



State of Australian Cities 2014 - 15

Townsville

Population and Settlement

- The population of Townsville grew by an average of 2.5% per annum from 156,346 in 2008 to 176,035 in 2013, along with Cairns one of the two fastest growing non-capital major cities.
- The life expectancy for Townsville SA4 residents increased from 80.1 years in 2006 to 80.8 years in 2012.
- Of the major cities, Townsville had the second lowest proportion (after the Sunshine Coast) of people over 65 years (9.7%).
- The percentage of overweight or obese adults in Townsville increased by 27.5 percentage points from 43.6% in 2007-08 to 71.1% in 2011-12. Townsville saw the largest increase in overweight or obese adults in major cities.
- Townsville saw smoking rates decrease by 2.2 percentage points from 22.9% in 2001 to 20.7% in 2011-12.
- The percentage of adults in Townsville who met physical activity guidelines decreased by 3.2 percentage points between 2007-08 and 2011-12, to 48.2%.
- Homelessness in Townsville dropped by 1.8 persons per 10,000 from 2006 to reach 72.9 persons per 10,000 in 2011.
- The percentage of houses in Townsville with overcrowded conditions, based on households that need one or more bedrooms under the Canadian National Occupancy Standard, decreased by 1.1 percentage points 4.1% in 2001 to 3.0% in 2011.
- The percentage of households that owned their own home in Townsville (with or without a mortgage) increased by 1.0 percentage point from 57.0% in 2001 to 58.0% in 2011.
- The average house price in Townsville rose from \$144,500 in 1999 to a peak of \$391,000 in 2011 declining to \$381,000 in 2012.

Economy & Human Capital and Labour

- The unemployment rate in Townsville dropped 3.2 percentage points from 8.3% in 2001 to 5.1% in 2011.
- The largest growth in industry employment between 2006 and 2011 for Townsville was in Health Care and Social Assistance with 2,483 workers, whereas the largest decline occurred in Information-Media and Telecommunications with 70 workers.
- Employment in knowledge-intensive industries in Townsville increased their share of employment by 2.1 percentage points from 2006 and 2011, to 28.6%.
- The proportion of people in Townsville with a vocational or higher education qualification rose by 13.0 percentage points from 48.9% in 2001 to 61.9% in 2011.
- Townsville residents with a Certificate III or above, or who were employed in a skilled occupation rose by 8.5 percentage points from 2001 to 56.3% in 2011.
- The average residential property price for both units and houses in Townsville fell in the period 2009 to 2013.

Infrastructure and Transport

- The volume of freight through Townsville ports increased by 2.7 percentage points from 9.6% in 2008-09 to 12.3% in 2012-13.
- Townsville had 1.6 million air passenger movements 2010-11 which is forecast to increase to 3.4 million by 2030-31.