

Community report

Colac-Otway (S)

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

AREA

Colac-Otway (S)

COMPARISON

Regional Vic.

POPULATION

Persons

GENERATED

1 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

Colac–Otway (S) | Regional Vic. comparison | Persons
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SECTION

01

Key takeaway

In 2021, the largest ancestry groups among residents in Colac–Otway (S) were English, Australian and Irish.

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

Colac-Otway (S) - Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	47	0.2%	0.2%	50	0.2%	0.2%	-3	0.0
Eurasian, so described	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Asian, so described	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
African, so described	14	0.1%	0.1%	18	0.1%	0.1%	-4	0.0
European, so described	8	0.0%	0.1%	10	0.0%	0.0%	-2	0.0
Caucasian, so described	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Creole, so described	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Oceanian, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Australian Peoples, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Australian	9,035	40.3%	39.2%	8,724	41.6%	40.0%	+311	-1.3
Australian Aboriginal	318	1.4%	1.9%	23	0.1%	0.2%	+295	+1.3
Australian South Sea Islander	5	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	0.0%	0	0.0

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Torres Strait Islander	13	0.1%	0.1%	–	–	
Norfolk Islander	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
New Zealand Peoples, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Maori	73	0.3%	0.3%	87	0.4%	
New Zealander	88	0.4%	0.5%	86	0.4%	
Melanesian and Papuan, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
New Caledonian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ni-Vanuatu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Papua New Guinean	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Solomon Islander	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Melanesian and Papuan, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Micronesian, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
I-Kiribati	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nauruan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Micronesian, nec	–	–	–	–	–	
Polynesian, nfd	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Cook Islander	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Fijian	11	0.0%	0.1%	18	0.1%	
Niuean	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Samoan	25	0.1%	0.1%	–	–	
Tongan	14	0.1%	0.1%	–	–	
Hawaiian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tahitian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tokelauan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Tuvaluan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Pitcairn	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Polynesian, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
North–West European, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
British, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
English	9,151	40.8%	40.6%	8,378	39.9%	4
Scottish	2,887	12.9%	11.7%	2,676	12.8%	1
Welsh	98	0.4%	0.6%	112	0.5%	
Channel Islander	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Manx	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
British, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Irish	3,455	15.4%	12.9%	3,205	15.3%	1
Western European, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Austrian	35	0.2%	0.2%	24	0.1%	
Dutch	412	1.8%	2.3%	349	1.7%	
Flemish	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
French	108	0.5%	0.4%	73	0.3%	
German	830	3.7%	4.6%	756	3.6%	
Swiss	35	0.2%	0.2%	38	0.2%	
Belgian	13	0.1%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Frisian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Luxembourg	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Western European, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Northern European, nfd	10	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Danish	47	0.2%	0.2%	30	0.1%	
Finnish	12	0.1%	0.1%	14	0.1%	
Icelandic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Norwegian	28	0.1%	0.1%	29	0.1%	
Swedish	42	0.2%	0.2%	30	0.1%	
Northern European, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Southern and Eastern European, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Southern European, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Basque	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Catalan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Italian	595	2.7%	3.9%	533	2.5%	
Maltese	91	0.4%	0.7%	58	0.3%	
Portuguese	10	0.0%	0.1%	8	0.0%	
Spanish	25	0.1%	0.3%	36	0.2%	
Gibraltarian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
South Eastern European, nfd	16	0.1%	0.1%	24	0.1%	
Albanian	11	0.0%	0.1%	4	0.0%	
Bosnian	11	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Bulgarian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Croatian	59	0.3%	0.6%	41	0.2%	
Greek	102	0.5%	0.6%	93	0.4%	
Macedonian	7	0.0%	0.2%	7	0.0%	
Moldovan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Montenegrin	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Romanian	8	0.0%	0.1%	—	—	
Roma Gypsy	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Serbian	15	0.1%	0.2%	3	0.0%	
Slovene	6	0.0%	0.1%	8	0.0%	
Cypriot	12	0.1%	0.1%	13	0.1%	
Vlach	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Eastern European, nfd	13	0.1%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Belarusan	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Czech	6	0.0%	0.1%	10	0.0%	
Estonian	6	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Hungarian	42	0.2%	0.3%	40	0.2%	
Latvian	21	0.1%	0.1%	19	0.1%	
Lithuanian	15	0.1%	0.1%	13	0.1%	
Polish	97	0.4%	0.6%	63	0.3%	
Russian	40	0.2%	0.2%	23	0.1%	
Slovak	5	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Ukrainian	23	0.1%	0.2%	30	0.1%	
Sorb/Wend	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Eastern European, nec	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
North African and Middle Eastern, nfd	—	—	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Arab, nfd	6	0.0%	0.1%	9	0.0%	
Algerian	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Egyptian	20	0.1%	0.1%	10	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Iraqi	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Jordanian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kuwaiti	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Lebanese	31	0.1%	0.1%	29	0.1%	
Libyan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Moroccan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Palestinian	8	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Saudi Arabian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Syrian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tunisian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yemeni	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Emirati	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Omani	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Arab, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Jewish	9	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Peoples of the Sudan, nfd	8	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Darfur	–	–	–	–	–	
Dinka	4	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Nuer	3	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
South Sudanese	40	0.2%	0.0%	22	0.1%	
Sudanese	18	0.1%	0.0%	23	0.1%	
Peoples of the Sudan, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other North African and Middle Eastern, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Berber	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Coptic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Iranian	4	0.0%	0.1%	13	0.1%	
Kurdish	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Turkish	12	0.1%	0.1%	5	0.0%	
Assyrian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Chaldean	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mandaean	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nubian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other North African and Middle Eastern, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
South-East Asian, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Anglo-Burmese	–	–	–	–	–	
Burmese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Hmong	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Khmer (Cambodian)	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Lao	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Thai	32	0.1%	0.2%	12	0.1%	
Vietnamese	25	0.1%	0.2%	27	0.1%	
