

United Nations Statistics Division: Demographic Yearbook
Questionnaire on Metadata for Population and Housing Census

Reporting country: [Australia](#)

Population census date: [10 August 2021](#)

Housing census date: [10 August 2021](#)

A. General population census information

1. Census - taking methodological approaches

<p>(1) Traditional census - full field enumeration</p> <p>If yes, please circle the mode of data collection among options (a) to (f) listed below:</p> <p>(a) paper questionnaire only</p> <p>(b) paper questionnaire and tablet computers</p> <p>(c) tablet computers only</p> <p>(d) tablet computers and internet</p> <p>(e) internet and paper questionnaires</p> <p>(f) other (please describe)</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>(2) Combined census</p> <p>If yes, please circle the method of census taking among the options (a) to (c) listed below:</p> <p>(a) register(s)* and ad-hoc surveys</p> <p>(b) register(s)* and existing surveys</p> <p>(c) other (please describe)</p> <p>*Please list the register or registers that are used.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>(3) Fully register based census</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p>

(4) Rolling census	<input type="checkbox"/>
(5) Other, please specify	

2. Type of population count and coverage

Type of population count	
(a) Present / de facto population	X
(b) Usual resident population	X
(c) Other, please specify	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Geospatial information for this census

- (a) Is this census a geospatial census? **YES**
- (b) If Yes, is it polygon or point-based? **POLYGON**
- (c) Describe the enumeration units: **All records geocoded to a unit called a Meshblock (MB) which can be aggregated to larger units in the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS).**
- (d) Are there gaps or overlaps in enumeration units? **NO**

4. Please specify whether the following population groups were enumerated in the census:

Population group	Included	Excluded	Not applicable
(a) Nomads and persons living in areas to which access is difficult	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(b) Civilian residents temporarily absent from the country	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
(c) Civilian foreigners who do not cross a border daily and are in the country temporarily	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(d) Refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(e) Military, naval and diplomatic personnel and their families located outside the country	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
(f) Foreign military, naval and diplomatic personnel and their families located in the country Excludes those in diplomatic dwellings	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(g) Civilian foreigners who cross a border daily to work in the country	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
(h) Civilian residents who cross a border daily to work in another country	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
(i) Merchant seafarers and fishers resident in the country but at sea at the time of the census	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(j) Homeless or roofless persons, vagrants and persons with no concept of usual residence	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(k) Persons living in buildings with restricted access	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(l) Stateless persons	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. In case the enumeration was performed according to the 'usual resident population' concept, please complete the following additional table.

For each of the population groups listed in the following table, please indicate whether they were included, excluded, or not applicable in the usual resident population count.

Population group	Included	Excluded	Not applicable
(a) Persons found at the moment of enumeration that cannot identify their place of usual residence, such as those who move often;	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(b) National military, naval and diplomatic personnel and their families, located outside the country;	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
(c) Foreign persons working for international organizations (not including foreign diplomats or military forces), provided that they meet the criteria for usual residence in the country;	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(d) Merchant seafarers and fishers usually resident in the country but at sea at the time of the census (including those who have no place of residence other than their quarters aboard ship);	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(e) Persons who may be illegal, irregular or undocumented migrants, as well as asylum seekers and persons who have applied for or been granted refugee status or similar types of international protections, provided that they meet the criteria for usual residence in the country;	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(f) Persons who cross a frontier daily or weekly to work or study in another country, provided that they meet the criteria for usual residence in the country;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
(g) Children born in the 12 months before the census reference time and whose families are usually resident in the country at the census reference time;	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(h) Persons of minor age studying abroad for one year or more to attain the primary or secondary level of education, regardless of the frequency of return to the family home located within the country. If the person is also working abroad, the same rules for cross-border workers apply;	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
(i) Persons who regularly live in more than one country during a year, if they are present in the country at the moment of the enumeration.	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(j) Foreign military, naval and diplomatic personnel and their families, located in the country, regardless of their place of usual residence; Excludes those in diplomatic dwellings	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(k) Persons of minor age attending the primary or secondary level of education whose family home is located abroad, regardless of the duration of their stay. However, if these persons are also working in the country, then the identification of the place of usual residence follows the same rules as for cross-border workers;	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(l) Third-level students who are absent from the country for one year or more;	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
(m) Persons who regularly live in more than one country during a year, if they are not present in the country at the moment of the enumeration.	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. Estimated census coverage

