

Norfolk Marine Region - social profile

- The Norfolk Marine Region (NMR) comprises the Lord Howe Island situated about 550 kilometres from Port Macquarie on the central coast of New South Wales. The island is included in the Mid-North Coast Statistical Division of New South Wales and is listed under the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) World Heritage Island group.
- Tourism-related services are the main economic activities on the island.
- At the 2001 Census a small pocket of employment in related-fishing industries was recorded. However, most of the fishing activities taking place in the NMR are likely to contribute to the local seafood supply.
- The region had a total population of approximately 400 people in 2001.
- No persons identifying themselves as being from Indigenous Australians were enumerated on Census night in 2001.
- Between 1996 and 2001, the region population declined at an average annual rate of 1.5 per cent.
- The population sex ratio was 96.1 males per 100 females, indicating a greater number of females than males in the region.
- The region had an older median age of 44 years than for Coastal Australia, indicating that 50 per cent of the population is younger than 44 years and 50 per cent is older. In the five years to 2001 the population in the region aged by 4 years. This is a substantial increase in median age, and it might reflect the out-migration of young persons to mainland Australia either for work or study purposes.
- The total dependency ratio was 42.7 per cent, indicating that there were 42.7 persons under 15 years and older than 64 years for every 100 persons of working age. Splitting this into its components, the region had an elderly dependency ratio of 23.7 per cent and a child dependency ratio of 19 per cent. This is in line with the age structure.
- Low-income households with a weekly income of less than \$300 accounted for 9.6 per cent of all households across the region, while the proportion of high-income households earning \$1,200 or more per week made up around 27.4 per cent.
- Between 1996 and 2001 the labour force participation rate increased from 69.3 per cent to 72.8 per cent, indicating that the proportion of labour force participants grew by 3.5 per cent over this period.
- Between 1996 and 2001 the unemployment rate fell marginally to 2 per cent, indicating that the proportion of unemployed people to all labour market participants has remained steady since 1996.
- The industry employment variance was 46.5 per cent, suggesting a relatively lower level of employment diversification across the region compared to Coastal Australia. The largest industries of employment were Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurants, Government Administration and Defence, and Property and Business Services.