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RESEARCH MATTERS
News from the Department of Infrastructure's
Research Unit

Key highlights of population growth in Victoria 2000-01

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) releases quarterly population estimates and associated demographic information. The most recent release details preliminary estimates for the quarter ending June 2001. This provides us with full-year population estimates for the 2000-01 financial year. Please note that these estimates are not 2001 Census results, which will not be available until around mid-2002.

Stronger growth for Victoria

- At the end of June 2001, Victoria's population was estimated to be 4,828,968 persons.
- Victoria's population grew by 1.30 per cent (or 62,172 persons) for the year ending June 2001. This compares with 1.26 per cent (59,206 persons) for the previous year (ending June 2000).
- The national average growth rate was 1.20 per cent (or 229,523 persons) for the year ending June 2001, bringing Australia's Estimated Resident Population (ERP) to 19,386,663 persons.

Summary table of population growth for Australian States and Territories, 2000-01

	2001 ERP	GROWTH 2000-01	GROWTH RATE 2000-01
Victoria	4,828,968	62,172	1.3 per cent
NSW	6,532,459	69,960	1.1 per cent
QLD	3,627,816	61,002	1.7 per cent
SA	1,502,397	5,003	0.3 per cent
WA	1,909,751	26,073	1.4 per cent
TAS	470,272	-32	0.0 per cent
NT	197,590	2,133	1.1 per cent
ACT	314,171	3,178	1.0 per cent
Australia	19,386,663	229,523	1.2 per cent

Source: ABS Cat. No. 3101.0 Australian Demographic Statistics June 2001.

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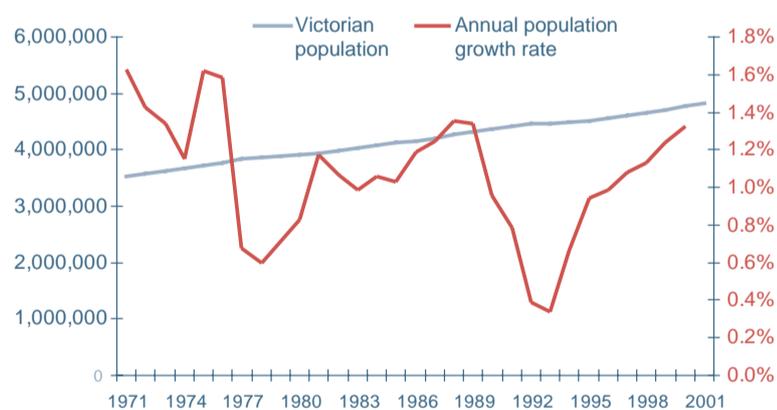
Interstate migration continues to grow

- Net interstate migration to Victoria increased from 6,713 to 7,925 for the year ending June 2001. This marks the fourth year in a row of positive interstate migration for Victoria and makes up 12.7 per cent of Victoria's total population growth for the year ending June 2001.
- In terms of net interstate migration, Victoria gained population from all States and Territories in Australia except Queensland (which gained a net 868 persons from Victoria) in the year ending June 2001.

Natural increase down slightly

- Natural increase in Victoria accounted for 27,309 additional persons in the Victorian population or 44.0 per cent of the population growth for the year ending June 2001. For the year ending June 2001, there were 59,322 registered births (a fall of 771 births from the previous year), and 32,013 registered deaths (a rise of 21 deaths from the previous year).
- Over the past 30 years, the Victorian population has grown steadily, although the rate of growth has shown two periods of much slower growth – in the late 1970s and early 1990s. The current growth rate of 1.3 per cent is the highest since 1989 when population growth had reached 1.4 per cent, before dropping off as the recession impacted heavily in Victoria.

Victorian population growth and growth rate, 1971–2001



Source:
ABS Cat. No. 3101.0 Australian Demographic Statistics June 2001.

Local Government Research Network news – Census 2001 workshops

The Local Government Research Network (LGRN) section of the Research Unit web site has information on the Census 2001–2002 seminars. Late last year, the Local Government Research Network hosted a forum on Local Government and 2001 Census Data. This workshop brought local government and ABS staff together, to discuss content of the published results of the 2001 Census. We also had a follow-up workshop where the ABS reported back on the issues raised during the December workshop.

Three more focused workshops are also planned, where those interested in specific issues can look at relevant data table designs. The issues which seemed of most relevance from the discussion are: ethnicity, mobility and housing. For further information, please contact Christina Inbakaran on tel. (03) 9655 6054 or Christine Kilmartin on tel. (03) 9655 6934.

