

CHAPTER 2. POPULATION MOBILITY IN AUSTRALIA

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The Australian population is perhaps the most mobile in the world. This high level of mobility is a function of, and a contributing factor toward, Australia's economic development and growth.

This chapter seeks to examine the major patterns of internal migration within Australia as it is reflected in the 2006 census internal migration data. Between 2001 and 2006, about 6.6 million persons aged five years and over changed their permanent place of residence (ABS, 2009a, 1) for a variety of reasons including employment, housing needs, stage of life cycle such as marriage and other types of household formation, and retirement. These movers represented some 40 percent of the total population.

In this study the main focus is movements between statistical divisions. Between 2001 and 2006 some 1.69 million people moved between the sixty Australian statistical divisions – 8.6 percent of all Australians. The selection of the SD as the 'migration defining unit' in this study is important since movement between SDs is predominantly migration between different labour markets and does not represent local housing as life cycle related mobility.

When a person moves residence between statistical divisions, the move may be either within a state, or between states, enabling a level of net intrastate mobility and net interstate mobility to be determined. The sum of the two produces a net migration level for the statistical division which can be positive or negative.

Net migration is the main measure which is used here because it indicates the net additions or deletions from populations. However, it must be remembered that net migration is only the 'tip of the iceberg' of total movement – it is the balance between incoming and outgoing flows of people in a particular statistical division. The composition of inflows and outflows can be quite different so that the net migration of particular subgroups can be quite different to the total net migration. Accordingly, it is important to analyse not only patterns of total net migration but net migration for important subgroups in the population.

Initially, the analysis discusses total movement between 2001 and 2006, before turning to a discussion of migration differentials according to sex and age, as well as a number of ethnicity and human capital variables, including birthplace, education, occupation, income and labour force characteristics.

The discussion will especially centre on migration related to capital city statistical divisions, and key source and sink statistical divisions. In the first instance, the discussion will use net migration levels, but there will also be a discussion around net intrastate and net interstate migration.

2.2 NET MIGRATION IN STATISTICAL DIVISIONS

Between 2001 and 2006, 1.69 million persons moved residence from one statistical division to another. Of these, 55.9 percent, or 943,000 persons, moved to a SD within the

same state. It is interesting to note in Table 2.1 five of the eight capital city statistical divisions (SDs) experience net internal migration losses. The largest loss was 121,000, recorded in Sydney SD. In comparison the losses in the other capital city statistical divisions were small – 19,000 in Melbourne, 9,600 in Adelaide, 2,000 in Darwin and 460 in Canberra. The largest net migration gain occurred in Brisbane, where arrivals exceeded losses by 42,700. Net migration gains in the other capital city SDs were small by comparison – 3,300 in Perth and 2,400 in Hobart.

The fact that Sydney, and several other capital cities, are recording *net losses* due to internal migration is little recognised in public discourse in Australia where the common opinion is that the largest cities are draining population from the rest of states. In fact this pattern of net internal migration loss in the capitals is a longstanding one, especially in Sydney. It needs to be stressed that in Sydney, and to a lesser extent in the other capitals, *the primary drivers of population growth is not net internal migration but net international migration*. This is vividly evident in Figure 2.1 which shows that over the last four decades net internal migration has been negative while net international migration has been positive.

Figure 2.1: Sydney Statistical Division: Net Internal and International Migration, 1971-2006

Source: NSW Department of Planning

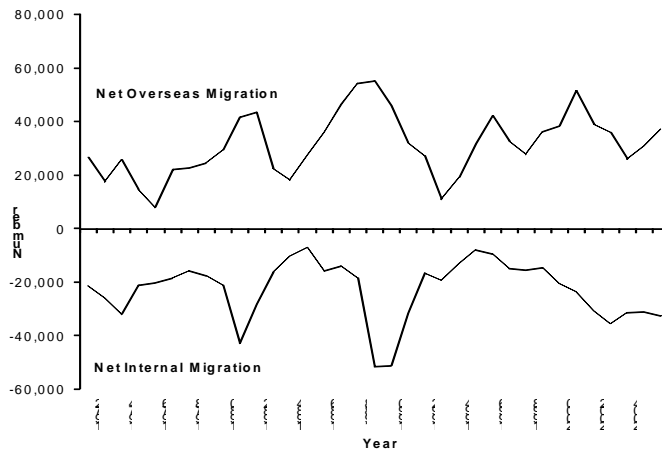


Table 2.1: Australian Statistical Division: Intrastate and Interstate Internal Migration, 2001-2006

Statistical Division	Total Departures (outs)	Total Arrivals (ins)	Net migration	Intrastate Departures (outs)	Intrastate Arrivals (ins)	Net Intrastate migration	Interstate Departures (outs)	Interstate Arrivals (ins)	Net Interstate migration
Total population 2001-2006									
Sydney	243 191	122 179	-12 012	112 912	58 408	-54 504	130 279	63 771	-66 508
Melbourne	159 353	140 644	-18 709	70 755	54 759	-15 996	88 598	85 885	-27 13
Brisbane	134 353	177 103	42 750	83 048	81 415	-1 633	5 1305	95 688	44 383
Adelaide	7 1197	6 1586	-96 111	30 626	27 267	-3 359	40 571	34 319	-6 252
Perth	86 423	89 685	3 262	45 753	47 446	1 693	40 670	42 239	1 569
Greater Hobart	17 033	19 398	2 365	5 375	7 902	2 527	1 658	1 496	-162
Canberra	4 2227	4 1766	-461	34	48	14	42 193	41 718	-475
Darwin	2 3067	2 1068	-1 999	17 14	32 16	15 02	2 1353	1 7852	-3501
Gold Coast	5 1613	80 925	293 12	30 534	29 866	-668	2 1079	5 1059	29 980
Sunshine Coast	33 488	54 049	20 561	24 634	29 563	4 929	8 854	24 486	15 632
Wide Bay-Burnett	3 3937	4 9735	1 5798	2 6568	3 2207	5 639	7 369	1 7528	10 159
South West - WA	2 3430	3 4235	1 0805	1 8005	2 8741	9 936	4 625	5 494	869
Mid-North Coast	3 4402	4 4656	1 0254	1 9274	3 4868	1 5594	1 528	9 788	-5 340
Hunter	4 6571	5 6227	9 656	2 8266	4 3422	1 5156	1 8305	1 2805	-5 500
Outer Adelaide	17 109	24 584	7 475	1 3050	1 9989	6 939	4 059	4 595	5 36
South Eastern - NSW	27 637	34 138	6 501	1 2469	1 7825	5 556	1 518	1 613	1145
Richmond-Tweed	27 320	33 463	6 143	8 593	1 7984	9 391	1 8727	1 5479	-3 248
Mackay	2 0638	2 5784	5 146	1 5908	1 6443	5 35	4 730	9 341	4 611
Northern - Qld	27 372	3 2276	4 904	1 7565	1 9477	1 912	9 807	1 2799	2 992
Barwon	20 929	2 5594	4 665	1 4348	1 9769	5 421	6 581	5 825	-7 56
Loddon	1 9457	2 3066	3 609	1 4277	1 84 16	4 139	5 180	4 650	-5 30
Darling Downs	2 9960	3 3136	3 176	2 3098	2 3056	-42	6 862	10 080	32 18
Far North	2 6932	2 9403	2 471	1 8048	1 4548	-3 500	8 884	1 4855	5 971
Central Highlands	1 6384	1 8792	2 408	1 2236	1 5111	3 275	4 148	3 281	-867
West Moreton	1 3811	1 5916	2 105	1 8663	1 2882	-1 019	1 948	3 034	1 086
Fitzroy	2 6347	2 8229	1 882	2 1079	1 9928	-1 151	5 268	8 301	3 033
Gippsland	1 8992	1 8564	-1 572	1 2462	1 5165	2 703	4 530	3 399	-1 131
Northern - Tas	1 1789	1 3325	1 536	4 160	4 095	-65	7 629	9 230	1 601
Go ulburn	2 5207	2 6683	1 476	1 6591	1 9276	2 685	8 616	7 407	-1 209
Illawarra	3 8018	3 8907	8 89	2 4127	3 2156	8 029	1 3891	6 751	-7 140
East Gippsland	9 923	10 724	8 01	6 785	7 590	8 05	3 138	3 134	-4
Yorke and Lower North	6 858	7 435	5 77	5 593	6 233	6 40	1 265	1 202	-63
So uthern	6 290	6 821	5 31	4 762	3 517	-1 245	1 528	3 304	1 776
Ovens-Murray	1 2913	1 3378	4 65	5 910	6 169	2 59	7 003	7 209	2 06
Mersey-Lyell	1 0026	1 0267	2 41	4 041	2 824	-1 217	5 985	7 443	1 458
Murray	1 7211	1 7419	2 08	4 515	5 574	1 059	1 2696	1 1845	-8 51
Australian Capital Territory - Bal	135	70	-65	48	34	-14	87	36	-51
Western District	10 263	9 739	-5 24	6 977	6 659	-3 18	3 286	3 080	-206
Eyre	4 490	3 842	-6 48	3 364	2 803	-5 61	1 126	1 039	-87
Lower Great Southern	8 624	7 888	-7 36	7 543	6 800	-7 43	1 081	1 088	7
Upper Great Southern	4 151	3 110	-1 041	3 918	2 894	-1 024	2 33	2 16	-17
Far West	3 401	2 314	-1 087	1 149	1 019	-1 30	2 252	1 295	-957
Murray Lands	9 243	8 136	-1 107	6 704	6 112	-5 92	2 539	2 024	-5 15
So uth East	7 579	6 253	-1 326	4 135	3 362	-7 73	3 444	2 891	-5 53
Central West - Qld	3 547	2 153	-1 394	3 081	1 754	-1 327	4 66	3 99	-67
Wimmera	6 848	5 257	-1 591	4 927	3 630	-1 297	1 921	1 627	-2 94
Kimberley	7 305	5 495	-1 810	4 368	3 369	-9 99	2 937	2 126	-8 11
Mallee	1 2076	1 0186	-1 890	6 695	5 019	-1 676	5 381	5 167	-2 14
Central	1 1160	9 139	-2 021	9 296	7 485	-1 811	1 864	1 654	-2 10
Pilbara	1 3524	1 4999	-2 025	9 985	8 412	-1 573	3 539	3 087	-4 52
So uth West - Qld	6 524	4 210	-2 314	5 605	3 373	-2 232	9 19	8 37	-82
Midlands	1 2727	1 0388	-2 339	1 678	9 486	-2 192	1 049	9 02	-1 47
Central West - NSW	2 3574	2 0824	-2 750	1 6441	1 7524	1 083	7 133	3 300	-3 833
Murrumbidgee	1 9651	1 6802	-2 849	1 0401	1 1190	7 89	9 250	5 612	-3 638
Northern - NSW	2 4341	2 1308	-3 033	1 3796	1 5540	1 744	1 0545	5 768	-4 777
Northern - SA	1 2003	8 914	-3 089	8 276	5 982	-2 294	3 727	2 932	-7 95
North West	9 669	6 230	-3 439	8 057	4 576	-3 481	1 612	1 654	42
So uth Eastern - WA	1 3253	9 528	-3 725	9 772	6 485	-3 287	3 481	3 043	-4 38
Northern Territory - Bal	1 5658	1 1215	-4 443	3 216	1 714	-1 502	1 2442	9 501	-2 941
North Western	1 9405	1 2899	-6 506	1 3941	1 0374	-3 567	5 464	2 525	-2 939
Total	1 688 559	1 688 559		943 151	943 151		745 408	745 408	

