

Research Matters

News from the Department of Sustainability and Environment's Urban and Regional Research

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Interstate Migration 2002/03: Facts and Figures

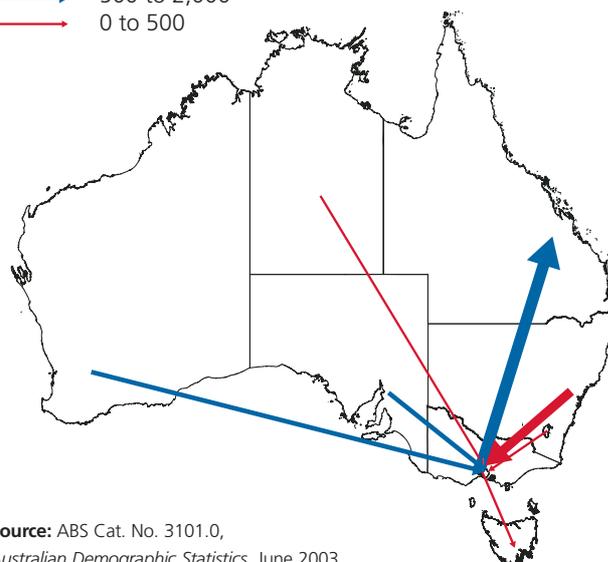
Total interstate moves to and from Victoria:

- Over 148,000 people moved to or from Victoria during 2002/03. This is equivalent to 3 per cent of Victoria's population.
- The most mobile group of people were people aged 20–34: they account for 37 per cent of all moves. Families may also be frequent movers. 20 per cent of Victoria's interstate migrants were aged 35–49 and a further 27 per cent aged less than 20. Contrary to popular views, few empty nesters or retirees move interstate: people aged over 50 account for only 15 per cent of all interstate moves.
- Moves to and from New South Wales (37 per cent) and Queensland (30 per cent) make up two-thirds of all moves to and from Victoria.

Net movements:

- Victoria gained a net 28 people through interstate migration in 2002/03. This compares with the peak of +5,219 in 1999/2000 and a trough of -29,000 in 1993/94.
- The net gain or loss is very small in comparison to the total moves each way. In 2002/03 74,204 came to Victoria and 74,176 left
- Victoria was a net loser of population to Queensland (-5,997) and Tasmania (-23) but a net gainer from the other States and Territories. The greatest net gain was from NSW (+3,330)
- Apart from Queensland, which takes 34 per cent of people leaving Victoria but contributes only 27 per cent of those coming here, there is little difference in the geographical distribution between those leaving and those coming to Victoria
- Victoria attracts young adults but loses most other age groups. There were net gains of people aged 15–34 (+2,393) and 70–89 (+140) but net losses of people aged 0–14 (-613), 35–69 (-1,869) and over 90 (-23).
- Victoria had net gains in all age groups (except for five additional 95–99 year olds) from New South Wales but net losses in all groups to Queensland.
- In 2002/03, the 20–34 year age group was the strongest component of Victoria's gain. In the interstate migration trough of 1993–94, this same age group showed the greatest propensity to leave Victoria: 10,000 of the 29,000 net loss at that time were people aged between 20 and 34.

Net Interstate Migration 2002–03



Source: ABS Cat. No. 3101.0,
Australian Demographic Statistics, June 2003

We know little about why people move interstate. A survey would have to be specifically designed to capture the interstate dimension. The purpose of such a survey would be to establish how much interstate migration is attributable to matters that can be influenced by public policy and how much is due to personal or other circumstances beyond the public policy realm. Supporters or potential partners for such a survey should contact jeremy.reynolds@dse.vic.gov.au

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A Tale of Two Coasts

In the five years to 2001 population growth in Bass Coast and Surf Coast was far ahead of the average for Victoria. Bass Coast and Surf Coast experienced average annual population growths of 3.5 and 3.2 per cent respectively, while Victoria only grew by 1.1 per cent annually over the same period. A major driver of population growth in these coastal municipalities is their proximity to Melbourne; the drive to Melbourne is easily commutable from both coasts. Residents can enjoy a change in lifestyle and maintain linkages with family, friends and employment in Melbourne. While the majority of coast-dwellers work locally, 12.6 per cent of Bass Coast workers and 8.5 per cent of Surf Coast workers commute to Melbourne to work.

Other major attractors to these municipalities include the proximity to the coast and rising house prices in Melbourne, resulting in people looking further abroad for affordable housing. However, the popularity of these areas is having a marked impact on affordability. While median Victorian house prices grew on average by 12.7 per cent annually between 1997 and 2002, house prices in Bass Coast grew annually by 18.4 per cent and by 19.0 per cent in Surf Coast. In this period median house prices jumped from \$73,000 to \$170,000 in Bass Coast, and from \$130,000 to \$310,000 in Surf Coast.

