

# POPULATION NSW



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Planning & Environment

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

## Latest state population estimates

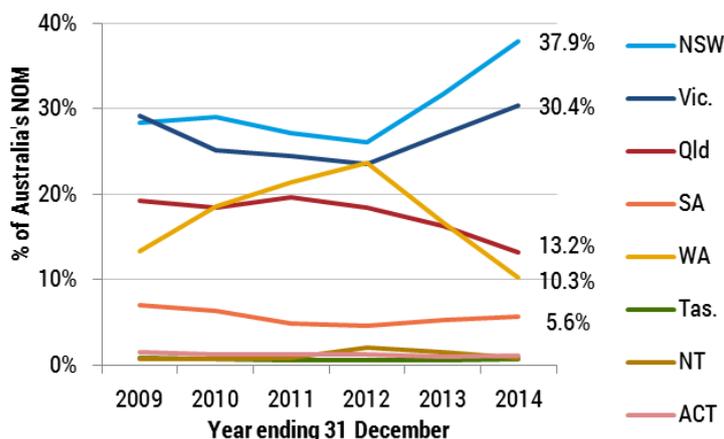
By the end of December 2014, the population of New South Wales [NSW] reached 7.57 million people, an increase of 103,011 people in the calendar year.

Continuing the 2013 pattern, NSW recorded the biggest absolute population increase of any state or territory over the 12 months ending December 2014. NSW's growth rate (1.4%) for 2014 was second only to Victoria (1.8%) and equal to the national average (Table 1).

**Table 1. Latest population statistics (States and Territories)**

State	Population at 31 December 2014	Change over previous year	Annual growth rate (%)
NSW	7,565,497	103,011	1.4
Vic.	5,886,436	101,521	1.8
Qld	4,750,513	64,195	1.4
SA	1,691,503	14,759	0.9
WA	2,581,250	40,117	1.6
Tas.	515,235	1,384	0.3
NT	244,265	925	0.4
ACT	387,640	4,251	1.1
Aust.	23,625,561	330,202	1.4

**Figure 1. Share of Australia's net overseas migration by States and Territories, 2009-2014**



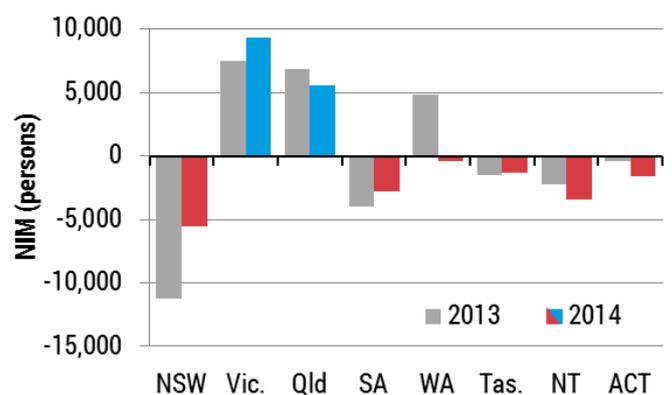
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Population growth in NSW was largely driven by migration, which accounted for 62% of population gain in the 2014 calendar year. In this period, 69,852 more people migrated to NSW from overseas than the number who left. This gain from net overseas migration [NOM] was an increase of 1,270 people compared to the previous year, in contrast to the pattern for Australia as a whole where national NOM decreased by 32,049 people. NSW's share of national NOM rose to 37.9%, exceeding its pro-rata share of 32%. In comparison, Victoria's share increased to 30.4% and Queensland and Western Australia continued to experience declining shares (Figure 1).

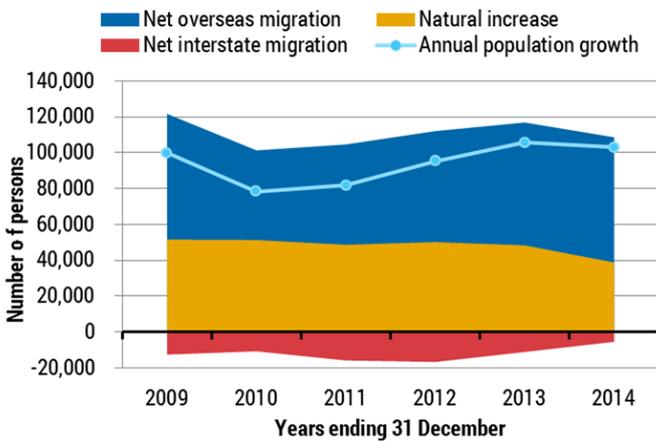
While net interstate migration [NIM] remains negative for NSW, the net loss of 5,572 people in the 2014 calendar year was the smallest loss experienced in over 20 years. This net loss was half that of the previous year (Figure 2), and continues the recent trend of fewer NSW residents moving to other parts of Australia since 2012, decreasing from 98,381 in 2013 to 90,812 in 2014 (Figure 3).

**Figure 2. Net interstate migration by States and Territories, 2013-2014**



## Latest state population estimates (cont.)

Figure 3. Components of population growth in NSW, 2009-2014



Natural increase (births minus deaths) accounted for 38% of NSW's population growth in the 2014 calendar year, which was a decrease from 46% in the previous year. However, ABS continues to experience lags in the processing of births and deaths data (since June 2014), leading to relatively low numbers reported for natural increase in 2014.

The ABS revised data for births and deaths based on occurrences rather than registrations for the period June 2013 to June 2014 is planned for release in September 2015. The contribution of natural increase to population growth is likely to change when these data become available.

## Upcoming Work Plan

The Demography Unit is currently reviewing and updating the **population projections** for NSW. A key item for review is the assumption about the level of net interstate migration. The last few years have seen fewer people leaving NSW for elsewhere in Australia, and more people arriving from interstate, leading to lower net losses than previously recorded.

We have also been working with ARUP Digital to finalise a **migration mapping tool**. This interactive web-based tool will allow users to look at arrival and departure patterns in their selected region or LGA, as well as by age groups. This will give ready access to important data for strategic planning and help to identify housing markets.

## Data Sources

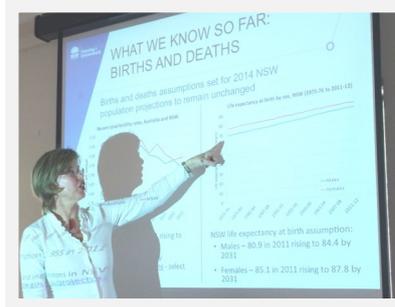
Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2015, *Australian Demographic Statistics December Quarter 2014* ABS Catalogue No. 3101.0, ABS, Canberra. <[www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3101.0](http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3101.0)>

## Population Workshops—Completion and Encore!

In May and June, the Demography Unit conducted 19 population workshops across NSW covering topics such as population trends in NSW, migration patterns for LGAs, and how to use our population projections.



It was a pleasure to meet participants from local councils and those who come from education, health, and local small businesses. We learned a lot from the local residents and enjoyed the lively discussions at these workshops.



We would like to thank all those who attended.

Due to popular demand, we are holding an **extra workshop in Sydney CBD on Friday, 17 July**. Please contact us to register.



## Contact Us

For previous 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)

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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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