



Census

2026 Census topic consultation

Presenters: Georgia Chapman and Andrew Tyson

Facilitator: Tanya Hornick

Questions: www.pollev.com/2026censustc

Background



Census

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The Census of Population and Housing provides a snapshot of Australia. It is one of the many ways that the ABS produces its statistics.

The Census provides data for small areas and small populations.

Every Census, the ABS makes a recommendation to the Australian Government on the topics that could be included in the Census.

The next Census will take place in 2026.



2021 Census topics



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Population

- Name
- Sex
- Age
- Registered marital status
- Number of children ever born

People and Community

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status
- Australian citizenship
- Country of birth of each parent
- County of birth
- Year of arrival in Australia
- Language used at home
- Proficiency in spoken English
- Ancestry
- Religious affiliation
- Household/family relationships
- Persons temporarily absent

Health and Disability

- Need for assistance in self-care, body movement or communication

Income and Work

- Income
- Labour force status
- Employment type
- Status in employment
- Self employed - number of employees
- Hours worked
- Industry of employment
- Occupation
- Main tasks in occupation
- Name and address of workplace attended
- Mode of travel to work
- Unpaid care of children
- Unpaid care of aged, person with a disability, long term illness
- Unpaid work - domestic activities
- Unpaid work - volunteering

Housing

- Dwelling type
- Dwelling location
- Structure of private dwelling
- Type of non-private dwelling
- Type of tenure
- Landlord type
- Housing costs
- Number of bedrooms
- Number of motor vehicles
- Residential status in a private or non-private dwelling
- Name and number of persons resident in non-private dwelling

Education and Training

- Attendance at an educational institution
- Highest level of schooling
- Non-school qualifications

Location

- Address on Census night
- Address of usual residence
- Address one year ago
- Address five years ago
- Address of non-private dwelling

2021 New Questions

- Service with the Australian Defence Force
- Long-term health conditions



Economy



People



Industry



Labour



Health

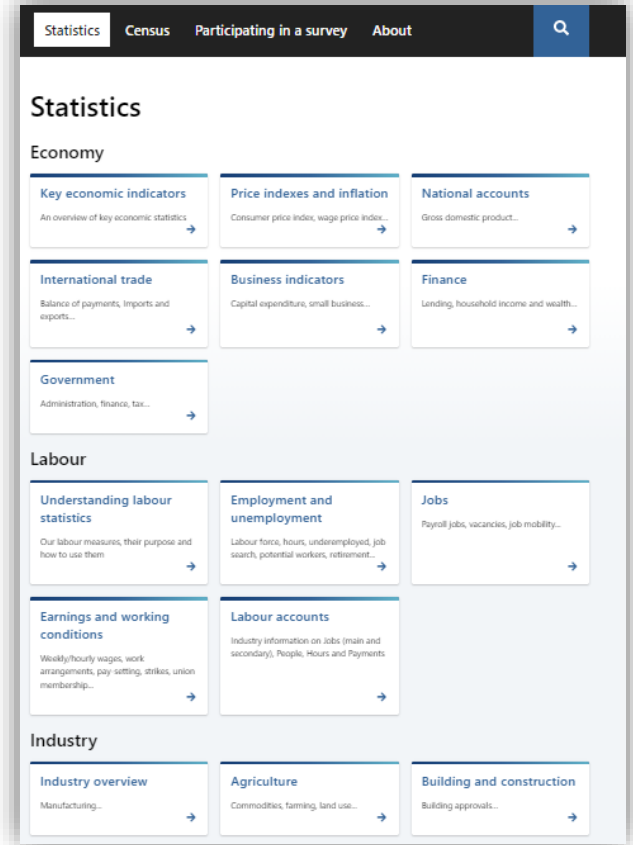


Environment



COVID-19

www.abs.gov.au/statistics



The screenshot shows the ABS Statistics website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for "Statistics", "Census", "Participating in a survey", and "About", along with a search icon. The main content area is titled "Statistics" and is organized into several categories:

- Economy**
 - Key economic indicators: An overview of key economic statistics →
 - Price indexes and inflation: Consumer price index, wage price index... →
 - National accounts: Gross domestic product... →
 - International trade: Balance of payments, imports and exports... →
 - Business indicators: Capital expenditure, small business... →
 - Finance: Lending, household income and wealth... →
 - Government: Administration, finance, tax... →
- Labour**
 - Understanding labour statistics: Our labour measures, their purpose and how to use them →
 - Employment and unemployment: Labour force, hours, underemployed, job search, potential workers, retirement... →
 - Jobs: Payroll jobs, vacancies, job mobility... →
 - Earnings and working conditions: Weekly/hourly wages, work arrangements, pay setting, strikes, union membership... →
 - Labour accounts: Industry information on Jobs (main and secondary), People, Hours and Payments →
- Industry**
 - Industry overview: Manufacturing... →
 - Agriculture: Commodities, farming, land use... →
 - Building and construction: Building approvals... →

2026 Census topic review timeline



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**Phase one
consultation**

28 Feb – 28 Apr 2023



**Phase two
consultation**

Jun – Jul 2023



**Consultation
outcomes
published**

Late 2023



**Proposed
topics tested**

Late 2023 – 2024



**Recommendation
to the Australian
Government**

Mid 2024



**2026 Census
topics finalised**

Late 2025

Phase one: unmet information needs



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Submissions can be made through the **ABS Consultation Hub** until 28 April 2023.

