# WESTERN AUSTRALIA ECONOMIC PROFILE – May 2022

**The Economy**

**Gross state product (% change1): Financial years**



1 Real or adjusted for price changes. Original series. Note – Forecasts start in 2021-22.

Source: ABS 5220.0 Australian National Accounts: State Accounts (Annual); WA Government State Budget 2022-23 (May 2022); and Australian Government Budget 2022-23 (March 2022).

* Western Australia’s gross state product (GSP) was $361.8 billion in 2020-21, 17.5% of Australia’s gross domestic product (GDP).
* Western Australia’s GSP per capita was $135,479 in 2020‑21, 68% above Australia’s GDP per capita of $80,461.
* Western Australia’s real GSP rose 2.6% in 2020-21, above growth of 1.0% in 2019-20, although below compound annual growth of 3.0% over the past 10 years.
* The WA Government State Budget 2022‑23 forecasts Western Australia’s real GSP will rise 3.75% in 2021‑22, 2.0% in 2022‑23 and 1.0% in 2023-24.
* Australia’s real GDP rose 1.5% in 2020-21.
* The Australian Government Budget 2022-23 forecasts Australia’s real GDP will rise 4.25% in 2021‑22, 3.5% in 2022-23 and 1.0% in 2023‑24.

**Industry contribution to Western Australia’s GSP1:**

**Financial years**

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1 Nominal or not adjusted for price changes. Original series. (a) Gross operating surplus of dwelling owners, with owner‑occupiers assigned a rent for their dwellings. (b) Repairs, maintenance and personal services.

Source: ABS 5220.0 Australian National Accounts: State Accounts (Annual).

* Goods-producing industries accounted for 59% ($214.2 billion) of Western Australia’s GSP in 2020-21, including:
	+ Mining (47% or $169.6 billion).
	+ Construction (5% or $18.2 billion).
	+ Manufacturing (4% or $15.3 billion).
	+ Agriculture, forestry and fishing (2% or $6.4 billion).
* Services industries accounted for 32% ($116.7 billion) of GSP in 2020-21, including:
	+ Healthcare and social assistance (5% or $17.0 billion).
	+ Professional, scientific and technical services (4% or $15.2 billion).
	+ Finance and insurance (3% or $11.1 billion).
* Dwelling ownership and other items such as net interstate trade and changes in inventories accounted for the remaining 9% of GSP in 2020-21.

**Industry contribution to change1 in Western Australia’s GSP: 2020-21 financial year**



1 Real or adjusted for price changes. Original series. pp = percentage point. (a) Gross operating surplus of dwelling owners, with owner-occupiers assigned a rent for their dwellings. (b) Repairs, maintenance and personal services.

Source: ABS 5220.0 Australian National Accounts: State Accounts (Annual).

* Manufacturing (up 8.7%) made the largest contribution to Western Australia’s real GSP growth in 2020-21, followed by:
	+ Agriculture, forestry and fishing (up 23.1%).
	+ Healthcare and social assistance (up 6.9%).
	+ Retail trade (up 8.4%).
	+ Wholesale trade (up 9.9%).
	+ Mining (up 0.4%).
* In 2020-21, Western Australia’s manufacturing industry increased production of minerals and chemical products and machinery and transport equipment. Western Australia also had a large crop harvest from favourable weather conditions, which contributed to increased output in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry.
* Transport, postal and warehousing (down 6.3%) was the largest detractor from Western Australia’s real GSP growth in 2020-21, followed by administrative and support services (down 8.8%).

**The Economy**

**Expenditure on Western Australia’s GSP1: Financial years**



1 Nominal or not adjusted for price changes. Original series. (a) General government final consumption expenditure and public gross fixed capital formation. (b) Includes ownership transfer costs. (c) Goods and services. (d) Implicitly comprises net interstate trade in goods and services, changes in inventories, miscellaneous items and a balancing item that equates the sum of GSP across the states and territories to Australia’s GDP.

Source: ABS 5220.0 Australian National Accounts: State Accounts (Annual).

* Goods exports accounted for 63% ($226.9 billion) of Western Australia’s GSP in 2020-21, followed by:
	+ Household consumption (31% or $110.7 billion).
	+ Public final demand (15% or $55.4 billion).
	+ Business investment (11% or $41.5 billion).
	+ Dwelling investment and ownership transfer costs (3% or $11.4 billion).
	+ Services exports (1% or $4.6 billion).
* Imports of goods and services detract from Western Australia’s GSP because it is expenditure on goods and services produced outside of the state’s economy (-11% or $40.2 billion in 2020-21).
* The Other(c) category detracted $48.5 billion (13%) from Western Australia’s GSP in 2020-21. Western Australia generally has a negative value for this category because of its interstate trade deficit.

**Expenditure contribution to change1 in Western Australia’s GSP: 2020-21 financial year**



1 Real or adjusted for price changes. Original series. pp = percentage point. (a) General government final consumption expenditure and public gross fixed capital formation. (b) Goods and services. (c) Includes ownership transfer costs. (d) Interstate trade in goods and services, changes in inventories and other items.

Source: ABS 5220.0 Australian National Accounts: State Accounts (Annual).

* Public final demand (up 6.2%) made the largest contribution to Western Australia’s real GSP growth in 2020-21, followed by:
	+ Imports of goods and services (down 7.0% – decreases in imports contribute positively to real GSP growth).
	+ Household consumption (up 2.6%).
	+ Dwelling investment and ownership transfer costs (up 14.2%).
	+ Goods exports (up 0.4%).
* Public final demand grew strongly in 2020-21 due to increased consumption expenditure to manage the health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and increased infrastructure investment to support economic activity.
* Services exports (down 36.1%) was the largest detractor from Western Australia’s real GSP growth in 2020-21, as COVID-19 travel restrictions significantly limited the arrival of overseas tourists and students.

**Western Australia’s state final demand1 (expenditure contribution to change2): Quarters**



1 Seasonally adjusted series. 2 Real or adjusted for price changes. Note - Changes in SFD can be exaggerated by large swings in business investment without adjusting for the associated changes in imports. (a) Includes ownership transfer costs. (b) General government final consumption expenditure and public gross fixed capital formation.

Source: ABS 5206.0. Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (Quarterly).

* State final demand (SFD) measures total consumption and investment by the private and public sectors. SFD accounted for 61% ($218.9 billion) of Western Australia’s GSP in 2020-21.
* Western Australia’s SFD has grown strongly following the sharp downturn in the June quarter 2020 due to the COVID‑19 pandemic.
* Real SFD rose 2.2% in the March quarter 2022, following growth of 0.8% in the December quarter 2021. Public final demand (up 5.8%) was the largest contributor to Western Australia’s real SFD growth in the March quarter 2022, followed by business investment (up 3.9%), and dwelling investment and ownership transfer costs (up 0.6%).
* The WA Government State Budget 2022-23 forecasts Western Australia’s real SFD will rise 5.25% in 2021‑22, 4.0% in 2022-23 and 3.0% in 2023-24.

