

POPULATION NSW



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Planning & Environment

This bulletin produced by the Centre for Demography, Economics & Research of the New South Wales Department of Planning and Environment provides the latest population data and analysis for New South Wales.

Latest state population estimates

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data show that by 31 March 2014 the NSW population reached over 7.5 million (Table 1). This was an increase of 114,509 people over the previous year, the largest annual change across all states. New South Wales experienced slightly slower growth (1.6%) than the national average (1.7%).

Migration continued to be the major contributor (59%) to the growth of the NSW population. Net overseas migration (NOM) into NSW during the year ended 31 March 2014 totalled 76,300 people. This was 12,500 people more than the gain seen in the previous year. It was also the largest increase for any state or territory and accounted for 33% of Australia's total NOM.

During the same 12 month period New South Wales had a net interstate migration (NIM) loss of 8,610 people - the smallest loss in nearly 30 years. Natural increase (births minus deaths) accounted for the remaining 41% of growth in the NSW population.

State	Population March 2014	Change over previous year	Annual growth rate (%)
NSW	7,500,617	114,509	1.6
VIC	5,821,269	108,757	1.9
QLD	4,708,510	75,755	1.6
SA	1,682,635	15,476	0.9
WA	2,565,588	63,399	2.5
TAS	514,684	1,598	0.3
NT	243,668	3,401	1.4
ACT	385,573	5,461	1.4
AUS	23,425,741	388,385	1.7

Table 1. Latest population statistics (States & Territories)

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Latest sub-state population estimates by age and sex

As a compendium to the sub-state estimates for the year ending 30 June 2013 (see June 2014, Issue 1 of *Population NSW*), the ABS has released age-sex specific population data.

New South Wales has an older age profile than Australia as a whole. The median age (the age at which half the population is older and half is younger) of the NSW population was 37.8 years at 30 June 2013, compared to 37.3 years for Australia.

Within New South Wales, we see some of Australia's most aged populations. Regional NSW has older populations located on or near the coast. The populations of Great Lakes (53.6), Eurobodalla (51.4) and Gloucester (50.8) all had median ages above 50 years.

Within Sydney the highest median ages were seen in the Blue Mountains and Pittwater (both 42.6 years) and Ku-ring-gai (41.8 years). The lowest median age was in Auburn (31.8).

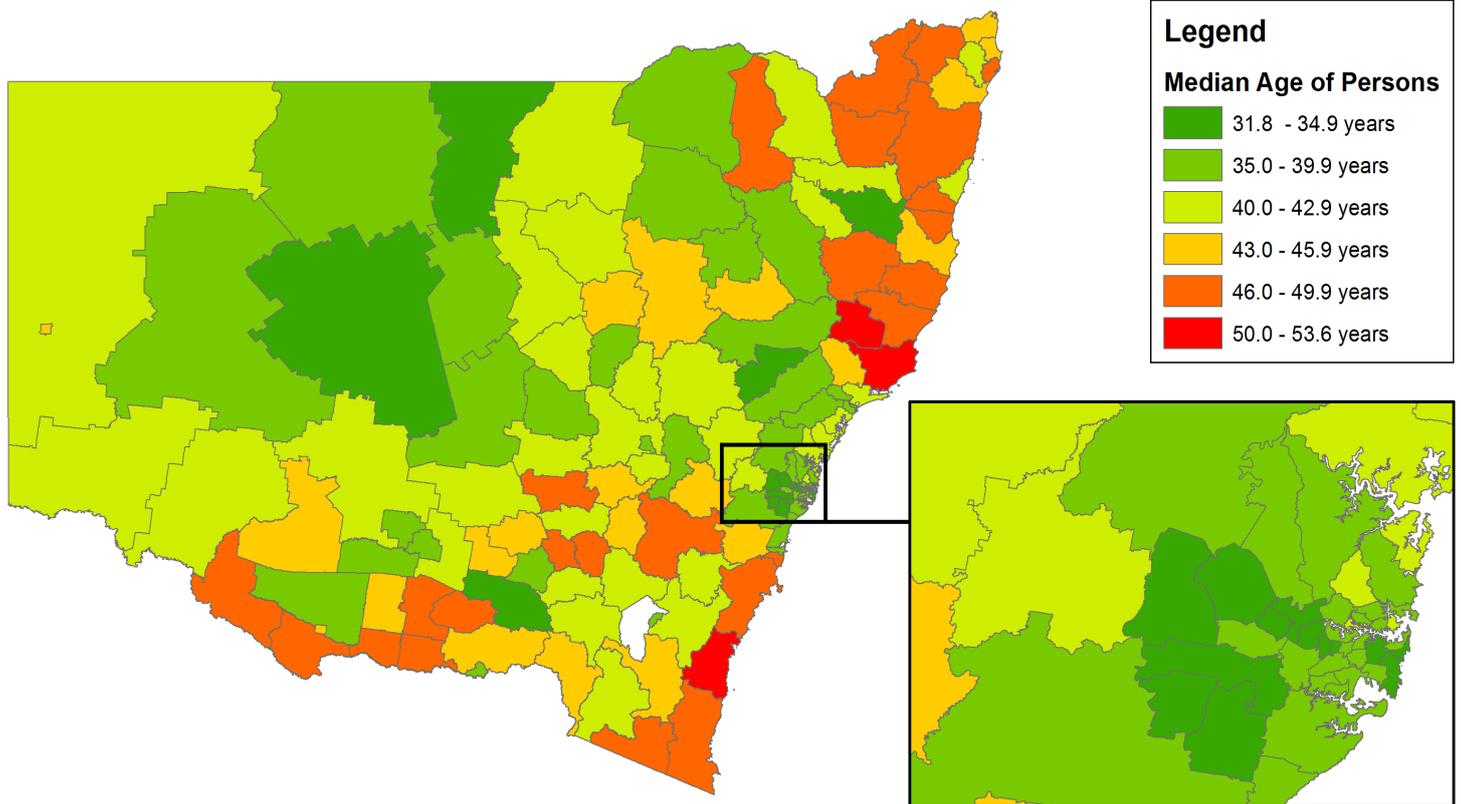


Figure 1. Median age of person by LGA

New NSW population projections now available

The 2014 NSW population, household and dwelling projections were recently released. They are an update of the preliminary 2013 NSW and local government area population projections, released in September 2013.

