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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 2012. The *Victorian Population Bulletin* provides volume and growth rates for the states and capital cities, and for the 79 Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Victoria. The estimates in this issue are preliminary rebased for 2011, based on the results of the 2011 Census, and preliminary for 2012. The ABS advises that, once 2011 population estimates are finalised, 2012 sub-state estimates will also be revised and released on 30 August 2013. The 2011-12 growth rates released in this issue of Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2011-12 (cat. no. 3218.0) will generally be applied to the new 2011 base to give updated 2012 estimates.

Highlights of population change 2011 – 2012

* Australia’s ERP reached 22.7 million at 30 June 2012, an increase of 359,600 people over the previous year. This represents a growth rate of 1.6% (see table in Figure 7).
* Victoria’s ERP at 30 June 2012 was 5.62 million, an increase of 1.6% (89,000 persons) since 30 June 2011. This is higher than the estimated growth over the previous year, 2010-11 (66,100 persons), but significantly lower than the growth in 2008-09 (102,000 persons).
* The annual growth rate of Metropolitan Melbourne (31 LGAs) was 1.8% (see map in Figure 4). The absolute increase for the year ended 30 June 2012 was 75,400 persons, a growth of approximately 1,450 persons per week.
* The population of regional Victoria (48 LGAs) increased by 13,500 persons, representing a growth rate of 0.9% (see map in Figure 3).
* There were three Victorian LGAs amongst the ten largest growing municipalities in Australia for the year ended 30 June 2012. These were Wyndham (up 12,650 or 7.6%), Whittlesea (up 8,600 or 5.4%) and Casey (up 6,500 persons or 2.5%). All are located on Melbourne’s urban fringe (see Figure 1 below).

Regional Victoria

* For the year ended 30 June 2012 the population of regional Victoria (48 LGAs) grew to 1,439,517, an increase of 13,532 persons over the previous year, or 0.9%.
* The fastest growing LGAs in regional Victoria were generally located in peri-urban areas close to Melbourne or Geelong. The highest rate recorded was in Mitchell (3.2%), which is now partially included in the Melbourne Urban Growth Boundary. Surf Coast (2.5%), Golden Plains (2.4%), Moorabool (2.3%) and Baw Baw (2.2%) also experienced higher than average growth rates. In terms of absolute growth, the LGAs with regional centres recorded the highest amounts. Largely because of their size, Greater Geelong (up 2,423 persons), Ballarat (up 1,745) and Greater Bendigo (up 1,682) recorded the highest volumes of growth. Combined, these three LGAs accounted for 43% of regional Victoria’s population growth.
* Several LGAs in regional Victoria recorded small population losses in 2011-2012. 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 losses of between 2 and 179 persons in any LGA.

Metropolitan Melbourne

* For the year ended 30 June 2012, the population of the 31 Metropolitan LGAs grew to nearly 4.2 million persons (4,183,975). This represented an increase of 75,434 persons or 1.8%.
* All but two LGAs in Metropolitan Melbourne recorded population growth in the year ended 30 June 2012.
* The three LGAs with the highest growth rates were located on the urban fringe: Wyndham (7.6%), Cardinia (5.6%), Whittlesea (5.4%). The City of Melbourne was fourth with 5.1% and Melton had the fifth highest growth rate (4.7%).
* The LGAs with the highest volumes of growth were all on the urban fringe: Wyndham (12,649), Whittlesea (8,593), Casey (6,487) and Melton (5,252).
* Knox and Nillumbik experienced small losses of population (less than 100 persons).

National, State and Territory population growth

* For the year ended 30 June 2012, Australia’s population reached 22,683,573 persons. This represented a growth of 359,640 or 1.6%.
* Western Australia (3.3%) recorded the fastest population growth of all states and territories, continuing trends associated with the minerals boom. Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory also grew strongly, at a rate of 1.9%, followed by Victoria at 1.6%.
* In terms of absolute numbers, Victoria recorded the largest growth (88,966 persons), followed by Queensland (up 85,961), New South Wales (up 78,877) and Western Australia (up 78,037).
* Queensland recorded the largest gain in interstate migration (11,796 persons), ahead of Western Australia (11,085), Victoria (1,203) and Australian Capital Territory (695). The other states and territories recorded losses; New South Wales (loss of 18,378 persons), Tasmania (loss of 2,552 persons), South Australia (loss of 2,357 persons) and the Northern Territory (loss of 1,492 persons) (Source: Australian Demographic Statistics, September Quarter 2012, cat. No. 3101.0).

Capital city population growth

* The majority of Australia’s population lives in the state and territory capital cities and their associated socioeconomic areas. At 30 June 2012, 15.0 million people or 75% of the Australian population lived in the seven Greater Capital City statistical areas (GCCSAs) and the Australian Capital Territory.
* 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 50% of the population growth in the year to 30 June 2012.
* Greater Perth was the fastest growing state capital, increasing by 3.6%, or 65,434 persons. However, the volume of growth was largest in Greater Melbourne (77,242 persons). Greater Sydney’s population increased by 61,291 persons.

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