

THE LATEST POPULATION ESTIMATES

Estimated Resident Populations are the bread and butter of Grants Commissions, electoral reviews and much planning. On 25 July, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) released revised estimated resident populations for 2001, which were based on the 2001 Census. Significant changes have been made to earlier estimates of population changes since the previous Census in 1996. For instance:

- the City of Melbourne's population has been revised downwards by 5,000 or 10 per cent
- metropolitan Melbourne's population has also been revised down, by 33,000
- regional Victoria's 2001 population has been revised up, by 27,000.

We now have the chance to provide a five-year update on demographic trends and prospects.

The OECD connection

Australia's population growth rate is higher than Canada or the USA's and three or more times that of most European countries.

The Asian and Pacific connections

Australia's population growth rate is also faster than China's but slower than other South East Asian countries and New Zealand. However, a different perspective shows that, while Australia's population grew by more than 2 million in the 1990s, Indonesia's grew by 38 million, China's by more than 120 million and India's by more than 160 million people.

The States

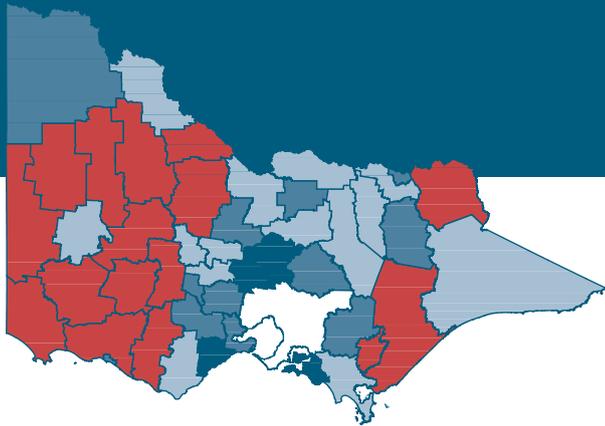
New South Wales and Victoria were the big improvers between 1996 and 2001 while in terms of population growth, the Sunshine State developed some light cloud cover. Victoria's average annual population growth rate nearly doubled to 1.1 per cent, that of New South Wales went up from 1.0 per cent to 1.3 per cent and Queensland's dropped from 2.4 per cent to a still strong 1.7 per cent.

Victoria growing strongly

The 2001 Census confirms an improvement in Victoria's population growth rate: 1.1 per cent average annual growth from 1996 to 2001, compared with 0.6 per cent between 1991 and 1996. This is due to (a) higher levels of overseas migration and (b) the interstate migration turnaround. Higher growth rates in the national and State economies lie behind this change.

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Average annual population growth

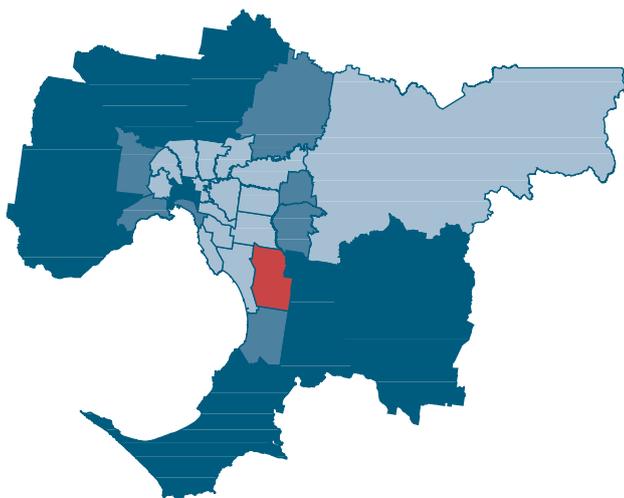
- More than 2.0%
- 1.0% to 2.0%
- 0.0% to 1.0%
- Population Decline

Regional Victoria doing better

The latest estimates show a better picture for Regional Victoria than earlier published figures. Average annual population growth rates are up to 0.9 per cent for the 1996–2001 period. This compares with 0.2 per cent for the previous five years. A return to a more normal situation has come after the major disruptions of the early 1990s. We are now seeing net inflows to regional Victoria of people aged in their 30s and 40s. Higher commodities prices, greater export orientation and more solid economic growth provide the backbone for faster population growth in regional Victoria.

Within regional Victoria

'Regional Victoria' is not so much a single coherent region as a collection of regions with different population characteristics. Most areas which lost population in the early 1990s were still losing population in the late 1990s. Growth is concentrated along the coast, in regional centres, in Melbourne's 'exurban' areas, in the Hume corridor and in the Murray and Goulburn valleys.



