

Introduction

The *Victorian Population Bulletin* provides a valuable snapshot of information on population change and the basic drivers behind that change. The data reported here are the latest estimates and figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), relating to the estimated resident population (ERP) at 30 June 2011. The *Victorian Population Bulletin* provides volume and growth rates for the states and capital cities, for the major cities (statistical districts) in Victoria, and for the 79 Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Victoria. The estimates are ‘preliminary’. They will be revised on 31 July 2012 using 2011 Census data.

Highlights of population change 2010 – 2011

* Australia’s ERP reached 22.62 million at 30 June 2011, an increase of 320,779 people over the previous year. This represents a growth rate of 1.4%.
* Victoria’s ERP at 30 June 2011 was 5.62 million, an increase of 1.5% (84,150 persons) since 30 June 2010. This is lower than the growth over the previous year, 2009-2010 (90,448 persons), and considerably lower than the growth in 2008-2009 (119,634 persons).
* The annual growth rate of the Melbourne metropolitan area was 1.6%. The absolute increase for the year ended 30 June 2011 was 66,913 persons, a growth of approximately 1,282 persons per week.
* The population of Regional Victoria increased by 17,237 persons, representing a growth rate of 1.2%.
* There were four Victorian LGAs amongst the ten largest growing municipalities in Australia for the year ended 30 June 2011. These were Wyndham (up 12,230 or 7.8%), Whittlesea (up 8,675 or 5.6%), Melton (up 6,002 or 5.6%) and Casey (up 5,947 persons or 2.3%). All are located on Melbourne’s urban fringe.

Regional Victoria

* For the year ended 30 June 2011, the population of regional Victoria grew to 1.48 million\*, an increase of 17,237 persons over the previous year, or 1.2%.
* The fastest growing LGAs in regional Victoria were generally located in coastal or peri-urban areas close to Melbourne or Geelong. The highest rate recorded was in Bass Coast (3.7%), located south of Cardinia. Other rapidly growing LGAs were Moorabool (3.0%) and Mitchell (2.9%). Both Baw Baw and Surf Coast had growth rates of 2.8%.
* In terms of absolute growth, LGAs with regional centres recorded the highest amounts. Largely because of their size, Greater Geelong (up 3,331 persons), Ballarat (up 1,867) and Greater Bendigo (up 1,539) recorded the highest volumes of growth. Combined, these three LGAs accounted for 39% of regional Victoria’s population growth.
* Several LGAs in regional Victoria recorded small population losses in 2010-2011. Most of these were located in the dryland agricultural region in the west of the State. It should be noted that in numerical terms this amounted to loss of between 3 and 131 persons in any LGA.
* *\*Note that this regional total does not include Yarra Ranges part B.*

Metropolitan Melbourne

* For the year ended 30 June 2011, the population of the Melbourne Statistical Division grew to well over 4.1 million persons. This represented an increase of 66,913 persons or 1.6%.
* All LGAs in metropolitan Melbourne recorded population growth in the year ended 30 June 2011.
* The four LGAs with the highest growth rates were located on the urban fringe: Wyndham (7.8%), Cardinia (5.9%), Melton (5.6%), and Whittlesea (5.6%). The fifth highest was the City of Melbourne (2.6%).
* LGAs with the highest volumes of growth were all on the urban fringe: Wyndham (12,230), Whittlesea (8,675), Casey (5,947) and Melton (6,002).
* The lowest growth rates were in Banyule, Knox and Nillumbik, which each had a growth rate of 0.2%.

National, State and Territory population growth

* For the year ended 30 June 2011, Australia’s population reached 22,618,294 persons. This represented growth of 320,779 or 1.4%.
* Western Australia (2.4%) recorded the fastest population growth of all States and Territories, continuing trends associated with the minerals boom. The Australian Capital Territory also grew strongly, at a rate of 1.9%, followed by Queensland at 1.7%, then Victoria at 1.5%.
* In terms of absolute numbers, Victoria recorded the largest growth (84,150 persons), followed by NSW (up 82,154) and Queensland (up 74,849).
* Queensland recorded the largest gain in interstate migration (7,150 persons), ahead of Western Australia (up 6,163), Victoria (up 3,759) and Australian Capital Territory (up 1,355). The other states and territories recorded losses; New South Wales (loss of 13,218 persons), South Australia (loss of 2,613 persons), Northern Territory (loss of 2,549 persons) and Tasmania (loss of 47 persons).

Capital city population growth

* The majority of Australia’s population lives in the state and territory capital cities (14.5 million people or 64%, at 30 June 2011).
* The bulk of each state or territory’s population growth also occurred in the capital cities - with the exception of Queensland. Queensland has strong growth in other areas aside from Brisbane, leading to the capital accounting for only 47% of the population growth to 30 June 2011.
* Perth was the fastest growing state capital, increasing by 2.5%, or 42,764 persons. However, the volume of growth was largest in Melbourne (66,918 persons), followed by Sydney (59,767) and Perth (42,764).