Griffith City Council



Community and business demographic and economic briefing



























About .id at Griffith City Council

.id is a company of demographers, housing analysts, forecasters and Census data experts.

We work with council to promote evidencebased decision making via a series of online information tools, consulting with you for grant funding applications, demographic and economic studies and advocacy.

We have been working with Griffith City Council for over 15 years and the Council now subscribes to 4 .id tools - a fantastic public-access resource for understanding your community and economy. There is also a RAMJO regional site with comparisons across the whole area.

This session focusses on the key demographic and economic characteristics of Griffith City Council and how the LGA fits into the wider context of the RAMJO region, NSW and with a short introduction to the .id resources you can use to tell this story for your local place.

community profile

understand your community over multiple timescales

social atlas

allocate your resources at a local level

housing monitor

nonitor housing provision and affordability

economic profile

analyse jobs, industry and model economic change

population forecast

plan for the future based on a set of agreed assumptions



Register for briefing slides

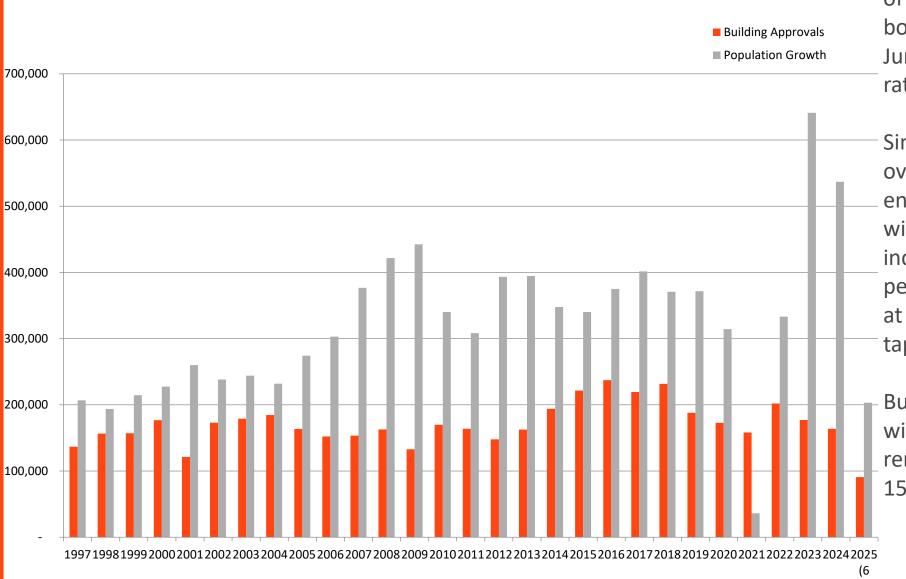
Optionally - .id blog and newsletter

http://content.id.com.au/briefings





National population trends – population explosion after COVID downturn



Australia ended a record period of population growth with COVID border closures. The year ended June 2021 was the lowest growth rate in over 100 years.

Since the borders reopened, overseas migration has driven an enormous increase in population, with 2022-23 having a record increase of more than 600,000 people. This continued in 2023-24 at 552,000 people, but is now tapering off.

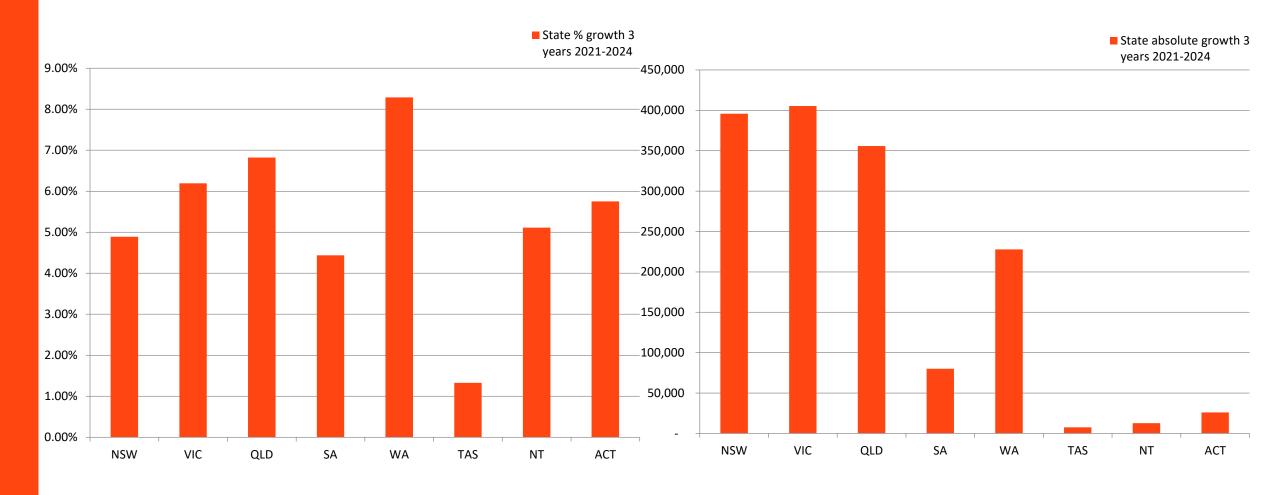
Building approvals don't fluctuate with population growth but remain relatively steady at around 150,000-200,000 p.a.



mth)



State population change – 2021-24 – after 2021 Census



2023 and 2024 had enormous population growth, with WA having the highest growth in percentage terms, but Victoria adding the most people. NSW growth was 4.9% over 3 years, close to 400,000 people, about the same as the previous 5-years growth.



National fertility rate, 1935 to 2023

National birth rate is at a record low of 1.50.

Baby bonus era - 2009 peak

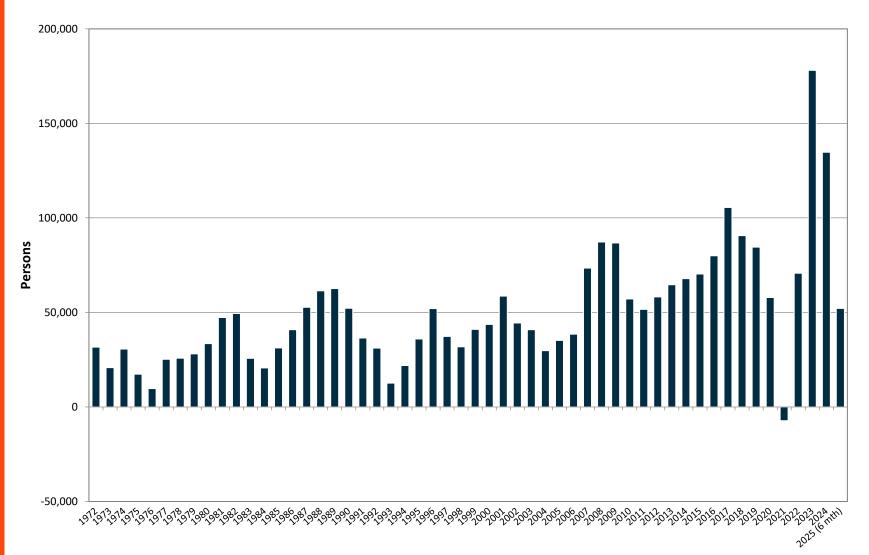
on record



Total fertility rate

Year

Net overseas migration – NSW, 1972-2024

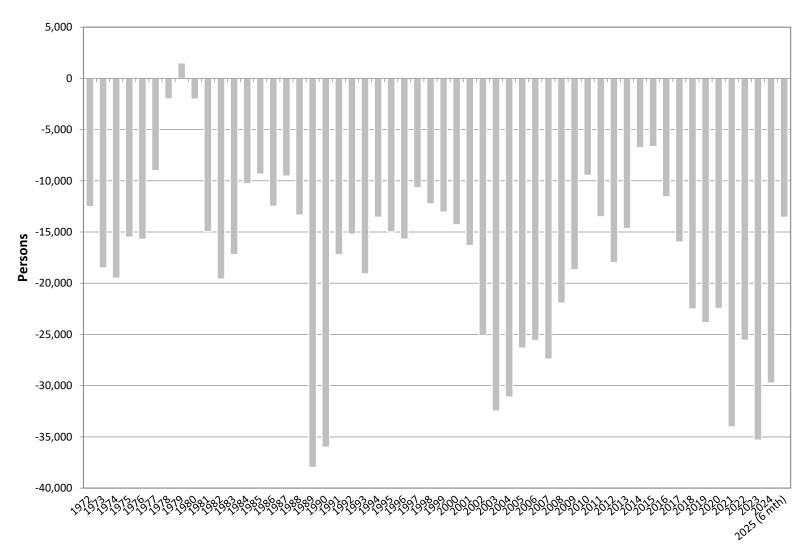


Overseas migration was negative for NSW in 2020-21 due to border closures, with a return to positive migration in 2021-22.

Then we had two years of record overseas migration, just tapering off a little in 2024, but migration now comprises close to 100% of NSW growth. It is returning to the average pre-COVID in 2025.



Net interstate migration – NSW, 1972-2024



This is the strongest trend in NSW – substantial movement out to (mainly) Queensland and accelerating during COVID.

Moderating a little in the last two years but still more than 30,000 people per year move to other states in net terms.

There is also a strong movement out of Sydney to the urban fringe and to Regional NSW, with the widespread availability of Work From Home.

