

The Population Bulletin, produced by the Demography Unit of the New South Wales Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DP&I), is a bi-annual newsletter that provides the latest news in NSW population data and analysis.

Latest state and sub-state estimates

ABS data show that by 30 June 2012 the NSW population had reached 7.3 million (Table 1). This was an increase of 82,600 people (1.1%) over the previous year. Just over half of the growth (53%) was due to natural increase (births minus deaths), and the remaining growth due to a balance of internal and overseas migration.

Net overseas migration to NSW rose to 57,500 persons in 2012 (from 51,700 in 2011). This level was still lower than the record high reached in 2008 (87,400 persons).

NSW continues to lose more people than arrive through movements to other states and territories (18,400 people in 2012). There was an increase of 4,900 out movements from 2011.

NSW experienced smaller population gains than Victoria and Queensland in 2012, and had an annual population growth rate below the national average (1.7 per cent).

Table 1. National, State and Territory population change, as at 30 June 2012

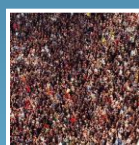
	Population	Annual growth	Annual growth rate (%)
NSW	7,301,134	82,605	1.1%
Victoria	5,629,122	91,305	1.6%
Queensland	4,565,529	88,751	2.0%
Western Australia	2,432,706	79,297	3.4%
South Australia	1,656,299	16,685	1.0%
Tasmania	512,333	850	0.2%
ACT	374,912	6,927	1.9%
Northern Territory	235,182	3,890	1.7%
Australia	22,710,352	370,328	1.7%

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What is new?

NSW is projected to increase by 2 million people by 2031.



Our latest NSW and LGA Population Projections have been released! To view these in full, along with a [report](#) and interactive maps, visit the [DP&I website](#).



To find out what the 2011 Census says about you try [Spotlight](#).



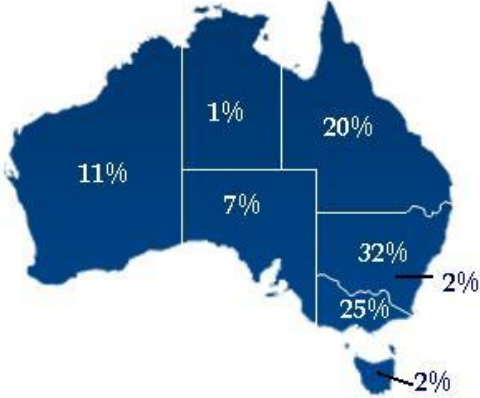
[ABS Snapshot](#) provides a quick overview of national trends in the last 20 years.

For past bulletins and other work of the Demography Unit visit

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

For population related inquiries please email population@planning.nsw.gov.au

Figure 1. Share of Australian population by state, as at 30 June 2012



NSW continues to be Australia’s most populous state (Figure 1). One in three Australians live in NSW. However, because of higher growth rates in other parts of Australia, this proportion has decreased from 35.0% in 1982.

Table 2. Australian capital city¹ population change for year ended 30 June 2012

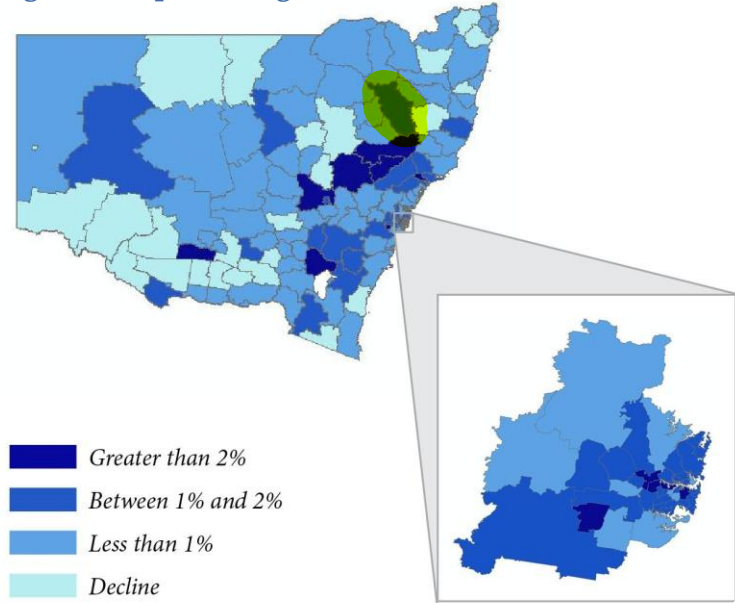
	Population	Annual growth	Annual growth rate (%)
Sydney	4,672,619	63,670	1.4%
Melbourne	4,248,344	78,978	1.9%
Brisbane	2,192,065	44,629	2.1%
Perth	1,899,999	66,432	3.6%
Adelaide	1,278,432	14,341	1.1%
Canberra	374,912	6,927	1.9%
Hobart	216,981	708	0.3%
Darwin	131,938	2,832	2.2%

Sydney recorded the second largest population increase of all the state capitals in the year to 30 June 2012, only exceeded by Melbourne (Table 2).

