



Review of 2021 Census topics

Location

The ABS is consulting to seek views on the information to be collected in the next Census and this topic brief provides detail about what has been previously included on location.

The opportunity to participate in the consultation will be available from 3 April to 30 June 2018 via consult.abs.gov.au

What was included in the Census?

Location based topics on the Census included:

- address on Census night
- usual residence
- internal migration (address 1 year ago)
- internal migration (address 5 years ago)
- workplace address for the main job held the week before Census night.

How is this information used?

The Census provides the most accurate, if not the only, source of consistent information for small geographic areas and small population groups across the country. Information about addresses is used to provide a count of people living and working in particular areas.

The information about the number and types of people (for example, families and elderly people) is important to inform future planning and delivery of services to address local community needs.

The information on where people work is considered in planning for emergency response and improvement of infrastructure, such as roads for commuters.

The geographic movement of people between Censuses helps governments, businesses and communities determine and plan for future growth in different areas, particularly as almost half of Australians changed their address in the five years between the 2011 and 2016 Census.

The questions asked on the 2016 Census

- Where does the person usually live?
- What is the address of this dwelling?
- Where did the person usually live one year ago?
- Where did the person usually live five years ago?
- For the main job held last week, what was the person's workplace address?

Data produced from the 2016 Census

The Census does not release any information related to specific addresses of individuals and individuals cannot be identified from the Census data.

Census data can provide information on the number of people within a geographic area based on address on Census night, place of usual residence and place of work.

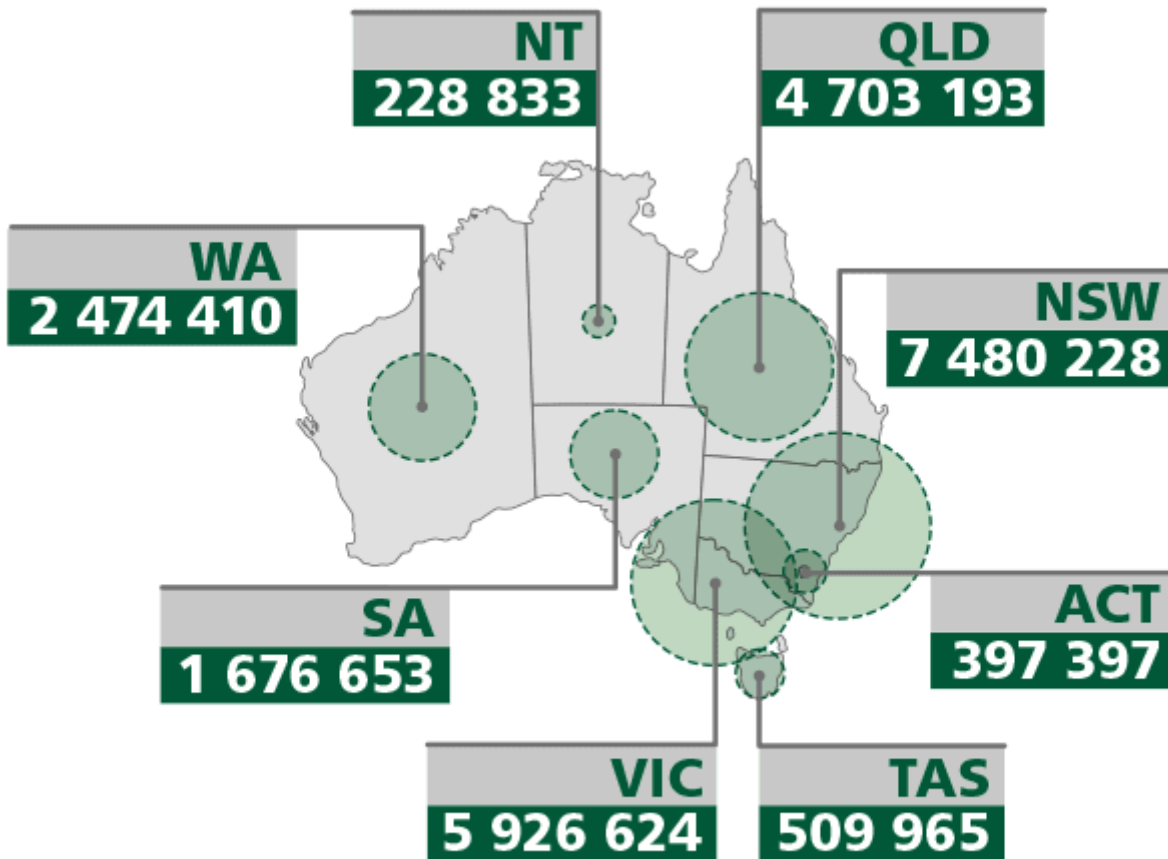
Questions about locations provide data on:

- Location based on usual residential address ([PURP](#), [UAICP](#), [IFPURP](#))
- Internal migration via usual address one year and five years ago ([PUR1P](#), [PUR5P](#), [UAI1P](#), [UAI5P](#), [MV1D](#), [MV5D](#))
- Destination zone based on workplace address ([POWP](#))

For more information view [2901.0 – Census Dictionary](#)

Highlights from the 2016 Census on location

USUAL RESIDENCE CENSUS COUNT, BY STATE AND TERRITORY, 2016(a)



(a) Usual Residence Census counts. Excludes overseas visitors, Other Territories are not included.

Source: Census of Population and Housing 2016

Standards

The geographic standard used by the ABS to classify statistics relating to location is the [Australian Statistical Geography Standard \(ASGS\)](#). For more detail on how the Census applies the geography standard, refer to [Census Geography Basics](#).

For more information go to www.abs.gov.au/census