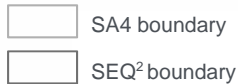
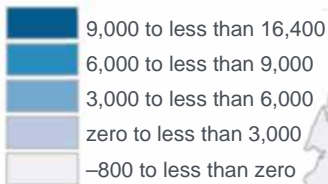


# Population growth highlights and trends, Queensland regions, 2018 edition

Source: ABS 3218.0 (released 24 April 2018, with revisions released 31 August 2018)

## Highlights—population change in Queensland SA4s<sup>1</sup>, year to June 2017

Overall population growth 2016–17



**Cairns** had a small net internal migration loss (-460 persons), however gains were made due to both net overseas migration (1,800) and natural increase (1,720).

**Townsville** grew by 1,370 people, mainly due to natural increase, and a small gain from net overseas migration.

Population decline in **Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday** was the result of a relatively large net loss due to internal migration (-2,750 persons).

**Wide Bay** was the only regional Queensland SA4 to record a net gain due to internal migration.

**Queensland–Outback** population loss moderated (-370 persons), compared with the five-year annual average 2012–2017 (-850).

**Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday**

**Central Queensland**

**7 in 10 new Sunshine Coast** residents were a gain from net internal migration.

**Toowoomba** had the smallest net gain from overseas migration of all the SA4s in SEQ, but it contributed the most to overall growth in the SA4.

**Darling Downs–Maranoa**

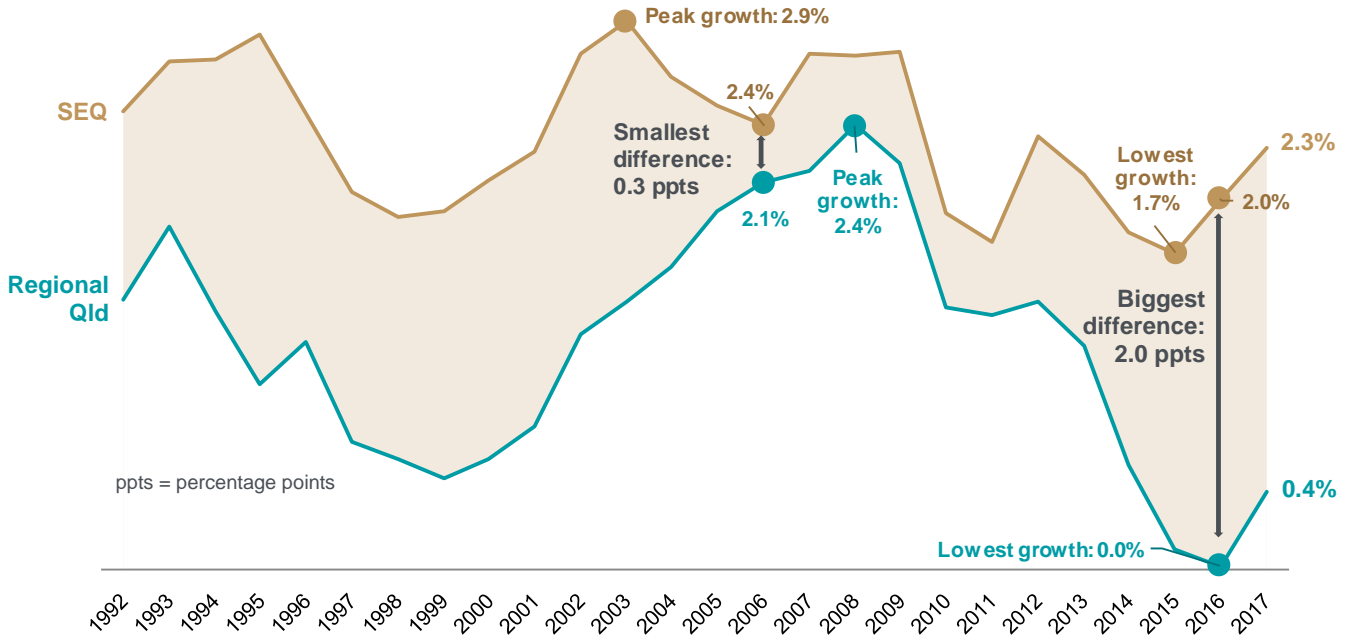
**Gold Coast** received larger net gains in both internal and overseas migrants than all other Queensland SA4s.

<sup>1</sup> Statistical area level 4.

## Overview of Queensland's regions

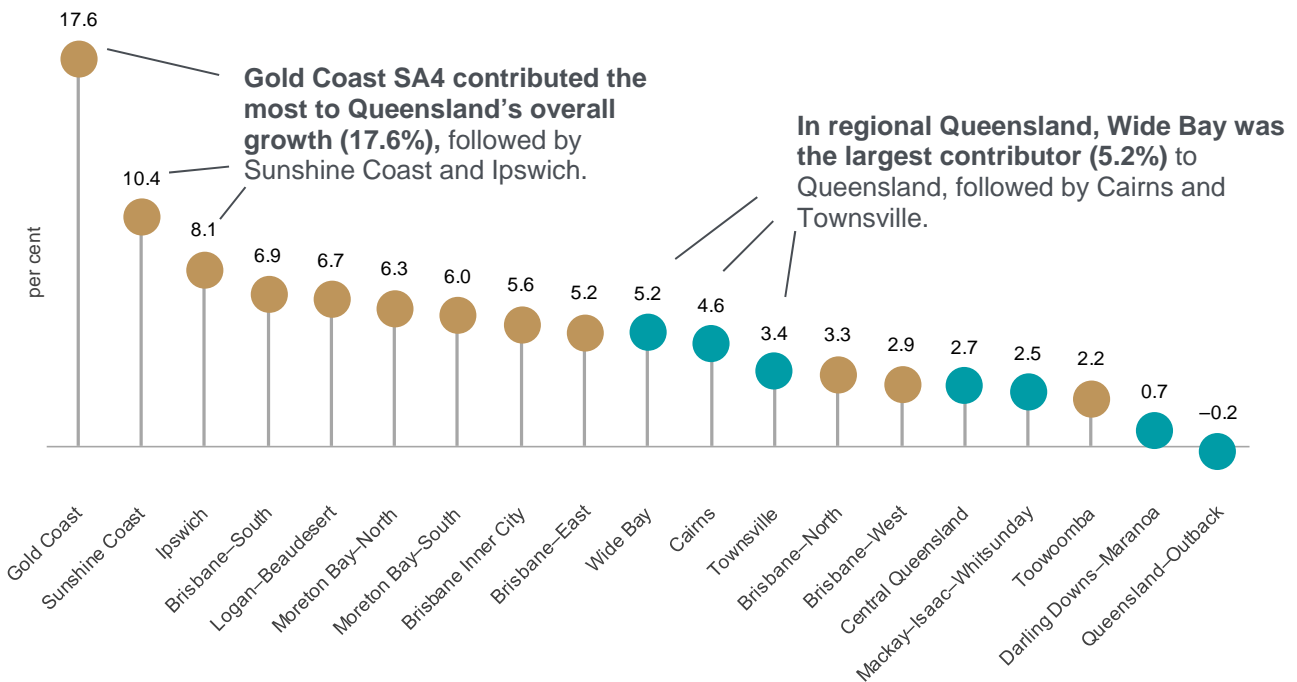
### Annual population growth rate, SEQ<sup>2</sup> and regional Queensland, year to 30 June

Population growth in SEQ has been higher than in regional Queensland for many decades...



