

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX

Introduction

This report is based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publication *Population by Age and Sex (Catalogue No. 3235.5)*. It provides an overview of resident population in Western Australia statistical local areas (SLAs) at 30 June 2000.

Summary

The estimated resident population of Western Australia at 30 June 2000 was 1,883,860, representing an increase of 26,274, or 1.4 per cent since 30 June 1999.

Almost three quarters (73%) of the State population reside in the Perth Statistical Division, this proportion having remained virtually unchanged since 1991.

In the 12 months to June 2000, population continued to rise in all statistical divisions except the Pilbara and Upper Great Southern which experienced decreases of 648 persons (1.6%) and 86 persons (0.4%) respectively.

Median Age

The population of WA, like the Australian population, has been aging steadily over the last twenty years. The median age of the WA population rose from 28.2 years in 1980 to 34.2 years in 2000. By comparison, the median age of the Australian population rose from 29.4 years to 35.2 years over the same period.

Among the statistical divisions in WA the highest median age was recorded by the Lower Great Southern (36.6 years). Seven statistical areas outside Perth had a median age over 40 years and these were Sandstone, Shark Bay, Tammin, York, Koorda, Nungarin and Murray. Of these, Sandstone, Tammin and Nungarin had a population of less than 5,000 whereas the population of Murray was over 10,000. The highest median age within the Perth Statistical Division was recorded by the City of Nedlands (39.8 years).

Table 1: Median Age, Statistical Local Area

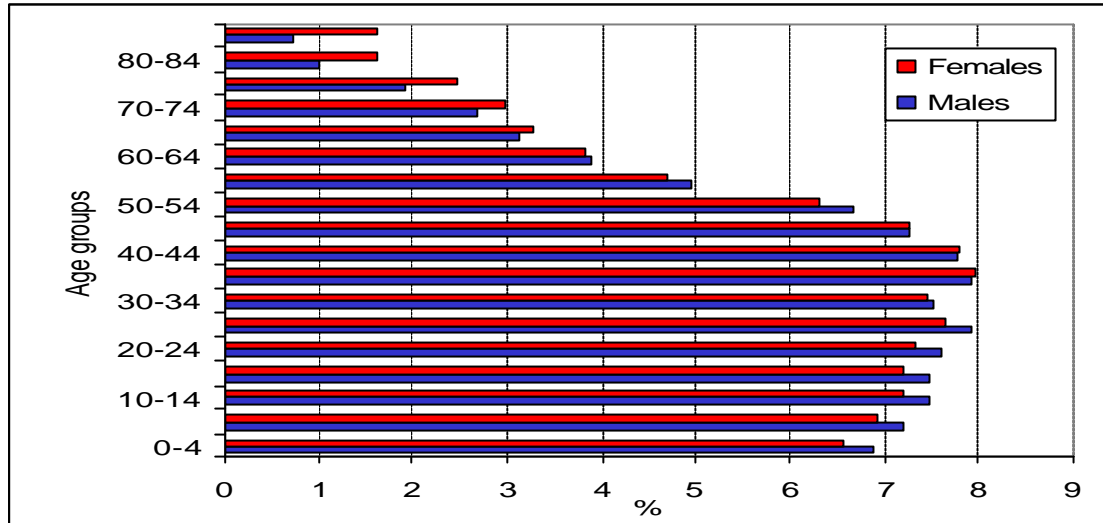
Statistical Local Area	Median Age years	Statistical Local Area	Median Age years
Highest Median Age		Lowest Median Age	
Sandstone (S)	44.0	Mullewa (S)	26.6
Shark Bay (S)	42.5	Derby-West Kimberley (S)	27.1
Tammin (S)	42.2	Halls Creek (S)	27.3
York (S)	41.3	Ngaanyatjarraku (S)	27.6
Koorda (S)	41.0	Wyndham-East Kimberley (S)	27.9

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), *Population by Age and Sex (Catalogue No. 3235.5)*

Lower median ages occurred in the remote northern and eastern parts of the State, with the Kimberley having the lowest median age (28.3 years) of any statistical division. This reflects the younger "working age" profile of the adult population and the relatively large proportion of Indigenous residents.

These trends were mirrored in statistical local areas such as Mullewa, Derby-West Kimberley, Halls Creek, Ngaanyatjarraku and Wyndham- East Kimberley all of which had a median age under 28 years.

Figure 1: Percentage of Population in Age Groups by Sex, Western Australia



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Population by Age and Sex (Catalogue No. 3235.5)

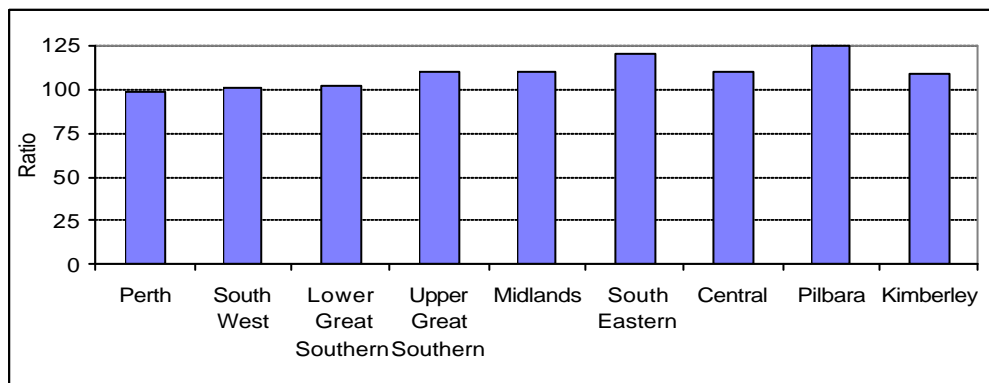
Sex Ratio

In June 2000, the sex ratio (number of males per 100 females) for WA was 101.4, with 948,636 males and 935,224 females. This compares with a sex ratio of 99.2 at the national level. Only the Northern Territory had a higher sex ratio with 112.2 and South Australia had the lowest (97.8).

Males outnumber females in all statistical divisions except Perth where 693,814 females and 687,313 males. The sex ratio ranged from 99.0 in Perth to 125.0 in the Pilbara.

For people in the 15-64 “working age” group, the highest ratio of males to females was in statistical local areas dominated by the mining and pastoral industries, such as Wiluna, Sandstone, Yalgoo, Leonora and Laverton. The lowest ratio occurred in Perth, in the established residential areas of Peppermint Grove and Mosman Park, and in the south of the State in Albany – Central, Busselton and Denmark.

Figure 2: Sex Ratio by Statistical Division, Western Australia



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Population by Age and Sex (Catalogue No. 3235.5)