



Methodology Statement: 2011 Australian Census Demographic Variables

Author: MapData Services Pty Ltd

Version: 1.0

Last modified: 2/12/2014

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Introduction

MapData Services has compiled a key subset of over 820 variables from the 2011 Australian Census of Population and Housing.

The Census is the largest statistical collection undertaken by the Australian Bureau Of Statistics and one of the most important. Its objective is to accurately measure the number and key characteristics of people who are in Australia on Census Night, and of the dwellings in which they live. This information provides a reliable basis for estimating the population of each of the states, territories and local government areas, primarily for electoral purposes and for planning the distribution of government funds. Census data are also used by individuals and organisations in the public and private sectors to make informed decisions on policy and planning issues that impact on the lives of all Australians.

Everyone in Australia is legally required to complete a Census form, to ensure that the Census data give an accurate and complete picture of the nation.

In compiling the list of variables for inclusion to the Esri datasets MapData Services has researched all of the output from the 2011 Census and identified through it's many years in working with clients and users of demographic data, the key data elements which are most important and relevant.

Included in the data provided to Esri are the following key categories:

- Age
- Country of Birth
- Dwelling Structure
- Family Composition
- Highest Year of School completed
- Household Composition
- Language Spoken at Home
- Occupation
- Registered Marital Status
- Religious Affiliation
- Tenure Type and Landlord Type
- Total Household Income
- Total Personal Income
- Type of Educational Institution Attending

Statistical Geography

Census Data from the ABS is available pre-calculate at a variety of different geographies, this has meant that no additional methodology or imputation has had to be applied to take fine level geographic data and roll up to larger areas. The provided geographies for this release of data are as follows

- Statistical Area 1 – SA1
- Statistical Area 2 – SA2
- Statistical Area 3 – SA3

- Statistical Area 4 – SA4
- Greater Capital City Statistical Area – GCCSA
- State – STE

For the purpose of this data release the categories of 'Migratory - Offshore – Shipping' and 'No Usual Address' have not been included as they do not map to geographical features for ALL statistical boundary types, a full explanation of why not all census variables and areas are mappable is here

<http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/datapackshelpans2?opendocument&navpos=250>

For more information on the geographies and hierarchy used by the ABS

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/25EC913DF37A2E73CA257801000C64B2?opendocument>

Included Data Collections

Age

The Age by Sex data collection includes counts for population by five year age breaks by sex, and a count for the sum of people in each age bracket.

Country of Birth

The Country of Birth of Person by sex data collection counts the number of people reporting being born in each country by sex, and a count for the sum of people reporting to be born in each country

Dwelling Structure

The Dwelling Structure data collection counts the number of people occupying privately owned versus rented properties. For the privately owned properties there are also counts on how many are owned outright and those that are mortgaged

Family Composition

The Family Composition data collection counts the number of families based on family composition. A family with a couple and children is a family with two parental figures in the household

Highest Year of School completed

The Highest Year of School Completed by Sex includes counts of the highest year level of school completed by sex, and as a total number of people that completed that level. This is a historical measure of the whole population, not of those currently enrolled

Household Composition

The Household Composition by Number of Persons Usually Resident includes a count of the number of households that are sole occupancy through to households with 6+ usual occupants. Each household size, barring sole occupancy, is also broken down into family and non-family households

Language Spoken at Home

The Language Spoken at Home by Sex includes a count of people categorised by the language. There are options for English only and the language, other than English, spoken most frequently at home.

Occupation

The Occupation by Sex data collection includes counts of people's reported occupation by sex, plus a sum of all people reporting an occupation for the population aged 15+.

Registered Marital Status

The Registered Marital Status by Age by Sex includes counts for 5 year age brackets for the population aged 15+, and has counts for Married (excludes defacto relationships), Separated, Divorced, Widowed and Never Married.

Religious Affiliation

The Religious Affiliation by Sex counts include counts for reported religious affiliations across a broad range of religions and belief systems, and counts for those identifying as having no religion. There are totals for male and female counts as well as a combined total for each category.

Tenure Type and Landlord Type

The Tenure Type and Landlord Type by Dwelling Structure count includes counts of total number of rental properties by Landlord and Tenure type; publically owned, sublet room from owner, Housing. Cooperative owned, etc.

Total Household Income

Total Household Weekly Income by Household Composition count includes counts of income brackets by family and non-family households, and total households reporting in that income bracket.

For more information around the creation of the household income ranges, please review <http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/factsheetsuid?opendocument&navpos=450>

Total Personal Income

Total Personal Weekly Income by Sex count includes counts of income brackets by total females and males, and total population.

Information on midpoints for the income ranges for the personal income are those specified specifically by the ABS.

<http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/factsheetsuid?opendocument&navpos=450>

Type of Educational Institution Attending

Type of Educational Institution Attending by Sex includes a count of total males and females, and total population currently attending educational institutions. This includes a breakdown of public, catholic and other private pre-schools, primary schools and secondary schools. Universities and other educational institutions are also included.

Note: Where the ABS has not specifically denoted the use of alternative midpoints for range variables, standard midpoint values have been applied when data is used for aggregation purposes

For more detailed information on any of these classifications please refer to <http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/cpexplanatorynotes>

Confidentiality and Privacy

The Australian Bureau Of Statistics is bound by Australian Confidentiality and Privacy laws and such have specific methods of dealing with this both within the Census and other survey methodologies. More information exists [here](#).

<http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/4a256353001af3ed4b2562bb00121564/1be71b5a0eb4e902ca25711a007b923a!OpenDocument#Avoiding%20inadvertent%20disclosure>

The Australian Statistician is required to compile and analyse the statistical information collected under the Census and Statistics Act and to publish and disseminate the results so that the statistics derived from the information collected are available to the public. When releasing statistics it must be done in a manner that is "not likely" (in a legal sense) to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation. This requires the application of statistical methods which avoid identification while allowing sufficient detailed information to be released to make the statistics useful. These methods have been developed by statisticians in universities and statistical agencies around the world, including ABS statisticians. They are continually being further developed.

The following basic techniques are applied to tables of statistics likely to contain cells which should be kept confidential.

1. Limiting the detail available (eg collapsing detail in classifications, combining cells).
2. Slightly altering outputs so that results from analysis based on the data are insignificantly affected yet the original values cannot be known with certainty. This method is usually adopted for count data such as released from the population census.
3. Suppressing information.

There are a small number of explicit situations permitted by legislation where information about businesses, but not individuals or households, might be released or controlled access provided to unidentified records by persons who are not members of ABS staff. These exceptions are tightly prescribed by Determinations of the Census and Statistics Act made by the Minister. Release under a Determination also requires the approval of the Australian Statistician.

Data Quality

Data counts and figures represented have not changed from those published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and as such are published using the ABS standards and guidelines.

For a statement of Quality, please refer:

<http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/qualitydeclaration?opendocument&navpos=410>

Further Information

There is a wealth of information available around all aspects of the Census, from collection to dissemination available through the official ABS website.

<http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/census?opendocument&navpos=10>