City Compass
Community Explorer

COMMUNITY PROFILE REPORT

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   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

SECTION
01

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

Key takeaway

In 2021, English was the most common language used at home among residents in Melbourne (C), accounting for 46.4% (69,367 people). This share was lower than Greater Melbourne (61.1%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in English, which increased by 14,360 people and 5.9 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

Melbourne (C) – Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	85	0.1%	0.1%	115	0.1%	0.1%	-30	0.0
Non-verbal, so described	139	0.1%	0.1%	171	0.1%	0.2%	-32	0.0
Swiss, so described	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Cypriot, so described	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Creole, nfd	49	0.0%	0.0%	15	0.0%	0.0%	+34	0.0
French Creole, nfd	24	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	0.0%	+11	0.0
Spanish Creole, nfd	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Portuguese Creole, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Pidgin, nfd	4	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	0.0%	-1	0.0
Celtic, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Gaelic (Scotland)	15	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	0.0%	+4	0.0
Irish	27	0.0%	0.0%	27	0.0%	0.0%	0	0.0

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Mel
Welsh	13	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Celtic, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
English	69,367	46.4%	61.1%	55,007	40.5%	6
German	503	0.3%	0.3%	567	0.4%	
Letzeburgish	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yiddish	11	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Dutch	141	0.1%	0.1%	160	0.1%	
Frisian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Afrikaans	94	0.1%	0.1%	99	0.1%	
Scandinavian, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Danish	39	0.0%	0.0%	46	0.0%	
Icelandic	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Norwegian	22	0.0%	0.0%	36	0.0%	
Swedish	72	0.0%	0.0%	115	0.1%	
Estonian	23	0.0%	0.0%	16	0.0%	
Finnish	32	0.0%	0.0%	25	0.0%	
French	890	0.6%	0.3%	918	0.7%	
Greek	703	0.5%	2.1%	651	0.5%	
Iberian Romance, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Catalan	8	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
Portuguese	746	0.5%	0.2%	645	0.5%	
Spanish	3,998	2.7%	0.8%	2,294	1.7%	
Iberian Romance, nec	–	–	–	–	–	
Italian	1,486	1.0%	1.7%	1,718	1.3%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Mel
Maltese	63	0.0%	0.3%	93	0.1%	
Basque	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Latin	–	–	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Other Southern European Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Eastern European Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Latvian	16	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Lithuanian	11	0.0%	0.0%	17	0.0%	
Hungarian	52	0.0%	0.1%	63	0.0%	
East Slavic, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Belorussian	6	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Russian	478	0.3%	0.4%	394	0.3%	
Ukrainian	66	0.0%	0.0%	74	0.1%	
South Slavic, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bosnian	65	0.0%	0.1%	49	0.0%	
Bulgarian	25	0.0%	0.0%	23	0.0%	
Croatian	155	0.1%	0.3%	175	0.1%	
Macedonian	166	0.1%	0.6%	154	0.1%	
Serbian	231	0.2%	0.3%	205	0.2%	
Slovene	19	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Serbo–Croatian/Yugoslavian, so described	32	0.0%	0.0%	33	0.0%	
Czech	32	0.0%	0.0%	43	0.0%	
Polish	224	0.1%	0.3%	173	0.1%	
Slovak	28	0.0%	0.0%	27	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Mel
Czechoslovakian, so described	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Albanian	40	0.0%	0.1%	19	0.0%	
Aromunian (Macedo-Romanian)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Romanian	69	0.0%	0.1%	55	0.0%	
Romany	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Eastern European Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Iranic, nfd	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Kurdish	35	0.0%	0.0%	26	0.0%	
Pashto	34	0.0%	0.1%	4	0.0%	
Balochi	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Dari	52	0.0%	0.2%	25	0.0%	
Persian (excluding Dari)	837	0.6%	0.4%	527	0.4%	
Hazaraghi	24	0.0%	0.4%	12	0.0%	
Iranic, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Arabic	1,740	1.2%	1.8%	1,738	1.3%	
Hebrew	72	0.0%	0.1%	54	0.0%	
Assyrian Neo-Aramaic	32	0.0%	0.2%	15	0.0%	
Chaldean Neo-Aramaic	9	0.0%	0.2%	–	–	
Mandaean (Mandaic)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Middle Eastern Semitic Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Turkish	470	0.3%	0.7%	315	0.2%	
Azeri	14	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Tatar	3	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Mel
Turkmen	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Uygur	13	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Uzbek	11	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
Turkic, nec	9	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Armenian	22	0.0%	0.0%	21	0.0%	
Georgian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Southern Asian Languages, nfd	41	0.0%	0.0%	34	0.0%	
Kannada	420	0.3%	0.1%	257	0.2%	
Malayalam	660	0.4%	0.4%	372	0.3%	
Tamil	1,138	0.8%	0.7%	849	0.6%	
Telugu	1,054	0.7%	0.5%	802	0.6%	
Tulu	28	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Dravidian, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Indo–Aryan, nfd	6	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Bengali	595	0.4%	0.3%	336	0.2%	
Gujarati	382	0.3%	0.5%	191	0.1%	
Hindi	3,585	2.4%	1.3%	2,287	1.7%	
Konkani	61	0.0%	0.0%	40	0.0%	
Marathi	675	0.5%	0.1%	322	0.2%	
Nepali	745	0.5%	0.4%	108	0.1%	
Punjabi	511	0.3%	2.0%	183	0.1%	
Sindhi	19	0.0%	0.0%	18	0.0%	
Sinhalese	580	0.4%	1.0%	376	0.3%	
Urdu	460	0.3%	0.7%	265	0.2%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Mel
Assamese	18	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Dhivehi	16	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
Kashmiri	8	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Oriya	82	0.1%	0.0%	41	0.0%	
Fijian Hindustani	23	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Indo–Aryan, nec	18	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Other Southern Asian Languages	18	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Southeast Asian Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Burmese and Related Languages, nfd	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Burmese	310	0.2%	0.1%	163	0.1%	
Chin Haka	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Karen	7	0.0%	0.1%	6	0.0%	
Rohingya	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Zomi	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Burmese and Related Languages, nec	27	0.0%	0.1%	–	–	
Hmong	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Khmer	170	0.1%	0.3%	138	0.1%	
Vietnamese	3,172	2.1%	2.3%	2,026	1.5%	
Mon	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Mon–Khmer, nec	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Lao	44	0.0%	0.0%	64	0.0%	
Thai	1,916	1.3%	0.3%	1,576	1.2%	
Tai, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Mel
Southeast Asian Austronesian Languages, nfd	170	0.1%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Bisaya	24	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Cebuano	42	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Ilokano	5	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Indonesian	2,715	1.8%	0.3%	2,930	2.2%	
Malay	340	0.2%	0.1%	647	0.5%	
Tetum	4	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Timorese	—	—	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Tagalog	773	0.5%	0.5%	382	0.3%	
Filipino	825	0.6%	0.4%	361	0.3%	
Acehnese	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Balinese	5	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Bikol	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Iban	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Ilonggo (Hiligaynon)	14	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Javanese	4	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Pampangan	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Southeast Asian Austronesian Languages, nec	9	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Other Southeast Asian Languages	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Chinese, nfd	335	0.2%	0.1%	1,472	1.1%	
