

## Victoria

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The estimated resident population of Victoria is projected to increase from 4,804,726 people in 2001 to 6,225,477 people by 2031. This equates to an average annual increase of 0.87 per cent between 2001 and 2031.

The population of Victoria is projected to:

- increase at an average annual rate of 1.1 per cent or 272,483 persons between 2001 and 2006
- increase at an average annual rate of 1.0 per cent or 254,405 persons between 2006 and 2011
- increase at an average annual rate of 0.9 per cent or 243,141 persons between 2011 and 2016
- increase at an average annual rate of 0.8 per cent or 235,805 persons between 2016 and 2021
- increase at an average annual rate of 0.7 per cent or 220,808 persons between 2021 and 2026
- increase at an average annual rate of 0.6 per cent or 194,110 persons between 2026 and 2031

### Components of projected population change

By breaking population change down into its major components, the drivers of population growth and decline become clear. The population of Victoria is projected to increase by 1,420,751 people between 2001 and 2031. Over the projection period natural increase (births minus deaths) will account for an approximate increase of 585,584 persons. Net migration will account for an approximate increase of 835,167 persons.

### Projected Age structure

The greatest change in Victoria's population in the next 30 years will be the increase in the aged population. In the thirty years from 2001 an extra 973,244 persons aged more than 60 years are projected in Victoria. In 2001, 17.3 per cent of Victorians were aged 60 years or more. By 2031, the percentage of persons aged more than 60 is projected to be 29.0 per cent for Victoria.

### Projected Household Change

The total number of households in Victoria is projected to increase from 1,862,807 households in 2001 to 2,719,200 households in 2031. This represents an increase of 885,577 households over the 30 years from 2001 to 2031.

### Background

Victoria is located in south-eastern Australia and covers an area of 228,178 square kilometres. Major centres in Victoria include Melbourne, Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo.

Victoria is the smallest mainland State of Australia, but the second most populous. The diverse economy ranges from primary industry and manufacturing to high-order services, such as information technology and knowledge-based industries.

In the ten years from 1991 the population of Victoria increased from 4,420,373 people to 4,804,726 people in 2001. This equated to an average annual increase of 0.84 per cent. The estimated resident population of Victoria on June 30th 2003 was 4,917,394 persons.

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Victoria's population is projected to grow at a slow rate than Australia's over the next 30 years. As the number of births stabilise and deaths begin to increase, natural increase will make a smaller contribution to population growth, while overseas migration will make a more significant contribution to growth. Population growth within Victoria will not be evenly distributed, either geographically, or over time. The strongest population growth will be in the inner, fringe and exurban regions of Melbourne. Coastal municipalities in close proximity to Melbourne and regional centres will also experience strong population growth. The middle and outer suburbs of Melbourne can expect slight population growth. Rural and remote regions without a major centre and the Latrobe Valley are projected to experience either slight growth or population decline.

### Why have DSE released population projections?

Detailed household and population projections are undertaken by DSE for a range of users, including State government planners and policy makers, infrastructure and service providers, local government planners, business and community groups. The projections are based on Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) population counts and other demographic data. They are developed using a detailed methodology for the state of Victoria and all 79 Local Government Areas.

### Further Information

#### Urban and Regional Research

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