However, Sydney’s annual growth rate of 1.4% was below the national average (1.7%). Highest growth rates were in Perth, Brisbane and Darwin. Only Adelaide and Hobart had slower population growth than Sydney.

(1) The greater region of the capital city, as defined by the ABS. Using this definition, Sydney is a larger area than the metropolitan region used for planning purposes, such as the draft Metropolitan Strategy for Sydney.

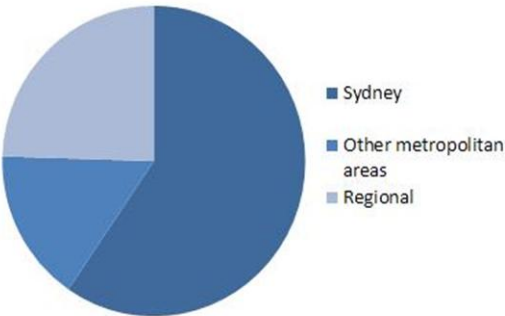
Figure 2. Population growth rate for NSW LGAs, 2011-2012



Most of the state’s growth in the year to 30 June 2012 was in the Sydney Metropolitan region (Sydney) (73.9%).

Sydney’s population increased by 61,100 people (1.4%) to 4,347,300. Less growth was recorded in other metropolitan areas, including the Illawarra, Lower Hunter and Central Coast (0.9% to 1,164,700) and regional NSW (0.5% to 1,788,100).

Figure 3. Share of NSW population by region, 30 June 2012



Three out of every five NSW residents live in Sydney. This continues a long standing trend. In the last 10 years there has been a slight increase in the proportion of the state population living in Sydney (58.1% to 59.5%) and a decrease in the proportion living in regional NSW (25.9% to 24.5%).

Preliminary 2013 NSW population projections

DP&I announced a special release of NSW population projections on 9 September 2013. These replace the 2010 interim revision and are the official population projections for the state and all local government areas (LGAs). A range of resources are now available on the Department's website.

Population projections are based on ABS population estimates, that is, usual residents of an area (who live there for 6 months or more of the year). Projections are not government targets. They are based on well informed assumptions about population change (births, deaths and migration) that is expected to occur into the future.

These projections are preliminary to give users population information based on up-to-date data while a detailed review is undertaken of new historical population estimates released by the ABS on 30 August 2013 (see later in this Bulletin).

This 20-year revision by the ABS may give new evidence on past population change to inform final projection assumptions. As this review is undertaken users will have further opportunity to provide feedback on the projections and alert DP&I to data that may assist with determining the assumptions. Along with other population statistics to be released over the next few months, this information will be incorporated into the final projections, to be released in 2014.

- NSW is projected to increase by 2 million people to 9.2 million by 2031 (1.2% increase each year).
- The majority of this growth will be in Sydney (77.2%) (Figure 4). A larger proportion of the state population is projected to be living in the capital city (63.2%) by 2031.

Table 3. Past and projected populations, NSW and main regions, 2011-2031

	2011	2021	2031
Sydney	4,284,200	5,054,500	5,815,400
Other Metropolitan	1,149,800	1,283,900	1,412,700
Regional NSW	1,777,500	1,885,400	1,965,800
NSW	7,211,500	8,223,900	9,193,900

Sydney's population is expected to grow by 1.5 million people (35.7%) by 2031. Other Metropolitan areas and regional NSW will experience less growth (22.9% and 10.6% respectively) (Table 3).

Areas with the greatest growth within Sydney will include Sydney's west, greenfield areas and the city centre. Outside of Sydney, the largest growth will be in coastal areas. Away from the coast, the projected fastest growing regional areas will be those surrounding the ACT, Hunter region and mining areas (Figure 5).

