Population growth highlights and trends, Queensland 2013 – revised

Updated with revised historical estimated resident population and components of population change figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics publication ABS 3101.0, Australian Demographic Statistics, Dec 2012

July 2013
Government Statistician
Economic and Structural Policy
Queensland Treasury and Trade
http://www.oesr.qld.gov.au

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Summary

Queensland’s population continued to grow
Queensland’s population was 4,565,530 at 30 June 2012 after growing by 88,750 persons or 2.0 per cent over the year.

Queensland’s population growth remains higher than the national average
Queensland’s annual population growth rate in the year to 30 June 2012 at 2.0 per cent was greater than that recorded at the national level (1.7 per cent). With respect to the level of change, Queensland recorded the second largest population increase (88,750) behind Victoria (91,310).

Queensland’s natural increase remained high
Natural increase in the year to 30 June 2012 was 33,690 persons as a result of 61,520 births and 27,830 deaths registered during the year. Natural increase was the second largest contributor to Queensland’s population growth, behind net overseas migration (43,260).

Queensland’s net overseas migration increased
Queensland’s net overseas migration was 43,260 persons in the year to 30 June 2012, substantially higher (24.9 per cent) than the level for the previous 12 months (34,630). Australia’s net overseas migration increased by 21.4 per cent over the same period, from 180,370 to 219,020 persons.

Queensland’s net overseas migration continues to offset population ageing
Queensland’s net overseas migration gain was largest in age groups up to 45 years in 2011–12, with more than 65 per cent aged 0–29 years. The largest gain was in the 20–24 years age group. This had the effect of slowing the rate of population ageing in Queensland relative to that which 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 June 2012 was 11,800 persons, down from a peak of 37,980 persons in the year to 30 June 2003, although higher than the level for the previous 12 months (6,800). However, this was still the largest net interstate migration gain over the year among Australia’s states and territories.
1. Introduction

Population growth highlights and trends, Queensland 2013 – revised updates the February 2013 version of this report.

Following the 2011 Census, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) released, on 20 June 2012, preliminary rebased estimated resident population (ERP) figures for each of the states and territories for all dates 30 September 2006 to 30 June 2011. There was a major change in the methodology used by the ABS to estimate the net census undercount (the net effect of people being missed or counted more than once during the census). Due mainly to this, the preliminary rebased estimate of the resident population of Queensland at 30 June 2011 was 106,180, or 2.3 per cent lower than the previously released ERP. The ABS also determined that the Post Enumeration Survey (PES) methodology used following previous census counts (e.g. 2006) overestimated the undercount, resulting in higher ERP figures for these years.

To ensure population growth for the period September quarter 1991 to June quarter 2001 provides the best estimate of historical growth, that is, reflects what is known from births, deaths and migration information, the ABS has revised ERPs from September quarter 1991 to June quarter 2011 for Australia and all states and territories. These estimates reduce the impact of the relatively high intercensal error for 2006–2011 and adjust the undercount in previous years to more closely reflect the adjustments of the improved 2011 PES methodology. Data for September 2011 onwards are preliminary.

Section 2 provides an overview of Queensland’s population growth and its changing age structure. Historical analyses of trends in the size and rate of change in Queensland’s ERP that were excluded from the February 2013 version of this report are included here, incorporating the revised historical data. Section 3 examines in detail the three components of population change in Queensland: natural increase, net overseas migration and net interstate migration. Section 4 concludes with information on the release schedule for regional-level revised (final rebased and recast) population estimates.

Population data used in this publication were the most recent available at the time of preparation and have been sourced from the ABS publication Australian demographic statistics, Dec 2012 (ABS 3101.0), with supporting data sourced from ABS 3412.0, Migration, Australia, 2010–11 (ABS 3412.0).

Complete accuracy of 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 is available on the Government Statistician website.

1 A survey conducted post-census in order to measure the extent of undercount and overcount in each census. Results from the survey are used to adjust census counts in the calculation of ERP.
2. Queensland’s changing population

2.1 Snapshot

At 30 June 2012, Queensland’s preliminary estimated resident population was 4,565,530 (Figure 2.1), representing 20.1 per cent of Australia’s total of 22,710,350 persons. Queensland is Australia’s third largest state by population behind New South Wales (7,301,130) and Victoria (5,629,120).

