

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.30 A.M. 20 MARCH 1992

**FIRST COUNTS FOR  
CHRISTMAS ISLAND and the COCOS (KEELING)  
ISLANDS**

1991 CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING

IAN CASTLES  
Australian Statistician

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### Inquiries

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  - For information about other ABS statistics and services contact any ABS State office. See inside back cover for ABS contact numbers and addresses.
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## Main Features (a)

- The total number of people counted in the external Territories of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands on census night, 6 August 1991, was 1,922. This figure represents a 22% decrease in the census count of these areas since the 1986 Census.

### Christmas Island...

- 1,275 people were enumerated on Christmas Island, a decrease of 514 people, or 28.7%, since the 1986 Census. The majority of the decrease occurred in the 15-34 age group, with the number of people aged 15-24 falling from 309 to 83.
- The sex ratio of the Christmas Island population in 1991 was 120.97 males to 100 females, compared with 129.65 males to 100 females in 1986.
- In 1986, the largest age group for males was 30-34 years (154). In 1991 the largest age group for males was 0-4 years (103).
- In 1986, the largest age group for females was 0-4 years (134). The largest age group for females in 1991 was 5-9 years (96).
- The total number of occupied private dwellings counted on Christmas Island decreased by 33.3% since the 1986 Census, from 604 to 403 in 1991.

### Cocos (Keeling) Islands...

- 647 people were enumerated on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, a decrease of 29 people, or 4.3%, since the 1986 Census. The number of people aged under 40 decreased by 110 or 21.2%, and for 60 years and over increased by 37 or 88.1%.
- The sex ratio of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands population in 1991 was 97.3 males to 100 females, compared with 92.1 males to 100 females in 1986.
- In 1986, the largest age group for males was 35-39 years (48). The largest age group for males in 1991 was 25-29 years (34).
- In 1986, the largest age group for females was 0-4 years (49). The largest age groups for females in 1991 were 0-4 and 5-9 years, both with 35.
- The total number of dwellings counted by the census on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands has increased by 6.9% since the 1986 Census, from 160 to 171 in 1991.

(a) These are preliminary data from the 1991 Census. Final data will be available at a later date. The 1986 Census data was originally published in *Census 86 - Summary Characteristics of Persons and Dwellings, Cocos (Keeling) Islands* (2488.0) and *Census 86 - Summary Characteristics of Persons and Dwellings, Christmas Island* (2489.0).

## About this publication...

This publication contains **preliminary** data, the first counts from the 1991 Census of Population and Housing. Final data will be available from the September quarter 1992.

The publication contains preliminary counts for Australia's external Territories of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. The counts are on a place of enumeration basis, which provides a count of people where they were located on census night, 6 August 1991, which may not be where they usually live.

For each State, the Northern Territory, and the Australian Capital Territory, the preliminary publication *First Counts for Statistical Local Areas (2701.1-8)* will be produced. These publications contain preliminary counts of people and dwellings for statistical local areas (SLAs) and statistical divisions (SDs) in each State/Territory.

## Scope and coverage...

The 1991 Census of Population and Housing was held on 6 August 1991. The purpose of the census was to count every person who spent census night in Australia. This included people in private dwellings, occupied non-private dwellings, camping out, on vessels in or between Australian ports and on board overnight transport.

People were counted where they were located on census night, which may not have been where they usually live.

Visitors to Australia were counted regardless of how long ago they arrived, or how long they planned to stay. Australian residents out of the country on census night were excluded.

All private dwellings were counted, whether occupied or unoccupied. Occupied non-private dwellings, such as hospitals, gaols, etc. were also counted.

Diplomatic personnel and their families were excluded from the census, as were diplomatic residences.

The external Territories of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands were within the scope of the 1991 Census. The 1986 Census was the first census to include them. Previously, separate censuses of the islands were conducted by the federal department(s) responsible for administration of the external Territories.

## Preliminary data limitations...

Statistical collections such as the census are subject to a number of sources of error. The effect of such errors on overall census results is generally insignificant. However, preliminary data are subject to number of additional errors which may effect the quality of the data.

The counts presented in this publication have been captured using Optical Mark Recognition (OMR). With OMR, a mark is placed in a pre-defined box on the census form and read by machine.

This process may result in a number of errors. For example, marks may not be recognised by the OMR machines, or more than one mark may have been made in response to a single question.

Errors such as these are corrected for final data and therefore preliminary data may differ from final data. Any differences are expected to be small.

### **1986 Census data...**

Preliminary counts were not available from the 1986 Census.

Final 1986 Census data have been provided in this publication. This 1986 data was originally published in *Census 86 - Summary Characteristics of Persons and Dwellings, Cocos (Keeling) Islands (2488.0)* and *Census 86 - Summary Characteristics of Persons and Dwellings, Christmas Island (2489.0)*.

### **Introduced random adjustments...**

Adjustments are randomly made to table cells to protect the confidentiality of information about individuals. As a result, component cells may not add to their totals. These differences are statistically insignificant and do not impair the usefulness of the tables.

### **Census variables in this publication...**

#### ***Age***

Age has been collected in all Australian censuses. For the 1991 Census age was self-coded, that is, age was recorded by each person marking the appropriate box.

