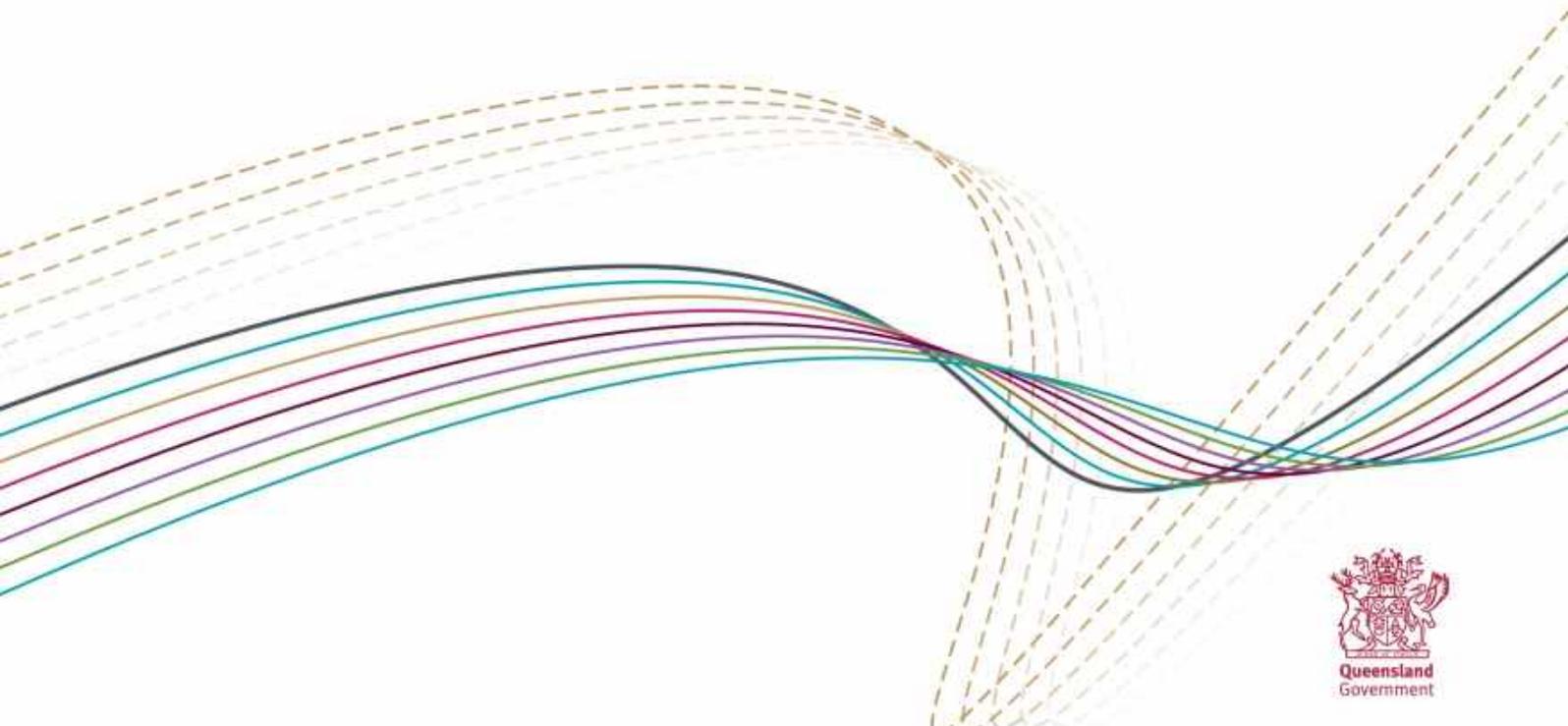


QUEENSLAND TREASURY

Population growth highlights and trends, Queensland, 2016 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 2015 was estimated at 4,780,700 persons, an increase of 60,770 persons from June 2014. This was the third largest population increase of any Australian state or territory over this period after New South Wales (106,020 persons) and Victoria (102,830 persons).

Queensland's population growth rate eased

Queensland's annual population growth rate in 2014–15 was 1.3 per cent, down from 1.5 per cent in 2013–14. This was the fifth highest growth rate of any Australian state or territory over this period and below the national average of 1.4 per cent, which was the slowest rate of growth for the nation since 2010–11.

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

Natural increase contributed 33,440 persons to Queensland's population in 2014–15, the result of an estimated 62,910 births and 29,470 deaths registered during the year. Natural increase accounted for 55.0 per cent of Queensland's total population growth over this period, ahead of net overseas migration (34.4 per cent) and net interstate migration (10.6 per cent).

Net overseas migration to Queensland declined

Net overseas migration to Queensland for the year to 30 June 2015 was estimated at 20,920 persons, due to 80,690 overseas arrivals and 59,770 overseas departures. This was 6,270 persons lower than the previous year's estimate of 27,190 persons and close to a third of 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 over eight in ten persons gained through net overseas migration in 2014–15 aged 0–29 years (83.7 per cent). The largest gain was in the 20–24 years age group (6,510 persons or 31.1 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 increased

Net interstate migration to Queensland in 2014–15 (6,420 persons) was higher than in 2013–14 (5,750 persons). With the exception of Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania, Queensland recorded a net gain of interstate migrants from all other jurisdictions in 2014–15.



1.0 Introduction

Population growth highlights and trends, Queensland, 2016 edition provides an overview of Queensland's population growth at the state level for the 10 years to 2014–15.

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 ABS publication *Australian demographic statistics*, December 2015 (ABS 3101.0), with supporting data from *Migration, Australia, 2014–15* (ABS 3412.0). Regional population information has also been sourced from *Regional population growth, Australia, 2014–15* (ABS 3218.0).

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.

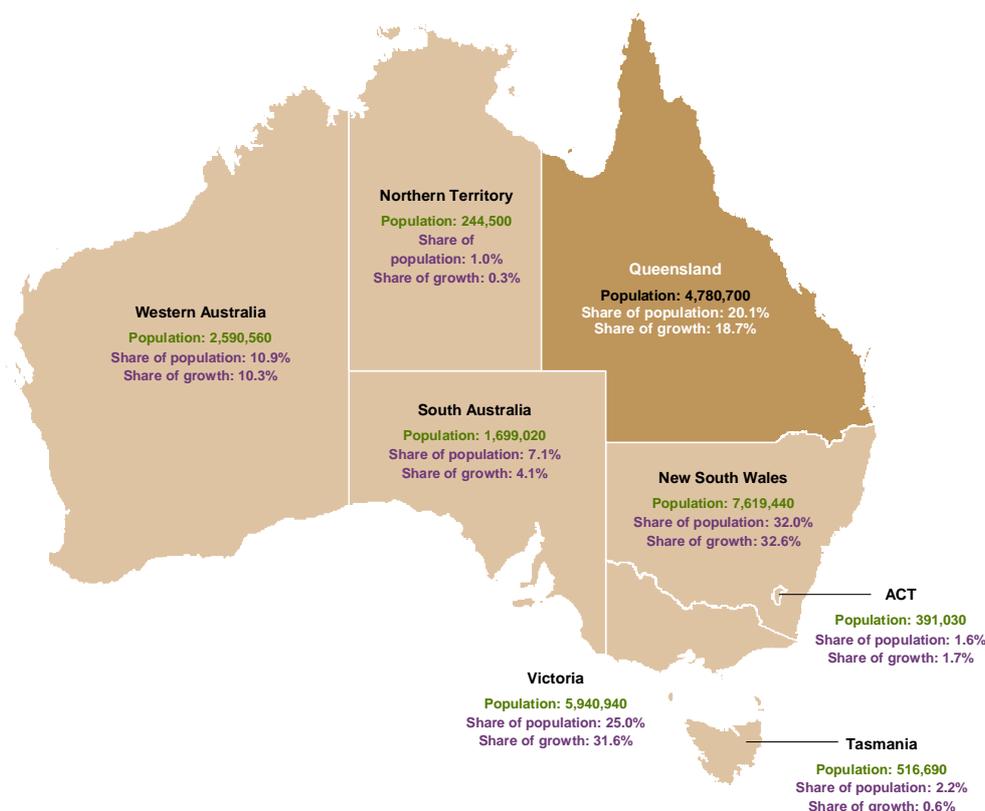
A range of data tables to support this publication are available on the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO) website (<http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au>).