Figure 4. Projected population increase for NSW and regions, 2011-2031

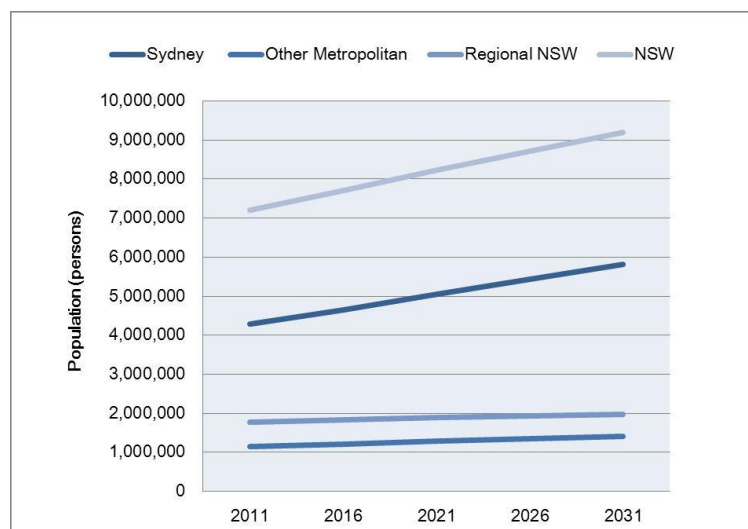
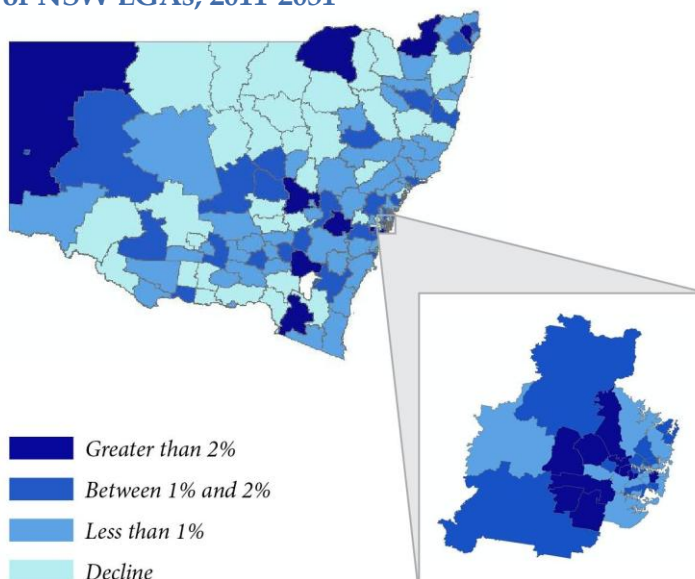
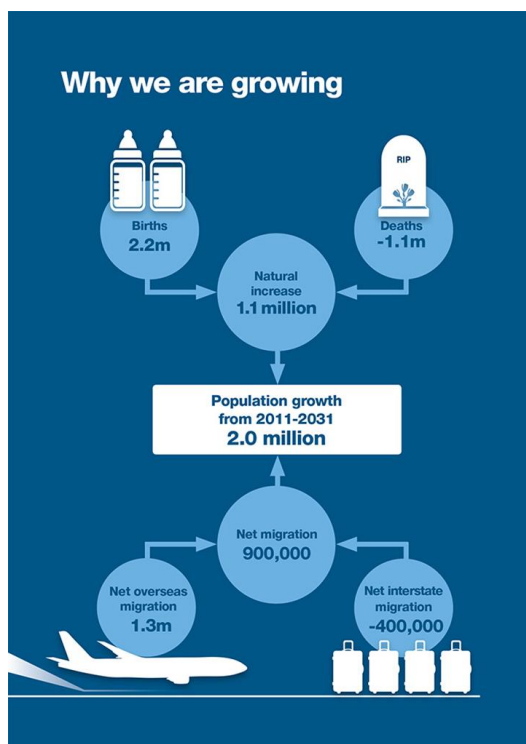


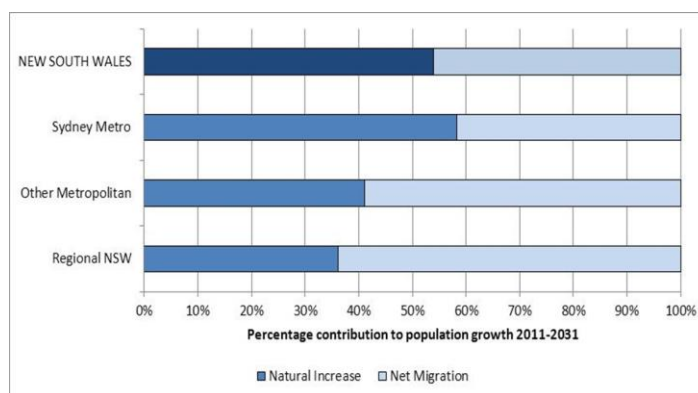
Figure 5. Projected annual population growth rate of NSW LGAs, 2011-2031





