

This bulletin produced by the Demography Unit of the New South Wales Department of Planning and Environment (DP&E) provides the latest population data and analysis for NSW.

## Latest population estimates

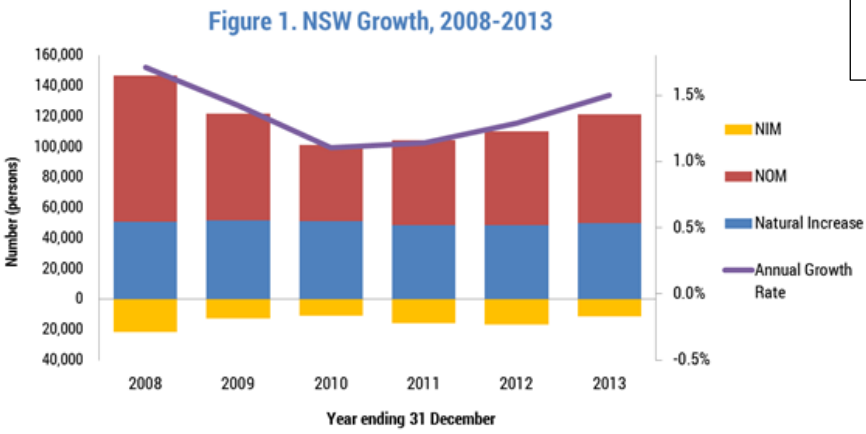
NSW continues to be the most populated state in Australia. By December 2013, the population reached **7.5 million** with growth of **1.5%** (or 110,293 people) over the previous year. This was the largest annual change across all states in 2013. Despite faster growth in 2013 than the four preceding years, NSW experienced slower growth than the national average, only faster than the states of South Australia and Tasmania (Table 1). **A third of Australians live in NSW.**

Around half (55%) of the State's population growth in 2013 was attributed to migration. This is comprised of a net gain from overseas migration (NOM) and a net loss from interstate migration (NIM). Figure 1 shows NOM over the last year was the strongest it has been since the economic downturn in the late 2000s. Remaining growth was a result of natural increase (births minus deaths). In 2013, 1 in 3 immigrants to Australia settled in NSW.

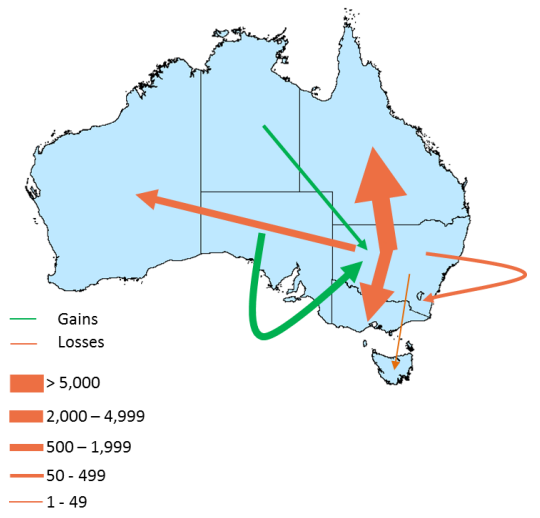
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**Table 1**

State	Population December 2013	Numeric Change 2013	Growth Rate 2013(%)
NSW	7,465,497	110,293	1.5%
VIC	5,790,990	107,916	1.9%
QLD	4,690,910	79,706	1.7%
SA	1,677,250	15,183	0.9%
WA	2,550,874	71,301	2.9%
TAS	513,955	1,541	0.3%
NT	242,573	4,043	1.7%
ACT	384,147	6,148	1.6%
AUS	23,319,385	396,154	1.7%



