

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas 2021 (SEIFA)

**Background information from the website of the
Australian Bureau of Statistics**

for users of

the indexes for Catholic parishes

November 2024

Indexes for Catholic Parishes 2021

Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage (IRSAD)

Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD)

Index of Economic Resources (IRE)

Index of Education and Occupation (IEO)

with Catholic population, total population and per cent Catholic for each parish

Derived by the National Centre for Pastoral Research of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference from Indexes calculated for each Statistical Area 1 (SA1) by the Australian Bureau of Statistics

For additional information about SEIFA, search www.abs.gov.au for 'SEIFA 2021' or go to:

<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/people-and-communities/socio-economic-indexes-areas-seifa-australia/2021>

For technical information about the construction of the Indexes, go to:

<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/socio-economic-indexes-areas-seifa-technical-paper/2021>

The file '2021 SEIFA scores by Catholic parishes.xlsx' can be obtained from the National Centre for Pastoral Research

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Background Information About SEIFA

Before using the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) derived by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) from 2021 Census data, please read the information in this document, most of which comes from the ABS website.

The National Centre for Pastoral Research has taken the ABS SEIFA scores for each Statistical Area 1 (SA1) and aggregated them to parish level using the best available match of SA1s to parishes as determined by each diocese.

Note that the Excel file '2021 SEIFA scores by Catholic parishes.xlsx' contains two worksheets:

- Introduction
- SEIFA for parishes

Each Index has been constructed by ABS so that it has a mean value of 1000 and a standard deviation of 100. As areas are aggregated, the variation between them is reduced, since larger areas typically incorporate areas with a wide range of SEIFA scores: the larger the area, the wider the range, and so dioceses will demonstrate less variation than parishes and parishes will demonstrate less variation than SA1s. This means that SEIFA scores are more useful for comparing parishes than they are for comparing dioceses, and hence, **calculations of SEIFA scores for dioceses have not been done for 2021 data.**

SEIFA is a tool for ranking areas, but not for calculating a ratio between areas. ABS puts it this way: "SEIFA is a tool that compares an area with other areas. It can be likened to a football premiership table. Just as a team that finished the season with 40 points cannot claim to be twice as good as a team that finishes the season with 20 points, so an area that has a SEIFA score of 1200 cannot claim to be twice as advantaged as an area that scored 600."

In the same way, a parish with, for example, an Index of Economic Resources score of 1200 cannot be regarded as having one and a half times the economic resources of a parish with a score of 800.

In practical terms, this characteristic of SEIFA scores means that they should not be used, for example, in a mathematical formula for calculating diocesan levies to be paid by parishes.

According to ABS, comparison with previous indexes is not recommended. See the ABS SEIFA Technical Paper (<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/detailed-methodology-information/concepts-sources-methods/socio-economic-indexes-areas-seifa-technical-paper/2021>) for further details about this.

For suggestions on situations where SEIFA scores might be used, and for the content of each Index, please refer to the following pages. If you have received parish scores from the NCPR, the notes below the parish tables in the Excel file also provide more information.

The Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage (IRSAD)

Source: <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/people-and-communities/socio-economic-indexes-areas-seifa-australia/latest-release#index-of-relative-socio-economic-advantage-and-disadvantage-irsad->

IRSAD

The Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage (IRSAD) summarises information about the economic and social conditions of people and households within an area, including both relative advantage and disadvantage measures.



A **low** score indicates relatively greater disadvantage and a lack of advantage in general. For example, an area could have a low score if there are:

- many households with low incomes, or many people in unskilled occupations, AND
- few households with high incomes, or few people in skilled occupations.

A **high** score indicates a relative lack of disadvantage and greater advantage in general. For example, an area may have a high score if there are:

- many households with high incomes, or many people in skilled occupations, AND
- few households with low incomes, or few people in unskilled occupations.

This index is recommended in situations where the user:

- wants a general measure of advantage and disadvantage in their particular analysis
- is not looking at only disadvantage and lack of disadvantage
- wants advantage to offset disadvantage in their analysis.

For example, IRSAD may be applicable when a user:

- believes the topic being analysed is likely to be affected by both advantage and disadvantage.

IRSAD is not recommended if the user:

- is only interested in disadvantage
- is using the index in an analysis with information that has already been included in the index, such as suburbs with a high proportion of dwellings paying high levels of rent.

FINAL VARIABLE LIST FOR IRSAD

The following variables are considered to be indicators of disadvantage. NOYR12ORHIGHER is the strongest indicator of disadvantage in the index.

