

Main Features

Preliminary estimated resident population at March 2003

Queensland	3,774,292
Percentage share of Australia	19.0%
Australia	19,875,036

Population increase (12 months to March 2003)

Queensland	↑	2.4%
Australia	↑	1.3%

Queensland components of population increase

	Mar qtr	% of Aust
Natural increase	5,340	19.0
Net interstate migration	7,730	n.a.
Net overseas migration	10,679(a)	17.7
Total	23,749	26.8

Commentary

- Queensland's preliminary estimated resident population at March 2003 was 3,774,292 persons, an increase of 23,749 persons since December 2002 and 88,039 since March 2002. This increase includes natural population increase (births minus deaths), net interstate migration and net overseas migration.
- Over the 12 months ending March quarter 2003, Queensland's population increased by 2.4 per cent. In comparison, the Australian population increased by 1.3 per cent.
- The natural increase for Queensland was 5,340 persons for March quarter 2003 and 22,616 for the year ending March quarter 2003, down 7.5% on 24,444 for the year ending March quarter 2002.
- Net interstate migration to Queensland continues to be the highest of all Australian states and territories. In March quarter 2003, 7,730 more persons moved to Queensland than moved away. For the year ending March quarter 2003, net interstate migration was 37,828, up 55.5% on 24,328 for the year ending March quarter 2002 and the highest net interstate migration since the 12 months ending December 1995.
- Net overseas migration to Queensland was 10,679 persons in March quarter 2003 and the highest contribution to population change (although see recommendation for caution in box below). For the year ending March quarter 2003, net overseas migration was 27,595, up 12.0% on 24,633 for the year ending March quarter 2002.

Figure 1: Components of population increase, Queensland, year ending March quarter

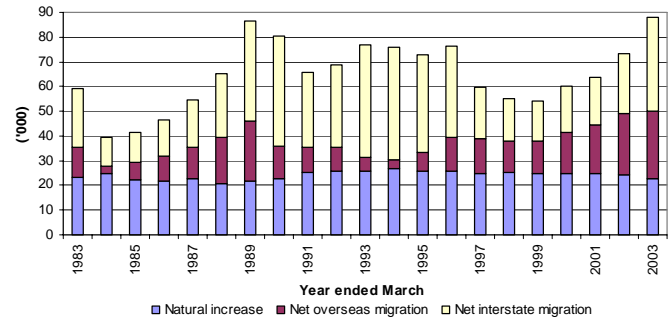


Figure 2: Population annual growth rate, Queensland and Australia, March 1987 to March 2003

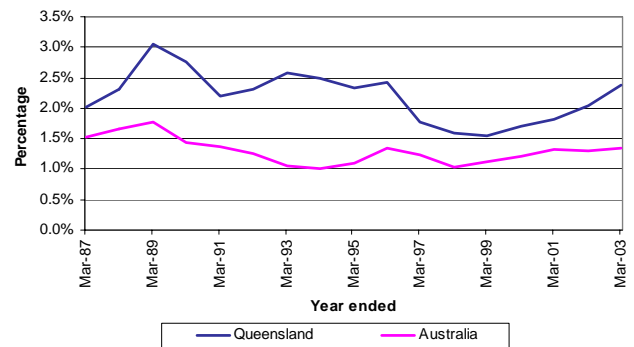
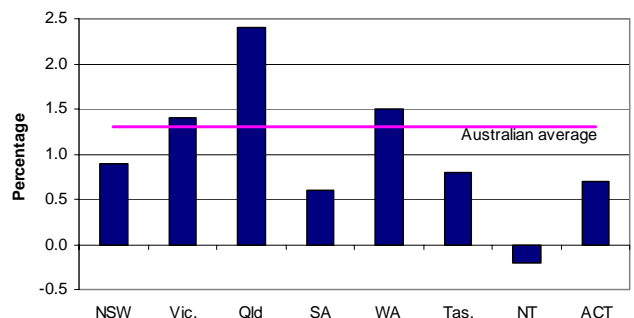


Figure 3: Population growth rate, Australia and States and Territories, year ending March quarter 2003



(a) The ABS recommends that caution should be exercised when using the net overseas migration data. In recent years, there have been substantial changes in the patterns of passenger travel into and out of Australia, and this, combined with changes to passenger card design in July 1998, caused the ABS to become concerned about the quality of the adjustment used for category jumping.* Historically, category jumping has oscillated around zero. However, it is now expected that category jumping will tend to be negative, resulting in an overstatement of net overseas migration. The ABS is developing a new model for estimating category jumping and is intending to release revised estimates of net overseas migration in the June 2003 edition of this publication to be released on 11 December 2003. This is expected to result in a downward revision in the levels of net overseas migration as reported in ABS, Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0) from September quarter 2001 onwards.

* Category jumping relates to those persons who change their travel arrangements from short-term to permanent/long-term or vice versa.