**Population and income**

**Western Australia’s population1 (change2): Financial years**



Note – Components of population change may not sum to total population growth due to intercensal difference. 1 Original series. 2 Change between June quarters of each year.

Source: ABS 3101.0 Australian Demographic Statistics (Quarterly).

* Western Australia’s population was 2.68 million in 2020‑21, which was 10.4% of Australia’s population.
* Western Australia’s population growth fell in 2020‑21 due to the impact of COVID-19 on overseas migration. However, interstate migration made a positive contribution to population growth for the first time since 2012‑13.
* Western Australia’s population rose 0.7% in 2020-21, below growth of 1.6% in 2019-20, and below compound annual growth of 1.3% over the past 10 years.
* Western Australia’s population grew by 17,421 in 2020-21, comprising:
	+ Natural increase of 18,470.
	+ Net overseas migration of -5,641.
	+ Net interstate migration of 4,592.
* The WA Government State Budget 2022‑23 forecasts Western Australia’s population will grow 0.9% in 2021‑22, 1.2% in 2022‑23 and 1.4% in 2023-24.

**Western Australia’s gross state income and household income per capita (% change)1: Financial years**



1 Original series. (a) Real or adjusted for price changes. (b) Nominal or not adjusted for price changes. Household income from wages and salaries, salary sacrifice, non-cash benefits, bonuses, termination payments, government pensions and allowances, profit/loss from own unincorporated business, net investment income and private transfers less income tax, the Medicare levy and the Medicare levy surcharge.

Source: ABS 5220.0 Australian National Accounts: State Accounts (Annual).

* Gross state income (GSI) is an alternative measure of Western Australia’s economy that takes into account changes in the terms of trade (ratio of export prices to import prices).
* In 2020-21, Western Australia’s real GSI grew 18.1%, above growth of 7.4% in 2019-20 and compound annual growth of 3.8% over the past 10 years.
* The large increase in Western Australia’s real GSI in 2020‑21 was mainly the result of higher iron ore prices.
* Changes in GSI flow through to household incomes. Western Australia’s gross household disposable income per capita rose 6.1% to $58,210 in 2020-21, to be 7.8% ($4,204) higher than the Australian average of $54,006.

**Australia’s exchange rate and commodity prices1: Months**



Note – Axis does not start at zero. 1 Monthly index of Australia’s commodity prices. 2020-21 = 100.0. Nominal or not adjusted for price changes. Original series.

Source: Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA), Statistical Tables (Monthly).

* The Australian dollar rose 0.5% to average US71.9 cents in May 2022.
* The Australian dollar averaged US75.0 cents in 2021.
* The WA Government State Budget 2022-23 forecasts the Australian dollar will average US73.5 cents in 2021‑22, US75.1 cents in 2022‑23 and US73.1 cents in 2023‑24.
* The RBA’s Index of Commodity Prices rose 1.0% in Australian dollar terms in May 2022.
* The price of iron ore delivered to north China (including cost and freight) fell 0.5% to average US$151.3.1 a tonne in April 2022.
* The price of iron ore delivered to north China (including cost and freight) averaged US$161.7 a tonne in 2021.
* The WA Government State Budget 2022-23 forecasts the price of iron ore delivered to north China (including cost and freight) will average US$139.5 a tonne in 2021‑22, US$77.5 a tonne in 2022‑23 and US$66.0 a tonne in 2023‑24.

**Labour market**

**Western Australia’s labour market summary**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Month7 | Change from: | Financial year8 | Change from: | Calendar year8 | Change from: |
|  | **April2022** | March.2022 | April2021 | **2020-21** | 2019-20 | **2021** | 2020 |
| Employed full-time1 | **1,007,869** | +19,004 | +1.9% | +81,470 | +8.8% | **915,778** | -1,281 | -0.1% | **943,210** | +33,366 | +3.7% |
| Employed part-time2 | **455,983** | -20,868 | -4.4% | -10,067 | -2.2% | **458,767** | +25,728 | +5.9% | **467,604** | +28,584 | +6.5% |
| Total employed | **1,463,852** | -1,864 | -0.1% | +71,403 | +5.1% | **1,374,545** | +24,448 | +1.8% | **1,410,814** | +61,949 | +4.6% |
| Total hours worked (millions)3 | **204.3** | +3.5 | +1.8% | +13.6 | +7.1% | **189.4** | +2.3 | +1.2% | **194.6** | +8.9 | +4.8% |
| Participation rate4 | **69.3%** | -0.5pp | n.a. | +1.3pp | n.a. | **68.1%** | +0.5pp | n.a. | **68.6%** | +1.2pp | n.a. |
| Employment to population ratio | **67.3%** | -0.2pp | n.a. | +2.6pp | n.a. | **63.9%** | +0.5pp | n.a. | **65.4%** | +2.4pp | n.a. |
| Unemployed | **43,304** | -7,619 | -15.0% | -29,297 | -40.4% | **88,908** | +1,640 | +1.9% | **69,691** | -26,204 | -27.3% |
| Unemployment rate5 | **2.9%** | -0.5pp | n.a. | -2.1pp | n.a. | **6.1%** | +0.0pp | n.a. | **4.7%** | -1.9pp | n.a. |
| Underemployed | **93,384** | -6,429 | -6.4% | -9,667 | -9.4% | **119,055** | -24,482 | -17.1% | **104,501** | -36,723 | -26.0% |
| Underemployment rate6 | **6.2%** | -0.4pp | n.a. | -0.8pp | n.a. | **8.1%** | -1.9pp | n.a. | **7.1%** | -2.7pp | n.a. |

n.a. = not applicable. pp = percentage point. 1 Worked 35 hours or more a week. 2 Worked less than 35 hours a week. 3 Total monthly hours worked in all jobs (full time and part time jobs). 4 The proportion of the civilian working age population (aged 15 and older) in the labour force (employed or unemployed people). 5 The proportion of unemployed in the labour force (people without a job who are actively looking for work). 6 The proportion of underemployed in the labour force (workers wanting more hours). 7 Seasonally adjusted series. 8 Original series (except for total hours worked in seasonally adjusted terms).

Source: ABS 6202.0 Labour Force, Australia (Monthly).

**Western Australia’s employment1: Months**

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Note – Axis does not start at zero. 1 Seasonally adjusted series. 2 Worked 35 hours or more a week. 3 Worked less than 35 hours a week.

Source: ABS 6202.0 Labour Force, Australia (Monthly).

* Western Australia’s employment fell by 0.1% (1,864) to 1.46 million in April 2022.
* In April 2022, Western Australia’s:
	+ Full-time2 employment rose 1.9% (19,004) to 1,007,869.
	+ Part-time3 employment fell 4.4% (20,868) to 455,983.
* Western Australia’s annual average employment rose 4.6% in 2021, after falling 0.4% in 2020.
* The WA Government State Budget 2022-23 forecasts Western Australia’s annual average employment will rise 5.0% in 2021‑22, 2.0% in 2022-23 and 1.25% in 2023-24.