- NOYR12ORHIGHER: Per cent of people aged 15 years and over whose highest level of education is Year 11 or lower. Includes Certificate I and II
- INC_LOW: Per cent of people living in households with stated annual household equivalised income between \$1 and \$25,999 (approx. 1st and 2nd deciles)
- OCC_LABOUR: Per cent of employed people classified as 'labourers'
- DISABILITYU70: Per cent of people aged under 70 who need assistance with core activities due to a long-term health condition, disability or old age
- CHILDJOBLESS: Per cent of families with children under 15 years of age who live with jobless parents
- OCC_DRIVERS: Per cent of employed people classified as Machinery Operators and Drivers
- LOWRENT: Per cent of occupied private dwellings paying rent less than \$250 per week (excluding \$0 per week)
- SEPDIVORCED: Per cent of people aged 15 and over who are separated or divorced
- ONEPARENT: Per cent of one parent families with dependent offspring only
- UNEMPLOYED: Per cent of people (in the labour force) unemployed
- OCC_SERVICE_L: Per cent of employed people classified as Low Skill Community and Personal Service Workers
- CERTIFICATE: Per cent of people aged 15 years and over whose highest level of educational attainment is a certificate III or IV qualification
- OVERCROWD: Per cent of occupied private dwellings requiring one or more extra bedrooms (based on Canadian National Occupancy Standard)
- NOEDU: Per cent of people aged 15 years and over who have no educational attainment
- OCC_SALES_L: Per cent of employed people classified as Low Skill Sales

The following variables are considered to be indicators of advantage. INC_HIGH is the strongest indicator of advantage in the index.

- ATUNI: Per cent of people aged 15 years and over at university or other tertiary institution
- HIGHBED: Per cent of occupied private dwellings with four or more bedrooms
- DIPLOMA: Per cent of people aged 15 years and over whose highest level of education attainment is a diploma qualification
- HIGHRENT: Per cent of occupied private dwellings paying rent greater than \$470 per week
- OCC_MANAGER: Per cent of employed people classified as Managers
- HIGHMORTGAGE: Per cent of occupied private dwellings paying mortgage greater than \$2,800 per month
- OCC_PROF: Per cent of employed people classified as Professionals
- INC_HIGH: Per cent of people living in households with stated annual household equivalised income greater than \$91,000 (approximately 9th and 10th deciles)

Excluded variables

The following variable was initially considered for the index, but was excluded due to being highly correlated with other variables.

- DEGREE: Per cent of people aged 15 years and over whose highest level of educational attainment is a bachelor degree or higher qualification

The following variables were initially considered for the index, but were excluded when the analysis showed that they were weak indicators of relative disadvantage in this data.

- NOCAR: Per cent of occupied private dwellings with no cars
- SPAREBED: Per cent of occupied private dwellings with one or no bedrooms
- ENGLISHPOOR: Per cent of people who do not speak English well
- HIGHCAR: Per cent of occupied private dwellings with three or more cars
- OWNING: Per cent of occupied private dwellings owning dwelling without a mortgage
- FEWBED: Per cent of occupied private dwellings with one or no bedrooms

FINAL VARIABLE LIST FOR IRSD

The variables used in the index are listed below. All variables in this index are indicators of disadvantage. INC_LOW is the strongest indicator of disadvantage.

- INC_LOW: Per cent of people living in households with stated annual household equivalised income between \$1 and \$25,999 (approx. 1st and 2nd deciles)
- CHILDJOBLESS: Per cent of families with children under 15 years of age who live with jobless parents
- NOYR12ORHIGHER: Per cent of people aged 15 years and over whose highest level of education is Year 11 or lower. Includes Certificate I and II
- LOWRENT: Per cent of occupied private dwellings paying rent less than \$250 per week (excluding \$0 per week)
- UNEMPLOYED: Per cent of people (in the labour force) unemployed
- OCC_LABOUR: Per cent of employed people classified as 'labourers'
- DISABILITYU70: Per cent of people aged under 70 who need assistance with core activities due to a long-term health condition, disability or old age
- ONEPARENT: Per cent of one parent families with dependent offspring only
- OVERCROWD: Per cent of occupied private dwellings requiring one or more extra bedrooms (based on the Canadian National Occupancy Standard)
- OCC_DRIVERS: Per cent of employed people classified as Machinery Operators and Drivers
- SEPDIVORCED: Per cent of people aged 15 and over who are separated or divorced
- NOEDU: Per cent of people aged 15 years and over who have no educational attainment
- OCC_SERVICE_L: Per cent of employed people classified as Low Skill Community and Personal Service Workers
- NOCAR: Per cent of occupied private dwellings with no cars
- ENGLISHPOOR: Per cent of people who do not speak English well

Excluded variables

The following variables were initially considered for the index, but were excluded when the analysis showed that they were weak indicators of relative disadvantage in this data.

- OCC_SALES_L: Per cent of employed people classified as Low-Skill Sales Workers
- CERTIFICATE: Per cent of people aged 15 years and over whose highest level of educational attainment is a certificate III or IV qualification
- FEWBED: Per cent of occupied private dwellings with one or no bedrooms

FINAL VARIABLES LIST FOR IER

The variables used in the index are listed in this section.

The following variables are considered to be indicators of disadvantage. INC_LOW is the strongest indicator of disadvantage in the index.

