

# POPULATION SNAPSHOT


## TASMANIA

Edition: July 2025 - Reporting on December 2024 Quarter

[Tasmania's Population Policy](#) emphasises the need to increase the state's population to foster economic growth and improve the standard of living for all Tasmanians. A goal of the policy is to address the ageing demographic profile by increasing the working age population over time. The attraction and retention of families and young people is central to achieving this goal.

### Population Change – Quarterly and Annual to December 2024

#### Population Change

 Tasmania's **population grew marginally**, increasing by 698 people (0.1 per cent) from the Sep 24 quarter and by 1,580 people (0.3 percent) from Dec 2023<sup>1</sup>.

This is far below the 1.7 per cent annual population growth observed for Australia.

Growth is dominated by Net Overseas Migration (NOM). In 2024, Tasmania's NOM made up a bigger share of growth than in any other state or territory (Table 1).

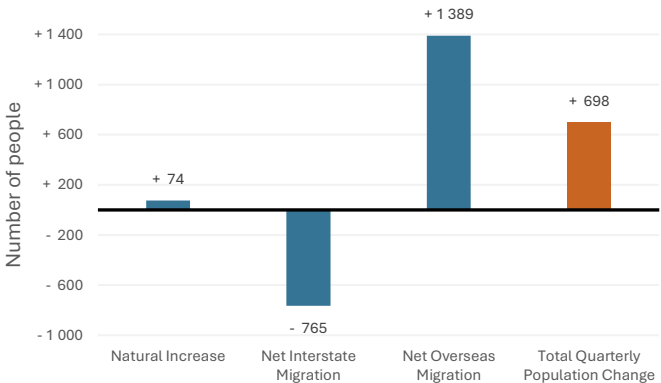


Figure 1. Components of quarterly population change, December 2024<sup>1</sup>

Table 1. Annual Growth rate and contributions to growth by population component, by State and Territory, year ended December 2024<sup>2</sup>

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	AUS
Annual Population Growth Rate(%)	1.3	1.9	1.9	1.1	2.4	0.3	1.2	1.4	1.7
Contributions to Population Growth:									
Natural Increase	27%	27%	19%	13%	18%	11%	73%	41%	24%
NIM	-26%	-2%	25%	-8%	18%	-155%	-71%	-14%	0%
NOM	99%	76%	55%	95%	64%	244%	98%	73%	76%

#### Tasmania's population growth rates:

- are the lowest of any state or territory, both annual or quarterly (Table 1).
- are below the 0.47 per cent annual growth rate required to meet the 2050 population target (Figure 2).
- are projected to remain below the 0.47 per cent annual rate for the next two financial years.<sup>6</sup>

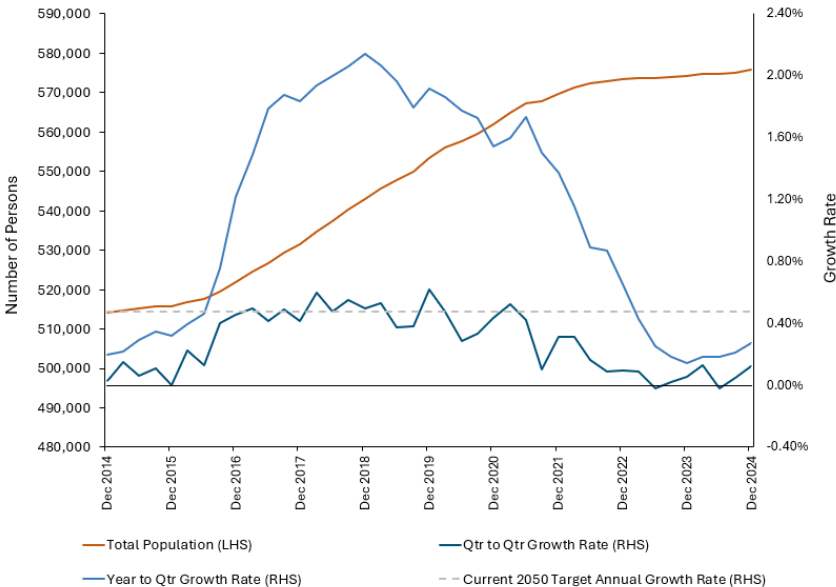


Figure 2. Total population, annual and quarterly growth rates, December 2024<sup>1</sup>

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### Components of Population Change - Quarterly

Natural Increase: 74

 1,290 births  1,216 Deaths

Tasmania has the lowest number of births per capita of any state or territory due to the population’s age structure and falling fertility rates.

