

Community report

Melbourne (C)

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

AREA

Melbourne (C)

COMPARISON

Greater Melbourne

POPULATION

Persons

GENERATED

30 March 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

Melbourne (C) | Greater Melbourne comparison | Persons
Community report section 1 of 1

SECTION

01

Key takeaway

In 2021, the largest ancestry groups among residents in Melbourne (C) were Chinese, English and Australian.

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

Melbourne (C) - Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	549	0.4%	0.3%	331	0.2%	0.3%	+218	+0.2
Eurasian, so described	32	0.0%	0.0%	29	0.0%	0.0%	+3	0.0
Asian, so described	184	0.1%	0.1%	92	0.1%	0.1%	+92	0.0
African, so described	424	0.3%	0.3%	293	0.2%	0.2%	+131	+0.1
European, so described	179	0.1%	0.1%	104	0.1%	0.1%	+75	0.0
Caucasian, so described	17	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	0.0%	+14	0.0
Creole, so described	4	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	0.0%	-1	0.0
Oceanian, nfd	26	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	0.0%	+18	0.0
Australian Peoples, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Australian	20,728	13.9%	23.4%	16,362	12.0%	24.0%	+4,366	+1.9
Australian Aboriginal	777	0.5%	0.7%	93	0.1%	0.1%	+684	+0.4
Australian South Sea Islander	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %
Torres Strait Islander	100	0.1%	0.1%	4	0.0%	
Norfolk Islander	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
New Zealand Peoples, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Maori	460	0.3%	0.4%	304	0.2%	
New Zealander	851	0.6%	0.6%	921	0.7%	
Melanesian and Papuan, nfd	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
New Caledonian	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Ni-Vanuatu	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Papua New Guinean	39	0.0%	0.0%	35	0.0%	
Solomon Islander	5	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Melanesian and Papuan, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Micronesian, nfd	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
I-Kiribati	7	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Nauruan	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Micronesian, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Polynesian, nfd	11	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Cook Islander	39	0.0%	0.1%	33	0.0%	
Fijian	134	0.1%	0.1%	59	0.0%	
Niuean	6	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Samoan	154	0.1%	0.4%	78	0.1%	
Tongan	77	0.1%	0.1%	27	0.0%	
Hawaiian	6	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Tahitian	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Tokelauan	6	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %
Tuvaluan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Pitcairn	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Polynesian, nec	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
North-West European, nfd	7	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	–
British, nfd	53	0.0%	0.0%	48	0.0%	–
English	29,036	19.4%	25.6%	23,600	17.4%	19.1%
Scottish	9,179	6.1%	7.1%	7,637	5.6%	6.2%
Welsh	650	0.4%	0.5%	490	0.4%	0.4%
Channel Islander	4	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	–
Manx	14	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	–
British, nec	24	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Irish	11,862	7.9%	8.3%	10,070	7.4%	7.8%
Western European, nfd	6	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Austrian	271	0.2%	0.2%	207	0.2%	0.2%
Dutch	1,590	1.1%	1.5%	1,282	0.9%	1.0%
Flemish	3	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	–
French	1,201	0.8%	0.6%	1,023	0.8%	0.7%
German	4,033	2.7%	2.9%	3,284	2.4%	2.5%
Swiss	240	0.2%	0.1%	190	0.1%	0.1%
Belgian	101	0.1%	0.0%	94	0.1%	–
Frisian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Luxembourg	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Western European, nec	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Northern European, nfd	55	0.0%	0.0%	31	0.0%	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %
Danish	293	0.2%	0.2%	211	0.2%	
Finnish	121	0.1%	0.1%	107	0.1%	
Icelandic	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Norwegian	197	0.1%	0.1%	181	0.1%	
Swedish	311	0.2%	0.2%	248	0.2%	
Northern European, nec	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Southern and Eastern European, nfd	18	0.0%	0.0%	19	0.0%	
Southern European, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Basque	6	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Catalan	3	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Italian	5,955	4.0%	6.6%	4,965	3.7%	
Maltese	740	0.5%	1.4%	528	0.4%	
Portuguese	453	0.3%	0.3%	416	0.3%	
Spanish	1,285	0.9%	0.5%	972	0.7%	
Gibraltarian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Southern European, nec	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
South Eastern European, nfd	101	0.1%	0.1%	96	0.1%	
Albanian	141	0.1%	0.2%	67	0.0%	
Bosnian	138	0.1%	0.2%	86	0.1%	
Bulgarian	69	0.0%	0.0%	48	0.0%	
Croatian	688	0.5%	0.9%	499	0.4%	
Greek	1,808	1.2%	3.5%	1,412	1.0%	
Macedonian	395	0.3%	0.9%	302	0.2%	
Moldovan	8	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %
Montenegrin	20	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Romanian	167	0.1%	0.2%	124	0.1%	
Roma Gypsy	6	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Serbian	495	0.3%	0.5%	367	0.3%	
Slovene	129	0.1%	0.1%	88	0.1%	
Cypriot	202	0.1%	0.3%	136	0.1%	
Vlach	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
South Eastern European, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Eastern European, nfd	96	0.1%	0.1%	43	0.0%	
Belarusan	31	0.0%	0.0%	20	0.0%	