Over the last three decades there has been a 'switch-over function' (Maher and McKay, 1986) in Sydney and Melbourne, whereby a net loss of migrants in exchange with other parts of Australia is more than counterbalanced by an inflow of overseas migrants. Net international migration gains have directly accounted for more than half of Sydney and Melbourne's net population growth over the post war period, and if their indirect contribution through the children born to migrants since settling in Australia is taken into account, that contribution is closer to two-thirds of net growth.

The fact that Sydney and several other capitals lose more people than they gain through internal migration is of some significance to the recent discourse about accommodating Australia's future population growth. There has been a suggestion that a greater percentage of expected national population growth could be absorbed outside the capital cities than has been the case in the past. The fact that there is already substantial capital city to rest of state migration needs to be a starting point for considering future regional settlement policy.

Mobility is a function of push and pull factors which operate differentially across the country. Accordingly, there will be areas of the country which experience factors which push residents from their area towards other areas. These other areas usually have more attractive conditions which encourage people to gravitate towards them. Hence, from a migration perspective, there will be statistical divisions which act as *sources*, and which experience net migration loss, and SDs which act as sinks which experience net migration gain. Table 2.2 shows the top ten sinks and sources based on net migration between 2001 and 2006. Of the top ten sinks, four are located in each of Queensland and New South Wales, and one in each of South Australia and Western Australia. In Queensland, the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay-Burnett SDs shared a net gain of some 66,000 persons between 2001 and 2006. The major reason for the net population influx into these three contiguous SDs is their retirement attraction to an increasingly ageing population. Mackay experienced a net gain of 5,000 movers during the period, and while attractive living opportunities may account for some of the influx, agriculture and mining activity in the hinterland is clearly an additional factor accounting for the net gains. In New South Wales, the four main sink SDs gained around 32,000 persons in the five years to 2006. Three of these Statistical divisions – Richmond-Tweed, Mid-North Coast and Hunter are to the north of the Sydney SD, while South Eastern SD is to the south. Each of these SDs is in the coastal zone and have attracted substantial numbers of Sydney people leaving the increasingly congested environment of Sydney for more attractive environments of the north and south coast regions.

Table 2.2: Australia Statistical Divisions: Major Sinks and Sources of Net Internal Migration, 2001-2006

Source: ABS 2006 Population Census

Sinks		Sources	
Statistical Division	Net Migration	Statistical Division	Net Migration
Brisbane (Q)	42,750	Sydney (NSW)	121,012
Gold Coast (Q)	29,312	Melbourne (V)	18,709
Sunshine Coast (Q)	20,561	Adelaide (SA)	9,611
Wide Bay-Burnett (Q)	15,798	North West (Q)	6,506
Southwest (WA)	10,805	Balance (NT)	4,443
Mid North Coast (NSW)	10,254	South Eastern (WA)	3,725
Hunter (NSW)	9,656	Northwest (NSW)	3,439
Outer Adelaide (SA)	7,454	Northern (SA)	3,089
South Eastern (NSW)	6,501	Northern (NSW)	3,033
Richmond Tweed (NSW)	6,143	Murrumbidgee (NSW)	2,849

In South Australia, net growth in the Outer Adelaide statistical division has partly been a result of overflow from the Adelaide statistical division. The expanding population in this SD is mainly a dormitory population which has chosen to live in the relatively attractive environment of the area and commute to work in the Adelaide statistical division. In Western

Australia, the situation in the South West statistical division is essentially the same, with urban population expansion in centres such as Mandurah, but there is an added economic factor associated with resource activity in the southern reaches of the SD.

There were an additional 18 statistical divisions which experience net migration gains in the 2001-2006 period, and these and the extent of the gain is shown in both Table 2.1 and Figure 2.2.

The ten largest source SDs are shown in the table, and the extent of their net migration loss ranged from 6,500 in North Western SD in NSW to 2,300 in the South West SD in Queensland. Figure 2.2 shows that SDs which experienced net migration loss in the 2001-2006 period were located in hinterland locations which have been characterised by increased capitalisation agriculture, lower demand for labour, reduced economic activities in towns, and closures of shops, schools and other services.

Figure 2.2: Australia: Net Migration for Statistical Divisions, 2001-2006

Source: ABS 2006 Population Census

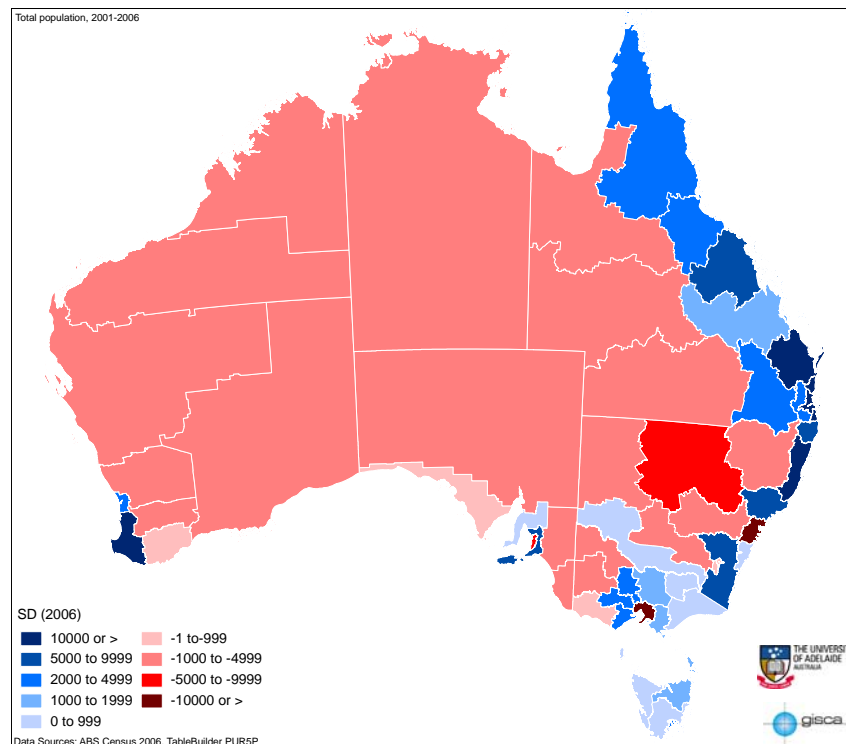


Table 2.1 also shows the net intrastate and net interstate migration situation for each statistical division. There are a number of observations that can be made for the capital city statistical divisions:

- In Sydney, net interstate migration loss was greater than net intrastate migration loss, a situation that also occurred in Adelaide. For each of these cities, net interstate migration losses are most likely due to economic factors, while the net intrastate migration losses are more likely to be due to lifestyle factors rather than economic factors.
- For Melbourne, net intrastate migration loss was greater than net interstate migration, indicating that the Victorian hinterland was acting as a more significant sink than interstate locations.

- Brisbane's net migration gain was the result of a net intrastate loss of population, and a significant net interstate gain of 44,000 persons, indicating the attractiveness of Brisbane to interstate movers.
- Perth SD was attractive to both intrastate and interstate movers – it had a net intrastate gain as well as a net interstate gain, the only capital city SD with this balance between net intrastate and net interstate mobility.
- In both Hobart and Darwin, the net migration situation was a result of net intrastate gains and net interstate losses. This situation also prevailed for the ACT, but net intrastate numbers were very low.

It might be expected that the same SDs would dominate or sinks as sources for each of net migration, net intrastate and net interstate migration. However, Table 2.1 indicates that this is not the case. Indeed, only two SDs – Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay-Burnett – fall into the top ten sinks for net migration, net intrastate migration and net interstate migration, and only North Western SD, in NSW, is a source for all three net measures of mobility.

These tendencies remained substantially unchanged as a result of mobility in the 2005-2006 period. Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Darwin reported net migration losses, while Brisbane's gains were three times those of Perth, and more than ten times the level recorded for Hobart. As with the five year data, the most substantial net migration gains were recorded in the east coast and peri-metropolitan SDs of Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Wide Bay-Burnett, South West-WA and Fitzroy. The largest net losses were in the internal wheat sheep belt and remote SDs.

2.3 GENDER AND INTERNAL MIGRATION

It has been shown that there are small but significant gender differences in internal migration in Australia (Rudd, 2004). However, when examining inter-statistical division migration there are some much larger differences. Table 2.3 shows the sex ratios (males per 100 females) in the largest net in migration and net out migration SDs.

Table 2.3: Australian Statistical Divisions: Net Migration 2001-2006, Sex Ratio of Largest Gains and Losses

Source: ABS 2006, Population Census

Net migration gain		Net migration loss	
Statistical Division	Sex ratio	Statistical Division	Sex ratio
Brisbane	94.7	Sydney	97.3
Perth	159.4	Melbourne	138.9
Hobart	80.3	Adelaide	105.8
Gold Coast	103.1	Darwin	106.8
Sunshine Coast	93.9	North western	99.4
Wide Bay-Burnett	98.4	Northern Territory-Bal	90.9
South West-WA	97	South Eastern-WA	91.3
Mid North Coast	101.8	North West	89.4
Hunter	93.4	Northern-NSW	91.6
Outer Adelaide	102.1	Northern-SA	81.8
South Eastern-NSW	105.1	Central West-NSW	103.2
Mackay	159.7	Murrumbidgee	96.3

From this table it is notable that in the non-metropolitan areas experiencing net migration losses in almost all cases the net loss has been greater for females than males. This reflects the lack of diversity in job opportunities in many non-metropolitan areas which disproportionately impact on women. In the capital cities experiencing a net loss due to internal migration, only in Sydney was there a greater outflow of women than men. In those capitals experiencing net gains it was only Perth where inward migration of males substantially outnumbered inward migration of females. This perhaps reflects the type of job opportunities available in the West. In the rapidly growing Brisbane SD there are more female internal migrants than males. The Gold Coast has more males moving in than females, but the opposite is the case for the Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay-Burnett SDs. In general, however, the differences between male and female net migration is relatively small.

