

Internal migration and ageing in regional Australia





2 March 2022

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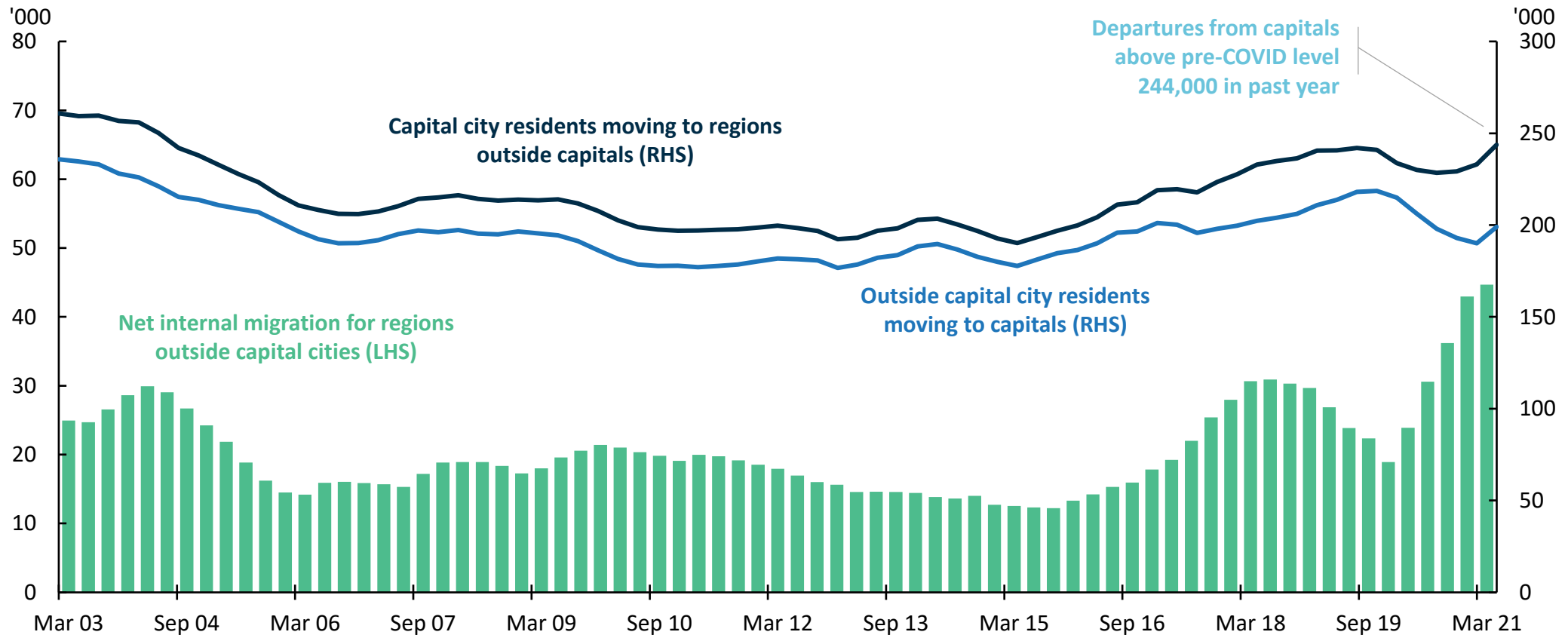


The Centre for Population

Our vision	Strong Evidence. Deep Insights. Collaborative Approach.	
Our objectives	Enrich the evidence base 	Inform strategic policy-making 
	Support the responsible Minister 	Proactively engage with stakeholders 
How we work	Identify and address data gaps Undertake and commission research pieces	
	Engage with state, territory and local governments, academics, business and the general public to enrich the evidence base	
What we deliver	<p align="center">Population Statement</p> <p align="center">The Statement is an annual overarching document capturing the population landscape in Australia including composition, distribution, and broader demographic trends.</p>	
	<p align="center">National Population and Planning Framework</p> <p align="center">The Framework sets out how all levels of government will work together to better plan for Australia’s future population.</p>	
	<p align="center">Population Plan</p> <p align="center">The Government will plan for the effects of population change by assessing the costs and benefits of change, incorporating state, territory and local government plans and mapping and analysing existing population data.</p>	