**Figure 2. Net interstate gains and losses from NSW, 2013**

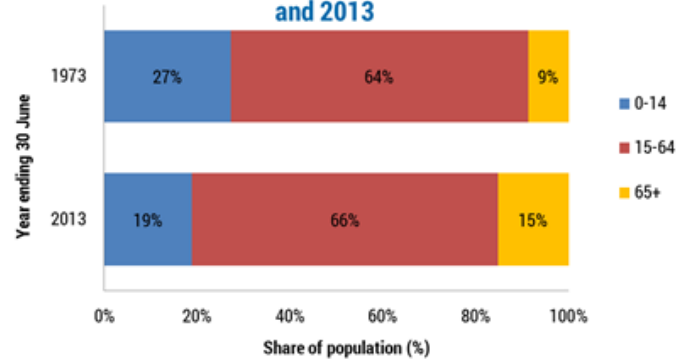


NSW had a net loss of 11,219 people due to interstate movement. This was the smallest loss for three years, reflecting improved economic conditions in NSW. More than two in every three people moving from NSW went to Queensland or Victoria (Figure 2).

NSW has the largest Indigenous population in Australia with 208,476 Indigenous people making up 3% of the State's residents as of June 30, 2013.

The population of NSW continues to age. The median age is 37.8 years making NSW older than most states in Australia (except South Australia and Tasmania). Figure 3 shows 15% of people are 65 years or older, 66% are of working age and 19% are children under 15 years. This is very different from the age profile of NSW 40 years ago where only 9% of people were 65 years or older.

Figure 3. Share of NSW population by age-group, 1973 and 2013



### Latest sub-state population estimates – at June 2013

All regions across the state grew in the year to June 2013, some faster than others (Table 2). Figure 4 shows fastest growing local government areas (LGAs) over the last 5 years were in Sydney, coastal areas and regional centres. Slow growth or small declines recorded in outer regional and remote areas of NSW are similar to areas elsewhere in Australia. The exception is selected locations impacted by mining activity, particularly in outer regional and remote areas of Queensland and Western Australia.

#### Fastest Growing LGAs 2008-13

Sydney	% change	Numeric change
1. Camden	17.7%	9,512
2. Canada Bay	17.4%	12,586
3. Auburn	14.8%	10,737

Rest of state	% change	Numeric change
1. Yass Valley	13.7%	1,960
2. Palerang	11.1%	1,524
3. Maitland	10.9%	7,203

NSW's population growth continues to be dominated by Sydney, with the capital city accounting for 76% of state growth. Two thirds of the State's residents live in Sydney. Only Melbourne recorded more population growth than Sydney (Table 3).

Table 2

Planning Region <sup>A</sup>	Population June 2013	Numeric Change 2012-13	Growth Rate 2012-13(%)
Sydney Metropolitan	4,428,924	78,266	1.8
Lower Hunter	556,044	6,812	1.2
Illawarra	391,769	3,802	1.0
Central Coast	328,110	2,692	0.8
Far North Coast	239,985	2,221	0.9
Lower North Coast	196,056	1,329	0.7
Alpine and Capital	195,594	1,994	1.0
Mid North Coast	155,224	584	0.4
Namoi	113,233	1,029	0.9
Central West	109,655	924	0.8
Riverina	107,877	369	0.3
Murray	103,171	631	0.6
Mid West	91,282	1,158	1.3
Orana	81,294	464	0.6
New England	72,050	240	0.3
South Coast	70,547	201	0.3
Upper Hunter	64,136	442	0.7
Murrumbidgee	57,261	3	0.0
Far West	48,187	55	0.1