Among the capital city statistical divisions, the greatest net migration loss of males occurred in the Sydney SD. Between 2001 and 2006 it experienced a net loss of nearly 60,000 males. This loss is substantial compared with the net losses from Melbourne SD (10,900), Adelaide (5,000) and Darwin (1,000). The Brisbane statistical division experienced a net gain of nearly 21,000 males, a level considerably higher than the net gains of 2,000 for Perth, 1,000 for Hobart and 200 for Canberra.

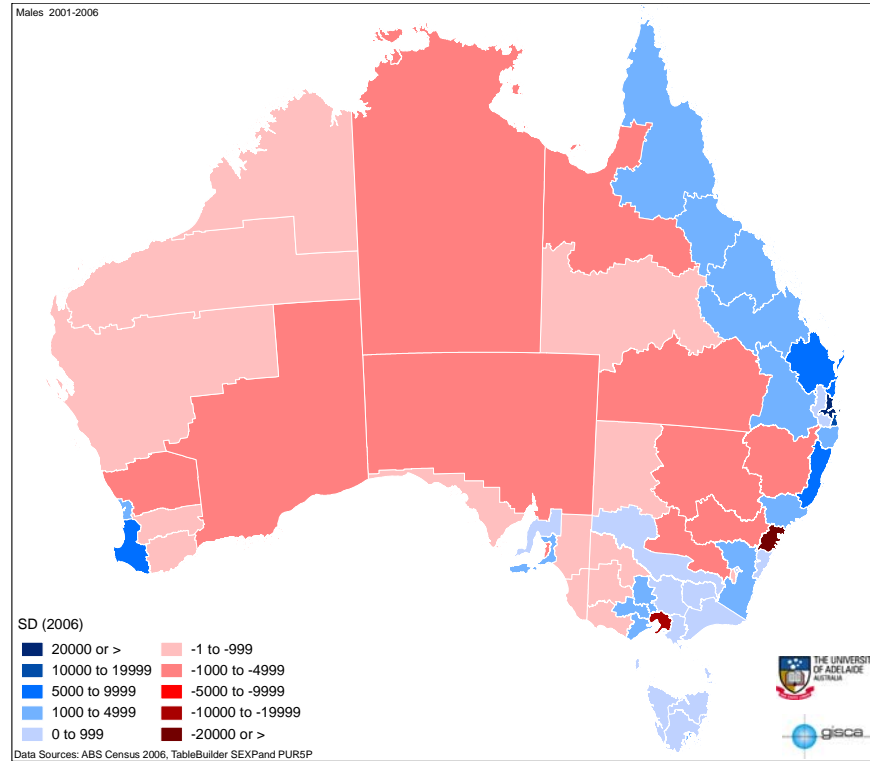
Table 2.4 shows the levels of net migration among males, as well as the other measures of migration, for the remaining Australian statistical divisions. The same SDs that were sink SDs for total population are sink SDs for males as well as females. As Table 2.4 shows, of the top ten sinks, Gold Coast statistical division experienced the greatest net migration for males (14,900) with the lowest level of 3,000 recorded in the Richmond-Tweed SD. Among the top ten sources, the greatest exodus of males occurred in the North Western SD in NSW, which lost 3,200 males during the 2001-2006 period, compared with a just over 1,000 loss in the Midlands SD in Western Australia.

The extent of net gains and losses of males for each of the remaining statistical divisions is shown in Table 2.4, as well levels of intrastate and interstate migration by males for all SDs. Net migration for males between 2001 and 2006 is presented graphically in Figure 2.3. The essential distribution of net gains and losses of males for each statistical division is the same as that represented in Figure 2.2. It highlights the attractiveness of the coastal SDs throughout Australia, and the role of hinterland SDs as regions of net population loss through migration.

Table 2.4: Australian Statistical Divisions: Internal Migration of Males, 2001-2006

Statistical Division	Total	Total	Net	Intrastate	Intrastate	Net	Interstate	Interstate	Net
	Departures (outs)	Arrivals (ins)	migration	Departures (outs)	Arrivals (ins)	Intrastate migration	Departures (outs)	Arrivals (ins)	Interstate migration
Males 2001-2006									
Sydney	118817	59152	-59665	54575	27864	-26711	64242	31288	-32954
Melbourne	77328	66453	-10875	33685	25594	-8091	43643	40859	-2784
Brisbane	64953	85751	20798	40097	38808	-1289	24856	46943	22087
Adelaide	34615	29691	-4924	14786	12844	-1942	19829	16847	-2982
Perth	42230	44237	2007	22344	22885	541	19886	21352	1466
Greater Hobart	8198	9238	1050	2593	3709	1116	5595	5529	-66
Darwin	1938	10804	-1034	890	1608	718	10948	9196	-1752
Canberra	20447	20645	198	23	22	-1	20424	20623	199
Gold Coast	24481	39355	14874	14614	14459	-155	9867	24896	15029
Sunshine Coast	15942	25898	9956	11807	14052	2245	4135	11846	7711
Wide Bay-Burnett	16401	24236	7835	12768	15666	2898	3633	8570	4937
South West - WA	11296	16619	5323	9044	13910	4866	2252	2709	457
Mid-North Coast	16336	21510	5174	9028	16838	7810	7308	4672	-2636
Hunter	22841	27505	4664	13671	21111	7440	9170	6394	-2776
Outer Adelaide	8177	11954	3777	6190	9715	3525	1987	2239	252
South Eastern - NSW	13454	16790	3336	5985	8721	2736	7469	8069	600
Mackay	10093	13256	3163	7747	8346	599	2346	4910	2564
Richmond-Tweed	12902	15893	2991	4036	8621	4585	8866	7272	-1594
Northern - Qld	13729	16143	2414	8598	9516	918	5131	6627	1496
Barwon	10010	12178	2168	6694	9356	2662	3316	2822	-494
Loddon	9235	10929	1694	6674	8711	2037	2561	2218	-343
Fitzroy	12867	14244	1377	10244	9988	-256	2623	4256	1633
Darling Downs	14409	15783	1374	11011	10905	-106	3398	4878	1480
Far North	13225	14593	1368	8877	7115	-1762	4348	7478	3130
Central Highlands	7849	8874	1025	5772	7285	1513	2077	1589	-488
West Moreton	6677	7666	989	5685	6189	504	992	1477	485
Gippsland	7985	8792	807	5784	7146	1362	2201	1646	-555
Goulburn	12266	13016	750	7916	9332	1416	4350	3684	-666
Northern - Tas	5700	6444	744	1956	1890	-66	3744	4554	810
East Gippsland	4773	5197	424	3190	3668	478	1583	1529	-54
Southern	2986	3371	385	2225	1748	-477	761	1623	862
Ovens-Murray	6204	6585	381	2769	2964	195	3435	3621	186
Yorke and Lower North	3329	3595	266	2696	2983	287	633	612	-21
Mersey-Lyell	4818	4984	166	1890	1317	-573	2928	3667	739
Illawarra	18490	18602	112	11607	15332	3725	6883	3270	-3613
Murray	8294	8302	8	2213	2652	439	6081	5650	-431
Australian Capital Territory - Bal	68	35	-33	22	23	1	46	12	-34
Eyre	2156	1888	-268	1592	1376	-216	564	512	-52
Western District	5017	4606	-411	3335	3149	-186	1682	1457	-225
Lower Great Southern	4239	3821	-418	3688	3260	-428	551	561	10
Upper Great Southern	1953	1478	-475	1846	1360	-486	107	118	11
Murray Lands	4504	3975	-529	3224	2988	-236	1280	987	-293
Far West	1653	1100	-553	566	501	-65	1087	599	-488
South East	3688	3014	-674	1962	1556	-406	1726	1458	-268
Pilbara	6898	6168	-730	5043	4455	-588	1855	1713	-142
Central West - Qld	1795	1014	-781	1563	815	-748	232	199	-33
Wimmera	3332	2465	-867	2342	1700	-642	990	765	-225
Kimberley	3659	2783	-876	2121	1645	-476	1538	1138	-400
Central	5492	4606	-886	4562	3728	-834	930	878	-52
Mallee	5813	4885	-928	3113	2369	-744	2700	2516	-184
Midlands	6178	5101	-1077	5656	4649	-1007	522	452	-70
South West - Qld	3258	2060	-1198	2782	1612	-1170	476	448	-28
Northern - SA	33588	32199	-1389	31719	30707	-1012	1869	1492	-377
Murrumbidgee	9676	8274	-1402	5050	5409	359	4626	2865	-1761
Central West - NSW	11374	9968	-1406	7886	8383	497	3488	1585	-1903
Northern - NSW	11760	10312	-1448	6598	7505	907	5162	2807	-2355
North West	4893	3276	-1617	4036	2358	-1678	857	918	61
South Eastern - WA	6701	4919	-1782	4877	3289	-1588	1824	1630	-194
Northern Territory - Bal	7796	5685	-2111	1608	890	-718	6188	4795	-1393
North Western	9560	6319	-3241	6805	5083	-1722	2755	1236	-1519
Total	848236	848236		481680	481680		366556	366556	

Figure 2.3: Australian Statistical Divisions: Net Migration of Males, 2001-2006



In the case of female migration, five of the eight capital city statistical divisions experienced a net loss of females in the 2001-2006 period. The greatest loss occurred from the Sydney SD – some 58,300. Losses in the other capital city SDs were substantially less. Melbourne experienced a net loss of 7,800, Adelaide 4,700, Darwin just under 1,000 and Canberra 650. Female net losses in Sydney and Canberra were greater than those recorded for males.

Brisbane experienced a net gain of 22,000 females between 2001 and 2006, about 1,100 more than its net gain of males. The net gains in Perth and Hobart were considerably less than those for Brisbane – 1,260 for Perth and 1,300 for Hobart.

