# Western Australia Economic Profile – November 2024

## Western Australia – Economic conditions

The main updates in this month’s Economic Profile relate to the release of the 2023‑24 State Accounts, the annual release from the Australian Bureau of Statistics that provides comprehensive information on the economies of Australia’s states and territories.

*Gross state product*

Western Australia’s gross state product (GSP) grew by 0.5 per cent in real terms in 2023 24, below the growth rate for Australia (1.4 per cent) and the lowest rate of growth of all the states and territories. This was despite Western Australia having the highest rate of growth of all states and territories in 2023-24 for state final demand (SFD), the measure of domestic economic activity. The reason for Western Australia’s different rankings for growth in GSP and SFD was that Western Australia’s net exports fell by 7.8 per cent in 2023 24.

The fall in next exports was due to a combination of factors. The volume of goods exports fell by 3.6 per cent, with weather related disruptions contributing to lower export volumes from the mining industry. The volume of goods imports increased by 10.3 per cent, with imports of capital equipment higher in 2023 24. On the services side, the volume of exports and imports increased at a similar rate (services exports up by 26 per cent, services imports up by 28 per cent), with international education driving the increase in services exports and more Western Australians travelling overseas driving the increase in services imports. As Western Australia has a deficit in services trade (in contrast to its large surplus in goods trade), the similar rates of increase in services exports and imports meant this deficit widened, contributing to the fall in net exports.

That these factors contributed to Western Australia’s relatively low GSP growth in 2023 24 is not overly significant: the large share of mining exports in Western Australia’s GSP means relatively minor falls in mining output can drag down GSP growth more so than in other states and territories. Additionally, increased imported capital allows for the development of productive capacity in the economy and services trade was still normalising in 2023 24 from the effects of the COVID 19 pandemic.

However, this relatively low economic growth was recorded when population growth was relatively high, which implies a decline in productivity across the economy. While the official population figures for 2023 24 are yet to be published, the implicit estimate in the State Accounts is that Western Australia’s population grew by 3.3 per cent, compared to real GSP growth of just 0.5 per cent. GSP growth being lower than population growth in 2023-24 was due to a fall in hours worked per person and, more significantly, a fall in GSP per hour worked, which is a broad measure of productivity. While some of the factors leading to lower productivity in 2023 24 may be temporary, there has been a downward trend in productivity growth for some years. A turnaround in this trend would be required to support long term increases in per capita incomes.

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### Whole of economy

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#### Gross state/domestic product (change)



Note – Chain volume measures. Original series. Annual change.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* Gross state product (GSP) is a measure of the total economic production of a state or territory and is the state/territory equivalent of a nation’s gross domestic product (GDP).
* In Australia, GDP estimates are produced on a quarterly basis, while GSP estimates are produced on a financial year basis.
* Western Australia’s GSP was less affected by the COVID‑19 pandemic in 2019‑20 compared to other states and territories and grew at a relatively consistent rate in the next three financial years.
* Western Australia’s real gross state product (GSP) rose 0.5% in 2023‑24, lower than the growth of Australia’s real gross domestic product (GDP) of 1.4%.
* The WA Government State Budget 2024‑25 forecast Western Australia’s real GSP would rise 2.0% in 2024‑25 and 2.0% in 2025‑26.

#### State final demand by component (contribution to change)



Note – Chain volumes measures. Seasonally adjusted series. Quarter-on-quarter change. pp = percentage points. (a) Private gross fixed capital formation. (b) General government final consumption expenditure and public gross fixed capital formation.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* State final demand (SFD) measures total consumption and investment by the private and public sectors. SFD accounts for most of Western Australia’s GSP – 67% ($305.8 billion) in 2023‑24 – although this share is low compared to other states and territories due to net exports being particularly high for Western Australia.
* Western Australia’s SFD increased in the June quarter 2024, after falling in the March quarter 2024. The March quarter 2024 fall marked the first decline in SFD since the June quarter 2020 when SFD fell sharply due mainly to the restrictions imposed in the early phase of the COVID‑19 pandemic.
* Western Australia’s real SFD rose 0.9% in the June quarter 2024, following a fall of 0.7% in the March quarter 2024.
* Private investment made the largest contribution, adding 0.7 percentage points to SFD growth in the June quarter 2024, with household consumption adding 0.2 percentage points and public final demand increasing marginally.
* The WA Government State Budget 2024-25 forecast Western Australia’s real SFD would rise 3.25% in 2024‑25 and 3.0% in 2025‑26.

#### Interstate comparison of state final demand by component (contribution to change): June quarter 2024



Note – Chain volumes measures. Seasonally adjusted series. Change between the sum of the latest four quarters and the sum of the same quarters of the previous year. pp = percentage points. (a) Private gross fixed capital formation. (b) General government final consumption expenditure and public gross fixed capital formation.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* Western Australia’s real SFD grew 5.3% in the year to the June quarter 2024. This was the highest rate of growth of all the states and territories. The next highest rates of SFD growth over this period were in the Northern Territory (4.1%), Queensland (2.4%) and the Australian Capital Territory (2.2%).
* In the year to the June quarter 2024, contributions to Western Australia’s real SFD growth were:
* Private investment: 2.6 percentage points
* Public final demand: 1.4 percentage points
* Household consumption: 1.3 percentage points.
* The contribution of private investment to real SFD growth in Western Australia in the year to the June quarter 2024 was significantly higher than in all other states and territories. The contribution of household consumption to real SFD growth was also the highest of all states and territories.

### State final demand

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#### Household consumption by component (contribution to change): June quarter 2024



Note – Chain volume measures. Seasonal adjusted series. Change between the sum of the latest four quarters and the sum of the same quarters of the previous year. pp = percentage points.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* Household consumption increased by 2.7% in real terms in the year to the June quarter 2024.
* Spending on transport services (up 14.8%) contributed the most to growth in Western Australia’s household consumption in the year to the June quarter 2024. Other leading contributors to growth in household consumption over this period were:
* rent and other dwelling services (up 2.5%)
* purchase of vehicles (12.5%)
* health (3.9%).
* Spending on cigarettes and tobacco (down 13.5%) detracted the most from Western Australia’s household consumption in the year to the June quarter 2024, followed by recreation and culture (down 1.5%) and net expenditure interstate (up 14.5%).

#### Private investment by component (contribution to change): June quarter 2024



Note –. Chain volumes measures. Seasonally adjusted series. Change between the sum of the latest four quarters and the sum of the same quarters of the previous year. pp = percentage points. (a) Non‑residential buildings and other structures. (b) Transport equipment and other machinery and equipment. (c) Computer software, research and development, entertainment, literary or artistic originals, and mineral exploration. (d) Buildings or parts of buildings used as residences. (e) Fees, commissions, stamp duty and other government charges for transferring ownership of dwellings and non‑dwelling constructions. (f) Livestock and plantations of trees yielding repeat products (e.g. vineyards and orchards).

Source: Based on ABS data.

* Private investment increased by 10.8% in real terms in the year to the June quarter 2024.
* Spending on non‑dwelling construction (up 12.3%) contributed the most to growth in Western Australia’s private investment in the year to the June quarter 2024, followed by spending on machinery and equipment (up 12.6%), and intellectual property products (up 8.8%) and dwellings (up 6.0%).
* The increase in non‑dwelling construction, which consists of non‑residential buildings and other structures, over the past year was largely driven by new engineering construction in mining and energy projects in Western Australia.

#### Public final demand by component (contribution to change): June quarter 2024



Note – Chain volumes measures. Seasonally adjusted series. Change between the sum of the latest four quarters and the sum of the same quarters of the previous year. pp = percentage points.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* Public final demand, which comprises local, state and federal government consumption and investment, increased by 5.2% in real terms in the year to the June quarter 2024.
* State and local government investment (up 19.1%) contributed the most to growth in the State’s public final demand in the year to the June quarter 2024, followed by federal government consumption (up 6.3%).
* The increase in state and local government investment over the past year has been driven by Western Australian Government investments in large‑scale road, rail, and utilities projects, including METRONET.

### Commodity prices, interest rates and exchange rates

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#### Indexes of commodity prices



Note – Index based on current prices in US dollars. Original series. June 2022 = 100.0. (a) China spot price per dry tonne of 62% Fe fines on a cost, insurance, and freight basis. (b) London afternoon fixing price per troy ounce of 99.5% fine. (c) Australia spodumene concentrate price per tonne on a free-on-board basis. (d) Japan liquefied natural gas import price per million British thermal units on a cost, insurance, and freight basis. (e) United States hard red winter Gulf export price per tonne.

Source: World Bank and S&P Global Market Intelligence.

* The prices for some of Western Australia’s main export commodities have fallen significantly from their peak values over the past two to three years. A recovery in global supply following various disruptions has been a common factor in the price falls.
* In October 2024:
* The iron ore price rose 9.2% to US$101.4 a tonne, which is 53% lower than its June 2021 peak.
* The spodumene price was US$740 a tonne, 88% lower than its December 2022 peak as the new supply incentivised by the period of high prices has become available.
* The LNG price was US$12.9 per mmBTU, 46% lower than its September 2022 peak.
* The wheat price was US$272.9 a tonne, 48% lower than the peak reached in May 2022 after global supply was disrupted following the onset of the Russia‑Ukraine conflict.
* Gold has been an exception, with prices trending higher for most of the past four years. The gold price was US$2690.1 per troy ounce in October 2024, a fourth consecutive record monthly high.

#### Monetary policy interest rate

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(a) Federal funds maximum target rate. (b) Policy rate. (c) Bank rate. (d) Refinancing rate. (e) Cash rate.

Source: RBA.

* Higher inflation in 2021 and 2022 led to monetary authorities in many countries tightening monetary policy from late 2021, but interest rates are now beginning to be cut in some countries.
* The Reserve Bank of Australia increased Australia’s official interest rate thirteen times between May 2022 and November 2023, with the cash rate increasing from 0.10% to 4.35%. At its most recent meeting in November 2024, the Reserve Bank Board decided to leave the cash rate unchanged at 4.35%.
* Monetary policy in the US, UK and the Euro Area followed a similar trajectory to Australia, but central banks in these markets have started to cut interest rates in response to lower inflation:
  + The European Central Bank cut rates in June 2024 (25 basis points), September 2024 (60 basis points) and October 2024 (25 basis points).
  + The Bank of England cut rates in August 2024 (25 basis points) and November 2024 (25 basis points).
  + The US Federal Reserve cut rates in September 2024 (50 basis points) and November 2024 (25 basis points).
* Japan has been an exception, as it has had a different pattern of inflation. The Bank of Japan increased interest rates for the first time in 17 years in March 2024 with a further increase in July 2024.

