

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

26 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

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

Community report section 1 of 1

Key takeaway

In 2021, English was the most common language used at home among residents in Surf Coast (S), accounting for 90.8% (34,184 people). This share was higher than Regional Vic. (86.4%). Since 2016, the biggest change was in English, which increased by 7,615 people and 0.3 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

Surf Coast (S) - Total persons (Usual residence)

Category	2021			2016			Change	
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	pp
Inadequately described	11	0.0%	0.1%	9	0.0%	0.1%	+2	0.0
Non-verbal, so described	11	0.0%	0.0%	10	0.0%	0.1%	+1	0.0
Swiss, so described	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Cypriot, so described	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–	–	–
Creole, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
French Creole, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Pidgin, nfd	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–
Celtic, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–	–	–
Gaelic (Scotland)	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–
Irish	12	0.0%	0.0%	13	0.0%	0.0%	-1	0.0
Welsh	–	–	0.0%	–	–	0.0%	–	–
Celtic, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	–	–	–

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
English	34,184	90.8%	86.4%	26,569	90.5%	8
German	172	0.5%	0.2%	133	0.5%	
Letzeburgish	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yiddish	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dutch	79	0.2%	0.1%	60	0.2%	
Frisian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Afrikaans	47	0.1%	0.1%	23	0.1%	
Danish	4	0.0%	0.0%	8	0.0%	
Icelandic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Norwegian	6	0.0%	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Swedish	33	0.1%	0.0%	24	0.1%	
Estonian	6	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Finnish	9	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
French	147	0.4%	0.1%	81	0.3%	
Greek	79	0.2%	0.2%	73	0.2%	
Iberian Romance, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Catalan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Portuguese	71	0.2%	0.0%	46	0.2%	
Spanish	132	0.4%	0.2%	55	0.2%	
Italian	139	0.4%	0.5%	136	0.5%	
Maltese	26	0.1%	0.1%	22	0.1%	
Basque	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Latin	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Other Southern European Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Eastern European Languages, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	
Latvian	3	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Lithuanian	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Hungarian	19	0.1%	0.0%	16	0.1%	
Belorussian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Russian	16	0.0%	0.1%	17	0.1%	
Ukrainian	4	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Bosnian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bulgarian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Croatian	23	0.1%	0.2%	31	0.1%	
Macedonian	24	0.1%	0.1%	26	0.1%	
Serbian	17	0.0%	0.1%	8	0.0%	
Slovene	8	0.0%	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Serbo-Croatian/Yugoslavian, so described	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Czech	4	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Polish	26	0.1%	0.1%	11	0.0%	
Slovak	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Czechoslovakian, so described	–	–	–	–	–	
Albanian	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Romanian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Romany	–	–	–	–	–	
Iranic, nfd	–	–	–	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Kurdish	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Pashto	–	–	0.0%	3	0.0%	
Balochi	–	–	–	–	–	
Dari	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Persian (excluding Dari)	11	0.0%	0.1%	19	0.1%	
Hazaraghi	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Arabic	17	0.0%	0.2%	14	0.0%	
Hebrew	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Assyrian Neo-Aramaic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Chaldean Neo-Aramaic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Turkish	3	0.0%	0.1%	11	0.0%	
Azeri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Uygur	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Uzbek	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Turkic, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Armenian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Georgian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Southern Asian Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kannada	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Malayalam	–	–	0.2%	3	0.0%	
Tamil	3	0.0%	0.1%	3	0.0%	
Telugu	–	–	0.1%	5	0.0%	
Tulu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Indo-Aryan, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Bengali	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Gujarati	–	–	0.1%	3	0.0%	
Hindi	17	0.0%	0.2%	17	0.1%	
Konkani	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Marathi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nepali	9	0.0%	0.1%	6	0.0%	
Punjabi	23	0.1%	0.5%	15	0.1%	
Sindhi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Sinhalese	4	0.0%	0.1%	4	0.0%	
Urdu	–	–	0.1%	–	–	
Assamese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dhivehi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kashmiri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Oriya	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Fijian Hindustani	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Indo-Aryan, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Southern Asian Languages	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Burmese and Related Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Burmese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Chin Haka	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Karen	–	–	0.2%	–	–	
Rohingya	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Zomi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Burmese and Related Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Hmong	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Khmer	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Vietnamese	23	0.1%	0.2%	15	0.1%	
Mon-Khmer, nec	–	–	–	–	–	
Lao	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Thai	21	0.1%	0.1%	11	0.0%	
Southeast Asian Austronesian Languages, nfd	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Bisaya	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Cebuano	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ilokano	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Indonesian	45	0.1%	0.1%	28	0.1%	