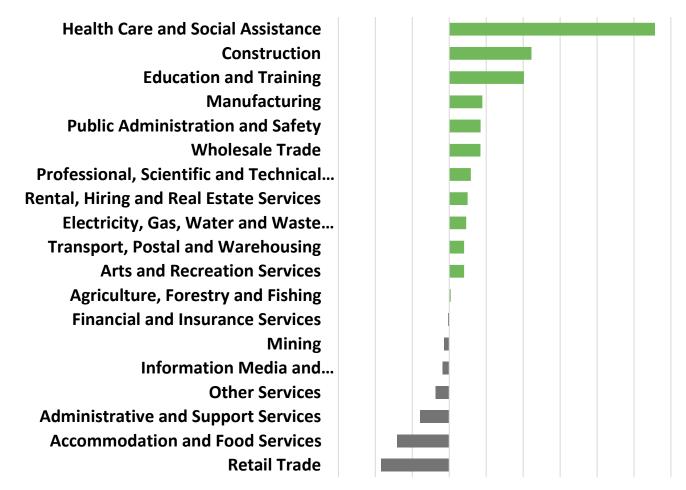


HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL
ASSISTANCE CONTRIBUTED
OVER HALF ANNUAL JOBS
GROWTH IN IN REGIONAL
NSW

REGIONAL NSW

Contribution to annual growth in local jobs, 2023/24

-30%-20%-10% 0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60%



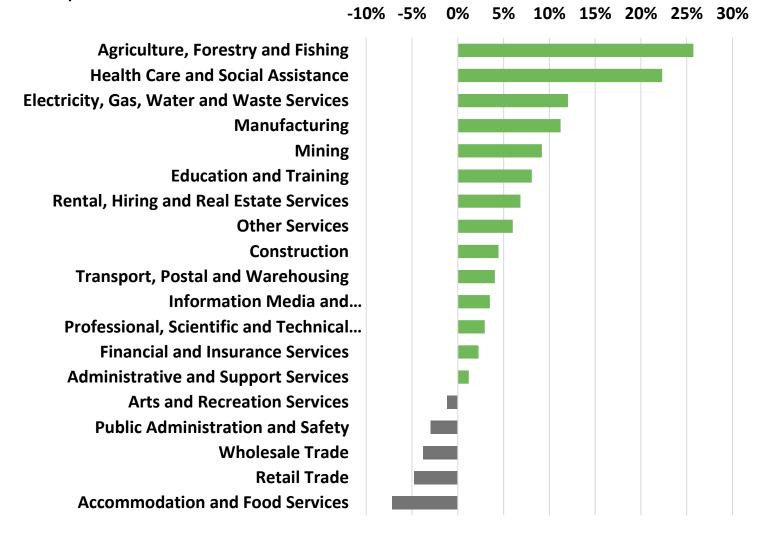
Source: NIEIR, State of the Regions Data 2025

STRONG GROWTH IN AGRICULTURE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES IN REGIONAL NSW

- Agriculture, forestry and fishing led the rise driven by fruit and vegetable production and strength in livestock following rebuilding efforts to meet rising international demand.
- Healthcare continued to rise led by NDIS driven social assistance services.
- Utilities growth was strong driven by the energy (electricity/gas) sectors.
- Hospitality and retail declined due to more moderate turnover growth and input/wage costs hitting profit margins.

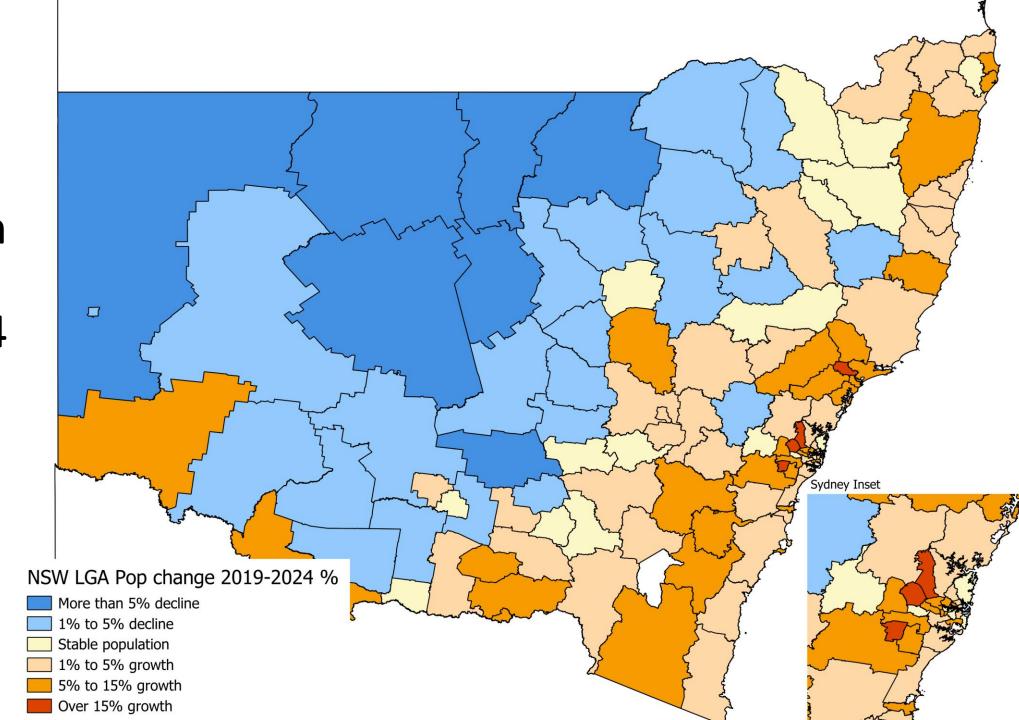
REGIONAL NSW

Contribution to annual growth in industry value added, 2023/24



Source: NIEIR, State of the Regions Data 2025

NSW LGA population change, 2019-2024



Population trends in 2021-2024

TREND	Griffith City Council	New South Wales
Population (ERP – 2021 and 5 year change)	27,195 (+839 people, +3.2%)	8,097,062 (+364,204, +4.7%)
Average household size (2016-2021)	2.65 (+0.01)	2.57 (-0.04)
Population (ERP – 2024) and growth (3 years 2021-2024)	27,340 (+145, +0.5%)	8,492,940 (+395,878, +4.7%)
Components of change (1-year)	Natural increase: +220 Overseas migration: +353 Internal migration: -359	Natural increase: +31,550 Overseas migration: +134,748 Internal migration: -29,745

Griffith grew moderately in the Census period, then experienced a minor population decline before bouncing back in 2024 with a strong increase, tipping the 3-years growth to positive. A big driver of growth in Griffith is **natural increase**, due to a high birth-rate. Overseas migration remains significant, but it's offset by migration out within Australia – a drag on total population growth.



Population trends – 10 years in Griffith suburbs/districts

Small area	2021	2016	2011	5 year change	10 year change
Griffith (Central - South)	5,357	4,635	4,254	15.6%	25.9%
Griffith (East) - Collina	6,900	6,495	5,985	6.2%	15.3%
Griffith (North)	4,592	4,630	4,518	-0.8%	1.6%
Griffith (West)	2,652	2,423	2,223	9.5%	19.3%
Griffith (Total)	19,505	18,183	16,981	7.3%	14.9%
Hanwood - Tharbogang and District	2,304	2,306	2,309	-0.1%	-0.2%
Lake Wyangan - Nericon	1,153	1,206	1,223	-4.4%	-5.7%
Yenda - Beelbangera - Myall Park	2,117	2,093	2,016	1.1%	5.0%
Yoogali - Bilbul - Widgelli	2,006	1,850	1,881	8.4%	6.6%
Griffith City	27,086	25,641	24,364	5.6%	11.2%
Regional NSW	2,829,637	2,643,536	2,512,935	7.0%	12.6%
New South Wales	8,072,163	7,480,228	6,917,601	7.9%	16.7%
Australia	25,422,797	23,401,890	21,504,691	8.6%	18.2%



Migration (3 years 2021-2024)

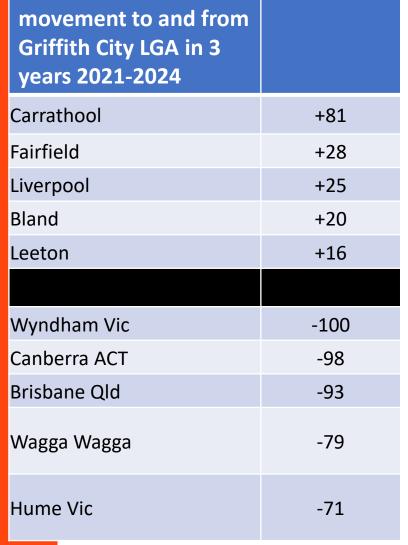
Numbers

Griffith tends to get in-migration from smaller rural LGAs within the Riverina, and from parts of Western Sydney, while losing population to growth areas around Melbourne, Canberra and Brisbane.