Czech	140	0.1%	0.1%	136	0.1%	
Estonian	76	0.1%	0.0%	60	0.0%	
Hungarian	416	0.3%	0.4%	330	0.2%	
Latvian	151	0.1%	0.1%	103	0.1%	
Lithuanian	137	0.1%	0.1%	100	0.1%	
Polish	1,216	0.8%	1.1%	946	0.7%	
Russian	804	0.5%	0.5%	620	0.5%	
Slovak	74	0.0%	0.1%	60	0.0%	
Ukrainian	397	0.3%	0.3%	322	0.2%	
Sorb/Wend	4	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Eastern European, nec	9	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
North African and Middle Eastern, nfd	224	0.1%	0.1%	64	0.0%	
Arab, nfd	480	0.3%	0.3%	421	0.3%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %
Algerian	34	0.0%	0.0%	22	0.0%	
Egyptian	302	0.2%	0.4%	259	0.2%	
Iraqi	93	0.1%	0.3%	49	0.0%	
Jordanian	29	0.0%	0.0%	15	0.0%	
Kuwaiti	10	0.0%	0.0%	77	0.1%	
Lebanese	456	0.3%	1.0%	382	0.3%	
Libyan	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Moroccan	68	0.0%	0.0%	54	0.0%	
Palestinian	60	0.0%	0.1%	58	0.0%	
Saudi Arabian	192	0.1%	0.0%	283	0.2%	
Syrian	87	0.1%	0.2%	53	0.0%	
Tunisian	10	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Yemeni	25	0.0%	0.0%	20	0.0%	
Bahraini	–	–	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Emirati	–	–	0.0%	19	0.0%	
Omani	5	0.0%	0.0%	39	0.0%	
Qatari	–	–	–	–	–	
Arab, nec	15	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Jewish	286	0.2%	0.3%	152	0.1%	
Peoples of the Sudan, nfd	20	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Bari	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dinka	5	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Nuer	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
South Sudanese	62	0.0%	0.1%	35	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %
Sudanese	112	0.1%	0.1%	124	0.1%	
Peoples of the Sudan, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other North African and Middle Eastern, nfd	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Berber	7	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Coptic	13	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Iranian	975	0.7%	0.5%	629	0.5%	
Kurdish	53	0.0%	0.1%	43	0.0%	
Turkish	686	0.5%	0.8%	409	0.3%	
Assyrian	43	0.0%	0.2%	31	0.0%	
Chaldean	6	0.0%	0.2%	8	0.0%	
Mandaean	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nubian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yezidi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other North African and Middle Eastern, nec	69	0.0%	0.1%	70	0.1%	
South-East Asian, nfd	48	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Mainland South-East Asian, nfd	4	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Anglo-Burmese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Burmese	378	0.3%	0.2%	193	0.1%	
Hmong	11	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Khmer (Cambodian)	282	0.2%	0.5%	179	0.1%	
Lao	105	0.1%	0.1%	113	0.1%	
Thai	2,114	1.4%	0.4%	1,634	1.2%	
Vietnamese	3,625	2.4%	2.4%	2,344	1.7%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %
Karen	5	0.0%	0.1%	4	0.0%	
Mon	7	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Chin	9	0.0%	0.1%	–	–	
Rohingya	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mainland South–East Asian, nec	39	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Maritime South–East Asian, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Filipino	2,888	1.9%	1.7%	1,341	1.0%	
Indonesian	2,149	1.4%	0.4%	1,820	1.3%	
Javanese	42	0.0%	0.0%	38	0.0%	
Madurese	–	–	–	–	–	
Malay	1,366	0.9%	0.4%	1,522	1.1%	
Sundanese	5	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Timorese	87	0.1%	0.1%	51	0.0%	
Acehnese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Balinese	16	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Bruneian	14	0.0%	0.0%	19	0.0%	
Kadazan	22	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
Singaporean	240	0.2%	0.1%	185	0.1%	
Maritime South–East Asian, nec	70	0.0%	0.0%	23	0.0%	
Chinese	34,459	23.0%	8.3%	38,194	28.1%	
Taiwanese	599	0.4%	0.1%	600	0.4%	
Chinese Asian, nec	19	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Japanese	1,448	1.0%	0.3%	1,329	1.0%	
Korean	2,706	1.8%	0.4%	3,194	2.3%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %
Mongolian	219	0.1%	0.0%	75	0.1%	
Tibetan	22	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Other North-East Asian, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Southern and Central Asian, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Southern Asian, nfd	467	0.3%	0.3%	154	0.1%	
Anglo-Indian	70	0.0%	0.1%	53	0.0%	
Bengali	146	0.1%	0.1%	53	0.0%	
Burgher	44	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
Gujarati	72	0.0%	0.1%	11	0.0%	
Indian	9,935	6.6%	5.3%	7,082	5.2%	
Malayali	155	0.1%	0.1%	18	0.0%	
Nepalese	799	0.5%	0.4%	119	0.1%	
Pakistani	400	0.3%	0.6%	265	0.2%	
Punjabi	202	0.1%	1.0%	46	0.0%	
Sikh	50	0.0%	0.5%	13	0.0%	
Sinhalese	483	0.3%	0.6%	104	0.1%	
Maldivian	13	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Bangladeshi	245	0.2%	0.2%	127	0.1%	
Bhutanese	20	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Fijian Indian	52	0.0%	0.1%	29	0.0%	
Kashmiri	24	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Parsi	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Sindhi	15	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Sri Lankan	760	0.5%	1.0%	819	0.6%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %
Sri Lankan Tamil	43	0.0%	0.0%	18	0.0%	
Indian Tamil	32	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Tamil, nfd	784	0.5%	0.5%	97	0.1%	
Telugu	393	0.3%	0.2%	54	0.0%	
Southern Asian, nec	175	0.1%	0.1%	33	0.0%	
Central Asian, nfd	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Afghan	128	0.1%	0.4%	57	0.0%	
Armenian	80	0.1%	0.1%	66	0.0%	
Georgian	15	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Kazakh	21	0.0%	0.0%	25	0.0%	
