

POPULATION NSW



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Planning & Environment

This bulletin produced by the New South Wales Department of Planning and Environment provides the latest population data and analysis for New South Wales based on Australian Bureau of Statistics [ABS] data.

Latest state population estimates

The population of New South Wales [NSW] continues to grow. By the end of September 2014, the population reached 7.54 million people - an increase of 106,365 people compared to the previous year. This was the largest annual change across all states to September 2014. NSW's growth rate (1.4%) was slightly below the national average (1.5%) (Table 1).

Migration continued to be the major contributor (60%) to population growth in NSW. Net overseas migration (NOM) contributed 69,601 people to NSW's population during the year ended 30 September 2014. This was 349 fewer people compared to the previous year.

For the year to September 2014, NSW accounted for over one-third of Australia's NOM gain (34%). This was an increase of four percentage points compared to the previous year and was because of a decline in the share of NOM in Western Australia (from 20% to 16%) and Queensland (down 16% to 14%). The only other state to see an increase in its share of Australia's NOM was Victoria, rising from 25% to 27% between 2013 and 2014.

These latest population estimates for NSW show smaller net interstate migration losses for the 12 months to 30 September 2014 (-6,305) compared to the previous year (-12,402). This is the lowest net interstate migration loss recorded in the past decade (Figure 1). Fewer people left NSW for elsewhere in Australia and more people arrived from interstate than in previous years. This smaller net interstate migration loss mainly affects growth in Sydney and areas bordering Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory.

The contribution of natural increase to the state's growth was 40% in the year to 30 September 2014, lower than the 46% seen in 2013. This may be due to temporary processing delays recently experienced due to the transition of the NSW Births, Deaths and Marriages Registry to a new data processing system. These processing lags will be addressed when final population estimates are released by the ABS.

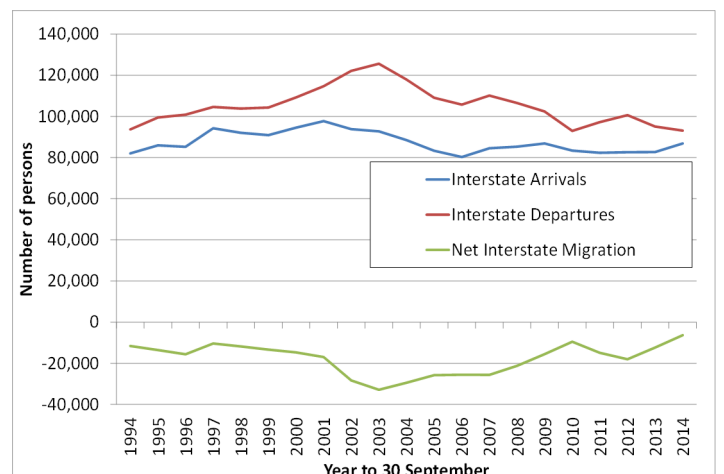
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Table 1. Latest population statistics (States and Territories)

State	Population at 30 September 2014	Change over previous year	Annual growth rate (%)
NSW	7,544,485	106,365	1.4
Vic.	5,866,292	102,021	1.8
Qld	4,740,927	69,423	1.5
SA	1,688,667	14,303	0.9
WA	2,589,078	53,691	2.1
Tas.	514,978	1,602	0.3
NT	246,322	2,765	1.1
ACT	387,069	4,403	1.2
Aust.	23,581,029	354,605	1.5