- Growth rates in SEQ varied from 1.7% in 2014–15 to 2.9% in 2002–03.
- In regional Queensland, there was very low growth in 2015–16 (0.02% or 210 persons) compared with a peak of 2.4% in 2007–08. Population growth improved slightly in regional Queensland in 2016–17 (0.4%).

### Contribution to Queensland's population growth by SA4, June 1991 to June 2017



<sup>2</sup> In this section of the report, the South East Queensland (SEQ) region is composed of the following SA4s: Brisbane-East, Brisbane-North, Brisbane-South, Brisbane-West, Brisbane Inner City, Gold Coast, Ipswich, Logan-Beaudesert, Moreton Bay-North, Moreton Bay-South, Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba.

## South East Queensland SA4s

- More than **7 in 10** Queenslanders (71.8% or 3.5 million persons) lived in SEQ at June 2017.
- Over the 10 years to June 2017, SEQ grew at almost double the rate (2.1%) of the rest of Queensland (1.1%).
- SEQ population growth slowed to 2.0% per annum in the five years to June 2017 but exceeded the 10-year average at 2.3% in the most recent year, 2016–17.

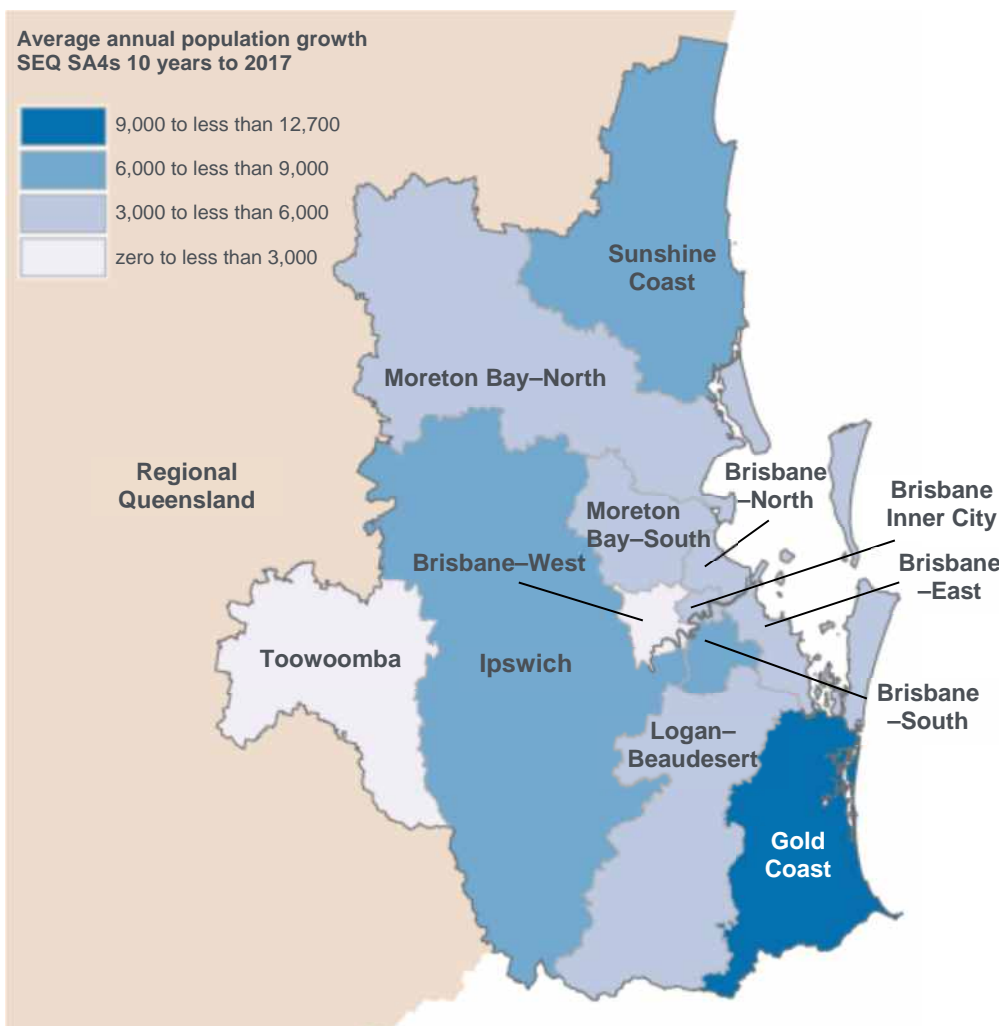
### Rate of population change in SEQ SA4s

- In 2016–17 Brisbane Inner City SA4 (up 3.4%), Moreton Bay–South (2.9%) and Gold Coast (2.8%) SA4s grew the fastest.
- The fastest average annual growth rates during the decade to June 2017 were in Moreton Bay–South (3.3%), Ipswich (2.9%) and Gold Coast (2.4%).
- Population growth over the five years to June 2017 slowed across most SEQ SA4s compared with the five years prior (to June 2012), with Moreton Bay–North and Brisbane–East experiencing the largest moderations in growth.

#### Brisbane Inner City SA4

Brisbane Inner City was the only SA4 in SEQ where the average annual population growth rate was higher in the five years to June 2017 compared with the 5 years to June 2012 (2.5% compared with 2.0%). This was due to a relatively large increase in the volume of infill development in the area in recent years.

### Size of population change in SEQ SA4s



#### Year to June 2017

In 2016–17, Gold Coast grew the most (16,360 persons), followed by Sunshine Coast (9,080), Brisbane Inner City (8,910) and Ipswich (8,830).

The smallest population growth in 2016–17 was in Toowoomba (1,980 persons) followed by Brisbane–West (2,350).

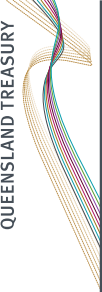
#### 10 years to June 2017

In the 10 years to June 2017, Gold Coast grew the most, increasing by an average of 12,650 persons per year, followed by Ipswich (8,580) and the Sunshine Coast (7,390).

Toowoomba grew the least during 2007–2017, increasing by an average of 1,890 persons per year followed by Brisbane–West (2,000).