2.0 Queensland's changing population

2.1. Snapshot

At 30 June 2015, Queensland's preliminary ERP was 4,780,700 persons, accounting for 20.1 per cent of Australia's total population of 23,786,120 persons (Figure 2.1). Queensland was Australia's third largest state by population behind New South Wales (7,619,440 persons) and Victoria (5,940,940 persons).

Figure 2.1 Estimated resident population, 30 June 2015, and growth^(a), year to 30 June 2015



(a) Each state and territory's ERP as a share of national population and national growth.

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

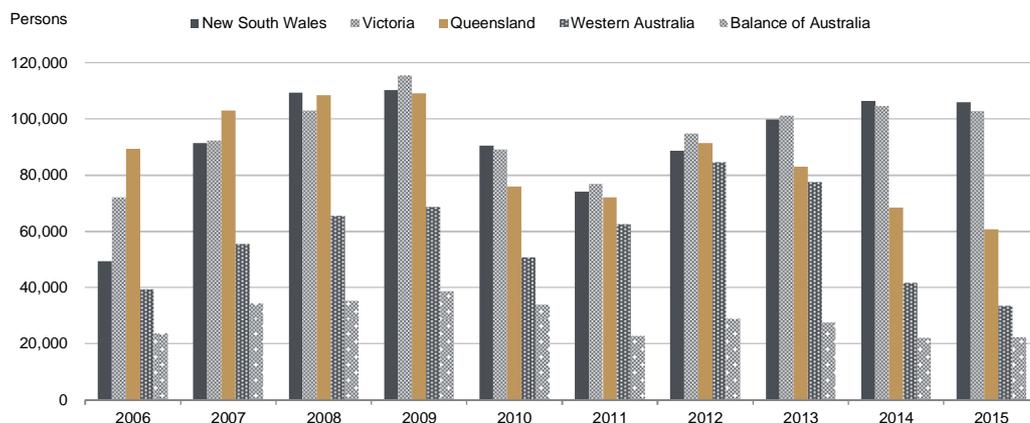
Source: ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*, December 2015

2.2. Absolute population change

Queensland's population increase of 60,770 persons in the year to 30 June 2015 was the third largest increase of any state or territory after New South Wales (106,020 persons) and Victoria (102,830 persons). Western Australia (33,520 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 2015. Queensland experienced particularly strong growth over the three years to June 2009 (106,930 additional persons per annum on average), before a subsequent moderation in growth over the six years to June 2015 (75,320 additional persons per annum on average). New South Wales and Victoria, which also recorded notable growth over the three 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 77,000 persons in 2012–13, but has since moderated.

Figure 2.2 Annual population change, year to 30 June



Source: ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*, December 2015

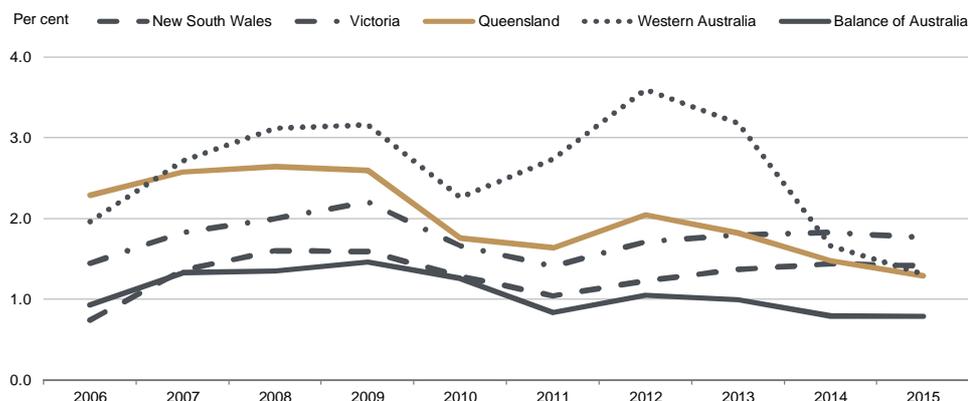
Australia's population grew by an average of 360,930 persons per year over the 10 years to 30 June 2015. Queensland accounted for 23.9 per cent of that growth, the third largest contribution of any state or territory after Victoria (26.4 per cent) and New South Wales (25.7 per cent). Together, the three most populous states, New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, accounted for around three-quarters (75.9 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 2015 was 1.3 per cent, down from 1.5 per cent the previous year (Figure 2.3). This was the fifth highest growth rate of any Australian state or territory over this period and below the national average of 1.4 per cent, which was the slowest rate of growth for the nation since 2010–11. Victoria (1.8 per cent) recorded the fastest annual growth rate in 2014–15, followed by Australian Capital Territory (1.5 per cent), New South Wales (1.4 per cent), and Western Australia (1.3 per cent¹).

Queensland's average annual growth rate over the 10 years to 30 June 2015 was 2.0 per cent, above the Australian average of 1.7 per cent and surpassed only by Western Australia (2.6 per cent). Peak annual growth in Queensland during this time occurred in the years to 30 June 2007, 2008 and 2009 (2.6 per cent). The relatively high rate of population growth in these states over this period can be partly attributed to the influence of the resources industry². Growth rates in both Queensland and Western Australia have trended downwards since 2011–12, while those in New South Wales and Victoria have remained largely unchanged since 2012–13.

Figure 2.3 Annual population growth rate, year to 30 June



Source: ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*, December 2015

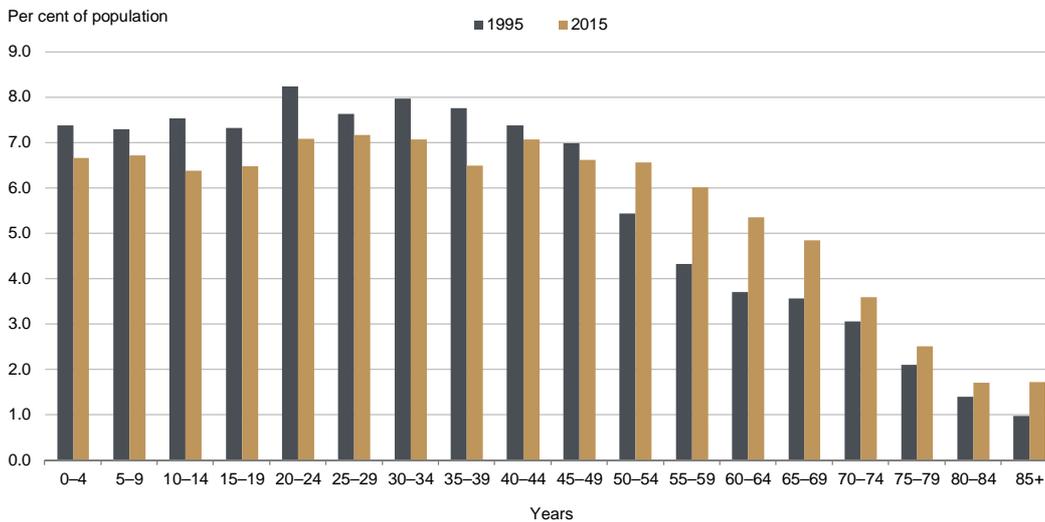
¹ Rounded from 1.31 per cent, fractionally above Queensland's 1.29 per cent.

² See 'Employment and mining in Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia', ABS 6202.0, *Labour force, Australia*, May 2012.

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 2015 in Figure 2.4.

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



Source: ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*, December 2015

At 30 June 2015, 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 1995, the 20–24 year age group comprised the largest proportion of the population at 8.2 per cent. By 30 June 2015, persons aged 25–29 years were the largest group proportionally (7.2 per cent). While the overall share of the population aged 15–64 years (the working-age population) decreased slightly between 1995 and 2015 (from 66.7 per cent to 65.9 per cent), the proportion of the population aged 65 years or older increased from 11.1 per cent to 14.4 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 2014 was 19.2 years for males and 22.1 years for females, up from 17.8 years and 21.1 years for males and females respectively in 2004³.

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 32.7 years at 30 June 1995, increasing to 36.3 years at 30 June 2015⁴. 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.

