



# **SOCIAL PROFILE OF THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN AUSTRALIA**

BASED ON THE 2016 AUSTRALIAN CENSUS



Date of report: October 2019 (Revised edition)

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BASED ON THE 2016 AUSTRALIAN CENSUS



# AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

## Australian Catholic Council for Pastoral Research

March 2019

Dear readers,

*The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is pleased to make available to you this profile of the Catholic population of Australia.*

*I hope that you will find it to be a valuable tool in helping you understand the contemporary Australian Catholic community and assess its needs.*

*The data in this profile has been sourced from the Australian Census, which is carried out every five years by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Most of the data comes from the 2016 Census, but some comparisons are provided with 2011 and earlier years.*

*It is important to note that the data in this profile applies to all those who identified themselves as Catholic in the Census. Census data informs us about a population's demographic characteristics, but not about their religious practice.*

*This social profile and the companion versions of it, produced for every Catholic parish and diocese in Australia, are an outcome of the National Catholic Census Project established by the Bishops Conference at the time of the 1991 Census. This project is managed by the ACBC National Centre for Pastoral Research. The Australian Catholic Council for Pastoral Research is most grateful to the Centre's staff for the work that they do in providing demographic resources for parishes and dioceses, including this social profile.*

*This profile is provided to you free of charge by the Bishops Conference. I trust that you find it informative, useful and thought-provoking.*

Yours sincerely,

(Professor) Gabrielle McMullen AM  
Chair, Australian Catholic Council for Pastoral Research

# Australian Social Profile

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# The Australian Catholic Community

**Pastoral planning** is the process of a Catholic community organising itself to carry out the mission of the Church in its own locality. It is a process built upon a community's knowledge in three areas:

- Knowing its vision - its aspiration for itself.
- Knowing what sort of people make up the Catholic community and the general community.
- Knowing the resources (strengths, gifts and circumstances) available to the community to realise the vision.

This Australian Social Profile has been developed as a resource for pastoral planning, and it focuses on the second and third areas of knowledge.

The Church strongly encourages pastoral planning. As Pope John Paul II said:

*"I earnestly exhort the Pastors of the particular Churches, with the help of all sectors of God's People, confidently to plan the stages of the journey ahead, harmonising the choices of each diocesan community with those of neighbouring Churches and of the universal Church ... It is not a matter of inventing a 'new program'. The program already exists: it is the plan found in the Gospel and in the living Tradition."* Novo Millennio Ineunte #29

## A SNAPSHOT OF THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY IN AUSTRALIA (2016)

Total Population: 23,401,892

Catholic Population: 5,291,834

Catholics make up 22.6 per cent of the total population

Median age of Catholics is 40 years

Total Catholic families: 1,997,833

461,183 Catholics live alone

1,304,993 Catholics were born overseas

136,360 Catholics do not speak English well

305,823 Catholics need assistance with core activities

1,648,241 Catholics have changed address since 2011



## What has changed since 1996?

This chart will help you identify at a glance changes in some of the key indicators for Catholics in Australia between 1996 and 2016, and may alert you to possible trends that are occurring. Figures are drawn from the Australian Overview tables on pages 4-7. All figures in this table refer to Catholics only. The term "Catholic" in this report refers to all persons who identified themselves as Catholics in the Census, not only those who have some form of active association with the Church.

### RANDOMISATION OF CENSUS DATA

The Catholic population may be slightly different in different tables in this profile as a result of the randomisation procedure used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in carrying out its statutory obligation to protect the confidentiality of individuals. This variation in figures does not impair the value of Census data as the Census is intended to be an instrument that paints a broad picture rather than a precise measurement of a particular locality. Care should always be taken in interpreting small counts in tables.

	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016
Catholic population	4,799,090	5,001,624	5,126,862	5,439,267	5,291,834
Catholics aged 0-14 (%)	23.0	22.3	21.1	20.5	19.8
Catholics aged 65+ (%)	10.9	12.0	13.2	14.1	16.6
Catholics born in non-English-speaking countries (%)	18.9	17.9	17.6	17.9	19.1
Catholics not proficient in English (%)	3.3	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.6
Catholic families	1,669,789	1,796,836	1,893,776	2,019,556	1,997,833
Catholics living alone	346,322	408,896	438,307	470,613	461,183
Catholic students attending Catholic schools (%)	52.7	51.8	52.3	52.8	53.7
Catholics with a university degree (%)	9.7	12.2	15.0	17.6	20.6
Catholic males in labour force (%)	67.2	62.8	69.4	69.6	68.9
Catholic females in labour force (%)	51.7	52.3	56.7	58.5	60.1
Catholic households owning or purchasing dwelling (%)	69.4	70.1	72.0	71.4	71.2



# Overview

**Table 1: Population** (for more details on Population and Religion see page 9)

The Australian Profile begins by looking at the total population in Australia, and the percentage who identified as Catholic. Except where clearly marked otherwise, the figures in this report refer only to those people who identified themselves as Catholic in the Census. In Tables 1 to 8, a comparison is given with the total population for 2016.

Table 1: Population <sup>1</sup>	Catholics					All persons
	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	2016
Total population <sup>2</sup>	17,752,089	18,767,249	19,855,287	21,507,719	23,401,892	23,401,892
Catholic population	4,799,090	5,001,624	5,126,862	5,439,267	5,291,834	-
Per cent Catholic	27.0	26.6	25.8	25.3	22.6	-
At same address since previous Census (%)	51.3	52.5	55.6	57.5	57.3	49.2
Median age <sup>3</sup> (years)	33	34	37	38	40	38
Aged 0-14 (%)	23.0	22.3	21.1	20.5	19.8	18.7
Aged 65+ (%)	10.9	12.0	13.2	14.1	16.6	15.7
Males per 100 females	94.6	93.5	92.4	92.1	90.6	97.4

**Notes:**

1. All figures refer to Catholics only, except for Total Population and certain other clearly-indicated figures.
2. Population figures do not include overseas visitors.
3. Median Age: Half of the Catholic population are above this age, half are below it.

**Table 2: Disability** (for more detail on Disability and Carers see page 12)

Table 2 shows the percentage of Catholics who are disabled to the extent that they require assistance for some core activities (i.e. they need help or assistance with self-care, communication or mobility). It also shows the percentage of Catholics who provide unpaid assistance to a person with some form of disability.

Table 2: Disability	Catholics					All persons
	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	2016
Need assistance with core activities (%)	na <sup>1</sup>	na <sup>1</sup>	4.3	4.9	5.8	5.1
Provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability <sup>2</sup> (% of Catholics aged 15+)	na <sup>1</sup>	na <sup>1</sup>	10.8	11.7	12.5	11.3

**Notes:**

1. The 2006 Census was the first time questions on disability and provision of unpaid assistance to people with disabilities was asked, so there is no comparable data for 1996 and 2001.
2. The Census asked whether a person had provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability in the two weeks prior to the Census.





# Overview

**Table 3: Employment** (for more detail on Occupation and Employment see pages 23-25)

The extent to which people are involved in the workforce and the type of work they are doing influences and shapes many aspects of the community's life.

Table 3: Occupation & Employment	Catholics					All persons
	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	2016
Managers and Professionals <sup>1</sup> (% of those recording an occupation)	na <sup>2</sup>	na <sup>2</sup>	32.1	33.0	34.1	35.8
Workers in 'blue collar' occupations <sup>3</sup> (% of those recording an occupation)	31.8	29.7	31.7	30.6	29.6	29.8
Men, employed or seeking work <sup>4</sup> (%)	67.2	62.8	69.4	69.6	68.9	64.8
Women, employed or seeking work <sup>4</sup> (%)	51.7	52.3	56.7	58.5	60.1	55.9
Unemployed at time of Census <sup>5</sup> (%)	8.7	7.2	4.8	5.0	5.8	6.9
Youth unemployed at time of Census <sup>6</sup> (%)	13.7	12.1	8.8	10.2	12.2	14.9

**Notes:**

1. *Managers and Professionals include, for example, farmers and farm managers, sales, marketing and production managers, education and health service managers, retail managers, school principals and school teachers, medical practitioners, nurses, scientists, arts and media professionals, accountants, engineers and IT professionals.*
2. *Due to a change in the Classification of Occupations used by ABS, no directly comparable data from the 1996 and 2001 Censuses is available for Managers and Professionals.*
3. *Blue collar workers include, for example, toolmakers, technicians, electricians, carpenters, plumbers, bakers and chefs, veterinary nurses, hairdressers, machinery operators, drivers, cleaners and labourers.*
4. *The percentage of Catholics aged 15+ who are in the labour force (i.e. employed or seeking employment).*
5. *The percentage of Catholics aged 15+ who are in the labour force and were unemployed at the time of the Census.*
6. *The percentage of Catholics aged 15-24 who are in the labour force and were unemployed at the time of the Census.*

**Table 4: Birthplace and Language** (for more detail on Birthplace and Language see pages 17-19).

This table begins to explore the ethnic balance of Australia's Catholic community, which may raise issues of communication and inclusiveness.

Table 4: Birthplace, Indigenous Status & Language	Catholics					All persons
	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	2016
Born overseas in English-speaking country <sup>1</sup> (%)	4.9	5.0	5.1	5.7	5.6	8.4
Born overseas in non-English speaking country (%)	18.9	17.9	17.6	17.9	19.1	17.8
Immigrants from non-English speaking countries arriving in Census year or previous 3 years	57,792	57,514	69,463	98,723	106,428	736,478
Indigenous Australians	81,265	94,556	101,113	124,610	133,528	649,169
Speak language other than English at home (%)	20.2	19.2	18.6	19.0	20.4	20.8
Not proficient in English <sup>2</sup> (%)	3.3	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.6	3.5

**Notes:**

1. *English-speaking countries refer to New Zealand, United Kingdom, Ireland, United States, Canada and South Africa.*
2. *Percentage of all population who reported that they spoke English not well, or not at all.*



# Overview

**Table 5: Education** (for more detail on Education and Qualifications see pages 20-22)

Catholic schools are a very important part of the education sector in Australia. This table is primarily devoted to the educational participation of young Catholics and to the percentage of non-Catholics in Catholic schools.

