

Research matters

ISSN: 1448-6881

ISSUE 42 JUNE 2007

Ten things everyone should know about the Census

INSIDE

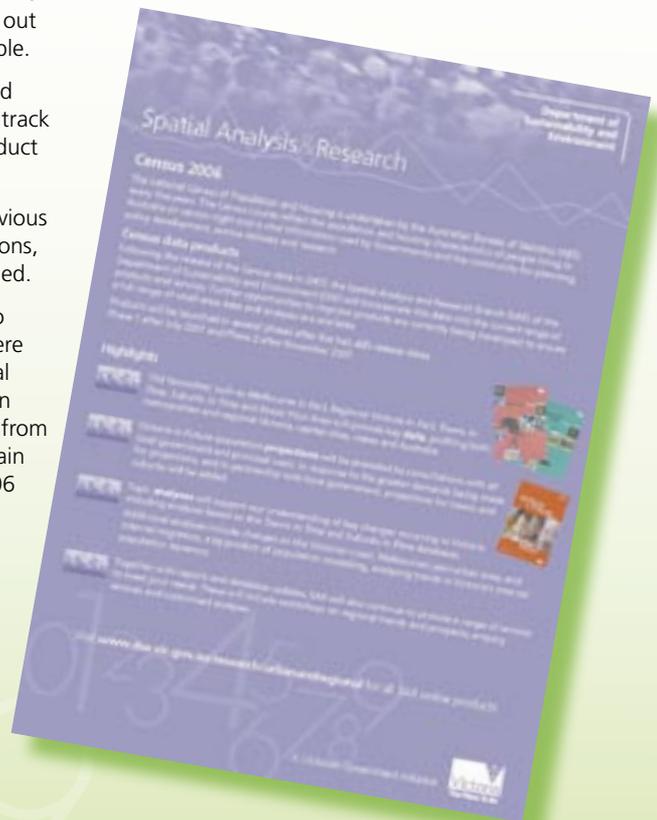
Understanding Mobile
Populations:

Melburnians on the Move 2

Coastal Population
Fluctuations 3

Urban Development
Program 4

1. The census is an extraordinary source of information about who we are, where we live and what we do. For many planning activities it is a very important, if not the most important data source.
2. The census has fine level geographic information. The census provides information down to small groups of around 200 households. It is therefore unique in being able to benchmark small areas against the big picture.
3. Don't expect to be able to obtain all census data on 27th June 2007, when the census is launched. Data that requires more complex coding will not be published until November. The ABS has a phased data release strategy so check the ABS website (www.abs.gov.au/census) to find out when the data you want will become available.
4. The census is undertaken every five years and most topics are repeated, so it is possible to track changes over time. Most countries only conduct their census every 10 years.
5. Beware when making comparisons with previous censuses as there are traps: some classifications, such as industry and occupation have changed.
6. The standard method of publication has also changed, from enumerated population (where people are counted on census night) to usual place of residence. Be careful therefore when comparing the 2006 Census data with data from earlier censuses, but remember you can obtain both types of counts for both 2001 and 2006 Censuses.
7. New topics in the 2006 Census include, volunteer and unpaid work, disabilities and household internet connections.
8. Much of the basic census data contained in the ABS profiles are now free. Users will have to pay for more complex data sets.
9. The ABS is making more information available on data quality. You can get information on sources of error and how the ABS treats these during processing on the ABS website (www.abs.gov.au/census).
10. The DSE will be undertaking a comprehensive analysis of the census and providing value added data sets and other information. Check our website (www.dse.vic.gov.au/research) to see our plans and how we are progressing. Information sheets presenting a schedule for the release of DSE census products (pictured) are available by telephoning **(03) 9637 9441** or emailing spatialanalysis.research@dse.vic.gov.au



Understanding mobile populations: Melburnians on the move

Inspired by readers' interest in the daily trip times of Melburnians as presented in the *Melbourne Atlas* (page 5.12), SAR has been looking in more detail at the daily travel time data. The data is drawn from the VATS travel survey of the late 1990s. Profiles have been developed for each local government area (LGA) over a typical weekday, showing how many people move in and out of their LGA, and for what purpose over the day. A selection of data is presented here. Further information is available from SAR on the daily profiles of all Melbourne LGAs.

The selected graphs and maps included here indicate Melburnians move around extensively during the day, for work and other purposes. There are sharp differences in the daily profiles of LGAs, some are strong employment nodes while others are predominantly residential.