**Western Australia’s employment by industry1: Quarters2**



1 Original series. 2 Average over the past 4 quarters. Middle month of each quarter: February, May, August and November.

(a) Repairs, maintenance and personal services.

Source: ABS 6291.0.55.003 Labour Force, Australia, Detailed (Quarterly).

* Services industries accounted for 73% of Western Australia’s average employment over the 4 quarters to the March quarter 2022, including:
	+ Healthcare and social assistance (13.4%).
	+ Retail trade (9.6%).
	+ Education and training (8.2%).
* Goods-producing industries accounted for 27% of Western Australia’s average employment over the 4 quarters to the March quarter 2022, including:
	+ Construction (8.9%).
	+ Mining (8.8%).
	+ Manufacturing (5.9%).
* Retail trade (up 20,965 or 18.0%) had the largest rise in Western Australia’s employment2 between the March quarters of 2021 and 2022, followed by mining (up 13,171 or 11.7%).
* Electricity, gas, water and waste service (down 9,109 or 35.9%) had the largest fall in Western Australia’s employment2 between the March quarters of 2021 and 2022, followed by wholesale trade (down 5,052 or 12.5%).

**Labour market**

**Western Australia’s total hours worked1: Months**



Note – Axis does not start at zero. 1 Total monthly hours worked in all jobs (full time and part time jobs). Seasonally adjusted series.

Source: ABS 6202.0 Labour Force, Australia (Monthly).

* Western Australia’s total hours worked in all jobs rose 1.8% in April 2022 to 204.3 million hours. This followed a fall of 0.2% in March 2022.
* Western Australia’s total hours worked in all jobs rose 5.7% in 2021, after falling 2.8% in 2020.
* Western Australia’s average hours worked per employed person rose 1.9% to 139.6 hours in April 2022.

**Western Australia’s participation rate1: Months**



Note – Axis does not start at zero. 1 Seasonally adjusted series.

Source: ABS 6202.0 Labour Force, Australia (Monthly).

* Western Australia’s participation rate fell from 69.8% in March 2022 to 69.3% in April 2022.
* Western Australia’s participation rate of 70.0% in February 2022 was a record high, surpassing the 69.9% participation rate in December 2008.
* Western Australia’s participation rate averaged 68.6% in 2021, up from 67.4% in 2020.
* The WA Government State Budget 2022-23 forecasts Western Australia’s participation rate will average 69.2% in 2021‑22, 69.4% in 2022-23 and 69.1% in 2023‑24.

**Western Australia’s unemployment rate1: Months**

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1 Seasonally adjusted series.

Source: ABS 6202.0 Labour Force, Australia (Monthly).

* Western Australia’s unemployment rate fell by 0.5 percentage points to 2.9% in April 2022, the lowest monthly unemployment rate since October 2008.
* Australia’s unemployment rate was 3.9% in April 2022.
* The number of unemployed persons in Western Australia fell 15.0% (7,619) to 43,304 in April 2022.
* Western Australia’s unemployment rate averaged 4.7% in 2021, down from 6.7% in 2020.
* The WA Government State Budget 2022-23 forecasts Western Australia’s unemployment rate will average 4.0% in 2021‑22, 3.75% in 2022‑23 and 2023-24.

**Labour market**

**Western Australia’s underemployment rate1: Months**



1 Seasonally adjusted series.

Source: ABS 6202.0 Labour Force, Australia (Monthly).

* Western Australia’s underemployment rate fell from 6.6% in March 2022 to 6.2% in April 2022. This was the State’s lowest underemployment rate since February 2014.
* The number of underemployed persons in Western Australia fell 6.4% (6,429) to 93,384 in April 2022, following a fall of 2.4% (2,408) in March 2022.
* Western Australia’s underemployment rate averaged 7.1% in 2021, below the average underemployment rate of 9.8% in 2020.

**Western Australia’s internet vacancies1: Months**



1 Online job advertisements on SEEK, CareerOne and Australian JobSearch. Excludes job advertisements on other online job boards, employer web sites, newspapers and word of mouth. Seasonally adjusted series. 2 Recruitment through on site and online job advertisements, by notifying employment agencies or trade unions, and from internal job registers. Original series.

Source: Australia Department of Education, Skills and Employment, Vacancy Report (Monthly).

* Western Australia’s internet vacancies rose 7.3% (2,415) to 35,287 in April 2022.
* According to the ABS Job Vacancy Survey2, Western Australia had 66,500 job vacancies in the March quarter 2022, 5,700 more than in the previous quarter and 26,500 more than a year ago.
* The large number of job vacancies in Western Australia reflects the high demand for workers in industries recovering from, and responding to, changes in economic activity caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Wage price index (% change1): Quarters**



1 Change from same quarter of previous year or year-on-year. Original series. Wage price index 2008-09 = 100.0. Note - Changes in the wage price index and average weekly earnings differ because labour quality (job specifications and employee performance and experience) and labour quantity (hours worked and employee numbers) is held constant by the wage price index.

Source: ABS 6345.0 Wage Price Index, Australia (Quarterly).

* Wages growth in Western Australia has increased over the past year, driven by robust economic activity and labour supply constraints. However, wages growth remains low relative to the rest of Australia and particularly low relative to other periods of low unemployment in Western Australia over the past 20 years.
* Western Australia’s wage price index growth rose from 2.0% in the December quarter 2021 to 2.2% in the March quarter 2022 (year-on-year).
* Australia’s wage price index rose 2.4% in the March quarter 2022 (year-on-year).
* Western Australia’s annual average wages rose 1.7% in 2021.
* The WA Government State Budget 2022‑23 forecasts Western Australia’s annual average wages will rise 2.0% in 2021‑22, 2.75% in 2022-23 and 3.0% in 2023-24.
* Western Australia’s annual adult full-time total earnings averaged $102,458 in 2021, 9.2% ($8,598) above the Australian average of $93,860.

**Consumption**

**Western Australia’s household consumption (% change1): Calendar years**



1 Real or adjusted for price changes. Original series.

Source: ABS 5220.0 Australian National Accounts: State Accounts (Annual); and ABS 5206.0. Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (Quarterly).

* Household consumption in Western Australia recovered strongly in 2021, following the negative effect of the COVID‑19 pandemic in 2020.
* Western Australia accounted for 10.5% of Australia’s household consumption in 2021.
* Western Australia’s real household consumption rose 6.1% in 2021, following a fall of 3.6% in 2020.
* The WA Government State Budget 2022-23 forecasts Western Australia’s real household consumption will rise 5.0% in 2021‑22, 2.25% in 2022‑23 and 2.75% in 2023‑24.

**Western Australia’s household consumption by industry sector1: Calendar years**



1 Nominal or not adjusted for price changes. Original series.

Source: ABS 5220.0 Australian National Accounts: State Accounts (Annual); and ABS 5206.0. Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (Quarterly).