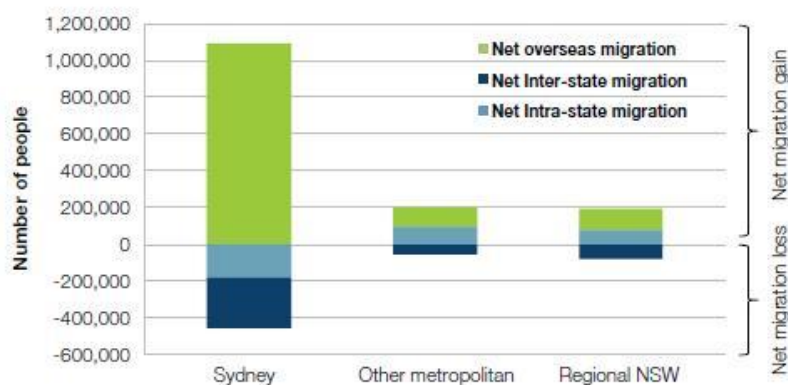
The main driver of population growth in NSW between 2011 and 2031 will be natural increase (births minus deaths). However, this is not the case across all regions of the state as Figure 6 shows.

Figure 6. Projected proportion of the population attributed to natural increase, 2011-2031



Natural Increase will be a main driver of population growth in Sydney. Migration from overseas and within the state will drive change in areas outside of Sydney.

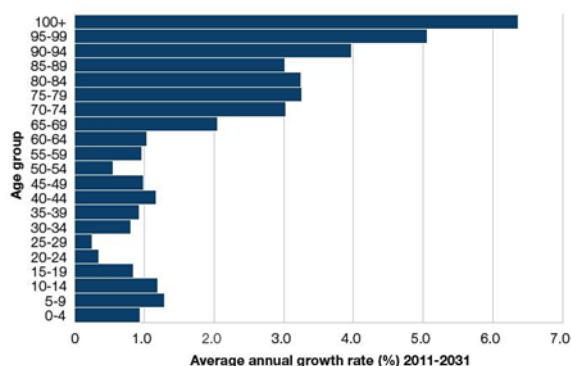
Figure 7. Projected net number of migrants from overseas, interstate and within NSW, 2011- 2031



While migration will also contribute to the state's population growth, the large net gain of overseas migrants will be offset by a significant number of people who leave NSW and move interstate.

Most people arriving in NSW from overseas are expected to settle in Sydney (Figure 7). However, there will still be a net movement of people from Sydney to elsewhere in NSW and interstate.

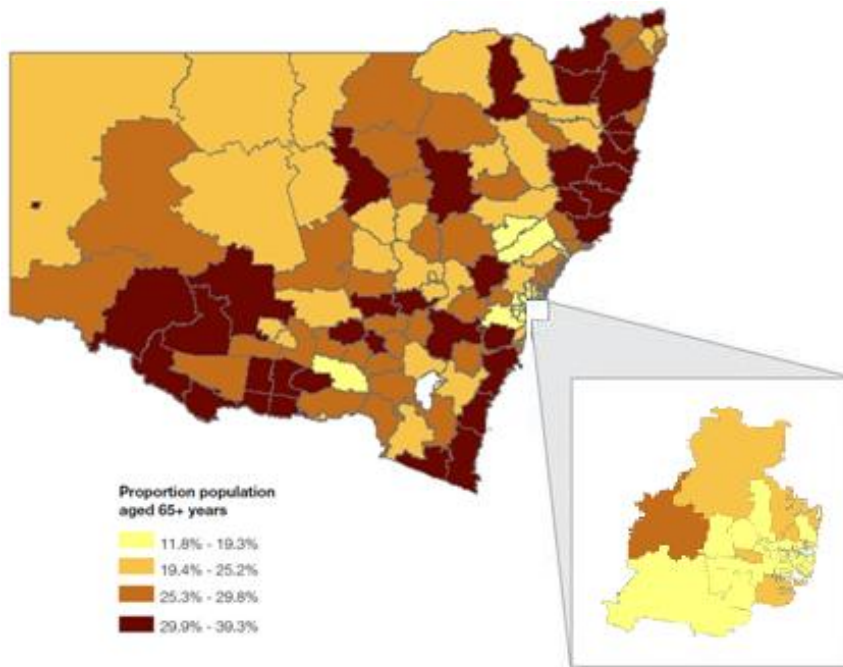
Figure 8. Projected average annual growth rate by age group, NSW, 2011-2031



All age groups are projected to grow in the next 20 years. However, some age groups will grow faster than others (Figure 8).