#### Australian dollar exchange rates



Note – Trade weighted index May 1970 = 100.0.

Source: RBA.

* The Australian dollar exchange rate is influenced by many factors, including the price of Australia’s main export commodities, and actual and expected differences in interest rates.
* The Australian dollar averaged 65.4 US cents in October 2024, 5.7% lower than the previous month but 3.0% higher than one year ago.
* The trade‑weighted index (TWI) is a broader measure of the Australian dollar against the currencies of its trading partners. The TWI accounts for a group of 17 foreign currencies based on their shares of trade with Australia.
* The TWI has been relatively stable over the past few years, as the Australian dollar’s depreciation against the US dollar in 2021 and 2022 was offset by its appreciation against some other currencies.
* The TWI in October 2024 was 2.1% lower than the previous month and 2.2% higher than one year ago.

### Consumer prices and household spending

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#### Consumer price index (change)



Note – Original series. All groups consumer price index 2011-12 = 100.0. Year‑on‑year change in quarterly index. (a) Weighted average of eight capital cities.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* After peaking at 8.3% in the December quarter 2022, the highest rate in 32 years, inflation in Perth has fallen, but is still high relative to most of the past 20 years.
* Perth’s annual inflation rate, as measured by year‑on‑year growth in the consumer price index (CPI), was 3.8% in the September quarter 2024, higher than the year‑on‑year growth in Australia’s CPI (2.8%) and the highest of the Australian capital cities. Perth’s annual inflation rate has largely tracked the Australian rate over the past five years, but quarterly changes have been more volatile due to the effect on consumer prices from the implementation of household electricity credits.
* The measure of Perth’s CPI in the WA Government’s State Budget excludes the electricity sub-index, to smooth out the effect of successive household electricity credits. On this basis, the WA Government State Budget 2024-25 forecast Perth’s annual average CPI would rise 3.0% in 2024‑25 and 2.5% in 2025‑26.

#### Consumer price index by component (contribution to change): September quarter 2024



Note – Original series. All groups consumer price index 2011-12 = 100.0. Quarter-on-quarter change in index. pp = percentage points. (a) Weighted average of eight capital cities.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* In the September quarter 2024, Perth’s CPI fell by 0.4%, while Australia’s CPI increased by 0.2%.
* Housing (down 3.5%) made the largest contribution to the fall in Perth’s CPI in the September quarter 2024. This fall is largely attributable to the combined impact of state and federal household electricity rebate payments, which resulted in the electricity sub‑component falling by 56% in the September quarter 2024.
* Other CPI components that contributed to the fall in Perth’s CPI in the September quarter 2024 included:
* transport (down 1.5%)
* clothing and footwear (down 1.1%)
* health (down 0.3%).
* Recreation and culture made the largest contribution to Australia’s CPI growth in the September quarter 2024 (up 1.3%), followed by food and non‑alcoholic beverages (up 0.6%). This was partly offset by a fall in the transport component (down 2.2%).

#### Household spending index (change)

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Note – Current prices. Calendar adjusted series which accounts for trading day effects and length of month. Household spending index January 2019 = 100.0. Year-on-year change in monthly index.

Source: Based on ABS data.

The ABS has made enhancements to the Monthly Household Spending Indicator, including to its method and data sources. This resulted in changes to the historical series and the year‑on‑year growth rates reported in previous editions of the WA Economic Profile.

* Growth in nominal household spending in Western Australia fell from mid‑to‑late 2022 as pandemic‑related disruptions subsided and tighter monetary policy affected consumer prices and household purchasing power. However, the growth rate in nominal household spending has stabilised over the past few months.
* Western Australia’s household spending index grew by 6.0% in year‑on‑year terms in September 2024.
* The household spending index can be split between goods and services; as well as discretionary (non‑essential) and non‑discretionary goods and services.
* Growth in household spending has been higher on services compared to goods. The household spending index for services grew by 8.6% in year‑on‑year terms in September 2024, while the index for goods grew 4.2%.
* The household spending index for discretionary goods and services grew by 6.2% in year‑on‑year terms in September 2024, while the index for non‑discretionary goods and services grew by 5.9%.

### Labour market – employment

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#### Employment and total monthly hours worked (change)



Note – Seasonally adjusted series. 12-month rolling average for employed persons and total monthly hours worked. Year‑on‑year change in monthly series.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* Growth in annual average employment and total monthly hours worked in Western Australia has fallen from the very high rates of growth reached during the economic recovery from the COVID‑19 pandemic. Employment growth has picked up in recent months, as high net overseas migration has resulted in a large increase in Western Australia’s working age population.
* Western Australia’s annual average employment rose 3.7% to 1.6 million in October 2024, down from the high of 6.5% growth in March 2022.
* The WA Government State Budget 2024-25 forecast Western Australia’s annual average employment would increase by 1.75% in 2024‑25 and 1.5% in 2025‑26.
* Western Australia’s annual average monthly hours worked in all jobs rose 1.6% to 223.7 million hours in October 2024, down from the high of 7.8% growth in February 2022.
* With growth in employment outpacing growth in hours worked, the annual average of hours worked per employed person (per month) fell 2.0% to 139.8 hours in October 2024.

#### Employment by industry (change): September quarter 2024



Note – Original series. Change between the sum of the latest four quarters and the sum of the same quarters of the previous year. Data is collected for the middle month of each quarter (February, May, August and November).

Source: Based on ABS data.

* While employment growth during the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic was reasonably broad based across industries, divergence in changes in employment by industry has emerged.
* Healthcare and social assistance (up 33,997 or 16.2%) had the largest rise in average employment between the four quarters to September 2023 and September 2024, followed by education and training (up 12,647 or 10.2%).
* Mining (down 15,568 or 9.5%) had the largest fall in average employment between the four quarters to September 2023 and September 2024, followed by manufacturing (down 8,219 or 9.4%).

#### Participation rate



Note – Seasonally adjusted series. Monthly series.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* Western Australia’s participation rate remained at 68.8% in October 2024.
* Australia’s participation rate fell marginally from 67.2% in September 2024 to 67.1% in October 2024.
* Western Australia’s participation rate has consistently been higher than Australia’s participation rate. The largest recorded difference was in October 2012 at 4.5 percentage points.
* Western Australia’s participation rate averaged 68.8% in 2023‑24 and the WA Government State Budget 2024-25 forecast Western Australia’s participation rate would average 68.8% in 2024‑25.

### Labour market – spare capacity and vacancies

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#### Underutilisation rate



Note – Seasonally adjusted series. Monthly series. Underutilisation rate is the sum of the unemployment and underemployment rates. (a) Proportion of unemployed in the labour force (people without a job who are actively looking for work). (b) Proportion of underemployed in the labour force (workers wanting more hours).

Source: Based on ABS data.

* Western Australia underutilisation rate, which is the sum of the unemployment and underemployment rates, rose from 9.0% in September 2024 to 9.4% in October 2024.
* The rise in Western Australia’s underutilisation rate in October 2024 was driven by a rise in the unemployment rate:
* The unemployment rate rose from 3.6% in September 2024 to 4.0% in October 2024.
* The underemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.4% in October 2024.
* Western Australia’s record low underutilisation rate was 6.9% in October 2008, when the unemployment rate was 2.3% and the underemployment rate was 4.6%.
* Western Australia’s record high underutilisation rate was 20.2% in April 2020 during the initial stages of the COVID‑19 pandemic, when the unemployment rate was 6.1% and the underemployment rate was 14.1%.

#### Unemployment rate by region: June quarter 2024



Note – Smoothed seasonally adjusted series. Development commission regions.

Source: Jobs and Skills Australia.

* The unemployment rate was below 4% across Western Australia’s regions in the June quarter 2024, with the exceptions of the Mid West and Kimberley regions.
* The Kimberley generally has the highest unemployment rate of Western Australia’s regions. However, the unemployment rate of 9.3% for the Kimberley in the June quarter 2024 was much lower than prior to the COVID‑19 pandemic (16.2% in the December quarter 2019).
* Supportive conditions for mining have led to a very low unemployment rate in Western Australia’s main mining region of the Pilbara, as well as low unemployment rates in other regions.

#### Internet vacancies by occupation group



Note – Seasonally adjusted series. Online job advertisements on SEEK, CareerOne and Australian JobSearch. Excludes job advertisements on other online job boards, employer web sites, newspapers, and word of mouth. (a) Community and personal services; clerical and administrative; sales; and other.

Source: Jobs and Skills Australia.

* Job vacancies in Western Australia fell significantly during the initial stages of the COVID‑19 pandemic but increased sharply as the economy recovered and some employers had difficulty filling vacancies in an environment of constrained labour supply. Job vacancies are still above pre‑COVID‑19 levels but have fallen noticeably over the past year.
* Western Australia had 28,137 internet job advertisements in October 2024, 0.1% less than the previous month and 12.2% less than one year ago.
* There were falls in job vacancies for all occupation groups in Western Australia over the year to October 2024.
* Vacancies in managers and professionals fell the most, down by 17.1%.
* Machinery operators, drivers, and labourers fell 10.5%.
* Technicians and trades fell 9.8%.
* The other occupation group (which includes community and personal services; clerical and administrative; and sales) fell by 8.7%.

### Labour market – wages

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#### Wage price index (change) and labour utilisation rate



Note – Current prices. Original series. Year-on-year change in quarterly wage price index. 2008-09 = 100.0. Right vertical axis does not start at zero. (a) Utilisation rate is the proportion of persons in the labour force not underutilised.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* Wage growth in Western Australia generally corresponds with the rate of labour utilisation; that is, when the rate of labour utilisation is high and spare capacity is low, employers offer higher wages to attract and retain workers.
* The labour utilisation rate increased sharply in the economic recovery from the COVID‑19 pandemic, but it took some time for wage growth to respond. Wage growth in recent quarters has been more in line with what has been experienced during previous periods of high labour utilisation.
* Wage growth in Western Australia, as measured by the year‑on‑year change in the wage price index, increased from 1.4% in the March quarter 2021 to 4.7% in the December quarter 2023. Wage growth has tapered in recent quarters, falling to 3.5% for the September quarter 2024.
* The WA Government State Budget 2024-25 forecast Western Australia’s annual average wages will rise 3.75% in 2024‑25 and 3.5% in 2025-26.