* The value of Western Australia’s household consumption rose 8.6% to $115.4 billion in 2021.
* Housing, utilities and other fuels accounted for 22.8% of Western Australia’s household consumption in 2021, followed by insurance, finance and other (14.4%) and food (10.8%).
* The largest increases in Western Australia’s household consumption in 2021 were in:
	+ Transport (up $1.6 billion or 17.6%).
	+ Housing, utilities and other fuels (up $1.5 billion or 6.2%).
	+ Insurance, finance and other (up $1.5 billion or 10.0%).

**Western Australia’s retail turnover1: Months**



Note – Axis does not start at zero. 1 Nominal or not adjusted for price changes. Seasonally adjusted series 2 Includes newspapers and books; other recreational goods; pharmaceutical, cosmetic and toiletry goods; and other retailing.

Source: ABS 8501.0 Retail Trade, Australia (Monthly).

* Western Australia's retail turnover has been supported by favourable labour market conditions and consumers diverting their spending from overseas and interstate travel into retail goods and services. Monthly retail turnover was somewhat volatile over the five months to April 2022, but is still at a high level.
* The value of Western Australia’s retail turnover rose 2.2% to $3.7 billion in April 2022. The rise in April 2022 was due to:
	+ Food (up 2.4% to $1.5 billion).
	+ Household goods (up 0.2% to $649 million)
	+ Cafes, restaurants & takeaway food services (up 3.9% to $635 million).
	+ Clothing, footwear and personal accessories (up 8.1% to $225 million).
	+ Department stores (up 2.8% to $197 million).

**Investment**

**Western Australia’s investment1: Calendar years**



1 Gross fixed capital formation. Nominal or not adjusted for price changes. Original series.

Source: ABS 5220.0 Australian National Accounts: State Accounts (Annual); and ABS 5206.0. Australian National Accounts: National Income, Expenditure and Product (Quarterly).

* Business investment in Western Australia has grown over the past three years, following six years of decline from a peak of $80.2 billion in 2012.
* Western Australia accounted for 18.8% of Australia’s business investment in 2021.
* In 2021, the value of Western Australia’s:
	+ Business investment rose 7.1% to $42.8 billion.
	+ Dwelling investment rose 32.2% to $9.4 billion.
	+ Public investment rose 14.4% to $10.1 billion.
* Western Australia’s real business investment rose 4.8% in 2021.
* The WA Government State Budget 2022-23 forecasts Western Australia’s real business investment will rise 4.75% in 2021‑22, 8.25% in 2022‑23 and 4.0% in 2023-24.

**Western Australia’s private new capital expenditure1: Calendar years**



1 Nominal or not adjusted for price changes. Original series. (a) All industries other than mining; agriculture, forestry and fishing; public administration and safety; and superannuation funds.

Source: ABS 5625.0 Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure, Australia (Quarterly).

* Western Australia accounted for 23% of Australia’s private new capital expenditure in 2021, including:
	+ 58% of Australia’s mining industry new capital expenditure.
	+ 10% of Australia’s non-mining industries new capital expenditure.
* The mining industry accounted for 69% of Western Australia’s private new capital expenditure in 2021.
* In 2021, the value of Western Australia’s new capital expenditure in the:
	+ Mining industry rose 9.8% to $22.0 billion.
	+ Non-mining industries rose 26.2% to $9.6 billion.
* According to the WA Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Western Australia had $52.1 billion of major resource projects under construction or committed and $84.3 billion under consideration in March 2022.

**Industry contribution to Western Australia’s investment1: Financial years**



1 Gross fixed capital formation. Nominal or not adjusted for price changes. Original series. (a) Repairs, maintenance and personal services.

Source: ABS 5220.0 Australian National Accounts: State Accounts (Annual).

* The mining industry accounted for 44% ($27.4 billion) of Western Australia’s gross fixed capital formation in 2020‑21, followed by:
	+ Transport, postal and warehousing (7% or $4.4 billion).
	+ Electricity, gas, water and waste services (4% or $2.7 billion).
	+ Public administration and safety (4% or $2.4 billion).
* The largest increase in Western Australia’s gross fixed capital formation in 2020-21 was in mining (up $1.1 billion or 4.2%), followed by construction (up $320 million or 40.5%).
* The largest decrease in Western Australia’s gross fixed capital formation in 2020-21 was in information, media and telecommunications (down $448 million or 44.6%), followed by rental, hiring and real estate services (down $139 million or 12.7%).

**Investment**

**Western Australia’s exploration expenditure1:**

**Calendar years**



1 Nominal or not adjusted for price changes. Original series.

Source: ABS 8412.0 Mineral and Petroleum Exploration, Australia (Quarterly).

* Exploration expenditure can be a leading indicator for investment in minerals and petroleum projects.
* Western Australia accounted for 65% of Australia’s minerals exploration expenditure in 2021.
* The value of minerals exploration expenditure in Western Australia rose 33.8% to $2.4 billion in 2021, mainly due to increases in gold, iron ore, and copper exploration.
* In 2021, the value of Western Australia’s exploration expenditure in:
	+ Gold rose 21.2% to $1.1 billion.
	+ Iron ore rose 37.6% to $527 million.
	+ Copper rose 88.2% to $256 million.
* Western Australia accounted for 43% of Australia’s petroleum exploration expenditure in 2021.
* The value of petroleum exploration expenditure in Western Australia rose 17.8% to $491 million in 2021.

**Western Australia’s engineering construction activity1: Quarters**



Note –The large value of engineering construction activity in the September quarter 2017 was mainly due to the arrival of the Prelude Floating LNG Plant. 1 Nominal or not adjusted for price changes. Seasonally adjusted series.

Source: ABS 8762.0 Engineering Construction Activity, Australia (Quarterly).

* The value of Western Australia’s engineering construction activity rose 1.7% to $4.9 billion in the December quarter 2021, following a fall of 6.8% in the September quarter 2021.
* In 2021, the value of Western Australia’s engineering construction activity rose 7.0% to $20.3 billion, driven by engineering construction on:
	+ Bridges, railways and harbours rising 69.0% to $1.6 billion.
	+ Heavy industry rising 4.7% to $13.4 billion.
	+ Water storage and supply, sewerage and drainage rising 84.8% to $732 million.
	+ Roads, highways and subdivisions rising 12.7% to $1.8 billion.
	+ Telecommunications rising 20.4% to $586 million.
* The value of Western Australia engineering construction activity in 2021 fell on:
	+ Electricity generation, transmission and distribution and pipelines (down 23.1% to $1.8 billion).
	+ Recreation and other (down 6.8% to $412 million).

**Western Australia’s building activity1: Quarters**



1 Nominal or not adjusted for price changes. Seasonally adjusted series (except for total building activity in the pipeline).

(a) Total residential and non-residential building activity in the pipeline. Original series.

Source: ABS 8752.0 Building Activity, Australia (Quarterly).

