

Office of Economic and Statistical Research

Queensland Treasury and Trade

**Population Growth Highlights and
Trends, Queensland 2012**

June 2012

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Executive summary

Queensland's population growth continued to grow

Queensland's population was 4,599,360 at 30 September 2011 after growing by 75,510 or 1.7 per cent over the year. This growth was down slightly from 76,410 in the year to 30 September 2010, although the growth rate remained the same.

Queensland's population growth remains higher than the national average

Queensland's annual population growth rate in the year to 30 September 2011 at 1.7 per cent was greater than that recorded at the national level at 1.5 per cent. With respect to the level of change, Queensland recorded the third largest population increase behind Victoria and New South Wales.

Queensland's natural increase remained high

Natural increase in the year to 30 September 2011 was 35,380 as a result of 63,120 births and 27,740 deaths registered during the year. For the second year in a row, natural increase was the largest contributor to Queensland's population growth compared with net overseas and interstate migration.

Queensland's net overseas migration was steady

Queensland's net overseas migration was 32,010 in the year to 30 September 2011, comparable with the previous 12 months, although 46.0 per cent below the record level set in the year to 30 September 2008 (59,240). Australia's net overseas migration fell by 42.2 per cent over the same period, from 298,650 to 172,500.

Queensland's net overseas migration continues to offset population ageing

Queensland's net overseas migration gain was largest in age groups up to 40 years in 2010-11, with the largest gain in the age group of 20-24 years. This had the effect of slowing the rate of population ageing in Queensland relative to what would have occurred in the absence of the net migration gain.

Queensland's net interstate migration remains low

The net gain from interstate migration in the year to 30 September 2011 was 8,130 people, down from a peak of 37,290 people in the year to 30 September 2003. However, this was still the largest net interstate migration gain over the year among Australia's states and territories.

South East Queensland attracted most of the State's population growth

In 2010-11, 71.1 per cent of Queensland's population growth occurred in South East Queensland (an average of about 1,020 people per week), with the fastest growth occurring in the local government areas (LGAs) of Somerset Regional Council (R), Ipswich City (C) and Lockyer Valley (R).

Queensland's regional urban centres are growing strongly

Regional urban centres accounted for 23.8 per cent of Queensland's population growth in 2010-11. Townsville (C), Cairns (R), Mackay (R), Toowoomba (R) and Gladstone (R) all grew by more than 2,000 people in 2010-11.

1. Introduction

Population Growth Highlights and Trends, Queensland 2012 provides an overview of Queensland's population growth at state, regional and local levels, suitable for informing policy development and planning across government, private and community sectors.

The report begins with an overview in Section 2 of Queensland's recent population growth and its changing age structure. Section 3 examines in detail the three components of population change in Queensland: natural increase, net overseas migration and net interstate migration. A regional perspective of recent population change in Queensland is provided in Section 4, with a focus on those areas that are experiencing the largest population increases and highest population growth rates. Section 5 concludes with information on the range of population estimates to be made available by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) following the release of the 2011 Census of Population and Housing data.

Population data herein were the most recent available at the time of preparation and have been sourced from the ABS publications *Australian Demographic Statistics*, September quarter 2011 (ABS 3101.0) and *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2010-11* (ABS 3218.0). Supporting data on migration were sourced from *Migration, Australia, 2009-10* (ABS 3412.0).

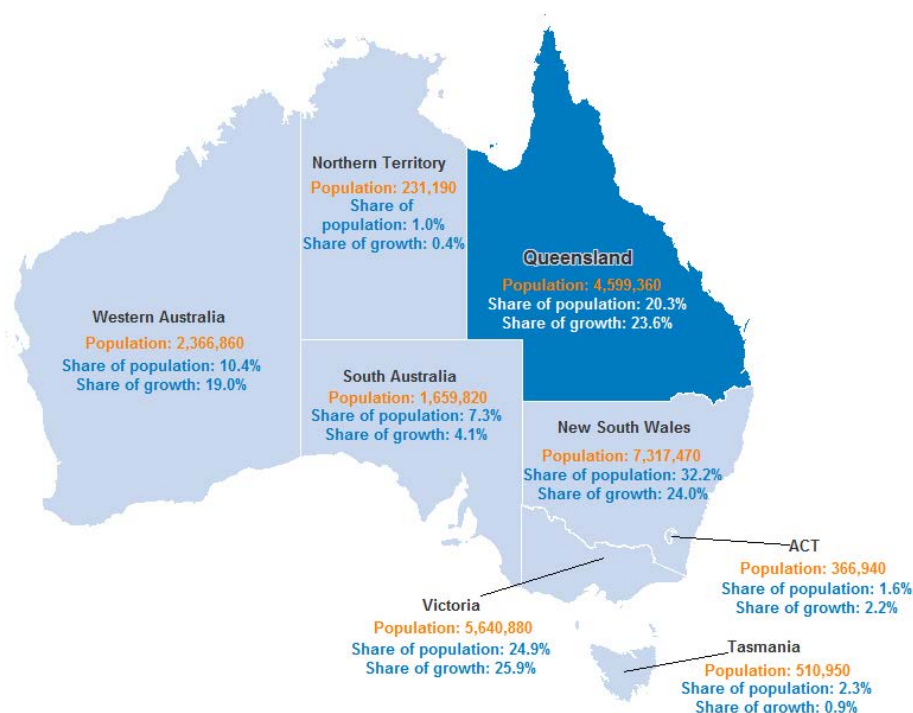
Complete accuracy of estimated resident population (ERP) figures is not claimed by the ABS and should not be assumed. Figures included in the text, tables and charts throughout this report are rounded to the nearest 10, although all calculations and percentages are based on unrounded data. A range of supporting data tables containing unrounded population estimates at varying levels of geography is available on the OESR website. All geographies presented in this report are based on the 2011 edition of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification.

2. Queensland's changing population

2.1 Snapshot

At 30 September 2011, Queensland's preliminary estimated resident population was 4,599,360 (Figure 2.1), representing 20.3 per cent of Australia's total of 22,695,980 persons. Queensland is Australia's third largest state by population behind New South Wales (7,317,470) and Victoria (5,640,880).

Figure 2.1 Estimated resident population, 30 September 2011, and growth, year to 30 September 2011



Note: Population figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Unrounded figures are available on the OESR website.
Source: ABS 3101.0, *Australian Demographic Statistics*, September quarter 2011

2.2 Absolute population change

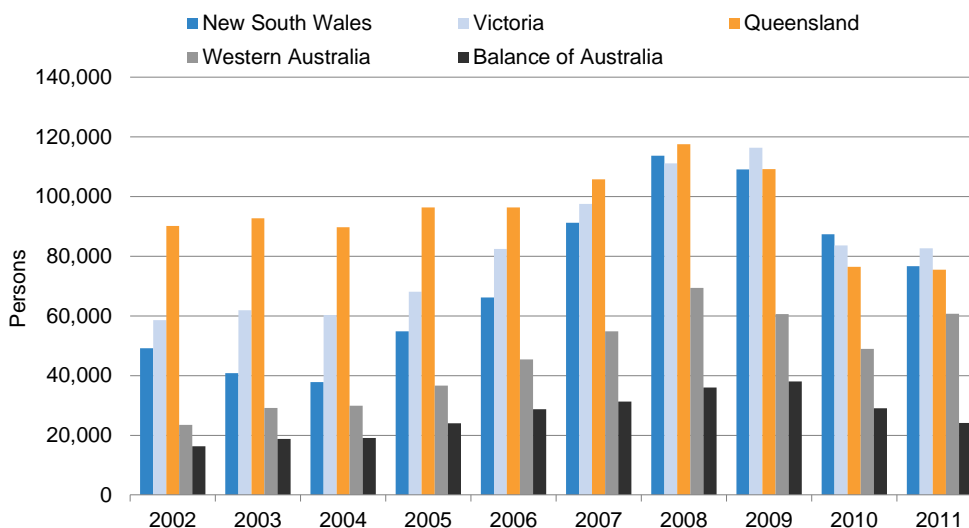
Queensland's population increase in the year to 30 September 2011 of 75,510 people was the third largest increase of any state or territory after Victoria (82,640) and New South Wales (76,690). This represented the lowest annual increase recorded for Queensland since the year to 30 September 2001 (72,610) and was down 1.2 per cent from the population increase recorded in the year to 30 September 2010 (76,410).

Queensland sustained annual population increases of above 89,000 people between 2002 and 2006, followed by annual growth above 105,000 for the three years 2007 to 2009 (Figure 2.2). Queensland's annual increases during this time were the largest of any state or territory, with the exception of the year to 30 September 2009 when population growth in Victoria overtook growth in both New South Wales and Queensland.

In 2010 and 2011, population growth moderated for all three states from the record levels achieved in 2008 and 2009. Queensland's annual population increases over the last two years were lower than those recorded for New South Wales and Victoria.

Western Australia and Australian Capital Territory were the only jurisdictions to record an increase in population growth in the year to 30 September 2011 compared with the previous year.

Figure 2.2 Annual population change, year to 30 September



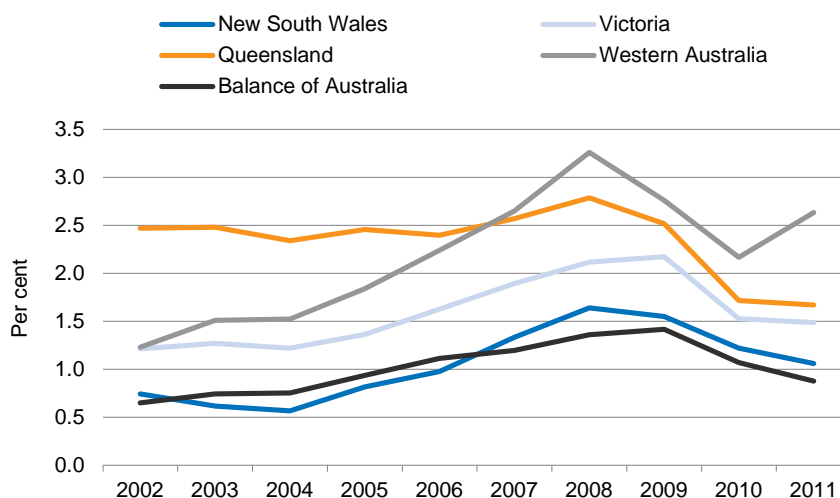
Source: ABS 3101.0, *Australian Demographic Statistics*, September quarter 2011

Australia's population grew by an average of 322,390 people per year over the 10 years to September 2011. Queensland accounted for 29.5 per cent of that growth, or 94,990 people per year on average, which was the largest average annual change of any state or territory in the period. The three largest states of New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland accounted for just over three-quarters (77.5 per cent) of the national population growth over the 10 years to September 2011.

2.3 Rate of population change

Queensland's population growth rate was 1.7 per cent for the year to 30 September 2011 (Figure 2.3). This growth rate was higher than the national average of 1.4 per cent and the third highest of any Australian state or territory over this period, surpassed by Western Australia (2.6 per cent) and Australian Capital Territory (1.9 per cent). Queensland recorded a peak growth rate of 2.8 per cent in the year to 30 September 2008.

For the 10 year period to September 2011, Queensland's population recorded an average annual growth rate of 2.3 per cent. This was well above the Australian average of 1.5 per cent and higher than any other state or territory for the same period.

Figure 2.3 Annual population growth rate, year to 30 September

Source: ABS 3101.0, *Australian Demographic Statistics*, September quarter 2011

The relatively high rate of population growth in Queensland and Western Australia for the 10 years to 2011 was associated in part with demand for labour from resource extraction and human services industries¹. Although annual population growth rates in these two states slowed markedly in 2009 and 2010, Western Australia's growth rate increased in 2011, while Queensland's growth rate remained stable.

