



# Population growth highlights and trends, Queensland, 2015 edition

**Queensland Government Statistician's Office**

Queensland Treasury

<http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au>

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## Summary

### Queensland's population continued to grow

Queensland's population at 30 June 2014 was estimated at 4,722,450 persons, an increase of 70,540 persons from June 2013. This was the third largest population increase of any Australian state or territory over this period after New South Wales (109,140 persons) and Victoria (106,660 persons).

### Queensland's population growth rate eased

Queensland's annual population growth rate in 2013–14 was 1.5 per cent, down from 1.8 per cent in 2012–13. This was the third highest growth rate after Western Australia (2.2 per cent) and Victoria (1.9 per cent), and just below the national average of 1.6 per cent.

### Natural increase was the largest contributor to Queensland's population growth

Natural increase contributed 34,510 persons to Queensland's population in 2013–14, the result of an estimated 62,350 births and 27,840 deaths registered during the year. Natural increase accounted for 48.9 per cent of Queensland's total population growth over this period, ahead of net overseas migration (42.9 per cent) and net interstate migration (8.2 per cent).

### Net overseas migration to Queensland declined

Net overseas migration to Queensland for the year to 30 June 2014 was estimated at 30,270 persons, due to 87,250 overseas arrivals and 56,980 overseas departures. This was 9,710 persons lower than the previous year's estimate of 39,980 persons, and close to half that recorded when net overseas migration peaked in 2008–09 (59,320 persons).

### Queensland's net overseas migration continues to slow population ageing

Overseas migrants to and from Queensland tend to have a young age profile, with nearly eight in ten persons gained through net overseas migration in 2013–14 aged 0–29 years (77.9 per cent). The largest gain was in the 20–24 years age group (7,900 persons or 26.1 per cent). This had the effect of slowing the rate of population ageing in Queensland relative to that which would have occurred without this net migration gain.

### Queensland's net interstate migration reached record low levels

Net interstate migration to Queensland is at its lowest level in 10 years, with a net gain of 5,750 persons in the year to 30 June 2014 (the result of 88,320 interstate arrivals and 82,570 interstate departures). Queensland lost population to Victoria and Western Australia, but recorded a net gain of interstate migrants from every other state and territory over this period.

## 1. Introduction

*Population growth highlights and trends, Queensland 2015* provides an overview of Queensland's population growth at the state level for the 10 years to 2013–14.

Section 2 provides an overview of Queensland's recent population growth and its changing age structure. Historical analyses of trends in the size and rate of change in Queensland's estimated resident population (ERP) and comparisons with other states and territories are included here.

Section 3 examines in detail the three components of population change in Queensland: natural increase, net overseas migration and net interstate migration. This section also includes analysis of the age of overseas and interstate migrants.

Population data used in this publication were the most recent available at the time of preparation and have been sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publication *Australian demographic statistics*, June 2014 (ABS 3101.0), with supporting data from *Migration, Australia, 2013–14* (ABS 3412.0).

Users should be aware that the status of ERP data changes over time from preliminary to revised to final as new component data become available. See the technical notes for further details regarding the status of these data. Complete accuracy of ERP figures is not claimed by the ABS and should not be assumed.

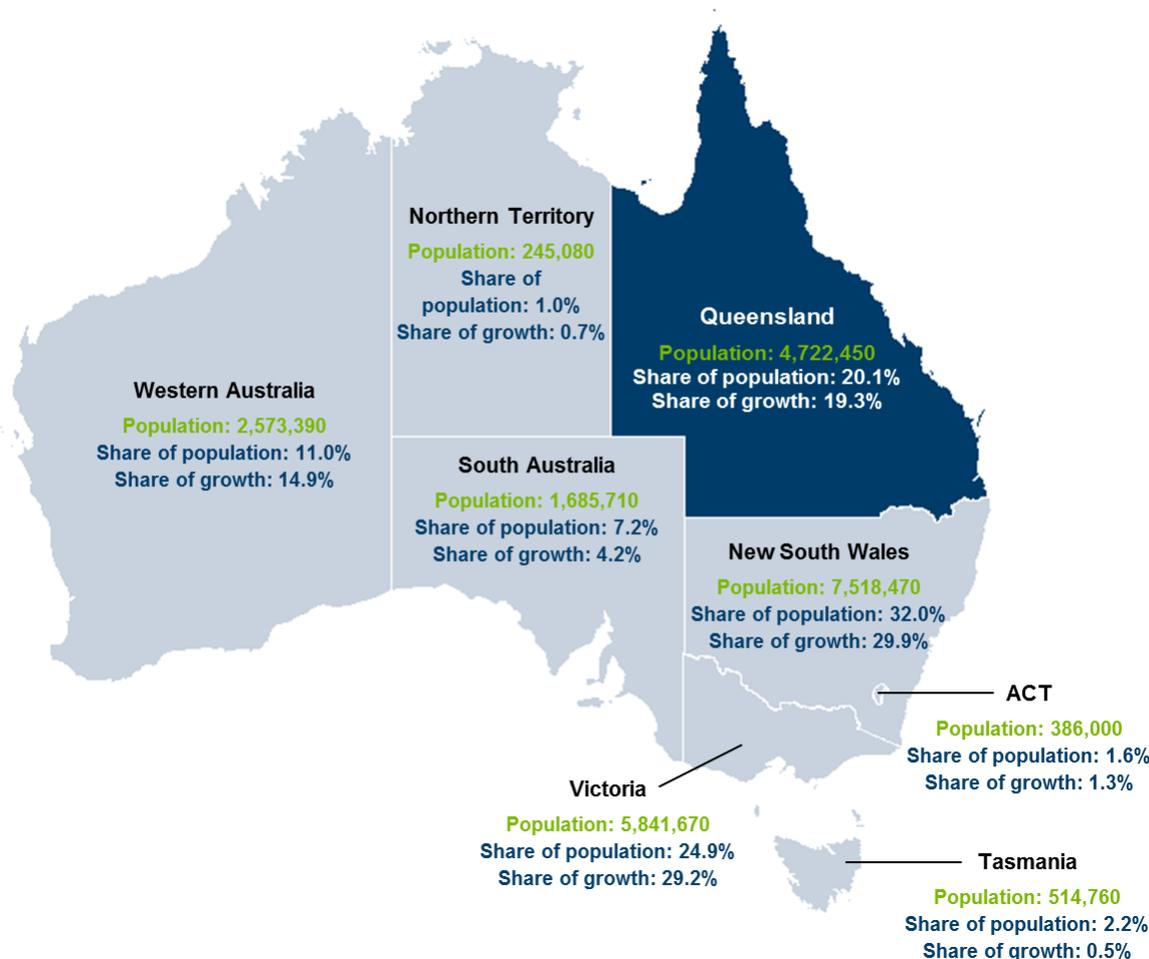
A range of data tables to support this publication are available on the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO) website (<http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au>).

