

Population Growth and Distribution in Australia



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CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING, 6 AUGUST 1991

**POPULATION GROWTH AND
DISTRIBUTION IN AUSTRALIA**

IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician

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INQUIRIES

- *for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Information Services on Canberra (06) 252 6007 or any ABS State Office.*
 - *for information about other ABS statistics and services please refer to the back page of this publication.*
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PREFACE

Australia's twelfth national Census of Population and Housing was taken on 6 August 1991. The population Census is the largest statistical collection undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Its objective is to measure the number and key characteristics of people in Australia on Census night. It provides detailed information about the population for small geographic areas as well as for the States and Territories and for Australia as a whole. This information is intended to support the planning, administration and policy development activities of government, business and other users.

The purpose of this report is to present important demographic features of the Australian population observed in the Census. It summarises the main findings about the growth and location of the population, its age and sex profile and recent trends in overseas and interstate migration. Demographic characteristics of non-capital cities and rural areas as well as those of the capitals, the States and Territories are covered.

Census data is not without limitations. Despite the application of detailed collection procedures some people are missed, while others who are not usual residents of Australia are included. Because this report deals with the growth and distribution of population in Australia, wherever possible the data are presented on an estimated resident population basis. The report also contains data from administrative systems (births, deaths and overseas arrivals and departures) as these serve to provide a fuller picture of the dynamics of population change in Australia in recent years.

The Census is about the people of Australia. We encourage its use and welcome comments and suggestions from users on the topics covered in this report.

Ian Castles
Australian Statistician

April 1994

SYMBOLS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Symbols

The following symbols, where shown in tables, mean:

- ... not applicable
- nil or rounded to zero

Other usages

Where figures have been rounded or randomised, discrepancies may occur between the sums of the component items and totals.

Unless otherwise stated, tables based upon unpublished data exclude overseas visitors.

Definitions

The *average annual rates of population growth* shown in this publication have been derived using the compound increase formula $P_n = P_0(1+r)^n$ where P_0 is the initial population and P_n is the population after n years. The average annual rate of growth, r , is then computed as a percentage using the equation:

$$r = \left(\sqrt[n]{\frac{P_n}{P_0}} - 1 \right) \times 100$$

For information on other definitions used, consult the *1991 Census Dictionary* (2901.0). Information on classifications used can be found in the *1991 Census Dictionary of Classifications* (2904.0). Information on geographic areas used can be found in *1991 Census Geographic Areas* (2905.0).

Inquiries about these statistics

For general inquiries see the last page. Inquiries about the content and interpretation of statistics in this publication should be addressed to John Paice, Director, Demography Section, ABS, PO Box 10, Belconnen, ACT 2616, phone (06) 252 6411.

Other publications in this series

There are two other publications in the *1991 - Census Thematic series*:

Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population (2740.0)
Australia in Profile (2821.0)

POPULATION GROWTH AND DISTRIBUTION

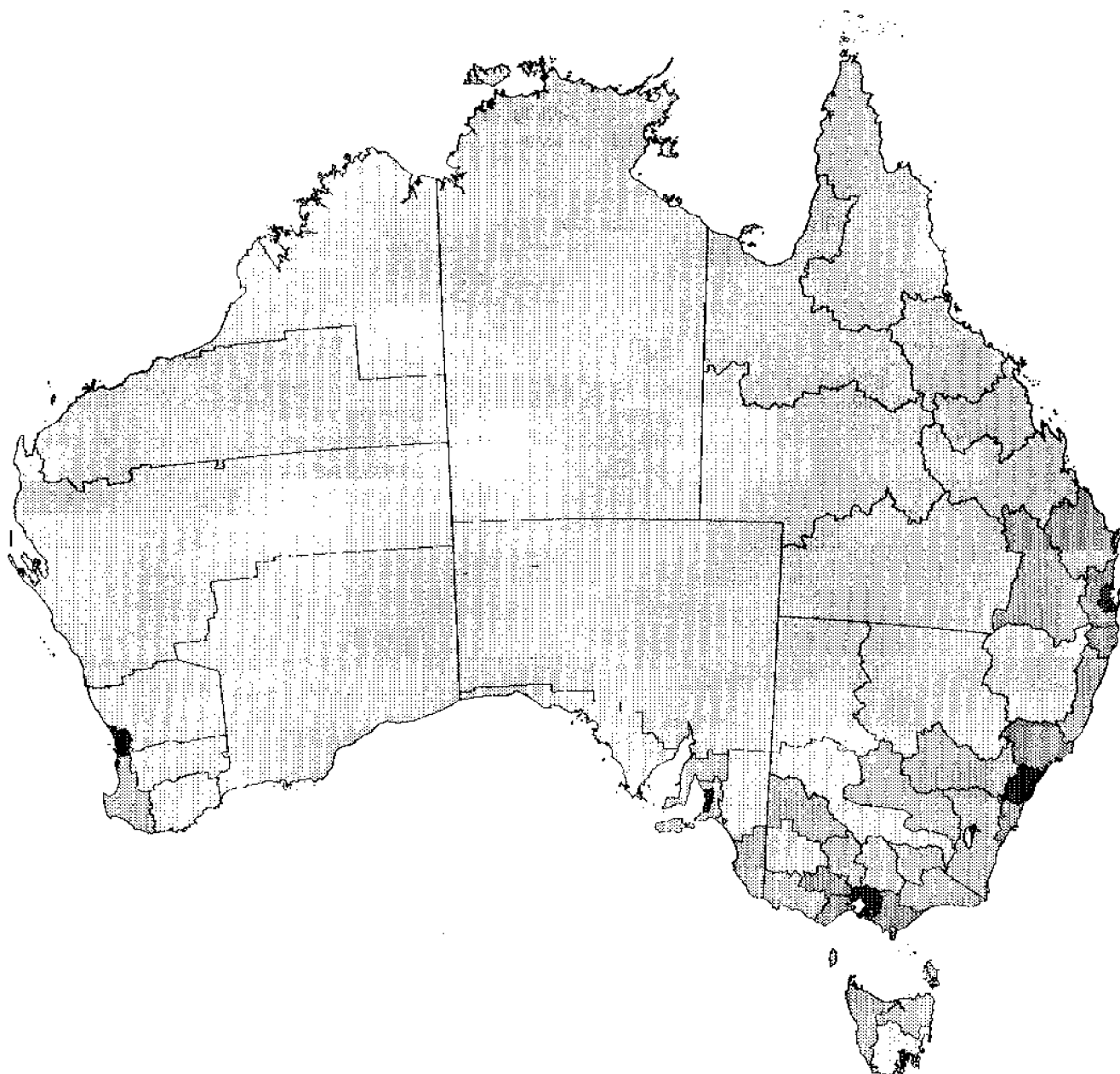
How many Australians?

On Census night, 6 August 1991, some 16.9 million people were counted in Australia, including 78,700 overseas visitors. Following the Census, two studies were undertaken to provide data from which to estimate the resident population of Australia. The first was an investigation, using results of a sample survey of households conducted in late August 1991, to determine the extent of undercounting in the Census (estimated at 312,300 or 1.8 per cent). The second was an analysis of overseas arrivals and departures data to determine the number of usual residents of Australia who were temporarily out of the country on Census night, and who were therefore not counted (estimated at 223,900 or 1.3 per cent). After adjusting the Census counts for these two factors, and after excluding visitors and making allowance for population changes between the end of the financial year and Census night, the resident population of Australia was estimated to be 17.3 million at 30 June 1991. This represented an increase of 1.3 million since the previous Census on 30 June 1986. Fifty per cent of this growth was due to natural increase (the excess of births over deaths) and 50 per cent was due to net overseas migration. The average annual growth rate for the five years 1986-91 was 1.5 per cent.

Where they live

Australia's population is concentrated in two widely separated coastal regions. By far the larger, both in area and population, lies in the east and south-east, stretching in a crescent from Queensland through New South Wales and Victoria to South Australia. It also includes Tasmania. The smaller region is in the south-west of the continent and is concentrated on the Perth metropolitan area. Both of these regions are coastal areas which rarely extend more than about 300 kilometres inland. The two regions are separated by up to 3,000 kilometres of sparsely populated land which makes up about three-quarters of Australia's land area.

FIGURE 1.1 POPULATION DENSITY, 1991

**Persons per sq km**

- More than 100
- 10 to 100
- 2 to 10
- Less than 2

0 1000
Kilometres

Population growth rate
... steady increase continues

The 1.5 per cent average annual growth rate during 1986-91 was marginally higher than that of 1.4 per cent recorded for the previous intercensal period, 1981-86. Australia's rate of population growth during 1986-91 was still low when compared to growth in the years immediately following World War II. During that time the average annual growth rate was 2.5 per cent, with average annual rates of natural increase and net overseas migration recorded at 1.4 and 1.2 per cent respectively. Apart from a slight increase in the 1960s, Australia's rate of population growth declined from its peak in the post war years until the 1970s since when it has been slowly increasing.

TABLE 1.1 POPULATION GROWTH, 1947-91

Intercensal periods	Average annual rate of growth(a)			
	Average annual growth	Total	Natural increase	Net overseas migration
	'000		— per cent —	
1947-54(b)(c)	201.0	2.46	1.42	(d)1.16
1954-61(b)(c)	217.4	2.26	1.44	(d)0.91
1961-66(b)(c)	208.5	1.91	1.24	(d)0.74
1966-71(b)	231.2	1.92	1.16	(d)0.85
1971-76	193.2	1.44	1.02	0.42
1976-81	178.0	1.24	0.82	0.51
1981-86	219.0	1.42	0.84	0.56
1986-91	253.1	1.53	0.81	0.79

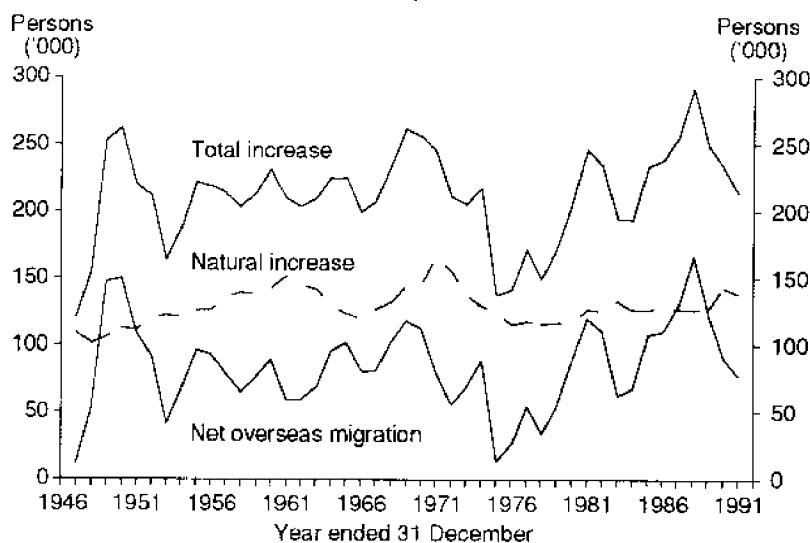
(a) Differences between total growth and the sum of natural increase and net overseas migration arise from retrospective adjustments to population estimates made after each Census to eliminate any intercensal discrepancy. (b) Census counts on an actual location basis. From 1971 the estimated resident population series (Census counts on a usual residence basis adjusted for underenumeration and residents temporarily overseas) has been adopted as the official population statistics series. (c) Although Aboriginal people have been counted in every population Census, they were excluded from official population figures under Section 127 of the Constitution, until its repeal in 1967. (d) Includes short-term movement.