Table 5: Education (%)	Catholics					All persons
	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	2016
Aged 15+ with bachelor degree or higher qualification	9.7	12.2	15.0	17.6	20.6	22.0
Aged 15-17 attending an educational institution	83.0	85.8	83.9	87.2	92.2	87.0
Aged 18-19 attending an educational institution	52.1	56.0	54.4	57.8	62.9	58.3
Aged 20-24 attending an educational institution	26.2	31.4	31.6	34.3	38.2	38.9
Catholic primary students attending Catholic schools	52.9	51.7	52.3	52.8	53.1	-
Catholic primary students at Government schools	44.5	44.6	42.6	41.2	41.0	-
Catholic secondary students attending Catholic schools	52.5	52.0	52.3	52.8	54.5	-
Catholic secondary students attending Government schools	42.3	40.9	38.8	37.2	35.1	-
Primary students attending Catholic schools who are not Catholic <sup>1</sup>	17.0	18.8	21.6	24.1	28.1	-
Secondary students attending Catholic schools who are not Catholic <sup>1</sup>	22.5	26.3	28.0	31.5	35.7	-

**Note:**

1. 'Students . . . who are not Catholic' includes a small proportion whose religion was not stated in the Census. Some of these may be Catholic.



# Overview

## Tables 6, 7 & 8: Marital Status, Families & Households (for more detail see pages 13-16)

In 2016, 82 per cent of Australia's Catholics lived in a family setting, with a further nine per cent living alone. The most common type of Catholic family was a couple family with children (45 per cent of all families where at least one person was a Catholic), followed by couple families without children (35%) and one-parent families (parent Catholic, 12%).

Table 6: Marital Status (of people aged 15+)	Catholics					All persons
	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	2016
Never married (%)	31.8	32.1	33.1	33.9	33.3	35.0
Married (%)	53.3	51.8	50.6	49.6	49.7	48.1
Divorced or Separated (%)	8.9	10.0	10.5	10.8	11.2	11.7
Widowed (%)	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.7	5.8	5.2

Table 7: Families <sup>1</sup> in which at least one person is Catholic	Catholics					All persons
	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	2016
Families	1,669,789	1,797,916	1,893,776	2,019,556	1,997,833	6,070,313
One-parent families	182,363	205,367	220,616	239,340	231,370	959,543
One-parent families (%)	10.9	11.4	11.6	11.9	11.6	15.8
Couples of mixed religion <sup>2</sup> (%)	52.9	55.1	56.7	55.1	55.9	-
De facto couples (%)	10.1	12.2	14.8	16.2	17.7	18.1
Median annual family income <sup>3</sup> (\$)	43,319	53,558	67,338	86,401	100,270	91,662

### Notes:

1. A family is defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering, and who are usually resident in the same household. Family members who live elsewhere are not included in the Census definition.
2. Couples of mixed religion refers to married or de facto couples where only one partner is Catholic as a percentage of all couples where at least one partner is Catholic.
3. Fifty per cent of families have a higher income, fifty per cent of families have a lower income. Family income is the sum of the incomes of all family members aged 15 and over.

Table 8: Households <sup>1</sup> in which at least one person is Catholic	Catholics					All persons
	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016	2016
Households	2,131,263	2,372,747	2,424,008	2,594,239	2,548,354	8,861,623
Persons living alone aged under 35	-	78,414	70,792	68,455	53,499	301,804
Persons living alone aged 35 and over	-	330,572	367,515	402,158	407,684	1,721,739
Persons living alone total	346,322	408,896	438,307	470,613	461,183	2,023,543
Persons living alone (% of all persons)	7.2	8.2	8.5	8.7	8.7	8.6
Dwellings owned or being purchased (%)	69.4	70.1	72.0	71.4	71.2	65.5
Median monthly housing loan repayment <sup>2</sup> (\$)	817	949	1,385	1,861	1,873	1,825

### Notes:

1. A household can consist of one or more families, non-family groups or persons living alone.
2. Fifty per cent of households with a housing loan pay a higher repayment, fifty per cent a lower figure.



# Details

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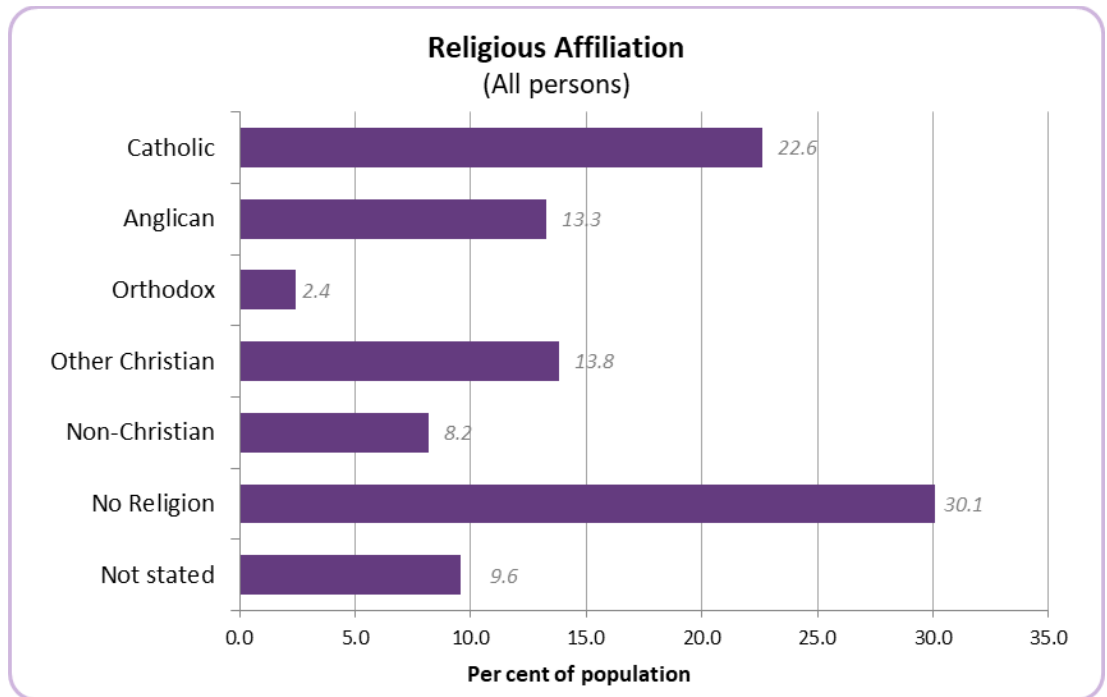
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# Religious Affiliation

The Census question about religion is optional, and just under 10 per cent of people across Australia chose not to answer it. Note that the question is about their religious identification rather than religious practice or belief. For the 2016 Census, the ABS moved the 'No Religion' response category to be the first response category in the religion question. Prior to 2016, it was the last response category.



Notes: No Religion also includes Secular Beliefs and Other Spiritual Beliefs and No Religious Affiliation.  
Not Stated also includes Inadequately Described.

**Table 9: Religious affiliation by age**

	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80+	Total
Western Catholic	667,058	710,353	611,290	651,319	726,021	701,220	563,376	371,153	229,748	<b>5,231,538</b>
Maronite Catholic	6,082	5,704	5,147	5,431	5,111	3,927	2,663	1,600	787	<b>36,452</b>
Melkite Catholic	325	361	375	319	293	353	303	157	91	<b>2,577</b>
Ukrainian Catholic	239	240	241	281	296	380	674	249	305	<b>2,905</b>
Chaldean Catholic	1,876	1,810	1,668	1,357	1,317	1,033	610	268	95	<b>10,034</b>
Syro-Malabar Catholic	2,511	1,321	455	1,959	1,588	366	118	25	3	<b>8,346</b>
<b>Total Catholics</b>	<b>678,091</b>	<b>719,789</b>	<b>619,176</b>	<b>660,666</b>	<b>734,626</b>	<b>707,279</b>	<b>567,744</b>	<b>373,452</b>	<b>231,029</b>	<b>5,291,852</b>
<b>Per cent Catholic (of total population in age group)</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>23.8</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>24.2</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>22.6</b>
Anglican	251,065	308,627	230,780	285,008	433,776	491,147	499,675	365,417	235,686	<b>3,101,181</b>
Orthodox	64,245	68,686	58,187	68,216	92,708	73,923	57,070	52,211	32,431	<b>567,677</b>
Other Christian	334,107	366,337	323,567	359,161	417,623	473,525	455,986	311,820	198,782	<b>3,240,908</b>
Non-Christian	297,783	215,050	355,600	427,432	250,932	181,606	120,597	48,284	23,558	<b>1,920,842</b>
No Religion	1,080,524	908,029	1,306,027	1,138,139	939,660	769,068	548,389	238,463	112,423	<b>7,040,722</b>
Not stated	261,622	232,263	338,058	326,912	295,399	281,346	238,939	150,722	113,481	<b>2,238,742</b>
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>2,967,437</b>	<b>2,818,781</b>	<b>3,231,395</b>	<b>3,265,534</b>	<b>3,164,724</b>	<b>2,977,894</b>	<b>2,488,400</b>	<b>1,540,369</b>	<b>947,390</b>	<b>23,401,924</b>

Note: Since the 1996 Census, following consultation with the Eastern Catholic Bishops, Eastern Catholics have been counted separately from Western (or Latin Rite) Catholics. Catholics belonging to the Chaldean, Maronite, Melkite, Syro-Malabar or Ukrainian Catholic Churches have been requested by their Bishops NOT to tick the box marked 'Catholic' on the Census form, but rather to write, for example, 'Maronite Catholic' in the space provided. Those Eastern Catholics who were unaware of this request and who ticked the 'Catholic' box are counted as Western Catholics.



