



# What is population?

Population refers to the number of people in a particular geographical area

There are different ways to think about Australia's population



## Australia's official population concept

### Resident population

Known as Estimated Resident Population (ERP).  
Counts people based on where they usually live (residency concept).  
Defined as: People living in Australia for at least 12 of the last 16 months.  
The official population number produced by the ABS.  
National population figures are published in ABS Catalogue number 3101.0.



## Used in the Census

### Physically present population

Known as Census counts by place of enumeration.  
Counts people based on where they are located at a given time.  
Defined as: In Australia at a particular time regardless of where they usually live.  
Measured in the Census by the ABS.



## Other population concepts

### Working population

Counts people based on place of employment.



### Service population

Counts people based on those accessing services in an area.



### Legal population

Counts people based on citizenship and residency permits.

