Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development

Sydney

Population and Settlement

o   The population of Greater Sydney grew by an average of 1.6% per annum from 4,409,562 in 2008 to 4,757,083 in 2013, making it Australia's largest city.

o   The life expectancy for Greater Sydney residents increased from 81.8 years in 2006 to 83.1 years in 2012.

o   Sydney exhibits a notably different density pattern to other major cities: not only is the city considerably denser in total, but density declines with distance from the CBD in a much more gradual fashion, with several peaks reflecting consolidated multi-nodal centres.

o   Sydney had clusters of social disadvantage increasingly being pushed further towards city periphery over the period 2001 to 2011.

o   The percentage of adults in Sydney who met physical activity guidelines increased by 1.7 percentage points between 2007-08 and 2011-12, to 56.1%.

Economy & Human Capital and Labour

o   The unemployment rate for Greater Sydney residents dropped 0.3 percentage points from 6.0% in 2001 to 5.7% in 2011.

o   The city and inner south of Sydney saw one of the largest increases of the major cities in labour force participation rates with a 4.3% increase from 2001 to 65.1% in 2011.

o   The lowest levels of growth in people with vocational or higher educational qualifications in 2001-11 were in North Sydney and Hornsby (8.1 percentage points) followed by South West Sydney (8.3 percentage points).

o   Of the employment centres located in the middle and outer suburbs of Australia's cities, job growth has been high in Sydney's Ryde with over 16,000 jobs between 2001 and 2011 (this location includes Macquarie Park commercial centre).

o   For all of Greater Sydney, real household weekly income grew from $1,300 in 2001 to approximately $1,450 in 2011, while in South West Sydney, real weekly household income grew by less than $50 over the same period.

o   Sydney had a decrease in average household net worth, declining by $16,528 from 2005-06 to 2011-12.

o   In Sydney, semi-detached and apartment dwellings make up 56 per cent of all new dwellings built over the last decade, whereas they made up only 35 per cent of Sydney's total housing stock at the start of the decade, in 2001.

o   Residential property prices have shown a substantial and mostly sustained rise in value since the mid-1990s, except for a short plateau period around the time of the Global Financial Crisis.

o   Between 2012 and 2013 Sydney contributed 17.9% to the total volume measure of national GDP growth.

o   Between 1989 and 2013 Sydney contributed 20.7% to the total volume measure of national GDP growth.

Infrastructure and Transport

o   Sydney had an increase in active travel by walking between 2009 and 2012, up by 3.1 percentage points.

o   The number of people in Sydney cycling to work increased by 47%, up to 17,838 from 2001 to 2011.

o   Sydney, particularly in the outer suburbs and South West areas, had the largest share of commuters by private vehicle (up to 80%). In Parramatta, out of over 183,600 people working there, 72% of workers commuted by private vehicle.

The Greater Capital City Statistical Area (GCCSA) geographical classification from the ABS Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) 2011 is used to define the boundary of Sydney (also referred to as Greater Sydney), except where otherwise noted.

- Passenger vehicle kilometres travelled on road have risen 4.3 billion km to 37.3 billion km in the period 2001-02 to 2011-12.
- Sydney had an increase in average network delay due to congestion of 0.12 minutes per km, 2002-03 to 2010-11. Sydney has the longest delay nationally and it continues to rise while Melbourne and Brisbane had slight decreases over this period.
- By 2031, Sydney Airport is forecast to have 72 million passenger movements annually. Sydney Airport is currently, and forecast to remain, Australia's busiest airport.
- Sydney had a decrease in international visitors of 41.5 visits per 1,000 residents, 2006-2012.
- Sydney had the highest percentage of business travellers amongst their international visitors at 14%, with an estimated 400,000 international business travellers.
- Greater Sydney had the largest increase in the value of international freight with the value of freight rising by almost $18 billion, 2006-07 to 2012-13. Sydney also had the highest value of freight at over $113 billion in 2012–13.
- Port Botany has recorded a substantial growth in container movements with an average annual growth rate of 4.5% over the period 2009-10 to 2013-14.