## Age and sex

**Table 10: Age by sex**

Age (Years)	Males 2016	Females 2016	Total 2016	Total 2011
0	26,242	25,118	<b>51,360</b>	60,094
1	30,317	28,937	<b>59,254</b>	68,553
2	31,815	30,454	<b>62,269</b>	69,812
3	33,357	31,634	<b>64,991</b>	72,676
4	34,613	33,118	<b>67,731</b>	75,249
5	35,615	34,210	<b>69,825</b>	75,999
6	37,475	36,251	<b>73,726</b>	74,686
7	37,914	36,628	<b>74,542</b>	74,647
8	38,903	37,619	<b>76,522</b>	74,763
9	39,637	38,228	<b>77,865</b>	75,881
10	38,898	37,312	<b>76,210</b>	77,694
11	37,953	36,120	<b>74,073</b>	78,258
12	38,008	36,201	<b>74,209</b>	79,327
13	37,217	35,888	<b>73,105</b>	79,038
14	37,013	35,670	<b>72,683</b>	78,972
15	37,177	35,808	<b>72,985</b>	79,411
16	36,475	36,054	<b>72,529</b>	79,858
17	36,427	34,880	<b>71,307</b>	77,824
18	34,460	33,226	<b>67,686</b>	74,899
19	32,712	32,287	<b>64,999</b>	72,900
20-24	152,521	157,730	<b>310,251</b>	343,147
25-29	144,561	164,370	<b>308,931</b>	338,807
30-34	153,601	176,454	<b>330,055</b>	339,134
35-39	154,703	175,901	<b>330,604</b>	374,751
40-44	168,978	190,787	<b>359,765</b>	397,741
45-49	175,824	199,026	<b>374,850</b>	396,102
50-54	173,652	194,906	<b>368,558</b>	366,493
55-59	157,239	181,482	<b>338,721</b>	317,159
60-64	133,993	159,515	<b>293,508</b>	297,291
65-69	125,844	148,389	<b>274,233</b>	229,695
70-74	96,422	112,642	<b>209,064</b>	188,144
75-79	74,501	89,887	<b>164,388</b>	147,573
80+	91,048	139,973	<b>231,021</b>	202,688
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,515,115</b>	<b>2,776,705</b>	<b>5,291,820</b>	<b>5,439,266</b>

The table on this page shows the number of Catholics in Australia in 2016, by age and sex, and compares the total number of Catholics in each age group with the figure in 2011.

In 1996, the median age of Catholics in Australia was 33 years; by 2016, this had risen to 40 years.

Several factors can influence the age profile, including fertility and mortality rates, and migration to and from Australia.

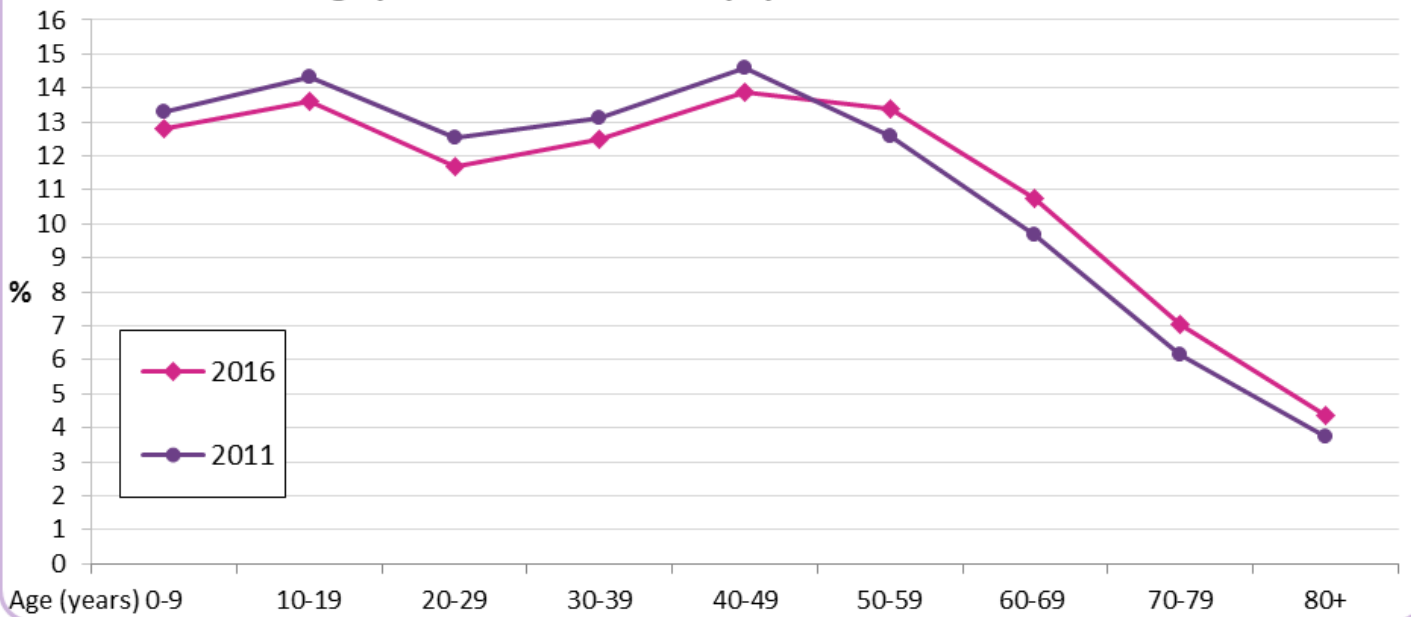
In many parishes and dioceses, migration is indeed the key factor, related either to people moving to other parts of the country or to people arriving from other parishes or dioceses, or from overseas.

**RANDOMISATION OF CENSUS DATA:** The Catholic population may be slightly different in different tables in this profile as a result of the randomisation procedure used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in carrying out its statutory obligation to protect the confidentiality of individuals. This variation in figures does not impair the value of Census data as the Census is intended to be an instrument that paints a broad picture rather than a precise measurement of a particular locality. Care should always be taken in interpreting small counts in tables.

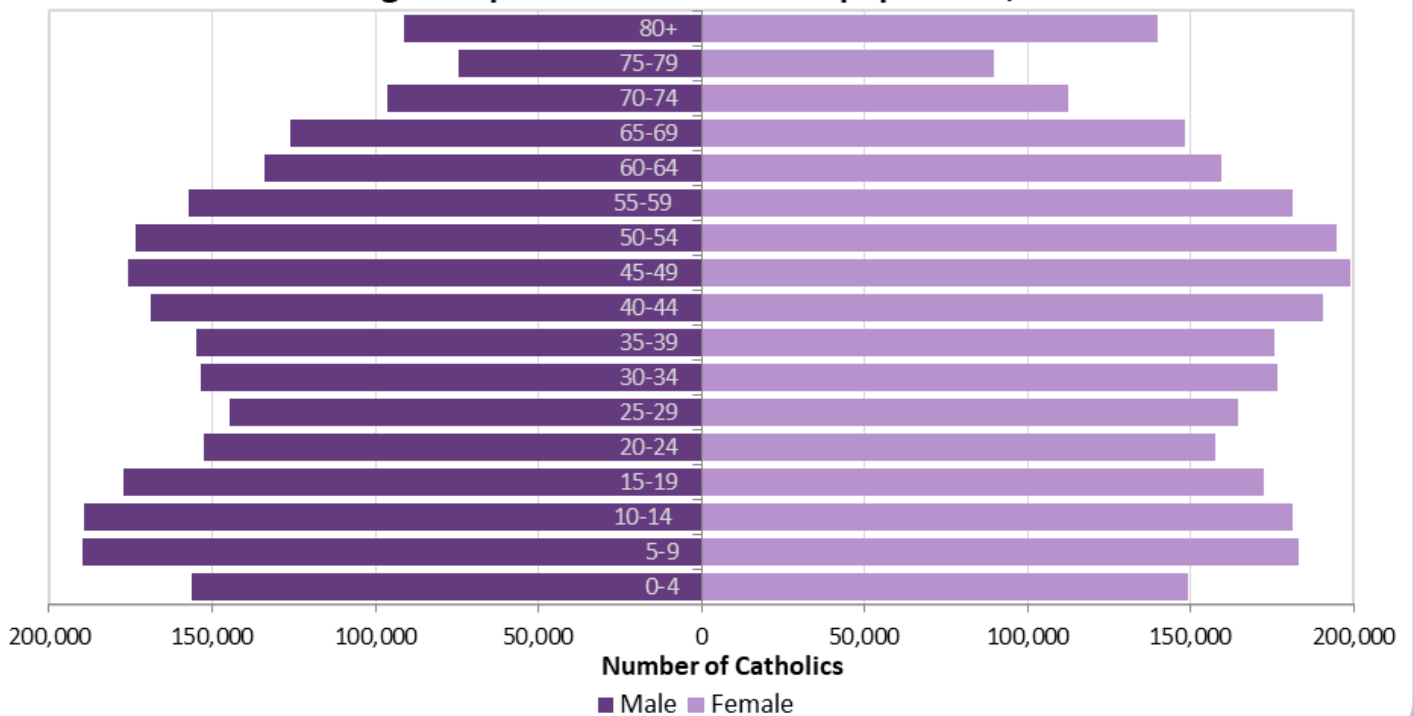


# Age and sex

Age profile of the Catholic population, 2011 & 2016



Age-sex profile of the Catholic population, 2016



# Disability

The 2006 Census was the first to include the variable Core Activity Need for Assistance. The variable was developed to measure the number of people with a profound or severe disability. ABS defines the profound or severe disability population as: 'those people needing help or assistance in one or more of the three core activity areas of self-care, mobility and communication, because of a long-term health condition (lasting six months or more), a disability (lasting six months or more), or old age'.<sup>1</sup> Most people who need assistance with core activities live either in a family or in a place such as a nursing home, where the care they need is provided. But many live alone. Often people with a disability have fewer opportunities for social interaction.<sup>2</sup>

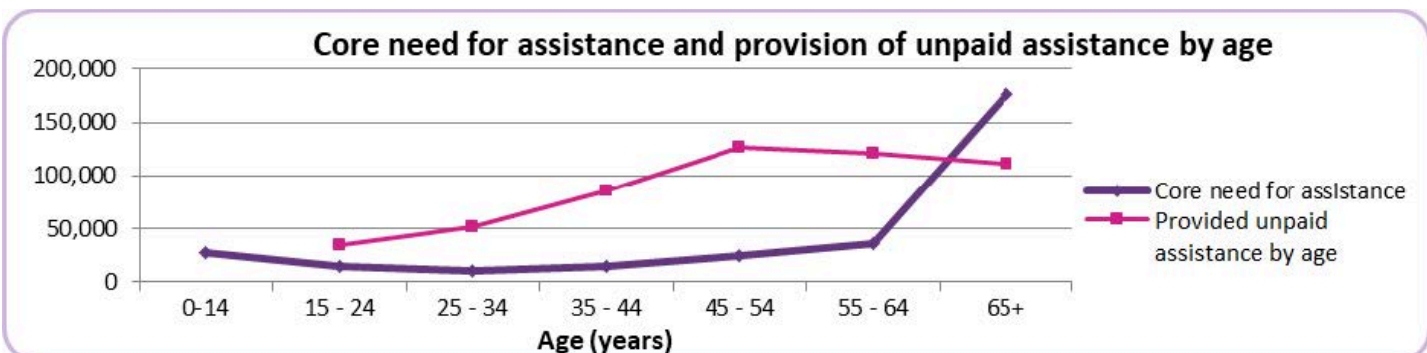
**Table 11a: Need for assistance with core activities by age**

