

Population growth highlights and trends, Queensland, 2017 edition

Sources: ABS 3101.0 (released 27 June 2017); ABS 3218.0 (released 28 July 2017); ABS 3235.0 (released 28 August 2017); ABS 3412.0 (released 30 March 2017)

Highlights from 2015–16

- Queensland had the third largest population increase of any Australian state or territory after Victoria (146,280 persons) and New South Wales (111,860 persons).
- Queensland's annual population growth rate (1.3%) was lower than the national average of 1.5%, which was also the slowest rate of growth for the Australian population since 2010–11.
- Natural increase was the main contributor to population growth for Queensland, followed by net overseas migration (NOM) and net interstate migration (NIM).
- Nearly nine in ten persons gained through net overseas migration in 2015–16 were aged less than 30 years, helping to slow the rate of population ageing in Queensland.

Key data

Estimated resident population

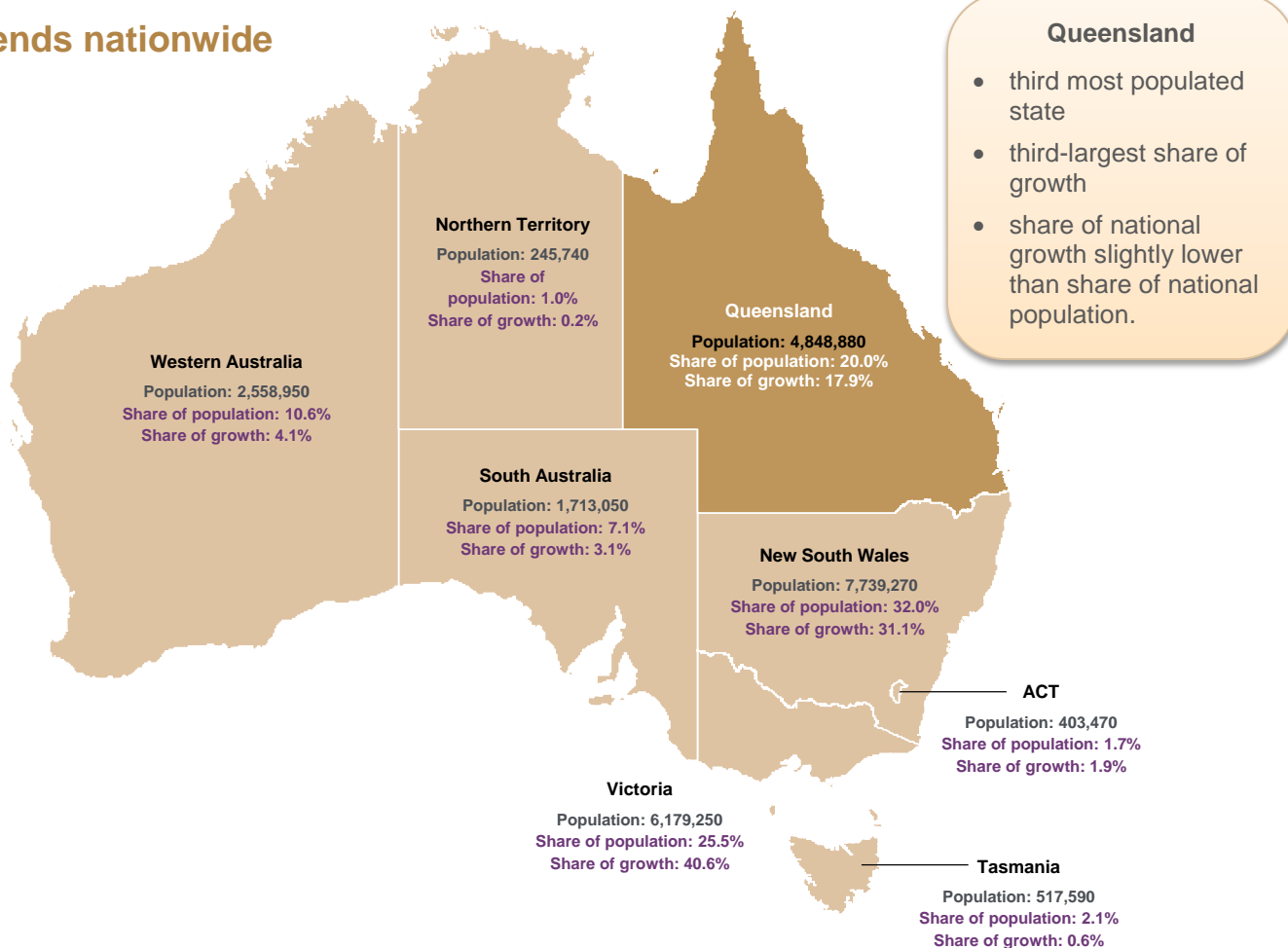
June 2015	June 2016	Change
4,784,370	4,848,880	64,510
		1.3%

Components of change¹:

	Share of growth
Births	62,650
Deaths	-29,590
Natural increase	33,060
	52.2%
Overseas arrivals	83,480
Overseas departures	-64,830
Net overseas migration	18,650
	29.5%
Interstate arrivals	93,900
Interstate departures	-82,320
Net interstate migration	11,580
	18.3%

¹ Differences between total population growth and the sum of the components of population change are due to intercensal difference.

