



## Census

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# 2021 Census data shows Australia going high tech

Media Release

Released 12/10/2022

**Source:** [Income and work: Census, 2021](#)  
[Education and training: Census, 2021](#)

The 2021 Census showed a rise in work and study in emerging fields of science and technology, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) said today.

The number of people with an Information Technology qualification is now almost half a million (470,318), increasing by 36 per cent since 2016.

The fastest growing qualification in Australia was Security Science, at 5,805 people qualified (up 460 per cent since 2016). Qualifications in Artificial Intelligence also increased, at 630 people (up 200 per cent since 2016).

Dr David Gruen AO, Australian Statistician said, "The 2021 Census data released today about qualifications and occupations reflects the rising prominence of the digital economy in Australia.

"There are over 260,000 ICT Professionals and 74,000 ICT Managers in the workforce, an additional 86,000 since the last Census".

Information Communication Technology occupations with the highest growth since 2016 include ICT Support and Test Engineers (15,635 people, up 54 per cent), Software and Applications Programmers (116,927 people, up 47 per cent) and ICT Business and Systems Analysts (34,793, up 47 per cent).

One in five ICT Professionals and ICT Managers are female. But for workers under 30 years of age, female representation is higher, accounting for one in three ICT Managers and ICT Business and Systems Analysts.

Migration is also a major contributor to the tech workforce. Two thirds of Software and Applications Programmers were born overseas, with India representing the largest cohort. Software and Applications Programmers is the third most common occupation for recent overseas arrivals, with 24,000 arriving since 2016.

Table 1: Top five Information Technology qualifications in 2021 Census

IT Qualification	Person Count 2016	Person Count 2021	Percentage growth
1 Information Technology, nfd <sup>[1] (# fn1)</sup>	238,280	307,409	+29.0%
2 Computer Science, nfd	58,264	84,469	+45.0%
3 Programming	21,751	32,917	+51.3%
4 Information Systems, nfd	14,500	21,913	+51.1%
5 Networks and Communications	7,168	10,356	+44.5%

<sup>[1] (# fnref1)</sup> nfd – means not further defined and indicates that the Census response did not have enough detail to classify the person into a finer detailed qualification.

Table 2: Top five increases for Information Communication Technology Professionals and Managers between 2016 and 2021

ICT Occupation	Employees 2016	Employees 2021	Percentage change
1 ICT Support and Test Engineers	10,172	15,635	+53.7%
2 Software and Applications Programmers	79,578	116,927	+46.9%
3 ICT Business and Systems Analysts	23,713	34,793	+46.7%
4 Database and Systems Administrators, and ICT Security Specialists	23,681	34,293	+44.8%
5 ICT Managers	59,126	74,540	+26.1%

## Media notes

- When reporting ABS data you must attribute the Australian Bureau of Statistics (or the ABS) as the source.

- For media requests and interviews, contact the ABS Media Team via [media@abs.gov.au](mailto:media@abs.gov.au) (8.30am-5pm Mon-Fri).
- Search for 2021 Census data through the [QuickStats tool](https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/search-by-area) (<https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/search-by-area>).

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