Research Matters

News from the Department of Sustainability and Environment's Spatial Analysis and Research

The 1956 Olympics and 2006 Commonwealth Games – a half century of demographic change in Melbourne

1956 Olympic Games at the Melbourne Cricket Ground
Source: NLA, pic-vn 3122956

In 1956, Melbourne's population was 1.7 million, less than half its present total. Melbourne's annual population growth rate of 2.8%, compared with today's 1%, and was being driven by a combination of high rates of natural increase and overseas migration.

Australia and Melbourne were in the midst of a baby boom. The national fertility rate was 3.3. This was to climb to a high of 3.6 in 1961 and was still as high as 2.9 by the start of the 1970s. The placement of the oral contraceptive pill on the medical benefits list in the early 1970s resulted in a dramatic and lasting change. Fertility rates fell to below 2.1 (replacement level) within the eight years after 1971 and have hovered around 1.7 to 1.8 for the last twenty years. The consequences of this were an ageing population and a slower population growth rate.

In 2005, in response to increasing skills shortages, the Commonwealth Government has raised its overseas migration target to 140,000 for 2005/06. If this was achieved it would represent a 0.7% increase in Australia's population. In 1956, 93,000 new migrants arrived in Australia, a 1% addition to the national population or the equivalent of 200,000 in today's Australia. In 1956 Melbourne received a larger share of migrants who mostly came by ships that docked in Melbourne before Sydney.

In 1956 Melbourne's median age was a surprisingly high 32 years compared with 35 in 2001. While the baby boom was in full 'cry' in 1956, there was a comparative dearth of people aged between 10 and 25, owing to the Great Depression and World War II.

Although post war Melbourne had attracted many migrants and refugees from war-torn Europe, it had yet to become the multicultural city that it is today. In the 1954 census, only 12% of Melbourne's population was recorded as being born overseas, compared with 27% by 1976 and 30% in 2001. Almost half the overseas born population was from the British Isles. The wave of Italian migration had started – the number of Italian born in Melbourne increasing from 30,000 in 1954 to over 100,000 by 1976. But the wave of Greek migration had hardly started – their numbers were to grow from a mere 5,500 in 1954 to 73,000 by 1976. In 1956 Australia still practiced a White Australia policy. In 1954 there was a paltry 10,700 Asian born people in Melbourne. This would grow to 41,000 by 1976 and 230,000 by 2001.

At the 1954 census, men in the formal workforce outnumbered women by 2.3 to 1, whereas in 2001 it was only 1.2 to 1. Manufacturing accounted for 40% of jobs compared with less than 15% today. Although car manufacturing was booming in 1956, cars were yet to take over Melbourne. Public transport accounted for twice as many trips as the car. Today it is one-eighth.

In 1956 fast population growth on Melbourne's fringes was as much an issue as it is now. The 1954 planning film of Melbourne, showing prams being pushed along muddy unmade roads, bears testimony to this and to the progress we have made. Today the 'fringe' suburbs are in fast growing local government areas such as Wyndham (annual growth of 7.3%), Melton (6.9%) or Cardinia (4.3%). In 1956, a combination of strong metropolitan population growth, increasing affluence and mobility, cheap land and finance resulted in a land grab more reminiscent of those we now see around cities in Africa or Asia. Wyndham's current growth rate was surpassed by many LGAs in 1956: Berwick, Broadmeadows (both 18%), Waverley, Keilor, Doncaster and Templestowe (all 16%), Diamond Valley and Altona (both 13%).

Meanwhile the inner city in 1956 was very different to the one that it has become today. During 1956 the Cities of Melbourne and South Melbourne both lost over 2% of their population and all other inner city areas lost population. Despite the flat boom of the 1960s, these losses were to continue, almost unabated, until the early 1990s. Melbourne then became a 'post-industrial' city. Living in the centre became economically and culturally attractive. Industry decentralised, the port and the railways rationalised their land requirements and created space for housing. All in all, the increasingly knowledge-based city of 2006 has a very different dynamic to its industrial forefather of fifty years ago.

* More about how Melbourne has changed can be found in the forthcoming Atlas of Melbourne.

