[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Use Australian English](/wiki/Template:Use_Australian_English) [Template:Infobox Australian place](/wiki/Template:Infobox_Australian_place) **Melbourne** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en), [Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en))[[1]](#cite_note-1)[[2]](#cite_note-2) is the capital and most populous city in the Australian [state](/wiki/States_and_territories_of_Australia) of [Victoria](/wiki/Victoria_(Australia)), and the [second most populous city](/wiki/List_of_cities_in_Australia_by_population) in [Australia](/wiki/Australia) and [Oceania](/wiki/Oceania).[[3]](#cite_note-3) The name "Melbourne" refers to the area of [urban agglomeration](/wiki/Urban_agglomeration) (as well as a [census](/wiki/Census) statistical division) spanning [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) which comprises the broader metropolitan area, as well as being the common name for [its city centre](/wiki/Melbourne_City_Centre). The metropolis is located on the large natural bay of [Port Phillip](/wiki/Port_Phillip) and expands into the hinterlands towards the [Dandenong](/wiki/Dandenong_Ranges) and [Macedon](/wiki/Macedon_Ranges) mountain ranges, [Mornington Peninsula](/wiki/Mornington_Peninsula) and [Yarra Valley](/wiki/Yarra_Valley). Melbourne consists of [31 municipalities](/wiki/Local_Government_Areas_of_Victoria#Municipalities_of_Greater_Melbourne).[[4]](#cite_note-4) It has a population of 4,529,500 [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), and its inhabitants are called Melburnians.[[5]](#cite_note-5)[[6]](#cite_note-6) Founded by free settlers from the [British](/wiki/British_Empire) [Crown colony](/wiki/Crown_colony) of [Van Diemen's Land](/wiki/Van_Diemen's_Land) on 30 August 1835, in what was then the colony of [New South Wales](/wiki/New_South_Wales),[[7]](#cite_note-7) it was incorporated as a Crown settlement in 1837.[[7]](#cite_note-7) It was named "Melbourne" by the [Governor](/wiki/Governors_of_New_South_Wales) of New South Wales, Sir [Richard Bourke](/wiki/Richard_Bourke), in honour of the British Prime Minister of the day, [William Lamb, 2nd Viscount Melbourne](/wiki/William_Lamb,_2nd_Viscount_Melbourne).[[7]](#cite_note-7) It was officially declared a city by [Queen Victoria](/wiki/Queen_Victoria) in 1847,[[8]](#cite_note-8) after which it became the capital of the newly founded colony of Victoria in 1851.[[8]](#cite_note-8) During the [Victorian gold rush](/wiki/Victorian_gold_rush) of the 1850s, it was transformed into one of the world's largest and wealthiest cities.[[9]](#cite_note-9) After the [federation of Australia](/wiki/Federation_of_Australia) in 1901, it served as the nation's interim [seat of government](/wiki/Seat_of_government) until 1927.[[10]](#cite_note-10) Melbourne rates highly in education, entertainment, health care, research and development, tourism and sport,<ref name=langmaid>Langmaid, Aaron (28 April 2010). [We're sport's champion city again](http://www.heraldsun.com.au/sport/were-sports-champion-city-again/story-e6frf9if-1225859380654). [*Herald Sun*](/wiki/Herald_Sun). News Limited. Retrieved 29 December 2013.</ref> making it the [world's most liveable city](/wiki/World's_Most_Livable_Cities)—for the fifth year in a row in 2015, according to the [Economist Intelligence Unit](/wiki/Economist_Intelligence_Unit).[[11]](#cite_note-11) It is a leading [financial centre](/wiki/Financial_centre) in the [Asia-Pacific](/wiki/Asia-Pacific) region, and ranks among the top 30 cities in the world in the [Global Financial Centres Index](/wiki/Global_Financial_Centres_Index).[[12]](#cite_note-12)[[13]](#cite_note-13) Referred to as Australia's "cultural capital",[[14]](#cite_note-14) it is the birthplace of [Australian impressionism](/wiki/Heidelberg_School), [Australian rules football](/wiki/Australian_rules_football), the [Australian film](/wiki/Cinema_of_Australia) and [television industries](/wiki/Television_in_Australia), and [Australian contemporary dance](/wiki/Dance_in_Australia). It is recognised as a [UNESCO](/wiki/UNESCO) [City of Literature](/wiki/City_of_Literature) and a major centre for [street art](/wiki/Street_art_in_Melbourne), [music](/wiki/Music_of_Melbourne) and theatre. It is home to many of Australia's largest and oldest cultural institutions such as the [Melbourne Cricket Ground](/wiki/Melbourne_Cricket_Ground), the [National Gallery of Victoria](/wiki/National_Gallery_of_Victoria), the [State Library of Victoria](/wiki/State_Library_of_Victoria) and the UNESCO [World Heritage](/wiki/World_Heritage_Site)-listed [Royal Exhibition Building](/wiki/Royal_Exhibition_Building).

The main passenger airport serving the metropolis and the state is [Melbourne Airport](/wiki/Melbourne_Airport) (also called Tullamarine Airport), which is the second busiest in Australia, and the [Port of Melbourne](/wiki/Port_of_Melbourne) is Australia's busiest seaport for containerised and general cargo.[[15]](#cite_note-15) Melbourne has an extensive [transport network](/wiki/Transport_in_Melbourne). The main [metropolitan train](/wiki/Railways_in_Melbourne) terminus is [Flinders Street Station](/wiki/Flinders_Street_Station), and the main [regional train](/wiki/Rail_transport_in_Victoria) and coach terminus is [Southern Cross Station](/wiki/Southern_Cross_Station). Melbourne is also home to Australia's most extensive freeway network and has the [world's largest urban tram network](/wiki/Trams_in_Melbourne).<ref name=DOT\_tram>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)[Template:Dead link](/wiki/Template:Dead_link)</ref>

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## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

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### Early history and foundation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|left|Melbourne Landing, 1840; watercolour by W. Liardet (1840)](/wiki/File:Landing_at_melbourne_1840.jpg) Before the arrival of European settlers, humans had occupied the area for an estimated 31,000 to 40,000 years.[[16]](#cite_note-16) At the time of European settlement, it was inhabited by under 20,000[[17]](#cite_note-17) [hunter-gatherers](/wiki/Hunter-gatherer) from three [indigenous](/wiki/Indigenous_Australian) [regional tribes](/wiki/Kulin): the [Wurundjeri](/wiki/Wurundjeri), [Boonwurrung](/wiki/Bunurong) and [Wathaurong](/wiki/Wathaurong).[[18]](#cite_note-18) The area was an important meeting place for the clans of the [Kulin](/wiki/Kulin) nation alliance and a vital source of food and water.[[19]](#cite_note-19)[[20]](#cite_note-20) The first European settlement in Victoria was established by Colonel [David Collins](/wiki/David_Collins_(governor)) in October 1803, at [Sullivan Bay](/wiki/Sullivan_Bay,_Victoria), near present-day [Sorrento](/wiki/Sorrento,_Victoria), but this settlement was relocated to what is now [Hobart](/wiki/Hobart), Tasmania, in February 1804, due to a perceived lack of resources. It would be 30 years before another settlement was attempted.[[21]](#cite_note-21) In May and June 1835, the area which is now central and northern Melbourne was explored by [John Batman](/wiki/John_Batman), a leading member of the [Port Phillip Association](/wiki/Port_Phillip_Association) in [Van Diemen's Land](/wiki/Van_Diemen's_Land) (now known as Tasmania), who claimed to have negotiated a purchase of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) with eight Wurundjeri elders.[[19]](#cite_note-19)[[20]](#cite_note-20) Batman selected a site on the northern bank of the Yarra River, declaring that "this will be the place for a village".[[22]](#cite_note-22) Batman then returned to [Launceston](/wiki/Launceston,_Tasmania) in Tasmania. In early August 1835 a different group of settlers, including [John Pascoe Fawkner](/wiki/John_Pascoe_Fawkner), left Launceston on the ship [Enterprize](/wiki/Enterprize_(1829)). Fawkner was forced to disembark at Georgetown, Tasmania, because of outstanding debts. The remainder of the party continued and arrived at the mouth of the Yarra River on 15 August 1835. On 30 August 1835 the party disembarked and established a settlement at the site of the current [Melbourne Immigration Museum](/wiki/Immigration_Museum,_Melbourne). Batman and his group arrived on 2 September 1835 and the two groups ultimately agreed to share the settlement.