- INC_LOW: Per cent of people living in households with stated annual household equivalised income between \$1 and \$25,999 (approx. 1st and 2nd deciles)
- LOWRENT: Per cent of occupied private dwellings paying rent less than \$250 per week (excluding \$0 per week)
- NOCAR: Per cent of occupied private dwellings with no cars
- LONE: Per cent of occupied private dwellings who are lone person occupied private dwellings
- ONEPARENT: Per cent of one parent families with dependent offspring only
- OVERCROWD: Per cent of occupied private dwellings requiring one or more extra bedrooms (based on Canadian National Occupancy Standard)
- UNEMPLOYED_IER: Per cent of people aged 15 years and over who are unemployed
- GROUP: Per cent of occupied private dwellings who are group occupied private dwellings

The following variables are considered to be indicators of advantage. HIGH_BED is the strongest indicator of advantage in the index.

- OWNING: Per cent of occupied private dwellings owning dwelling without a mortgage
- UNINCORP: Per cent of dwellings with at least one person who is an owner of an unincorporated enterprise
- INC_HIGH: Per cent of people with stated annual household equivalised income greater than \$91,000 (approx. 9th and 10th deciles)
- HIGHMORTGAGE: Per cent of occupied private dwellings paying mortgage greater than \$2,800 per month
- MORTGAGE: Per cent of occupied private dwellings owning dwelling (with a mortgage)
- HIGHBED: Per cent of occupied private dwellings with four or more bedrooms

The following variable was initially considered for the index, but was excluded when the analysis showed that it was a weak indicator of relative disadvantage in this data.

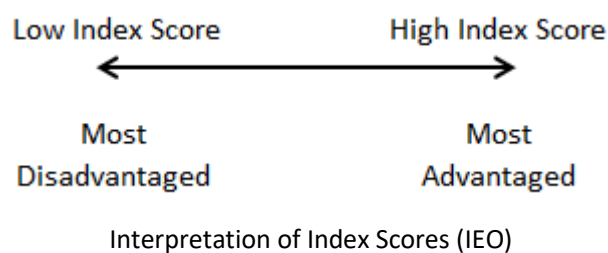
- HIGHRENT: Per cent of occupied private dwellings paying rent greater than \$470 per week

The Index of Education and Occupation (IEO)

Source: <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/people-and-communities/socio-economic-indexes-areas-seifa-australia/latest-release#index-of-education-and-occupation-ieo->

IEO

The Index of Education and Occupation (IEO) is designed to reflect the educational and occupational level of communities. The education variables in this index show either the level of qualification achieved or whether further education is being undertaken. The occupation variables classify the workforce into the major groups and skill levels of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) and the unemployed. This index does not include any income variables.



A **low** score indicates relatively lower education and occupation status of people in the area in general. For example, an area could have a low score if there are:

- many people without qualifications, or many people in low skilled occupations or many people unemployed, AND
- few people with a high level of qualifications or in highly skilled occupations.

A **high** score indicates relatively higher education and occupation status of people in the area in general. For example, an area could have a high score if there are:

- many people with higher education qualifications or many people in highly skilled occupations, AND
- few people without qualifications or few people in low skilled occupations.

This index is recommended in situations where the user:

- is interested in only education and occupation variables
- is interested in an index that does not include income.

For example, IEO may be applicable when a user:

- is analysing the relationship between income and the index.

IEO is not recommended if the user:

- is only interested in disadvantage (not advantage)
- is interested in a more general measure of advantage and disadvantage, such as IRSAD

- is using the index in an analysis with information that has already been included in the index, such as unemployment.

FINAL VARIABLE LIST FOR IEO

The variables used in the index are listed in this section.

The following variables are considered to be indicators of disadvantage. NOYR12ORHIGHER is the strongest indicator of disadvantage in the index.

- NOYR12ORHIGHER: Per cent of people aged 15 years and over whose highest level of education is Year 11 or lower. Includes Certificate I and II
- OCC_SKILL5: Per cent of employed people who work in a Skill Level 5 occupation
- OCC_SKILL4: Per cent of employed people who work in a Skill Level 4 occupation
- CERTIFICATE: Per cent of people aged 15 years and over whose highest level of educational attainment is a certificate III or IV qualification
- UNEMPLOYED: Per cent of people (in the labour force) unemployed

The following variables are considered to be indicators of advantage. OCC_SKILL1 is the strongest indicator of advantage in the index.

- DIPLOMA: Per cent of people aged 15 years and over whose highest level of education attainment is a diploma qualification
- ATUNI: Per cent of people aged 15 years and over at university or other tertiary institution
- OCC_SKILL1: Per cent of employed people who work in a Skill Level 1 occupation

Excluded variables

The following variable was initially considered for the index, but was excluded due to being highly correlated with other variables.

- DEGREE: Per cent of people aged 15 years and over whose highest level of educational attainment is a bachelor degree or higher qualification

The following variable was initially considered for the index, but was excluded when the analysis showed that it was a weak indicator of relative disadvantage in this data.

- NOEDU: Per cent of people aged 15 years and over who have no educational attainment
- OCC_SKILL2: Per cent of employed people who work in a skill level 2 occupation
- AT SCHOOL: Per cent of people aged 15 years and over who are still attending secondary school



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