³ ABS 3302.0, *Deaths, Australia*, 2014.

⁴ ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*, December 2015.

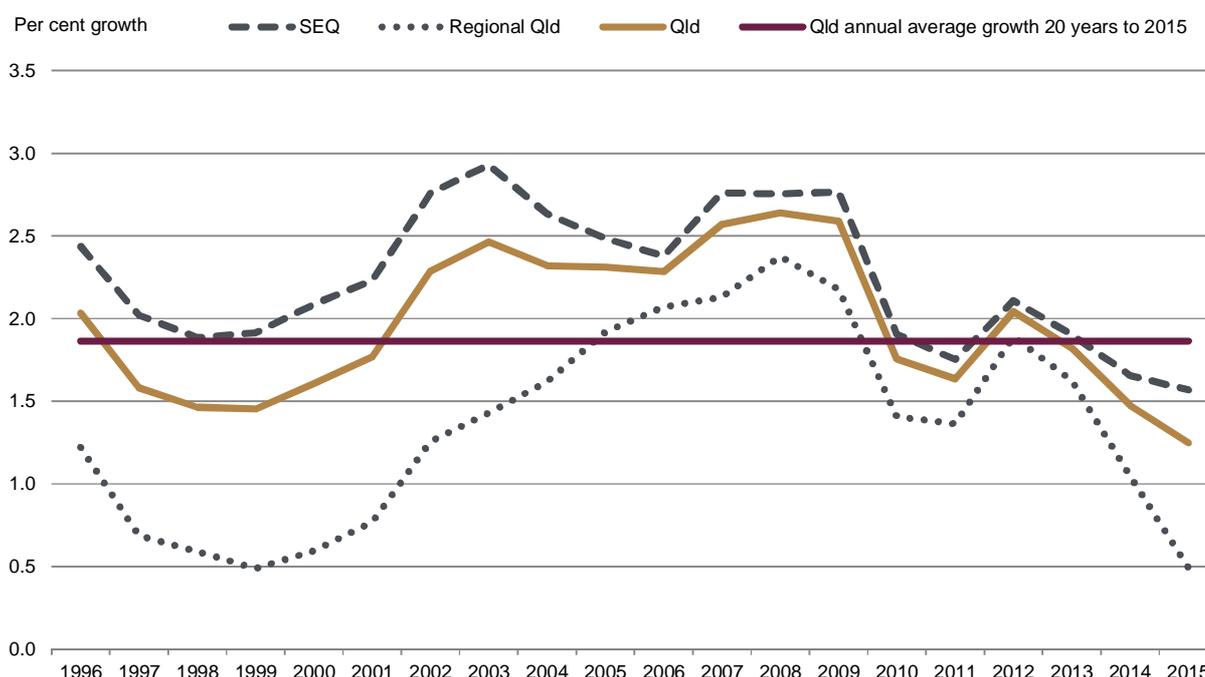
2.5. Regional population growth

2.5.1. South East Queensland and regional Queensland

Annual growth in South East Queensland (SEQ)⁵ over the past 20 years has always outpaced growth in the regions, however from 2005 to 2014 the gap in the growth rates for the two regions narrowed to 0.6 percentage points or less (Figure 2.5). While the growth rate in SEQ for the year to June 2015 was similar to that for the previous year (1.6 per cent and 1.7 per cent respectively) the rate of growth halved in the regions over the same period (0.5 per cent compared with 1.0 per cent in the years to June 2015 and 2014). As a result, the regional share of Queensland's growth fell from 21.1 per cent in 2014 to 11.7 per cent in 2015.

During the 10 years to June 2015, regional Queensland captured slightly less than one-quarter (24.2 per cent) of all growth in the state, compared with an average share of 16.6 per cent during the previous decade.

Figure 2.5 Annual population growth, year to 30 June

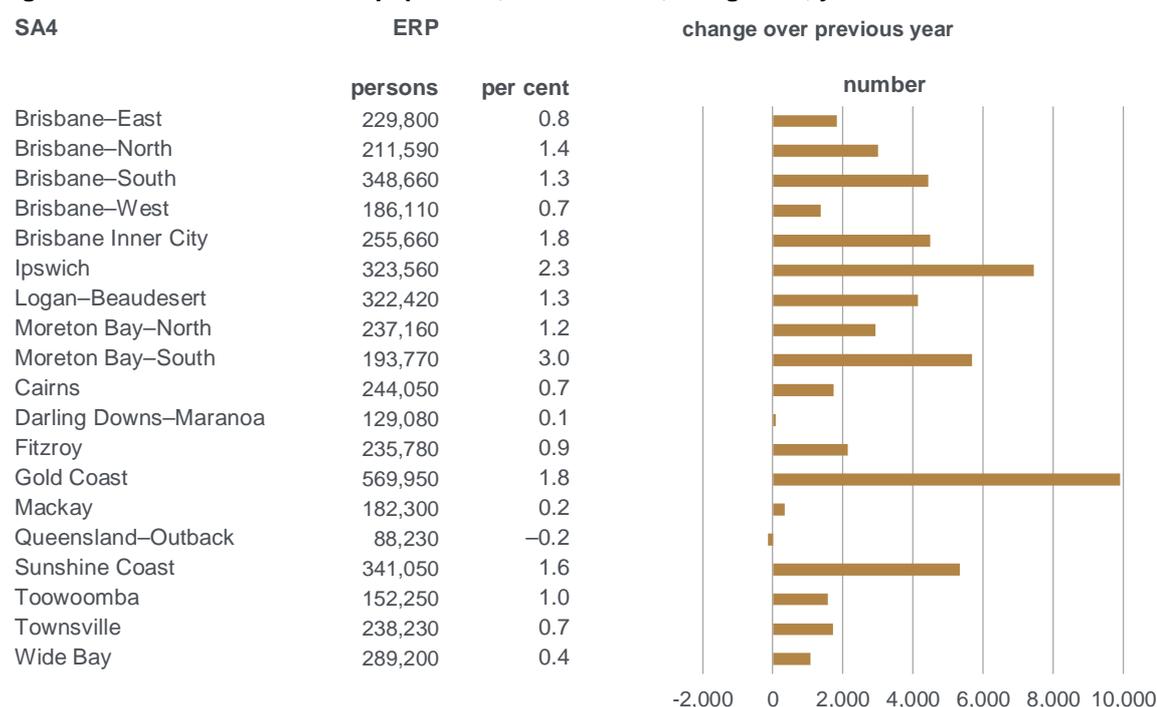


Source: Derived from ABS 3218.0, *Regional population growth, Australia, 2014–15*

Over the decade to 2015, the top two statistical areas level 4 (SA4s) with the highest average annual growth rates were situated in SEQ's 'middle ring'—Moreton Bay–South (3.3 per cent) and Ipswich (3.0 per cent), growing on average by 5,330 and 8,200 persons each year, respectively. In the year to June 2015, the top two SA4s were Moreton Bay–South (3.0 per cent) and Ipswich (2.3 per cent), followed by Brisbane Inner City and Gold Coast (both 1.8 per cent) (Figure 2.6).

In the year to June 2015, Gold Coast and Ipswich SA4s grew by the largest number of persons (9,910 and 7,430 persons respectively). These two SA4s had the largest average annual population increase over the decade to 2015, growing by 12,100 and 8,200 persons respectively. The five Brisbane SA4s combined grew by 15,080 persons in the year to June 2015 and by an average annual 19,950 persons in the decade to 2015.

⁵ SEQ defined here as including the SA4s of Brisbane–East, Brisbane–North, Brisbane–South, Brisbane–West, Brisbane Inner City, Ipswich, Logan–Beaudesert, Moreton Bay–North, Moreton Bay–South, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba.

Figure 2.6 Estimated resident population, 30 June 2015, and growth, year to 30 June 2015


Source: Derived from ABS 3218.0, *Regional population growth, Australia, 2014–15*

2.5.2. Local government areas

Most populous

The LGA with the largest population in Queensland at 30 June 2015 was Brisbane (1,162,190 persons). Notably, eight out of the top 10 most populous LGAs are located in the south east corner, with Townsville (193,950 persons) and Cairns (160,290 persons) in north and far north Queensland rounding out the top 10.

