

Community report

Brisbane (C)

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

AREA

Brisbane (C)

COMPARISON

Greater Brisbane

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

Brisbane (C) | Greater Brisbane comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

Key takeaway

In 2021, English was the most common language used at home among residents in Brisbane (C), accounting for 71.6% (890,403 people). This share was lower than Greater Brisbane (77.3%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in English, which increased by 78,205 people, while its share fell by 0.2 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

Brisbane (C) - Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Greater Brisbane %	Count	%	Greater Brisbane %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	983	0.1%	0.1%	664	0.1%	0.1%	+319	0.0
Non-verbal, so described	1,267	0.1%	0.1%	1,848	0.2%	0.1%	-581	-0.1
Swiss, so described	31	0.0%	0.0%	34	0.0%	0.0%	-3	0.0
Cypriot, so described	6	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	0.0%	—	—
Creole, nfd	183	0.0%	0.0%	104	0.0%	0.0%	+79	0.0
French Creole, nfd	50	0.0%	0.0%	51	0.0%	0.0%	-1	0.0
Spanish Creole, nfd	4	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	—	—	—
Pidgin, nfd	409	0.0%	0.0%	378	0.0%	0.0%	+31	0.0
Gaelic (Scotland)	79	0.0%	0.0%	59	0.0%	0.0%	+20	0.0
Irish	139	0.0%	0.0%	147	0.0%	0.0%	-8	0.0
Welsh	90	0.0%	0.0%	107	0.0%	0.0%	-17	0.0
Celtic, nec	3	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	—	—	—

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Brisbane %	Count	%	Greater Bris
English	890,403	71.6%	77.3%	812,198	71.8%	
German and Related Languages, nfd	–	–	–	4	0.0%	
German	4,267	0.3%	0.3%	4,384	0.4%	
Letzeburgish	4	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Yiddish	10	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Dutch and Related Languages, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Dutch	1,438	0.1%	0.1%	1,664	0.1%	
Frisian	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Afrikaans	3,281	0.3%	0.3%	2,807	0.2%	
Danish	415	0.0%	0.0%	475	0.0%	
Icelandic	14	0.0%	0.0%	16	0.0%	
Norwegian	242	0.0%	0.0%	262	0.0%	
Swedish	721	0.1%	0.0%	630	0.1%	
Scandinavian, nec	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Estonian	124	0.0%	0.0%	105	0.0%	
Finnish	489	0.0%	0.0%	494	0.0%	
French	4,527	0.4%	0.3%	4,398	0.4%	
Greek	6,003	0.5%	0.3%	6,261	0.6%	
Iberian Romance, nfd	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Catalan	63	0.0%	0.0%	38	0.0%	
Portuguese	5,386	0.4%	0.3%	3,490	0.3%	
Spanish	14,082	1.1%	0.8%	10,539	0.9%	
Iberian Romance, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Italian	7,179	0.6%	0.4%	7,608	0.7%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Brisbane %	Count	%	Greater Bris
Maltese	154	0.0%	0.0%	178	0.0%	
Basque	6	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Latin	18	0.0%	0.0%	16	0.0%	
Other Southern European Languages, nec	—	—	—	4	0.0%	
Eastern European Languages, nfd	7	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Latvian	85	0.0%	0.0%	96	0.0%	
Lithuanian	91	0.0%	0.0%	56	0.0%	
Hungarian	962	0.1%	0.1%	991	0.1%	
Belorussian	4	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Russian	3,094	0.2%	0.2%	2,385	0.2%	
Ukrainian	298	0.0%	0.0%	308	0.0%	
Bosnian	1,206	0.1%	0.1%	1,056	0.1%	
Bulgarian	201	0.0%	0.0%	170	0.0%	
Croatian	1,237	0.1%	0.1%	1,239	0.1%	
Macedonian	645	0.1%	0.0%	637	0.1%	
Serbian	2,355	0.2%	0.1%	2,102	0.2%	
Slovene	118	0.0%	0.0%	107	0.0%	
Serbo-Croatian/Yugoslavian, so described	263	0.0%	0.0%	352	0.0%	
Czech	396	0.0%	0.0%	364	0.0%	
Polish	2,089	0.2%	0.1%	2,055	0.2%	
Slovak	239	0.0%	0.0%	229	0.0%	
Czechoslovakian, so described	4	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Albanian	282	0.0%	0.0%	232	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Brisbane %	Count	%	Greater Brisbane %
Aromunian (Macedo-Romanian)	4	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	—
Romanian	657	0.1%	0.1%	569	0.1%	—
Romany	—	—	0.0%	5	0.0%	—
Southwest and Central Asian Languages, nfd	—	—	—	3	0.0%	—
Iranic, nfd	—	—	0.0%	46	0.0%	—
Kurdish	341	0.0%	0.0%	384	0.0%	—
Pashto	335	0.0%	0.0%	232	0.0%	—
Balochi	—	—	0.0%	—	—	—
Dari	994	0.1%	0.1%	883	0.1%	—
Persian (excluding Dari)	5,095	0.4%	0.3%	4,148	0.4%	—
Hazaraghi	871	0.1%	0.1%	390	0.0%	—
Middle Eastern Semitic Languages, nfd	—	—	—	4	0.0%	—
Arabic	7,229	0.6%	0.5%	6,481	0.6%	—
Hebrew	372	0.0%	0.0%	276	0.0%	—
Assyrian Neo-Aramaic	173	0.0%	0.0%	115	0.0%	—
Chaldean Neo-Aramaic	47	0.0%	0.0%	21	0.0%	—
Mandaean (Mandaic)	—	—	—	7	0.0%	—
Turkish	983	0.1%	0.1%	673	0.1%	—
Azeri	63	0.0%	0.0%	31	0.0%	—
Tatar	5	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	—
Turkmen	6	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	—
Uygur	57	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	—
Uzbek	38	0.0%	0.0%	41	0.0%	—