#### Interstate comparison of wage price index (change) and utilisation rate: September quarter 2024



Note – Current prices. Original series. Year-on-year change in quarterly wage price index. 2008-09 = 100.0. (a) Utilisation rate is the proportion of persons in the labour force not underutilised.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* Wage growth in Western Australia has been similar to other states and territories, reflecting relatively tight labour market conditions across Australia.
* Year-on‑year growth in Australia’s wage price index in the September quarter 2024 was 3.5% and across the states and territories ranged from 3.0% in the Northern Territory to 4.0% in Tasmania.
* The labour utilisation rate for Australia was 89.7% in the September quarter 2024, with a relatively small range across the states and territories (from 88.5% in both Tasmania and South Australia to 91.5% in the Northern Territory).

#### Wage price index (nominal and real change)



Note – Original series. Nominal = index of current prices. Real = index of current prices deflated by all‑groups consumer price index for Perth. Year-on-year change in quarterly indexes. (a) Change in the all‑groups consumer price index for Perth are multiplied by negative one, given inflation detracts from real wages.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* Although nominal wage growth has increased in Western Australia over the past three years, for most of this time the rate of inflation has been higher, resulting in falling real wages. The extended period of inflation being higher than nominal wage growth resulted in real wages falling back to a level previously seen in 2011.
* Real wages in Western Australia grew for the first time in almost three years in the December quarter 2023, as the rate of inflation dropped to its lowest level in over two years.
* After growing in the March quarter 2024, real wages fell in the June quarter 2024 and again in the September quarter 2024. In the September quarter 2024 the year‑on‑year change in the wage price index (3.5%) was lower than the year‑on‑year change in the consumer price index (3.8%).

### Population

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#### Estimated resident population (change)



Note – Original series. Year-on-year change in quarterly series.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* Western Australia’s population is growing at a high rate, relative to both the past fifteen years and to the national rate.
* Western Australia’s estimated resident population was 2.95 million in the March quarter 2024, 3.1% higher than the March quarter 2023.
* Australia’s estimated resident population was 27.1 million in the March quarter 2024, 2.3% higher than the March quarter 2023.
* Western Australia accounted for 10.9% of Australia’s population in the March quarter 2024.
* In the year to the March quarter 2024, Western Australia’s population grew by 89,025, with the increase comprising:
* net overseas migration of 64,902 (12.7% of the Australian total)
* natural increase of 14,084 (13.4% of the Australian total)
* net interstate migration of 10,039.
* The WA Government State Budget 2024‑25 forecast Western Australia’s population will grow by 1.8% in 2024‑25 and 1.7% in 2025‑26.

#### Net overseas migration



Note – Original series. Quarterly series. Overseas arrivals less departures.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* Western Australia’s net overseas migration has been significantly affected by the closing and then re‑opening of borders during the COVID‑19 pandemic.
* In the year to the March quarter 2024, Western Australia’s net overseas migration was 64,902, 8% more than in the year to the March quarter 2023.
* Net overseas migration was 16,983 in the March quarter 2024, down from the record high of 20,995 in the March quarter 2023.
* Western Australia’s share of Australia’s net overseas migration was 12.7% in the March quarter 2024, which is above the long‑term average of around 12%.
* Western Australia’s share of Australia’s net overseas migration has fluctuated over time based on economic conditions in the State relative to other parts of Australia.

#### Interstate migration



Note – Original series. Quarterly series.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* Western Australia has had positive net interstate migration since mid-2020. This followed 25 quarters of negative net interstate migration from the March quarter 2014 to the March quarter 2020.
* In the year to the March quarter 2024, Western Australia’s net interstate migration was 10,039, with:
* 36,145 interstate arrivals
* 26,106 interstate departures.
* Net interstate migration was 2,505 in the March quarter 2024, slightly lower than the 2,589 in the previous quarter.

### Housing

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#### Dwelling approvals and completions



Note – Seasonally adjusted series. Quarterly series.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* The number of dwellings completed usually tracks the number of dwellings approved with a lag as approved dwellings are built. However, the large increase in dwelling approvals in mid‑2020 was not followed by a corresponding increase in dwellings completed.
* Stimulus measures introduced by the Australian and Western Australian Government in mid‑2020 contributed to the number of dwelling units approved increasing rapidly from mid‑2020, reaching 7,918 units in the March quarter 2021.
* Over the same period, the number of dwelling units completed plateaued, resulting in large number of approved dwelling units yet to be completed.
* Higher costs and longer timeframes for housing construction contributed to a slowdown in dwelling approvals, although the number of approvals has picked up over the past year. There was also some pickup in the number of completions, but this has tailed off and the rate of completions remains below the long‑run average.
* The number of dwelling units approved in Western Australia was 5,617 in the September quarter 2024, 60.1% higher than the September quarter 2023.
* The number of dwelling units completed in Western Australia was 3,957 in the June quarter 2024, 2.5% lower than the June quarter 2023.

#### House and rental price indexes



Note – Original series. Quarterly series. 2011-12 = 100.0.

Source: Based on ABS data.The combination of a surge in demand from high population growth and constraints in delivering new supply has resulted in increases in house and rental prices.

* Prices for new dwellings purchased by owner-occupiers in Perth rose 3.9% in the September quarter 2024, to be 19.1% higher than in the September quarter 2023.
* Perth’s rents rose 2.7% in the September quarter 2024, to be 10.0% higher than in the September quarter 2023.
* Rental prices in Perth started to grow from 2021 as vacancy rates fell to very low levels. Perth’s rental vacancy rate was 1.6% in September 2024.

#### Comparison of median house prices: June quarter 2024



Note – Current prices. Original series. Quarterly series. Median price of established house transfers (unstratified).

Source: Based on ABS data.

* House prices in Perth increased significantly over the past year, although are still lower than most other Australian capital cities.
* Perth’s median established house price in the June quarter 2024 was $750,000, an increase of 6.4% from the previous quarter and 25.0% higher than in the June quarter 2023.
* Sydney’s median established house price ($1.4 million) was the highest of all Australian capital cities, growing 3.7% in the June quarter 2024.
* House prices in the rest of Western Australia have also grown significantly over the past year, but similarly are lower than most of the other non‑capital city regions of Australia.
* The median established house price for the rest of Western Australia (excluding Perth) rose 3.6% to $466,000 in the June quarter 2024 (an increase of 16.5% from the June quarter 2023).
* The WA Government State Budget 2024‑25 forecast Western Australia’s median house price would rise 4.5% in 2024‑25 and 2.5% in 2025‑26.

### Construction

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#### Private new capital expenditure



Note – Current prices. Original series. Quarterly series. 4-quarter rolling sum. (a) All industries other than mining; agriculture, forestry and fishing; public administration and safety; and superannuation funds.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* Private new capital expenditure in Western Australia increased over the past year, in both mining and non‑mining industries. In the year to the September quarter 2024, the value of Western Australia’s new capital expenditure in the:
* mining industry rose 9.9% to $31.9 billion
* non-mining industry rose 8.2% to $12.7 billion.
* Western Australia accounted for 24.3% of the value of Australia’s private new capital expenditure in the four quarters to the September quarter 2024, including 61.1% of Australia’s mining industry new capital expenditure and 9.7% of Australia’s non‑mining industries new capital expenditure.
* Although private new capital expenditure in Western Australia has been increasing, the survey of expected expenditure suggests a downturn with the value of private new capital expenditure in the:
* mining industry expected to fall 17.6% in 2024-25
* non‑mining industry expected to fall 12.5% in 2024-25.

#### Construction activity



Note – Current prices. Seasonally adjusted series. 4-quarter rolling sum. (a) Roads, highways and subdivisions; bridges, railways and harbours; electricity generation and transmission and pipelines; water storage and supply, sewerage and drainage; telecommunications; heaving industry; recreation and other structures. (b) Residential, commercial, industrial and other non-residential buildings.

Source: Based on ABS data.The value of engineering construction activity in Western Australia rose 32.6% in the four quarters to the June quarter 2024 to $32.0 billion. This was largely due to increases in the value of construction for:

* heavy industry (up 34.4%) to $17.7 billion
* electricity generation, transmission and distribution and pipelines (up 40.2%) to $3.8 billion.
* The value of building activity in Western Australia increased 11.5% to $14.0 billion in the four quarters to the March quarter 2024. The value of:
* residential building activity rose 12.9% to $8.2 billion
* non-residential building activity rose 9.7% to $5.9 billion.

#### Construction activity in the pipeline



Note – Current prices. Original series. Quarterly series. (a) Data just for Western Australia is not available for some quarters; the data presented here is the national total excluding all states and territories except for Western Australia and the Northern Territory. (b) Value of work remaining on jobs under construction at the end of the quarter. (c) Sum of the value of work remaining on jobs under construction and work not yet commenced at the end of the quarter.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* The value of engineering construction activity in the pipeline increased significantly in the late 2000s and early 2010s as investment was committed to several new iron ore and liquefied natural gas projects, and then fell as these projects were constructed. The pipeline of activity picked up in recent years with investment in a range of mining and energy projects, but the value of work in the pipeline may now have passed its peak.
* The value of engineering construction work yet to be done in Western Australia and Northern Territory(a) fell 2.7% to $38.5 billion in the June quarter 2024.
* The value of building activity in the pipeline increased from mid‑2020 to mid‑2022, encouraged by stimulus measures introduced by the Australian and Western Australian Government, then fell across 2023 as higher construction costs and interest rates deterred new investment, before picking up in 2024.
* The value of building activity in the pipeline in Western Australia rose to $11.2 billion in the June quarter 2024, and was 3.5% higher than in the June quarter 2023 with the value of activity in the pipeline for:
* residential building up 8.1% to $6.3 billion
* non‑residential building down 5.1% to $4.9 billion.

### International trade

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#### Exports of goods



Note – Current prices. Free on board. Original series. 12‑month rolling sum.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* The value of Western Australia’s exports has increased in recent years, driven by high prices for iron ore, liquefied natural gas, battery and critical minerals and grains. With the prices for these commodities returning to longer‑term averages, the value of Western Australia’s exports has fallen from its peak.
* Western Australia exported $241.9 billion of goods in the year to September 2024, 8.6% less than in the year to September 2023.
* In the year to September 2024:
* the value of iron ore exports was $134.2 billion, 9.4% more than in the year to September 2023
* the value of non‑iron ore exports was $107.8 billion, 24.1% less than in the year to September 2023.
* The peak value of Western Australia’s exports over a 12‑month period was $272.1 billion in April 2023. The peak value of Western Australia’s iron ore exports over a 12‑month period was $162.2 billion in March 2022.