Inside

Victoria
The Place To Be

Zoning in on Nodes: Land use in the Industrial Nodes in Melbourne

DSE regularly collects and publishes information about industrial land supply across metropolitan Melbourne and Geelong. However there is little information available about the economic use of industrial land. The Spatial Analysis and Research Branch recently developed estimates of employment using census data based on Transport Destination Zones in four metropolitan Industrial Nodes. The four industrial nodes were defined by Spatial Analysis and Research for analytical and comparative purposes.

Different types of industrial uses have different locational requirements as well as different impacts. For example warehouses typically require large areas of land. On the other hand warehouses tend to have fewer people employed on site compared to manufacturing. As a result there are differences in the requirements for services such as water, sewage, electricity etc.

In 2001 approximately 75,600 people were employed in Melbourne's four major Industrial Nodes, with 17,400 in the West, 7,500 in the Airport, 21,000 in the North and 29,700 in the South Industrial Node.

**Location of Industrial Nodes, Melbourne**
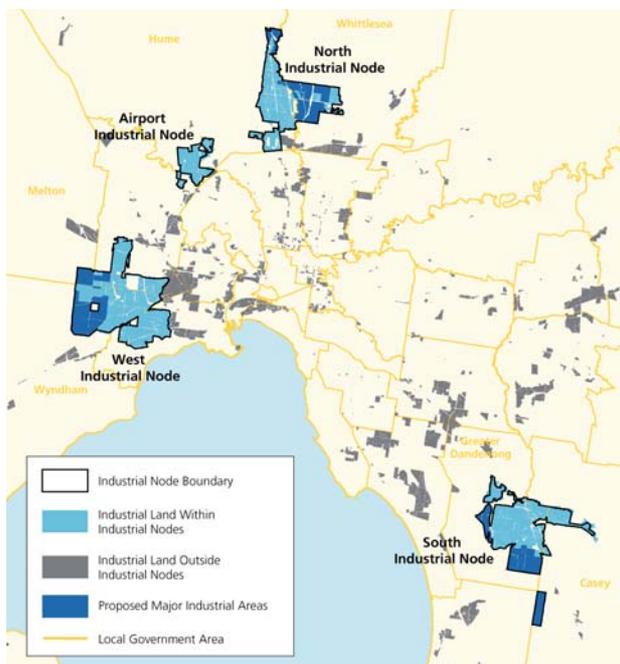
Source: DSE, 2005

Not surprisingly each of the Nodes has different industrial land uses. The chart below shows that manufacturing is the largest single sector in all of the Nodes. In the South and North Industrial Nodes it employs the majority of workers. In the West and Airport Nodes, manufacturing is still an important employer although there are a large number of people employed in the transport and storage sector.

Focusing on the manufacturing sector, the manufacture of machinery and equipment is the largest employer representing more than a quarter of manufacturing employment in metropolitan Melbourne. In the West and North Industrial Nodes this type of employment is associated with the large car

manufacturers, Toyota in the West and Ford in the North, while in the South a diverse mix of products are manufactured including car components, machine tools and parts, lifting and material handling equipment, telecommunication equipment and scientific equipment.
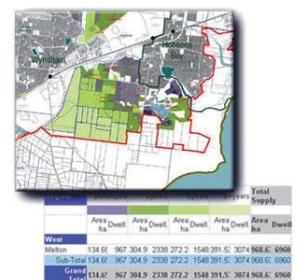
For further information keep an eye on the Urban and Regional Research section of the DSE website **www.dse.vic.gov.au/research/urbanandregional** or contact Peter Elliott by email **peter.elliott@dse.vic.gov.au**.

