

Explanatory notes

Experimental Age-Sex Population Projections by Statistical Areas Level 2 and Level 4, 2011-2031

The Excel workbooks accessible through this webpage contain population projections for all of the Statistical Areas Level 2 (SA2) and Level 4 (SA4) - including the baseline 2011 Census population - for the years 2016, 2021, 2026 and 2031 disaggregated by five year age groups and sex.

The SA2 and SA4 boundaries used in these projections are those defined in the Australian Statistical Geography Standard, 2011 Edition (Australian Bureau of Statistics, Cat. 1270.0.55.001).

These SA2 and SA4 projections are based on the approved medium series of South Australian Statistical Local Area projections that were released in February 2016 that are available for download from the Department's website: <http://www.dpti.sa.gov.au/planning/population>

Due to the inherent uncertainties in these projections they are referred to as experimental. Caution should be exercised when using and interpreting these projections.

Although referred to as projections, the data contained in these workbooks are actually transformations of the 2016 to 2031 Statistical Local Area (SLA) projections. The method developed to transform five year age by sex SLA projections to five year age by sex SA2 projections uses the Hamilton-Perry cohort-change ratio method¹ combined with an Iterative Proportional Fitting routine, informed by the projected growth in dwellings for each SA2.

This method produces five year age by sex SA2 projections that are *consistent* with the five year age by sex SLA projections for age-sex structures, total populations and cohort transitions. The benefit of this method over a simple proportioning of age-sex structure from SLAs to SA2s is cohort transitions and age-sex structures that better reflect the underlying net-migration for each SA2, inherited from different locations within each SLA.

These projections may be particularly useful for users transitioning from the old ABS geography to the new ABS geography.

Of the three projection series (high, medium and low) published by DPTI at the all-of-State and Statistical Division level, the medium series is regarded as the most likely outcome with the high and low series being included at the all-of-State and Statistical Division level to enable agencies to manage risks if a population trend emerges that is higher or lower than the medium series.

Users of these projections should be aware that they represent only one possible future population outcome based on an assumption of continued population growth and a spatial distribution that is a reflection of current and likely government policies.

POPULATION DEFINITION

The population totals presented in this publication refer to the estimated resident population (ERP) as defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS Cat. 3107.0.55.006, *Information Paper: Population Concepts Australia*, 2008). The ERP is the official measure of Australia's population and is based on the concept of a person's usual place of residence.

CAUTIONARY INFORMATION REGARDING THE USE OF POPULATION PROJECTIONS

It should be noted that population projections are not forecasts of the future. They are estimates of the future size, age structure and geographic distribution of populations based on particular assumptions about future fertility, mortality and migration. Users of these projections should note that unforeseen policy, economic and societal changes may result in population outcomes different from those presented here.

1. Hamilton C H and Perry J 1962, *A Short Method for Projecting Population by Age from One Decennial Census to Another*, Social Forces, Vol. 41, No. 2 (Dec.), pp 163-170, Oxford University Press

CONTACT US

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