

# Community report

## Ballarat (C)

Prepared from Community Explorer topic selections for briefing, planning and reporting use.

AREA

**Ballarat (C)**

COMPARISON

**Regional Vic.**

POPULATION

**Persons**

GENERATED

**30 March 2026**

### Included sections

1 selected topic will be included in this report.

**01** Language used at home

### Sources and method

- Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2021 and, where available, 2016 comparison data.
- Percentages are calculated from the denominator supplied for each topic. Change (pp) is the 2021 percentage minus the 2016 percentage when the topic is comparable across years.
- Usual residence topics describe where people usually live, rather than where they were counted on Census night.

# Language used at home

Ballarat (C) | Regional Vic. comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

## Key takeaway

In 2021, English was the most common language used at home among residents in Ballarat (C), accounting for 88.1% (100,172 people). This share was higher than Regional Vic. (86.4%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in English, which increased by 10,175 people, while its share fell by 0.5 percentage points.

## About this topic

Language used at home shows which languages people speak in their home life and whether English or another language is used most often. It is a key indicator of cultural diversity and language retention within communities.

This topic is useful for planning communication, multicultural services, and local engagement. It should be analysed together with proficiency in English and birthplace, because language alone does not show migration history or support needs.

## Interpretation notes

- The Census records the language used most often at home, so it does not capture every language a person can speak.
- Language used at home is not a measure of English proficiency, literacy, or migration history on its own.

## Language used at home - Ranked by size

Ballarat (C) - Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	61	0.1%	0.1%	62	0.1%	0.1%	-1	0.0
Non-verbal, so described	69	0.1%	0.0%	96	0.1%	0.1%	-27	0.0
Swiss, so described	3	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	0.0%	—	—
Cypriot, so described	—	—	0.0%	—	—	—	—	—
Creole, nfd	8	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	0.0%	—	—
French Creole, nfd	4	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	0.0%	—	—
Pidgin, nfd	5	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	0.0%	+2	0.0
Celtic, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	—	—	—
Gaelic (Scotland)	6	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	0.0%	—	—
Irish	—	—	0.0%	3	0.0%	0.0%	—	—
Welsh	—	—	0.0%	—	—	0.0%	—	—
Celtic, nec	—	—	0.0%	—	—	—	—	—

