

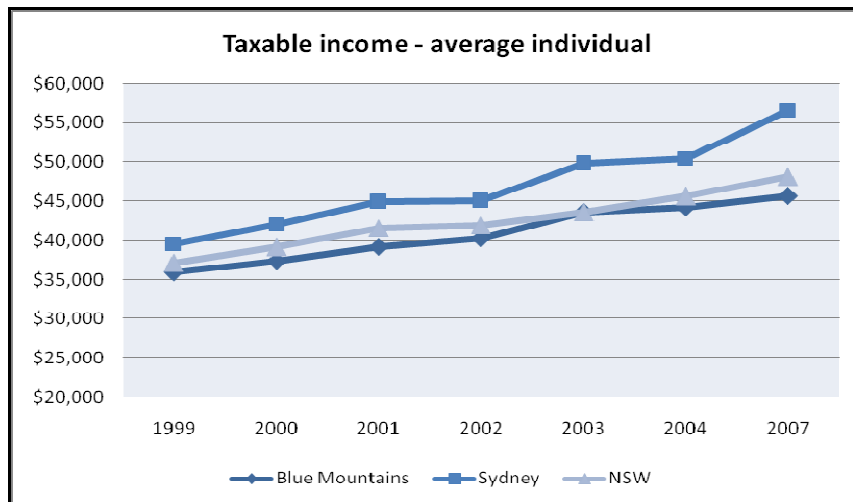
## Population – social economic status

### What are we monitoring?

***Difference between residents' average annual individual taxable income compared to Sydney***

### What is the trend?

The income divide is increasing between Sydney residents and those of the Blue Mountains. Although the average individual taxable income has increased from 1999 on a local, regional and state level, the rate of increase is greatest for the Sydney region and less so for the Blue Mountains. Average taxable income across NSW is higher than that for residents of the Blue Mountains, with higher Sydney incomes increasing the average. The average individual annual taxable income in an area is calculated by dividing the total taxable income reported for an area by the total number of taxable taxpayers (*note: provided by Australian Bureau of Statistics*). Individual taxable income is determined by calculating a person's total assessable income over a financial year, minus all deductions allowed under the Income Tax Assessment Act.



TAXABLE INCOME – AVERAGE INDIVIDUAL							
Location/Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2007
<b>Blue Mountains</b>	\$35,978	\$37,415	\$39,234	\$40,307	\$43,651	\$44,265	\$45,673
<b>Sydney</b>	\$39,564	\$42,098	\$44,881	\$45,040	\$49,836	\$50,441	\$56,571
<b>NSW</b>	\$37,099	\$39,157	\$41,607	\$41,967	\$43,651	\$45,667	\$48,179

### Why is monitoring this trend important?

This data shows whether people in the Blue Mountains are earning as much as their contemporaries in other locations in Sydney and NSW. By looking at the change over time, we can also see whether local incomes are subject to different trends compared to incomes of residents in other locations. The rate and extent of change can help us decide whether action is necessary to influence income levels.

**Source:** Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), National Regional Profile - 'Taxation Statistics'. (These are also available on the ATO web site at [www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au)).