



State of Australian Cities 2013

Darwin



Population and Settlement

- Darwin's population grew by 12.9% between 2006 and 2011, to 129,062. This was up significantly from 4.1% between 2001 and 2006.
- Between 2006 and 2011, Darwin experienced the largest decline in the proportion of people moving to the city from other parts of Australia minus those departing for other parts of Australia. In 2007–08, Darwin's net internal migration was 1.2% of its estimated residential population, which dropped to -1.0% by 2010–11.
- In 2010–11, 1,286 more people left Darwin for other parts of Australia than moved to the city from other parts of Australia. The city had more births (1,196) than deaths (418) during this period.
- Between 2006 and 2011, more people moved to Darwin from other parts of Australia than left for other parts of Australia, and the additional people were 99.8% male. This was the highest proportion of any of the major cities for which there was data. Of the additional people, many were aged 15 to 24 years.
- Of all major cities, Darwin had the highest flow of people moving to and from the city as a percentage of its estimated resident population between 2006 and 2011.
- International education has grown to become Australia's fourth largest export industry. Darwin had 915 international students enrolled in the vocational education and training and higher education sectors in 2011, the second lowest number of the major cities. It is estimated that international students in higher education, vocational and English language courses spend an average of \$42,531 per annum while studying in Australia.

Productivity

- In 2011, 86.3% of Darwin's employed males worked full-time, the highest proportion of any major city and well above the national average of 81.7%. This was up from 78.7% in 2001, resulting in Darwin also being the major city which saw the largest increase in the proportion of employed males working full-time between 2001 and 2011.
- Of the major cities, Darwin also had the highest proportion of employed females working full-time in 2011, 69.5%, which was well above the national average of 53.0%. This was up from 62.4% in 2001, resulting in Darwin also being the major city which saw the largest increase in the proportion of employed females working full-time during this period.
- Darwin had the second highest proportion of people employed in the public administration and safety sector (23.0% for males; 20.7% for females) of all the major cities in 2011, behind Canberra (31.7% for males; 33.4% for females).
- Of the capital cities, Darwin in 2011 had the second highest proportion of males employed in the construction sector (14.8%), behind Perth (16.0%).
- Employment by industry changed noticeably in Australia's major cities between 2001 and 2011. Reflecting the experience of all major cities during this period, the proportion of people employed in the retail trade sector in Darwin declined substantially (12.3% to 7.0% for males; 15.8% to 10.6% for

females). Darwin saw a significant increase in the proportion of people employed in the public administration and safety sector between 2001 and 2011 (18.5% to 23.0% for males; 12.8% to 20.7% for females). Most major cities saw significant increases in the proportion of people employed in this sector in the decade to 2011.

- Higher education qualifications play a key role in Australia's productivity and there is an increasing demand for higher skill levels in the Australian workforce. In Darwin in 2011, 56.3% of males aged 15 and over had a post-school qualification, above the national average of 54.1%. This included 31.8% with a certificate, 8.1% with an advanced diploma or diploma and 16.4% with a bachelor degree or above. Nationally, 26.8% of males had a certificate, 7.8% had a diploma or advanced diploma and 19.5% had a bachelor degree or above. Of the capitals, Darwin had the lowest proportion of males aged 15 or over with post-graduate qualifications (3.6%), lower than the national average of 4.5%.
- In 2011, 52.0% of females aged 15 and over in Darwin had a post-school qualification, above the national average (46.9%). This included 16.8% with a certificate, 10.1% with a diploma or advanced diploma and 17.9% with a bachelor degree or above. Nationally, 14.0% of females had a certificate, 10.1% had a diploma or advanced diploma and 22.7% had a bachelor degree or above.

Sustainability

- During the summer of 2012-13 when southern Australia was experiencing heatwave conditions, Darwin's wet season was drier than average in December and January, the city recording 203 and 220 millimetres of rainfall rather than the average of 251 and 424 millimetres respectively. Maximum temperatures for each of the three months were above average by 1°C or more.

Liveability

- Darwin was ranked the lowest of the 11 Australian cities included in the Property Council of Australia's 2012 *My City* liveability survey. The survey is one of a number of national and international efforts to measure wellbeing and quality of life in cities using more than simply economic factors. Across the 11 cities surveyed, participants rated safety, cost of living, health, employment and quality of the environment as the most important attributes for liveability.
- The median household income in Darwin increased by 45% between 2006 and 2011 to \$1,814, placing it well above the national median of \$1,234. This was the second fastest rate of increase of the major cities during this period, only slightly behind Townsville. Nationally, income has increased across all income groups; however it has increased more at the top and bottom.
- Of the capitals, Darwin had the second highest increase in vacancy rates of rented dwellings between 2012 and 2013 (0.5%), behind Canberra.
- In 2011, 14.8% of Darwin's low income households were experiencing rental stress and a further 9.5% were experiencing mortgage stress.
- Darwin's estimated homeless population was 1,359 in 2011, approximately 1.1% of the city's population. In Australia, homelessness is largely concentrated in the capital cities, however, the Northern Territory is an exception —only 8.8% of its estimated homeless population live in Darwin.
- Of the capitals, Darwin is predicted to have the lowest proportion of its population aged 65 and over in 2066, of between 13.8% and 15.0%, below the predicted national proportion of 22.9% to 25.3%. It also had the lowest proportion of its population aged 65 and over in 2008 (5.8%), well below the national average of 13.3%.
- Active travel can improve liveability in cities by increasing health and wellbeing and reducing traffic congestion. In 2011, 8.7% of Darwin's commuters walked or rode a bicycle to work. This was the highest proportion of all the major cities.
- Darwin had 2.1 male bicycle commuters for every female bicycle commuter in 2011, the lowest male-to-female bicycle commuter ratio for any major city, and below the average ratio of 3.3:1 across the major cities.