2.4 Age structure of the Queensland population

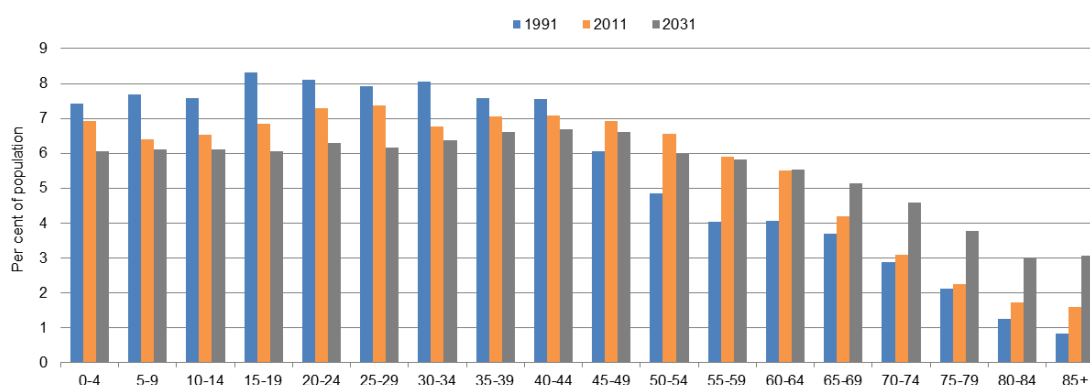
Similar to the national trend, Queensland's population is ageing as a result of sustained low fertility (despite a recent increase in births), increasing life expectancy and the movement of the large baby boomer cohort into the older age groups. As a result, there are now proportionally fewer children under 15 years of age in the population (19.9 per cent at 30 June 2011) compared with 20 years ago (22.7 per cent at 30 June 1991). It is projected that children will comprise 18.3 per cent of the State's population at 30 June 2031.

The ageing of Queensland's population, as shown by the distribution of population by five-year age groups at 1991, 2011 and 2031 (projected), is illustrated at Figure 2.4. At 30 June 1991, the largest proportion was for the 15–19 year age group at 8.3 per cent. By 30 June 2011, the largest age group had shifted to persons aged 25–29 years (7.4 per cent). It is projected that by 30 June 2031 persons aged 40–44 years will be the most common age group in the population (6.7 per cent).

In the 20 years from 30 June 1991 to 30 June 2011, the proportion of the population aged 15–64 years (the working age population) increased from 66.5 per cent to 67.3 per cent. However, the working age population is projected to decline to 62.1 per cent by 2031. Specifically, the proportion of young working age adults (those aged between 15 and 34 years) is expected to decline from 28.3 per cent of the population at 30 June 2011 to 24.9 per cent at 30 June 2031.

¹ ABS 6291.0.55.003, *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly*, February 2012

Figure 2.4 Population proportion by age group, Queensland, 30 June



Note: Data for 30 June 2011 are preliminary.

Source: ABS 3101.0, *Australian Demographic Statistics*, September quarter 2011; Queensland Treasury and Trade, *Queensland Government population projections to 2056: Queensland and statistical divisions*, 2011 edition (medium series)

The proportion of the population aged 65 years and over is projected to increase from 12.9 per cent of the population at 30 June 2011 to 19.6 per cent at 30 June 2031. Part of this increase in the older ages is a result of the large baby boomer generation moving into the retirement ages. It is also influenced by increasing length of life. Life expectancy at birth in Queensland reached 79.4 years for males and 83.9 years for females in 2010, up from 74.4 years and 80.5 years for males and females respectively in 1991². The proportion of the State's population aged 85 years and over doubled from 0.8 per cent to 1.6 per cent between 1991 and 2011, and is projected to increase to 3.1 per cent by 2031.

Another measure of Queensland's changing population age structure is the increase in median age – the age at which half the population is younger and half is older. The median age of Queensland's population was 31.8 years in 1991, increasing to 36.4 years in 2011³. By 2031, the median age of the State's population is projected to increase to 40.2 years⁴. Queensland's net migration gain in younger age categories (see Section 3) has assisted in slowing the ageing of the State's population relative to the ageing that would otherwise occur without this net migration gain.

² ABS 3302.0, *Deaths, Australia*, 2010; ABS 3105.0.65.001, *Australian Historical Population Statistics*, 2008

³ ABS unpublished data, 2012

⁴ Queensland Treasury and Trade, *Queensland Government population projections to 2056: Queensland and statistical divisions*, 2011 edition (medium series)

3. Components of population change

3.1 Overview

Net population change at a state level is derived from three components: natural increase, net overseas migration and net interstate migration. Each of these components contributed to Queensland's total population growth in the year to 30 September 2011 (Table 3.1).

Natural increase accounted for the largest proportion of growth over the year (35,380 people or 46.8 per cent of the State's total). The contribution of net overseas migration was 32,010 people (42.4 per cent of the total). Net interstate migration made the smallest contribution to growth of 8,130 people, or 10.8 per cent of total growth.

Table 3.1 Components of population change, year to 30 September 2011

Queensland	number
<i>Estimated resident population at 30 September 2010</i>	<i>4,523,850</i>
Births	63,120
less - Deaths	27,740
<i>equals - Natural increase, year to 30 September 2011</i>	<i>35,380</i>
Overseas arrivals ^(a)	83,510
less - Overseas departures ^(a)	51,510
<i>equals - Net overseas migration, year to 30 September 2011</i>	<i>32,010</i>
Interstate arrivals	86,200
less - Interstate departures	78,080
<i>equals - Net interstate migration, year to 30 September 2011</i>	<i>8,130</i>
<u><i>Estimated resident population at 30 September 2011</i></u>	<u><i>4,599,360</i></u>

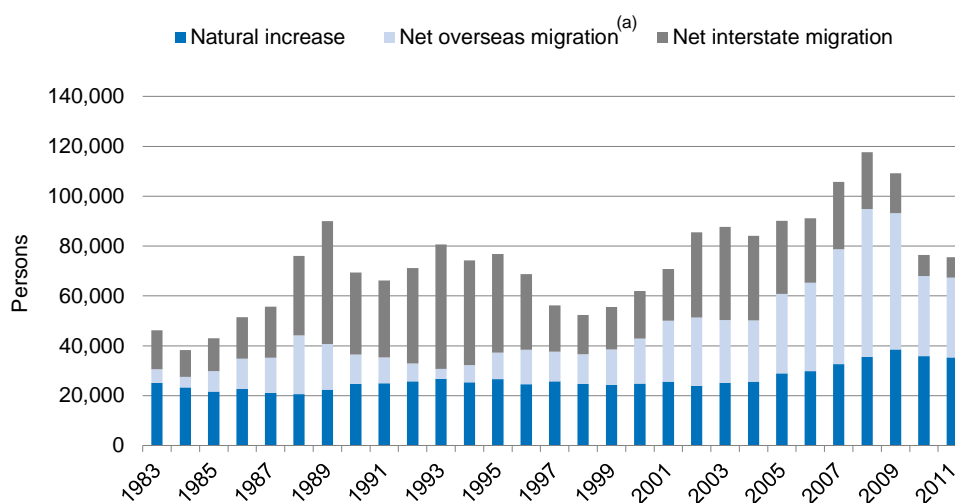
(a) Only those arrivals and departures that contribute to net overseas migration based on a traveller's actual duration of stay or absence using the '12/16 month rule'.

Note: Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10 and as a result may not add to totals shown.

Source: ABS 3101.0, *Australian Demographic Statistics*, September quarter 2011

The contribution to Queensland's population growth by each component has changed notably in recent decades (Figure 3.1). Over this period, net migration from interstate and overseas has shown more volatility in numbers than natural increase. In the years to 30 September 2010 and 2011, natural increase accounted for the largest share of Queensland's population growth.

Figure 3.1 Components of population change, Queensland, year to 30 September



(a) Net overseas migration estimates for calculating population growth use an improved methodology (the '12/16 month rule') from September quarter 2006 onwards and are not directly comparable with net overseas migration estimates from earlier periods.

Source: ABS 3101.0, *Australian Demographic Statistics*, September quarter 2011

3.2 Natural increase

Natural increase is calculated as registered births minus registered deaths for any given period. Natural increase contributed 35,380 people to Queensland's population in the year to 30 September 2011, which accounted for 24.0 per cent of Australia's total for the year. The increase over this period was the result of an estimated 63,120 births registered during the year and 27,740 deaths. This level of natural increase was 1.1 per cent lower than the previous year (35,780).

Natural increase figures are relatively stable in comparison with other components of population growth. The level of natural increase grew during the period 2002 to 2009, when it peaked at 38,550 for the year to 30 September 2009. Natural increase's share of Queensland's population growth increased from 26.5 per cent during the year to September 2002 to 46.8 per cent during the year to September 2011. This steady growth was mainly the result of an increase in the number of births.

Queensland recorded the second largest natural increase in the year to 30 September 2011 behind New South Wales (42,060), with Victoria recording the third highest increase (34,970). Queensland's natural increase was higher than Victoria's due to a higher total fertility rate for Queensland women of 2.029 compared with 1.754 in 2010⁵.

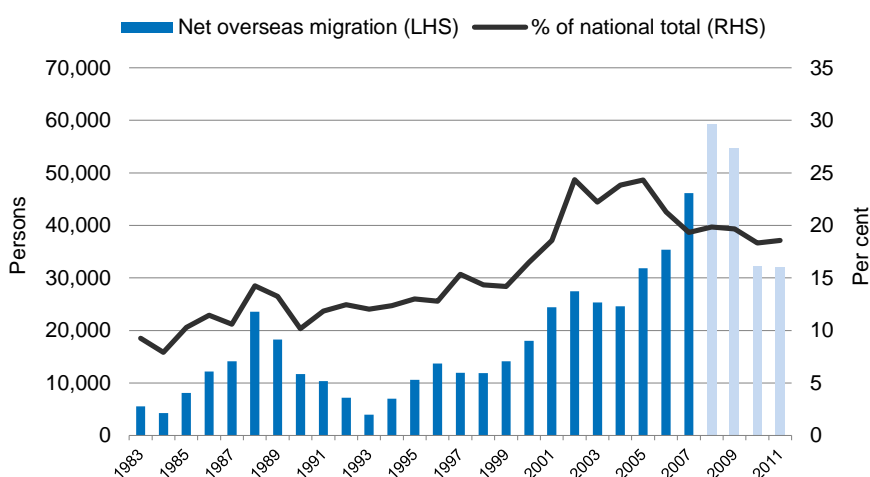
⁵ ABS 3301.0, *Births, Australia*, 2010

3.3 Net overseas migration

Net overseas migration is the estimated difference between the number of people settling in Australia and the number of people departing Australia to live elsewhere. As measured by the ABS, it counts the net effect of the arrival or departure of any person who has resided in (or out of) Australia for 12 out of the 16 months prior to the reference period (the '12/16 month rule').

Net overseas migration was estimated at 32,010 people in Queensland in the year to 30 September 2011, 0.7 per cent lower than the previous year's figure of 32,230. The latest estimate is 27,240 (or 46.0 per cent) lower than the record level of 59,240 in the year to 30 September 2008. Australia's net overseas migration fell by 42.2 per cent over the same period, from 298,650 to 172,500. Queensland accounted for 18.6 per cent of Australia's net overseas migration over the year to September 2011 (Figure 3.2). While this was similar to the previous year's share of 18.3 per cent, it was considerably lower than the peak of 24.3 per cent achieved in the years to 30 September 2002 and 2005.

Figure 3.2 Net overseas migration, Queensland, year to 30 September^(a)



(a) Net overseas migration estimates for the September quarter 2006 onwards use an improved methodology (the '12/16 month rule') and are not directly comparable with estimates from earlier periods. Data from this time forward is shaded differently in the chart to make this distinction.