Migration to Australia

Are you confused at all about the differences between long-term and permanent immigration, the skilled, family reunion and humanitarian migration programs, or illegal arrivals and illegal overstayers? In this issue of Research Matters, we will seek to clarify some of the issues relating to overseas migration to Australia and will conclude the exploration of the topic in the next issue.

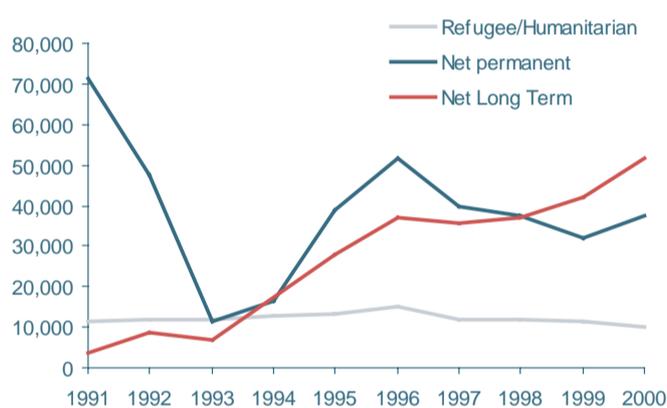
In recent months there has been intensive media coverage of detention centres and illegal boat arrivals on Australian shores, and the role of overseas migration in the population debate remains a point of contention. Regardless of the controversy, migration to Australia remains a significant component of our annual population growth, accounting for 47.8 per cent (preliminary estimate) of population growth in 2000-01.

Immigration is a complex topic. There are numerous categories for arrivals and departures, with granted visas not necessarily resulting in an arrival, and the open door through the Trans-Tasman Travel Agreement allowing Australians and New Zealanders to travel freely between the two countries. Furthermore, net overseas migration to Australia has fluctuated by over 120,000 people per annum, over the past 20 years.

DIMIA groups – permanent and long-term migration

The Department of Immigration Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) divides movement into and out of Australia into two main groups – net permanent and net long-term migration. The ABS states total net migration to Australia for 1999-2000 as being 99,056 persons (preliminary figure). This comprised 56,081 net long-term movements, 51,194 net permanent movements and an adjustment of – 8,219 persons for category jumping (see below).

Components of overseas migration to Australia 1991–2001



Sources:

ABS Cat. No. 3412.0 Migration Australia 1999–2000 and DIMIA Population Flows: Immigration Aspects 2000

Long-term migration

Long-term migration comprises visitors who intend to stay more than 12 months in Australia or Australians intending to stay overseas for longer than 12 months, but not permanently. For Australia in 1999-2000, long-term movement made up 52.3 per cent of net migration movements. This was the first time long-term movement exceeded permanent movement. Victoria attracted 24.7 per cent of all long-term arrivals and had 20.5 per cent of all long-term departures.

In 1999-2000 education was stated as being the main reason for long-term visitors' stay (48 per cent of long-term arrivals in Australia). Around 17 per cent of long-term arrivals were for employment, and 10 per cent for business reasons. In terms of departures, 33 per cent of long-term resident departures were for employment reasons, 23 per cent for holiday and 11 per cent for visiting family and friends, and 11 per cent for business. In terms of destination, 33 per cent of all long-term departures were to the United Kingdom.

Category jumping

Category jumping is when people move between the categories of short-term visitors (staying less than 12 months) and long-term arrivals, and it adds a degree of difficulty to counting the resident population of Australia at any given time. Because long-term visitors (staying more than 12 months) are counted in the ERP, differentiating between long and short-term visitors is important in establishing these estimates.

Category jumping occurs where some visitors to Australia, who originally intended to stay for longer than 12 months, left early, and when some who intended to stay for less than 12 months, eventually stayed longer. Similarly, Australians who spend time overseas and initially indicate a longer than 12 month sojourn but return early, or stay longer than 12 months after indicating a shorter stay when they left Australia are also classified as category jumpers. As a result, migration figures from previous years are required to be adjusted, as the revised behaviour of these people becomes known.

Permanent

Permanent arrivals to Australia comprise three groups: visaed applicants under either the Migration or Humanitarian Programs, and non-program arrivals – predominantly New Zealand citizens who intend settling in Australia permanently. Departures comprise departing Australian residents who indicate they do not intend to return to Australia.

