



Parliamentary Budget Office

# South-Eastern Metropolitan Region Snapshot

Comparison with the state of Victoria

OFFICIAL

## Parliamentary Budget Office

We provide independent fiscal, economic and financial advice to all members of the Parliament of Victoria. Our objective is to inform policy development and public debate in parliament and the community.

Postal address Parliament House Spring Street East Melbourne Victoria Australia 3002

Email address [enquiries@pbo.vic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@pbo.vic.gov.au)

Telephone 1300 615 862

Online [pbo.vic.gov.au](http://pbo.vic.gov.au)



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# In brief

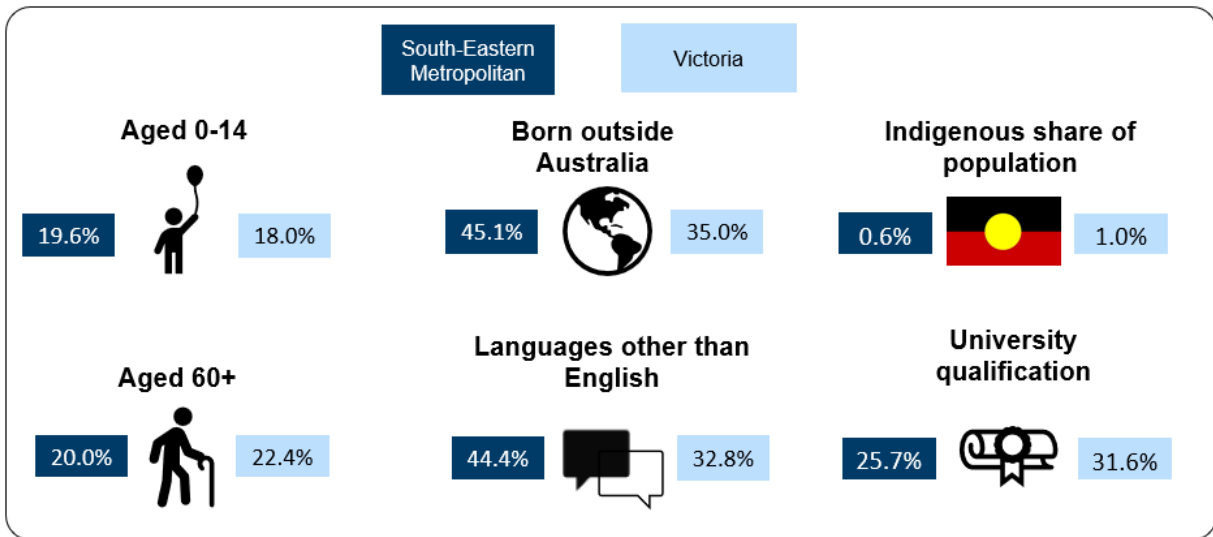
In this advice, we analyse demographic and socio-economic statistics of the South-Eastern Metropolitan region and compare it with state averages.

Additionally, we consider the Australian Bureau of Statistics’ Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) to evaluate the relative level of socio-economic advantage and disadvantage of the region.

## Demographic snapshot

South-Eastern Metropolitan is one of 8 electoral regions in Victoria, covering a total area of 658 square kilometres and home to around 860,000 people in 2021.

Figure 1 – Demographic snapshot



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

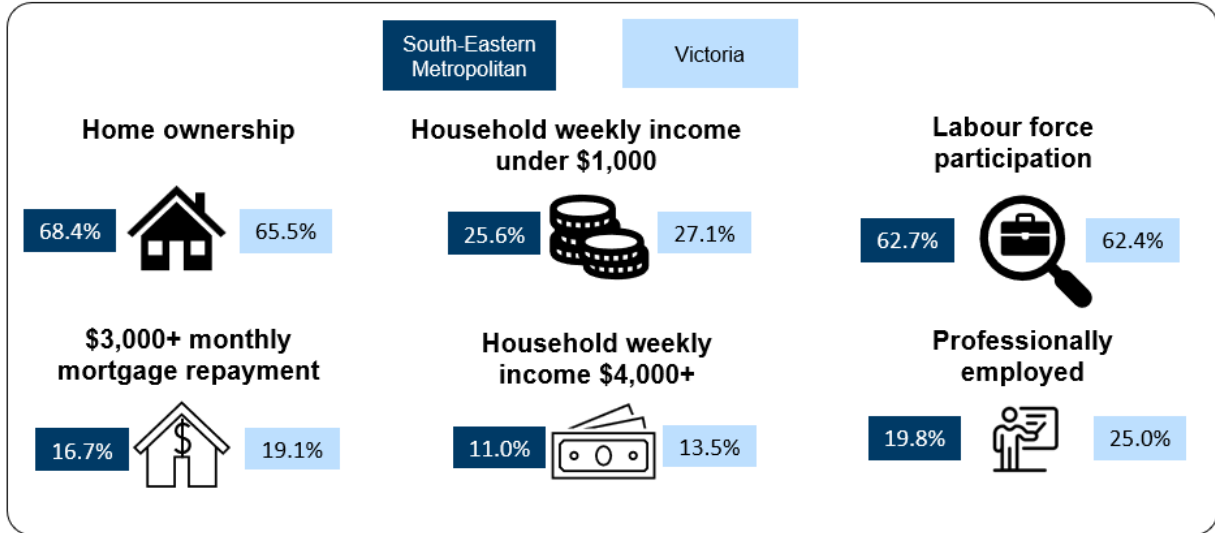
South-Eastern Metropolitan had proportionally:

- more people less people aged under 15 years and fewer aged over 60 years
- more people born outside Australia and speaking languages other than English at home
- fewer Indigenous peoples
- fewer people with university education.