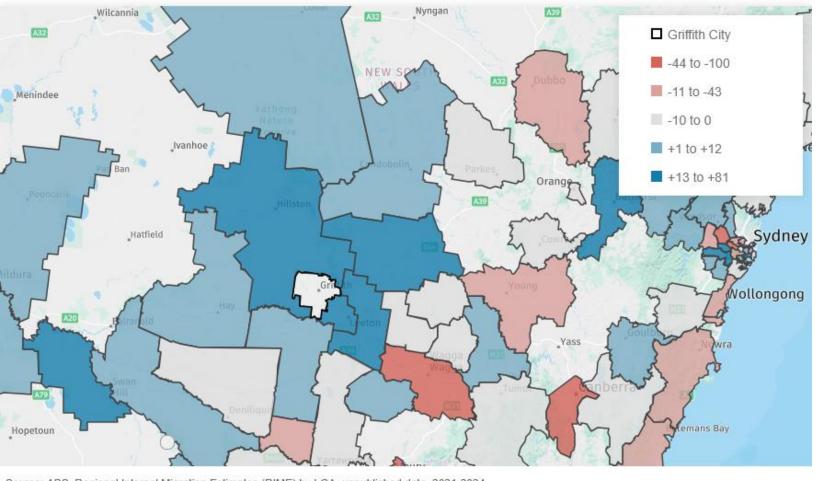
Consistent trend up to the Census, and using the Medicare movement dataset, for the 3 years since (shown here).

Map of net gains and losses by LGA

Griffith City: Total: July 2021 - June 2024



Main areas of





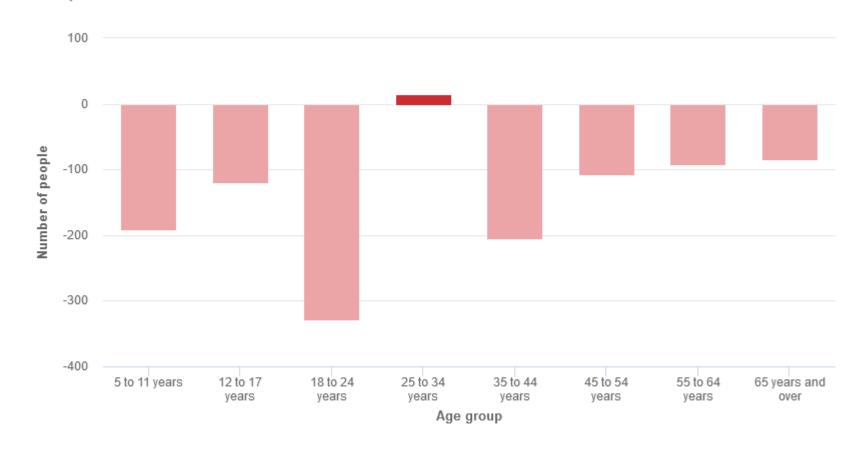


Migration (5 yearly)

Griffith tends to lose population in most age groups elsewhere in Australia, but is one of the few regional areas which gains a lot of population from direct overseas migration. Movement out within Australia is largely among young adults and family groups.

Net migration by age group 2021 (5 years)





Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2021 (Usual residents data). Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id (informed decisions).



profile.id and atlas.id

- Online information tool, for council staff, and for the public.
- 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016 and 2021 Census data.
- 40 demographic topics to tell the story of your changing area.
- Broken into 8 districts based on a split of Griffith into 4 areas, and the surrounding towns into 4. Data for these areas over the last 7 Censuses.
- Benchmarks to Regional NSW, NSW, Albury, Wagga Wagga, and Australia-wide.
- A First Nations profile with details about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.
- Spatial mapping to pinpoint disadvantaged populations in atlas.id. Locality snapshots of small population towns and localities.
- http://profile.id.com.au/griffith
- http://atlas.id.com.au/griffith

profile.id

community profile

understand your community over multiple timescales

social atlas

allocate your resources at a local level

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population forecast

economic profile

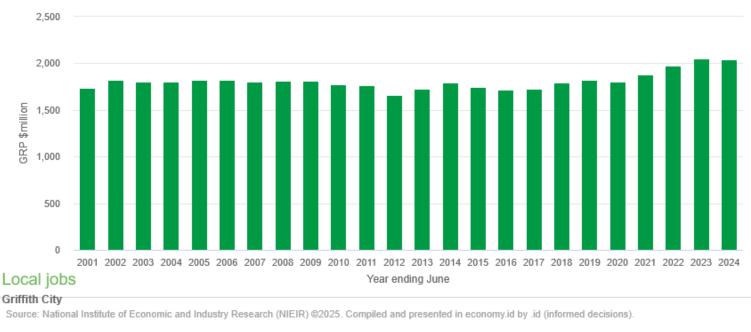
.id

Griffith Economy 2024

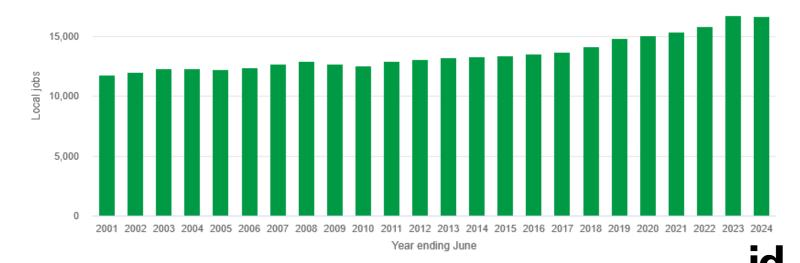
Modelling shows 16,657 jobs in 2023-24 in Griffith, almost unchanged from the previous year which showed a large increase.

This is parallelled in the size of the economy (GRP) which is about \$2.05 billion, jumping with growth in Agriculture and Manufacturing, but offset by a decline in Construction in 2024.

Gross Regional Product Griffith City

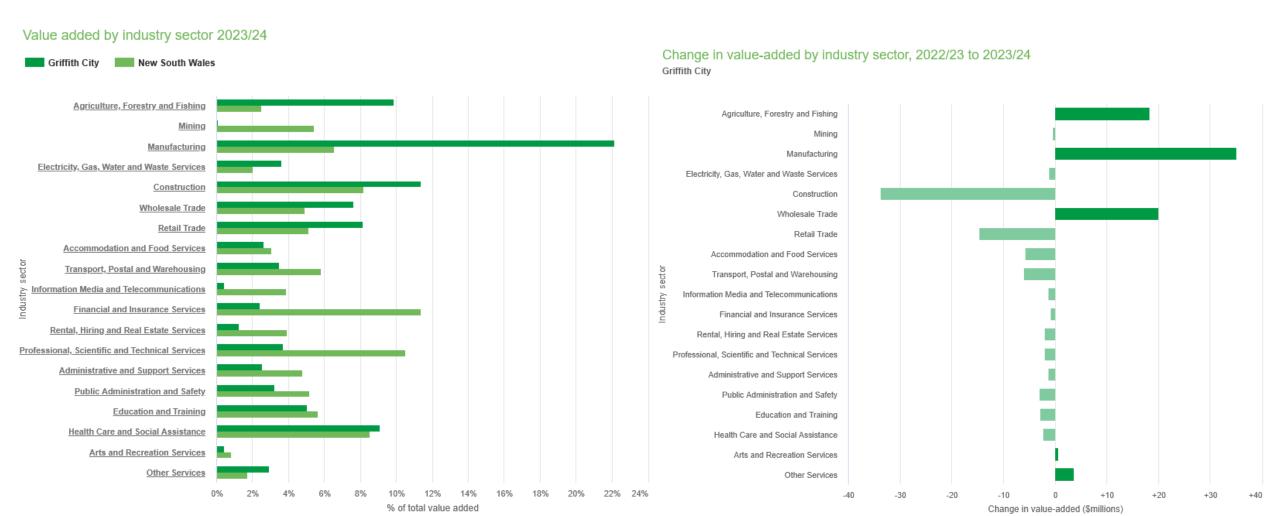


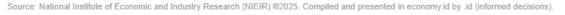
20,000



Source: National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) @2025. Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id (informed decisions)

Griffith Economy 2024





Source: National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) @2025. Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id (informed decisions).



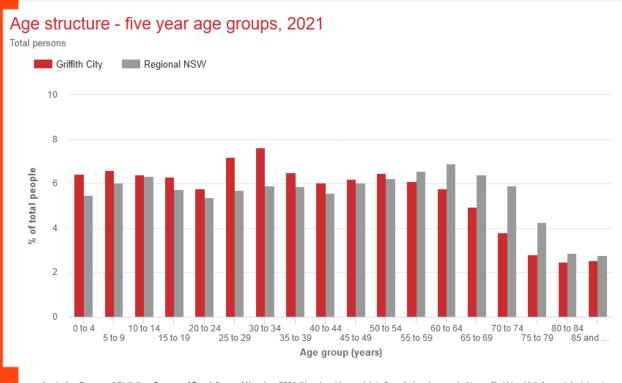
economy.id

- Online for Griffith City Council
- Annually updated, modelled economic data including jobs every year.
- Size of the economy, value and employment in 87 industry sectors
- Detailed journey to work information by industry and occupation.
- Track individual industry change over 20 years.
- Detailed worker profiles and characteristics.
- Economic modelling tool what if? Analysis
- Event impact calculator
- Tourism information
- http://economy.id.com.au/griffith
- http://economy.id.com.au/ramjo
- All modelled information from our partners NIEIR is updated annually, around March each year for the previous financial year. Current now to 2023-24 FY.
- Economic health check with detailed report on current status and key challenges done for 2022-23.