## 2. Queensland's changing population

### 2.1 Snapshot

At 30 June 2014, Queensland's preliminary ERP was 4,722,450 persons, accounting for 20.1 per cent of Australia's total population of 23,490,740 persons (Figure 2.1). Queensland was Australia's third largest state by population behind New South Wales (7,518,470 persons) and Victoria (5,841,670 persons).

Figure 2.1 Estimated resident population, 30 June 2014, and growth, year to 30 June 2014



Population figures are rounded to the nearest 10; see technical notes for details.

Source: ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*, June 2014

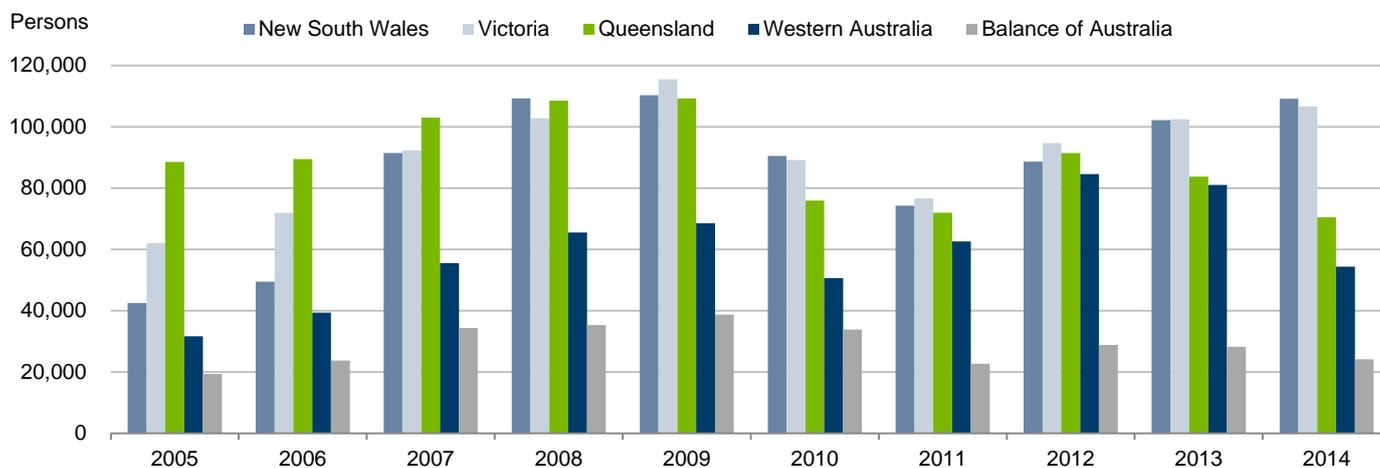
### 2.2 Absolute population change

Queensland's population increase of 70,540 persons in the year to 30 June 2014 was the third largest increase of any state or territory after New South Wales (109,140 persons) and Victoria (106,660 persons). Western Australia (54,380 persons) recorded the fourth largest increase.

Figure 2.2 shows trends in annual population growth for the four largest states in Australia during the 10 years to 30 June 2014. Queensland experienced particularly strong growth over the five years to June 2009, before a subsequent moderation in growth over the five years to June 2014. New South Wales and

Victoria, which also recorded notable growth over the five years to June 2009, have continued to increase following a slowing in growth in 2009–10 and 2010–11. Annual population growth in Western Australia peaked at 84,590 in 2011–12 and remained above 80,000 persons in 2012–13, but has since declined.

**Figure 2.2 Annual population change, year to 30 June**



Source: ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*, June 2014

Australia's population grew by an average of 355,800 persons per year over the 10 years to 30 June 2014. Queensland accounted for 25.1 per cent of that growth, the second largest contribution of any state or territory after Victoria (25.7 per cent) and ahead of New South Wales (24.4 per cent). Together, the three largest states, New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, accounted for around three-quarters (75.2 per cent) of national population growth over this period.