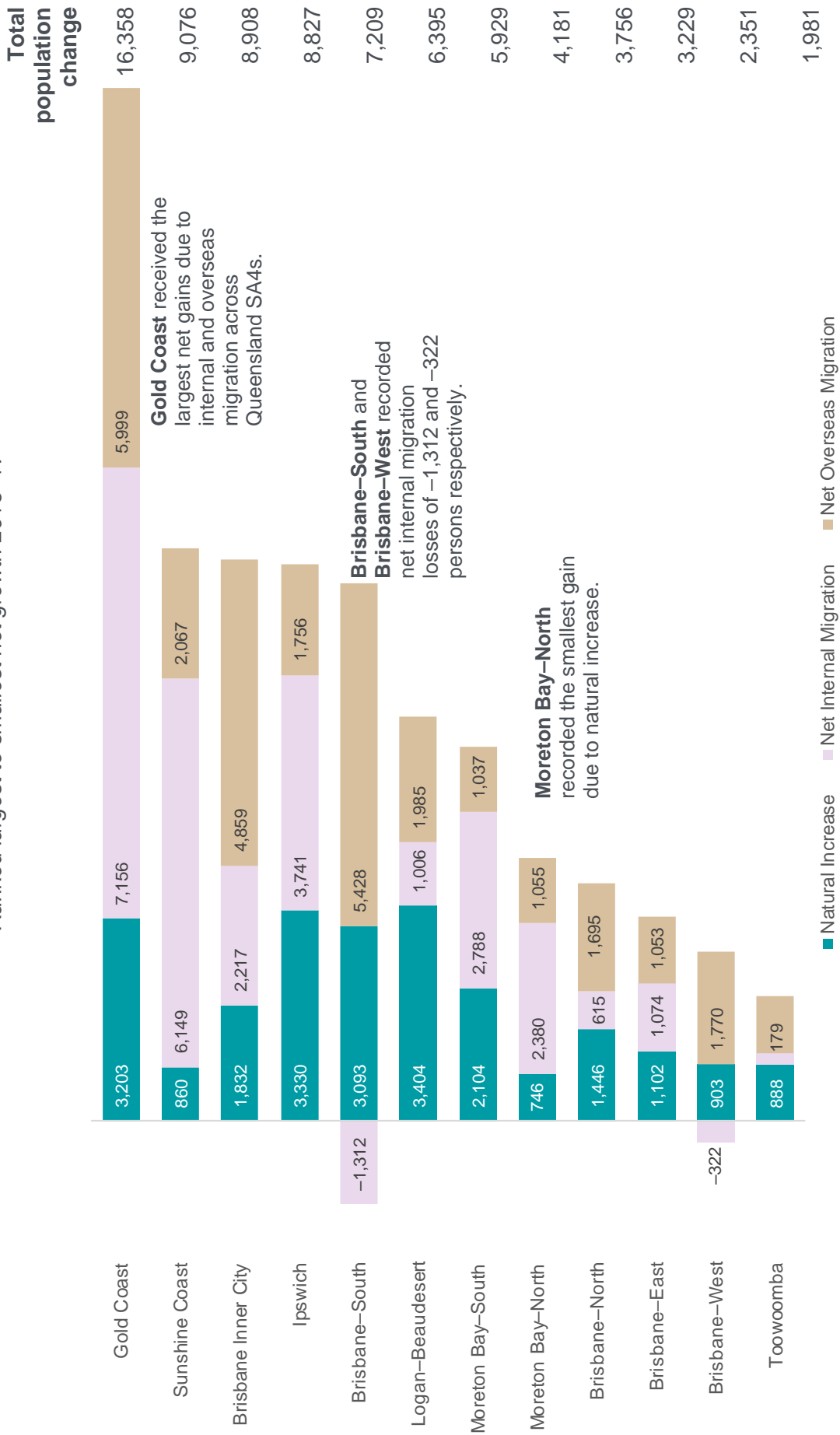
### Average annual population change, 10 years, 5 years and 1 year to June 2017, SEQ SA4s

SA4	Estimated resident population at 30 June				Average annual growth			Average annual growth		
	2007	2012	2016	2017	2007–2017	2012–2017	2016–17	2007–2017	2012–2017	2016–17
	— number —				— number —			— per cent —		
<b>South East Queensland</b>	<b>2,866,565</b>	<b>3,211,500</b>	<b>3,462,230</b>	<b>3,540,430</b>	<b>67,387</b>	<b>65,786</b>	<b>78,200</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.3</b>
<b>Brisbane–East</b>	201,553	222,061	231,403	234,632	3,308	2,514	3,229	1.5	1.1	1.4
<b>Brisbane–North</b>	182,767	202,009	214,765	218,521	3,575	3,302	3,756	1.8	1.6	1.7
<b>Brisbane–South</b>	303,544	335,540	356,779	363,988	6,044	5,690	7,209	1.8	1.6	2.0
<b>Brisbane–West</b>	169,512	180,896	187,153	189,504	1,999	1,722	2,351	1.1	0.9	1.3
<b>Brisbane Inner City</b>	219,565	242,211	264,952	273,860	5,430	6,330	8,908	2.2	2.5	3.4
<b>Gold Coast</b>	479,818	542,072	589,933	606,291	12,647	12,844	16,358	2.4	2.3	2.8
<b>Ipswich</b>	256,773	300,088	333,702	342,529	8,576	8,488	8,827	2.9	2.7	2.6
<b>Logan–Beaudesert</b>	275,976	306,907	328,707	335,102	5,913	5,639	6,395	2.0	1.8	1.9
<b>Moreton Bay–North</b>	198,404	227,779	243,261	247,442	4,904	3,933	4,181	2.2	1.7	1.7
<b>Moreton Bay–South</b>	150,813	178,797	201,950	207,879	5,707	5,816	5,929	3.3	3.1	2.9
<b>Sunshine Coast</b>	291,904	326,506	356,763	365,839	7,394	7,867	9,076	2.3	2.3	2.5
<b>Toowoomba</b>	135,936	146,634	152,862	154,843	1,891	1,642	1,981	1.3	1.1	1.3
<b>Queensland</b>	<b>4,111,018</b>	<b>4,568,687</b>	<b>4,845,152</b>	<b>4,929,152</b>	<b>81,813</b>	<b>72,093</b>	<b>84,000</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.7</b>