## Socio-economic snapshot

South-Eastern Metropolitan differed from the state average across several socio-economic indicators.

Figure 2 – Socio-economic snapshot



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

South-Eastern Metropolitan had proportionally:

- higher home ownership
- fewer households paying high monthly mortgage repayments
- fewer households on particularly low incomes and particularly high incomes
- higher labour force participation
- fewer professional occupation workers.

# Context

## Request

On 29 March 2023, Ms Rachel Payne MP, asked the Parliamentary Budget Officer to provide independent advice about the main demographic, social and economic statistics for the South-Eastern Metropolitan region in comparison to the state.

## Scope

In this advice we use data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and Crime Statistics Agency to compare the South-Eastern Metropolitan region to the Victorian state average.

## Limitations

This advice primarily uses ABS data from the 2021 Census. All information provided in this report is at the time of the most recent information available, which may have since changed.

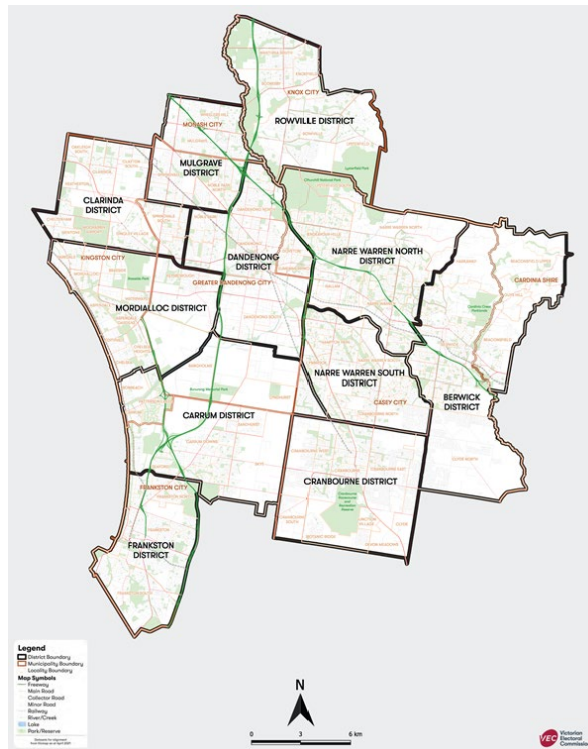
We prepared this advice on 16 August 2023.

## Background

### South-Eastern Metropolitan region

South-Eastern Metropolitan is one of 8 electoral regions in Victoria, with a total area of 658 square kilometres.

**Figure 3 – South-Eastern Metropolitan region**



Source: Victorian Electoral Commission.

South-Eastern Metropolitan is comprised of 11 districts:

- Berwick
- Carrum
- Clarinda
- Cranbourne
- Dandenong
- Frankston
- Mordialloc
- Mulgrave
- Narre Warren North
- Narre Warren South
- Rowville

#### Socio-economic measures

The ABS calculates the socio-economic indexes for areas (SEIFA) to rank geographic areas according to their relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage. The smallest areas available for calculating the SEIFA indexes are the ABS defined Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) geographic categorisation, which are areas that have a population between 200 and 800 people.

The SEIFA indexes assist in targeting areas for new business opportunities, identifying areas that require more services, and finding relationships between socio-economic disadvantage and various social outcomes. This advice analyses data at the electorate level, which we built using SA1 level data.

The ABS includes 4 indexes within the SEIFA to capture people's access to material and social resources, as well as their ability to participate in society:

- Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage – encompasses variables that indicate relative disadvantage; either through low income, a lower level of education, unemployment, participation in occupations requiring lower skills, low rent, poor English proficiency, separated or divorced marital status, disability, and no access to a car or the internet.
- Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage – encompasses variables that indicate either relative advantage or disadvantage in areas of income, education, unemployment, occupation, housing expenditure, marital status, disability, cars, and internet.
- Index of Economic Resources – encompasses variables relating to the financial aspects of socio-economic advantage and disadvantage, including income, unemployment, housing expenditure, small business ownership and car ownership.
- Index of Education and Occupation – encompasses variables relating to education, unemployment and occupation.

SEIFA indexes are useful for comparing the relative advantage and disadvantage of different areas. A decile analysis incorporating all electorates shows the relative advantage and disadvantage of the South-Eastern Metropolitan region both in comparison with the rest of the state and within the region.