Malay	3	0.0%	0.1%	–	–	
Tetum	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Timorese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tagalog	14	0.0%	0.2%	15	0.1%	
Filipino	23	0.1%	0.2%	14	0.0%	
Acehnese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Balinese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Iban	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ilonggo (Hiligaynon)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Javanese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Pampangan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Southeast Asian Austronesian Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Chinese, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Cantonese	19	0.1%	0.1%	11	0.0%	
Hakka	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mandarin	59	0.2%	0.6%	28	0.1%	
Wu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Min Nan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Japanese	41	0.1%	0.1%	36	0.1%	
Korean	11	0.0%	0.0%	6	0.0%	
Tibetan	3	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Mongolian	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Other Eastern Asian Languages, nec	–	–	–	–	–	
Australian Indigenous Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tiwi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dalabon	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Larrakiya	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Murrinh Patha	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Waanyi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yolngu Matha, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kuku Yalanji	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yidiny	–	–	–	–	–	
Yumplatok (Torres Strait Creole)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Jaru	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Warlpiri	–	–	–	–	–	
Anmatyerr, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Arrernte, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Arrernte, nec	–	–	–	–	–	
Pitjantjatjara	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Wangkatha	–	–	–	–	–	
Yankunytjatjara	–	–	–	–	–	
Bardi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yawuru	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Adnymathanha	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bandjalang	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bidjara	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Gamilaraay	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kanai	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kriol	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ngarrindjeri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nyungar	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Paakantyi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Wajarri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Wiradjuri	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Yorta Yorta	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Djabwurrung	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Wergaia	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Aboriginal English, so described	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Other Australian Indigenous Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
American Languages	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
African Languages, nfd	3	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Acholi	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Akan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Mauritian Creole	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Oromo	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Shona	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Somali	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Swahili	–	–	0.1%	3	0.0%	
Yoruba	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Zulu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Amharic	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bemba	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Dinka	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ewe	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ga	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Harari	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Hausa	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Igbo	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kikuyu	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Krio	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Luganda	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Luo	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Ndebele	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nuer	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nyanja (Chichewa)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Shilluk	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tigrinya	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tswana	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Xhosa	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bari	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bassa	–	–	–	–	–	
Kinyarwanda (Rwanda)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Kirundi (Rundi)	4	0.0%	0.0%	–	–	
Liberian (Liberian English)	–	–	–	–	–	
Madi	–	–	–	–	–	
Lingala	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
African Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Fijian	6	0.0%	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Gilbertese	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Maori (Cook Island)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Maori (New Zealand)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Nauruan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Niue	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Samoan	–	–	0.0%	5	0.0%	
Tongan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	

Category	2021			2016		
	Count	%	Regional Vic. %	Count	%	Regiona
Tokelauan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Tuvaluan	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Pacific Austronesian Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Bislama	4	0.0%	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)	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Papua New Guinea Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Invented Languages	–	–	0.0%	4	0.0%	
Sign Languages, nfd	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Auslan	16	0.0%	0.1%	11	0.0%	
Key Word Sign Australia	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Sign Languages, nec	–	–	0.0%	–	–	
Not stated	1,946	5.2%	6.5%	1,653	5.6%	
Total	37,662	100.0%	100.0%	29,355	100.0%	100.0%

Excludes languages spoken at home by fewer than 10 people.

Data basis: usual residence.