Regional areas have had their largest net gain on record

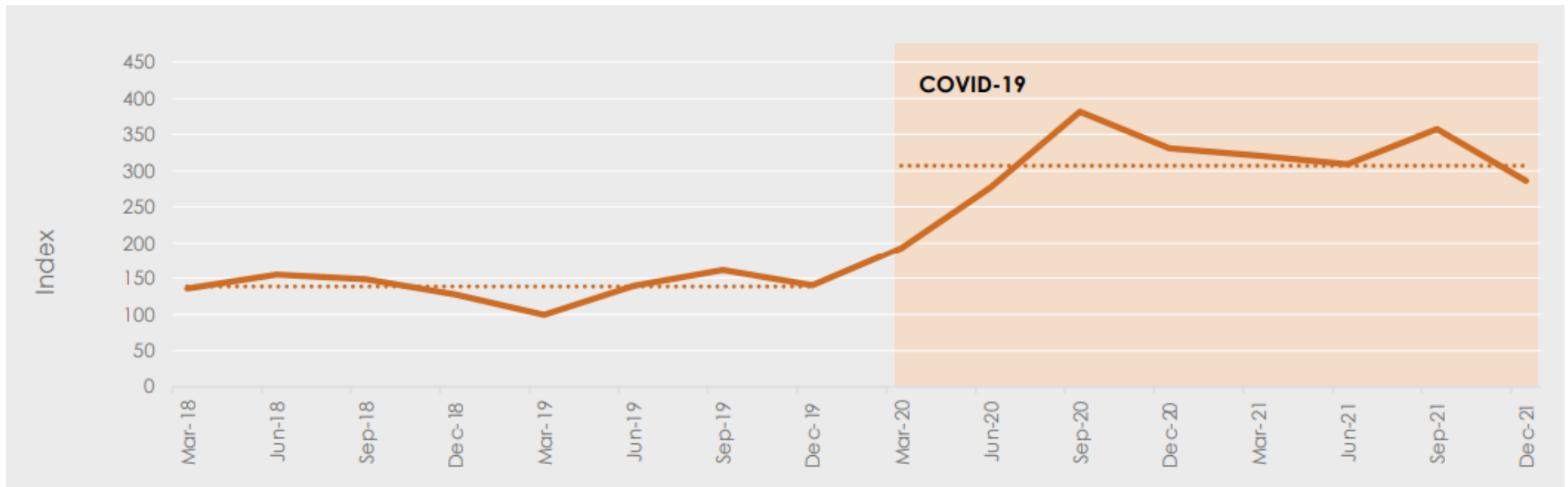
Internal migration between regions and capital cities, year ending, 2003 to 2021



