

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 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

Melbourne (C) | Greater Melbourne comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

Key takeaway

In 2021, No religion was the most common religious affiliation among residents in Melbourne (C), accounting for 48.5% (72,602 people). This share was higher than Greater Melbourne (36.9%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in No religion, which increased by 12,149 people and 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

Melbourne (C) - Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	654	0.4%	0.4%	782	0.6%	0.5%	-128	-0.2
Buddhism	9,425	6.3%	3.9%	9,368	6.9%	3.8%	+57	-0.6
Christianity, nfd	3,303	2.2%	2.7%	2,559	1.9%	2.6%	+744	+0.3
Anglican Church of Australia	4,573	3.1%	5.5%	4,854	3.6%	7.6%	-281	-0.5
Anglican Catholic Church	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%	-	-
Anglican, nec	-	-	0.0%	-	-	0.0%	-	-
Baptist	1,125	0.8%	1.3%	916	0.7%	1.3%	+209	+0.1
Brethren	11	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	0.0%	+8	0.0
Catholic, nfd	-	-	-	-	-	0.0%	-	-
Western Catholic	19,422	13.0%	20.5%	17,478	12.9%	23.2%	+1,944	+0.1
Maronite Catholic	22	0.0%	0.1%	17	0.0%	0.1%	+5	0.0
Melkite Catholic	5	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	0.0%	-1	0.0