Estimated coverage:	Both sexes	Male	Female
(a) Census under-enumeration / omissions (specify unit: Persons)	1,032,660	597,863	434,797
(b) Census over-enumeration / erroneous inclusions and duplications (specify unit: Persons)	314,788	159,036	155,752
(c) Net coverage error (specify unit: Persons)	190,044	170,530	19,514
(d) Net coverage error rate	0.74%	1.34%	0.15%

Base denominator for computing net coverage error rate is:	
(a) Enumerated population	<input type="checkbox"/>
(b) Estimated "complete" population	X
(c) Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>

Method(s) used in estimating coverage error:	
(a) Post Enumeration Survey (PES)	X
Date conducted: September 2021	
Size of sample (specify unit: Dwellings)	
For total area: 57,308	
For urban areas:	
For rural areas:	
Population groups excluded: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons in Non-private dwellings • Overseas visitors who were not in Australia on 10 August 2021 • Foreign diplomats and their families • People not in dwellings • Babies born after 10 August 2021 • People in "Other Territories" 	
(b) Demographic analysis, please specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparison to Population Estimate 11 August 2021 based on updated 30 June 2021 data. • Age Sex Indigenous Status and Country of Birth. 	X
(c) Other methods, please specify: <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Definition of urban/rural

The definition of urban areas for this census is:

Based on [ASGS Urban Centres and Localities criteria](#). In this a Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) geographic areas is considered Urban if population/housing densities are greater than 200 persons/sq km or 100 persons/sq km and 50 dwellings/sq km and is adjacent to urban infrastructure (e.g. shops, offices, parks etc.).

Adjacent urban SA1s are combined to form Urban Centres if they meet the following requirements:

- The aggregated population of urban SA1s is 1,000 persons or more
- The combined urban SA1s have an urban identity, meaning shared urban facilities of some kind and an identifiable name

Discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and discrete tourist resorts with a population exceeding 1,000 are considered to be Urban Centres regardless of density.

A military base or prison cannot be an Urban Centre in its own right.

The definition of rural areas for this census is:

All other geographic areas not considered as Major Urban, Other Urban or Bounded Localities in the ASGS Section of State criteria,

8. Definition of cities

The definition of a city proper for this census is:

There is no direct City classification used in ABS Statistical Spatial Geography.

The closest approximation to a Capital City is the ASGS Greater Capital City Statistical Area. These agglomerations are designed to represent the functional area of each of the eight State and Territory capital cities which includes populations who regularly socialise, shop or work within the city, but may live either in the city or in the small towns and rural areas surrounding the city.

In addition regional city agglomerations are based on ASGS Significant Urban Areas which are formed by individual or clusters of related Urban Centres with a core population of 10,000 people.

The definition of urban agglomeration for this census is:

See definition of Cities.

9. Definition of locality

The definition of a locality for this census is:

Localities represent smaller discrete settlements with populations generally between 200 and 999 people. Localities are diverse, reflecting many different configurations of small settlements, including villages, towns, clusters of peri-urban style development, and areas with significant seasonal tourism.

One or more adjacent urban SA1s are combined to form Localities if they meet the following requirements:

- The aggregated population of urban SA1s is between 200 and 999 persons.
- The combined urban SA1s have some shared urban identity, though urban facilities are not essential.

A Locality may contain a population exceeding 999 persons if it contains an urban SA1 that does not meet all the criteria for an Urban Centre (see above). These are referred to as large localities.