The area from the Gold Coast in the south to the Sunshine Coast in the north, and west to Ipswich, forms an urban conglomeration⁶ of council areas, with populations ranging from 150,000 persons in Redland to the million plus population of Brisbane. Together, these seven LGAs comprise 3 million people or almost two-thirds (64.5 per cent) of Queensland's population.

Toowoomba in the west of SEQ has a population of 163,230 persons and is the eighth largest LGA in the state.

Largest growth

In the year to 30 June 2015, the largest growth in population occurred in Brisbane (15,870 persons), followed by Gold Coast (9,760 persons) and Moreton Bay (8,510 persons). These three LGAs also experienced the largest growth over the 10 years to 30 June 2015, growing on average by 19,420, 11,890 and 10,240 persons per annum respectively.

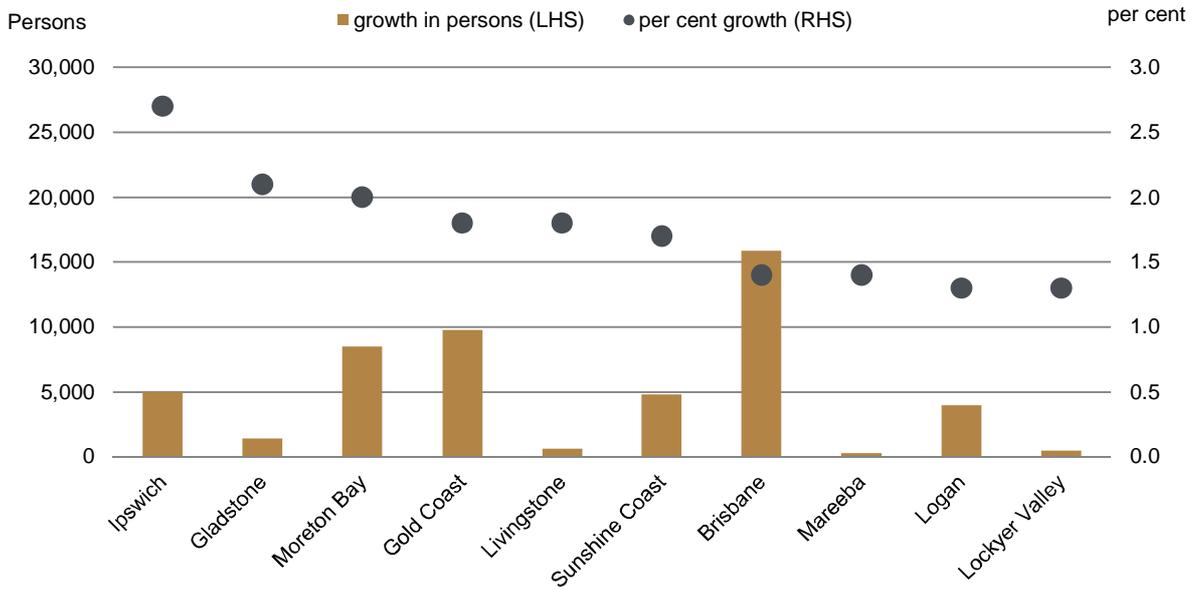
Fastest growth⁷

The fastest growing LGA in Queensland in the year to 30 June 2015 was Ipswich (2.7 per cent or 5,040 persons), followed by Gladstone (2.1 per cent or 1,390 persons) and Moreton Bay (2.0 per cent or 8,510 persons). Other LGAs experiencing a growth rate of greater than 1.0 per cent are shown in Figure 2.7, including LGAs outside SEQ such as the lesser populated LGAs of Livingstone and Mareeba (1.8 per cent or 640 persons and 1.4 per cent or 300 persons respectively).

⁶ Composed of the local government areas of Brisbane, Gold Coast, Moreton Bay, Logan, Sunshine Coast, Ipswich and Redland.

⁷ Local government areas with a population of greater than 5,000 considered only for these analyses.

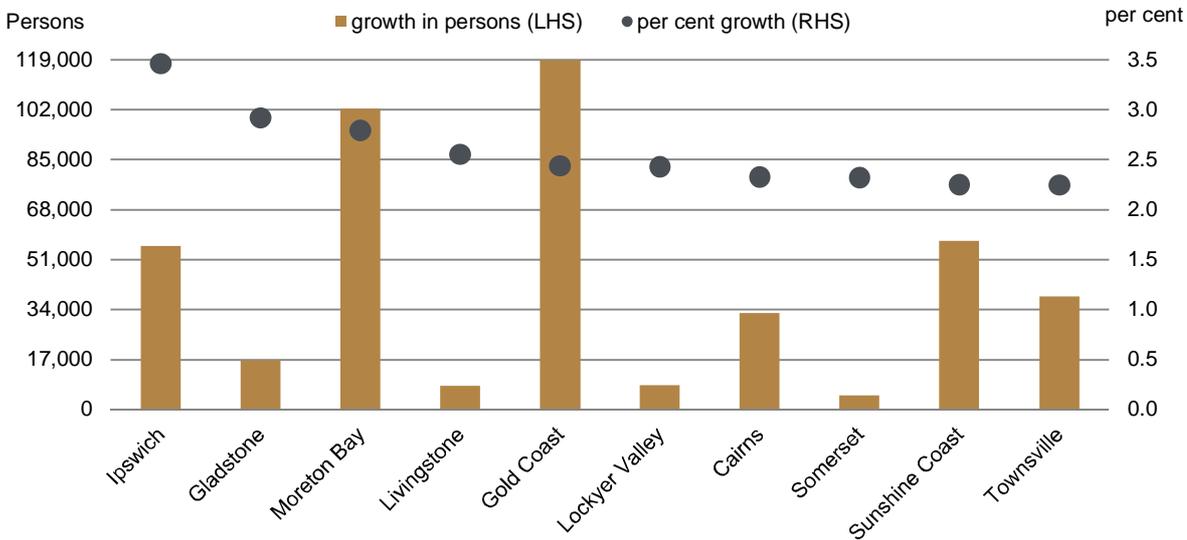
Figure 2.7 Top 10 fastest-growth LGAs, year to 30 June 2015



Source: Derived from ABS 3218.0, *Regional population growth, Australia, 2014–15*

Looking at the trend over the 10 years to 30 June 2015, Ipswich had the fastest average annual population growth rate (3.5 per cent), followed by Gladstone (2.9 per cent) and Moreton Bay (2.8 per cent) (Figure 2.8).

Figure 2.8 Top 10 fastest-growth LGAs, 10 years to 30 June 2015



Source: Derived from ABS 3218.0, *Regional population growth, Australia, 2014–15*

3.0 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 2015 (Table 3.1).

Natural increase contributed the largest share of Queensland's growth in 2014–15 (33,440 persons or 55.0 per cent of total growth). Net overseas migration accounted for 20,920 persons, or 34.4 per cent of total growth, while net interstate migration made the smallest contribution, with 6,420 persons or 10.6 per cent of total growth.

