



Census

Migration within Australia

8 November 2022





Census

Presenters

Andrew Howe Assistant Director, ABS Demography

Caroline Deans Director, Census Dissemination

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Today's session



Census

- Background and history of internal migration data
- Insights on population movement from the 2021 Census
- Tips on exploring Census data
- Use of 2021 Census data previous address variable
- Questions



Census

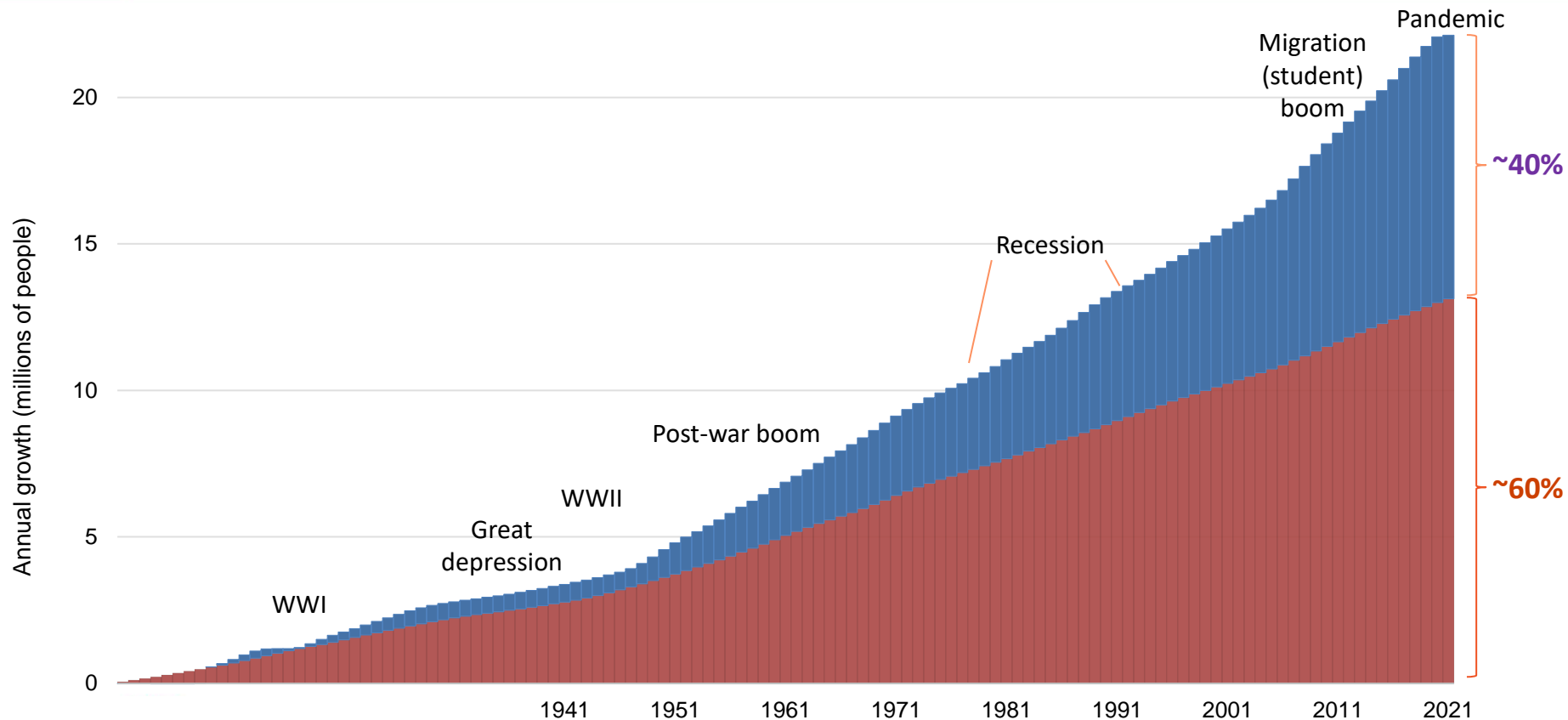
Background and history



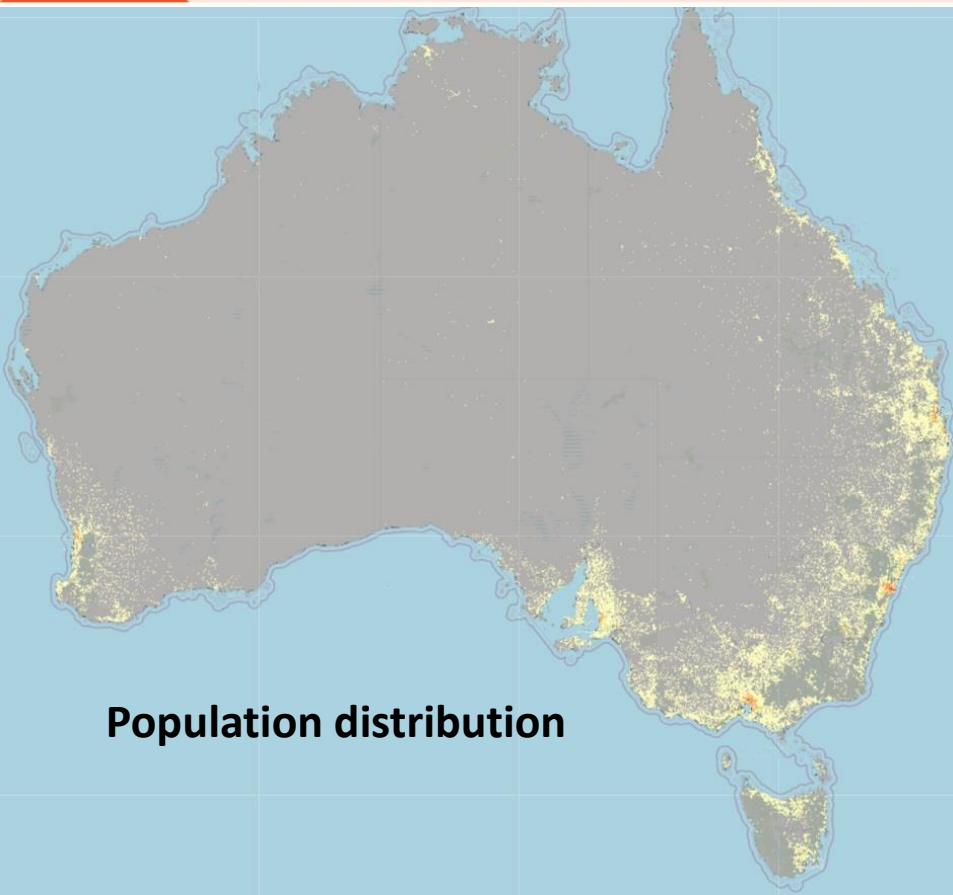
Population growth, Australia, 1901–2021



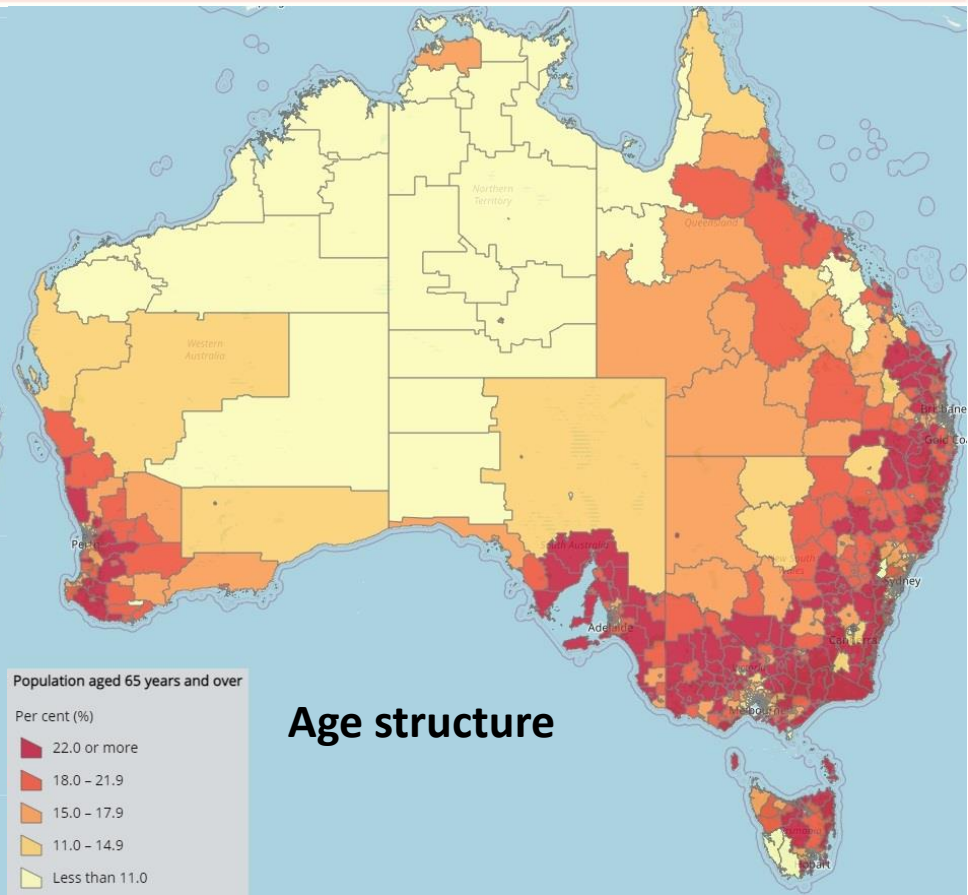
Census



Internal migration: impacts



Population distribution



Age structure

Population aged 65 years and over

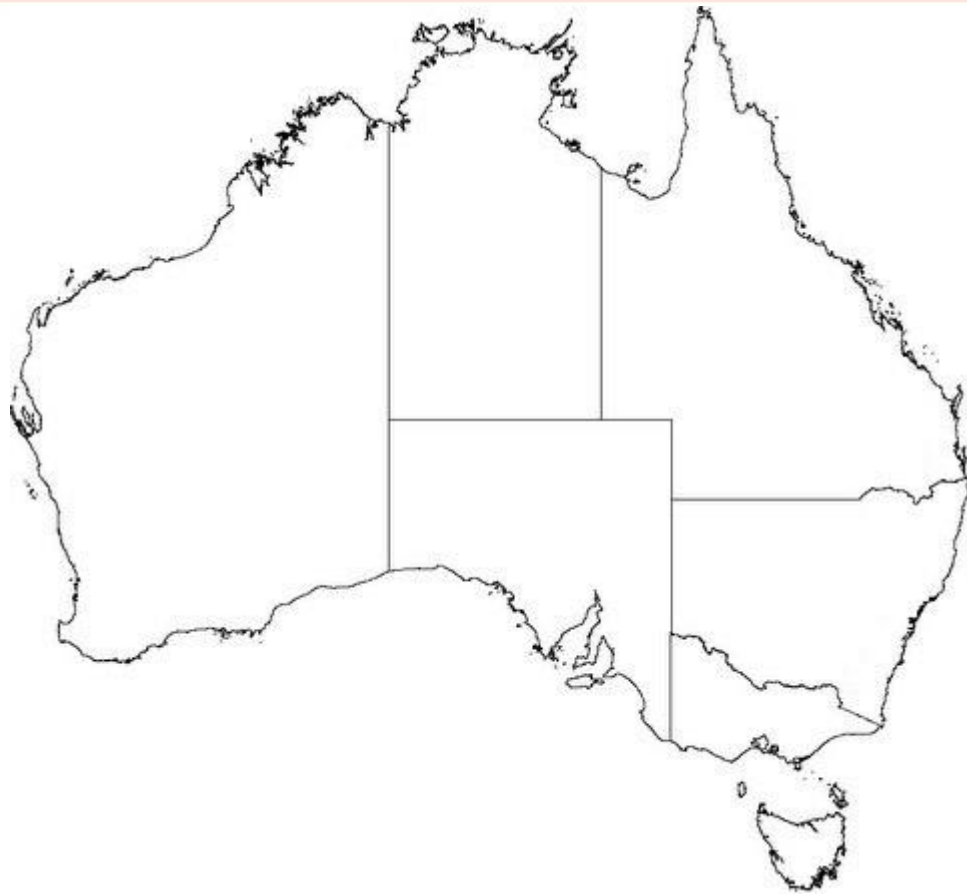
Per cent (%)

- 22.0 or more
- 18.0 – 21.9
- 15.0 – 17.9
- 11.0 – 14.9
- Less than 11.0

Interstate migration, pre-1901



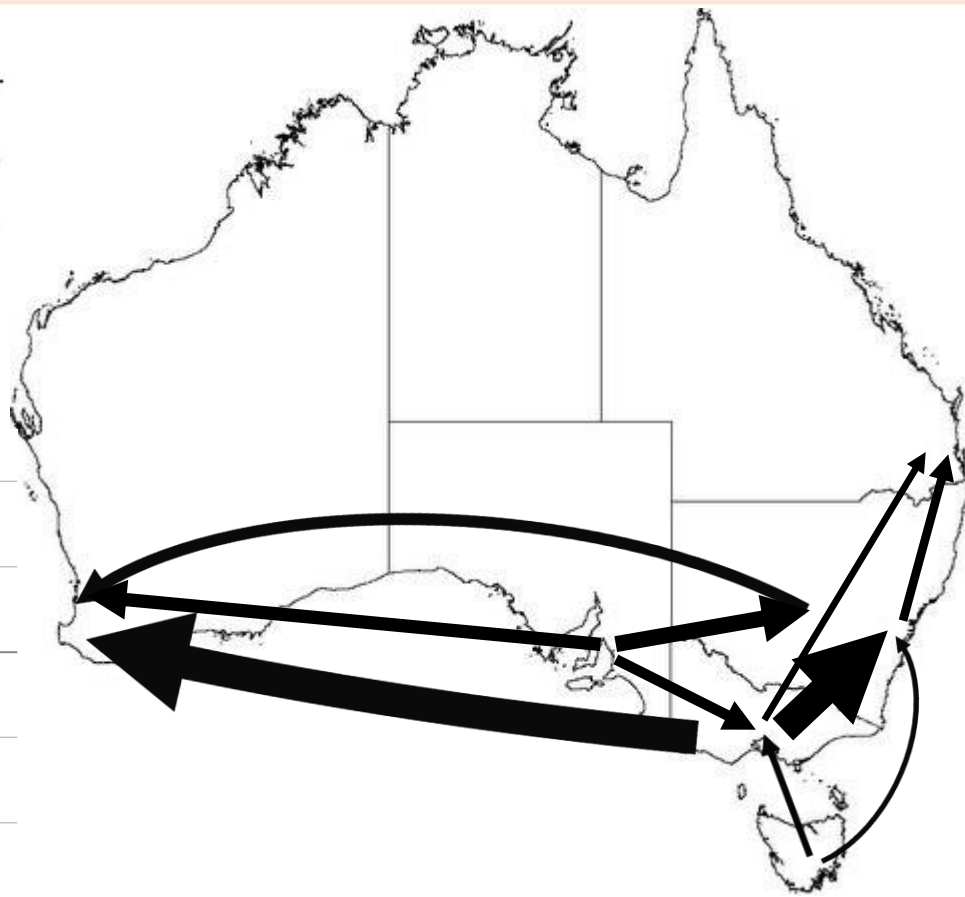
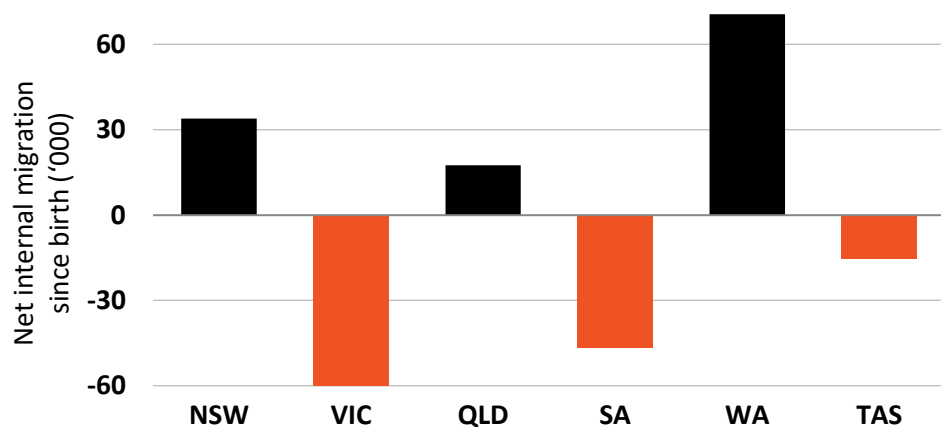
The Big Picture, Tom Roberts



