

Community report

Surf Coast (S)

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

AREA

Surf Coast (S)

COMPARISON

Regional Vic.

POPULATION

Persons

GENERATED

30 March 2026

Included sections

1 selected topic will be included in this report.

01 Birthplace

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.

Birthplace

Surf Coast (S) | Regional Vic. comparison | Persons

Community report section 1 of 1

Key takeaway

In 2021, 11.7% (4,399) of people in Surf Coast (S) were born overseas, compared with 12.4% in Regional Vic.. A further 83% (31,262) of people were born in Australia.

About this topic

Birthplace records the country in which a person was born. It is a core measure of migration history and cultural diversity and helps distinguish Australia-born and overseas-born populations.

This topic is useful for understanding settlement patterns and the likely language, service, and support needs of different communities. It should be interpreted together with ancestry, language used at home, and religion for a fuller view of cultural diversity.

Interpretation notes

- Country of birth measures birthplace only; it does not capture ancestry, ethnicity, or current citizenship on its own.
- Use birthplace with ancestry and language when interpreting cultural background, because many cultural groups include both Australia-born and overseas-born people.

Birthplace - Ranked by size

Surf Coast (S) - Overseas born (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	11	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	0.0%	+4	0.0
At sea	—	—	—	—	—	0.0%	—	—
Australia	31,262	83.0%	81.0%	24,169	82.3%	80.7%	+7,093	+0.7
Norfolk Island	—	—	0.0%	—	—	0.0%	—	—
New Zealand	490	1.3%	1.0%	336	1.1%	1.0%	+154	+0.2
New Caledonia	—	—	0.0%	—	—	0.0%	—	—
Papua New Guinea	19	0.1%	0.0%	13	0.0%	0.0%	+6	+0.1
Solomon Islands	—	—	0.0%	—	—	0.0%	—	—
Vanuatu	—	—	0.0%	—	—	0.0%	—	—
Kiribati	—	—	0.0%	—	—	0.0%	—	—
Marshall Islands	—	—	—	—	—	0.0%	—	—
Micronesia, Federated States of	—	—	0.0%	—	—	—	—	—