The maps show that municipalities ranging from Maribyrnong in the west to Whitehorse, Monash and Dandenong in the east receive strong flows of people daily from other areas. At 12 noon over 30 per cent of the people in this swathe of municipalities are from outside the area. At that time over 70 percent of people present in Melbourne, Yarra and Port Phillip are non-residents, as a result of the concentration of workplaces, education, retail and services in these areas. Melbourne, Yarra and Port Phillip also have a stronger night-time economy than anywhere else. In all but a few inner municipalities, most Melburnians are back at home by 10 pm.

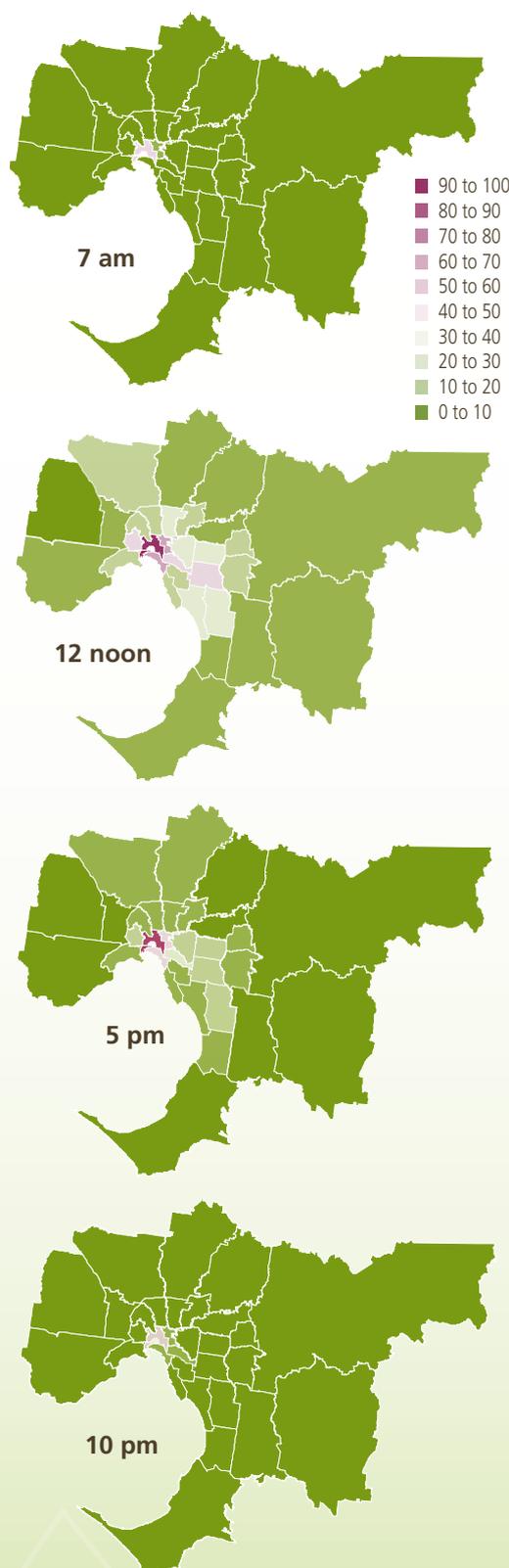
The graphs give a more detailed picture of movement in and out of selected LGAs during the day. Some municipalities lose people during the day, like Casey, but many LGAs which have education, retail or other work clusters, such as Monash, Yarra and Melbourne, host large numbers of people during the day. The graphs indicate that at the same time, many of their residents are going elsewhere to work and for other activities.

The VATS data shown in these maps and graphs indicates the large number of Melburnians who are moving away from their home base and in and out of the city every weekday, for work and other reasons.

