

Community report

Dorset (M)

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

AREA

Dorset (M)

COMPARISON

Regional Tas.

POPULATION

Persons

GENERATED

1 April 2026

Included sections

1 selected topic will be included in this report.

01 Religion

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.

Religion

Dorset (M) | Regional Tas. comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

Key takeaway

In 2021, No religion was the most common religious affiliation among residents in Dorset (M), accounting for 46.8% (3,200 people). This share was lower than Regional Tas. (49.3%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in No religion, which increased by 923 people and 12.4 percentage points.

About this topic

Religion records a person's stated religious affiliation, including no religion and not stated responses. It is a measure of cultural identity and belief rather than practice or participation.

This topic helps show the religious diversity of an area and can support planning for community facilities, faith-based services, and inclusive engagement. It is best interpreted with ancestry, birthplace, and language, which together provide a broader picture of cultural composition.

Interpretation notes

- This records stated religious affiliation, not attendance or level of religious practice.
- No religion and not stated are part of the overall picture, so interpretation should consider both affiliation and non-response.

Religion - Ranked by size

Dorset (M) - Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional Tas. %	Count	%	Regional Tas. %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	24	0.4%	0.4%	23	0.3%	0.5%	+1	+0.1
Buddhism	29	0.4%	0.8%	27	0.4%	0.7%	+2	0.0
Christianity, nfd	182	2.7%	2.9%	214	3.2%	3.0%	-32	-0.5
Anglican Church of Australia	1,345	19.7%	14.7%	1,792	27.1%	20.8%	-447	-7.4
Baptist	41	0.6%	1.6%	35	0.5%	2.0%	+6	+0.1
Brethren	95	1.4%	0.3%	86	1.3%	0.4%	+9	+0.1
Western Catholic	519	7.6%	11.7%	684	10.3%	14.5%	-165	-2.7
Maronite Catholic	—	—	0.0%	—	—	0.0%	—	—
Ukrainian Catholic	—	—	0.0%	—	—	—	—	—
Syro Malabar Catholic	—	—	—	—	—	0.0%	—	—
Catholic, nec	—	—	0.0%	—	—	—	—	—
Churches of Christ, nfd	—	—	0.1%	—	—	0.0%	—	—

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Tas. %	Count	%	Regiona
Churches of Christ (Conference)	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Church of Christ (Non-denominational)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Jehovah's Witnesses	40	0.6%	0.5%	47	0.7%	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	12	0.2%	0.3%	5	0.1%	
Lutheran	12	0.2%	0.2%	12	0.2%	
Coptic Orthodox Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Syrian Orthodox Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ethiopian Orthodox Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Oriental Orthodox, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Assyrian Church of the East	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Eastern Orthodox, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Antiochian Orthodox	–	–	–	–	–	
Greek Orthodox	5	0.1%	0.1%	3	0.0%	
Macedonian Orthodox	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Romanian Orthodox	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Russian Orthodox	5	0.1%	0.0%	–	–	
Serbian Orthodox	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ukrainian Orthodox	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Eastern Orthodox, nec	–	–	–	–	–	
Presbyterian	232	3.4%	1.5%	319	4.8%	
Reformed	–	–	0.2%	4	0.1%	
Free Reformed	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Salvation Army	31	0.5%	0.2%	53	0.8%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Tas. %	Count	%	Regiona
Seventh-day Adventist	18	0.3%	0.2%	16	0.2%	
Uniting Church	219	3.2%	3.3%	259	3.9%	
Pentecostal, nfd	43	0.6%	0.9%	61	0.9%	
Apostolic Church (Australia)	–	–	–	–	–	
Australian Christian Churches (Assemblies of God)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
C3 Church Global (Christian City Church)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
CRC International (Christian Revival Crusade)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Revival Centres	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
United Pentecostal	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Acts 2 Alliance	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Revival Fellowship	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Pentecostal, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Protestant, nfd	–	–	0.1%	3	0.0%	
Born Again Christian	5	0.1%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Congregational	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ethnic Evangelical Churches	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Independent Evangelical Churches	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Wesleyan Methodist Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Christian Community Churches of Australia	8	0.1%	0.2%	6	0.1%	
Methodist, so described	6	0.1%	0.1%	3	0.0%	
Other Protestant, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Christian, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Tas. %	Count	%	Regiona
Christadelphians	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Christian Science	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Gnostic Christians	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Liberal Catholic Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ratana (Maori)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Religious Science	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	–	–	0.0%	4	0.1%	
Other Christian, nec	12	0.2%	0.0%	8	0.1%	
Hinduism	17	0.2%	1.0%	5	0.1%	
Islam	31	0.5%	0.6%	4	0.1%	
Judaism	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Australian Aboriginal Traditional Religions	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Baha'i	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ancestor Veneration	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Taoism	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Shinto	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nature Religions, nfd	6	0.1%	0.0%	–	–	
Animism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Druidism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Paganism	11	0.2%	0.1%	7	0.1%	
Wiccan (Witchcraft)	6	0.1%	0.0%	–	–	
Nature Religions, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Sikhism	6	0.1%	0.2%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Tas. %	Count	%	Regiona
Spiritualism	–	–	0.0%	4	0.1%	
Mandaeen	–	–	–	–	–	
Church of Scientology	4	0.1%	0.0%	–	–	
Eckankar	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Rastafari	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Satanism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Theosophy	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Jainism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Zoroastrianism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Religious Groups, nec	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Secular Beliefs and Other Spiritual Beliefs and No Religious Affiliation, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
No Religion, so described	3,200	46.8%	49.3%	2,277	34.4%	
Secular Beliefs, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Agnosticism	8	0.1%	0.1%	3	0.0%	
Atheism	10	0.1%	0.2%	4	0.1%	
Humanism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Rationalism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Secular Beliefs, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Multi Faith	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
New Age	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Own Spiritual Beliefs	3	0.0%	0.1%	3	0.0%	
Theism	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Tas. %	Count	%	Regiona
Unitarian Universalism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Not stated	647	9.5%	7.3%	636	9.6%	
Total	6,838	100.0%	100.0%	6,613	100.0%	100.0%

Excludes religions with fewer than 10 adherents.

Data basis: usual residence.