Source: ABS 3101.0, *Australian Demographic Statistics*, September quarter 2011

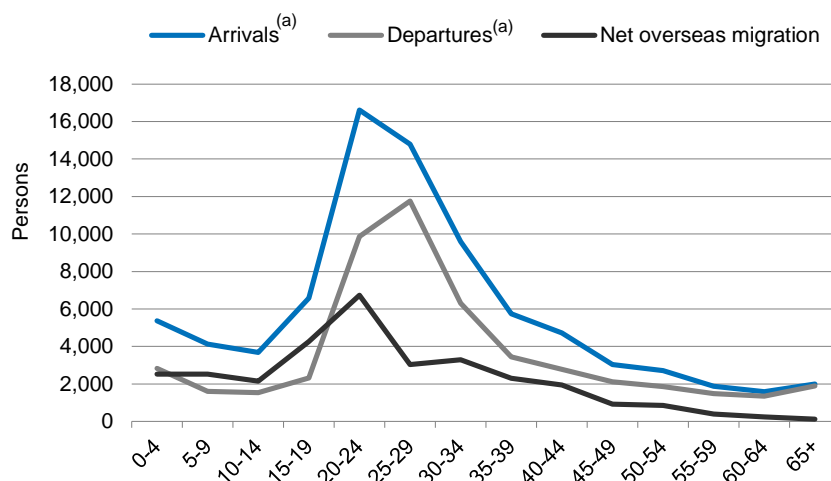
In the year to 30 September 2011, an estimated 83,510 people arrived from overseas to live in Queensland and 51,510 people departed Queensland to live overseas, representing a small increase in the number of both arrivals and departures compared with the previous year (1.0 per cent and 2.1 per cent respectively).

Net overseas migration made a relatively small contribution to the State's total population growth during the 1990s. The growth in overseas migration evident since the mid-1990s reflects increasing arrivals of overseas students and New Zealand citizens plus Australian Government immigration policy directed largely at skilled labour supply and economic growth. Queensland's net overseas migration has increased substantially and was the largest contributor to Queensland's population growth in the years from 30 September 2005 to 2009, before falling over the last two years to levels below that of natural increase.

3.3.1 Age of overseas migrants

Overseas migrants to and from Queensland tend to have a young age profile with large numbers of both arrivals from overseas and departures from Queensland aged 20–29 years (Figure 3.3). In 2010-11, net overseas migration to Queensland was largest in the age group 20–24 years, with a gain of 6,740 persons.

Figure 3.3 Net overseas migration by age group, Queensland, 2010-11



(a) Only those arrivals and departures that contribute to net overseas migration based on a traveller's actual duration of stay or absence using the '12/16 month rule'.

Source: ABS 3412.0, *Migration, Australia*, 2009-10

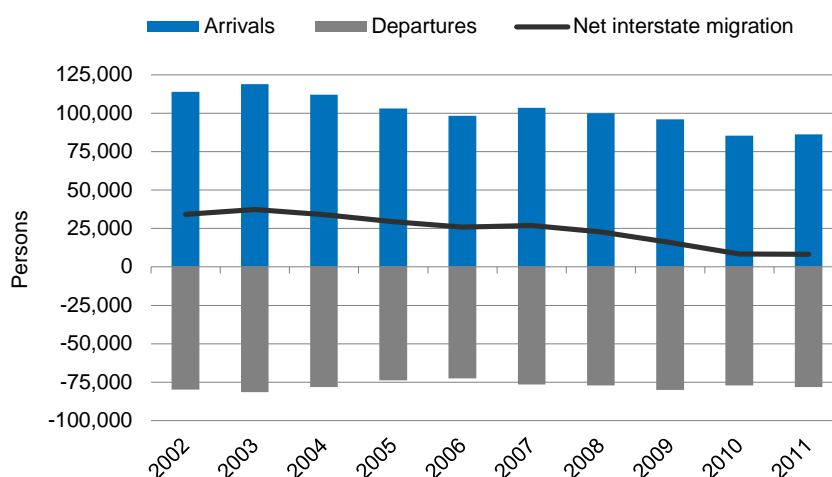
3.4 Net interstate migration

Net interstate migration reflects the estimated change to Queensland's population as people move to and from other states and territories.

Net interstate migration was the largest contributor to Queensland's annual population growth from 1988 to 1996, driving substantial overall population growth during this period. Net interstate migration was again the largest source of annual net gain in 2002 to 2004, peaking at 37,290 people in the year to 30 September 2003.

The net annual gain from net interstate migration has since declined to 8,130 in the year to 30 September 2011 (Figure 3.4). The percentage contribution of net interstate migration to Queensland's annual population growth has declined from 40.2 per cent in 2003 to 10.8 per cent in 2011.

The net gain from interstate migration in the year to 30 September 2011 was comparable with that recorded for the previous 12 months (8,400), with small increases recorded for both arrivals (770) and departures (1,040). Interstate arrivals to Queensland declined by 27.5 per cent from the record level of 118,860 in the year to September 2003, to 86,200 in the year to September 2011. Interstate departures have remained relatively steady over the same period, declining from 81,580 in 2003 to 78,080 in 2011.

Figure 3.4 Interstate migration flows, Queensland, year to 30 September

Source: ABS 3101.0, *Australian Demographic Statistics*, September quarter 2011

3.4.1 Compared with other states and territories

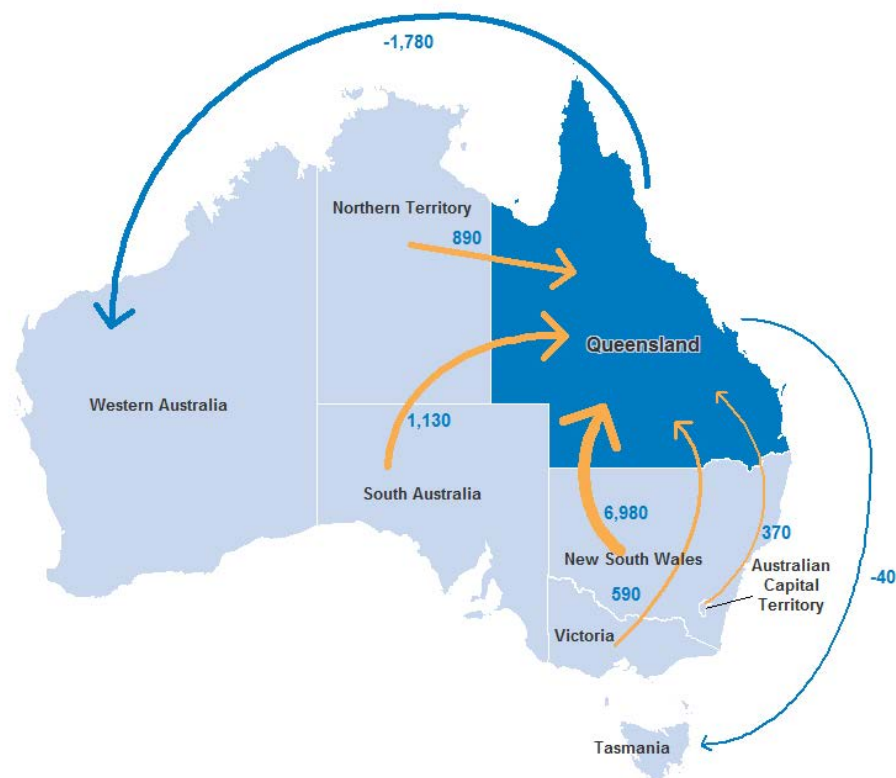
While lower than for previous years, Queensland's net interstate migration of 8,130 for the year to 30 September 2011 (around 160 people each week on average) was the largest of all Australian states and territories.

The other states and territories to record a net gain through interstate migration over this period were Western Australia (6,960), Victoria (3,630) and Australian Capital Territory (1,400). The remaining states and territories recorded net interstate migration losses, led by New South Wales (with a net loss of 14,770 people).

New South Wales and Victoria were the main sources and destinations of Queensland's interstate arrivals and departures in the year to 30 September 2011. The largest net interstate migration gains were from New South Wales (6,980), followed by South Australia (1,130), Northern Territory (890) and Victoria (590) (Figure 3.5). There was a net loss of people from Queensland to Western Australia (-1,780 people) and to Tasmania (-40 people).

A larger number of Australians moved interstate in the year to 30 September 2011 (338,980) than the year before (331,090). This is reflected in higher numbers of departures recorded for all states and territories in the year to 30 September 2011 when compared with the previous 12 months, with the exception of Western Australia.

Figure 3.5 Net interstate migration, Queensland, year to 30 September 2011



Note: Population figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
 Source: ABS 3101.0, *Australian Demographic Statistics*, September quarter 2011

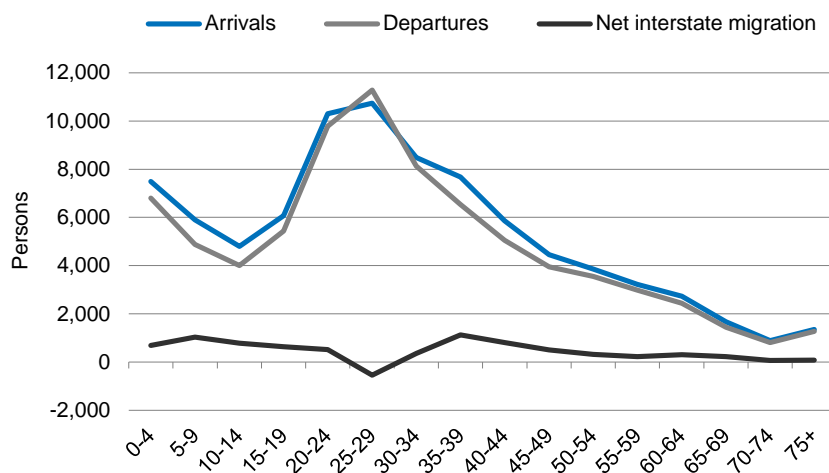
3.4.2 Age of interstate migrants

The age profile of Queensland’s interstate migration in 2010-11 is shown in Figure 3.6. It highlights the large number of younger people moving to and from Queensland.

The age profile of those arriving in Queensland from interstate was very similar to those departing. Young adults in their twenties dominated both arrivals and departures. Together, people aged 20–24 years and 25–29 years accounted for 24.6 per cent of all arrivals to Queensland (21,040) and 26.9 per cent of all departures (21,070). However, in 2009-10 and 2010-11, Queensland recorded a net loss of persons aged 25–29 years (150 and 540 persons respectively). Notably, a net loss in an age category younger than 65 years had not occurred since 2000-01.

The numbers of both arrivals and departures tend to be lower in the older age groups, reflecting smaller cohort populations and lower propensities to move. A net gain of 380 persons aged 65 years and older accounted for just 5.3 per cent of Queensland’s total net migration gain in 2010-11.

Figure 3.6 Interstate migration by age group, Queensland, 2010-11



Source: ABS 3412.0, Migration, Australia, 2009-10

4. Regional population trends

This section analyses Queensland's population change in the 2010-11 financial year by local government area (LGA) and selected statistical local areas (SLAs). It provides an overview of the LGAs that recorded the largest population increases and highest growth rates in 2010-11. A discussion of population change within South East Queensland (SEQ), regional urban centres, Indigenous areas and rural and remote regional Queensland follows to convey some of the distinctive and unique population growth patterns evident across Queensland. The geographical distribution in Queensland of population change for 2010-11 is shown in Figure 4.1 and population density in Figure 4.2.

4.1 Largest and fastest growing local government areas

LGAs experiencing relatively large population growth in 2010-11 were concentrated in metropolitan SEQ and in a number of the regional urban centres⁶. This growth pattern closely reflects Queensland's current population distribution. The size of population change tended to reduce with distance from major service centres. Smaller population increases were the norm in the LGAs adjacent to SEQ and regional urban centres. Marginal population increase or decline dominated in the remote areas of the State. Eight LGAs, all located in remote areas, experienced either no population change or some degree of population decline in 2010-11.

Larger populations have the potential to record large absolute population increases, even if their growth rates are low. In line with this, the top 10 Queensland LGAs by population increase in 2010-11 (Table 4.1) were very similar to those with the largest absolute populations at 30 June 2011 (the only difference was Mackay (R)).