Figure 4 – SEIFA deciles

Electorate (decile)	Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage	Index of Relative Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage	Index of Economic Resources	Index of Education and Occupation
Berwick	9	7	10	7
Carrum	6	6	7	5
Clarinda	2	4	5	5
Cranbourne	4	3	7	3
Dandenong	1	1	1	1
Frankston	3	4	3	5
Mordialloc	9	8	9	8
Mulgrave	2	4	3	5
Narre Warren North	4	4	7	4
Narre Warren South	2	3	7	3
Rowville	9	7	10	7

Note: The first decile indicates that an electorate is in the bottom 10% of all electorates across the state for the respective index.

Source: Parliamentary Budget Office.

Of the 11 districts within the South-Eastern Metropolitan region:

- 3 were in the top half of deciles for all 4 indexes in 2021 – Berwick, Mordialloc and Rowville
- 4 districts were in the bottom half of deciles for all 4 indexes – Clarinda, Dandenong, Frankston and Mulgrave
- 3 were in the bottom half of deciles for indexes aside from the Index of Economic Resources – Cranbourne, Narre Warren North and Narre Warren South
- Carrum had mixed results, with all 4 indexes around the middle when comparing with all other electoral districts.

Overall, this suggests that the region is relatively disadvantaged in comparison with other regions, but has some areas that are relatively advantaged. The region's relatively higher rankings on the Index of Economic Resources compared to the other indexes reflects its relatively higher scores on income and housing-related measures, and relatively lower scores on education and occupation-related measures.

# Demographic Snapshot

**In this section**

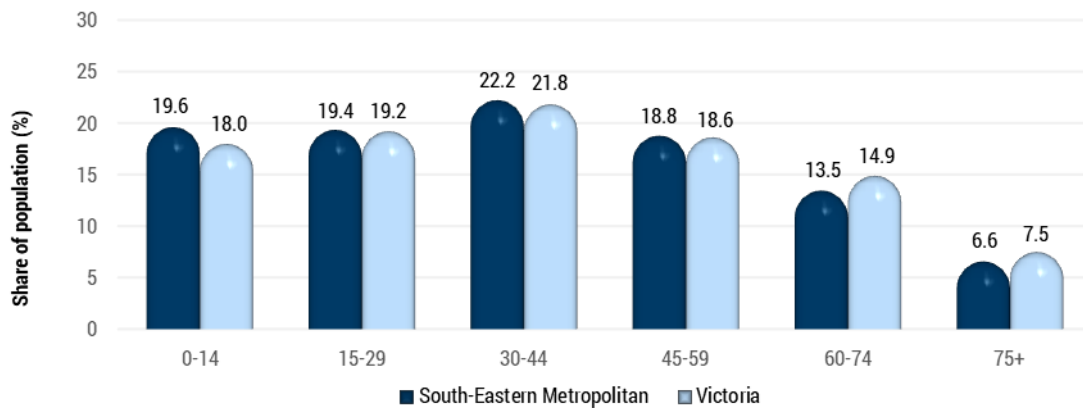
Demographic comparisons provide insights into the characteristics of a population. They contain information about a population’s ability to work, earning potential, and cultural factors.

This section provides breakdowns of the population by age, the highest level of education, indigenous status, the country of birth, main language spoken at home, relationship status and religion for the South-Eastern Metropolitan region and Victoria.

## Age profile of the population

The breakdown of a population by age illustrates the proportion of a population that is of working age and can provide insight into expenditure requirements to support both younger and older residents.

**Figure 5 – Population by age**



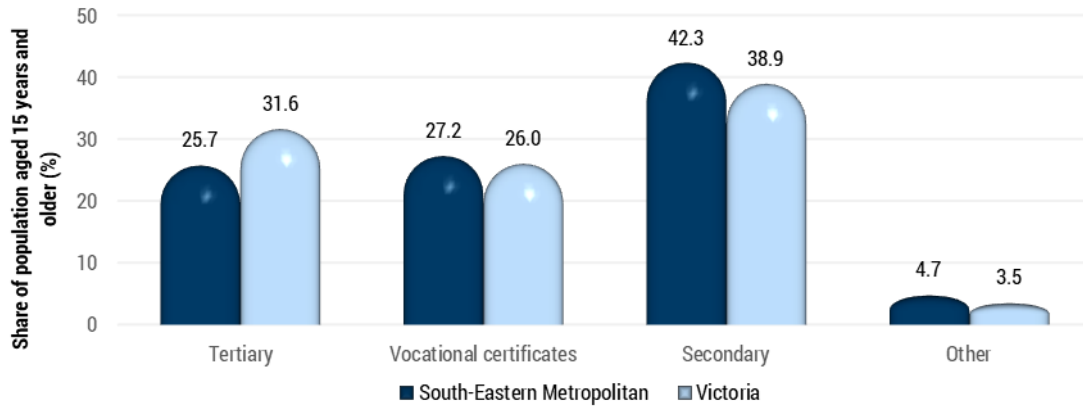
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

South-Eastern Metropolitan’s population is relatively similar to the state average for ages 15 to 59. South-Eastern Metropolitan had a higher proportion of its population aged under 15 years and a lower proportion aged over 60 years, compared to the state average.

## Education

Educational attainment can be an important factor in determining an individual’s or population’s earning potential. Breaking the population down by their highest level of educational attainment can provide insight into differences in earnings between population groups and areas.