Cantonese	5,146	3.4%	1.6%	5,287	3.9%	
Hakka	99	0.1%	0.1%	93	0.1%	
Mandarin	21,393	14.3%	4.3%	25,405	18.7%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Mel
Wu	62	0.0%	0.0%	51	0.0%	
Min Nan	283	0.2%	0.1%	255	0.2%	
Chinese, nec	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Japanese	1,157	0.8%	0.2%	1,069	0.8%	
Korean	2,314	1.5%	0.3%	2,861	2.1%	
Tibetan	15	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Mongolian	165	0.1%	0.0%	48	0.0%	
Other Eastern Asian Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Australian Indigenous Languages, nfd	8	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Maung	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tiwi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Jawoyn	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Murrinh Patha	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Na-kara	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Garrwa	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mayali	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Burarra	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yolngu Matha, nfd	6	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Djambarrpuyngu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Guugu Yimidhirr	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Cape York Peninsula Languages, nec	–	–	–	–	–	
Torres Strait Island Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kalaw Kawaw Ya/Kalaw Lagaw Ya	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Mel
Meriam Mir	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yumplatok (Torres Strait Creole)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Warlpiri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Anmatyerr, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Arrernte, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Arrernte, nec	–	–	–	–	–	
Manyjilyjarra	–	–	–	–	–	
Pitjantjatjara	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bardi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bunuba	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yawuru	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Adnymathanha	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bandjalang	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Banyjima	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Batjala	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bidjara	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dhanggatti	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Gamilaraay	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kanai	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Karajarri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kriol	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Narungga	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Ngarrindjeri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nyungar	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Mel
Wajarri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Wiradjuri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yorta Yorta	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Djabwurrung	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Wergaia	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yugambeh	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Aboriginal English, so described	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Australian Indigenous Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
American Languages	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
African Languages, nfd	14	0.0%	0.0%	17	0.0%	
Acholi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Akan	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Mauritian Creole	34	0.0%	0.0%	64	0.0%	
Oromo	136	0.1%	0.1%	116	0.1%	
Shona	79	0.1%	0.1%	33	0.0%	
Somali	865	0.6%	0.2%	1,104	0.8%	
Swahili	58	0.0%	0.1%	40	0.0%	
Yoruba	13	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Zulu	8	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Amharic	134	0.1%	0.1%	134	0.1%	
Bemba	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Dinka	38	0.0%	0.1%	39	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Mel
Ewe	–	–	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Ga	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Harari	23	0.0%	0.0%	26	0.0%	
Hausa	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Igbo	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Kikuyu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Krio	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Luganda	8	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Luo	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Ndebele	12	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Nuer	8	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Nyanja (Chichewa)	–	–	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Shilluk	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tigre	7	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Tigrinya	122	0.1%	0.1%	131	0.1%	
Tswana	7	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Xhosa	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Seychelles Creole	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Anuak	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bari	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bassa	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dan (Gio-Dan)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Fulfulde	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kinyarwanda (Rwanda)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Mel
Kirundi (Rundi)	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Kpelle	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Krahn	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Liberian (Liberian English)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Loma (Lorma)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Madi	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Mandinka	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mann	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Moro (Nuba Moro)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Themne	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Lingala	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
African Languages, nec	16	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Pacific Austronesian Languages, nfd	4	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Fijian	17	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Gilbertese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Maori (Cook Island)	6	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Maori (New Zealand)	44	0.0%	0.0%	27	0.0%	
Nauruan	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Niue	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Samoan	39	0.0%	0.3%	17	0.0%	
Tongan	22	0.0%	0.1%	6	0.0%	
Rotuman	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tokelauan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tuvaluan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Mel
Yapese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Pacific Austronesian Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Oceanian Pidgins and Creoles, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
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)	10	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Papua New Guinea Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Invented Languages	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Sign Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Auslan	52	0.0%	0.1%	30	0.0%	
Key Word Sign Australia	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Sign Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Not stated	11,369	7.6%	4.8%	15,505	11.4%	
Total	**149,567**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	**135,895**	**100.0%**	**10**

Excludes languages spoken at home by fewer than 10 people.

Data basis: usual residence.