### Components of population change, SEQ SA4s, year to June 2017

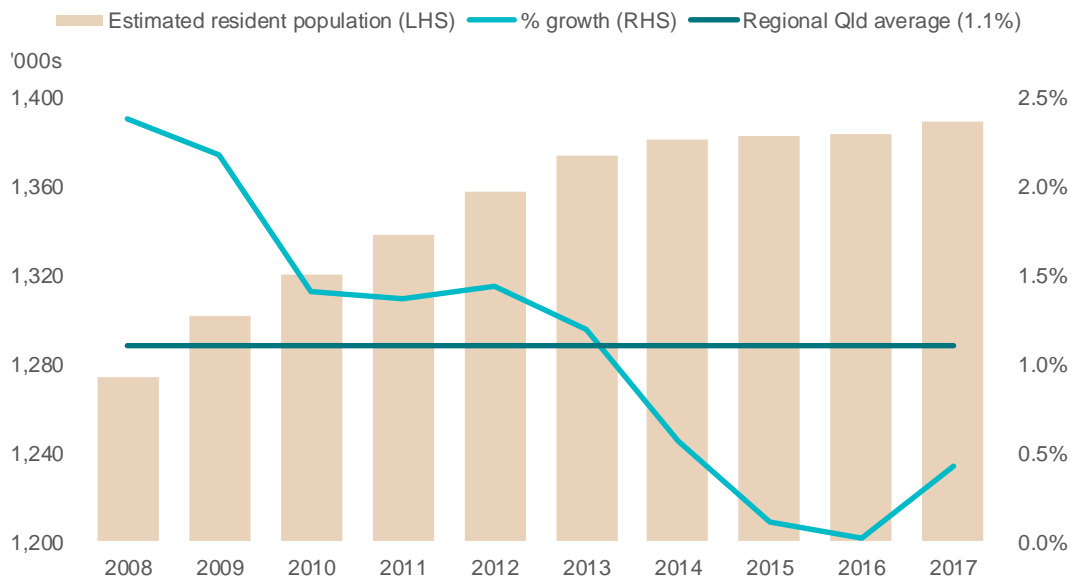
Ranked largest to smallest net growth 2016–17



## Regional Queensland SA4s

- Almost **3 in 10** Queenslanders (28.2% or 1.4 million persons) lived in regional Queensland at June 2017.
- Over the 10 years to June 2017, regional Queensland's population increased by an average of 1.1% per year, around half the rate of SEQ (2.1%).
- In each of the years from June 2014 to June 2017, population growth in regional Queensland was below the 10-year average.

### Population change in regional Queensland, 10 years to June 2017



### Rate of population change in regional Queensland SA4s

- The average annual rate of population growth more than halved in the five years to June 2017 compared with the five years to June 2012 in all regional SA4s except Cairns, with the largest differences occurring in:
  - Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday (2.2 percentage points lower)
  - Queensland–Outback (2.0 percentage points lower).
- Declines in the rate of population growth also occurred in Central Queensland and Townsville SA4s due to the end of the mining construction boom:
  - Central Queensland transitioned from average annual population growth of 2,260 persons per annum over the ten years to June 2017 to 860 persons per annum over the five years to June 2017.
  - Townsville's average annual growth almost halved from 2,870 per annum over the 10-year period to 1,500 per annum over the five-year period.
- In 2016–17, Cairns (1.2%) had the fastest population growth of SA4s in regional Queensland, followed by Wide Bay (0.8%) and Townsville (0.6%).
- Cairns also recorded the fastest population growth rate in the 10 years to June 2017 (1.5%).

## Size of population change in regional Queensland SA4s

In the year to June 2017:

- Cairns SA4 increased the most (up 3,060 persons).
- Wide Bay had the second-largest population growth of regional Queensland SA4s (2,260 persons), followed by Townsville (1,370).
- Population decreases occurred in:
  - Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday (–710 persons)
  - Queensland–Outback (–370)
  - Central Queensland (–210).

Over the 10 years to June 2017:

- The largest average annual population increases were in:
  - Cairns (3,450 persons per annum)
  - Wide Bay (3,350)
  - Townsville (2,870).
- In contrast, Queensland–Outback SA4 had an average population loss of less than 10 persons per year.

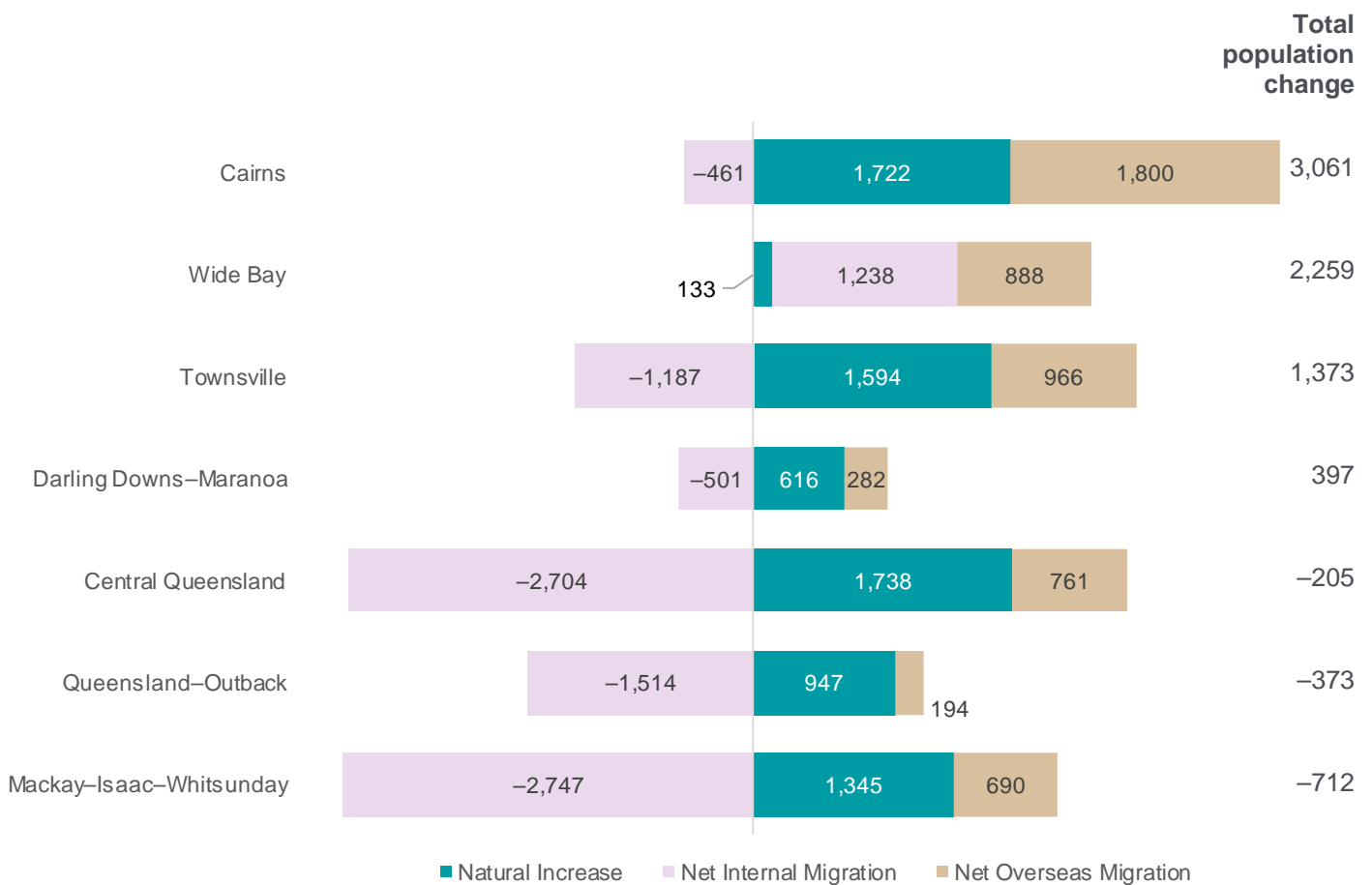
### Average annual population change, 10 years, 5 years and 1 year to June 2017, regional Queensland SA4s