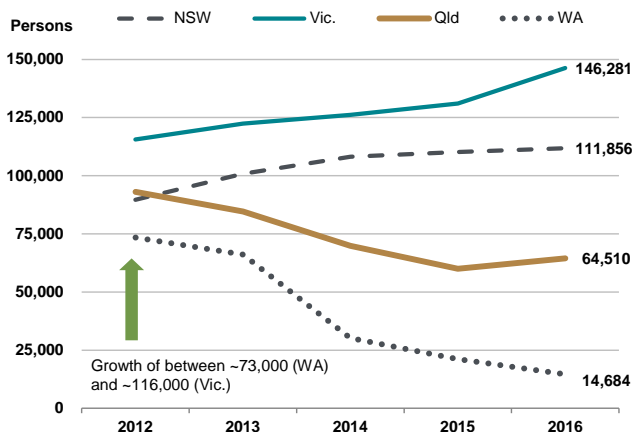
Trends nationwide



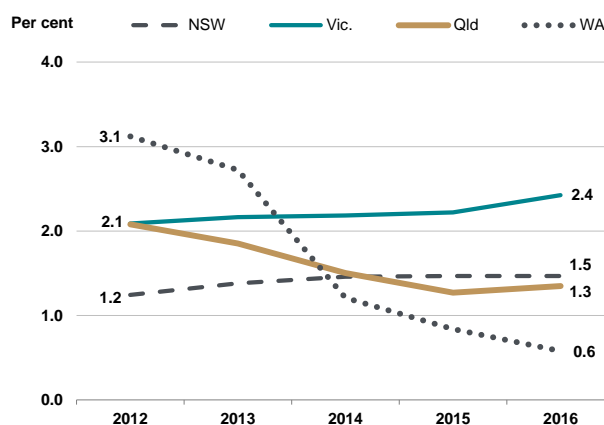
Five years to June 2016

- New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland accounted for 82.0% of national growth in the five years to 2016.
- New South Wales and Victoria presented similar trajectories of growth over most of the period, with Victoria's rate of growth substantially outstripping that of New South Wales in 2015–16.
- Queensland has experienced subdued growth relative to these states since 2011–12, with absolute growth increasing for the first time in 2015–16.

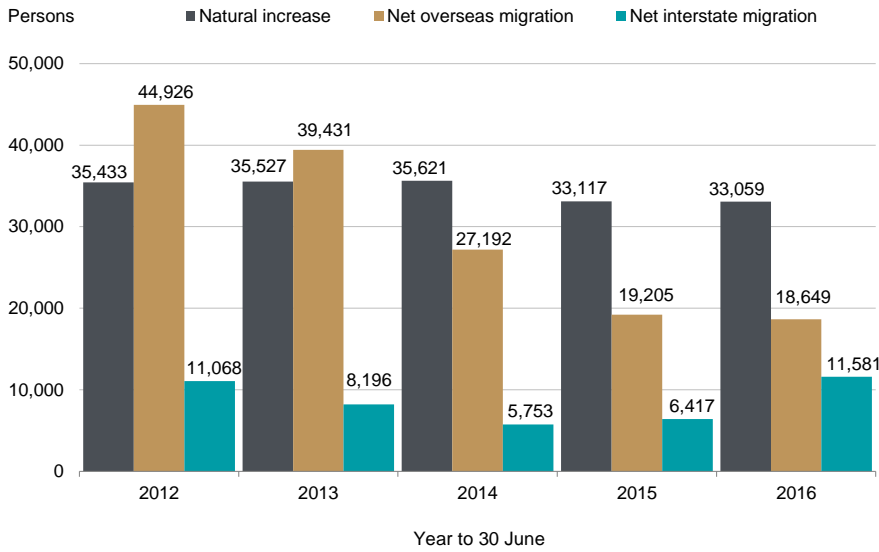
Annual absolute growth, year to 30 June



Annual percentage growth, year to 30 June



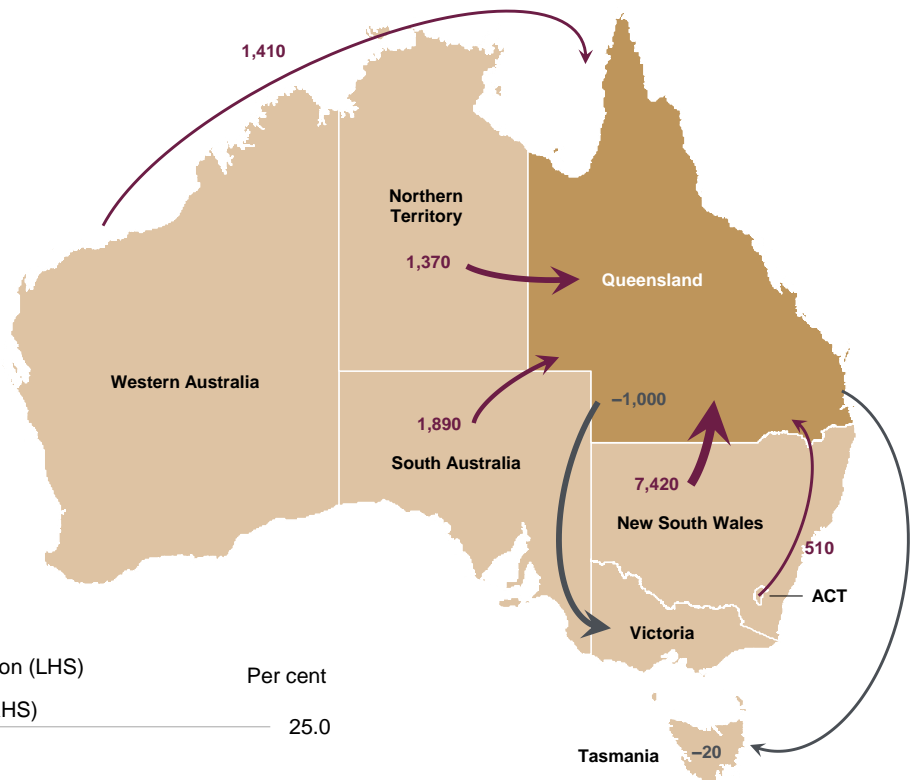
Components of population change, Queensland



