



State of Australian Cities 2013

Wollongong

Population and Settlement

- Wollongong's population grew by 3.6% between 2006 and 2011, to 288,101.
- In 2010–11, 437 more people moved to Wollongong from other parts of Australia than departed for other parts of Australia. Additionally, births (3,510) outnumbered deaths (2,128) in the city in 2010–11.
- International education has grown to become Australia's fourth largest export industry. In 2011, 6,043 international students enrolled in the vocational education and training or the higher education sectors were living in Wollongong, 2.1% 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, 81.2% of Wollongong's employed males worked full-time, slightly below the national average of 81.7% but up from 79.5% in 2001. The proportion of Wollongong's employed females that were working full-time was 46.8%, below the national average of 53.0%, but up slightly from 46.3% in 2001.
- The sectors that employed the most males in Wollongong in 2011 were manufacturing (16.1%) and construction (13.4%). 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 Wollongong in 2011 were health care and social assistance (23.3%), education and training (15.3%) and retail trade (14.0%). 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.
- Of the major cities, Wollongong had the highest proportion of males employed in the education and training sector (6.4%) in 2011. It also had the lowest proportion of males employed in the wholesale trade sector (3.5%).
- Of the non-capital major cities, Wollongong in 2011 had the highest proportion of females employed in the financial and insurance services sector (5.1%).
- 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 manufacturing sector in Wollongong declined substantially (23.0% to 16.1% for males; 5.5% to 3.3% for females) and so did the proportion of people employed in the retail trade sector (12.7% to 7.8% for males; 19.8% to 14.0% for females).
- The proportion of males employed in the public administration and safety sector in Wollongong increased significantly between 2001 and 2011 (3.7% to 7.7%). Most major cities saw significant increases in the proportion of males and females employed in this sector during this period.
- The proportion of females employed in the health care and social assistance sector in Wollongong increased significantly between 2001 and 2011 (19.1% to 23.3%). Most major cities saw significant increases in the proportion of females employed in this sector during this period.

- In 2011, 2.0% of Australia's mining sector employees resided in Wollongong, down from 2.5% in 2006.
- 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. Of the major cities, Wollongong had one of the slowest rates of increase in the proportion of its population with post-school qualifications between 2001 and 2011.
- In Wollongong in 2011, 55.5% of males aged 15 and over had a post-school qualification, above the national average of 54.1%. This included 32.2% with a certificate, 7.8% with a diploma or advanced diploma and 15.5% 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, 45.1% of females aged 15 or over in Wollongong had a post-school qualification, below the national average of 46.9%. This included 16.9% with a certificate, 9.9% with a diploma or advanced diploma and 18.3% 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.

Sustainability

- During the 2012–13 heatwave, Wollongong experienced extreme temperatures, reaching 43.1 °C on 8 January and 45.8 °C on 18 January. Across Australia, 123 weather records were broken during this period, including the hottest January, the hottest summer and the hottest day on record for Australian as a whole.

Liveability

- Wollongong was ranked 8th of the 11 Australian cities included in the Property Council of Australia's 2012 *My City* liveability survey. The survey is one of a number of national and international efforts to measure wellbeing and quality of life in cities using more than simply economic factors. Across the 11 cities surveyed, participants rated safety, cost of living, health, employment and quality of the environment as the most important attributes for liveability.
- The median household income in Wollongong increased by 16.5% between 2006 and 2011 to \$1,113 per week but it was still below the national median of \$1,234. Nationally, income has increased across all income groups; however it has increased more at the top and bottom.
- The Illawarra region (which includes Wollongong) had an estimated homeless population of 972 in 2011.
- Active travel can improve liveability in cities by increasing health and wellbeing and reducing traffic congestion. In 2011, 4.1% of Wollongong's commuters walked or rode a bicycle to work. This was one of the lowest proportions of the major cities and it was down from 4.4% in 2006.
- Wollongong had 4.4 male bicycle commuters for every female bicycle commuter in 2011, higher than the average ratio of 3.3:1 across the major cities.
- In 2011, 16.7% of people in Wollongong volunteered their time, below the national average of 17.8%. As with most non-capital major cities, the proportion of volunteering declined between 2006 (17.0%) and 2011. Nationally, volunteering is more prevalent in the non-capital major cities than in the capitals.

Governance

- Strategic planning for Wollongong is guided by the NSW Government's *Illawarra Regional Strategy*. A systematic review is currently underway, with a discussion paper planned for release this year.