**Figure 6 – Population by highest level of education**



Notes: Tertiary includes people that have at least obtained a bachelor’s degree. The Vocational certificates category includes people that have completed a diploma, or Certificate III or Certificate IV course. Secondary includes people that have attended high school, or completed a Certificate I or Certificate II course.

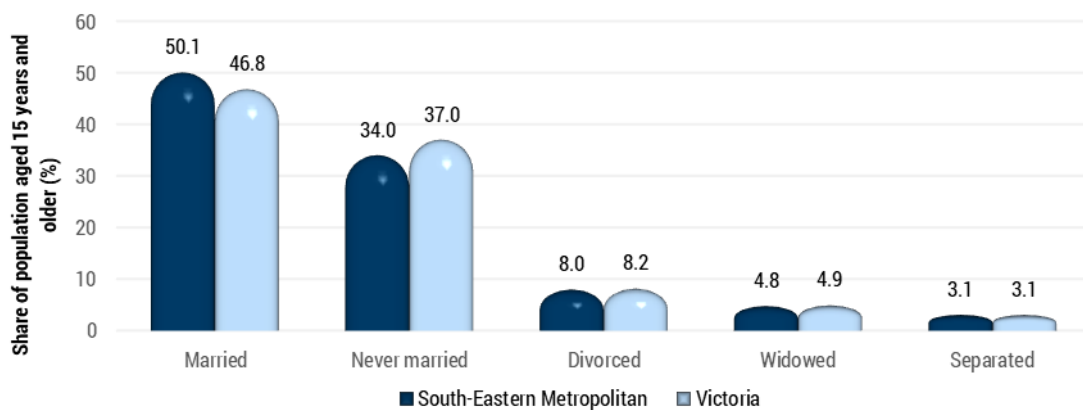
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

South-Eastern Metropolitan had higher proportions of residents with secondary education and vocational certificates as their highest level of education, and a smaller proportion with tertiary education as their highest level of education, compared to the state average. This indicates that on average, South-Eastern Metropolitan residents had lower educational attainment than the rest of Victoria, which aligns with South-Eastern Metropolitan’s SEIFA results.

## Relationship status

The relationship status of a population is an indicator of the structure of a household.

**Figure 7 – Relationship status**



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

South-Eastern Metropolitan had a higher proportion of people that were married and lower rates of people who had never married, divorced or widowed, compared to the state average.

## Cultural and linguistic factors

These statistics provide insight into the cultural and linguistic diversity in the South-Eastern Metropolitan region and across Victoria.

### Indigenous population

The breakdown of a population by indigenous status provides insight into how representative an area is of the broader Victorian population.

Figure 8 – Indigenous population

Share of population (%)	South-Eastern Metropolitan	Victoria
Indigenous population	0.6	1.0

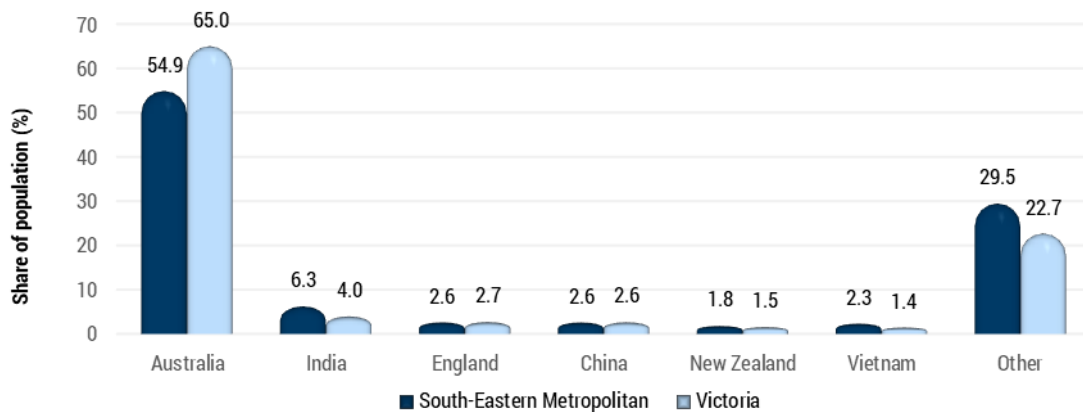
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

South-Eastern Metropolitan had a lower proportion of indigenous people in its population than the state average.

### Country of birth

The breakdown of a population by country of birth shows the cultural diversity of an area.

Figure 9 – Country of birth



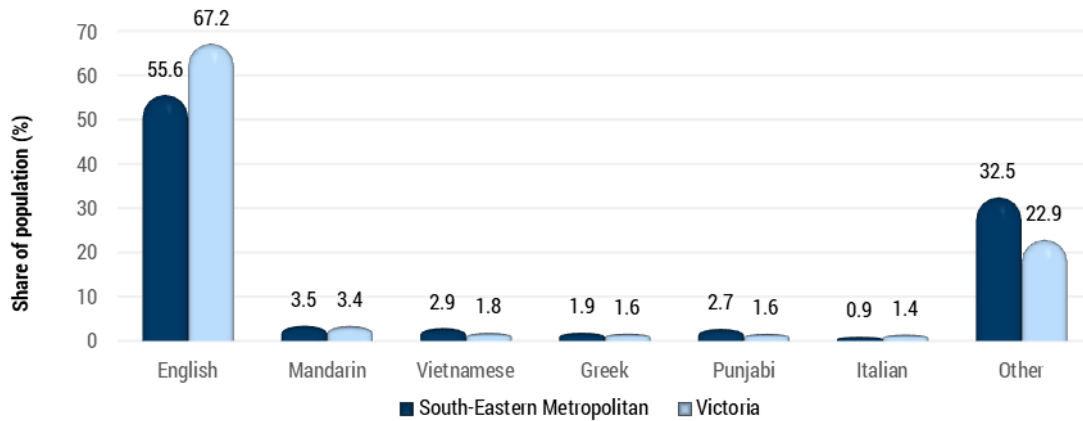
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