Source: *Demography* Nos. 65-87 (1947-71), *Australian Demographic Statistics* (3101.0)

... annual fluctuations

Average annual growth rates for intercensal periods mask annual fluctuations in the growth of the population. In particular, annual net overseas migration gains varied from less than 40,000 (0.2 per cent growth or less) in 1947, 1975 and 1976 to more than 140,000 (1.9 per cent growth) in 1949 and 1950. Other major peaks occurred in 1968-70, 1980-82 and 1986-90. Annual rates of natural increase have progressed relatively smoothly, falling steadily from above 1.4 per cent in the late 1940s and the 1950s to around 0.8 per cent in the late 1970s before a small increase during the 1980s.

FIGURE 1.2 ANNUAL INCREASE IN POPULATION BY COMPONENTS OF GROWTH, 1947-91



Source: Australian Demographic Statistics (Cat. No. 3101.0)

Population growth in other countries

Looking at population growth in selected countries over the six year period 1985-1991, Australia's average annual rate of population growth at 1.5 per cent was greater than the rates of growth in Canada (1.2 per cent), the USA (1.0 per cent) and New Zealand (0.7 per cent) but lower than those in Malaysia (2.6 per cent), Indonesia (2.2 per cent) and Papua New Guinea (2.0 per cent). The median age of the Australian population at 32.4 years in 1991 was similar to the national median age in Canada (33.4 years), the USA (32.8 years) and New Zealand (31.3 years). Median ages were much younger in Indonesia (21.6 years) and Papua New Guinea (14.3 years), and older in Japan (37.5 years). The average population density of 2 persons per square kilometre is very low by international standards. The low figure masks the concentration of people along the coast and the high level of urbanisation. Again there are similarities between Canada and Australia in that both countries are characterised by large areas not conducive to human settlement.

TABLE 1.2 POPULATION LEVELS, GROWTH RATES AND DENSITY, SELECTED COUNTRIES

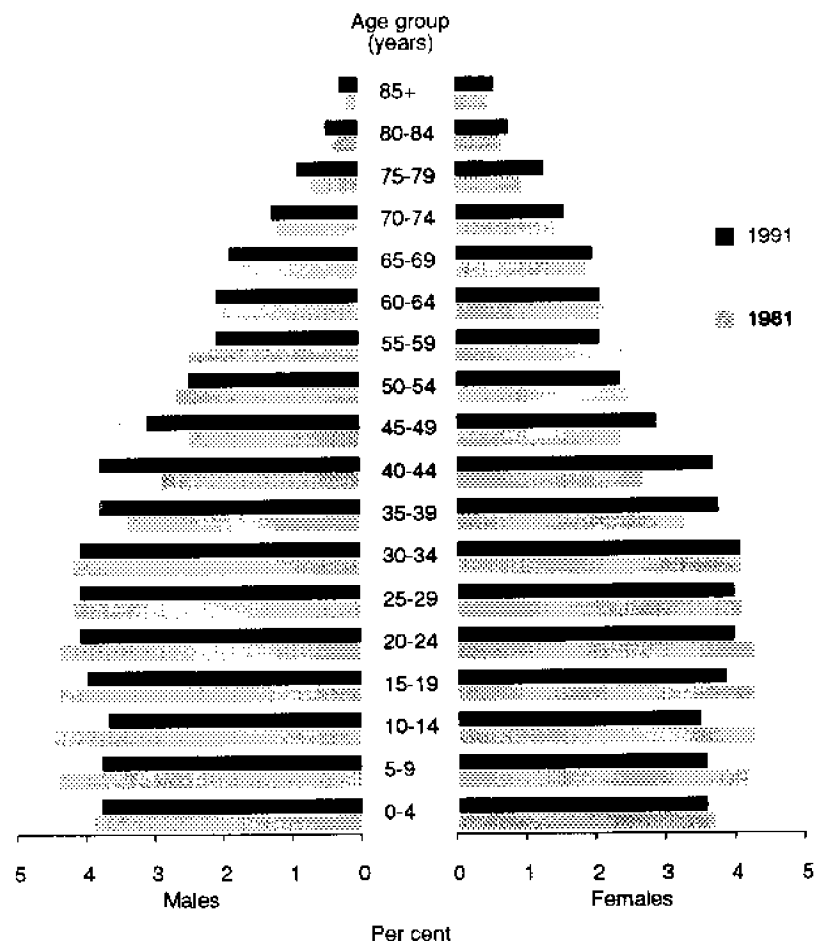
	Population 30.6.91 (⁰⁰⁰)	Average annual growth rate 1985-1991 (per cent)	Median age 1990-91(a)	Area (⁰⁰⁰ km ²)	Population density (pers./km ²)
Australia	17,284	1.5	32.4	7,682	2
Canada	26,992	1.2	33.4	9,976	3
China	1,155,795	1.4	25.3	9,957	120
Indonesia	187,765	2.2	21.6	1,905	99
Japan	123,921	0.4	37.5	378	328
Korea	43,268	1.0	26.8	99	437
Malaysia	18,333	2.6	21.5	330	56
New Zealand	3,380	0.7	31.3	271	12
Papua New Guinea	3,772	2.0	14.3	463	8
UK	57,367	0.2	35.7	244	235
USA	252,688	1.0	32.8	9,809	26

(a) For different countries the date at which the median age was estimated ranged between 30 June 1990 and 30 June 1991.

An ageing population

The long-term decline in the rate of growth arising from natural increase is the outcome of a declining birth rate counter-balanced in part by increasing longevity. These trends have had an ageing effect on the population. Net gains from overseas migration, whose median age has generally been lower than that of the population as a whole, have not been sufficient to offset this trend. The proportion of the population aged 0-14 years declined from 25 per cent in 1981 to 22 per cent in 1991, while the proportion aged 65 years and over increased from 10 per cent to 11 per cent. The median age rose from 28.6 years to 32.4 years in the same period.

FIGURE 1.3 AGE AND SEX PROFILE OF POPULATION, 1981 AND 1991



Source: *Australian Demographic Statistics* (3101.0)

Different States, different rates ... New South Wales and Victoria

New South Wales and Victoria continued to be the most populous States in 1991, accounting for 60 per cent of Australia's people. However, despite receiving the bulk of overseas migrants since World War II, the proportion of the population living in these two States has steadily declined from 66 per cent in 1947. This decline was much more marked in New South Wales (from 39 per cent to 34 per cent) than in Victoria (from 27 per cent to 26 per cent). In both States the decline was due to lower than average rates of natural increase and to large losses through interstate migration which offset in part the net gain from overseas migration. In the ten years between 1981 and 1991, for example, New South Wales gained 433,500 people from overseas but lost 182,800 in interstate migration, while Victoria gained 279,200 people from overseas but lost 104,600 in interstate migration. Both States' populations have aged since 1981 in line with national trends. The median age at 30 June 1991 was 32.9 years in New South Wales and 32.5 years in Victoria, both slightly above the national average of 32.4 years.

TABLE 1.3 POPULATION OF STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1947-91

30 June	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Total
— '000 —									
1947(a)(b)	2,984.8	2,054.7	1,106.4	646.1	502.5	257.1	10.9	16.9	7,579.4
1954(a)(b)	3,423.5	2,452.3	1,318.3	797.1	639.8	308.8	16.5	30.3	8,986.5
1961(b)	3,918.5	2,930.4	1,527.5	971.5	746.8	350.3	44.5	58.8	10,548.3
1966(b)	4,237.9	3,220.2	1,674.3	1,095.0	848.1	371.4	56.5	96.0	11,599.5
1971	4,725.5	3,601.4	1,851.5	1,200.1	1,053.8	398.1	85.7	151.2	13,067.3
1976	4,959.6	3,810.4	2,092.4	1,274.1	1,178.3	412.3	98.2	207.7	14,033.1
1981	5,234.9	3,946.9	2,345.2	1,318.8	1,300.1	427.2	122.6	227.6	14,923.3
1986	5,531.5	4,160.9	2,624.6	1,382.6	1,459.0	446.5	154.4	258.9	16,018.4
1991	5,898.7	4,420.4	2,961.0	1,446.3	1,636.1	466.8	165.5	289.3	17,284.0
— per cent —									
1947(a)(b)	39.4	27.1	14.6	8.5	6.6	3.4	0.1	0.2	100.0
1954(a)(b)	38.1	27.3	14.7	8.9	7.1	3.4	0.2	0.3	100.0
1961(b)	37.3	27.9	14.5	9.2	7.0	3.3	0.3	0.6	100.0
1966(b)	36.5	27.8	14.4	9.4	7.3	3.2	0.5	0.8	100.0
1971	36.2	27.6	14.2	9.2	8.1	3.0	0.7	1.2	100.0
1976	35.3	27.2	14.9	9.1	8.4	2.9	0.7	1.5	100.0
1981	35.1	26.5	15.7	8.8	8.7	2.9	0.8	1.5	100.0
1986	34.5	26.0	16.4	8.6	9.1	2.8	1.0	1.6	100.0
1991	34.1	25.6	17.1	8.4	9.5	2.7	1.0	1.7	100.0

(a) Although Aboriginal people have been counted in every population Census, they were excluded from official population figures under Section 127 of the Constitution, until its repeal in 1967.
(b) Census counts on an actual location basis. From 1971 the estimated resident population series (Census counts on a usual residence basis adjusted for underenumeration and residents temporarily overseas) has been adopted as the official population statistics series.