[Batman's Treaty](/wiki/Batman's_Treaty) with the Aborigines was annulled by the [New South Wales](/wiki/New_South_Wales) governor (who at the time governed all of eastern mainland Australia), with compensation paid to members of the association.[[19]](#cite_note-19) In 1836, [Governor Bourke](/wiki/Governor_Bourke) declared the city the administrative capital of the [Port Phillip District](/wiki/Port_Phillip_District) of New South Wales, and commissioned the first plan for the city, the [Hoddle Grid](/wiki/Hoddle_Grid), in 1837.[[23]](#cite_note-23) The settlement was named Batmania after Batman. However, later that year the settlement was named "Melbourne" after the [British Prime Minister](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_the_United_Kingdom), [William Lamb, 2nd Viscount Melbourne](/wiki/William_Lamb,_2nd_Viscount_Melbourne), whose [seat](/wiki/Family_seat) was [Melbourne Hall](/wiki/Melbourne_Hall) in the [market town](/wiki/Market_town) of [Melbourne](/wiki/Melbourne,_Derbyshire), [Derbyshire](/wiki/Derbyshire). On 13 April 1837 the settlement's [general post office](/wiki/General_Post_Office,_Melbourne) officially opened with that name.[[24]](#cite_note-24) Between 1836 and 1842 Victorian Aboriginal groups were largely dispossessed of their land by European settlers.[[25]](#cite_note-25) By January 1844, there were said to be 675 Aborigines resident in squalid camps in Melbourne.[[26]](#cite_note-26) The British Colonial Office appointed five [Aboriginal Protectors](/wiki/Protector_of_Aborigines) for the Aborigines of Victoria, in 1839, however their work was nullified by a land policy that favoured [squatters](/wiki/Squatting_(pastoral)) to take possession of Aboriginal lands.[[27]](#cite_note-27) By 1845, fewer than 240 wealthy Europeans held all the pastoral licences then issued in Victoria and became a powerful political and economic force in Victoria for generations to come.[[28]](#cite_note-28) [Letters patent](/wiki/Letters_patent) of [Queen Victoria](/wiki/Victoria_of_the_United_Kingdom), issued on 25 June 1847, declared Melbourne a city.[[8]](#cite_note-8) On 1 July 1851 the Port Phillip District became the separate Colony of Victoria, with Melbourne as its capital.[[29]](#cite_note-29)

### Victorian gold rush[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|"Canvas Town", South Melbourne in the 1850s depicting temporary accommodation for the thousands who poured into Melbourne each week during the gold rush.](/wiki/File:Canvas_town_south_melbourne_victoria_1850s.jpg) The discovery of gold in Victoria in mid 1851 led to the [Victorian gold rush](/wiki/Victorian_gold_rush), and Melbourne, which served as the major port and provided most services for the region, experienced rapid growth. Within months, the city's population had increased by nearly three-quarters, from 25,000 to 40,000 inhabitants.[[30]](#cite_note-30) Thereafter, growth was exponential and by 1865, Melbourne had overtaken Sydney as Australia's most populous city.[[31]](#cite_note-31) Additionally, Melbourne along with the Victorian regional cities of Ballarat and Geelong became the wealthiest cities in the world during the Gold Rush era.

An influx of interstate and overseas migrants, particularly Irish, German and Chinese, saw the development of slums including a temporary "tent city" established on the southern banks of the Yarra. Chinese migrants founded the [Melbourne Chinatown](/wiki/Melbourne_Chinatown) in 1851, which remains the longest continuous Chinese settlement in the Western World.[[32]](#cite_note-32) In the aftermath of the [Eureka Stockade](/wiki/Eureka_Rebellion), mass public support for the plight of the miners resulted in major political changes to the colony, including changes to working conditions across local industries including mining, agriculture and manufacturing. The nationalities involved in the Eureka revolt and [Burke and Wills expedition](/wiki/Burke_and_Wills_expedition) gave an indication of immigration flows in the second half of the nineteenth century.[[33]](#cite_note-33) With the wealth brought on by the gold rush following closely on the heels of the establishment of Victoria as a separate colony and the subsequent need for public buildings, a program of grand civic construction soon began. The 1850s and 1860s saw the commencement of [Parliament House](/wiki/Parliament_House,_Melbourne), the [Treasury Building](/wiki/Old_Treasury_Building,_Melbourne), the [Old Melbourne Gaol](/wiki/Old_Melbourne_Gaol), [Victoria Barracks](/wiki/Victoria_Barracks,_Melbourne), the [State Library](/wiki/State_Library_of_Victoria), [University](/wiki/University_of_Melbourne), [General Post Office](/wiki/Melbourne_GPO), [Customs House](/wiki/Immigration_Museum,_Melbourne), the [Melbourne Town Hall](/wiki/Melbourne_Town_Hall), [St Patrick's](/wiki/St_Patrick's_Cathedral,_Melbourne) cathedral, though many remained uncompleted for decades, with some still not finished.

The layout of the inner suburbs on a largely one-mile grid pattern, cut through by wide radial boulevards, and string of gardens surrounding the central city was largely established in the 1850s and 1860s. These areas were rapidly filled from the mid 1850s by the ubiquitous terrace house, as well as detached houses and some grand mansions in large grounds, while some of the major roads developed as shopping streets. Melbourne quickly became a major finance centre, home to several banks, the [Royal Mint](/wiki/Melbourne_Mint), and Australia's first [stock exchange](/wiki/Australian_Securities_Exchange) in 1861.[[34]](#cite_note-34) In 1855 the [Melbourne Cricket Club](/wiki/Melbourne_Cricket_Club) secured possession of its now famous ground, the [MCG](/wiki/MCG). Members of the [Melbourne Football Club](/wiki/Melbourne_Football_Club) codified [Australian football](/wiki/Australian_football) in 1859, and Yarra rowing clubs and "regattas" became popular about the same time. In 1861 the [Melbourne Cup](/wiki/Melbourne_Cup) was first run. In 1864 Melbourne acquired its first public monument—the Burke and Wills statue.

With the gold rush largely over by 1860, Melbourne continued to grow on the back of continuing gold mining, as the major port for exporting the agricultural products of Victoria, especially wool, and a developing manufacturing sector protected by high tariffs. An extensive radial railway network centred on Melbourne and spreading out across the suburbs and into the countryside was established from the late 1850s. Further major public buildings were begun in the 1860s and 1870s such as the [Supreme Court](/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_Victoria), [Government House](/wiki/Government_House,_Melbourne), and the [Queen Victoria Market](/wiki/Queen_Victoria_Market). The central city filled up with shops and offices, workshops, and warehouses. Large banks and hotels faced the main streets, with fine townhouses in the east end of Collins Street, contrasting with tiny cottages down laneways within the blocks. The Aboriginal population continued to decline with an estimated 80% total decrease by 1863, due primarily to introduced diseases, particularly [smallpox](/wiki/Smallpox),[[17]](#cite_note-17) frontier violence and dispossession from their lands.

### Land boom and bust[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[thumb|Lithograph of the](/wiki/File:Melbourne_international_exhibition_1880.jpg) [Royal Exhibition Building](/wiki/Royal_Exhibition_Building), built to host the [Melbourne International Exhibition](/wiki/Melbourne_International_Exhibition_(1880)) of 1880 The decade of the 1880s was one of extraordinary growth, when consumer confidence, easy access to credit, and steep increases in the price of land, led to an enormous amount of construction. This 'land boom' was followed by a severe economic crash in the early 1890s which lasted until the end of the century. During the boom, Melbourne had reputedly become the richest city in the world,[[9]](#cite_note-9) and the largest after London in the [British Empire](/wiki/British_Empire).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

The decade began with the Melbourne International Exhibition in 1880, held in the large purpose-built [Exhibition Building](/wiki/Royal_Exhibition_Building). In 1880 a telephone exchange was established and in the same year the foundations of [St Paul's](/wiki/St_Paul's_Cathedral,_Melbourne), were laid; in 1881 electric light was installed in the Eastern Market, and in the following year a generating station capable of supplying 2,000 incandescent lamps was in operation.[[35]](#cite_note-35) In 1885 the first line of the [Melbourne cable tramway system](/wiki/Melbourne_cable_tramway_system) was built, becoming one of the worlds most extensive systems by 1890.