	0 - 14	15 - 44	45 - 64	65 - 74	75 - 84	85 and over	Total
<b>Catholics who have need for assistance with core activities</b>							
<b>Family member</b>							
Males	17,986	17,928	18,617	16,484	17,043	9,203	97,261
Females	8,361	15,307	23,526	16,878	21,093	13,046	98,211
<b>Lone person</b>							
Males	-	1,656	4,978	2,649	3,322	3,098	15,703
Females	-	1,159	4,846	4,122	10,566	11,803	32,496
<b>Other non-family member &amp; persons not present in a household on Census night<sup>3</sup></b>							
Males	272	1,919	4,978	1,667	1,225	675	10,736
Females	149	1,568	4,846	1,619	2,054	1,714	11,950
<b>Total</b>							
Males	18,258	21,503	28,573	20,800	21,590	12,976	123,700
Females	8,510	18,034	33,218	22,619	33,713	26,563	142,657

**Table 11b: Provision of unpaid assistance by age**

	15 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 and over	Total
<b>Catholics who provide unpaid assistance to a person with a disability<sup>4</sup></b>							
Male	15,062	18,304	30,714	45,462	42,446	45,001	196,989
Female	19,157	32,810	55,515	81,387	78,581	65,596	333,046

- Notes:
1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006. *Census Dictionary Australia 2006. Catalogue No. 2901.0.*
  2. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2004. *Australian Social Trends 2004. Catalogue No. 4102.0.*
  3. Among people aged 75 and over, being in hospital or a nursing home is a major reason for not being in a household on Census night.
  4. The Census question asked whether the respondent had provided unpaid assistance to a person with a disability in the two weeks prior to the Census. The question is not applicable to persons aged 0-14.





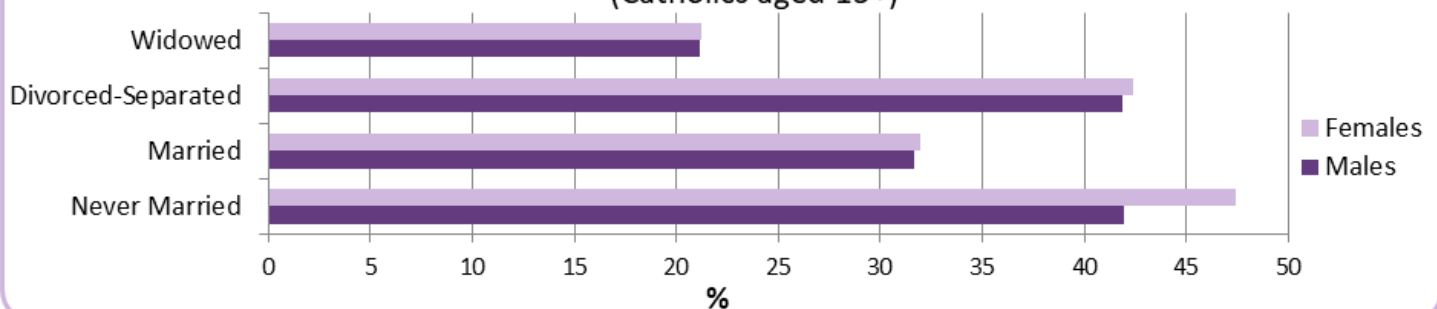
# Marital Status

The marital status patterns of Australian Catholics have changed noticeably over the last two decades. At the time of the 1991 Census, 31.4 per cent of Australian Catholics aged 15 and over had never been married, 55.4 per cent were married, 7.4 per cent were separated or divorced and 5.8 per cent were widowed. By the 2016 Census, these figures were respectively 33.3 per cent, 49.7 per cent, 11.2 per cent and 5.8 per cent. Since 1991, there has been a fall in the percentage of married Catholics and a rise in the percentage of the never married and separated and divorced.

**Table 12: Registered marital status by sex and age**

	15 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 - 74	75 and over	Total
<b>Catholics aged 15 and over</b>								
<b>Males</b>								
Never married	326,008	188,651	88,299	65,172	34,407	15,621	9,129	727,287
Married	3,241	100,862	205,468	227,670	197,894	160,136	112,719	1,007,990
Separated/Divorced	417	8,436	29,226	54,451	53,901	36,040	15,202	197,673
Widowed	108	207	687	2,195	5,026	10,466	28,501	47,190
<b>Total</b>	<b>329,774</b>	<b>298,156</b>	<b>323,680</b>	<b>349,488</b>	<b>291,228</b>	<b>222,263</b>	<b>165,551</b>	<b>1,980,140</b>
<b>Females</b>								
Never married	321,319	178,195	80,721	54,363	27,861	12,414	9,916	684,789
Married	7,593	146,510	238,525	253,241	218,409	158,109	77,956	1,100,343
Separated/Divorced	910	15,502	45,204	78,830	74,015	45,826	18,365	278,652
Widowed	164	619	2,240	7,491	20,713	44,680	123,636	199,543
<b>Total</b>	<b>329,986</b>	<b>340,826</b>	<b>366,690</b>	<b>393,925</b>	<b>340,998</b>	<b>261,029</b>	<b>229,873</b>	<b>2,263,327</b>

**Change of address since 2011 by marital status**  
(Catholics aged 15+)



**Table 13: Religious affiliation of couple by social marital status**

	In a registered marriage	In a de facto marriage	Total couples	% Couples in de facto marriages
Both persons Catholic	592,532	80,461	672,993	12.0
One person Catholic, Other person non-Christian	466,326	91,501	557,827	16.4
One person Catholic, Other person, non-Christian, or Not stated	269,004	102,663	371,667	27.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,327,862</b>	<b>274,625</b>	<b>1,602,487</b>	<b>17.1</b>



# Families

The table on this page shows family composition by weekly family income, with the median weekly family income for each type of family shown in the last column. Couple families are divided into three categories: both partners Catholic, Catholics with non-Catholic Christian partners, and Catholics with partners identifying with other religious traditions or none. The table includes partners in registered and de facto marriages.

Couples without children include those who have never had children as well as those whose children no longer live at home.

<b>Table 14: Family composition<sup>1</sup> by weekly family income</b>	<b>Less than \$500</b>	<b>\$500- \$799</b>	<b>\$800- \$1,249</b>	<b>\$1,250- \$1,999</b>	<b>\$2,000- \$2,999</b>	<b>\$3,000- \$3,999</b>	<b>\$4,000 or more</b>	<b>Income not fully stated</b>	<b>Total families</b>	<b>Median weekly family income<sup>2</sup> (\$)</b>
<b>Two-parent families with children at home:</b>										
Both parents Catholic	6,800	11,092	33,247	82,221	108,393	56,611	55,965	34,078	388,407	2,404
One parent Catholic, the other Christian but not Catholic	3,359	6,218	21,274	58,970	86,010	47,713	49,578	26,236	299,358	2,543
One parent Catholic, the other non-Christian, no religion or not stated	2,949	5,032	16,500	44,293	61,668	33,885	34,655	15,429	214,411	2,498
<b>Couple with no children living at home:</b>										
Both parents Catholic	28,065	53,359	49,383	53,491	51,591	20,051	15,839	12,800	284,579	1,321
One parent Catholic, the other Christian but not Catholic	18,220	41,572	46,755	54,461	51,664	20,238	16,225	9,321	258,456	1,498
One parent Catholic, the other non-Christian, no religion or not stated	7,622	13,666	19,717	33,384	43,633	19,119	15,076	5,046	157,263	2,039
<b>One-parent families: Parent is Catholic</b>	30,769	42,281	50,026	47,760	24,307	6,427	3,524	26,285	231,379	1,065
<b>Other families where at least one person is Catholic</b>	7,927	11,394	18,176	23,040	19,420	8,057	6,664	7,841	102,519	1,570
<b>Other: Reference person Catholic but spouse temporarily absent<sup>3</sup></b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	61,457	61,457	-
<b>Total</b>	105,711	184,614	255,078	397,620	446,686	212,101	197,526	198,493	1,997,829	1,918

## Notes:

1. A family is defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics as two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering, and who are usually resident in the same household. Family members who live elsewhere are not included in the Census definition. For Census purposes, a Catholic family is defined as a family in which at least one person is Catholic.
2. Median weekly family income: fifty per cent of families have a higher income, fifty per cent a lower income. Family income is the sum of the incomes of all family members aged 15 and over.
3. The religious affiliation of a temporarily absent spouse is not recorded, hence families in this category could belong to any one of the first six categories above.