The fastest growing age groups will be those aged 65 and older, children under 15 years and adults aged 30 to 49. The growth in these age groups reflects the impact of population ageing, higher birth rates and overseas migration respectively.

Figure 9. Projected proportion of the NSW population aged 65 years and over by LGA, 2031



All areas of the state will continue to age over the next 20 years. One in five NSW residents will be aged 65 or over by 2031. However, some populations will be older than others as a result of spatial differences in birth rates, life expectancy and migration patterns (the ages of those moving into, or out of an area).

Sydney will continue to be younger than the rest of the state (17% aged 65 or over) (Figure 9). Only one LGA within the Sydney region, Blue Mountains, is projected to have more than a quarter of its population aged 65 or older. In comparison, four LGAs in other metropolitan areas, and three of every four regional LGAs will have more than quarter of its population aged 65 or older.

Comparison with previous projections

These projections show a larger population for NSW by 2031 than the previous release in 2010. The 2010 projections indicated a state population of 9.1 million by 2031 (now projected to be 9.2 million) and a Sydney population of 5.6 million (now projected to be 5.8 million). These differences are due to higher fertility rates, higher life expectancy and greater net overseas migration.

ABS completes major review of historic population estimates

The ABS has released a major review of national, state and sub-state population estimates including:

- Rebased figures for the period 2007 -2011
- Recast figures from June 1992 to June 2006

Revised National and State level estimates were released on 20 June 2013 in [Australian Demographic Statistics \(Catalogue No. 3101.0\)](#).

Revised sub-state population estimates were published in [Regional Population Growth Australia \(Catalogue No. 3218.0\)](#) on 30 August 2013.

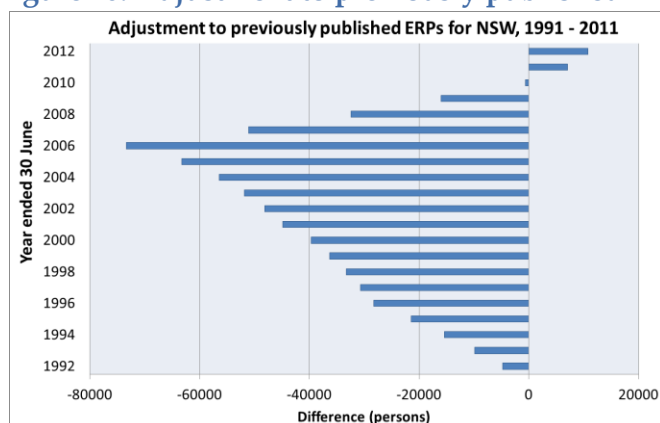
Rebasing is a standard practice for the ABS. After every census, annual population estimates for the previous intercensal period are revised. In this instance, that is the period 2007 to 2011.

The **Recast** was a one-off event. It was a 15 year revision of all population estimates. Improved methods in measuring census undercounts indicated that populations had previously been overestimated throughout Australia.

Further information on [rebasing](#) and [recasting](#) can be found on the [ABS website](#).

In most instances, national, state and sub-state population estimates are lower than previously recorded. However the difference between previously published and revised population estimates varies year by year, and from region to region.

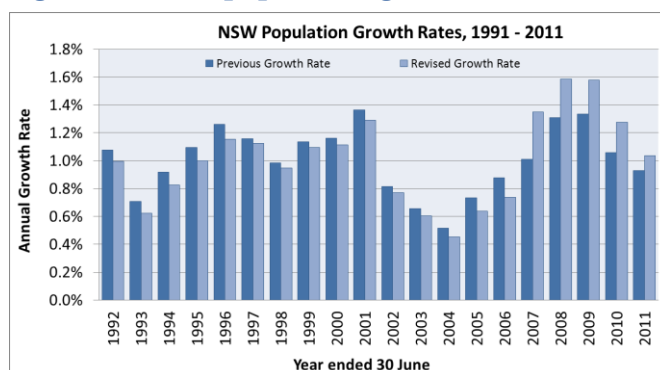
Figure 10. Adjustment to previously published ERPs for NSW, 1991-2011



The greatest adjustment was made in 2006 (-73,400 persons) (Figure 10). The NSW population was overestimated in the years 1991 to 2009, and underestimated in the years 2010 and 2011.