The aging population results in the upward trend in number of deaths. There is a pattern of higher seasonal deaths in the Sep quarter due to winter related health impacts on older community members.

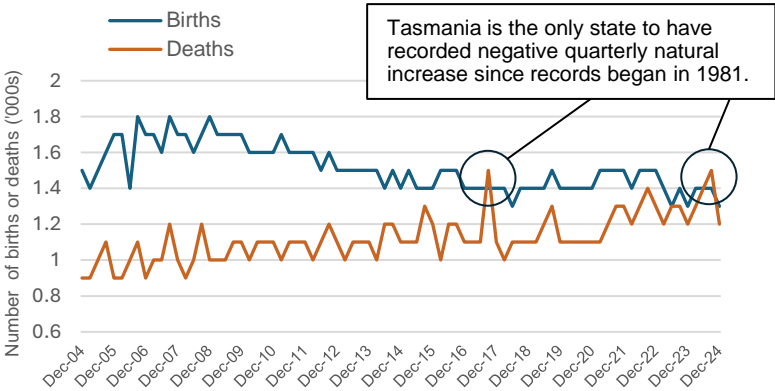


Figure 3. Number ('000) of births and deaths over time, Dec 04 – Dec 24, sourced from ABS DataExplorer - Population and components of change - national, states and territories

Net Interstate Migration: -765

Quarterly NIM has trended downwards since the COVID period (Figure 5), primarily due to falling arrivals. Annual data indicates the decrease is driven by people in the 25-44 age group (Figure 4).

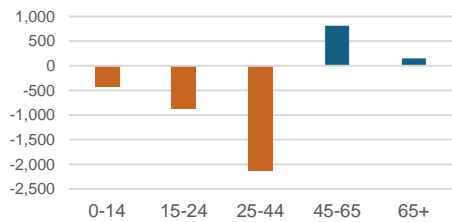


Figure 4. NIM by age group, 2024 calendar year<sup>3</sup>

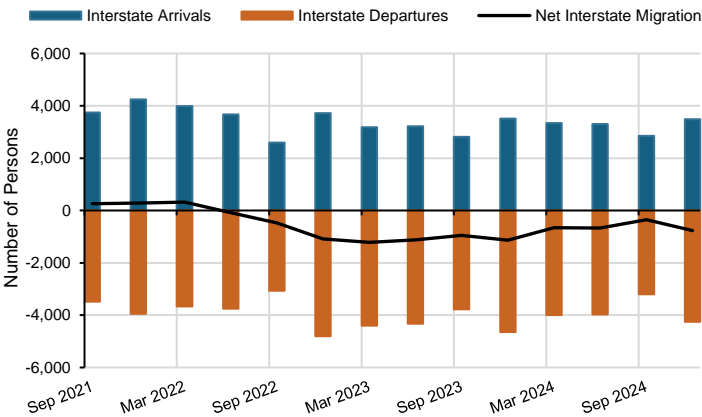


Figure 5. Quarterly Net Internal Migration, Sep 21 – Dec 24<sup>2</sup>

Net Overseas Migration: 1,389

Quarterly, NOM appears to be establishing a post-COVID seasonal pattern, with a Dec-Mar high season (Figure 6).

In the rest of Australia, NOM has seasonal highs in the Mar and Sep quarters, corresponding with the intake of international students. In Tasmania, the reasons for the seasonality is unclear, although could reflect influences such as international school calendars and seasonal workforce.