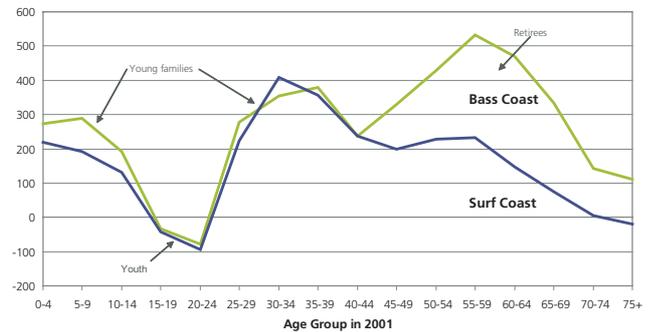
	Bass Coast	Surf Coast	Victoria
Estimated Resident Population			
1996	21,543	17,845	4,560,155
2001	25,631	20,872	4,804,726
Average annual growth (%)	3.5	3.2	1.1
Age structure			
Change in proportion of persons aged 60+ years, 1996–2001 (%)	-0.3	-0.5	0.8
Change in proportion of persons aged 15–64 years, 1996–2001 (%)	1.5	1.9	0.3
Dwelling Vacancy Rate (%)			
1996	49.7	44.4	10.0
2001	43.6	41.6	9.6
Median House Price			
1997	\$73,000	\$130,000	\$142,000
2002	\$170,000	\$310,000	\$258,000
Average annual growth (%)	18.4	19.0	12.7
Work destination 2001 (% of workforce):			
Local	84.7 ^(a)	89.8 ^(b)	–
Melbourne SD	12.6	8.5	–

(a) Includes Bass Coast and South Gippsland

(b) Includes Surf Coast and Greater Geelong, Colac-Otway, Golden Plains

Sources: ABS Census of Population and Housing, 1996 and 2001 Valuer-General, A Guide to Property Values, 2002

Implied Net Migration by Age Group 1996 to 2001



Source: DSE Unpublished 2003 based on published and unpublished ABS data

On census night in August 1996 almost half the houses in Bass Coast and 44.4 per cent of houses in Surf Coast were not occupied. This vacancy rate, some four to five times higher than the Victorian average, is typical of a lot of coastal regions as many holiday homes are used for only part of the year. Vacancy rates dropped significantly in these regions between 1996 and 2001 as more permanent residents moved to coastal municipalities and were present mid week in winter to fill out a census form. By 2001, vacancy rates had fallen by 6.1 per cent in Bass Coast and 2.8 per cent in Surf Coast, far greater than the average decline for Victoria of 0.4 per cent.

CASE STUDY – From Brunswick to Jan Juc

Roger, Dee, Grace, Daniel and Jack moved to Jan Juc (near Torquay) in January this year to be close to the beach (some of the best surf breaks in Australia!), to the family and to benefit from a regional lifestyle coupled with easy access to a broad range of services in Geelong. They have moved from a typical inner city street to one with larger blocks and a mixture of holiday and permanent residences. While Dee has maintained part time work in Melbourne (commuting by train) with some days in Geelong, Roger is going to work close to their new home (or maybe even in it!). The highlights of the move so far are the sound of the ocean at night, the country school at Bellbrae for the kids, coastal bush tracks, surf and a friendly community.



Matters

A Tale of Two Coasts continued

Contrary to the common perception that these coastal areas attract only retirees, both Bass Coast and Surf Coast experienced a decrease in the proportion of persons aged more than 60 and a proportional increase in working population (persons aged 15 to 64 years) between 1996 and 2001. Surf Coast attracts predominantly young families and, to a lesser extent, retirees. Bass Coast attracts a slightly older

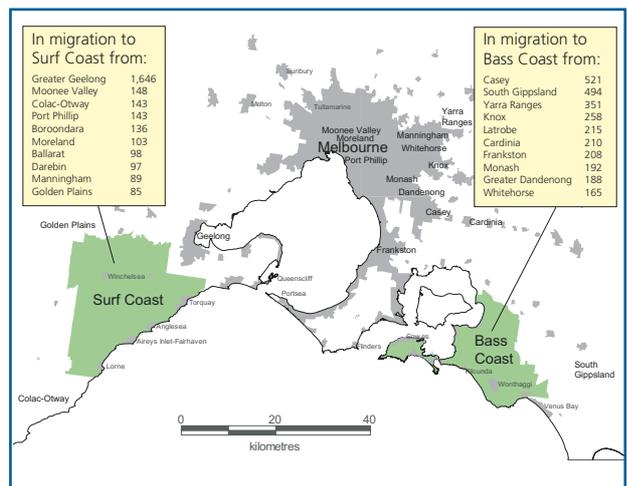
demographic with many retirees from the south-east of Melbourne. Like many areas of regional Victoria, young Surf Coast and Bass Coast residents leave in search of education and employment opportunities in larger regional centres and Melbourne. The census question on where people live one and five years ago gives us a good idea where coastal residents in 2001 have moved from. While Bass Coast attracts people from the outer south east of Melbourne (including Yarra Ranges, Knox and Casey), new Surf Coast residents are primarily from Geelong and also a range of affluent Melbourne suburbs, including Port Phillip and Moonee Valley.