South-Eastern Metropolitan had a lower proportion of people born in Australia, and higher proportions of people born India and Vietnam, compared to the state average. Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, the Philippines and Cambodia were the 4 countries with the largest proportions within the 'Other' category, with 8.4% of the South-Eastern Metropolitan population born in one of these countries.

### Language

The breakdown of a population by languages spoken at home shows the influence of cultural factors on an area's population.

Figure 10 – Primary language spoken at home



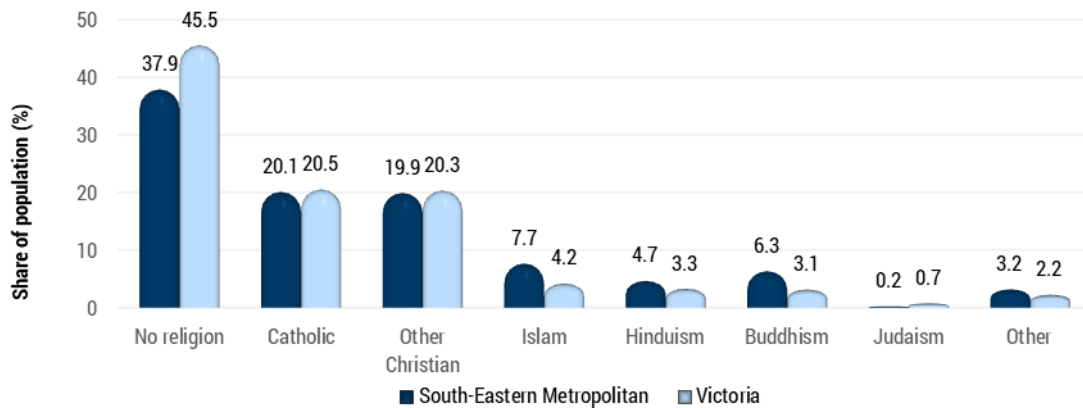
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

South-Eastern Metropolitan had a lower proportion of its population primarily speak English at home compared to the state average. This aligns to South-Eastern Metropolitan’s country of birth statistics. Sinhalese, Hazaraghi, Khmer and Cantonese were the 4 languages with the largest proportions within the ‘Other’ category, with 7.2% of the South-Eastern Metropolitan population primarily speaking one of these languages at home.

### Religion

The breakdown of a population by its religion highlights the potential influence of cultural factors.

Figure 11 – Religion



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

South-Eastern Metropolitan was more religious than the rest of Victoria. Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism were more prevalent, while Christianity and Judaism were less prevalent in South-Eastern Metropolitan, compared to the state average.

# Socio-economic snapshot

**In this section**

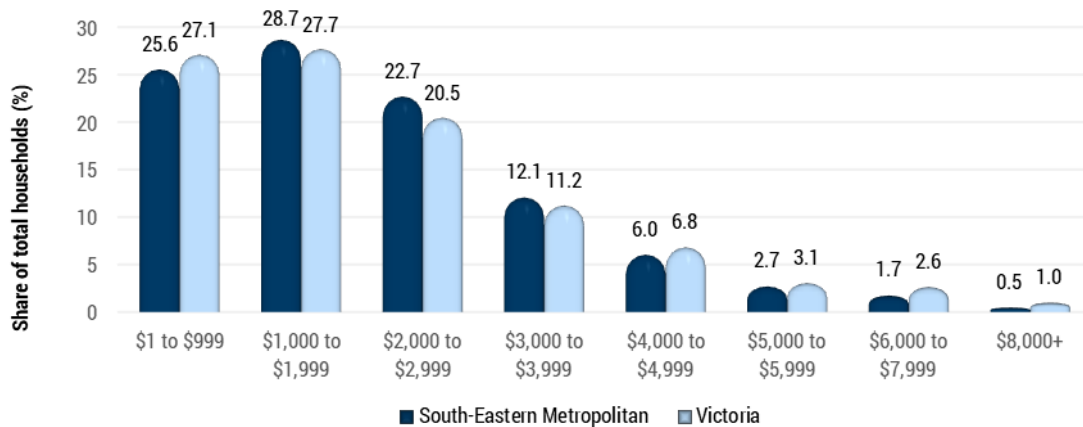
Socio-economic statistics comparisons provide insight into the relative wellbeing and economic opportunity of a population. They cover income, wealth, labour force status, and housing and household structure.