The situation with the top ten sinks and sources for female mobility is shown in Table 2.5. The composition of the top ten sinks for females is slightly different than that for males, in that Barwon SD has replaced the Mackay SD. Net migration of females into Mackay was less than that for males, due in large part to the male bias in occupations associated with the coal mining industry operating in the Mackay hinterland. The largest net migration of females was into the Gold Coast SD and the smallest, among the top ten sinks, was into Barwon SD. An additional 18 statistical divisions throughout Australia experienced net female population gain through mobility, and these are shown in Table 2.5.

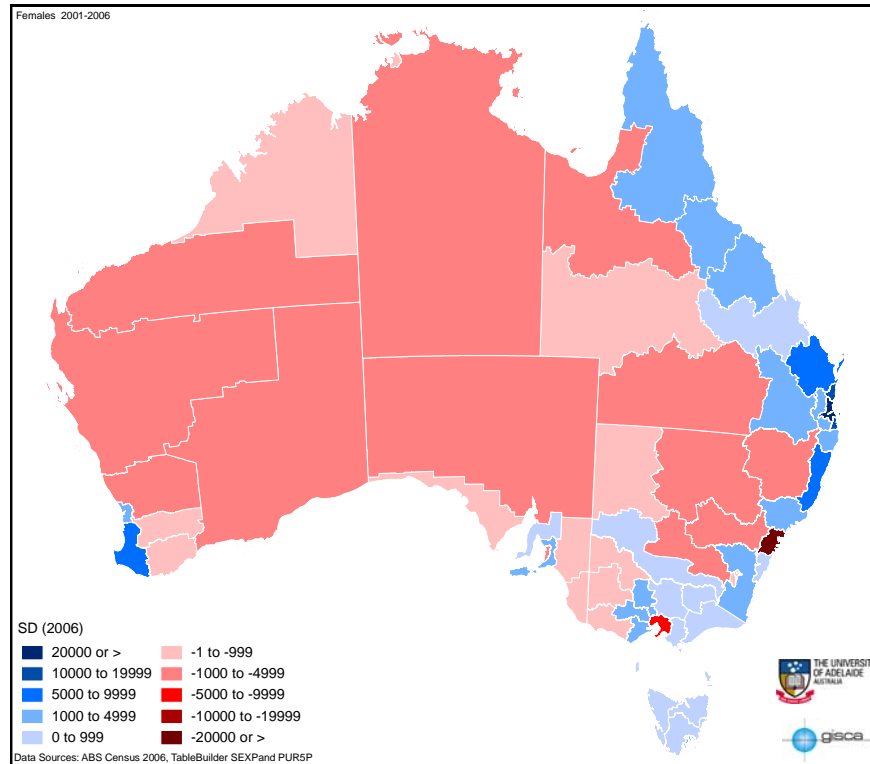
Female net losses among the top ten source SDs ranged from 3,260 in North Western SD to 1,260 in Midland SD in Western Australia. Four of the top ten source SDs were in NSW, three in Western Australia, and one in each of South Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory. There were an additional 14 SDs which reported net migration loss for

females during the 2001 to 2006 period. Full details of net migration, as well as interstate and intrastate migration for females are presented in Table 2.5. The map, (Figure 2.4) derived from the tabular data, shows the spatial variation for net migration by females in the 2001-2006 period. Its characteristics are similar to those identified for both total net migration and male net migration.

Table 2.5: Australian Statistical Divisions: Internal Migration of Females, 2001-2006

Statistical Division	Total	Total	Net	Intrastate	Intrastate	Net	Interstate	Interstate	Net
	Departures (outs)	Arrivals (ins)	migration	Departures (outs)	Arrivals (ins)	Intrastate migration	Departures (outs)	Arrivals (ins)	Interstate migration
Females 2001-2006									
Sydney	124373	63026	-61347	58339	30548	-27791	66034	32478	-33556
Melbourne	82025	74191	-7834	37072	29165	-7907	44953	45026	73
Brisbane	69400	91352	21952	42957	42603	-354	26443	48749	22306
Adelaide	36576	31893	-4683	15837	14424	-1413	20739	17469	-3270
Perth	44194	45453	1259	23408	24563	1155	20786	20890	104
Greater Hobart	8851	10159	1308	2783	4194	1411	6068	5965	-103
Darwin	11230	10262	-968	821	1610	789	10409	8652	-1757
Canberra	21779	21120	-659	11	27	16	21768	21093	-675
Gold Coast	27139	41666	14427	15919	15401	-518	11220	26165	14945
Sunshine Coast	17552	28154	10602	12824	15509	2685	4728	12645	7917
Wide Bay-Burnett	17531	25497	7966	13797	16541	2744	3734	8956	5222
South West - WA	12130	17615	5485	9760	14837	5077	2370	2778	408
Mid-North Coast	18061	23144	5083	10244	18029	7785	7817	5115	-2702
Hunter	23732	28724	4992	14589	22319	7730	9143	6405	-2738
Outer Adelaide	8929	12630	3701	6859	10270	3411	2070	2360	290
South Eastern - NSW	14175	17348	3173	6481	9101	2620	7694	8247	553
Richmond-Tweed	14403	17561	3158	4549	9363	4814	9854	8198	-1656
Barwon	10918	13418	2500	7649	10413	2764	3269	3005	-264
Northern - Qld	13651	16141	2490	8975	9962	987	4676	6179	1503
Mackay	10550	12531	1981	8159	8098	-61	2391	4433	2042
Loddon	10220	12134	1914	7606	9704	2098	2614	2430	-184
Darling Downs	15550	17365	1815	12077	12158	81	3473	5207	1734
Central Highlands	8540	9914	1374	6462	8226	1764	2078	1688	-390
West Moreton	7129	8243	1114	6169	6687	518	960	1556	596
Far North	13708	14801	1093	9174	7429	-1745	4534	7372	2838
Illawarra	19530	20310	780	12522	16820	4298	7008	3490	-3518
Northern - Tas	6104	6882	778	2206	2203	-3	3898	4679	781
Gippsland	9008	9771	763	6680	8016	1336	2328	1755	-573
Goulburn	12939	13675	736	8675	9947	1272	4264	3728	-536
Fitroy	13471	13986	515	10831	9939	-892	2640	4047	1407
East Gippsland	5155	5521	366	3597	3921	324	1558	1600	42
Yorke and Lower North	3529	3847	318	2898	3253	355	631	594	-37
Murray	8919	9115	196	2310	2924	614	6609	6191	-418
Southern	3306	3455	149	2532	1772	-760	774	1683	909
Ovens-Murray	6704	6797	93	3139	3209	70	3565	3588	23
Mersey-Lyell	5208	5278	70	2153	1505	-648	3055	3773	718
Australian Capital	72	29	-43	27	11	-16	45	18	-27
Western District	5247	5132	-115	3649	3513	-136	1598	1619	21
Lower Great Southern	4384	4069	-315	3851	3541	-310	533	528	-5
Eyre	2342	1963	-379	1770	1427	-343	572	536	-36
Far West	1754	1221	-533	594	515	-79	1160	706	-454
Upper Great Southern	2201	1632	-569	2079	1533	-546	122	99	-23
Murray Lands	4734	4158	-576	3482	3124	-358	1252	1034	-218
Central West - Qld	1747	1133	-614	1517	935	-582	230	198	-32
South East	3897	3237	-660	2176	1809	-367	1721	1428	-293
Wimmera	3519	2795	-724	2590	1932	-658	929	863	-66
Kimberley	3647	2715	-932	2247	1729	-518	1400	986	-414
Mallee	6262	5301	-961	3576	2649	-927	2686	2652	-34
South West - Qld	3270	2154	-1116	2822	1759	-1063	448	395	-53
Central	5668	4534	-1134	4729	3760	-969	939	774	-165
Midlands	6545	5280	-1265	6027	4838	-1189	518	442	-76
Pilbara	6631	5330	-1301	4945	3957	-988	1686	1373	-313
Central West - NSW	12211	10853	-1358	8547	9131	584	3664	1722	-1942
Murrumbidgee	9975	8533	-1442	5351	5779	428	4624	2754	-1870
Northern - NSW	12584	11004	-1580	7200	8041	841	5384	2963	-2421
Northern - SA	6169	4470	-1699	4315	3030	-1285	1854	1440	-414
North West	4778	2970	-1808	4018	2218	-1800	760	752	-8
South Eastern - WA	6553	4602	-1951	4904	3192	-1712	1649	1410	-239
Northern Territory - Bal	7863	5540	-2323	1610	821	-789	6253	4719	-1534
North Western	9840	6578	-3262	7144	5300	-1844	2696	1278	-1418
Total	868112	868112		489234	489234		378878	378878	

Figure 2.4: Australian Statistical Divisions: Internal Migration of Females, 2001-2006



2.4 INTERNAL MIGRATION OF POPULATION AGED 65 YEARS AND OLDER, 2001-2006

Turning to the internal migration of separate age groups, the older age category is of particular interest. This is partly due to the fact that they are the fastest growing subgroup in the Australian population not only at present, but due to the passage of the baby boomer generation into these ages this will remain the case for several decades as Table 2.6 indicates. Accordingly, the changing patterns of the distribution of the older population is important not only for planning the effective provision of services for this group, but also because this group can be the basis for substantial local and regional economic growth (Jackson and Felmington, 2002). Figure 2.5 shows the distribution of the 65+ population across Australia and like the total population it is strongly concentrated in capital city statistical divisions and the south eastern, eastern and south western coastal areas.