#### Imports of goods



Note – Current prices. Customs value. Original series. 12-month rolling sum. (a) Petroleum, petroleum products and related materials.

Source: Based on ABS data.The value of Western Australia’s imports increased significantly in 2022, driven by the higher oil price. Although a fall in the oil price has led to a reduction in the value of Western Australia’s petroleum imports, higher prices and increased demand for a range of imported goods have led to ongoing increases in the total value of Western Australia’s imports.

* Western Australia imported $52.0 billion of goods in the year to September 2024, an increase of 10.7% from the year to September 2023.
* In the year to September 2024:
* the value of petroleum imports was $11.2 billion, 13.8% less than in the year to September 2023
* the value of non‑petroleum imports was $40.9 billion, 20.0% more than in the year to September 2023.

#### Shipping freight rates



Note – Current prices. Original series. Monthly series. The Baltic Dry Index is a composite of three sizes of cargo ships measured by deadweight (DWt) tonnage (or weight of cargo excluding the weight of the ship).

Source: Trading Economics.

* The Baltic Dry Index (BDI) measures the shipping cost of transporting raw materials over 20 different sea routes. The index is a useful global trade indicator because 90% of the world’s traded goods occurs via maritime transport.
* The BDI increased rapidly from mid-2020 to a peak in September 2021 as the global economy began to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, which saw increasing demand for raw materials and manufactured goods.
* The BDI fell back to pre‑COVID‑19 levels in mid‑2022 and has been volatile since, falling to 681 in January 2023 and reaching 2,937 in November 2023. In October 2024, the index fell to 1,388.
* The containerized freight index (CFI) measures the cost of transporting goods in containers from China’s major ports.
* Similar to the BDI, the CFI increased rapidly from mid-2020, reaching a peak in December 2021 as the global economic recovery combined with disruptions in supply led to a large increase in container freight rates.
* The CFI also fell back to around pre‑COVID‑19 levels in late 2022 and appeared to have stabilised. However, in the six months to June 2024, the index more than doubled to 3,714 before falling in successive months. In October 2024 the CFI was 2,185.

## Western Australia – Economic structure and industries

The Western Australian economy has been shaped over time by the physical and geographical attributes of the State: its large land mass and coastline, extensive mineral and petroleum resources, and the distance between the State’s major population centres and other Australian and overseas cities. Over recent decades, Western Australia’s economy has also been shaped by national and global developments, notably domestic economic reforms and global policies such as trade liberalisation that encouraged the growth of industries in which the State has a comparative advantage. At the same time, economic development in China and other Asian countries with limited mineral and petroleum resources led to an increase in demand for the State’s export commodities, predominantly iron ore, but also liquefied natural gas and more recently battery and critical minerals.

These forces created a mining expansion in Western Australia that can be roughly broken down into three phases: an initial phase from the mid‑to‑late 2000s when higher demand led to an increase in commodity prices; an investment phase from the late‑2000s to mid‑2010s that was the supply response to higher demand and prices, and involved the construction of many large‑scale resource projects; and a production phase from the mid‑2010s after those projects become operational. The scale of new activity the mining expansion generated in Western Australia significantly changed the structure of the economy. In summary, the striking features of Western Australia’s current economic structure are the relatively high share of merchandise exports in its gross state product, the large share of these exports that go to China, and the mining industry’s high share of investment and gross state product.

The mining expansion contributed to Western Australia enjoying a sustained period of economic growth, often in excess of national levels. This included during the COVID‑19 pandemic, when the mining industry in Western Australia was largely able to sustain production volumes and benefit from higher iron ore prices, while other economies with a higher reliance on services exports experienced a significant downturn when these exports were curtailed by travel restrictions.

However, the impact of Western Australia’s economic growth on household incomes has changed through the phases of the mining expansion. The investment phase required a significant domestic workforce, which boosted labour demand and wages, but the workforce requirements diminished once projects became operational. With the capital for mining projects being largely owned outside the State, and while commodity prices are high enough to generate substantial profits, a higher proportion of the income from Western Australia’s economic output now flows outside of the State. So, while in 2023‑24 Western Australia’s gross state product per capita was 57 per cent higher than the Australian average, gross disposable household income per capita was only 9 per cent higher than the Australian average.

The mining industry will likely continue to make the largest contribution to Western Australia’s economic output of any industry for decades to come. However, the main driving force of the mining expansion – growth in China’s steel production from economic development and urbanisation – is receding, meaning that mining cannot be expected to contribute to economic growth in Western Australia in the future in the same way as it has for the past two decades. With the mining industry now accounting for a higher share of Western Australia’s gross state product, the State’s economy is also potentially more vulnerable to volatility in commodity prices than it was historically. Western Australia’s economy must also be able to adapt to other global challenges and shifts, including climate change, and imminent technological changes such as the increasing role of AI and automation.

In recognition of these challenges and the need to broaden the sources of economic growth, in 2019 the Western Australian Government released [*Diversify WA*](https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-jobs-tourism-science-and-innovation/diversify-wa-economic-development-framework), a framework that identified priority sectors for strategic development that match Western Australia’s strengths with global trends. This was followed in 2023 by the release of [*Future State: Accelerating Diversify WA*](https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/diversify-wa-future-state), which focuses on the most significant opportunities to drive international investment to Western Australia. At the same time, Western Australia – along with many other developed economies – is grappling with lower rates of productivity growth than were achieved in previous decades. With an ageing population and the largest gains from higher female labour force participation having been made, higher productivity growth across the economy will be required to sustain increases in per capita incomes.

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### Gross state product

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#### Gross state product by broad component



Note – Current prices. Original series. (a) Household and general government final consumption expenditure, and gross fixed capital formation. (b) Exports less imports of goods and services. Changes in state final demand can be exaggerated by large swings in business investment without adjusting for the associated changes in imports.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* Gross State Product (GSP) can be divided into state final demand, which measures total consumption and investment, and net (international) exports of goods and services.
* In 2023-24:
* the value of Western Australia’s state final demand was $305.8 billion, 67% of GSP expenditure
* the value of Western Australia’s net exports of goods and services was $193.8 billion, 43% of GSP expenditure
* net interstate trade and other items detracted $44.9 billion (10%) from Western Australia’s GSP in 2023-24.
* The cycles of activity in the mining industry have had a significant effect on the balance of state final demand and net exports in Western Australia’s GSP over the past 20 years.
* Very large investments in mining projects led to state final demand increasing rapidly from the early 2000s to the mid‑2010s.
* The newly installed productive capacity from this investment contributed to high growth in net exports from the mid‑2010s.
* As projects were completed and the pipeline of new projects became smaller, the value of state final demand contracted.

#### Gross state product by component (share)



Note – Current prices. Original series. (a) Private gross fixed capital formation. (b) General government final consumption expenditure and public gross fixed capital formation. (c) Exports less imports of goods and services.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* Western Australia’s economy has become more reliant on international trade over the past 30 years. The GSP share of net exports of goods and services increased from 25% in 1993‑94 to 43% in 2023‑24. The peak share of net exports in GSP was 52% in 2020‑21 during the COVID-19 pandemic, when merchandise exports remained strong while services imports fell.
* The GSP share of private investment has been influenced by cycles of mining investment. The share peaked at 36% in 2012‑13 when construction activity on multiple iron ore and liquefied natural gas projects was at its height, but fell to 17% in 2023‑24 as the mining expansion moved from its construction to the operation phase and output from these projects contributed to net exports.
* While household consumption and public final demand in Western Australia have grown over time, their share of the economy has fallen as net exports have grown at a faster rate. The GSP share of household consumption fell from 53% in 1993‑94 to 33% in 2023‑24, while the GSP share of public final demand fell from 22% in 1993‑94 to 17% in 2023‑24.

#### Comparison of gross state/domestic product of component (share): 2023‑24



Note – Current prices. Original series. (a) Private gross fixed capital formation. (b) General government final consumption expenditure and public gross fixed capital formation. (c) Exports less imports of goods and services.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* The changes in Western Australia’s economy over the past 30 years means that it now has an economic structure that is quite different to the rest of Australia.
* Household consumption accounted for 51% of Australia’s gross domestic product (GDP) in 2023‑24, much higher than its share of Western Australia’s GSP in 2023‑24, but similar to the share of Western Australia’s GSP in 1993‑94.
* Net exports of goods and services accounted for 2% of Australia’s GDP in 2023‑24, demonstrating the extent to which Western Australia contributes to national merchandise exports. Western Australia accounted for 48% of Australia’s total goods exports in 2023‑24.
* The GDP shares of private investment (19% in 2023‑24) and public final demand (28% in 2023‑24) are higher compared to their shares of Western Australia’s GSP, although this is partly explained by the high share of net exports in Western Australia’s GSP.

### Per capita incomes

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#### Gross state/domestic product per capita



Note – Current prices. Original series.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* Western Australia’s nominal GSP has grown at a faster rate than Australia’s nominal GSP over the past 20 years, resulting in a large gap between Western Australia’s GSP per capita and Australia’s GDP per capita.
* In 2003‑04, Western Australia’s GSP was $95.8 billion, which was 11.1 per cent of Australia’s GDP. In 2023‑24, Western Australia’s GSP was $455.7 billion, and its share of Australia’s GDP had grown to 17.1%.
* In 2003‑04, Western Australia’s GSP per capita was $48,744, which was 12% higher than Australia’s GDP per capita of $43,586. In 2023‑24, Western Australia’s GSP per capita was $155,644, 57% higher Australia’s GDP per capita of $99,128.

#### Gross state product by factor income



Note – Current prices. Original series. (a) Compensation of employees. (b) Gross operating surplus and gross mixed income. (c) Ownership of dwellings; taxes less subsidies on production and imports; and statistical discrepancy.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* The growth of the mining industry in Western Australia has had a significant effect on the distribution of GSP across factor incomes (the returns to labour and capital).
* Higher commodity prices in the mid‑2000s led to profits assuming a greater share of Western Australia’s GSP.
* The high labour demand from the construction of multiple major projects in the early to mid‑2010s contributed to the share of wages and salaries in Western Australia’s GSP increasing back to 46% in 2015‑16.
* The combination of these projects moving into a far less labour‑intensive operational phase and high commodity prices led to profits again assuming a greater share of Western Australia’s GSP.
* In 2023‑24:
* Wages and salaries were $158.3 billion (35% of GSP)
* Profits were $269.9 billion (59% of GSP)
* The ‘Other’ category (ownership of dwellings; taxes less subsidies on production and imports; and statistical discrepancy) was $27.5 billion (6% of GSP).