CASE STUDY – Glen Alvie Weekender

Terry and Steve bought a block of land in Glen Alvie, inland from Grantville in Bass Coast Shire two years ago. They bought the property as an investment with the anticipation of experiencing a rural lifestyle. Terry and Steve describe their current life stage as 'almost empty nesters' with two children in their early twenties still at home, one studying at Monash University and the other working. While they call East Brighton home for the working week, around one in three weekends are spent on the land. They plan to build a house at Glen Alvie at some point in the future with the possibility of moving there permanently in retirement and leasing their Melbourne house.



Top ten origins of in-migration to Surf Coast and Bass Coast 1996 to 2001



Source: ABS Census of population and housing 2001

The Regional Atlas – the next edition?

The last edition of *Regional Matters – an Atlas of Regional Victoria* was published in August 2002 and raised so much interest we had to go into a second print run. We are now considering doing a new edition as regional Victoria is clearly undergoing rapid change; new issues are emerging while old ones are being reformulated. But to improve on the last edition, we need your feedback.

If you have used the *Regional Atlas*, can you please take 10-15 minutes to fill in a questionnaire? Go to www.dse.vic.gov.au/research and click on *Regional Atlas Survey* on the front page's latest news and information, print out the questionnaire and post or fax (9655 8811) it back to us as soon as possible. Alternatively phone us on 9655 8814, ask us for a questionnaire and we will send it to you.



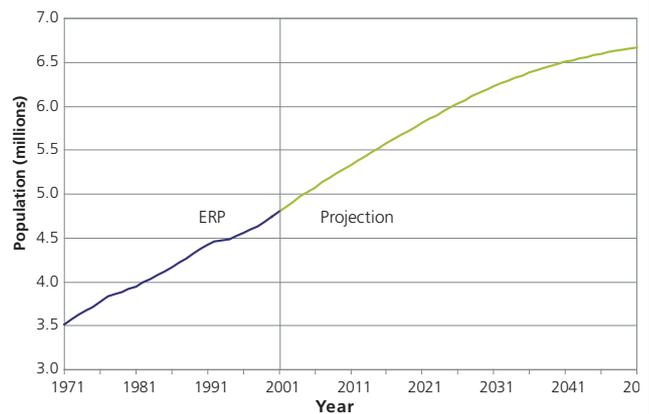
Victoria in Future 2004 is on the way

For those of our readers who are users of our population projections, you will probably be aware that we currently have available a set of interim population projections while we work on developing a full set of State and regional projections to 2051 and small-area population projections by age and sex to 2031.

The good news is that work is well progressed on these projections and we are hoping to release them under the banner of *Victoria in Future 2004*. We are currently focusing on balancing the age and sex profiles of each of the 79 municipalities across Victoria, for the years 2001 to 2031. As you can probably imagine this is no small task.

To balance the anticipated population growth across Victoria, we have had to finalise the projection for the whole of Victoria. In a sneak preview of *Victoria in Future 2004* we can present you with the Victorian totals. In 2001, the official ABS Estimated Resident Population of Victoria was 4,804,700 persons. *Victoria in Future 2004* projects population gross throughout the next 50 years, although at a steadily declining rate as our population ages and fertility rates continue to decline.

Estimated resident population 1971 to 2001 and projected population, Victoria, 2001 to 2051



Source: ABS ERPs and DSE *Victoria in Future 2004*

The total population of Victoria is projected to grow from around 4,804,700 people at 30 June 2001 to 6,671,000 people at 30 June 2051, an increase of 1,866,300 people over the 50 year period. The population is projected to pass 5 million in 2004, 5.5 million in 2014, 6 million in 2025 and 6.5 million around 2040.

Know Your Area

Know Your Area can still be accessed via www.doi.vic.gov.au/knowyourarea or by visiting www.dse.vic.gov.au and clicking under the heading 'online services' or going to Research. Recent data updates include:

- Residential land development data for the September quarter 2003 for metropolitan councils
- Unemployment data from Department of Employment and Workplace Relations for December 2002 to September 2003 for Victorian Statistical Local Areas.

If you would like to be notified when new data sets are added to *Know Your Area* join the mailing list by contacting Christina Inbakaran on 9655 6054 or christina.inbakaran@dse.vic.gov.au

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Local Government Research Network & Local Connections

The *Local Government Research Network (LGRN)* endeavours to support links between local government research and policy and is co-ordinated by Urban and Regional Research. *LGRN* membership information can be found at www.dse.vic.gov.au/lgrn. *LGRN* produce a quarterly newsletter *Local Connections*, past editions of which can be viewed online.

The *LGRN* recently sent out a survey to its members seeking feedback on proposed seminars and topics for *Local Connections* for 2004. Readers who are not *LGRN* members are also welcome to propose seminar or newsletter topics. Proposed seminar topics for 2004 are:

- Working with triple bottom line in local government
- Measuring local land use changes
- Mesh block design – a look at the way collection districts will be replaced for census output
- Journey to work – the 2001 picture and developments for 2006

For further information on either the *Local Government Research Network* or *Local Connections*, please contact Christine Kilmartin on 9655 6934 or Christina Inbakaran on 9655 6054 or christina.inbakaran@dse.vic.gov.au.

