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## Insights from IRIS' Statistical Guide

The latest edition of the *IRIS Statistical Guide to the Illawarra Region* has shown that 184,601 persons were employed in the Illawarra Statistical District, which comprises Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama, Shoalhaven and Wingecarribee. In this region, the three main industries of employment were the Wholesale & Retail Trade sector, employing 13.6%, Health Care & Social Assistance (13.3%) and Property, Business & Professional Services (10.0%).

Figures from Destination NSW have revealed an 8.1% drop in the number of domestic overnight visitors to the region. These travellers spent 10.1% fewer nights in the region, at 2.3 million nights. Conversely there was a 6.4% rise in the number of domestic daytrips to the region, to 3.7 million.

There were 27,449 students enrolled at the University of Wollongong during 2013, an 8.5% increase on the 2012 result of 25,298. This growth was aided by a 16.4% lift in the number of students enrolled on a part time basis, growing from 6,314 students in 2012 to 7,350 students in 2013. TAFE enrolments recorded a slight decline compared to 2012, sitting at 31,786 enrolments (down 1.8%).

Across the Illawarra Statistical District, the possession and/or the use of cannabis and liquor related offences climbed 27.8% and 26.7% respectively. At the same time, 8.4% fewer break and enter offences were committed while the incidence of malicious damage to property decreased by 3.3% to 4,968.

A total of 298,664 motor vehicles were registered throughout the Illawarra Statistical District, a 2.4% rise when compared to the year to June 2012. 127,205 of these vehicles (42.6%) were registered in the Wollongong LGA, up 2.3%, while Shoalhaven recorded the next highest proportion of vehicles at 24.5% (73,281 vehicles).

The median house price across the WSD experienced a 3.5% increase compared to 2012 (to \$440,000). Wollongong LGA increased by 2.3% (to \$440,000), while Shellharbour appreciated 1.3% to \$385,000. Conversely, the median price paid for land across the WSD decreased by 1.9% to \$255,000.

*A Statistical Guide to the Illawarra Region* is an easy reference, pocket sized pamphlet containing various historical and current statistical tables on a wide variety of demographic and economic data for the Illawarra region. *IRIS Research* is a non profit organisation that provides independent, high quality economic and market information to business and government.

### Further comment:

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# Media Release

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