* The value of Western Australia’s building activity fell 0.6% to $2.7 billion in the December quarter 2021, with:
	+ Residential building activity down 6.9% to $1.6 billion.
	+ Non-residential building activity up 9.6% to $1.1 billion.
* The value of building work in the pipeline rose 3.1% to $10.6 billion in the December quarter 2021, to be 74.8% higher than in the December quarter 2020.
* In 2021, the value of Western Australia’s building activity rose 23.4% to $10.5 billion, with:
	+ Residential building rising 34.9% to $6.4 billion.
	+ Non-residential building rising 8.8% to $4.1 billion.

**Investment**

**Western Australia’s housing finance1: Months**



1 Value of new loan commitments for housing by owner-occupiers and investors. Nominal or not adjusted for price changes. Seasonally adjusted series.

Source: ABS 5601.0 Lending Indicators, Australia (Monthly).

* Housing finance commitments are at elevated levels in Western Australia following strong growth after the WA and Australian Governments introduced housing stimulus packages in June 2020.
* The value of Western Australia’s housing finance commitments rose 2.5% to $2.8 billion in March 2022, following a rise of 1.1 in February 2022.
* In March 2022, the value of Western Australia’s housing finance commitments for:
	+ Owner-occupiers rose 1.4% to $2.1 billion.
	+ Investors rose 5.9% to $726 million.

**Western Australia’s dwelling approvals1: Months**



1 House and other dwelling approvals. Seasonally adjusted series. 2 Residential and non-residential building approvals.

Source: ABS 8731.0 Building Approvals, Australia (Monthly).

* The number of dwelling approvals in Western Australia fell 0.3% to 1,304 in April 2022, after a rise of 5.1% in March 2022.
* The value of Western Australia’s building approvals2 fell 59.6% to $865 million in April 2022, following a rise of 161.4% in March 2022.
* In April 2022, the value of approvals for:
	+ Residential building rose 5.5% to $531 million.
	+ Non-residential building fell 79.6% to $334 million.
* Western Australia has a large amount of work in the housing construction pipeline that will support building activity in the state over the next 12 to 18 months.
* The WA Government State Budget 2022-23 forecasts Western Australia’s real dwelling investment will rise 12.75% in 2021‑22, 0.5% in 2022-23 and 3.0% in 2023-24.

**Perth’s consumer and housing prices1: Quarters**



Note – Axis does not start at zero. 1 Nominal or not adjusted for price changes. Original series. Consumer price index 2011‑12 = 100.0. (a) Index of prices for new dwellings purchased by owner-occupiers in Perth. (b) Index of prices for rents in Perth.

Source: ABS 6401.0 Consumer Price Index, Australia (Quarterly).

* Perth’s consumer, house and rental prices rose in the March quarter 2022.
* Perth’s consumer price index rose 3.3% in the March quarter 2022, to be 7.6% higher than in the March quarter 2021.
* Prices for new dwellings purchased by owner-occupiers in Perth rose 15.8% in the March quarter 2022, to be 19.3% higher than in the March quarter 2021.
* Perth’s rents rose 2.3% in the March quarter 2022, to be 9.7% higher than in the March quarter 2021.
* Perth’s median established house price rose 5.7% to $560,000 in the December quarter 2021.
* The median established house price for the rest of Western Australia’s (excluding Perth) rose 4.2% to $420,000 in the December quarter 2021.

**International trade**

**Western Australia’s exports of goods1: Calendar years**



1 Free on board. Nominal or not adjusted for price changes. Original series.

Source: ABS 5368.0 International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia (Monthly).

* Western Australia accounted for 52% of Australia’s goods exports in 2021.
* The value of Western Australia’s goods exports rose 27.9% to $239.6 billion in 2021, with:
	+ Iron ore exports rising 31.6% to $152.2 billion.
	+ Non-iron ore exports rising 22.0% to $87.4 billion.
* Western Australia exported $18.1 billion of goods in February 2022, 7.3% less than in the previous month (not seasonally adjusted) and 0.2% less than a year ago.
* Western Australia’s real goods exports rose 1.0% in 2021.
* The WA Government State Budget 2022-23 forecasts Western Australia’s real goods exports will rise 1.75% in 2021-22 and 1.0% in 2022‑23 and 0.5% in 2023-24.

**Western Australia’s major markets for goods exports1: Calendar years**



1 Nominal or not adjusted for price changes. Original series.

Source: ABS 5368.0 International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia (Monthly).

* In 2021, Western Australia’s largest market for goods exports was China ($144.6 billion or 60.4%), followed by Japan ($25.9 billion or 10.8%) and South Korea ($15.8 billion or 6.6%).
* Western Australia had majority shares of Australia’s goods exports to China (82%), Singapore (61%) and Hong Kong SAR of China (56%) in 2021.
* The largest increases in Western Australia’s goods exports in 2021 were to China (up $39.8 billion or 38.0%), Japan (up $8.0 billion or 44.7%) and South Korea (up $5.5 billion or 53.5%).
* The largest decreases in Western Australia’s goods exports in 2021 were to United Kingdom (down $10.3 billion or 85.2%), United States (down $3.4 billion or 51.1%) and Hong Kong (SAR of China) (down $736 million or 17.5%).
* Minerals and petroleum accounted for 96% ($229.9 billion) of Western Australia’s goods exports in 2021.
* Agriculture, food, fibre, fisheries and forestry (excluding confidential items) accounted for 4.1% ($9.8 billion) of Western Australia’s goods exports in 2021.

**Western Australia’s major export commodities by market1: 2021 calendar year**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Iron ore | $m | % | Petroleum2 | $m | % | Gold | $m | % | Alumina3 | $m | % | Wheat | $m | % |
| China(a) | 124,643 | 82 | Japan | 12,924 | 34 | China(a) | 6,985 | 36 | Bahrain | 1,139 | 17 | Indonesia | 646 | 19 |
| Japan | 11,275 | 7 | China(a) | 7,572 | 20 | Hong Kong(b) | 2,904 | 15 | UAE | 903 | 14 | South Korea | 391 | 12 |
| South Korea | 9,788 | 6 | Singapore | 7,316 | 19 | India | 2,178 | 11 | China(a) | 716 | 11 | Japan | 364 | 11 |
| Taiwan | 3,373 | 2 | South Korea | 3,487 | 9 | Singapore | 2,113 | 11 | South Africa | 667 | 10 | Philippines | 337 | 10 |
| Vietnam | 1,766 | 1 | Taiwan | 1,951 | 5 | UK | 1,524 | 8 | Qatar | 479 | 7 | Yemen | 262 | 8 |
| Other | 1,299 | 1 | Other | 4,450 | 12 | Other | 3,528 | 18 | Other | 2,637 | 40 | Other | 1,324 | 40 |
| Total | **152,144** | **100** | **Total** | **37,700** | **100** | **Total** | **19,233** | **100** | **Total** | **6,541** | **100** | **Total** | **3,325** | **100** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Gold coin | $m | % | Mineral sands4  | $m | % | Gold ore5 | $m | % | Lithium | $m | % | Barley | $m | % |
| USA | 1,163 | 46 | China(a) | 858 | 45 | South Korea | 606 | 37 | China(a) | 1,546 | 93 | Saudi Arabia | 442 | 37 |
| Germany | 1,159 | 46 | Saudi Arabia | 180 | 10 | Philippines | 364 | 22 | Belgium | 68 | 4 | Japan | 192 | 16 |
| Hong Kong(b) | 90 | 4 | USA | 143 | 8 | Germany | 288 | 17 | South Korea | 15 | 1 | Vietnam | 95 | 8 |
| Switzerland | 39 | 2 | India | 99 | 5 | Japan | 240 | 15 | USA | 14 | 1 | Thailand | 95 | 8 |
| Japan | 21 | 1 | Spain | 92 | 5 | China(a) | 71 | 4 | South Africa | 4 | 0 | Kuwait | 61 | 5 |
| Other | 54 | 2 | Other | 516 | 27 | Other | 85 | 5 | Other | 8 | 0 | Other | 299 | 25 |
| Total | **2,526** | **100** | **Total** | **1,888** | **100** | **Total** | **1,655** | **100** | **Total** | **1,655** | **100** | **Total** | **1,184** | **100** |