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Brisbane %	Count	%	Greater Bris
Turkic, nec	16	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Armenian	58	0.0%	0.0%	34	0.0%	
Georgian	10	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Southern Asian Languages, nfd	353	0.0%	0.0%	535	0.0%	
Kannada	741	0.1%	0.0%	491	0.0%	
Malayalam	5,196	0.4%	0.3%	3,521	0.3%	
Tamil	4,172	0.3%	0.2%	3,159	0.3%	
Telugu	3,075	0.2%	0.2%	2,049	0.2%	
Tulu	41	0.0%	0.0%	37	0.0%	
Dravidian, nec	26	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
Indo-Aryan, nfd	88	0.0%	0.0%	109	0.0%	
Bengali	2,503	0.2%	0.1%	2,112	0.2%	
Gujarati	5,720	0.5%	0.3%	3,832	0.3%	
Hindi	10,759	0.9%	0.7%	9,850	0.9%	
Konkani	191	0.0%	0.0%	126	0.0%	
Marathi	1,182	0.1%	0.1%	690	0.1%	
Nepali	5,668	0.5%	0.3%	2,944	0.3%	
Punjabi	12,805	1.0%	0.9%	9,951	0.9%	
Sindhi	297	0.0%	0.0%	230	0.0%	
Sinhalese	4,722	0.4%	0.2%	3,663	0.3%	
Urdu	3,759	0.3%	0.2%	2,604	0.2%	
Assamese	33	0.0%	0.0%	21	0.0%	
Dhivehi	34	0.0%	0.0%	49	0.0%	
Kashmiri	11	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Brisbane %	Count	%	Greater Brisbane %
Oriya	69	0.0%	0.0%	40	0.0%	
Fijian Hindustani	316	0.0%	0.0%	219	0.0%	
Indo-Aryan, nec	53	0.0%	0.0%	23	0.0%	
Other Southern Asian Languages	639	0.1%	0.0%	114	0.0%	
Burmese and Related Languages, nfd	3	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Burmese	601	0.0%	0.0%	467	0.0%	
Chin Haka	54	0.0%	0.0%	21	0.0%	
Karen	284	0.0%	0.1%	319	0.0%	
Rohingya	290	0.0%	0.0%	355	0.0%	
Zomi	6	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Burmese and Related Languages, nec	67	0.0%	0.0%	75	0.0%	
Hmong	58	0.0%	0.0%	30	0.0%	
Khmer	569	0.0%	0.1%	497	0.0%	
Vietnamese	21,679	1.7%	1.1%	18,585	1.6%	
Mon	10	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Mon-Khmer, nec	4	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Lao	196	0.0%	0.0%	186	0.0%	
Thai	3,407	0.3%	0.2%	2,751	0.2%	
Tai, nec	7	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Southeast Asian Austronesian Languages, nfd	192	0.0%	0.0%	15	0.0%	
Bisaya	360	0.0%	0.0%	246	0.0%	
Cebuano	264	0.0%	0.0%	167	0.0%	
Ilokano	65	0.0%	0.0%	17	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Brisbane %	Count	%	Greater Bris
Indonesian	2,590	0.2%	0.1%	2,758	0.2%	
Malay	794	0.1%	0.0%	1,206	0.1%	
Tetum	15	0.0%	0.0%	19	0.0%	
Timorese	7	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Tagalog	5,980	0.5%	0.5%	5,195	0.5%	
Filipino	4,088	0.3%	0.3%	3,208	0.3%	
Acehnese	6	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Balinese	4	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Bikol	9	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Iban	6	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Ilonggo (Hiligaynon)	64	0.0%	0.0%	48	0.0%	
Javanese	4	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Pampangan	8	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Southeast Asian Austronesian Languages, nec	33	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Other Southeast Asian Languages	11	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Chinese, nfd	749	0.1%	0.0%	1,537	0.1%	
Cantonese	18,621	1.5%	0.9%	16,996	1.5%	
Hakka	313	0.0%	0.0%	299	0.0%	
Mandarin	55,271	4.4%	2.5%	46,703	4.1%	
Wu	115	0.0%	0.0%	66	0.0%	
Min Nan	1,226	0.1%	0.1%	840	0.1%	
Japanese	5,895	0.5%	0.3%	5,208	0.5%	
Korean	11,688	0.9%	0.6%	11,078	1.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Brisbane %	Count	%	Greater Brisbane %
Tibetan	118	0.0%	0.0%	61	0.0%	
Mongolian	308	0.0%	0.0%	130	0.0%	
