



State of Australian Cities 2013

Melbourne



Population and Settlement

- The population of Melbourne grew by 9.7% between 2006 and 2011 to 3,999,982.
- During this period Melbourne's had a domestic outward migration of 0.09% as a proportion of the residential population. 5,540 more people in 2010–11 departed Melbourne for other parts of Australia than arrived from other parts of Australia.
- International education has grown to become Australia's fourth largest export industry. In 2011, 60,642 international students enrolled in the higher education or vocational education and training sectors were living in Melbourne, making it the most popular destination for international students in Australia. In the City of Melbourne, one in every five residents is an international student. 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, 81.3% of Melbourne's employed males in Melbourne worked full-time in 2011, up from 80.8% in 2001, and slightly below the national average of 81.7%. The proportion of Melbourne's employed females in full-time employment (53.4%) was above the national average of 53.0%.
- The sectors that employed the most males in Melbourne in 2011 were manufacturing (14.9%), construction (13.7%) and administrative and other services (13.5%). 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 Melbourne in 2011 were health care and social assistance (19.1%), retail trade (13%), administrative and other services (12.1%) and education and training (12.1%). Nationally, the health care and social assistance sector employed more Australians than any other sector (11.6%) in 2011, including one in five working women.
- By daily parking rate, Melbourne was ranked the third most expensive CBD in the world to park a car in and by monthly parking rate, it was ranked the 11th most expensive.
- Higher education qualifications play a key role in Australia's productivity and there is growing demand for higher skill levels in the Australian workforce. In Melbourne, 24.9% of males and 27.8% of females held a bachelor degree or higher in 2011, well above the national average of 19.4% for males and 22.7% for females.
- Consistent with Sydney, Brisbane and Perth, the share of journeys to work undertaken by public transport, bicycle or on foot in Melbourne declines with increasing distance from the city centre. 29.5% of people in Melbourne's inner suburbs use public transport for journeys to work compared with 9.1% of people in Melbourne's outer suburbs.

Sustainability

- The City of Melbourne has analysed its urban forest, finding that its 70,000 trees in public spaces have an estimated amenity value of \$730 million, providing 22% canopy coverage.

- The City of Melbourne plants three thousand trees every year and is aiming for 40% canopy coverage by 2040, helping to achieve a two to four degrees Celsius reduction in urban temperatures.
- A 2011 survey showed that 91% of Melbourne households had a mains gas connection, the highest percentage in capital cities. In reflection of this 73.9% of Melbourne households used gas for heating in 2011, while 18.1% used electricity and 3.5% used wood.
- Solar energy remains one of the less used sources of energy for households in Australia. In Melbourne, 6% of households used either solar electricity or solar hot water in 2011.

Liveability

- In 2012, Melbourne was ranked 6th of 11 Australian cities in the Property Council of Australia's *My City* liveability survey. The survey is one of a number of efforts to measure wellbeing and quality of life in cities using more than simply economic factors. Across the 11 cities, participants rated safety, cost of living, health, employment and quality of the environment as the most important attributes for liveability.
- Between 2006 and 2011, median household income in Melbourne increased by 23.5% to \$1,333 per week, above the national median of \$1,234. Income growth has been experienced across all of Melbourne, but is particularly noticeable in a corridor stretching north from Williamstown on the south-western edge of the CBD to Maribyrnong and then east to Northcote.
- The average household income in Melbourne was 23% higher than the rest of the State, which is greater than the average national disparity between capital cities and the rest of the State of 19%.
- Low-income households whose housing costs take up more than 30% of household income are regarded as experiencing housing stress. Melbourne has one of the highest rate (11.4%) of the capital cities of mortgage stress among low income households.
- Melbourne's inner suburbs (5.5%) and middle suburbs (1.9%) have the highest bicycle usage for journeys to work when compared with the corresponding inner and middle suburbs of Australia's four largest cities. Conversely, Melbourne's outer suburbs (0.3%) have the lowest bicycle usage for journeys to work compared with the outer suburbs of Australia's four largest cities.
- Homelessness is a complex social challenge and an extreme form of housing insecurity, social disadvantage and social exclusion. Melbourne had an estimated homeless population of 18,555 in 2011, approximately 0.5% of the population.
- Young people in Melbourne found that their feeling unsafe was highest at night using mass transit 43%, followed by waiting at train stops 32%. Very few young people surveyed had ever experienced a direct attack (4% of the sample), but one-quarter had been directly threatened at some point, while 30% had seen someone attacked and 60% had seen someone threatened. Moreover, 73% had felt threatened at some point.

Governance

- A new Metropolitan Planning Strategy is being prepared to ensure the valued aspects of Melbourne are protected while allowing for future needs, including the establishment of a metropolitan planning authority to drive the Strategy's delivery.
- The Metropolitan Planning Strategy will include links with Regional Growth Plans and together these plans will provide a long-term vision for Victoria – including housing choice, transport accessibility, economic growth, environmental protection, infrastructure, community facilities and services.