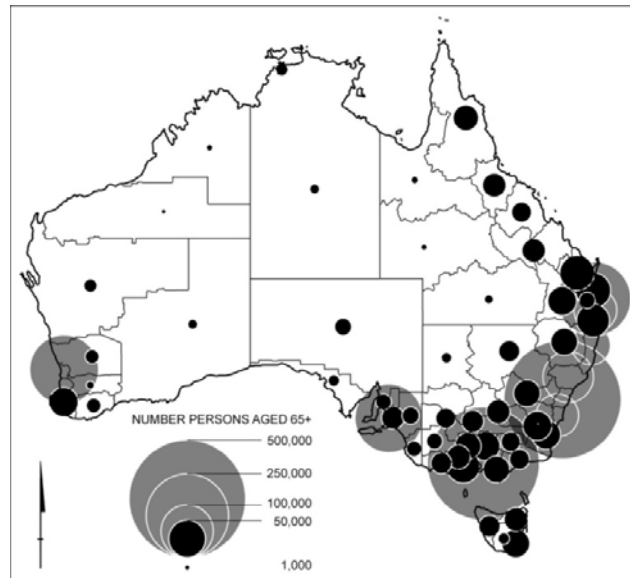
Table 2.6: Australia: Projected Growth of the Population by Age, 2006-51

Source: ABS 2008 Projections, Series B

Year	0-14		15-64		65+	
	Number	% Growth p.a.	Number	% Growth p.a.	Number	% Growth p.a.
2006	4,050,445		13,954,776		2,692,659	
2021	4,693,727	0.99	16,527,365	1.13	4,395,453	3.32
2031	5,050,849	0.74	18,003,557	0.86	5,732,080	2.69
2041	5,335,328	0.55	19,514,934	0.81	6,759,002	1.66
2051	5,697,740	0.66	20,886,759	0.68	7,628,748	1.22

Figure 2.5: Australia: Total Persons Aged 65 Years and Over, 2006

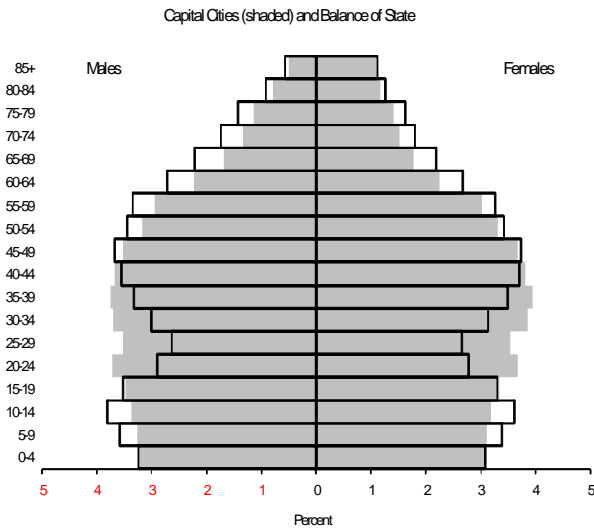
Source: ABS 2006 Census



It is important to note that the 65+ population is more strongly represented in non-metropolitan Australia than it is in the capital cities. This is evident when the age-sex distributions of the metropolitan and non-metropolitan populations are overlaid, as shown in Figure 2.6.

Figure 2.6: Australia: Age-Sex Structure of Capital Cities and Rest of State, 2006

Source: ABS 2006 Census



This shows clearly the over representation of the population aged 45 to 80 years in non-metropolitan Australia. In passing, it should be noted that the next generation of 65+ Australians, the baby boomers, are also over represented in non-metropolitan areas. In 2006, baby boomers born between 1946 and 1956 made up 27.2 percent of the metropolitan population and 41.4 percent of the workforce, but in non-metropolitan areas the percentages

were 28.2 and 45.2 percent respectively. Hence, the overconcentration of older Australians in non-metropolitan areas is set to continue. This is especially the case if baby boomers engage in sea change and tree change retirement migration and move from metropolitan to non-metropolitan areas.

In the five year period to 2006, some 130,000 persons aged 65 years and over shifted residence between SDs within Australia. Of these moves about 83,000 were intrastate moves and 47,000 were interstate moves. The ratio of interstate to intrastate moves was 1:1.8, which was essentially maintained in the 2005-2006 period, where the ratio was 1:1.7. Therefore, for this age group, moves within their state are more preferred than moves to another state.

In terms of net migration in the capital city statistical divisions, net losses for this age group were recorded in six of the eight capitals. Sydney experienced a net loss of more than 13,000, while lesser losses occurred in the other capital cities – ranging from 3,400 for Melbourne to 260 for Darwin. These results indicate a propensity among this age group to escape the capital cities, presumably as a result of retirement, and to seek residence in other more ecologically attractive SDs. Among the two capital city SDs that experienced a net migration gain of persons aged 65 years and older, the gains were very low. Brisbane had a net migration gain of 1,260 and Hobart a gain of just 440. In the 2005-2006 period, the situation was maintained, with only Adelaide turning a net loss for the 2001-2006 period into a small gain for the 2005-2006 period. In terms of mobility, it is clear that capital cities do not have an attraction for older residentially mobile persons.

The top ten sinks can be identified from Table 2.7. Queensland and New South Wales dominate, each with four SDs in the top ten, with one SD located in each of South Australia and Western Australia. Many of the top ten SDs identified for total population and male and female internal migration remain in the top ten for migration of persons aged 65 years and over. However, there are two new SDs in the top ten – Darling Downs in Queensland and Goulburn in New South Wales. During the 2005-2006 period, there was some volatility in the “top ten”, although the new SDs had been near the top ten for the 2001-2006 period, and those displaced were near the top ten for the 2005-2006 period. These results indicate that there is a well defined geography of attractiveness for older internal migrants, and these destination SDs define a form of retirement belt in Australia.

Net migration loses from the top ten sources range from 390 in Fitzroy SD in Queensland to 150 in the Southern SD in Tasmania. Table 2.7 shows that, outside the capital city SDs, 30 statistical divisions have experienced net migration gains among the 65 years and older group, compared with 22 which have experienced a net migration loss.

Table 2.7: Australian Statistical Divisions: Migration of Persons Aged 65 Years and Over, 2001-2006

Statistical Division	Total	Total	Net	Intrastate	Intrastate	Net	Interstate	Interstate	Net
	Departures (outs)	Arrivals (ins)	migration	Departures (outs)	Arrivals (ins)	Intrastate migration	Departures (outs)	Arrivals (ins)	Interstate migration
Persons aged 65+ 2001-2006									
Sydney	20848	7667	-13181	12903	4866	-8037	7945	2801	-5144
Melbourne	1400	7980	-3420	6464	3795	-2669	4936	4185	-751
Brisbane	1046	1408	1262	7406	6282	-1124	2740	5126	2386
Adelaide	5028	4153	-875	2802	2372	-430	2226	1781	-445
Perth	5877	5139	-738	4266	3236	-1030	1611	1903	292
Greater Hobart	1011	1448	437	358	676	318	653	772	119
Darwin	722	461	-261	36	89	53	686	372	-314
Canberra	2185	1615	-570	0	4	4	2185	1611	-574
Wide Bay-Burnett	3618	6083	2465	2660	3981	1321	958	2102	1144
South West - WA	2006	4070	2064	1705	3652	1947	301	418	117
Mid-North Coast	3945	5884	1939	2351	4716	2365	1594	1168	-426
Sunshine Coast	4404	6282	1878	3068	3459	391	1336	2823	1487
Gold Coast	5822	7610	1788	3181	2973	-208	2641	4637	1996
Hunter	4028	5392	1364	2791	4630	1839	1237	762	-475
Darling Downs	1822	2833	1011	1466	2016	550	356	817	461
Richmond-Tweed	3116	4126	1010	1058	2128	1070	2058	1998	-60
Outer Adelaide	1680	2428	748	1374	2020	646	306	408	102
Goulburn	1794	2477	683	1254	1767	513	540	710	170
Illawarra	3861	4516	655	2574	3949	1375	1287	567	-720
Gippsland	1504	2153	649	1134	1806	672	370	347	-23
Barwon	1671	2182	511	1195	1718	523	476	464	-12
Central Highlands	1055	1539	484	806	1263	457	249	276	27
Northern - Qld	1121	1475	354	830	1033	203	291	442	151
Loddon	1520	1858	338	1168	1476	308	352	382	30
Northern - Tas	827	1162	335	323	330	7	504	832	328
Mersey-Lyell	694	1029	335	300	266	-34	394	763	369
Central West - NSW	1499	1772	273	1127	1527	400	372	245	-127
East Gippsland	1004	1264	260	766	931	165	238	333	95
Murray	1378	1621	243	299	484	185	1079	1137	58
Far North	1509	1750	241	1048	892	-156	461	858	397
Ovens-Murray	770	993	223	366	554	188	404	439	35
South Eastern - NSW	2667	2882	215	1317	1766	449	1350	1116	-234
West Moreton	1344	1537	193	1150	1221	71	194	316	122
Murrumbidgee	996	1096	100	597	837	240	399	259	-140
Murray Lands	717	787	70	567	621	54	150	166	16
Lower Great Southern	660	712	52	587	624	37	73	88	15
Mallee	812	857	45	517	475	-42	295	382	87
Western District	713	727	14	508	507	-1	205	220	15
Australian Capital Territory - Bal	4	0	-4	4	0	-4	0	0	0
Yorke and Lower North	841	832	-9	689	710	21	152	122	-30
Central West - Qld	154	118	-36	133	81	-52	21	37	16
South East	446	409	-37	268	229	-39	178	180	2
Mackay	1155	1096	-59	868	717	-151	287	379	92
Eyre	316	242	-74	232	187	-45	84	55	-29
Northern - NSW	1744	1649	-95	1049	1239	190	695	410	-285
Wimmera	514	416	-98	397	283	-114	117	133	16
Far West	257	158	-99	72	62	-10	185	96	-89
Kimberley	262	160	-102	141	99	-42	121	61	-60
South West - Qld	324	204	-120	303	163	-140	21	41	20
Upper Great Southern	353	226	-127	326	210	-116	27	16	-11
Southern	714	561	-153	546	255	-291	168	306	138
Central	764	600	-164	652	507	-145	112	93	-19
South Eastern - WA	422	245	-177	360	167	-193	62	78	16
Pilbara	299	119	-180	234	90	-144	65	29	-36
North Western	1251	1052	-199	931	865	-66	320	187	-133
Northern - SA	807	562	-245	613	406	-207	194	156	-38
Northern Territory - Bal	510	264	-246	89	36	-53	421	228	-193
North West	399	129	-270	341	83	-258	58	46	-12
Midlands	1117	807	-310	1059	745	-314	58	62	4
Fitzroy	1589	1199	-390	1300	853	-447	289	346	57
Total	130016	130016		82929	82929		47087	47087	

Figure 2.7: Australian Statistical Divisions: Internal Migration of Persons Aged 65 Years and Over, 2001-2006