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
English	100,172	88.1%	86.4%	89,997	88.6%	8
German	172	0.2%	0.2%	168	0.2%	
Letzeburgish	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yiddish	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dutch	135	0.1%	0.1%	170	0.2%	
Frisian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Afrikaans	67	0.1%	0.1%	64	0.1%	
Danish	12	0.0%	0.0%	15	0.0%	
Icelandic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Norwegian	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Swedish	25	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Estonian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Finnish	5	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
French	136	0.1%	0.1%	118	0.1%	
Greek	151	0.1%	0.2%	142	0.1%	
Iberian Romance, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Catalan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Portuguese	56	0.0%	0.0%	22	0.0%	
Spanish	227	0.2%	0.2%	104	0.1%	
Italian	191	0.2%	0.5%	222	0.2%	
Maltese	35	0.0%	0.1%	52	0.1%	
Basque	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Latin	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Other Southern European Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Eastern European Languages, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Latvian	7	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Lithuanian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Hungarian	47	0.0%	0.0%	40	0.0%	
Belorussian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Russian	79	0.1%	0.1%	65	0.1%	
Ukrainian	16	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Bosnian	8	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Bulgarian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Croatian	114	0.1%	0.2%	121	0.1%	
Macedonian	34	0.0%	0.1%	18	0.0%	
Serbian	59	0.1%	0.1%	41	0.0%	
Slovene	10	0.0%	0.0%	16	0.0%	
Serbo-Croatian/Yugoslavian, so described	8	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Czech	15	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Polish	57	0.1%	0.1%	49	0.0%	
Slovak	5	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Czechoslovakian, so described	–	–	–	–	–	
Albanian	–	–	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Romanian	12	0.0%	0.0%	17	0.0%	
Romany	–	–	–	–	–	
Iranic, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Kurdish	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Pashto	9	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Balochi	–	–	–	–	–	
Dari	5	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Persian (excluding Dari)	70	0.1%	0.1%	66	0.1%	
Hazaraghi	14	0.0%	0.1%	11	0.0%	
Arabic	187	0.2%	0.2%	157	0.2%	
Hebrew	4	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Assyrian Neo-Aramaic	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Chaldean Neo-Aramaic	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Turkish	26	0.0%	0.1%	24	0.0%	
Azeri	9	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Uygur	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Uzbek	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Turkic, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Armenian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Georgian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Southern Asian Languages, nfd	16	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Kannada	16	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Malayalam	466	0.4%	0.2%	233	0.2%	
Tamil	149	0.1%	0.1%	75	0.1%	
Telugu	163	0.1%	0.1%	59	0.1%	
Tulu	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Indo-Aryan, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Bengali	128	0.1%	0.0%	75	0.1%	
Gujarati	125	0.1%	0.1%	58	0.1%	
Hindi	387	0.3%	0.2%	224	0.2%	
Konkani	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Marathi	19	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Nepali	213	0.2%	0.1%	35	0.0%	
Punjabi	764	0.7%	0.5%	248	0.2%	
Sindhi	8	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Sinhalese	206	0.2%	0.1%	90	0.1%	
Urdu	233	0.2%	0.1%	91	0.1%	
Assamese	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Dhivehi	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Kashmiri	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Oriya	3	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Fijian Hindustani	5	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Indo-Aryan, nec	3	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Other Southern Asian Languages	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Burmese and Related Languages, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Burmese	8	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Chin Haka	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Karen	3	0.0%	0.2%	4	0.0%	
Rohingya	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Zomi	—	—	0.0%	—	—	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Burmese and Related Languages, nec	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Hmong	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Khmer	17	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Vietnamese	186	0.2%	0.2%	104	0.1%	
Mon-Khmer, nec	–	–	–	–	–	
Lao	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Thai	139	0.1%	0.1%	88	0.1%	
Southeast Asian Austronesian Languages, nfd	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Bisaya	18	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Cebuano	18	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Ilokano	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Indonesian	74	0.1%	0.1%	39	0.0%	
Malay	32	0.0%	0.1%	18	0.0%	
Tetum	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Timorese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tagalog	220	0.2%	0.2%	169	0.2%	
Filipino	221	0.2%	0.2%	133	0.1%	
Acehnese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Balinese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Iban	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ilonggo (Hiligaynon)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Javanese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Pampangan	7	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Southeast Asian Austronesian Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Chinese, nfd	10	0.0%	0.0%	58	0.1%	
Cantonese	165	0.1%	0.1%	167	0.2%	
Hakka	–	–	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Mandarin	968	0.9%	0.6%	854	0.8%	
Wu	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Min Nan	22	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Japanese	151	0.1%	0.1%	142	0.1%	
Korean	63	0.1%	0.0%	40	0.0%	
Tibetan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mongolian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Eastern Asian Languages, nec	–	–	–	–	–	
Australian Indigenous Languages, nfd	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Tiwi	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Dalabon	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Larrakiya	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Murrinh Patha	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Waanyi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yolngu Matha, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kuku Yalanji	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yidiny	–	–	–	–	–	
Yumplatok (Torres Strait Creole)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Jaru	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Warlpiri	–	–	–	–	–	
Anmatyerr, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Arrernte, nfd	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Arrernte, nec	–	–	–	3	0.0%	
Pitjantjatjara	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Wangkatha	–	–	–	–	–	
Yankunytjatjara	–	–	–	–	–	
Bardi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yawuru	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Adnymathanha	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bandjalang	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bidjara	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Gamilaraay	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kanai	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kriol	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Ngarrindjeri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nyungar	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Paakantyi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Wajarri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Wiradjuri	–	–	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Yorta Yorta	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Djabwurrung	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Wergaia	8	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Aboriginal English, so described	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Other Australian Indigenous Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
American Languages	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
African Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Acholi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Akan	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Mauritian Creole	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Oromo	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Shona	63	0.1%	0.0%	16	0.0%	
Somali	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Swahili	25	0.0%	0.1%	17	0.0%	
Yoruba	34	0.0%	0.0%	19	0.0%	
Zulu	7	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Amharic	4	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Bemba	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dinka	10	0.0%	0.0%	19	0.0%	
Ewe	49	0.0%	0.0%	57	0.1%	
Ga	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Harari	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Hausa	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Igbo	11	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Kikuyu	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Krio	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Luganda	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Luo	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ndebele	17	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Nuer	95	0.1%	0.0%	96	0.1%	
Nyanja (Chichewa)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Shilluk	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tigrinya	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tswana	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Xhosa	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bari	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Bassa	–	–	–	–	–	
Kinyarwanda (Rwanda)	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Kirundi (Rundi)	4	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Liberian (Liberian English)	–	–	–	–	–	
Madi	–	–	–	–	–	
Lingala	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
African Languages, nec	12	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Fijian	17	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
Gilbertese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Maori (Cook Island)	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Maori (New Zealand)	11	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Nauruan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Niue	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Samoan	26	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Tongan	11	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Tokelauan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tuvaluan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Pacific Austronesian Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bislama	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Norf'k–Pitcairn	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Solomon Islands Pijin	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Oceanian Pidgins and Creoles, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Papua New Guinea Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Motu (HiriMotu)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tok Pisin (Neomelanesian)	5	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Papua New Guinea Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Invented Languages	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Sign Languages, nfd	9	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Auslan	67	0.1%	0.1%	49	0.0%	
Key Word Sign Australia	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Sign Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Not stated	5,612	4.9%	6.5%	6,190	6.1%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>113,714</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>101,622</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Excludes languages spoken at home by fewer than 10 people.

Data basis: usual residence.