In phase one we also review:

- Correspondence to the Australian Statistician and Members of Parliament received since June 2018.
- Feedback from recent ABS consultations and statistical standard reviews.
- Topics shortlisted for further consideration in the 2021 Census topic review process (*Gender identity, household and family relationships, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural identity, journey to education, smoking status and sexual orientation*).

You **do not** need to make a submission if you have provided your request through the above channels, unless you have further evidence.

How to participate in the consultation



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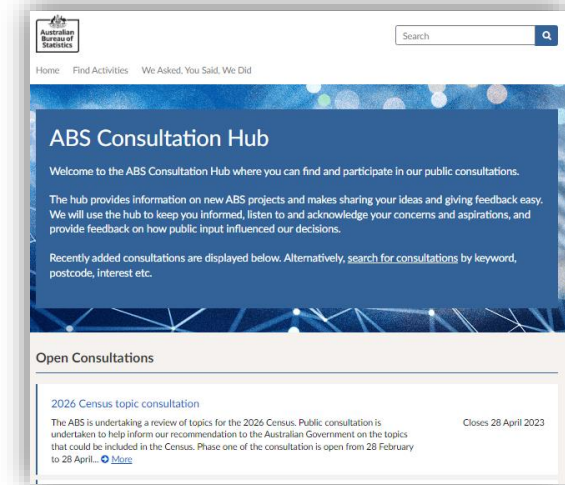
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You can make a submission through the ABS Consultation Hub consult.abs.gov.au

In your submission you will be asked:

1. To provide a brief summary of the information you would like the ABS to collect and produce statistics on.
2. What topic the information most relates to.
3. Why it is important that the ABS collect and produce this information.
4. The purposes you will use the information for.
5. The smallest area or geography required.



You can include up to 10 information requests in one submission.

Consent to publish



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Do you give permission for the ABS to publish your submission? (Select one)

▶ [Detailed explanation of each of the options listed below](#)

(Required)

- Yes, publish without my name, contributors' names and email addresses
- Yes, publish without my name, contributors' names and email addresses, and organisation details
- No

By selecting 'Yes, publish without my name, contributors' names and email addresses':

You give permission for the ABS to publish your responses, including information in attachments, about the data you want us to collect as well as which organisation(s) you are representing. Contact name(s) for you and any other individual(s) listed in the submission and your email address will not be published.

By selecting 'Yes, publish without my name, contributors' names and email addresses, and organisation details':

You give permission for the ABS to publish your responses, including information in attachments, about the data you want us to collect. The organisation(s) you are representing, contact name(s) for you and any other individual(s) listed in the submission and email address will not be published.

By selecting 'No':

No part of your submission will be published.

Making a high-quality submission



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Quality over quantity:

- Consider and address the assessment criteria.
- Collaborate: Connect with other individuals or organisations.
- Provide evidence: Tell us how you would use the data.



Assessment criteria for submissions



Assessing public value:

1	The topic is of current national importance.
2	There is a need for data at the national level, and either the local level or for small population groups.
3	There is likely to be a continuing need for data on the topic following the Census.

Is the Census the most appropriate way to provide data on the topic?

4	There are no other suitable alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.
5	Data on the topic can be collected efficiently.
6	A representative of the household would be willing and able to answer questions on the topic for each member of the household.

Assessment Criterion 1



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The topic is of current national importance

- data is required for an electoral or legislative purpose
- data is needed to support policy development, planning or program monitoring
- data is used for research purposes.

Assessment Criterion 2



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There is a need for data at the national level, and either the local level or for small population groups

- data is needed at the national level and/or is required for international comparability
- data is needed for small population groups
- data is needed for small geographic areas
- the value of the topic is enhanced through combining with other characteristics collected in the Census or with administrative data.

Assessment Criterion 3



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There is likely to be a continuing need for data on the topic following the Census

- there is a need for time series data on the topic
- the topic is likely to remain relevant in the future
- data collected on the topic will have enduring value.

Assessment criteria



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Topics that rate strongly against criteria 1-3 will be assessed against the following criteria:

There are no other suitable alternative data sources or solutions that could meet the topic need.

Data on the topic can be collected efficiently.

A representative of the household would be willing and able to answer questions on the topic for each member of the household.



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Further information



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www.abs.gov.au/census/2026-census-topic-review



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Thank you