Figure 1. Interstate migration NSW, 30 Sept 1994-2014



Latest regional population estimates

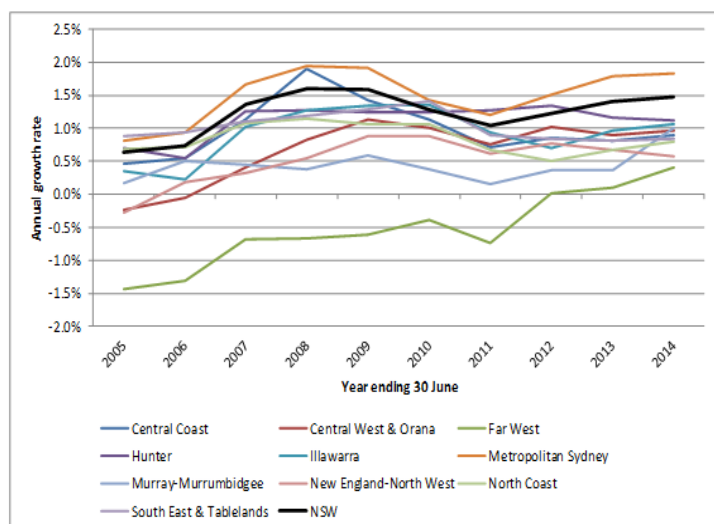
Preliminary population estimates for local government areas are released by the ABS once a year. The most recent estimates are for the year ending 30 June 2014. They show that between 30 June 2013 and 2014, all regions of NSW grew (Table 2). Of note is the higher growth across Sydney, with the city accounting for three quarters of the state's growth between 2013 and 2014. For the first time in many years, there has been an estimated population increase in the Far West of nearly 200 people.

Table 2. Latest population statistics (NSW regions) 30 June 2014

Region	Population 30 June 2014	Change over previous year	Annual growth rate
Central Coast	331,007	2,944	0.9%
Central West & Orana	284,921	2,731	1.0%
Far West	48,374	195	0.4%
Hunter	663,768	7,366	1.1%
Illawarra	395,886	4,170	1.1%
Sydney	4,509,579	81,283	1.8%
Murray-Murrumbidgee	270,966	2,696	1.0%
New England-North West	186,320	1,076	0.6%
North Coast	559,317	4,435	0.8%
South East & Tablelands	268,334	2,239	0.8%

These preliminary population estimates show accelerated population growth for NSW and most of the regions since 2011. Far West and Murray-Murrumbidgee stand out, with estimated population growth rates for 2013-14 one percentage point higher than for 2010-2011, the biggest difference for any region (Figure 2). Sydney has consistently experienced higher growth than the rest of the state.

Figure 2. Annual growth rates NSW regions 30 June 2004-2005 to 2013-2014



Local government area (LGA) population estimates

Blacktown remains the largest LGA in the state with 332,424 people at 30 June 2014, and had the largest growth for the previous year (Table 3). LGAs within Metropolitan Sydney continue to have the fastest growth across New South Wales. Over one-third of Sydney's LGAs had growth rates over two per cent in the year ending 30 June 2014, with Camden experiencing growth just over six per cent. Only five LGAs had a growth rate less than one per cent: Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Ashfield, Fairfield and Sutherland Shire.

Table 3: Sydney's top growth LGAs 2013-2014

Largest growth (extra people)		Fastest growth rate	
Blacktown	7,285	Camden	6.1%
City of Sydney	6,438	Botany Bay	3.4%
Parramatta	5,346	City of Sydney	3.4%
Liverpool	4,592	Canada Bay	3.0%
The Hills Shire	4,160	Parramatta	2.9%

Outside of Sydney, the largest population increases were seen in LGAs to the north and south of the metropolitan area. Only four LGAs had growth rates over two per cent (Table 4 and Figure 3).