The population of New South Wales is projected to grow by two million people between 2011 and 2031, with the population of Sydney expected to grow by 1.6 million and the rest of NSW by 400,000 people.

Population increases are only one aspect of a complex series of changes to the State's demography over the coming two decades. Understanding how, where and why this change will take place allows the NSW community to plan for the services and infrastructure needed in the coming years.

For example, the number of people aged 65 and older is expected to almost double from one million in 2011 to almost two million in 2031, going from 14 per cent of the NSW population in 2011 to more than 20 per cent in 2031. This will have obvious impacts on the demand for and design of government services, the types and locations of homes we will need, and the sorts of jobs that will be required.

The period to 2031 will see the trend of coastal population growth continuing, although growth is also expected in larger inland cities that are service centres and have sector specialisation like higher education or manufacturing.

These demographic changes and population growth are expected to create the need for an additional one million homes in New South Wales by 2031.

For all information about the 2014 NSW population, household and dwelling projections, go to:

www.planning.nsw.gov.au/projections

Historical population data

Australian Historical Population Statistics released by the ABS contains a wide range of National, State and sub-State demographic data, with time series in some cases going back to 1788.

By Federation in 1901, the population of NSW had passed one million people. As Figure 2 shows, by 2010, the population was seven times larger, having passed seven million people in 2008.

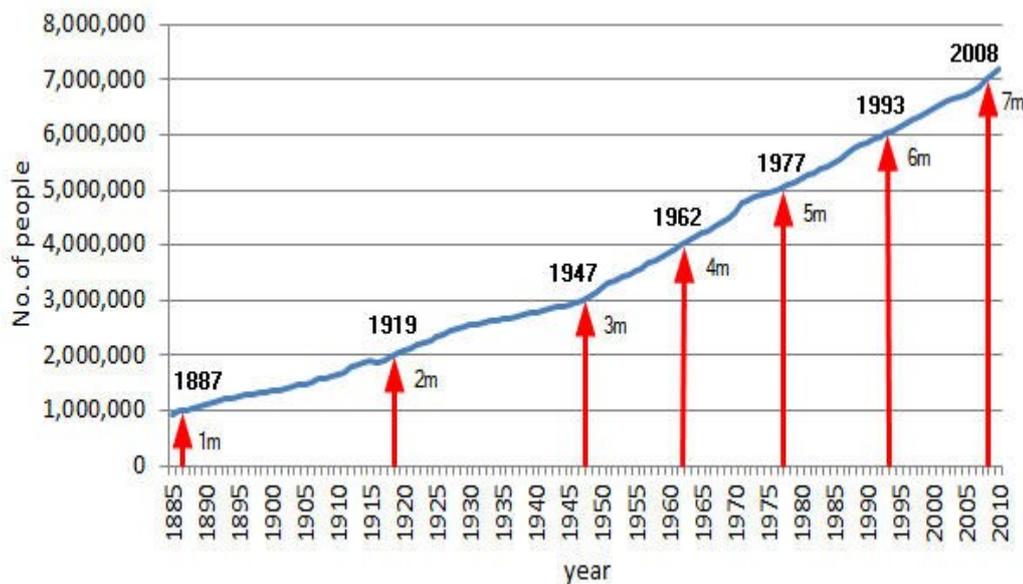


Figure 2. NSW Population

The population of NSW has become more urbanised over the last 100 years. In 2011, 64% of the state's population lived in Sydney. In contrast, less than 40% lived in the state's capital a century ago.

Australian Population Association Biennial Conference 2014

The conference will be held in Hobart from 3–5 December 2014 and this year's theme is 'Australia's population in a global world'.

The program will include papers on a wide range of topics including: Internal and international migration; Indigenous demography; Regional population issues; Population and environment; Demographic data and methods; Mortality and population ageing; Health, wellbeing and morbidity; and Fertility, family formation and life course.

NSW Department of Planning and Environment is a sponsor for this year's conference.

To find out more information about the conference, including registration form click [this link](#) or email

conference@apa.org.au.

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

Data Sources

Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2014, *Australian Demographic Statistics March Quarter 2014*, ABS Catalogue No. 3101.0, ABS, Canberra. <<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@nsf/mf/3101.0>>

Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2014, *Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2013*, ABS Catalogue No. 3235.0, ABS, Canberra. <<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@nsf/mf/3235.0>>

Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2014, *Australian Historical Population Statistics 2014*, ABS Catalogue No. 3105.0.65.001, ABS, Canberra. <<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@nsf/mf/3105.0.65.001>>

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This newsletter has been compiled by the Centre for Demography, Economics & Research of NSW Department of Planning & 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 Centre for Demography, Economics & Research is responsible for the analysis and interpretation contained in this Bulletin.

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