Demographic Analysis Reports: Key demographic trends in Penrith City

PENRITH CITY COUNCIL

April 2023

Table of contents

1. Penrith City in 2021

1.1 Summary

Penrith City, the ninth largest LGA in New South Wales, has a population of 219,149 with a younger demographic. Most households are families with children, and mortgage repayments are lower than in Greater Sydney, with fewer households paying over 30% of their income towards housing costs.

The City has a larger proportion of First Nations Peoples and a lower percentage of overseas-born residents than Greater Sydney. English is the dominant language, with Filipino/Tagalog, Arabic and Punjabi the most commonly spoken non-English languages.

While fewer residents achieve a Bachelor's degree or complete Year 12, more have vocational qualifications. The labour force participation rate is higher, and unemployment is lower in Penrith City, with the largest industries being "Health Care and Social Assistance", "Construction" and "Retail Trade".

Most residents drive to work, and there is a similar proportion of disability needs in Penrith City and Greater Sydney, with almost one-third having a long-term health condition.

1.2 Population

"Penrith City's population in 2021 was 219,149. It is the ninth largest local government area in New South Wales (out of 128)"

- Penrith City's population in 2021 was 219,149

- The population is made up of 51% females and 49% males

The largest suburbs within the City are:

- Glenmore Park (25,020 residents)
- St Clair (19,900 residents)
- Penrith (17,970 residents)

1.3   Age

"Penrith City is younger than Greater Sydney or New South Wales"

- The median age of Penrith City residents is 35 years, younger than Greater Sydney (37 years) or New South Wales (39 years).

1.4   Households

"Families with children are the most common household type in Penrith City"

- Couples with children make up the largest proportion of households in Penrith City (35%), followed by couples without children (21%) and lone person households (20%).

- Compared to Greater Sydney, Penrith City has a larger proportion of couples with children and one parent families and a smaller proportion of couples without children and lone persons.

- The average household size in Penrith City in 2021 was 2.77 persons per dwelling. This was larger than in Greater Sydney (2.68 persons per dwelling).

1.5   Housing tenure

"Most homes in Penrith City are owned with a mortgage"

- Most dwellings in Penrith City are owned with a mortgage (37%), followed by renting (32%) and full ownership (24%).

- Compared to Greater Sydney, Penrith City has a larger proportion of dwellings owned with a mortgage and smaller proportions in full ownership, or rented.

1.6   Housing costs

"Compared to Greater Sydney, Penrith City has lower housing costs and a lower percentage of households spending a significant proportion of their income on housing"

- Median weekly mortgage repayments in Penrith City were $500, 12% lower than in Greater Sydney ($560).

- Median weekly rental payments in Penrith City were $400, almost 18% lower than in Greater Sydney ($470).

- The proportion of households with a mortgage which pay more than 30% of their household income on mortgage costs is lower in Penrith City (16.8%) than Greater Sydney (19.8%).

- The proportion of households that rent which pay more than 30% of their household income on rent is slightly lower in Penrith City (34.8%) than Greater Sydney (35.3%).

- **NOTE** - Both mortgage and rent costs are expected to have increased since 2021.

1.7   First Nations Peoples

"Penrith City has a significantly larger proportion of residents who are First Nations Peoples, compared to Greater Sydney"

- There were 10,930 First Nations Peoples living in Penrith City in 2021. They make up 5% of Penrith City's population, a proportion significantly larger than in Greater Sydney (1.7%).

1.8   Overseas-born residents

"Almost one quarter of Penrith City's residents were born overseas"

- 23.3% of Penrith City's population was born overseas and 71.3% in Australia (5.4% not stated). Greater Sydney has a much larger proportion of residents born overseas (38.6%).

Top non-Australian birthplaces in Penrith City are:

- United Kingdom (3.2%)
- India (3.1%)
- Philippines (2.3%)

- Compared to Greater Sydney, Penrith City has a larger proportion of residents born in the Philippines, New Zealand and Malta, and a smaller proportion born in China, India, the United Kingdom or Vietnam.

1.9 Languages spoken

"75% of Penrith City residents speak English only. Filipino/Tagalog, Arabic and Punjabi are the most spoken non-English languages"

- 18% of Penrith City residents speak English as well as another language other than English.

- 2% of Penrith City residents speak another language but do not speak English well, or at all.

The most commonly spoken non-English languages are:

- Filipino/Tagalog (1.9%)
- Arabic (1.8%)
- Punjabi (1.4%).

- Compared to Greater Sydney, more Penrith City residents speak Filipino/Tagalog, Punjabi or Samoan and fewer speak Mandarin, Arabic, Cantonese or Vietnamese.

1.10 Schooling and Education

"Fewer Penrith City residents complete Year 12 level of schooling or achieve a Bachelor Degree, than in Greater Sydney, but more have a Vocational qualification"

- 48% of Penrith City residents have Year 12 as their highest level of schooling. This is significantly lower compared to Greater Sydney (65%).