#### ***Sex***

Question 3 on the census forms asks the sex of each person.

#### ***Dwellings***

The census collector recorded each dwelling as either private or non-private. Private dwellings are either occupied or unoccupied, and are further defined by structure (for example, separate house, townhouse, flat or apartment, caravan etc in caravan park). Only occupied non-private dwellings were included in the census. Non-private dwellings include motels, gaols, welfare institutions, hospitals, retirement villages, boarding schools etc.

## Maps...

Census collection district (CD) maps can be obtained for the external Territories of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

## Other 1991 Census products and services...

Final data for the external Territories of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands will be available through the Census Consultancy Service.

Final data for Australia will be published in a range of publications including *Census Counts for Small Areas* (2730.1-8), *Census Characteristics for (State/Australia)* (2710.0-8), thematic reports and social atlases. Products will also be available on floppy disk, microfiche, and CD-ROM.

A number of 1991 Census products are already available from the ABS. They include the *1991 Census Dictionary* (2901.0) and *1991 Census Directory of Classifications* (2904.0). For detailed explanations of data, census concepts, terminology, variables and classifications, refer to these publications. *Collection District Maps* (2920.0) in hardcopy and on microfiche, and the *Collection District Comparability List* (2919.0) are also available.

*1991 Census - A Guide to Products and Services* (2910.0) provides details on national products and services. *Census Update*, a quarterly newsletter, will keep you up to date with developments in all census products and services. It highlights recent and forthcoming releases, and contains regular features on census data usage. Contact Census Marketing on (06) 252 7879 for details.

For more information on the wide range of data available from the 1991 Census, including data customised to suit specific requirements, contact the ABS office in your State or Territory.

## Symbols and other usages...

- nil or rounded to zero
- .. not applicable.

TABLE 1: 1991 CENSUS - FIRST COUNTS(a)  
 PEOPLE IN 5 YEAR AGE GROUPS, CHRISTMAS ISLAND AND THE  
 COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS

Age Groups	<u>Christmas Island</u>		<u>Cocos (Keeling) Islands</u>	
	<i>1991(a)</i>	<i>1986</i>	<i>1991(a)</i>	<i>1986</i>
0-4				
Males	103	137	18	43
Females	89	134	35	49
Persons	192	271	53	92
5-9				
Males	93	89	28	32
Females	96	65	35	42
Persons	189	154	63	74
10-14				
Males	50	64	29	23
Females	51	60	24	24
Persons	101	124	53	47
15-19				
Males	20	79	10	16
Females	12	62	13	14
Persons	32	141	23	30
20-24				
Males	26	87	16	27
Females	25	81	20	28
Persons	51	168	36	55
25-29				
Males	48	46	34	28
Females	56	79	29	40
Persons	104	125	63	68
30-34				
Males	44	154	30	30
Females	77	101	31	41
Persons	121	255	61	71
35-39				
Males	96	135	30	48
Females	75	68	26	33
Persons	171	203	56	81
40-44				
Males	97	71	31	25
Females	28	48	24	19
Persons	125	119	55	44

See footnotes at end of table.



TABLE 1: 1991 CENSUS - FIRST COUNTS(a)  
 PEOPLE IN 5 YEAR AGE GROUPS, CHRISTMAS ISLAND AND THE  
 COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS - *continued*

Age Groups	<u>Christmas Island</u>		<u>Cocos (Keeling) Islands</u>	
	1991(a)	1986	1991(a)	1986
45-49				
Males	42	68	17	14
Females	28	38	16	19
Persons	70	106	33	33
50-54				
Males	39	44	18	10
Females	16	14	22	14
Persons	55	58	40	24
55-59				
Males	25	19	15	5
Females	6	14	17	10
Persons	31	33	32	15
60-64				
Males	11	8	11	8
Females	10	6	10	5
Persons	21	14	21	13
65+				
Males	4	9	32	15
Females	8	9	26	14
Persons	12	18	58	29
<b>Total</b>				
Males	<b>698</b>	<b>1,010</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>324</b>
Females	<b>577</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>352</b>
Persons	<b>1,275</b>	<b>1,789</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>676</b>

(a) This is preliminary data from the 1991 Census. Final data will be available at a later date.

**TABLE 2: 1991 CENSUS — FIRST COUNTS(a)  
TYPES OF DWELLINGS FOR CHRISTMAS ISLAND AND THE COCOS (KEELING)  
ISLANDS**

	<i>Christmas Island</i>	<i>Cocos (Keeling) Islands</i>
<b>Private dwellings</b>		
Occupied private dwellings		
Separate house, semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse etc.	204	150
Flat or apartment	192	—
Caravan etc. in caravan park	—	—
Other(b)	7	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>403</i>	<i>151</i>
Unoccupied private dwellings	69	16
<b>Total private dwellings</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>167</b>
<b>Non-private dwellings(c)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>TOTAL DWELLINGS</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>171</b>

(a) These are preliminary data from the 1991 Census. Final data will be published at a later date. (b) Includes caravans etc. not in caravan parks, houseboats, etc.; improvised homes and campers out; houses or flats attached to shops, offices etc; not stated and multiple marks. (c) Includes occupied motels, gaols, charitable institutions, hospitals, retirement villages, etc.