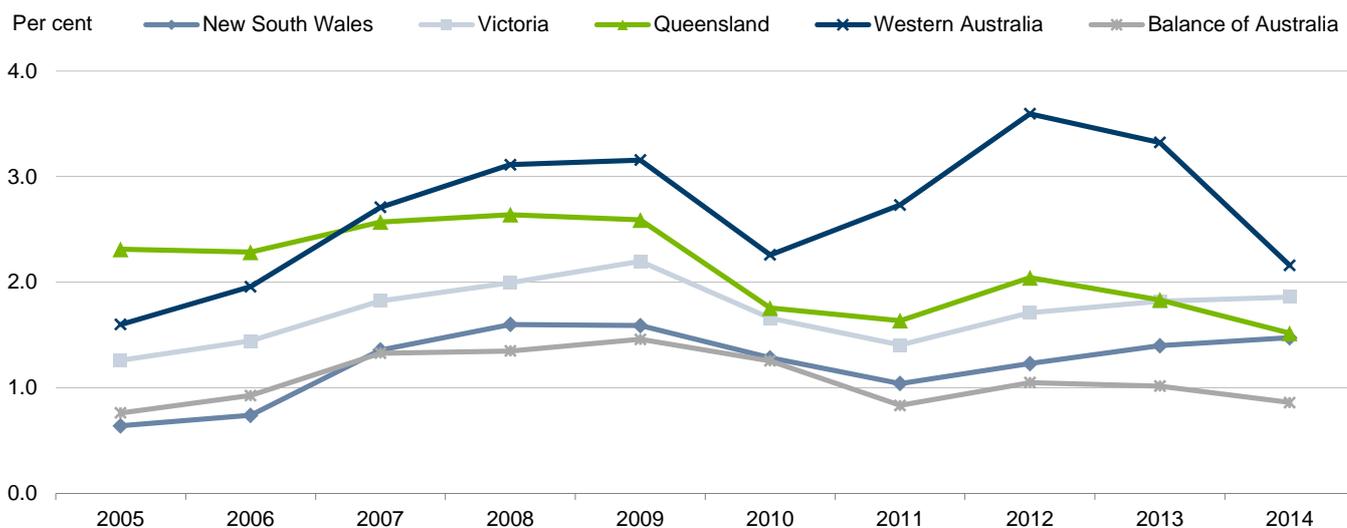
### 2.3 Rate of population change

Queensland's population growth rate for the year to 30 June 2014 was 1.5 per cent, down from 1.8 per cent the previous year (Figure 2.3). This was the third highest growth rate of any Australian state or territory over this period and just below the national average of 1.6 per cent. Western Australia (2.2 per cent) recorded the fastest annual growth rate in 2013–14, followed by Victoria (1.9 per cent), with New South Wales equalling Queensland at 1.5 per cent. Growth rates in both Queensland and Western Australia have trended downwards since 2011–12, while those in New South Wales and Victoria have increased gradually.

Queensland's average annual growth rate over the 10 years to 30 June 2014 was 2.1 per cent, above the Australian average of 1.7 per cent and surpassed only by Western Australia (2.7 per cent). The relatively high rate of population growth in these states over this period can be partly attributed to the influence of the resource industry<sup>1</sup>. Peak annual growth in Queensland during this time occurred in the years to 30 June 2007, 2008 and 2009 (2.6 per cent).

<sup>1</sup> See [Employment and mining in Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia](#), ABS 6202.0, Labour Force, Australia, May 2012.

**Figure 2.3 Annual population growth rate, year to 30 June**

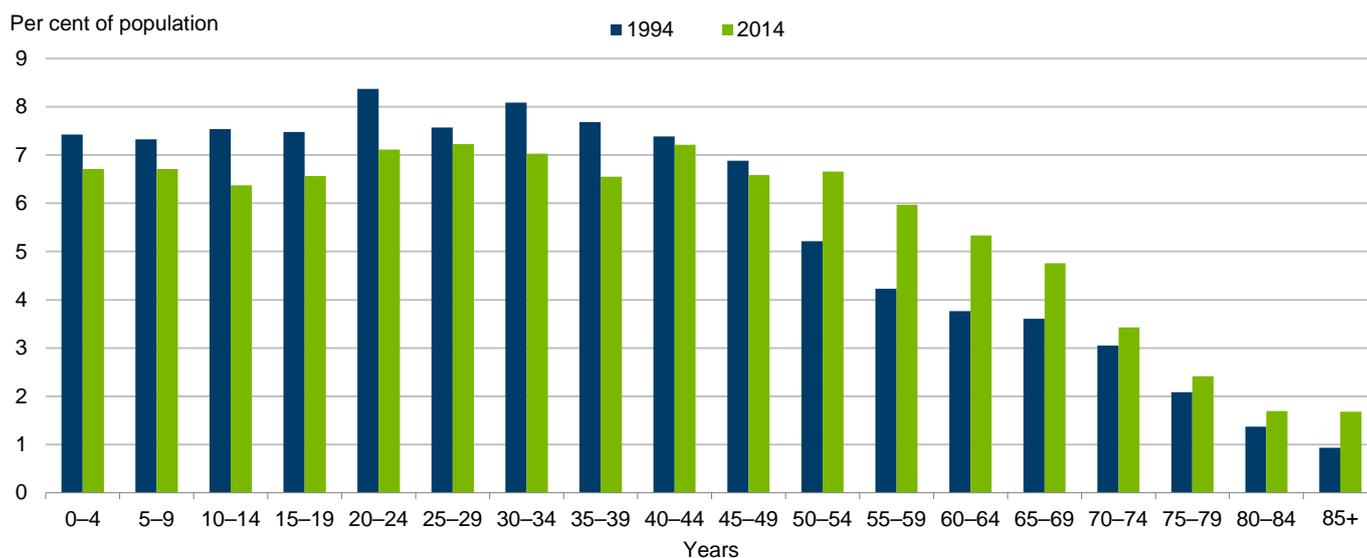


Source: ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*, June 2014

## 2.4 Age structure of the Queensland population

In line with 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. The ageing of Queensland's population is illustrated by the change in distribution of the population by five-year age groups over the 20 year period to 30 June 2014 in Figure 2.4.

