



Review of 2021 Census topics

Income and Work

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 income and work.

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?

Income and work topics on the Census included:

- income
- labour force status
- status in employment
- hours worked
- self-employed - number of employees
- occupation
- industry of employment.

How is this information used?

Questions on the Census about income and work provide insight into Australian society and the performance of the economy.

Income data provides an indication of living standards within various household types, across different areas of Australia. Employment and unemployment figures can highlight how many people are working or looking for work at a local level across specific population groups. Occupation and industry of employment can be used to plan education and other services. For example, understanding how many health care professionals work in rural areas can highlight where shortages exist and influence programs to better meet community needs.

Workplace address information is collected to better understand how people travel to work. For more about the information collected on workplace addresses, refer to the topic brief '[Review of 2021 Census topics: Transport](#)'.

If you are interested in questions asked about unpaid work, read our topic brief '[Review of 2021 Census topics: Unpaid work and care](#)'.

The questions asked on the 2016 Census

- What is the total of all income the person usually receives?
- Last week, did the person have a job of any kind?
- In the main job held last week, was the person: Working for an employer/ Working in own business?
- Was the person's business: Unincorporated/Incorporated?
- Does the person's business employ people?
- In the main job held last week, what was the person's occupation?
- What was the employer's business name?
- What are the main tasks that the person usually performs in that occupation?
- What best describes the industry or business of the employer at the location where the person works?
- What are the main goods produced or main services provided by the employer's business?
- Last week, how many hours did the person work in all jobs?
- Did the person actively look for work at any time in the last four weeks?
- If the person found a job, could the person have started work last week?

Data produced from the 2016 Census

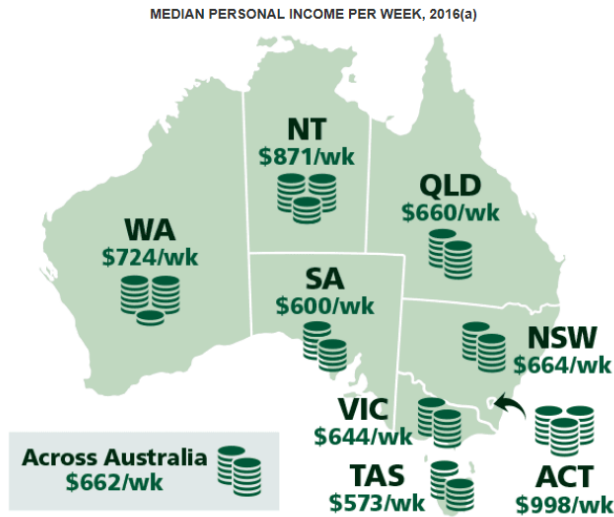
Questions about income and work provide data on:

- Personal, family and household income ([INCP](#), [HINASD](#), [HIND](#), [HIED](#), [HIDD](#), [FIDF](#), [FINASF](#), [FINF](#))
- Labour Force Status ([LFSP](#), [LFHRP](#), [LFSE](#), [EETP](#))
- Number of Employees for those that are self-employed ([EMPP](#))

- Occupation ([OCCP](#))
- Industry of Employment ([INDP](#))
- Hours Worked ([HRSP](#), [HRWRP](#))
- Status in Employment ([SIEMP](#))

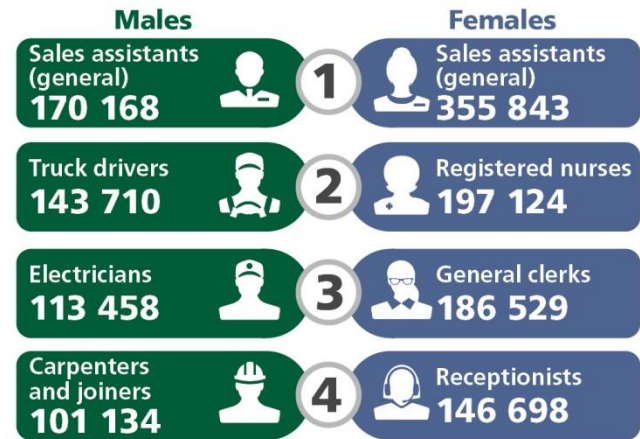
For more information view [2901.0 – Census Dictionary](#)

Highlights from the 2016 Census on income and work



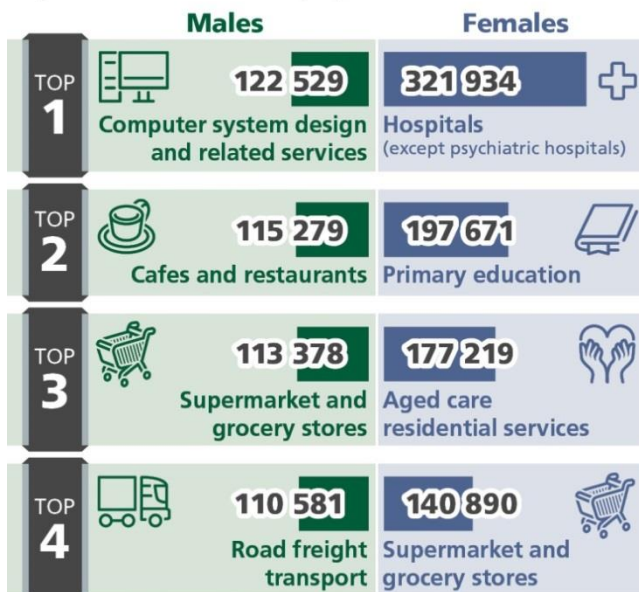
(a) Median personal income has not been adjusted for inflation.
Source: Census of Population and Housing 2016

Top four occupations



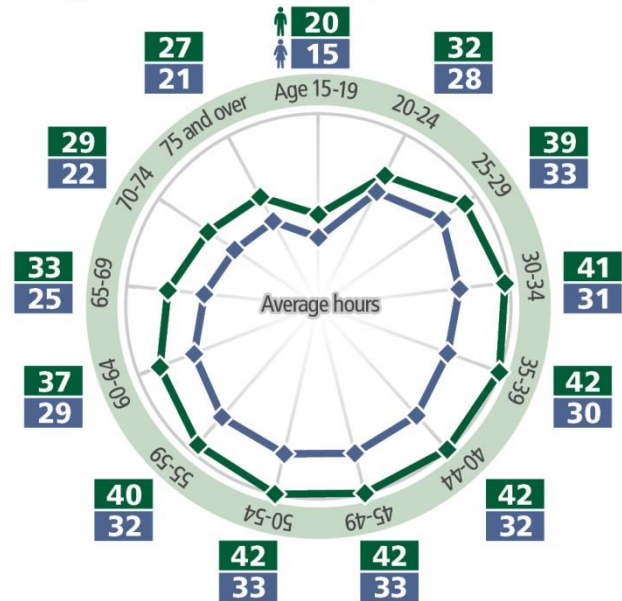
Source: ABS, 2016 Census of Population and Housing

Top four industries of employment



Source: ABS, 2016 Census of Population and Housing

Average hours worked in week prior to Census



Source: ABS, 2016 Census of Population and Housing

Standards

The ABS uses the standards below to classify statistics relating to labour force and income. Classifications of industry and occupation are also used for defining occupations and the industries of employment:

[1287.0 - Standards for Income Variables, Jun 2015](#)

[1288.0 - Standards for Labour Force Statistics, Issue for Dec 2014](#)

[1220.0 - ANZSCO -- Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, 2013, Version 1.2](#)

[1292.0 - Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification \(ANZSIC\), 2006 \(Revision 2.0\)](#)

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