<sup>A</sup>Current Planning regions at June 2014

Figure 4. NSW LGA Population Change, 2008-13

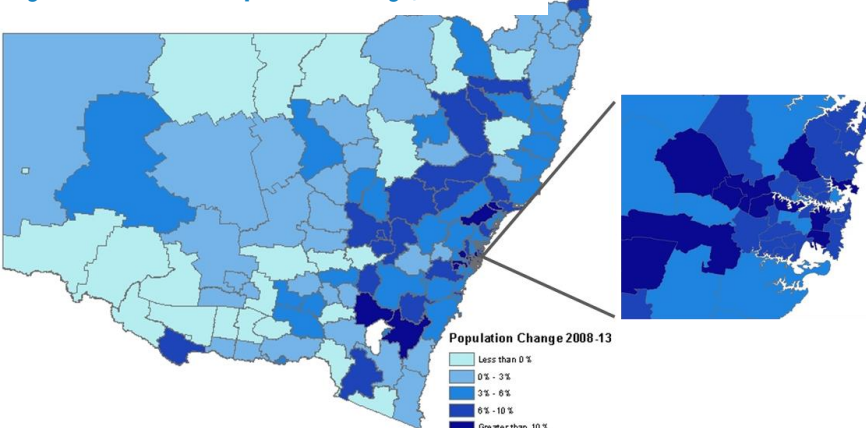


Table 3

Greater Capital City	Population June 2013	Numeric Change 2012-13	Growth Rate 2012-13(%)
Greater Sydney <sup>A</sup>	4,757,083	80,965	1.7
Greater Melbourne	4,347,955	95,497	2.2
Greater Brisbane	2,238,394	45,078	2.0
Greater Adelaide	1,291,666	13,066	1.0
Greater Perth	1,972,358	67,500	3.4
Greater Hobart	217,973	1,052	0.5
Greater Darwin	136,245	3,924	2.9
Australian Capital Territory	381,488	6,305	1.7

<sup>A</sup>Greater Sydney includes Metropolitan Sydney and the Central Coast region.

## NSW Birth Trends – at December 2012

In 2012, **98,508** births were registered in NSW. Despite a small decrease from 2011, Figure 5 shows NSW continues to have a high number of births registered in comparison to levels over the past 40 years. This is despite a Total Fertility Rate (TFR) (average number of births per woman over a lifetime) being much lower than experienced in the early 1970s. The increased number of births is driven by a growing population, with more women in child-bearing ages and a slight upturn in fertility rates from the early 2000s onwards.

Note: The ABS had under reported the number of births across the state in 2005-11. Birth rates are now higher than previously reported. Latest birth statistics for the state are discussed in this issue.

In 2012 the TFR was **1.93**. This is lower than the 35 year peak of 2.05 in 2008, but higher than the 2001 trough of 1.76.

Figure 6 shows from 2010 onwards, **more babies were born to women in their early 40s than to women in their teens**. Up until 2002, most babies were born to women in their 20s. Now, **most new mothers are in their 30s** with a growing number of women choosing to have children at older ages. In 2012, the median age of all mothers was **30.9 years**, and of fathers **33.3 years**.

In 2012, **1 in every 3 births occurred outside marriage**. This is an increase from 1 in every 4 births a decade ago.

The number of births registered in NSW LGAs in 2012 is shown in Figure 7. Generally, LGAs with larger populations had a greater number of registered births, with the exception of LGAs in inner Sydney City and North Sydney.