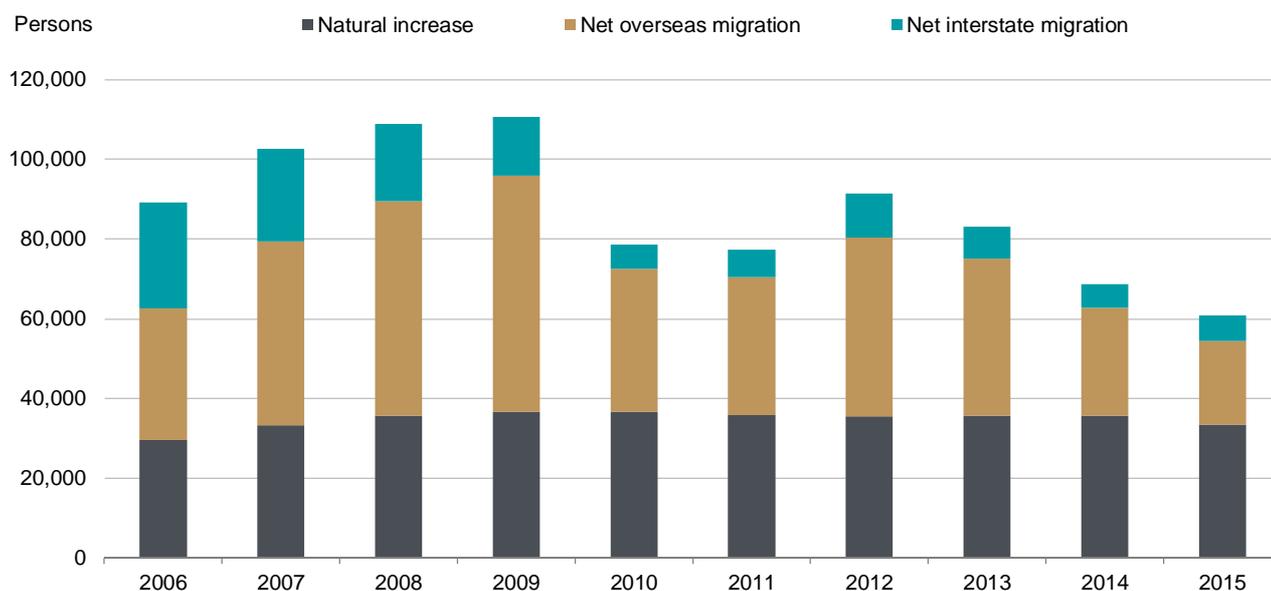
Table 3.1 Components of population change, Queensland, year to 30 June 2015

Queensland	persons
Estimated resident population at 30 June 2014	4,719,930
Births	62,910
Deaths	-29,470
Natural increase	33,440
Overseas arrivals	80,690
Overseas departures	-59,770
Net overseas migration	20,920
Interstate arrivals	85,330
Interstate departures	-78,920
Net interstate migration	6,420
Estimated resident population at 30 June 2015	4,780,700

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

Source: ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*, December 2015

The contribution to Queensland's population growth by each component has changed notably over the last 10 years (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 four years to 30 June 2009, offsetting a slowing in net interstate migration over this period. Natural increase rose steadily over the five years right through to 30 June 2010. 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 six years to 30 June 2015.

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

Source: ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*, December 2015

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 33,440 persons to Queensland's population in 2014–15, the result of 62,910 births and 29,470 deaths registered during the year. This figure was around 2,000 persons lower than the previous year's count of 35,620 persons. Queensland recorded the third highest level of natural increase of any Australian state or territory in 2014–15, behind New South Wales (44,820 persons), and Victoria (35,130 persons), and accounted for 22.5 per cent of the national level of natural increase over this period.

As noted above, natural increase estimates were relatively stable in comparison with the other components of population growth. The level of annual natural increase grew from 29,580 persons in 2005–06 to reach 36,600 persons in 2009–10, before decreasing to 33,440 persons in 2014–15, as the result of both a decrease in the number of births (580 less births) and an increase in the number of deaths (1,600 more deaths) from the previous year. 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. More than half (55.0 per cent) of Queensland's total population growth in 2014–15 was due to natural increase, compared with just under one-third (31.9 per cent) ten years earlier in 2004–05.

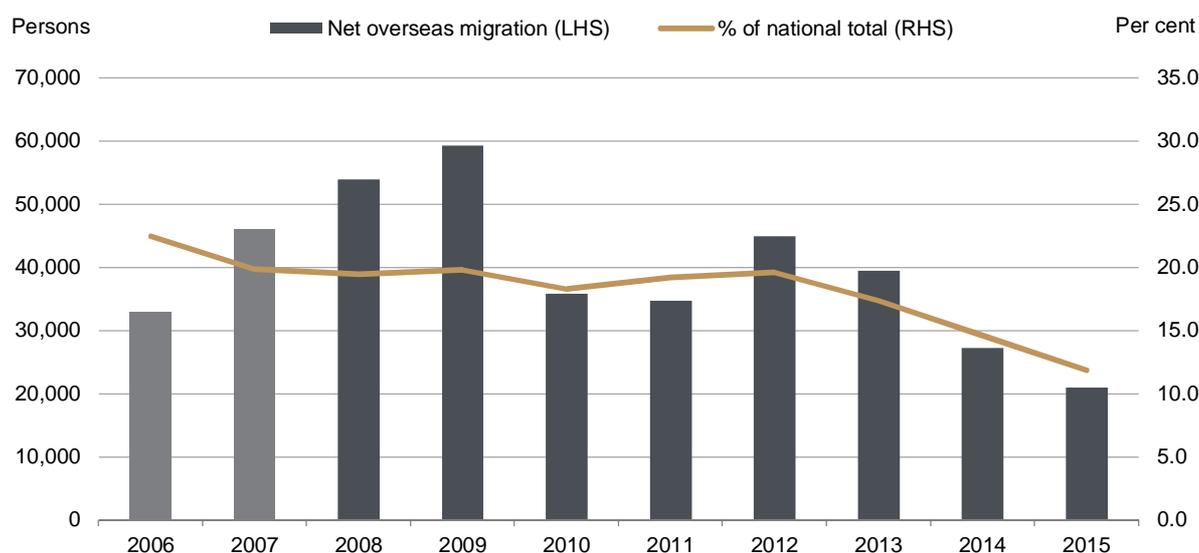
3.3. Net overseas migration

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 2015 was estimated at 20,920 persons. This was 6,270 persons lower than the previous year's estimate of 27,190 persons. Queensland recorded the third highest level of net overseas migration in the year to 30 June 2015 behind New South Wales (67,840 persons) and Victoria (57,510 persons). Western Australia also experienced moderation in net overseas migration in 2014–15 compared with 2013–14 (4,880 fewer persons), as did South Australia (–270), Tasmania (–150) and New South Wales (–30). Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory all had gains in net overseas migration over the same period (950, 800 and 10 persons respectively).

Queensland's level of net overseas migration in 2014–15 was two-thirds below 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 176,530 persons in 2014–15 (–41.1 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 11.9 per cent in 2014–15. Western Australia has seen similarly dramatic declines with Australia's two most populous states, New South Wales and Victoria, increasing their combined share of Australia's net overseas migration to over 70 per cent, post mining boom.

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*, December 2015

In the year to 30 June 2015, an estimated 80,690 persons arrived from overseas to live in Queensland and 59,770 persons departed Queensland to live overseas. The number of overseas arrivals decreased from 2013–14 to 2014–15 (5,390 fewer arrivals), while the number of departures over the same period increased (880 more departures), resulting in a lower net overseas migration gain in 2014–15 than in 2013–14.

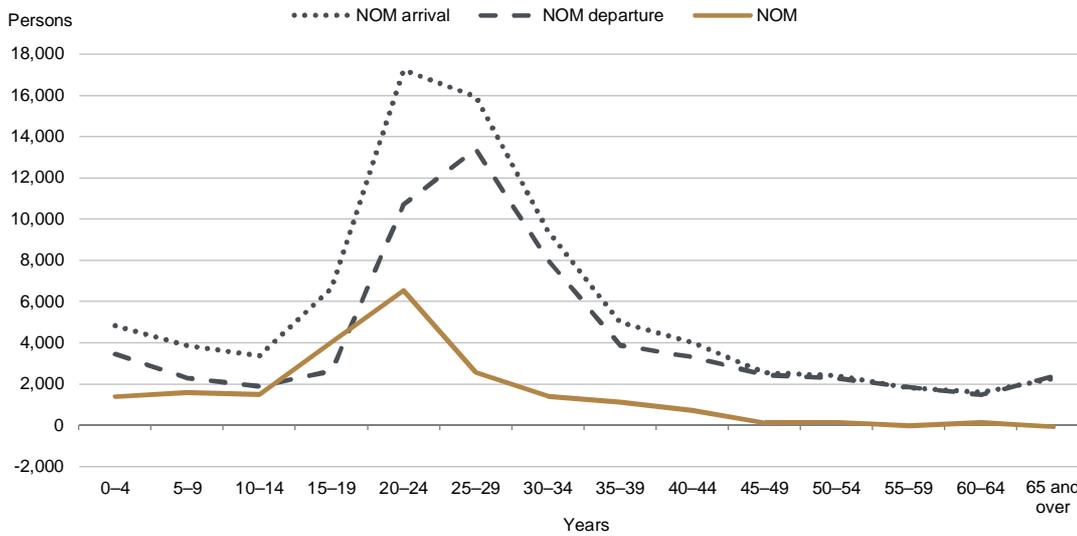
Net overseas migration has vied with natural increase as the largest contributor to Queensland's population growth since 2005–06, surpassing natural increase in the years 2005–06 to 2008–09 and 2011–12 to 2012–13.

