



## State of Australian Cities 2013

### Sunshine Coast



#### Population and Settlement

- The Sunshine Coast's population grew by 7.8% between 2006 and 2011, to 241,643. This rate was significantly slower than the previous five year period, when it was 16.7%.
- In 2010–11, 2,152 more people moved to the Sunshine Coast from other parts of Australia than departed for other parts of Australia. Additionally, births (2,739) outnumbered deaths (1,921) in the city in 2010–11.
- International education has grown to become Australia's fourth largest export industry. In 2011, 1,252 international students enrolled in the vocational education and training or the higher education sectors were living in the Sunshine Coast, 0.5% of the city's population. It is estimated that international students in higher education, vocational and English language courses spend an average of \$42,531 per annum while studying in Australia.

#### Productivity

- In 2011, 76.4% of the Sunshine Coast's employed males worked full-time, below the national average of 81.7% but up from 72.3% in 2001. The proportion of the Sunshine Coast's employed females that were working full-time was 45.8%, significantly below the national average of 53.0% but up from 43.8% in 2011. Of the major cities, the Sunshine Coast had the lowest proportion of employed males working full-time in 2011 and the second lowest proportion of employed females working full-time, behind Geelong. As shown in the *State of Australian Cities 2012* report, the Sunshine Coast has the highest proportion of people aged 65 and over of all major cities and this may affect the proportion of employed people working full-time.
- The sector that employed the most males in the Sunshine Coast in 2011 was the construction sector (19.8%). The Sunshine Coast had the highest proportion of males working in this sector out of all the major cities and also the highest for the retail trade sector (10.7%). The Sunshine Coast had one of the highest proportions of males employed in professional and real estate services (8.5%) and accommodation and food services (8.3%).
- The sectors that employed the most females in the Sunshine Coast in 2011 were health care and social assistance (22.1%) and retail trade (16.0%). Nationally, the health care and social assistance sector employed more Australians than any other sector (11.6%) in 2011, including one in five working women. For the Sunshine Coast, people working in the health care and social assistance sector tend to be clustered around secondary employment hubs, such as hospitals.
- Employment by industry changed noticeably in Australia's major cities between 2001 and 2011. Reflecting the experience of all major cities in this period, the proportion of people employed in the retail trade sector in the Sunshine Coast declined substantially (17.3% to 10.7% for males; 22.0% to 16.0% for females) and so did the proportion of people employed in the manufacturing sector (11.7% to 9.3% for males; 4.7% to 3.5% for females). The Sunshine Coast had the largest shift away from male employment in the retail trade sector of all the non-capital major cities during this period.

- The proportion of males employed in the construction sector in the Sunshine Coast increased significantly between 2001 and 2011 (16.2% to 19.8%). Most major cities saw significant increases in the proportion of males employed in this sector during this period.
- The sector which saw the largest increase in the proportion of people it employs in the Sunshine Coast between 2001 and 2011 was health care and social assistance (17.5% to 22.1%). Most major cities saw significant increases in the proportion of females employed in this sector during this period.
- Higher education qualifications play a key role in Australia's productivity and there is an increasing demand for higher skill levels in the Australian workforce. In the Sunshine Coast in 2011, 56.4% of males aged 15 and over had a post-school qualification, above the national average of 54.1%, and the highest proportion of all non-capital major cities. The proportion with post-school qualifications in 2011 included 33.8% with a certificate, 8.5% with a diploma or advanced diploma and 14.1% with a bachelor degree or above. Nationally, 26.8% of males had a certificate, 7.8% had a diploma or advanced diploma and 19.5% had a bachelor degree or above. Of the major cities, the Sunshine Coast between 2001 and 2011 had the second highest rate of increase in the proportion of males with post-school qualifications, behind Toowoomba.
- In 2011, 45.6% of females had a post-school qualification in the Sunshine Coast, below the national average of 46.9%. However, the rate of increase in the proportion of females with post-school qualifications in the Sunshine Coast between 2001 and 2011 was the highest of any major city (16.1%). The proportion with post-school qualifications in 2011 included 16.3% with a certificate, 11.6% with a diploma or advanced diploma and 17.6% with a bachelor degree or above. Nationally, 14.0% of females had a certificate, 10.1% had a diploma or advanced diploma and 22.7% had a bachelor degree or above.

## Liveability

- The median household income in the Sunshine Coast increased by 14.2% between 2006 and 2011 to \$1,011 per week, below the national median of \$1,234. This growth rate was in the lower third of major cities. Nationally, income has increased across all income groups; however it has increased more at the top and bottom.
- The Sunshine Coast's estimated homeless population was 758 in 2011, 0.3% of the city's population.
- Active travel can improve liveability in cities by increasing health and wellbeing and reducing traffic congestion. In 2011, 5.1% of Sunshine Coast commuters walked or rode a bicycle to work. This was on par with the average for all major cities, but down from 5.5% in 2006.
- In 2011, the Sunshine Coast had 2.7 male bicycle commuters for every female bicycle commuter, below the average ratio of 3.3:1 across the major cities.
- In 2011, 20.2% of people in the Sunshine Coast volunteered their time, above the national average of 17.8%. Unlike most non-capital major cities, the proportion of volunteering increased between 2006 (20.0%) and 2011. Nationally, volunteering is more prevalent in the non-capital major cities than in the capitals.

## Governance

- The *South East Queensland Regional Plan 2009-2031* provides high level policy direction for the greater Brisbane area as well as the major urban centres of Ipswich, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Logan and Toowoomba. The next review of the Plan is scheduled to commence in late 2013.