Figure 2.1 Estimated resident population, 30 June 2012, and growth, year to 30 June 2012

Queensland’s population increase in the year to 30 June 2012 of 88,750 persons was the second largest increase of any state or territory after Victoria (91,310). New South Wales (82,610) had the third largest increase of any state or territory, followed by Western Australia (79,300).

Figure 2.2 shows trends in annual population growth for the four largest states in Australia during the 10 years to 30 June 2012. Queensland sustained annual population increases of above 86,000 persons from 2002–03 to 2005–06, followed by annual growth above 103,000 for the three years 2006–07 to 2008–09. From 2002–03 to 2006–07, Queensland’s annual increases were the largest of any state or territory. Since then, population growth has been highest in either New South Wales or Victoria.

After moderating growth in the years to 30 June 2010 and 2011, growth for the three largest states accelerated in the year to 30 June 2012 and for Queensland, was close to the 10-year average of 91,240 persons per year over the period to 30 June 2012.
Australia’s population grew by an average of 321,510 persons per year over the 10 years to 30 June 2012. Queensland accounted for 28.4 per cent of that growth or 91,240 persons 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 76.0 per cent of the national population growth over the 10 years to 30 June 2012.

### 2.3 Rate of population change

Queensland’s population growth rate was 2.0 per cent for the year to 30 June 2012. This growth rate was higher than the national average of 1.7 per cent and the second highest of any Australian state or territory over this period, surpassed only by Western Australia (3.4 per cent) (Figure 2.3).

During the 10 years to 30 June 2012, Queensland recorded peak growth in the years to 30 June 2007, 2008 and 2009. Queensland’s average annual growth rate during this period was 2.3 per cent. This was well above the Australian average of 1.5 per cent and equal highest with Western Australia compared with all other states and territories.
The relatively high rate of population growth in Queensland and Western Australia for the 10 years to 30 June 2012 was associated in part with demand for labour from resource extraction and human service industries\(^2\). Although annual population growth rates in these two states slowed markedly in 2009–10, Western Australia’s growth rate increased in both 2010–11 and 2011–12, while Queensland’s growth rate increased in 2011–12.

### 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 an increase in births in recent years), increasing life expectancy and the movement of the large baby boomer cohort (those born 1946–1965) into the older age groups. As a result, there are now proportionally fewer children under 15 years of age in the population compared with 20 years ago (19.9 per cent at 30 June 2012 compared with 22.5 per cent at 30 June 1992).

The ageing of Queensland’s population, as shown by the change in distribution of the population by five-year age groups at 30 June 1992 and 2012, is illustrated in Figure 2.4. At 30 June 1992, the largest proportion was for the 20–24 year age group at 8.3 per cent. By 30 June 2012, the largest age group had shifted to persons aged 25–29 years and 40–44 years (7.3 per cent each).

In the 20 years from 30 June 1992 to 30 June 2012, the proportion of the population aged 15–64 years (the working-age population) remained steady at 66.6 per cent and 66.8 per cent respectively.

The increase in the older ages is also influenced by increasing length of life in the older age groups. For example, the expected remaining years of life for Queenslanders aged 65 years in 2011 was 19.0 years for males and 22.0 years for females, up from 17.2 years and 20.7 years for males and females respectively in 2001\(^3\). The proportion of the state’s population aged 65 years or older increased from 10.9 per cent to 13.3 per cent between 1992 and 2012.

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 31.9 years in 1992, increasing to

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\(^2\) Article: ‘Employment and mining in Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia’, ABS 6202.0, Labour force, Australia, May 2012

\(^3\) ABS 3302.0 Deaths Australia, 2011. Life expectancy has been calculated using data for the three years ending in the reference year.
36.1 years in 2012\(^4\). 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.

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 June 2012 (Table 3.1).

