



State of Australian Cities 2012

Adelaide



Population and Settlement

- Adelaide's population increased from 1,154,742 in 2001 to 1,262,940 in 2011. This represents a growth rate of 0.9 per cent, below the national average of 1.5 per cent.
- Adelaide is Australia's fifth largest city, home to a high proportion of South Australians (77%) and 5.7 per cent of Australians.
- Over the five years 2006-11, Adelaide's stock of private dwellings increased by 44,650. With a population increase of 119,394 over the same period, there were 2.67 additional people for each additional dwelling. Adelaide's 2011 occupancy rate was 2.57 people per dwelling, considerably below the 2011 major city average occupancy rate of 2.73.
- Of Adelaide's total stock of 517,251 private dwellings in 2011, 7.8 per cent were unoccupied, below the major city average of 9.16 per cent.
- In the year to March 2012, Adelaide hosted 7.5 million international visitor nights, up from 5.7 million in 2008, and 7.2 million domestic visitor nights, down from 8.1 million in 2008.

Productivity

- In 2011-12, Adelaide's port handled 4.5 million tonnes of bulk imports and 159,281 containers (TEUs) and 4.5 million tonnes of bulk exports and 164,551 containers.
- In 2011, 6.3 million domestic passengers and 618,749 international passengers passed through Adelaide Airport.
- Since 2000, Adelaide's labour force participation rate has increased by almost three per cent and currently sits at 62.8 per cent, below the national average of 65.1 per cent. Since 2008, Adelaide's participation rate has been stable, increasing only slightly.
- Since 2000, labour force participation for males has declined almost one per cent to 68.7 per cent while for females has increased 5.3 per cent to 57.0 per cent.
- Adelaide is a standout for its labour force participation rate for 45 to 64 year old females between 2000 and 2012, which increased by over 15 per cent to 67.2 percent. Male participation for this age group increased by almost nine per cent to 78.3 per cent over the same period.

Sustainability

- Between 1952 and 2011, Adelaide's average annual minimum and maximum temperatures trended upwards while average annual rainfall fell.
- Sea level rise around Australia has been equal to and in some cases greater than the global average of approximately three millimetres per year. Since 1993, Adelaide (tidal gauge measures at Port Stanvac) has experienced sea level rises of four to five millimetres per year.
- Adelaide is one of seven *Solar Cities* across Australia, part of the Australian Government's Solar Cities Program that works with all levels of government, industry and community to change the way we think about and use energy.

Liveability

- Adelaide ranked ninth among 140 cities on the 2012 Economist Intelligence Unit *Global Cities Liveability Index*, a measure of liveability developed to specifically identify cities that are attractive to highly-skilled people.
- According to the *Australian City Liveability Index* survey of residents in 10 Australian cities:
 - Adelaide retained its place as the most liveable Australian city.
 - Adelaide has the highest proportion of residents who feel that their city has ‘quality affordable housing’ (59%) and ‘good economic opportunity and quality of living’ (59%).
 - Only 42 per cent of Adelaide residents agree that the city provides ‘good transport infrastructure and services’.
- Lone person households comprise almost two in five (38%) of all households living in multi-unit dwellings such as flats, units or apartments in Adelaide. This is the highest proportion of the capital cities; nearly double that of Darwin and Sydney (both 20%).
- Meanwhile, group households comprise just nine per cent of all households living in multi-unit dwellings such as flats, units or apartments in Adelaide, the lowest rate of such households in the capital cities.
- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of Adelaide is 15,597, making up 1.3 per cent of the city’s total population.
- The cost of living in Australian cities has been relatively stable for over two decades. According to the 2012 AMP NATSEM *Income and Wealth Report’s* analysis of typical household goods and services, Adelaide is the least expensive of the capital cities, particularly for food, mortgage interest and financial and insurance services.
- Adelaide has experienced the strongest growth in volunteering rates of all the capital cities. In 2011, 17.7 per cent of the city’s population aged 15 or over were involved in volunteering with a group or organisation, in line with the national average, and a significant increase on 2006, when 15.1 per cent of Adelaide residents were participating in voluntary work.
- In Adelaide, 81.4 per cent of people travel to work by car and 9.7 per cent by public transport.
- 1.3 per cent of people cycle to work, in line with the national average. However the proportion of people walking to work in Adelaide (2.8%) is lower than all other capital cities except Perth.

Governance

- In late 2011, the South Australian Government created a new department which integrates land use planning, transport and infrastructure functions for the first time.
- The *30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide*, released in 2010, establishes the land use strategy for the metropolitan area, and sets targets for the strategy that are to be reviewed on an annual basis.