[thumb|left|upright|Federal Coffee Palace, one of many grand hotels erected during the boom](/wiki/File:Federal_Coffee_Palace_Melbourne.jpg) During a visit in 1885 English journalist [George Augustus Henry Sala](/wiki/George_Augustus_Henry_Sala) coined the phrase "Marvellous Melbourne", which stuck long into the twentieth century and is still used today by Melburnians.[[36]](#cite_note-36) Growing building activity culminated in a "land boom" which, in 1888, reached a peak of speculative development fuelled by consumer confidence and escalating land value.[[37]](#cite_note-37) As a result of the boom, large commercial buildings, [coffee palaces](/wiki/Coffee_palace), [terrace housing](/wiki/Terrace_house) and palatial mansions proliferated in the city.[[37]](#cite_note-37) The establishment of a hydraulic facility in 1887 allowed for the local manufacture of elevators, resulting in the first construction of high-rise buildings;[[38]](#cite_note-38) most notably the [APA Building](/wiki/APA_Building), amongst the world's tallest commercial buildings upon completion in 1889.[[37]](#cite_note-37) This period also saw the expansion of a major radial rail-based transport network.[[39]](#cite_note-39) In 1888, the Exhibition Building hosted a second event even larger than the first, the Melbourne Centennial Exhibition, spurring construction of numerous hotels including the 500 room [Federal Hotel](/wiki/Federal_Hotel), The Palace Hotel in Bourke Street (both since demolished), and the doubling in size of the [Grand (Windsor)](/wiki/Hotel_Windsor_(Melbourne)).

A brash [boosterism](/wiki/Boosterism) that had typified Melbourne during this time ended in the early 1890s with a severe depression of the city's economy, sending the local finance and property industries into a period of chaos[[37]](#cite_note-37)[[40]](#cite_note-40) during which 16 small "land banks" and building societies collapsed, and 133 limited companies went into liquidation. The Melbourne financial crisis was a contributing factor in the [Australian economic depression of the 1890s](/wiki/Economic_history_of_Australia) and the [Australian banking crisis of 1893](/wiki/Australian_banking_crisis_of_1893). The effects of the depression on the city were profound, with virtually no new construction until the late 1890s.[[41]](#cite_note-41)[[42]](#cite_note-42)

### Capital of Australia[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Opening_of_the_first_parliament.jpg)[*The Big Picture*](/wiki/The_Big_Picture_(painting)), the opening of the first [Parliament of Australia](/wiki/Parliament_of_Australia) on 9 May 1901, painted by [Tom Roberts](/wiki/Tom_Roberts). At the time of Australia's [federation](/wiki/Federation_of_Australia) on 1 January 1901, Melbourne became the seat of government of the federation. The first federal parliament was convened on 9 May 1901 in the Royal Exhibition Building, subsequently moving to the Victorian Parliament House where it was located until 1927, when it was moved to [Canberra](/wiki/Canberra). The [Governor-General of Australia](/wiki/Governor-General_of_Australia) resided at [Government House](/wiki/Government_House,_Melbourne) in Melbourne until 1930 and many major national institutions remained in Melbourne well into the twentieth century.[[43]](#cite_note-43)

### Post-war period[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

In the immediate years after World War II, Melbourne expanded rapidly, its growth boosted by [Post war immigration to Australia](/wiki/Post_war_immigration_to_Australia), primarily from Southern Europe and the [Mediterranean](/wiki/Mediterranean_region).[[44]](#cite_note-44) While the "Paris End" of Collins Street began Melbourne's boutique shopping and open air [cafe](/wiki/Cafe) cultures,[[45]](#cite_note-45) the city centre was seen by many as stale—the dreary domain of office workers—something expressed by [John Brack](/wiki/John_Brack) in his famous painting [*Collins St., 5 pm*](/wiki/Collins_St.,_5_pm) (1955).[[46]](#cite_note-46) [thumb|left|upright|](/wiki/File:Orica_House.jpg)[ICI House](/wiki/ICI_House), a symbol of progress and modernity in post-war Melbourne Height limits in the Melbourne CBD were lifted in 1958, after the construction of [ICI House](/wiki/ICI_House), transforming the city's skyline with the introduction of skyscrapers. Suburban expansion then intensified, serviced by new indoor malls beginning with [Chadstone Shopping Centre](/wiki/Chadstone_Shopping_Centre).[[47]](#cite_note-47) The post-war period also saw a major renewal of the CBD and [St Kilda Road](/wiki/St_Kilda_Road) which significantly modernised the city.[[48]](#cite_note-48) New fire regulations and redevelopment saw most of the taller pre-war CBD buildings either [demolished](/wiki/Demolish) or partially retained through a policy of [facadism](/wiki/Facadism#Melbourne). Many of the larger suburban mansions from the boom era were also either demolished or subdivided.

To counter the trend towards low-density suburban residential growth, the government began a series of controversial public housing projects in the inner city by the [Housing Commission of Victoria](/wiki/Housing_Commission_of_Victoria), which resulted in demolition of many neighbourhoods and a proliferation of high-rise towers.[[49]](#cite_note-49) In later years, with the rapid rise of motor vehicle ownership, the investment in freeway and highway developments greatly accelerated the outward suburban sprawl and declining inner city population. The [Bolte](/wiki/Henry_Bolte) government sought to rapidly accelerate the modernisation of Melbourne. Major road projects including the remodelling of [St Kilda Junction](/wiki/St_Kilda_Junction), the widening of [Hoddle Street](/wiki/Hoddle_Street) and then the extensive [1969 Melbourne Transportation Plan](/wiki/1969_Melbourne_Transportation_Plan) changed the face of the city into a car-dominated environment.[[50]](#cite_note-50) Australia's financial and mining booms between 1969 and 1970 resulted in establishment of the headquarters of many major companies ([BHP Billiton](/wiki/BHP_Billiton) and [Rio Tinto](/wiki/Rio_Tinto_Group), among others) in the city. [Nauru's](/wiki/Nauru) then booming economy resulted in several ambitious investments in Melbourne, such as [Nauru House](/wiki/Nauru_House).[[51]](#cite_note-51) Melbourne remained Australia's main business and financial centre until the late 1970s, when it began to lose this primacy to Sydney.[[52]](#cite_note-52) As the centre of Australia's "[rust belt](/wiki/Rust_belt)", Melbourne experienced an economic downturn between 1989 and 1992, following the collapse of several local financial institutions. In 1992 the newly elected [Kennett](/wiki/Jeff_Kennett) government began a campaign to revive the economy with an aggressive development campaign of [public works](/wiki/Public_works) coupled with the promotion of the city as a tourist destination with a focus on major events and sports tourism.[[53]](#cite_note-53) During this period the [Australian Grand Prix](/wiki/Australian_Grand_Prix) moved to Melbourne from Adelaide. Major projects included the construction of a new facility for the [Melbourne Museum](/wiki/Melbourne_Museum), [Federation Square](/wiki/Federation_Square), the [Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre](/wiki/Melbourne_Exhibition_and_Convention_Centre), [Crown Casino](/wiki/Crown_Casino) and the [CityLink](/wiki/CityLink) [tollway](/wiki/Toll_road). Other strategies included the privatisation of some of Melbourne's services, including power and public transport, and a reduction in funding to public services such as health, education and public transport infrastructure.[[54]](#cite_note-54)

### Contemporary Melbourne[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

Since the mid-1990s, Melbourne has maintained significant population and employment growth. There has been substantial international investment in the city's industries and property market. Major inner-city urban renewal has occurred in areas such as [Southbank](/wiki/Southbank,_Victoria), [Port Melbourne](/wiki/Port_Melbourne), [Melbourne Docklands](/wiki/Melbourne_Docklands) and more recently, [South Wharf](/wiki/South_Wharf,_Victoria). According to the [Australian Bureau of Statistics](/wiki/Australian_Bureau_of_Statistics), Melbourne sustained the highest population increase and economic growth rate of any Australian capital city in the three years ended June 2004.[[55]](#cite_note-55) These factors have led to population growth and further suburban expansion through the 2000s.