Interstate migration, pre-1901

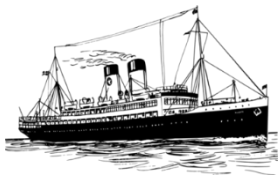
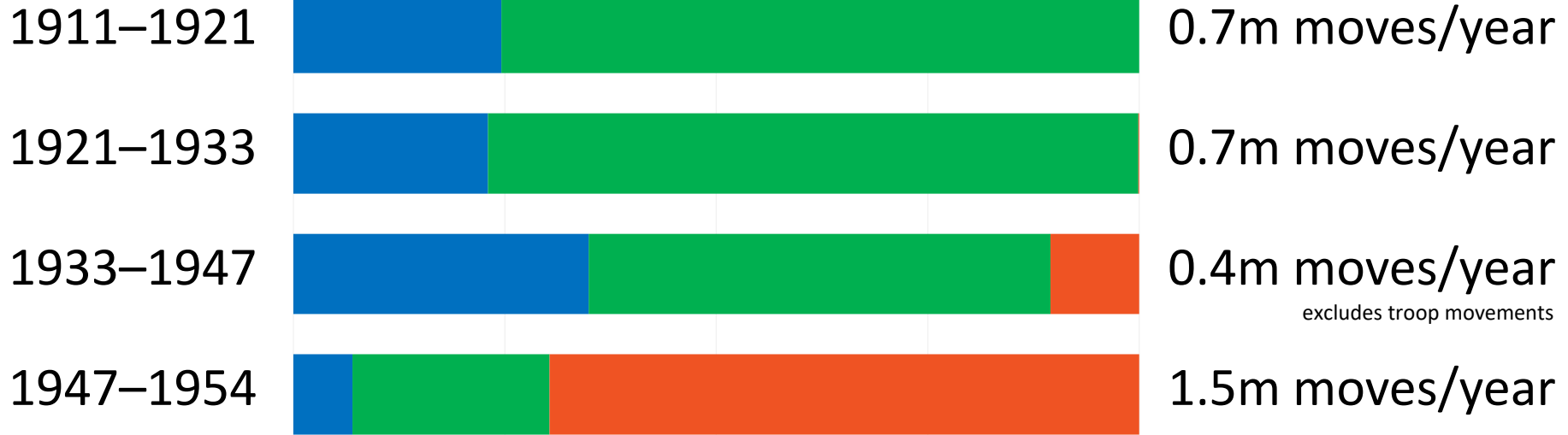
PRINCIPAL RESULTS OF CENSUS OF 1901.

Birth-place	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld.	S.Aus.	W. Aus.	Tas.
N.S.W.		22,404	24,860	4,128	14,122	2,075
Vic.	56,019		10,272	10,324	39,491	7,949
Qld.	14,968	3,018		606	2,595	288
S.Aus.	22,059	21,924	2,384		16,250	887
W. Aus.	887	1,467	199	956		96
Tas.	7,577	15,363	1,308	819	1,750	



Interstate migration, early–mid 1900s

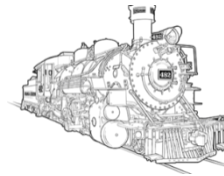
Proportion of moves by travel type



■ Sea

■ Rail

■ Air



Interstate migration, 1950s

CENSUS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA, 1954. ELEMENTS IN THE INTERCENSAL INCREASE OF THE POPULATION.

Particulars	New South Wales	Victoria	Australian Capital Territory
Movement of Population—1st July, 1947, to 30th June, 1954—			
Recorded Arrivals—			
From other States and Territories (b)—			
By Rail (c)	818,330	633,808	72,078
By Sea	112,840	250,764	..
By Air	2,196,759	2,400,357	295,270
Road Adjustment (e) ..	69,252	..	10,780
Recorded Departures—			
To other States and Territories (b)—			
By Rail (c)	884,304	645,638	57,994
By Sea	129,054	284,134	..
By Air	2,204,215	2,378,728	310,486
Road Adjustment (e) ..	8,948	71,084	..

ELEMENTS IN THE INTERCENSAL INCREASE OF THE POPULATION, 1ST JULY, 1954, TO 30TH, JUNE, 1961.

Particulars	New South Wales	Victoria
Net Interstate Movement by—		
Sea	-25,915	-13,643
Rail	-11,379	-47,867
Air	13,012	39,384
Road—Bonegilla Migrant Reception Centre	35,388	-35,388
Estimated Movements between A.C.T. and N.S.W. and Victoria ..	-27,498	-5,691

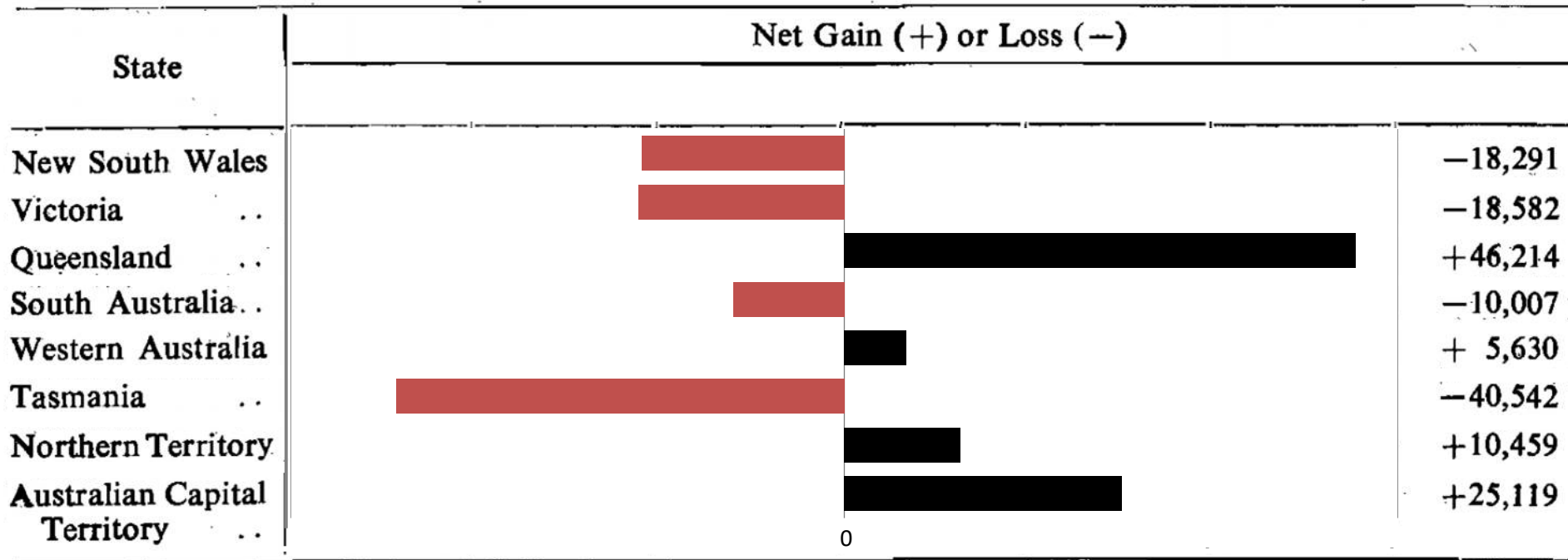


Interstate migration, 1950s



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AUSTRALIAN-BORN POPULATION: INTERCENSAL CHANGES BETWEEN STATES, 1954–1961



Interstate migration, 1960s onwards



Census

Previously: border crossings (head count-based populations)

From 1960: change of residence data

Family allowance data, electoral rolls (1960s–1980s)

Medicare data (1980s onwards)

Supplemented / calibrated by Census migration data

Where did you live one/five years ago

Census gives us *characteristics* of movers

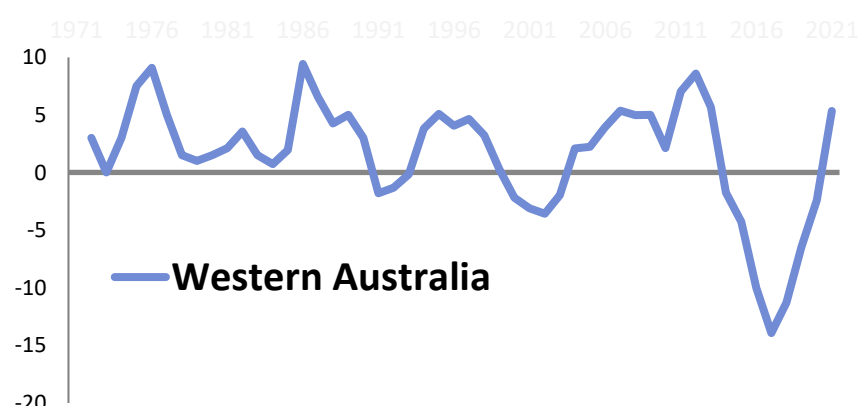
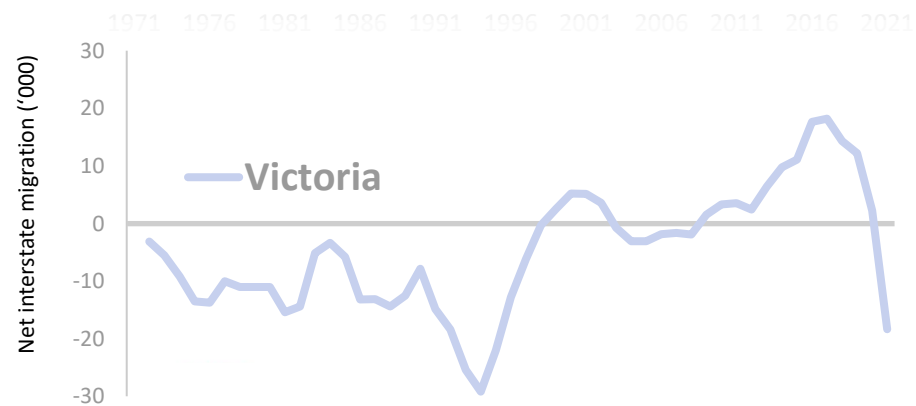
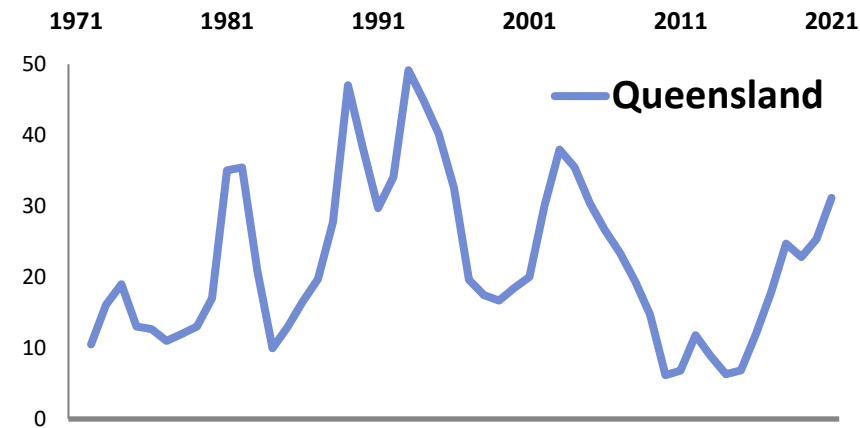
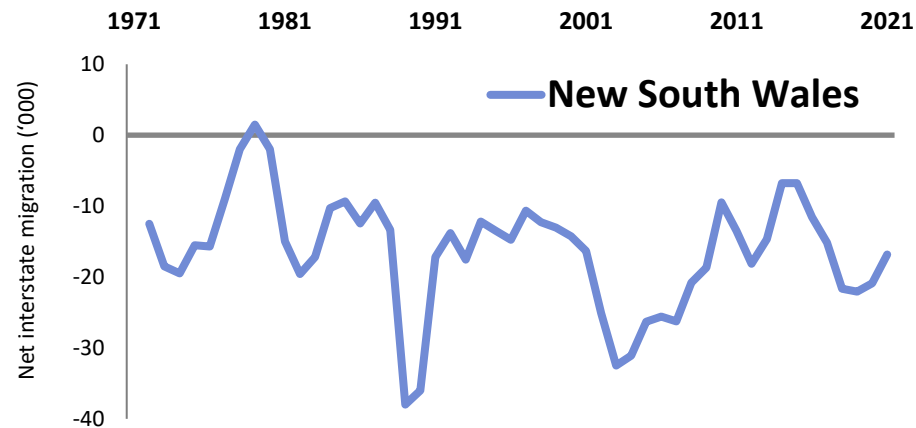
Annual inter-state migration data since 1971 (quarterly since 1981)