Table 4.1 Local government areas by population increase, Queensland

Local government area	Estimated resident population at 30 June				Average annual change		Annual change	
	2001	2006	2010r	2011p	10 years to 30 June 2011		Year to 30 June 2011	
	— number —				number	% ^(a)	number	%
Brisbane (C)	896,650	991,260	1,065,290	1,079,390	18,270	1.9	14,100	1.3
Gold Coast (C)	387,100	466,430	526,840	536,480	14,940	3.3	9,640	1.8
Moreton Bay (R)	286,530	332,860	381,570	389,680	10,320	3.1	8,120	2.1
Logan (C)	237,240	260,020	282,150	287,470	5,020	1.9	5,330	1.9
Sunshine Coast (R)	247,170	295,080	330,320	335,270	8,810	3.1	4,960	1.5
Ipswich (C)	125,450	142,480	167,820	172,740	4,730	3.3	4,920	2.9
Townsville (C)	144,790	165,280	185,420	189,930	4,510	2.8	4,510	2.4
Cairns (R)	128,100	147,540	167,940	170,590	4,250	2.9	2,650	1.6
Mackay (R)	91,080	107,330	118,620	121,070	3,000	2.9	2,450	2.1
Redland (C)	117,250	131,210	142,560	144,940	2,770	2.1	2,380	1.7
Queensland	3,628,950	4,090,910	4,505,430	4,580,280	95,130	2.4	74,850	1.7

p = preliminary r = revised (C) City (R) Regional Council

(a) Average annual growth rate.

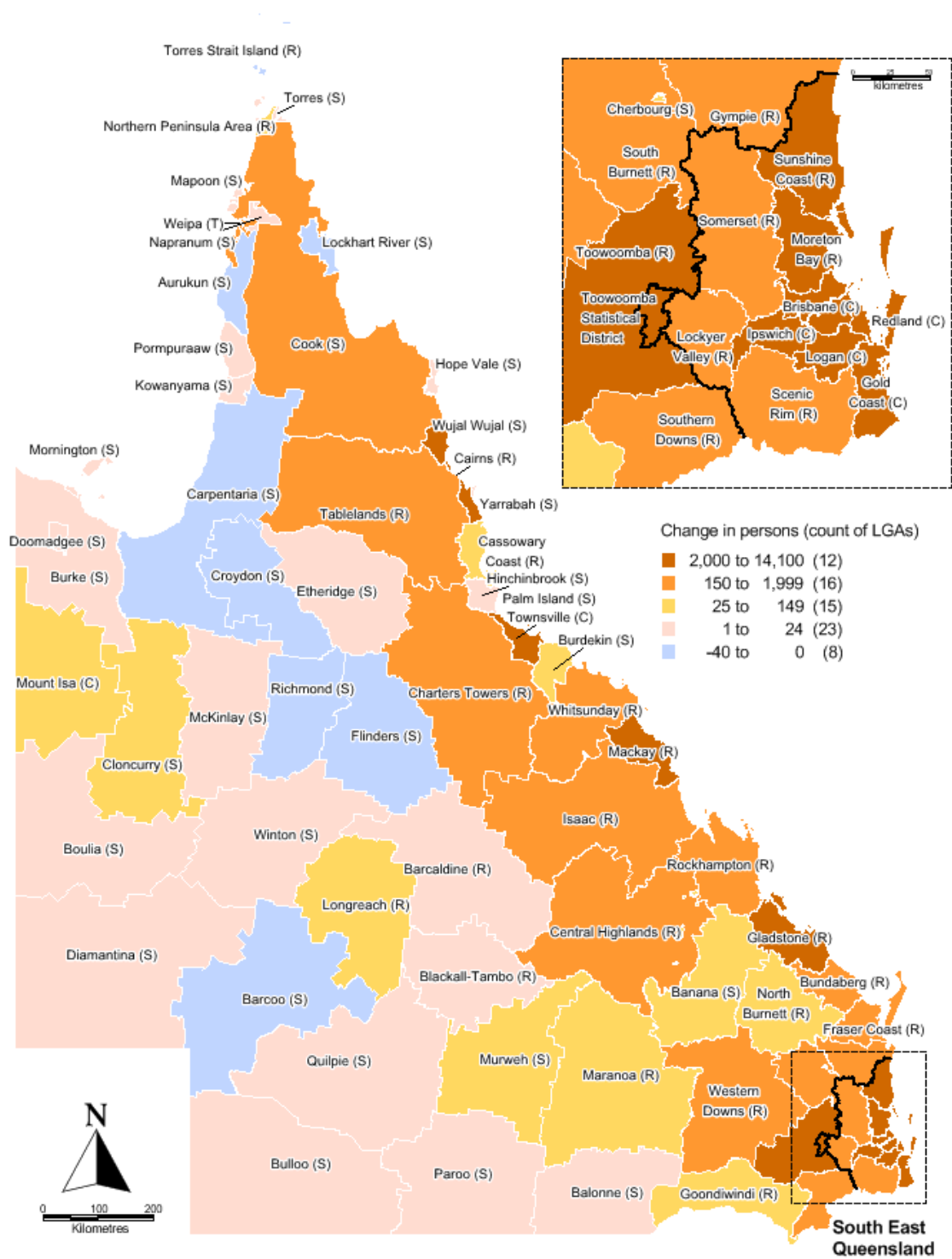
Note: Top 10, ranked by annual change, year to 30 June 2011.

Note: Population figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and as a result may not add to totals shown. Unrounded figures are available on the OESR website.

Source: ABS 3218.0, *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2010-11*

⁶ The latter defined as LGAs outside of SEQ that at 30 June 2011 had a population of at least 30,000 people in a defined urban centre.

Figure 4.1 Total population change by local government area, Queensland, 2010-11



(C) City (R) Regional Council (S) Shire (T) Town
 Source: ABS 3218.0, *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2010-11*

Seven of the top 10 largest growing LGAs in 2010-11 were located in SEQ, with the regional urban centres of Townsville (C), Cairns (R) and Mackay (R) comprising the remaining three. Brisbane (C) continued to record the largest population increase of all LGAs in the State and Australia at 14,100 additional people during 2010-11, followed by Gold Coast (C) and Moreton Bay (R) with increases of 9,640 and 8,120 people respectively.

Fast growth, measured as high percentage growth rate, is not necessarily related to large population size. Small populations can record high growth rates with the addition of only a relatively small number of people. For this reason, analysis of growth rates in this report has excluded LGAs and SLAs with a starting population of less than 2,000 at 30 June 2010⁷.

The top 10 fastest growing Queensland LGAs in 2010-11 (Table 4.2) represent a cross-section of LGAs from across the State. They include four LGAs from SEQ, the resource extraction industry based Western Downs (R) and Central Highlands (R), the regional urban centres of Gladstone (R) and Townsville (C), the remote Cook Shire (S) and the Indigenous LGA of Northern Peninsula Area (R).

Cook (S) and Gladstone (R) recorded the highest growth rates over this period (6.4 per cent and 3.5 per cent respectively) with the remainder recording growth rates of between 2 per cent and 3 per cent. It should be noted that the high growth rate in Cook (S) during 2010-11 is partly attributed to a new Australian Government facility located outside Weipa township. Ipswich (C), Townsville (C) and Moreton Bay (R) also recorded some of the largest population increases in Queensland during 2010-11.

Table 4.2 Local government areas by population growth rate^(a), Queensland

Local government area	Estimated resident population at 30 June				Average annual change		Annual change	
	2001	2006	2010r	2011p	10 years to 30 June 2011		Year to 30 June 2011	
	— number —				number	% ^(b)	number	%
Cook (S)	3,710	3,700	3,970	4,220	50	1.3	250	6.4
Gladstone (R)	46,370	53,940	60,200	62,320	1,600	3.0	2,120	3.5
Somerset (R)	18,090	19,680	22,480	23,140	510	2.5	660	2.9
Ipswich (C)	125,450	142,480	167,820	172,740	4,730	3.3	4,920	2.9
Western Downs (R)	29,280	30,180	32,010	32,830	360	1.2	820	2.6
Central Highlands (R)	25,060	28,260	31,020	31,780	670	2.4	760	2.5
Townsville (C)	144,790	165,280	185,420	189,930	4,510	2.8	4,510	2.4
Northern Peninsula Area (R)	2,100	2,140	2,380	2,440	30	1.5	60	2.4
Lockyer Valley (R)	28,670	31,930	36,520	37,370	870	2.7	850	2.3
Moreton Bay (R)	286,530	332,860	381,570	389,680	10,320	3.1	8,120	2.1
Queensland	3,628,950	4,090,910	4,505,430	4,580,280	95,130	2.4	74,850	1.7

p = preliminary r = revised (C) City (R) Regional Council (S) Shire

(a) Excludes LGAs with a starting population of less than 2,000 at 30 June 2010.

(b) Average annual growth rate.

Note: Top 10, ranked by per cent change, year to 30 June 2011.

Note: Population figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and as a result may not add to totals shown. Unrounded figures are available on the OESR website.

Source: ABS 3218.0, *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2010-11*

⁷ Consistent with the ABS approach used for fastest growth rankings of local government areas in *Regional Population Growth, Australia, ABS 3218.0*.

4.2 South East Queensland

SEQ consists of 10 LGAs plus the Toowoomba statistical district (the urban part of Toowoomba (R)) (Figure 4.1). This area is identical to the SEQ statutory regional planning project area⁸.

More than two-thirds of Queenslanders now live in SEQ with 3,178,030 people, or 69.4 per cent of Queensland's resident population at 30 June 2011.

The population of SEQ increased by 53,250 people in 2010-11, or an average of around 1,020 people per week. This growth represented 71.1 per cent of Queensland's total population increase for 2010-11. SEQ's population growth rate of 1.7 per cent over this period was the same as that recorded for the State overall. SEQ's population increase in 2010-11 was 5,750 fewer than that of the previous year (59,000).

4.2.1 Local government areas

The coastal LGAs of Brisbane (C), Gold Coast (C), Moreton Bay (R) and Sunshine Coast (R) are the four largest LGAs in Australia by population size, and together accounted for 73.7 per cent of SEQ's population at 30 June 2011 (Table 4.3). Brisbane (C), Gold Coast (C) and Moreton Bay (R) (in the same order) also recorded the largest population increases in Queensland during 2010-11. Population increases for Brisbane (C), Logan (C) and Redland (C) during 2010-11 were larger than in 2009-10.

Table 4.3 Population change by local government area, South East Queensland

Local government area	Estimated resident population at 30 June				Average annual change		Annual change	
	2001	2006	2010r	2011p	10 years to 30 June 2011		Year to 30 June 2011	
	— number —				number	% ^(a)	number	%
Brisbane (C)	896,650	991,260	1,065,290	1,079,390	18,270	1.9	14,100	1.3
Gold Coast (C)	387,100	466,430	526,840	536,480	14,940	3.3	9,640	1.8
Moreton Bay (R)	286,530	332,860	381,570	389,680	10,320	3.1	8,120	2.1
Sunshine Coast (R)	247,170	295,080	330,320	335,270	8,810	3.1	4,960	1.5
Logan (C)	237,240	260,020	282,150	287,470	5,020	1.9	5,330	1.9
Ipswich (C)	125,450	142,480	167,820	172,740	4,730	3.3	4,920	2.9
Redland (C)	117,250	131,210	142,560	144,940	2,770	2.1	2,380	1.7
Toowoomba (SD)	109,450	121,860	131,010	132,940	2,350	2.0	1,920	1.5
Scenic Rim (R)	30,460	34,750	38,230	38,620	820	2.4	380	1.0
Lockyer Valley (R)	28,670	31,930	36,520	37,370	870	2.7	850	2.3
Somerset (R)	18,090	19,680	22,480	23,140	510	2.5	660	2.9
SEQ	2,484,060	2,827,570	3,124,790	3,178,030	69,400	2.5	53,250	1.7

p = preliminary r = revised (C) City (R) Regional Council (SD) Statistical District

(a) Average annual growth rate.

