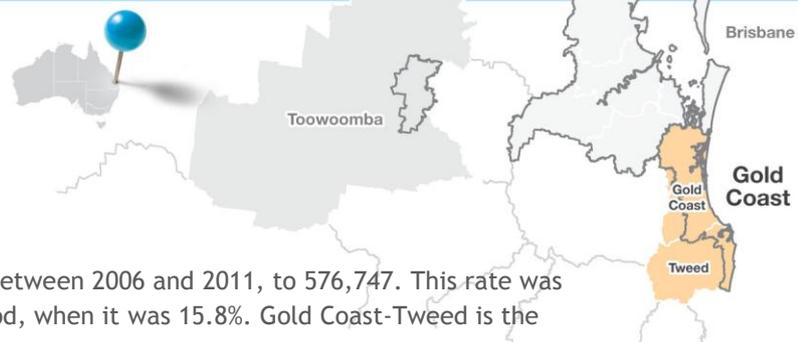




State of Australian Cities 2013

Gold Coast-Tweed



Population and Settlement

- The Gold Coast-Tweed's population grew by 10.0% between 2006 and 2011, to 576,747. This rate was significantly slower than the previous five year period, when it was 15.8%. Gold Coast-Tweed is the largest non-capital metropolitan area in Australia.
- In 2010–11, 2,347 more people moved to the Gold Coast-Tweed from other parts of Australia than left the city for other parts of Australia. Births (7,360) also outnumbered deaths (3,894) in the city in 2010–11.
- International education has grown to become Australia's fourth largest export industry. In 2011, 6,958 international students enrolled in the vocational education and training or the higher education sectors were living in the Gold Coast-Tweed, 1.2% of the city's population. 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, 77.7% of the Gold Coast-Tweed's employed males worked full-time, up from 75.1% in 2001, but below the national average of 81.7%. The proportion of Gold Coast-Tweed's employed females that were working full-time was 50.1%, up from 48% in 2001, but also below the national average of 53.0%.
- The sectors that employed the most males in the Gold Coast-Tweed in 2011 were construction (19.4%), manufacturing (10.8%) and retail trade (10.2%). Nationally, the construction and manufacturing sectors employed the most males in 2011 (13.8% and 12.8%).
- The sectors that employed the most females in the Gold Coast-Tweed in 2011 were health care and social assistance (19.3%), retail trade (15.6%) and education and training (10.6%). Nationally, the health care and social assistance sector employed more Australians than any other sector (11.6%), including one in five working women.
- Of the non-capital major cities, in 2011 Gold Coast-Tweed had the highest proportions of people employed in professional and real estate services (8.9% of males; 9.3% of females) and arts and recreation services (2.9% of males; 2.9% of females). The city also had the highest proportion of females employed in accommodation and food services (11.8%), administrative and other services (8.5%) and construction (3.3%).
- Of the non-capital major cities, the Gold Coast-Tweed had the lowest proportion of males employed in the public administration and safety sector (4.9%) and females employed in the health care and social assistance (19.3%) and education and training (10.6%) sectors in 2011.
- 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 the Gold-Coast Tweed declined substantially (16.5% to 10.2% for males; 21.0% to 15.6% for females) and so did the proportion of people employed in the manufacturing sector (13.4% to 10.8% for males; 5.7% to 4.1% for females).

- The proportion of males employed in the construction sector in the Gold Coast-Tweed increased significantly between 2001 and 2011 (14.9% to 19.4%). Most major cities saw significant increases in the proportion of males employed in this sector during this period.
- The proportion of females employed in the health care and social assistance sector in the Gold Coast-Tweed increased significantly between 2001 and 2011 (15.4% to 19.3%). Most major cities experienced significant increases in the proportion of females employed in this sector during this period.
- Higher education qualifications play a key role in Australia's productivity and there is increasing demand for higher skill levels in the Australian workforce. In the Gold Coast-Tweed in 2011, 53.9% of males aged 15 and over had a post-school qualification, just below the national average of 54.1%. This included 31.7% with a certificate, 8.1% with an advanced diploma or diploma and 14.1% 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.
- In 2011, 45.3% of females had a post-school qualification in the Gold Coast-Tweed, below the national average of 46.9%. This included 16.3% with a certificate, 11.5% with a diploma or advanced diploma and 17.4% 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

- In January 2013 the Gold Coast-Tweed exceeded its record for total rain in a 24-hour period. This is reflected in the Gold Coast's total of 500 millimetres of rain for January 2013, almost three times its long-term average for January.

Liveability

- The median household income in the Gold Coast-Tweed increased by 10.7% between 2006 and 2011 to \$1,125 per week but it was still below the national median of \$1,234. Nationally, income has increased across all income groups; however it has increased more at the top and bottom.
- The Gold Coast-Tweed's estimated homeless population was 1,426 in 2011, approximately 0.2% of the city's population.
- Active travel can improve liveability in cities by increasing health and wellbeing and reducing traffic congestion. In 2011, 4.3% of Gold Coast-Tweed commuters walked or rode a bicycle to work. This was one of the lowest proportions of the major cities and down from 4.5% in 2006.
- In 2011, the Gold Coast-Tweed had 3.0 male bicycle commuters for every female bicycle commuter, compared with an average ratio of 3.3:1 across the major cities.
- In 2011, 15.4% of people in Gold Coast-Tweed volunteered their time, below the national average of 17.8%. However, unlike most non-capital major cities, the proportion of volunteering increased between 2006 (14.0%) and 2011. Nationally, volunteering is more prevalent in the non-capital major cities than in the capitals.

Governance

- Strategic planning for the Gold Coast is guided by the Queensland Government's *South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009-2013*. This plan provides high level policy direction for the greater Brisbane area as well as the major urban centres of Ipswich, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Logan and Toowoomba. The next review of the Plan is scheduled to commence in late 2013.
- Strategic planning for Tweed is guided by the NSW Government's *Far North Coast Regional Strategy*. A systematic review is currently underway, with a discussion paper planned for release this year.