Other Eastern Asian Languages, nec	8	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Australian Indigenous Languages, nfd	172	0.0%	0.0%	74	0.0%	
Tiwi	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Iwaidja	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Jawoyn	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Murrinh Patha	–	–	–	–	–	
Ndjebbana (Gunavidji)	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Waanyi	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Burarra	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yolngu Matha, nfd	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Cape York Peninsula Languages, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Kuku Yalanji	9	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Guugu Yimidhirr	11	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Kuuku-Ya'u	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Wik Mungkan	11	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Djabugay	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dyirbal	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yidiny	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Cape York Peninsula Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Torres Strait Island Languages, nfd	36	0.0%	0.0%	24	0.0%	
Kalaw Kawaw Ya/Kalaw Lagaw Ya	42	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Brisbane %	Count	%	Greater Brisbane %
Meriam Mir	12	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Yumplatok (Torres Strait Creole)	110	0.0%	0.0%	80	0.0%	
Arrernte, nfd	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Western Arrarnta	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Luritja	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Manyjilyjarra	–	–	–	3	0.0%	
Martu Wangka	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Pitjantjatjara	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bardi	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Bunuba	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Other Australian Indigenous Languages, nfd	–	–	–	7	0.0%	
Adnymathanha	–	–	–	–	–	
Arabana	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bandjalang	20	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Batjala	23	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Bidjara	5	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Dhanggatti	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Gamilaraay	54	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Gumbaynggir	–	–	–	–	–	
Kurna	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kriol	13	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Lardil	–	–	–	7	0.0%	
Ngarrindjeri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Brisbane %	Count	%	Greater Bris
Wiradjuri	11	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Yorta Yorta	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Wangkangurru	–	–	–	3	0.0%	
Yugambah	25	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Aboriginal English, so described	58	0.0%	0.0%	31	0.0%	
Other Australian Indigenous Languages, nec	88	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Other Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
American Languages	5	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
African Languages, nfd	75	0.0%	0.0%	125	0.0%	
Acholi	120	0.0%	0.0%	117	0.0%	
Akan	104	0.0%	0.0%	92	0.0%	
Mauritian Creole	41	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Oromo	176	0.0%	0.0%	83	0.0%	