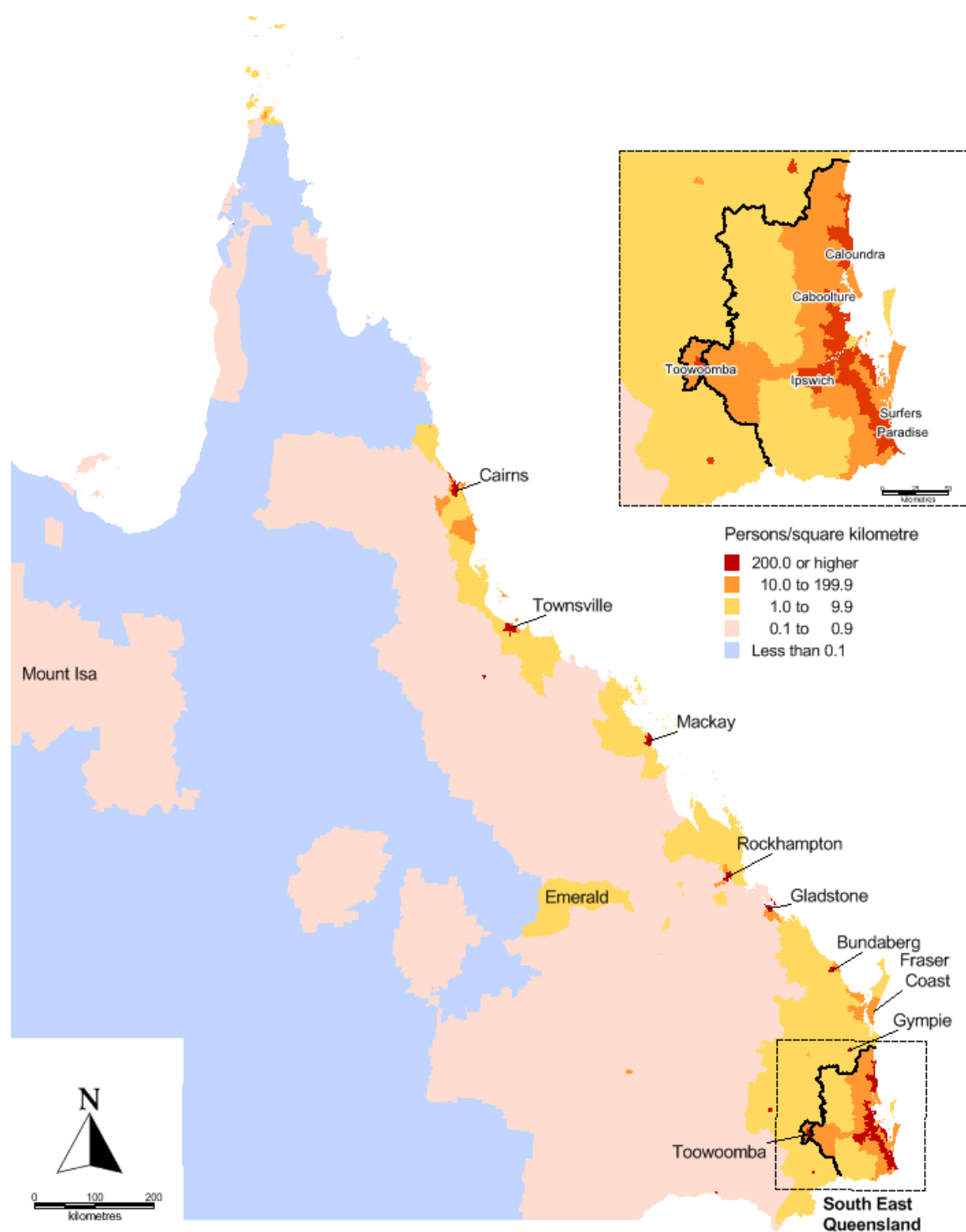
Note: Ranked by 30 June 2011 ERP.

Note: Population figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and as a result may not add to totals shown. Unrounded figures are available on the OESR website.

Source: ABS 3218.0, *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2010-11*

⁸ With the exception of a single, predominantly industrial collection district (CD) adjacent to the Toowoomba statistical district which is included in the SEQ regional planning project area. This CD has negligible resident population and is disregarded in this analysis.

Figure 4.2 Population density^(a) by statistical local area, Queensland, 30 June 2011



(a) Population density is averaged throughout each SLA. It is calculated as SLA population (persons) / SLA area (square kilometres).
 Source: ABS 3218.0, *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2010-11*

Somerset (R) and Lockyer Valley (R) had the smallest populations of SEQ LGAs at 30 June 2011, although they recorded some of the highest growth rates at 2.9 per cent and 2.3 per cent respectively during 2010-11, along with the adjacent LGA of Ipswich (C) at 2.9 per cent. The rapidly developing western corridor is centred on Ipswich (C) and is the location of a large proportion of SEQ's new housing stock in planned areas.

4.2.2 Statistical local areas

SEQ is comprised of 291 SLAs. These SLAs vary widely in nature, from inner city urban areas with very high population densities (over 4,000 people per square kilometre is typical in inner-Brisbane SLAs) to rural-fringe areas characterised by small local centres interspersed with open space and agricultural production areas. Eleven SLAs in SEQ had population densities below 20 people per square kilometre at 30 June 2011. These SLAs were mostly rural with the exception of one island and one largely industrial area.

At 30 June 2011, the largest SLAs by population size in SEQ were Ipswich (C) - Central (81,430 people), Ipswich (C) - East (69,920 people) and Buderim (49,040 people). By contrast, the SLAs of Pinkenba-Eagle Farm, Moreton Island and Willawong had the smallest populations in the region with fewer than 330 people each at 30 June 2011.

In 2010-11, Ipswich (C) - East and Griffin-Mango Hill recorded the largest population increases of SEQ's SLAs at 2,880 and 1,810 people respectively (Table 4.4). Griffin-Mango Hill also recorded one of the highest growth rates in Queensland during 2010-11 at 9.9 per cent, behind Pimpama-Coomera and Pallara-Heathwood-Larapinta (11.2 per cent and 10.8 per cent respectively) (Table 4.5).

Table 4.4 Statistical local areas by population increase, South East Queensland

Statistical local area	Estimated resident population at 30 June				Average annual change		Annual change	
	2001	2006	2010r	2011p	10 years to 30 June 2011		Year to 30 June 2011	
	— number —				number	% ^(a)	number	%
Ipswich (C) - East	40,240	51,770	67,040	69,920	2,970	5.7	2,880	4.3
Griffin-Mango Hill	3,100	10,400	18,320	20,140	1,700	20.6	1,810	9.9
Ipswich (C) - Central	66,950	71,670	79,720	81,430	1,450	2.0	1,700	2.1
Kingsholme-Upper Coomera	7,650	15,510	24,380	25,710	1,810	12.9	1,330	5.5
Pimpama-Coomera	3,600	5,810	10,120	11,250	770	12.1	1,130	11.2
Caboolture Central	16,620	18,710	22,960	23,890	730	3.7	930	4.0
Dakabin-Kallangur-M. Downs	21,420	24,650	29,420	30,340	890	3.5	920	3.1
Jimboomba-Logan Village	33,110	40,390	45,040	45,900	1,280	3.3	860	1.9
Buderim	33,180	42,730	48,190	49,040	1,590	4.0	840	1.7
Morayfield	17,240	20,240	23,840	24,620	740	3.6	780	3.3

p = preliminary r = revised (C) City

(a) Average annual growth rate.

Note: Ranked by annual change, year to 30 June 2011.

Note: Population figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and as a result may not add to totals shown. Unrounded figures are available on the OESR website.

Source: ABS 3218.0, *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2010-11*

Table 4.5 Statistical local areas^(a) by population growth rate, South East Queensland

Statistical local area	Estimated resident population at 30 June				Average annual change		Annual change	
	2001	2006	2010r	2011p	10 years to 30 June 2011		Year to 30 June 2011	
	— number —				number	% ^(b)	number	%
Pimpama-Coomera	3,600	5,810	10,120	11,250	770	12.1	1,130	11.2
Pallara-Heathwood-Larapinta	780	1,540	3,120	3,460	270	16.0	340	10.8
Griffin-Mango Hill	3,100	10,400	18,320	20,140	1,700	20.6	1,810	9.9
Wakerley	1,540	4,000	7,200	7,740	620	17.5	540	7.5
City - Inner	1,020	2,820	3,540	3,780	280	14.0	230	6.6
Kingsholme-Upper Coomera	7,650	15,510	24,380	25,710	1,810	12.9	1,330	5.5
Hope Island	3,890	5,810	8,330	8,780	490	8.5	450	5.4
Woolloongabba	3,840	4,060	4,300	4,530	70	1.7	230	5.4
Chermside	6,130	6,520	7,580	7,980	180	2.7	400	5.2
Bilinga-Tugun	6,140	6,730	7,230	7,580	140	2.1	350	4.9

p = preliminary r = revised

(a) Excludes SLAs with a starting population of less than 2,000 at 30 June 2010.

(b) Average annual growth rate.

Note: Top 10 ranked by per cent change, year to 30 June 2011.

Note: Population figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and as a result may not add to totals shown. Unrounded figures are available on the OESR website.

Source: ABS 3218.0, *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2010-11*

4.3 Regional urban centres

For the purposes of this report, regional urban centres are defined as those LGAs outside of SEQ that at 30 June 2011 had a population of at least 30,000 people in a defined urban centre. These regional urban centres include seven eastern seaboard LGAs plus the LGA of Toowoomba (Table 4.6), and represent the eight most populous LGAs outside of the south-east corner.

Lifestyle attractions and employment opportunities have contributed to Queensland's regional urban centres' strong population growth over the last decade. At 30 June 2011, 1,025,690 people or 22.4 per cent of Queensland's population resided in regional urban centres. In 2010-11, the total population in these eight LGAs increased by 17,790 people (slightly down on the previous year's increase of 18,190). This growth translates to an average of about 340 new residents per week, and represents 23.8 per cent of Queensland's population growth during 2010-11.

4.3.1 Local government areas

The most populous of the regional urban centres are the northern seaboard LGAs of Townsville (C) and Cairns (R), accounting for 35.1 per cent of the population in regional urban centres at 30 June 2011 (Table 4.6). Toowoomba (R), the only non-coastal regional urban centre, is the third largest regional LGA by population size, reflecting its proximity to SEQ and its growing role as a principal service centre for the Surat Basin gas fields. Gladstone (R) has the smallest population size of the eight regional urban centres (62,320 people at 30 June 2011).

Table 4.6 Population change by local government area, regional urban centres

Local government area	Estimated resident population at 30 June				Average annual change		Annual change	
	2001	2006	2010r	2011p	10 years to 30 June 2011	Year to 30 June 2011	number	%
	— number —				number	% ^(a)	number	%
Townsville (C)	144,790	165,280	185,420	189,930	4,510	2.8	4,510	2.4
Cairns (R)	128,100	147,540	167,940	170,590	4,250	2.9	2,650	1.6
Toowoomba (R)	137,590	151,300	161,760	163,940	2,630	1.8	2,180	1.3
Mackay (R)	91,080	107,330	118,620	121,070	3,000	2.9	2,450	2.1
Rockhampton (R)	98,230	107,520	115,310	116,720	1,850	1.7	1,410	1.2
Fraser Coast (R)	74,200	89,250	101,890	103,360	2,920	3.4	1,470	1.4
Bundaberg (R)	78,940	87,900	96,760	97,760	1,880	2.2	1,010	1.0
Gladstone (R)	46,370	53,940	60,200	62,320	1,600	3.0	2,120	3.5
Regional urban centres	799,300	910,050	1,007,890	1,025,690	22,640	2.5	17,790	1.8

p = preliminary r = revised (C) City (R) Regional Council

(a) Average annual growth rate.

Note: Ranked by 2011 ERP.

Note: Population figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and as a result may not add to totals shown. Unrounded figures are available on the OESR website.

Source: ABS 3218.0, *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2010-11*

Townsville (C) and Cairns (R) recorded the largest increases in population outside of SEQ in 2010-11, at 4,510 and 2,650 people respectively. This represented 40.2 per cent of the total population increase in regional urban centres over the year. Gladstone (R) recorded the fastest growth during 2010-11 at 3.5 per cent, followed by Townsville (C) and Mackay (R) with growth rates of 2.4 per cent and 2.1 per cent respectively.