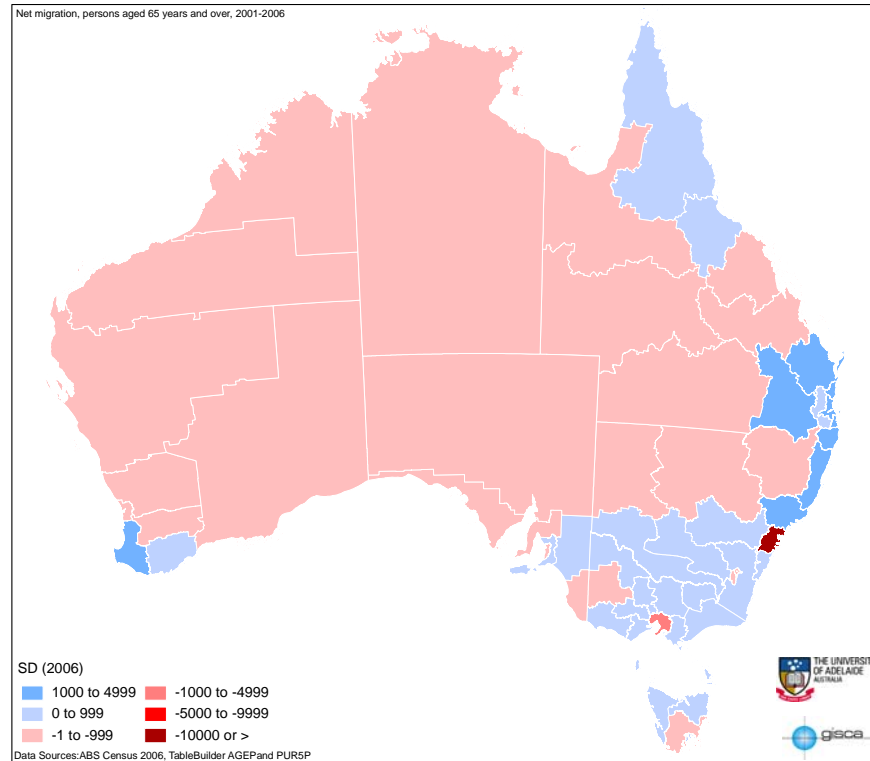


Figure 2.7 shows the spatial variation of net migration for this demographic group in the 2001-2006 period. It highlights the flight of this group from the capital cities, with the exception of Brisbane, and to locations along the eastern seaboard, tree change regions of New South Wales and Victoria, the River Murray, the south west corner of Western Australia, and the northern part of Tasmania.

2.5 INTERNAL MIGRATION OF POPULATION AGED 45-64 YEARS, 2001-2006

During the 2001-2006 period, some 358,000 persons aged 45-64 years moved between statistical divisions within Australia. Some 58 percent of these moves, or around 209,000, were intrastate moves. This proportion was maintained in the 2005-2006 period. This group is of particular significance since it represents most of the baby boomer generation that in 2006 made up 27.5 percent of the national population and 41.7 percent of the national workforce.

Table 2.8 shows that six of the eight capital city statistical divisions experienced net migration loss for this group. In the Sydney SD, the net loss was nearly 39,000 persons, compared with a 14,000 net loss for Melbourne SD, and net losses between 1,000 and 4,400 in Adelaide, Perth, Darwin and Canberra statistical divisions. These net losses are substantially higher than those recorded for persons aged 65 years and older. They indicate, however, that this age group seems to be responding to capital city living in the same way as its older counterpart – namely, moving from capital cities if the opportunity prevails. During the 2005-2006 period, seven capital cities reported a net loss for this age group. The new addition to the group was Brisbane, which reported a small net loss of 202.

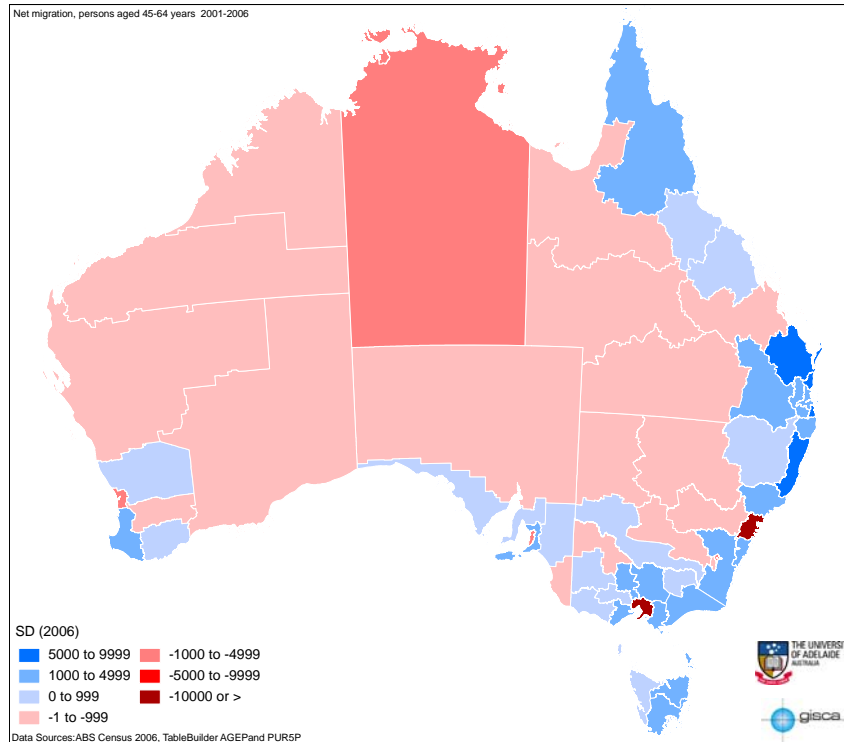
The top ten sinks are predominantly those that have been identified earlier – those Queensland and New South Wales SDs that have become receptive for large numbers of movers, principally due to the lifestyle qualities that they offer. The largest net migration gains for this age group were in Wide Bay-Burnett (8,200), Gold Coast (7,800) and Sunshine Coast (7,000). The Mid-North Coast SD in NSW experienced a net gain of 6,000, while the South West statistical division in Western Australia reported a net gain of 4,700 and the Outer Adelaide SD experienced a net influx of 2,600 in this age group.

In terms of sources, the Northern Territory – balance SD experienced the greatest net loss of 1,200, while the lowest net loss among the top ten sources was 200 in the South East statistical division in South Australia. Outside of the capital city SDs, there were 34 SDs which experienced net migration gain from this group, compared with 18 that experienced a net migration loss of 45-64 year olds. The geographic distribution of net migration for this group is shown in Figure 2.8. The large net migration loss from Northern Territory-Bal is clear, along with widespread net losses throughout the hinterland. Along the coastal fringes, it is clear that some of the larger net gains are more likely to be related to employment opportunities rather than retirement and leisure opportunities which were more likely to have influenced the mobility of the 65 years and over age group.

Table 2.8: Australian Statistical Divisions: Internal Migration of Persons Aged 45-64 Years, 2001-2006

Statistical Division	Total	Total	Net	Intrastate	Intrastate	Net	Interstate	Interstate	Net
	Departures (outs)	Arrivals (ins)	migration	Departures (outs)	Arrivals (ins)	migration	Departures (outs)	Arrivals (ins)	migration
Persons aged 45-64 years 2001-2006									
Sydney	56453	17601	-38852	30259	8694	-21565	26194	8907	-17287
Melbourne	35343	21270	-14073	18131	8166	-9965	17212	13104	-4108
Brisbane	30502	31759	1257	21023	14607	-6416	9479	17152	7673
Adelaide	15724	11326	-4398	8056	4975	-3081	7668	6351	-1317
Perth	19183	15768	-3415	12005	8671	-3334	7178	7097	-81
Greater Hobart	3517	4117	600	1317	1411	94	2200	2706	506
Darwin	4582	3547	-1035	427	652	225	4155	2895	-1260
Canberra	9201	5799	-3402	7	9	2	9194	5790	-3404
Wide Bay-Burnett	7277	15499	8222	5488	10005	4517	1789	5494	3705
Gold Coast	11796	19555	7759	7076	7408	332	4720	12417	7427
Sunshine Coast	8036	15090	7054	5876	8328	2452	2160	6762	4602
Mid-North Coast	7179	13136	5957	3838	10267	6429	3341	2869	-472
South West - WA	4582	9272	4690	3584	8060	4476	998	1212	214
Hunter	9043	12585	3542	5427	10233	4806	3616	2352	-1264
South Eastern - NSW	5696	9135	3439	2599	4736	2137	3097	4399	1302
Richmond-Tweed	5819	8797	2978	1770	4574	2804	4049	4223	174
Outer Adelaide	3814	6442	2628	2843	5286	2443	971	1156	185
Illawarra	7328	9699	2371	4442	8169	3727	2886	1530	-1356
Darling Downs	5497	7362	1865	4255	5259	1004	1242	2103	861
Barwon	3946	5616	1670	2511	4400	1889	1435	1216	-219
Goulburn	4659	6313	1654	2921	4754	1833	1738	1559	-179
Gippsland	3389	5022	1633	2384	4245	1861	1005	777	-228
Far North	5427	6943	1516	3608	3345	-263	1819	3598	1779
Loddon	3902	5383	1481	2731	4255	1524	1171	1128	-43
East Gippsland	1982	3332	1350	1287	2460	1173	695	872	177
West Moreton	3024	4350	1326	2543	3520	977	481	830	349
Northern - Tas	2311	3441	1130	852	792	-60	1459	2649	1190
Southern	1385	2499	1114	1005	1112	107	380	1387	1007
Mersey-Lyell	1931	2865	934	757	616	-141	1174	2249	1075
Central Highlands	3004	3898	894	2186	3178	992	818	720	-98
Yorke and Lower North	1608	2476	868	1253	2055	802	355	421	66
Murray	3152	3826	674	851	1136	285	2301	2690	389
Northern - Qld	4804	5427	623	3357	3236	-121	1447	2191	744
Mackay	4485	5100	615	3427	3136	-291	1058	1964	906
Ovens-Murray	2240	2777	537	995	1405	410	1245	1372	127
Lower Great Southern	1758	2081	323	1512	1821	309	246	260	14
Western District	1849	2169	320	1150	1462	312	699	707	8
Midlands	2776	3051	275	2539	2795	256	237	256	19
Murray Lands	1996	2207	211	1414	1684	270	582	523	-59
Wimmera	187	1329	142	835	936	101	352	393	41
Eyre	884	943	59	644	657	13	240	286	46
Northern - NSW	4573	4623	50	2606	3284	678	1967	1339	-628
Australian Capital Territory - Bal	23	10	-13	9	7	-2	14	3	-11
Mallee	2158	2135	-23	1170	1040	-130	988	1095	107
Central West - NSW	4323	4294	-29	2995	3660	665	1328	634	-694
Fitzroy	5563	5465	-98	4473	3692	-781	1090	1773	683
Upper Great Southern	853	741	-112	804	705	-99	49	36	-13
Central	2371	2217	-154	1930	1800	-130	441	417	-24
Kimberley	1502	1342	-160	848	807	-41	654	535	-119
Far West	698	513	-185	247	215	-32	451	298	-153
South East	1475	1278	-197	822	669	-153	653	609	-44
Central West - Qld	610	395	-215	525	296	-229	85	99	14
Murrumbidgee	3240	2970	-270	1785	2075	290	1455	895	-560
Northern - SA	2407	2050	-357	1665	1371	-294	742	679	-63
South West - Qld	1209	800	-409	1032	617	-415	177	183	6
North Western	3625	2862	-763	2514	2290	-224	1111	572	-539
North West	1858	1086	-772	1536	770	-766	322	316	-6
South Eastern - WA	2475	1691	-784	1860	1173	-687	615	518	-97
Pilbara	2878	2000	-878	2161	1411	-750	717	589	-128
Northern Territory - Bal	3641	2474	-1167	652	427	-225	2989	2047	-942
Total	357753	357753		208819	208819		148934	148934	