Shona	511	0.0%	0.1%	496	0.0%	
Somali	1,948	0.2%	0.1%	1,776	0.2%	
Swahili	952	0.1%	0.1%	581	0.1%	
Yoruba	228	0.0%	0.0%	165	0.0%	
Zulu	12	0.0%	0.0%	21	0.0%	
Amharic	501	0.0%	0.0%	415	0.0%	
Bemba	22	0.0%	0.0%	19	0.0%	
Dinka	172	0.0%	0.1%	210	0.0%	
Ewe	35	0.0%	0.0%	39	0.0%	
Ga	14	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Brisbane %	Count	%	Greater Brisbane %
Harari	25	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Hausa	12	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Igbo	130	0.0%	0.0%	93	0.0%	
Kikuyu	3	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Krio	102	0.0%	0.0%	118	0.0%	
Luganda	33	0.0%	0.0%	30	0.0%	
Luo	6	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Ndebele	48	0.0%	0.0%	44	0.0%	
Nuer	64	0.0%	0.0%	74	0.0%	
Nyanja (Chichewa)	24	0.0%	0.0%	15	0.0%	
Shilluk	6	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Tigre	5	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Tigrinya	711	0.1%	0.0%	499	0.0%	
Tswana	40	0.0%	0.0%	32	0.0%	
Xhosa	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Seychelles Creole	–	–	0.0%	40	0.0%	
Anuak	57	0.0%	0.0%	40	0.0%	
Bari	15	0.0%	0.0%	19	0.0%	
Bassa	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dan (Gio-Dan)	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Fulfulde	18	0.0%	0.0%	28	0.0%	
Kinyarwanda (Rwanda)	153	0.0%	0.0%	113	0.0%	
Kirundi (Rundi)	279	0.0%	0.0%	235	0.0%	
Kpelle	–	–	–	4	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Brisbane %	Count	%	Greater Brisbane %
Krahn	3	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Liberian (Liberian English)	18	0.0%	0.0%	49	0.0%	
Madi	41	0.0%	0.0%	51	0.0%	
Mandinka	86	0.0%	0.0%	120	0.0%	
Mann	5	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Moro (Nuba Moro)	14	0.0%	0.0%	45	0.0%	
Themne	–	–	–	5	0.0%	
Lingala	20	0.0%	0.0%	25	0.0%	
African Languages, nec	234	0.0%	0.0%	209	0.0%	
Pacific Austronesian Languages, nfd	13	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Fijian	514	0.0%	0.0%	468	0.0%	
Gilbertese	63	0.0%	0.0%	33	0.0%	
Maori (Cook Island)	211	0.0%	0.0%	252	0.0%	
Maori (New Zealand)	880	0.1%	0.1%	719	0.1%	
Nauruan	85	0.0%	0.0%	78	0.0%	
Niue	93	0.0%	0.0%	89	0.0%	
Samoaan	3,655	0.3%	0.6%	3,226	0.3%	
Tongan	992	0.1%	0.1%	995	0.1%	
Rotuman	48	0.0%	0.0%	38	0.0%	
Tokelauan	46	0.0%	0.0%	44	0.0%	
Tuvaluan	19	0.0%	0.0%	22	0.0%	
Yapese	–	–	–	3	0.0%	
Pacific Austronesian Languages, nec	25	0.0%	0.0%	22	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Brisbane %	Count	%	Greater Brisbane %
Bislama	32	0.0%	0.0%	28	0.0%	
Norfolk-Pitcairn	39	0.0%	0.0%	65	0.0%	
Solomon Islands Pijin	53	0.0%	0.0%	46	0.0%	
Oceanian Pidgins and Creoles, nec	16	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Papua New Guinea Languages, nfd	48	0.0%	0.0%	99	0.0%	
Kiwai	7	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Motu (HiriMotu)	100	0.0%	0.0%	86	0.0%	
Tok Pisin (Neomelanesian)	618	0.0%	0.0%	532	0.0%	
Papua New Guinea Languages, nec	28	0.0%	0.0%	24	0.0%	
Invented Languages	8	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Sign Languages, nfd	81	0.0%	0.0%	73	0.0%	
Auslan	1,057	0.1%	0.1%	680	0.1%	
Key Word Sign Australia	16	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Sign Languages, nec	4	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Not stated	54,743	4.4%	5.0%	65,741	5.8%	
Total	1,242,815	100.0%	100.0%	1,131,122	100.0%	100.0%

Excludes languages spoken at home by fewer than 10 people.

Data basis: usual residence.