Note – Components may not add to totals due to rounding. Nickel ore is a major export commodity for Western Australia but has been excluded from the table because the data is not available due to confidentiality restrictions.
1 Nominal or not adjusted for price changes. Original series. 2 LNG, condensate, crude oil and LPG. 3 Includes bauxite. 4 Garnet, illmenite, leucoxene, zircon and rutile. 5 May include other precious metal ore.
(a) Mainland. (b) Special Administrative Region of China.

Source: ABS 5368.0 International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia (Monthly); and WA Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Resource Data Files (Bi-annual).

**International trade**

**Western Australia’s exports of services1: Calendar years**



1 Customs Value. Nominal or not adjusted for price changes. Original series. (a) Education, personal and business travel; and passenger, freight, postal, courier and other transport. (b) Technical, trade-related & other business; financial services; government goods & services; telecommunications, computer & information; insurance & pension; personal, cultural & recreational; professional & management consulting; intellectual property charges; research & development; and others.

Source: ABS 5368.0.55.003/004 International Trade: Supplementary Information, Financial Year/Calendar Year (Annual).

* Western Australia accounted for 7% of Australia’s services exports in 2020.
* The value of Western Australia’s services exports fell 32.5% to $5.2 billion in 2020.
* Western Australia’s real services exports fell 13.5% in 2021.
* Western Australia’s travel and transport services exports fell 45.0% to $3.2 billion in 2020, with:
	+ Personal travel down $1.7 billion (73.6%) to $625 million.
	+ Education travel down $344 million (15.9%) to $1.8 billion.
	+ Transport down $309 million (31.4%) to $674 million.
	+ Business travel down $199 million (78.3%) to $55 million.
* Western Australia’s business and other services exports rose 3.9% to $2.1 billion in 2020, with:
	+ Insurance and pension services up $22 million (17.7%) to $146 million.
	+ Telecommunications, computer and information services up $21 million (7.7%) to $292 million.

**Western Australia’s overnight visitor spend1:**

**Calendar years**

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1 Nominal or not adjusted for price changes. Original series.

Source: Tourism Research Australia, International and National Visitor Surveys (Quarterly).

* The tourism industry (including net taxes) accounted for 1.7% ($5.4 billion) of Western Australia’s GSP and 4.9% (65,800) of total employment in 2019-20.
* The closure of international and interstate borders has had a major impact on Western Australia’s tourism industry.
* Tourists in Western Australia spent $10.4 billion in 2021, 18.0% ($1.6 billion) more than in 2020.
* In 2021, spending in Western Australia by:
	+ International visitors fell 88.0% to $66 million.
	+ Interstate visitors rose 34.6% to $1.1 billion.
	+ Intrastate (overnight) visitors rose 35.9% to $7.2 billion.
	+ Intrastate (daytrips) visitors fell 5.2% to $2.0 billion.
* Western Australia had 1,350 short-term overseas visitors arriving in December 2021, 670 (98.5%) more than in December 2020. In 2021, the State had 13,280 short-term overseas visitors, 92.9% less than in 2020.

**Western Australia’s international students1: Calendar years**



1 Enrolments. Original series.

Source: Department of Education, Skills and Employment, International student data (Monthly).

* Many international students arrived in Western Australia for the first semester of 2020, before COVID-19 travel restrictions were imposed. This, together with some students reverting to online learning from their home countries, has supported the number of international student enrolments through the COVID-19 pandemic. However, travel restrictions have significantly restricted the arrival of new students into Western Australia.
* The number of international student enrolments in Western Australia fell 18.2% to 40,787 in 2021.
* Western Australia’s share of Australia’s international student enrolments remained at 5.7% in 2021.
* The easing of travel restrictions from March 2022, combined with support for international education providers and students, will allow for an increase in arrivals of new international students to Western Australia.

**International trade**

**Western Australia’s imports of goods1: Calendar years**



1 Customs Value. Nominal or not adjusted for price changes. Original series. (a) Other manufactures, gold (imported to Western Australia for refining at the Perth Mint to the London Bullion Market Association’s accredited standard and re-exported), mineral fuels, chemicals, agricultural products and other goods.

Source: ABS 5368.0 International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia (Monthly).

* Western Australia accounted for 11% of Australia’s goods imports in 2021.
* The value of Western Australia’s goods imports rose 6.1% to $35.5 billion in 2021, with:
	+ Machinery and transport equipment imports rising 5.7% to $11.7 billion.
	+ Other imports rising 6.2% to $23.8 billion.
* Western Australia’s real goods imports rose 0.2% in 2021.
* The WA Government State Budget 2022-23 forecasts Western Australia’s real goods imports will rise 2.5% in 2021‑22, 4.5% in 2022‑23 and 3.0% in 2023-24.

**Western Australia’s major markets for goods imports1: Calendar years**

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1 Nominal or not adjusted for price changes. Original series.

Source: ABS 5368.0 International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia (Monthly).

* In 2021, Western Australia’s largest market for goods imports was China ($6.9 billion or 19.4%), followed by the United States ($3.7 billion or 10.4%) and Singapore ($2.9 billion or 8.2%).
* The largest increases in Western Australia’s goods imports in 2021 were from Singapore (up $1.8 billion or 164.1%), China (up $826 million or 13.5%) and India (up $645 million or 86.2%).
* The largest decreases in Western Australia’s goods imports in 2021 were from Thailand (down $1.1 billion or 42.1%), United States (down $878 million or 19.0%) and United Arab Emirates (down $774 million or 82.7%).

**Western Australia’s imports of services1: Calendar years**



1 Customs Value. Nominal or not adjusted for price changes. Original series. (a) Education, personal and business travel; and passenger, freight, postal, courier and other transport. (b) Technical, trade-related & other business; financial services; government goods & services; telecommunications, computer & information; insurance & pension; personal, cultural & recreational; professional & management consulting; intellectual property charges; research & development; and others.

