**) people (517,828 males and 176,033 females) in the 1991 Census. There were 1,514,096 (**18.2%**) people (718,617 males and 795,479 females) employed as Professionals in the 2001 Census, which compares with 1,309,468 (**17.1%**) people (641,073 males and 668,395 females) in the 1996 Census and 1,050,522 (**14.8%**) people (526,985 males and 523,537 females) in the 1991 Census.

There were 975,653 (**11.8%**) people (546,159 males and 429,494 females) employed as Associate Professionals in the 2001 Census, which compares with 861,169 (**11.3%**) people (511,209 males and 349,960 females) in the 1996 Census and 537,875 (**7.6%**) people (340,700 males and 197,175 females) in the 1991 Census. 1,018,903 (**12.3%**) people (906,687 males and 112,216 females) were employed as Tradespersons and Related Workers in the 2001 Census, which compares with 997,010 (**13.1%**) people (887,761 males and 109,249 females) in the 1996 Census and 977,549 (**13.8%**) people (872,316 males and 105,233 females) in the 1991 Census.

In the 2001 Census, there were 1,366,701 (**16.5%**) people (390,015 males and 976,686 females) employed as Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers which compares with 1,222,735 (**16.0%**) people (366,389 males and 856,346 females) in the 1996 Census and 840,713 (**11.9%**) people (277,421 males and 563,292 females) in the 1991 Census. There were 717,457 (**8.6%**) people (453,115 males and 264,342 females) employed as Labourers and Related Workers in the 2001 Census, which compares with 667,250 (**8.7%**) people (402,975 males and 264,275 females) in the 1996 Census and 656,512 (**9.3%**) people (387,045 males and 269,467 females) in the 1991 Census.

See **Table 4** for selected family and household averages for the 2001 Census.

**Footnote 9:** The occupation classification underwent a major review following the 1991 Census. The 1991 Census figures should be used as an indicator only.

### **Industry of Employment<sup>(10)</sup>**

Applicable to employed persons aged 15 years and over (excluding overseas visitors)

In the 2001 Census, 1,010,179 (**12.2%**) people (741,383 males and 268,796 females) were employed in the Manufacturing industry, which compares with 965,036 (**12.6%**) people (695,007 males and 270,029 females) in the 1996 Census and 904,046 (**12.8%**) people (655,775 males and 248,271 females) in the 1991 Census. There were 558,582 (**6.7%**) people (484,527 males and 74,055 females) employed in the Construction industry in the 2001 Census, compared with 484,084 (**6.3%**) people (419,394 males and 64,690 females) in the 1996 Census and 420,873 (**5.9%**) people (362,810 males and 58,063 females) in the 1991 Census.

There were 1,211,332 (**14.6%**) people (575,474 males and 635,858 females) employed in the Retail Trade industry in the 2001 Census, compared with 1,036,648 (**13.6%**) people (500,105 males and 536,543 females) in the 1996 Census and 937,443 (**13.2%**) people (456,893 males and 480,550 females) in the 1991 Census. 920,331 (**11.1%**) people (494,376 males and 425,955 females) were employed in the Property and Business Services industry in the 2001 Census, compared with 750,195 (**9.8%**) people (410,414 males and 339,781 females) in the 1996 Census and 519,435 (**7.3%**) people (281,328 males and 238,107 females) in the 1991 Census.

In the 2001 Census, there were 595,398 (**7.2%**) people (186,520 males and 408,878 females) employed in the Education industry compared with 540,063 (**7.1%**) people (184,287 males and 355,776 females) in the 1996 Census and 471,601 (**6.7%**) people (165,482 males and 306,119 females) in the 1991 Census. There were 806,171 (**9.7%**) people (173,479 males and 632,692 females) employed in the Health and Community Services industry in the 2001 Census, compared with 725,178 (**9.5%**) people (161,489 males and 563,689 females) in the 1996 Census and 594,480 (**8.4%**) people (139,219 males and 455,261 females) in the 1991 Census.