SA4	Estimated resident population at 30 June				Average annual growth			Average annual growth		
	2007	2012	2016	2017	2007–2017	2012–2017	2016–17	2007–2017	2012–2017	2016–17
	— number —				— % —					
<b>Regional Queensland</b>	<b>1,244,453</b>	<b>1,357,187</b>	<b>1,382,922</b>	<b>1,388,722</b>	<b>14,427</b>	<b>6,307</b>	<b>5,800</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.4</b>
<b>Cairns</b>	215,261	236,699	246,684	249,745	3,448	2,609	3,061	1.5	1.1	1.2
<b>Darling Downs–Maranoa</b>	118,515	126,467	128,401	128,798	1,028	466	397	0.8	0.4	0.3
<b>Central Queensland</b>	202,792	221,034	225,548	225,343	2,255	862	–205	1.1	0.4	–0.1
<b>Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday</b>	157,803	174,236	173,299	172,587	1,478	–330	–712	0.9	–0.2	–0.4
<b>Queensland–Outback</b>	82,251	86,441	82,571	82,198	–5	–849	–373	0.0	–1.0	–0.5
<b>Townsville</b>	206,976	228,179	234,310	235,683	2,871	1,501	1,373	1.3	0.6	0.6
<b>Wide Bay</b>	260,855	284,131	292,109	294,368	3,351	2,047	2,259	1.2	0.7	0.8
<b>Queensland</b>	<b>4,111,018</b>	<b>4,568,687</b>	<b>4,845,152</b>	<b>4,929,152</b>	<b>81,813</b>	<b>72,093</b>	<b>84,000</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.7</b>

### Components of population change, regional Queensland SA4s, year to June 2017

- All regional SA4s had net population gains due to natural increase (deaths exceeding births) and overseas migration in 2016–17.
- Wide Bay was the only regional Queensland SA4 to record a net gain due to internal migration (1,240 persons).
- Cairns had a small net internal migration loss (–460), but net gains were made in equal measure from overseas migration (1,800) and natural increase (1,720).
- Overall population declines in Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday, Queensland–Outback and Central Queensland were the result of relatively large net losses of people to other parts of Queensland and Australia.

### Components of population change, regional Queensland SA4s, year to June 2017





## South East Queensland LGAs<sup>3</sup>

- At 30 June 2017, around **1 in 4** Queenslanders (1.21 million persons) lived in Brisbane, the most populous LGA both in SEQ and Queensland.
- Gold Coast had the second largest population (591,360 persons) followed by:
  - Moreton Bay (449,310)
  - Logan (320,580)
  - Sunshine Coast (311,210).

These LGAs also had the largest populations in all of Queensland.

- In the 10 years to June 2017, there was an increase in the proportion of the Queensland population residing in Moreton Bay (up 0.7 percentage points), Gold Coast and Ipswich (up 0.6 percentage points each). In contrast, Toowoomba's share of Queensland's population declined by 0.2 percentage points over the same period (from 3.6% to 3.4%).

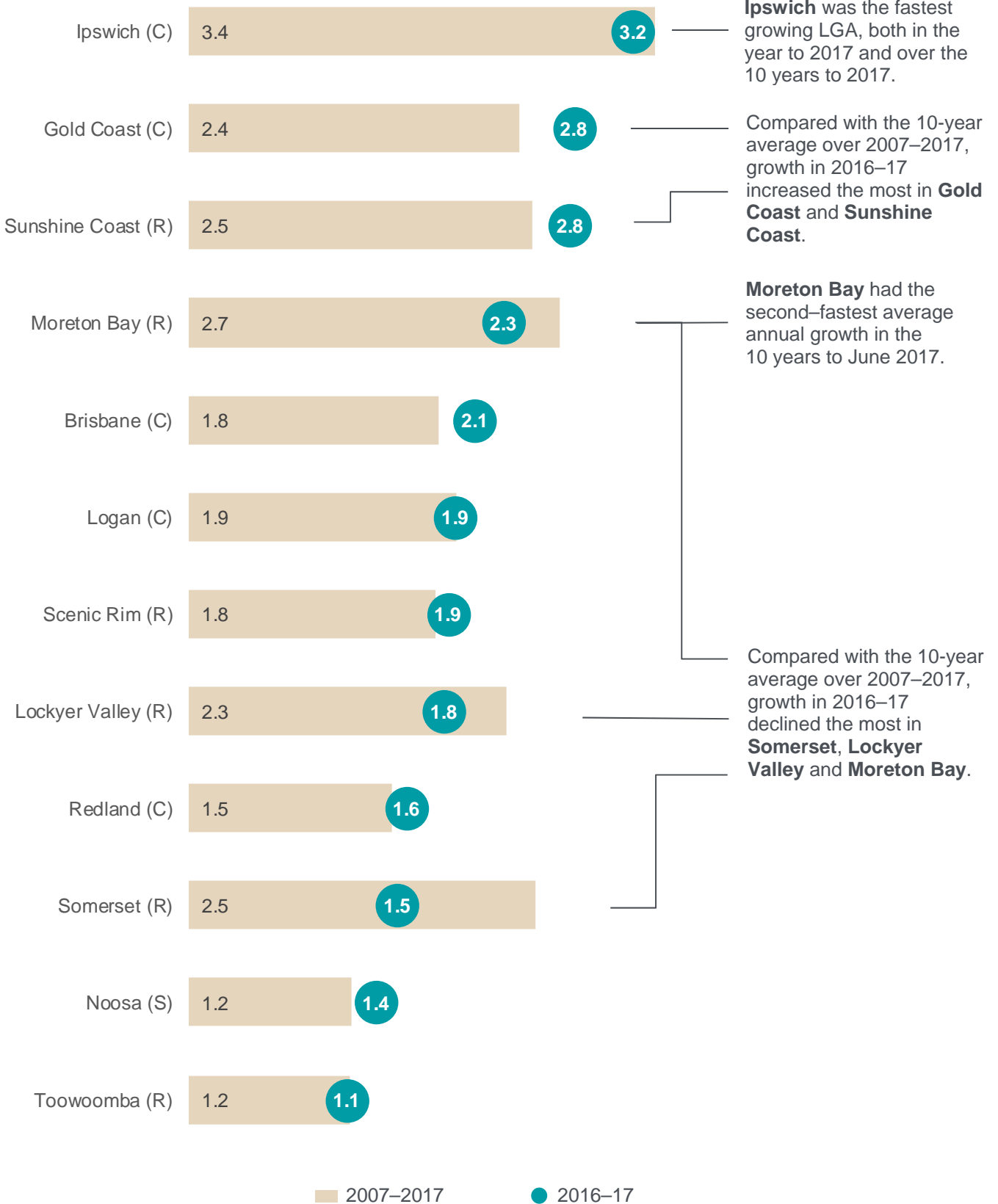
### Estimated resident population, SEQ local government areas, at 30 June

