

**MEDIA MONITORING**

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# Perth the fastest growing city

**GROWTH AND DECLINE**

Fastest growing councils in WA

Council	% growth	estimated population
Perth	12.8%	17,093
Serpentine-Jarrahdale	7.6%	16,492
Wanneroo	7.1%	144,148
Murray	6.5%	14,763
Capel	6.0%	12,687

Councils with biggest population losses in WA

Council	% loss	estimated population
Ravensthorpe	-4.2%	2402
Coolgardie	-3.1%	3968
Kojonup	-2.1%	2228
Waroona	-1.4%	3772
Merredin	-0.9%	3362



SOURCE: ABS

**SHANE WRIGHT**  
ECONOMICS EDITOR

The City of Perth is the nation's fastest-growing council, with the population swelling almost 13 per cent over the past year even as more residents call the outer suburbs home.

New figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics showed that 15 of the nation's 25 fastest-growing council areas between mid-2008 and mid-2009 were in WA with much of the growth in and around Perth.

The Perth city population grew by 1940 in 12 months to reach 17,093. Since 2001, the city's population has grown by 122 per cent.

But the biggest increase in total terms occurred in Wanneroo which added 9533 residents over the year to be home to 144,148 people.

Other big increases were recorded in Stirling (up 5000 to 198,800), Swan (up 4300 to 110,100), Rockingham (up 3900 to 100,200) and Cockburn (up 3824 to 88,702). Melville council's population also went past the 100,000-mark during the period.

While much of the growth has been on the urban fringe, the bureau noted there was also much infill occurring. There are 2700 people per square kilometre across Vincent council, just ahead of the 2400 per square kilometre in the Fremantle council area.

And while WA is home to most of the country's fastest growing council areas, it also has many council areas which are experiencing population loss.

More than 1000 people left the Victorian council of Murrindindi during the year, driven out by the Black Sat-

urday bushfires of 2009, to record the biggest population loss of any part of the country.

But Ravensthorpe (down 4.2 per cent), Coolgardie (3.1 per cent) and Kojonup (2.1 per cent) had the next biggest losses of residents.

Other falls in population were recorded in the Waroona and Merredin shires.

CommSec equities economist Savanth Sebastian said the figures, which also showed strong growth in Queensland, highlighted the importance of the resources boom in driving population changes.

"There is no doubt that the overall strength in resource investment, emerging labour shortages and strong wages have been key reasons that have seen more workers deciding to call Perth home," he said.

39 DUCHESS ST, BUSSELTON WA 6280

PHONE (08) 9754 6151

FAX (08) 9754 4655

45 VENTNOR AVE, WEST PERTH WA 6005

PHONE (08) 9429 8804

FAX (08) 9429 8800