#### Gross household disposable income per capita



Note – Current prices. Original series.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* A high share of the capital that has generated large profits in recent years in Western Australia is owned outside the State. This means that a significant portion of the additional income from Western Australia’s recent GSP growth has flowed outside the State. As such, the difference in gross household disposable income per capita between Western Australia and Australia is a lot smaller than it is for gross state/domestic product per capita.
* Western Australia’s gross household disposable income per capita tracked largely in line with the national average from 1993‑94 to 2001-02 but has been consistently higher than the national average since 2002-03.
* The gap was highest in 2013‑14, during the construction phase of the mining expansion, when Western Australia’s gross household disposable income per capita was $55,124, 23% higher than the national figure of $44,793. The gap closed in the transition to the operational phase but has widened slightly in recent years.
* In 2023‑24, Western Australia’s gross household disposable income per capita was $63,814, 9% higher than the national figure of $58,599.

### International trade (annual)

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#### Exports and imports of goods



Note – Current prices. Original series. Imports of goods are displayed as negative values given they detract from gross state product.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* Western Australia has a very large surplus in goods trade. High‑volume production of minerals, energy and agricultural commodities generates significant revenue and the small domestic market for these commodities means much of that revenue is through exports.
* Between 1993‑94 and 2023‑24, the value of Western Australia’s goods exports increased at an average annual rate of 10%, driven by significant growth of mineral and petroleum exports.
* The value of Western Australia’s goods exports was $256.2 billion in 2023‑24 (48% of Australia’s total goods exports).
* Western Australia’s major imports are refined petroleum oils, motor vehicles, non-monetary gold (for further refining at the Perth Mint) and chemicals.
* Between 1993‑94 and 2023‑24 the value of Western Australia’s goods imports increased at an average annual rate of 9%.
* The value of Western Australia’s goods imports was $55.7 billion in 2023‑24 (13% of Australia’s goods imports).

#### Exports and imports of services



Note – Current prices. Original series. Imports of services are displayed as negative values given they detract from gross state product.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* In contrast to its trade in goods, Western Australia usually has a deficit in its trade in services. The deficit emerged in the mid‑2000s when growth in incomes led more Western Australians to travel overseas (an import of services).
* The restrictions on travel and trade associated with the COVID‑19 pandemic led to a sharp fall in the value of both imported and exported services. This briefly returned the balance of services trade to close to parity in 2020‑21, however the re‑opening of borders has led to higher growth in services imports compared to services exports.
* In 2023‑24:
* The value of Western Australia’s services exports was $10.0 billion (8.0% of Australia’s services exports)
* The value of Western Australia’s services imports was $16.7 billion (10.4% of Australia’s services imports).

#### Exports of goods by market



Note – Current prices. Original series. Free on board.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* The growth in Western Australia’s goods exports over the past 30 years has been largely due to higher demand from China, in particular for iron ore.
* In 1993‑94, China accounted for 7% of Western Australia’s goods exports. In that year, Japan was the State’s largest export market, accounting for 28% of Western Australia’s goods exports, with South Korea accounting for 9%.
* China became Western Australia’s largest market for goods exports in 2006-07, overtaking Japan which had been the largest market since 1962‑63.
* In 2023-24, Western Australia’s largest market for goods exports was China ($143.3 billion or 57%), followed by Japan ($28.4 billion or 11%) and South Korea ($16.5 billion or 7%). All other countries accounted for $62.9 billion or 25% of total merchandise exports.
* In 2023‑24, Western Australia’s largest market for goods imports was China ($10.3 billion or 20%), followed by the United States ($7.3 billion or 14%) and Malaysia ($4.0 billion or 8%).

### Productivity

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#### Contribution to change in real gross state product from the three Ps



Note – Chain volume measures. Original series. Compound annual average change. pp = percentage points.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* The 3P framework provides an indication of the contribution to economic growth from changes in population, participation (hours worked per person) and productivity (GSP per hour worked).
* The 3Ps can work with or against each other. For example, economic growth can occur from investment which increases GSP per hour worked, creating higher wages which entice more people into the workforce and higher population growth through migration. In contrast, high population growth without investment growth can depress productivity through a lower capital‑to‑labour ratio.
* Growth in Western Australia’s gross state product over the past three decades was highest when the contribution of productivity was high. Between 1994-95 and 2013-14, while Western Australia’s population grew relatively quickly, this was matched by increased levels of private investment, which contributed to steady productivity growth.
* Productivity growth has slowed noticeably in Western Australia over the past decade, a trend that has also occurred at the national level.

#### Multifactor productivity



Note – Chain volume measures. Original series. Gross value added based multifactor productivity indexes. Market sector industries only. Index 2020-21 = 100.0.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* Productivity can be considered in relation to different inputs.
* Labour productivity is the ratio of output to labour input, that is, the amount of output produced for an hour of work.
* Capital productivity is the ratio of output to capital input, that is, output per unit of capital.
* Multifactor productivity (MFP) is the ratio of a measure of output to a combined input of labour and capital.
* Analysing the contribution of labour and capital to productivity can be complex as:
* Changes in labour productivity can also reflect changes in capital, and changes in capital productivity in labour.
* There can be a lag between a discrete capital investment taking place and that capital starting to contribute to output. For example, many resource projects in Western Australia involve large capital investment which takes place over many years and then produce output over multiple decades.
* Western Australia’s multifactor productivity grew by 1.7% in 2022‑23, after falling by 0.9% in 2021‑22.

#### Net capital stock per capita (change)



Note – Chain volume measures. Original series. Index 2021-22 = 100.0. Annual change.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* The net capital stock is a measure of wealth representing the net present value of an economy’s assets. The net capital stock is the value of an economy's gross capital stock accounting for depreciation.
* Productivity growth has generally been higher in Western Australia and Australia when there has been a sustained increase in the net capital stock per capita as each worker on average has access to more productive capital.
* As mining activity expanded in 2000s, Western Australia’s net capital stock per capita increased rapidly relative to the national figures. Between 2005‑06 and 2015-16, when private investment and capital deepening was at its peak, Western Australia’s net capital stock per capita grew at an annual average of 4.4%, compared to 1.8% for Australia over the same period.
* Net capital stock per capita has been in decline in Western Australia since 2017‑18. The move to the operational phase of the mining expansion, the depreciation of existing capital and the recent increase in net overseas migration have contributed to capital shallowing.

### Population (annual)

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#### Population change by component



Note – Original series. Year-on-year change (as at June quarters). Estimated resident population. Components of population change may not sum to total population change because of intercensal difference. (a) Births less deaths. (b) Overseas arrivals less departures. (c) Interstate arrivals less departures.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* Western Australia’s population was 2.95 million in March 2024, which was 10.9% of Australia’s total population.
* From 1992-93 to 2022-23, annual population growth in Western Australia averaged 1.8%, above the national figure of 1.4% with:
* Western Australia’s highest growth of 3.2% in this period occurring in 2008-09
* Western Australia’s lowest growth of 0.6% in 2015-16.
* Net overseas migration has been the largest driver of population growth in Western Australia over the past 30 years, but annual levels have oscillated largely in line with expansion and contraction of the mining industry.
* Activity in the mining industry has also impacted net interstate migration, which was negative from 1999-00 to 2002-03, positive between 2003‑04 and 2012‑13, and then negative from 2013‑14 and 2018‑19. Net interstate migration was strongly positive in the three financial years to 2022‑23, which reflects a myriad of factors including management of the COVID‑19 pandemic, labour market opportunities and housing affordability.

#### Population by age cohort (share)



Note – Original series. Estimated resident population.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* Similar to the experience of many developed economies, Western Australia’s population has aged over the past 30 years, with increasing life expectancy and a decline in the fertility rate.
* In the period 1992-93 to 2022-23, the share of total population of:
* persons aged 0-29 years declined from 46% to 38%
* persons aged 30-59 years increased marginally from 40% to 41% (reaching a high of 43% in the early 2000s)
* persons aged 60 years and over increased from 14% to 22%.

#### Population by labour force status (share)



Note – Original series. Annual averages. (a) Civilian population aged 15 years and over.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* Changes in the economy, demographics and the nature of work have led to long‑term changes in the structure of the labour force. More flexible working arrangements have allowed more people to participate in the workforce on a part‑time basis and periods of lower labour demand to be managed through reductions in hours worked rather than increases in unemployment.
* In 2023-24, of the civilian population aged 15 and over:
* 1.09 million (46%) were in full‑time employment
* 496,000 (21%) were in part‑time employment
* 61,000 (3%) were unemployed
* 742,000 (31%) were not in the labour force.
* Comparatively in 1993-94:
* 45% were in full‑time employment
* 15% were in part‑time employment
* 6% were unemployed
* 35% were not in the labour force.

### Gender indicators

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#### Average weekly hours worked per person (15 years and over)



Note: Original series. Annual averages. The average is calculated as the total number of hours worked divided by the civilian population for males and females, not the number of employed males and females.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* Average hours worked by males in Western Australia is higher than it is for females, but the gap has narrowed over the past 30 years owing to an increase in the labour force participation rate for females and a decline in average hours worked by males.
* In 1993‑94, the average weekly hours worked for each male in Western Australia was 28.0, compared to 13.2 for each female.
* In 2023‑24, the average weekly hours worked for each male in Western Australia was 25.6, compared to 17.0 for each female.
* The ratio of average hours worked for each female to average hours worked for each male increased from 0.47 in 1993‑94 to 0.67 in 2023‑24.

#### Share of industry employment by gender: 2023‑24



Note – Original series. Annual average employed persons.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* In 2023‑24, males accounted for 53% of average employment in Western Australia, while females accounted for 47%. However, there are significant differences in the male and female share of employment across individual industries.
* The industries with the highest share of males in employment in Western Australia in 2023‑24 were construction (87%), transport, postal and warehousing (76%) and mining (76%).
* The industries with the highest shares of females in employment in Western Australia in 2023‑24 were health care and social assistance (78%), education and training (72%) and retail trade (60%).
* Financial and insurance services, and public administration and safety both had close to a 50:50 split in male and female employment in 2023‑24.