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Melbourne's inner city boom

Inner Melbourne's population had been declining for most of the twentieth century, but in the early 1990s it grew. From 1996 the pace of growth has quickened with 22,000 additional inner city dwellers. This growth is driven by the net inflow of young adults. Increasing numbers of empty nesters are actually attributable to an ageing-in-place population, rather than the previously assumed net inflows of people from the suburbs.

Melbourne's fringes still take most growth

The nine municipalities around the edge of Melbourne – from Wyndham around to Mornington Peninsula – take most of Melbourne's population growth. However, their share has declined: 70 per cent between 1991 and 1996 to 55 per cent between 1996 and 2001. They also attract a broad range of people. Contrary to popular perception, more empty nesters move to Casey than to Melbourne's inner city.

Urban consolidation is happening

Between 1991 and 1996, eight Melbourne municipalities lost population, but between 1996 and 2001 only one – Greater Dandenong – did. Fifteen, mostly middle ring municipalities, have gently rising populations, having average annual growth of less than 1 per cent in the five years to 2001.

THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX

The latest edition of the United Nations Development Program's *Human Development Report* has ranked Australia equal fourth on the Human Development Index (HDI). Australia is equal with the USA and Belgium. Only Norway, Sweden and Canada are ahead of Australia. The UK is eleventh and New Zealand is nineteenth.

The HDI is a composite index measuring achievement in three basic dimensions of human development – a long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living. The closer the HDI is to 1.000, the better the living standard of the country.

The worst performing of the 173 countries included in the ranking is Sierra Leone, with an HDI value of 0.275 (compared to 0.942 for Norway).

Australia has slipped in the rankings from 1999, when it was equal second with Canada and Sweden, however, the difference in the value of the Index is miniscule.

Overall, the report shows substantial progress over the past decades in human development in most parts of the world. However, there are tragic exceptions in eastern and Central Europe, the former Soviet Union and sub-Saharan Africa, where many countries actually have a lower HDI today than they did at

INDUSTRY IN MELBOURNE

An adequate supply of industrial land is essential for Melbourne's economic growth and employment. Land with good accessibility to roads, rail, ports and airports is particularly important for industry and Melbourne's role as a major distribution centre.

Earlier this year, the Department of Infrastructure (DOI) published *Industry in Melbourne – Open for Business*. It provides information on the status of industrial land availability across the 31 municipalities in the Melbourne metropolitan area. It is a valuable information tool for all those who wish to identify opportunities, or obtain general information, on industrial land within Melbourne.

It shows that there are nearly 5,500 hectares of vacant industrial land across metropolitan Melbourne. More than 50 per cent of this vacant land is located in the west and north, 30 per cent in the east and south east, and a further 20 per cent (or 1,100 hectares) around the Port of Hastings. Also, nearly 50 per cent (around 2,500 hectares) of vacant industrially zoned land is within two kilometres of an existing freeway interchange. The majority of this is located in the west (Wyndham, Brimbank, Hobsons Bay and Melton), and the south-east (Kingston and Greater Dandenong).



Industry in Melbourne on CD is primarily spatially-based information available on CD-ROM. It includes an easy-to-use mapping and information tool, in an interactive format, which reports industrial land availability on a site specific basis. It also indicates the land's proximity to major roads and interchanges, rail, ports and airports.

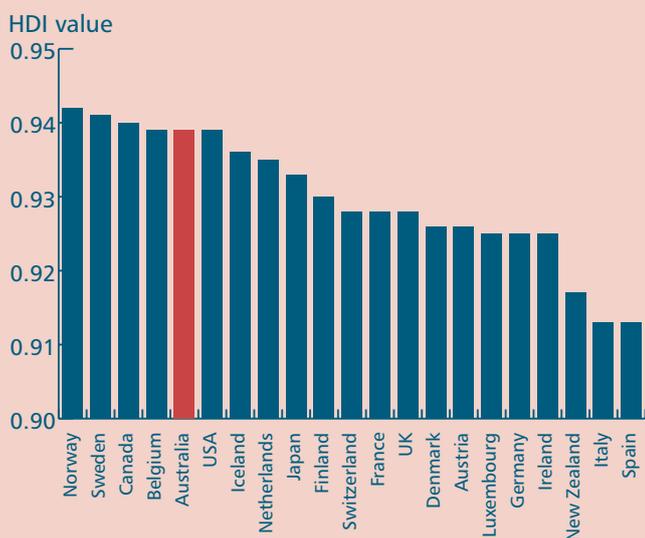
Industry in Melbourne – Open for Business provides background to *Industry in Melbourne on CD*, outlining trends in industrial land supply and demand in recent years, as well as providing comparative analyses of manufacturing and industry in Victoria at a national level. It also looks at pressures impacting on the development of industrial land, and their relative effect on urban growth patterns, across metropolitan Melbourne.