www.abs.gov.au > statistics > people > population

Interstate migration, 1971–2021



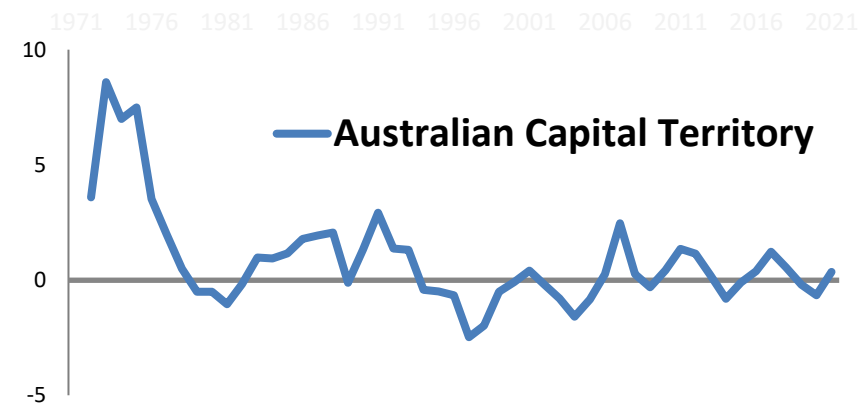
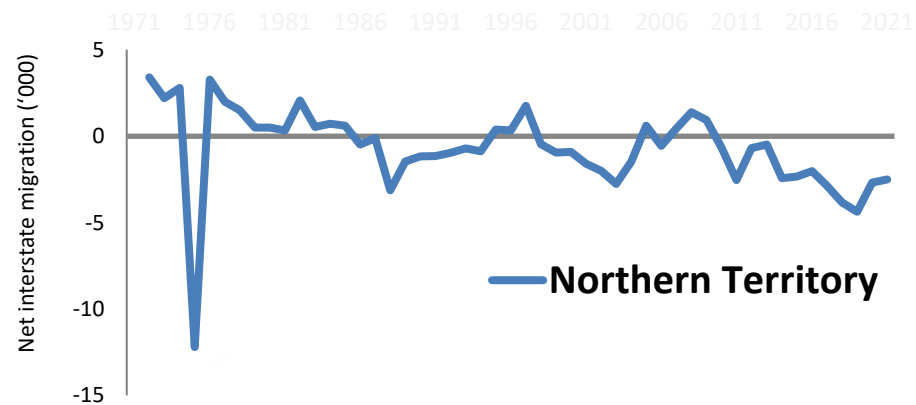
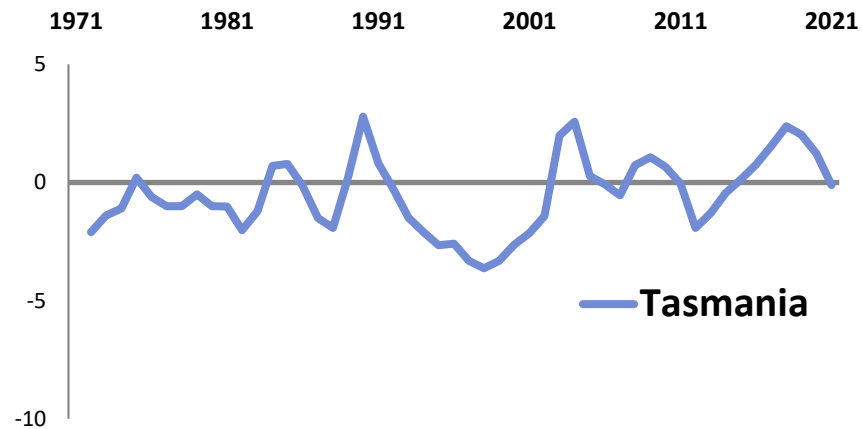
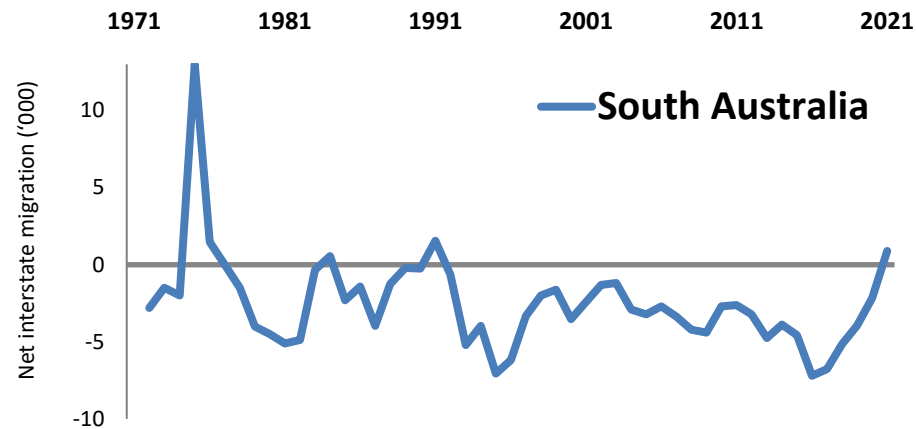
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Interstate migration, 1971–2021



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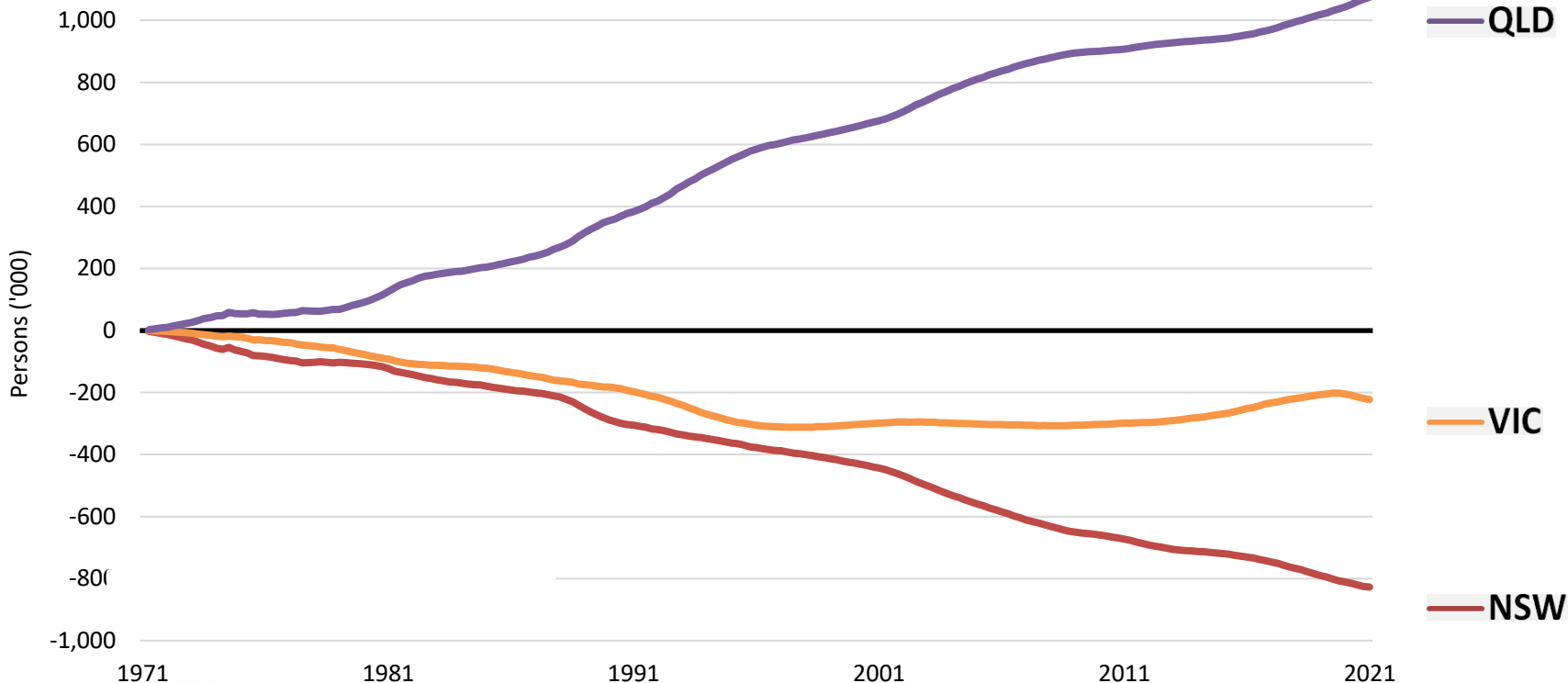


Interstate migration, 1971–2021



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Cumulative interstate migration, 1971 to 2021

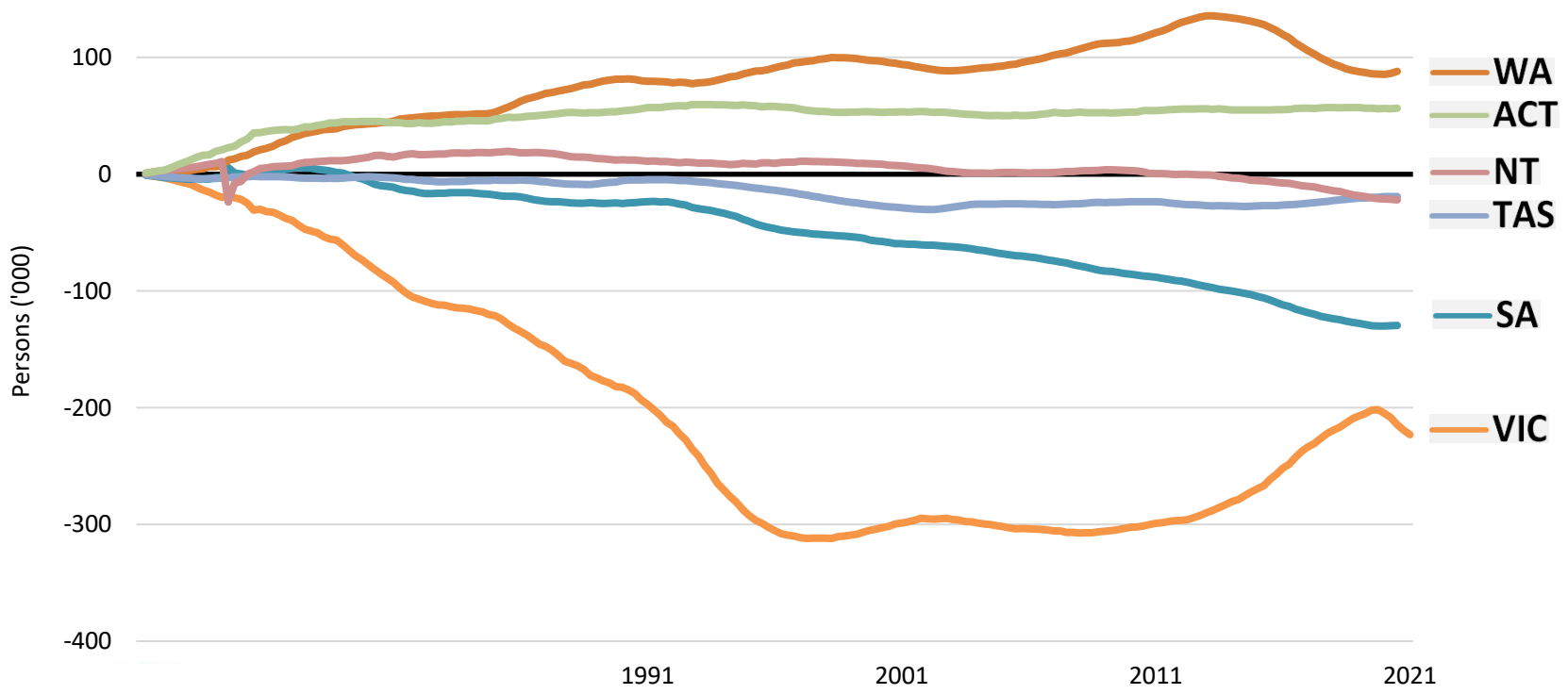


Interstate migration, 1971–2021



Census

Cumulative interstate migration, 1971 to 2021



Internal migration: states/territories



Type of internal move

recent years

Interstate

~1,000 / day



All moves



~10,000 / day

Internal migration: states/territories



Census



Type of internal move, 2020–21

% of all moves

Interstate

(9.5% of all moves)