Queensland's gains from net overseas and interstate migration have been more variable than natural increase over the five years to 2015–16.

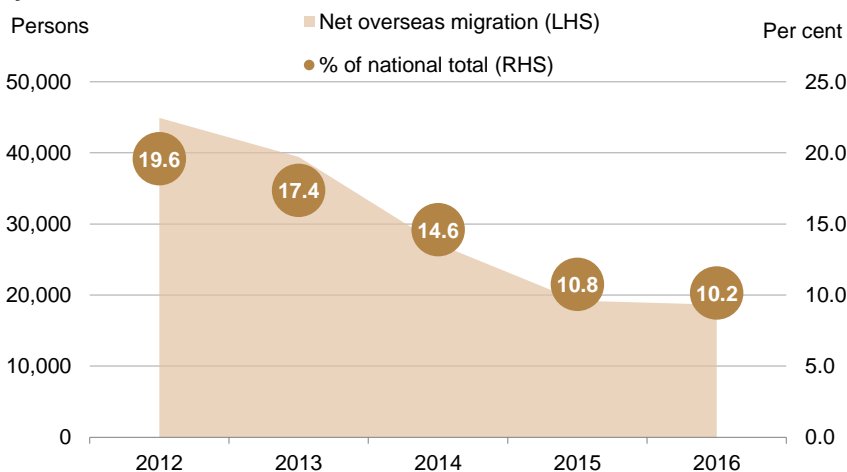
- Natural increase accounted for a greater proportion of Queensland's population growth in recent years due to lower net migration levels, particularly net overseas migration.
- Annual decreases in net overseas migration slowed in 2015–16, while net interstate migration levels increased in both 2014–15 and 2015–16.

Net interstate migration flows to and from Qld, 2015–16



- Queensland and Victoria were the only jurisdictions to experience annual gains from interstate migration each year over the five years to 2015–16.
- There was a return to positive net migration from Western Australia to Queensland in 2015–16, mainly due to more arrivals from Western Australia.

Net overseas migration, Queensland, year to 30 June



- Queensland's gain from overseas migration decreased by more than half in the years from 2011–12 to 2015–16.
- Over the same period, Queensland's share of national net overseas migration moderated from 19.6%, plateauing in 2014–15 and 2015–16 at between 10.0% and 11.0%.

Population trends by age and sex, Queensland

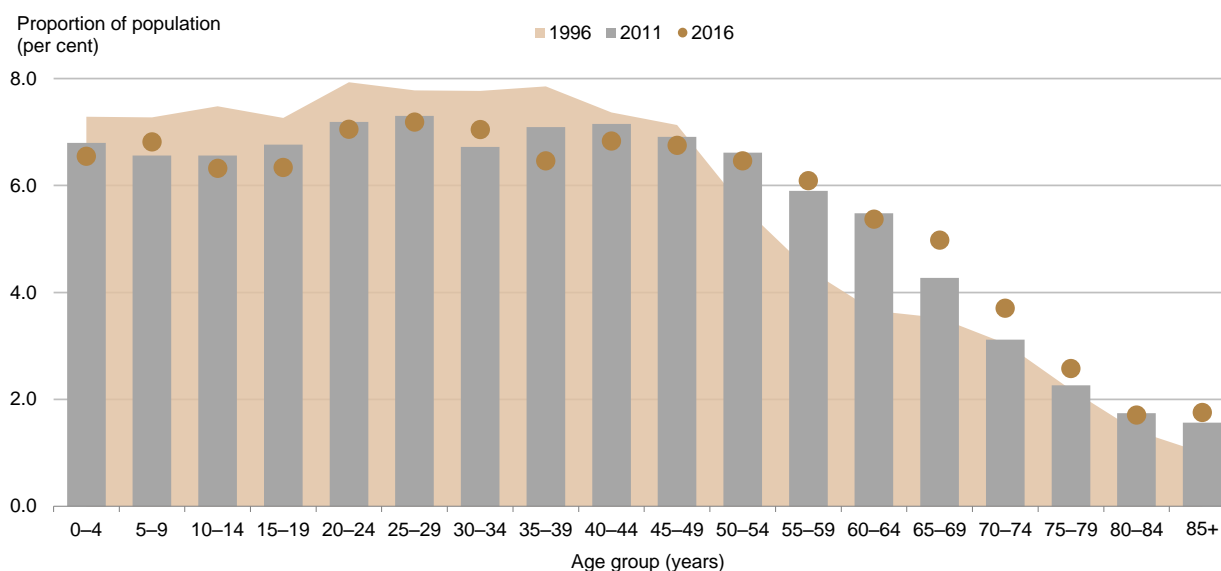
- Queensland's population is ageing, as a result of:
 - sustained low levels of fertility
 - increased life expectancies
 - movement of the large baby boomer cohort (those born in 1946 to 1965) into the older age groups.
- At 30 June 2016, there were proportionally fewer persons in each five-year age group up to 45–49 years of age, and proportionally more in older age groups compared with 20 years ago. The largest proportional shifts have occurred in the five-year age groups from 55–59 to 65–69.
- While the overall share of the population aged 15–64 years (the working-age population) decreased slightly between 1996 and 2016 (from 66.8% to 65.6%), the proportion of the population aged 65 years and older increased from 11.2% to 14.7% over this period. Even with Queensland's ageing population, at 30 June 2016, persons aged 25–29 years were the largest group proportionally (7.2%).