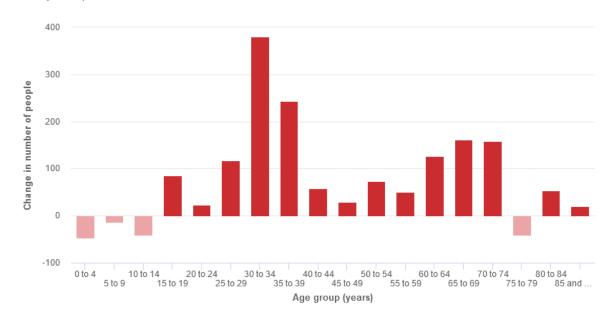


Griffith Age Structure 2021



Change in age structure - five year age groups, 2016 to 2021

Griffith City - Total persons



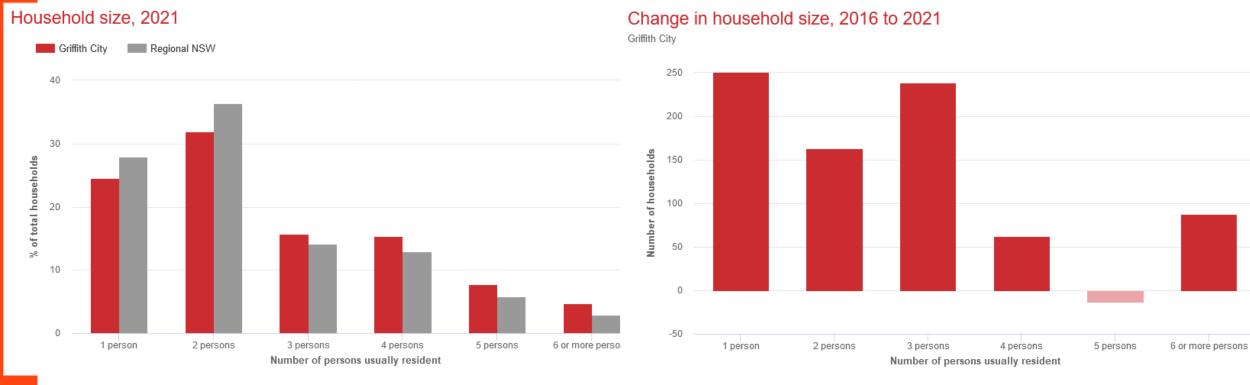
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2016 and 2021 (Usual residence data). Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id (informed decisions).

purce: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2021 (Usual residence data). Compiled and presented in profile id by _id (informed decision

Griffith has a relatively young age profile compared to Regional NSW. The median age is 37, a year younger than the national average. This is unusual for a regional area and is probably due to the high rate of overseas migration. The largest increase was 30-34 year olds, which is peak migration age. There was some ageing, and loss of children, but most age groups increased in the last 5 years.



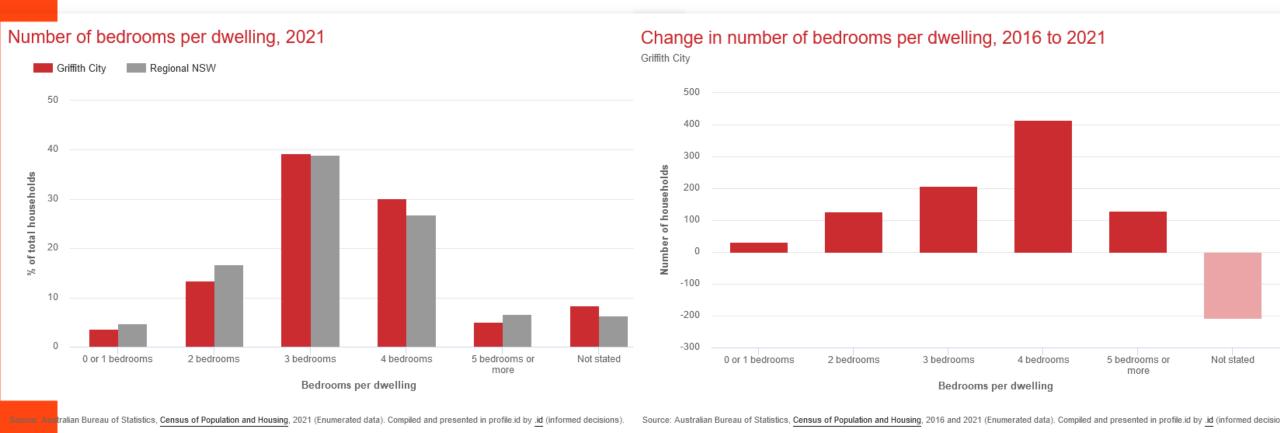
Household trends







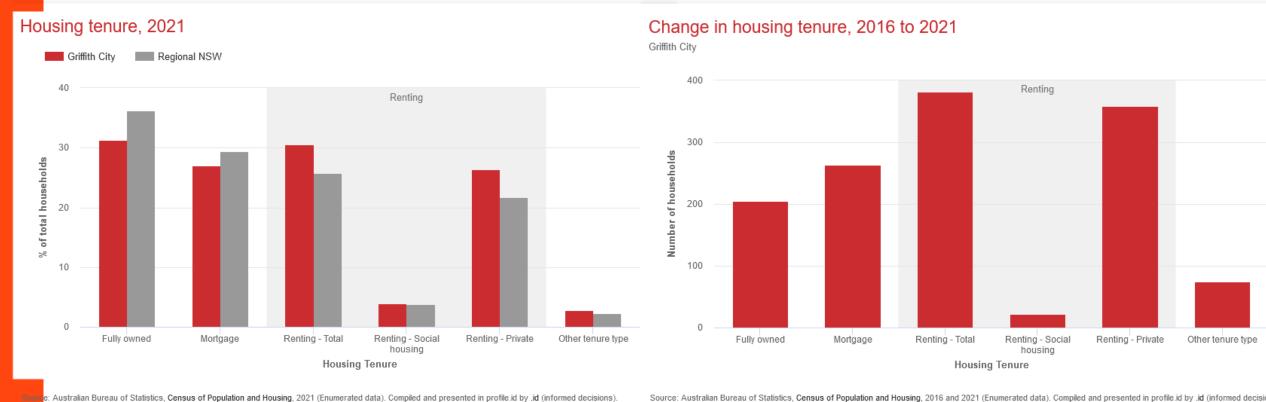
Household trends



Changes in dwelling size (bedrooms) mainly in the larger dwellings, fitting an increase in family households, but not so much the increase in 1-2 persons.



Housing trends



Griffith has an even mix of housing tenure, with a moderate rate of social housing, and a lot of private rental, mixed in with home ownership. The largest increase was in the private rental category at the 2021 Census.



housing.id

- Not currently a part of the Griffith .id toolkit available to add. Demonstration available.
- Detailed housing supply/building approvals data what types of dwellings are being built?
- What types of households live in what types of dwellings?
- How many affordable sales and rentals are there in each area (updated every 6 months)
- What is the demand for affordable housing?
- Quantify the level of housing affordability for different household types in different areas.
- Which occupation groups can afford to live in the area and who can't?
- Assess the housing shortfalls and what types of housing need to be built to accommodate the most vulnerable groups.

- Example:
- http://housing.id.com.au/wagga-wagga
- Fully updated with 2021 Census data and housing costs now include everything up to December 2024.





Housing prices and rents

These figures are from the Wagga Wagga housing.id site.

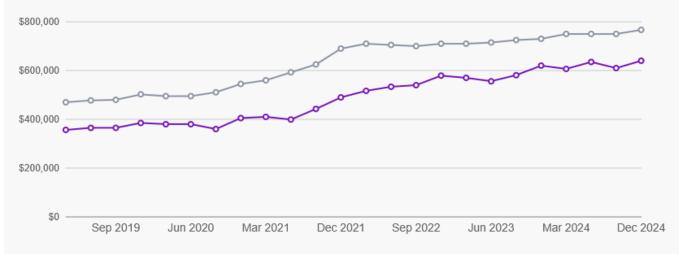
They show the escalation of house prices and rents over the last 5 years in Regional NSW.

Entry level (25th percentile) rent in Wagga Wagga now \$480/week, similar to Regional NSW \$490/week

How have house prices been changing?

Quarterly median and entry-level (25th percentile) housing prices (and rolling 12-month % change)

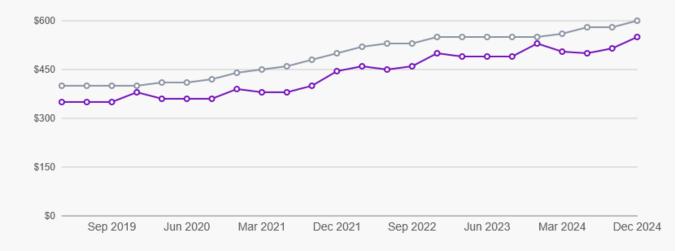
- Wagga Wagga median - Regional NSW median



How have house rental prices been changing?

Quarterly median and entry-level (25th percentile) housing rental prices (and rolling 12-month % change)

- Wagga Wagga median - Regional NSW median



Source: Compiled and presented by .id (informed decisions) using data from PropTrack Pty Ltd (ABN 43 127 386 298). Updated twice annually.



First Nations population and cultural diversity

TREND 2016-2021	Griffith City Council	New South Wales
First Nations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander)	1,432 people, 5.3% (+0.5%)	3.4% (+0.5%)
Overseas-born	6,085 people, 22.5%, (+3.7%)	29.3% (+1.7%)
Speaking non-English language at home	6,275 people, 23.2% (+2.5%)	26.6% (+1.5%)
No Religion/secular	18.4% (+4.2%) Main religions – Catholic, Anglican, Hinduism, Sikhism	33.0% (+7.6%)

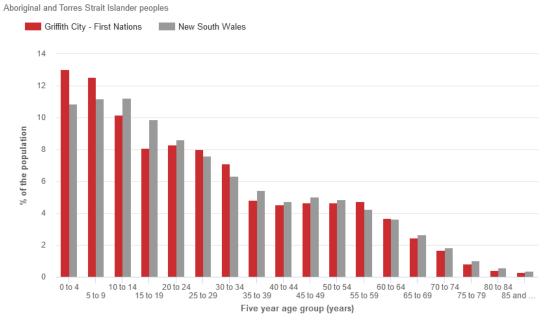
Significant and increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population.

