

Suburb SnapShot

Newtown

Population and dwellings

On Census night, 2001, Newtown had a population of 6,435. Between 1996 and 2001, the local population fell by about 35, or 0.1% a year. About 95% of the population were people at home, but 1.8% were overseas visitors and 3.3% Australian visitors, most from the same State.

A typical square kilometre within Newtown (115% of the suburb) had about 7,270 people in 2001, which could fall to 7,040 over 2001–2010 if the 1996–2001 population trend continued.

Newtown had around 3,033 occupied dwellings in 2001 (7% were detached houses, 61% town/terrace houses and 25% flats or units), with 246 dwellings vacant. The number of dwellings decreased by 0.6% a year between 1996 to 2001, and at this rate would be about 3,090 in 2010. The average occupancy was 2.1 persons per dwelling in 2001, having remained stable between 1996 and 2001. On these trends, by 2010, the population of this area would be about 6,130.

Age profile

Compared with the whole of Marrickville LGA, Newtown had many more young families, fewer mature families and fewer older people. The proportion of children under 12 was much less than Marrickville LGA, and the proportion of young people under 25 was smaller. Elderly people aged 75+ were less common.

Between 1996 and 2001, the different age groups in Newtown changed at slightly different rates. For every thousand people, there were 10 more 25 to 39 year-olds and 8 more 40 to 54 year olds than in 1996, but 18 fewer 18 to 24 year-olds and 10 fewer 55 to 74 year-olds. Markedly different growth rates among the age groups indicates an influx of the growing group (eg due to new dwellings) or significant generational change (eg older people being replaced by younger).

Households and housing

Commonly, people in Newtown live as part of a couple: 21% in a married couple and 17% in an unmarried couple in 2001. Another 10% were dependent children living at home. The remaining people were either independent adults living alone (17%), with parents (3%), in group households (18%) or lodging (5%), but 3% lived as single parents.

Overall, 27% of people in Newtown aged 15+ in 2001 were married; this was much less than Marrickville LGA's rate. Of the 13 suburbs in Marrickville LGA, Newtown had the lowest marital rate.

Some 21% of Newtown's occupied dwellings were fully owned (the lowest rate among Marrickville LGA's suburbs), with another 20% being purchased (similar to Marrickville LGA's average). The other dwellings were private rental (43%), with 5.2% public housing and 1% in another form of tenure. Between 1996 and 2001, the proportion of dwellings public housing rose by 4 dwellings in every thousand, while the proportion that was being purchased fell by 29 per thousand.

The average cost of housing was equal to 25% of the average household income. This was the eighth highest rate among the suburbs of Marrickville LGA. The average weekly mortgage payment was \$371 and the average weekly rent was \$298.

Culture

About 60% of Newtown were born in Australia, the fourth highest level among Marrickville LGA's suburbs. About 6.7% born in United Kingdom. The fastest-growing origins were United Kingdom with 7 more per 1,000 people, then New Zealand and India.

About 18% of Newtown spoke another language at home.

Newtown's Indigenous population was 77 in 2001, 1.2% of the population, down by 20 since 1996.

The largest religions were Catholic (19% of people) and Anglican (12%), while 31% had no religion and 20% did not give their religion.

Income

The average income of men (aged 15+) in Newtown in 2001 was \$780 a week, up by 44% since 1996, to be the highest of the suburbs. Women's average income was \$650 a week – highest – up by 36% since 1996. Women's incomes averaged 83% of men's, which was the fifth highest proportion among the suburbs.

The average income of nuclear families (couple with children), \$1,590, was the second highest within Marrickville LGA. About 1% had low incomes under \$400 a week, the twelfth largest proportion among the suburbs. Incomes of Newtown's nuclear families increased by 36% between 1996 and 2001, the third fastest of the suburbs.

Employment

In 2001, 75% of the men and 72% of the women (aged 15+) of Newtown were in the workforce. The unemployment rate for men was 7%, the second lowest rate among the suburbs of Marrickville LGA, and the unemployment rate for women was 3%, also the second lowest.

The largest employers of Newtown's workforce were property and business services (19%), retail (10%), health and community services (9%) and education (8%). The industries whose employment grew fastest were property and business services, retail and construction.

Among men, the most common occupations were professionals (36%), technicians (13%) and clerical / service workers (12%). Among women, they were professionals (38%), clerical / service workers (22%) and technicians (11%).

Vehicles and travel to work

In August 2001, 85% of Newtown's workforce travelled to work, while 4% worked from home and 9% did not work that day (with the rest not saying). The most common method of travelling to work was driving, used by 31% of travelling workers (much less than Marrickville LGA's average). Another 53% used public transport; this was the highest usage amongst the thirteen suburbs. About 14% walked or cycled to work (the second highest of the suburbs), and 8% used multiple means.

Car ownership in Newtown averaged 0.9 vehicles per household, with 2,600 vehicles in 2001, equivalent to 40 cars for every 100 adults. This was the lowest level of ownership amongst Marrickville LGA suburbs and was up by 4% since 1996. If the number of cars per dwelling continues to change at the same rate, and the number of dwellings changes as estimated above, the number of vehicles in the area will be about 2,900 in 2010.