4.3.2 Statistical local areas

There are a total of 79 SLAs across Queensland's eight regional urban centres. These SLAs vary from inner urban areas with high population densities to large areas of grazing country or natural bushland containing small towns. Forty-one of these SLAs had population densities greater than 200 people per square kilometre at 30 June 2011, including four SLAs in Townsville that had densities above 2,000 people per square kilometre. In comparison, 24 SLAs within these centres had population densities below 10 people per square kilometre.

At 30 June 2011, the largest SLAs by population size within regional urban centres were Mackay (R) - Mackay Pt A (87,320 people), Rockhampton (R) - Rockhampton (65,370 people) and Fraser Coast (R) - Hervey Bay Pt A (61,690). The SLAs with the smallest populations at 30 June 2011 were located in Townsville: Pallarenda-Shelley Beach (1,150), Stuart-Roseneath (1,400) and Rosslea (1,730).

Condon-Rasmussen-Bohle Basin in Townsville recorded the largest increase in estimated resident population during 2010-11 at 2,160 people, followed by Mackay (R) - Mackay Pt A and Gladstone (R) - Gladstone with 1,780 and 1,180 people respectively (Table 4.7).

Table 4.7 Statistical local areas by population increase, regional urban centres

Statistical local area	Estimated resident population at 30 June				Average annual change		Annual change	
	2001	2006	2010r	2011p	10 years to 30 June 2011		Year to 30 June 2011	
	— number —				number	% ^(a)	number	%
Condon-Rasmussen - Bohle Basin	17,340	21,010	28,550	30,710	1,340	5.9	2,160	7.6
Mackay (R) - Mackay Pt A	64,770	77,520	85,540	87,320	2,260	3.0	1,780	2.1
Gladstone (R) - Gladstone	26,830	30,930	33,950	35,120	830	2.7	1,180	3.5
Fraser Coast (R) - Hervey Bay Pt A	39,600	50,860	60,690	61,690	2,210	4.5	1,000	1.6
Rockhampton (R) - Rockhampton	58,920	62,570	64,660	65,370	640	1.0	710	1.1
Gladstone (R) - Calliope Pt A	12,270	14,680	17,120	17,830	560	3.8	710	4.1
Cairns (R) - Northern Suburbs	13,660	16,350	20,220	20,810	720	4.3	590	2.9
Cairns (R) - Trinity	30,100	36,050	44,090	44,650	1,460	4.0	570	1.3
Mt Louisa-Mt St John-Bohle	4,130	5,880	8,190	8,690	460	7.7	500	6.1
Rockhampton (R) - Livingstone Pt B	22,930	26,480	29,520	29,990	710	2.7	470	1.6

p = preliminary r = revised (R) Regional Council

(a) Average annual growth rate.

Note: Top 10 ranked by annual change, year to 30 June 2011.

Note: Population figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and as a result may not add to totals shown. Unrounded figures are available on the OESR website.

Source: ABS 3218.0, *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2010-11*

Five of the 10 fastest growing regional urban centre SLAs in 2010-11 were located in Townsville, with Condon-Rasmussen-Bohle Basin and Mt Louisa-Mt St John-Bohle recording the highest growth rates over this period at 7.6 per cent and 6.1 per cent respectively (Table 4.8).

Table 4.8 Statistical local areas^(a) by population growth rate, regional urban centres

Statistical local area	Estimated resident population at 30 June				Average annual change		Annual change	
	2001	2006	2010r	2011p	10 years to 30 June 2011		Year to 30 June 2011	
	— number —				number	% ^(b)	number	%
Condon-Rasmussen								
-Bohle Basin	17,340	21,010	28,550	30,710	1,340	5.9	2,160	7.6
Mt Louisa-Mt St John-Bohle	4,130	5,880	8,190	8,690	460	7.7	500	6.1
Mackay (R) - Mirani	5,280	5,720	7,310	7,660	240	3.8	340	4.7
Gladstone (R) - Calliope Pt A	12,270	14,680	17,120	17,830	560	3.8	710	4.1
Gladstone (R) - Gladstone	26,830	30,930	33,950	35,120	830	2.7	1,180	3.5
Oonoonba-Idalia-Cluden	1,980	3,750	5,150	5,330	340	10.4	180	3.4
South Townsville	2,020	2,060	2,110	2,180	20	0.8	70	3.3
Kelso	8,140	9,240	10,500	10,840	270	2.9	340	3.2
Gowrie	4,090	4,790	5,660	5,840	180	3.6	180	3.2
Highfields	6,450	9,210	11,730	12,080	560	6.5	350	3.0

p = preliminary r = revised (R) Regional Council

(a) Excludes SLAs with a starting population of less than 2,000 at 30 June 2010.

(b) Average annual growth rate.

Note: Top 10 ranked by per cent change, year to 30 June 2011.

Note: Population figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and as a result may not add to totals shown. Unrounded figures are available on the OESR website.

Source: ABS 3218.0, *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2010-11*

4.4 Indigenous local government areas

For this report, Indigenous LGAs within Queensland are defined as the 17 LGAs where more than half of the residents identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin in the 2006 Census.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in these 17 LGAs do not account for the majority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the State. At the time of the 2006 Census, these LGAs accounted for less than 20 per cent of Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents (Table 4.9). The 2006 Census data indicate that most Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people lived in urban areas.

The 17 Indigenous LGAs are generally in remote locations, with the exception of Woorabinda (S), Cherbourg (S) and Yarrabah (S) which are in close proximity to regional centres. The LGAs have relatively small populations, ranging from 270 to 5,040 people at 30 June 2011 (Table 4.9). Together, they represent only 0.6 per cent of the State's estimated resident population. In 2010-11, the estimated resident population in Queensland's Indigenous LGAs increased by 250 people, representing 0.3 per cent of Queensland's population growth for the 12 months.

The two most northern Indigenous LGAs of Torres Strait Island (R) and Torres (S) were the most populous at 30 June 2011 and together accounted for about a third (32.2 per cent) of the population across the 17 LGAs. The least populous of the Indigenous LGAs were Wujal Wujal (S) and Mapoon (S), each with fewer than 370 people at 30 June 2011. The largest population increase in 2010-11 occurred in Northern Peninsula Area (R), which also recorded the highest growth rate of the five Indigenous LGAs with a starting population of at least 2,000 people at 30 June 2010.

Table 4.9 Population change by Indigenous local government area, Queensland

Local government area	Estimated resident population at 30 June				Average annual change		Annual change	
	2001	2006	2010r	2011p	10 years to 30 June 2011		Year to 30 June 2011	
	— number —				number ^(a)	% ^(b)	number	%
Torres Strait Island (R)	4,330	4,710	5,070	5,040	70	1.5	-30	-0.7
Torres (S)	3,600	3,500	3,690	3,700	10	0.3	10	0.2
Yarrabah (S)	2,280	2,560	2,720	2,740	50	1.9	20	0.8
Northern Peninsula Area (R)	2,100	2,140	2,380	2,440	30	1.5	60	2.4
Palm Island (S)	2,310	2,150	2,220	2,260	<-10	-0.2	40	1.8
Cherbourg (S)	1,210	1,230	1,260	1,300	10	0.8	40	3.6
Doomadgee (S)	1,200	1,170	1,280	1,300	10	0.8	20	1.2
Kowanyama (S)	1,020	1,100	1,200	1,210	20	1.7	10	0.9
Aurukun (S)	1,100	1,130	1,210	1,200	10	0.9	-10	-0.9
Mornington (S)	1,010	1,120	1,100	1,110	10	0.9	10	0.9
Woorabinda (S)	1,030	920	1,000	1,030	0	0.0	30	3.4
Napranum (S)	800	910	950	970	20	1.9	20	2.0
Hope Vale (S)	890	840	850	860	<-10	-0.4	10	1.5
Pormpuraaw (S)	630	640	700	710	10	1.2	10	1.6
Lockhart River (S)	650	600	640	640	<-10	-0.2	0	0.0
Wujal Wujal (S)	370	350	350	360	<-10	-0.3	10	2.8
Mapoon (S)	210	260	270	270	10	2.6	0	1.1
Indigenous LGAs	24,740	25,310	26,880	27,130	240	0.9	250	0.9

p = preliminary r = revised (R) Regional Council (S) Shire

(a) Where this figure is smaller than 10 or smaller than -10, this has been noted in the table.

(b) Average annual growth rate.

Note: Ranked by 2011 ERP.

Note: Population figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and as a result may not add to totals shown. Unrounded figures are available on the OESR website.

Source: ABS 3218.0, *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2010-11*

Although the estimated resident populations at 30 June 2011 for Palm Island (S), Hope Vale (S), Lockhart River (S) and Wujal Wujal (S) were lower than that recorded 10 years previously, the challenging nature of estimating the Indigenous population (for example, the volatility in census counts and the quality of data for births, deaths and migration) means these estimates should be treated with caution.

4.5 Rural and remote regional Queensland

For the purposes of this report, rural and remote regional Queensland comprises the 39 LGAs outside of SEQ that either are without a regional urban centre or have defined urban centres of less than 30,000 people at 30 June 2011 (Table 4.10). This excludes the Indigenous LGAs discussed in the preceding section. These LGAs cover the majority of the State's geographic area and consist of remote outback and gulf country, some small urban areas, as well as current and emerging resource industry regions.

The distribution of population change in rural and remote regional Queensland is influenced by a complex interplay of economic factors. The population of higher-growth towns such as Emerald and Moranbah are influenced by the presence of mining industries, while towns such as Roma, Dalby and Chinchilla are expected to experience future population growth resulting from the expansion of the resource extraction industry in the Surat Basin. In other areas,

agriculture supplemented by tourism continues to support the majority of rural communities with their populations remaining stable. The sparsely populated remote western region of Queensland is, for the most part, experiencing gradual population decline.

At 30 June 2011, rural and remote regional Queensland was home to 482,370 people or 10.5 per cent of the State's population. This was lower than the share of the State's population recorded 10 years previously (11.9 per cent at 30 June 2001). In 2010-11, the population grew by 5,480 people (an average of 110 new residents a week), representing 7.3 per cent of Queensland's population growth for the 12 months.

The average annual population change recorded over the five years from 2006 to 2011 (at 1.4 per cent) was above that recorded for the five years from 2001 to 2006 (at 0.9 per cent), signifying the population impact of the emergence of resource industry operations in a number of Queensland's rural and remote LGAs.

4.5.1 Local government areas

Gympie (R) and Tablelands (R) contained the largest populations of the rural and remote regional LGAs (50,010 and 47,280 persons respectively at 30 June 2011) (Table 4.10). The next six most populous LGAs, with populations between 31,260 and 36,370 people at 30 June 2011, are diverse in nature. They comprise the coastal LGAs of Whitsunday (R) and Cassowary Coast (R), the resource activity LGAs of Western Downs (R) and Central Highlands (R), and the agriculturally based LGAs of Southern Downs (R) and South Burnett (R). These eight LGAs accounted for 61.8 per cent of rural and remote regional Queensland's total population at 30 June 2011 and for 73.8 per cent of the population increase in the preceding 12 months.

In contrast, the LGAs of Bulloo (S), Barcoo (S), Diamantina (S) and Croydon (S) each had populations of fewer than 390 people at 30 June 2011 and little population change.

The largest population change in 2010-11 occurred in Western Downs (R) (820 persons), followed by Gympie (R) and Central Highlands (R) with growth of 770 and 760 persons respectively. Western Downs (R) and Central Highlands (R) also recorded some of the fastest population growth rates in the region over the year, at 2.6 per cent and 2.5 per cent respectively, exceeded only by Cook (S) at 6.4 per cent.

