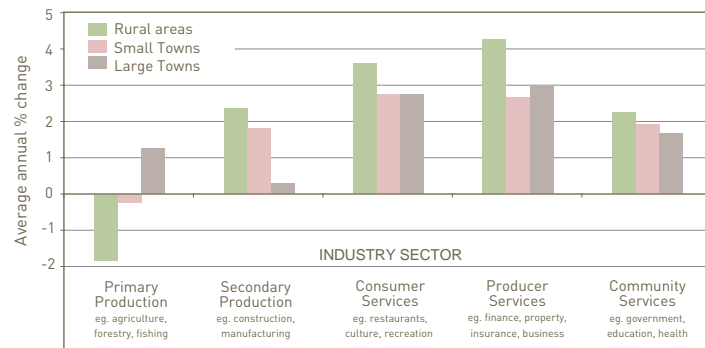


Population characteristics

Changing characteristics of rural and urban communities¹

Average annual % change, employment by sector and settlement type, 1981 to 2001



Numerical change, 1981 to 2001¹

SECTOR OF EMPLOYMENT	RESIDENTIAL LOCATION		
	Rural Areas settlements with less than 200 persons	Small Towns population between 200 and 5,000 persons	Large Towns population over 5,000 (excluding Melbourne)
Primary Production	-23,885	428	1,746
Secondary Production	17,219	10,682	4,930
Consumer Services	20,295	14,840	37,744
Producer Services	9,761	5,000	16,057
Community Services	13,502	8,732	20,862

Changing characteristics

Population numbers do not always reveal the internal character of a population nor its change over time. As well as change in size and age structure, there may be changes in education, income or employment characteristics. These changes have demographic, economic and social dimensions, so it can be difficult to ascertain why and how a population is changing. Importantly, a population may show little numerical change while still undergoing important structural and compositional change. Dunkeld in western Victoria is a good example of this, having experienced almost no numerical change in the past 20 years but undergoing substantial demographic and economic change.

Change in rural populations

Data on employment by industry sector indicate that rural areas have experienced an increase in residents working in service industries and manufacturing, the majority of which are located in urban areas. At the same time large towns have shown an increase in residents employed in agriculture. Such changes suggest that the rural-urban distinctions of the past may no longer hold as strongly. Many urban residents have moved to rural areas for lifestyle reasons. In some cases these people may be living in a rural area while commuting to nearby towns or cities. In other cases people may have a hobby farm or weekend residence which is occupied for part of the year. At the same time, many farmers have changed their location or their employment characteristics. Off-farm income has become more important and some farmers have moved into towns where they and their families can access services and additional income sources more easily. In effect, they have become commuters – living in a town or regional city but travelling to their properties.

Dunkeld population case study¹

DUNKELD - Population Numbers		
	1981	2001
	402 persons	403 persons
DUNKELD - Population Composition		
	1981	2001
No. aged 25-34	54	24
No. aged 75+	13	24
No. in agriculture, forestry, fishing	22	22
No. in manufacturing	11	6
No. in tourism-related services*	6	36

*Tourism-related services includes the categories: accommodation, cafes, restaurants, cultural, recreational, personal and other services.



Coastal Development "Diversity among coastal towns" p. 100

Source ¹DSE 2004 *Towns in Time*