#### Average earnings and the gender pay gap



Note: Original series. Average weekly ordinary time earnings of full‑time adult employees. The gender pay gap for a given point in time is calculated as the difference in the earnings of males and females, divided by male earnings.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* The gender pay gap can be expressed as the difference in the earnings of males and females, expressed as a proportion of male earnings.
* In May 2024:
* In Western Australia, the average of weekly ordinary time earnings for full‑time adult males was $2,258, while for females it was $1,820, resulting in a gender pay gap of 19.4%.
* In Australia, the average of weekly ordinary time earnings for full‑time adult males was $2,014, while for females it was $1,783, resulting in a gender pay gap of 11.5%.
* Although average earnings for females are higher in Western Australia than they are for Australia as a whole, the gender pay gap in Western Australia is higher than the national average. The relatively high share of mining industry employment in Western Australia’s total employment, the high share of males in mining industry employment, and the relatively high earnings for mining industry employees are contributing factors to Western Australia’s higher gender pay gap.
* The gender pay gap in Western Australia has trended down since reaching a peak of 28.2% in May 2011, while the gender pay gap in Australia has trended down since reaching a peak of 18.6% in November 2014.

### Aboriginal Indicators

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#### Educational attainment and employment1



Note: The left‑hand side chart shows the share of people aged 20-24 who had completed year 12 or equivalent or a non‑school qualification at Certificate III or above. The right‑hand side chart shows the share of people aged 25-64 years who are employed.

Source: Based on ABS Census data.

* Between 2001 and 2021, the percentage of people aged 20-24 years in Western Australia who had completed year 12 or equivalent or a non-school qualification at Certificate III or above who identified as:
  + Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander almost doubled, increasing from 32.2% in 2001 to 61.1% in 2021.
  + Non-indigenous increased from 75.5% to 90.4%.
* The share of people aged 25–64 years in Western Australia who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and were employed increased from 36.8% in 1991 to 49.8% in 2021. However, this was lower than the peak for this figure of 50.4% recorded in 2006.
* Over the same period, the percentage of people aged 25-64 in Western Australia who identified as non-indigenous and were employed increased from 68.0% to 80.4%.

#### Industry share of total employment: 2021 Census



Note: Calculation of shares excludes categories 'inadequately described', 'not stated' and 'not applicable'.

Source: Based on ABS Census data.

* In 2021, the mining industry accounted for 16.7% of employment of people in Western Australia who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, followed by health care and social assistance (13.3%) and education and training (10.6%).
* Industries in which the share of employment for people who identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander were larger than the share of employment for non‑indigenous people in Western Australia included:
  + mining (16.7% compared to 7.7%)
  + public administration and safety (9.4% compared to 6.2%)
  + education and training (10.6% compared to 9.2%).
* Industries in which the share of employment for people who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander were smaller than the share of employment for non‑indigenous people in Western Australia included:
  + professional, scientific and technical services (3.5% compared to 7.3%)
  + manufacturing (3.4% compared to 5.6%)
  + financial and insurance services (0.8% compared to 2.3%).

#### Distribution of total personal income (weekly): 2021 census



Note: Calculation of shares excludes categories 'not stated', 'not applicable', ‘negative income’ and ‘nil income’.

Source: Based on ABS Census data.

* In 2021, people identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander in Western Australia were significantly over-represented in lower income brackets and under-represented in higher income brackets relative to non-indigenous Western Australians.
* Among Western Australians identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander:
  + 67.0% had total personal income of less than $1,000 per week, compared with 50.8% of non-indigenous Western Australians.
  + 10.9% had total personal income of $2,000 or more per week, compared to 17.9% of non-indigenous Western Australians.

### Environment

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#### Electricity generation by fuel type



Note – (a) Coal and oil (included multi-fuel fired power plants prior to 2013-14). (b) Wind, solar, biogas and hydro. Gigawatt hours.

Source: Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

* The growth in Western Australia’s electricity generation was primarily through natural gas in the 2010s but is now increasingly through renewables.
* Western Australia’s total electricity generation was 44,478 gigawatt hours (GWh) in 2022-23, 16% of the Australian total.
* Mining and manufacturing accounted for 16,704 GWh of electricity generation in Western Australia in 2022‑23, which equated to:
* 38% of Western Australia’s total electricity generation
* 65% of Australia’s total electricity generation for mining and manufacturing.
* Natural gas contributed 27,303 GWh in 2022‑23, and its share of Western Australia’s total electricity generation increased to 61%, just below the peak share of 62% in 2019‑20.
* Other non-renewables (principally coal) contributed 9,538 GWh in 2022‑23, 21% of Western Australia’s electricity generation.
* The output of renewables has increased significantly in recent years growing from 2,998 GWh in 2016-17 to 7,637 GWh in 2022-23. In 2022‑23, renewables accounted for 17% of Western Australia’s electricity generation, including wind (8%), small‑scale solar (7%) and large‑scale solar (2%).

#### Greenhouse gas emissions by sector



Note – Mt = million tonnes. Carbon dioxide equivalent AR5.

Source: Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

* Western Australia’s net CO2 equivalent emissions were 67.9 million tonnes (Mt) in 1992 and 82.5 Mt in 2022. Between these two years, Western Australia’s net emissions have ranged from 64.7 Mt in 1999 and 88.3 Mt in 2019.
* Of Western Australia’s emissions in 2022:
* energy contributed 81.7Mt
* agriculture contributed 9.7 Mt
* industry contributed 5.1 Mt
* waste contributed 1.9 Mt
* land use contributed an emissions reduction of 15.9 Mt.
* The emissions of the energy sector increased by 128% between 1992 and 2022.
* The most dynamic movement has come from the role of land use, which has evolved from contributing 16.4 Mt of emissions in 1992 to an emissions reduction of 15.9 Mt in 2022.

#### Interstate comparison of greenhouse gas emissions per dollar of gross state product



Note – Kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent per dollar of gross state product (chain volume measures).

Source: Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.

* While total greenhouse gas emissions have increased in Western Australia over the past 30 years, the emissions intensity of economic activity has declined, as it has in other Australian states.
* Using the measure of emissions in kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent per dollar of real GSP, between 1990‑91 and 2020‑21:
* New South Wales emissions intensity fell from 0.53 to 0.20, a reduction of 62%.
* Western Australia’s emissions intensity fell from 0.73 to 0.22, a reduction of 70%.
* Queensland’s emissions intensity fell from 1.55 to 0.38, a reduction of 76%.

### Industry gross value added

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#### Contribution to change in real gross state product by industry



Note – Chain volume measures. Original series. Compound annual average change. pp = percentage points. (a) Ownership of dwellings, balancing item and statistical discrepancy.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* The mining industry has made a consistent contribution to GSP growth over the past 30 years, but the different phases of the mining industry’s expansion has affected the contribution to growth from other industries.
* GSP growth was relatively well‑balanced in Western Australia until the mid‑2010s, with mining industry output increasing together with output from other industries. Investment in new projects led to growth in the construction industry, and the labour‑intensive nature of this phase of the mining industry’s expansion had spillover effects into other industries.
* The end of construction on many major projects led to further increases in mining output as projects became operational. However, it also meant the construction industry was a drag on GSP growth from 2014‑15 to 2019‑20. The less labour‑intensive nature of the operational phase also had implications for economic activity in other industries.
* While Western Australia’s GSP growth has been lower in recent years, it has also become more balanced, as increases in mining output have become more modest and the economic recovery from the COVID‑19 pandemic has benefited a range of industries.

#### Industry gross value added



Note – Current prices. Original series.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* Industry gross value added (GVA) is a measure of the additional value created by an industry in the production of goods and services. The nominal value of GVA is influenced by both the volume of production from an industry and the prices at which it sells goods and services.
* Over the past 30 years, both the volume of the mining industry’s production and the average prices it has received for that production have increased significantly. Mining industry GVA increased from $7.4 billion in 1993‑94 to $198.6 billion in 2023‑24. The mining industry’s share of GSP grew from 16% in 1993‑94 to 44% in 2023‑24.
* The GVA of all services industries increased from $22.1 billion in 1993‑94 to $156.0 billion in 2023‑24.
* Although the GVA of the agriculture, forestry and fishing, and manufacturing industries has increased, as more resources have been allocated to mining, the GSP share of these industries has fallen.

#### Industry gross value added: 2023‑24



Note – Current prices. Original series.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* Goods-producing industries accounted for 55% ($252.2 billion) of Western Australia’s GSP in 2023-24, including:
* mining (44% or $198.6 billion)
* construction (6% or $25.7 billion)
* manufacturing (5% or $20.4 billion)
* agriculture, forestry and fishing (2% or $7.6 billion).
* Services industries accounted for 36% ($161.7 billion) of GSP in 2023-24, including:
* healthcare and social assistance (5% or $22.8 billion)
* professional, scientific and technical services (5% or $20.5 billion)
* transport, postal and warehousing (3% or $14.4 billion)
* finance and insurance (3% or $14.5 billion).
* Dwelling ownership and other items accounted for the remaining 9% of GSP in 2023‑24.

### Industry investment

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#### Contribution to change in gross fixed capital formation by industry



Note – Chain volume measures. Original series. Compound annual average change. pp = percentage points. (a) Dwellings and ownership transfer costs.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* The capital‑intensive nature of the mining industry means that cycles of mining investment have had a significant impact on changes in gross fixed capital formation (investment) in Western Australia.
* Between 1994-95 and 2003-04, investment was distributed relatively evenly with mining investment growing from $8.6 billion to $13.7 billion while non‑mining investment grew from $7.7 billion to $15.9 billion. Other investment, in the form of dwellings and other ownership transfer costs, made up a proportionally larger share of total investment at this time.
* Over the decade to 2013‑14, mining investment grew rapidly. There was a complementary increase in investment in non‑mining industries.
* The slowdown in mining investment over the next decade coincided with a slowdown in non‑mining investment, although the less capital‑intensive nature of non‑mining industries meant this slowdown was less pronounced.

#### Gross fixed capital formation by industry



Note – Current prices. Original series.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* Prior to the large expansion in the mining industry in the 2000s, investment was more evenly distributed across industries in Western Australia. In 1999‑00, the mining industry accounted for 21% of total investment in Western Australia.
* Mining overtook non-mining industries in total value of investment in 2006-07. This was followed by a large spike in mining industry investment, peaking at $62 billion (64% of total investment) in 2012‑13 before falling significantly over the following five years. By 2018‑19, mining investment had returned to near parity with non‑mining investment.
* From 2018‑19, there has been steady growth in the value of investment in both mining and non‑mining industries, potentially providing a more balanced platform for growth for the Western Australian economy.

