



State of Australian Cities 2013

Townsville



Population and Settlement

- Townsville's population grew by 9.4% between 2006 and 2011, to 167,636.
- In 2010–11, 1,067 more people moved to Townsville from other parts of Australia than departed for other parts of Australia. Additionally, births (2,674) outnumbered deaths (876) in the city in 2010–11.
- International education has grown to become Australia's fourth largest export industry. In 2011, 1,442 international students enrolled in the vocational education and training or the higher education sectors were living in Townsville, 0.9% 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, 84.9% of Townsville's employed males worked full-time, up from 80.7% in 2001, and above the national average of 81.7%. Of the major cities, this was the second highest rate of full-time employment for males (behind Darwin with 86.4%). The proportion of Townsville's employed females that were working full-time was 57.3%, also above the national average of 53.0% and up significantly from 51.9% in 2001.

- The sectors that employed the most males in Townsville in 2011 were construction (15.8%), public administration and safety (14.8%) and manufacturing (11.5%). Nationally, the construction and manufacturing sectors employed the most males in 2011 (13.8% and 12.8%).
- The sectors that employed the most females in Townsville in 2011 were health care and social assistance (22.0%), retail trade (14.4%) and education and training (12.9%). 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.
- Of the non-capital major cities, Townsville in 2011 had the highest proportion of males and females employed in the public administration and safety sector (14.8% and 9.9%).
- Of the non-capital major cities, Townsville in 2011 had the lowest proportion of males and females employed in the financial and insurance services sector (1.2% and 2.2%) and the lowest proportion of males employed in the education and training and administrative and other services sectors (4.1% and 6.5%).
- Employment by industry changed noticeably in Australia's major cities between 2001 and 2011. Reflecting the experience of all major cities during this period, the proportion of people employed in the retail trade sector in Townsville declined substantially (12.8% to 7.9% for males; 19.5% to 14.4% for females).
- The proportion of males employed in the construction sector increased significantly in Townsville between 2001 and 2011 (11.3% to 15.8%). Most major cities saw significant increases in the proportion of males employed in this sector during this period. In Townsville, the proportion employed in the mining sector also increased substantially between 2001 and 2011 (1.9% to 4.9%).

- The proportion of females employed in the health care and social assistance sector in Townsville increased significantly between 2001 and 2011 (18.6% to 22.0%). Most major cities experienced significant increases in their female employment share in this sector during this period.
- In 2011, 2.0% of Australia's mining sector employees lived in Townsville, up from 1.5% in 2006. Some major cities, including Townsville, are bases for fly-in fly-out (FIFO) workers. FIFO practices are not new, however they have increased in prevalence in recent years, mainly due to the difficulty of attracting workers to live and work in remote locations, lower costs of air transport and the high cost of housing in remote and non-capital mining site areas. Approximately 22% of passengers passing through Townsville Airport in the first quarter of 2012 were mining industry employees.
- 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 Townsville in 2011, 52.6% of males aged 15 and over had a post-school qualification, below the national average of 54.1%. This included 33.1% with a certificate, 6.5% with a diploma or advanced diploma and 12.9% 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.
- In 2011, 44.2% of females aged 15 or over living in Townsville had a post-school qualification, below the national average of 46.9%. This included 16.0% with a certificate, 8.4% with a diploma or advanced diploma, and 19.7% 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 Townsville increased by 45.6% between 2006 and 2011 to \$1,398 per week. This was the fastest rate of increase of all the major cities during this period and brought Townsville's household income above the national median of \$1,234. Nationally, income has increased across all income groups; however it has increased more at the top and bottom.
- Townsville's estimated homeless population was 1,591 in 2011, 0.9% of the city's population.
- Active travel can improve liveability in cities by increasing health and wellbeing and reducing traffic congestion. In 2011, 5.9% of Townsville commuters walked or rode a bicycle to work. While this was one of the highest proportions of the non-capital major cities, it was down from 7.6% in 2006.
- In 2011, Townsville had 3.7 male bicycle commuters for every female bicycle commuter, slightly higher than the average ratio of 3.3:1 across the major cities.
- In 2011, 16.7% of people in Townsville volunteered their time, below the national average of 17.8%. As with most non-capital major cities, the proportion of volunteering declined between 2006 (18.0%) and 2011. Nationally, volunteering is more prevalent in the non-capital major cities than in the capitals.