



State of Australian Cities 2012

Canberra/Queanbeyan



Population and Settlement

- The Canberra-Queanbeyan metropolitan area population increased from 360,537 in 2001 to 418,292 in 2011, a growth rate of 1.5 per cent, which is exactly the national average.
- Canberra-Queanbeyan is Australia's eighth largest city and is home to 1.87 per cent of Australians.
- Over the five years 2006-11, Canberra-Queanbeyan's stock of private dwellings increased by 14,062.
- With a population increase of 37,210 over the same period, there were 2.65 additional people for each new dwelling constructed. Canberra-Queanbeyan's 2011 household occupancy rate was 2.76 people per dwelling, close to the 2011 average major city rate of 2.73.
- Of Canberra-Queanbeyan's total stock of 158,706 private dwellings in 2011, 7.38 per cent were unoccupied, well below the major city average of 9.16 per cent.
- In the year to March 2012, Canberra hosted 5.3 million domestic visitor nights, down from 5.6 million in 2012, and 4.1 million international visitor nights, up significantly from 2.7 million in 2008.

Productivity

- In 2011, 3.2 million domestic passengers passed through Canberra Airport.
- Canberra's labour force participation rate has been relatively stable since 2000, and remains Australia's highest at 72.4 per cent, well above the national average of 65.1 per cent.
- The labour force participation rate for males in Canberra is 76.4 per cent and has dropped 2.3 per cent since 2000.
- The labour force participation rate for females in Canberra is the highest rate of the surveyed major cities at 68.8 per cent and has increased slightly since 2000.
- Canberra has one of the highest rates of labour force participation for males aged 65 years and over (18.8%). This has more than doubled since 2000. Participation of females in this age group is 6.3 per cent, up from 3.7 per cent in 2000.

Sustainability

- Consistent with other inland major cities (Albury-Wodonga and Toowoomba), Canberra experienced a trend of larger increases in average annual temperatures and decreases in average annual rainfall than major cities in other parts of Australia.

Liveability

- In 2011, Canberra was included in the Mercer Quality of Living Index for the first time, debuting in 26th position - above Adelaide (30th) and Brisbane (37th) but below Sydney, Melbourne and Perth.
- According to the *Australian City Liveability Index* survey of residents in ten Australian cities:
 - Canberra has the highest proportion of residents who feel that their city is a 'safe place for people and their property' (69%) and, with Melbourne, equal highest proportion of residents who consider Canberra has 'good educational facilities and healthcare services' (71%).
 - Compared to other capital cities, Canberra also has a high proportion of residents who agree that the city has 'good transport infrastructure and services' (53%).
 - Only 42 per cent of Canberra residents feel that the city provides 'quality affordable housing'.
- According to the 2012 AMP NATSEM *Income and Wealth Report's* analysis of typical household goods and services Canberra is the second most expensive of the capital cities after Sydney. Rental costs, other utilities, and household contents and services are most expensive in Canberra.
- In Canberra, 23 per cent of people living in flats, units or apartments were in households with children.
- Canberra remains the volunteering capital of Australia, with 21.2 per cent of the population aged 15 years or over volunteering with a group or organisation in 2011. However, this represents a slight decline on 2006 levels, when 22.3 per cent of the population were involved in volunteering.
- In Canberra, 81 per cent of people travel to work by car in 2011 and 7.6 per cent by public transport.
- Canberra has the highest rates of active travel (walking and cycling) of the eastern capital cities, with 2.7 per cent of people cycling to work, and 4.7 per cent travelling to work on foot in 2011. Only Darwin records higher rates of walking and cycling.

Governance

- The Canberra-Queanbeyan urban area straddles the Australian Capital Territory-New South Wales border and is subject to strategic planning by both jurisdictions.
- The ACT Government released the new *ACT Planning Strategy* in August 2012.
- The key planning strategy for Queanbeyan is the NSW Government's *Sydney-Canberra Corridor Regional Strategy*, scheduled for review every five years. A systematic review is currently underway.
- Following completion of the NSW Government's *Long Term Transport Master Plan*, a Regional Transport Plan will be developed and linked to the existing regional strategy.
- In May 2012, the ACT became a member of the South East Regional Organisation of Councils (SEROC), in recognition of the significant dependencies between the ACT and the surrounding NSW region.