[Template:Wide image](/wiki/Template:Wide_image) From 2006, the growth of the city extended into "green wedges" and beyond the city's [urban growth boundary](/wiki/Urban_growth_boundary). Predictions of the city's population reaching 5 million people pushed the state government to review the growth boundary in 2008 as part of its Melbourne @ Five Million strategy.[[56]](#cite_note-56) In 2009, Melbourne was less affected by the [Late-2000s financial crisis](/wiki/Late-2000s_financial_crisis) in comparison to other Australian cities. At this time, more new jobs were created in Melbourne than any other Australian city—almost as many as the next two fastest growing cities, Brisbane and Perth, combined,[[57]](#cite_note-57) and Melbourne's property market remained strong,[[58]](#cite_note-58) resulting in historically high property prices and widespread rent increases.[[59]](#cite_note-59)

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [|thumb|Map of Melbourne and](/wiki/File:Greater_Melbourne_Map_4_-_May_2008.png) [Geelong](/wiki/Geelong) urban areas Melbourne is located in the south-eastern part of mainland Australia, within the state of [Victoria](/wiki/Victoria_(Australia)). Geologically, it is built on the confluence of [Quaternary](/wiki/Quaternary) lava flows to the west, [Silurian](/wiki/Silurian) [mudstones](/wiki/Mudstone) to the east, and [Holocene](/wiki/Holocene) sand accumulation to the southeast along [Port Phillip](/wiki/Port_Phillip). The southeastern suburbs are situated on the [Selwyn fault](/wiki/Selwyn_fault) which transects [Mount Martha](/wiki/Mount_Martha,_Victoria) and [Cranbourne](/wiki/Cranbourne,_Victoria).

Melbourne extends along the [Yarra River](/wiki/Yarra_River) towards the [Yarra Valley](/wiki/Yarra_Valley) and the [Dandenong Ranges](/wiki/Dandenong_Ranges) to the east. It extends northward through the undulating bushland valleys of the Yarra's tributaries—[Moonee Ponds Creek](/wiki/Moonee_Ponds_Creek) (toward Tullamarine Airport), [Merri Creek](/wiki/Merri_Creek), [Darebin Creek](/wiki/Darebin_Creek) and [Plenty River](/wiki/Plenty_River)—to the outer suburban growth corridors of [Craigieburn](/wiki/Craigieburn,_Victoria) and [Whittlesea](/wiki/Whittlesea,_Victoria).

The city reaches south-east through [Dandenong](/wiki/Dandenong,_Victoria) to the growth corridor of [Pakenham](/wiki/Pakenham,_Victoria) towards [West Gippsland](/wiki/West_Gippsland), and southward through the [Dandenong Creek](/wiki/Dandenong_Creek) valley, the [Mornington Peninsula](/wiki/Mornington_Peninsula) and the city of [Frankston](/wiki/Frankston,_Victoria) taking in the peaks of [Olivers Hill](/wiki/Olivers_Hill,_Victoria), Mount Martha and [Arthurs Seat](/wiki/Arthurs_Seat,_Victoria), extending along the shores of Port Phillip as a single [conurbation](/wiki/Conurbation) to reach the exclusive suburb of [Portsea](/wiki/Portsea,_Victoria) and [Point Nepean](/wiki/Point_Nepean). In the west, it extends along the [Maribyrnong River](/wiki/Maribyrnong_River) and its tributaries north towards [Sunbury](/wiki/Sunbury,_Victoria) and the foothills of the [Macedon Ranges](/wiki/Shire_of_Macedon_Ranges), and along the flat volcanic plain country towards [Melton](/wiki/Melton,_Victoria) in the west, [Werribee](/wiki/Werribee) at the foothills of the [You Yangs](/wiki/You_Yangs) [granite](/wiki/Granite) ridge south west of the CBD. The Little River, and the township of the same name, marks the border between Melbourne and neighbouring Geelong city.

Melbourne's major bayside beaches are located in the various suburbs along the shores of Port Phillip Bay, in areas like [Port Melbourne](/wiki/Port_Melbourne), [Albert Park](/wiki/Albert_Park,_Victoria), [St Kilda](/wiki/St_Kilda,_Victoria), [Elwood](/wiki/Elwood,_Victoria), [Brighton](/wiki/Brighton,_Victoria), [Sandringham](/wiki/Sandringham,_Victoria), [Mentone](/wiki/Mentone,_Victoria), [Frankston](/wiki/Frankston,_Victoria), [Altona](/wiki/Altona,_Victoria), [Williamstown](/wiki/Williamstown,_Victoria) and Werribee South. The nearest [surf](/wiki/Ocean_surface_wave) beaches are located [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) south-east of the Melbourne CBD in the back-beaches of [Rye](/wiki/Rye,_Victoria), [Sorrento](/wiki/Sorrento,_Victoria) and [Portsea](/wiki/Portsea,_Victoria).[[60]](#cite_note-60)[[61]](#cite_note-61)

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Carlton_Gardens_in_autumn.jpg)[Carlton Gardens](/wiki/Carlton_Gardens,_Melbourne) in autumn Melbourne has a temperate [oceanic climate](/wiki/Oceanic_climate) ([Köppen climate classification](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification) *Cfb*)[[62]](#cite_note-62)[[63]](#cite_note-63) and is well known for its changeable weather conditions. This is mainly due to Melbourne's location situated on the boundary of the very hot inland areas and the cool southern ocean. This temperature differential is most pronounced in the spring and summer months and can cause very strong cold fronts to form. These cold fronts can be responsible for all sorts of severe weather from gales to severe thunderstorms and hail, large temperature drops, and heavy rain.

Port Phillip is often warmer than the surrounding oceans and/or the land mass, particularly in spring and autumn; this can set up a "bay effect" similar to the "[lake effect](/wiki/Lake-effect_snow)" seen in colder climates where showers are intensified leeward of the bay. Relatively narrow streams of heavy showers can often affect the same places (usually the eastern suburbs) for an extended period, while the rest of Melbourne and surrounds stays dry. Overall, Melbourne is, owing to the [rain shadow](/wiki/Rain_shadow) of the [Otway Ranges](/wiki/Otway_Ranges), nonetheless drier than average for southern Victoria. Within the city and surrounds, however, rainfall varies widely, from around [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) at [Little River](/wiki/Little_River,_Victoria) to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) on the eastern fringe at [Gembrook](/wiki/Gembrook,_Victoria). Melbourne receives 48.6 clear days annually. Dewpoint temperatures in the summer range from [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[64]](#cite_note-64) Melbourne is also prone to isolated convective showers forming when a cold pool crosses the state, especially if there is considerable daytime heating. These showers are often heavy and can contain hail and squalls and significant drops in temperature, but they pass through very quickly at times with a rapid clearing trend to sunny and relatively calm weather and the temperature rising back to what it was before the shower. This often occurs in the space of minutes and can be repeated many times in a day, giving Melbourne a reputation for having "four seasons in one day",<ref name=autogenerated1>[Template:BoM Aust stats](/wiki/Template:BoM_Aust_stats)</ref> a phrase that is part of local [popular culture](/wiki/Popular_culture) and familiar to many visitors to the city.[[65]](#cite_note-65) The lowest temperature on record is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), on 21 July 1869.[[66]](#cite_note-66) The highest temperature recorded in Melbourne city was [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), on [7 February 2009](/wiki/Black_Saturday_bushfires).[[67]](#cite_note-67) While snow is occasionally seen at higher elevations in the outskirts of the city, it has not been recorded in the Central Business District since 1986.[[68]](#cite_note-68) Residential architecture is not defined by a single architectural style, but rather an eclectic mix of houses, townhouses, condominiums, and apartment buildings in the metropolitan area (particularly in areas of urban sprawl). Free standing dwellings with relatively large gardens are perhaps the most common type of housing outside inner city Melbourne. Victorian terrace housing, townhouses and historic [Italianate](/wiki/Italianate), [Tudor revival](/wiki/Tudor_revival) and [Neo-Georgian](/wiki/Georgian_architecture) mansions are all common in neighbourhoods such as [Toorak](/wiki/Toorak,_Victoria).

