

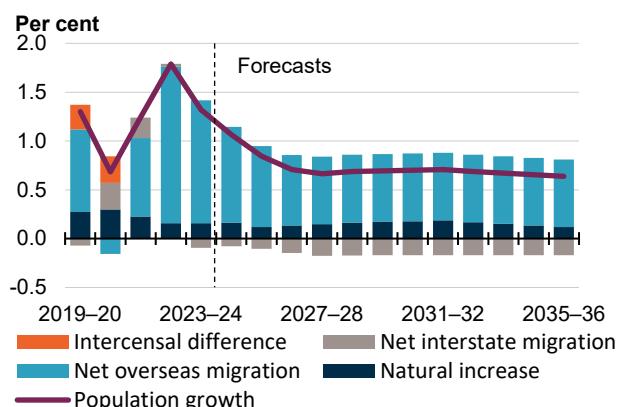


## South Australia is expected to be the second slowest growing state<sup>1</sup>

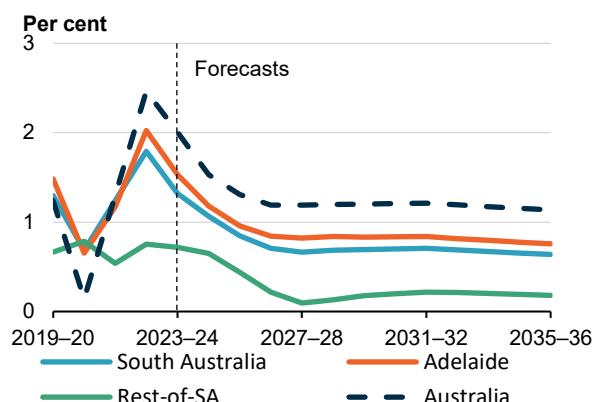
- South Australia's population growth rate is expected to fall below 1 per cent per year over the next decade.
- Most of South Australia's population growth occurs in Adelaide, which is home to 79 per cent of the state population.
- Net overseas migration is the main contributor to South Australia's population growth. Growth is partially offset by negative net internal migration, as young adults tend to leave the state. Compared to most other states and territories, natural increase contributes a very small amount to population growth.
- The outflow of young adults contributes to South Australia having the second oldest population of any state or territory.
- The ageing population also reflects low natural increase. By the 2060s, South Australia is projected to follow Tasmania in having deaths outnumber births.

### Chart 1: South Australia population growth

#### Components of growth in South Australia

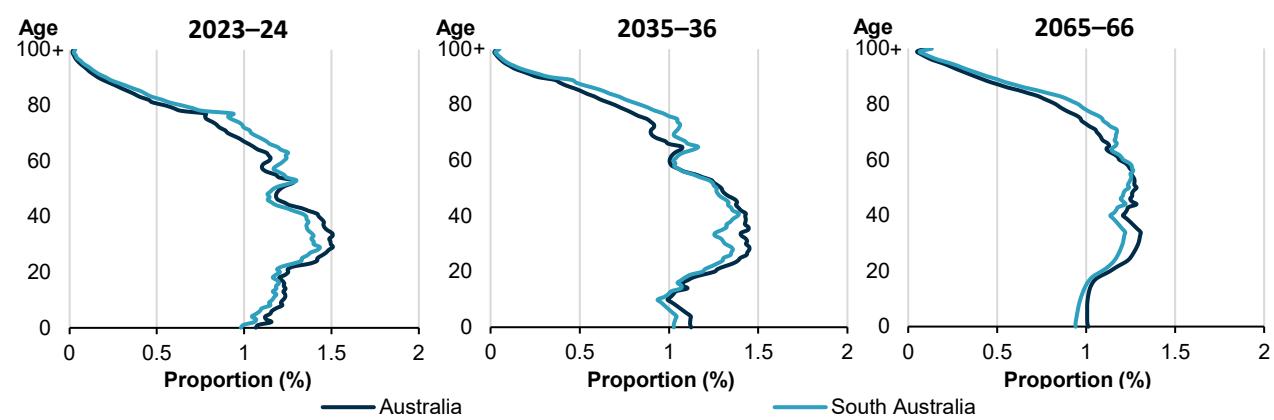


#### Population growth in South Australia and Australia



Source: ABS, *National, state and territory population, March 2025*; and Centre for Population.