Pathan	17	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Uzbek	27	0.0%	0.0%	21	0.0%	
Azeri	12	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Hazara	36	0.0%	0.4%	17	0.0%	
Tajik	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tatar	23	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Turkmen	10	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Uighur	17	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Kyrgyz	8	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Central Asian, nec	4	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Peoples of the Americas, nfd	196	0.1%	0.1%	53	0.0%	
North American, nfd	11	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
African American	49	0.0%	0.0%	25	0.0%	
American	537	0.4%	0.3%	459	0.3%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Mel
Canadian	237	0.2%	0.1%	208	0.2%	
French Canadian	16	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Hispanic North American	111	0.1%	0.0%	38	0.0%	
Native North American Indian	31	0.0%	0.0%	17	0.0%	
Bermudan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
North American, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
South American, nfd	93	0.1%	0.0%	37	0.0%	
Argentinian	122	0.1%	0.1%	73	0.1%	
Bolivian	7	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Brazilian	495	0.3%	0.1%	333	0.2%	
Chilean	389	0.3%	0.2%	261	0.2%	
Colombian	2,022	1.4%	0.2%	904	0.7%	
Ecuadorian	40	0.0%	0.0%	48	0.0%	
Guyanese	5	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Peruvian	133	0.1%	0.0%	77	0.1%	
Uruguayan	43	0.0%	0.0%	37	0.0%	
Venezuelan	75	0.1%	0.0%	76	0.1%	
Paraguayan	7	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
South American, nec	37	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Central American, nfd	4	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Mexican	302	0.2%	0.1%	235	0.2%	
Nicaraguan	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Salvadoran	78	0.1%	0.1%	55	0.0%	
Costa Rican	3	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %
Guatemalan	6	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Mayan	4	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Central American, nec	6	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Caribbean Islander, nfd	38	0.0%	0.0%	17	0.0%	
Cuban	12	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Jamaican	23	0.0%	0.0%	25	0.0%	
Trinidadian Tobagonian	4	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Barbadian	5	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Puerto Rican	9	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Caribbean Islander, nec	23	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Sub-Saharan African, nfd	12	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Central and West African, nfd	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Akan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Fulani	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ghanaian	38	0.0%	0.0%	24	0.0%	
Nigerian	54	0.0%	0.0%	27	0.0%	
Yoruba	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Ivorean	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Liberian	6	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Sierra Leonean	4	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Acholi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Cameroonian	7	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Congolese	24	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Gio	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %
Igbo	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Krahn	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mandinka	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Senegalese	6	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Themne	–	–	–	–	–	
Togolese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Central and West African, nec	18	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Southern and East African, nfd	11	0.0%	0.0%	16	0.0%	
Afrikaner	24	0.0%	0.0%	18	0.0%	
Angolan	3	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Eritrean	365	0.2%	0.1%	364	0.3%	
Ethiopian	356	0.2%	0.2%	339	0.2%	
Kenyan	64	0.0%	0.0%	40	0.0%	
Malawian	3	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Mauritian	237	0.2%	0.3%	203	0.1%	
Mozambican	3	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Namibian	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Oromo	76	0.1%	0.0%	68	0.1%	
Seychellois	25	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Somali	989	0.7%	0.2%	1,166	0.9%	
South African	423	0.3%	0.5%	292	0.2%	
Tanzanian	15	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Ugandan	38	0.0%	0.0%	21	0.0%	
Zambian	3	0.0%	0.0%	16	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %
Zimbabwean	116	0.1%	0.1%	53	0.0%	
Amhara	–	–	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Batswana	14	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Hutu	–	–	–	–	–	
Masai	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tigrayan	25	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
Tigre	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Zulu	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Burundian	8	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Madi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ogaden	8	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Rwandan	8	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Shona	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Swahili	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Swazilander	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Southern and East African, nec	25	0.0%	0.0%	17	0.0%	

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

Data basis: usual residence.