Living longer...

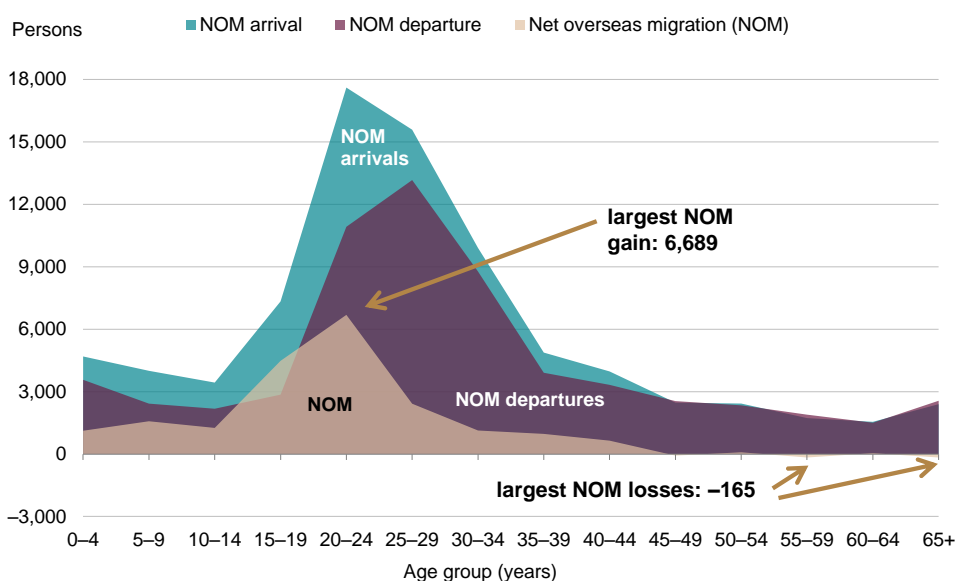
65 year olds in Queensland in 2015 could expect to live to:

- 84 years of age if male
- 87 years of age if female.

Proportion of population by age group, Queensland, as at 30 June



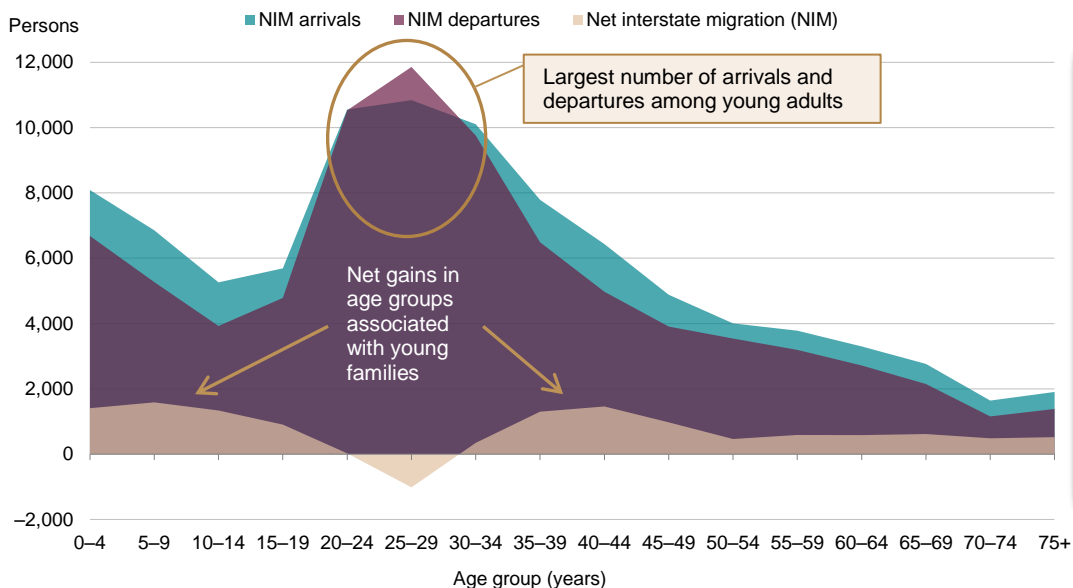
Overseas migration by age group, Queensland, 2015–16



Queensland's net overseas migration gain in younger age categories contributed to slowing the ageing of the state's population relative to the ageing that would have otherwise occurred.