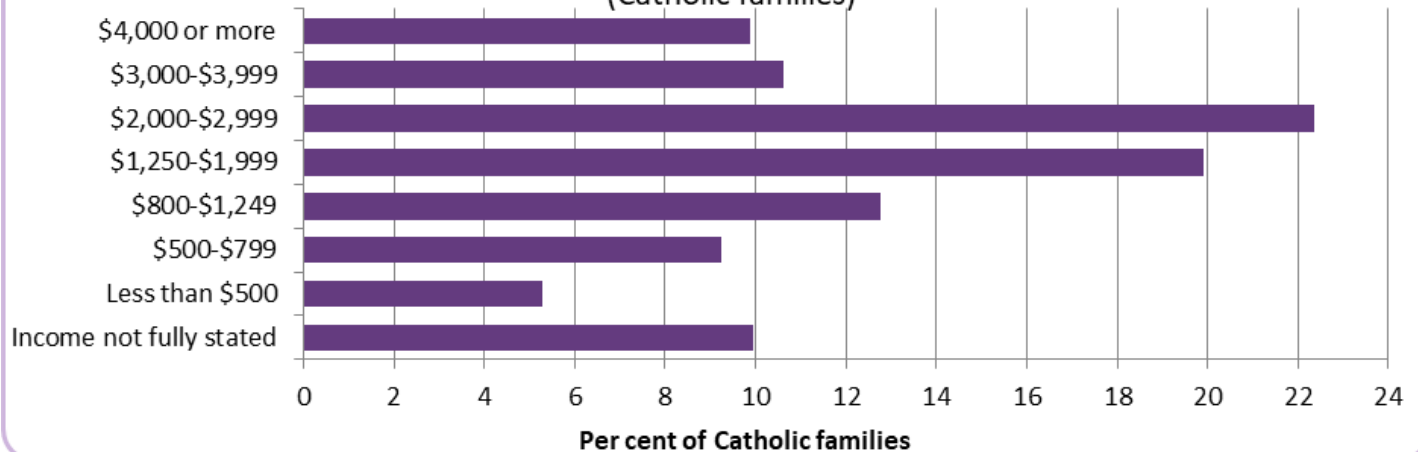
# Families

**Table 15: Weekly family income by number of dependent children**

	0 dependent children	1 dependent child	2 dependent children	3 dependent children	4 or more dependent children	Total
Less than \$500	64,376	20,200	13,923	5,067	2,149	105,715
\$500-\$799	126,927	24,511	20,741	8,825	3,611	184,615
\$800-\$1,249	159,052	38,593	36,655	14,912	5,877	255,089
\$1,250-\$1,999	205,511	69,292	80,931	31,510	10,377	397,621
\$2,000-\$2,999	212,692	81,326	105,406	37,980	9,306	446,710
\$3,000-\$3,999	93,211	41,579	54,137	19,174	3,999	212,100
\$4,000 or more	79,565	37,153	54,026	21,996	4,786	197,526
Income not fully stated	104,676	36,672	35,691	15,609	5,794	198,442
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,046,010</b>	<b>349,326</b>	<b>401,510</b>	<b>155,073</b>	<b>45,899</b>	<b>1,997,818</b>
<b>Median weekly family income (\$)</b>	<b>1,689</b>	<b>2,045</b>	<b>2,290</b>	<b>2,247</b>	<b>1,858</b>	<b>1,918</b>

Note: Table population is Catholic families. Dependent children include all children aged 0-14 and dependent students aged 15-24.

**Weekly Family Income  
(Catholic families)**



**Table 16: Social marital status by number of dependent children**

	0 dependent children	1 dependent child	2 dependent children	3 dependent children	4 or more dependent children	Total
<b>Family Composition:</b>						
Married couple family (at least one partner Catholic)	725,149	209,963	293,324	116,431	31,228	1,376,095
De facto couple family (at least one partner Catholic)	180,727	47,607	39,565	14,295	5,638	287,832
One-parent family, parent Catholic	91,250	70,517	47,219	16,296	6,085	231,367
Other families where at least one person is Catholic	48,884	21,239	21,402	8,051	2,948	102,524
<b>Total families</b>	<b>1,046,010</b>	<b>349,326</b>	<b>401,510</b>	<b>155,073</b>	<b>45,899</b>	<b>1,997,818</b>



# Households

The Australian Bureau of Statistics defines a household as one or more persons, at least one of whom is at least 15 years of age, usually resident in the same private dwelling.<sup>1</sup> Non-private dwellings such as motels, guest houses, prisons, religious institutions and nursing homes are not included in household statistics. A household can consist of one or more families, non-family groups or persons living alone.

The figures on this page refer to households in which at least one person is Catholic.<sup>2</sup>

There were 8,861,600 households in Australia in 2016. At least one Catholic person lived in 2,548,400 households, or 29 per cent of all households. Seventy-eight per cent of these Catholic households were family households and, of the Catholic family households, 75 per cent were occupied dwellings that were owned or being purchased.

**Table 17: Household composition by tenure type**

	Fully owned or being purchased	Rented from State or Territory Housing Authority	Rented from other landlord, or landlord not stated	Other households	Total households	Per cent owned or being purchased
Family households	1,497,691	40,022	399,829	51,540	1,989,082	75.3
Lone persons aged under 35 years	21,652	1,602	26,002	4,254	53,510	40.5
Lone persons aged 35 years or over	262,706	32,291	83,017	29,675	407,689	64.4
Group households	31,802	2,699	58,165	5,425	98,091	32.4
<b>Total households</b>	<b>1,813,851</b>	<b>76,614</b>	<b>567,013</b>	<b>90,894</b>	<b>2,548,372</b>	<b>71.2</b>

**Table 18: Household composition by monthly housing loan repayment**

	\$1-\$599	\$600-\$999	\$1,000-\$1,599	\$1,600-\$2,199	\$2,200-\$2,799	\$2,800 and over	Median monthly household loan repayment (\$)
Family households	45,292	66,682	177,360	226,483	120,105	179,619	1,913
Lone persons aged under 35 years	424	1,198	4,965	5,680	1,915	1,758	1,746
Lone persons aged 35 years or over	8,214	9,878	19,295	14,804	5,294	6,040	1,425
Group households	1,200	1,865	4,349	4,577	1,784	2,033	1,664
<b>Total households</b>	<b>55,130</b>	<b>79,623</b>	<b>205,969</b>	<b>251,544</b>	<b>129,098</b>	<b>189,450</b>	<b>1,873</b>

**Notes:**

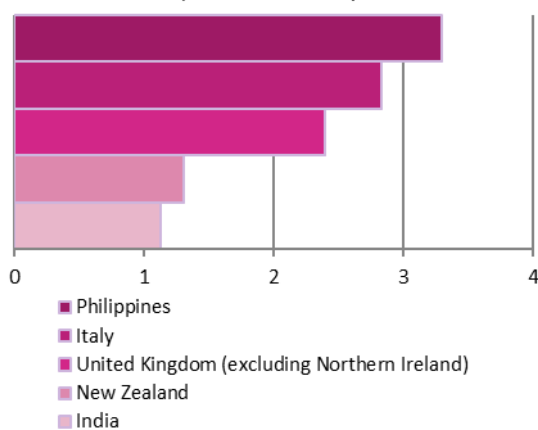
1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016. *Census Dictionary Australia 2016. Catalogue No. 2901.0.*
2. For Census purposes, a Catholic household is any household in which at least one person is Catholic.



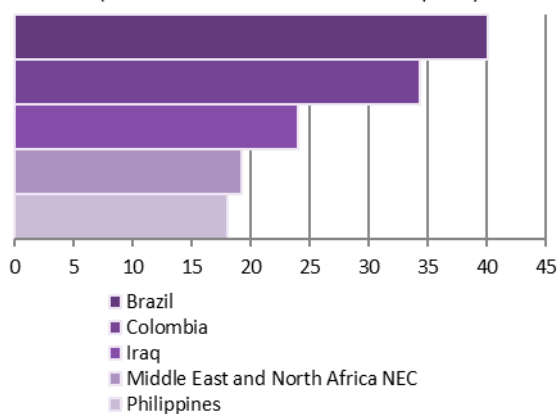
# Birthplace

Catholics born overseas, especially those born in non-English-speaking countries, are likely to have different approaches to faith and spirituality, and different experiences and expectations of Church life, from those of Catholics born in Australia.

**Top 5 birthplaces of Catholics born overseas**  
(% of all Catholics)



**Top 5 birthplaces with highest proportions of recent arrivals**  
(% of all Catholics from that birthplace)



NEC = Not Elsewhere Classified

**Notes:**

1. % recent arrivals = the percentage of Catholics who were born in the named country and who arrived in Australia between 2013 and 2016 inclusive.

**Table 19: Birthplace**

	All Catholics	% of Catholics	% recent arrivals <sup>1</sup>
Australia	3,895,007	73.6	-
New Zealand	68,837	1.3	9.0
Other Oceania	23,923	0.5	9.2
United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland)	126,596	2.4	6.3
Ireland (including Northern Ireland)	59,424	1.1	11.9
Italy	149,899	2.8	3.6
Malta	33,473	0.6	0.3
Spain and Portugal	21,767	0.4	7.3
France	11,216	0.2	17.9
Netherlands	21,037	0.4	1.7
Germany	27,015	0.5	4.3
Austria	8,066	0.2	1.9
Croatia and other Former Yugoslavia	43,490	0.8	1.2
Poland	31,974	0.6	4.7
Hungary	9,002	0.2	5.2
Other Eastern Europe, Russian Federation and Baltic States	20,324	0.4	6.2
Other Europe NEC	7,058	0.1	11.3
Vietnam	44,227	0.8	9.2
Philippines	174,621	3.3	18.1
Indonesia	17,602	0.3	14.9
Malaysia	17,606	0.3	11.0
Singapore	10,358	0.2	13.7
South East Asia NEC	13,449	0.3	8.0
India	59,699	1.1	15.8
Sri Lanka	22,778	0.4	10.6
China (except Hong Kong and Taiwan)	12,590	0.2	14.0
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	11,087	0.2	8.3
Korea, Republic of (South)	17,363	0.3	14.2
Egypt	7,128	0.1	1.4
Lebanon	26,876	0.5	2.3
Iraq	23,775	0.4	24.0
Sudan (including South Sudan)	7,485	0.1	4.1
Middle East and North Africa NEC	13,160	0.2	19.3
South Africa	19,797	0.4	8.1
Mauritius	15,429	0.3	4.4
United States of America	14,628	0.3	18.1
Canada	7,362	0.1	15.3
Argentina	7,612	0.1	10.8
Brazil	13,351	0.3	40.1
Colombia	12,819	0.2	34.4
Chile	14,709	0.3	6.4
Central America and South America NEC	28,677	0.5	12.2
Other countries	27,704	0.5	15.4
Inadequately described/Not stated	91,838	1.7	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,291,838</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2.5</b>



# Language

In 2016, 20 per cent of Australia's Catholics spoke a language other than English at home, and three per cent were not proficient in English. People who don't speak English well can face practical problems in education, employment and access to services. On the other hand, it is important to many people from a non-English-speaking background to maintain and promote, for reasons of cultural continuity and identity, the use of their home language.<sup>1</sup>