While the NSW share of the national adjustment varied year by year, it averaged 27% over the 20 year period. These newly published population estimates have not changed the historic NSW share of the Australian population and NSW continues to be the nation's most populous state.

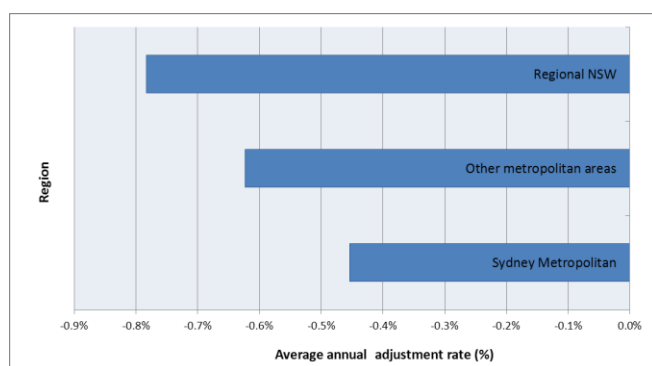
Figure 11. NSW population growth rates, 1991-2011



These adjustments reflect in changes to natural increase (births minus deaths). Net overseas and interstate migration levels and, age and sex composition of NSW populations have not changed in the recast period.

The review has resulted in a decrease in previously published state population growth rates between 1991 and 2006 and, an increase for 2007 to 2011 (Figure 11). However these changes have been very small. The average annual state population growth rate over the 20 year period (1.0%) remains unchanged.

Figure 12. Average adjustment rate by region, NSW, 1996-2011



In most instances, populations of LGAs throughout NSW were revised down.

The greatest numeric revisions were evident in larger populations, normally in Sydney and other metropolitan regions (Table 4). However, average annual adjustment rates were highest in regional NSW, and to a lesser extent, other metropolitan areas (Table 5 and Figure 12).

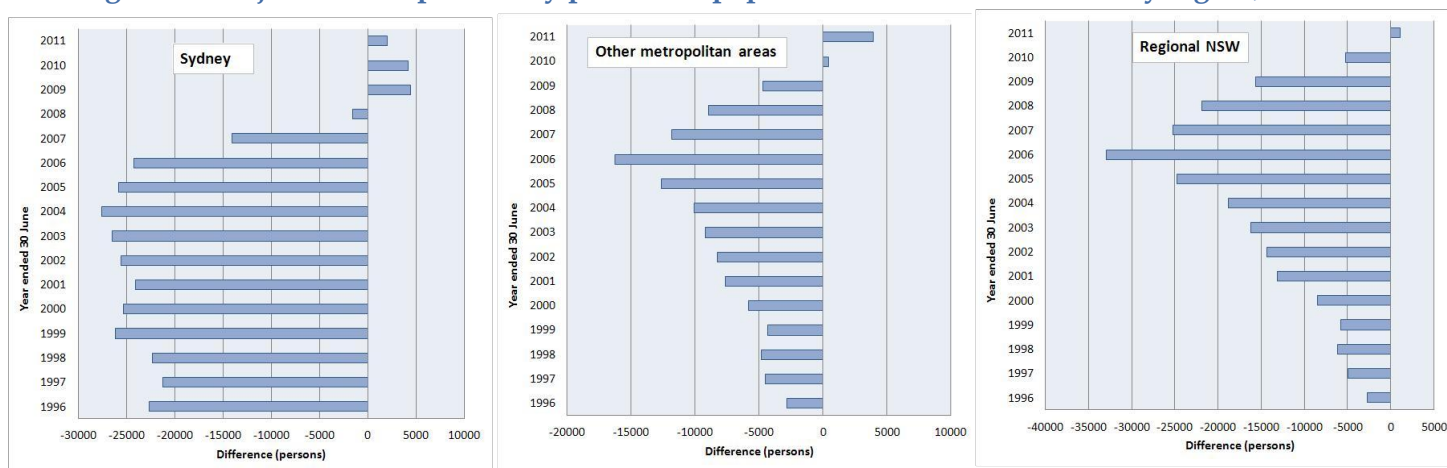
Table 4. NSW LGAs with largest annual average numeric adjustment to population estimates, 1996-2011