Source: ABS Regional internal migration estimates, provisional, March 2021

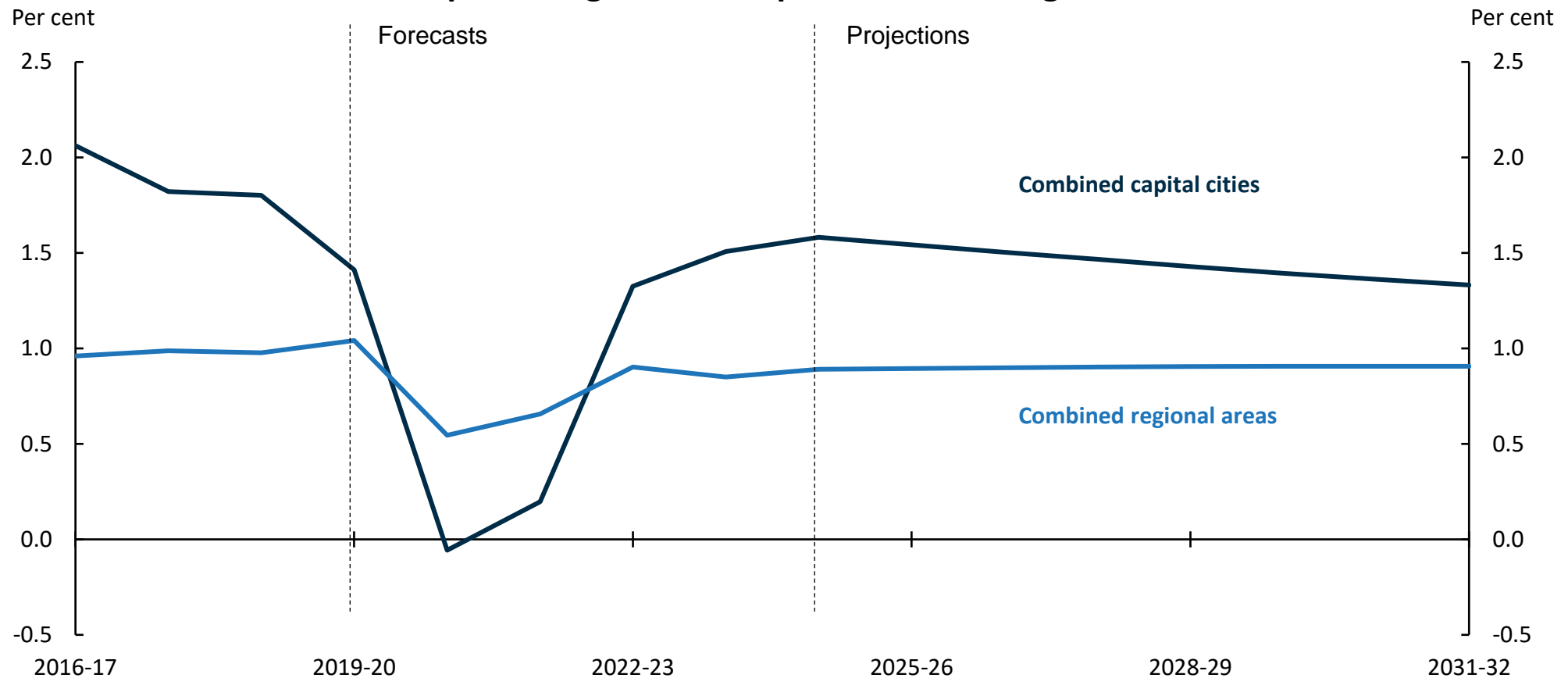
Net migration to regional areas seems to have remained elevated throughout 2021

Net migration to regional areas - indexed, Regional Australia Institute's Regional Movers Index



Population growth has been higher in regional areas than capital cities during the pandemic

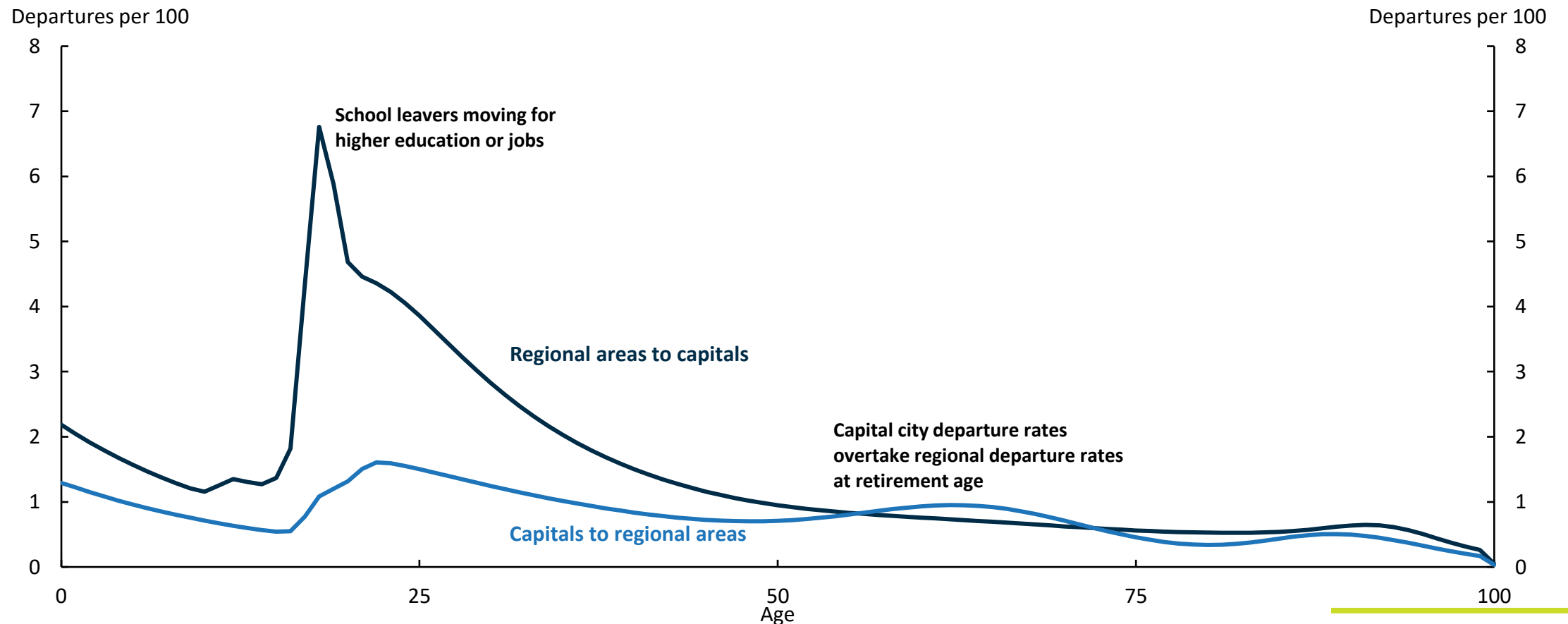
Population growth in capital cities and regional areas



