This bulletin produced by Demography & Economics at the New South Wales Department of Planning and Environment [DP&E] provides the latest population data and analysis for New South Wales.

**Latest state population estimates**

The population of New South Wales [NSW] continues to grow. By June 2014 the population reached 7.52 million people - an increase of 109,135 people compared to the previous year. This was the largest annual change across all states in 2014. The growth in the population of NSW (1.5%), was slightly below the national average (1.6%) (Table 1).

Migration continued to be the major contributor (61%) to population growth in NSW (Figure 1). Net overseas migration (NOM) contributed 73,300 people to NSW's population during the year ended 30 June 2014. This was an increase of 6,328 people over the previous year, the largest increase in NOM for all states and territories.

Table 1. Latest population statistics (States & Territories)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Population June 2014</th>
<th>Change over previous year</th>
<th>Annual growth rate (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>7,518,472</td>
<td>109,135</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIC</td>
<td>5,841,667</td>
<td>106,660</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QLD</td>
<td>4,722,447</td>
<td>70,535</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>1,685,714</td>
<td>15,216</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA</td>
<td>2,573,389</td>
<td>54,382</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAS</td>
<td>514,762</td>
<td>1,662</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NT</td>
<td>245,079</td>
<td>2,538</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>385,996</td>
<td>4,705</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUS</td>
<td>23,490,736</td>
<td>364,868</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During the same 12 month period NSW had a loss of 6,857 people from net interstate migration (NIM). NIM has continued to decrease, with the annual NIM to year ended 30 June 2014 figure being the smallest net interstate loss of people in over 30 years (Figure 2).

Natural increase (births minus deaths) accounted for the remaining 39% of growth (or 42,692 people) in the NSW population. The number of births and deaths decreased compared to the previous year, however, ABS has noted that this decrease is partly due to a lag in the processing of registrations.
In 2013, 100,462 births were registered in NSW. This was 1,954 more births or a 2% increase from the previous year (98,508 births in 2012).

In 2013 the Total Fertility Rate (TFR), that is, the average number of babies born to a woman throughout her life was 1.94 babies per woman in NSW. This was a slight increase from the 2012 TFR of 1.93 babies per woman in NSW.

The increase in TFR for NSW between 2012 and 2013 was not observed for the other states and territories, which all recorded a decrease in their TFRs.

As shown in Figure 3 the TFR varies across the state, with women in regional areas having generally higher fertility rates than those living in Sydney metropolitan areas.

In line with the national trend, the average age of mothers (31 years) has continued to increase in NSW, with women having children at later ages. The median age of fathers was 33.3 years in 2013.

New report about fertility levels in NSW

_Fertility Levels and Intentions in New South Wales_ is a recently completed report prepared by Associate Professor Nick Parr from Macquarie University for Demography and Economics at DP&E.

Childbearing trends are a critically important determinant of the changing size, composition and geographical distribution of population. The report aimed to collate evidence to inform the fertility assumptions used in future revisions of NSW population projections and to evaluate the assumptions used in the current projections.

The report identified the well-recognised shift to childbearing at older ages. Regional and social differentials were also identified. The research showed fertility levels vary across the state, are highest in remote areas and lower for women in major cities (see Figure 4).
Fertility was also lower among overseas-born women and women who moved within Australia — factors that warrant closer investigation in relation to setting fertility assumptions among a highly mobile population.

The report can be accessed from the DP&E website by clicking on the following link:
Fertility-Levels-and-Intentions-in-New-South-Wales_Accessible.pdf

Other recent ABS releases:

Deaths Australia, 2013 (3302.0) Male life expectancy at birth in NSW has reached 80.0 years—this means that a baby boy born in 2013 may live, on average, to age 80.

Female life expectancy crossed this 80 year threshold back in the 1990s, and has slowly increased to reach 84.3 years in 2013.

Ongoing population ageing saw the number of registered deaths in NSW increase to 50,396 in 2013 (up from 49,314 in 2012); however the standardised death rate (which takes into account the population age structure) actually fell from 5.5 deaths per 1,000 population in 2012 to 5.4 in 2013.

Australian Population Grid, 2011 (1270.0.55.007) This is the first time population data was published in 1km² grid format by the ABS. The grid offers a measure of population density for Australia. The consistent size of the grid is useful for both national and international comparison.

Sydney has the most areas with higher density in Australia. Figure 5 shows that Sydney had more areas in the highest density range with 21 grids greater than 8,000 people per square kilometre compared to Melbourne with only had one grid cell exceeding that same density level. Sydney also had higher and more widely spread density when compared to Melbourne. At an international level, Sydney is well below London, that has 327 square kilometres with a density greater than 8,000 people per square kilometre. (Figure 6).

Figure 4. Total Fertility Rate (TFR) by Remoteness of Area for NSW 2003-2012


Figure 5. Population Density 1km² Grid 2011 - Melbourne and Sydney

Source: ABS (2014 b)
17th Conference of the Australian Population Association

During 3rd to 5th December, staff from the Demography Unit attended the Australian Population Association’s (APA) Biennial Conference in Hobart. The conference papers covered a wide range of topics presented by Australian and international population researchers.

A number of presentations drew on work undertaken by the Demography Unit. These included NSW fertility trends, regional youth migration, drivers of regional migration in NSW, housing options for short-term migrants, communication of the 2014 Final NSW projections and evaluation of past projection series.

Dr Alison Taylor, acting Executive Director of the Centre for Demography and Economics, and current president of the APA, opened the conference with her presidential address and extremely entertaining panel discussion about engaging with the media—how to get your work noticed and talked about.

NSW Department of Planning & Environment was a sponsor for this year’s conference.

Data Sources


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

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