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



Source: ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*, June 2014

As at 30 June 2014, there were proportionally fewer persons in each five-year age group up to 45–49 years of age compared with 20 years ago. At 30 June 1994, the 20–24 year age group comprised the largest proportion of the population at 8.4 per cent. By 30 June 2014, persons aged 25–29 years and 40–44 years were the largest groups proportionally (both 7.2 per cent). While the overall share of the population aged 15–64 years (the working-age population) remained relatively stable between 1994 and 2014 (at 66.7 per cent and 66.2 per cent respectively), the proportion of the population aged 65 years or older increased from 11.0 per cent to 14.0 per cent over this period.

The increase in the older age groups is also influenced by increasing length of life. For example, the expected remaining years of life for Queenslanders aged 65 years in 2013 was 19.0 years for males and 22.1 years for females, up from 17.7 years and 21.0 years for males and females respectively in 2003<sup>2</sup>.

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 32.4 years at 30 June 1994, increasing to 36.2 years at 30 June 2014<sup>3</sup>. Queensland's net overseas 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 gain.

<sup>2</sup> ABS 3302.0, *Deaths, Australia*, 2013.

<sup>3</sup> ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*, June 2014.

### 3. Components of population change

#### 3.1 Overview

Population change at the 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 2014 (Table 3.1).

Natural increase contributed the largest share of Queensland's growth in 2013–14 (34,510 persons or 48.9 per cent of total growth). Net overseas migration accounted for 30,270 persons, or 42.9 per cent of total growth, while net interstate migration made the smallest contribution, with 5,750 persons or 8.2 per cent of total growth.

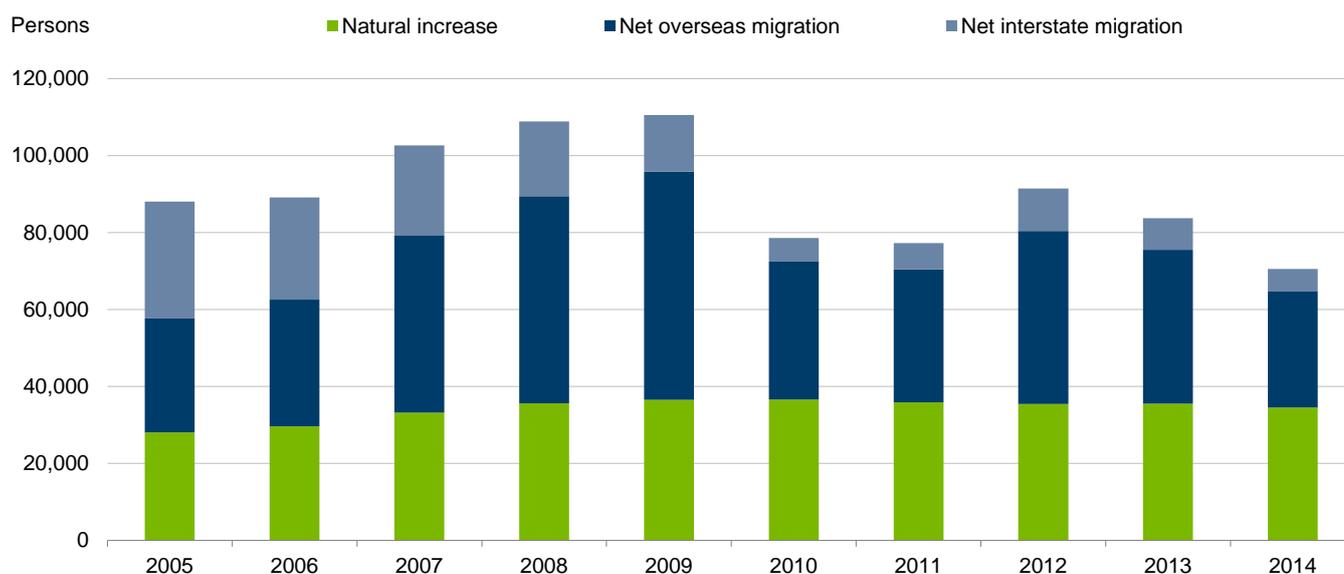
**Table 3.1** Components of population change, Queensland, year to 30 June 2014

Queensland	persons
<b>Estimated resident population at 30 June 2013</b>	<b>4,651,910</b>
Births	62,350
Deaths	-27,840
<b>Natural increase</b>	<b>34,510</b>
Overseas arrivals	87,250
Overseas departures	-56,980
<b>Net overseas migration</b>	<b>30,270</b>
Interstate arrivals	88,320
Interstate departures	-82,570
<b>Net interstate migration</b>	<b>5,750</b>
<b>Estimated resident population at 30 June 2014</b>	<b>4,722,450</b>

See technical notes for details on the status of component data.

Source: ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*, June 2014; ABS 3412.0, *Migration*, Australia, 2013–14

The contribution to Queensland's population growth by each component has changed notably over the 10 years to 30 June 2014 (Figure 3.1). Net migration from overseas and interstate have shown more volatility in numbers than natural increase. Increasing net overseas migration drove strong growth over the five years to June 2009, offsetting a decline in net interstate migration over this period. Natural increase also increased over the same five years, although less substantially. Both net overseas and interstate migration have fallen considerably since 2008–09, while natural increase has remained relatively stable, resulting in lower overall levels of population growth for much of the five years to June 2014.

**Figure 3.1 Components of population change, Queensland, year to 30 June**

Source: ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*, June 2014

### 3.2 Natural increase

Natural increase is calculated as registered births minus deaths for any given period, using year of registration for preliminary data and year of occurrence for both revised and final data. Natural increase contributed 34,510 persons to Queensland's population in 2013–14, the result of 62,350 births and 27,840 deaths registered during the year. This figure was around 1,000 persons lower than the previous year's count of 35,530 persons. Queensland recorded the third highest level of natural increase of any Australian state or territory in 2013–14 behind New South Wales (42,690 persons), and Victoria (38,520 persons), and accounted for 23.0 per cent of the national level of natural increase over this period.