Source: *Demography* Nos. 65-87 (1947-71), *Australian Demographic Statistics* (3101.0)

... growth in Queensland

Queensland, with a population of 3.0 million in 1991, was the third most populous State. In recent years its population growth rate has been consistently higher than the national average due to a high rate of natural increase and to large net gains from interstate and overseas migration. Between 1981 and 1991 Queensland attracted net gains of 258,000 people from the other States and Territories and 126,800 migrants from overseas. The combined population gain of 384,800 or 16 per cent was greater, in both absolute and percentage terms, than gains experienced by any other State or Territory over that period. Queensland's share of the national population has been increasing strongly since the early 1970s and is now over 17 per cent. This increase has been accompanied by an ageing population profile, although the median age of 31.8 years in 1991 was still below the national median.

TABLE 1.4 GROWTH OF THE POPULATION OF THE STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1981-86 AND 1986-91

TERRITORIES, 1981-86 AND 1986-91					
	Average annual rate of growth(a)				
	Average annual growth	Total	Natural increase	Net overseas migration	Net interstate migration
	'000			— per cent —	
1981-86					
NSW	59.3	1.1	0.8	0.6	-0.3
Vic.	42.8	1.1	0.8	0.6	-0.2
Qld	55.9	2.3	1.0	0.4	+0.8
SA	12.8	1.0	0.7	0.4	-0.1
WA	31.8	2.3	1.1	0.8	+0.3
Tas.	3.8	0.9	0.8	0.2	-0.1
NT	6.4	4.7	2.0	0.8	+0.6
ACT	6.3	2.6	1.4	0.4	+0.4
1986-91					
NSW	73.4	1.3	0.8	0.9	-0.4
Vic.	51.9	1.2	0.8	0.8	-0.3
Qld	67.3	2.4	0.8	0.6	+1.2
SA	12.7	0.9	0.6	0.4	-0.1
WA	35.4	2.3	1.0	1.2	+0.2
Tas.	4.1	0.9	0.7	0.2	—
NT	2.2	1.4	1.7	0.6	-0.9
ACT	6.1	2.2	1.2	0.4	+0.6

(a) Differences between total growth and the sum of natural increase, net overseas and net interstate migration arise from retrospective adjustments to population estimates made after each Census to eliminate any intercensal discrepancy.

Source: Australian Demographic Statistics (3101.0)

Between 1981 and 1986, Western Australia became the fourth most populous State taking over that position from South Australia which had held it since the earliest days. In 1991, Western Australia's population was 1.6 million compared to South Australia's 1.4 million. Like Queensland, Western Australia has maintained higher than average natural increase, and has attracted considerable gains from overseas migration throughout most of the post-war period, and from interstate migration since 1961. The median age of its population has increased, from 28.5 years in 1981 to 31.5 years in 1991, but Western Australia has remained the youngest of the six States.

In South Australia the average annual rate of population growth during 1986-91 was less than 1 per cent, continuing the trend of low growth rates since 1976. Gains from overseas migration were partly offset by losses due to interstate migration while low levels of natural increase were maintained. In the period 1986-91 South Australia had the lowest rate of natural increase of all States and Territories due to low fertility and high mortality rates associated with the older age structure of its population. In 1991 South Australia had the oldest age profile (median age 33.6 years), the smallest proportion of children (21 per cent under 15 years of age), and the largest proportion of elderly people (13 per cent aged 65 years and over).

... more people now in
Western Australia than in
South Australia

TABLE 1.5 POPULATION AGE PROFILE OF STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1981 AND 1991

	Age (years)					
	0-14		65 and over		Median age	
	1981	1991	1981	1991	1981	1991
	— per cent —				— years —	
NSW	24.3	21.6	10.1	11.9	30.3	32.9
Vic.	24.8	21.3	10.0	11.5	29.8	32.5
Qld	26.0	22.7	9.7	10.8	28.8	31.8
SA	23.6	20.7	10.6	12.9	30.4	33.6
WA	26.0	23.2	8.7	9.7	28.5	31.5
Tas.	25.9	23.1	10.0	11.9	28.8	32.4
NT	32.3	27.8	2.2	2.6	24.5	26.9
ACT	29.1	23.5	4.2	6.2	26.9	29.5
Australia	25.0	21.9	9.8	11.3	29.6	32.4

Source: *Estimated Resident Population by Sex and Age, Australia, States and Territories* (3201.0)

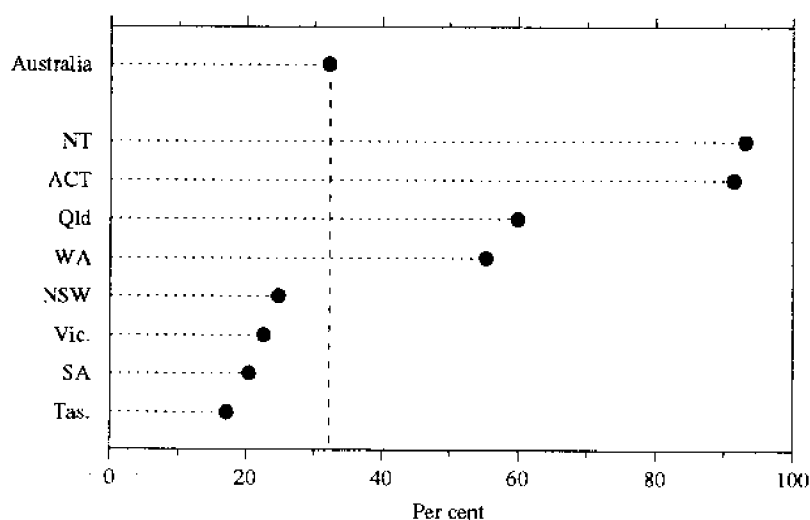
... Tasmania

Tasmania, the smallest State, both in area and in population, has recorded either no change or a decline in its share of the national population at every Census since World War II. It has consistently lost population through interstate migration and this, together with the negligible gains from overseas migration, has given Tasmania a very low rate of total population growth; at less than 1 per cent a year, the lowest of any State/Territory for the period 1981-91.

... the Territories

The populations of the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory, although still small in comparison with the States, doubled in the 20 years between 1971 and 1991. The rate of population growth in the Territories has declined in recent years. In the Northern Territory the average annual rate of growth has fallen sharply from 4.7 per cent in 1981-86 to 1.4 per cent in 1986-91 and in the Australian Capital Territory it has fallen from 2.6 per cent to 2.2 per cent in the same time period. The Territories have the youngest age profiles in Australia with median ages in 1991 of 26.9 years in the Northern Territory and 29.5 years in the Australian Capital Territory.

FIGURE 1.4 GROWTH OF THE POPULATION OF STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1971-91



Source: *Australian Demographic Statistics* (3101.0)

A highly urbanised people

Australia has long been recognised as one of the most urbanised countries in the world. During the period 1971 to 1981 the proportion of people living in urban areas rose from 84 per cent to 86 per cent. Since 1981, however, there has been a slight decline to 85 per cent (14.3 million people) in 1991.

The highest levels of urbanisation occurred in New South Wales and Victoria, 88 per cent and 87 per cent respectively. Both of these proportions were slightly lower than in 1981. The lowest levels of urbanisation occurred in the Northern Territory and Tasmania, 68 per cent and 72 per cent respectively. Trends in urbanisation since 1971 have varied somewhat from State to State. The greatest change has occurred in Western Australia where the urban population has increased from 82 per cent to 86 per cent of the State population.

TABLE 1.6 DISTRIBUTION OF PERSONS LIVING IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS(a)(b)(c), 1971-91

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
	— per cent —								
<i>Urban</i>									
1971	87.8	88.4	79.4	84.6	81.5	74.2	64.1	97.8	84.3
1981	88.2	87.8	79.1	84.8	84.3	75.2	74.2	99.0	85.7
1991	87.7	87.0	79.9	85.1	85.7	72.3	67.6	98.6	85.3
<i>Rural</i>									
1971	12.0	11.6	20.4	15.3	18.2	25.7	35.4	2.2	15.5
1981	11.8	12.1	20.8	15.1	15.5	24.7	25.3	1.0	14.2
1991	12.3	13.0	20.0	14.8	14.2	27.6	31.6	1.4	14.6

(a) Census counts on an actual location basis. 'Urban' is defined as all settlements with 1,000 or more persons and holiday resorts with at least 250 dwellings. Estimated resident population figures are not available for the urban/rural area classification. (b) Excludes migratory people i.e. people enumerated on Census night on off-shore oil rigs, drilling platforms and the like, on board vessels in and between Australian ports, or on board long-distance trains, buses or aircraft. (c) Figures for 1991 exclude overseas visitors.

Source: *Census of Population and Housing, 30 June 1971, Bulletin 6 - Population and Dwellings in Local Government Areas and Urban Centres, Census 81 - Persons and Dwellings in Statistical Local Areas and Urban Centres* (2401.0-2408.0).

Recent increases in the median age of people in rural and small urban centres have reduced the age gap that previously existed between country and city populations. Between 1986 and 1991 the median age of people in major urban centres (containing 100,000 persons or more) increased from 31.7 years to 32.5 years while the median age of those in smaller urban centres (containing 1000 to 100,000 persons) increased from 30.3 years to 32.0 years and the greatest age increase occurred in rural areas where the median age rose from 29.8 years to 32.2 years.

People in urban centres

In the 1991 Census, 14.3 million people, or 85 per cent of all those counted, were to be found in 699 different urban centres. The number of urban centres was up from 556 in 1981. Although the number of small urban centres (1,000 to 10,000 persons) increased by 118 between 1981 and 1991, they accounted for the same proportion of all urban centres (85 per cent) and together contained the same proportion of people counted in the Census (10 per cent). Many of the new urban centres counted in 1991 were small rapidly growing townships, either at the fringe of the capital cities or along the New South Wales and Queensland coastline. The number of urban centres with 10,000 to 25,000 persons increased from 50 (9 per cent of urban centres) in 1981 to 72 (10 per cent) in 1991 with a corresponding increase from 844,000 persons (6 per cent of the total)

to more than 1.1 million (7 per cent). The proportion of people counted in medium sized urban centres (25,000 to 100,000 persons) was about 7 per cent in 1991, up slightly from 6 per cent in 1981, while the number of major urban centres (100,000 or more persons) increased by 2 with the formation of the Central Coast (New South Wales) and Townsville-Thuringowa (Queensland) in 1986. The proportion of people living in major urban centres was about 63 per cent at both dates.