Table 4: Top growth LGAs outside of Sydney 2013-2014

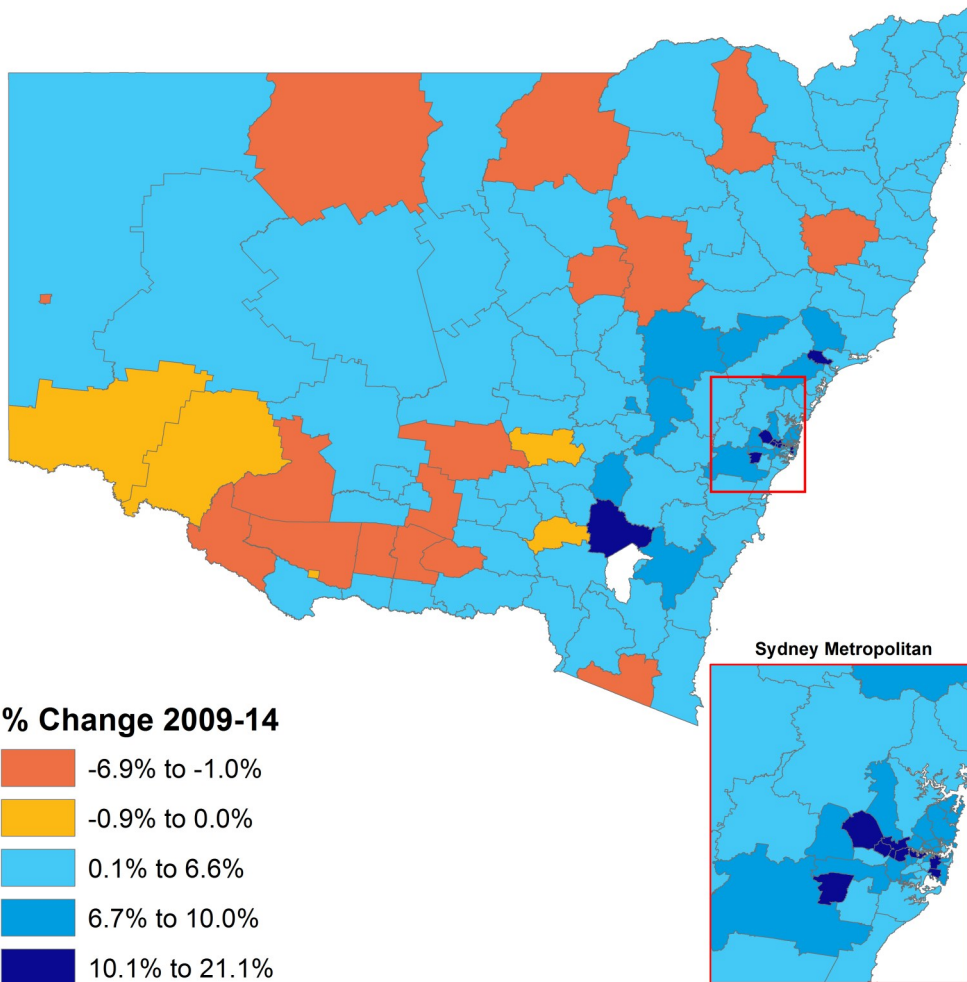
Largest growth (extra people)		Fastest growth rate	
Lake Macquarie	1,915	Dungong	2.5%
Maitland	1,728	Maitland	2.4%
Wyong	1,679	Upper Lachlan Shire	2.1%
Wollongong	1,578	Lockhart	2.0%
Newcastle	1,478	Gloucester Cobar/Boorowa	1.8%

Throughout the NSW regions, growth during 2013-14 was highest in the larger regional towns and cities. For 19 LGAs, preliminary population estimates for 2014 were smaller than in 2013. Declines were seen in LGAs outside of Sydney and the peri-metro regions. Narrandera and Moree Plains had the biggest estimated declines (59 and 156 people respectively) as well as the fastest rates of decline (-1.0% and -1.1%) (Table 5).

Table 5: Top LGAs for population growth and decline in NSW regions 2013-2014

Region	Largest growth (extra people)	Fastest population growth rate (%)	Largest decline (fewer people)	Fastest rate of population decline (%)
Central Coast	Wyong 1,679	Wyong 1.1	No LGAs declined	No LGAs declined
Central West & Orana	Bathurst Regional 642	Bathurst Regional 1.6	Gilgandra 42	Gilgandra -0.9
Far West	Cobar 88	Cobar 1.8	Bourke 22	Bourke -0.7
Hunter	Lake Macquarie 1,915	Dungog 2.5	No LGAs declined	No LGAs declined
Illawarra	Wollongong 1,578	Shoalhaven 1.4	No LGAs declined	No LGAs declined
Sydney	Blacktown 7,285	Camden 6.1	No LGAs declined	No LGAs declined
Murray-Murrumbidgee	Albury 847	Lockhart 2.0	Narrandera 59	Narrandera -1.0
New England-North West	Tamworth Regional 790	Tamworth Regional 1.3	Moree Plains 156	Moree Plains -1.1
North Coast	Tweed 1,109	Gloucester 1.8	Clarence Valley 33	Kyogle -0.1
South East & Tablelands	Wingecarribee 579	Upper Lachlan 2.1	Young 56	Young -0.4