A very high rate of overseas-born and non-English languages spoken compared to Regional NSW – close to the NSW overall average, which includes Sydney. And a high rate of religious affiliation with a mix of different religious groups. Large increase in cultural and language diversity in 2021.



First Nations characteristics

Five year age groups, 2021

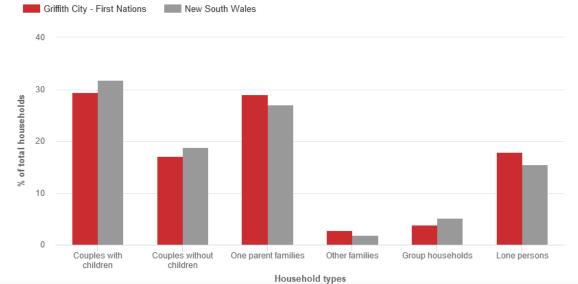


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2021 (Usual residence data). Compiled and presented in profile id by .id (informed decisions)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Griffith are even younger than the average are across NSW. Median age is 20, with 25% aged under 10. Only 22% had completed year 12, and 29% lived in single parent families. Social housing is very important for this population, but there is a larger share in private rental accommodation.

Household types, 2021

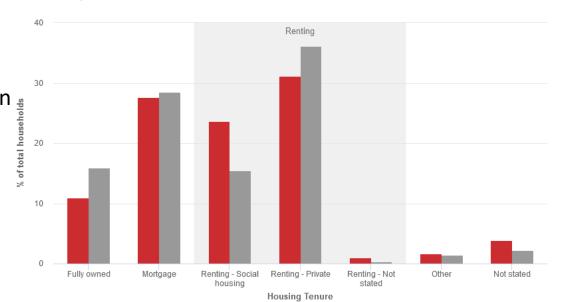
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Housing tenure, 2021

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households

Griffith City - First Nations

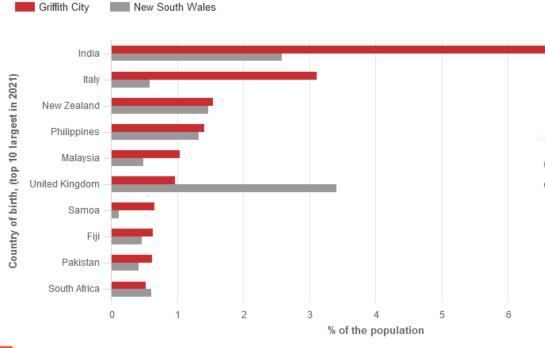


New South Wales



Birthplace

Birthplace, 2021



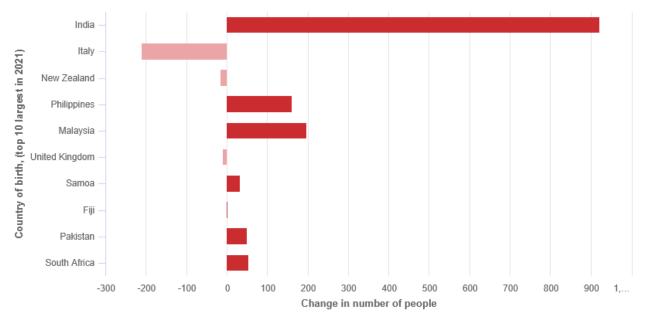
e: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2021 (Usual residence data). Compiled and presented in profile id by

Over 1/3rd of those born overseas had arrived in the last 5 years.

By far the largest birthplace group is now India, which has now doubled since 2016. Population born in Italy is now elderly and declining, while there are increases from countries like Philippines and Malaysia as well.

Change in birthplace, 2016 to 2021

Griffith City



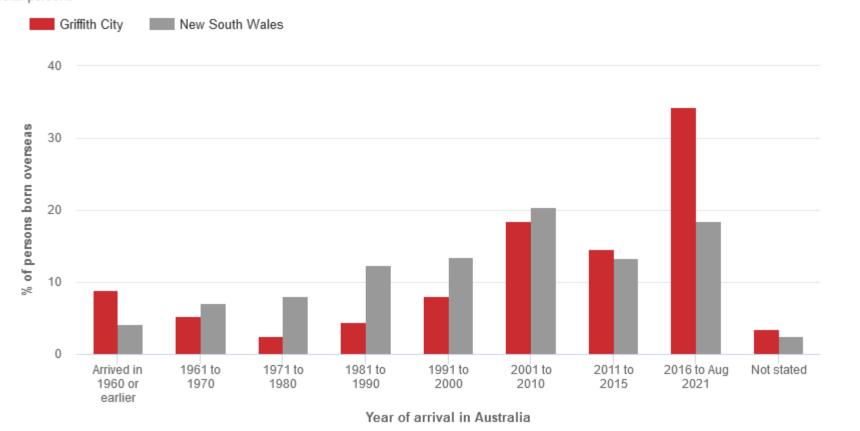
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2016 and 2021 (Usual residence data). Compiled and presented in profile.id by informed decisions).



Birthplace

Overseas arrivals, 2021

Total persons

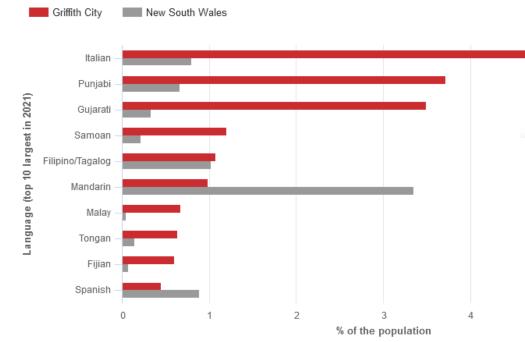


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2021 (Usual residence data). Compiled and presented in profile.id by id (informed decisions).



Language

Language used at home, 2021



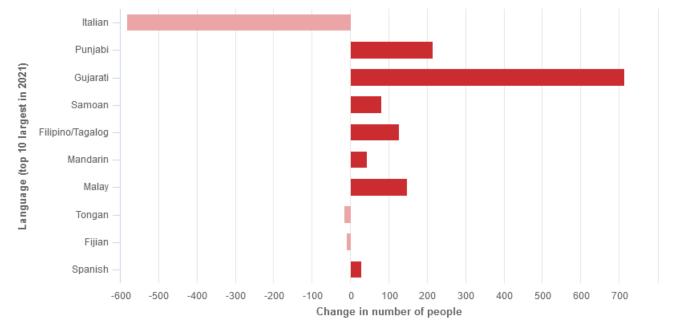
urce: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2021 (Usual residence data). Compiled and presented in profi

A total of 4.8% of Griffith's population had self-reported poor English proficiency.

Italian retains the #1 language after English spot, but 2021 was probably the last Census for this, with Indian languages such as Gujarati rising significantly. Pacific Islander groups also feature prominently, such as Tongan, Samoan and Fijian.

Change in language used at home, 2016 to 2021

Griffith City

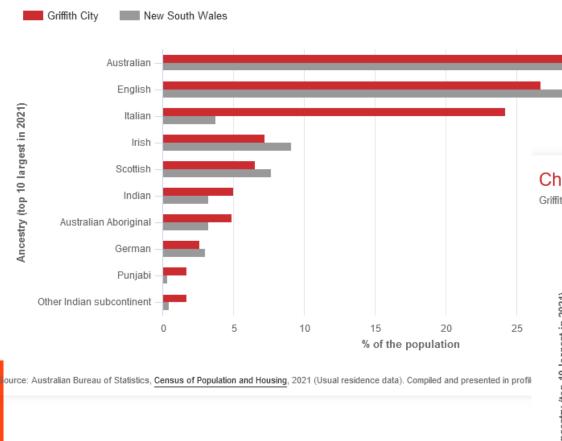


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2016 and 2021 (Usual residence data). Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id (informed decisions).



Ancestry

Ancestry, 2021

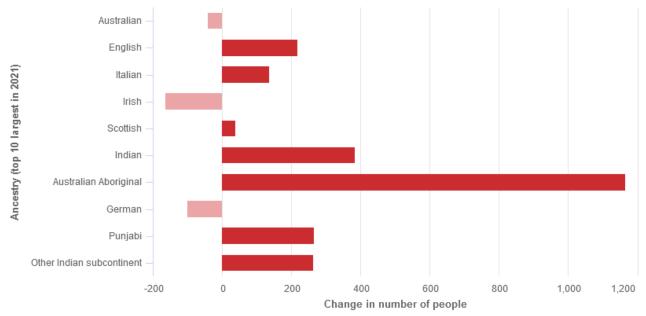


25% of the population report **Italian** ancestry, the highest of any LGA in Australia.

"Australian Aboriginal" ancestry increased due to a change of wording of the question. Still best to use the Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander status question for this one.