TABLE 1.7 URBAN CENTRES BY SIZE AND AGGREGATE NUMBER OF PERSONS(a)(b), 1981 AND 1991

Size of urban centre	Number of centres		Persons			
			('000)		(per cent)	
	1981	1991	1981	1991	1981	1991
1,000,000 and over	2	4	5,455.3	7,985.1	37.4	47.6
500,000-999,999	3	1	2,634.4	954.7	18.1	5.7
250,000-499,999	1	3	259.0	810.2	1.8	4.8
100,000-249,999	5	5	855.6	761.1	5.9	4.5
50,000-99,999	9	8	561.3	512.0	3.9	3.1
25,000-49,999	12	14	398.1	456.4	2.7	2.7
10,000-24,999	50	72	844.0	1,154.8	5.8	6.9
2,500-9,999	203	240	1,033.2	1,126.2	7.1	6.7
1,000-2,499	271	352	430.8	546.5	3.0	3.3
Total	556	699	12,471.6	14,307.0	85.6	85.3
Rural	..	..	2,071.9	2,456.2	14.2	14.6
Total(c)	..	..	14,576.3	16,771.7	100.0	100.0

(a) Census counts on an actual location basis. Estimated resident population figures are not available for the urban/rural area classification. (b) Figures for 1991 exclude overseas visitors. (c) Includes migratory category.

Source: *Census of Population and Housing, 1981, Persons and Dwellings in Local Government Areas and Urban Centres* (Cat. Nos. 2401.0-2408.0).

People in rural areas

The number of people counted in rural areas increased by 384,300 between 1981 and 1991, resulting in a slight increase from 14.2 per cent to 14.6 per cent in the proportion of persons in rural Australia. Strong growth was evident in Queensland, where the number of persons in rural areas rose by 24 per cent from 476,300 in 1981 to 590,900 in 1991. This growth was mainly concentrated in the coastal areas, particularly adjacent to the Gold Coast and to the Sunshine Coast as well as to Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton and Bundaberg. Growth in New South Wales and Victoria was also high in areas adjacent to growth centres and on the coast. Growth in the aged population together with the employment status and occupations of residents indicate that retirement migration and tourism played a significant role in the growth of these areas. In the 1991 Census the number of persons counted in rural areas in the Northern Territory was 23,600 or 76 per cent higher than the number counted in the 1981 Census. This increase is explained in part by changes to urban/rural boundaries and growth in rural areas adjacent to Darwin.

The capital cities ... growth since 1981

The dominant urban centres in Australia have always been the State capital cities. During the past ten years the proportion of the population living in the six State and two Territory capital cities has remained stable at 64 per cent while the number of people has risen from 9.6 million in 1981 to over 11 million in 1991. In 1991, Sydney (3.7 million) had 21 per cent of the national population and Melbourne (3.2 million) had 18 per cent, in both cases a slight decline from the proportion they held in 1981.

In Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia, the State capital city comprised over 70 per cent of the State's population in both 1981 and 1991, and each had a population more than ten times greater than that of the next largest city in the State.

TABLE 1.8 POPULATION OF CAPITAL CITIES, 1981 AND 1991

<i>Capital city (a)</i>	<i>Estimated resident population ('000)</i>		<i>10 year growth (per cent)</i>	<i>Per cent of State population</i>		<i>Per cent of National population</i>	
	<i>1981</i>	<i>1991</i>		<i>1981</i>	<i>1991</i>	<i>1981</i>	<i>1991</i>
Sydney	3,279.5	3,672.9	12.0	62.6	62.3	22.0	21.2
Melbourne	2,834.7	3,156.7	11.4	71.8	71.4	19.0	18.3
Brisbane	1,096.2	1,358.0	23.9	46.7	45.9	7.3	7.9
Adelaide	953.7	1,057.2	10.8	72.3	73.1	6.4	6.1
Perth	922.0	1,188.8	28.9	70.9	72.7	6.2	6.9
Hobart	171.1	186.9	9.2	40.1	40.0	1.1	1.1
Darwin	56.4	76.7	36.1	46.0	46.4	0.4	0.4
Canberra	226.4	288.2	27.3	99.5	99.6	1.5	1.7
All capital cities	9,540.1	10,985.3	15.1	63.9	63.6	63.9	63.6

(a) Statistical Division, 1991 boundaries. The boundaries of Capital City Statistical Divisions are generally wider than those of the corresponding urban centres. This and the difference between the definitions of estimated resident population and Census count explain the difference in the number of cities over 1 million population in Tables 1.7 and 1.8.

Source: *Estimated Resident Population of Statistical Local Areas* (annual series published by ABS)

The high growth cities of Brisbane and Perth attracted both overseas and internal migrants, and over half of their growth in this period was due to net migration gain. Canberra, the nation's capital and major inland city also grew rapidly, experiencing high net gains from internal migration as well as above average rates of natural increase. In contrast, the slow growth of Sydney and Melbourne, despite the considerable gain from overseas migration to these cities, reflects significant internal migration losses to other areas. Although the population of Darwin increased by 36 per cent over the 10-year period most of the increase occurred between 1981 and 1986. The city has experienced a dramatic drop in population growth from an average annual rate of 5.8 per cent in 1981-86 to only 1.1 per cent in 1986-91. Adelaide and Hobart were the slowest growing State capitals with only modest gains from migration and low levels of natural increase.

TABLE 1.9 COMPONENTS OF POPULATION GROWTH IN CAPITAL CITIES, 1981-91

<i>Capital city(a)</i>	<i>Total growth</i>	<i>Natural increase</i>	<i>Overseas-born increase</i>	<i>Other (b)</i>
— '000 —				
Sydney	393.4	256.9	221.8	-85.3
Melbourne	322.0	222.1	134.0	-34.1
Brisbane	261.8	96.4	81.2	84.2
Adelaide	103.5	57.9	16.0	29.5
Perth	266.7	92.9	97.0	76.8
Hobart	15.8	13.1	1.7	1.0
Darwin	20.3	11.4	3.1	5.9
Canberra	61.7	33.7	18.5	9.6
All capital cities	1,445.3	784.4	573.4	87.5
— per cent —				
Sydney	100.0	65.3	56.4	-21.7
Melbourne	100.0	69.0	41.6	-10.6
Brisbane	100.0	36.8	31.0	32.2
Adelaide	100.0	56.0	15.5	28.5
Perth	100.0	34.8	36.4	28.8
Hobart	100.0	82.9	11.0	6.1
Darwin	100.0	56.0	15.1	29.0
Canberra	100.0	54.6	29.9	15.5
All capital cities	100.0	54.3	39.7	6.1

(a) Statistical Division, 1991 boundaries. (b) Residual component largely comprises net internal migration.

Source: *Estimated Resident Population of Statistical Local Areas (annual series published by ABS)*.

... growth through overseas migration

Of the 3.8 million overseas-born people counted in Australia at 30 June 1991, 3.0 million or approximately 80 per cent were resident in the capital cities. This proportion was even higher among those who had recently arrived in Australia; 647,000 or 87 per cent of people who had arrived in the last five years were living in the capital cities at 30 June 1991. In contrast, 58 per cent of the Australian-born population were living in the capital cities. This relative concentration of the overseas-born in the capitals was evident in every State and has been an important contribution to the population growth of those cities.

Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth each had more than 80 per cent of their State's overseas-born people, while their proportion of the Australian-born people was 55 per cent in Sydney and in the range of 65-70 per cent in the other three cities. In Brisbane, Hobart and Darwin the proportions were lower but showed a similar pattern. They contained 50-65 per cent of the overseas-born and 40 per cent of the Australian-born people in their State.

TABLE 1.10 BIRTHPLACE OF RESIDENTS IN CAPITAL CITIES(a), 1991

Capital city(b)	Overseas-born					
	Arrived after 1986		Total		Australian-born	
	Per cent of State ('000) in capital	Per cent of State ('000) in capital	Per cent of State ('000) in capital	Per cent of State ('000) in capital	Per cent of State ('000) in capital	Per cent of State ('000) in capital
Sydney	269.3	91.1	1,056.1	82.1	2,376.8	55.4
Melbourne	175.7	93.6	892.5	87.3	2,084.2	65.7
Brisbane	63.3	59.8	267.0	56.4	1,031.5	43.9
Adelaide	32.7	91.3	266.7	85.5	744.7	69.3
Perth	86.7	88.6	381.5	84.4	741.5	67.8
Hobart	3.2	53.7	22.9	48.1	156.4	39.1
Darwin	4.0	61.2	17.8	63.8	52.2	41.4
Canberra	12.0	99.9	64.7	99.6	209.1	99.4
All capital cities	646.9	86.6	2,969.2	80.5	7,396.4	58.2

(a) Census counts on a usual residence basis. (b) Statistical Division.

... age profiles

Each of the State capitals had an age profile slightly older than that of the State as a whole. Generally the most rapidly growing capital cities had younger profiles than those with lower growth rates. Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Hobart had the oldest age distributions, with median ages ranging from 31.8 years to 33.2 years. Brisbane and Perth had slightly younger populations, with median ages of 31.0 and 31.5 years respectively. The youngest capital cities were Darwin (26.9 years) and Canberra (29.5 years). In line with national trends these median ages rose steadily over the ten years 1981-91.

Other major cities and growth areas

Apart from the capital cities, by 1991 there were 44 'cities' with populations of 20,000 or more. These predominantly urban areas of Australia sometimes comprise more than one city in close proximity, such as Burnie-Devonport in Tasmania. They may also include townships surrounding a major urban centre, as is the case with Newcastle in New South Wales. Sixteen of these cities were in New South Wales, seven in Victoria, twelve in Queensland, two in South Australia, four in Western Australia, two in Tasmania and one in the Northern Territory. In 1981 there were 35 such cities, which had an estimated resident population of 2.3 million, or 15 per cent of the national total. By 1991 there were 44 non-capital cities, with a combined population of 3.1 million, or 18 per cent of the national total.

... New South Wales

The two main non-capital cities in New South Wales, Newcastle and

Wollongong, experienced higher population growth rates in 1986-91 than in 1981-86. This pattern of higher growth rates in the latter half of the ten year period was consistent with that at the national level, at the New South Wales State level and in Sydney. Population growth rates in 1986-91 of less than one per cent in the inner areas of Newcastle and Wollongong were offset by high growth rates in nearby coastal areas. The Port Stephens area, included in the estimate of Newcastle's population, and Kiama, included in Wollongong's, grew at rates of 4.1 per cent and 3.8 per cent respectively. The average annual growth rate of 4.6 per cent for Tweed Heads was the highest of any New South Wales city for 1981-91. The inland cities of Queanbeyan, Dubbo and Albury continued to grow at rates above 1.2 per cent, the average for the State as a whole. Two cities, Broken Hill and Goulburn, lost population over the 10-year period.