Figure 3: Per cent change in population, NSW LGAs, 30 June 2009 to 30 June 2014



The estimated population change during 2009-2014 reveals longer term trends of population decline in some parts of Regional NSW, mainly in the Murray-Murrumbidgee and Far West regions. The largest increases were seen in parts of Sydney, as well as Maitland and the Yass Valley (Figure 3).

Smaller populations are more at risk of population decline. Except for Broken Hill, each LGA shaded in orange or yellow in the map had a population smaller than 10,000 people in 2014. Of these LGAs, 13 had populations of less than 5,000 people. Each of Conargo, Jerilderie and Urana was home to fewer than 1,600 people at 30 June 2014.

New regional internal migration estimates

ABS has developed a new series of regional internal migration estimates for the years ending 30 June 2007 to 2014. As an alternative to Census-derived migration measures, they estimate how many people have moved between an area and other parts of Australia during a 12-month period. These data show that many NSW residents are moving (Table 6); for the eight year period, 80 of the State's 142 LGAs had over 10,000 people move into the area and 81 had over 10,000 people move out. For effective planning, understanding these movements is vital. For further information see ABS, Catalogue 3412.0, Migration, Australia, 2013-14.

Table 6: Top LGAs for internal migration arrivals and departures in NSW regions, 2006-07 to 2013-2014

Region	Largest number of arrivals (persons)		Largest number of departures (persons)		Largest net migration gain (persons)		Largest net migration loss (persons)	
Central Coast	Wyong	83,625	Gosford	75,965	Wyong	10,434	No LGAs with net loss	
Central West & Orana	Orange	21,554	Dubbo	22,210	Bathurst Regional	1,673	Dubbo	-1,243
Far West	Broken Hill	7,540	Broken Hill	8,835	No LGAs with net increase		Broken Hill	-1,295
Hunter	Newcastle	93,193	Newcastle	88,867	Maitland	5,686	Singleton	-1,265
Illawarra	Wollongong	68,098	Wollongong	68,160	Shoalhaven	5,097	Wollongong	-62
Sydney	City of Sydney	156,210	City of Sydney	168,949	Camden	9,797	Fairfield	-18,730
Murray-Murrumbidgee	Wagga Wagga	36,793	Wagga Wagga	39,770	Murray	924	Wagga Wagga	-2,977
New England-North West	Tamworth Regional	29,358	Tamworth Regional	27,259	Tamworth Regional	2,099	Moree Plains	-2,204
North Coast	Tweed	50,552	Tweed	44,380	Tweed	6,172	Lismore	-1,173
South East & Tablelands	Queanbeyan	29,877	Queanbeyan	29,898	Wingecarribee	2,285	Bombala	-286

Internal migration for Metropolitan Sydney

Sydney LGAs experience thousands of people arriving and departing every year from other parts of the city, regional NSW and interstate. For most LGAs, however, the net result of this movement is a loss of people. Population growth in these areas is driven by births and net overseas migration. Only eight of Metropolitan Sydney's 41 LGAs had an estimated net gain of population through internal migration over the period 2006-07 to 2013-14: Camden, The Hills Shire, Canada Bay, Ku-ring-gai, Pittwater, Wollondilly, Botany Bay and Hunters Hill. Over the same period, net internal migration losses throughout the rest of Sydney ranged from -18,700 in Fairfield to -882 in Hawkesbury.

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For Demography-related inquiries email population@planning.nsw.gov.au

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Data Sources

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