Estimated Proportion of Employees of Industrial Nodes by ANSIC Division, 2001
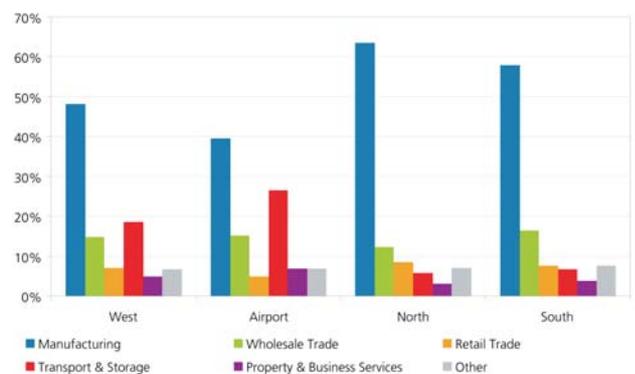
Urban Development Program – Upcoming Forums

The Urban Development Program (UDP) is now in its fourth year of operation and is one of the primary mechanisms for providing advice to Government about the supply, demand and adequacy of residential and industrial land across metropolitan Melbourne and the Geelong Region. This involves an extensive consultation process across the development industry, local government, utility and service providers, and other government agencies. In addition, a series of Development Forums are conducted to provide confirmation of the supply and demand of residential and industrial land, as well as the identification of site specific issues that may impact the timing and yield of projects from a planning and development perspective.

The Development Forums are a valuable resource for the Department of Sustainability & Environment. Commencing in late May, there will be eight forums across metropolitan Melbourne and Geelong, covering broadhectare land supply, infill redevelopment and industrial land supply. To receive further information, please email your request and contact details to **urbandevelopment.program@dse.vic.gov.au**

The changing flows of interstate migration

Just as levels of overseas migration have been influenced by the relative economic conditions of country of arrival and country of departure, so have flows of people between Australian states. At no time or nowhere has this been more apparent than in Victoria over the last 15 years.

Net interstate migration, Victoria, year ending 30 June 1987 to 2005
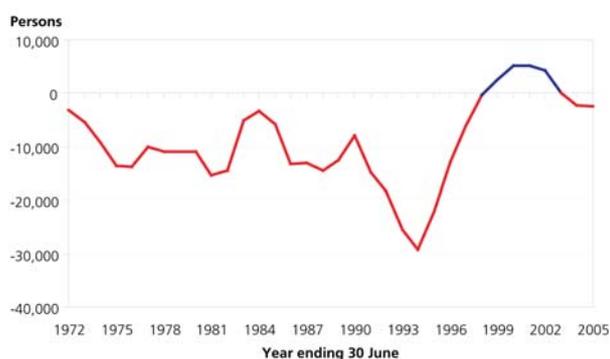
In the year to June 1994, Victoria lost nearly 30,000 people to the rest of Australia. The Nation was in the midst of an economic recession that was felt more strongly in Victoria than other states. Major restructuring of public and private sectors, manufacturing and energy generation industries, was occurring alongside depressed investment in normally high employment sectors such as building and construction.

Fast forward eleven years to 2004-05 and Victoria's economic and demographic situation is somewhat different. The State is emerging from a decade of strong economic growth with booming investment and employment growth in the building and construction sector. In the late 1990s Victoria recorded a net influx of people from interstate for the first time in many years. The past two years have seen a return to interstate migration losses for Victoria, but at much lower level than in the past.
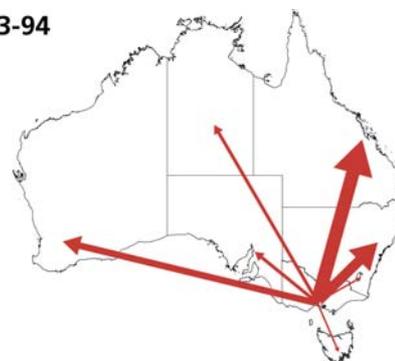
There has also been a turnaround in the historical flows of population between Victoria and some other States, while others have maintained the long standing patterns. Victoria has for a very long time recorded net losses of population to Queensland but the magnitude of the losses has varied over time. Victoria was also known to lose population to New South Wales, but in recent years, and due in part to the large total numbers of people leaving New South Wales, Victoria has become a net gainer of population from the north of the Murray, and mainly from Sydney.