Net overseas migration accounted for the largest proportion of growth over the year (43,260 persons or 48.7 per cent of the State’s total). The contribution of natural increase was 33,690 persons (38.0 per cent of the total). Net interstate migration made the smallest contribution to growth with 11,800 persons, or 13.3 per cent of total growth.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 3.1</th>
<th>Components of population change, Queensland, year to 30 June 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Queensland</td>
<td>persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated resident population at 30 June 2011</td>
<td>4,476,780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births(^{(a)})</td>
<td>61,520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>less – Deaths(^{(a)})</td>
<td>27,830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>equals – Natural increase year to 30 June 2012</td>
<td>33,690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas arrivals(^{(b)})</td>
<td>94,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>less – Overseas departures(^{(b)})</td>
<td>51,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>equals – Net overseas migration, year to 30 June 2012</td>
<td>43,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interstate arrivals(^{(c)})</td>
<td>88,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>less – Interstate departures(^{(c)})</td>
<td>77,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>equals – Net interstate migration, year to 30 June 2012</td>
<td>11,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated resident population at 30 June 2012</td>
<td>4,565,530</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(a) Births and deaths estimates for September quarter 2011 onwards are preliminary.
(b) 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’. Estimates for December quarter 2012 onwards are preliminary.
(c) Estimates of net interstate migration up to and including the June quarter 2011 are final. Estimates of net interstate migration for September quarter 2011 onwards are preliminary and are based on 2006 Census expansion factors.

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, Dec 2012

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. While net interstate migration increased from 6,800 in the year ending June 2011 to 11,800 in the year to June 2012, its contribution to Queensland’s growth remained small (13.3 per cent), compared with the average contribution over the past 30 years (35.0 per cent).

\(^4\) Government Statistician estimates.
Natural increase is calculated as registered births minus registered deaths for any given period. Natural increase contributed 33,690 persons to Queensland’s population in the year to 30 June 2012, which accounted for 22.3 per cent of Australia’s total for the year. The increase over this period was the result of an estimated 61,520 births and 27,830 deaths registered during the year. This level of natural increase was 5.9 per cent lower than the previous year (35,800).

Natural increase figures are relatively stable in comparison with other components of population growth. The level of natural increase grew during the period 2002-03 to 2009-10, when it peaked at 36,600 for the year to 30 June 2010. Natural increase’s share of Queensland’s population growth increased from 27.2 per cent during the year to 30 June 2003 to 46.6 per cent during the year to 30 June 2010. This was the result of both a larger increase in the number of births relative to deaths (32.6 per cent compared with 14.3 per cent) and a large decrease (by 83.8 percentage points) in net interstate migration to Queensland over the period.

Queensland recorded the third largest natural increase in the year to 30 June 2012 behind New South Wales (43,530), and Victoria (38,070).

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, regardless of nationality, citizenship or legal status, 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 43,260 persons in Queensland in the year to 30 June 2012, 24.9 per cent higher than the previous year’s figure of 34,630. The latest estimate is 16,060 (or 27.1 per cent) lower than the record peak of 59,320 in the year to 30 June 2009. Australia’s net overseas migration fell by 27.0 per cent over the same period, from 299,870 to 219,020. Queensland accounted for 19.8 per cent of Australia’s net overseas migration over the year to June 2012 (Figure 3.2). While this was similar to the previous year’s share of 19.2 per cent, it was considerably lower than the high of 25.4 per cent achieved in the year to 30 June 2004.

Figure 3.2 Net overseas migration, Queensland, year to 30 June(a)
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.

Comparing data over the past 30 years (1982–83 to 2011–12), net interstate migration was the largest contributor to Queensland's annual population growth from 1987–88 to 1995–96, driving substantial overall population growth during this period. Net interstate migration was again the largest source of annual net gain in 2001–02 to 2004–05, peaking at 37,980 persons in the year to 30 June 2003.

The net annual gain from net interstate migration has since declined to 11,800 in the year to 30 June 2012 (Figure 3.4). The percentage contribution of net interstate migration to Queensland’s annual population growth has declined from 42.5 per cent in 2002–03 to 13.3 per cent in 2011–12.

The net gain from interstate migration in the year to 30 June 2012 was higher than that recorded for the previous 12 months (6,800), with an increase in arrivals (3,540) and a decrease in departures (1,460). Interstate arrivals to Queensland declined by 25.7 per cent from the record level of 119,550 in the year to June 2003, to 88,870 in the year to June 2012. Interstate departures have remained relatively steady over the same period, declining from 81,570 in 2003 to 77,070 in 2012.
3.4 Compared with other states and territories

Queensland’s net interstate migration of 11,800 for the year to 30 June 2012 (around 230 persons 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 (11,090), Victoria (1,200) and Australian Capital Territory (700). The remaining states and territories recorded net interstate migration losses, led by New South Wales (with a net loss of 18,380 persons).

New South Wales and Victoria were the main sources and destinations of Queensland’s interstate arrivals and departures in the year to 30 June 2012. The largest net interstate migration gains were from New South Wales (9,750) followed by Victoria (1,670) and South Australia (1,120) (Figure 3.5). There was a net loss of −2,510 persons from Queensland to Western Australia.