**TABLE 1.11 POPULATION GROWTH IN MAJOR NON-CAPITAL CITIES,
NEW SOUTH WALES, 1981-91**

City	Estimated resident population			Average annual rate of growth		
	1981	1986	1991	1981-86	1986-91	1981-91
	— '000 —			— per cent —		
Newcastle(a)	403.6	417.0	444.9	0.7	1.3	1.0
Wollongong(a)	231.4	233.0	244.9	0.1	1.0	0.6
Bathurst-Orange(a)	61.6	64.6	68.8	1.0	1.3	1.1
Wagga Wagga(b)	48.7	50.6	54.2	0.8	1.4	1.1
Albury-Wodonga(a)						
(NSW part)	42.3	44.8	47.1	1.2	1.0	1.1
Lismore(b)	34.6	37.5	42.2	1.7	2.4	2.0
Tamworth(b)	32.4	33.8	35.5	0.9	1.0	0.9
Dubbo(b)	28.9	30.8	33.9	1.3	1.9	1.6
Gold Coast-Tweed						
Heads(a) (NSW part)	19.7	24.8	30.8	4.8	4.4	4.6
Broken Hill(b)	27.9	25.2	24.3	-2.0	-0.7	-1.3
Queanbeyan(b)	20.1	23.0	25.2	2.8	1.8	2.3
Goulburn(b)	22.1	21.8	22.0	-0.3	0.2	—
Armidale(b)	19.4	20.7	22.3	1.3	1.5	1.4
Total	1,109.3	1,168.7	1,267.1	1.0	1.6	1.3

(a) Statistical District. (b) Municipality with city status and both urban centre count, actual location basis, and estimated resident population of 20,000 or more at 30 June 1991.

Source: *Estimated Resident Population of Statistical Local Areas* (annual series published by ABS)

In the ten years to 1991 there was rapid population growth in beachside towns on the New South Wales coast. These areas of coastal ribbon development appeal to people of all ages as holiday resorts and to people of older ages as places for retirement. In 1991, more than 20,000 people were counted in the urban centres of Port Macquarie (Hastings) and Coffs Harbour on the mid north coast, and Nowra-Bomaderry (Shoalhaven) in the Illawarra region to the south of Sydney. Average annual growth rates double those for the State as a whole were common. For the period 1981-91 growth rates exceeded 5 per cent in the Eurobodalla Shire and 4 per cent in Ballina, Byron, Coffs Harbour and Hastings Shires. The proportion of the population aged 50 and over in these high-growth coastal towns was consistently above the average of 26 per cent for the State as a whole. It rose to 41 per cent in the Great Lakes area to the north of Newcastle, between Port Stephens and Forster-Tuncurry, and to 37 per cent in the Port Macquarie area (Hastings) and on the south coast (Eurobodalla). The holiday and retirement belt extends northwards from New South Wales into Queensland, where the proportion aged 50 and over was 30 per cent on the Gold Coast and 32 per cent on the Sunshine Coast.

TABLE 1.12 HIGH GROWTH AREAS ON NEW SOUTH WALES COAST, 1981-1991

	Estimated resident population			Average annual rate of growth			Proportion of population aged 50 and over		
Statistical local area	1981	1986	1991	1981-86	1986-91	1981-91	1981	1986	1991
	— '000 —			— per cent —					
<i>Richmond-Tweed SD</i>									
Tweed(a)	37.1	44.5	54.2	3.7	4.0	3.9	29.1	31.0	33.2
Ballina	19.4	24.0	30.2	4.4	4.7	4.5	30.4	32.0	33.2
Byron	14.9	18.1	22.6	4.0	4.6	4.3	29.2	28.1	26.1
<i>Mid-North Coast SD</i>									
Coffs Harbour(a)	34.0	42.1	50.9	4.4	3.9	4.1	25.6	26.0	26.3
Hastings (a)	34.3	41.2	49.4	3.7	3.7	3.7	32.3	34.5	36.5
Greater Taree	32.0	36.4	41.6	2.6	2.7	2.7	28.2	29.5	31.4
Kempsey	19.6	22.8	25.4	3.1	2.1	2.6	27.4	27.2	28.2
<i>Hunter SD</i>									
Great Lakes	16.9	20.2	25.5	3.6	4.8	4.2	36.0	38.8	41.1
<i>Illawarra SD</i>									
Shoalhaven(a)	48.6	57.7	70.5	3.5	4.1	3.8	30.2	31.7	32.7
<i>South Eastern SD</i>									
Bega Valley	20.1	23.2	26.5	2.9	2.7	2.8	26.6	28.3	29.5
Eurobodalla	16.0	21.2	26.9	5.7	4.9	5.3	36.0	35.8	37.0

SD Statistical Division

(a) City, Municipality or Shire containing at least one urban centre with a Census count, actual location basis, of 20,000 or more at 30 June 1991.

Source: *Estimated Resident Population of Statistical Local Areas (annual series published by ABS)*

... Queensland

Queensland, like New South Wales, experienced rapid population increase along the coast in the 1981-91 period. To the south of Brisbane, the Gold Coast grew by 74 per cent (or nearly 6 per cent a year), a slight decline on the rapid growth experienced in previous intercensal periods. The Gold Coast/Tweed Heads Statistical District, including both the Queensland and New South Wales parts, had a population of 268,400 people in 1991. Coastal areas to the north of Brisbane also grew rapidly. The Sunshine Coast grew at an annual rate of nearly 6 per cent, while further north the population of Hervey Bay more than doubled between 1981 and 1991. Its average annual growth rate of more than 8 per cent made it the State's fastest growing city. Cairns also grew very rapidly, at a rate considerably above the State average while Townsville and Mackay consistently exceeded the national average growth rate.

**TABLE 1.13 POPULATION GROWTH IN MAJOR NON-CAPITAL CITIES,
QUEENSLAND, 1981-91**

City	Estimated resident population			Average annual rate of growth		
	1981	1986	1991	1981-86	1986-91	1981-91
	— '000 —			— per cent —		
Gold Coast-Tweed						
Heads(a) (Old part)	143.1	190.9	248.8	5.9	5.4	5.7
Townsville(a)	96.3	106.9	116.2	2.1	1.7	1.9
Sunshine Coast(a)	65.3	87.3	119.3	6.0	6.4	6.2
Toowoomba(b)	73.0	79.1	84.6	1.6	1.4	1.5
Cairns(a)	58.3	74.1	86.2	4.9	3.1	4.0
Rockhampton(a)	55.6	60.3	63.6	1.6	1.1	1.3
Mackay(a)	45.9	49.8	53.2	1.6	1.4	1.5
Bundaberg(a)	40.8	44.0	49.5	1.5	2.4	2.0
Gladstone(a)	23.9	30.7	33.4	5.2	1.7	3.4
Hervey Bay(b)	12.3	19.0	27.8	9.1	7.9	8.5
Mount Isa(b)	25.6	24.3	24.5	-1.0	0.2	-0.4
Maryborough(b)	22.3	23.1	23.5	0.7	0.4	0.5
Total	662.3	789.3	930.6	3.6	3.3	3.5

(a) Statistical District. (b) Municipality with city status and both urban centre count, actual location basis and estimated resident population of 20,000 or more at 30 June 1991

Source: *Estimated Resident Population of Statistical Local Areas* (annual series published by ABS)

... Victoria

Population growth rates in Victorian cities were generally below the national average of 1.5 per cent. Geelong, the largest city after Melbourne, grew very slowly at an average annual rate of only 0.7 per cent during 1981-91. However, like growth patterns near major urban centres in other States, the population in coastal townships in the Barwon region to the south of Geelong recorded steady growth from a total of 57,600 to 76,900 people, an annual growth rate of about 3 per cent over the 10-year period. The population also continued to grow in inland Victorian centres. The largest and most rapidly growing of these being Albury-Wodonga on the New South Wales border. Wodonga, the Victorian component, grew by an average annual rate of about 3 per cent over the period 1981-91.

**TABLE 1.14 POPULATION GROWTH IN MAJOR NON-CAPITAL CITIES
(EXCLUDING NEW SOUTH WALES AND QUEENSLAND), 1981-91**

City	Estimated resident population			Average annual rate of growth		
	1981	1986	1991	1981-86	1986-91	1981-91
<i>Victoria</i>						
Geelong(a)	142.0	146.1	151.6	0.6	0.7	0.7
Ballarat(a)	73.8	78.3	81.2	1.2	0.7	1.0
Latrobe Valley(a)(c)	n.a.	75.6	74.7	..	-0.2	..
Bendigo(a)	60.4	65.1	70.1	1.5	1.5	1.5
Shepparton-Mooroopna(a)	36.1	38.4	40.1	1.3	0.9	1.1
Albury-Wodonga(a) (Vic part)	31.8	36.9	41.9	3.0	2.6	2.8
Mildura(a)(c)	n.a.	35.9	39.2	..	1.8	..
Warrnambool(b)	22.1	23.6	24.7	1.4	0.9	1.1
<i>Total</i>	..	499.9	523.6	..	0.9	..
<i>South Australia</i>						
Whyalla(b)	31.8	28.2	26.4	-2.4	-1.3	-1.9
Mt Gambier(b)	20.8	21.8	22.2	0.9	0.4	0.7
<i>Total</i>	52.6	50.0	48.6	-1.0	-0.6	-0.8
<i>Western Australia</i>						
Mandurah(b)	13.5	19.4	29.2	7.5	8.5	8.0
Bunbury(b)	22.4	25.0	27.3	2.2	1.8	2.0
Kalgoorlie-Boulder(b)	20.9	24.1	26.9	2.8	2.2	2.5
Geraldton(b)	19.1	20.0	21.1	1.0	1.1	1.0
<i>Total</i>	76.0	88.5	104.5	3.1	3.4	3.2
<i>Tasmania</i>						
Launceston(a)	86.8	91.0	95.1	1.0	1.1	1.0
Burnie-Devonport(a)	72.9	76.6	78.7	1.0	0.5	0.8
<i>Total</i>	159.7	167.6	174.8	1.0	0.8	0.9
<i>Northern Territory</i>						
Alice Springs	17.9	22.1	24.3	4.3	1.8	3.1

(a) Statistical District. (b) Municipality with city status and both urban centre Census count, actual location basis, and estimated resident population of 20,000 or more at 30 June 1991.

Source: *Estimated Resident Population of Statistical Local Areas (annual series published by ABS)*

... other States

The population of South Australia's largest non-capital city, Whyalla, declined from 31,800 in 1981 to 26,400 in 1991 and Mount Gambier, the next ranking city in terms of population size, grew only slowly. In Western Australia the fastest growing urban centre was the beachside city of Mandurah to the south of Perth which grew at an average rate of 8 per cent, doubling its population between 1981 and 1991. Further south the city of Bunbury also grew steadily. Tasmania has two of Australia's largest non-capital urban centres, Launceston and Burnie-Devonport. Like the State as a whole they experienced slow but steady growth in the ten years to 1991.