LGA	State ranking	Estimated resident population at 30 June				Estimated resident population at 30 June			
		2007	2012	2016	2017	2007	2012	2016	2017
		— number —				— % of Qld —			
<b>Brisbane (C)</b>	1	1,010,222	1,111,798	1,184,752	1,209,322	24.6	24.3	24.5	24.5
<b>Gold Coast (C)</b>	2	466,940	528,342	575,303	591,356	11.4	11.6	11.9	12.0
<b>Moreton Bay (R)</b>	3	344,545	401,188	439,292	449,310	8.4	8.8	9.1	9.1
<b>Logan (C)</b>	4	264,410	293,974	314,511	320,583	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.5
<b>Sunshine Coast (R)</b>	5	243,309	274,828	302,841	311,211	5.9	6.0	6.3	6.3
<b>Ipswich (C)</b>	6	148,133	178,215	200,103	206,549	3.6	3.9	4.1	4.2
<b>Toowoomba (R)</b>	8	147,927	157,884	164,168	166,045	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.4
<b>Redland (C)</b>	10	133,596	145,719	152,216	154,617	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1
<b>Noosa (S)</b>	16	48,595	51,678	53,922	54,654	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1
<b>Scenic Rim (R)</b>	18	34,983	37,966	40,984	41,753	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8
<b>Lockyer Valley (R)</b>	19	32,050	36,547	39,499	40,229	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
<b>Somerset (R)</b>	27	19,919	22,761	25,153	25,533	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
<b>Queensland</b>	..	<b>4,111,018</b>	<b>4,568,687</b>	<b>4,845,152</b>	<b>4,929,152</b>				

<sup>3</sup> For the purposes of this publication, Toowoomba (R) has been included in South East Queensland.

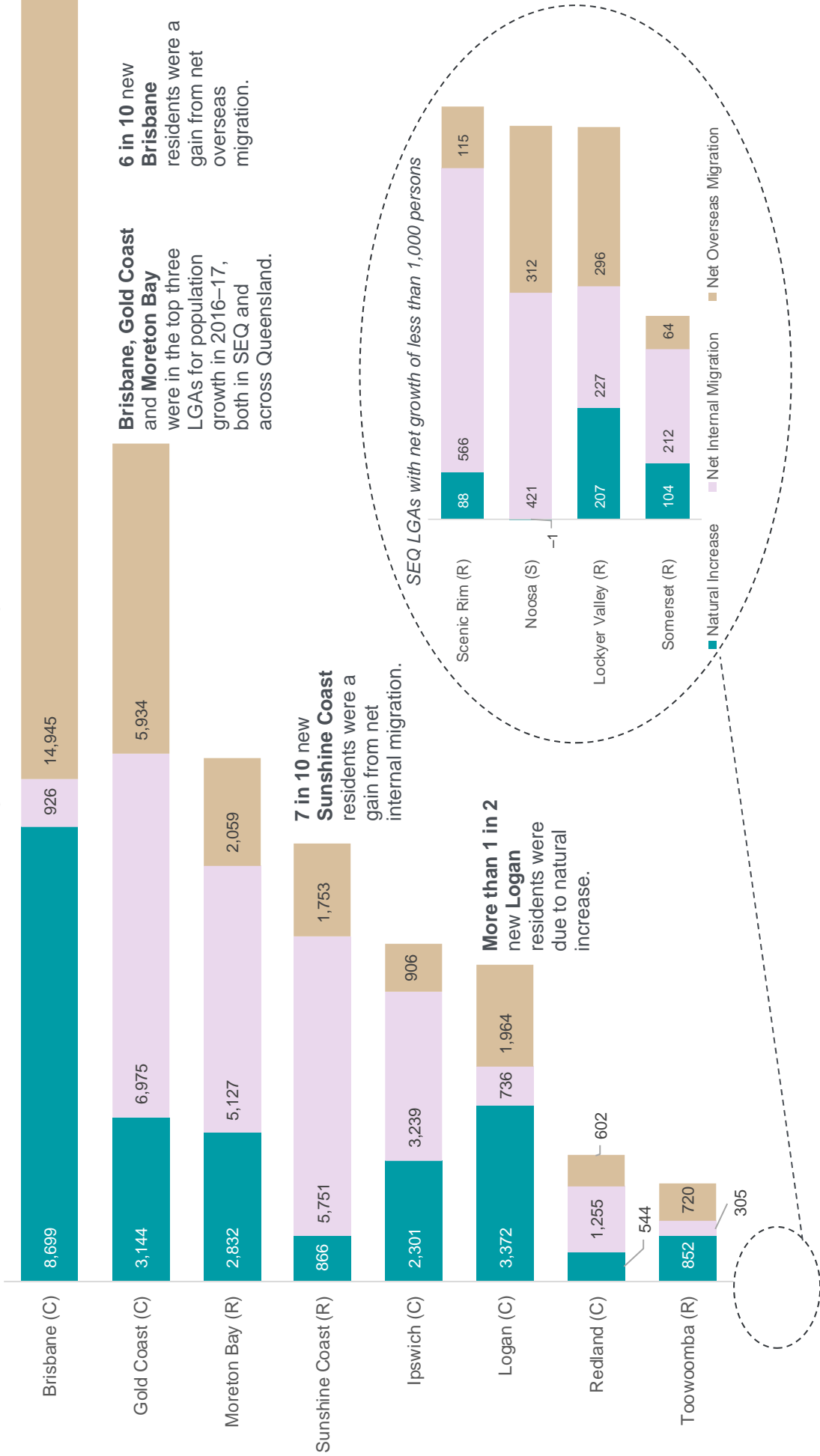
**Population growth rates, SEQ local government areas, 10 years 2007–2017 and 2016–17**

*Ranked fastest to slowest % growth in 2016–17*



### Components of population growth, SEQ LGAs, year to June 2017

Ranked largest to smallest net growth 2016–17



## Regional Queensland LGAs

- At 30 June 2017, Townsville had the largest population of all LGAs in regional Queensland with 192,990 persons, representing 3.9% of Queensland's population.
- Cairns had the second-largest population (163,810), followed by Mackay (116,620 persons).
- Among the 10 largest LGAs in regional Queensland, Cairns, Gladstone, Gympie and Livingstone LGAs' share of the Queensland population remained stable from June 2007 to June 2017.
- Mackay, Bundaberg, Rockhampton, Townsville, Fraser Coast and Southern Downs LGAs' share of Queensland's population declined slightly, between 0.1 and 0.2 percentage points over the same period.