## Sport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|left|Melbourne hosts the](/wiki/File:Rafael_Nadal_Vs_Philipp_Kohlschreiber_(4309085696).jpg) [Australian Open](/wiki/Australian_Open), one of four annual [Grand Slam](/wiki/Grand_Slam_(tennis)) tennis tournaments. Melbourne is notable as the host city for the [1956 Summer Olympic Games](/wiki/1956_Summer_Olympic_Games) (the first Olympic Games held in the southern hemisphere and Oceania, with all previous games held in Europe and the United States),[[125]](#cite_note-125) along with the [2006 Commonwealth Games](/wiki/2006_Commonwealth_Games). Melbourne is so far the southernmost city to host the games. The city is home to three major annual international sporting events: the [Australian Open](/wiki/Australian_Open) (one of the four [Grand Slam](/wiki/Grand_Slam_(tennis)) tennis tournaments); the [Melbourne Cup](/wiki/Melbourne_Cup) (horse racing); and the [Australian Grand Prix](/wiki/Australian_Grand_Prix) ([Formula One](/wiki/Formula_One)). Also, the [Australian Masters](/wiki/Australian_Masters) golf tournament is held at Melbourne since 1979, having been co-sanctioned by the [European Tour](/wiki/European_Tour) from 2006 to 2009. Melbourne was proclaimed the "World's Ultimate Sports City", in 2006, 2008 and 2010.[[126]](#cite_note-126) The city is home to the [National Sports Museum](/wiki/National_Sports_Museum), which until 2003 was located outside the members pavilion at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. It reopened in 2008 in the Olympic Stand.[[127]](#cite_note-127) [Australian rules football](/wiki/Australian_rules_football) and [cricket](/wiki/Cricket) are the most popular sports in Melbourne. It is considered the spiritual home of the two sports in Australia. The first official [Test cricket](/wiki/Test_cricket) match was played at the [Melbourne Cricket Ground](/wiki/Melbourne_Cricket_Ground) in March 1877. The origins of Australian rules football can be traced to matches played next to the MCG in 1858. The [Australian Football League](/wiki/Australian_Football_League) is headquartered at [Docklands Stadium](/wiki/Docklands_Stadium). Nine of the League's teams are based in the Melbourne metropolitan area: [Carlton](/wiki/Carlton_Football_Club), [Collingwood](/wiki/Collingwood_Football_Club), [Essendon](/wiki/Essendon_Football_Club), [Hawthorn](/wiki/Hawthorn_Football_Club), [Melbourne](/wiki/Melbourne_Football_Club), [North Melbourne](/wiki/North_Melbourne_Football_Club), [Richmond](/wiki/Richmond_Football_Club), [St Kilda](/wiki/St_Kilda_Football_Club), and [Western Bulldogs](/wiki/Western_Bulldogs). Up to five AFL matches are played each week in Melbourne, attracting an average 40,000 people per game.[[128]](#cite_note-128) Additionally, the city annually hosts the [AFL Grand Final](/wiki/AFL_Grand_Final). [thumb|Statue at the](/wiki/File:Tom_Wills_Statue.jpg) [Melbourne Cricket Ground](/wiki/Melbourne_Cricket_Ground) of [Tom Wills](/wiki/Tom_Wills) umpiring an 1858 football match between Scotch College and Melbourne Grammar School. The first games of [Australian rules football](/wiki/Australian_rules_football) were played in [adjacent parklands](/wiki/Yarra_Park). The city is home to many professional franchises/teams in national competitions including: cricket clubs [Melbourne Stars](/wiki/Melbourne_Stars), [Melbourne Renegades](/wiki/Melbourne_Renegades) and [Victorian Bushrangers](/wiki/Victorian_Bushrangers), which play in the [Big Bash League](/wiki/Big_Bash_League) and other domestic cricket competitions; [soccer](/wiki/Soccer) clubs [Melbourne Victory](/wiki/Melbourne_Victory_FC) and [Melbourne City FC](/wiki/Melbourne_City_FC) (known until June 2014 as Melbourne Heart), which play in the [A-League](/wiki/A-League) competition. [Rugby league](/wiki/Rugby_league) club [Melbourne Storm](/wiki/Melbourne_Storm)[[129]](#cite_note-129) which plays in the [NRL](/wiki/National_Rugby_League) competition; [rugby union](/wiki/Rugby_union) clubs [Melbourne Rebels](/wiki/Melbourne_Rebels) and [Melbourne Rising](/wiki/Melbourne_Rising), which play in the [Super Rugby](/wiki/Super_Rugby) and [National Rugby Championship](/wiki/National_Rugby_Championship) competitions respectively; [netball](/wiki/Netball) club [Melbourne Vixens](/wiki/Melbourne_Vixens), which plays in the trans-Tasman trophy [ANZ Championship](/wiki/ANZ_Championship); basketball club [Melbourne United](/wiki/Melbourne_United), which plays in the [NBL](/wiki/National_Basketball_League_(Australia)) competition; [Bulleen Boomers](/wiki/Bulleen_Boomers) and [Dandenong Rangers](/wiki/Dandenong_Rangers), which play in the [WNBL](/wiki/Women's_National_Basketball_League); ice hockey teams [Melbourne Ice](/wiki/Melbourne_Ice) and [Melbourne Mustangs](/wiki/Melbourne_Mustangs), who play in the [Australian Ice Hockey League](/wiki/Australian_Ice_Hockey_League); and baseball club [Melbourne Aces](/wiki/Melbourne_Aces), which plays in the [Australian Baseball League](/wiki/Australian_Baseball_League). [Rowing](/wiki/Rowing_(sport)) is also a large part of Melbourne's sporting identity, with a number of clubs located on the Yarra River, out of which many Australian Olympians trained. The city previously held the nation's premier long distance swimming event the annual [Race to Prince's Bridge](/wiki/Race_to_Prince's_Bridge), in the Yarra River.

In November 2008, it was announced that the [Victorian Major Events Company](/wiki/Victorian_Major_Events_Company) had informed the [Australian Olympic Committee](/wiki/Australian_Olympic_Committee) that Melbourne was considering making bids for either the [2024](/wiki/2024_Summer_Olympics) or [2028 Summer Olympics](/wiki/2028_Summer_Olympics).[[130]](#cite_note-130)

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|left|Melbourne's entertainment and conference precinct (Crown Casino and Convention Centre) make substantial annual contributions to the Victorian economy ($2 billion and $3 billion respectively).](/wiki/File:Crown_Casino_Complex_&_Melbourne_Exhibition_Building.jpg)[[131]](#cite_note-131)

Melbourne has a highly diversified economy with particular strengths in finance, manufacturing, research, IT, education, logistics, transportation and tourism. Melbourne houses the headquarters for many of Australia's largest corporations, including five of the ten largest in the country (based on revenue), and four of the largest six in the country (based on [market capitalisation](/wiki/Market_capitalisation))[[132]](#cite_note-132) ([ANZ](/wiki/Australia_and_New_Zealand_Banking_Group), [BHP Billiton](/wiki/BHP_Billiton) (the world's largest mining company), the [National Australia Bank](/wiki/National_Australia_Bank) and [Telstra](/wiki/Telstra)), as well as such representative bodies and think tanks as the [Business Council of Australia](/wiki/Business_Council_of_Australia) and the [Australian Council of Trade Unions](/wiki/Australian_Council_of_Trade_Unions). Melbourne's suburbs also have the Head Offices of [Wesfarmers](/wiki/Wesfarmers) companies [Coles](/wiki/Coles_Supermarkets) (including [Liquorland](/wiki/Liquorland)), [Bunnings](/wiki/Bunnings), [Target](/wiki/Target_Corporation), [K-Mart](/wiki/K-Mart) & [Officeworks](/wiki/Officeworks). The city is home to Australia's largest and busiest [seaport](/wiki/Port_of_Melbourne) which handles more than $75 billion in trade every year and 39% of the nation's container trade.[[102]](#cite_note-102)[[133]](#cite_note-133)[[134]](#cite_note-134) [Melbourne Airport](/wiki/Melbourne_Airport) provides an entry point for national and international visitors, and is Australia's second busiest airport.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

