



Review of 2021 Census topics

Population

The ABS is consulting to seek views on the information to be collected in the next Census and this topic brief provides detail about what has been previously included on population.

The opportunity to participate in the consultation will be available from 3 April to 30 June 2018 via consult.abs.gov.au

What was included in the 2016 Census?

Population topics on the Census included:

- name
- sex
- date of birth or age
- children ever born.

How is this information used?

Questions about the name, age and sex of the population have been included since the first national Census in 1911. These questions are essential in assisting the ABS to meet its legislative requirement for estimating the size, age and sex profile of the population across Australia. Almost all decisions made by governments, businesses and local community groups depend on knowing the sex and age of the population located in each part of Australia.

Alongside this information, the ABS requests names to help people answer the right question for each person in the household, and to help us process the form correctly.

Females are also asked a question about the number of children ever born in order to better understand fertility.

For more information on the collection and use of data on sex, and the difference between the concepts sex and gender, read the **'Review of 2021 Census topics: Sex and gender'**.

The questions asked on the 2016 Census

- What is the name of each person including visitors who spent the night of Tuesday, 9 August 2016 in this dwelling?
- Is this person male or female?
- What is the person's date of birth or age?
- For each female, how many babies has she ever given birth to?

Data produced from the 2016 Census

Questions about the population provide data in a range of formats including:

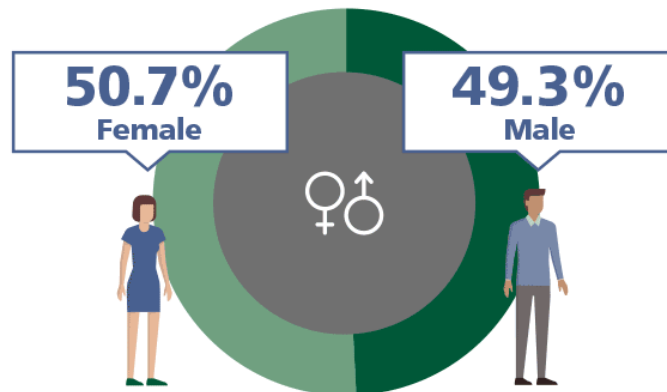
- Age (in single, five-year and ten-year ranges) ([AGEP](#), [AGE5P](#), [AGE10P](#))
- Sex ([SEXP](#))
- Number of children (in ranges) ([TISP](#), [TISRP](#)).

For more information view [2901.0 – Census Dictionary](#)

Highlights from the 2016 Census on Population

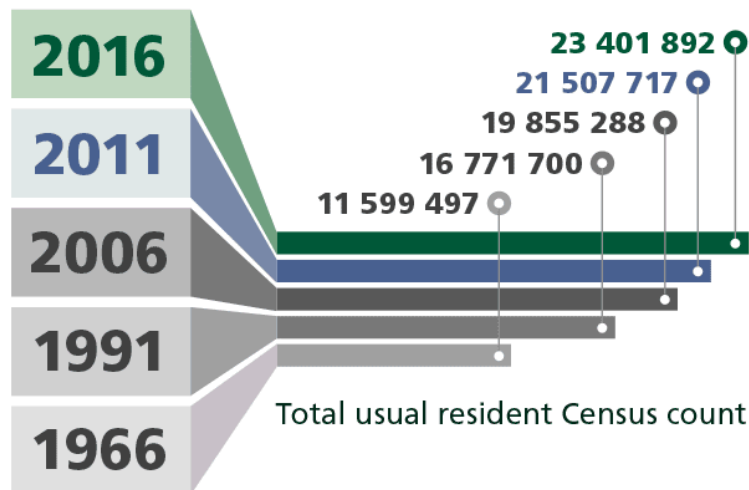
USUAL RESIDENCE CENSUS COUNT BY SEX, 2016(a)

People
23 401 892



(a) Usual Residence Census counts. Excludes overseas visitors, includes Other Territories.
Source: Census of Population and Housing 2016

USUAL RESIDENCE CENSUS COUNT, 1966-2016(a)



(a) Usual Residence Census counts. Excludes overseas visitors, includes Other Territories.
Source: Census of Population and Housing 1966, 1991, 2006, 2011, 2016

Standards

A number of standards are used by the ABS to classify statistics relating to population. These standards will be reviewed before the next Census.

[1200.0.55.012 - Standard for Sex and Gender Variables, 2016](#)

[1200.0.55.006 - Age Standard, 2014, Version 1.7](#)

[1285.0.55.001 - Number of Children Ever Born Standard, July 2012](#)

For more information go to www.abs.gov.au/census