This section provides information on household income, home ownership, mortgage repayments, rent, household structure, criminal incidents, workforce status, employment, and occupation.

## Income

Weekly household income is a factor in assessing the socio-economic advantage or disadvantage of a region.

**Figure 12 – Weekly household income**



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

South-Eastern Metropolitan had a higher proportion of households that earn between \$1,000 and \$3,999 a week and lower proportions that earn under \$1,000 a week and \$4,000 or more a week compared to the state average.

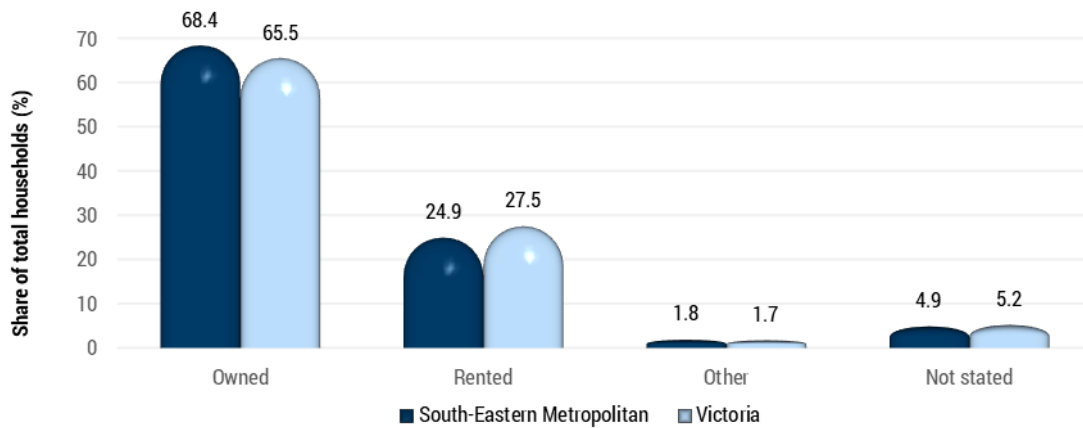
## Dwellings

These statistics provide insight into how South-Eastern Metropolitan residents access housing, what it costs them and the size of their homes.

### Home ownership

The proportion of households that own their dwelling provides information on the wealth of a population. The greater the proportion of households that own their dwelling, the more likely the population is wealthier or has a lower cost of housing relative to their income.

Figure 13 – Households by ownership status



Notes: This figure only includes occupied private dwellings. The ‘other’ category includes rent-free occupation, occupation under a life tenure scheme and other tenure types.

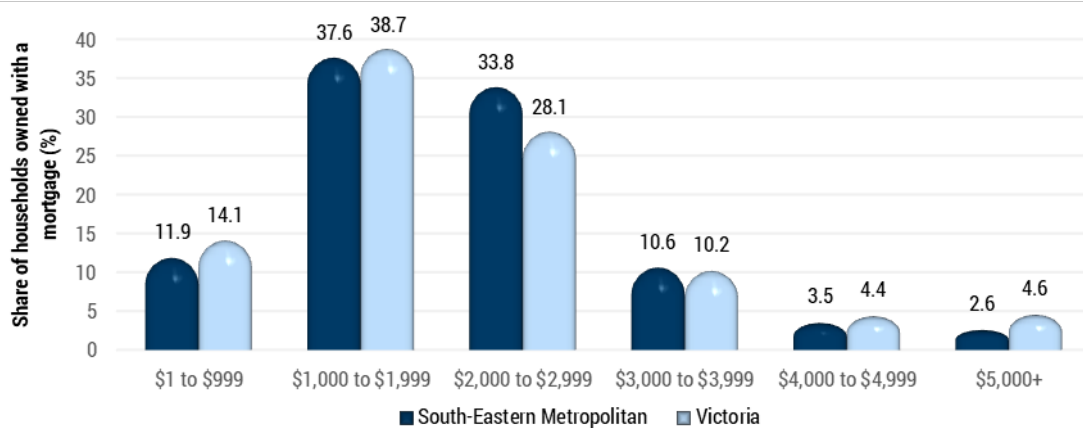
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

South-Eastern Metropolitan had a higher proportion of households that own their dwelling and a lower proportion of households that rent their dwelling compared to the state average.

### Mortgage repayments

Monthly mortgage repayment breakdowns provide information on the relative cost of living, which can help assess relative socio-economic advantage and provide some insight into an area’s exposure to interest rate rises.

