


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 March 2025

#### Population Change



As at March 2025, Tasmania's population is 576,109 and grew marginally, increasing by 628 people, 0.11 per cent (quarterly change) from the Dec 2024 quarter.

There was an increase of 1,144 people (0.2 per cent annual growth rate) from Mar 2024.

This is below the 1.56 per cent annual population growth observed for Australia as reported in the March quarter.

Growth continues to be dominated by Net Overseas Migration (NOM).

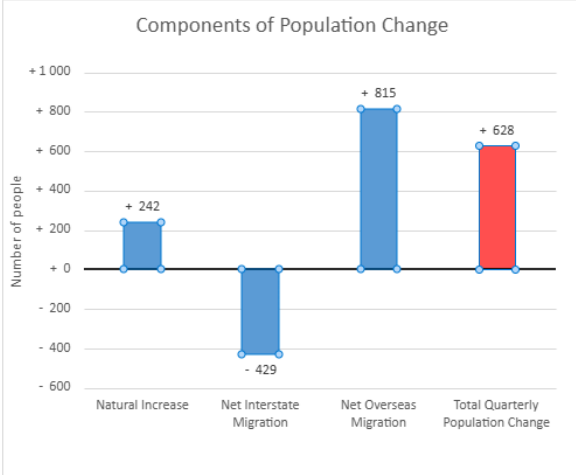


Figure 1. Components of quarterly population change, March Quarter 2025<sup>1</sup>

Table 1. Percentage point contributions to annual growth by population component, by State and Territory, year ended 31 March 2025<sup>2</sup>

|  | NSW  | VIC | QLD | SA   | WA  | TAS  | NT   | ACT  | AUS |
|--|------|-----|-----|------|-----|------|------|------|-----|
| Annual Population Growth Rate(%)                 | 1.2  | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.1  | 2.3 | 0.2  | 1.3  | 1.3  | 1.6 |
| Percentage point contributions to annual growth: |      |     |     |      |     |      |      |      |     |
| Natural Increase                                 | 0.4  | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.1  | 0.5 | 0.0  | 0.8  | 0.6  | 0.4 |
| NIM  | -0.3 | 0.0 | 0.4 | -0.1 | 0.4 | -0.4 | -0.7 | -0.3 | 0.0 |
| NOM  | 1.1  | 1.3 | 1.0 | 1.0  | 1.4 | 0.6  | 1.3  | 1.0  | 1.2 |

#### 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 forecast to remain below the 0.47 per cent annual rate for the next two financial years.<sup>6</sup>

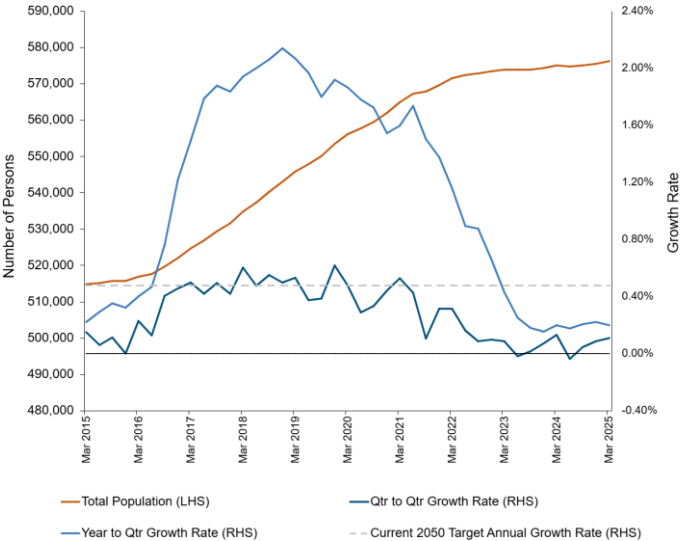


Figure 2. Tasmanian total population, annual and quarterly growth rates, March 2025<sup>1</sup>

# POPULATION SNAPSHOT

## TASMANIA

Edition: September 2025 - Reporting on March 2025 Quarter

### Components of Population Change - Quarterly

Quarterly Natural Increase: 242



1,489 births



1,247 Deaths

Over the past year Tasmania had the lowest number of births per capita of any state or territory due to the population's age structure and falling fertility rates.

The ageing 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.

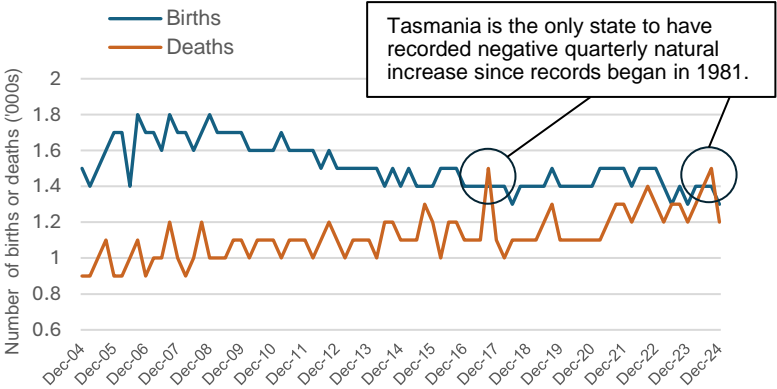


Figure 3. Annual number ('000) of births and deaths over time, Dec 04 – Dec 24, sourced from ABS DataExplorer - Population and components of change - national, states and territories

Net Interstate Migration: -429

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).