Figure 5. Registered Births and TFR, NSW, 1971-2012

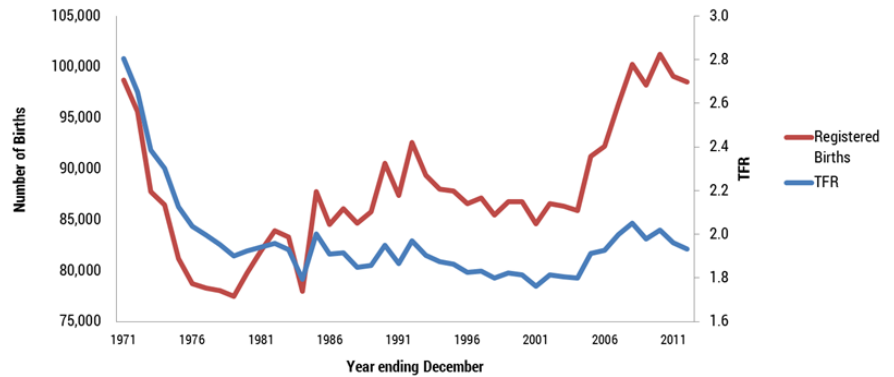


Figure 6. Age specific fertility rate, NSW, 1971-2012

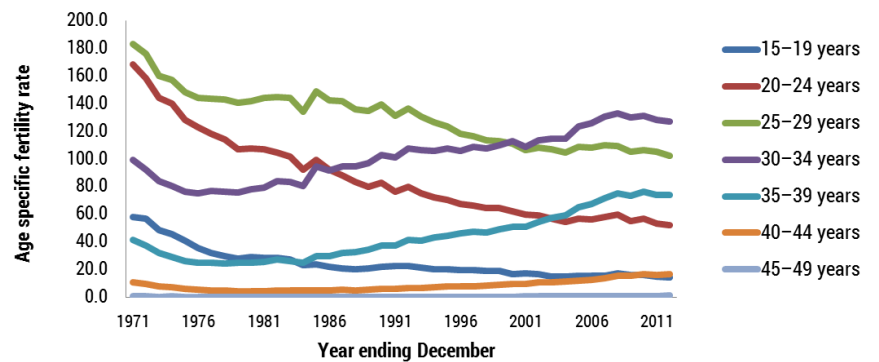
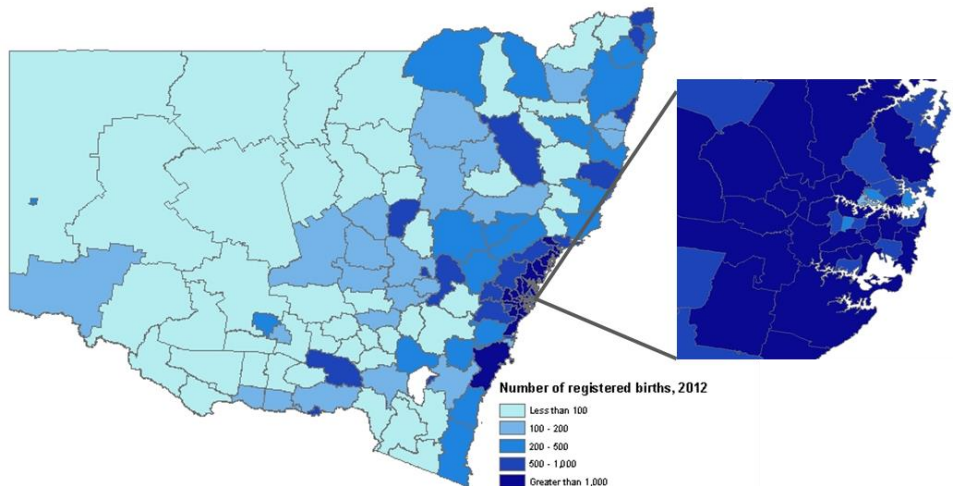
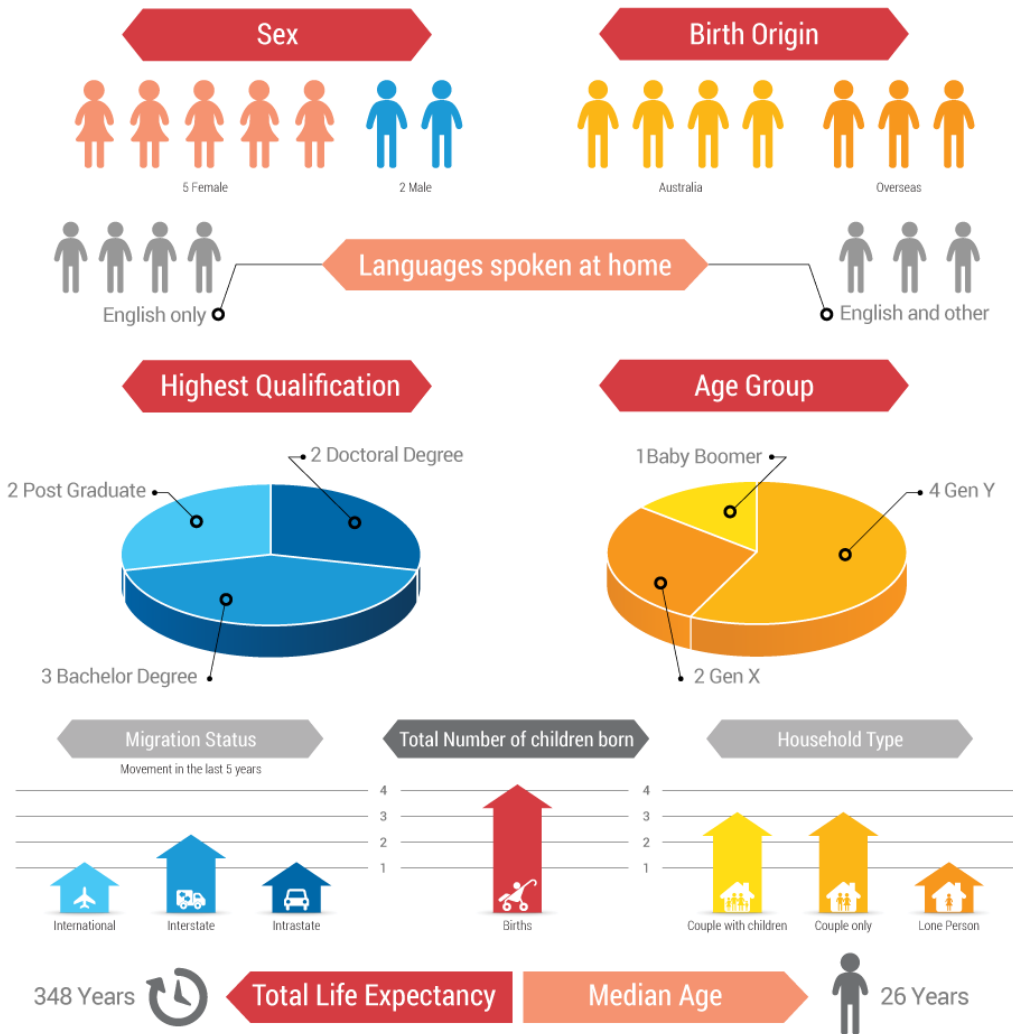