#### Industry gross fixed capital formation: 2023-24



Note – Current prices. Original series.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* The mining industry accounted for 44% ($41.3 billion) of Western Australia’s investment in 2023-24, followed by:
* transport, postal and warehousing (8% or $7.8 billion)
* electricity, gas, water and waste services (4% or $3.9 billion)
* public administration and safety (3% or $3.1 billion).
* The largest increase in Western Australia’s investment in 2023‑24 was in mining (up $6.0 billion or 17%), followed by transport, postal and warehousing (up $930 million or 13%).
* The only industry in Western Australia with a decrease in investment in 2023‑24 was information, media and telecommunications (down $60 million or 7%).

### Industry employment

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#### Contribution to change in employment by industry



Note – Original series. Pp = percentage points. Compound annual average change.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* While the Western Australian economy went through a period during which growth in investment and economic output was dominated by the mining industry, as a less labour‑intensive industry, mining has not made as large a contribution to employment growth in Western Australia. However, changes in employment in the mining and construction industries tend to have flow‑on effects to employment in other industries in Western Australia.
* The contribution of the mining and construction industries to employment growth was most pronounced in the decade to 2013‑14 during the height of the mining expansion. In this period, total employment in Western Australia grew by 3.0% with the mining and construction industries combining to contribute 1.1 percentage points of this increase.

#### Industry employment



Note – Original series. Annual average employed persons. (a) Agriculture, forestry and fishing; manufacturing; construction; and electricity, gas, water and waste services.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* Over the past 30 years, the main changes in the composition of Western Australia’s employment have been the growth in employment in mining, construction and services industries and the declining share of employment in manufacturing and agriculture.
* In 1993‑94 the largest employers by industry in Western Australia were retail trade (11% of total employment), manufacturing (10%) and healthcare and social assistance (9%).
* Manufacturing was overtaken in its contribution to total employment by construction in 2004‑05, and mining in 2009-10. The manufacturing industry’s share of total employment in Western Australia in 2023-24 (5%) was half of its share in 1993‑94.
* The agricultural industry in Western Australia has become more capital intensive and more productive, so despite increases in output, it has required fewer workers. The agriculture, forestry and fishing industry’s share of total employment in Western Australia fell from 6% in 1993‑94 to 2% in 2023-24.

#### Industry employment: 2023-24



Note – Original series. Annual average employed persons.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* Services industries accounted for 74% of Western Australia’s employment in 2023-24, including:
* healthcare and social assistance (15%)
* retail trade (9%)
* education and training (8%).
* Goods producing industries accounted for 26% of Western Australia’s employment in 2023-24, including:
* mining (10%)
* construction (9%)
* manufacturing (5%).

### Mining and energy industries

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#### Minerals production: 2023

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Commodity | Unit | WA | AUS | World | WA share of AUS | WA share of world |
| Lithium | Kt | 92 | 94 | 193 | 97% | 47% |
| Garnet | Kt | 325 | 325 | 900 | 100% | 36% |
| Iron ore | Mt | 860 | 870 | 2,454 | 99% | 35% |
| Rutile | Kt | 108 | 200 | 558 | 54% | 19% |
| Zircon | Kt | 173 | 500 | 1,600 | 35% | 11% |
| Alumina | Mt | 13 | 19 | 137 | 68% | 9% |
| Rare earth oxides | Kt | 29 | 29 | 364 | 100% | 8% |
| Gold | t | 211 | 292 | 3,022 | 72% | 7% |
| Salt | Mt | 12 | 14 | 274 | 83% | 4% |
| Nickel | Kt | 149 | 153 | 3,559 | 98% | 4% |
| Manganese | Kt | 608 | 3,605 | 20,495 | 17% | 3% |
| Illmenite1 | Kt | 236 | 400 | 8,154 | 59% | 3% |
| Cobalt | Kt | 5 | 5 | 230 | 100% | 2% |
| Lead | Kt | 38 | 474 | 4,524 | 8% | 1% |
| Copper | Kt | 104 | 791 | 21,531 | 13% | 0% |
| Zinc | Kt | 51 | 1,091 | 12,179 | 5% | 0% |

Note – Mt = million tonnes. Kt = thousand tonnes. t = tonnes. Mct = million carats. 1 Excludes ilmenite feedstock for synthetic rutile production.

Source: WA Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Resource Data Files.

* Western Australia is the main exporter of minerals and petroleum in Australia and accounts for a significant proportion of the world’s minerals and petroleum production.
* Western Australia had 134 high-value, export-oriented mining projects in 2022-23, including:
* 15 major mineral processing operations that transformed bauxite into alumina; gold doré into gold bars; nickel ore into nickel concentrate and nickel matte, nickel powder, nickel briquettes, and nickel sulphate; rutile and synthetic rutile into titanium dioxide pigment; zircon into fused zirconia; silica sand into silicon metal; and spodumene concentrate into lithium hydroxide.
* 19 projects that produced oil, gas and condensates from 49 fields in onshore and offshore areas of the State.

#### Sales of mineral and energy commodities



Note – Current prices. Original series. (a) Lithium (spodumene), nickel, cobalt, copper, manganese and rare earths.

(b) Data for lithium (spodumene), manganese and rare earths are not available in certain years.

Source: WA Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Resource Data Files.

* Western Australia’s minerals and petroleum sales fell from a record $256.0 billion in 2022‑23 to $237.7 billion in 2023‑24. Petroleum sales fell 29.4% to $50.9 billion, while minerals sales were up 1.6% to $186.7 billion.
* Iron ore sales were up 13.3% to $142 billion in 2023-24, the second highest on record behind 2020‑21. This increase was driven by the second highest level of production (865 million tonnes) for a single calendar or financial year, and improved Australian dollar prices.
* The value of LNG sales fell 36.1% to $36.5 billion in 2023‑24 because of lower average prices and a slight fall in production.
* The value of gold sales has been rising in recent years, from $17.4 billion in 2021‑22 to $20.7 billion in 2023‑24. Prices rose to record levels in 2023‑24, reaching more than US$2,000 per ounce.
* The value of lithium sales fell 61% in 2023‑24 despite a rise in sales volume to a record 3.6 million tonnes, as average prices fell at a higher rate. The value of lithium sales in 2023‑24 was still at a relatively high level, having grown rapidly from 2020‑21 to 2022‑23 as global demand increased and Western Australia expanded its export capacity.

#### Sales of mineral and energy commodities: 2023-24



Note – Current prices. Original series. (a) Spodumene. (b) Garnet, illmenite, leucoxene, zircon and rutile.

Source: WA Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Resource Data Files.

* Iron ore accounted for 59.7% of the value of Western Australia’s minerals and petroleum sales in 2023-24, followed by LNG (15.4%) and gold (8.7%).
* The largest increases in the value of Western Australia’s minerals and petroleum sales in 2023‑24 were in:
* iron ore (up $16.7 billion or 13.3%)
* gold (up $2.1 billion or 11.3%).
* The largest decreases in the value of Western Australia’s minerals and petroleum sales in 2023‑24 were in:
* LNG (down $20.6 billion or 36.0%)
* lithium (down $13.1 billion or 61.0%)
* nickel (down $1.8 billion or 32.1%).

### Primary industries and defence industries

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#### Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry gross value added



Note – Current prices. Original series.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* The GVA of Western Australia’s agriculture, forestry and fishing industry increased at an average annual rate of 4.5% between 1993‑94 and 2023‑24. Fluctuations in GVA from year to year reflect variability in growing conditions on the output of major component industries such as grain and canola as well as price fluctuations for the export commodities that make up the industry.
* A sharp decline in Western Australia’s agricultural contribution in 2009-10 and 2010-11 resulted from a number of factors including drought in Western Australia’s South West and Wheatbelt regions, floods in various parts of the state and the impact of the global financial crisis on agricultural commodity prices.
* The GVA of Western Australia’s agriculture, forestry and fishing industry jumped considerably in 2021‑22, increasing from $6.5 billion to $9.0 billion, and again in 2022‑23 to $9.9 billion. Conducive growing conditions and restrictions in supply from other markets led to higher demand for Western Australia’s grains exports.
* Between 1993-94 and 2023-24, Western Australia contributed an average of 13.2% to the GVA of Australia’s agriculture, forestry and fishing industry, with a high of 15.9% in 2013‑14.

#### Exports of agricultural commodities



Note – Current prices. Original series. Total excludes confidential items. (a) Confidential before Aril 2018.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* Agriculture has long been one of Western Australia’s largest export industries.
* In 2023-24, Western Australia’s top agricultural exports were:
* wheat ($4.7 billion)
* canola seeds ($2.4 billion)
* barley ($1.8 billion).
* meat and livestock ($1.4 billion).
* Between 2018-19 and 2023-24, Western Australia’s exports of:
* wheat increased from $2.8 billion (33% of agricultural exports) to $4.7 billion (36% of agricultural exports)
* canola seeds increased from $733 million (9% of agricultural exports) to $2.4 billion (18% of agricultural exports).

#### Defence industry gross value added



Note – Current prices. Original series.

Source: Based on ABS data.

* The defence industry is an emerging part of Western Australia’s economy.
* GVA from defence expenditure contributed $469 million to the Western Australian economy in 2022‑23. This was an increase of 14% from the previous year. Between 2016-17 and 2022‑23, the defence industry’s contribution to the Western Australian economy almost doubled from $238 million to $469 million.
* In 2022‑23 the jurisdictions with the largest share of Australia’s total defence GVA were:
* New South Wales ($3.4 billion or 32%)
* Victoria ($2.2 billion or 21%)
* South Australia ($1.7 billion or 16%)
* Australian Capital Territory ($1.6 billion or 16%)
* Queensland ($1.1 billion or 11%).
* Employment associated with defence expenditure in Western Australia increased to 3,000 in 2022‑23.

### Tourism and international education

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#### Visitor expenditure



Note – Current prices. Original series.

Source: Tourism Research Australia.

* While experiences varied for businesses across the tourism industry during the COVID‑19 pandemic, in aggregate, the domestic market was able to support overall activity when international travel was restricted. Following the re‑opening of the State’s borders, spending by international visitors has returned to close to its pre‑pandemic high, while spending by interstate and intrastate visitors have surpassed their pre‑pandemic levels, leading to record visitor expenditure in 2023‑24.
* Tourists in Western Australia spent a total of $18.3 billion in 2023‑24, 9.3% ($1.6 billion) more than in 2022‑23.
* In 2023‑24, in Western Australia:
* intrastate visitor spend (including daytrips) was $12.5 billion
* interstate visitor spend was $3.4 billion
* international visitor spend was $2.4 billion.
* Western Australia’s share of Australia’s international visitor spend was 7.5% in 2023-24, lower than its 9.3% share in 2022‑23, but similar to its pre-pandemic share of 7.7% in 2019‑20.
* The tourism industry contributed $13.2 billion to Western Australia’s GSP in 2022‑23 and supported 110,800 jobs.