In the Northern Territory the major centre outside Darwin is Alice Springs, which had a population of 24,300 at 30 June 1991. Its rate of population growth, like that for Darwin, has declined considerably since the mid 1970s, falling from an annual average of 5.0 per cent for the period 1976-81 to 1.8 per cent for 1986-91.

INTERNAL MIGRATION

Australians on the move

Australians are a highly mobile people. Between 1986 and 1991, 4.9 million people moved within the same State or Territory (intrastate migration) and a further 0.8 million people moved between States (interstate migration). These high levels of internal migration affected the growth of cities, towns and local regions. For example, during 1986-91, 2.7 million people moved within the boundaries of their capital city, Queensland experienced a net gain of 125,300 people from other States and the capital cities experienced a combined net loss of 126,400 people to non metropolitan Australia.

Movement between States

The number of people who move between States can have a large impact on a State's population growth and distribution. Over the ten years 1981-91, net interstate migration (the number of people who moved to a State less the number who moved out of it) contributed 42 per cent of Queensland's population growth. In the Australian Capital Territory the proportion was nearly 21 per cent and in Western Australia it was 10 per cent. Balancing these net gains from interstate migration were net losses in New South Wales (whose population growth was reduced by 28 per cent as a consequence), Victoria (22 per cent), South Australia (10 per cent), and the Northern Territory (8 per cent). Interstate migration had little effect on Tasmania's population since the number of people moving to the State was balanced by the number moving out.

... patterns of movement

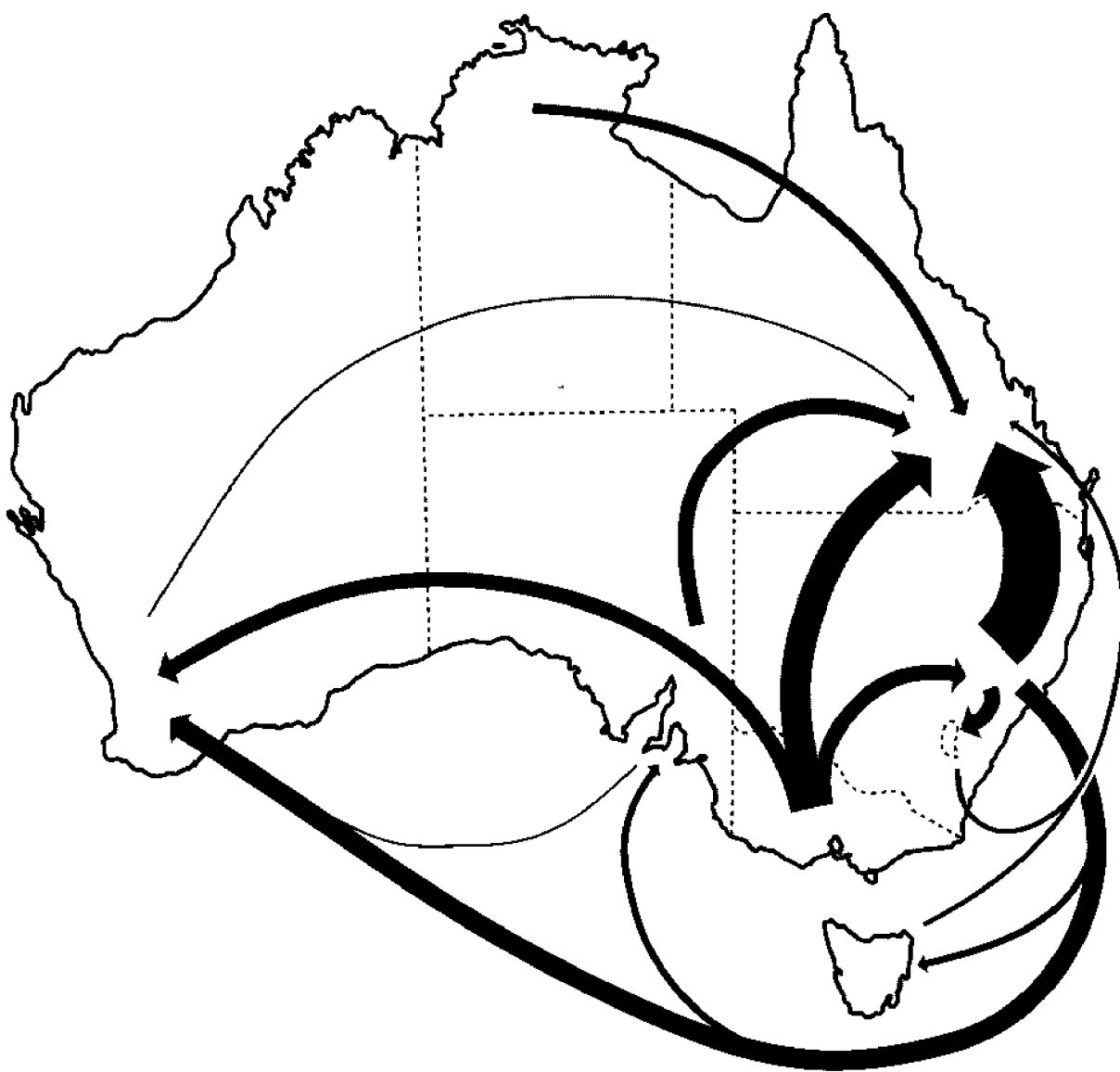
At 6 August 1991, 780,000 people were living in a different State from that in which they had been living at 6 August 1986. Their pattern of movement resulted in net gains for Queensland (125,300), Western Australia (16,100) and the Australian Capital Territory (5,100), and in net losses for New South Wales (93,300), Victoria (45,200) and South Australia (4,300).

TABLE 2.1 INTERSTATE MOVERS (a)(b) BY STATE OF ARRIVAL AND STATE OF DEPARTURE, 1986-91
(^{'000})

State of usual residence at 6 August 1986	State of usual residence at 6 August 1991								Total
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	
NSW	..	47.6	134.1	17.7	21.9	8.5	6.0	29.4	265.1
Vic.	53.8	..	59.3	17.1	18.6	8.3	5.1	6.5	168.7
Qld	56.3	27.5	..	8.3	11.6	4.6	6.9	6.7	121.9
SA	14.3	17.2	14.3	..	7.0	2.2	6.7	2.5	64.1
WA	13.3	12.9	12.6	6.0	..	2.5	4.4	2.3	54.1
Tas.	5.4	8.3	6.6	2.1	3.2	..	0.7	1.2	27.4
NT	5.5	4.1	10.9	6.6	5.3	0.7	..	1.1	34.3
ACT	23.2	5.9	9.3	2.2	2.5	0.8	0.7	..	44.5
Total	171.7	123.5	247.1	59.9	70.1	27.5	30.5	49.6	780.0
Net gain/loss	-93.3	-45.2	125.3	-4.3	16.1	0.1	-3.8	5.1	..

(a) At 6 August 1991, those living in a different State from that which they had been living at 6 August 1986. (b) Census counts on a usual residence basis. Excludes children aged less than five years at 6 August 1991.

FIGURE 2.1 MAIN NET INTERSTATE MIGRATION FLOWS(a), 1986-91



(a) Excludes net flows of less than 1,000 persons.

In general, between 1986 and 1991, net interstate movement was northwards (on the east coast) and westwards (to the west coast). Queensland recorded net gains from all States and Territories, Western Australia recorded net gains from all States except Queensland. The largest one-way interstate flows during the intercensal period were between the three most populous eastern States. The largest single flow was 134,100 people (17 per cent of all interstate movers) who moved from New South Wales to Queensland. But this was offset to some extent by the 56,300 people who moved from Queensland to New South Wales. The only one-way flow between New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland of less than 45,000 people was that from Queensland to Victoria (27,500). Altogether, these six one-way interstate flows involved 378,500 people, almost 50 per cent of all interstate movers.

... age of movers

The effect of interstate migration on the age profile of the State populations varies with the volume and the age profile of net flows. It is generally one of ageing where there is a net loss and one of rejuvenation where there is a net gain because the age profile of movers is usually younger than that of non-movers. An obvious exception to this is the ageing effect of incoming retirement flows on the population of some local areas. However, because of the especially small net numbers relative to total population size, only sustained accumulations of gains or losses over a long period can make significant changes to an area's age profile.

Between 1986 and 1991 interstate movers were on average younger than the population as a whole. The median age of interstate movers was 29.5 years compared to 32.4 years for the Australian population; also in all States and Territories the median age of interstate movers was lower than the median age of the population. Moreover, the median age of movers is based upon their age at the time of the Census, not at the time of movement which occurred prior to the Census. Because of this, and because Census data on 5 year interstate migration do not include children aged less than five years at the Census, the median ages shown are probably 2-3 years higher than the median ages at the time of movement.

In some States and Territories there is a marked disparity between the median age of interstate arrivals and departures. Labour force and retirement patterns in the motivation for moving are suggested by these differences. States with more employment opportunities typically display lower levels of working age departures and higher levels of working age arrivals. Flows at older age groups reflect retirement choices. In Queensland and Tasmania, arrivals were on average older than departures, indicating retirement or pre-retirement moves to these areas. In Victoria and the Territories arrivals were on average younger than departures, indicating higher proportions of work-related moves in and retirement moves out.

**TABLE 2.2 INTERSTATE MOVERS(a), 1986-91: MEDIAN AGE, 1991
(years)**

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
Males									
Arrivals	29.6	29.1	31.2	29.6	29.4	31.0	28.4	27.3	29.7
Departures	30.2	30.5	28.7	29.2	29.3	27.2	30.4	30.1	29.7
Females									
Arrivals	29.2	28.4	31.0	29.1	29.0	31.0	27.4	26.8	29.3
Departures	29.7	30.6	28.3	28.7	28.7	26.9	29.2	29.3	29.3
Persons									
Arrivals	29.4	28.7	31.1	29.3	29.2	31.0	28.0	27.0	29.5
Departures	30.0	30.5	28.5	29.0	29.0	27.1	29.8	29.7	29.5

(a) Census counts on a usual residence basis. Excludes children aged less than five years at 6 August 1991.

The age distributions of the net interstate migration flows sometimes exhibit an apparent compounding of these motives of inward and outward movers as with the States that have better job prospects mentioned above. For example, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory have an above average proportion of their net gains in the younger working age groups 15-34 years. Similarly, Queensland's net gain peaks in the 35-64 year age group as fewer people consider pre-retirement moves to other States while at the same time arrivals are swelled by people choosing Queensland as a place to retire.