Source: ABS 5368.0.55.003/004 International Trade: Supplementary Information, Financial Year/Calendar Year (Annual).

* Western Australia accounted for 10% of Australia’s services imports in 2020.
* The value of Western Australia’s services imports fell 52.5% to $5.4 billion in 2020.
* Western Australia’s real services imports fell 19.7% in 2021.
* Western Australia’s travel and transport services imports fell 67.9% to $2.8 billion in 2020, with:
	+ Personal travel down $4.9 billion (80.9%) to $1.1 billion.
	+ Transport down $693 million (30.9%) to $1.6 billion.
	+ Business travel down $362 million (77.5%) to $105 million.
	+ Education travel down $40 million (75.5%) to $13 million.
* Western Australia’s business and other services imports fell 1.5% to $2.6 billion in 2020, with:
	+ Insurance and pension services down $143 million (78.1%) to $40 million.
	+ Professional and management consulting services down $65 million (20.6%) to $250 million.
	+ Financial services up $211 million (57.2%) to $580 million.

**Mining industry**

**Minerals production: 2021 calendar year**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Commodity | Unit | Western Australia | Australia | World | WA shareof Aust. | WA shareof world |
| Lithium | Kt | 55 | 55 | 105 | 100% | 53% |
| Iron ore | Mt | 838 | 848 | 2,479 | 99% | 34% |
| Garnet | Kt | 321 | 321 | 1,036 | 100% | 31% |
| Zircon | Kt | 265 | 400 | 1,215 | 66% | 22% |
| Rutile | Kt | 66 | 200 | 629 | 33% | 11% |
| Alumina | Mt | 14 | 20 | 136 | 70% | 10% |
| Rare earths | Kt | 28 | 28 | 275 | 100% | 10% |
| Gold | t | 207 | 303 | 2,803 | 68% | 7% |
| Nickel ore | Kt | 150 | 150 | 2,738 | 100% | 5% |
| Salt | Mt | 12 | 12 | 280 | 100% | 4% |
| Cobalt | Kt | 5 | 5 | 165 | 100% | 3% |
| Illmenite1 | Kt | 264 | 480 | 8,413 | 55% | 3% |
| Manganese | Kt | 523 | 3,300 | 19,950 | 16% | 3% |
| Copper | Kt | 149 | 820 | 20,903 | 18% | 1% |
| Zinc | Kt | 70 | 1,323 | 12,873 | 5% | 1% |

Mt = Million tonnes. Kt = Thousand tonnes. t = tonnes. Mct = Million carats. 1 Excludes ilmenite feedstock for synthetic rutile production.

Source: WA Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Resource Data Files (Annual).

* Western Australia is the main exporter of minerals and petroleum in Australia and accounts for a significant proportion of the world’s minerals and petroleum production.
* In 2020-21, Western Australia had 125 high-value, export‑oriented mining projects and 13 major mineral processing operations transforming bauxite into alumina; gold ore into gold bars; nickel ore into nickel concentrate, matte, powder and briquettes; rutile into titanium dioxide pigment; zircon into fused zirconia; and silica sand into silicon metal.
* In 2020-21, Western Australia also had 22 petroleum projects that produced gas, condensate and crude oil from 55 onshore and offshore fields. These projects had 13 processing plants, mainly for LNG exports and domestic gas supply.

**Western Australia’s mineral and petroleum sales1:**

**Calendar years**



1 Nominal or not adjusted for price changes. Original series.

Source: WA Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Resource Data Files (Bi-Annual).

* In 2021, Western Australia’s minerals and petroleum sales rose 30.0% to $229.9 billion, with:
	+ Minerals sales up 26.9% to $190.8 billion.
	+ Petroleum sales up 47.3% to $39.1 billion.
* Western Australia accounted for 76.2% of Australia’s mining industry gross value added in 2020-21.
* Western Australia’s mining industry gross value added rose 30.3% to $169.6 billion in 2020-21.

**Western Australia’s major minerals and petroleum sales1: Calendar years**



1 Nominal or not adjusted for price changes. Original series. (a) Spodumene.

(b) Copper, lead and zinc (contains gold and silver). (c) Garnet, illmenite, leucoxene, zircon and rutile.

Source: WA Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Resource Data Files (Bi-Annual).

* Iron ore accounted for 68% of the value of Western Australia’s minerals and petroleum sales in 2021, followed by LNG (12%) and gold (7%).
* The largest increases in the value of Western Australia’s minerals and petroleum sales in 2021 were in:
	+ Iron ore (up $38.5 billion or 32.5%).
	+ LNG (up $8.5 billion or 43.9%).
	+ Condensate (up $3.2 billion or 90.3%).
* The largest decreases in the value of Western Australia’s minerals and petroleum sales in 2021 were in:
	+ Gold (down $1.3 billion or 7.4%).
	+ Natural gas (down $166 million or 10.1%).

**Mining industry**

**Western Australia’s iron ore sales1: Calendar years**



1 Nominal or not adjusted for price changes. Original series. Indexes 2011 = 100.0.

Source: WA Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Resource Data Files (Bi-Annual).

* The value of Western Australia’s iron ore sales rose 32.5% to $156.9 billion in 2021, despite a small fall in sales volumes.
* The annual average $A unit price (free on board) of Western Australia’s iron ore sales rose 33.9% in 2021.
* The volume of Western Australia’s iron ore sales fell 1.1% to 838 million tonnes in 2021.
* The WA Government State Budget 2022-23 forecasts the volume of Western Australia’s iron ore sales will rise to 865 million tonnes in 2025-26.

**Western Australia’s LNG sales1: Calendar years**



1 Nominal or not adjusted for price changes. Original series. Indexes 2011 = 100.0.

Source: WA Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Resource Data Files (Bi-Annual).

* The value of Western Australia’s LNG sales rose 43.9% to $27.8 billion in 2021, which was almost entirely due to the increase in the average price in 2021.
* The annual average $A unit price (free on board) of Western Australia’s LNG sales rose 43.7% in 2021.
* The volume of Western Australia’s LNG sales rose 0.2% to 44 million tonnes in 2021.

**Western Australia’s gold sales1: Calendar years**



1 Nominal or not adjusted for price changes. Original series. Indexes 2011 = 100.0.

Source: WA Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Resource Data Files (Bi-Annual).

* The value of Western Australia’s gold sales fell 7.4% to $16.0 billion in 2021, due to a fall in both the average price and sales volumes in 2021.
* The annual average $A unit price (free on board) of Western Australia’s gold sales fell 2.7% in 2021.
* The volume of Western Australia’s gold sales fell 4.8% to 207 tonnes in 2021.