As noted above, natural increase figures were relatively stable in comparison with the other components of population growth. The level of annual natural increase grew from 28,065 persons in 2004–05 to reach 36,600 persons in 2009–10, before falling slightly to 34,510 persons in 2013–14. Natural increase has accounted for a greater proportion of Queensland's total population growth over the past five years due to lower net migration levels. Close to half (48.9 per cent) of Queensland's total population growth in 2013–14 was due to natural increase, compared with less than one-third (31.9 per cent) in 2004–05.

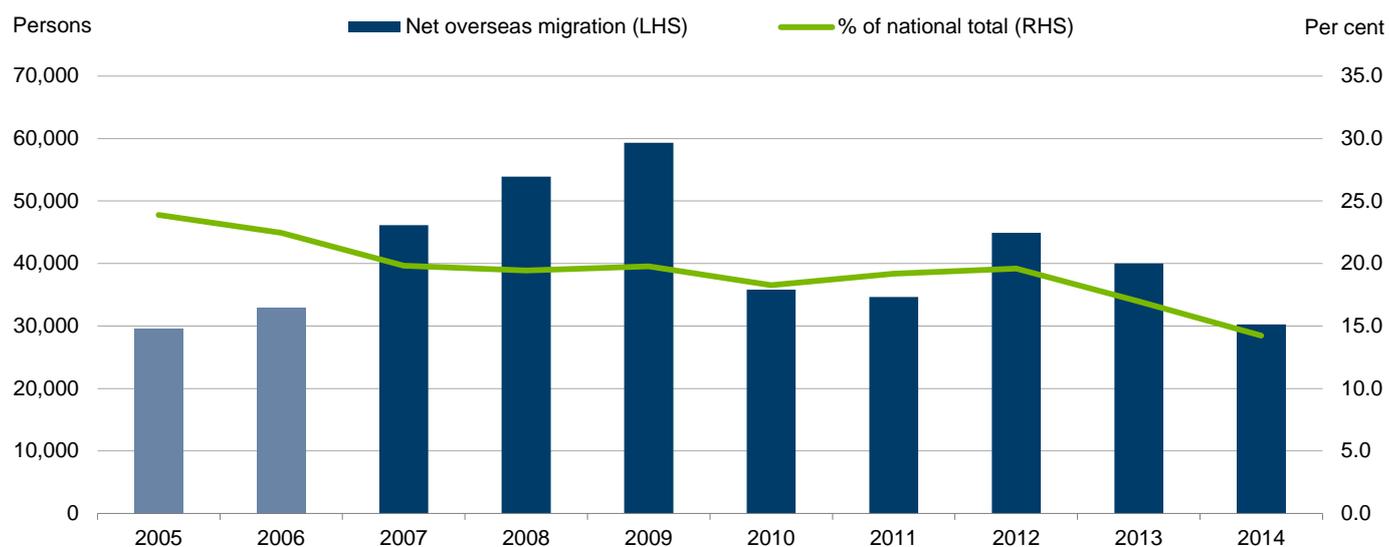
### 3.3 Net overseas migration

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, 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 to Queensland for the year to 30 June 2014 was estimated at 30,270 persons. This was 9,710 persons lower than the previous year's estimate of 39,980 persons. Queensland recorded the fourth highest level of net overseas migration in the year to 30 June 2014 behind New South Wales (73,300 persons), Victoria (59,360 persons) and Western Australia (32,270 persons). Both New South Wales and Victoria experienced an increase in net overseas migration in 2013–14 compared with 2012–13 (an additional 6,330 persons and 2,270 persons respectively), while net overseas migration to Western Australia declined substantially (19,360 fewer persons).

Queensland's level of net overseas migration in 2013–14 was close to half (–49.0 per cent) that recorded at its peak in 2008–09 (59,320 persons) (Figure 3.2). Australia's net overseas migration also peaked in 2008–09 (299,870 persons), and has since fallen to 212,700 persons in 2013–14 (–29.1 per cent). Queensland's share of Australia's net overseas migration has remained relatively stable for much of the past 10 years, at between 18 and 20 per cent from 2006–07 to 2011–12, before declining to 14 per cent in 2013–14.

**Figure 3.2 Net overseas migration, Queensland, year to 30 June**



There is a break in the net overseas migration data series between 2005–06 and 2006–07 (see technical notes for details). Data are shaded differently to make this distinction.

Source: ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*, June 2014

In the year to 30 June 2014, an estimated 87,250 persons arrived from overseas to live in Queensland and 56,980 persons departed Queensland to live overseas. The number of overseas arrivals decreased from 2012–13 to 2013–14 (6,940 fewer arrivals), while the number of departures over the same period increased (2,770 more departures), resulting in a lower net overseas migration gain in 2013–14 than in 2012–13.