Source: ABS, Regional population, 2019-20, Centre for Population projections, 2020

Age composition of internal migration will increase population ageing in regional areas

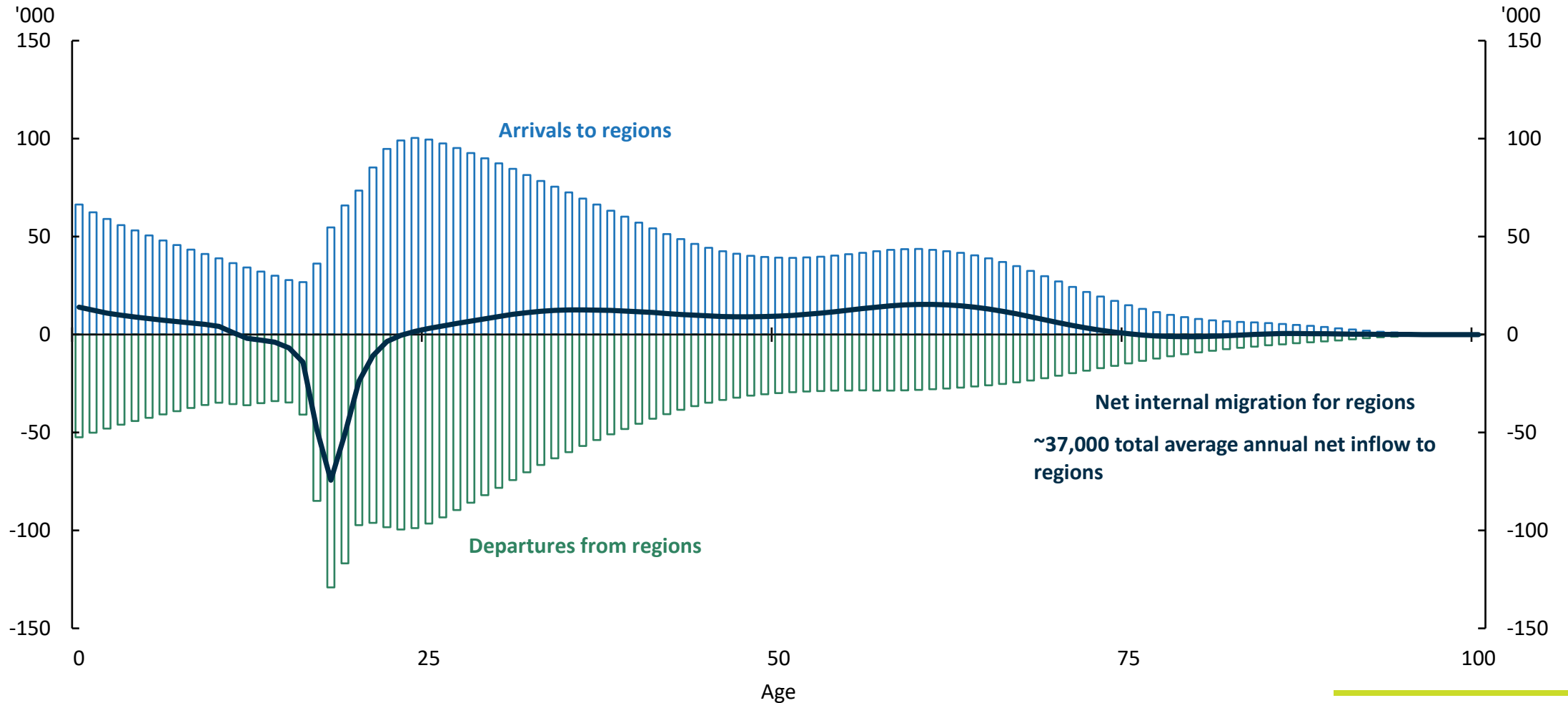
Migration rates by age for intrastate departures, capital cities and regional areas