- 17% of Penrith City residents have a Bachelor or Higher Degree and 9% have an Advanced Diploma or Diploma. Greater Sydney has higher levels of residents with Bachelor or Higher Degrees (33%) and Advanced Diplomas/Diplomas (10%).

- Penrith City, however has a higher level of residents with Vocational qualifications (23% compared to 15% in Greater Sydney).

1.11 Employment

"Penrith City's unemployment rate is lower than Greater Sydney's. The largest industry of employment is Health Care and Social Assistance"

"Compared to Greater Sydney, a larger proportion of Penrith City residents drive a car or truck to work, and a smaller proportion work from home or take public transport"

- 62% of Penrith City's population aged 15 or older participate in the labour force, higher than in Greater Sydney (60%).

- 95.4% of the labour force is employed (56% full-time, 27% part-time and 12% employed but away from work).

- 4.6% of the labour force is unemployed, lower than in Greater Sydney (5.1%).

The largest industries of employment in Penrith City are:

- Health Care and Social Assistance (13.2%)
- Construction (12%)
- Retail Trade (10%)

- Driving a car is the most common method of travel to work (48% of employed residents) followed by working from home (26%).

- Compared to Greater Sydney, a larger proportion of Penrith workers drive a car or truck to work and a smaller proportion worked from home or took public transport.

1.12 Health and disability

"Almost one third of Penrith City's population has at least one long-term health condition"

- 5.5% of Penrith City's population has a need for assistance due to disability, slightly higher than 5.2% in Greater Sydney

- Compared to Greater Sydney, need for assistance rates in Penrith City are higher for younger age groups, and lower for older age groups.

- 32% of Penrith City's population had at least one long-term health condition, a figure higher than in Greater Sydney (28%).

- The most common long-term health conditions in Penrith City were asthma (9% of population), mental health condition (8.9%) and arthritis (7.9%).

- Compared to Greater Sydney, Penrith City had more residents with asthma, mental health conditions, arthritis or diabetes.

1.13 Socioeconomic disadvantage

"Penrith City is the 82nd most disadvantaged LGA in New South Wales, out of 130"

- SEIFA Index of Disadvantage for Penrith City in 2021 was 991

- Penrith City is the 82nd most disadvantaged LGA in New South wales, out of 130.

- Compared to Greater Sydney, Penrith City is slightly more disadvantaged (Penrith City index of disadvantage = 991, Greater Sydney = 1,010).

Within the City, the most disadvantaged areas (with corresponding index score) are:

- North St Marys (839)
- St Marys (912)
- Colyton (919)
- Oxley Park (921)
- Werrington (932)

The least disadvantaged areas are:

- Leonay (1,088)
- Mulgoa (1,076)
- Emu Heights (1,061)
- Glenmore Park (1,061)
- Jordan Springs (1,058)

2. Changes in demographic trends over time

2.1 Summary

Penrith City's population grew by 9% from 2016 to 2021, with a net overseas migration of 1,320 people and most other migrants coming to Penrith from nearby LGAs. The median age increased by one year, and the working-age population decreased.

Lone person households increased, and the average household size decreased due to population ageing and high-density dwellings. While separate houses remain the dominant dwelling type in the City, high-density dwellings recorded largest levels of growth. Housing tenure changed too with an increase in renting and decrease in ownership with a mortgage and full home ownership.

Both secondary school and higher education qualifications improved since 2016, with a higher proportion of residents completing Year 12 or achieving a Bachelor (or higher) Degree. However, both of these schooling achievement measures remain below Greater Sydney.

Employment rates increased in Penrith City since 2016 and working from home increased by almost 25%. Health Care and Social Assistance was the fastest growing industry of employment, whereas the Accommodation and Food Services industry shrunk the most.

Median household income in Penrith City increased by 13% since 2016, lower than in Greater Sydney (20%).

Need for assistance due to disability increased since 2016 and is related to the ageing of the local population. However, the increase was higher for Penrith City males.

2.2 Population

"Penrith City's population grew by 9% since 2016, almost double the rate of Greater Sydney"

- Penrith City's population increased by almost 9% since 2016, that is, by 17,552 residents. By comparison, Greater Sydney's population grew by 4.7% in the same period.

Within the City:

- Jordan Springs had the largest level of growth since 2016 (+6,600 residents/+128% growth),

- followed by Penrith (+4,700 residents/+35% growth) and

- Kingswood (+3,300 residents/+31% growth).

- The population of Emu Plains decreased by 290 residents since 2016 (-3%), Jamisontown by -180 (-3%) and Emu Heights by -80 residents (-2.5%) since 2016.