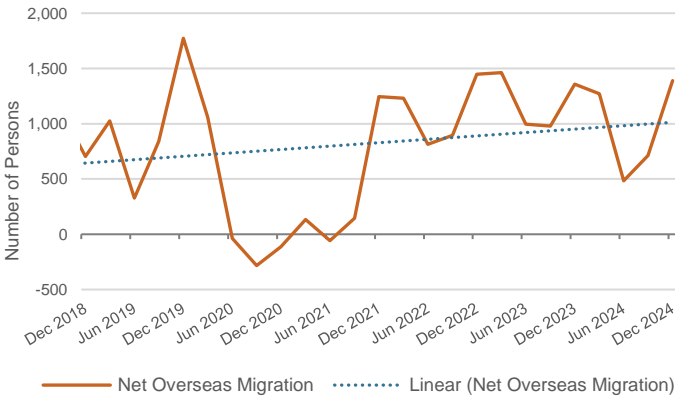


Figure 6. Quarterly Net Overseas Migration, Dec 18 – Dec 24<sup>2</sup>

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## TASMANIA

Edition: July 2025 - Reporting on 2023-24 FY Data

### Attracting and retaining young families in Tasmania

In 2023-24, net migration for Tasmanians aged 25 to 44 became negative – more individuals left the state than arrived.

While overseas migration (NOM) for this cohort has trended upwards over the past decade, it can no longer offset the increasing number relocating to mainland Australia.

The outflow of 25-44-year-olds has been accompanied by a corresponding decrease in NIM among 0-14-year-olds.

**Tasmania is losing its young families to other states and territories.**

Additionally, although NOM for children 14 and under is positive, its growth has not kept pace with that of their parents' age group. Combined with a declining local fertility rate, these trends have resulted in the **lowest population of 0 to 14-year-olds Tasmania has seen in the past two decades.**

While overseas migration provides a short-term fix to workforce challenges, lasting solutions will not be reached unless Tasmania can retain the workers of family-formation age that it already has.

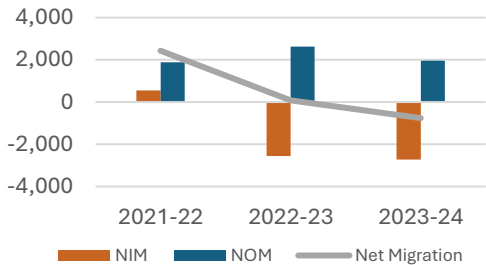


Figure 7. Tasmanian migration patterns for 25-44 year olds, financial years 2021-22 to 2023-24 <sup>4,5</sup>

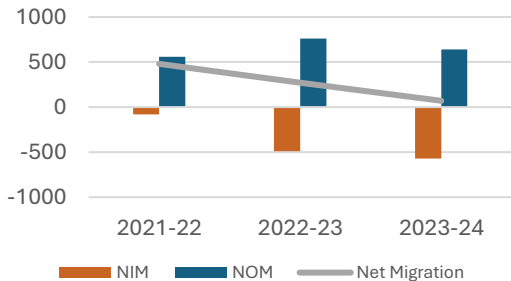


Figure 8. Tasmanian migration patterns for 0-14 year olds, financial years 2021-22 to 2023-24 <sup>4,5</sup>

### What influences people's decision to leave Tasmania?

While people will have unique considerations when leaving Tasmania, multiple surveys and analyses of data have revealed that:

- Meaningful employment opportunities are the most important reported factor<sup>7,9</sup> particularly for people under 45.
- Historically, NIM has been higher when Tasmania's economic performance has been strong relative to the rest of Australia<sup>7</sup>. Growth in resident inflows from other states has tended to align with growth in Tasmania's GSP per capita<sup>8</sup>.

However economic conditions do not fully explain migration patterns. Liveability factors such as access to quality public services (i.e. health and education)<sup>6</sup> and housing affordability<sup>7,8,9</sup> also significantly influence migration.

Together, evidence suggests that sustained population retention will require strategic investment to develop economic opportunities and enhance overall liveability in the Tasmania.

