



Australia at a glance

A growing, ageing population, increasingly born overseas.

KEY POINTS:

- Australia had a population of around 23.5 million people at June 2014.
- Most Australians can expect to have a relatively long life – one of the highest life expectancies in the world and 25 years longer than a century ago. A baby boy born between 2011 and 2013 can expect to live to 80.1 years and a baby girl to 84.3 years.
- 15% (3.5 million people) of the population were aged 65 and over and by 2054 this is projected to increase to 21% (8.4 million people). This sort of demographic change increases pressure on the welfare system in terms of age-related income support, disability support and the provision of aged care.
- About 3% of the population – 714,000 people – were Indigenous. The age profile of Australia's Indigenous population is considerably younger than for the non-Indigenous population: at June 2014, half of the Indigenous population was aged 22 or under (compared with aged 37 or under for the non-Indigenous population) and just 4% were aged 65 and over (compared with 15% of the non-Indigenous population).
- Around 28% of the population were born overseas (6.6 million people), with the largest number (1.2 million) being born in the United Kingdom, followed by New Zealand, China, India, the Philippines and Vietnam.
- Most Australians live in capital cities. At June 2014, nearly three-quarters of people lived in *Major cities* (71%), while 18% lived in *Inner regional* areas, 9% in *Outer regional* areas, 1.4% in *Remote* and 1% in *Very remote* areas.
- While most households (68%) owned their own homes in 2011–12, either with or without a mortgage, the pattern of ownership (outright compared with mortgaged) has changed over the past decade.
 - The proportion of households that owned their own homes outright fell from 42% in 1994–95 to 31% in 2011–12.
 - The proportion of households that owned their own home with a mortgage increased from 30% in 1994–95 to 37% in 2011–12.