The State or Territory in Australia with the highest percentage of people employed in the Manufacturing industry in the 2001 Census was Victoria (**15.3%**), while the State or Territory in Australia with the highest percentage of people employed in the Retail Trade industry in the 2001 Census was Queensland (**15.3%**).

**Footnote 10:** The industry classification underwent a major review following the 1991 Census. The 1991 Census figures should be used as an indicator only.

### **Individual Income<sup>(11)</sup>**

Applicable to persons aged 15 years and over (excluding overseas visitors)

The median weekly individual income for people aged 15 years and over in 2001 was \$300-\$399 (\$400-\$499 for males and \$200-\$299 for females). While not directly comparable, the median individual income recorded in the 1996 Census was \$200-\$299 (\$400-\$499 for males and \$200-\$299 for females) and \$200-\$299 (\$300-\$399 for males and \$160-\$199 for females) in the 1991 Census.

The State or Territory in Australia with the highest median individual income in the 2001 Census was the Australian Capital Territory (\$500-\$599), followed by the Northern Territory (\$400-\$499). All States had a median individual income in the 2001 Census of \$300-\$399.

**Footnote 11:** These results are not directly comparable across Censuses due to differences in methodologies and do not account for inflationary factors.

### **Method of Travel to Work**

Applicable to employed persons aged 15 years and over (excluding overseas visitors)

On Census day, 7 August 2001, 265,102 **(3.2%)** people travelled to work by train only, 208,294 **(2.5%)** people took the bus only and 59,863 **(0.7%)** people took both the train and the bus. There were 5,329,832 **(64.2%)** people who travelled to work by car, either as the driver or as a passenger and 394,846 **(4.8%)** people either rode a bike or walked to work.

The State or Territory in Australia with the highest percentage of people who travelled to work on Census day by car (either as the driver or as a passenger) was the Australian Capital Territory **(69.9%)**, while the State or Territory in Australia with the highest percentage of people who travelled to work on Census day by bus only was the Australian Capital Territory **(4.6%)**.

### **Families and Households**

Applicable to families and persons in occupied private dwellings

In the 2001 Census, there were 2,321,165 couple families with children (which comprised **47.0%** of all families in occupied private dwellings), 1,764,167 couple families without children **(35.7%)**, 762,632 one parent families **(15.5%)** and 88,864 other families **(1.8%)**.

There were 596,039 people **(3.4%)** in group households and 1,616,213 people **(9.1%)** in lone person households in the 2001 Census.

The State or Territory in Australia with the highest percentage of couple families with children in the 2001 Census were the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory **(49.0%)**, while the State or Territory in Australia with the lowest percentage of couple families with children in the 2001 Census was Tasmania **(43.7%)**.

### **Dwellings<sup>(12)</sup>**

Applicable to occupied private dwellings

In the 2001 Census, there were 5,327,309 separate houses **(75.3%)**, 632,176 semi detached, row or terrace houses and townhouses **(8.9%)**, 923,139 flats, units or apartments **(13.1%)** and 134,274 other dwellings **(1.9%)**.

In the 1996 Census, there were 4,911,909 separate houses **(75.6%)**, 517,181 semi detached, row or terrace houses and townhouses **(8.0%)** 816,704 flats, units or apartments **(12.6%)** and 134,024 other dwellings **(2.1%)**.

In the 1991 Census, there were 4,533,595 separate houses **(77.5%)**, 452,824 semi detached, row or terrace houses and townhouses **(7.7%)**, 680,610 flats, units or apartments **(11.6%)** and 142,928 other dwellings **(2.4%)**.

Of all occupied private dwellings in the 2001 Census, 4,683,049 were either fully owned or being purchased, which represents **66.2%** of all occupied private dwellings, while 1,858,324 were being rented **(26.3%)**. This compares with 4,314,033 either fully owned or being purchased **(66.4%)** and 1,773,508 being rented **(27.3%)** in the 1996 Census, and 3,923,232 either fully owned or being purchased **(67.0%)** and 1,560,644 being rented **(26.7%)** in the 1991 Census.

