

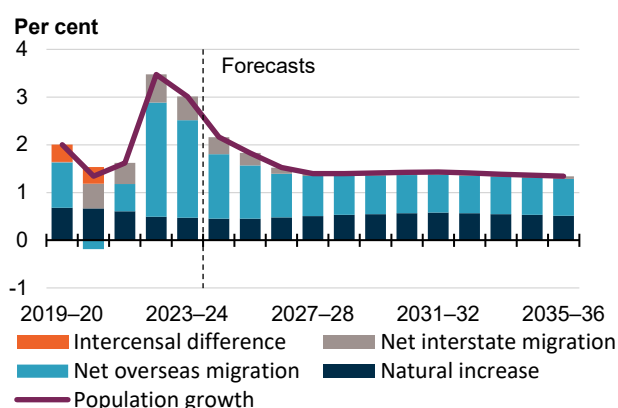


## Western Australia is expected to be the fastest growing state<sup>1</sup>

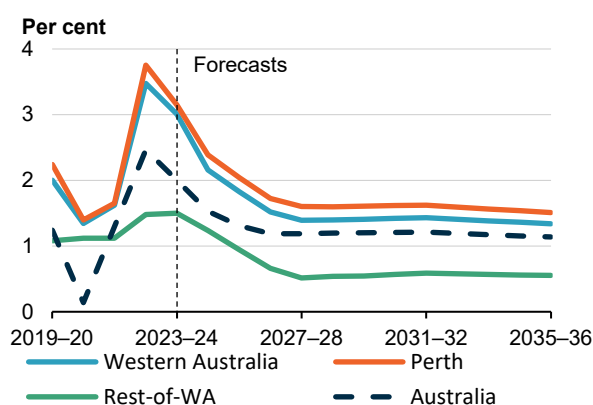
- Western Australia is expected to continue as the fastest growing state over the projection period.
- Over the next decade, Western Australia is expected to add 584,000 people to its population with an average growth rate of 1.5 per cent.
- Western Australia's population growth has historically been driven by mining investment cycles. These cycles lead to population growth fluctuating over time.
- Western Australia has a relatively young population, owing to the large contribution of net overseas migration to population growth.
- Western Australia is projected to continue to be the most urbanised jurisdiction, besides the ACT, with around 80 per cent of its population concentrated in Perth.

Chart 1: Western Australia population growth

Components of growth in Western Australia

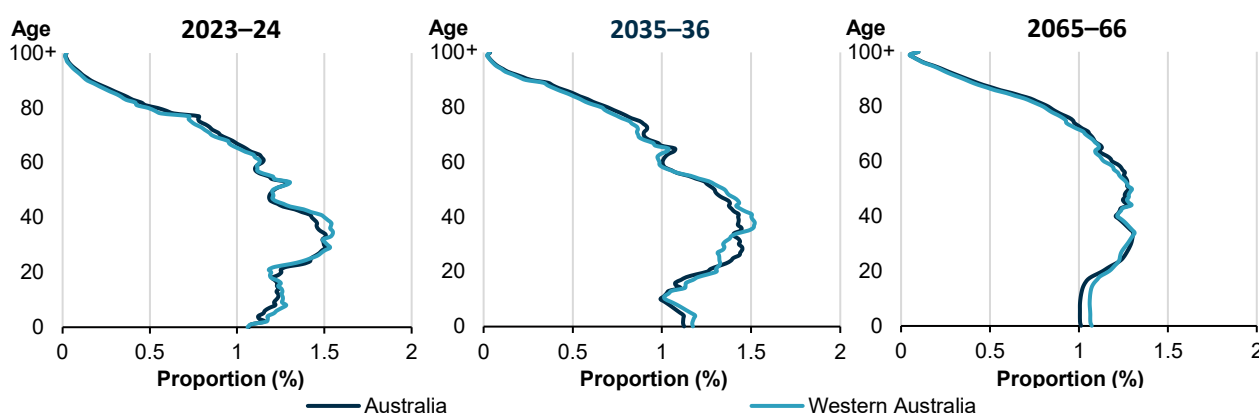


Population growth in Western Australia and Australia



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

Chart 2: Comparing the proportional age structures of Western 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, Western 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>							
Western Australia	2,978	3,042	3,098	3,145	3,189	3,562	4,867
Greater Perth	2,384	2,452	2,502	2,545	2,586	2,932	4,167
Rest-of-Western Australia	581	590	596	600	603	631	700
<b>Population growth (per cent)</b>							
Western Australia	3.0	2.2	1.8	1.5	1.4	1.3	0.9
Greater Perth	3.1	2.4	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.0
Rest-of-Western Australia	1.5	1.2	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.3
<b>Natural increase ('000)</b>							
Western Australia	13.7	13.4	13.8	14.9	15.9	18.1	14.5
Greater Perth	11.3	11.9	12.3	13.2	14.1	16.4	14.7
Rest-of-Western Australia	2.3	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.8	1.6	-0.2
<b>Net overseas migration ('000)</b>							
Western Australia	59.0	40.2	33.9	28.2	26.3	27.0	27.0
Greater Perth	53.4	36.0	30.3	25.2	23.5	24.3	24.3
Rest-of-Western Australia	4.6	4.2	3.6	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.7
<b>Net internal migration ('000)</b>							
Western Australia	14.3	10.6	7.9	4.0	1.6	2.0	1.3
Greater Perth	8.1	9.2	7.4	4.7	3.1	2.9	1.9
Rest-of-Western Australia	1.7	1.5	0.5	-0.7	-1.5	-0.9	-0.6
<b>Total fertility rate (children per woman)<sup>4</sup></b>							
Western Australia	1.48	1.43	1.43	1.47	1.52	1.71	1.71
Greater Perth	1.45	1.40	1.40	1.44	1.49	1.66	1.66
Rest-of-Western Australia	1.73	1.61	1.61	1.66	1.72	1.95	1.95
<b>Median age (years)</b>							
Western Australia	37.9	38.0	38.1	38.3	38.5	39.8	42.8
Greater Perth	37.5	37.4	37.5	37.7	37.9	39.1	42.0
Rest-of-Western Australia	40.6	40.7	41.0	41.3	41.7	43.7	47.8
<b>Old-age dependency ratio (%)</b>							
Western Australia	24.5	24.8	25.2	25.7	26.2	29.0	37.4
Greater Perth	23.7	23.7	24.0	24.4	24.8	27.1	35.7
Rest-of-Western Australia	29.1	29.8	30.7	31.6	32.5	38.0	48.7

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

2 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.

3 Estimates beyond 2035–36 are experimental.

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