2.3 Age

"Penrith City's median age in 2021 was 35 years, an increase of one year since 2016. The City's working age population decreased since 2016"

- The median age of Penrith City residents in 2021 was 35 years, one year older than in 2016. By comparison, Greater Sydney's median age in 2021 was 37 years and increased by one year since 2016.

- The working age population (15-64 years) decreased from 67.4% of the population in 2016, to 65.9% in 2021.

2.4 Migration

"Most residents who moved to Penrith City since 2016 came from Blacktown and Cumberland"

Migration statistics show that between 2016 and 2021, Penrith City gained most residents from:

- Blacktown (+4,790 people)
- Cumberland (+2,060) and
- Parramatta (+1,320)

While losing residents to:

- Central Coast (-980)
- Camden (-830) and
- Gold Coast (-710)

- Net overseas migration to Penrith City between 2016 and 2021 is estimated to be +1,320.

2.5 Households

"Households are smaller in 2021 than 2016. Lone person households increased most in Penrith City, a combination of an ageing population and more younger people living alone in medium/high-density dwellings"

- Couples with children are the dominant household type in Penrith City with more than 1 in 3 households being couple with children households.

- However since 2016, lone person households increased most, with an increase of 2.5% since 2016 (3,700 more lone person households). This was a result of both ageing of the population, which means more older persons living alone as well as more younger people living alone in medium or high-density dwellings.

- Average household size in Penrith City decreased from 2.86 in 2016, to 2.77 in 2021 and is related to ageing of the population as well as emergence of more smaller/high-density dwellings.

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2.6   Dwellings

"High density dwellings are the fastest growing dwelling type in Penrith City since 2016"

- Separate houses are still the most common dwelling type in Penrith City, however since 2016 the proportion of high-density dwellings increased the most, by 3.5% with almost 3,300 new high-density dwellings constructed in the City over the five year period.

2.7   Housing tenure

"Renting increased in Penrith City since 2016"

- Since 2016, renting is the tenure type which increased most (+3.7%), while ownership with a mortgage and full-ownership of homes decreased by 1.2% each.

2.8   Overseas-born residents

"Over 50,000 overseas-born residents live in Penrith City. 11% of them arrived in Australia since 2016"

"Indian-born residents were the fastest growing overseas-born group in Penrith City"

- There were almost 51,000 overseas-born residents living in Penrith City in 2021. Of those, 5,500 arrived in Australia since 2016, representing 11% of all overseas-born residents living in Penrith City.

- Indian-born residents were the fastest growing overseas-born group in Penrith City. Since 2016, the proportion of Indian-born residents increased from 1.9% to 3.1% of the City population, an increase of almost 3,000 Indian-born residents.

- The Philippines were also a country of birth which increased notably in Penrith City since 2016 (by 0.4% or 1,300 residents).

2.9   Schooling and education

"Secondary school completion and University degree attainment increased in Penrith City since 2016"

- The highest level of schooling in Penrith City improved since 2016 with 5% more residents completing Year 12 in 2021 than in 2016. Similarly, the proportion of residents with a "Bachelor of Higher" degree increased by 4% since 2016.

2.10   Employment

"Employment rates increased and 23% more people worked from home in 2021 than 2016. Health care and social assistance was the fastest growing industry of employment"

- Employment rates in Penrith City increased by 1.1% since 2016 and were 95.4% in 2021. However, many more people were "employed but away from work" in 2021 than in 2016, caused by Covid-19, lockdowns and restrictions on work.

- "Health Care and Social Assistance" was the fastest growing industry of employment (+2.2%) whereas "Accommodation and Food Industry" decreased the most (-0.8% since 2016).

Covid-19 significantly impacted method of travel to work statistics. Since 2016:

- 23% more people worked from home (26.3% in 2021, compared to 3% in 2016) and
- 6.5% more people did not go to work (representing people who were temporarily stood down).
- On the other hand, driving a car to work decreased by 19% (from 67% in 2021 to 48% in 2021), train use decreased by 8%.

2.11 Household income

"Median household income in Penrith City did not increase by as much as in Greater Sydney"

- The median household income in Penrith City in 2021 was $1,866 per week, an increase of 13% since 2016.

- By comparison, Greater Sydney's median household income in 2021 was $2,099 and increased by 20% since 2016.

2.12 Health and disability

"Need for assistance due to disability increased in Penrith City since 2016, disproportionately more for male residents"

- The proportion of Penrith City residents with a need for assistance due to disability increased by 0.3% since 2016, likely related to ageing of the population.

- Need for assistance increased more for male residents (+0.5%) than female residents (+0.2%) since 2016.

3. More reports in this series

Other reports included in the Demographic Analysis report series are:

- Pre-school children
- Young people
- Older people
- First Nations peoples
- Health and Disability
- Gender

- People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- Housing density
- Equity
- Social disadvantage
- Digital access

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