Figure 2.8: Australian Statistical Divisions: Internal Migration of Persons Aged 45-64 Years, 2001-2006



2.6 INTERNAL MIGRATION OF POPULATION AGED 25-44 YEARS, 2001-2006

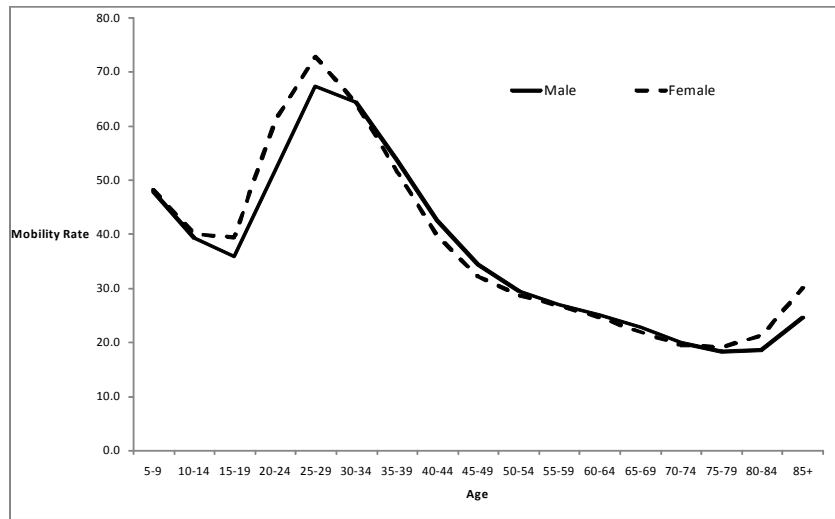
From a mobility perspective, this age group is very interesting for two important reasons. Firstly, it is the largest internal migration group numerically, accounting for some 643,000 moves in the 2001-2006 period. Secondly, the difference between interstate and intrastate movers in this group is only 8,000 persons – that is, the group shows a relatively similar propensity to both interstate and intrastate movement. These characteristics continue to prevail when the 2005-2006 data are analysed. This group includes the peak mobility cohort as is evident in Figure 2.9.

Table 2.9 shows, again, that there was a net migration loss for this group in six of the eight capital city statistical divisions. Again, Sydney experienced the greatest net migration loss, and as has been noted for other groups, Melbourne was significantly lower than Sydney, but ahead of the other capital city SDs experiencing net migration loss.

The highest net migration gain for 25-44 year olds occurred in the Gold Coast SD, which reported a net gain of 9,600 persons. In the Sunshine Coast SD, the net migration gain was 8,000. Gains of between 3,300 and 4,000 were reported for South West – WA, South Eastern – NSW, Mackay, Outer Adelaide, Richmond-Tweed and Hunter SDs.

Figure 2.9: Australia: Age-Specific Mobility Rates by Sex, 2001-2006

Source: ABS 2006 Census, TableBuilder



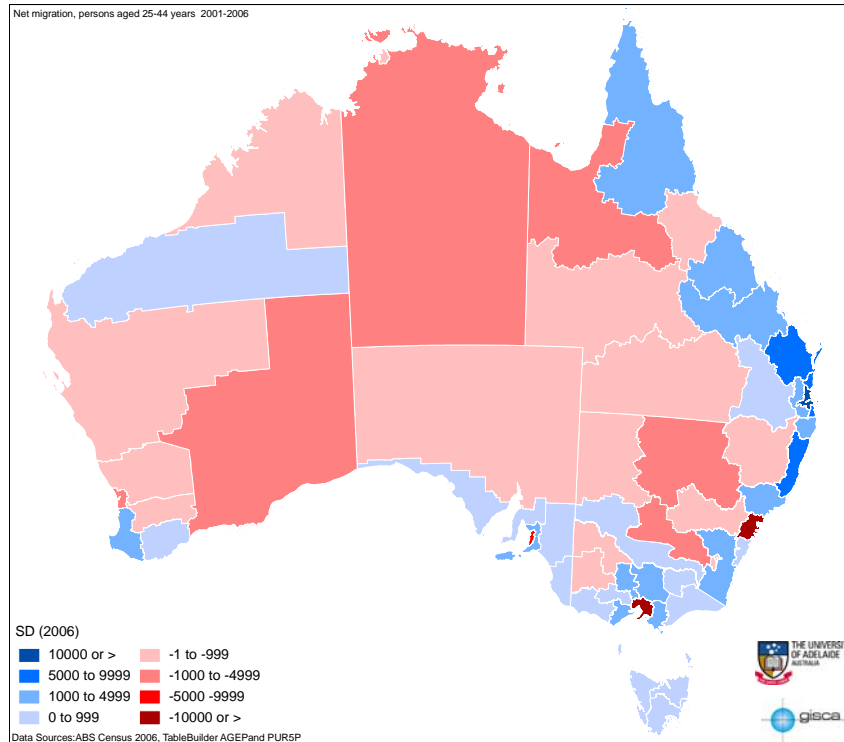
In the top ten sources, losses ranged from 400 in Central West SD in Queensland to 1,450 in the South Eastern statistical division in Western Australia. Outside of the capital city statistical divisions, there were 33 SDs which experienced a net gain for the age group, compared with 19 SDs which reported a net migration loss for this age group.

The spatial variation of net migration between statistical divisions for this demographic group is shown in Figure 2.10. This shows significant net migration losses in a number of SDs across the hinterland, and less substantial net losses elsewhere. The influence of resource development related employment opportunities for this group are highlighted by the gains for the Pilbara SD in Western Australia, and in the Mackay and Fitzroy statistical divisions in Queensland.

Table 2.9: Australian Statistical Divisions: Internal Migration of Persons Aged 25-44 Years, 2001-2006

Statistical Division	Total	Total	Net	Intrastate	Intrastate	Net	Interstate	Interstate	Net
	Departures (outs)	Arrivals (ins)	migration	Departures (outs)	Arrivals (ins)	Intrastate migration	Departures (outs)	Arrivals (ins)	Interstate migration
Persons aged 25-44 years 2001-2006									
Sydney	104 196	53 196	-5 1000	4 1732	20049	-2 1683	62464	33 147	-29317
Melbourne	7 1418	59506	-19 12	27977	17 117	-10860	43441	42389	-1052
Brisbane	55377	68975	13 598	3 1373	27339	-4034	24004	4 1636	17632
Adelaide	30236	22752	-7484	1541	7345	-4 196	18695	15407	-3288
Perth	37009	35473	-1536	17049	14861	-2 188	19960	20612	652
Greater Hobart	6851	7399	548	2002	2278	276	4849	5 121	272
Darwin	10565	9700	-865	7 18	1228	510	9847	8472	-1375
Canberra	18671	18567	-104	15	20	5	18656	18547	-109
Gold Coast	19399	28981	9582	11311	10658	-653	8088	13223	10235
Sunshine Coast	10051	1810	8059	7283	9880	2597	2768	8230	5462
Mid-North Coast	8510	13919	5409	4621	10715	6094	3889	3204	-685
Wide Bay-Burnett	9435	14796	5361	7356	9674	2318	2079	5 122	3043
South West - WA	7604	1597	3993	5838	9391	3553	1766	2206	440
South Eastern - NSW	8704	12609	3905	3650	6259	2609	5054	6350	1296
Mackay	7342	1116	3774	5399	7109	1710	1943	4007	2064
Outer Adelaide	5364	8885	3521	3933	7214	3281	1431	1671	240
Richmond-Tweed	8097	11468	3371	2648	6039	3391	5449	5429	-20
Hunter	17326	20669	3343	10044	15074	5060	7312	5595	-1717
Loddon	6337	8467	2130	4548	6785	2237	1789	1682	-107
Fitzroy	9406	11342	1936	7331	7963	632	2075	3379	1304
Barwon	7799	9660	1861	5276	7385	2109	2523	2275	-248
Goulburn	8232	10084	1852	4978	7286	2308	3254	2798	-456
Far North	10435	12179	1744	6406	5852	-554	4029	6327	2298
West Moreton	3986	5191	1205	3387	4218	831	599	973	374
Gippsland	5163	6313	1150	3625	5075	1450	1538	1238	-300
Ovens-Murray	4363	5285	922	1801	2415	614	2562	2870	308
Central Highlands	6002	6751	749	4472	5491	1019	1530	1260	-270
East Gippsland	2719	3366	647	1883	2301	618	1036	1065	29
Yorke and Lower North	1631	2256	625	1283	1889	606	348	367	19
Western District	3119	3719	600	1989	2543	554	1130	1176	46
Southern	1690	2226	536	1272	1198	-74	418	1028	610
Darling Downs	10690	11215	525	8006	7668	-338	2684	3547	863
Mersey-Lyell	3149	3645	496	1100	1116	16	2049	2529	480
Murray	5732	6207	475	1496	2013	517	4236	4194	-42
Northern - Tas	4360	4628	268	1500	1282	-218	2860	3346	486
Pilbara	5479	5724	245	3870	4109	239	1609	1615	6
Lower Great Southern	2561	2795	234	2168	2392	224	393	403	10
Eyre	1327	1479	152	915	1062	147	412	417	5
South East	2461	2571	110	1170	1392	222	1291	1179	-112
Illawarra	13802	13877	75	8804	11303	2499	4998	2574	-2424
Murray Lands	2759	2786	27	1866	2056	190	893	730	-163
Australian Capital Territory - Bal	80	32	-48	20	15	-5	60	17	-43
Upper Great Southern	1130	1071	-59	1042	991	-51	88	80	-8
Northern - Qld	12264	12198	-66	7361	6916	-445	4903	5282	379
Mallee	3945	3868	-77	1955	1955	0	1990	1913	-77
Wimmera	2075	1984	-91	1394	1345	-49	681	639	-42
Midlands	3609	3474	-135	3215	3162	-53	394	312	-82
Far West	1052	901	-151	405	407	2	647	494	-153
Central	3744	3517	-227	3026	2834	-192	718	683	-35
Central West - NSW	7677	7404	-273	5164	6101	937	2513	1303	-1210
Central West - Qld	1222	821	-401	1048	706	-342	174	115	-59
Northern - SA	3936	3474	-462	2535	2285	-250	1401	1189	-212
South West - Qld	2318	1692	-626	1938	1367	-571	380	325	-55
Northern - NSW	7928	7246	-682	4365	5101	736	3563	2145	-1418
Kimberley	3212	2493	-719	1836	1492	-344	1376	1001	-375
Murrumbidgee	7167	6128	-1039	3682	3816	134	3485	2312	-1173
North West	3931	2784	-1147	3197	2046	-1151	734	738	4
North Western	6182	4977	-1205	4256	3960	-296	1926	1017	-909
Northern Territory - Bal	6280	5010	-1270	1228	718	-510	5052	4292	-760
South Eastern - WA	5751	4302	-1449	4040	2852	-1188	1711	1450	-261
Total	642860	642860		325113	325113		317747	317747	