Table 4.10 Population change by local government area, rural and remote Queensland

Local government area	Estimated resident population at 30 June				Average annual change		Annual change	
	2001	2006	2010r	2011p	10 years to 30 June 2011		Year to 30 June 2011	
	— number —				number ^(a)	% ^(b)	number	%
Gympie (R)	38,810	44,180	49,240	50,010	1,120	2.6	770	1.6
Tablelands (R)	40,800	43,510	46,850	47,280	650	1.5	430	0.9
Southern Downs (R)	31,670	33,590	35,930	36,370	470	1.4	440	1.2
Whitsunday (R)	27,930	31,360	34,700	35,070	710	2.3	370	1.1
South Burnett (R)	28,190	30,780	32,980	33,410	520	1.7	430	1.3
Western Downs (R)	29,280	30,180	32,010	32,830	360	1.2	820	2.6
Central Highlands (R)	25,060	28,260	31,020	31,780	670	2.4	760	2.5
Cassowary Coast (R)	30,110	29,640	31,230	31,260	120	0.4	30	0.1
Isaac (R)	18,520	21,110	22,590	22,960	440	2.2	370	1.6
Mount Isa (C)	21,150	21,110	21,950	22,090	90	0.4	140	0.6
Burdekin (S)	18,510	18,090	18,500	18,540	<10	0.0	40	0.2
Banana (S)	15,840	15,570	15,570	15,590	-30	-0.2	20	0.2
Maranoa (R)	12,610	13,070	13,350	13,420	80	0.6	70	0.6
Charters Towers (R)	12,240	12,160	12,810	12,980	70	0.6	170	1.3
Hinchinbrook (S)	12,410	12,240	12,250	12,260	-20	-0.1	10	0.1
Goondiwindi (R)	10,420	10,740	11,390	11,440	100	0.9	50	0.4
North Burnett (R)	10,650	10,760	10,780	10,830	20	0.2	50	0.4
Murweh (S)	5,030	4,860	4,900	4,930	-10	-0.2	30	0.6
Balonne (S)	5,580	4,930	4,840	4,850	-70	-1.4	10	0.2
Longreach (R)	4,630	4,330	4,340	4,380	-30	-0.5	40	1.1
Cook (S)	3,710	3,700	3,970	4,220	50	1.3	250	6.4
Cloncurry (S)	3,830	3,370	3,380	3,430	-40	-1.1	50	1.5
Barcaldine (R)	3,550	3,460	3,400	3,420	-10	-0.4	20	0.5
Weipa (T)	2,170	3,010	3,330	3,400	120	4.6	70	2.0
Carpentaria (S)	2,290	2,080	2,150	2,140	-20	-0.7	-10	-0.2
Blackall-Tambo (R)	2,430	2,140	2,080	2,080	-40	-1.5	0	0.1
Paroo (S)	2,210	2,060	1,950	1,960	-30	-1.2	10	0.5
Flinders (S)	2,090	1,910	1,820	1,810	-30	-1.4	-10	-0.4
Winton (S)	1,620	1,470	1,410	1,430	-20	-1.2	20	1.3
Quilpie (S)	1,110	1,050	1,030	1,030	-10	-0.7	0	0.1
McKinlay (S)	1,070	960	940	950	-10	-1.1	10	1.0
Richmond (S)	1,150	970	950	940	-20	-2.0	-10	-1.2
Etheridge (S)	1,020	900	920	930	-10	-0.9	10	0.9
Burke (S)	500	530	550	570	10	1.2	20	2.4
Boulia (S)	580	450	470	470	-10	-2.0	0	0.6
Bulloo (S)	460	390	380	380	-10	-1.9	0	0.3
Barcoo (S)	460	380	350	340	-10	-2.9	-10	-0.3
Diamantina (S)	330	300	320	330	0	0.0	10	1.6
Croydon (S)	290	270	270	270	<-10	-0.6	0	-0.7
Rural and remote regions	430,300	449,840	476,890	482,370	5,210	1.1	5,480	1.1

p = preliminary r = revised (C) City (R) Regional Council (S) Shire (T) Town

(a) Where this figure is smaller than 10 or smaller than -10, this has been noted in the table.

(b) Average annual growth rate

Note: Ranked by 2011 ERP.

Note: Population figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and as a result may not add to totals shown. Unrounded figures are available on the OESR website.

Source: ABS 3218.0, *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2010-11*

4.5.2 Statistical local areas

Excluding those LGAs that are also SLAs (and as such were covered in Section 4.5.1), the most populous rural and remote SLAs at 30 June 2011 were Gympie (R) - Cooloola (26,030 people), Tablelands (R) - Mareeba (21,440) and Whitsunday (R) - Whitsunday (20,550). Longreach (R) - Isisford had the smallest population size of the State's rural and remote SLAs (270 people at 30 June 2011). The highest population density was found in Southern Downs (R) - Warwick at around 500 people per square kilometre at 30 June 2011.

Central Highlands (R) - Emerald, Gympie (R) - Cooloola and South Burnett (R) - Kingaroy recorded the largest population increases in 2010-11 (Table 4.11). Among SLAs with a starting population of at least 2,000 people at 30 June 2010, Western Downs (R) - Chinchilla, Central Highlands (R) - Emerald and Western Downs (R) - Dalby recorded the fastest population growth rates (Table 4.12).

Table 4.11 Statistical local areas by population increase, rural and remote Queensland

Statistical local area	Estimated resident population at 30 June				Average annual change		Annual change	
	2001	2006	2010r	2011p	10 years to 30 June 2011		Year to 30 June 2011	
	— number —				number	% ^(a)	number	%
Central Highlands (R)								
- Emerald	13,060	15,330	17,850	18,410	540	3.5	560	3.1
Gympie (R) - Cooloola	19,760	23,080	25,560	26,030	630	2.8	470	1.8
South Burnett (R) - Kingaroy	11,810	12,960	14,240	14,600	280	2.1	360	2.5
Western Downs (R)								
- Chinchilla	6,050	6,300	7,060	7,410	140	2.1	360	5.0
Isaac (R) - Belyando	9,950	11,150	12,090	12,440	250	2.3	350	2.9
Western Downs (R) - Dalby	10,110	10,410	11,080	11,420	130	1.2	340	3.1
Gympie (R) - Gympie	15,820	17,440	19,660	19,940	410	2.3	280	1.4
Tablelands (R) - Mareeba	18,480	19,440	21,210	21,440	300	1.5	230	1.1
Whitsunday (R)								
- Whitsunday	15,520	18,220	20,340	20,550	500	2.8	210	1.1
Southern Downs (R)								
- Stanthorpe	10,380	10,770	11,420	11,590	120	1.1	170	1.5

p = preliminary r = revised (R) Regional Council

(a) Average annual growth rate.

Note: Top 10 ranked by annual change, year to 30 June 2011.

Note: Population figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and as a result may not add to totals shown. Unrounded figures are available on the OESR website.

Source: ABS 3218.0, *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2010-11*

Table 4.12 Statistical local areas^(a) by population growth rate, rural and remote Queensland

Statistical local area	Estimated resident population at 30 June				Average annual change		Annual change	
	2001	2006	2010r	2011p	10 years to 30 June 2011		Year to 30 June 2011	
	— number —				number	% ^(b)	number	%
Western Downs (R) - Chinchilla	6,050	6,300	7,060	7,410	140	2.1	360	5.0
Central Highlands (R) - Emerald	13,060	15,330	17,850	18,410	540	3.5	560	3.1
Western Downs (R) - Dalby	10,110	10,410	11,080	11,420	130	1.2	340	3.1
Isaac (R) - Belyando	9,950	11,150	12,090	12,440	250	2.3	350	2.9
South Burnett (R) - Kingaroy	11,810	12,960	14,240	14,600	280	2.1	360	2.5
Southern Downs (R) - West	3,210	3,790	4,220	4,320	110	3.0	90	2.2
Central Highlands (R) - Bauhinia	2,250	2,330	2,370	2,420	20	0.7	40	1.9
Gympie (R) - Cooloola	19,760	23,080	25,560	26,030	630	2.8	470	1.8
Central Highlands (R) - Peak Downs	3,150	3,380	3,520	3,590	40	1.3	60	1.8
Western Downs (R) - Wambo	5,260	5,530	5,800	5,900	60	1.2	100	1.7

p = preliminary r = revised (R) Regional Council

(a) Excludes SLAs with a starting population of less than 2,000 at 30 June 2010.

(b) Average annual growth rate.

Note: Top 10 ranked by per cent change, year to 30 June 2011.

Note: Population figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and as a result may not add to totals shown. Unrounded figures are available on the OESR website.

Source: ABS 3218.0, *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2010-11*

5. Estimating the Queensland population

5.1 Introduction

Following each census, the ABS rebases its official estimates of population, known as the estimated resident population (ERP). After the 2011 Census of Population and Housing has been completed and processed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), estimation of Queensland's resident population using this new data source can begin. The rebased estimates for the 2011 Census year will provide the basis for population estimates until the next census. This chapter focuses on the concepts behind the preparation of these rebased official estimates, which will be released in preliminary form at the national, state and territory level on 20 June 2012 and at the sub-state level on 31 July 2012.

A summary of the population estimates discussed in this chapter are outlined in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1 Types of population estimates

Name of population estimate	Coverage	Reference date
Census count: place of enumeration	A count of every person who was located in an area on census night, including visitors.	Census night date
Census count: usual residence (UR)	A count of every person who usually lives in an area on census night, excluding visitors.	Census night date
Estimated resident population (ERP): census year	Official estimate of the population based on census counts of usual residents that are adjusted to account for usual residents missed in the census. These estimates are considered final.	30 June of the census year
Estimated resident population (ERP): non-census year	Official estimate of the population based on the previous census year ERP. These estimates are considered preliminary and are subject to ongoing revision. Final ERPs for the intercensal period are established after the next census.	Quarterly at the national, state and territory level Annually (30 June) at the sub-state level

Source: ABS

There is the potential for some confusion regarding population estimates following the release of census results, as there will be four different population estimates available for the year of 2011. Census counts are useful for looking at population characteristics but do not provide complete coverage of the population. In general, the best estimate of resident population will be the most recent rebased ERP figure.

5.2 Census year population counts

The census attempts to count every person in Australia on census night (the last census was held on 9 August 2011), enabling the maintenance of an accurate time series of population data

in the form of census counts 'by place of enumeration' and 'by place of usual residence'. Both types of counts are available as at census dates only.

The census count by *place of enumeration* counts every person based on where they were located on census night, including those persons visiting Australia on that date. The census count by place of enumeration includes people on vessels in or between Australian ports, or on long-distance trains, buses or aircraft. It also includes people entering Australia from overseas before midnight on census night and Australian residents in Antarctica.

The census count by *place of usual residence* is a count of people based on the location where they usually live, or intend to live, for six months or more, irrespective of their actual location on census night. The number of visitors to an area is not included in the usual residence census count.

While for most people their usual residence will be the same as their actual location (place of enumeration) on census night, some people will spend census night at a place other than their usual residence, and thus their place of enumeration will be different.

5.3 Population estimates

5.3.1 Census year population estimates

To derive population estimates for the census year (at 30 June), the ABS first calculates ERP figures for the census date (which does not fall on 30 June). This involves compiling census counts of usual residents for each state and territory for the census date, with adjustments to include residents absent interstate and exclude visitors present from interstate and overseas. These census counts are then adjusted upwards to compensate for net undercount (the net effect of overcount and undercount⁹) before further demographic adjustments for age/sex anomalies are applied. Estimates of the number of Australian residents temporarily overseas on census night (and therefore not required to submit a census form) are added to these adjusted census counts to arrive at an ERP figure for the census date.

To backdate this ERP figure to 30 June, adjustments are made to account for those who were born, those who died, and those who moved in or out of the area for the period 1 July to the census date, using birth and death registrations data, overseas arrivals and departures data and interstate migration estimates. Table 5.2 outlines this process for the preparation of Queensland's final ERP for the 2006 Census year.

⁹ Usually more people are missed than overcounted in Australia, so the census count of the population is fewer than the true population.