### Estimated resident population, regional Queensland local government areas<sup>(a)</sup>, at 30 June

LGA	State ranking	Estimated resident population at 30 June				Estimated resident population at 30 June			
		2007	2012	2016	2017	2007	2012	2016	2017
		— number —				— % of Qld —			
<b>Townsville (C)</b>	7	163,509	183,612	191,348	192,988	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.9
<b>Cairns (R)</b>	9	136,251	154,041	161,573	163,814	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.3
<b>Mackay (R)</b>	11	106,026	117,495	117,218	116,618	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.4
<b>Fraser Coast (R)</b>	12	89,109	99,021	102,962	104,051	2.2	2.2	2.1	2.1
<b>Bundaberg (R)</b>	13	86,486	93,293	94,256	94,711	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.9
<b>Rockhampton (R)</b>	14	75,195	80,555	81,322	81,206	1.8	1.8	1.7	1.6
<b>Gladstone (R)</b>	15	53,587	60,521	63,017	62,814	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
<b>Gympie (R)</b>	17	43,634	47,786	50,327	51,054	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0
<b>Livingstone (S)</b>	20	30,629	34,381	36,950	37,290	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8
<b>Southern Downs (R)</b>	21	32,933	35,013	35,638	35,570	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7
<b>Queensland</b>	..	<b>4,111,018</b>	<b>4,568,687</b>	<b>4,845,152</b>	<b>4,929,152</b>				

(a) Top 10 local government areas, based on population size at 30 June 2017.

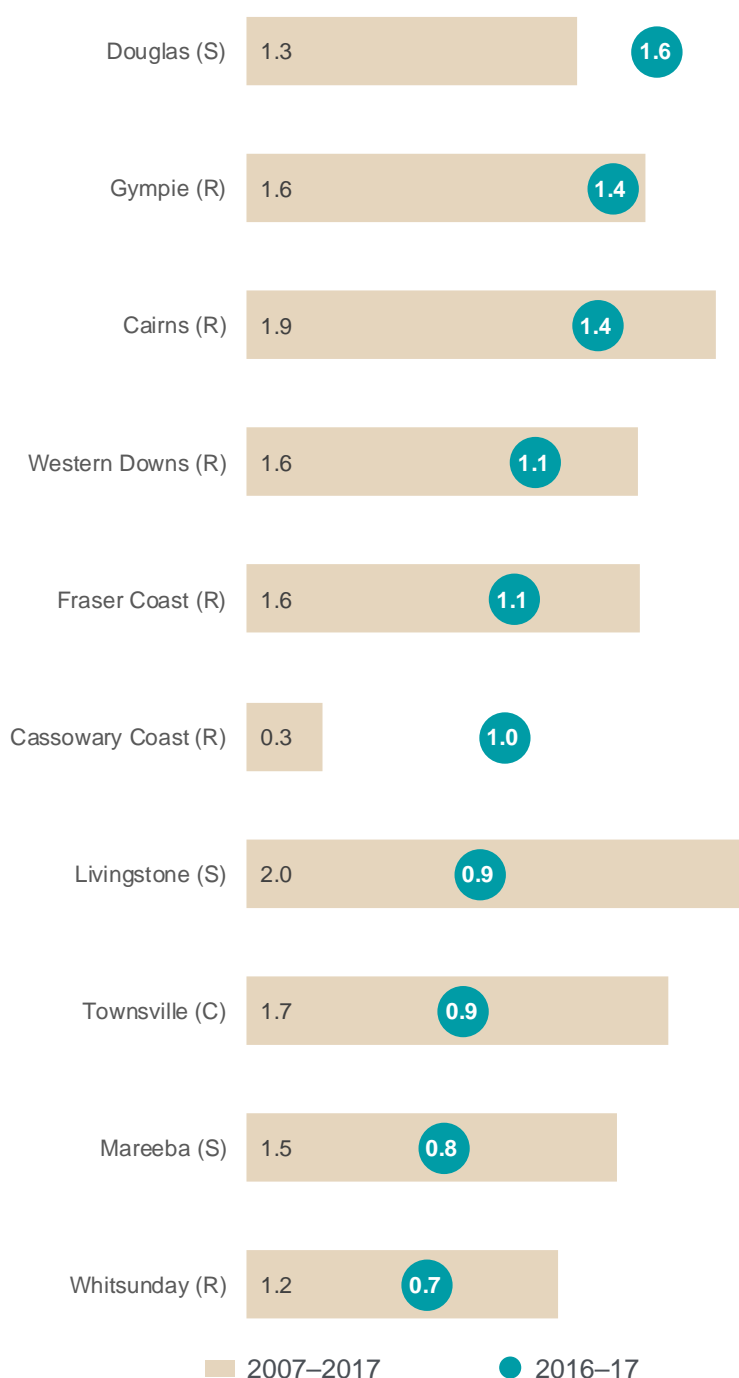
### Fastest population growth

The analysis in this section is limited to regional LGAs with a population of greater than 10,000 persons at 30 June 2017.

- The LGAs of Douglas (1.6%), Gympie (1.4%) and Cairns (1.4%) had the fastest population growth rate in regional Queensland in 2016–17.
- When comparing population growth in 2016–17 to average annual growth in the 10-year period to 30 June 2017, only two LGAs have experienced faster growth recently—Cassowary Coast (up from 0.3% to 1.0%) and Douglas (1.3% to 1.6%).

### Population growth rates, top 10 regional local government areas, 10 years 2007–2017 and 2016–17

Ranked fastest to slowest growth 2016–17



## Largest population growth

The analysis in this section is limited to the top 10 regional LGAs with largest growth in 2016–17.

- Cairns had the largest population growth of all LGAs in regional Queensland (up 2,240 persons) in 2016–17.
- In the 10 years to June 2017, the largest average annual population changes occurred in the LGA of Townsville (up 2,950 persons per annum), followed by Cairns (2,760).
- Average annual growth was lower in 2016–17 when compared with the 10-year period to June 2017 in all top 10 LGAs except Cassowary Coast and Douglas.