The number of permanent arrivals in 1999-2000 rose by 10 per cent to 92,272 compared to the previous year. A large proportion of this rise was due to an increase in non-program migrants to 32,600 arrivals, largely New Zealand citizens who are not required to hold visas under the Trans-Tasman Travel Agreement.

In 1999–2000 there were 41,078 permanent departures from Australia with just under 50 per cent (20,300) being Australian born. This is up from the pattern in the 1980s when only 25–33 per cent of permanent departures were Australian-born. The main countries of intended residence were New Zealand (22 per cent of all permanent departures), the United Kingdom (18 per cent), the United States of America (12 per cent), Hong Kong (8 per cent), Singapore (4 per cent) and China (4 per cent).

Sources:

ABS Cat. No. 3412.0 Migration Australia 1999-2000

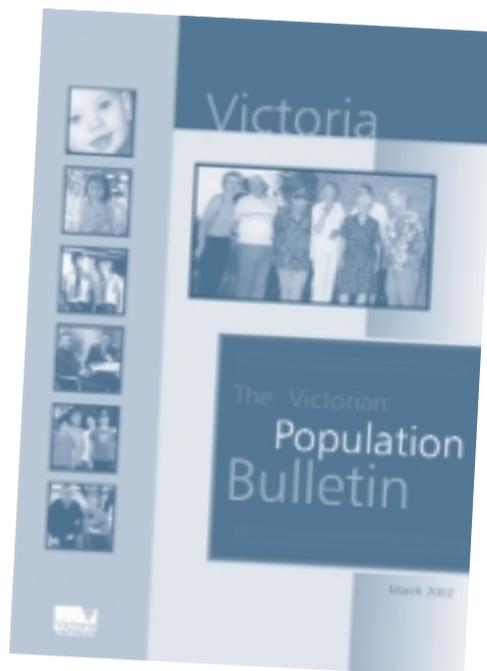
Department of Immigration Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) Population Flows: Immigration Aspects 2000 edition, December 2000

In the next issue of Research Matters we will continue this series, covering details on permanent arrivals under the Migration and Humanitarian programs, and the issues of non-program arrivals and illegal overstayers.

2002 Victorian Population Bulletin

The 2002 edition of the Victorian Population Bulletin is in the final stages of production as Research Matters goes to press. This will be the seventh in this annual series of a selection of ABS population estimates and demographic data. This year's Victorian Population Bulletin will feature an updated look and will be augmented by a web site which will present an extended range of demographic information. Look out for your copy or visit our web site: www.doi.vic.gov.au/research. Updated population estimates will also be added to the Know Your Area web site (www.doi.vic.gov.au/knowyourarea) soon.

The Research Unit also intends to publish a Special Edition Population Bulletin based on the first release of the 2001 Census results, when they become available, probably in late 2002. Stay tuned.



E-News

The ongoing redesign of the Research Unit web site includes the removal of the customer forms that appeared before Suburbs in Time and Towns in Time, and the reorganisation of the Suburbs in Time and Towns in Time home pages. Some of the feedback from our users included requests for shorter web addresses for products like Know Your Area and LGRN. As a result, we have created the simpler web address of www.doi.vic.gov.au/knowyourarea and www.doi.vic.gov.au/lgrn. For further information, please contact Christina Inbakaran on tel. (03) 9655 6054.

Housing Melbourne

The Department of Infrastructure is currently preparing an update to the Housing Melbourne report (December 2000). Housing Melbourne 2001 is an interim report on the 'current state of the housing market'. It is not an update of the forecast as such (in terms of the staging and timing of land development), but is aimed to provide relevant information on recent trends and changing markets. Because of the dynamic nature of housing and land development, it is important to provide regular information to the key players involved in Melbourne's continued development, so that decisions affecting Melbourne's growth can be made confidently using the most accurate and up-to-date information available. The report is due for release in May 2002. For further information, contact Rod Wright tel. (03) 9655 6806.

Staff movements

We welcome back John O'Leary from 10 months of long-service and study leave. John has been working on his PhD thesis: Changing Demography, Mobility and Housing Markets. We welcome Fely Bowen who has just joined the Research Unit in a project officer position. Fely's duties will be shared with the Land Development and Information Unit (LDIU). Also, Andrew Jackson is with us for six weeks to assist with an investigation into population policy. Andrew is undertaking his PhD with a thesis on: Population in History – a History of the Census in Australia.

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