Figure 2.10: Australian Statistical Divisions: Internal Migration of Persons Aged 25-44 Years, 2001-2006



2.7 INTERNAL MIGRATION OF POPULATION AGED 15-24 YEARS, 2001-2006

In the 2001-2006 period, around 309,000 persons in this age group moved residence from one statistical division to another. As Table 2.10 shows, around 187,000 of these moves, or 60 percent, were intrastate moves. For the 2005-2006 period, the proportion of intrastate moves was 58 percent. Several other points are immediately noticeable from the table which have not been present for any of the other age groups considered. This is a key age group from a migration perspective since it is the stage of the life cycle when Australians tend to make the education to work transition and most leave the family home for the first time.

Firstly, positive net migration levels are recorded for all of the capital city statistical divisions. Secondly, only two non-capital city SDs, Gold Coast and Northern-Queensland, reported positive net migration for this group. Thirdly, the remaining SDs, fifty in all, experienced net migration loss for this age group between 2001 and 2006. Hence, there is a clear pattern of net displacement of this group to Australia's major metropolitan centres.

In the 2005-2006 period Hobart experienced a very small loss for this group, while the number of SDs outside the capital cities experiencing net gain increased from two to nine. The seven "new" SDs were all predominantly associated with resource development – Mackay, Fitzroy, South Eastern-WA, North West, Pilbara, Central West-Qld and South West-Qld.

This is a diverse group, and aspects of its diversity have important implications for mobility. Firstly, it is a group undertaking education, both at secondary and tertiary levels. As a result, large numbers of the group will be attracted to education facilities concentrated in

large centres. This explains the large number of SDs with net migration losses, as they are localities without the infrastructure to offer post school educational opportunities to a large section of their communities. Similarly, the location of educational facilities in capital cities and regional centres explains the net migration gains in the capital city SDs and the two regional statistical divisions. A second factor is that this is a group entering the workforce, and as a result many of the employment opportunities for the group will be located in the city areas, especially for those who have achieved, and also those who seek, a university education. The net migration loss of this group from so many statistical divisions is simply another indication of rural-urban population movement which has been a feature of the Australian landscape from the 1970s. However, this pattern in Australia is strongly concentrated in this age group and does not apply as much for older ages.

Looking specifically at the capital city SDs, the largest net migration gain of 20,400 occurred in Brisbane SD. This net gain was only slightly larger than the 18,700 recorded for Melbourne. Table 2.10 also shows that Perth (7,500) and Adelaide (5,200) had bigger net gains than Sydney (5,100). The results for Sydney confirm, from a mobility perspective, that it is not a location of choice for many Australian internal migrants.

For this demographic group, there are only two 'sinks' outside of the capital city SDs – the Gold Coast and Northern statistical divisions, both in Queensland. Further, the top ten sources have net migration losses greater than those recorded for any other age category. For example, the Mid-North Coast SD in New South Wales experienced a net migration loss for 15-24 year olds of 6,300 between 2001 and 2006, compared with the tenth largest net loss of 2,400 in the Northern SD, also in New South Wales. A number of top ten source SDs for this demographic group have fallen in the top ten sink SDs for other demographic groups. It demonstrates, once again, the uniqueness of this group from an internal migration perspective.

Figure 2.11 shows the spatial variation in net migration for this group. It shows graphically the high levels of net migration loss which has occurred across large tracts of the country. In South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales, and to a lesser extent in Tasmania, the majority of SDs experienced net migration losses of population aged 15-24 years between 1,000 and 5,000 persons during the five years to 2006.

Table 2.10: Australian Statistical Divisions: Internal Migration of Persons Aged 15-24 Years, 2001-2006

Statistical Division	Total	Total	Net	Intrastate	Intrastate	Net	Interstate	Interstate	Net
	Departures (outs)	Arrivals (ins)	migration	Departures (outs)	Arrivals (ins)	migration	Departures (outs)	Arrivals (ins)	migration
Persons aged 15-24 years 2001-2006									
Sydney	25365	30445	5080	11046	18398	7352	14319	12047	-2272
Melbourne	18302	36974	18672	7455	20711	13256	10847	16263	5416
Brisbane	18832	39224	20392	10978	23105	12127	7854	16119	8265
Adelaide	10028	15281	5253	3444	9447	6003	6584	5834	-750
Perth	11818	19356	7538	5671	13028	7357	6147	6328	1181
Greater Hobart	3416	3736	320	882	2496	1614	2534	1240	-1294
Darwin	3362	4091	729	225	554	329	3137	3537	400
Canberra	6431	10881	4450	0	8	8	6431	10873	4442
Gold Coast	7587	14155	6568	4671	5283	612	2916	8872	5956
Northern - Qld	4708	7484	2776	3216	4783	1567	1492	2701	1209
Australian Capital Territory - Bal	11	9	-2	8	0	-8	3	9	6
Kimberley	951	866	-85	636	559	-77	315	307	-8
North West	1516	1343	-173	1292	1004	-288	224	339	115
South Eastern - WA	2010	1776	-234	1627	1219	-408	383	557	174
Mackay	4439	4180	-259	3665	2629	-1036	774	1551	777
Central Highlands	415	3807	-308	3221	3326	105	894	481	-413
Central West - Qld	778	456	-322	690	360	-330	88	96	8
Pilbara	1981	1627	-354	1600	1259	-341	381	368	-13
Hunter	9505	9134	-371	6253	7205	952	3252	1929	-1323
Sunshine Coast	6898	6420	-478	5351	3774	-1577	1547	2646	1099
Northern Territory - Bal	2348	1868	-480	554	225	-329	1794	1643	-151
Northern - Tas	2738	2225	-513	986	1171	185	1752	1054	-698
Far West	823	302	-521	222	138	-84	601	164	-437
Upper Great Southern	1101	545	-556	1063	508	-555	38	37	-1
South West - Qld	1374	801	-573	1212	636	-576	162	165	3
Barwon	5010	4368	-642	3840	3443	-397	1170	925	-245
Eyre	1276	619	-657	1058	467	-591	218	152	-66
Fitzroy	5587	4839	-748	4653	3625	-1028	934	1214	280
Southern	1494	572	-922	1184	357	-827	310	215	-95
Central	2309	1237	-1072	2035	1057	-978	274	180	-94
South East	2090	954	-1136	1328	525	-803	762	429	-333
Yorke and Lower North	1947	759	-1188	1695	652	-1043	252	107	-145
Murray	4357	3094	-1263	1097	1016	-81	3260	2078	-1182
Murrumbidgee	5090	3815	-1275	2639	2562	-77	2451	1253	-1198
Far North	5417	4132	-1285	4102	2131	-1971	1315	2001	686
Lower Great Southern	2273	972	-1301	2053	828	-1225	220	144	-76
Outer Adelaide	3994	2646	-1348	3289	2086	-1203	705	560	-145
Murray Lands	2441	1066	-1375	1974	791	-1183	467	275	-192
Northern - SA	2796	1387	-1409	2165	985	-1180	631	402	-229
Wimmera	2114	692	-1422	1640	487	-1153	474	205	-269
West Moreton	3436	1924	-1512	3050	1589	-1461	386	335	-51
Ovens-Murray	3690	2162	-1528	2019	846	-1173	1671	1316	-355
Darling Downs	7326	5776	-1550	5932	4063	-1869	1394	1713	319
Western District	3249	1646	-1603	2504	1223	-1281	745	423	-322
Midlands	2904	1273	-1631	2733	1152	-1581	171	121	-50
Mersey-Lyell	2841	1123	-1718	1383	411	-972	1458	712	-746
Loddon	5289	3558	-1731	4242	2916	-1326	1047	642	-405
Mallee	3356	1605	-1751	2160	764	-1396	1196	841	-355
East Gippsland	3025	1117	-1908	2315	776	-1539	710	341	-369
South West - WA	5961	3638	-2323	5141	2949	-2192	820	689	-131
Northern - NSW	6392	4022	-2370	3705	3155	-550	2687	867	-1820
Illawarra	7517	5110	-2407	5018	4098	-920	2499	1012	-1487
Central West - NSW	6237	3732	-2505	4473	3237	-1236	1764	495	-1269
Gippsland	4784	2253	-2531	3846	1824	-2022	938	429	-509
South Eastern - NSW	6709	3958	-2751	3057	2143	-914	3652	1815	-1837
North Western	4747	1802	-2945	3601	1495	-2106	1146	307	-839
Richmond-Tweed	7066	4046	-3020	1917	2399	482	5149	1647	-3502
Goulburn	7017	3349	-3668	5370	2296	-3074	1647	1053	-594
Wide Bay-Burnett	8753	4996	-3757	7389	3219	-4170	1364	1777	413
Mid-North Coast	10537	4240	-6297	6104	3286	-2818	4433	954	-3479
Total	309468	309468		186679	186679		122789	122789	