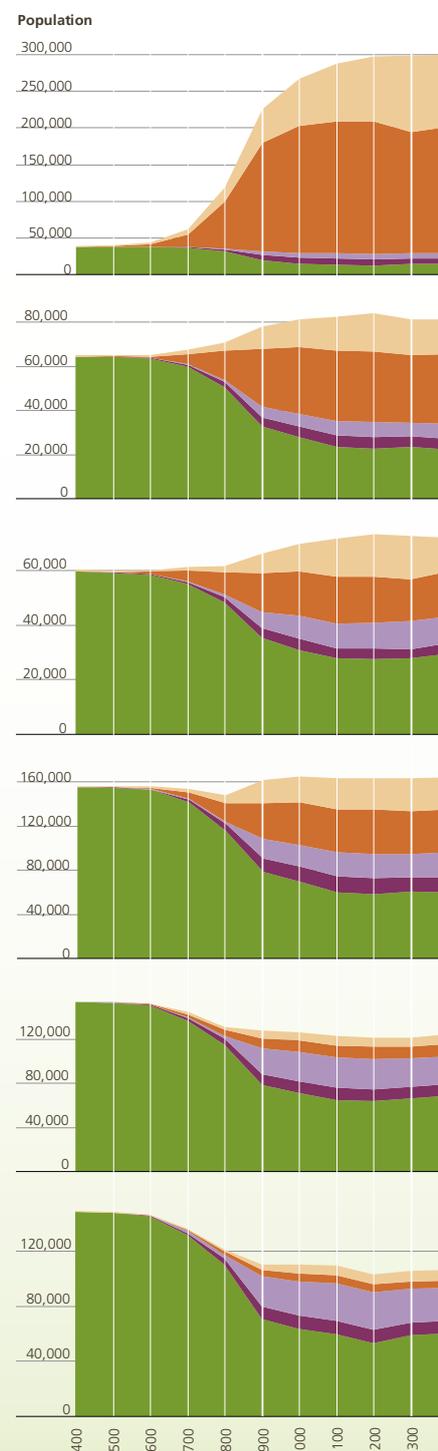
These complex patterns of movement in and out of LGAs and across the city over the day provide challenges for transport planners. Municipalities also need to plan differently according to whether they lose or gain people during the day.

With VATS data nearly ten years old, we keenly anticipate the Victorian Integrated Survey of Travel and Activity (VISTA) which is commencing now, and will provide updated, comparable results next year (including some for regional centres: Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo, Shepparton & Latrobe). If you would like more information on time use during the day in Melbourne's local government areas, please email your request to spatialanalysis.research@dse.vic.gov.au.

Percentage of non-residents in Melbourne LGAs at selected times of day, weekdays, 1994-1999



Number of people at home, work and other over an average week day, selected LGAs

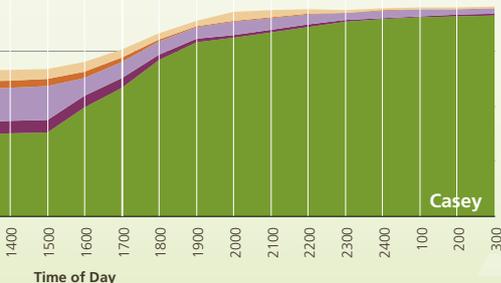
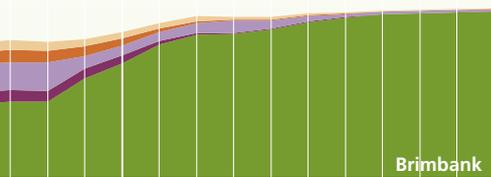
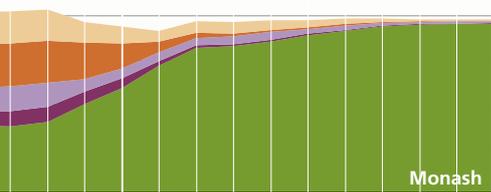
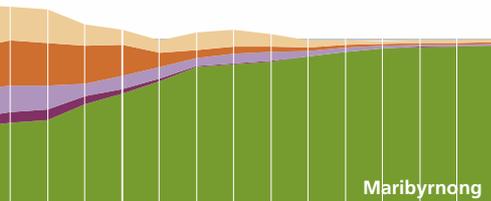
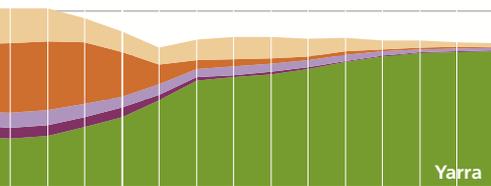
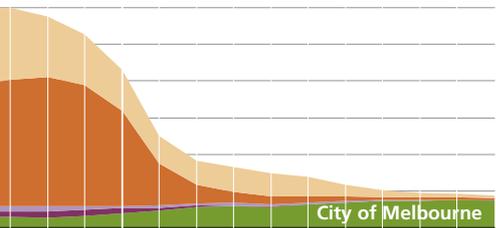


Source: DSE analysis of RMIT Victorian Activity and Travel Survey (VATS)

Other activities 1994–1999

Residents
 - At Home
 - At Work
 - Other

Non-Residents
 - At Work
 - Other



Coastal population fluctuations in Torquay and Phillip Island

With coasts under increasing pressure from population growth, it is becoming important to understand the influence of non-permanent populations such as holiday makers, second home owners and day-trippers on these areas. Spatial Analysis & Research has recently engaged consultants SGS and Urban Enterprise to undertake two case studies on this theme, looking in particular at the scale and impacts of population fluctuations in Torquay and Phillip Island.