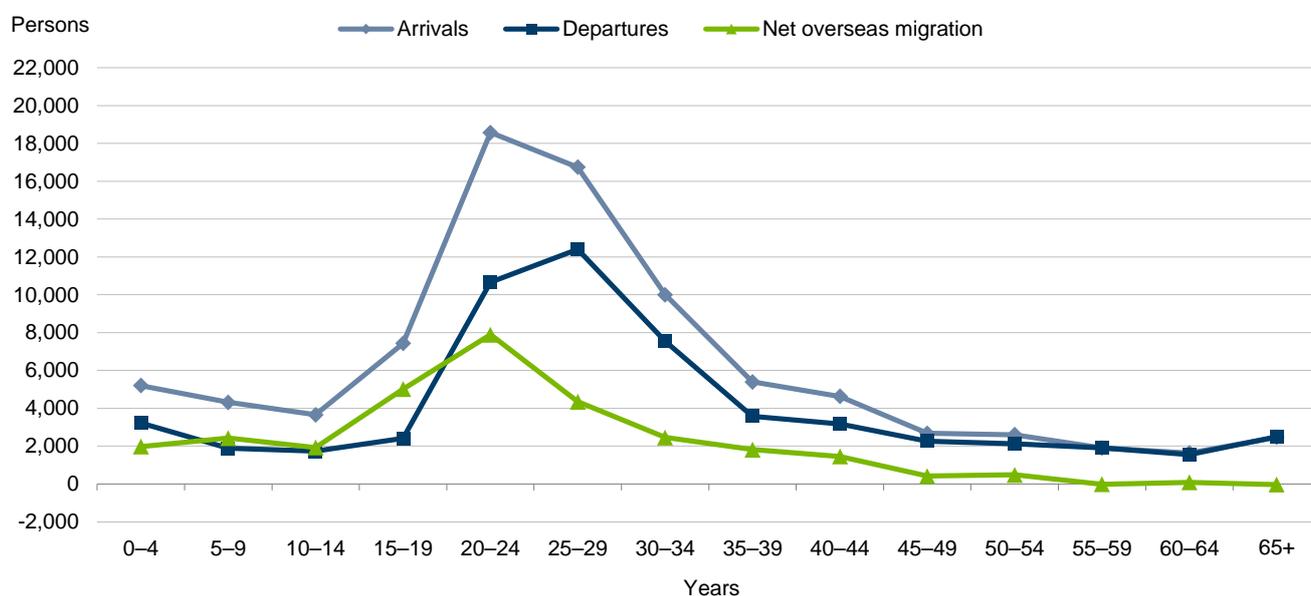
Net overseas migration has generally been the largest contributor to Queensland's population growth since 2005–06, with the exception of the years to 30 June 2010, 2011 and 2014, when net overseas migration was surpassed by the contribution from natural increase.

### 3.3.1 Age of overseas migrants

Overseas migrants to and from Queensland tend to have a young age profile, with the largest numbers of both arrivals and departures aged 20–29 years (Figure 3.3). Preliminary estimates for the year to 30 June 2014 indicate that net overseas migration to Queensland was largest in the 20–24 year age group (7,900 persons), accounting for more than one-quarter of the state's net overseas migration gain (26.1 per cent).

Nearly eight in ten persons gained through net overseas migration in 2013–14 were aged 0–29 years (77.9 per cent). This had the effect of slowing the rate of population ageing in Queensland relative to that which would have occurred in the absence of this net migration gain.

**Figure 3.3 Overseas migration by age group, Queensland, 2013–14**



Source: ABS 3412.0, *Migration, Australia*, 2013–14

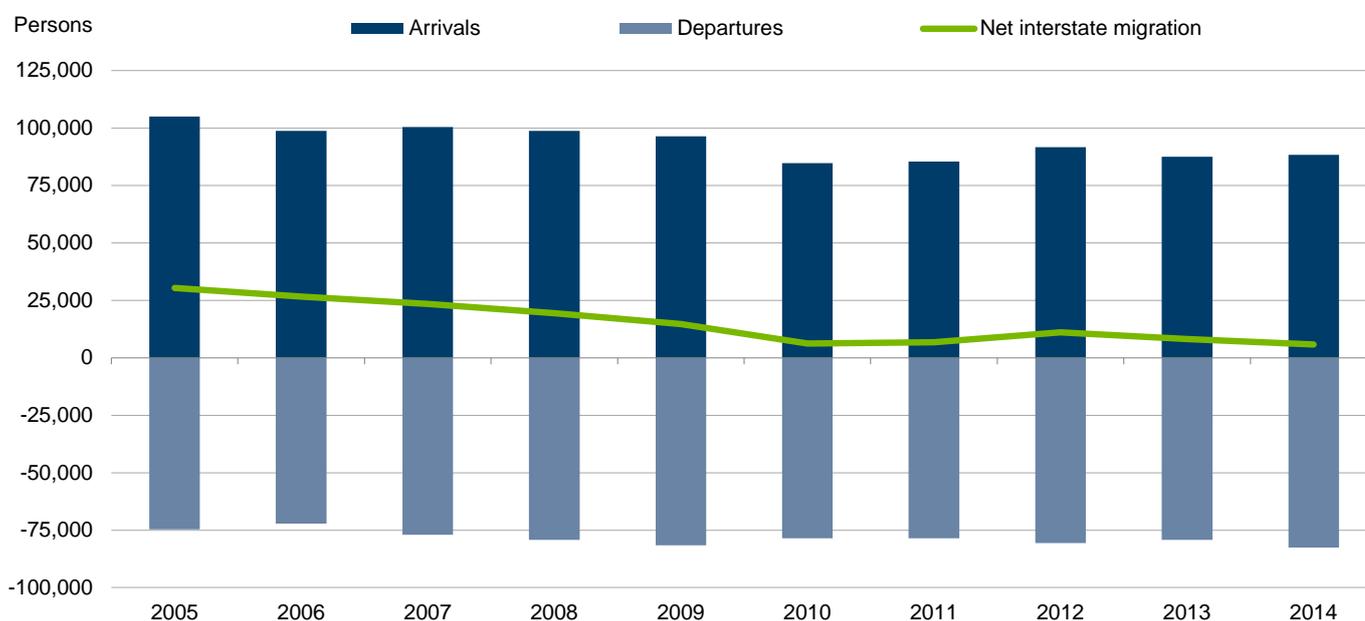
### 3.4 Net interstate migration

Net interstate migration reflects the estimated change to Queensland's population as people move to and from other states and territories. Queensland's net interstate migration gain for the year to 30 June 2014 was 5,750 persons. An estimated 88,320 persons arrived from interstate to live in Queensland and 82,570 persons departed Queensland to live interstate over this period (Figure 3.4). There were 930 more interstate arrivals and 3,380 more interstate departures than the previous year, resulting in a lower net interstate migration gain in 2013–14 than in 2012–13 (2,440 fewer persons).