Change in ancestry, 2016 to 2021

Griffith City



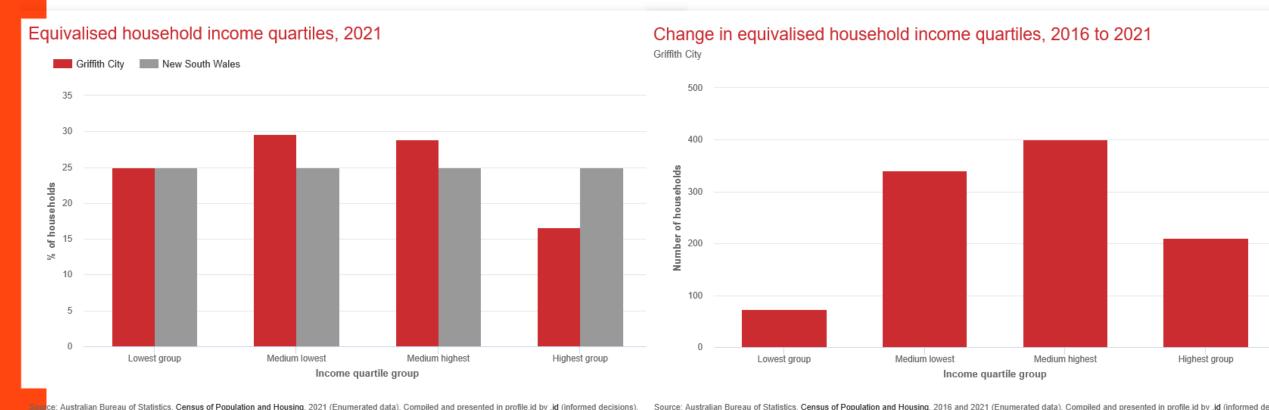


Socio-economic trends

TREND from 2016 to 2021	Griffith	New South Wales
Median weekly household income	\$1,715 +29% (higher than Regional NSW, a little lower than Sydney)	\$1,829 +23%
Median weekly rental payment (this will have increased since Census)	\$295 +34%	\$420 +11%
Median weekly mortgage payment (note – prior to 13 RBA interest rate rises)	\$339	\$500 +9%
SEIFA Index of Disadvantage	974 on Disadvantage index 950 on Advantage/Disadvantage index A little below the Australian average. Around midway through the list for Regional NSW.	Generally urban Griffith is moderate to low SEIFA, while the areas surrounding the city are quite high SEIFA (more advantaged). Lake Wyangan – Nericon is the most advantaged, while Griffith (Central-South) is the most disadvantaged, in the 6 th percentile nationwide.



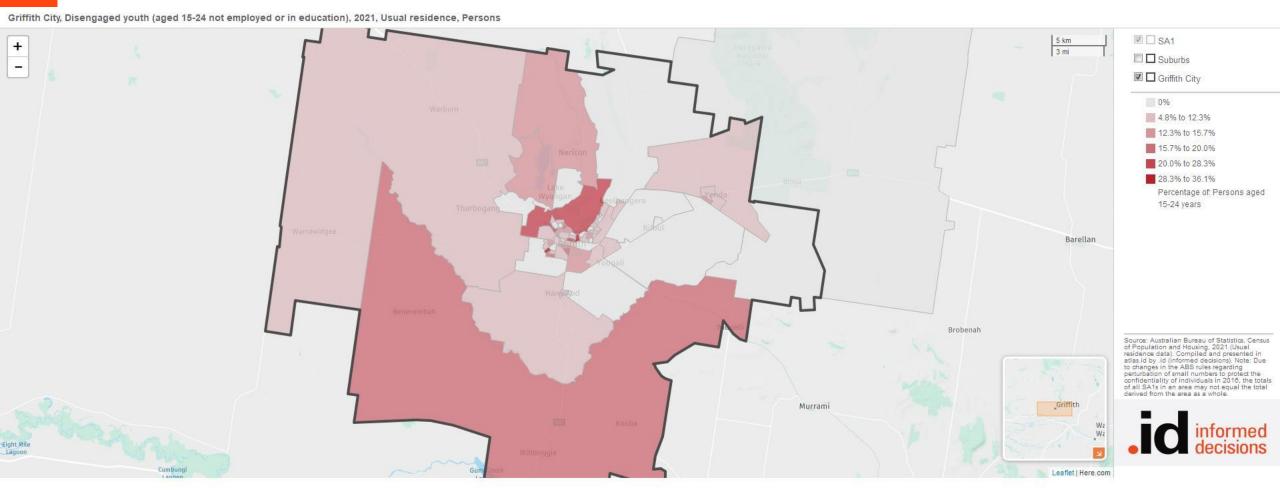
Household income



Griffith incomes are in the middle compared to NSW overall, and slightly higher compared to Regional NSW, with household growth being mainly in the middle incomes.



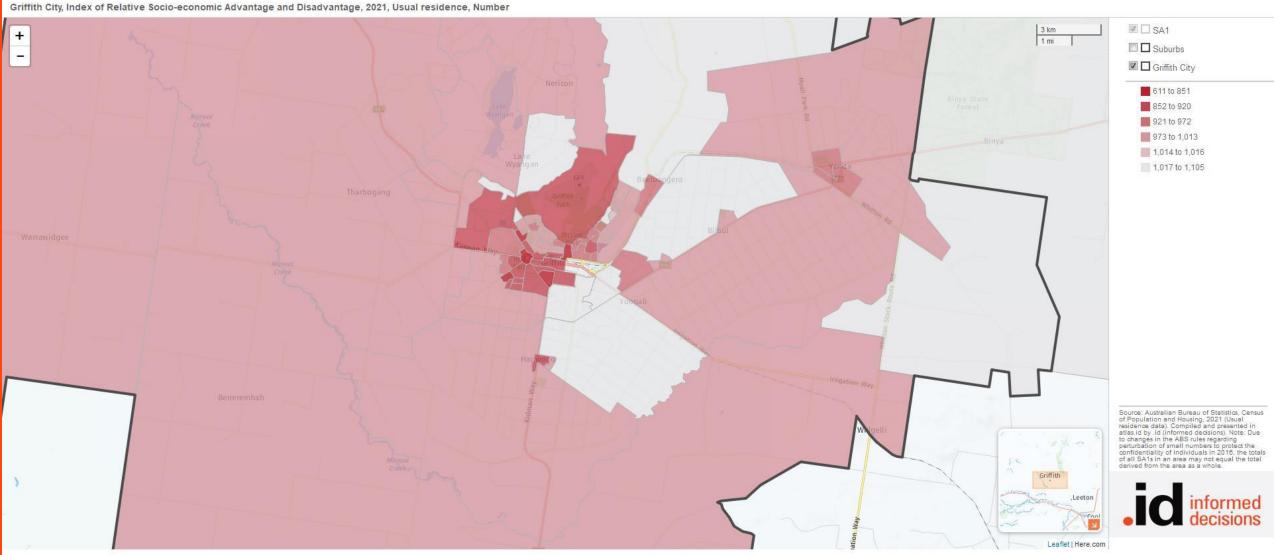
Disengaged youth



9.6% of youth aged 15-24 are not employed or in education. That's very close to the state average, but there are higher pockets in parts of Griffith. Disengagement fell at the last Census as the employment market tightened.



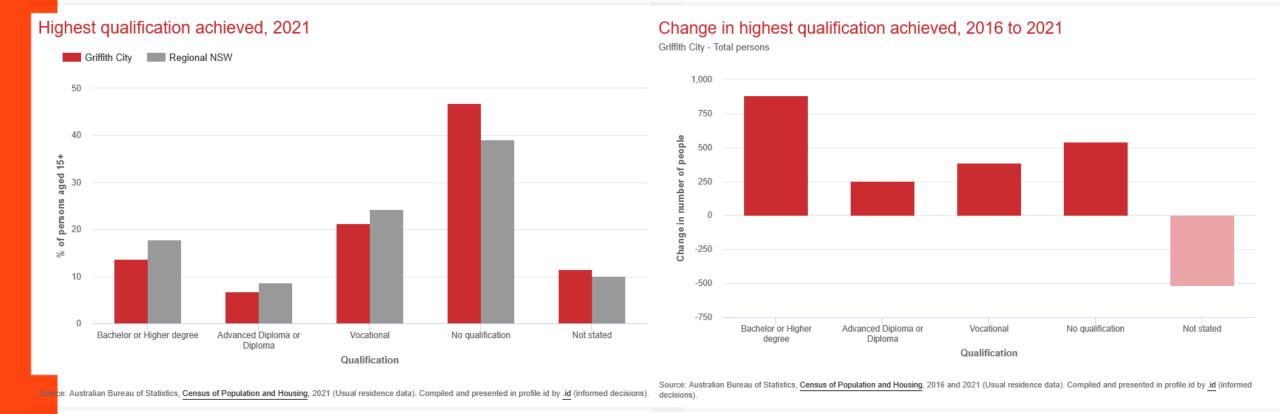
SEIFA Index of advantage/disadvantage



Darker shades of red are more disadvantaged areas, mainly in older parts of Griffith. Urban fringe areas and nearby orcharding areas just outside the town are high SEIFA. The lowest SEIFA are areas dominated by public housing.



Qualifications

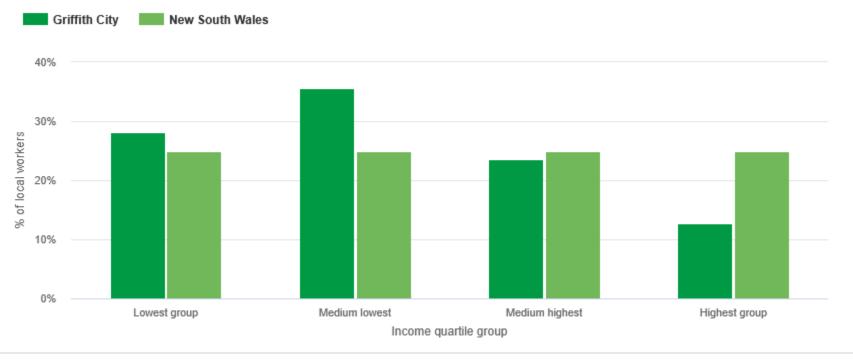


Griffith has a very low rate of post-school qualifications, though there was a significant increase last Census in people with a bachelor degree (now 13.8% of population). Among employed people this was 18.8% (but statewide it's 38%).