LGA	Adjustment
Wollongong	-1,494
Lake Macquarie	-1,369
Blacktown	-1,262
Newcastle	-1,068
Fairfield	-1,017

Table 5. NSW LGAs with highest average annual adjustment rate, 1996-2011

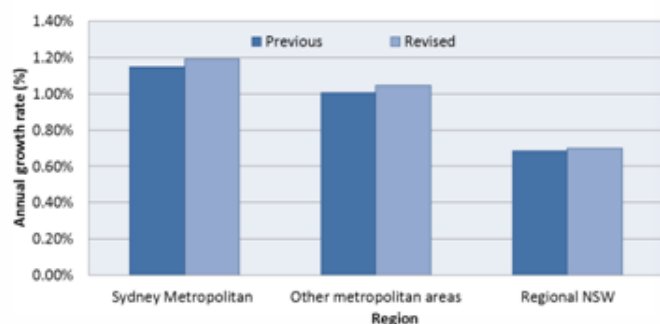
LGA	Percentage Adjustment
Central Darling	-1.19%
Wellington	-1.15%
Narromine	-1.09%
Coonamble	-1.07%
Bourke	-1.02%

Figure 13. Adjustment to previously published population estimates for NSW by region, 1996-2011



The level of adjustment has varied year by year in different regions (Figure 13). In 1996 to 2006, levels of adjustment in Sydney were relatively similar each year. However in other metropolitan areas and regional NSW, revisions gradually increased in the years leading up to 2006. Outside of Sydney, the largest adjustments were made in 2006. Upward revisions were seen in all regions for 2011, in all metropolitan areas also in 2010, and in Sydney also for 2009.

Figure 14. Average annual population growth rate by NSW region, 1996-2011



Population growth rates are therefore higher than previously published in most LGAs. Larger increases in the average annual growth rate are evident in Sydney and other metropolitan areas (Figure 14). Some LGAs in the north-west of NSW have population growth rates lower than previously published.

This review revealed the populations of a small number of LGAs were underestimated in some recast years. But any upward revisions were smaller than the downward revisions across the 20 year period. Most LGAs whose previously published population estimates showed decline, continue to do so albeit at slightly slower rates.

2013 NSW Population Roadshow

In March 2013, the Demography Unit of DP&I ran a series of population workshops across the state.

For the first time the NSW Population Roadshow was targeted at facilitating consultation between the Department and local stakeholders to inform the 2013 review of NSW population projections. In partnership with the ABS, the Unit conducted 12 workshops attracting 174 attendees from 86 organizations (79 per cent of which were local councils).

The population workshops were well-received. Community representatives welcomed the opportunity to be informed about NSW demography in a face-to-face manner, and to participate in discussions about factors that could impact on local population trends.



“Regional communities appreciate the opportunity to be involved in ‘meaningful’ consultations where input is taken into consideration and reflected in Department policy and future planning” – Population Roadshow attendee

Activities of the Australian Population Association (APA)

Information about the Association can be found at www.apa.org.au.

APA Conference 2012

Members of the Demography Unit presented papers at the APA Conference in December 2012. A special mention of Angelique Parr for her participation in the Three-minute Thesis Competition, Kim Johnstone being elected to the APA Council and Simon Massey elected as APA Secretary.

'International migration to regional New South Wales; a new source of population growth?' presented by Simon Massey

Historically, the majority of international migrants to NSW have settled in Sydney. However between 2000 and 2009:

- Net overseas migration became the central driver of the state's population growth;
- Some regional NSW populations increased between 2006 and 2011 following years of static or declining population change;
- The Federal Government had implemented a regional migration program in NSW.

Analysis revealed a small increase in the proportion of new overseas migrants locating outside Sydney, with the large regional centres of Tweed, Coffs Harbour, Queanbeyan and Wagga Wagga attracting the largest number of overseas migrants. Overall, overseas arrivals had a limited effect on regional population growth.

'The new ABS geography - implications for state-based policy and planning in NSW' presented by Dr Kim Johnstone with fellow Senior Demographer, Alison Culpin (Department of Education and Communities)

The new Australian Statistical Geography System (ASGS) was introduced by the ABS with the first release of the 2011 Census data to replace the existing geography. The dissonance between the old and new geographies in NSW has implications for all state and sub-state data users including:

- How the state's historical data can be used into the future;
- How state government agencies can meet users' data needs when the new geography is incongruent with their requirements;
- The difficulties in transitioning from one geography to the other.