Net interstate migration has declined substantially over the past 10 years, with Queensland's net interstate migration gain in 2013–14 around 24,620 persons lower than the 2004–05 level (30,370 persons). Net interstate migration as a share of total population growth has decreased considerably as a result. Previously the largest component of growth (accounting for 34.5 per cent of growth in 2004–05), it has

made the smallest contribution to Queensland's total population growth each year since 2005–06, accounting for just 8.2 per cent in 2013–14.

**Figure 3.4 Interstate migration flows, Queensland, year to 30 June**



Source: ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*, June 2014

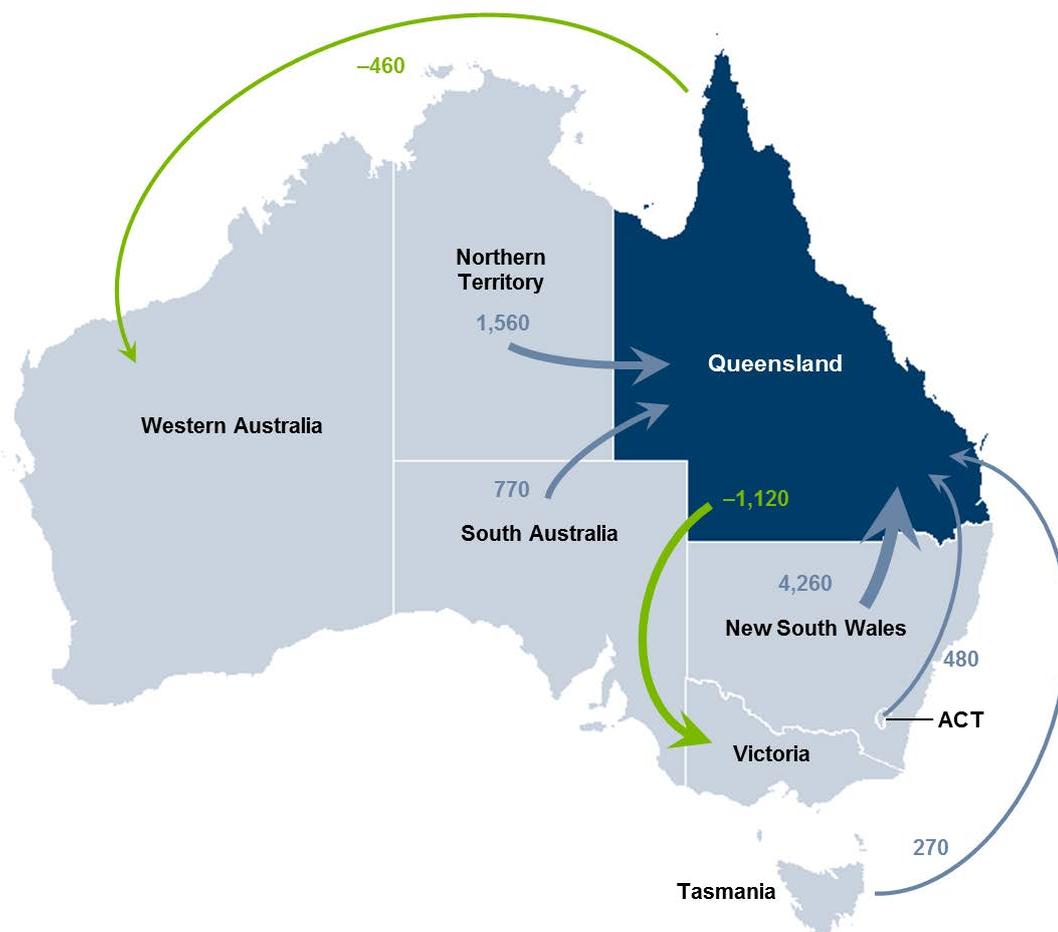
### 3.4.1 Compared with other states and territories

Queensland's net interstate migration gain of 5,750 persons for the year to 30 June 2014 (around 110 persons per week on average) was the second largest in Australia after Victoria (8,780 persons). Western Australia recorded a smaller net interstate migration gain of 1,050 persons. All other states and territories recorded net interstate migration losses, led by New South Wales with a net loss of 6,860 persons.

Queensland has historically had the highest net interstate migration levels of any Australian state or territory. In each of the three years to 30 June 2013, Queensland recorded the second highest level of net interstate migration after Western Australia and, more recently, after Victoria (year to 30 June 2014). Despite net interstate migration levels falling to a record low in 2013–14, Queensland remains the only state or territory to have recorded a net population gain from interstate migration each year since June 1981.

With the exception of Victoria and Western Australia, Queensland recorded a net gain of interstate migrants from every state and territory in 2013–14 (Figure 3.5). The largest net gain was from New South Wales (4,260 persons), followed by the Northern Territory (1,560 persons). Queensland recorded a notable net loss of 1,120 persons to Victoria, with a smaller net loss to Western Australia (460 persons).

Overall, a higher number of interstate moves occurred in the year to 30 June 2014 (349,030 moves) than in the previous year (340,590 moves).