All moves

Internal migration: capital city/remainder

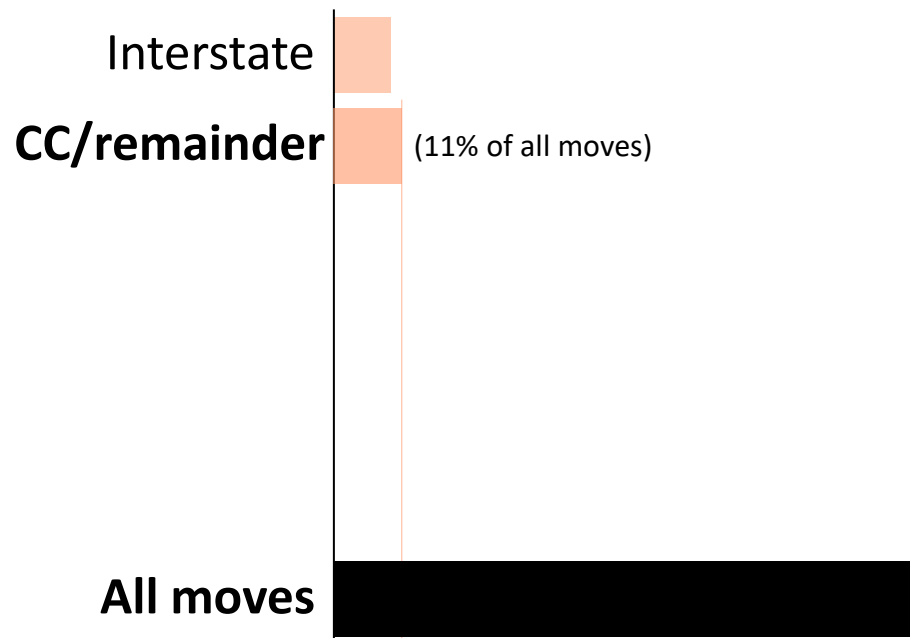


Census

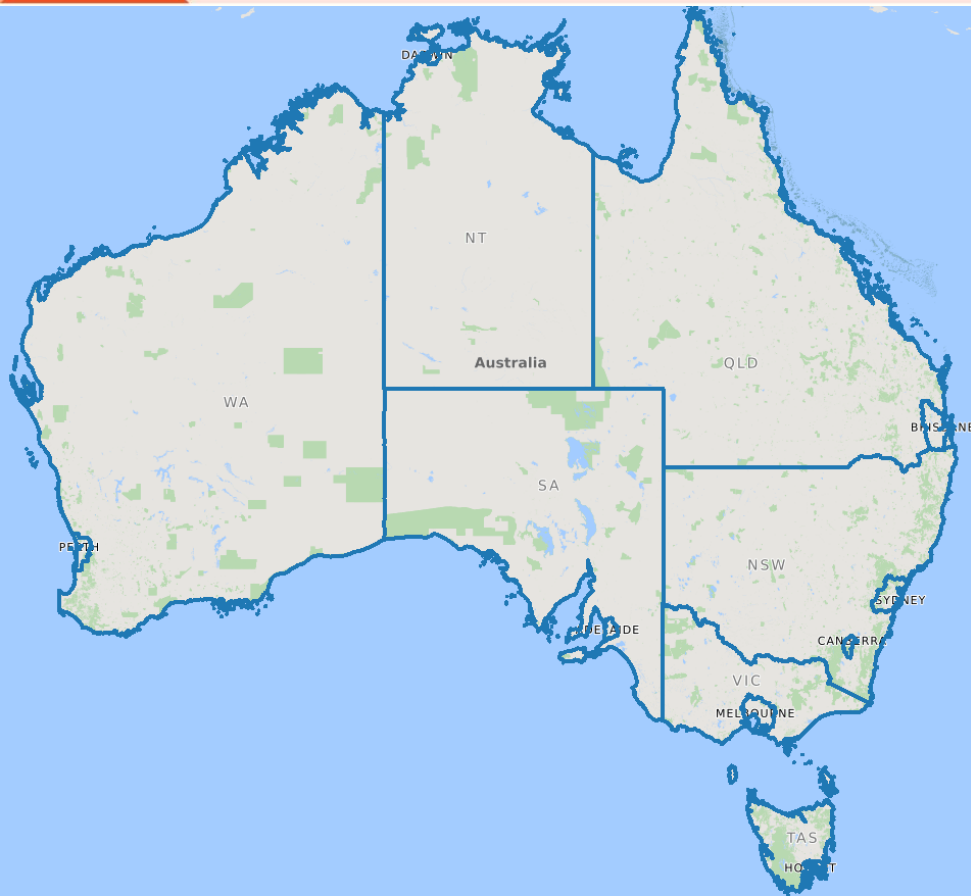


Type of internal move, 2020–21

% of all moves

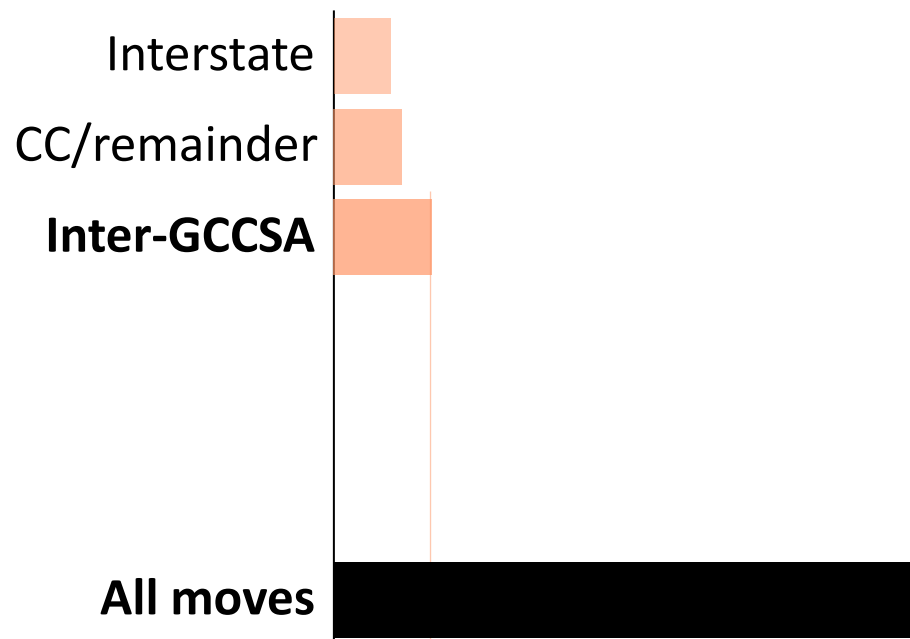


Internal migration: GCCSAs

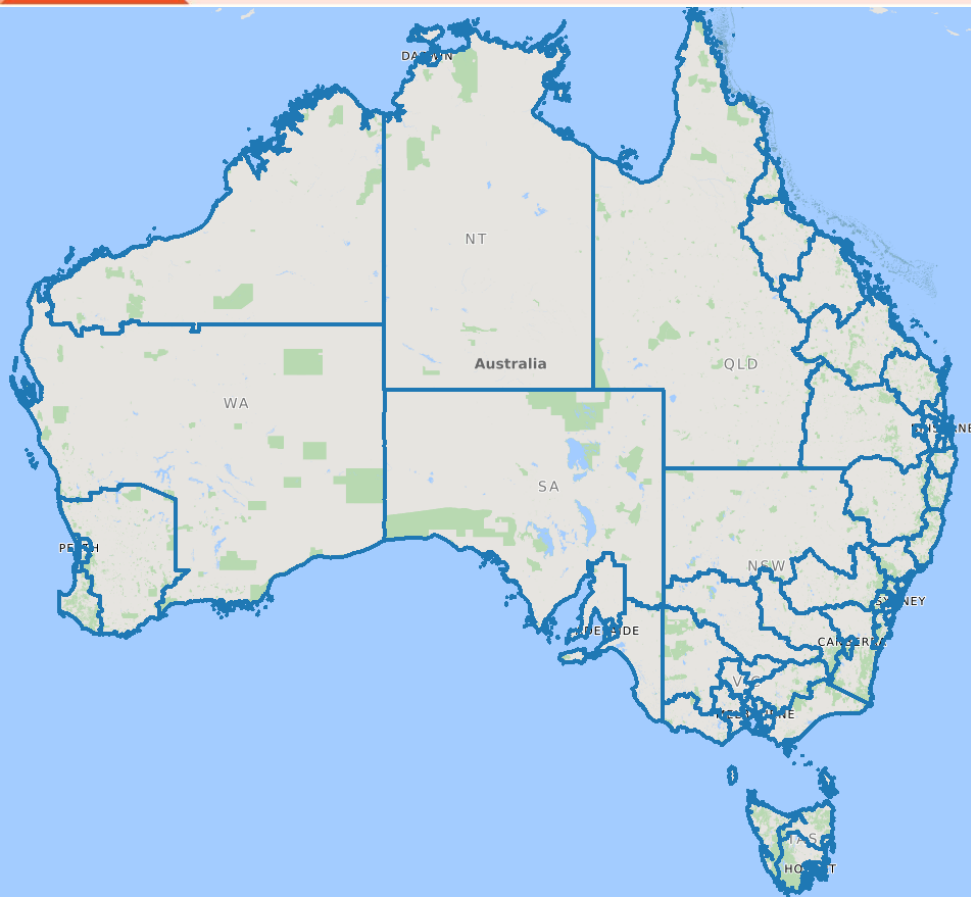


Type of internal move, 2020–21

% of all moves

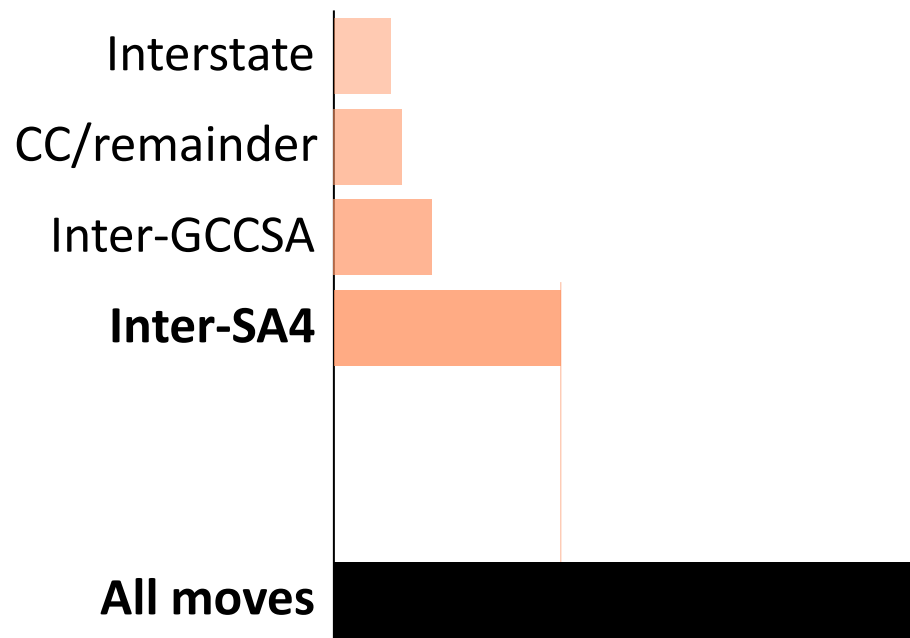


Internal migration: SA4s

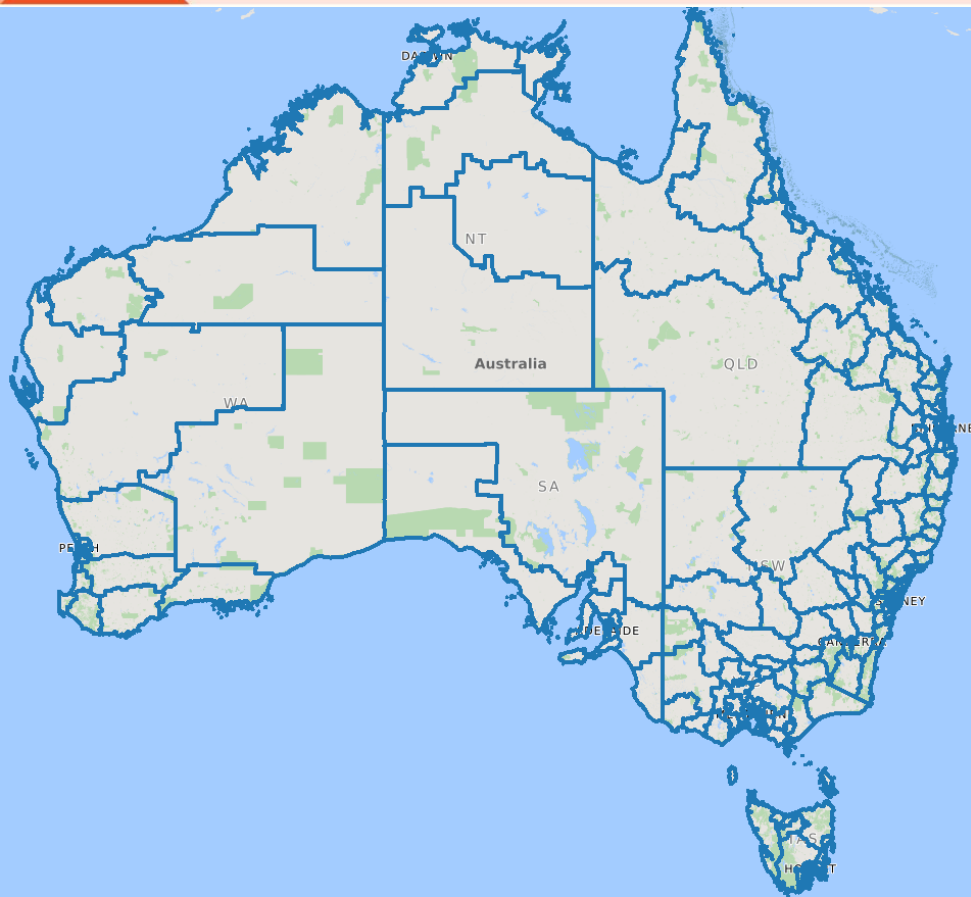


Type of internal move, 2020–21

% of all moves

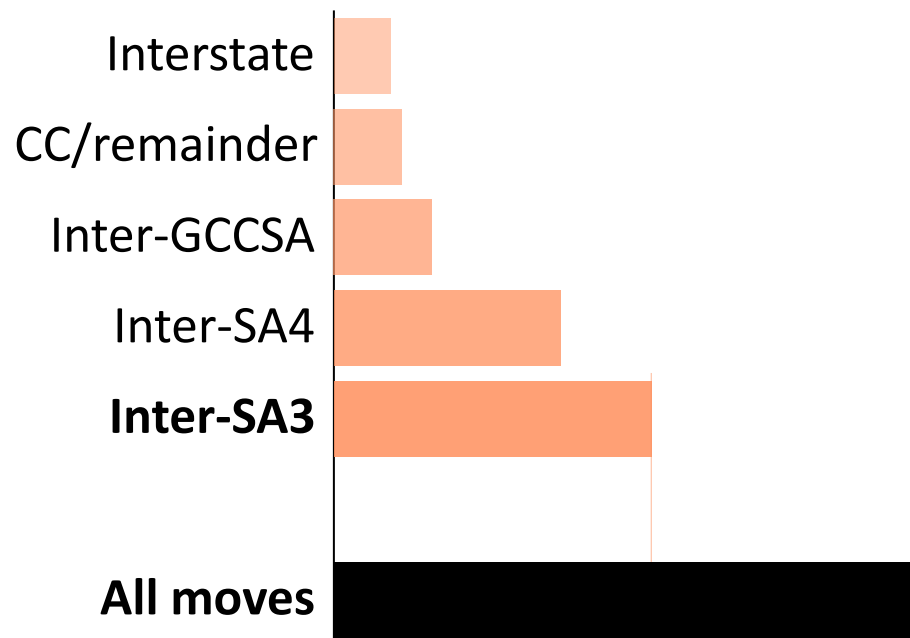


Internal migration: SA3s

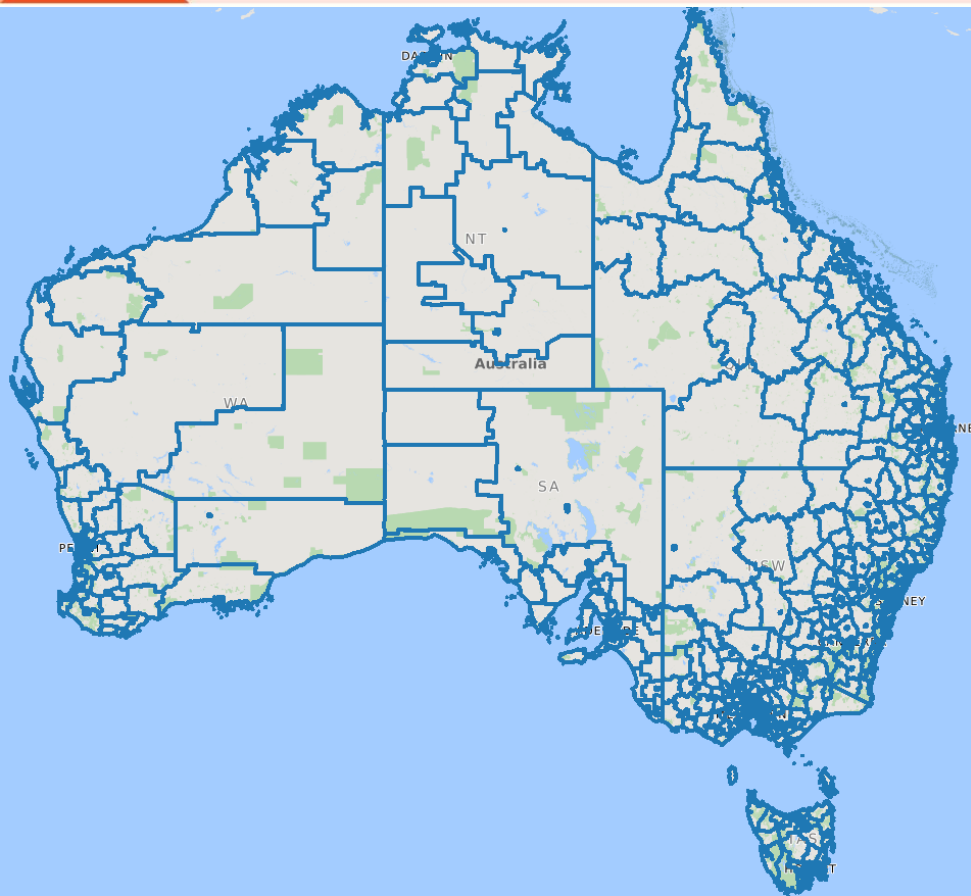


Type of internal move, 2020–21

% of all moves

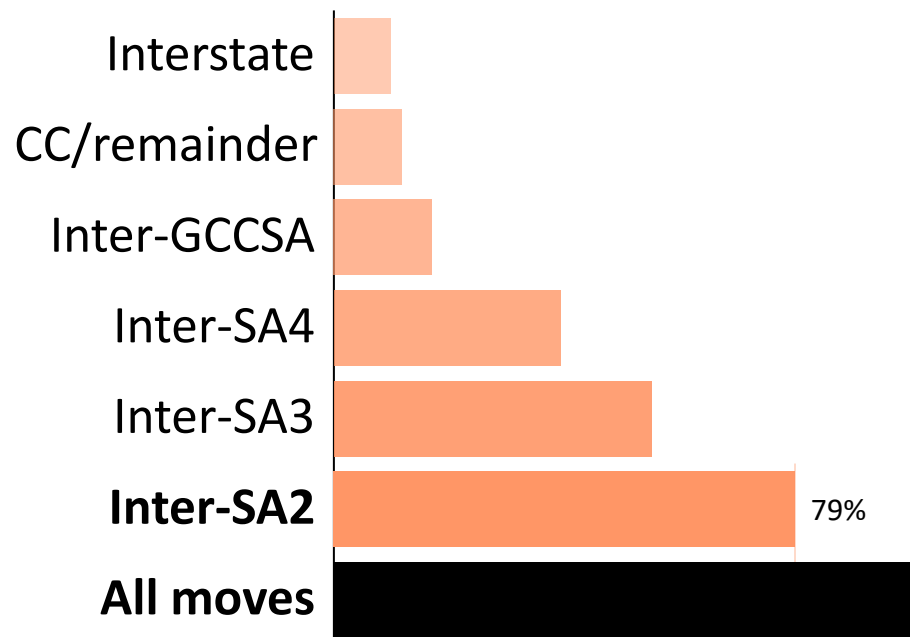


Internal migration: SA2s



Type of internal move, 2020–21

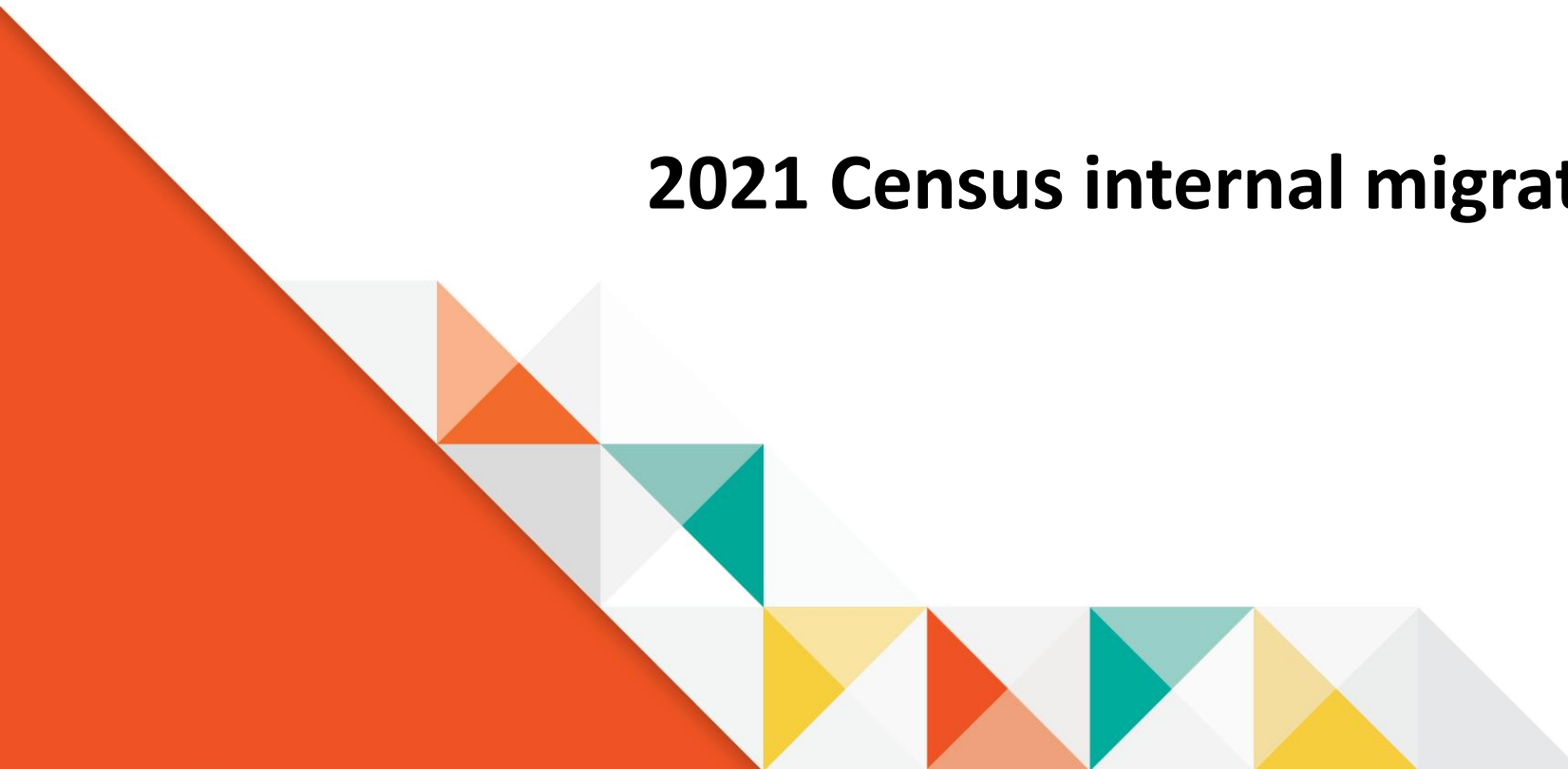
% of all moves





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2021 Census internal migration