**Table 20: Language spoken at home by religious affiliation**

	Catholic	Not Catholic (or not stated)	All persons	% Catholics among speakers <sup>2</sup>
English	4,171,810	12,848,606	17,020,416	24.5
Italian	231,664	39,934	271,598	85.3
Maltese	29,828	2,159	31,987	93.3
Spanish	82,208	58,610	140,818	58.4
Croatian	49,546	7,342	56,888	87.1
Polish	36,561	11,519	48,080	76.0
Dutch	9,218	24,618	33,836	27.2
French	27,988	42,884	70,872	39.5
German	19,793	59,564	79,357	24.9
Portuguese	29,901	18,952	48,853	61.2
Hungarian	10,939	8,956	19,895	55.0
Ukrainian	3,817	3,863	7,680	49.7
Vietnamese	68,569	208,836	277,405	24.7
Filipino languages	145,635	44,309	189,944	76.7
Chinese languages	49,057	878,888	927,945	5.3
Malayalam	26,606	26,600	53,206	50.0
Sinhalese	10,586	54,020	64,606	16.4
Korean	19,580	89,419	108,999	18.0
Indonesian & Malay	18,217	67,619	85,836	21.2
Arabic	68,952	252,771	321,723	21.4
Assyrian and Chaldean	25,449	20,070	45,519	55.9
Oceanic and Papuan languages	17,709	80,125	97,834	18.1
Australian Indigenous Languages	9,825	54,942	64,767	15.2
Other European languages NEC	25,635	528,776	554,411	4.6
Other Asian languages NEC	27,629	862,252	889,881	3.1
Other languages NEC	21,062	290,631	311,693	6.8
Inadequately described/Non-Verbal/ Not stated	54,098	1,523,802	1,577,900	3.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,291,882</b>	<b>18,110,067</b>	<b>23,401,949</b>	<b>22.6</b>

**Notes:**

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 1999. *Australian Social Trends 1999. Catalogue No. 4102.0, p.11.*

2. *The percentage of Catholics among the speakers of these languages in Australia.*

NEC = Not Elsewhere Classified



# Language

Why does the proportion of people not speaking English well vary for different languages spoken at home? Part of the explanation lies in differences in average period of residence of the various language groups. Another factor is 'cultural distance': the more people from a particular culture share the customs, beliefs and lifestyles with the majority Australian culture, the easier it will be for them to overcome language barriers. A third factor is the size of the language group and the pattern of settlement. The concentration of large numbers of speakers in a region tends to reinforce the use of that language.<sup>1</sup>

**Table 21: Language spoken at home by age**

	0-4	5-11	12-19	20-29	30-49	50-64	65 and over	Total	% who do not speak English well
English	259,535	457,801	493,299	499,008	1,058,963	782,106	621,098	4,171,810	-
Italian	2,790	4,949	6,358	11,440	50,394	54,173	101,564	231,668	13.8
Maltese	239	347	461	1,088	5,108	7,308	15,267	29,818	7.3
Spanish	3,829	4,670	4,314	10,784	29,789	13,813	15,017	82,216	12.7
Croatian	1,234	1,900	2,244	3,301	12,851	9,997	18,014	49,541	13.2
Polish	1,049	1,470	1,373	2,900	8,799	10,077	10,885	36,553	11.4
Dutch	191	336	221	294	1,535	1,801	4,832	9,210	1.9
French	1,048	1,702	1,837	3,154	7,997	5,749	6,497	27,984	3.8
German	691	984	998	1,309	4,229	3,544	8,034	19,789	2.6
Portuguese	1,308	1,378	1,197	4,968	11,646	5,120	4,285	29,902	14.5
Hungarian	193	395	325	502	2,432	2,463	4,645	10,955	10.5
Ukrainian	103	133	149	254	724	843	1,615	3,821	9.5
Vietnamese	3,668	6,233	9,017	11,383	20,882	12,894	4,494	68,571	27.6
Filipino languages	3,567	7,396	12,530	18,736	61,289	31,144	10,973	145,635	3.1
Chinese languages	2,172	3,765	4,390	7,652	13,614	9,718	7,743	49,054	15.4
Malayalam	3,152	4,468	2,242	2,504	12,405	1,509	325	26,605	8.9
Sinhalese	497	654	785	1,674	4,245	1,887	847	10,589	4.5
Korean	1,098	1,756	1,617	3,026	7,751	2,781	1,553	19,582	30.2
Indonesian & Malay	886	1,156	1,628	3,516	7,113	2,584	1,333	18,216	6.7
Arabic	2,340	4,545	6,278	9,652	22,704	13,465	9,963	68,947	13.5
Assyrian and Chaldean	2,010	3,576	3,576	3,954	7,244	3,456	1,634	25,450	29.3
Oceanic and Papuan languages	802	1,424	1,934	3,062	6,016	3,299	1,125	17,662	6.0
Australian Indigenous Languages	729	1,405	1,622	1,602	2,677	1,215	378	9,628	10.3
Other European languages NEC	1,159	1,630	1,202	2,394	7,335	4,785	7,111	25,616	7.9
Other Asian languages NEC	1,441	2,377	2,491	3,515	10,639	4,601	2,533	27,597	10.3
Other languages NEC	1,332	2,309	3,025	3,477	7,613	2,225	1,013	20,994	10.8
Inadequately described/Non-Verbal/ Not stated	8,521	3,950	4,345	4,007	9,177	8,167	15,923	54,090	12.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>305,584</b>	<b>522,709</b>	<b>569,458</b>	<b>619,156</b>	<b>1,395,171</b>	<b>1,000,724</b>	<b>878,701</b>	<b>5,291,503</b>	<b>2.6</b>

**Notes:**

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 1999. *Australian Social Trends 1999*. Catalogue No. 4102.0, p.12-13.

NEC = Not Elsewhere Classified



# Attendance at Educational Institutions

According to the 2016 Census, 719,000 Australians attended Catholic schools, accounting for over 21 per cent of all school students in Australia.

In 2016, there were 915,100 Catholic students - almost one in six of all Catholics - attending Government, Catholic, and other Non-Government schools. They constitute a very large sub-group of Australian Catholics, considerably larger than the 623,400 or so who attend Mass every Sunday. A further 317,600 Catholics were involved in some form of post-secondary education. The Church of today, not just of tomorrow, is being shaped by the attitudes, beliefs and lifestyles of these young people.

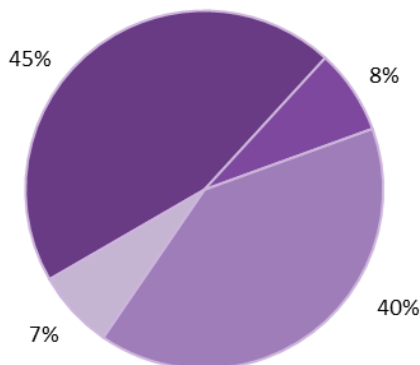
**Table 22: Type of educational institution attending by religious affiliation**

	Catholic	Not Catholic or not stated	All persons	% Catholic
Infants/Primary - Government	211,462	1,103,340	1,314,802	16.1
Infants/Primary - Catholic	273,829	106,768	380,597	71.9
Infants/Primary - Other Non-Government	30,397	201,089	231,486	13.1
Secondary - Government	140,382	687,140	827,522	17.0
Secondary - Catholic	217,607	120,795	338,402	64.3
Secondary - Other Non-Government	41,410	239,200	280,610	14.8
Technical or Further Educational Institution (including TAFE Colleges)	91,285	333,588	424,873	21.5
University or other Tertiary Institution	226,352	934,285	1,160,637	19.5
Other (including pre-school)	124,842	421,177	546,019	22.9
Not stated/Not applicable <sup>1</sup>	3,934,271	13,962,763	17,897,034	22.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,291,837</b>	<b>18,110,145</b>	<b>23,401,982</b>	<b>22.6</b>

Note:

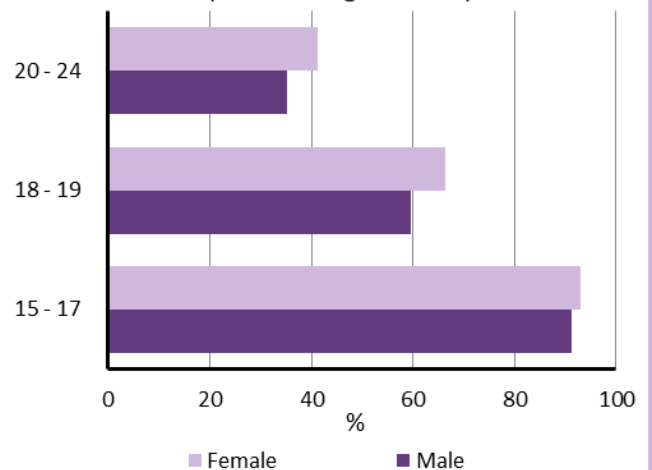
1. This table includes the total population of Australia and so there are high numbers for whom the question about type of educational institutions being attended is not applicable.