- Nearly 9 in 10 persons gained through net overseas migration were aged 0–29 years in 2015–16.
- 20–24 year olds accounted for one-third of Queensland's net migration gain (33.4%).

Interstate migration by age group, Queensland, 2015–16



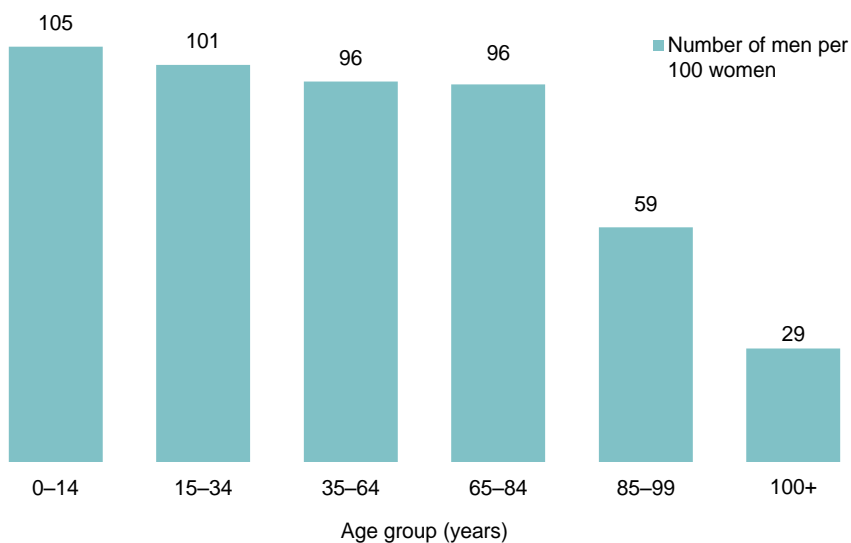
There were more than 176,000 moves interstate to and from Queensland in 2015–16:

- 36% of all moves were among young adults aged 20–34 years with a net loss of around 1,000 among 25–29 year olds.
- 1 in 2 net interstate gains were in age groups associated with young families.

Men per 100 women, broad age groups, Queensland, 30 June 2016

Women outnumber men in older age groups:

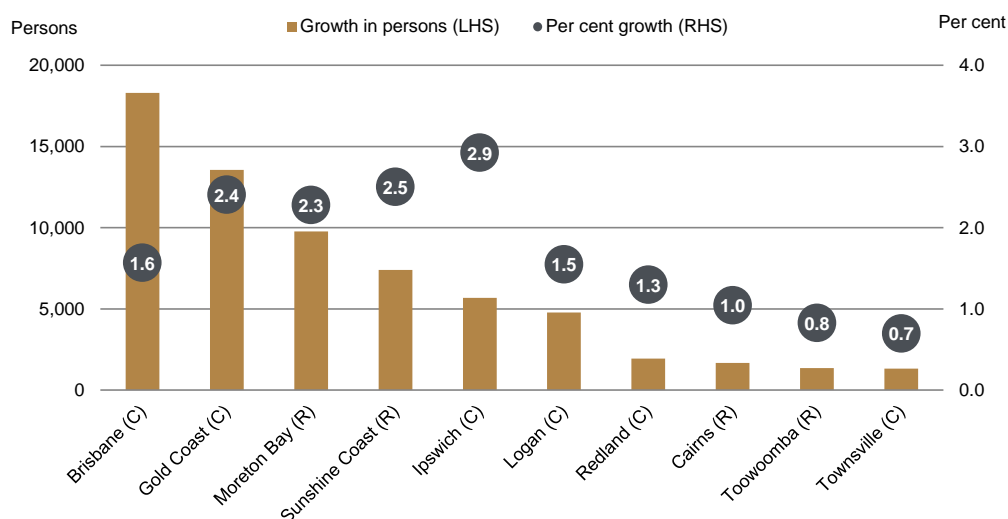
- From age 85 to 99 years, there are 59 men for every 100 women.
- For centenarians, there are only 29 men for every 100 women.



Key population trends, Queensland regions

- Population growth continues to be largely concentrated in South East Queensland, with notable levels of growth also occurring in the regional local government areas (LGAs) of Cairns (1,680 persons), Toowoomba (1,350) and Townsville (1,330) in the year to 30 June 2016².