Internal migration questions



Census

Where did Person 1 usually live one year ago (at 10 August 2020)?

For people who had no usual address on 10 August 2020, select 'Elsewhere in Australia' and provide the address at which they were then living.

▶ [More information](#)

- 1 Smith Street Belconnen ACT 2617
- Elsewhere in Australia (please specify address)
- Other country

Where did Person 1 usually live five years ago (at 10 August 2016)?

For people who had no usual address on 10 August 2016, select 'Elsewhere in Australia' and provide the address at which they were then living.

▶ [More information](#)

- 1 Smith Street Belconnen ACT 2617
- Elsewhere in Australia (please specify address)
- Other country

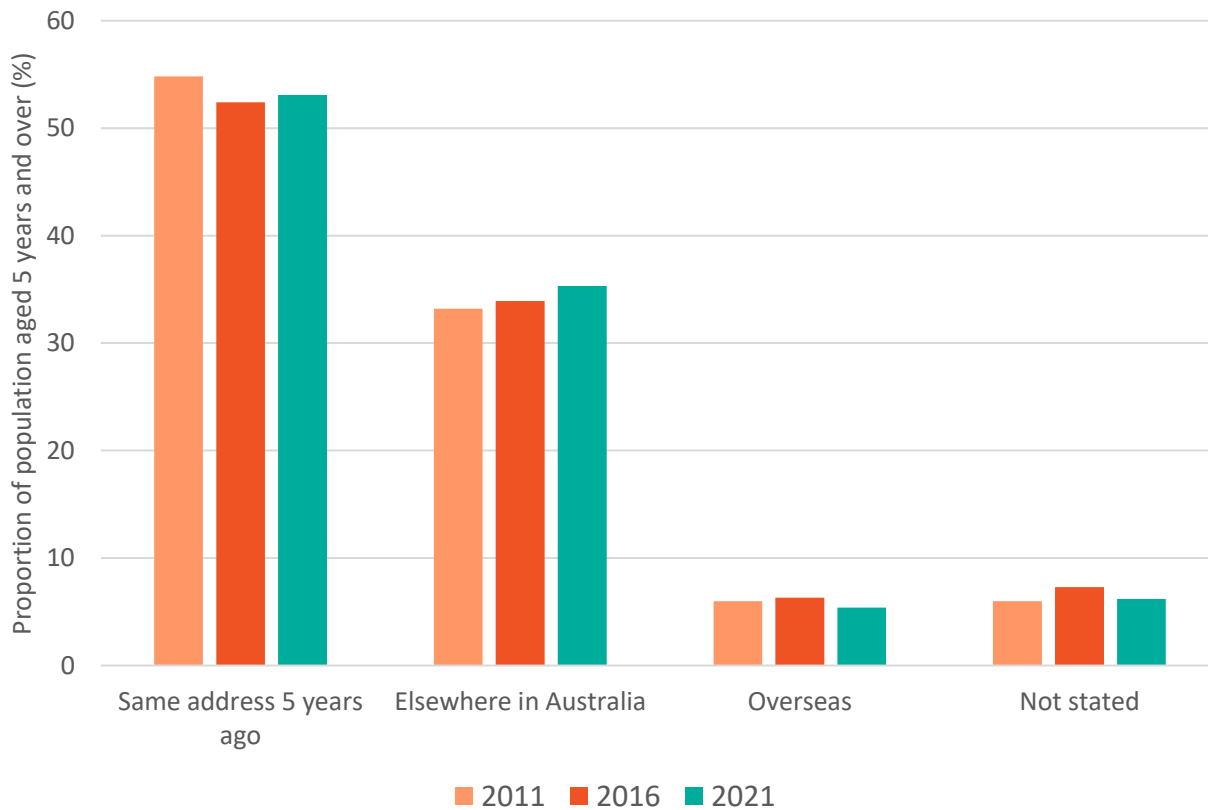
10 August
2021

10 August
2020

10 August
2016



Where did people live 5 years ago?