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Nauru	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Cook Islands	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Fiji	19	0.1%	0.1%	12	0.0%	
French Polynesia	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Niue	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Samoa	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Samoa, American	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tokelau	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tonga	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tuvalu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Australian Antarctic Territory	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man, nfd	10	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
England	1,316	3.5%	2.6%	1,095	3.7%	
Isle of Man	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Northern Ireland	43	0.1%	0.1%	29	0.1%	
Scotland	188	0.5%	0.4%	150	0.5%	
Wales	40	0.1%	0.1%	26	0.1%	
Guernsey	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Jersey	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ireland	129	0.3%	0.2%	98	0.3%	
Austria	24	0.1%	0.1%	24	0.1%	
Belgium	17	0.0%	0.0%	16	0.1%	
France	70	0.2%	0.1%	28	0.1%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Germany	205	0.5%	0.4%	153	0.5%	
Liechtenstein	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Luxembourg	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Netherlands	159	0.4%	0.4%	124	0.4%	
Switzerland	18	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
Denmark	12	0.0%	0.0%	7	0.0%	
Finland	11	0.0%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Greenland	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Iceland	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Norway	8	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Sweden	28	0.1%	0.0%	18	0.1%	
Aland Islands	–	–	–	–	–	
Andorra	–	–	–	–	–	
Gibraltar	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Italy	104	0.3%	0.4%	92	0.3%	
Malta	58	0.2%	0.1%	45	0.2%	
Portugal	12	0.0%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Spain	22	0.1%	0.0%	13	0.0%	
South Eastern Europe, nfd	8	0.0%	0.1%	11	0.0%	
Albania	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bulgaria	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Croatia	20	0.1%	0.1%	22	0.1%	
Cyprus	7	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
North Macedonia	18	0.0%	0.1%	22	0.1%	
Greece	38	0.1%	0.1%	40	0.1%	
Moldova	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Romania	6	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Slovenia	10	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Montenegro	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Serbia	6	0.0%	0.1%	7	0.0%	
Kosovo	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Eastern Europe, nfd	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Belarus	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Czechia	5	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Estonia	–	–	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Hungary	16	0.0%	0.0%	17	0.1%	
Latvia	10	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Lithuania	–	–	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Poland	34	0.1%	0.1%	19	0.1%	
Russian Federation	14	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Slovakia	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Ukraine	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
North Africa and the Middle East, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
North Africa, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Algeria	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Egypt	12	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Libya	5	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Morocco	3	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Sudan	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Tunisia	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
South Sudan	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Middle East, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Bahrain	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Gaza Strip and West Bank	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Iran	8	0.0%	0.1%	7	0.0%	
Iraq	3	0.0%	0.1%	4	0.0%	
Israel	6	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Jordan	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Kuwait	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Lebanon	—	—	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Oman	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Qatar	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Saudi Arabia	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Syria	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Turkey	6	0.0%	0.1%	5	0.0%	
United Arab Emirates	6	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Yemen	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Myanmar	—	—	0.1%	—	—	
Cambodia	4	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Laos	—	—	0.0%	—	—	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Thailand	35	0.1%	0.2%	14	0.0%	
Vietnam	15	0.0%	0.2%	15	0.1%	
Maritime South-East Asia, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Brunei Darussalam	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Indonesia	35	0.1%	0.1%	21	0.1%	
Malaysia	49	0.1%	0.3%	21	0.1%	
Philippines	62	0.2%	0.6%	52	0.2%	
Singapore	18	0.0%	0.1%	10	0.0%	
Timor-Leste	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)	56	0.1%	0.3%	26	0.1%	
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	25	0.1%	0.1%	20	0.1%	
Macau (SAR of China)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mongolia	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Taiwan	5	0.0%	0.1%	–	–	
Japan	27	0.1%	0.0%	25	0.1%	
Korea, Democratic People's Republic of (North)	–	–	–	–	–	
Korea, Republic of (South)	23	0.1%	0.0%	11	0.0%	
Southern and Central Asia, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Southern Asia, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bangladesh	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bhutan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
India	73	0.2%	1.0%	68	0.2%	
Maldives	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Nepal	4	0.0%	0.1%	6	0.0%	
Pakistan	–	–	0.1%	3	0.0%	
Sri Lanka	23	0.1%	0.2%	13	0.0%	
Afghanistan	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Armenia	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Azerbaijan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Georgia	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kazakhstan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kyrgyzstan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Uzbekistan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Northern America, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Bermuda	6	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Canada	120	0.3%	0.1%	82	0.3%	
United States of America	187	0.5%	0.2%	149	0.5%	
South America, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Argentina	28	0.1%	0.0%	12	0.0%	
Bolivia	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Brazil	32	0.1%	0.0%	24	0.1%	
Chile	20	0.1%	0.0%	9	0.0%	
Colombia	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Ecuador	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Falkland Islands	–	–	–	–	–	
Guyana	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Paraguay	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Peru	3	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Suriname	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Uruguay	4	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Venezuela	5	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Costa Rica	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
El Salvador	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Guatemala	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Honduras	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Mexico	4	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Nicaragua	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Panama	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Caribbean, nfd	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Bahamas	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Barbados	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Cayman Islands	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Cuba	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Dominican Republic	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Haiti	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Jamaica	4	0.0%	0.0%	—	—	
Montserrat	—	—	—	—	—	
Puerto Rico	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
St Lucia	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Trinidad and Tobago	—	—	0.0%	—	—	
Curacao	—	—	0.0%	—	—	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Central and West Africa, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Benin	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Burkina Faso	–	–	–	–	–	
Cameroon	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Congo, Republic of	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Congo, Democratic Republic of	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Cote d'Ivoire	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Gambia	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ghana	3	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Guinea	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Liberia	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mali	–	–	–	–	–	
Nigeria	4	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Senegal	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Sierra Leone	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Togo	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Southern and East Africa, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Angola	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Botswana	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Burundi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Djibouti	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Eritrea	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ethiopia	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kenya	5	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Lesotho	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Madagascar	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Malawi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mauritius	7	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Mozambique	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Namibia	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Rwanda	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
St Helena	–	–	–	–	–	
Seychelles	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Somalia	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
South Africa	207	0.5%	0.3%	126	0.4%	
Eswatini	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tanzania	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Uganda	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Zambia	5	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Zimbabwe	21	0.1%	0.1%	11	0.0%	
Not stated	1,986	5.3%	6.6%	1,878	6.4%	
Total	37,647	100.0%	100.0%	29,354	100.0%	100.0%

Excludes countries of birth with fewer than 10 people.

Data basis: usual residence.