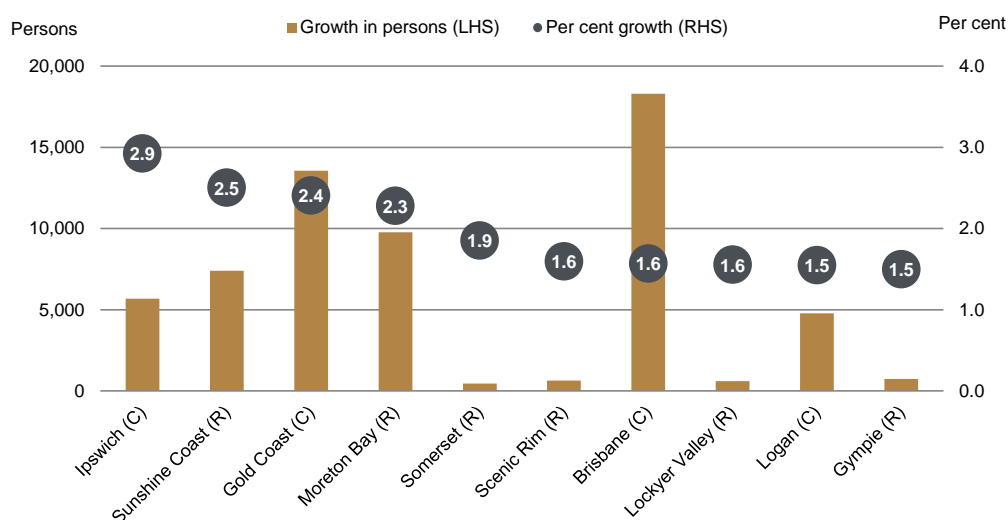
Top 10 largest growth LGAs³, year to 30 June 2016



- The two most populated LGAs also grew by the greatest number of people in 2015–16.
- Brisbane grew by the largest number of people (18,301), followed by the Gold Coast (13,562).

- The fastest growing LGAs in the year to 30 June 2016 were all in southern Queensland, with growth rates of above two per cent estimated for Ipswich (2.9%), Sunshine Coast (2.5%), Gold Coast (2.4%) and Moreton Bay (2.3%).

Top 10 fastest growth LGAs³, year to 30 June 2016



Among the 39 large LGAs with more than 10,000 residents in 2015–16:

- growth occurred in 27 LGAs (from 20 persons up to 18,301)
- losses occurred in 12 LGAs, all regional (from -25 persons up to -1,068).

(C) = City (R) = Regional Council (S) = Shire

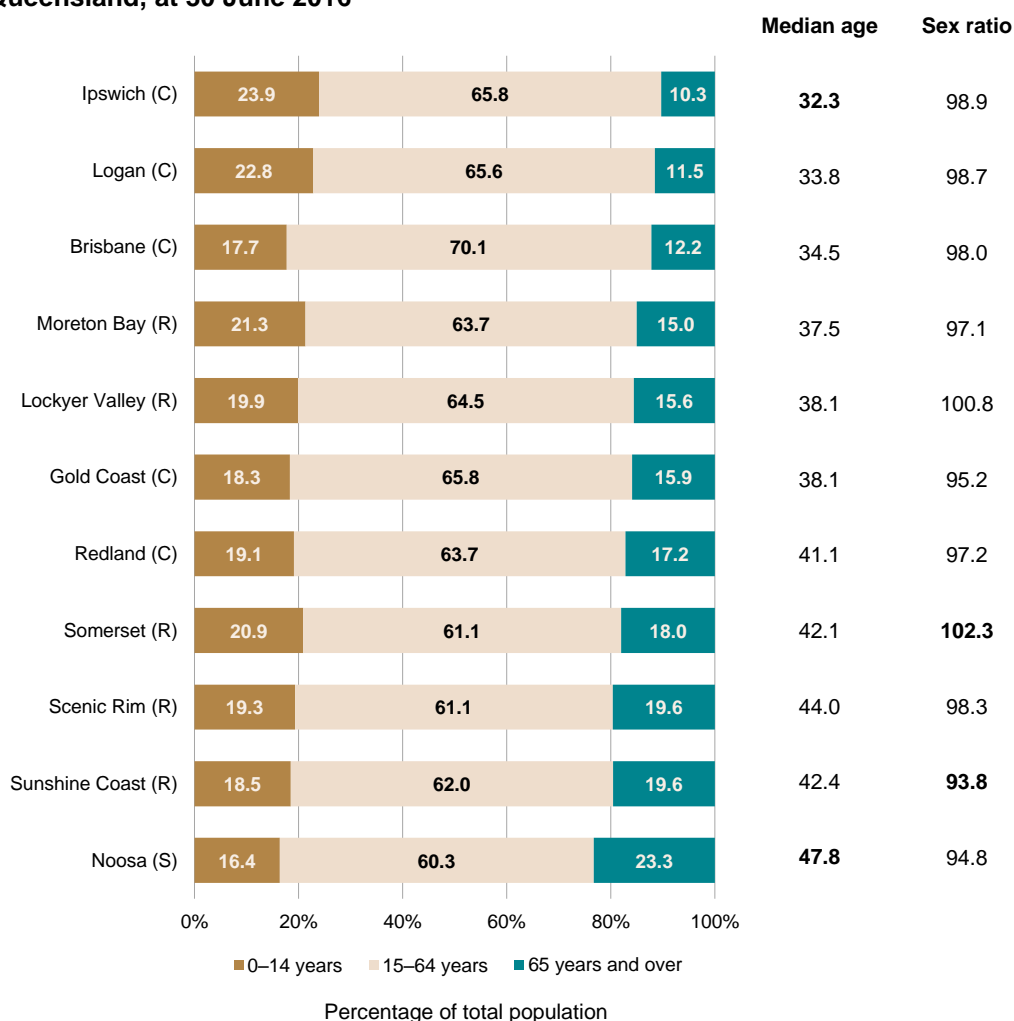
² Regional estimated resident population figures are preliminary rebased and subject to further revision, with the final 2016 Census-based estimates for 2012 to 2016 scheduled for release in August 2018.

