



State of Australian Cities 2012

Sunshine Coast



Population and Settlement

- The Sunshine Coast's population increased from 186,391 in 2001 to 241,643 in 2011. This represents a growth rate of 2.6 per cent, the third highest rate of Australia's major cities and higher than the national average of 1.5 per cent.
- With this above-average growth rate, the Sunshine Coast has overtaken Hobart to become Australia's tenth largest city and is now home to 5.4 per cent of Queenslanders and one per cent of Australians.
- Over the five years 2006-2011, the Sunshine Coast's stock of private dwellings increased by 10,138. With a population increase of 24,001 over the same period, there were 2.36 additional people for each additional dwelling constructed. The Sunshine Coast's 2011 household occupancy rate was 2.59 people per dwelling, below the 2011 major city average of 2.73.
- Of the Sunshine Coast's total stock of 105,075 private dwellings in 2011, 14.2 per cent were unoccupied, higher than the major city average of 9.16 per cent and the highest proportion for any major city. As a popular holiday destination, the proportion of unoccupied dwellings may be explained by a relatively high number of holiday homes.
- The Sunshine Coast had the second lowest proportion of dwellings under finance in 2011 among the major cities, with a little over 50 per cent of dwellings owned outright
- Of Australia's major cities the Sunshine Coast has the highest proportion of people aged 65 and over. However, this proportion has increased very little between 1996 and 2011.
- In the year to March 2012, the Sunshine Coast hosted 10.7 million domestic visitor nights, down from 13.8 million in 2008. As one of Australia's beach holiday destinations popular with domestic tourists, it is increasingly competing with international short-haul destinations, such as Thailand, Fiji and Bali. The number of international visitor nights increased marginally from 2.5 million in the year to March 2008 to 2.6 million in 2012.

Productivity

- In 2011, 791,109 domestic passengers passed through Sunshine Coast Airport in 2011. This represented 0.7 per cent of Australia's 110 million total domestic passenger movements over the same period.
- The Sunshine Coast's labour force participation rate is 60.8 per cent, down just over one per cent since 2008, lower than the national average of 65.1 per cent.
- The male labour force participation rate of the Sunshine Coast is 65.7 per cent and the female rate is 56.4 per cent.
- The Sunshine Coast experienced a fall in the labour force participation rate of young people aged 15 to 24 between 2008 and 2012. Male participation in this age category dropped by over 10 per cent to 69.3 per cent and female participation dropped by over five per cent to 75.3 per cent.

Sustainability

- Between 1952 and 2011, the Sunshine Coast was one of only three of Australia's major cities to experience little change in average annual temperatures.
- The Sunshine Coast's average annual rainfall declined between 1952 and 2011.

Governance

- The key planning strategy for the Sunshine Coast is the South East Queensland Regional Plan which also encompasses the greater Brisbane area, the Gold Coast, Ipswich, Logan and Toowoomba. It is reviewed periodically, with the most recent review occurring in 2009 and the next one scheduled for 2013.