Melbourne is also an important financial centre. Two of the [big four](/wiki/Big_Four_(banks)) banks, [NAB](/wiki/National_Australia_Bank) and [ANZ](/wiki/Australia_and_New_Zealand_Banking_Group), are headquartered in Melbourne. The city has carved out a niche as Australia's leading centre for [superannuation](/wiki/Superannuation_in_Australia) (pension) funds, with 40% of the total, and 65% of [industry super-funds](/wiki/Industry_superannuation) including the $109 billion-dollar Federal Government [Future Fund](/wiki/Future_Fund). The city was rated 41st within the top 50 financial cities as surveyed by the MasterCard Worldwide Centers of Commerce Index (2008),[[135]](#cite_note-135) second only to Sydney (12th) in Australia. Melbourne is Australia's second-largest industrial centre.[[136]](#cite_note-136) It is the Australian base for a number of significant manufacturers including [Boeing](/wiki/Boeing), truck-makers [Kenworth](/wiki/Kenworth) and [Iveco](/wiki/Iveco), [Cadbury](/wiki/Cadbury) as well as [Bombardier Transportation](/wiki/Bombardier_Transportation) and [Jayco](/wiki/Jayco), among many others. It is also home to a wide variety of other manufacturers, ranging from petrochemicals and pharmaceuticals to fashion garments, paper manufacturing and food processing.[[137]](#cite_note-137) The south-eastern suburb of [Scoresby](/wiki/Scoresby,_Victoria) is home to [Nintendo's Australian headquarters](/wiki/Nintendo_Australia). The city also boasts a research and development hub for [Ford Australia](/wiki/Ford_Australia), as well as a global design studio and technical centre for [General Motors](/wiki/General_Motors) and [Toyota](/wiki/Toyota) respectively.

[thumb|The atrium of Melbourne's flagship](/wiki/File:Myer_Melbourne,_2012.jpg) [Myer department store](/wiki/Myer), which generates yearly revenue of almost $300 million.[[138]](#cite_note-138)

[CSL](/wiki/CSL_Limited), one of the world's top five biotech companies, and [Sigma Pharmaceuticals](/wiki/Sigma_Pharmaceuticals) have their headquarters in Melbourne. The two are the largest listed Australian pharmaceutical companies.[[139]](#cite_note-139) Melbourne has an important [ICT](/wiki/Information_and_Communication_Technology) industry that employs over 60,000 people (one third of Australia's ICT workforce), with a turnover of $19.8 billion and export revenues of $615 million. In addition, tourism also plays an important role in Melbourne's economy, with about 7.6 million domestic visitors and 1.88 million international visitors in 2004.[[140]](#cite_note-140) In 2008, Melbourne overtook Sydney with the amount of money that domestic tourists spent in the city,[[141]](#cite_note-141) accounting for around $15.8 billion annually.[[142]](#cite_note-142) Melbourne has been attracting an increasing share of domestic and international conference markets. Construction began in February 2006 of a $1 billion 5000-seat international convention centre, Hilton Hotel and commercial precinct adjacent to the [Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre](/wiki/Melbourne_Exhibition_and_Convention_Centre) to link development along the [Yarra River](/wiki/Yarra_River) with the [Southbank precinct](/wiki/Southbank,_Victoria) and multibillion-dollar [Docklands](/wiki/Melbourne_Docklands) redevelopment.[[143]](#cite_note-143) The Economist Intelligence Unit ranks Melbourne as the fourth most expensive city in the world to live in according to its worldwide cost of living index in 2013.[[144]](#cite_note-144) The most visited attractions are: [Federation Square](/wiki/Federation_Square), [Queen Victoria Market](/wiki/Queen_Victoria_Market), [Crown Casino](/wiki/Crown_Casino), [Southbank](/wiki/Southbank,_Victoria), [Melbourne Zoo](/wiki/Melbourne_Zoo), [Melbourne Aquarium](/wiki/Melbourne_Aquarium), [Docklands](/wiki/Docklands,_Victoria), [National Gallery of Victoria](/wiki/National_Gallery_of_Victoria), [Melbourne Museum](/wiki/Melbourne_Museum), Melbourne Observation Deck, [Arts Centre Melbourne](/wiki/The_Arts_Centre), and the [Melbourne Cricket Ground](/wiki/Melbourne_Cricket_Ground).[[145]](#cite_note-145)

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Ethnic Melbourne sidebar](/wiki/Template:Ethnic_Melbourne_sidebar) [thumb|upright|left|](/wiki/File:Chinese-new-year-melbourne.JPG)[Chinese New Year](/wiki/Chinese_New_Year) celebrations in [Chinatown](/wiki/Chinatown,_Melbourne)

In Greater Melbourne (Greater Capital City Statistical Areas), 63.3% of residents were born in Australia. The other most common countries of birth were the United Kingdom (3.4%), India (2.7%), China (excludes [SARs](/wiki/Special_administrative_region) and Taiwan) (2.3%), Italy (1.7%) and New Zealand (1.7%). In 2011 the most common cited ancestries in Greater Melbourne (Greater Capital City Statistical Areas) were [English](/wiki/English_Australian) (21.1%), [Australian](/wiki/Australian) (20.7%), [Irish](/wiki/Irish_Australian) (6.9%), [Scottish](/wiki/Scottish_Australian) (5.7%), and [Italian](/wiki/Italian_community_of_Melbourne) (5.5%).[[146]](#cite_note-146) Melbourne has the largest [Greek-speaking](/wiki/Greek_community_of_Melbourne) population outside of Europe, a population comparable to some larger Greek cities like [Larissa](/wiki/Larissa) and [Volos](/wiki/Volos).[[147]](#cite_note-147)

## Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[thumb|left|](/wiki/File:St_Paul's_Cathedral,_Melbourne,_AU.jpg)[St Paul's Cathedral](/wiki/St_Paul's_Cathedral,_Melbourne) Melbourne has a wide range of religious faiths, the most widely held of which is Christianity. This is signified by the city's two large cathedrals—[St Patrick's](/wiki/St_Patrick's_Cathedral,_Melbourne) (Roman Catholic), and [St Paul's](/wiki/St_Paul's_Cathedral,_Melbourne) (Anglican). Both were built in the [Victorian era](/wiki/Victorian_era) and are of considerable heritage significance as major landmarks of the city.[[166]](#cite_note-166) According to the 2011 Census, the largest responses on religious belief in Melbourne were [Roman Catholic](/wiki/Roman_Catholic) (27.2%), [no religion](/wiki/Irreligion) (23.5%), [Anglican](/wiki/Anglican) (10.8%), [Eastern Orthodox](/wiki/Eastern_Orthodox) (5.5%), [Buddhist](/wiki/Buddhist) (4.0%), Muslim (1.0%) and Jewish (2.5%).[[149]](#cite_note-149)[[167]](#cite_note-167) Roughly 5,000 Muslims live in Melbourne.[[168]](#cite_note-168) Muslim religious life in Melbourne is centred on more than 25 mosques and a large number of prayer rooms at university campuses, workplaces and other venues.[[169]](#cite_note-169) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), Melbourne had the largest population of Polish [Jews](/wiki/Jews) in Australia. The city was also home to the largest number of [Holocaust](/wiki/Holocaust) survivors of any Australian city,[[170]](#cite_note-170) indeed the highest per capita outside [Israel](/wiki/Israel) itself.[[171]](#cite_note-171) Reflecting this vibrant and growing community, Melbourne has a plethora of Jewish cultural, religious and educational institutions, including over 40 synagogues and 7 full-time parochial day schools,[[172]](#cite_note-172) along with a [local Jewish newspaper](/wiki/Australian_Jewish_News).[[173]](#cite_note-173)

## Governance[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Victoria_Parliament_House_Melbourne.jpg)[Parliament House](/wiki/Parliament_House,_Melbourne) The governance of Melbourne is split between the [government of Victoria](/wiki/Government_of_Victoria) and the [26 cities and five shires](/wiki/Local_Government_Areas_of_Victoria#Municipalities_of_Greater_Melbourne) which comprise the metropolitan area. There is no ceremonial or political head of Melbourne; however, the [Lord Mayor of the City of Melbourne](/wiki/Lord_Mayor_of_Melbourne) often fulfils such a role as a first amongst equals,[[174]](#cite_note-174) particularly when interstate or overseas.

The local councils are responsible for providing the functions set out in the *Local Government Act* 1989[[175]](#cite_note-175) such as [urban planning](/wiki/Urban_planning) and [waste management](/wiki/Waste_management). Most other government services are provided or regulated by the [Victorian state government](/wiki/Government_of_Victoria), which governs from [Parliament House](/wiki/Parliament_House,_Melbourne) in [Spring Street](/wiki/Spring_Street,_Melbourne). These include services which are associated with local government in other countries and include public transport, main roads, traffic control, policing, education above preschool level, health and planning of major infrastructure projects. The state government retains the right to override certain local government decisions, including urban planning, and Melburnian issues often feature prominently in state election.