#### Exports(a) of education-related travel services



Note – Current prices. Original series. (a) The value of education‑related services exports can include expenditure by international students that is funded from income earned while in Australia.

Source: Based on ABS data.The value of education‑related travel services exports provides a measure of the direct economic contribution of the international education sector.

* In 2019, prior to the impact of the COVID‑19 pandemic, education‑related travel services exports were $2.2 billion. The value of education‑related travel services exports fell 41% to $1.3 billion between 2019 and 2021, as new international students were restricted from travelling to the State due to the pandemic.
* The international education sector rebounded as international students returned following the re-opening of the State’s borders in early 2022. Western Australia’s education‑related travel services exports were $2.9 billion in 2023, a record high value.

#### International student enrolments by sector



Note – Original series. (a) Vocational education and training. (b) English language intensive courses for overseas students. (c) Enabling courses and foundation studies.

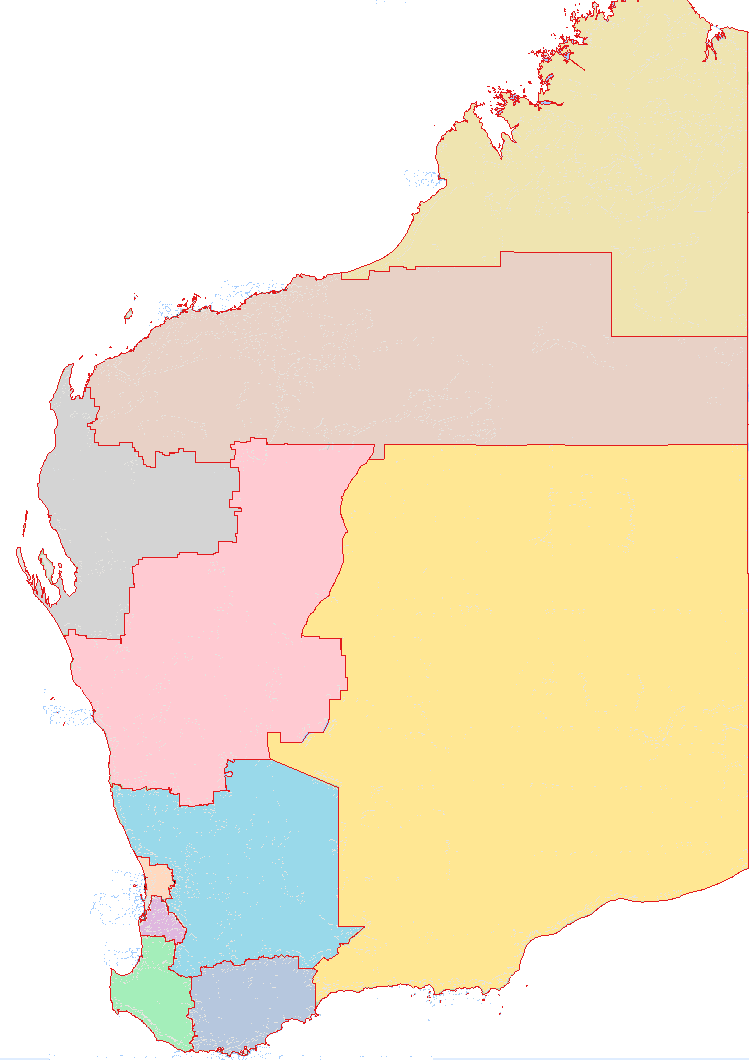
Source: Commonwealth Department of Education.

* International student enrolments fell significantly in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID 19 travel restrictions, but began to recover in 2022 when the number of international student enrolments in Western Australia rose 10% from 2021 to 44,845 in 2022. Western Australia’s share of Australia’s international student enrolments rose from 5.7% in 2021 to 6.0% in 2022.
* In 2023, the number of Western Australia’s international student enrolments rose 61% to 72,215 (7.4% of Australia’s international student enrolments), a record high.
* Western Australia’s international students come from a range of markets, although mostly from Asia. In 2023, the largest shares of Western Australia’s international student enrolment numbers were from:
* India (26%)
* Bhutan (23%)
* China (14%)
* Pakistan (12%)
* Philippines (9%).
* In 2023, most international student enrolments were in higher education (47%) and vocational education and training (32%).

### Regions

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#### Gross state product, population and minerals and petroleum sales by development commission region



Busselton

Albany

Geraldton

Broome

Port Hedland

Kalgoorlie-Boulder

Esperance

Bunbury

Karratha

**South West**

**Great Southern**

**Peel**

**Perth**

**Wheatbelt**

**Mid West**

**Goldfields-Esperance**

**Gascoyne**

**Offshore Western Australia**

**Pilbara**

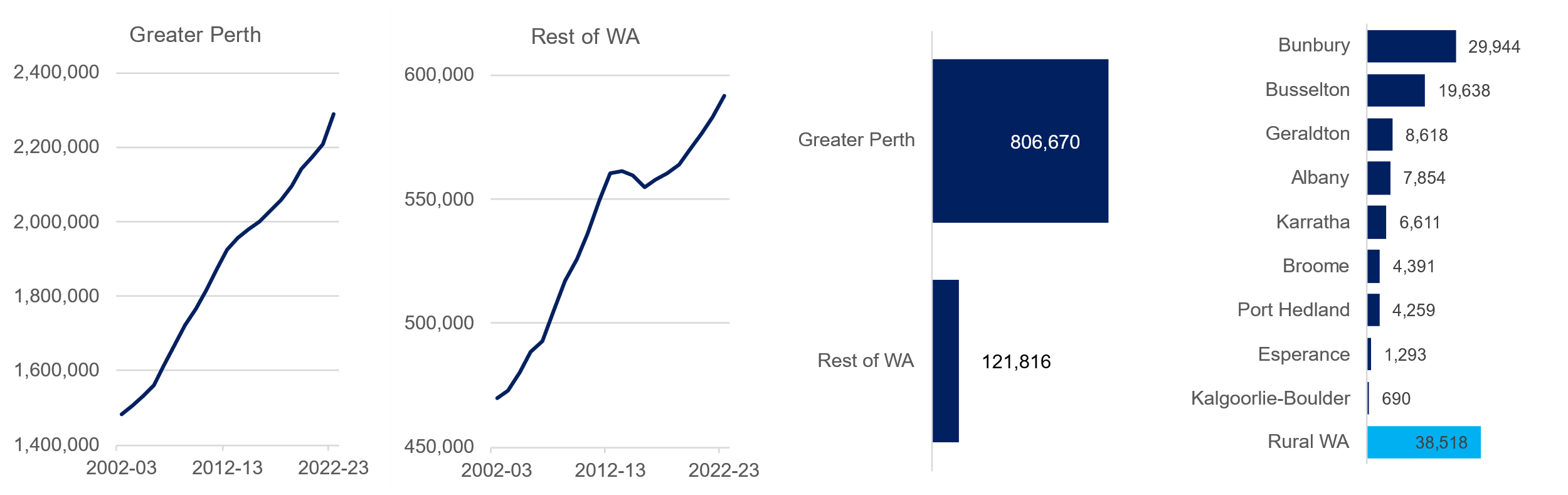
**Kimberley**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Region | Gross regional product 2022-23 | | Population 2022‑23 | | Mining sales 2023-24 | |
| $billion | Share (%) | No. | Share (%) | $billion | Share (%) |
| Perth | 285.2 | 64.0 | 2,154,205 | 74.8 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Pilbara(a) | 85.7 | 19.2 | 59,961 | 2.1 | 143.7 | 77 |
| South West | 18.5 | 4.2 | 197,587 | 6.9 | 4.2 | 2.3 |
| Goldfields- Esperance | 15.7 | 3.5 | 57,779 | 2.0 | 21.2 | 11.3 |
| Peel | 11.1 | 2.5 | 162,077 | 5.6 | 9.0 | 4.8 |
| Mid West | 9.0 | 2.0 | 57,617 | 2.0 | 4.6 | 2.5 |
| Wheatbelt | 8.7 | 2.0 | 77,066 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 1.5 |
| Great Southern | 5.6 | 1.3 | 65,222 | 2.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Kimberley | 4.5 | 1.0 | 39,389 | 1.4 | 0.9 | 0.5 |
| Gascoyne | 1.3 | 0.3 | 10,324 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| WA total | 445.3 | 100.0 | 2,881,227 | 100.0 | 186.7 | 100.0 |

Note – Original series. Estimated resident population. Vertical axis does not start at zero. (a) Includes Offshore Western Australia for mining sales.

Source: WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Remplan; based on ABS data; and WA Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety.

#### Population growth by broad region and major urban centre: 2002‑03 to 2022‑23



Original series Estimated resident population. Vertical axis does not start at zero.

Source: Based on ABS data

Western Australia’s population is concentrated in the Perth metropolitan area and most of Western Australia’s gross state product is also allocated to Perth. However, most of the State’s merchandise exports and economic activity originates from production in regional areas. While mining production takes place in most regions, the Pilbara is the dominant mining region, particularly for iron ore and liquefied natural gas.

Further economic information and data on Western Australia’s regions can be found at the [**Regional WA Data Hub**](https://regional-wa-rdmp.opendata.arcgis.com/)**.** Information on individual regions can be accessed via the links below.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| [**Gascoyne**](https://www.gdc.wa.gov.au/) | [**Kimberley**](https://www.kdc.wa.gov.au/) | [**Pilbara**](https://www.pdc.wa.gov.au/) |
| [**Goldfields-Esperance**](https://www.gedc.wa.gov.au/) | [**Mid West**](https://www.mwdc.wa.gov.au/) | [**South West**](https://www.swdc.wa.gov.au/) |
| [**Great Southern**](https://gsdc.wa.gov.au/) | [**Peel**](https://www.peel.wa.gov.au/) | [**Wheatbelt**](https://www.wheatbelt.wa.gov.au/) |

Visit [**Western Australia's economy and international trade (www.wa.gov.au)**](https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/western-australias-economy-and-international-trade) for more information on Western Australia’s economy, trade relationships and key export industries.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Western Australia Trade Profile** | **Western Australia Iron Ore Profile** |
| **Western Australia LNG Profile** | **Western Australia Battery and Critical Minerals Profile** |

For any queries or feedback on these products, please contact us at [**economic.analysis@jtsi.wa.gov.au**](mailto:economic.analysis@jtsi.wa.gov.au)