Griffith incomes





Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2021 Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id (informed decisions).

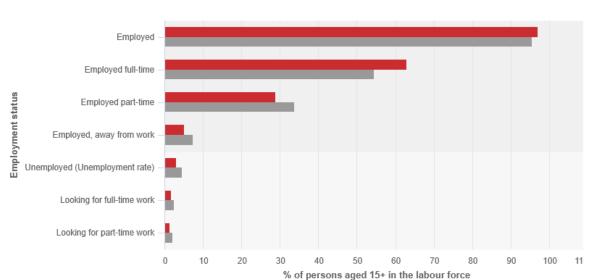
The actual incomes (salaries and wages) of workers are a bit lower than NSW, with the medium lowest category containing the largest share of those in the workforce.



Griffith employment

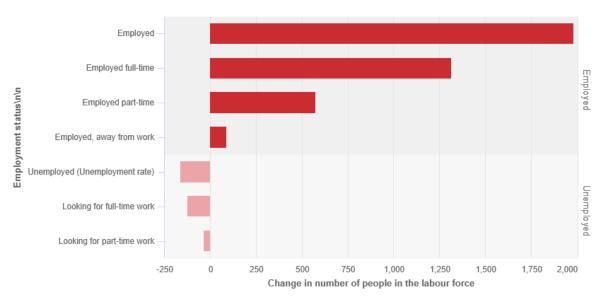






Change in employment status, 2016 to 2021

Griffith City - Total persons in the labour force



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2016 and 2021 (Usual residence data). Compiled and presented in profile.id by id (informed Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2021 (Usual residence data). Compiled and presented in profile.id by id (informed decisions). decisions).

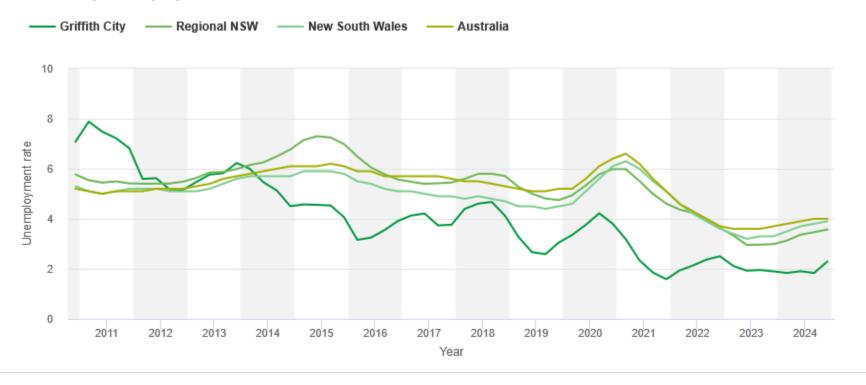
Unemployment fell to a low of 3.0% at the last Census, almost full employment.

Workforce participation rate is also high, at 65% (NSW average 59%).



Griffith employment

Quarterly unemployment rate



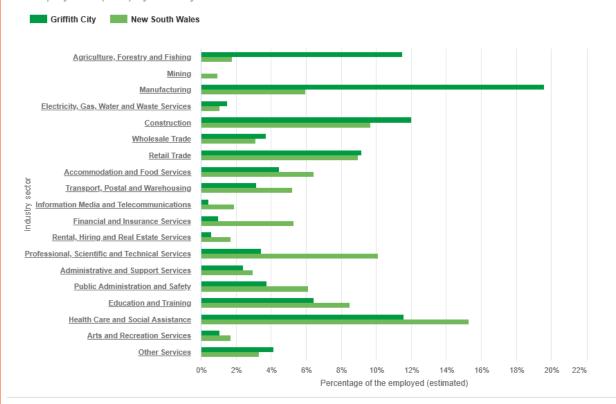
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Labour force survey catalogue number 6202.0, and Department of Employment, Small Area Labour Markets. Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id (informed decisions).

Dec 2024 unemployment just 2.3%, which is actually an up-tick from the previous quarter. Griffith has been below NSW average since 2014. This has been close to full employment for many years and a key challenge for local businesses to find workers.

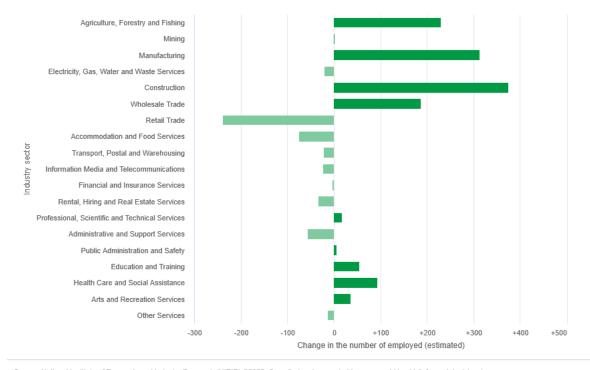


Griffith employment

Employment (total) by industry 2023/24



Change in employment (total) by industry, 2021/22 to 2023/24 Griffith City



Source: National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) @2025. Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id (informed decisions).

Source: National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) @2025. Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id (informed decisions).

Total employment of 16,657 jobs in 2023/24, increase of over 800 in the past 2 years.

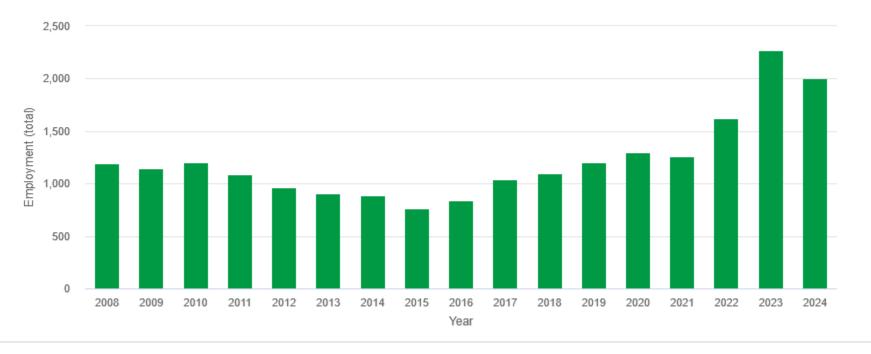
Three big sectors – Manufacturing, Agriculture and Construction all increased, while there was a decline in Retail Trade employment.



Construction

Time series - Employment (total)

Griffith City - Construction



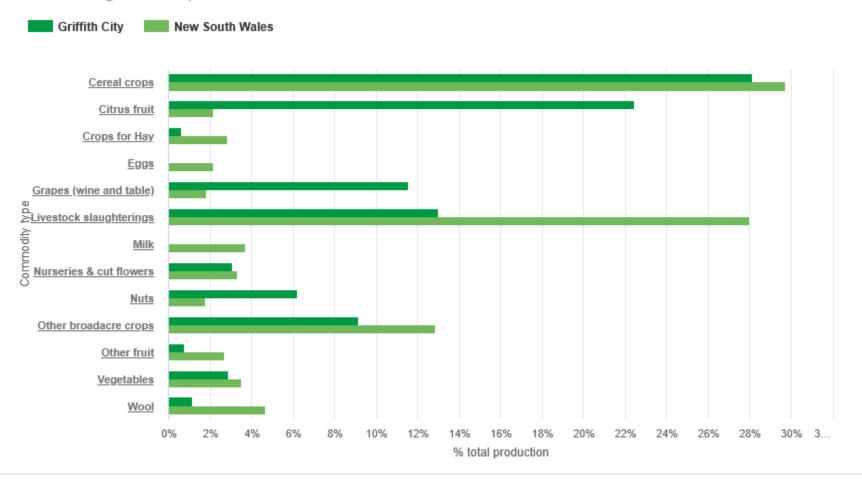
Source: National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) @2025. Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id (informed decisions).

Construction employment fell in the last year with the completion of the major development of the new hospital. But it remains high in comparison to the previous 20 years.



Agriculture

Value of agricultural production 2020/21



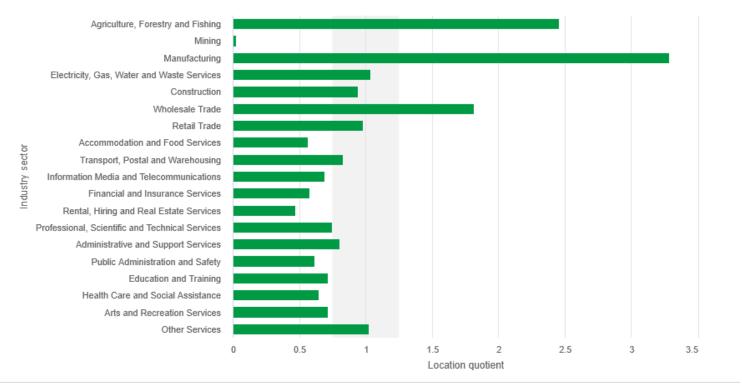
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia, 2020/21. Cat. No. 7503.0



Location quotient

Location quotient by industry sector 2023/24 Employment (Total)

Griffith City relative to Regional NSW



Source: National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) @2025. Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id (informed decisions).