## Infrastructure[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

In 2012, Mercer Consulting ranked Melbourne's infrastructure equal 17th in the world, behind only one other Australian city, Sydney, which ranked equal 10th in the world.[[176]](#cite_note-176)

### Health[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[thumb|left|Aerial view of](/wiki/File:Royal_melbourne_hospital.jpg) [Royal Melbourne Hospital](/wiki/Royal_Melbourne_Hospital) in [Parkville](/wiki/Parkville,_Victoria) The [Government of Victoria's](/wiki/Government_of_Victoria) Department of Health and Human Services oversees about 30 public hospitals in the Melbourne metropolitan region, and 13 health services organisations.[[177]](#cite_note-177) There are many major medical, [neuroscience](/wiki/Neuroscience) and [biotechnology](/wiki/Biotechnology) research institutions located in Melbourne: [St. Vincent's Institute of Medical Research](/wiki/St._Vincent's_Institute_of_Medical_Research), [Australian Stem Cell Centre](/wiki/Australian_Stem_Cell_Centre), the [Burnet Institute](/wiki/Burnet_Institute), [Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute](/wiki/Australian_Regenerative_Medicine_Institute), Victorian Institute of Chemical Sciences, Brain Research Institute, [Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre](/wiki/Peter_MacCallum_Cancer_Centre), the [Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research](/wiki/Walter_and_Eliza_Hall_Institute_of_Medical_Research), and the [Melbourne Neuropsychiatry Centre](/wiki/Melbourne_Neuropsychiatry_Centre).

Other institutions include the [Howard Florey Institute](/wiki/Howard_Florey_Institute), the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, [Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute](/wiki/Baker_IDI_Heart_and_Diabetes_Institute) and the [Australian Synchrotron](/wiki/Australian_Synchrotron).[[178]](#cite_note-178) Many of these institutions are associated with and are located near universities.

Among Australian capital cities, Melbourne ties with Canberra in first place for the highest male life expectancy (80.0 years) and ranks second behind Perth in female life expectancy (84.1 years).[[179]](#cite_note-179)

### Transport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Bolte_bridge_dusk.jpg) [Bolte Bridge](/wiki/Bolte_Bridge) is part of the [CityLink](/wiki/CityLink) tollway system. Like many Australian cities, Melbourne has a high dependency on the automobile for transport,[[180]](#cite_note-180) particularly in the outer suburban areas where the largest number of cars are bought,[[181]](#cite_note-181) with a total of 3.6 million private vehicles using [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of road, and one of the highest lengths of road per capita in the world.[[180]](#cite_note-180) The early 20th century saw an increase in popularity of automobiles, resulting in large-scale suburban expansion.[[182]](#cite_note-182) By the mid 1950s there was just under 200 passenger vehicles per 1000 people by 2013 there was 600 passenger vehicles per 1000 people.[[183]](#cite_note-183) Today it has an extensive network of freeways and arterial roadways used by private vehicles including freight as well as public transport systems including bus and taxis. Major highways feeding into the city include the [Eastern Freeway](/wiki/Eastern_Freeway,_Melbourne), [Monash Freeway](/wiki/Monash_Freeway) and [West Gate Freeway](/wiki/West_Gate_Freeway) (which spans the large [West Gate Bridge](/wiki/West_Gate_Bridge)), whilst other freeways circumnavigate the city or lead to other major cities, including [CityLink](/wiki/CityLink) (which spans the large [Bolte Bridge](/wiki/Bolte_Bridge)), [Eastlink](/wiki/EastLink,_Melbourne), the [Western Ring Road](/wiki/Western_Ring_Road,_Melbourne), [Calder Freeway](/wiki/Calder_Freeway), [Tullamarine Freeway](/wiki/Tullamarine_Freeway) (main airport link) and the [Hume Freeway](/wiki/Hume_Freeway) which links Melbourne and Sydney.[[184]](#cite_note-184) Melbourne has an integrated public transport system based around extensive train, tram, bus and taxi systems. [Flinders Street Station](/wiki/Flinders_Street_Station) was the world's busiest passenger station in 1927 and Melbourne's tram network overtook Sydney's to become the world's largest in the 1940s, at which time 25% of travellers used public transport but by 2003 it had declined to just 7.6%.[[185]](#cite_note-185)The public transport system was privatised in 1999, symbolising the peak of the decline.[[186]](#cite_note-186)Despite privatisation and successive governments persisting with auto-centric urban development into the 21st century,[[187]](#cite_note-187) there have since been large increases in public transport patronage, with the mode share for commuters increasing to 14.8% and 8.4% of all trips.[[188]](#cite_note-188) A target of 20% public transport mode share for Melbourne by 2020 was set by the state government in 2006.[[189]](#cite_note-189) Since 2006 public transport patronage has grown by over 20%.[[189]](#cite_note-189) [thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Southern_Cross_Suburban.JPG)[Southern Cross Station](/wiki/Southern_Cross_Station) The [Melbourne rail network](/wiki/Melbourne_rail_network) has its origins in privately built lines from the 1850s gold rush era, and today the suburban network consists of [209 suburban stations](/wiki/List_of_Melbourne_railway_stations) on 16 lines which radiate from the [City Loop](/wiki/City_Loop,_Melbourne), a partially underground metro section of the network beneath the Central Business District (Hoddle Grid). [Flinders Street Station](/wiki/Flinders_Street_Station) is Melbourne's busiest railway station, and was the world's busiest passenger station in 1926. It remains a prominent Melbourne landmark and meeting place.[[122]](#cite_note-122) The city has rail connections with regional Victorian cities, as well as direct interstate rail services to Sydney and [Adelaide](/wiki/Adelaide) and beyond which depart from Melbourne's other major rail terminus, [Southern Cross Station](/wiki/Southern_Cross_Station) in Spencer Street. In the 2013–2014 financial year, the Melbourne rail network recorded 232.0 million passenger trips, the highest in its history.[[190]](#cite_note-190) Many rail lines, along with dedicated lines and [rail yards](/wiki/Rail_yards) are also used for freight. The Overland to Adelaide departs Southern Cross twice a week, while the XPT to Sydney departs twice a day.

[thumb|Melbourne is home to the world's largest](/wiki/File:Z3.215_+_B2.2028_swanston.JPG) [tram network](/wiki/Tram_network).[[191]](#cite_note-191) Melbourne has the largest [tram network](/wiki/Tram_network) in the world[[192]](#cite_note-192) which had its origins in the city's 1880s land boom. In 2013–2014, 176.9 million passenger trips were made by tram.[[190]](#cite_note-190) Melbourne's is Australia's only tram network to comprise more than a single line and consists of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of track, 487 trams, [25 routes](/wiki/List_of_Melbourne_tram_routes), and 1,763 [tram stops](/wiki/Tram_stop).[[193]](#cite_note-193) Around 80 per cent of Melbourne's tram network shares road space with other vehicles, while the rest of the network is separated or are [light rail](/wiki/Light_rail) routes.[[193]](#cite_note-193) Melbourne's trams are recognised as iconic cultural assets and a tourist attraction. [Heritage trams](/wiki/W-class_Melbourne_tram) operate on the free [City Circle route](/wiki/City_Circle_Tram), intended for visitors to Melbourne, and heritage [restaurant trams](/wiki/Colonial_Tramcar_Restaurant) travel through the city and surrounding areas during the evening.[[194]](#cite_note-194) Melbourne is currently building 50 new E Class trams with some already in service in 2014. The E Class trams are about 30 metres long and are superior to the C2 class tram of similar length. Melbourne's [bus](/wiki/Bus) network consists of almost [300 routes](/wiki/List_of_Melbourne_bus_routes) which mainly service the outer suburbs and fill the gaps in the network between rail and tram services.[[194]](#cite_note-194)[[195]](#cite_note-195) 127.6 million passenger trips were recorded on Melbourne's buses in 2013–2014, an increase of 10.2 percent on the previous year.[[190]](#cite_note-190) Ship transport is an important component of Melbourne's transport system. The [Port of Melbourne](/wiki/Port_of_Melbourne) is Australia's largest container and general cargo port and also its busiest. The port handled two million shipping containers in a 12-month period during 2007, making it one of the top five ports in the Southern Hemisphere.[[133]](#cite_note-133) [Station Pier](/wiki/Station_Pier) on Port Phillip Bay is the main passenger ship terminal with [cruise ships](/wiki/Cruise_ships) and the [Spirit of Tasmania](/wiki/TT-Line_Pty._Ltd.) ferries which cross [Bass Strait](/wiki/Bass_Strait) to [Tasmania](/wiki/Tasmania) docking there.[[196]](#cite_note-196) Ferries and water taxis run from [berths](/wiki/Berth_(moorings)) along the Yarra River as far upstream as South Yarra and across Port Phillip Bay.