### References

1. Australian Bureau of Statistics. (December 2024). 'Components of population change – states and territories' [time series spreadsheet] *National, state and territory population*, <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/national-state-and-territory-population/latest-release>, accessed 24 June 2025.
2. Australian Bureau of Statistics (December 2024). 'National, state and territory population tables' [dataset] *National, state and territory population*, <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/national-state-and-territory-population/latest-release>, accessed 24 June 2025.
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5. Australian Bureau of Statistics (2024) *Net overseas migration: Arrivals, departures and net, State/territory, Age and sex - Financial years, 2004-05 onwards*, [Data Explorer], accessed 24 June 2025.
6. Tasmanian Department of Treasury and Finance (2025, June). *Pre-Election Financial Outlook Report*. <https://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/Documents/Pre-Election%20Financial%20Outlook%20Report%20%28PEFO%29%20-%20June%202025.PDF>
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9. Kocar, S. & Seivwright, A. (2022). What's in a place? Drivers of migration to and from Tasmania. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/369117751\\_What's\\_in\\_a\\_place\\_Drivers\\_of\\_migration\\_to\\_and\\_from\\_Tasmania#full-text](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/369117751_What's_in_a_place_Drivers_of_migration_to_and_from_Tasmania#full-text)

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### Population LGA growth – projected and estimated resident population

In 2024, the Department of Treasury and Finance released population projections for each Tasmanian Local Government Area. With 2024 actual data now available, comparisons show almost all projections are within 1 per cent of the Estimated Regional Population (ERP), as detailed in Table 2 (exceptions in bold, with maximum differences noted).

On 25 June 2025, Treasury's [Pre-Election Financial Outlook Report](#) revised Tasmania's population growth forecast down to 0.3 per cent for both 2024-25 and 2025-26 (from 0.4 per cent and 0.5 per cent, respectively), reflecting lower growth expectations than previously estimated.

Table 2. Population projections and Estimated Residential Population by Local Government Area for June 2024

Local Government Area	Projected 2024 Population			Estimated Residential Population	Maximum difference between estimated and projected residential population*
	Low	Medium	High		
Break O'Day	7093	7099	7117	7163	64
Brighton	20235	20253	20305	20284	-31
Burnie	20414	20433	20485	20417	16
Central Coast	23315	23336	23395	23350	-14
Central Highlands	2593	2595	2602	2588	7
Circular Head	8315	8323	8344	8315	8
Clarence	64035	64094	64257	63973	121
Derwent Valley	11378	11389	11418	11436	-47
Devonport	26952	26977	27045	27030	-53
Dorset	6965	6971	6989	7013	-42
<b>Flinders</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>931</b>	<b>934</b>	<b>941</b>	-10
George Town	7323	7329	7348	7378	-49
Glamorgan-Spring Bay	5266	5271	5284	5283	-12
Glenorchy	50880	50927	51056	50743	184
Hobart	56067	56118	56261	55977	141
Huon Valley	19620	19638	19688	19742	-104
Kentish	6855	6861	6878	6859	2
<b>King Island</b>	<b>1639</b>	<b>1641</b>	<b>1645</b>	<b>1660</b>	-19
Kingborough	41518	41556	41662	41574	-18
Latrobe	13220	13232	13266	13158	74
Launceston	71817	71882	72065	71616	266
Meander Valley	21481	21501	21555	21579	-78
Northern Midlands	14308	14321	14357	14428	-107
Sorell	17864	17881	17926	17919	-38
Southern Midlands	6930	6936	6954	6973	-37
Tasman	2694	2697	2704	2722	-25
<b>Waratah-Wynyard</b>	<b>14744</b>	<b>14757</b>	<b>14794</b>	<b>14905</b>	-148
West Coast	4336	4340	4351	4339	1
West Tamar	26161	26184	26251	26131	53
Total – Tasmania	574947	575473	576934	575496	-23

\* A negative figure indicates that the projection underestimated the ERP figure.