Table 5.2 Adjustment components of the final estimated resident population, Queensland, 30 June 2006

Persons	'000
Components as at 8 August 2006	
Census count, place of enumeration	4 046.9
plus - Residents absent interstate	38.1
less - Interstate visitors	107.5
less - Overseas visitors	72.9
<i>equals - census count, place of usual residence</i>	<i>3 904.5</i>
plus - Allowance for undercount	148.4
plus - Demographic adjustment	-2.8
plus - Residents temporarily overseas	50.5
<i>equals - estimated resident population at 8 August 2006</i>	<i>4 100.6</i>
Backdating components to 30 June 2006	
less - Births	6.0
plus - Deaths	2.9
less - Net interstate migration	2.4
less - Net overseas migration	4.2
<i>equals - final estimated resident population at 30 June 2006</i>	<i>4 090.9</i>

Source: ABS 3228.0.55.001, *Population Estimates: Concepts, Sources and Methods*, 2009

5.3.2 Post-censal population estimates

Post-censal population estimates at the national, state and territory level are published as quarterly ERP figures (as at 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December) using the most recent census year population estimates as the base population. The quarterly ERPs are derived by ageing the base, then adjusting for estimates of the separate components of population change (births, deaths, net overseas and net interstate migration) that have occurred over the quarter. The resulting population estimates then become the base population in the calculation of estimates for the next quarter, again using estimates of the separate components of population change.

The current post-censal population estimates derived from the 2006 Census are referred to as either preliminary or revised. Preliminary estimates are made available six months after the reference quarter and are subsequently revised following the scheduled revision of births, deaths and migration data that occurs each year. Note that ERPs up to and including 30 June 2006 are considered final estimates and are subject to no further revision.

5.3.3 Rebasing population estimates

When the 2011 Census year population estimates (at 30 June) become available, they can be compared with the alternative estimates for the same date produced by updating the 2006 census-based ERPs using intercensal births, deaths and migration data. The 2011 census-based ERPs will be called the 'rebased' estimates and adopted as the true estimates, while the 2006 census-based ERPs will be referred to as the 'unrebased' estimates. The difference between the two is called the 'intercensal error'. This can be attributed to either errors

in the census-based population estimates at the current or previous census date, and/or errors in the estimates of any of the components of population change since the previous census.

Following the calculation of the rebased 2011 census-based ERPs, post-censal population estimates for the 19 quarters between 30 June 2006 and 30 June 2011 will be revised and published. This complete exercise (compiling estimates at 30 June of the latest census year and quarterly estimates back to September of the previous census year) is known as 'rebasings', as the population estimates are compiled from a new base, the most recent census.

As part of the process for compiling the final rebased figures for the intercensal period, previously published intercensal estimates of births, deaths and net overseas migration are reviewed and revised using the latest source data. Errors in estimates of interstate migration, the most difficult component to estimate, are considered a key contributor to intercensal error, and are assessed using the latest census data for usual residence one year ago and five years ago.

5.4 Sub-state population estimates

The method used to compile census year sub-state estimates is similar to that used for the state and territory estimates. Firstly, census counts of usual residents are compiled and adjusted upwards to compensate for both the net undercount and the number of residents estimated to be overseas on census night. The resultant census date estimates undergo further adjustments taking into account births, deaths and migration for the intervening period between 1 July and the census date to arrive at an ERP for 30 June. Further demographic adjustments are applied where necessary, before the sub-state level ERPs are constrained to sum to their respective state and territory ERPs for the census year.

Post-censal population estimates at the sub-state level are calculated as annual ERP figures (at 30 June) using the previous census year population estimates as the base population. However, the absence of migration data at the sub-state level means these estimates are unable to be produced by measuring the components of population change. Instead sub-state ERPs are calculated using a model that establishes relationships between population change and changes in indicator data (principally dwelling approvals, Medicare enrolments and electoral enrolments). Specifically, the change in an area's share of state/territory indicator data is used to estimate the change in its share of the state/territory's population. As before, the post-censal sub-state ERPs are constrained to the sum of their respective state and territory ERPs.

The aforementioned process for compiling final rebased estimates for the intercensal period is applied similarly to sub-state population estimates. This means that following the calculation of the final rebased 2011 census-based ERPs at the sub-state level, post-censal annual population estimates for the four years between 30 June 2006 and 30 June 2011 will be revised and published as final estimates.

5.5 Release schedule

Table 5.3 outlines the timing of ABS' product releases for national, state and territory, and sub-state population estimates (totals and age/sex) that will have been rebased using data from the 2011 Census.

Table 5.3 Release schedule for rebased population estimates from the 2011 Census

Release date	Reference year, version	Geography, estimate type	ABS product
2012			
20 June	2011, preliminary rebased	National, state and territory, totals and age/sex	<i>Australian Demographic Statistics, December quarter 2011</i> (ABS 3101.0)
31 July	2007-2011, preliminary rebased	Sub-state, totals	<i>Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2001-2011</i> (ABS 3218.0)
31 August	2007-2011, preliminary rebased	Sub-state, age/sex	<i>Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2001-2011</i> (ABS 3235.0)
2013			
June	2006-2011, final rebased	National, state and territory, totals and age/sex	<i>Australian Demographic Statistics, December quarter 2012</i> (ABS 3101.0)
August	2006-2011, final rebased	Sub-state, totals	<i>Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2001-2011</i> (ABS 3218.0)
August	2006-2011, final rebased	Sub-state, age/sex	<i>Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2001-2011</i> (ABS 3235.0)

Source: ABS

5.6 Further reading

A description of the range of population estimates, and their scheduled release dates, that will become available following the 2011 Census rebasing cycle can be found in the ABS' *Information Paper: Rebasing Population Estimates, Australia, 2011* (ABS 3101.0.55.001).

A detailed description of the concepts, sources and methods used by the ABS in the production of population estimates can be found in *Population Estimates: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2009* (ABS 3228.0.55.001). Additional information on population concepts can be found in the ABS' *Information Paper: Population Concepts, 2008* (ABS 3107.0.55.006).

Information about the future of population estimates under the new statistical geography standard can be found in the ABS' *Information Paper: Population Estimates under Australia's New Statistical Geography* (ABS 3219.0.55.001).

Technical notes

The status of ERP data changes over time from preliminary to revised to final as new component data become available. Note that ABS population estimates from September quarter 2006 onwards are subject to revision and will not be finalised until after the 2011 Census is processed. Differences will affect all areas within the State.

For this reason users should exercise caution when analysing and interpreting the most recent annual and quarterly estimates for all components of ERP, particularly when making time series comparisons. Additionally, users should exercise caution when interpreting percentage change and average annual growth rate figures for areas with a small population.

Note that the population estimates within this report refer to ERP figures only. Full-time equivalent (FTE) population estimates, which take into account an area's ERP together with a count of non-resident workers living in the area while rostered-on, are not discussed. Information on FTE population estimates can be found in the Queensland Treasury and Trade reports *Bowen Basin Population Report, 2010* and *Surat Basin Population Report, 2010* available on the OESR website.

Glossary

This glossary provides a guide to terms used in this report. It is in alphabetical order. Further details about census data definitions can be obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publication *Census Dictionary, Australia, 2011* (ABS 2901.0).

Australian resident

For estimated resident population statistics, the census year population estimates classify a person as an Australian resident if the person has (in the most recent census) reported a usual address in Australia where the person has lived or intends to live for six months or more in the census year. The post-censal estimates, while based on the census data, are updated with international migration data that have a criterion of one year or more of intended stay in or absence from Australia.

For overseas arrivals and departures statistics, Australian residency is self-reported by travellers when completing an Incoming or Outgoing Passenger Card.

Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC)

A geographical framework covering all spatial areas of Australia and the external territories. The ASGC was developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics to allow statistics from different collections to be spatially comparable. The ASGC has been revised annually since its inception in 1984. The 2011 edition of the ASGC has been used for the data in this report.

Average annual rate of population change

Also known as the average annual population growth rate. It is calculated as a percentage using the formula below, where P_0 is the population at the start of the period, P_n is the population at the end of the period and n is the length of the period between P_n and P_0 in years.

$$\left[\left(\frac{P_n}{P_0} \right)^{\frac{1}{n}} - 1 \right] \times 100$$

For example, to calculate the average annual rate of population change from 2011 to 2021, n is 10, P_0 is the population in 2011 and P_n is the population in 2021.

Census count

The Census of Population and Housing enumerates persons on the basis of where they were located on census night. The census also compiles information on people according to their place of usual residence. This means that census counts of people can be produced according to their location on census night as well as their place of usual residence.

Collection district (CD)

The smallest geographical area for which 2006 Census data were available.

Estimated resident population (ERP)

The official measure of the population of Australia is based on the concept of residence. It refers to all people, regardless of nationality or citizenship, who usually live in Australia, with the exception of foreign diplomatic personnel and their families. It includes usual residents who are overseas for less than 12 out of 16 months. It excludes overseas visitors who are in Australia for less than 12 out of 16 months.

Intercensal error

The difference between two estimates at 30 June of a census year population, the first based on the latest census and the second arrived at by updating the 30 June estimate of the previous census year with intercensal components of population change which do not take account of information available from the latest census.

Local government area (LGA)

As defined under the *Local Government Act 1993*, LGAs are spatial units that represent the geographical areas of incorporated local government councils, such as cities (C), regional councils (R) and shires (S). LGAs and their interstate equivalents aggregate directly to form the incorporated areas of Australia.

Natural increase

The excess of births over deaths in a given area. Although usually positive, natural increase can be negative if the population has an older age structure such that more deaths than births are experienced over a period of time.

Net interstate migration

The net result of population movement into the region from interstate minus population movement out of the region to other states. During intercensal years, the Australian Bureau of Statistics prepares state level quarterly estimates of net interstate migration using indicators of population change.

Net migration

Net migration refers to the net result of population movement into and out of a given area. It is the resulting change in population from the combination of overseas migration, interstate migration and internal (intrastate) migration.

Net overseas migration

The difference between the number of people settling in a given area from overseas and the number of people departing that area to live overseas. Estimates of overseas migration data are derived primarily from Department of Immigration and Citizenship international passenger and visa records, and revised for each period to include only those people who have been in (or out of) Australia for 12 of the previous 16 months. By this definition, some temporary residents in Australia are included in the net overseas migration figure.

Net undercount

The difference between the actual census count (including imputations) and an estimate of the number of people who should have been counted in the census. This estimate is based on the Post Enumeration Survey conducted after each census. For a category of person (e.g. based on age, sex and state of usual residence), net undercount is the result of census undercount, overcount, misclassification and imputation error.

Regional planning project areas

There are currently 10 regional planning project areas in Queensland, as established under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009* and administered by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning. Regional planning project areas do not cover the whole of the State. They generally encompass one or more city areas, plus surrounding rural shires.

South East Queensland region (SEQ region)

Comprises the statistical divisions of Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and West Moreton, plus the Toowoomba statistical district. It contains 10 local government areas and the urban part of Toowoomba (R). The area has been defined this way to be identical to the SEQ regional planning project area, although excludes a single, predominantly industrial collection district which is included in the SEQ regional planning project area.

Statistical district

The Australian Standard Geographical Classification defines statistical districts as selected, significant, predominantly urban areas which are not located within a capital city statistical division.

Statistical division (SD)

The largest sub-state spatial units in the main structure of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification. Queensland is divided into 14 SDs, including the Off-Shore Areas and Migratory SD, which is used to classify the whereabouts of people who were counted in transit on census night, for example, enumerated in airports or aboard ships within Australian territorial waters. SDs are composed of groups of SLAs. In aggregate, SDs cover all of Australia without gaps or overlaps.

Statistical local area (SLA)

SLAs are an Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) defined area which consist of one or more collection districts (CDs). SLAs are local government areas (LGAs) or parts thereof. SLAs are also defined to cover areas where there is no incorporated local government. SLAs cover, in aggregate, the whole of Australia without gaps or overlaps.

Temporary entrants

People may enter Australia on a temporary basis under the temporary residence program, whether as visitors, students or for a range of specialised purposes.

Temporary entrants include tourists, students, business people on short stays, people with specialist skills, people who make a social or cultural contribution to the community, and people who contribute to the development of international relations.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics counts temporary entrants towards net overseas migration and estimated resident population if they were in Australia for 12 out of the 16 months prior to the reference period.

Usual residence

Usual residence within Australia refers to that address at which the person has lived or intends to live for a total of six months or more in a given reference year.