Melbourne has [four airports](/wiki/List_of_airports_in_the_Melbourne_area). [Melbourne Airport](/wiki/Melbourne_Airport), at [Tullamarine](/wiki/Tullamarine), is the city's main international and domestic gateway and second busiest in Australia. The airport is home base for passenger airlines [Jetstar Airways](/wiki/Jetstar_Airways) and [Tiger Airways Australia](/wiki/Tiger_Airways_Australia) and cargo airlines [Australian air Express](/wiki/Australian_air_Express) and [Toll Priority](/wiki/Toll_Priority); and is a major hub for [Qantas](/wiki/Qantas) and [Virgin Australia](/wiki/Virgin_Australia). [Avalon Airport](/wiki/Avalon_Airport), located between Melbourne and [Geelong](/wiki/Geelong), is a secondary hub of Jetstar. It is also used as a freight and maintenance facility. Buses and taxis are the only forms of public transport to and from the city's main airports. Air Ambulance facilities are available for domestic and international transportation of patients.[[197]](#cite_note-197) Melbourne also has a significant [general aviation](/wiki/General_aviation) airport, [Moorabbin Airport](/wiki/Moorabbin_Airport) in the city's south east that also handles a small number of passenger flights. [Essendon Airport](/wiki/Essendon_Airport), which was once the city's main airport also handles passenger flights, general aviation and some cargo flights.[[198]](#cite_note-198) The city also has a [bicycle sharing system](/wiki/Bicycle_sharing_system). It was established in 2010[[199]](#cite_note-199) and uses a network of marked road lanes and [segregated cycle facilities](/wiki/Segregated_cycle_facilities).

### Utilities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[thumb|upright=1.0|Sugarloaf Reservoir at](/wiki/File:Sugarloaf_Reservoir_Melbourne.jpg) [Christmas Hills](/wiki/Christmas_Hills,_Victoria) in the metropolitan area is one of Melbourne's closest water supplies. [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Water storage and supply for Melbourne is managed by [Melbourne Water](/wiki/Melbourne_Water), which is owned by the Victorian Government. The organisation is also responsible for management of sewerage and the major water catchments in the region as well as the [Wonthaggi desalination plant](/wiki/Wonthaggi_desalination_plant) and [North–South Pipeline](/wiki/North-South_Pipeline). Water is stored in a series of reservoirs located within and outside the Greater Melbourne area. The largest dam, the [Thomson River Dam](/wiki/Thomson_River_Dam), located in the Victorian Alps, is capable of holding around 60% of Melbourne's water capacity,[[200]](#cite_note-200) while smaller dams such as the [Upper Yarra Dam](/wiki/Upper_Yarra_Dam), [Yan Yean Reservoir](/wiki/Yan_Yean_Reservoir), and the [Cardinia Reservoir](/wiki/Cardinia_Reservoir) carry secondary supplies.

Gas is provided by three distribution companies:

* [AusNet Services](/wiki/AusNet_Services), which provides gas from Melbourne's inner western suburbs to southwestern Victoria.
* [Multinet Gas](/wiki/Multinet_Gas), which provides gas from Melbourne's inner eastern suburbs to eastern Victoria. (owned by SP AusNet after acquisition, but continuing to trade under the brand name Multinet Gas)
* [Envestra](/wiki/Envestra), which provides gas from Melbourne's inner northern suburbs to northern Victoria, as well as the majority of southeastern Victoria.

Electricity is provided by five distribution companies:

* [Citipower](/wiki/Citipower), which provides power to Melbourne's CBD, and some inner suburbs
* [Powercor](/wiki/Powercor), which provides power to the outer western suburbs, as well as all of western [Victoria](/wiki/Victoria_(Australia)) (Citipower and Powercor are owned by the same entity)
* [Jemena](/wiki/Jemena), which provides power to the northern and inner western suburbs
* [United Energy](/wiki/Alinta), which provides power to the inner eastern and southeastern suburbs, and the [Mornington Peninsula](/wiki/Mornington_Peninsula)
* [AusNet Services](/wiki/AusNet_Services), which provides power to the outer eastern suburbs and all of the north and east of Victoria.

Numerous telecommunications companies provide Melbourne with terrestrial and mobile telecommunications services and wireless internet services

## Crime[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Although Melbourne's crime rate dropped 6.3% in 2014, it still has Victoria's worst crime rate with over 26,000 offences per 100,000 people.[[201]](#cite_note-201)

## Sister cities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

Melbourne has seven international sister cities.[[202]](#cite_note-202) According to the City of Melbourne council, "the city as a whole has been nourished by their influence, which extends from educational, cultural and sporting exchanges to unparalleled business networking opportunities."[[203]](#cite_note-203)[[204]](#cite_note-204)[[205]](#cite_note-205)[[206]](#cite_note-206) The recognised cities are:

[Template:Col-begin](/wiki/Template:Col-begin) [Template:Col-break](/wiki/Template:Col-break)

* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Osaka](/wiki/Osaka), Japan (1978)
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Tianjin](/wiki/Tianjin), China (1980)
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Thessaloniki](/wiki/Thessaloniki), Greece (1984)
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Boston](/wiki/Boston), Massachusetts, USA (1985)
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Saint Petersburg](/wiki/Saint_Petersburg), Russia (1989)
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Zagreb](/wiki/Zagreb), Croatia (1997)
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Milan](/wiki/Milan), Italy (2003)
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Delhi](/wiki/Delhi), India (2007)

[Template:Col-end](/wiki/Template:Col-end)

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal)

* [Melway](/wiki/Melway) (the native street directory and general information source in Melbourne)

### Lists[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

* [List of Australian capital cities](/wiki/List_of_Australian_capital_cities)
* [List of Melbourne suburbs](/wiki/List_of_Melbourne_suburbs)
* [List of museums in Melbourne](/wiki/List_of_museums_in_Melbourne)
* [List of people from Melbourne](/wiki/List_of_people_from_Melbourne)
* [List of songs about Melbourne](/wiki/List_of_songs_about_Melbourne)
* [Local government in Victoria](/wiki/Local_government_in_Victoria)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
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## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links)

* [City of Melbourne official website](http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/)
* [Official tourist board site of Melbourne](http://www.visitmelbourne.com/)
* [Official Tourism Board Melbourne Page - Tourism Australia](http://www.australia.com/en-us/places/melbourne.html) [Population Projections for Melbourne](http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/home/publications-and-research/urban-and-regional-research/metropolitan/victoria-in-future-2008)
* [Melbourne Weather: Current conditions and historical data](http://www.weather-melbourne.com/)
* [Template:OSM](/wiki/Template:OSM)

[Template:Melbourne](/wiki/Template:Melbourne) [Template:Navboxes](/wiki/Template:Navboxes)

[Template:Authority control](/wiki/Template:Authority_control)

[Category:Melbourne](/wiki/Category:Melbourne) [Category:Australian capital cities](/wiki/Category:Australian_capital_cities) [Category:Cities in Victoria (Australia)](/wiki/Category:Cities_in_Victoria_(Australia)) [Category:Coastal cities in Australia](/wiki/Category:Coastal_cities_in_Australia) [Category:Former national capitals](/wiki/Category:Former_national_capitals) [Category:Metropolitan areas of Australia](/wiki/Category:Metropolitan_areas_of_Australia) [Category:Port cities in Australia](/wiki/Category:Port_cities_in_Australia) [Category:Regions of Victoria (Australia)](/wiki/Category:Regions_of_Victoria_(Australia)) [Category:Populated places established in 1835](/wiki/Category:Populated_places_established_in_1835) [Category:1835 establishments in Australia](/wiki/Category:1835_establishments_in_Australia)