Note: Departure rates excludes interstate moves
 Source: Centre for Population projections using Wilson (2020)

Regional areas gain overall due to positive internal migration at older ages

Average annual projected levels of internal migration for regional areas, by age



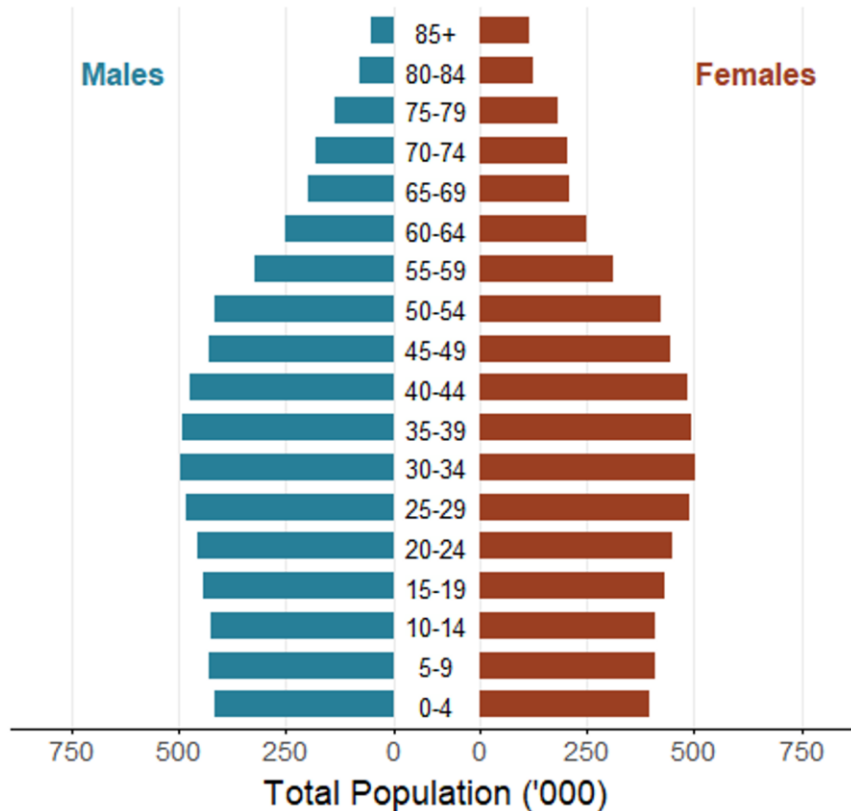
Note: Includes all regional arrivals and departures (intra- and inter-state moves)
 Source: Centre for Population projections using Wilson (2020)