Figure 7. Registered births across LGAs, NSW, 2012



## Demography Profile of the Unit



- In August 2013 the Centre for Demography and Research was established within the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. It serves as a key provider of evidence to underpin state planning policy. The Demography Unit's role is to provide demographic research and analysis to the evidence base.

- Two new appointments in the Demography Unit include Chief Demographer, Dr Alison Taylor and out-posted ABS officer Nicole Micallef.

- A number of population research projects are in the pipeline including a project analysing NSW internal migration from 1991-2011. The research will highlight the migration patterns and trends both within NSW and those linking NSW to other states and territories in Australia.

- The official 2014 NSW and LGA Population, Household and Dwelling Projections are now available. Resources including regional profiles, fact sheets, interactive maps and a motion graphic can be accessed via [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/projections](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/projections)

## Contact Us

For past bulletins and other work of the Demography Unit visit

<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/projections>

For Demography related inquiries email [population@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:population@planning.nsw.gov.au)

## Data Sources

- Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2014, *Australian Demographic Statistics December Quarter 2013*, ABS Catalogue No. 3101.0, ABS, Canberra. <<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3101.0>>
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This newsletter has been compiled by the Demography Unit of NSW Department of Planning and Environment to make key demographic information available to all levels of government, the private sector and the community. Some of the data was originally published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. However, the Demography Unit is responsible for the analysis and interpretation contained in this Bulletin.

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