Figure 14 – Monthly mortgage repayments



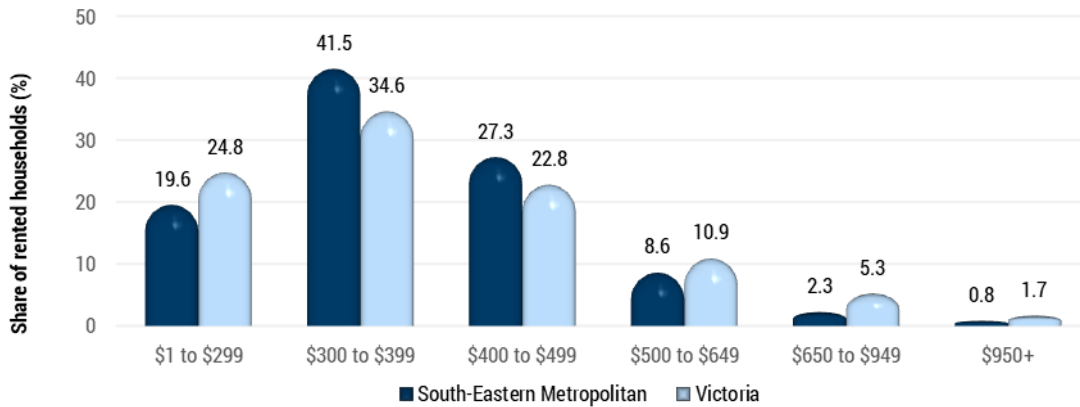
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

South-Eastern Metropolitan had a higher proportion of households with monthly mortgage repayments between \$2,000 and \$3,999, and lower proportions with mortgage repayments under \$2,000 and over \$4,000, compared to the state average.

### Rent payments

Weekly rent payment breakdowns provide information on the relative cost of living and can provide insight into people’s risk and exposure to changing housing market conditions.

Figure 15 – Weekly rent payments



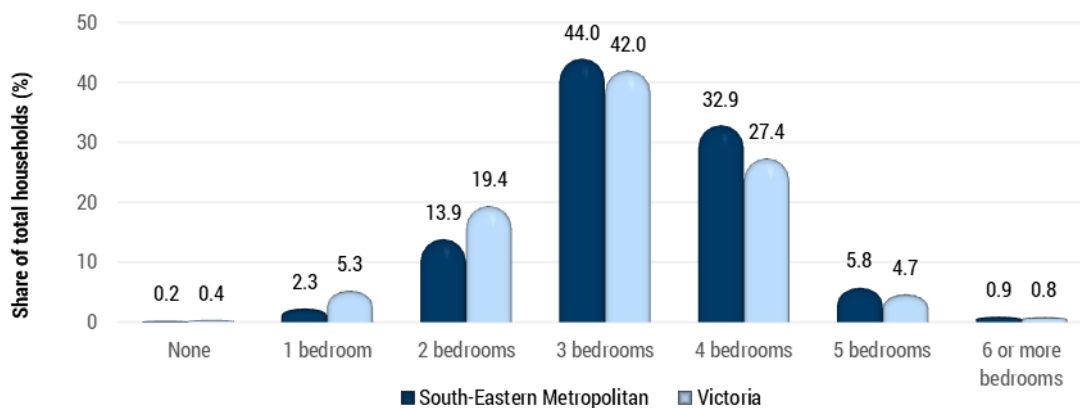
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

South-Eastern Metropolitan had a higher proportion of households who paid between \$300 and \$499 a week in rent, and lower proportions who paid under \$300, and \$500 and more a week, compared to the state average. This broadly reflects comparisons of weekly household income and monthly mortgage repayments.

### Average bedrooms per house

The average number of bedrooms in a house helps to assess relative socio-economic advantage and may provide insight into family structure or needs.

Figure 16 – Average number of bedrooms per household



Note: This figure only includes occupied private dwellings.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

South-Eastern Metropolitan had a higher proportion of households with 3 or more bedrooms and a lower proportion of 1- or 2-bedroom households. This potentially reflects a higher prevalence of houses in South-Eastern Metropolitan compared to the rest of the state.

## Criminal incidents

Rates of criminal incidents provide an insight into the level of criminal activity and safety within an area.

**Figure 17 – Criminal incident rates**

Incidents (per 100,000 people)	South-Eastern Metropolitan	Victoria
Criminal incidents	5,240	5,328

Source: Crime Statistics Agency.

Based on the latest crime data, South-Eastern Metropolitan had a slightly lower criminal incident rate than the state average.

## Workforce status

### Labour force participation

Labour force participation is the proportion of working aged individuals (aged 15 and older) who are actively engaged in work or seeking work. This measure provides insights into how actively engaged a population is with the labour market.

**Figure 18 – Labour force participation at August 2021**

Share of working age population (%)	South-Eastern Metropolitan	Victoria
Labour force participation rate	62.7	62.4

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The South-Eastern Metropolitan population was slightly more engaged with the labour market compared to the state average, with a higher proportion either employed or seeking employment.

### Unemployment rate

The unemployment rate is the share of people in the labour force who are currently not working but are actively looking for a job.

**Figure 19 – Unemployment rate at August 2021**

(%)	South-Eastern Metropolitan	Victoria
Unemployment rate	5.5	5.0

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

South-Eastern Metropolitan had a higher unemployment rate than the state average.

## Employment

These statistics relate to employed individuals.

### Employment as a share of population

While the unemployment rate describes how successful individuals who seek work are in finding it, employment as a share of population shows what proportion of the working age population is employed whether they were looking for work or not. This can provide insight into the spare labour force capacity that may be available.