The project will focus on identifying the impacts of these types of population fluctuations on service delivery, planning and environmental values along the coastline. It will also investigate indicators that may be useful in estimating peak populations more broadly. As such, the project contributes to part of a larger body of work on mobile populations (e.g. the Mansfield study reported in the March edition of *Research Matters*) and will be used to inform further research and planning for areas with large numbers of non-residents or visiting populations. Both case studies are due for completion in July 2007. Further information can be obtained by emailing fiona.mckenzie@dse.vic.gov.au



Atlases scoop national awards

Following PIA Victoria's recognition in late 2006 of the *Melbourne Atlas 2006* and *Regional Matters: an Atlas of Regional Victoria 2005*, (see December 2006 edition of *Research Matters*), the two landmark research publications received the 'Planning Scholarship, Research and Teaching' Award, at the Planning Institute of Australia's national annual awards in Perth in early May 2007.

The Atlases, which are considered to be one-of-a kind around the world, were developed by the DSE in partnership with other Government departments, and provide a comprehensive picture of the major trends shaping Melbourne and Victoria.

Together, the Atlases offer approximately 770 graphs, charts and tables, use over 350 sources of data and represent knowledge from several hundred individuals and organisations across government and the community.

The *Melbourne Atlas* and the *Regional Matters* can be viewed online at www.dse.vic.gov.au/research or purchased at www.bookshop.vic.gov.au. Hard copies are available from Information Victoria, 365 Collins Street Melbourne.

Urban Development Program

Now in its fifth year, the Urban Development Program (UDP) keeps the Victorian Government, property developers and interested community groups informed about the supply and demand for residential and industrial land across metropolitan Melbourne and the Geelong region. Over the past month UDP staff have consulted planners and researchers from each of the relevant councils to collect key quantitative data from planning and building permit records and to gain an insight into what factors are influencing patterns of local development. More strategic information was obtained through consultations with developers.

The 2007 UDP findings will be released by the end of the year. This report will be a powerful resource for all those interested in property development and land supply trends in the Melbourne metropolitan area. UDP staff extend their thanks to all of the participating councils and developers.

Welcome new staff

Spatial Analysis and Research would like to introduce new staff members Jenny Frieden (pictured left) and Lois Bedson (right). Jenny and Lois have been busy preparing geographical concordances for the 2006 Census. Both have played a part in preparing *Research Matters* – Jenny contributed the article on coastal population fluctuations and Lois assisted with editing.



Recent updates to the SAR Website

Dwelliographics

The *Dwelliographics* report and metropolitan Melbourne LGA profiles have recently been made available on our website. *Dwelliographics* is the new term coined by SAR for our analysis of the demographics of dwellings, that is, the consumption of dwellings by various household types.

The *Dwelliographics* report and LGA profiles are available for download from: www.dse.vic.gov.au/research/urbanandregional and follow the link to Housing & Residential Land.



Coming soon!

Resources for geography teachers

Spatial Analysis and Research in partnership with the Geography Teachers Association of Victoria (GTAV) are in the process of developing a collection of classroom and take-home activities and worksheets to support secondary students' use of the Melbourne and Regional Atlases. The materials will help teachers encourage secondary school students to make use of the Melbourne and Regional Atlases in their studies. The materials are expected to be available online at www.dse.vic.gov.au/research in August 2007.

Published by the Victorian Government Department of Sustainability and Environment June 2007.

© The State of Victoria Department of Sustainability and Environment 2007.

This publication is copyright. No part may be reproduced by any process except in accordance with the provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968*.

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

Printed by TYPO, 97 Tope Street, South Melbourne VIC 3205.

Research Matters is a quarterly newsletter from Spatial Analysis and Research Department of Sustainability and Environment, Level 6, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne, Victoria, 3000

Tel (03) 9637 9441
Fax (03) 9637 8111

Email spatialanalysis.research@dse.vic.gov.au

Internet www.dse.vic.gov.au/research

Editors Chris Wight and Anne Barlow
© DSE All Rights Reserved