**Language background of all students attending Catholic schools**



- Primary school students who speak only English at home
- Primary school students who speak a language other than English at home
- Secondary school students who speak only English at home
- Secondary school students who speak a language other than English at home

**Education participation rate (Catholics aged 15-24)**



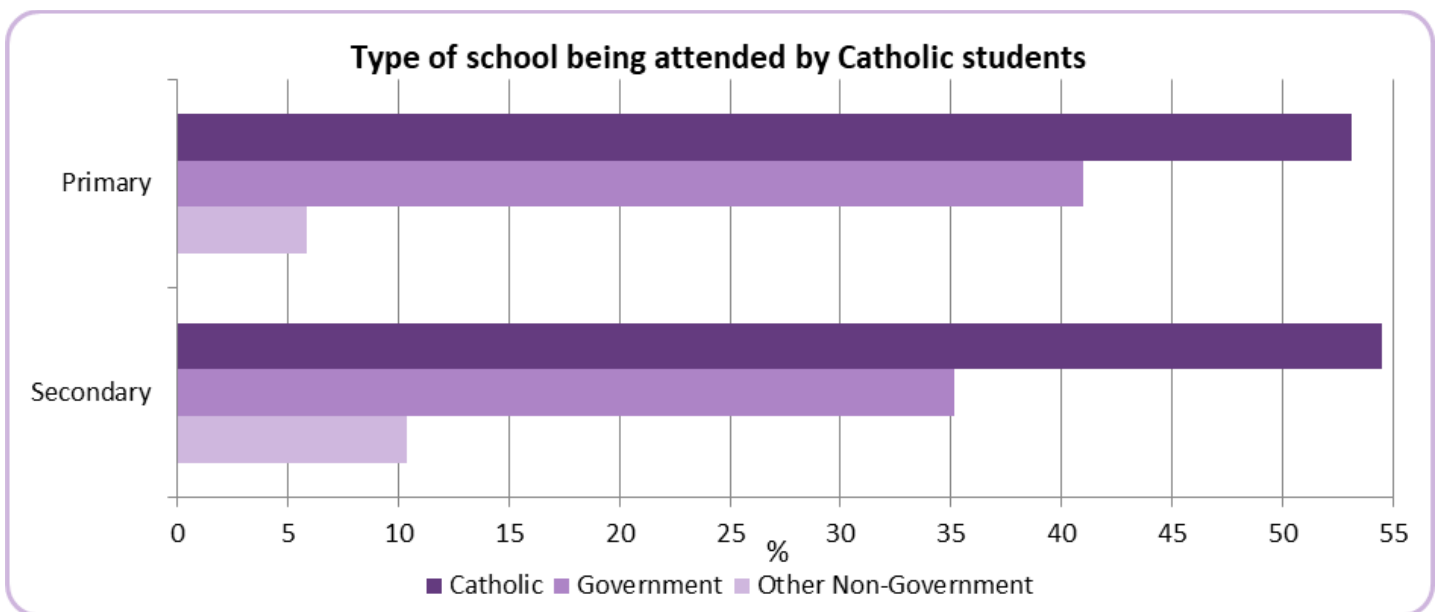


# Attendance at Educational Institutions

**Table 23: Type of educational institution attending by weekly income of student's family<sup>1</sup>**

	Less than \$500	\$500-\$799	\$800-\$1,249	\$1,250-\$1,999	\$2,000-\$2,999	\$3,000-\$3,999	\$4,000 or more	Total <sup>2</sup>	Median annual family income <sup>3</sup> (\$)
Infants/Primary - Government	11,753	18,824	26,293	46,637	47,439	19,248	17,748	204,691	96,263
Infants/Primary - Catholic	8,434	12,425	22,510	51,079	73,723	38,111	39,251	266,443	124,289
Infants/Primary - Other Non-Government	796	1,022	1,818	3,889	5,929	4,947	7,786	28,686	153,232
Secondary - Government	7,411	11,481	17,503	29,233	28,646	11,266	7,772	130,635	92,257
Secondary - Catholic	5,512	8,266	16,332	35,561	51,234	30,968	33,849	208,055	129,896
Secondary - Other Non-Government	974	1,145	2,254	4,460	7,059	5,646	10,664	37,381	158,333
TAFE, University or other tertiary institution	2,047	3,163	7,053	15,217	21,365	15,064	20,467	97,316	140,156
Other (including pre-school)	1,159	1,652	2,332	4,873	5,708	2,650	2,568	22,693	108,416
Not stated or not applicable	3,125	3,438	4,288	6,258	5,697	2,417	2,175	33,204	82,950
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,211</b>	<b>61,416</b>	<b>100,383</b>	<b>197,207</b>	<b>246,800</b>	<b>130,317</b>	<b>142,280</b>	<b>1,029,104</b>	<b>116,850</b>

- Notes:
1. Because the population of this table is dependent children aged 5-14 and dependent students aged 15-24, the figures in the table refer to individuals, not families. The table shows, for example, the number of Catholic students attending Catholic primary schools whose families have a weekly income in the range \$1,250-\$1,999. A brother and sister at the same school would account for TWO of the cases in this category.
  2. A column of figures for "Family income not fully stated, or not stated at all" has been omitted from the table, but the missing figures are included in the Total column.
  3. Family income is the sum of the incomes of all family members aged 15 and over.



# Educational Qualifications

Both the percentage of Catholics with university degrees and the gender balance of Catholics with degrees have changed dramatically in recent decades due to the upsurge in young people, especially women, undertaking tertiary study and the upgrading of courses such as nursing to degree status. In 1991, less than seven per cent of Australian Catholics aged 15 or over had a degree; by 2016, that figure had reached 21 per cent. Among Catholics aged 15 to 34 years in 2016, 25.8 per cent of women had a degree compared to 15.6 per cent of men. In contrast, among Catholics aged 55 and over, 13.8 per cent of men and 13.6 per cent of women had degrees.

**Table 24: Highest qualification attained by age and sex**

	15 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 and over	Total
<b>Catholics aged 15+</b>							
<b>Males</b>							
Postgraduate degree	781	12,883	18,886	17,718	12,568	9,326	72,162
Graduate diploma, graduate certificate or bachelor degree	17,259	66,767	67,947	55,199	40,265	31,391	278,828
Advanced diploma or diploma	7,926	25,587	34,934	35,284	25,796	22,682	152,209
Certificate	49,383	102,549	102,737	113,318	89,554	98,662	556,203
Inadequately described, Not stated or Not applicable	254,424	90,371	99,183	127,953	123,047	225,757	920,735
<b>Total</b>	<b>329,773</b>	<b>298,157</b>	<b>323,687</b>	<b>349,472</b>	<b>291,230</b>	<b>387,818</b>	<b>1,980,137</b>
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	5.5	26.7	26.8	20.9	18.1	10.5	17.7
<b>Females</b>							
Postgraduate degree	1,613	20,706	23,158	17,945	11,819	6,553	81,794
Graduate diploma, graduate certificate or bachelor degree	30,771	119,868	114,618	82,460	55,601	38,849	442,167
Advanced diploma or diploma	16,079	44,383	52,187	53,300	39,548	32,463	237,960
Certificate	41,872	65,892	66,358	72,324	51,541	34,802	332,789
Inadequately described, Not stated or Not applicable	239,649	89,970	110,367	167,908	182,489	378,274	1,168,657
<b>Total</b>	<b>329,984</b>	<b>340,819</b>	<b>366,688</b>	<b>393,937</b>	<b>340,998</b>	<b>490,941</b>	<b>2,263,367</b>
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	9.8	41.2	37.6	25.5	19.8	9.2	23.1
<b>All Catholics</b>							
Postgraduate degree	2,394	33,589	42,044	35,663	24,387	15,879	153,956
Graduate diploma, graduate certificate or bachelor degree	48,030	186,635	182,565	137,659	95,866	70,240	720,995
Advanced diploma or diploma	24,005	69,970	87,121	88,584	65,344	55,145	390,169
Certificate	91,255	168,441	169,095	185,642	141,095	133,464	888,992
Inadequately described, Not stated or Not applicable	494,073	180,341	209,550	295,861	305,536	604,031	2,089,392
<b>Total</b>	<b>659,757</b>	<b>638,976</b>	<b>690,375</b>	<b>743,409</b>	<b>632,228</b>	<b>878,759</b>	<b>4,243,504</b>
<i>Per cent with degree or higher</i>	7.6	34.5	32.5	23.3	19.0	9.8	20.6



# Employment

In recent years there have been many changes in society and the workplace that have affected Australian workers. One major change has been the increase in the percentage of workers, especially young people and women, in part-time jobs. Another has been the rise in participation in the labour force by women. A third major change has been the rise in participation in the labour force by older workers, following the removal of incentives to early retirement and resulting in the continuing availability of their skills, experience and maturity in the workplace.<sup>1</sup> Changes in labour force participation also influence the availability and size of the volunteer workforce, and can both reduce and change the pattern of workers' leisure time.

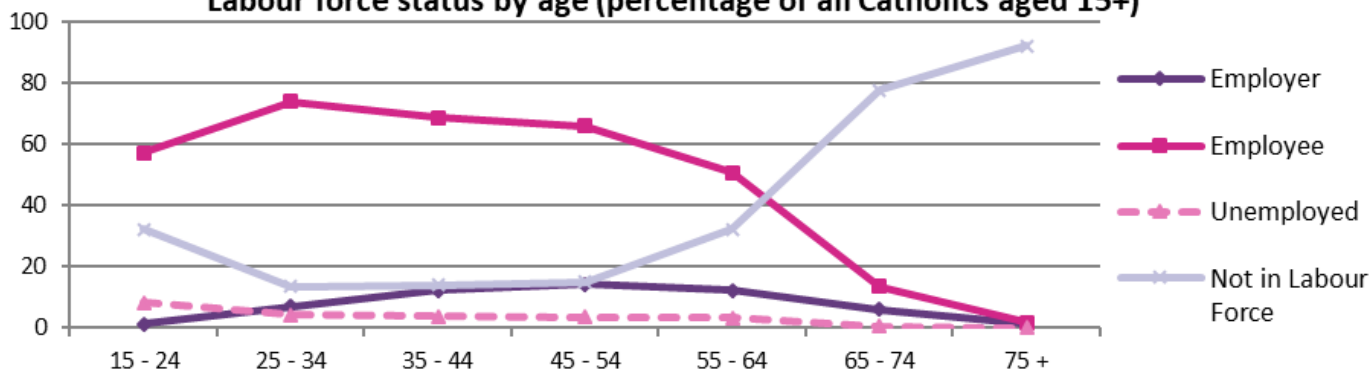
**Table 25: Labour force status by age and sex**

	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64	65 and over	Total
<b>Catholics aged 15+</b>					
<b>Males</b>					
Employer	5,487	85,573	124,799	24,650	240,509
Employee	181,098	453,616	369,027	37,712	1,041,453
Unemployed	29,078	26,320	25,123	2,026	82,547
Not in labour force	110,367	47,994	111,732	311,505	581,598
Other, Not stated, Not applicable	3,749	8,337	10,024	11,926	34,036
<b>Total</b>	<b>329,779</b>	<b>621,840</b>	<b>640,705</b>	<b>387,819</b>	<b>1,980,143</b>
<i>Per cent in Labour Force<sup>2</sup></i>	65.4	90.9	81.0	16.6	68.9
<i>Per cent unemployed<sup>3</sup></i>	13.5	4.7	4.8	3.1	6.0
<b>Females</b>					
Employer	2,612	43,970	58,892	9,588	115,062
Employee	197,205	494,223	442,174	35,038	1,168,640
Unemployed	25,183	27,699	21,863	896	75,641
Not in labour force	101,860	134,849	202,898	427,997	867,604
Other, Not stated, Not applicable	3,119	6,784	9,101	17,368	36,372
<b>Total</b>	<b>329,979</b>	<b>707,525</b>	<b>734,928</b>	<b>490,887</b>	<b>2,263,319</b>
<i>Per cent in Labour Force<sup>2</sup></i>	68.2	80.0	71.2	9.3	60.1
<i>Per cent unemployed<sup>3</sup></i>	11.2	4.9	4.2	2.0	5.6

**Notes:**

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics 2004. *Australian Social Trends 2004*. Catalogue No. 4102.0, p.115.
2. The percentage of Catholics in each age group who are in the labour force (i.e. employed or seeking employment).
3. The percentage of Catholics in each age group who were in the labour force and were unemployed at the time of the Census.