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %
Ukrainian Catholic	32	0.0%	0.0%	40	0.0%	
Chaldean Catholic	5	0.0%	0.1%	4	0.0%	
Syro Malabar Catholic	–	–	0.1%	12	0.0%	
Catholic, nec	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Churches of Christ, nfd	13	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	
Churches of Christ (Conference)	65	0.0%	0.1%	79	0.1%	
Church of Christ (Non-denominational)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
International Church of Christ	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Jehovah's Witnesses	90	0.1%	0.2%	66	0.0%	
Latter-day Saints, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	93	0.1%	0.2%	67	0.0%	
Community of Christ	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Lutheran	259	0.2%	0.2%	298	0.2%	
Oriental Orthodox, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Armenian Apostolic	12	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Coptic Orthodox Church	108	0.1%	0.2%	115	0.1%	
Syrian Orthodox Church	54	0.0%	0.1%	43	0.0%	
Ethiopian Orthodox Church	78	0.1%	0.1%	70	0.1%	
Oriental Orthodox, nec	16	0.0%	0.0%	15	0.0%	
Assyrian Apostolic, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Assyrian Church of the East	9	0.0%	0.1%	18	0.0%	
Ancient Church of the East	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Eastern Orthodox, nfd	18	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %
Albanian Orthodox	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Antiochian Orthodox	27	0.0%	0.1%	22	0.0%	–
Greek Orthodox	1,316	0.9%	3.3%	1,131	0.8%	–
Macedonian Orthodox	108	0.1%	0.4%	94	0.1%	–
Romanian Orthodox	16	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	–
Russian Orthodox	154	0.1%	0.1%	136	0.1%	–
Serbian Orthodox	180	0.1%	0.3%	152	0.1%	–
Ukrainian Orthodox	16	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	–
Eastern Orthodox, nec	9	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Presbyterian and Reformed, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Presbyterian	1,209	0.8%	1.1%	1,378	1.0%	–
Reformed	17	0.0%	0.0%	40	0.0%	–
Salvation Army	37	0.0%	0.1%	45	0.0%	–
Seventh-day Adventist	86	0.1%	0.2%	71	0.1%	–
Uniting Church	1,423	1.0%	1.7%	1,725	1.3%	–
Pentecostal, nfd	885	0.6%	0.8%	1,087	0.8%	–
Apostolic Church (Australia)	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Australian Christian Churches (Assemblies of God)	40	0.0%	0.0%	40	0.0%	–
Bethesda Ministries International (Bethesda Churches)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
C3 Church Global (Christian City Church)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
International Network of Churches (Christian Outreach Centres)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
CRC International (Christian Revival Crusade)	11	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %
Foursquare Gospel Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Full Gospel Church of Australia (Full Gospel Church)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Revival Centres	10	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	–
Rhema Family Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
United Pentecostal	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Acts 2 Alliance	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Christian Church in Australia	–	–	–	–	–	–
Pentecostal City Life Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Revival Fellowship	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Victory Worship Centre	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Worship Centre Network	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Pentecostal, nec	10	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	–
Other Protestant, nfd	393	0.3%	0.2%	322	0.2%	–
Born Again Christian	59	0.0%	0.1%	17	0.0%	–
Christian and Missionary Alliance	5	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	–
Church of the Nazarene	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Congregational	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Ethnic Evangelical Churches	9	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	–
Independent Evangelical Churches	10	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Wesleyan Methodist Church	7	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Christian Community Churches of Australia	6	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Methodist, so described	129	0.1%	0.1%	205	0.2%	–
United Methodist Church	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %
Other Protestant, nec	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Other Christian, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Apostolic Church of Queensland	–	–	–	4	0.0%	
Christadelphians	4	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Christian Science	3	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Gnostic Christians	12	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Liberal Catholic Church	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
New Apostolic Church	6	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
New Churches (Swedenborgian)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ratana (Maori)	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Religious Science	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	24	0.0%	0.0%	19	0.0%	
Temple Society	3	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Grace Communion International (Worldwide Church of God)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Christian, nec	17	0.0%	0.0%	16	0.0%	
Hinduism	9,114	6.1%	4.1%	5,499	4.0%	
Islam	5,800	3.9%	5.3%	5,291	3.9%	
Judaism	594	0.4%	0.9%	475	0.3%	
Australian Aboriginal Traditional Religions	8	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Baha'i	51	0.0%	0.1%	46	0.0%	
Ancestor Veneration	3	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Confucianism	5	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Taoism	135	0.1%	0.0%	116	0.1%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %
Chinese Religions, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Druse	4	0.0%	0.0%	15	0.0%	–
Shinto	24	0.0%	0.0%	24	0.0%	–
Sukyo Mahikari	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Tenrikyo	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Japanese Religions, nec	–	–	–	–	–	–
Nature Religions, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Animism	4	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	–
Druidism	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Paganism	82	0.1%	0.1%	25	0.0%	–
Wiccan (Witchcraft)	26	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	–
Nature Religions, nec	11	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	–
Sikhism	488	0.3%	1.7%	263	0.2%	–
Spiritualism	36	0.0%	0.0%	35	0.0%	–
Mandaeen	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–
Yezidi	6	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Caodaism	15	0.0%	0.0%	16	0.0%	–
Church of Scientology	17	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	–
Eckankar	6	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	–
Rastafari	3	0.0%	0.0%	11	0.0%	–
Satanism	58	0.0%	0.0%	17	0.0%	–
Theosophy	4	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	–
Jainism	130	0.1%	0.0%	97	0.1%	–
Zoroastrianism	28	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %	Count	%	Greater Melbourne %
Religious Groups, nec	26	0.0%	0.0%	14	0.0%	
Secular Beliefs and Other Spiritual Beliefs and No Religious Affiliation, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
No Religion, so described	72,602	48.5%	36.9%	60,453	44.5%	
Secular Beliefs, nfd	3	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Agnosticism	432	0.3%	0.1%	255	0.2%	
Atheism	431	0.3%	0.1%	252	0.2%	
Humanism	12	0.0%	0.0%	37	0.0%	
Rationalism	6	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Secular Beliefs, nec	14	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nfd	10	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Multi Faith	21	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
New Age	4	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Own Spiritual Beliefs	214	0.1%	0.1%	75	0.1%	
Theism	47	0.0%	0.0%	23	0.0%	
Unitarian Universalism	5	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Other Spiritual Beliefs, nec	33	0.0%	0.0%	32	0.0%	
Not stated	13,467	9.0%	5.8%	19,355	14.2%	
Total	149,620	100.0%	100.0%	135,969	100.0%	100.0%

Excludes religions with fewer than 10 adherents.

Data basis: usual residence.