

Population

Approximately 16 million people live in Australia, about 25 per cent of whom are younger than 15 years of age and 71 per cent are under 45. About one per cent of the total population is aboriginal. The population growth is estimated at less than two per cent per annum.

For historical, climatic and economic reasons, 70 per cent of the population is concentrated in capital cities and major towns, mainly on Australia's south and east coast. By state, the population breakdown is as follows:

State	Population <i>(in millions)</i>
New South Wales	5.5
Victoria	4.2
Queensland	2.6
South Australia	1.4
Western Australia	1.4
Tasmania	0.4
Northern Territory	0.1
Australian Capital Territory	0.3
Total	15.9

(Due to rounding of figures, total does not equal 16.0 million.)

Principal Cities and Towns

Australia is one of the world's most highly urbanized countries.

Major Cities	Population <i>(in millions)</i>
Sydney (N.S.W.)	3.4
Melbourne (Victoria)	2.9
Brisbane (Queensland)	1.2
Adelaide (South Australia)	1.0
Perth (Western Australia)	1.0
Canberra (Australian Capital Territory)	0.3
Hobart	0.2

Most of these centres are separated by great distances. For example, the distance from Sydney to Melbourne is 800 km (497 miles) and to Perth is 3 500 km (2 174 miles). Sydney to Toronto is 16 500 km (10 252 miles).