Two clear strengths for Griffith – Agriculture and Manufacturing.

Within these, specific sub-sector location quotients:

Agriculture: 2.41

Food product manufacturing: 4.57

Beverage manufacturing: 22.4

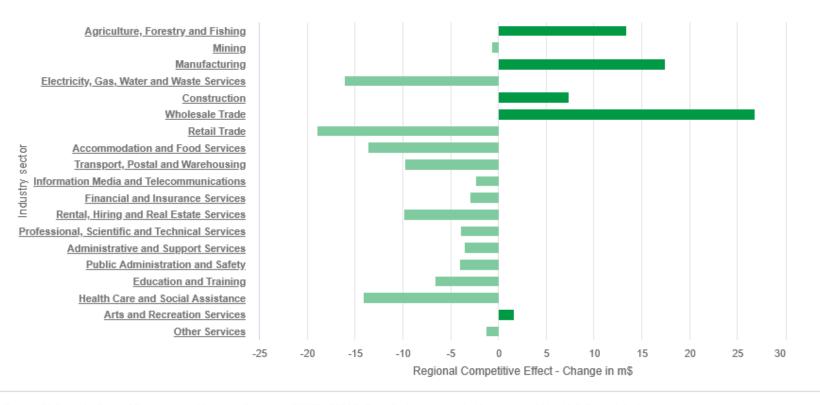


Shift share

Shift Share allows us to benchmark change, it shows which industries are growing due to local effects, vs. just increasing at the same rate as the broader region.



Griffith City relative to Regional NSW



Source: National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) @2025. Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id (informed decisions).

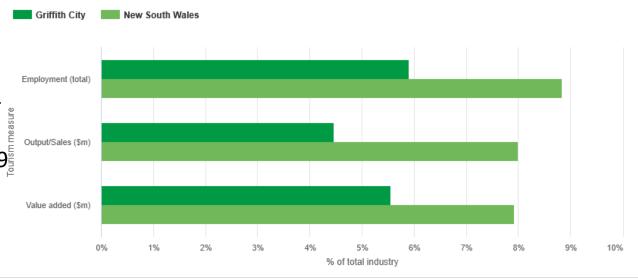
- Both the key sectors of Agriculture and Manufacturing show strong local positive effects. They are growing faster than the rate across NSW. So is Wholesale Trade.
- Over 2 years, winemaking (Beverage manufacturing) is increasing, but has had a decline longer-term.
 Vulnerability due to reduced demand in export markets.
- Retail trade shows the biggest decline due to local effects in the last 2 years. Retail shops in Griffith CBD are closing.



Tourism

Value of tourism

Tourism makes up a small proportion of the total economic value and employment in Griffith, around 5-6%. Nevertheless this took a hit during the COVID lockdowns and has since bounced back to around 2019 levels (inflation adjusted).



Value of tourism 2023/24





forecast.id

- Online information tool, for council staff, and for the public.
- Population, household, dwellings, age structure and household type
- 2021 to 2046, in individual years.
- Broken into the same suburb/district areas as profile.id.
- Politically independent.
- Features a rang of assumptions on local dwellings and development, migration rates etc. constrained at the top level by state and regional assumptions (e.g. overseas migration rate)
- http://forecast.id.com.au/griffith

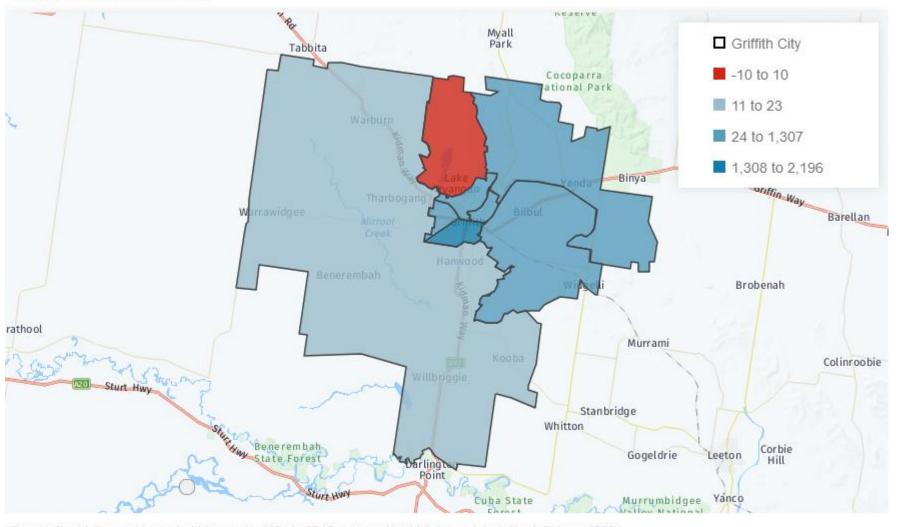
population forecast plan for the future based on a set of agreed assumptions,



Forecast population

Population and age structure map - total persons

Griffith City, 2021 to 2046 number change



Source: Population and household forecasts, 2021 to 2046, prepared by .id (informed decisions), February 2024.

All areas of Griffith City are expected to have some population growth except Lake Wyangan which is stable in the next 25 years.

Slow but consistent population growth is expected to continue for the whole LGA through to 2046.

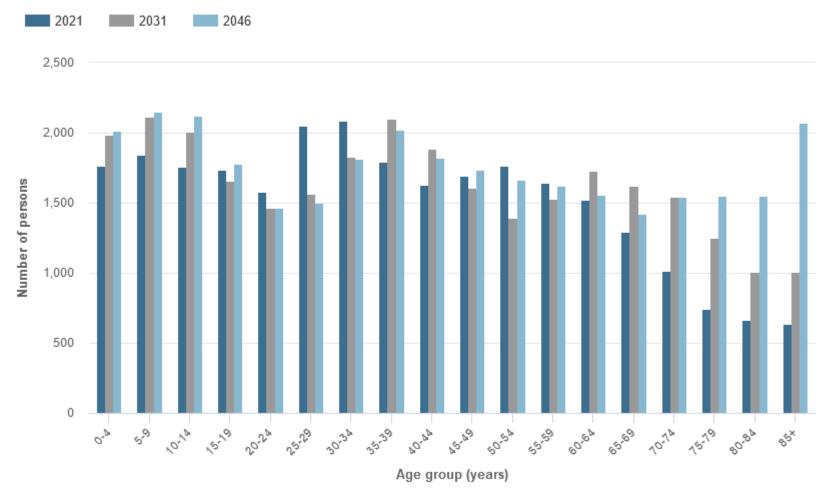
The population exceeds 30,000 in 2036, and reaches 31,420 by 2046.

This is very close to the NSW Planning official projections at 2041, but also breaks down to smaller districts.

Forecast population

Forecast age structure - 5 year age groups

Griffith City - Total persons



With the ageing of the baby boomers and greater life expectancy comes a big increase in older population.

Griffith remains a family area with a high share of adults and children.

But the number aged 80+ will increase 3-fold in the next 25 years.

Source: Population and household forecasts, 2021 to 2046, prepared by id (informed decisions), February 2024.



Key challenges – Griffith City

- Griffith is a growing area within a wide region of population decline. It's one of the few regional centres which receives substantial overseas migration, as well as movement in from surrounding areas. But it loses population to Melbourne and Canberra.
- Need to maintain services and a growing economy while catering for an older population, estimated 3-fold increase in 80+ by 2046. Expect a wave of retirements over the next 20 years (not unique to Griffith!)
- Local businesses struggle to find workers in a low unemployment rate, yet young people leave to Melbourne and Canberra. Challenge to provide a range of jobs and diversify industry sectors to retain young people or attract them back.
- Completion of the new Griffith Base Hospital has triggered a decrease in construction in the last year expect to see this continue in subsequent years.
- The Wine industry is vulnerable to reduced export demand, and has declined long-term but increased recently.
- Housing providing affordable housing in a growing population in the face of large increases in rents forcing some people out.



Looking ahead to new datasets

NEXT UPDATES:

- -Population numbers and migration numbers for 2025 in March 2026
- -Economic modelling for 2024-25 in April 2026
- -Monthly updates on building approvals, JobSeeker.
- -Quarterly updates on unemployment and total size of the economy.
- -Forecast reviewed and tweaked from mid-2026, and annually thereafter.
- -Census run in August 2026 new numbers due from mid-2027 across all key demographic characteristics.



Summary

- Griffith City Council has access to 4 of .id's information tools – community profile, social atlas, population forecast and economic profile. They are largely publicly accessible, except for some parts of forecast and economy.
- The housing monitor module and community views are available to add.
- .id is available to help and provide training and ongoing support for all staff and users of the data.
- You can export all the datasets and we encourage council staff and community and business groups to use the datasets with attribution.
- Slides and optionally register for blog/newsletter http://content.id.com.au/briefings (or scan QR)

Access all your .id sites from the following URLs

http://profile.id.com.au/griffith
http://atlas.id.com.au/griffith
http://forecast.id.com.au/griffith
http://economy.id.com.au/griffith

http://profile.id.com.au/RAMJO http://economy.id.com.au/RAMJO community views

near community views

housing monitor

monitor housing provision and affordability

Additional data, queries and support:
Glenn Capuano
0408 318 544
glenn@id.com.au

community profile

understand your community over multiple timescales



Scan QR code to sign up for .id's newsletter, blog and product updates.

economic profile

analyse jobs, industry and model economic change

social atlas

allocate your resources at a local level

population forecast

plan for the future based on a set of agreed assumptions