TABLE 2.3 NET INTERSTATE MIGRATION (a), 1986-91, BY AGE, 1991

Age group (years)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT
	— '000 —							
5-14	-20.7	-8.0	24.8	0.3	3.7	0.9	-1.5	0.6
15-24	-14.6	-5.1	17.4	-2.2	2.0	-3.5	1.1	4.9
25-34	-19.2	-5.0	19.4	-1.3	4.3	0.2	—	1.5
35-44	-18.9	-9.2	26.2	-0.4	3.3	0.9	-1.9	—
45-54	-8.5	-6.1	15.6	-0.5	1.0	0.4	-0.8	-1.1
55-64	-5.5	-6.3	12.0	-0.2	0.9	0.6	-0.5	-1.0
65 and over	-6.0	-5.5	9.9	—	0.9	0.6	-0.1	0.2
Total	-93.3	-45.2	125.3	-4.3	16.1	0.1	-3.8	5.1
	— Mobility rate(b) —							
5-14	-25	-13	55	2	15	13	-53	12
15-24	-17	-7	37	-10	8	-51	38	94
25-34	-21	-7	42	-6	17	3	—	32
35-44	-22	-14	60	-2	13	14	-71	—
45-54	-14	-13	50	-4	6	8	-56	-35
55-64	-11	-17	52	-1	7	16	-72	-59
65 and over	-9	-11	32	—	6	10	-16	12
Total	-18	-11	47	-3	11	—	-26	20

(a) Census counts on a usual residence basis excluding children aged less than five years at 6 August 1991. (b) Persons per 1,000 population in the same category.

... males more likely to move than females

On average, males were more likely to move interstate than females, particularly in the 35-54 years age group. The sex ratio (the number of males per 100 females) of all interstate movers for the period 1986-91 was 103.9, whereas the sex ratio of the population as a whole at the Census was 99.4. The sex ratio of movers into and out of most States did not vary much from the overall average, except in Western Australia (108.5 and 111.7) and the Northern Territory (113.1 and 110.5). Sex ratios of more than 120 were recorded for the one-way flows from Queensland and Tasmania to the Northern Territory.

TABLE 2.4 SEX RATIOS(a) OF INTERSTATE MOVERS (b) BY STATE OF ARRIVAL AND STATE OF DEPARTURE, 1986-91

<i>State of usual residence at 6 August 1986</i>	<i>State of usual residence at 6 August 1991</i>								
	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Total</i>
NSW	..	101.1	100.1	104.1	107.1	100.2	114.4	92.9	100.6
Vic.	104.9	..	103.4	103.8	105.8	105.0	109.3	103.4	104.4
Qld	105.9	101.1	..	109.0	114.7	105.4	122.5	107.3	106.7
SA	106.9	97.1	105.5	..	108.7	102.0	105.8	107.1	103.8
WA	115.4	106.7	114.9	111.2	..	104.7	112.3	109.4	111.7
Tas.	100.9	100.9	98.5	98.1	104.8	..	122.6	98.5	101.0
NT	115.9	109.5	111.8	104.1	112.0	108.9	..	107.9	110.5
ACT	101.2	105.0	103.5	104.0	109.2	101.3	108.3	..	102.8
Total	105.9	101.5	102.5	105.2	108.5	103.3	113.1	97.9	103.9

(a) Males per 100 females. (b) Census counts on a usual residence basis. Excludes children aged less than five years at 6 August 1991.

... higher education, greater mobility

Of the 641,700 interstate movers aged 15 years and over, 58 per cent had no post-school qualifications, compared with 61 per cent for the population as a whole. Their interstate mobility rate of 49 per 1,000 was slightly lower than the overall interstate mobility rate of 54 per 1,000. Among people with qualifications, interstate mobility rates were much higher, varying from 56 per 1,000 people with skilled vocational training (trade certificates) to 90 per 1,000 people with higher degrees. The relationship between greater mobility and higher level of education was similar whether people were employed, unemployed or not in the labour force.

**TABLE 2.5 INTERSTATE MOVERS, 1986-91, AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER(a):
LABOUR FORCE STATUS AND QUALIFICATIONS, 1991**

Qualification	Labour force status				Total (b)
	Employed	Unemployed	In labour force	Not in labour force	
	— '000 —				
Higher degree	8.0	0.3	8.3	0.9	9.2
Graduate diploma	6.7	0.4	7.1	1.2	8.3
Bachelor degree	46.1	2.9	49.0	7.1	56.2
Undergraduate diploma	23.3	1.8	25.2	7.1	32.3
Associate diploma	7.4	0.7	8.1	1.5	9.6
Skilled vocational	51.8	8.7	60.5	10.2	70.9
Basic vocational	18.6	3.2	21.8	6.0	27.9
Not recognised or inadequately described	4.6	0.7	5.2	1.6	6.9
No qualifications	185.4	50.3	235.7	132.1	370.5
Not stated	24.4	5.3	29.7	18.3	49.8
Total	376.3	74.2	450.5	186.2	641.7
	— mobility rate(c) —				
Higher degree	90	143	91	77	90
Graduate diploma	67	138	69	81	70
Bachelor degree	85	123	86	77	85
Undergraduate diploma	68	127	70	63	69
Associate diploma	59	99	61	54	60
Skilled vocational	54	97	58	46	56
Basic vocational	65	116	69	69	69
Not recognised or inadequately described	70	106	73	57	68
No qualifications	51	87	55	41	49
Not stated	50	88	54	33	44
Total	56	91	60	43	54

(a) Census counts on a usual residence basis. (b) Includes labour force status not stated.
(c) Interstate movers per 1,000 population in the same category.

... unemployed were more
mobile

People unemployed at the time of the 1991 Census were more likely to have moved interstate between 1986 and 1991 than those with jobs. Of people who were unemployed at the time of the Census, 91 per 1,000 had moved interstate since 1986 whereas of people who were employed at the time of the Census only 56 per 1,000 had moved interstate. People who were not in the labour force had an even lower mobility rate of 43 per 1,000.

... effect on States and
Territories

Information on people's reasons for moving interstate was not collected in the Census but it is known from other sources, such as past ABS Internal Migration Surveys (Cat. No. 3408.0), that employment-related reasons are among the most important motivating factors. Some implications of the effects of movers on the labour force of the States and Territories can be obtained by looking at their labour force status at the time of the 1991 Census even though this may not reflect their labour force status at the time of their move.

TABLE 2.6 INTERSTATE MIGRATION, 1986-91, PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER(a) BY LABOUR FORCE STATUS, 1991 ('000)

<i>Labour force status 1991</i>	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Arrivals</i>									
Employed	88.2	62.5	105.8	26.8	34.7	11.0	18.6	28.7	376.3
Unemployed	14.6	11.4	26.0	6.8	7.1	3.1	2.4	2.7	74.2
In labour force	102.8	73.9	131.8	33.6	41.9	14.2	20.9	31.4	450.5
Not in labour force	40.2	26.9	67.7	14.7	14.8	7.8	4.4	9.8	186.2
<i>Total (b)</i>	<i>144.1</i>	<i>101.5</i>	<i>201.5</i>	<i>48.5</i>	<i>57.1</i>	<i>22.2</i>	<i>25.5</i>	<i>41.3</i>	<i>641.7</i>
<i>Departures</i>									
Employed	119.7	78.3	61.2	33.8	28.0	14.4	16.7	24.2	376.3
Unemployed	26.1	16.2	11.5	5.7	5.6	2.8	3.5	2.9	74.2
In labour force	145.7	94.5	72.7	39.4	33.7	17.2	20.2	27.1	450.5
Not in labour force	69.2	43.0	27.6	13.3	10.7	5.6	7.2	9.5	186.2
<i>Total (b)</i>	<i>216.8</i>	<i>138.7</i>	<i>101.0</i>	<i>53.1</i>	<i>44.7</i>	<i>23.0</i>	<i>27.7</i>	<i>36.8</i>	<i>641.7</i>
<i>Net</i>									
Employed	-31.5	-15.8	44.6	-6.9	6.7	-3.4	1.8	4.5	..
Unemployed	-11.4	-4.8	14.5	1.1	1.5	0.4	-1.1	-0.2	..
In labour force	-42.9	-20.6	59.2	-5.8	8.2	-3.0	0.7	4.3	..
Not in labour force	-29.0	-16.2	40.1	1.4	4.1	2.2	-2.8	0.3	..
<i>Total (b)</i>	<i>-72.6</i>	<i>-37.2</i>	<i>100.5</i>	<i>-4.6</i>	<i>12.4</i>	<i>-0.8</i>	<i>-2.2</i>	<i>4.5</i>	<i>..</i>

(a) Census counts on a usual residence basis. (b) Includes labour force status not stated.

Overall, 59 per cent of interstate movers aged 15 years and over were employed at the time of the Census and 12 per cent were unemployed making a total of 71 per cent who were in the labour force. These figures compare with 54 per cent employed and 7 per cent unemployed for all people aged 15 years and over, a combined total of only 61 per cent in the labour force.

Labour force participation of interstate arrivals and departures exceeded the national average in every State and Territory, but with considerable variation occurring. For example, among people who moved to Queensland and Tasmania, only about 65 per cent were in the labour force, while among movers to the two Territories the figures were 82 per cent for the Northern Territory and 76 per cent for the Australian Capital Territory. These figures, when considered in the context of the age distribution of interstate movers (Tables 2.2 and 2.3) suggest that movement to these regions was connected with retirement or work opportunities.

Movement within States

During 1986-91 4.9 million people changed their address while remaining in the same State. Of these movers, 2.7 million (54 per cent) moved within the boundaries of their capital city and 1.6 million (32 per cent) moved within the non metropolitan region of their State. A further 399,900 people (8 per cent) moved from the State capital to the non metropolitan region of their State while 313,900 people (6 per cent) moved from the non metropolitan region to the capital, resulting in a net loss from the capitals of 86,000 people.

Within each capital city more than one person in five changed address at least once between 1986 and 1991. The mobility rate for these movers varied from 329 per 1,000 population in Perth to 210 per 1,000 in Darwin.

Intrastate migration between 1986 and 1991 made a significant contribution to changes in the population distribution. Sydney and Melbourne experienced net losses to the non-metropolitan areas of their States of 67,600 and 29,200 people respectively. Adelaide and Perth made net gains of 5,100 and 4,600. Although Brisbane experienced a net loss of 3,100 people to non metropolitan Queensland, this net change represented only 2 per cent of the total flow of 148,500 people moving between the Queensland capital and the rest of the State.