Regional areas have an older age structure than capital cities

Age structure, capital cities and regional areas, 2001 to 2032

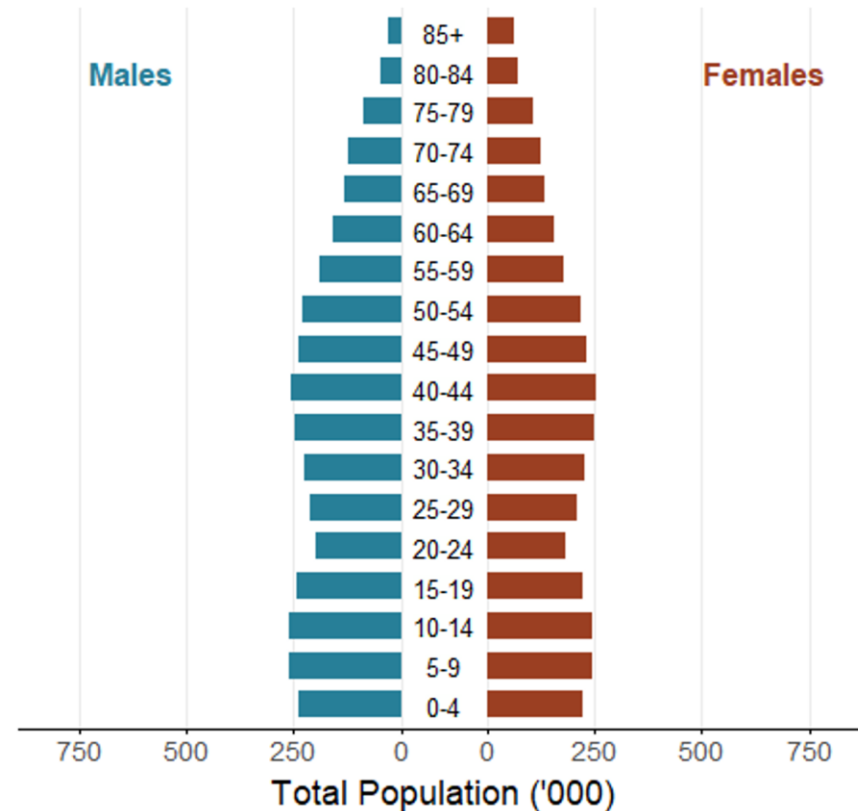
Age Structure of Capital Cities

Year: 2001



Age Structure of Regional Areas

Year: 2001

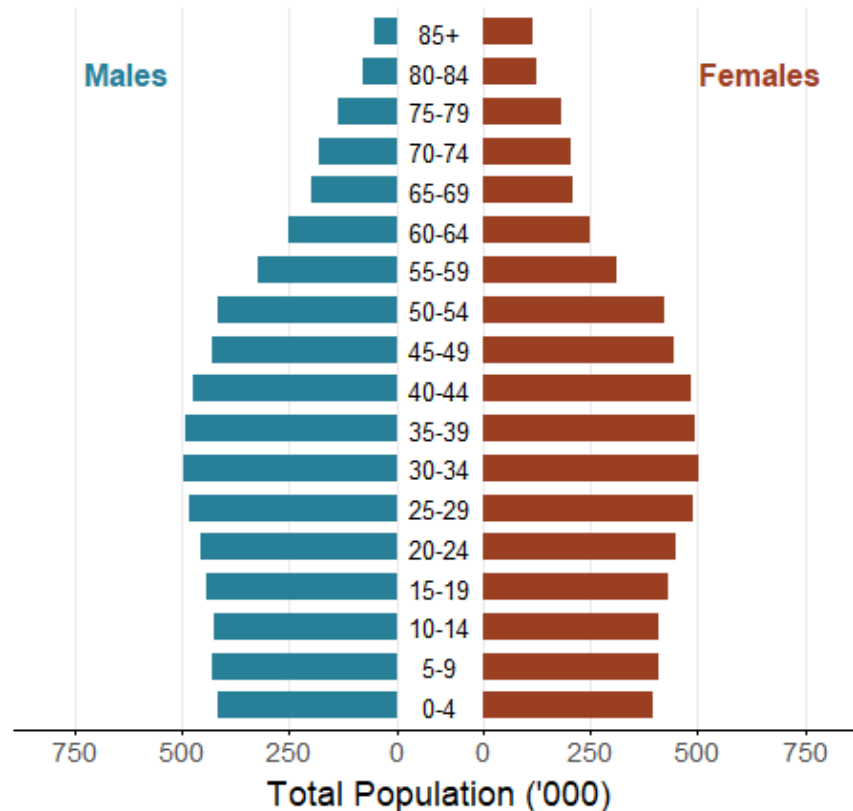