Census

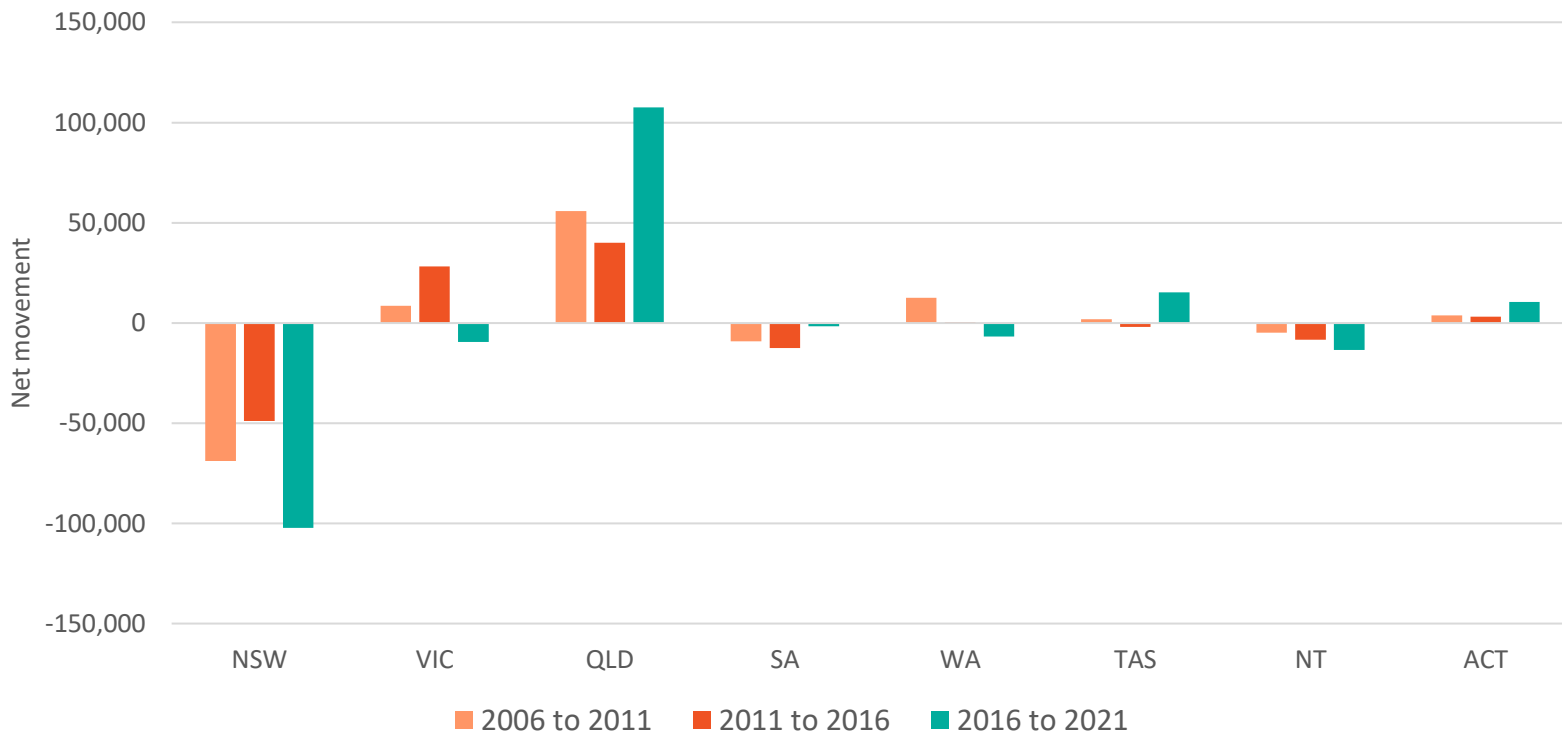
Interstate migration



Net interstate migration over time



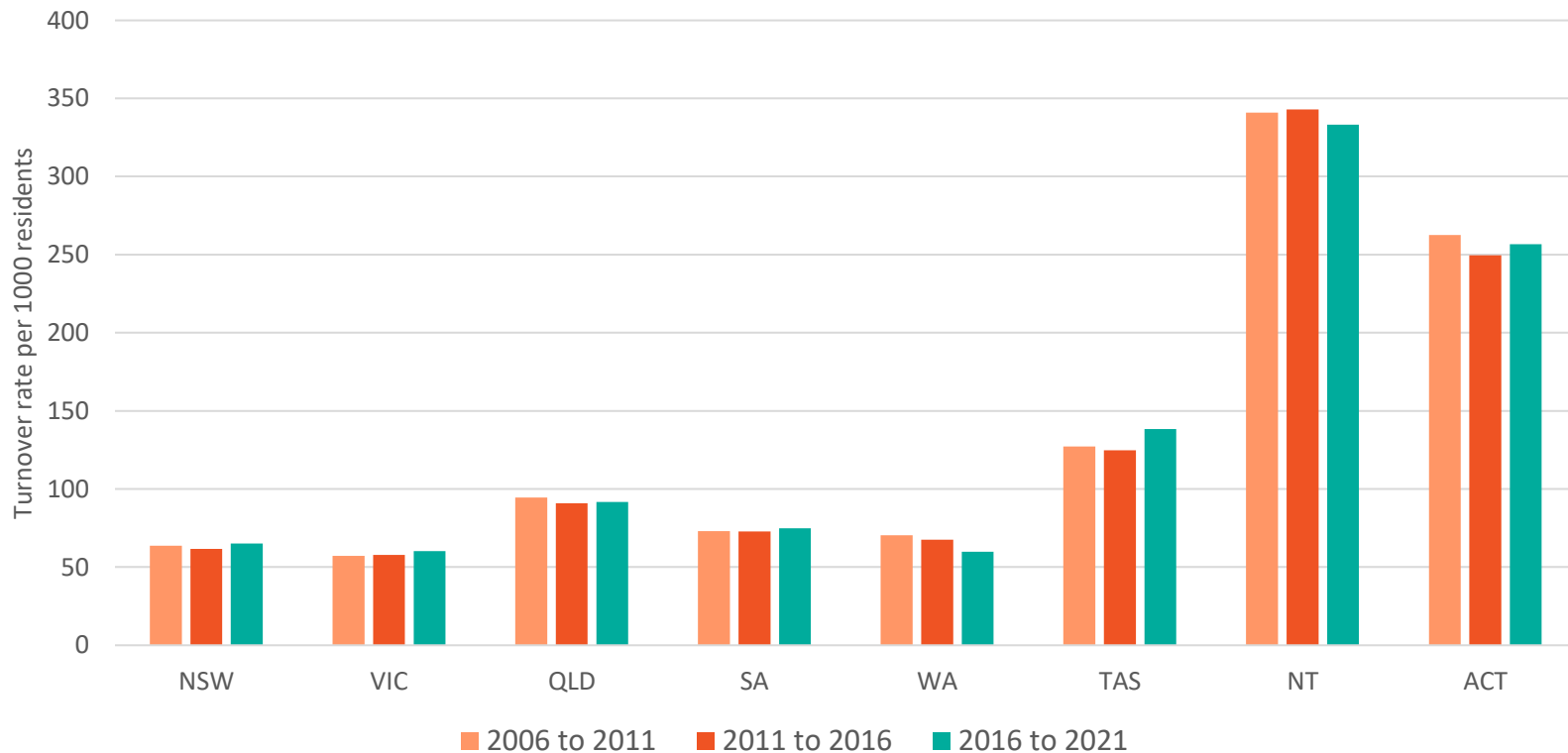
Census



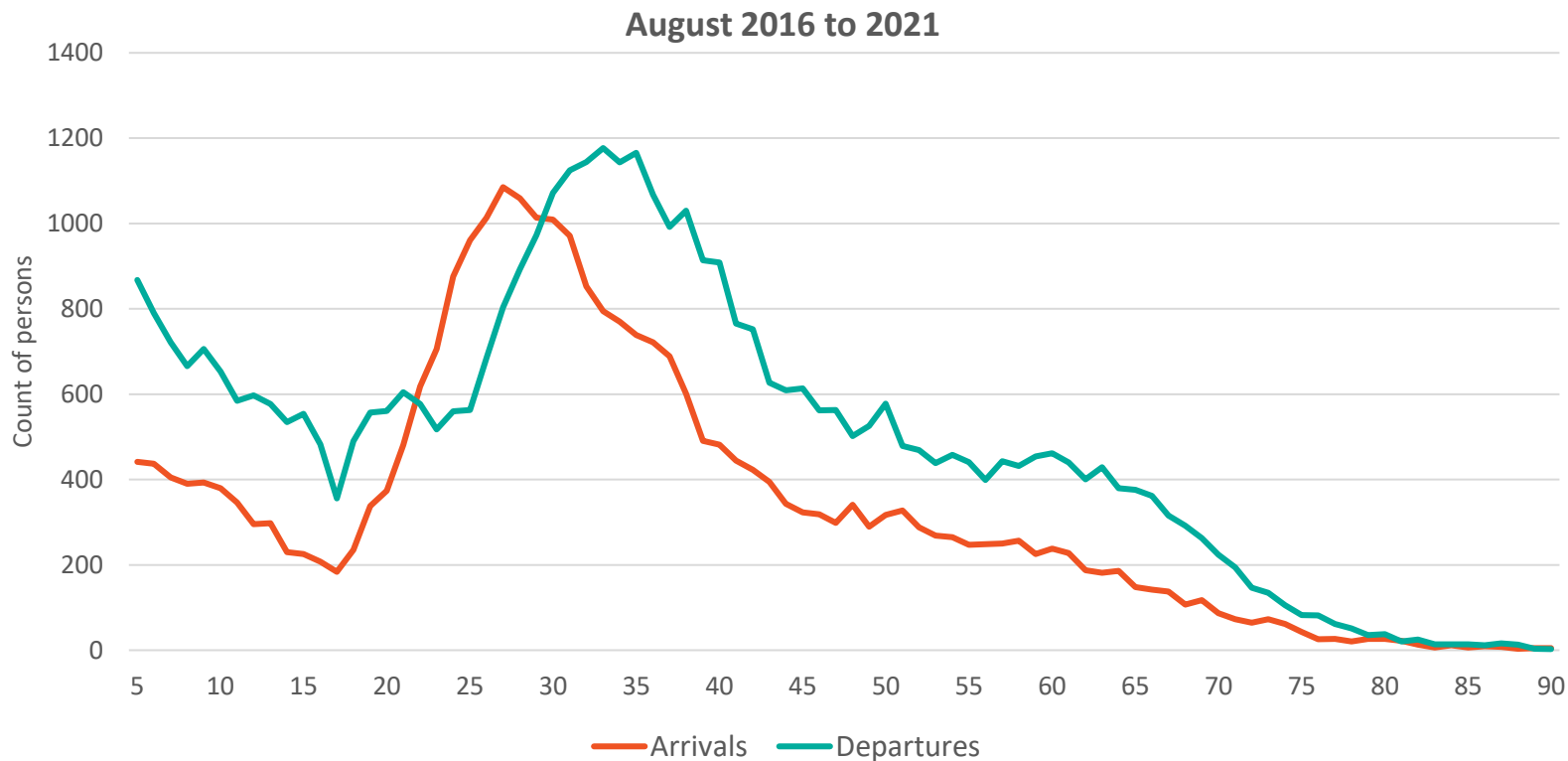
Population turnover – 5 year period



Census



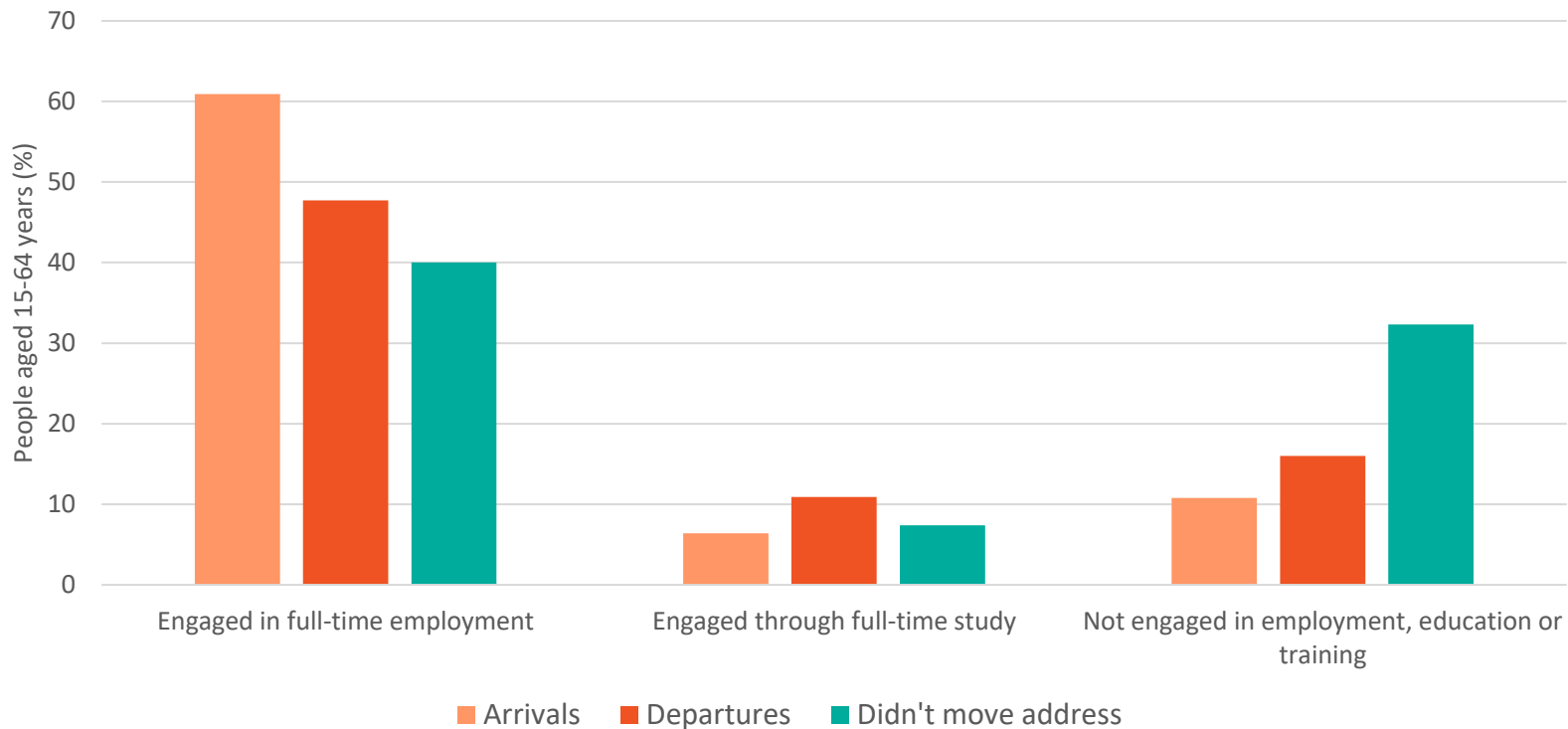
NT – age of arrivals and departures



NT - employment, education and training



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Census

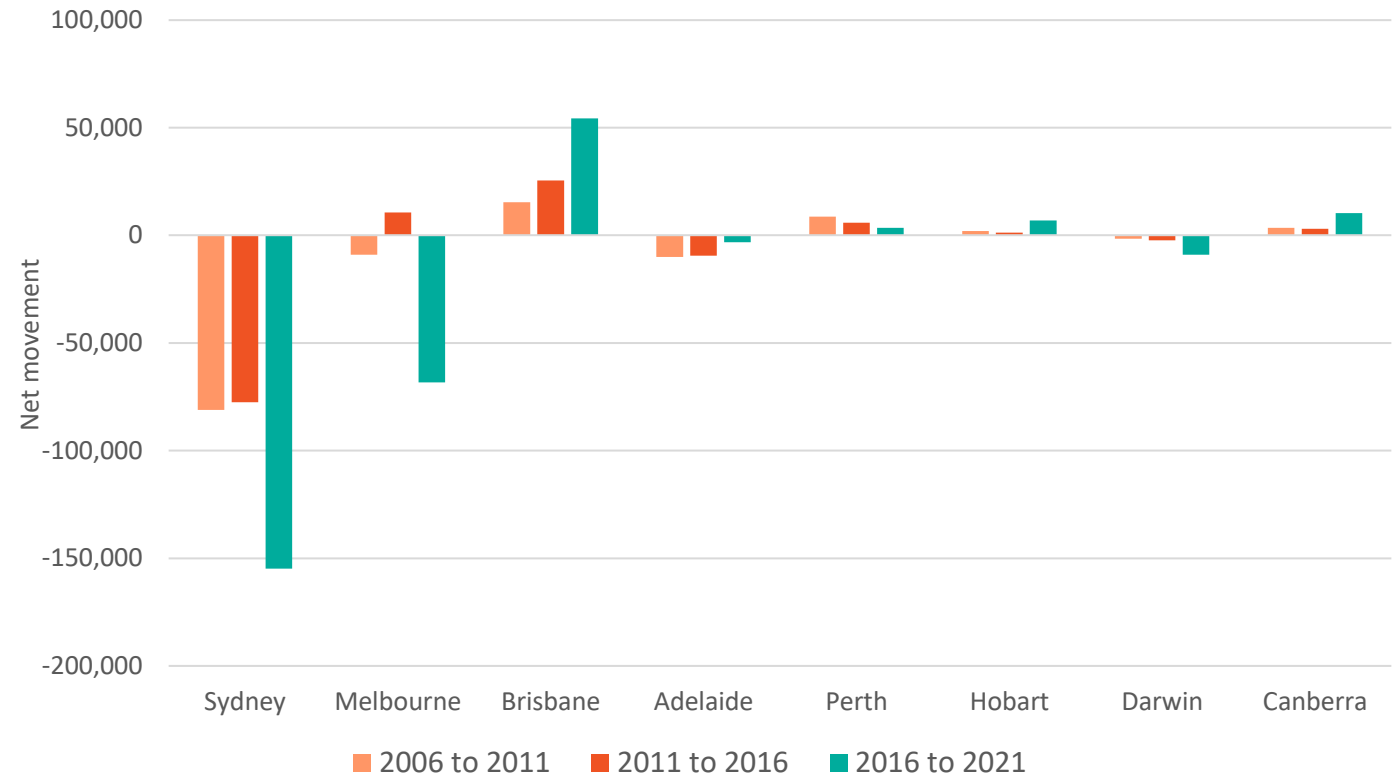
Regional internal migration – 5 years



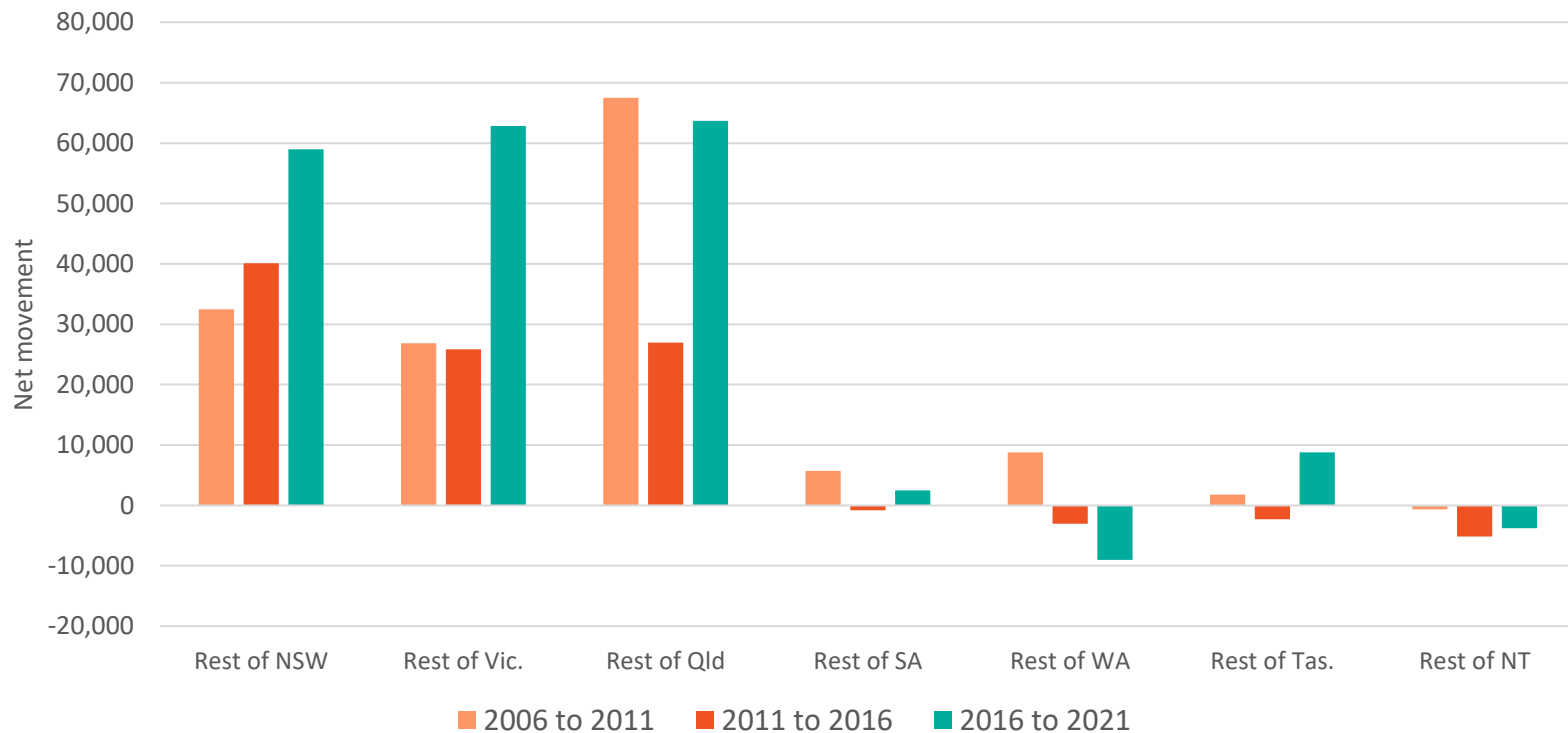
Moving out of the capital cities...



