



State of Australian Cities 2013

Newcastle



Population and Settlement

- Newcastle's population grew by 4.3% between 2006 and 2011, to 540,002.
- In 2010–11, 13,691 more people moved to Newcastle from other parts of Australia than departed for other parts of Australia. Additionally, births (7,195) outnumbered deaths (4,448) in the city in 2010–11.
- International education has grown to become Australia's fourth largest export industry. In 2011, 4,000 international students enrolled in the vocational education and training or the higher education sectors were living in Newcastle, 0.7% 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, 82.1% of Newcastle's employed males worked full-time, up from 78.2% in 2001 and slightly above the national average of 81.7%. The proportion of Newcastle's employed females that were working full-time was 47.3%, significantly below the national average of 53.0%, but up from 44.3% in 2001.
- The sectors that employed the most males in Newcastle in 2011 were manufacturing (15.4%) and construction (12.7%). 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 Newcastle in 2011 were health care and social assistance (23.9%), retail trade (15.3%) 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.
- Of all the non-capital major cities, Newcastle had the highest proportion of males employed in the health care and social assistance sector (6.5%) in 2011. The city also had the lowest proportion of males employed in the construction sector (12.7%) 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 Newcastle declined substantially (14.1% to 8.8% for males; 21.4% to 15.3% for females) and so did the proportion of people employed in the manufacturing sector (18.8% to 15.4% for males; 5.3% to 4.4% for females).
- The proportion of males employed in the accommodation and food services sector increased significantly in Newcastle between 2001 and 2011 (3.8% to 6.2%).
- The proportion of females employed in the health care and social assistance sector increased significantly in Newcastle between 2001 and 2011 (20.8% to 23.9%). Most major cities saw significant increases in the proportion of females employed in this sector during this period.

- In 2011, 2.5% of Australia's mining sector employees resided in Newcastle, a proportion which has remained relatively stable since 2006.
- 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. Of the major cities, Newcastle had the slowest rate of increase in the proportion of its population with post-school qualifications between 2001 and 2011.
- In Newcastle in 2011, 49.9% of males had a post-school qualification, below the national average of 54.1%. This included 30.4% with a certificate, 6.6% with a diploma or advanced diploma and 12.9% 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, 39.9% of women living in Newcastle had a post-school qualification, the lowest proportion of all of the major cities and below the national average of 46.9%. This included 15.3% with a certificate, 8.7% with a diploma or advanced diploma and 15.9% 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 2012–13 heatwave, Newcastle experienced extreme temperatures. The city reached a maximum of 42.5°C and the minimum temperature dropped below 20°C on only five nights in January 2013. Across Australia, 123 weather records were broken during this period, including the hottest January, the hottest summer and the hottest day on record for Australian as a whole.

Liveability

- In 2012, Newcastle rose 3 places to be ranked 4th of 11 Australian cities included in the Property Council of Australia's *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 Newcastle increased by 29.4% to \$1,165 per week between 2006 and 2011. This was the fourth fastest rate of increase of the major cities but Newcastle's 2011 median 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.
- Newcastle had an estimated homeless population of 1,073 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, 4.0% of Newcastle commuters walked or rode a bicycle to work. This was the lowest proportion of all major cities and it was down from 4.7% in 2006.
- In 2011, Newcastle had 4.6 male bicycle commuters for every female bicycle commuter, above the average ratio of 3.3:1 across the major cities.
- In 2011, 15.6% of people in Newcastle volunteered their time, below the national average of 17.8%. As with most non-capital major cities, the proportion of volunteering declined between 2006 (16.0%) and 2011. Nationally, volunteering is more prevalent in the non-capital major cities than in the capitals.

Governance

- Strategic planning for Newcastle is guided by the NSW Government's *Lower Hunter Regional Strategy*. A systematic review is currently underway, with a discussion paper released earlier this year.