**Labour force status by age (percentage of all Catholics aged 15+)**



# Occupation

Catholic women are more likely to be employed as managers or professionals; 35 per cent of Catholic women and 33 per cent of Catholic men who reported their occupation in the 2016 Census worked as managers or professionals. But men were much more likely than women—47 per cent compared to 12 per cent—to have a ‘blue collar’ occupation. The largest occupational category for Catholic men in Australia is Technicians and Trades Workers. For women, it is Professionals.

**Table 26: Occupation by age and sex**

	15 - 24	25 - 34	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 and	Total
<b>Catholics aged 15+</b>							
<b>Males</b>							
Managers	6,756	30,678	55,846	62,774	39,251	14,973	210,278
Professionals	12,232	49,382	53,576	47,577	33,249	11,730	207,746
Technicians and Trades Workers	52,772	75,080	66,184	62,878	39,306	9,087	305,307
Community and Personal Service Workers	20,885	16,825	15,107	15,420	9,782	2,627	80,646
Clerical and Administrative Workers	8,787	15,936	18,125	20,219	15,090	4,248	82,405
Sales Workers	32,809	15,185	14,735	15,492	11,264	4,602	94,087
Machinery Operators and Drivers	11,411	23,975	30,085	37,852	29,549	7,625	140,497
Labourers	39,826	28,405	25,846	28,942	22,463	7,248	152,730
Inadequately described, Not stated, Not employed	144,300	42,699	44,174	58,313	91,277	325,684	706,447
<b>Total</b>	<b>329,778</b>	<b>298,165</b>	<b>323,678</b>	<b>349,467</b>	<b>291,231</b>	<b>387,824</b>	<b>1,980,143</b>
<i>Per cent Managers &amp; Professionals<sup>1</sup></i>	10.2	31.3	39.1	37.9	36.3	43.0	32.8
<i>Per cent 'blue collar' workers<sup>1</sup></i>	56.1	49.9	43.7	44.5	45.7	38.6	47.0
<b>Females</b>							
Managers	6,757	25,933	34,853	34,747	19,772	6,162	128,224
Professionals	21,932	89,821	85,356	72,480	45,617	9,019	324,225
Technicians and Trades Workers	9,324	12,668	11,467	11,728	6,953	1,589	53,729
Community and Personal Service Workers	48,701	38,369	36,373	43,854	28,696	5,456	201,449
Clerical and Administrative Workers	27,876	54,745	67,902	83,817	55,153	12,739	302,232
Sales Workers	68,474	22,864	22,285	27,847	18,853	4,362	164,685
Machinery Operators and Drivers	1,721	2,558	3,108	4,698	3,385	617	16,087
Labourers	14,291	11,695	14,800	22,739	19,280	4,574	87,379
Inadequately described, Not stated, Not employed	130,923	82,184	90,530	92,011	143,283	446,389	985,320
<b>Total</b>	<b>329,999</b>	<b>340,837</b>	<b>366,674</b>	<b>393,921</b>	<b>340,992</b>	<b>490,907</b>	<b>2,263,330</b>
<i>Per cent Managers &amp; Professionals<sup>1</sup></i>	14.4	44.8	43.5	35.5	33.1	34.1	35.4
<i>Per cent 'blue collar' workers<sup>1</sup></i>	12.7	10.4	10.6	13.0	15.0	15.2	12.3
<b>All Catholics</b>							
Managers	13,513	56,611	90,699	97,521	59,023	21,135	338,502
Professionals	34,164	139,203	138,932	120,057	78,866	20,749	531,971
Technicians and Trades Workers	62,096	87,748	77,651	74,606	46,259	10,676	359,036
Community and Personal Service Workers	69,586	55,194	51,480	59,274	38,478	8,083	282,095
Clerical and Administrative Workers	36,663	70,681	86,027	104,036	70,243	16,987	384,637
Sales Workers	101,283	38,049	37,020	43,339	30,117	8,964	258,772
Machinery Operators and Drivers	13,132	26,533	33,193	42,550	32,934	8,242	156,584
Labourers	54,117	40,100	40,646	51,681	41,743	11,822	240,109
Inadequately described, Not stated, Not employed	275,223	124,883	134,704	150,324	234,560	772,073	1,691,767
<b>Total</b>	<b>659,777</b>	<b>639,002</b>	<b>690,352</b>	<b>743,388</b>	<b>632,223</b>	<b>878,731</b>	<b>4,243,473</b>
<i>Per cent Managers &amp; Professionals<sup>1</sup></i>	12.4	38.1	41.3	36.7	34.7	39.3	34.1
<i>Per cent 'blue collar' workers<sup>1</sup></i>	33.6	30.0	27.3	28.5	30.4	28.8	29.6

Note:

1. Percentage of those with an occupation. See Notes 1 and 3 under Table 3 for the type of occupations covered by the terms 'Managers and Professionals' and 'blue collar'.



# Occupation

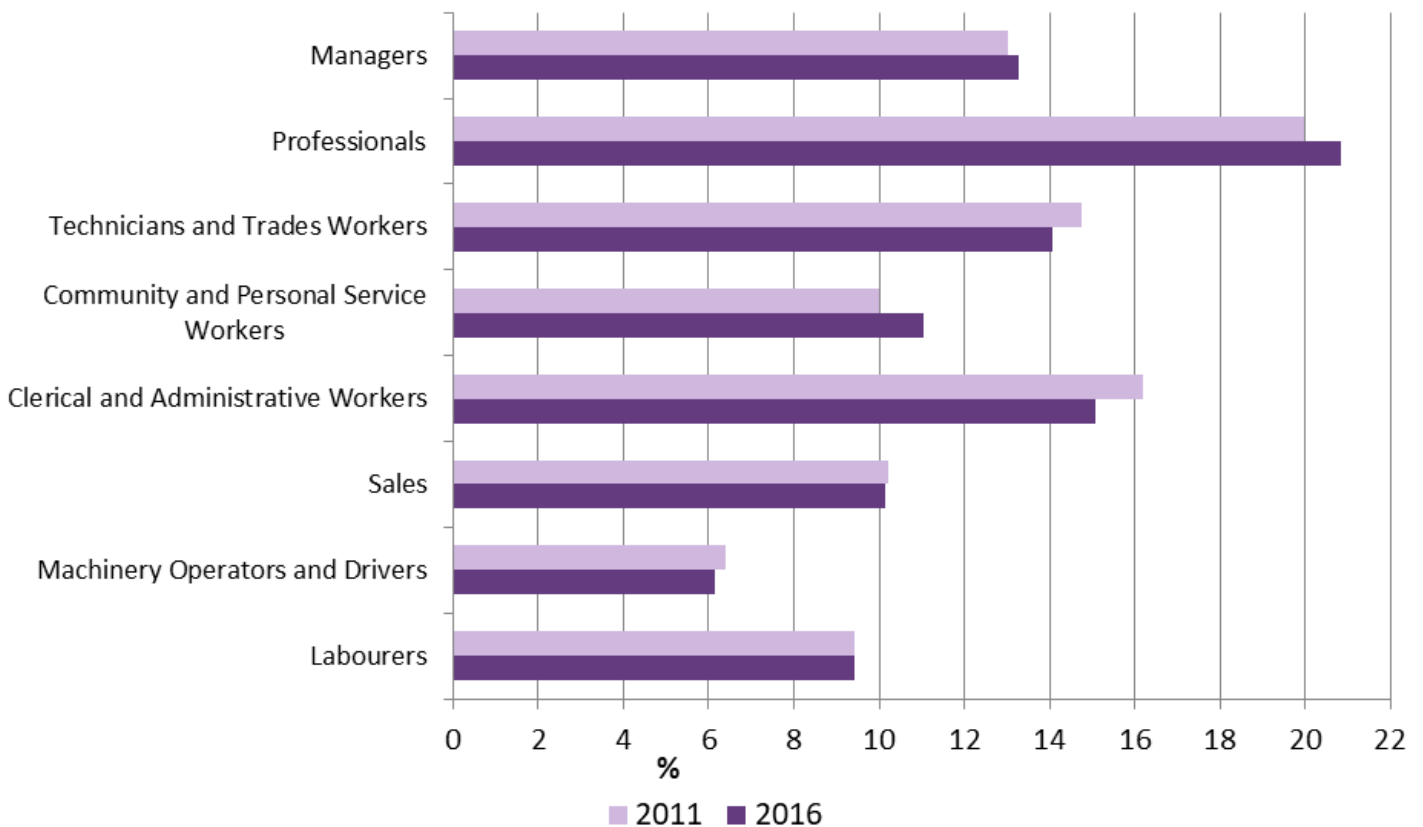
**Table 27: Occupation by religious affiliation<sup>1</sup> (%)**

	Catholic	Not Catholic
<i>All persons aged 15+ with an occupation</i>		
Managers	13.3	13.2
Professionals	20.8	23.1
Technicians and Trades Workers	14.1	13.7
Community and Personal Service Workers	11.1	11.0
Clerical and Administrative Workers	15.1	13.4
Sales Workers	10.1	9.3
Machinery Operators and Drivers	6.1	6.5
Labourers	9.4	9.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note:

1. In this table, 'Not Catholic' includes those who did not answer the question about religious affiliation.

**Occupation**  
(Catholics aged 15+ with an occupation)



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Visit the website to obtain:

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- A Social Profile for the Catholic population of Australia
- Helpful hints on using the Census data
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This profile has been created by the staff of the ACBC National Centre for Pastoral Research as part of the National Catholic Census Project 1991-2016.

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