Regional areas have an older age structure than capital cities

Age structure, capital cities and regional areas, 2001 to 2032

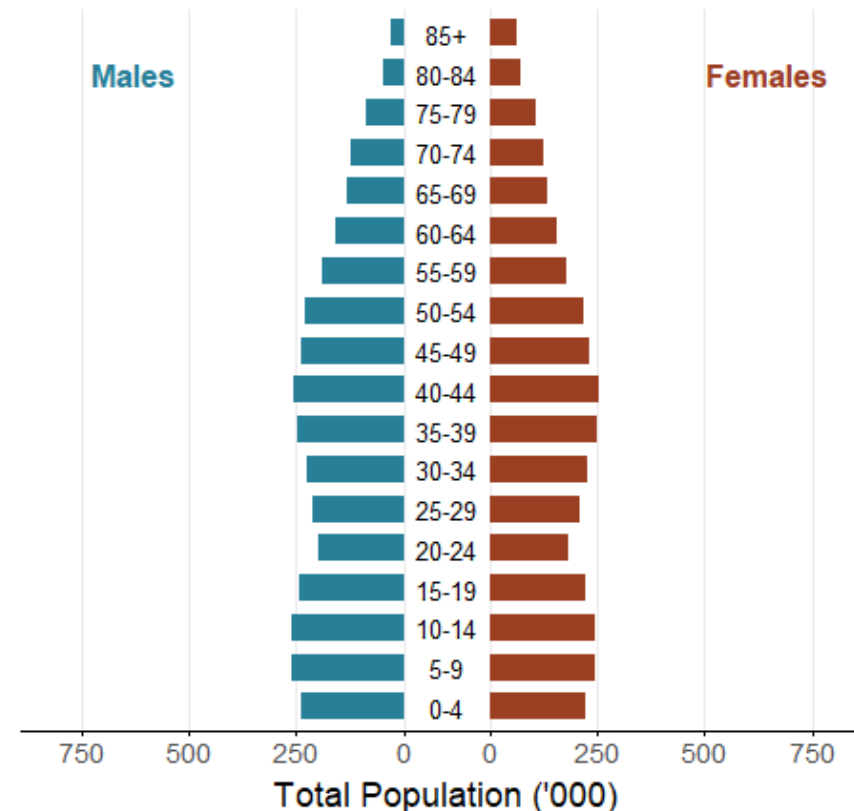
Age Structure of Capital Cities

Year: 2001



Age Structure of Regional Areas

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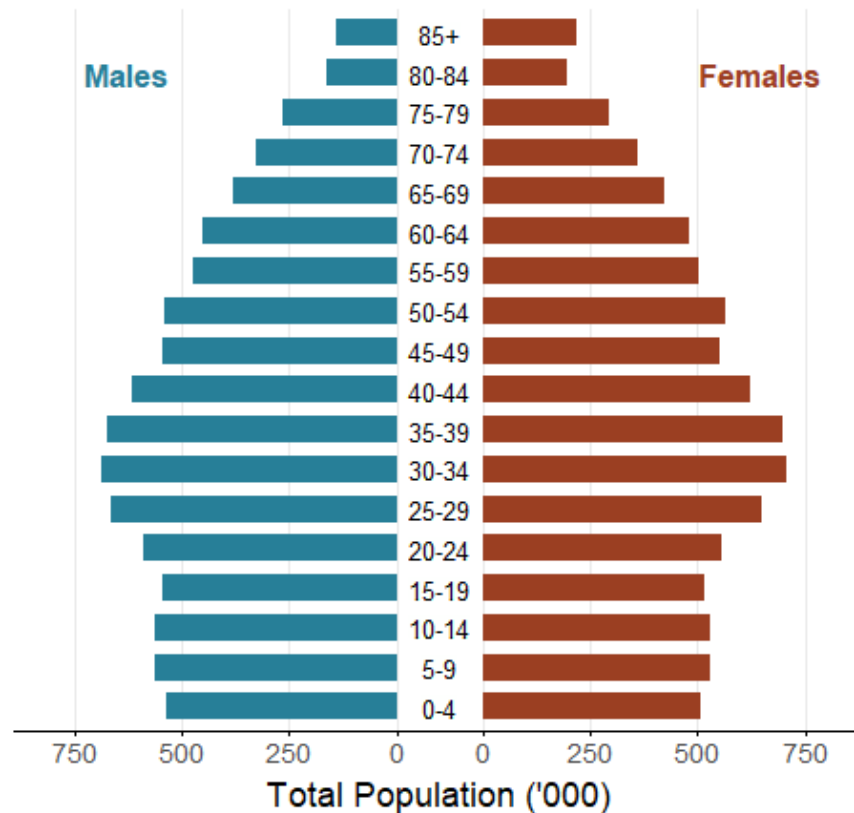