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 2015 indicate that net overseas migration to Queensland was largest in the 20–24 year age group (6,510 persons), accounting for almost one-third of the state's net overseas migration gain (31.1 per cent).

Over eight in ten persons gained through net overseas migration in 2014–15 were aged 0–29 years (83.7 per cent). If sustained in the future, this influx of younger overseas migrants would slow the rate at which the Queensland population is ageing. At 30 June 2015, the median age of Queenslanders was 36.3 years.

Figure 3.3 Overseas migration by age group, Queensland, 2014–15



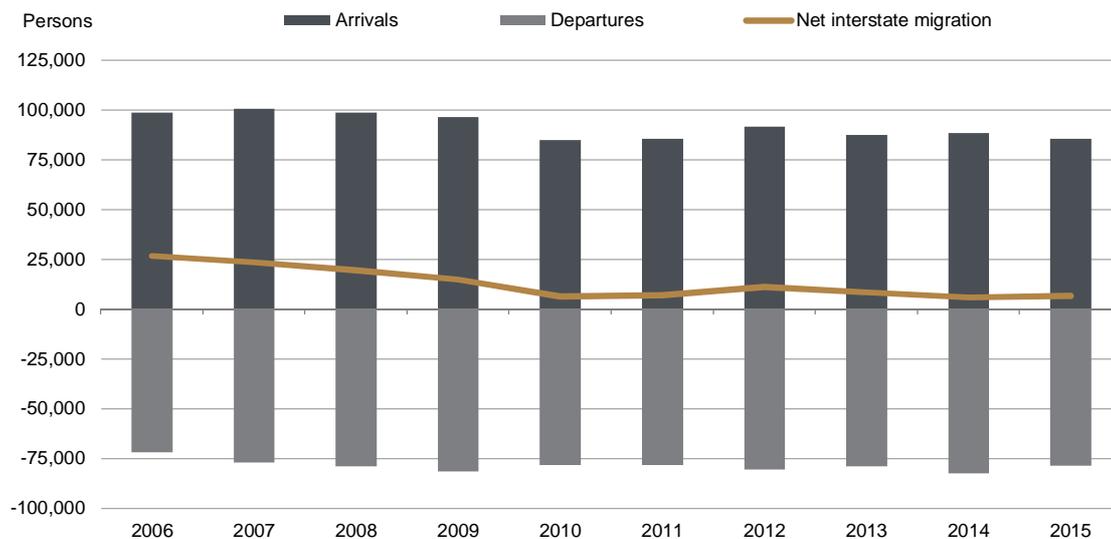
Source: ABS 3412.0, *Migration, Australia*, 2014–15

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 2015 was 6,420 persons. An estimated 85,330 persons arrived from interstate to live in Queensland and 78,920 persons departed Queensland to live interstate over this period (Figure 3.4). There were 2,990 fewer interstate arrivals and 3,660 fewer interstate departures than the previous year, resulting in a net interstate migration gain in 2014–15 that was higher than in 2013–14 (5,750 persons).

Net interstate migration has declined substantially over the past 10 years, with Queensland's net interstate migration gain in 2014–15 around 20,190 persons lower than the 2005–06 gain (26,610 persons). Net interstate migration as a share of total population growth has decreased considerably as a result. While it contributed around 3 out of every 10 additional persons in Queensland's population in 2005–06, since then it has made a much smaller contribution, averaging around 1 in 10 each year for the five years to 2014–15.

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



Source: ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*, December 2015

3.4.1. Compared with other states and territories

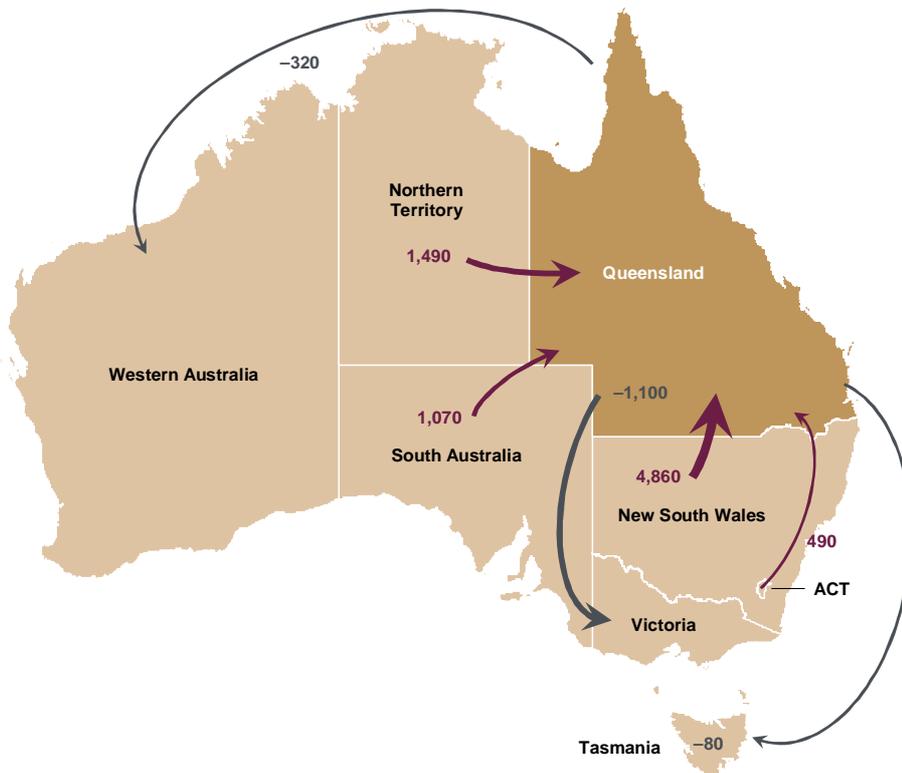
Queensland recorded a net interstate migration gain of 6,420 persons for the year to 30 June 2015 (around 120 persons per week on average), second to Victoria (10,190 persons), and the only other jurisdiction to record a gain. Of the other states and territories, New South Wales recorded the largest loss (6,640 persons) followed by South Australia (3,760 persons) and the Northern Territory (3,040 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 (2013–14 and 2014–15). 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 from 1980–81 to 2014–15.

With the exception of Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania, Queensland recorded a net gain of interstate migrants from all other jurisdictions in 2014–15 (Figure 3.5). The largest net gain was from New South Wales (4,860 persons), followed by the Northern Territory (1,490 persons). Queensland recorded a net loss of 1,100 persons to Victoria, with smaller net losses to Western Australia (320 persons) and Tasmania (80 persons).

Refer to the breakout box on page 14 for more information on long-term trends in interstate migration to Queensland.

Figure 3.5 Net interstate migration, Queensland, year to 30 June 2015



Source: ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*, December 2015

3.4.2. Age of interstate migrants

The age profile of Queensland's interstate migrants in 2014–15 is shown in (Figure 3.6). It highlights the large number of younger people moving to and from Queensland.