10. Definition of literacy

The definition of “literate” and “illiterate” for this census is:

Literacy levels are not collected in the Australian Census

11. Educational attainment

Do you follow the International Standard Classification for Education (ISCED) for tabulating the population by educational attainment?

No. Educational attainment collected in the Australian Census uses the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)

If yes, which revision?

If any other classification is used, are you able to provide data according to ISCED? Please specify revision number.

Yes. is Data provided based on ASCED - ISCED97 and ASCED - ISCED11 best fit correspondence.

The ASCED was designed to be consistent with ISCED 1997. However, the needs of Australian users and producers of statistics on education and other factors unique to the Australian education system mean that total consistency was not possible.

If no, please point out the major deviations from ISCED. Please specify revision number.

B. Economic characteristics

12. Activity status / labour force status

What is the lower age limit for the collection of information on activity status in this census?

15

Is there a maximum age limit for collection of information on activity status for this census?

No

What reference period do you use to establish the activity status (labour force status) of a person?

In the week prior to the Census

13. Please specify whether the groups of persons listed in the following table are included or excluded in the 'in employment' category in your census, by marking the appropriate box below.

	Included	Excluded	Not applicable

(a) Persons with a job for pay or profit who, during the reference period, were on training or skills enhancement activities required by their job or for another job in the same economic unit;	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(b) Apprentices, interns or trainees who work for pay in cash or in kind;	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(c) Persons who work for pay or profit through employment promotion programs;	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(d) Persons who work in their own economic units to produce goods intended <i>mainly</i> for sale or barter, even if part of the output is consumed by the household or family;	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(e) Persons with seasonal jobs during the off season, if they continue to perform some tasks and duties of the job, excluding, however, fulfilment of legal or administrative obligations (for example pay taxes);	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(f) Regular members of the armed forces and persons on military or alternative civilian service who perform this work for pay in cash or in kind;	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(g) Apprentices, interns and trainees who work <i>without</i> pay in cash or in kind (that is, unpaid trainee work);	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
(h) Participants in skills training or retraining schemes within employment promotion programs, when <i>not</i> engaged in the production process of an economic unit;	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
(i) Persons who are required to perform work as a condition of continued receipt of a government social benefit such as unemployment insurance;	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(j) Persons with seasonal jobs during the off season, if they <i>cease</i> to perform the tasks and duties of the job;	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
(k) Persons who retain a right to return to the same economic unit but who were absent (for reasons such as parental leave, educational leave, care for others, other personal reasons, temporary lay-off, suspension of work), when the total duration of the absence exceeds the specified threshold or if the test of receipt of remuneration is not fulfilled;	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(l) Persons on indefinite lay-off who do not have an assurance of return to employment with the same economic unit;	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
(m) Persons who work to produce goods intended <i>mainly</i> or <i>exclusively</i> for consumption or use by the household or family, even if a surplus or part of the output is sold or bartered (that is, own-use production of goods);	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(n) Household members who provide <i>unpaid</i> services for consumption or use by their household (that is, own-use provision of services);	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
(o) Persons who work voluntarily and <i>without</i> pay to produce goods or services through or for other economic units, including market, non-market units and households (that is, volunteer work).	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

14. Status in Employment

Based on the International Standard Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE-93), the status in employment may be classified as follows:

- (a) Employees;
- (b) Self-employed:
 - i. Employers;
 - ii. Own-account workers;
 - iii. Members of producers' cooperatives;
 - iv. Contributing family workers;
- (c) Persons not classifiable by status.

Do you follow the above structure, for the classification of the Status in Employment in your country?

Yes with the exception of the category "Members of producer's cooperatives"

If any other classification is used, are you able to provide data according to the above structure?

The Australian Census uses the Australian Status of Employment classification which is based on the ILO's 1993 resolution concerning the International Classification of Status in Employment (ICSE 93).

If no, please point out the major deviations from ICSE-93.

The only ICSE 93 category not in the Australian classification is "Member of producer's cooperative".

15. Occupation

Do you follow the International Standard Classification for Occupations (ISCO) for tabulating the employed population by occupation?
ISOC 08

No. Occupation data collected in the Australian Census is based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO).

