

Community report

Christmas Island

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

AREA

Christmas Island

COMPARISON

Other Territories

POPULATION

Persons

GENERATED

2 April 2026

Included sections

1 selected topic will be included in this report.

01 Ancestry

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.

Ancestry

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SECTION

01

Key takeaway

In 2021, the largest ancestry groups among residents in Christmas Island were Chinese, Australian and Malay.

About this topic

Ancestry describes a person's cultural association and ethnic background, and Census respondents can report more than one ancestry. It is a broader cultural measure than country of birth because it can reflect family heritage across generations.

This topic helps show the size and diversity of cultural groups in an area, including groups whose members were born in Australia. Because multiple ancestries can be reported, ancestry totals can exceed the total population, so it is best read with birthplace, language used at home, and religion.

Interpretation notes

- People can report up to two ancestries, so category counts represent responses rather than a single unduplicated person count, while percentages are shown against the total population.
- ABS advises that ancestry is best used with birthplace and language, because ancestry alone is a broad measure of ethnicity and cultural background.
- The 2021 form added separate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mark boxes, so those categories need caution in over-time comparison.

Ancestry - Ranked by size

Christmas Island - Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Other Territories %	Count	%	Other Territories %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	15	0.9%	0.8%	–	–	0.7%	–	–
Eurasian, so described	8	0.5%	0.2%	–	–	0.1%	–	–
Asian, so described	3	0.2%	0.3%	–	–	0.2%	–	–
African, so described	–	–	–	–	–	0.1%	–	–
European, so described	5	0.3%	0.1%	–	–	0.1%	–	–
Oceanian, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	0.1%	–	–
Australian Peoples, nfd	–	–	2.2%	–	–	0.9%	–	–
Australian	288	17.0%	23.5%	–	–	23.9%	–	–
Australian Aboriginal	8	0.5%	3.1%	–	–	2.2%	–	–
Australian South Sea Islander	–	–	–	–	–	0.1%	–	–
Torres Strait Islander	–	–	0.1%	–	–	0.1%	–	–
Norfolk Islander	–	–	6.7%	–	–	–	–	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Other Territories %	Count	%	Other Territ
Maori	7	0.4%	1.1%	–	–	
New Zealander	9	0.5%	3.1%	–	–	
Ni-Vanuatu	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
Papua New Guinean	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
Polynesian, nfd	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
Cook Islander	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
Fijian	–	–	0.7%	–	–	
Niuean	3	0.2%	–	–	–	
Samoan	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Tongan	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Tahitian	–	–	0.3%	–	–	
Pitcairn	–	–	11.5%	–	–	
British, nfd	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
English	212	12.5%	19.0%	–	–	
Scottish	47	2.8%	5.5%	–	–	
Welsh	4	0.2%	0.3%	–	–	
Channel Islander	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Manx	–	–	–	–	–	
Irish	56	3.3%	4.6%	–	–	
Austrian	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Dutch	14	0.8%	1.1%	–	–	
French	4	0.2%	0.5%	–	–	
German	28	1.7%	1.8%	–	–	
Swiss	–	–	0.1%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Other Territories %	Count	%	Other Territ
Belgian	–	–	0.1%	–	–	–
Northern European, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	–
Danish	–	–	0.2%	–	–	–
Finnish	–	–	0.1%	–	–	–
Norwegian	–	–	0.3%	–	–	–
Swedish	–	–	0.2%	–	–	–
Italian	9	0.5%	0.7%	–	–	–
Maltese	–	–	0.3%	–	–	–
Portuguese	3	0.2%	0.2%	–	–	–
Spanish	4	0.2%	0.3%	–	–	–
Croatian	5	0.3%	0.2%	–	–	–
Greek	–	–	0.1%	–	–	–
Serbian	–	–	0.1%	–	–	–
Slovene	–	–	–	–	–	–
Czech	–	–	0.1%	–	–	–
Estonian	–	–	0.1%	–	–	–
Hungarian	5	0.3%	0.1%	–	–	–
Latvian	–	–	0.1%	–	–	–
Polish	6	0.4%	0.3%	–	–	–
Russian	3	0.2%	0.2%	–	–	–
Ukrainian	–	–	0.1%	–	–	–
Arab, nfd	–	–	0.1%	–	–	–
Egyptian	–	–	–	–	–	–
Lebanese	–	–	–	–	–	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Other Territories %	Count	%	Other Territ
Jewish	–	–	0.1%	–	–	–
Burmese	–	–	0.1%	–	–	–
Thai	20	1.2%	0.5%	–	–	–
Vietnamese	7	0.4%	0.1%	–	–	–
Filipino	27	1.6%	1.4%	–	–	–
Indonesian	65	3.8%	2.7%	–	–	–
Javanese	–	–	1.2%	–	–	–
Malay	272	16.1%	7.8%	–	–	–
Singaporean	11	0.7%	0.4%	–	–	–
Maritime South–East Asian, nec	–	–	–	–	–	–
Chinese	376	22.2%	8.3%	–	–	–
Japanese	5	0.3%	0.2%	–	–	–
Korean	6	0.4%	0.1%	–	–	–
Mongolian	–	–	–	–	–	–
Indian	24	1.4%	0.6%	–	–	–
Malayali	9	0.5%	0.2%	–	–	–
Pakistani	–	–	–	–	–	–
Fijian Indian	–	–	–	–	–	–
Tamil, nfd	10	0.6%	0.2%	–	–	–
Southern Asian, nec	–	–	0.1%	–	–	–
American	–	–	0.3%	–	–	–
Canadian	–	–	0.2%	–	–	–
South American, nfd	–	–	0.1%	–	–	–
Argentinian	–	–	0.1%	–	–	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Other Territories %	Count	%	Other Territ
Caribbean Islander, nec	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Seychellois	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
South African	11	0.7%	0.4%	–	–	
Zimbabwean	3	0.2%	0.2%	–	–	

Excludes ancestries with fewer than 10 responses (multi-response).

Data basis: usual residence.