Karen	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
Mon	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Chin	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Rohingya	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mainland South-East Asian, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Filipino	140	0.6%	0.8%	78	0.4%	
Indonesian	22	0.1%	0.1%	9	0.0%	
Javanese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Malay	18	0.1%	0.1%	12	0.1%	
Sundanese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Timorese	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Acehnese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Balinese	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Bruneian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kadazan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Singaporean	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Maritime South–East Asian, nec	3	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Chinese	357	1.6%	1.1%	160	0.8%	
Taiwanese	87	0.4%	0.0%	18	0.1%	
Chinese Asian, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Japanese	36	0.2%	0.1%	17	0.1%	
Korean	26	0.1%	0.1%	7	0.0%	
Mongolian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tibetan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Southern Asian, nfd	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Anglo–Indian	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Bengali	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Burgher	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Gujarati	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Indian	99	0.4%	1.0%	63	0.3%	
Malayali	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Nepalese	31	0.1%	0.1%	15	0.1%	
Pakistani	3	0.0%	0.1%	6	0.0%	
Punjabi	15	0.1%	0.2%	5	0.0%	
Sikh	17	0.1%	0.1%	–	–	
Sinhalese	12	0.1%	0.1%	3	0.0%	
Maldivian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bangladeshi	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Bhutanese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Fijian Indian	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Kashmiri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Sindhi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Sri Lankan	17	0.1%	0.1%	19	0.1%	
Sri Lankan Tamil	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Indian Tamil	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tamil, nfd	11	0.0%	0.1%	–	–	
Telugu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Southern Asian, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Afghan	11	0.0%	0.1%	27	0.1%	
Armenian	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Georgian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kazakh	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Pathan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Uzbek	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Azeri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Hazara	20	0.1%	0.1%	19	0.1%	
Tajik	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tatar	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Turkmen	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Uighur	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kyrgyz	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Central Asian, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Peoples of the Americas, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
North American, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
African American	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
American	45	0.2%	0.2%	21	0.1%	
Canadian	13	0.1%	0.1%	12	0.1%	
French Canadian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Hispanic North American	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Native North American Indian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bermudan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
North American, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
South American, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Argentinian	4	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Bolivian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Brazilian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Chilean	4	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Colombian	3	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Ecuadorian	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Guyanese	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Peruvian	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Uruguayan	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Venezuelan	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Paraguayan	—	—	—	—	—	
South American, nec	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Central American, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Mexican	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Nicaraguan	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Salvadoran	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Costa Rican	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Guatemalan	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Mayan	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Central American, nec	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Caribbean Islander, nfd	—	—	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Cuban	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Jamaican	7	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Trinidadian Tobagonian	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Barbadian	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Puerto Rican	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Caribbean Islander, nec	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Sub-Saharan African, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Central and West African, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Akan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ghanaian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nigerian	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Yoruba	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ivorean	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Liberian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Sierra Leonean	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Acholi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Cameroonian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Congolese	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Igbo	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Senegalese	–	–	–	–	–	
Themne	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Togolese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Central and West African, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Southern and East African, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Afrikaner	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Angolan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Eritrean	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Ethiopian	7	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Kenyan	3	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Malawian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mauritian	6	0.0%	0.1%	9	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Mozambican	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Namibian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Oromo	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Seychellois	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Somali	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
South African	24	0.1%	0.2%	26	0.1%	
Tanzanian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ugandan	7	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Zambian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Zimbabwean	14	0.1%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Amhara	–	–	–	–	–	
Batswana	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Masai	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Zulu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Burundian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Madi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Rwandan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Shona	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Swahili	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Swazilander	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Southern and East African, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

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

Data basis: usual residence.