The most recent ABS figures show that Victoria continues to be a net attractor of population from the ACT, South Australia, Tasmania and New South Wales. Victoria experienced small net losses to Western Australia and the Northern Territory, but the stand-out flow is the continuing large loss of population to Queensland (more than 5,600 net loss from Victoria).
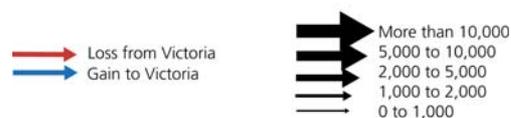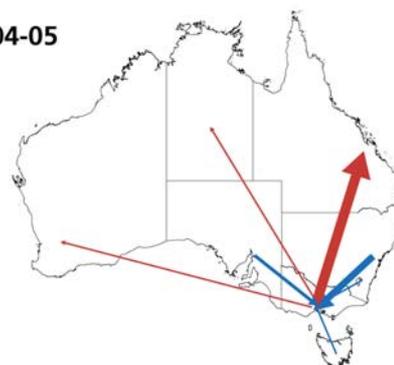
Further Information is available in the special bulletin, *Interstate Migration at a glance* available on the Urban and Regional Research website by following the links to Demographics from **www.dse.vic.gov.au/research/urbanandregional**

Net interstate migration, Victoria, 1993-94 & 2004-05

Source: ABS, DSE

**Population Change in Victoria DVD –
free copies still available!**
Victoria: Changing Faces, Changing Places is a short film which looks at where our population has come from, where we are heading and some of the challenges we face in planning for population growth or decline across Australia. The film will appeal to anyone who has an interest in population issues; from students to professionals, government and the general public.

Free copies of *Victoria: Changing Faces, Changing Places*; available in DVD or interactive CD-Rom format can be obtained by emailing your contact details to **spatialanalysis.research@dse.vic.gov.au**

Mill Park Housing Choice Survey

Spatial Analysis and Research recently embarked on a 'Housing Choice Survey'. The study is being coordinated by Melinda Stella-Pearson, who has just completed a postgraduate diploma in urban planning at Melbourne University. Melinda has been employed by the Department as a vacation student during the summer university holidays. This employment came about partly due to her initiative in approaching the Department's Demographic Manager Jeremy Reynolds who was guest lecturing for her course. Melinda made known to Jeremy her interest in being able to undertake further demographic research work.

Preparing population forecasts for use by Victorian government agencies is one of the responsibilities of the Department. A key component of population forecasts is the choice of where to live made by individuals and households. These choices are often related to a housing choice.

"In this particular study", says Melinda, "we are interested in gaining information about the housing choices made by people who live in a suburb that was developed a generation ago. By examining housing and household change we hope to better understand the relationship between demographic change, household structure, housing decisions and the dwellings in which people reside".

Demographic events, such as births, deaths, employment changes and children leaving the family home may trigger a review of a household's housing needs: where to live, what type of dwelling to live in and, possibly their tenure. Mill Park presents an opportunity to examine a particular aspect of this relationship. Mill Park was developed and first settled 25 to 30 years ago as a suburb for young families. Those families have now grown up with many now reaching a critical stage. Children are leaving home to pursue their own lives while their parents are now entering a new phase: retirement.

Melinda has distributed almost 1,000 questionnaires in the Mill Park area and is now analysing approximately 150 completed survey forms.

Results of the survey will be published on the Demographic section of the Urban and Regional Research website at **www.dse.vic.gov.au/urbanandregional**. For more information please contact Melinda Stella-Pearson on **9637 9760** or John O'Leary on **9637 9553**.

Urban and Regional Research online
The Spatial Analysis and Research web page can be accessed at **www.dse.vic.gov.au/research/urbanandregional**

Available now:
• The latest editions of *Research Matters*, *Local Connections* and the *Residential Land Bulletin*
• The *2005 Urban Development Program Report*
• *Melbourne at a Glance* – A four page snapshot of Population, Households and Employment in Melbourne, available to download in pdf from the publications page.

Coming soon:
• The Melbourne and Regional Atlases.

Did you know?
In 2005 the Urban and Regional Research website received 156,241 views. The most popular pages viewed included *Victoria in Future 2004* and the *Urban Development Program*.

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/research**.

Recent data updates include:
• Residential land development data for metropolitan councils for the December quarter 2005
• Unemployment data from Department of Employment and Workplace Relations for Victorian Statistical Local Areas for December 2002 to September 2005.
• Local government expenditure and revenue 2004/2005 financial year data for Victorian Councils.

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 **9637 9570** or by email **christina.inbakaran@dse.vic.gov.au**