



State of Australian Cities 2013

Sydney



Population and Settlement

- Sydney's population grew by 7.6% between 2006 and 2011, to 4,605,992.
- In 2010–11, 20,249 more people left Sydney for other parts of Australia than moved to Sydney from other parts of Australia. Sydney had the largest domestic outward migration of all the major cities.
- International education has grown to become Australia's fourth largest export industry. In Sydney in 2011, 55,180 international students were enrolled in the vocational education and training and higher education sectors, 1.2% of the city's population. An average of 23.4% of the students enrolled at Sydney's universities are international students. One in every 16 residents of the City of Sydney local government area 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.
- In 2012, 33,404 Temporary Skilled (subclass 457) visa holders resided in Sydney, 17.1% of Australia's total of 195,320 Temporary Skilled visa holders.

Productivity

- In 2011, 81.9% of Sydney's employed males worked full-time, up from 81.2% in 2001, slightly above the national average of 81.7%. The proportion of employed women working full-time was 57.8%, above the national average of 53.0%, and up from 57.2% in 2001.
- Of the major cities, Sydney in 2011 had the highest proportion of people employed in the administrative and other services sector (14.2% of males; 12.9% of females) and the financial and insurance services sector (6.4% of males; 7.1% of females).
- Reflecting the experience of all major cities between 2001 and 2011, the proportion of people employed in the retail trade sector declined substantially (12.3% to 8.5% for males; 15.3% to 11.9% for females) as did the proportion of people employed in the manufacturing sector (15.7% to 11.3% of males; 8.6% to 5.7% of females).
- There was little growth in the number of jobs in the Western Sydney region between 2006 and 2011. Approximately 33% of workers living in Western Sydney commute outside the region to get to work.
- 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 Sydney in 2011, 26.4% of males and 27.9% of females had a bachelor degree or above, higher than the national averages of 19.4% for males and 22.7% for females.
- By daily parking rate, Sydney 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.
- Consistent with Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth, the share of journeys to work undertaken by public transport, bicycle or on foot in Sydney declined with increasing distance from the city centre in 2011. In the inner suburbs, 33.5% of people used public transport to travel to work, compared with 15.6% in the outer suburbs.
- In 2011–12, Sydney's metropolitan buses had an overall cost recovery rate of approximately 30%, while its outer metropolitan buses had a cost recovery rate of only approximately 10%.

Sustainability

- During the 2012–13 heatwave, Sydney experienced extreme temperatures, reaching a new record of 45.8°C on 18 January. The average number of annual heat-related deaths in Sydney is forecast to increase from 72 in 2011 to 129 in 2050. Those at highest risk from heatwaves include the elderly, the socially disadvantaged such as those on lower incomes or the homeless, and those with underlying medical conditions.
- The City of Sydney local government area has 49 green roofs and 21 green walls. Green roofs and walls can provide multiple benefits to building owners and the local environment.
- In 2011, 47.1% of Sydney households used electricity for heating, 22.1% used gas, 5.0% used wood and 21.4% had no heating. Solar electricity or solar hot water was used by 7.4% of households.
- In 2010–11, Sydney generated 10.9 million tonnes of waste, of which 6.9 million tonnes were recovered and recycled.
- Of the capital cities, Sydney households were least likely to compost or recycle kitchen or food waste, with only 48.5% of Sydney households reporting that they did this in 2011–12.

Liveability

- In 2012, Sydney was ranked 10th 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.
- The median household income in Sydney increased by 29.1% between 2006 and 2011 to \$1,490 per week, well above the national median of \$1,234. Nationally, income has increased across all income groups; however it has increased more at the top and bottom.
- In Sydney, areas with low average incomes are more concentrated in the Western Sydney region.
- In 2011, 24.7% of Sydney's low income households were experiencing rental stress and a further 11.2% were experiencing mortgage stress.
- Sydney's estimated homeless population was 20,238 in 2011, approximately 0.4% of the city's population.
- In 2008, the proportion of Sydney's population aged 65 and over was 12.2%, below the national average of 13.3% and it is projected to nearly double by 2056 (to 20.5%–22.6%), in line with national trends.
- Active travel can improve liveability in cities by increasing health and wellbeing and reducing traffic congestion. In 2011, 5.7% of Sydney commuters walked or rode a bicycle to work, one of the highest rates of the capital cities. Between 2001 and 2011, the proportion of commuters walking or bicycling to work increased significantly in the inner suburbs only.
- On an average weekday in Sydney in 2011, 16.3 million journeys were made, 33.0% of which were for study or work-related purpose. On an average weekend day, 15.2 million journeys were made. The number of weekend journeys grew at twice the rate of weekday journeys for more than a decade.
- In 2011, Sydney had 4.1 male cyclists for every female cyclist, compared with an average of 3.3 male cyclists for every female cyclist across the major cities.

Governance

- The NSW Government is currently undertaking a review of its planning system, and a White Paper was released in April 2013.
- The NSW Government is also preparing a new *Metropolitan Strategy for Sydney to 2031*. A draft Strategy was released for community comment in March 2013, and the Strategy is expected to be finalised by the end of 2013.