The non-metropolitan regions which experienced the greatest net gains from intrastate migration were Mid-North Coast (20,300), Hunter (15,100), Illawarra (14,400) and Richmond-Tweed (14,000) in New South Wales, Loddon-Campaspe-Mallee (8,000) in Victoria, and North and West Moreton (15,500) in Queensland.

TABLE 2.7 NET GAIN/LOSS FROM INTERNAL MIGRATION, SELECTED REGIONS, 1986-91(a)(b)
(^{'000})

State/Region	Interstate	Intrastate	Total
<i>New South Wales</i>			
Sydney	-71.3	-67.6	-138.9
Hunter	-5.6	15.1	9.5
Illawarra	-5.8	14.4	8.7
South Eastern	1.4	4.6	6.1
Richmond-Tweed	2.1	14.0	16.1
Mid-North Coast	-1.0	20.3	19.3
Northern	-3.9	-0.4	-4.3
Far West-North Western	-2.7	-0.3	-3.0
Central West	-3.1	0.8	-2.4
Murray-Murrumbidgee	-3.0	-1.0	-4.0
<i>Victoria</i>			
Melbourne	-29.9	-29.2	-59.0
Barwon-Western Districts	-3.5	5.4	1.9
Central Highlands-Wimmera	-2.7	4.6	2.0
Loddon-Campaspe-Mallee	-2.1	8.0	6.0
Goulburn-Ovens-Murray	-2.2	6.3	4.1
Gippsland	-4.5	4.8	0.3
<i>Queensland</i>			
Brisbane	45.6	-3.1	42.5
South and East Moreton	30.7	4.7	35.4
North and West Moreton	19.0	15.5	34.5
Wide Bay-Burnett	12.6	1.6	14.2
Darling Downs-South West	3.4	-6.7	-3.3
Mackay-Fitzroy-Central West	3.6	-6.1	-2.5
Other	9.5	-5.8	3.7
<i>South Australia</i>			
Adelaide	0.4	5.1	5.5
North and West SA	-3.3	-8.3	-11.6
South and East SA	-1.2	3.2	2.0
<i>Western Australia</i>			
Perth	12.8	4.6	17.4
Lower Western WA	1.9	7.6	9.4
Other	1.5	-12.2	-10.6
<i>Tasmania</i>			
Hobart	-0.1	3.9	3.8
Rest of Tas.	0.6	-3.9	-3.3
<i>Northern Territory</i>			
Darwin	-2.1	0.3	-1.8
Rest of NT	-0.1	-0.3	-0.4
<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>			
Canberra	5.8	—	5.8
Rest of ACT	—	—	—

(a) Census counts on a usual residence basis. Excludes children aged less than five years at 6 August 1991. (b) Excludes persons whose Statistical Local Area of usual residence in 1986 was not stated.

Total movement within Australia
...State capital cities

The capital cities which gained population as a result of the combined effects of interstate and intrastate migration were Brisbane (42,500), Adelaide (5,500), Perth (17,400), Hobart (3,800) and Canberra (5,800). Brisbane, although losing population to the non-metropolitan area, gained 45,600 from interstate migration. Sydney experienced very high net losses through both interstate and intrastate migration resulting in a combined net loss of 138,900 people. Internal migration also led to net losses for Melbourne and Darwin of 59,000 people and 1,800 people respectively.

... non-metropolitan regions

The combined effect of interstate and intrastate migration on non-metropolitan regions differed markedly from State to State. In New South Wales the drift of population away from regions west of the Great Dividing Range continued, with a combined net interstate and intrastate migration loss of 13,700. Combined internal migration flows resulted in considerable net gains for all other non-metropolitan regions. The largest were in the coastal regions of Mid-North Coast (19,300) and Richmond-Tweed (16,100). The bulk of these gains arose from intrastate movement from Sydney.

Victoria was the only State in which all non metropolitan regions gained population from internal migration. In the main, these gains came from intrastate movement from Melbourne which on balance exceeded the losses made from each region as a result of interstate migration. This excess provided net gains in each region ranging from 6,000 in the Loddon-Campaspe-Mallee region down to 300 in Gippsland.

All non-metropolitan regions in Queensland made net gains from interstate migration. Intrastate migration resulted in small net losses in the western and northern regions and large net gains in Moreton. The combined result of both interstate and intrastate migration showed very large net gains in South and East Moreton, the region which includes the Gold Coast (35,400), and North and West Moreton, the region which includes the Sunshine Coast (34,500). As in the previous intercensal period 1981-86, the Brisbane-Moreton region of Queensland was by far the most popular destination of Australians who changed address in the 1986-91 period.

The remote regions of South Australia and Western Australia lost population to their respective capitals. These losses were not offset by interstate migration. Non-metropolitan coastal regions close to Adelaide and Perth both gained population, mainly due to net gains from intrastate migration.

TABLE 2.8 INTERNAL MIGRATION BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH(a), 1986-91

	Internal movers			Non movers	Total(b)
	Interstate	Intrastate	Total		
— '000 —					
<i>Overseas born</i>					
<i>Year of arrival</i>					
Before 1971	68.8	460.1	528.8	1178.7	1707.5
1971-75	19.5	138.6	158.1	206.1	364.2
1976-80	16.8	121.9	138.7	158.0	296.7
1981-85	25.8	189.8	215.5	164.6	380.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>130.8</i>	<i>910.4</i>	<i>1041.2</i>	<i>1707.4</i>	<i>2748.6</i>
<i>Australian born</i>	<i>619.8</i>	<i>3951.9</i>	<i>4571.7</i>	<i>6707.9</i>	<i>11279.6</i>
Total (b)	752.4	4881.4	5633.7	8452.6	14086.3
— Mobility rate (c) —					
<i>Overseas born</i>					
<i>Year of arrival</i>					
Before 1971	40	269	310	..	..
1971-75	54	381	434	..	..
1976-80	57	411	467	..	..
1981-85	68	499	567	..	..
<i>Total</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>331</i>	<i>379</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>
<i>Australian born</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>350</i>	<i>405</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>..</i>
Total(b)	53	347	400	..	..

(a) Census counts on a usual residence basis. (b) Includes not stated country of birth. (c) Persons per 1,000 population in the same category.

Movement of overseas born people

The mobility rates of immigrants (people born overseas) is very high on arrival and for the first decade or two of their residence in Australia. In the long term, however, their mobility rates and mobility patterns closely resemble those of the Australian born population.

Of the 380,100 overseas born people counted in the 1991 Census who had arrived in Australia between 1981 and 1985, 215,500 had changed address since the 1986 Census. This represents a mobility rate of 567 per 1,000 population, and far exceeds the mobility rate of the Australian born population (405 per 1,000). The mobility rate for the same period of overseas born people who had arrived between 1976 and 1980 was 467 per 1,000 population, also higher than for the Australian born. Immigrants who had arrived in Australia before 1971, and who are now in the older age groups, had a mobility rate which was lower than the Australian born population as a whole.

Most immigrants live in the State capital cities and, like the Australian born population, the majority of movements made by people changing address are to another address in the same city. Of the 380,100 overseas born people counted in the 1991 Census who had arrived in Australia between 1981 and 1985, 157,200 had moved to another address in the same capital city since the 1986 Census. This is equivalent to a mobility rate of 483 per 1,000 population far higher than the rate for the Australian born of 294 per 1,000. On the other hand, for the total overseas born population, regardless of year of arrival, the mobility rate for movement within the same capital city was 306 per 1,000 population, only slightly higher than for the Australian born.

TABLE 2.9 INTERNAL MIGRATION WITHIN CAPITAL CITIES BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH(a), 1986-91

Capital city(c)	Overseas born							
	Australian born		Arrived 1981-85		Total		Total(b)	
	Persons ('000)	Rate (d)	Persons ('000)	Rate (d)	Persons ('000)	Rate (d)	Persons ('000)	Rate (d)
Sydney	621.2	295	66.5	538	240.3	326	866.9	303
Melbourne	549.0	298	43.1	485	192.6	285	745.6	294
Brisbane	269.7	294	14.4	427	59.9	321	330.7	298
Adelaide	188.2	282	9.3	425	60.7	273	250.0	280
Perth	210.5	324	20.4	435	94.3	341	306.6	329
Hobart	36.5	261	0.5	310	4.1	223	40.7	257
Darwin	9.0	205	0.7	295	2.9	227	12.0	210
Canberra	44.5	244	2.3	342	12.5	253	57.2	246
Total	1928.6	294	157.2	483	667.3	306	2609.7	297

(a) Census counts on a usual residence basis. (b) Includes not stated country of birth. (c) Statistical Division. (d) Persons per 1,000 population in the same category.

Similarly, interstate migration patterns show that mobility rates are higher for new settlers. Overseas born people who had arrived in Australia between 1981 and 1985 had an interstate mobility rate for the 1986-91 period of 68 per 1,000 population whereas the equivalent figure for the Australian born was only 55. Immigrants in general, however, regardless of year of arrival had an interstate mobility rate of 48, even lower than the rate for the Australian born.

The pattern of interstate movement of the overseas born population closely resembles patterns of the Australian born with Queensland being the most favoured destination.

TABLE 2.10 OVERSEAS BORN INTERSTATE MOVERS (a), 1986-91

	Arrived 1981-85			Total overseas born		
	Arrivals	Departures	Net	Arrivals	Departures	Net
	— '000 —					
NSW	5.5	9.1	-3.7	27.1	45.3	-18.2
Vic.	4.9	5.4	-0.4	20.4	29.5	-9.1
Qld	7.0	3.7	3.2	41.3	17.5	23.8
SA	1.8	2.2	-0.3	10.4	11.9	-1.5
WA	3.6	2.5	1.1	14.7	10.9	3.8
Tas.	0.7	0.5	0.2	5.2	3.3	1.9
NT	0.8	1.2	-0.4	4.1	5.2	-1.1
ACT	1.5	1.1	0.3	7.6	7.2	0.4
Aust.	25.8	25.8	—	130.8	130.8	—
— Mobility rate(b) —						
NSW	39	66	-26	29	49	-20
Vic.	51	56	-4	26	38	-12
Qld	129	69	60	124	52	71
SA	77	91	-14	40	45	-6
WA	68	47	21	44	33	11
Tas.	212	152	60	132	83	49
NT	208	321	-113	212	269	-56
ACT	219	172	47	154	147	7
Aust.	68	68	—	48	48	—

(a) Census counts on a usual residence basis. (b) Persons per 1,000 population in the same category.



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