Census



...to the regions





Census

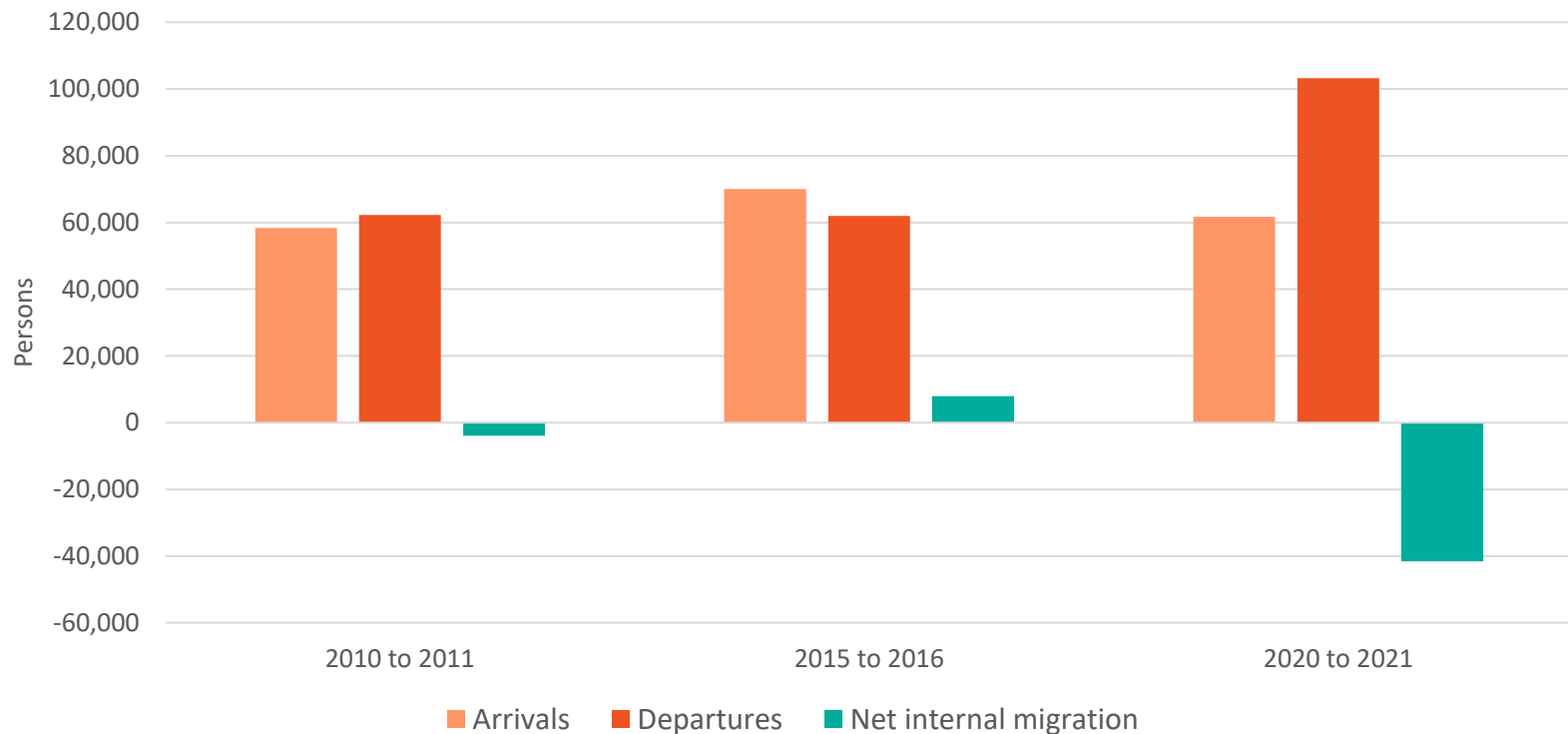
Melbourne internal migration – 1 year



Melbourne – arrivals, departures, net



Census

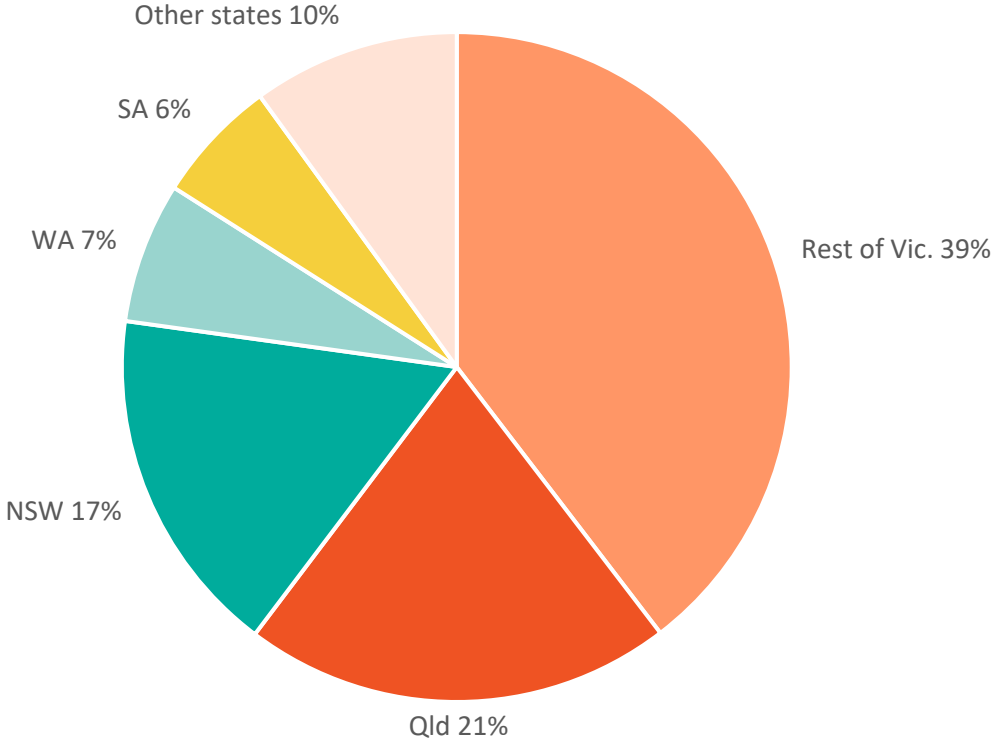


Where did Melbourne departures go?

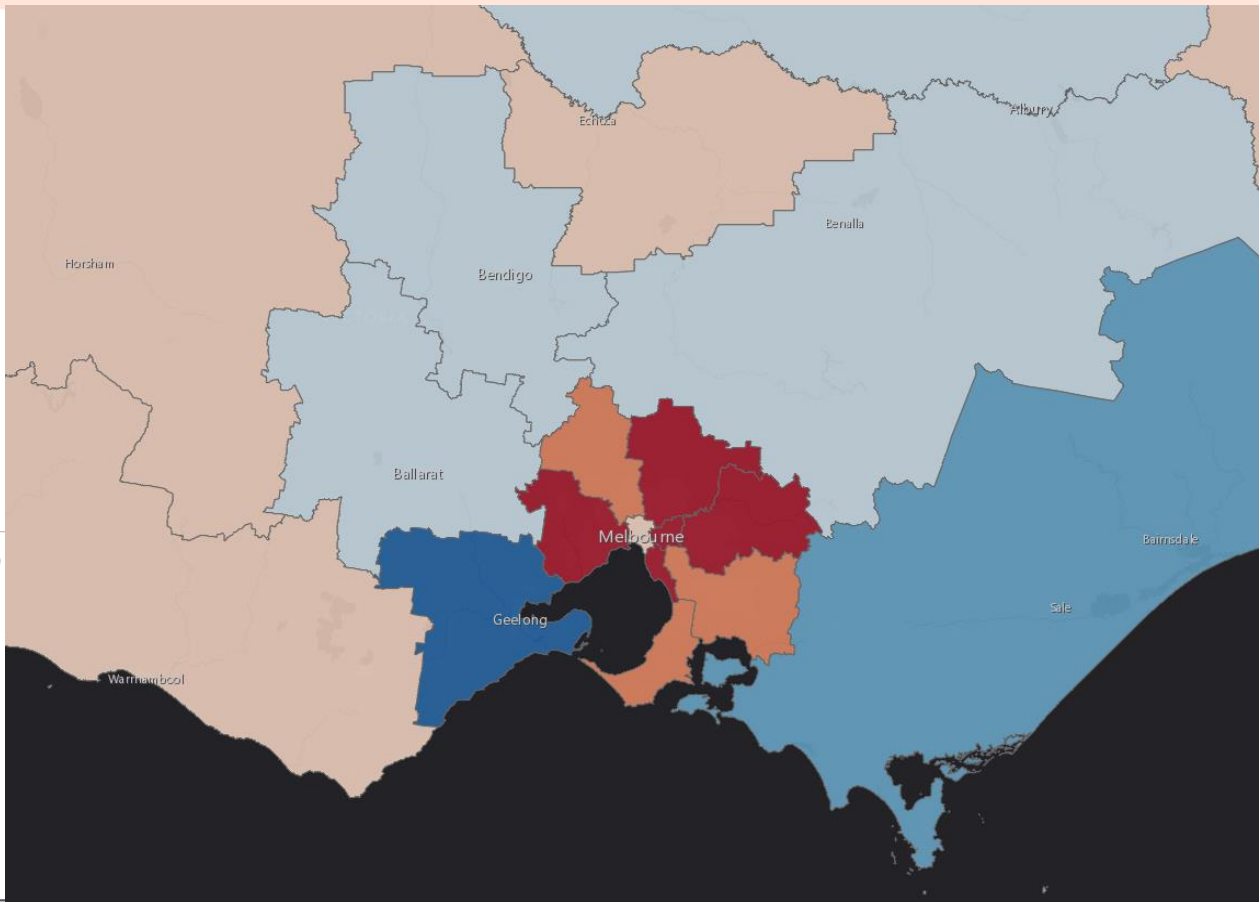


Census

August 2020 to 2021



Internal migration in Victoria



Net Migration between August 2020 and 2021

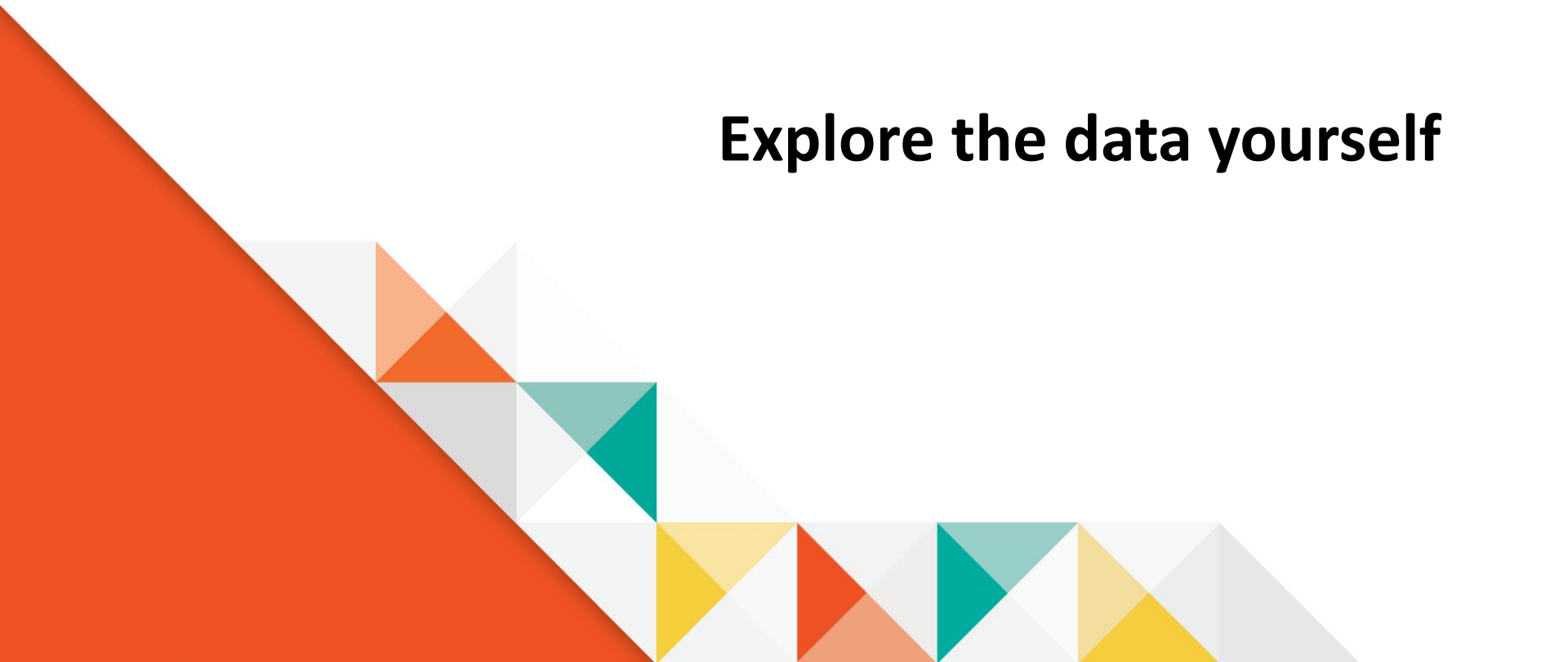
Based on address 1 year ago

- Net gain of more than 4,000
- Net gain of 2,000 to 3,999
- Net gain of 0 to 1,999
- Net loss of 1 to 1,999
- Net loss of 2,000 to 3,999
- Net loss of more than 4,000



Census

Explore the data yourself



Accessing population movement data



Census

Australian Bureau of Statistics

Statistics Census Participating in a survey About

Home > Census > Find Census data > Census data tools

Find Census data

Search Census data

Census data by topic

- Census data tools
- TableBuilder
- DataPacks
- GeoPackages
- More Census products
- Data Explorer
- Which Census tool is best for you
- Snapshot of Australia
- Historical Census data

Census data tools

Census data can be accessed using a variety of tools

- TableBuilder**
Create customised tables, graphs and thematic maps with data from 2006 to 2016.
- DataPacks
Bulk download data for multiple areas in CSV files.
- GeoPackages
Bulk download data for multiple areas in geospatially enabled files.
- More Census products
SEIFA, Census microdata, Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset, Mesh block counts.
- Data Explorer
Create tables and visualisations based on aggregate data.

Register and
Log in

Australian Bureau of Statistics

TableBuilder

Datasets

Select dataset or table

Datasets

- Data
 - 2006 Census of Population and Housing
 - 2011 Census of Population and Housing
 - 2016 Census of Population and Housing
 - 2021 Census of Population and Housing

Using data in TableBuilder



Census

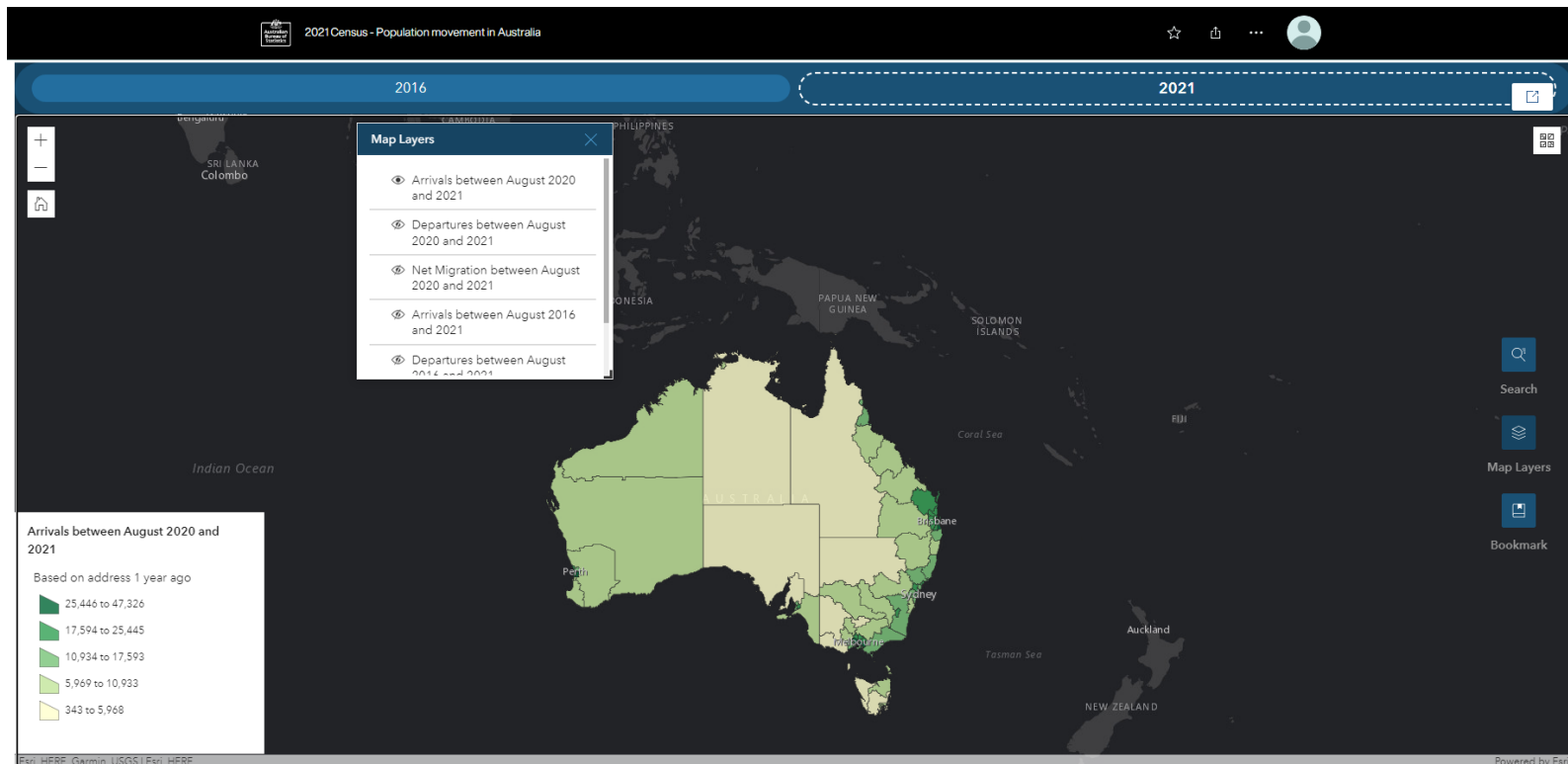
Place of usual residence 1 year ago (August 2020)