**Figure 3.5 Net interstate migration, Queensland, year to 30 June 2014**

Source: ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*, June 2014

### 3.4.2 Age of interstate migrants

The age profile of Queensland's interstate migrants in 2013–14 is shown in Figure 3.6. It highlights the large number of younger people moving to and from Queensland.

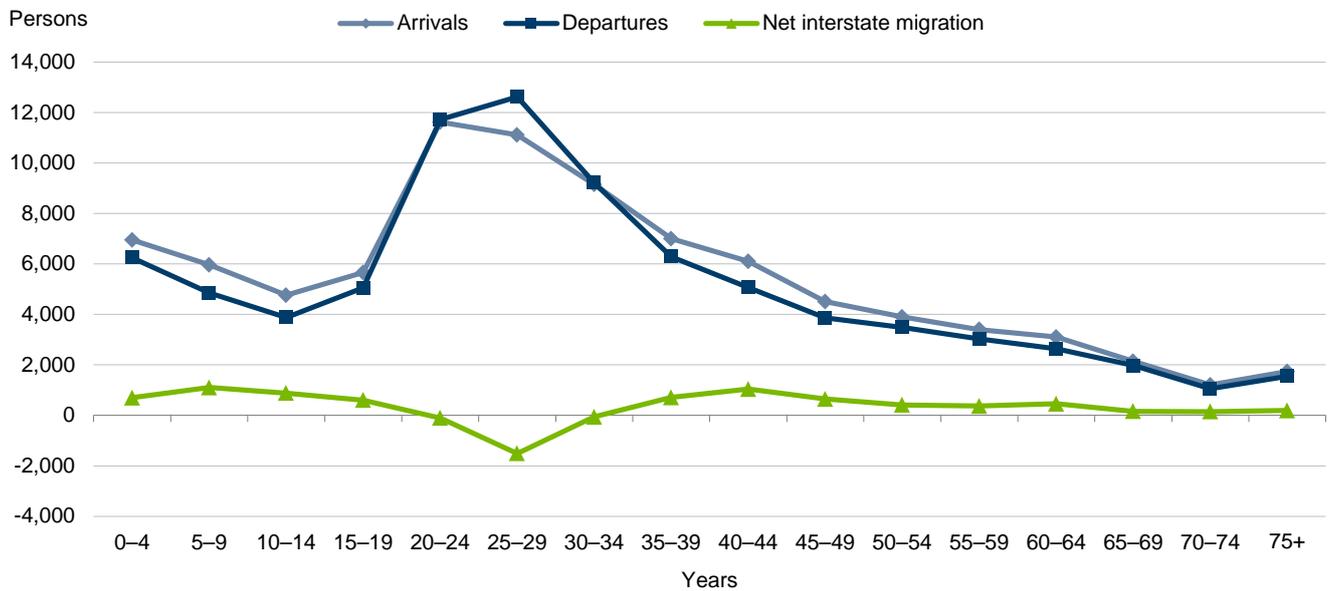
The age profile of those arriving in Queensland from interstate in 2013–14 was very similar to those departing. Young adults in their twenties dominated both arrivals and departures. Together, persons aged 20–24 years and 25–29 years accounted for 25.7 per cent of all arrivals to Queensland (22,730 persons) and 29.5 per cent of all departures (24,350 persons).

Queensland recorded a net loss of 1,510 persons aged 25–29 years, the largest net loss by age group in 2013–14. It is the only age group to have recorded net losses from interstate migration every year for the past five years. The 20–24 year and 30–34 year age groups also recorded net interstate migration losses in 2013–14 (110 persons and 60 persons respectively).

The age groups with the highest net gains from interstate migration in Queensland in 2013–14 were children aged 5–9 years and persons aged 40–44 years (1,100 and 1,040 persons respectively).

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 500 persons aged 65 years and over accounted for 8.7 per cent of Queensland's total net migration gain in 2013–14.

**Figure 3.6 Interstate migration by age group, Queensland, 2013–14**



Source: ABS 3412.0, *Migration, Australia*, 2013–14

## Technical notes

Population data used in this publication were the most recent available at the time of preparation and have been sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publication *Australian demographic statistics*, June 2014 (ABS 3101.0), with supporting data from *Migration, Australia, 2013–14* (ABS 3412.0).

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. Complete accuracy of ERP figures is not claimed by the ABS and should not be assumed.

All ERPs and component data up to and including June 2011 are final. ERPs for June 2012 are revised. ERPs for June 2013 and June 2014 are preliminary, to be revised in future issues of ABS 3101.0. The ABS has rebased ERPs up to June quarter 2011; see QGSO's [Population growth highlights and trends, Queensland 2014](#) for further information.

Natural increase data for September quarter 2011 to June quarter 2013 are revised. Data for September quarter 2013 to June quarter 2014 are preliminary (based on date of registration).

Net overseas migration data for September quarter 2011 to March quarter 2013 are revised. Data for June quarter 2013 to June quarter 2014 are preliminary (based on modelled traveller behaviour). Estimates for the September quarter 2006 onwards use an improved methodology based on the '12/16 month rule' and are not directly comparable with estimates from earlier periods.

Net interstate migration data for September quarter 2011 to June quarter 2014 are preliminary (modelled expansion factors based on 2011 Census).

For years prior to 2011–12, the sum of the components of population change does not equal the change in ERP over the year due to intercensal discrepancy. For further details on ERPs and component data, refer to the [explanatory notes](#), ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*, June 2014.

Figures included in the text, tables and maps throughout this report are rounded to the nearest 10, although all calculations and percentages are based on unrounded data. As a result of rounding, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

A range of supporting data tables are available on the QGSO website (<http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au>).

## Glossary

### 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.

### 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.

### 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 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 Border Protection 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.