Regional areas have an older age structure than capital cities

Age structure, capital cities and regional areas, 2001 to 2032

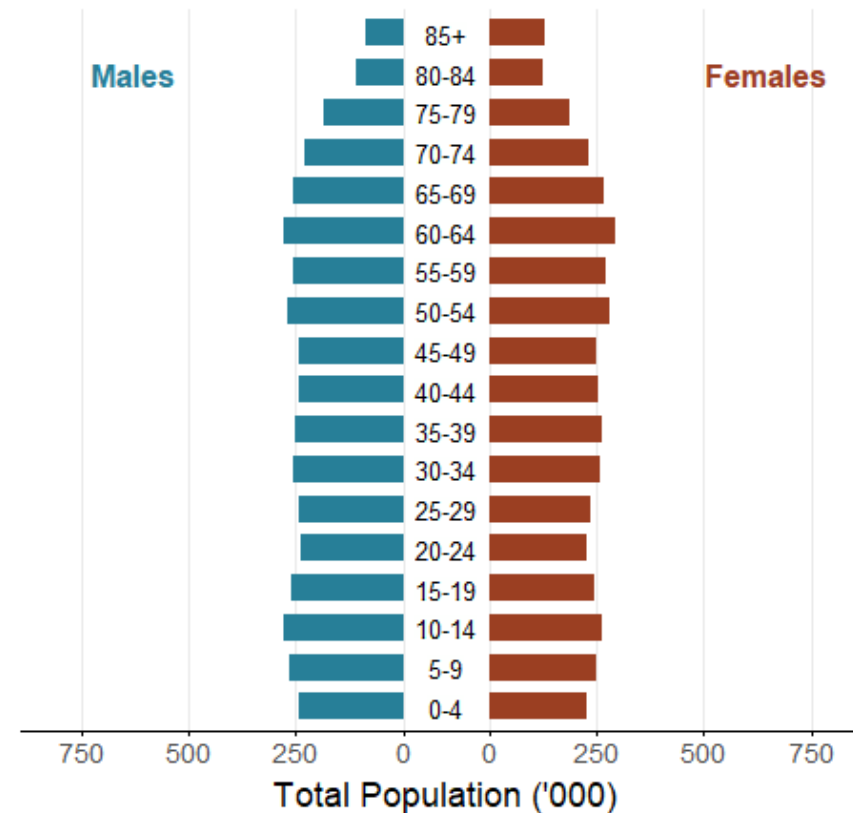
Age Structure of Capital Cities

Year: 2023



Age Structure of Regional Areas

Year: 2023



Centre for Population website has more information on regional migration



Latest from the Centre for Population



STATEMENTS

[2021 Population Statement](#)

This Population Statement is the Centre's second release in an annual series that provides a comprehensive national picture of how the Australian population has changed and how we expect it to change in future.

The National Population and Planning Framework tasks the Centre for Population to prepare an annual Population Statement as part of national efforts to increase understanding about populations, population change and its implications for all levels of government.

PDF 1.48 MB



RESEARCH

[Sub-group mortality: A microdata approach to resident sub-group life tables](#)



RESEARCH

[Low overseas migration: A quick guide to the potential impacts on local populations](#)

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RESEARCH

[The lifetime fiscal impact of the Australian permanent migration program](#)



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[Migration between cities and regions: A quick guide to COVID-19 impacts](#)

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