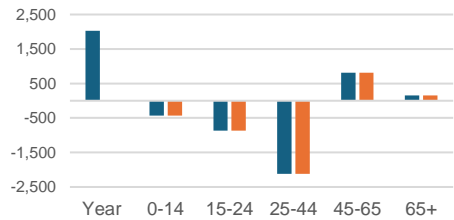


Figure 4. NIM by age group, 2024 calendar year<sup>3</sup>

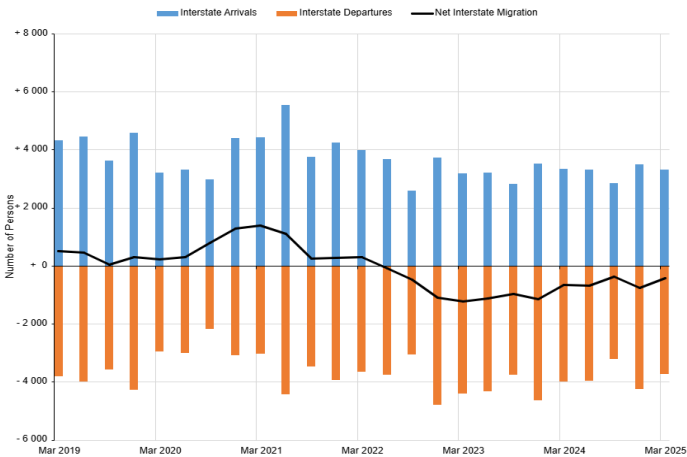


Figure 5. Tasmanian Quarterly Net Interstate Migration, March 19 – March 25<sup>2</sup>

Net Overseas Migration: 815

Quarterly, NOM appears to be establishing a post-COVID seasonal pattern, with a Dec 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.

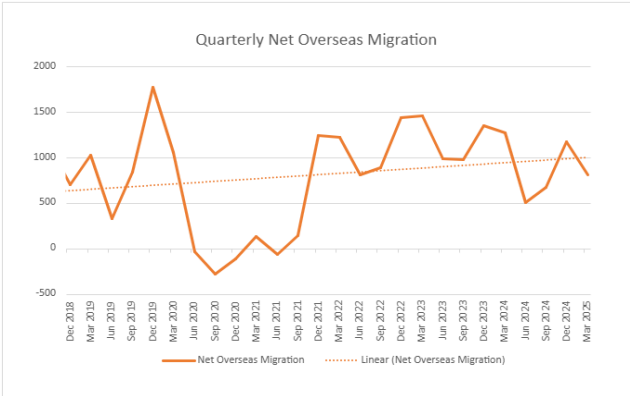


Figure 6. Tasmanian Quarterly Net Overseas Migration, Dec18 – March 25<sup>2</sup>

# POPULATION SNAPSHOT

## TASMANIA

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

### Attracting and retaining young families in Tasmania

In the 2023-24 financial year, net migration for Tasmanians aged 25 to 44 became negative – more individuals left the state than arrived (-2,720).

While overseas migration (NOM) for this age group 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 (-570). **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.

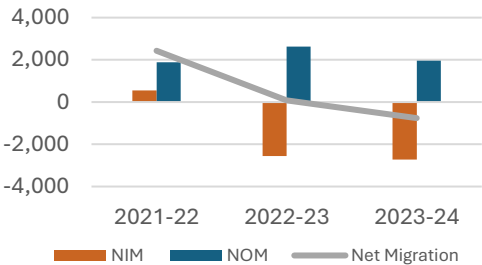


Figure 7. Tasmanian migration patterns for 25-44 year olds, financial years 2021-22 to 2023-24 <sup>4,5</sup>

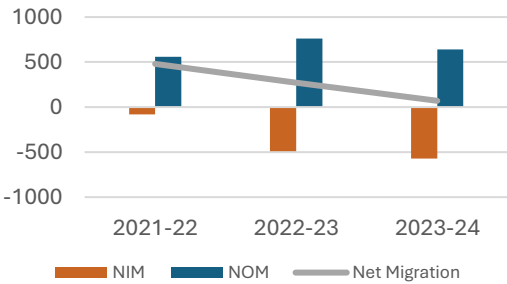


Figure 8. Tasmanian migration patterns for 0-14 year olds, financial years 2021-22 to 2023-24 <sup>4,5</sup>

### 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

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