**Figure 20 – Employment to working age population at August 2021**

Share of working age population (%)	South-Eastern Metropolitan	Victoria
Employment to population ratio	59.2	59.3

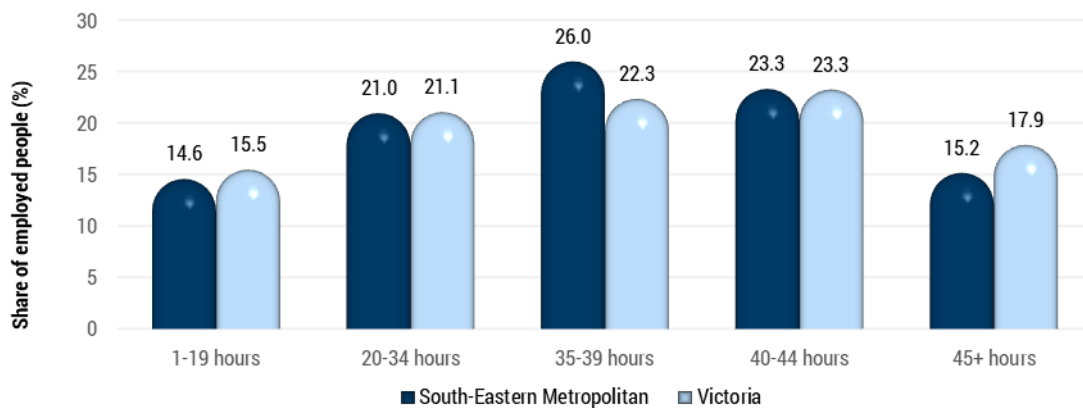
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

South-Eastern Metropolitan had a similar employment to population ratio to the state average. This means a similar proportion of its potential workforce was employed. South-Eastern Metropolitan’s relatively higher unemployment rate indicates the regional had more spare capacity.

### Hours worked

The breakdown of employed hours of a population can indicate workers’ earnings. Workers that are employed for longer hours are more likely to be earning more, and the area is likely to have a socio-economic advantage.

**Figure 21 – Number of employed hours per week**



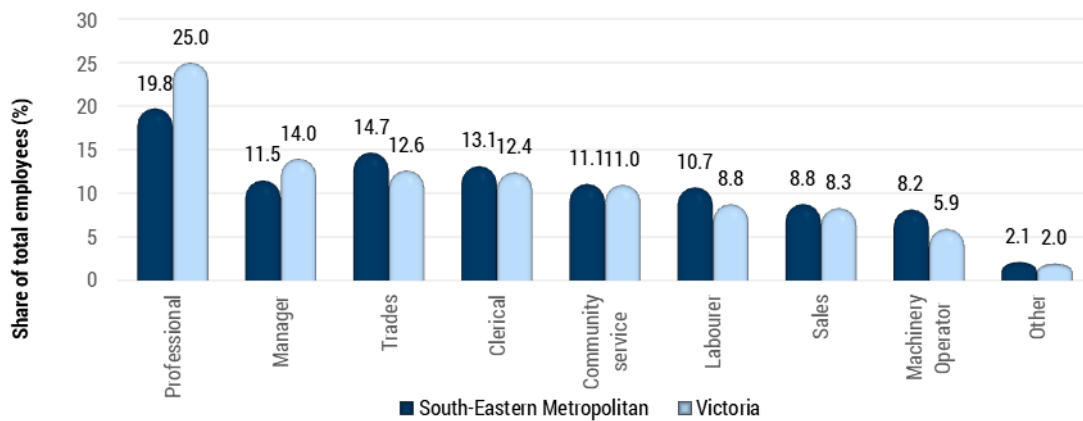
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

South-Eastern Metropolitan had a higher proportion of employed people working 35 to 39 hours a week, and lower proportions of people working under 20 hours and over 45 hours a week, compared to the state average.

### Occupation

The occupation of workers provides similar insight to the highest level of education data as it illustrates the earning potential of workers. Workers in higher-skilled occupations are more likely to have greater earning potential, while the opposite is likely for workers in lower-skilled occupations.

Figure 22 – Employment by occupation



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics.

South-Eastern Metropolitan had higher proportions of trades workers, clerical workers, labourers, sales workers and machinery operators, compared to the state average. This generally aligns with the higher proportion of residents with secondary education as their highest level of education.

# Attachment A – Terms

In this advice, we use the following terms:

Term	Definition
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ASGS	Australian Statistical Geography Standard
SA1	Statistical Area Level 1
SEIFA	Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas

# Attachment B – Assumptions and approach

In this section we provide the assumptions and approach we used in this analysis.

## Assumptions

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When preparing this advice, we assumed that the local government areas primarily located in the South-Eastern Metropolitan region are representative of the region when comparing criminal incidents data from the Crime Statistics Agency.

## Approach

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When preparing this advice, we:

- calculated the SEIFA indexes for each state electorate based on the population weighted average of the ABS defined SA1 geographic categorisation
- ranked all electorates in Victoria by the index score for each of their SEIFA indexes to determine each electorate's decile position
- analysed trend changes for crime and family violence data in selected local government areas and all of Victoria.

## Attachment C – Data sources

- Australian Bureau of Statistics. 2021. Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) Edition 3, Allocation files. [ONLINE] Available at: <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/standards/australian-statistical-geography-standard-asgs-edition-3/jul2021-jun2026/access-and-downloads/allocation-files>. [Accessed 10 July 2023]
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