If yes, which revision?

If any other or national classification is used, are you able to provide data according to ISCO? Please specify revision number.

Yes. Occupation data based on ANZSCO – ISCO88 and ANZSCO – ISCO08 best fit correspondence is provided.

If no, point out the major deviations from ISCO. Please specify revision number.

16. Industry

Do you follow the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) for tabulating the employed population by industry?

ISIC 3 ISIC 4

No. Industry data collected in the Australian Census is based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC).

If yes, which revision?

If any other classification is used, are you able to provide data according to ISIC? Please specify revision number.

Yes. Industry data based on ANZSIC – ISIC R3 and ANZSIC – ISIC R4 best fit correspondence is provided.

If no, please point out the major deviations from ISIC. Please specify revision number.

C. Household characteristics

17. Definitions

General definition of a household for this census is:

A household is defined as one or more people, at least one of whom is at least 15 years of age, usually resident in the same private dwelling.

General definition of a family nucleus for this census is:

A family is defined by the ABS as two or more people, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering, and who are usually resident in the same household.

18. Head of household / reference person of household

Which one among the following options was used to determine the relationships between household members? Please select one.

- a) Head of household
- b) Reference person

c) Other; please describe

Regarding your answer to the previous question, please provide the definition of head of household or reference person that was used in the Census.

A reference person is usually Person 1 on the Census form and forms the basis of a statistical family. Other household members are linked to the reference person to build the relationships within the household. Sometimes we need to allocate the reference person to a different household member to preserve the data quality of the relationship or family.

The reference person must be:

- at least 15 years of age
- a usual resident of the household
- at home on Census Night.

D. Housing census characteristics

19. Housing information

The general definition applied in this census for housing unit is:

The Australian Census uses the term Dwelling. A dwelling is a structure which is intended to have people live in it, and which is habitable on Census Night. Some examples of dwellings are houses, motels, flats, caravans, prisons, tents, humpies and houseboats.

Private dwellings are enumerated using online or paper household forms, which obtain family and relationship data as well as information on the dwelling itself such as rent or mortgage payments and ownership. Non-private dwellings (for example hotels and hospitals) are enumerated using online or paper personal forms. While these forms capture information about the person's residential status within the non-private dwelling, they do not capture information on ownership of, or payments related to, the dwelling.

All occupied dwellings are counted in the Census. Unoccupied private dwellings are also counted. This includes unoccupied units in retirement villages (self-contained). Unoccupied residences of owners, managers or caretakers of caravan parks, marinas and manufactured home estates are also counted, but other unoccupied dwellings in such establishments are not counted.

The general definition applied in this census for conventional dwelling is:

Any housing unit

Are vacant units included in the enumerated conventional dwellings?

Yes

The general definition applied in this census for room is:

The Australian Census does not ask the number of rooms in a dwelling, only the number of bedrooms.

20. Definition of cities (as referred to in the Housing Census Questionnaire: City Data)

General definition of a city in the reporting country for this census is:

The 4 cities used in the HSC Questionnaire are based on the ASGS Greater Capital City Statistical Area geography. (See 8. Definition of city)

City 1 (Capital City) – Territory refers to:

Australian Capital Territory as a whole including the City of Canberra

City 2 – Territory refers to:

Greater Brisbane (GCCSA) Capital City agglomeration of the state of Queensland.

City 3 – Territory refers to:

Greater Melbourne (GCCSA) Capital City agglomeration of the state of Victoria

City 4 – Territory refers to:

Greater Sydney (GCCSA) Capital City agglomeration of the state of New South Wales

E. Bibliography of Population and Housing Statistics

Please list publications that contain results of your latest population census and your latest housing census:

All results and reference material are available online at [Census | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://www.abs.gov.au)

In particular, the ABS TableBuilder product allows any registered user to download Census of Population and Housing data tables such as those requested by the UN. See: [TableBuilder | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://www.abs.gov.au).