	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Overseas	Not stated(b)	Total(c)
New South Wales	6,438,401	56,671	70,394	12,971	18,564	4,580	6,675	26,099	443,289	526,216	7,604,104
Victoria	68,685	5,195,053	43,045	20,535	22,541	9,083	7,755	7,964	372,053	380,829	6,127,593
Queensland	137,386	67,487	3,983,906	17,036	20,771	9,100	14,687	10,061	215,572	387,540	4,863,678
South Australia	16,994	18,113	11,705	1,448,852	5,977	1,904	5,690	1,899	77,281	98,837	1,687,292
Western Australia	19,370	17,779	17,624	5,989	2,120,238	2,938	5,637	1,842	119,143	187,412	2,498,272
Tasmania	14,035	13,266	9,955	1,665	3,400	429,530	1,025	914	19,362	36,123	529,294
Northern Territory	6,622	6,672	7,590	3,195	3,889	543	148,328	783	12,703	26,018	216,381
Australian Capital Territory	35,086	9,105	8,587	2,537	2,794	773	1,269	316,781	29,902	20,937	427,818
41 Total	6,736,821	5,384,200	4,153,012	1,512,797	2,198,430	458,466	191,093	366,396	1,289,442	1,664,835	23,958,976

Using maps



Census





Australian Government
Centre for Population

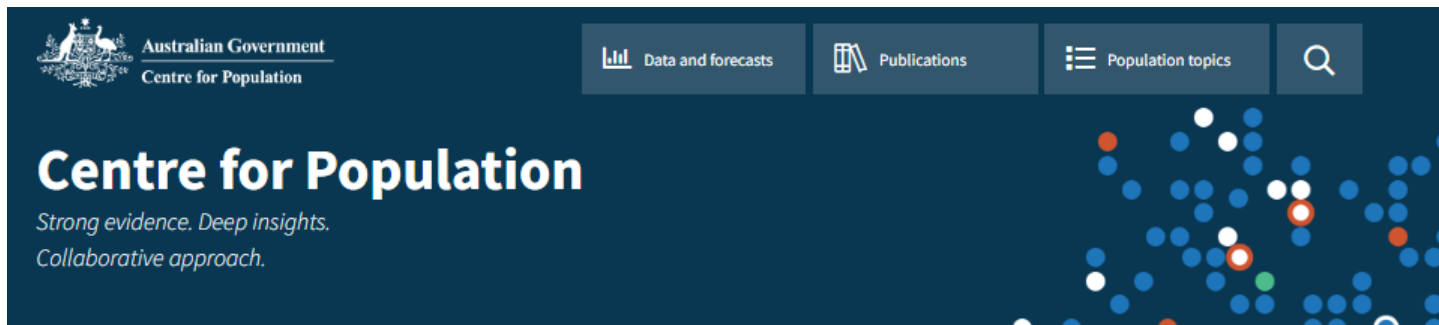
Centre for Population

*Use of 2021 Census Data
Previous Address Variable*

Alex Cleland – Assistant Director, Modelling and Forecasting Unit
8 November 2022



The Centre for Population



Our objectives

Enrich the evidence base

Inform strategic policy-making

Support the responsible Minister

Proactively engage with stakeholders

Our forecasts

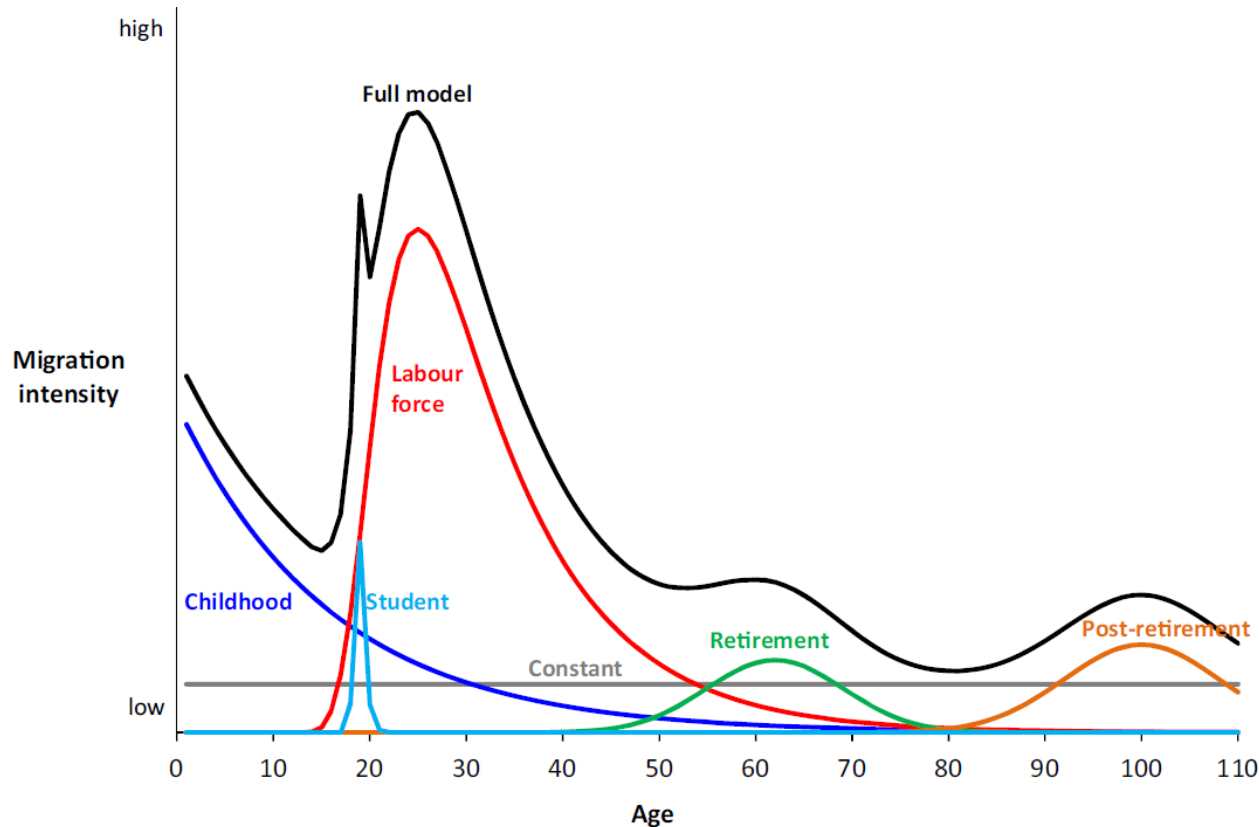
Projected age and sex structure

National population projections

State and territory projections

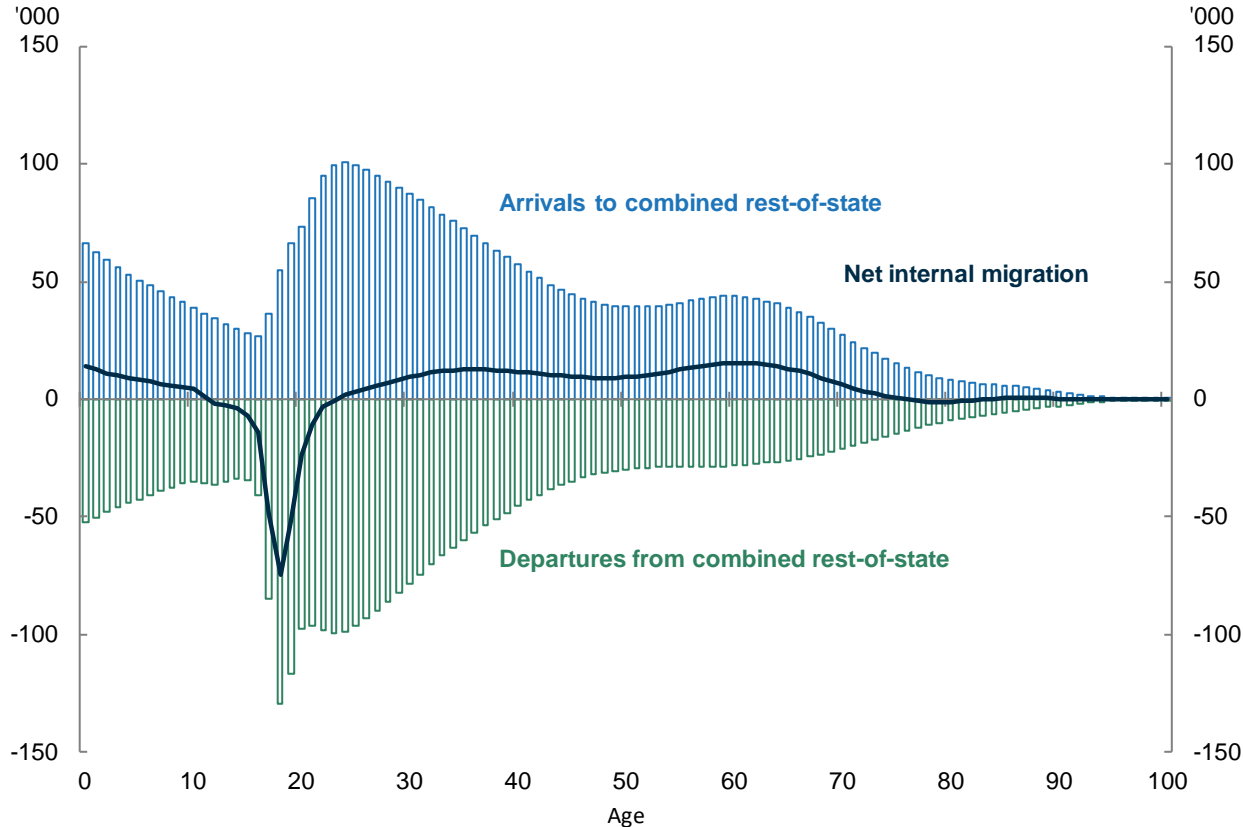
Capital city and rest-of-state projections

Model Migration Schedule



- Method published by Tom Wilson of Melbourne University
- Uses life course migration patterns to smooth the migration rate
- Individual curves are modelled and then combined to create a single age structure

Age Structure of Rest-of-state Migration

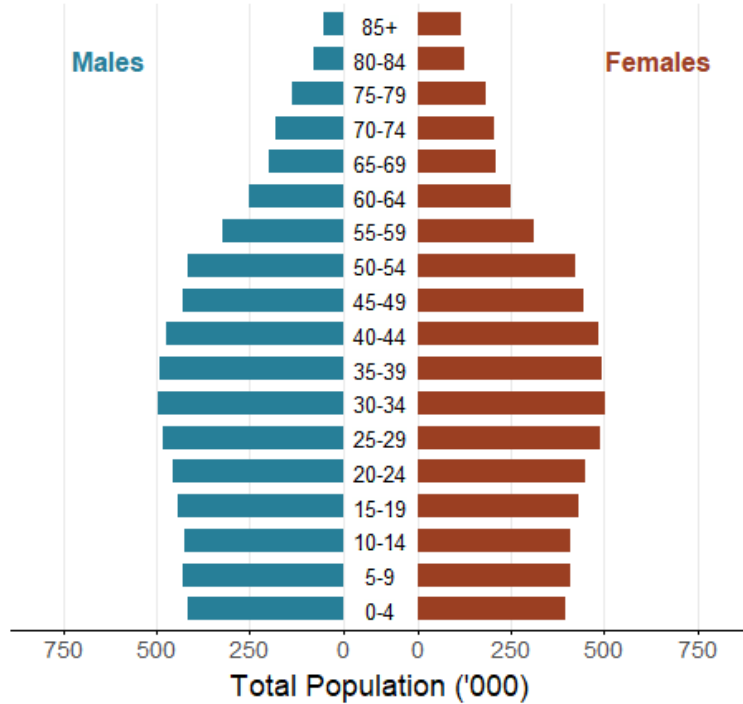


- Combined rest-of-state regions have a very different structure for arrivals and departures
- Leading to a distinct aging of the population
- The large number of departures of young adults is driven by education opportunities in the capital cities
- Clear preference to retire outside of our capital cities

Impact of Internal Migration on Age Structure

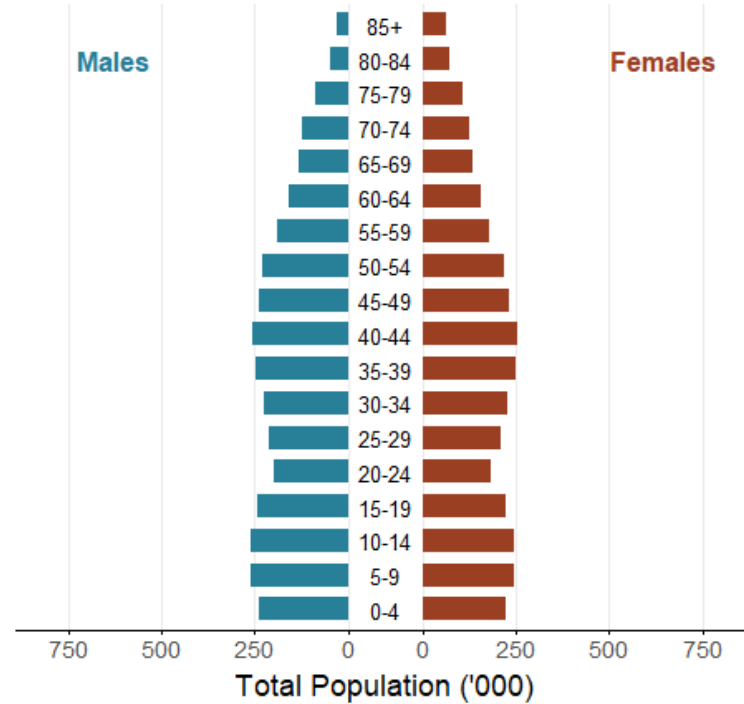
Age Structure of Capital Cities

Year: 2001



Age Structure of Regional Areas

Year: 2001





Latest from the Centre for Population



STATEMENTS

[2021 Population Statement](#)

This Population Statement is the Centre's second release in an annual series that provides a comprehensive national picture of how the Australian population has changed and how we expect it to change in future.

The National Population and Planning Framework tasks the Centre for Population to prepare an annual Population Statement as part of national efforts to increase understanding about populations, population change and its implications for all levels of government.

PDF 1.48 MB



DASHBOARDS

[Fastest Growing Local Government Areas \(LGAs\)](#)



RESEARCH

[2022-23 Budget: Australia's Future Population](#)

PDF 707 kB



RESEARCH

[Profile of Australia's population](#)



RESEARCH

[Sub-group mortality: A microdata approach to resident sub-group life tables](#)

