

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

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

Colac–Otway (S) | 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 Colac–Otway (S), accounting for 87.8% (19,672 people). This share was higher than Regional Vic. (86.4%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in English, which increased by 1,029 people, while its share fell by 1.1 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

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

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	17	0.1%	0.1%	8	0.0%	0.1%	+9	+0.1
Non-verbal, so described	22	0.1%	0.0%	9	0.0%	0.1%	+13	+0.1
Swiss, so described	4	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	0.0%	-1	0.0
Cypriot, so described	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–	–	–
Creole, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
French Creole, nfd	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–
Pidgin, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Celtic, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–	–	–
Gaelic (Scotland)	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–
Irish	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Welsh	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–
Celtic, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–	–	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
English	19,672	87.8%	86.4%	18,643	88.9%	8
German	34	0.2%	0.2%	40	0.2%	
Letzeburgish	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yiddish	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Dutch	22	0.1%	0.1%	19	0.1%	
Frisian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Afrikaans	3	0.0%	0.1%	–	–	
Danish	6	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Icelandic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Norwegian	5	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Swedish	9	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Estonian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Finnish	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
French	29	0.1%	0.1%	22	0.1%	
Greek	45	0.2%	0.2%	49	0.2%	
Iberian Romance, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Catalan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Portuguese	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Spanish	10	0.0%	0.2%	11	0.1%	
Italian	55	0.2%	0.5%	66	0.3%	
Maltese	11	0.0%	0.1%	13	0.1%	
Basque	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Latin	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Other Southern European Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Eastern European Languages, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Latvian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Lithuanian	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Hungarian	–	–	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Belorussian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Russian	10	0.0%	0.1%	7	0.0%	
Ukrainian	6	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Bosnian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bulgarian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Croatian	8	0.0%	0.2%	10	0.0%	
Macedonian	7	0.0%	0.1%	3	0.0%	
Serbian	4	0.0%	0.1%	6	0.0%	
Slovene	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Serbo-Croatian/Yugoslavian, so described	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Czech	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Polish	5	0.0%	0.1%	6	0.0%	
Slovak	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Czechoslovakian, so described	–	–	–	–	–	
Albanian	13	0.1%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Romanian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Romany	–	–	–	–	–	
Iranic, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Kurdish	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Pashto	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Balochi	–	–	–	–	–	
Dari	3	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.1%	
Persian (excluding Dari)	4	0.0%	0.1%	12	0.1%	
Hazaraghi	19	0.1%	0.1%	40	0.2%	
Arabic	40	0.2%	0.2%	65	0.3%	
Hebrew	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Assyrian Neo-Aramaic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Chaldean Neo-Aramaic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Turkish	3	0.0%	0.1%	4	0.0%	
Azeri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Uygur	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Uzbek	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Turkic, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Armenian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Georgian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Southern Asian Languages, nfd	8	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Kannada	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Malayalam	35	0.2%	0.2%	23	0.1%	
Tamil	10	0.0%	0.1%	7	0.0%	
Telugu	7	0.0%	0.1%	–	–	
Tulu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Indo-Aryan, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Bengali	10	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Gujarati	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Hindi	13	0.1%	0.2%	11	0.1%	
Konkani	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Marathi	6	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Nepali	26	0.1%	0.1%	9	0.0%	
Punjabi	28	0.1%	0.5%	19	0.1%	
Sindhi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Sinhalese	24	0.1%	0.1%	11	0.1%	
Urdu	–	–	0.1%	4	0.0%	
Assamese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dhivehi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kashmiri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Oriya	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Fijian Hindustani	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Indo-Aryan, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Southern Asian Languages	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Burmese and Related Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Burmese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Chin Haka	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Karen	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
Rohingya	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Zomi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Burmese and Related Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Hmong	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Khmer	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Vietnamese	26	0.1%	0.2%	26	0.1%	
Mon-Khmer, nec	–	–	–	–	–	
Lao	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Thai	25	0.1%	0.1%	17	0.1%	
Southeast Asian Austronesian Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bisaya	8	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Cebuano	4	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Ilokano	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Indonesian	24	0.1%	0.1%	13	0.1%	
Malay	19	0.1%	0.1%	11	0.1%	
Tetum	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Timorese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tagalog	26	0.1%	0.2%	13	0.1%	
Filipino	41	0.2%	0.2%	32	0.2%	
Acehnese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Balinese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Iban	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ilonggo (Hiligaynon)	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Javanese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Pampangan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Southeast Asian Austronesian Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Chinese, nfd	17	0.1%	0.0%	11	0.1%	
Cantonese	24	0.1%	0.1%	21	0.1%	
Hakka	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Mandarin	313	1.4%	0.6%	81	0.4%	
Wu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Min Nan	18	0.1%	0.0%	–	–	
Japanese	24	0.1%	0.1%	20	0.1%	
Korean	22	0.1%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Tibetan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mongolian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Eastern Asian Languages, nec	–	–	–	–	–	
Australian Indigenous Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tiwi	–	–	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	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Arrernte, nec	–	–	–	–	–	
Pitjantjatjara	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Wangkatha	–	–	–	–	–	
Yankunytjatjara	–	–	–	–	–	
Bardi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yawuru	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Adnymathanha	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bandjalang	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bidjara	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Gamilaraay	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kanai	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kriol	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ngarrindjeri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nyungar	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Paakantyi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Wajarri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Wiradjuri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yorta Yorta	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Djabwurrung	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Wergaia	–	–	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	6	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Acholi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Akan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mauritian Creole	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Oromo	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Shona	7	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Somali	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Swahili	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Yoruba	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Zulu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Amharic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bemba	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dinka	6	0.0%	0.0%	21	0.1%	
Ewe	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ga	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Harari	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Hausa	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Igbo	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kikuyu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Krio	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Luganda	3	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Luo	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ndebele	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nuer	24	0.1%	0.0%	27	0.1%	
Nyanja (Chichewa)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Shilluk	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tigrinya	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tswana	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Xhosa	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bari	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bassa	–	–	–	–	–	
Kinyarwanda (Rwanda)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kirundi (Rundi)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Liberian (Liberian English)	–	–	–	–	–	
Madi	–	–	–	–	–	
Lingala	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
African Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Fijian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Gilbertese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Maori (Cook Island)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Maori (New Zealand)	14	0.1%	0.0%	–	–	
Nauruan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Niue	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Samoan	28	0.1%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Tongan	–	–	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)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Papua New Guinea Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Invented Languages	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Sign Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Auslan	20	0.1%	0.1%	12	0.1%	
Key Word Sign Australia	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Sign Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Not stated	1,447	6.5%	6.5%	1,443	6.9%	
Total	22,403	100.0%	100.0%	20,974	100.0%	100.0%

Excludes languages spoken at home by fewer than 10 people.

Data basis: usual residence.