



State of Australian Cities 2012

Perth



Perth



Population & Settlement

- Perth's population increased from 1,452,058 in 2001 to 1,832,114 in 2011. This represents a growth rate of 2.4 per cent, well above the national average of 1.5 per cent, making Perth Australia's fourth fastest growing city.
- Perth is Australia's fourth largest city, home to a high proportion of Western Australians (78%) and 8.2 per cent of Australians.
- Over the five years 2006-11, Perth's stock of private dwellings increased by 98,565. With a population increase of 283,791 over the same period, there were 2.9 additional people for each new dwelling constructed. Perth's 2011 household occupancy rate was 2.75 people per dwelling, in line with the 2011 average major city rate of 2.73.
- Of Perth's total stock of 693,327 private dwellings in 2011, 9.12 per cent were unoccupied, similar to the major city average of 9.16 per cent.
- Perth's hotels have average occupancy rates of approximately 85 per cent and its hotels are at, or close to, capacity several nights a week. By the end of the 2014 its average hotel occupancy rate is expected to reach 89 per cent.
- In the year to March 2012, Perth hosted 18.1 million international visitor nights, up notably from 14 million in 2008, and 10.6 million domestic visitor nights, down from 11.7 million in 2008.

Productivity

- In 2011-12, the port of Fremantle handled 9.6 million tonnes of bulk imports and 344,453 containers (TEUs) and 9.6 million tonnes of bulk exports and 312,459 containers.
- In 2011, 8.5 million domestic passengers and 3.5 million international passengers passed through Perth Airport.
- Since 2000 Perth's labour force participation rate has increased consistently, reaching 69.4 per cent in 2012, well above the national rate of 65.1 per cent. It is one of the only major cities to have experienced an increase in its participation rates since 2008.
- Perth's male labour force participation rate is 76.6 per cent, the highest of the surveyed major cities and up 2.7 per cent since 2000. Its female participation rate is 62.5 per cent, also one of the highest rates for the major cities and up five per cent since 2000.
- In Perth almost 80 per cent of people travel to work by car and twelve per cent by public transport.

Sustainability

- Between 1952 and 2011, Perth's average annual minimum and maximum temperatures trended upwards.

- In 2011, Perth experienced a total of 50 days over 35°C, being the peak of a three-year spike of hot weather which has seen more days over 35°C than any other time in the past 30 years.
- One of Australia's three driest capitals, Perth has experienced a reduction in average annual rainfall between 1952 and 2011.
- 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 Perth, along with Darwin, experienced the highest rates of sea level rise of our major coastal cities measuring nine to ten millimetres per year (tidal gauge measurements at Hillarys Western Australia), well above the global average.
- Algal blooms frequently occur in the Serpentine and Harvey rivers. Developed urban areas represent only six per cent of the catchment area but contribute about 30 per cent of nutrient input, with agriculture providing the remaining 70 per cent.
- Perth 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

- In 2012, Perth scored 95.9 and ranked ninth among 140 cities in the Economist Intelligence Unit's *Global Cities Liveability Index*, a measure of liveability developed to specifically identify cities that are attractive to highly-skilled people. However, this is a decline from 2009 when it scored 96.6 and ranked fifth.
- According to the *Australian City Liveability Index* survey of residents in 10 Australian cities:
 - Perth has the highest proportion of residents who feel that their city has a 'quality natural environment' (79%).
 - Only 41 per cent of Perth residents agree that the city provides 'good transport infrastructure and services' and is a 'safe place for people and their property'.
- The proportion of Perth's population that is Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is 27,103, comprising 1.6 per cent of the city's total population.
- According to the 2012 AMP NATSEM *Income and Wealth Report's* analysis of typical household goods and services, Perth is among the most expensive of the capital cities for education, alcohol and tobacco.
- Cycling is the main mode of travel to work for 1.2 per cent of people in Perth, in line with the national average.
- Perth has the lowest proportion of people walking to work of the capital cities (2.6%).

Governance

- The Western Australian Government's strategic plan *Directions 2031* sets a target of a 50 per cent improvement on current trends in both infill and greenfield densities. An annual Urban Growth Monitor evaluates growth trends and development on urban land across the Perth metropolitan, Peel and greater Bunbury regions.
- The Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority (MRA), which commenced operation on 1 January 2012, is one of four government agencies responsible for the delivery of urban developments. It replaces and combines the responsibilities of the former Armadale, East Perth, Midland and Subiaco Redevelopment Authorities.