### City of Merri-bek

#### Household size

The size of households in general follows the life-cycle of families. Households are usually small at the stage of relationship formation (early marriage), and then increase in size with the advent of children. They later reduce in size again as these children reach adulthood and leave home. Household size can also be influenced by a lack (or abundance) of affordable housing. Overseas migrants and indigenous persons often have a tradition of living with extended family members which significantly affects household size.

Household size in Australia has generally declined since the 1970s, but the rate of decline has slowed in recent years.

An increasing household size in an area may indicate a lack of affordable housing opportunities for young people, an increase in the birth rate or an increase in family formation in the area. A declining household size may indicate children leaving the area when they leave home, an increase in retirees settling in the area, or an attraction of young singles and couples to the area.

For greater insight, Coburg's Household Size data should be viewed in conjunction with [Household Summary](households?[QS]), [Age Structure](five-year-age-groups?[QS]), [Dwelling Type](dwellings?[QS]), [Household Income](household-income?[QS]) and [Language Spoken at Home](language?[QS]).

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| **Household size** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Coburg - Households (Enumerated)** | **2021** |  |  | **2016** |  |  | **Change** |
| **Number of persons usually resident** | **Number** | **%** | **City of Merri-bek %** | **Number** | **%** | **City of Merri-bek %** | **2016 to 2021** |
| 1 person | 2,585 | 25.3 | 29.5 | 2,308 | 23.9 | 27.0 | +276 |
| 2 persons | 3,358 | 32.8 | 32.8 | 3,115 | 32.2 | 33.0 | +243 |
| 3 persons | 1,871 | 18.3 | 16.3 | 1,785 | 18.5 | 17.0 | +86 |
| 4 persons | 1,712 | 16.7 | 14.6 | 1,628 | 16.9 | 14.9 | +83 |
| 5 persons | 498 | 4.9 | 4.6 | 574 | 5.9 | 5.3 | -77 |
| 6 or more persons | 210 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 254 | 2.6 | 2.8 | -44 |
| **Total classifiable households** | **10,234** | **100.0** | **100.0** | **9,667** | **100.0** | **100.0** | **+566** |

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| **Household size - Summary** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Coburg - Enumerated** | **2021** |  |  | **2016** |  |  | **Change** |
| **Dwellings** | **Number** | **%** | **City of Merri-bek %** | **Number** | **%** | **City of Merri-bek %** | **2016 to 2021** |
| Occupied private dwellings | 10,553 |  |  | 10,050 |  |  | +503 |
| Persons in occupied private dwellings | 26,064 |  |  | 25,523 |  |  | +541 |
| Average household size (persons per dwelling) | 2.47 |  | 2.37 | 2.54 |  | 2.45 | 0.07 |

Analysis of the number of persons usually resident in a household in Coburg compared with the City of Merri-bek shows that there were a lower proportion of lone person households, and a higher proportion of larger households (those with 4 persons or more). Overall there were 25.3% of lone person households, and 23.6% of larger households, compared with 29.5% and 21.3% respectively for the City of Merri-bek.

The major differences in the household size for Coburg and the City of Merri-bek were:

* A *larger* percentage of households with 4 persons usually resident (16.7% compared to 14.6%)
* A *larger* percentage of households with 3 persons usually resident (18.3% compared to 16.3%)
* A *smaller* percentage of households with 1 person usually resident (25.3% compared to 29.5%)

The number of households in Coburg increased by 567 between 2016 and 2021.

The largest changes in the number of persons usually resident in a household in Coburg between 2016 and 2021 were:

* 1 person (+276 households)
* 2 persons (+243 households)
* 3 persons (+86 households)
* 4 persons (+83 households)