**Regions**

**Western Australia’s Regional Development Commission Regions**



|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| **PILBARA & OFFSHORE** |  | **KIMBERLEY** |
|  | Figure | Annual change1 | WA share |  |  | Figure | Annual change1 | WA share |
| Gross regional product: 2019-20 | $62.2b | +46.9% | 19.7% |  | Gross regional product: 2019-20 | $3.1b | +0.7% | 1.0% |
| Population: 2020-21 | 63,164 | +0.5% | 2.4% |  | Population: 2020-21 | 35,996 | -0.2% | 1.3% |
| Employed persons: Dec.2021 | 41,585 | +9.4% | 2.9% |  | Employed persons: Dec.2021 | 16,907 | +13.0% | 1.2% |
| Unemployment rate: Dec.2021 | 1.8% | -0.9pp |  |  | Unemployment rate: Dec.2021 | 8.3% | -3.9pp |  |
| Minerals & petroleum sales: 2021 | $195.0b | +37.2% | 84.8% |  | Minerals & petroleum sales: 2021 | $337m | -51.1% | 0.1% |
| Building approvals: 2020-21 | $363m | +1.5% | 2.7% |  | Building approvals: 2020-21 | $81m | -7.6% | 0.6% |
| Overnight visitors a year: 2018-2020 | 996,000 |  | 8.4% |  | Overnight visitors a year: 2018-2020 | 374,000 |  | 3.1% |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **GASCOYNE** |  | **MID WEST** |
|  | Figure | Annual change1 | WA share |  |  | Figure | Annual change1 | WA share |
| Gross regional product: 2019-20 | $1.3b | +12.3% | 0.4% |  | Gross regional product: 2019-20 | $6.1b | +3.1% | 1.9% |
| Population: 2020-21 | 9,186 | -0.8% | 0.3% |  | Population: 2020-21 | 51,980 | -0.2% | 1.9% |
| Employed persons: Dec.2021 | 5,091 | +11.7% | 0.4% |  | Employed persons: Dec.2021 | 26,744 | +11.1% | 1.9% |
| Unemployment rate: Dec.2021 | 4.5% | -3.0pp |  |  | Unemployment rate: Dec.2021 | 4.2% | -2.5pp |  |
| Minerals & petroleum sales: 2021 | $153m | +38.1% | 0.1% |  | Minerals & petroleum sales: 2021 | $5.0b | +16.5% | 2.2% |
| Building approvals: 2020-21 | $44m | +24.3% | 0.3% |  | Building approvals: 2020-21 | $180m | +13.9% | 1.4% |
| Overnight visitors a year: 2018-2020 | 291,000 |  | 2.4% |  | Overnight visitors a year: 2018-2020 | 671,000 |  | 5.6% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **PERTH METROPOLITAN AREA** |  | **WHEATBELT** |
|  | Figure | Annual change1 | WA share |  |  | Figure | Annual change1 | WA share |
| Gross regional product: 2019-20 | $199.5b | +5.3% | 63.1% |  | Gross regional product: 2019-20 | $6.7b | +1.6% | 2.1% |
| Population: 2020-21 | 1,999,514 | +0.7% | 74.5% |  | Population: 2020-21 | 73,831 | +0.2% | 2.8% |
| Employed persons: Dec.2021 | 1,069,821 | +5.4% | 75.9% |  | Employed persons: Dec.2021 | 36,182 | -7.2% | 2.6% |
| Unemployment rate: Dec.2021 | 4.8% | -2.1pp |  |  | Unemployment rate: Dec.2021 | 3.9% | +0.4pp |  |
| Minerals & petroleum sales: 2021 | $4.2b | +8.9% | 1.8% |  | Minerals & petroleum sales: 2021 | $3.0b | +13.0% | 1.3% |
| Building approvals: 2020-21 | $10.3b | +44.5% | 77.8% |  | Building approvals: 2020-21 | $250m | +66.6% | 1.9% |
| Overnight visitors a year: 2018-2020 | 3,915,000 |  | 32.9% |  | Overnight visitors a year: 2018-2020 | 1,102,000 |  | 9.3% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **PEEL** |  | **GOLDFIELDS-ESPERANCE** |
|  | Figure | Annual change1 | WA share |  |  | Figure | Annual change1 | WA share |
| Gross regional product: 2019-20 | $7.9b | -0.5% | 2.5% |  | Gross regional product: 2019-20 | $9.3b | +16.7% | 2.9% |
| Population: 2020-21 | 149,110 | +1.9% | 5.6% |  | Population: 2020-21 | 54,412 | -0.4% | 2.0% |
| Employed persons: Dec.2021 | 62,599 | +0.3% | 4.4% |  | Employed persons: Dec.2021 | 30,892 | +10.3% | 2.2% |
| Unemployment rate: Dec.2021 | 5.4% | -3.2pp |  |  | Unemployment rate: Dec.2021 | 2.8% | -1.8pp |  |
| Minerals & petroleum sales: 2021 | $2.0b | +8.0% | 0.9% |  | Minerals & petroleum sales: 2021 | $16.5b | +2.3% | 7.2% |
| Building approvals: 2020-21 | $743m | +85.7% | 5.6% |  | Building approvals: 2020-21 | $127m | +9.6% | 1.0% |
| Overnight visitors a year: 2018-2020 | 685,000 |  | 5.8% |  | Overnight visitors a year: 2018-2020 | 725,000 |  | 6.1% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **SOUTH WEST** |  | **GREAT SOUTHERN** |
|  | Figure | Annual change1 | WA share |  |  | Figure | Annual change1 | WA share |
| Gross regional product: 2019-20 | $14.2b | -1.5% | 4.5% |  | Gross regional product: 2019-20 | $4.5b | -4.1% | 1.4% |
| Population: 2020-21 | 183,550 | +0.9% | 6.8% |  | Population: 2020-21 | 61,514 | +0.2% | 2.3% |
| Employed persons: Dec.2021 | 90,994 | -0.2% | 6.5% |  | Employed persons: Dec.2021 | 29,501 | -7.0% | 2.1% |
| Unemployment rate: Dec.2021 | 4.3% | -1.3pp |  |  | Unemployment rate: Dec.2021 | 3.8% | +0.2pp |  |
| Minerals & petroleum sales: 2021 | $3.7b | +37.9% | 1.6% |  | Minerals & petroleum sales: 2021 | $6m | +7.0% | 0.0% |
| Building approvals: 2020-21 | $872m | +62.2% | 6.6% |  | Building approvals: 2020-21 | $279m | +79.5% | 2.1% |
| Overnight visitors a year: 2018-2020 | 2,409,000 |  | 20.2% |  | Overnight visitors a year: 2018-2020 | 740,000 |  | 6.2% |
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n.a. = not available. pp = percentage point. 1 Change from previous year for annual series (nominal or not adjusted for price changes) except for GRP estimates (adjusted for 2020 CPI changes), and change from same quarter of the previous year for the quarterly labour force series. Source: WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, GRP estimates (Annual); ABS 3218.0 Regional Population Growth Australia (Annual); Department of Education, Skills and Employment, Small Area Labour Markets (Quarterly); WA Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Resource Data Files (B‑Annual); ABS 8731.0 Building Approvals, Australia (Monthly); and Tourism Western Australia, Regional Development Commission Fact Sheets (Annual).