### Average annual growth, top 10 regional local government areas

Ranked largest to smallest growth 2016–17

LGA	State ranking	Estimated resident population at 30 June				Average annual growth		
		2007	2012	2016	2017	2007–2017	2012–2017	2016–17
		— number —				— number —		
<b>Cairns (R)</b>	8	136,251	154,041	161,573	163,814	2,756	1,955	2,241
<b>Townsville (C)</b>	10	163,509	183,612	191,348	192,988	2,948	1,875	1,640
<b>Fraser Coast (R)</b>	11	89,109	99,021	102,962	104,051	1,494	1,006	1,089
<b>Gympie (R)</b>	15	43,634	47,786	50,327	51,054	742	654	727
<b>Bundaberg (R)</b>	16	86,486	93,293	94,256	94,711	823	284	455
<b>Western Downs (R)</b>	17	29,520	32,899	34,049	34,438	492	308	389
<b>Livingstone (S)</b>	19	30,629	34,381	36,950	37,290	666	582	340
<b>Cassowary Coast (R)</b>	20	28,706	28,880	29,287	29,585	88	141	298
<b>Whitsunday (R)</b>	21	30,759	33,397	34,538	34,784	403	277	246
<b>Douglas (S)</b>	22	10,768	11,380	12,070	12,266	150	177	196
<b>Queensland</b>	..	<b>4,111,018</b>	<b>4,568,687</b>	<b>4,845,152</b>	<b>4,929,152</b>	<b>81,813</b>	<b>72,093</b>	<b>84,000</b>

**Components of population growth, top three largest growth regional Queensland LGAs**  
*Ranked largest to smallest growth 2016–17*



- In the year to June 2017, Cairns had similar gains from natural increase (1,350 persons) and net overseas migration (1,310).
- Townsville's growth was mainly due to natural increase, followed by overseas migration. Townsville's net gain due to overseas migration (850 persons) was almost matched by net losses due to net internal migration (-710).
- Fraser Coast's growth was overwhelmingly due to internal migration (1,000 persons), offset by a small loss due to natural decrease (-160).

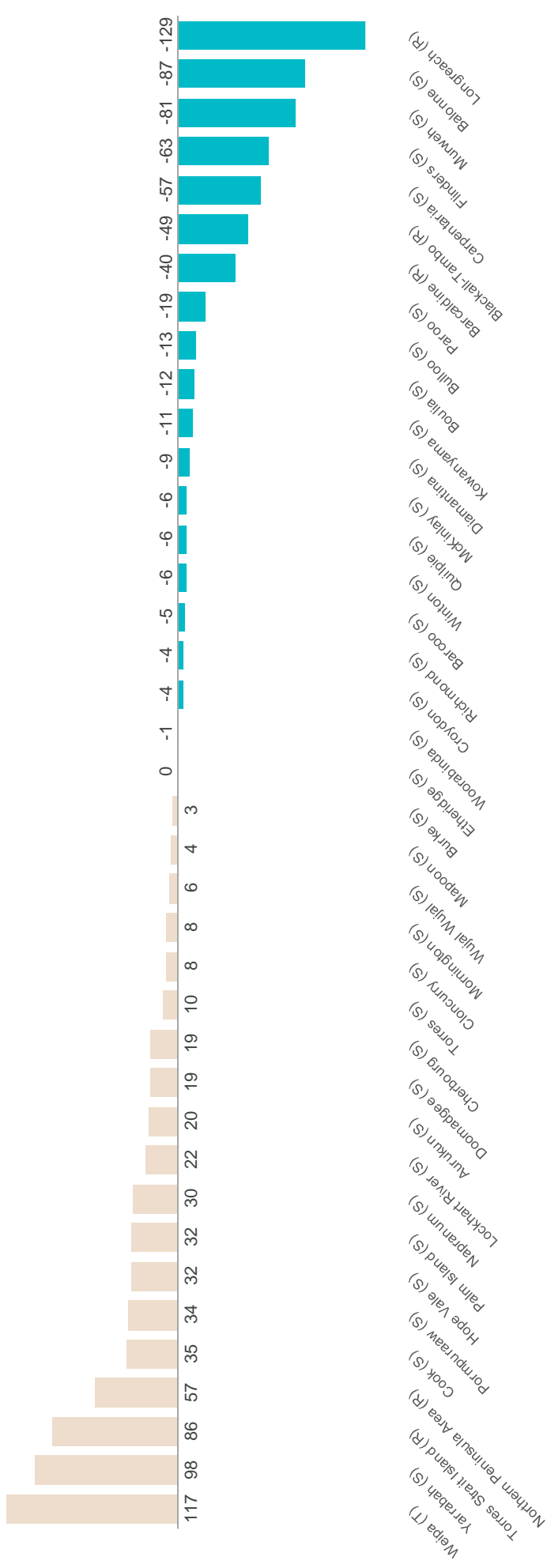
Queensland Government Statistician's Office

### Population change in regional Queensland LGAs

For regional Queensland LGAs with a population of fewer than 10,000 persons at 30 June 2017

- At 30 June 2017, 39 LGAs in Queensland had estimated resident populations of fewer than 10,000 persons, ranging from 270 people in Barcoo to 4,860 people in Torres Strait Island.
- In the year to 30 June 2017, 19 LGAs had small population increases of between less than 10 and 120 persons, with the same number of LGAs estimated to have population losses of up to 130 persons. Etheridge's population was estimated to have remained the same.

### Population change in the year to 30 June 2017, selected regional Queensland LGAs







## 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 *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2016–17* (ABS 3218.0, released 24 April 2018, with revisions released 31 August 2018).

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.

### Status of quarterly ERP data

- All ERP and component data up to and including June 2016 are final. ERPs for June 2017 are revised.
- Natural increase data for September quarter 2016 to December quarter 2017 are preliminary (based on date of registration).
- Net overseas migration data for September quarter 2016 to December quarter 2016 are final (based on actual traveller behaviour). Estimates for the March quarter 2017 onwards are preliminary based on modelled traveller behaviour.
- Net interstate migration data for September quarter 2016 onwards are preliminary (based on modelled expansion factors from 2016 Census component data).

Regional-level (SA4, LGA) population estimates in this report were produced by the ABS using Census data and administrative by-product data, and are subject to some error. A degree of caution should be exercised when using the estimates, especially for areas with very small populations.

A new method was introduced to estimate total sub-state populations out from the 2016 Census base, with population change estimated using births, deaths, and internal and overseas migration. For further information see ABS feature article: '[New methodology used to prepare sub-state population estimates.](#)'

Figures included in the text 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 is 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, except for 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.

### Natural increase

The excess of births over deaths in each 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 internal migration

The movement of people across a specified boundary within Australia due to changing their place of usual residence. This figure is calculated using ABS' official estimate of internal migration for sub-state areas—regional internal migration estimates (RIME)—including intra and interstate migration, prepared on an annual (year ending 30 June) basis.

### Net overseas migration

The difference between the number of people settling in an area from overseas and the number of people departing that area to live overseas. This figure is calculated using ABS's official estimate of overseas migration for sub-state areas—regional overseas migration estimates (ROME)—prepared on an annual (year ending 30 June) basis.