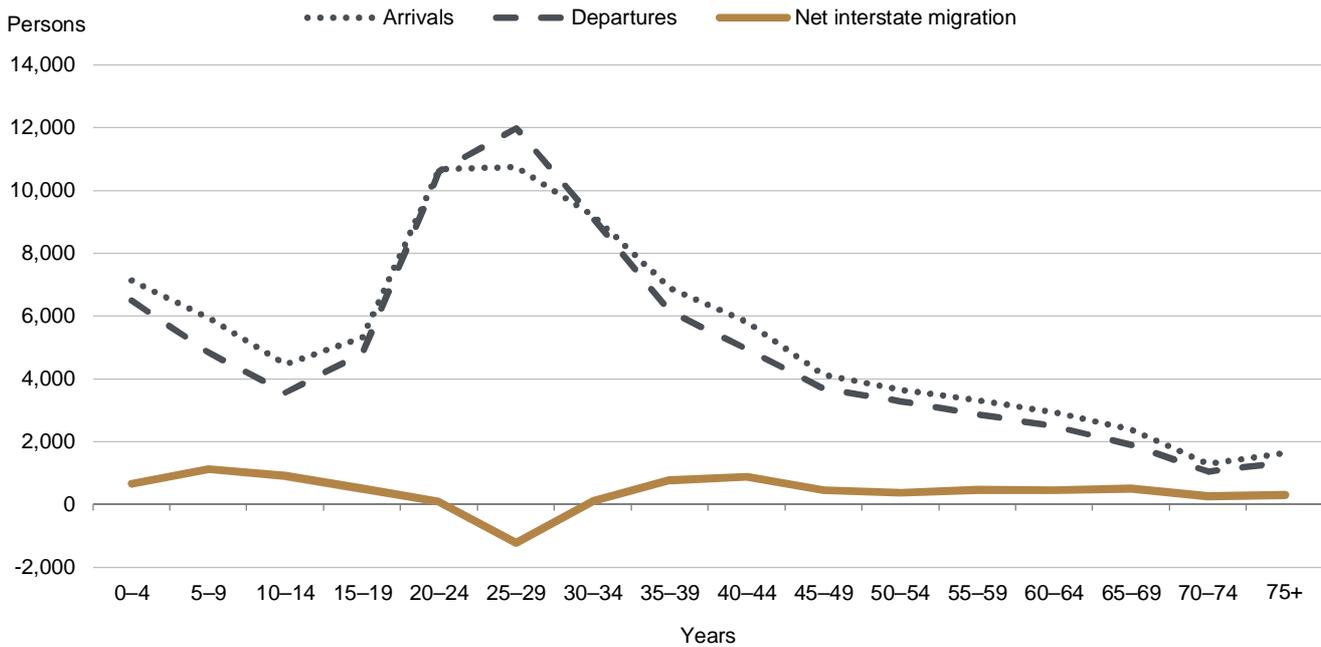
The age profile of those arriving in Queensland from interstate in 2014–15 was very similar to those departing, with young adults in their twenties dominating both arrivals and departures. Together, persons aged 20–24 years and 25–29 years accounted for 25.1 per cent of all arrivals to Queensland (21,400 persons) and 28.6 per cent of all departures (22,570 persons).

Queensland recorded a net loss of 1,240 persons aged 25–29 years, the only age group to record a net loss in 2014–15. It is the only age group to have recorded net losses from interstate migration every year for the past six years.

The age groups with the highest net gains from interstate migration in Queensland in 2014–15 were children aged 5–9 years and persons aged 40–44 years (1,110 and 870 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 16.1 per cent of Queensland's total net migration gain in 2014–15.

Figure 3.6 Interstate migration by age group, Queensland, 2014–15



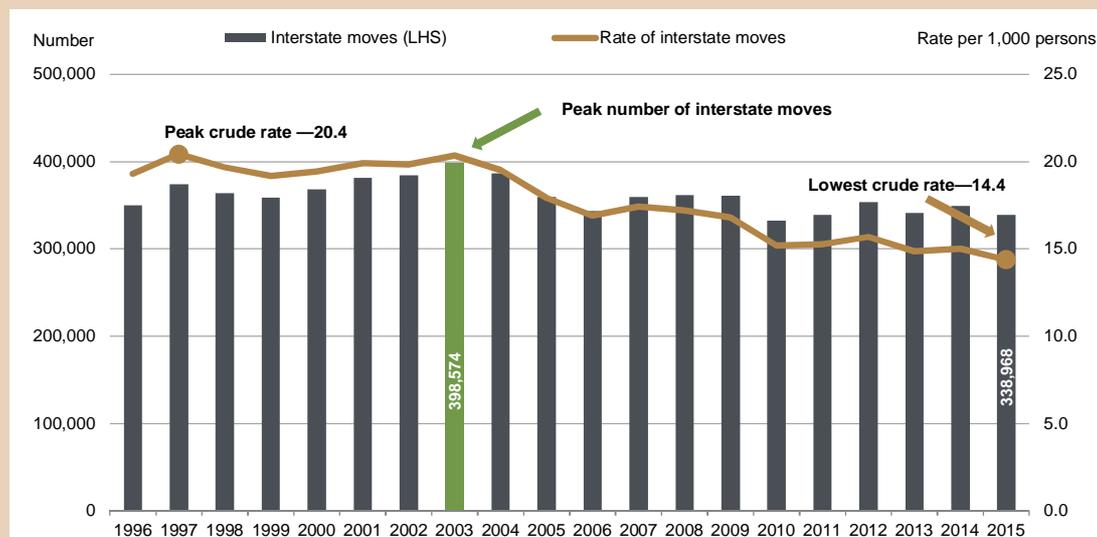
Source: ABS 3412.0, *Migration, Australia*, 2014–15

Long-term trends in interstate migration for Queensland and across Australia

This section examines trends in interstate migration for Queensland over the past 20 years, and provides a comparison with selected trends nationwide. Change in the rate of moves has been included to show how the impact of interstate migration on Queensland's and Australia's population has varied over time.

Overall, there were fewer interstate moves in Australia during 2014–15 (338,970 moves) than in the previous year (349,030 moves), a decrease of 2.9 per cent. This reflects a recent flattening of the total number of interstate moves across Australia since the peak in 2002–03 (398,570 moves), and a corresponding decline in the rate of all interstate moves (Figure 3.7).

Figure 3.7 Interstate migration moves and rate of interstate moves, Australia, year to 30 June



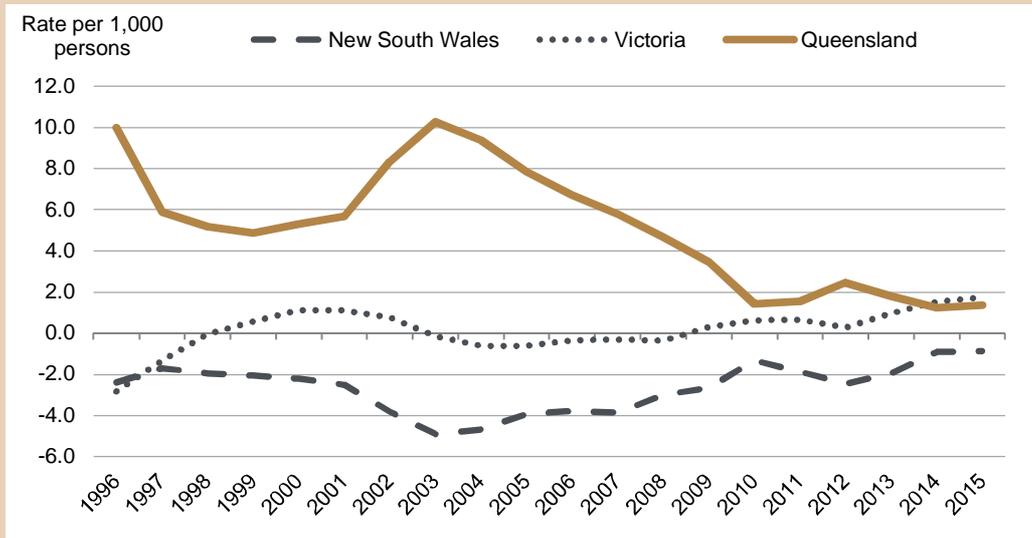
Rate is the number of interstate moves across Australia per 1,000 persons at the mid-point of the period (ERP at 31 December).

Source: ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*, December 2015

At the state and territory level, the net number of interstate moves per 1,000 persons of the destination population can be measured. Tracking the change in the rate of net interstate moves over time helps to illustrate the relative value of interstate migration to population growth (or otherwise, in the case of negative rates). Figure 3.8 shows the trends over the past 20 years for the three most populous states in Australia—New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland.

Queensland's net interstate migration rate decreased from a peak of 10.3 per 1,000 persons in 2002–03 to 1.4 per 1,000 persons in 2009–10 (Figure 3.8). Since 2009–10, the rate has remained relatively steady. In comparison to Queensland, rates of net interstate migration to New South Wales and Victoria have been smaller, reflecting the smaller value of gains or losses due to interstate migration relative to overall population growth in these states. For the first time during the period, Victoria's gain from net interstate migration was larger than that of Queensland in 2013–14, an outcome repeated in 2014–15 (see Section 3.4.1). In addition, Victoria's rate of net interstate migration was similar to that of Queensland's in both these years, after being substantially different for most of the 20-year period.

