

NORTH AUSTRALIA RESEARCH GROUP

38 Grafton St (PO Box 2148) CAIRNS Q 4870

Tel: (07) 4031 2888 Fax: (07) 4031 1108

Mobile: 0418 871 011

Email: cummings@cummings.net.au

Website : www.cummings.net.au



ABN 99 734 489 175

STATISTICAL SNIPPET ...

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AUSTRALIAN CITY GROWTH PATTERNS IN 2002-2003

The Australian Bureau of Statistics recently released their residential population growth estimates for 2002 – 2003.

The following looks at and comments on the pattern of city growth rates in 2002/03.

TABLE – METROPOLITAN CENTRES

<u>Statistical Division</u>	<u>% Growth Rates</u>
Brisbane	2.3%
Perth	1.5%
Melbourne	1.3%
Sydney	0.8%
Adelaide	0.6%

It is traditional that the two cities most heavily involved in servicing northern Australia lead metropolitan growth rates. What is different in these figures to long-term trends is that Melbourne is leading Sydney with a growth rate close to that of Perth.

TABLE – REGIONAL CITIES – NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

<u>Statistical Division</u>	<u>% Growth Rates</u>
Cairns	2.4%
Townsville	2.2%
Gladstone	2.1%
Mackay	1.4%
Rockhampton	0.4%
Darwin	(-0.2%)
Mt Isa	(-0.9%)

The northern cities have traditionally had strong growth rates in Queensland.

After a few years of slower growth, Cairns is back up to its usual leadership position but with Townsville's growth holding on at a strong level (and in absolute as opposed to % terms, still ahead of Cairns).

To make sense of regional city growth in central Queensland, it is necessary to put Rockhampton and Gladstone (its major port) together.

Surprisingly, Darwin's growth after being up is now languishing.

TABLE – REGIONAL CITIES – SOUTHERN QUEENSLAND

<u>Statistical Division</u>	<u>% Growth Rates</u>
Hervey Bay	5.4%
Sunshine Coast	4.2%
Gold Coast Part-B	3.7%
Toowoomba	2.0%
Bundaberg	1.4%
Maryborough	0.8%

The regional cities in south east Queensland continue to enjoy good growth rates.

TABLE – MAJOR SUB METROPOLITAN CITIES

<u>Statistical Division</u>	<u>% Growth Rates</u>
Geelong	1.0%
Newcastle	0.9%
Wollongong	0.6%
Canberra	0.4%

Growth is subdued with Geelong in Victoria leading and Canberra recording the lowest.

TABLE – REGIONAL SOUTHERN AUSTRALIA

	<u>Statistical District</u>	<u>% Growth Rates</u>
NSW	Tweed Heads	3.4%
	Queanbeyan	2.9%
	Port Macquarie	2.3%
	Coffs Harbour	2.2%
	Bathurst Orange	0.9%
	Tamworth	0.5%
	Wagga	0.4%
	Dubbo	0.2%
	Lismore	(-0.2%)
Cross Border	Albury Wodonga	1.2%
Vic	Bendigo	1.7%
	Ballarat	1.6%
	Shepparton	1.6%
	Warrnambool	1.1%
	Mildura	0.9%
Tas	Launceston	1.5%
	Hobart	1.0%
WA	Mandurah	6.4%
	Kalgoorlie	0.8%
	Geraldton	(-0.6%)

Metropolitan and sub metropolitan fringe cities of Tweed Heads, Mandurah and Queanbeyan have recorded strong growth rates as have the north coast New South Wales cities of Port Macquarie and Coffs Harbour.

Interestingly, just as Melbourne is leading Sydney, the Victorian regional cities are tending to grow faster than their New South Wales counterparts.

Overall

Thus, compared with their normal strong growth, growth of the north's cities was patchy in 2002/03. South East Queensland's growth remained strong with this pattern stretching down the north east coast of New South Wales.

Otherwise, the regional centres of New South Wales tended to record slower growth than those of Victoria and Tasmania, and this was paralleled by Sydney growing slower than Melbourne.

W S Cummings
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