³ Local government areas with a population of greater than 10,000 considered only for these analyses.

Demographic characteristics of South East Queensland⁴

- Noosa (C) LGA had the highest proportion of people aged 65 years and older, while Ipswich (C) had the highest proportion of children (0–14 years).
- The LGAs of Brisbane (C), Ipswich (C) and Gold Coast (C) had the highest proportions of the working-age population (15–64 years), with 70.1%, 65.8 and 65.8% respectively.
- Sex ratios (the number of men per 100 women) were highest in the predominantly rural LGAs of Somerset (R) and Lockyer Valley (R), and lowest in Sunshine Coast (R) and Noosa (S).

Age and sex indicators ranked by smallest to largest proportion of people 65 years and older, LGAs in South East Queensland, at 30 June 2016



Median age

Highest

- Noosa (S) at 47.8 years

Lowest

- Ipswich (C) at 32.3 years

Men per 100 women

Highest

- Somerset (R) with 102 men per 100 women

Lowest

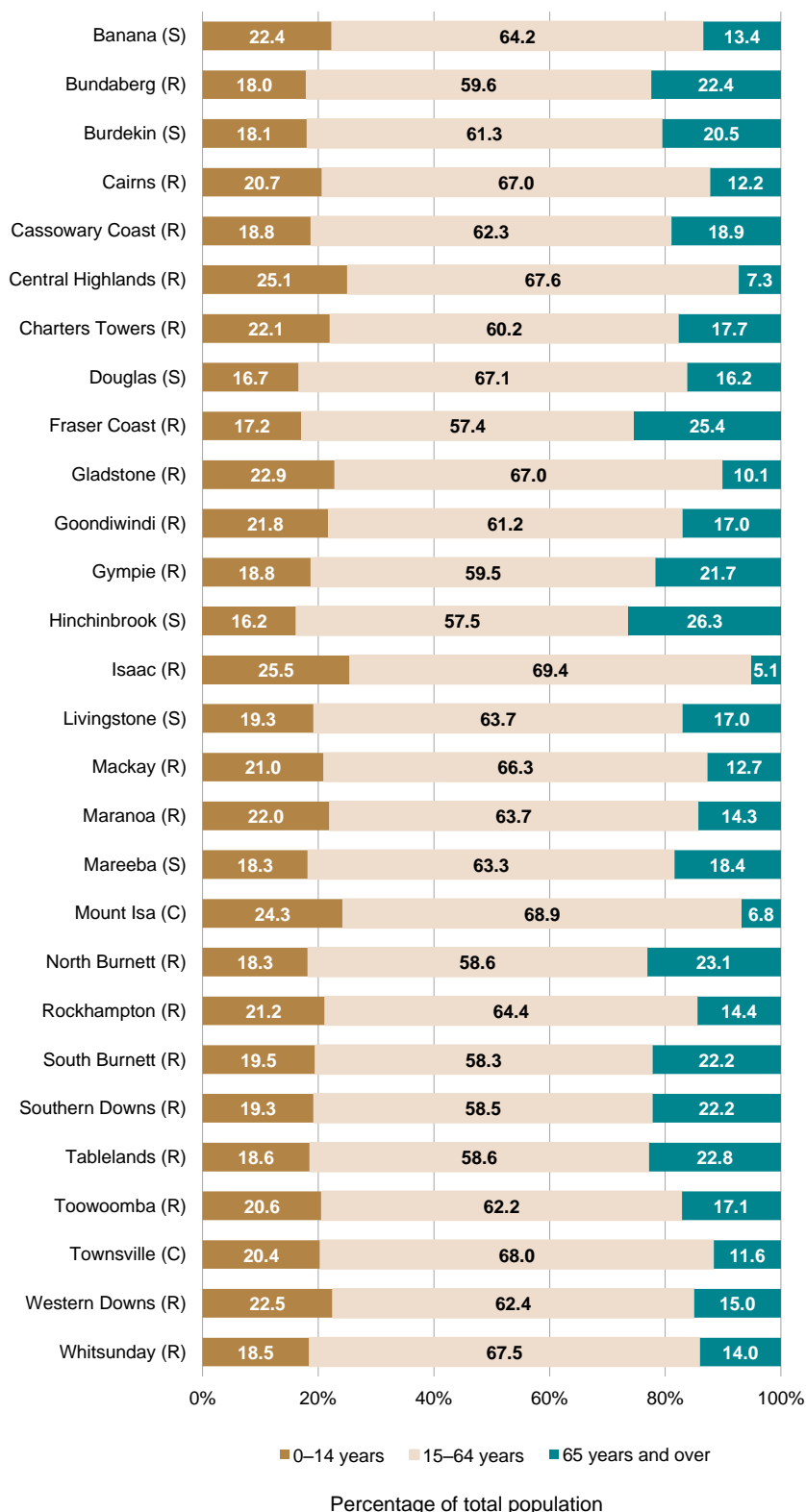
- Sunshine Coast (R) with 94 men per 100 women

⁴ For the purposes of this publication, Toowoomba (R) has not been included in South East Queensland.