Figure 3.8 Net interstate migration rate, selected states in Australia, year to 30 June

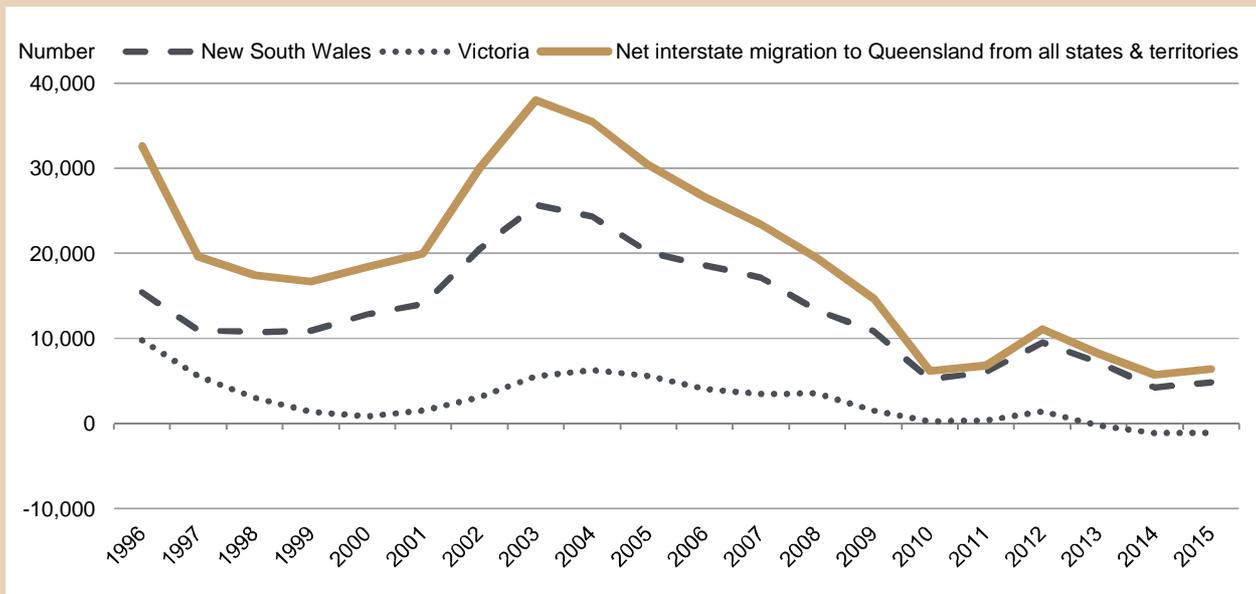


The net interstate migration rate is the net number of interstate moves per 1,000 persons of the 'destination' population at the mid-point of the period (ERP at 31 December).

Source: ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*, December 2015

The largest exchanges in interstate migration to and from Queensland have historically been with New South Wales and Victoria (Figure 3.9). The net gain from New South Wales decreased from 25,720 persons during the peak in 2002–03 to 4,860 persons in 2014–15 (a difference of 20,860 persons). While Queensland recorded a net gain of 5,550 persons from Victoria in 2002–03, it recorded a net loss to Victoria in 2014–15 (–1,100 persons). The significant decline in net gains from New South Wales is the primary driver of subdued levels of net interstate migration to Queensland in recent years, compared with the historic highs of the early 2000s.

Figure 3.9 Net interstate migration from selected states to Queensland, year to 30 June

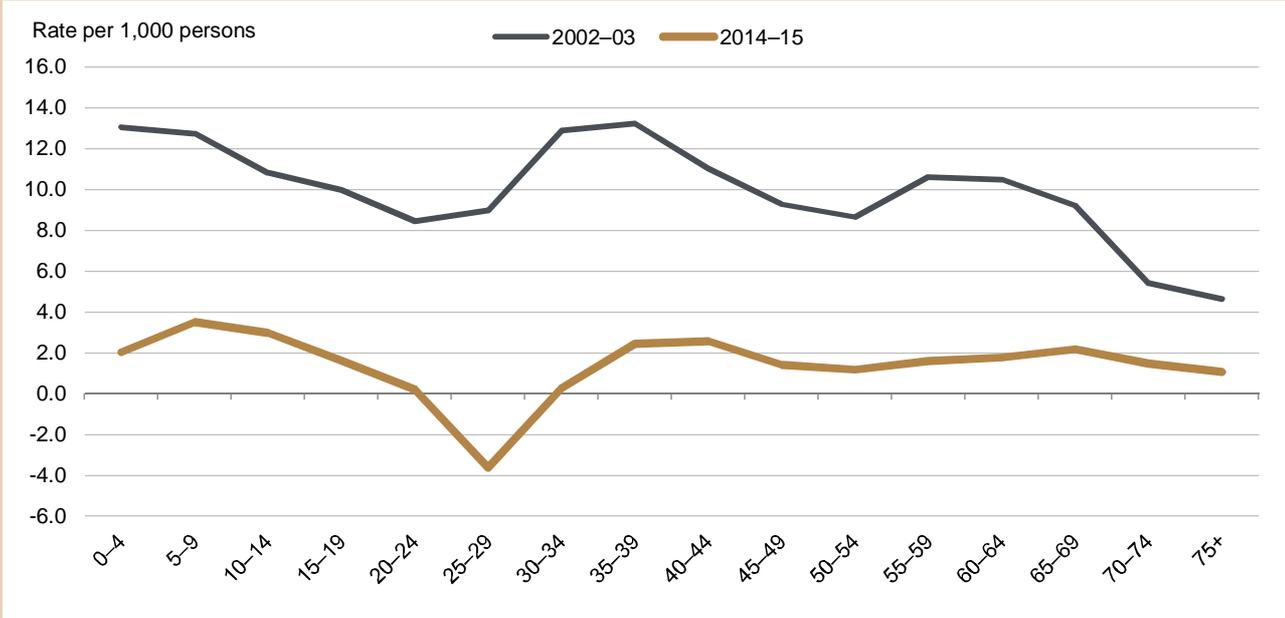


Source: ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*, December 2015

Age profile

From the peak in 2002–03 to 2014–15, the rate of net interstate migration to Queensland decreased across all age groups, with the largest moderations occurring in the 25–29 and 30–34 year age groups (change of –12.6 percentage points each) (Figure 3.10). In 2002–03, rates were highest in those age groups typically associated with young family formation—children aged 0 to 9 years and adults aged 30 to 39 years. While the rate of net interstate migration to Queensland from these age groups was lower in 2014–15 relative to earlier years, the proportional contribution of these age groups to overall net interstate migration to Queensland remains high (40.5%).

Figure 3.10 Net interstate migration rate by age group, Queensland



The net interstate migration rate is the net number of interstate moves per 1,000 persons of the 'destination' age-specific population at the mid-point of the period (ERP at 31 December).

Source: ABS 3412.0, *Migration, Australia*, 2014–15



4.0 Technical notes

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*, December 2015 (ABS 3101.0), with supporting data from *Migration, Australia, 2014–15* (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 to June 2014 are revised and for June 2015, 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 2014 are revised. Data for September quarter 2014 to June quarter 2015 are preliminary (based on date of registration).

Net overseas migration data for September quarter 2011 to September quarter 2014 are revised. Data for December quarter 2014 to June quarter 2015 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.

To address increases in missing passenger cards over recent years, the ABS has introduced a new method to the Overseas Arrivals and Departures system to accommodate higher numbers of missing cards, improve the quality of some variables, and reduce the use of imputations. Due to this, NOM and ERP were revised for December quarter 2014 to September quarter 2015 in the December 2015 release of *Australian demographic statistics* 3101.0 published on 23 June 2016. The ABS advises that revisions are minimal, only changing data with a previous status of preliminary.

Net interstate migration data for September quarter 2011 to June quarter 2015 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*, December 2015.

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 is available on the QGSO website (<http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au>).

Appendices

Appendix A: 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 the preceding 16 months. It excludes overseas visitors who are in Australia for less than 12 out of the preceding 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 and territory-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.