Industry in Melbourne is available from the Planning Information Centre, tel. (03) 9655 8830 or Information Victoria, tel. 1300 366 356. *Industry in Melbourne – Open for Business* can also be accessed online at www.doi.vic.gov.au/research, under the Industrial Land Monitoring section.

The Research and Analysis Branch is currently updating the industrial land survey and, for the first time, it will include the major centres in regional Victoria. For further information, contact the Research and Analysis Branch on tel. (03) 9655 8814.

the start of the 1990s. Even more worrying is that some countries have a lower income per head today than they did before 1990 and in 26 countries incomes are lower than they were in 1980.

Human Development Index (HDI) values, top 21 countries, 2000



Source: *Human Development Report 2002, UN Human Development Program*

WEB SITE NEWS

Readers may be aware that the Research section of the DOI web site is undergoing reorganisation to reflect our changed working structures. Some of the existing sections on population, land development and housing are being reorganised under simpler headings. Other topics, including travel and mobility, economics and employment and freight will be developed over the next 6–12 months.

In June, the Research and Analysis Branch conducted usability testing for the research section of the web site. Participants were primarily from various sectors in government. The feedback received was invaluable and is being incorporated into the ongoing development of the web site. Suggestions included topic-based pages, more links within Know Your Area (as a central point), more images and less text. After the completion of this project, we will also include a feedback link for regular customer input.

Know Your Area Stage 2 is nearing completion. Added or new features include data available at a greater range of geographic levels (LGAs, SLAs, State regions, SDs, SSDs, etc.), more data (projections by gender breakdown, residential activity, unemployment rates, etc.). The user will also have the added options of comparing datasets with other geographies and copying data tables into Microsoft® Excel for manipulation. Please email christina.inbakaran@doi.vic.gov.au on progress or comments.

Research Matters distribution

Do we have your details correctly? Are you still happy to receive *Research Matters*? If your contact details have changed, or you would like to stop receiving *Research Matters*, or you know someone who would like to start receiving it, please let us know so we can update our mailing list.

WHAT'S NEW

Victorian Population Bulletin – special issue

As mentioned in previous editions of *Research Matters*, we will be updating the *Victorian Population Bulletin* with the population estimates for 30 June 2001 that are based on the results of the 2001 Census. These latest estimates are more accurate than the figures released earlier this year which were modelled from the previous Census (1996). Look out for the new Population Bulletin, coming soon.

Regional Matters – an atlas of regional Victoria

Regional Matters, also known as the *Regional Atlas* has been released and we are giving readers of *Research Matters* a chance to win one of three copies of the publication (value: \$40 incl GST). All you have to do is answer this question:

What was the average annual population growth rate in regional Victoria between 1996 and 2001?

Clue: the answer is somewhere in this issue of *Research Matters*.

Please mail or email your answers with your mailing address to:

Regional Atlas competition
Research and Analysis Branch
Department of Infrastructure
GPO Box 2797Y
Melbourne 3001

Research.Analysis@doi.vic.gov.au

Entries close 5.00 pm, Friday, 11 October 2002. Three winners will be drawn at random from all correct entries received by the closing date. Only one entry per person. Current employees of DOI are ineligible. The editor's decision is final.

Monitoring Greater Melbourne

Many of you will remember the successful annual series of publications previously known as *Monitoring Melbourne*, last published in 1998. *Monitoring Greater Melbourne (MGM)* authored by Dr Kevin O'Connor of the University of Melbourne and sponsored by the City of Melbourne and the Urban and Regional Land Corporation will be published shortly by DOI.

The scope of the new bigger and brighter version has been extended. One innovation is the inclusion of Geelong and urban fringe municipalities to provide a structure that is consistent with the idea of a 'city region'. MGM covers trends in demographics, investment and economic activity within Greater Melbourne as well as benchmarking Victoria against other States. MGM will retail for \$20.00. For further information contact Gordon Edgar, tel. (03) 9655 8573 or email gordon.edgar@doi.vic.gov.au.



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