

2016 Census - #CensusFail?

There has been much controversy surrounding the 2016 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census, including concerns over data/online security and ongoing problems with the online service. With this being the first time the primary method of lodging the Census was digital, 60% of households chose this method to submit their survey.

Households had until the 23rd of September to fill out their form. At this time it was reported that nearly 95% of Australian households had submitted their survey. In comparison, the 2011 Census captured a total of 98.3% of the population. While participation levels are currently below the previous Census, it will be a while before we know exact participation levels.

While this may spark fear into the minds of economists, researchers and other decision makers, we still hold out hope that the 2016 Census will provide an up to date and accurate 'picture' of Australia at the micro level to assist the private and public sector in making informed and educated decisions.

The ABS has announced that the 2016 Census results will be released faster than ever before and it is probably no secret that we cannot wait! According to the ABS, the results will be released in the following stages:

April 2017 - First Results: Only selected data will be available in this release such as data for person, family and dwelling characteristics at the National, State/Territory and Capital City level.

June 2017 - Main Results: This is considered to be the main release of data and will provide data at the smaller area level (suburbs and local government areas) for a wide range of topics.

October 2017 - Employment, Education and Population Mobility Release: □ Extra time is required to analyse this information so data for employment, education and population mobility (transport and previous address) is released a few months after the main release.

2018 Onwards - Other Census-related Information: □ The final wave of data to be released from 2018 onwards will include microdata and Socio-Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA) (a set of four indexes ranking geographical areas according to their social and economic wellbeing).

For more information see here: (<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/2011.0.55.001Main+Features12016?OpenDocument>)

If you need assistance on understanding an area of interest, until the 2016 data is released, Norling Consulting utilises data from the 2011 Census and more up-to-date information where available, such as more recent estimated resident population, labour force and employment information. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require more information.