



2016 Census: Christmas Island

FACTSHEET



Total population: 1,843

Median age: 38

Most common ancestry: Chinese

Most common country of birth: Australia

Most common religions: Islam and Buddhism

Most common languages: English, Mandarin, Malay

Median weekly personal income: \$1,164

Median weekly household income: \$2,141

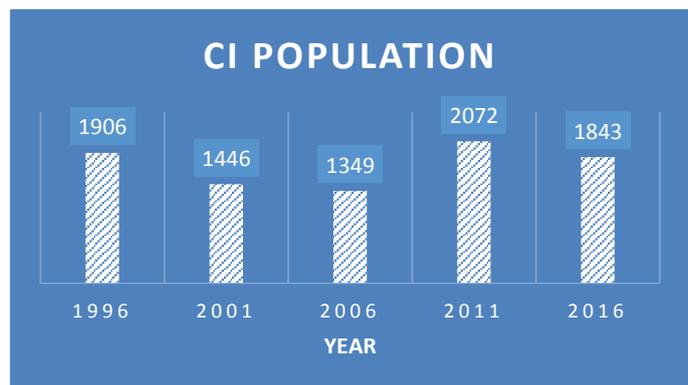
Average household size: 2.7 people

Demographics¹

Population

The **total population** of Christmas Island (CI) in 2016 was **1,843**². Of these, **61.3%** of the population **were male** and **38.7% were female**. In 2011, 70.7% of the population were male and 29.3% were female.

In 2016, there were **305 families** on island. For those with children, the average number was **1.9 children**.



Age

In 2016, the **median age was 38**, which is the same as the national median age. People aged 65 years and over made up 9.7% of the population. Children (0 - 14 years) made up 17.0% of the population.

The proportion of residents aged 65 and over has increased since 2006, where 5.1% of people were 65 years or older. At the same time, the proportion of residents aged 0 - 14 years has decreased from 23.4% in 2006 to 17.0% in 2016.

¹ All data in this document is sourced from: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016, 'Christmas Island (Statistical Area Level 3)', <http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/90101?opendocument>; Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016, *Christmas Island*, time series spreadsheet, cat. no. 2003.0, <http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/communityprofile/90101?opendocument>

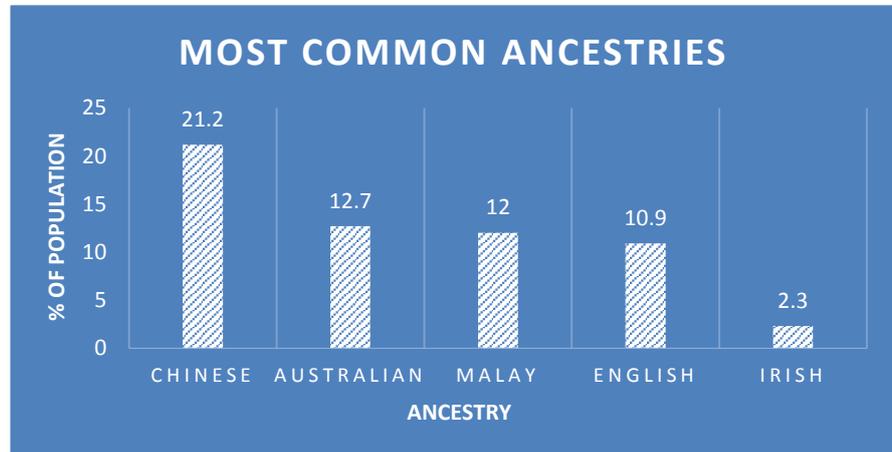
² This figure includes 240 detainees in the Christmas Island Immigration Detention Centre, as at 9 August 2016.

Cultural and language diversity

Ancestry

In 2016, the **most common ancestries** on CI were **Chinese (21.2%)**, Australian (12.7%), Malay (12.0%), English (10.9%) and Irish (2.3%).

This remains similar to 2011, when the most common ancestries on CI were Chinese (18.3%), Australian (11.7%), Malay (9.3%), English (8.9%) and Irish (2.3%).



Country of Birth

In 2016, **38.5%** of people on CI were **Australian-born**. Following Australia, the most common countries of birth were Malaysia (20.1%), New Zealand (3.0%), England (2.5%), Singapore (2.4%) and Iran (1.7%).

43.2% of people had **both parents born overseas**, while 16.7% of people had both parents born in Australia. 7.0% of people had only their mother born overseas, while 5.4% had only their father born overseas. The most common birthplaces for parents were Malaysia, Australia, China, Singapore and England.

Language Spoken at Home

In 2016, **more than half (50.9%)** of households on CI reported that a **non-English language was spoken at home**.

27.8% of people **only spoke English at home**. Other languages spoken at home included Mandarin (17.2%), Malay (17.2%), Cantonese (3.7%), Min Nan (1.5%) and Tagalog (1.0%).

Religion

Islam has overtaken Buddhism as the **most common religious affiliation** on CI.

In 2016, the most common responses for religion on CI were Islam (19.4%), Buddhism (18.1%) and Catholic (8.9%). 15.2% identified as having No Religion.

In 2011, the most common responses for religion on CI were Buddhism (16.8%), Islam (14.8%), No Religion (9.2%), Catholic (7.0%) and Anglican (3.8%).

Employment

Income

In 2016, the **median weekly personal income** for people aged 15 years and over on CI was **\$1,164**. This figure is nearly double the national median weekly personal income of \$662.

The median weekly personal income on CI increased by 14.0% (\$143) from 2011 to 2016, compared to 14.7% nationally. This increase is less than 2006 to 2011, which was 49.7% (\$339), compared to 23.8% nationally.

The **median weekly household income** on CI was **\$2,141**, which was higher than the national median of \$1,438. Approximately a **quarter (24.9%) of households** had a **weekly income of more than \$3000**, compared to 16.4% nationally.

Unpaid Work

In the week before the 2016 Census, **47.0%** of people aged 15 years and over **did unpaid domestic work**, this compared to the national median of 69.0%.

During the two weeks before the Census, **18.2% provided care for children** (compared to 27.6% nationally) and **6.0% assisted family members or others** due to a disability, long-term illness or problems related to old age (compared to 11.3% nationally).

In the year before the Census, **20.3% of people did voluntary work** through an organisation or a group, compared to 19.0% nationally.

Dwellings

Tenure and Household Composition

In 2016, **82.3% of private dwellings on CI were occupied** and 17.7% were unoccupied. **Of occupied private dwellings, 51.6% were rented**, 28.5% were owned outright and 14.6% were owned with a mortgage.

The **average household size was 2.7 people**. Of all households, 74.1% were family households, 23.4% were single person households and 2.5% were group households.

Mortgage and Rent

In 2016, **median rent on CI was \$152 per week**, compared to the national median rent of \$335 per week. Households with **rent payments less than 30% of their household income comprise 97.6%** (88.5% nationally), while households with rent payments greater than 30% of household income are 2.4% (11.5% nationally).

Median mortgage repayments were \$1,717 per week, which is similar to the national median of \$1,755. **96.5% of households had mortgage repayments less than 30% of household income**, compared to 92.8% nationally.

Motor Vehicles

In 2016, 6% of occupied private dwellings on CI had no registered motor vehicles garaged or parked at their address, 35.8% had one registered motor vehicle, **36.0% had two registered motor vehicles** and 17.5% had three or more registered motor vehicles.

Internet Connection

In 2016, **78.6% of households on CI had at least one person access the internet**. This could have been through a desktop/laptop computer, mobile or smart phone, tablet, music or video player, gaming console, smart TV or any other device.