Demographic characteristics of regional Queensland

Regional Queensland LGAs with a population of 10,000 or more persons

Selected regional Queensland LGAs by broad age groups, at 30 June 2016



Isaac (R), with 21,563 people, had a relatively young population comparatively, with:

- the highest proportion of children and young people (0–14 years)
- the highest proportion of the working-age population
- the smallest proportion of the population aged 65 years and older.

Fraser Coast (R), with 102,953 people, had a relatively older population, with the lowest proportion of the working age population.

Hinchinbrook (S), with 10,990 people, had one of the oldest populations, with:

- the smallest proportion of children aged 0–14 years
- the largest proportion of the population aged 65 years and older.

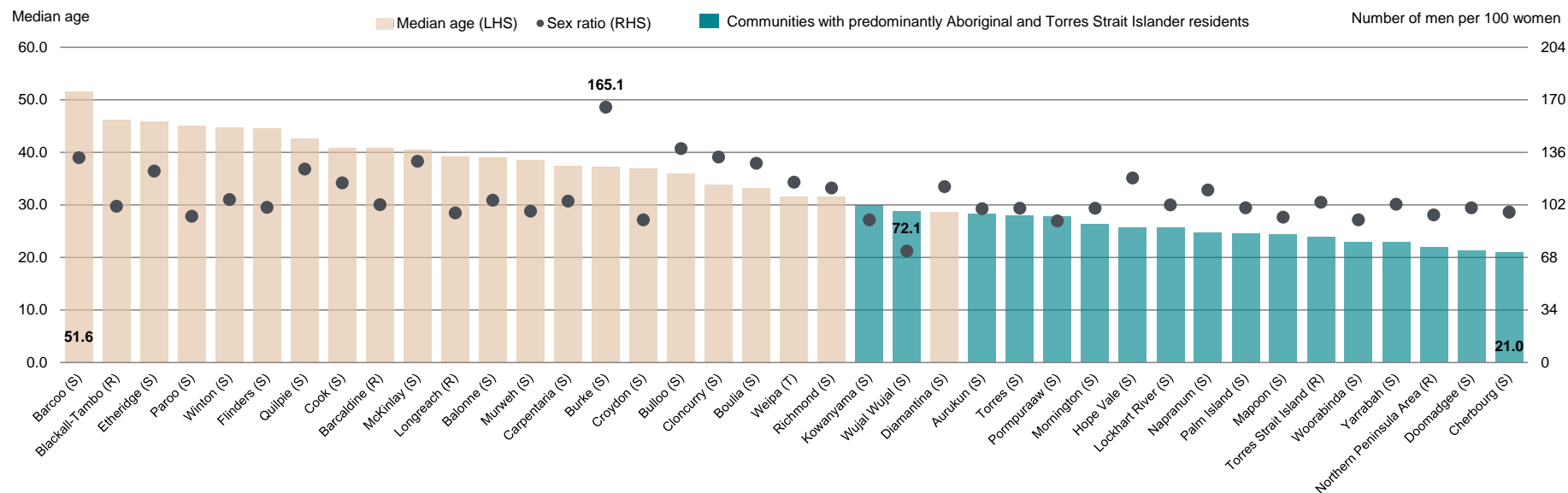
LGAs ordered alphabetically

Demographic characteristics of regional Queensland

For regional Queensland LGAs with a population of fewer than 10,000 persons

- At 30 June 2016, 39 LGAs in Queensland had estimated resident populations fewer than 10,000 persons, ranging from 272 people in Barcoo (S) to 4,785 people in Torres Strait Island (R).
- Of this group, Barcoo (S) had the highest median age (51.6 years) while Cherbourg (S) had the lowest (21.0 years). In general, communities with predominantly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents had the lowest median ages (teal bars in chart below).
- Burke (S) had 165 men per 100 women, the highest sex ratio of all LGAs in Queensland, while Wujal Wujal (S) had the lowest sex ratio of all LGAs across the state with 72 men per 100 women.

Regional Queensland LGAs with a population of fewer than 10,000 persons, median age and sex ratio, ordered by median age, at 30 June 2016





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 publications *Australian Demographic Statistics, December 2016* (ABS 3101.0); *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2016* (ABS 3218.0); *Population by Age and Sex, Regions of Australia, 2016* (ABS 3235.0); with supporting data from *Migration, Australia, 2015–16* (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 ERP and component data up to and including June 2011 are final. ERPs for June 2012 to June 2016 are preliminary rebased, to be revised in future issues of ABS 3101.0. The ABS has rebased ERPs up to June quarter 2016 — see *Quality Assurance of Rebased Population Estimates, 2016* (ABS 3250.0.55.001) for further information on calculation of the estimated resident population and the rebasing cycle.

Natural increase data for September quarter 2011 to June quarter 2015 are revised. Data for September quarter 2015 to June quarter 2016 are preliminary (based on date of registration).

Net overseas migration data for September quarter 2011 to September quarter 2015 are revised. Data for December quarter 2015 to June quarter 2016 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 2016 are preliminary (modelled expansion factors based on 2011 Census).

For years prior to 2015–16, the sum of the components of population change does not equal the change in ERP over the year due to intercensal difference. For further details on ERP and component data, refer to the explanatory notes, ABS 3101.0, *Australian Demographic Statistics*, December 2016.

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 difference

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 difference 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 (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 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 (NOM)

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.