Practical responses were then suggested to meet stakeholder needs.

'Indigenous Fertility in Australia' presented by Dr Kim Johnstone.

Kim Johnstone presented a paper based on research arising out of her recently completed PhD. It provided an overview of current fertility among Indigenous Australians with comparisons across each state and territory. Higher fertility among Indigenous women compared to non-Indigenous women is characterised by peak childbearing among women in their early 20s. The presentation closed by looking at the demographic implications of Indigenous fertility patterns, the impact on family dynamics and policy implications.

'Examining urban-rural migration in NSW' presented by Byron Kemp*

A large proportion of the state's population resides in greater Sydney (almost two thirds according to the 2011 census). With growing concern over issues surrounding imbalanced population distribution, the NSW Government introduced a regional relocation grant. To date the uptake has been low suggesting a growing need to investigate the behaviours behind urban-rural migration in NSW.

The analysis revealed:

- A lower number sea and tree change movers within NSW during 2007 to 2011 compared with 2001 to 2006;
- Different age profiles of 'sea-changers' and 'tree-changers';
- Increasing number of those leaving Sydney for elsewhere in the state having a Bachelor Degree or higher;
- Less movers working in retail, construction and manufacturing, and more in health, social assistance and mining;
- Lower mobility in those from lower socio-economic groups, particularly during periods of poorer economic conditions.

The paper concluded that urban-rural migration in NSW was dependent on a number of factors including economic climate, age of leavers, and strong, skilled and appealing labour forces in regional areas.

*Since presenting the paper, Byron has left the Department and moved to a research role with Anglicare Sydney.

APA Sydney Seminar, NSW Now and in the Future

The Demography Unit of the DP&I hosted an APA seminar 'NSW Now and in the Future' on 11 September 2013.

Five speakers spoke on various aspects of population change. DP&I presented on the NSW population projections. Other speakers from the ABS, Bureau of Transport Statistics, Macquarie University and Sydney University analysed current population data and drew out the policy implications for planning, local court and transport provision.

The seminar was well received, with over 50 attendees representing state government agencies, local councils, universities, non-government and private organisations. The success of the seminar means that similar events will be held in the future.



New and upcoming Useful Resources

Recently released...

- [Australian Social Trends, June 2013 \(ABS catalogue no. 4102.0\)](#) – provides analysis on a wide range of social issues. This issue includes articles on same-sex couples, characteristics of higher education students, spending patterns of couple-families and transport use.
- [Australian Demographic Statistics, March 2013 \(ABS catalogue no. 3101.0\)](#) – details historical national and state population estimates by age and sex, and components of change.
- [The Outlook for Net Overseas Migration, June 2013 \(Department of Immigration and Citizenship \(DIAC\)\)](#) – provides net overseas migration forecasts, by major visa component to 2017.
- [Australia's Migration Trends, 2011-2012 \(DIAC\)](#) – analyses national overseas migration patterns, including drivers and composition.
- [Migration to Australia's States and Territories, 2011 - 2012 \(DIAC\)](#) – summarises overseas migration data of Australian states and territories, including distribution and composition.

Coming soon...

- [Population Projections, Australia, 2012 to 2101 \(ABS catalogue no. 3222.0\)](#) – highlights ABS low, medium and high scenario population projections for Australia, states and territories, capital cities and balance of state.
- [Births, Australia, 2012 \(ABS catalogue no. 3301.0\)](#) – details national and state fertility data.
- [Deaths, Australia, 2012 \(ABS catalogue no. 3302.0\)](#) – analyses national and state mortality data.

Sources used in this bulletin:

- Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2013, *Australian Demography Statistics December Quarter 2012*, ABS Catalogue No. 3101.0, ABS, Canberra. <<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/mf/3101.0>>
- Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2013, *Regional Population Growth Australia 2012*, ABS Catalogue No. 3218.0, ABS, Canberra. <<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3218.0>>
- Department of Planning and Infrastructure, 2013, *2013 NSW and local government area preliminary population projections 2011-2031*, DP&I, Sydney. <<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/en-us/deliveringhomes/populationandhousingprojections.aspx>>

This newsletter has been compiled by the Demography Unit of the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure 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. All numbers have been rounded.

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