**Footnote 12:** These results are for private dwellings only. In 2001, Serviced Apartments have been included as private dwellings. These dwellings were defined as non-private dwellings in 1996 and 1991. Other dwellings consist of caravans, cabins and houseboats; improvised home, tent, sleepers out; and house or flat attached to a shop, office etc.

**Table 1. Selected Characteristics for Australia in 2001**

	Male	Female	Total
<b>Total persons(a)</b>	<b>9,365,941</b>	<b>9,606,409</b>	<b>18,972,350</b>
Aged 15 years and over(a)	7,347,379	7,690,960	15,038,339
Aged 65 years and over(a)	1,050,912	1,337,651	2,388,563
Aboriginal	181,040	185,389	366,429
Torres Strait Islander	13,184	12,862	26,046
Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander(b)	8,730	8,798	17,528
Total Indigenous Persons	202,954	207,049	410,003
Born in Australia	6,712,876	6,916,809	13,629,685
Born overseas (c)	2,031,613	2,073,831	4,105,444
Speaks English only	7,410,456	7,603,509	15,013,965
Speaks other language(d)	1,398,737	1,455,114	2,853,851
Indigenous Persons aged 18 years and over	107,015	115,346	222,361
Australian citizen	8,158,643	8,401,131	16,559,774
Australian citizen aged 18 years and over	5,981,199	6,330,261	12,311,460
Enumerated in private dwelling(a)	9,042,222	9,321,088	18,363,310
Enumerated elsewhere(a) (e)	323,719	285,321	609,040
Overseas visitors	95,475	107,626	203,101

(a) These categories include overseas visitors.

(b) Applicable to persons who are of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.

(c) Includes birthplaces 'inadequately described', 'at sea', and 'not elsewhere classified'.

(d) Includes 'non-verbal so described' and 'inadequately described'.

(e) Includes 'Non-Private dwellings', Migratory and Off-shore.

**Table 2. Census Counts by Sex**

	2001	1996	% Change 1996 - 2001	1991	% Change 1991 - 2001
Male	9,365,941	8,849,224	5.8%	8,362,660	12.0%
Female	9,606,409	9,043,199	6.2%	8,487,674	13.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,972,350</b>	<b>17,892,423</b>	<b>6.0%</b>	<b>16,850,334</b>	<b>12.6%</b>

Note: Overseas visitors are included in these counts.

**Table 3. Age by Sex**

	0-14 years	15-24 years	25-44 years	45-64 years	65 years and over	Total
Male	2,007,922	1,306,832	2,751,866	2,161,088	1,038,838	<b>9,266,546</b>
Female	1,904,553	1,259,514	2,839,610	2,166,986	1,332,040	<b>9,502,703</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,912,475</b>	<b>2,566,346</b>	<b>5,591,476</b>	<b>4,328,074</b>	<b>2,370,878</b>	<b>18,769,249</b>
<b>Percent</b>	<b>20.8%</b>	<b>13.6%</b>	<b>30.0%</b>	<b>23.1%</b>	<b>12.5%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Note: Overseas visitors are excluded from these counts

**Table 4. Selected Averages**

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Median age	35 years
Median monthly housing loan repayments	\$800-\$999
Median weekly rent	\$150-\$199
Median weekly individual income	\$300-\$399
Median weekly family income	\$800-\$999
Median weekly household income	\$700-\$799
Mean household size	2.6 persons
Note: Overseas visitors are excluded from these calculations	

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**General Footnotes:**

Geographical changes in the 2001 Census may account for discrepancies in previous published material due to changes in the definitions of area boundaries. Results may also vary from 1991 and 1996 published material due to methodological changes in data collection or dissemination.