A larger number of Australians moved interstate in the year to 30 June 2012 (339,510) than in the year before (338,390).
3.4.2 Age of interstate migrants

The age profile of Queensland’s interstate migrants in 2011–12 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, persons aged 20-24 years and 25–29 years accounted for 24.9 per cent of all arrivals to Queensland (22,160) and 27.1 per cent of all departures (20,870). In 2011–12 Queensland recorded a net gain of 150 persons aged 25–29 years, compared with net losses recorded for the previous two years\(^5\) (540 in 2010–11 and 150 persons in 2009–10). There were only six instances where any single age category recorded a net loss 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 620 persons aged 65 years and older accounted for just 5.3 per cent of Queensland’s total net migration gain in 2011–12.

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\(^5\) These 2009–10 and 2010–11 age group data have not been rebased to the 2011 Census and do not match net interstate migration data used other sections of the report which have been rebased to the 2011 Census. These data remains based to the 2006 Census and will be subject to finalisation based on the 2011 Census. Data for 2011–12 are preliminary and are also based to the 2006 Census.
Figure 3.6   Interstate migration(a) by age group, Queensland, 2011–12

(a) Estimates of net interstate migration for 2011-12 are preliminary and are based on 2006 Census expansion factors.

Source: ABS 3412.0, Migration, Australia, 2010–11 (Data cube: Net overseas migration, Arrivals and departures, State/territory, age and sex—Calendar and Financial years, 2004 to 2012, released 18 December 2012)
4. Technical notes

The status of ERP data changes over time from preliminary to revised to final as new component data become available. 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.

As mentioned in the introduction, the ABS has revised ERPs from September quarter 1991 to June quarter 2011 for Australia and all states and territories. These estimates reduce the impact of the relatively high intercensal error for 2006–2011 and adjust the undercount in previous years to more closely reflect the adjustments of the improved 2011 PES methodology. Data for September 2011 onwards are preliminary.

Further information on these revisions is available from these articles on the ABS website:

‘Feature article 1: Final rebasing of Australia’s population estimates, September quarter 2006 – June quarter 2011’, *Australian demographic statistics*, Dec 2012 (ABS 3101.0)

‘Feature article 2: Recasting 20 years of ERP’, *Australian demographic statistics*, Dec 2012 (ABS 3101.0)

The ABS will also be releasing sub-state population estimates (totals and age/gender) that will have been rebased using data from the 2011 Census (Table 4.1). Final Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ERP based on the 2011 Census will also be available in August 2013.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Release date</th>
<th>Reference year, version</th>
<th>Geography, estimate type</th>
<th>ABS product</th>
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<td>30 August 2013</td>
<td>Final rebased ERP from 2001 to 2011 and revised for 2012</td>
<td>Sub-state, totals</td>
<td>Regional population growth, Australia 2012 (ABS 3218.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 August 2013</td>
<td>Final rebased ERP from 2001 to 2011 and revised for 2012</td>
<td>Sub-state, age/gender</td>
<td>Population by age and sex, regions of Australia, 2012 (ABS 3235.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 August 2013</td>
<td>Final estimates of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, non-Indigenous and total populations of Australia at 30 June 2011</td>
<td>Various geographies</td>
<td>Estimates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, June 2011 (ABS 3238.0.55.001)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>


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 Government Statistician, Queensland Treasury and Trade reports *Bowen Basin Population Report* and *Surat Basin Population Report* and associated data tables.
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, 2011 (cat. no. 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 Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)

A geographical framework covering all spatial areas of Australia and the external territories. The ASGS was developed by the ABS to allow statistics from different collections to be spatially comparable. The ASGS came into effect in July 2011, replacing the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC). The 2012 edition of the ASGS 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.

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

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.

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, citizenship or legal status, 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 discrepancy

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 take account of information available from the latest census. Intercensal discrepancy is determined once rebasing is complete, and is the difference between final ERP and the final updated components of ERP.

Intercensal error

The difference between two estimates at 30 June of a census year population, the first based on the latest census (the ‘rebased’ estimate) 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 (the ‘unrebased’ estimate).

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 (NIM)

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 ABS 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, regardless of nationality, citizenship or legal status, 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, gender and state of usual residence), net undercount is the result of census undercount, overcount, misclassification and imputation error.

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.