### Chart 2: Comparing the proportional age structures of South Australia and Australia



Source: ABS, *National, state and territory population, March 2025*; and Centre for Population analysis of ABS customised consultancy data.

<sup>1</sup> All insights refer to over the projection period (2024-25 to 2065-66) unless otherwise specified. The main data source for these projections is the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), *National, state and territory population, March 2025*, released in September 2025. After the projections in this statement were prepared, the ABS released the *National, state and territory population, June 2025*.

Table 1: Population projections and key statistics, South Australia

Population projections	2023–24 <sup>2</sup>	2024–25	2025–26	2026–27	2027–28	2035–36	2065–66 <sup>3</sup>
<b>Population ('000)</b>							
South Australia	1,882	1,902	1,918	1,932	1,945	2,053	2,351
<b>Greater Adelaide</b>	1,469	1,490	1,504	1,517	1,529	1,631	1,921
<b>Rest-of-South Australia</b>	409	412	414	415	416	422	430
<b>Population growth (per cent)</b>							
South Australia	1.3	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.4
<b>Greater Adelaide</b>	1.5	1.2	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.5
<b>Rest-of-South Australia</b>	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1
<b>Natural increase ('000)</b>							
South Australia	2.9	3.1	2.2	2.6	2.9	2.4	-1.5
<b>Greater Adelaide</b>	3.8	3.9	3.2	3.5	3.7	3.7	0.8
<b>Rest-of-South Australia</b>	-0.4	-0.8	-1.0	-0.9	-0.9	-1.2	-2.3
<b>Net overseas migration ('000)</b>							
South Australia	23.4	18.4	15.8	13.8	13.4	14.1	14.1
<b>Greater Adelaide</b>	21.7	17.0	14.5	12.7	12.3	12.8	12.8
<b>Rest-of-South Australia</b>	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.3
<b>Net internal migration ('000)</b>							
South Australia	-1.8	-1.5	-2.0	-2.8	-3.4	-3.5	-3.4
<b>Greater Adelaide</b>	-3.3	-3.4	-3.4	-3.5	-3.6	-4.2	-4.9
<b>Rest-of-South Australia</b>	1.8	1.9	1.5	0.7	0.2	0.8	1.5
<b>Total fertility rate (children per woman)<sup>4</sup></b>							
South Australia	1.46	1.42	1.35	1.39	1.43	1.58	1.58
<b>Greater Adelaide</b>	1.42	1.38	1.32	1.35	1.39	1.53	1.53
<b>Rest-of-South Australia</b>	1.74	1.64	1.57	1.62	1.67	1.87	1.87
<b>Median age (years)</b>							
South Australia	40.5	40.6	40.8	41.0	41.2	42.6	45.9
<b>Greater Adelaide</b>	39.2	39.2	39.4	39.6	39.7	41.1	44.3
<b>Rest-of-South Australia</b>	47.0	47.1	47.2	47.5	47.8	49.7	54.0
<b>Old-age dependency ratio (%)</b>							
South Australia	31.9	32.5	33.1	33.8	34.5	38.1	45.3
<b>Greater Adelaide</b>	28.9	29.1	29.6	30.1	30.6	33.6	40.9
<b>Rest-of-South Australia</b>	44.8	46.1	47.5	48.9	50.4	58.5	68.3

Source: ABS, *National, state and territory population, March 2025*; ABS, *Regional population, 2023–24*; and Centre for Population.

<sup>2</sup> The Greater Capital City Statistical Area (GCCSA) population statistics are from ABS, *Regional population, 2023–24*, released on 27 March 2025. These estimates do not sum to the state and territory estimates largely due to the implementation of the net interstate migration review, released by the ABS on 19 June 2025. Corresponding sub-state revisions will be included in the next scheduled release of *Regional population, 2024–25*, on 31 March 2026.

<sup>3</sup> Estimates beyond 2035–36 are experimental.

<sup>4</sup> The total fertility rates for greater capital city and rest-of-state areas have been estimated for 2023–24.

