

Population Growth, Regional Queensland, 2012

Source: ABS 3218.0, released 30 August 2013, 11:30 am AEST

Introduction

This brief presents the latest population estimates published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for sub-state geographies. It incorporates both the ABS rebased estimates for 30 June 2010 and 30 June 2011 as well as revised estimates for 30 June 2012.

Further analyses on the changes to the historical estimated resident population (ERP) for local government areas (LGAs) will be provided in the forthcoming Government Statistician release *Population: Revised estimates, Regional Queensland 2001 to 2011*. More detailed information relating to the recasting of 20 years of ERP can be obtained on the ABS website.

Main findings

Note: All LGA and Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) geographies are defined under the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), July 2011.

- At 30 June 2012, Brisbane (C), Gold Coast (C), Moreton Bay (R) and Sunshine Coast (R) were the largest LGAs by population size in both Queensland and Australia (Table 1).
- Seven of Queensland's top 10 LGAs by population size at 30 June 2012 were located in South East Queensland (SEQ). Townsville (C), Cairns (R) and Toowoomba (R) (ranked 6th, 8th and 9th respectively) were located outside SEQ.
- The largest population increases over the year to 30 June 2012 in Queensland LGAs occurred in Brisbane (C) (20,594), Gold Coast (C) (10,971) and Moreton Bay (R) (9,985) (Table 2).
- Of Queensland LGAs with populations of 2,000 or more, Weipa (T) recorded the fastest growth rate in the year to 30 June 2012 with 5.2%, followed by Central Highlands (R) with 3.5% (Table 3).
- The most populous SA2 in Queensland was Southport (located in Gold Coast SA4) with 30,145 people (ranked 18th most populous of all SA2s within Australia).
- The largest increases in population for Queensland SA2s in the year to June 2012 occurred in North Lakes - Mango Hill SA2 (located in Moreton Bay - South SA4) (up 2,024), Deeragun SA2 (located in Townsville SA4) (up 1,838) and Forest Lake - Doolandella SA2 (located in Ipswich SA4) (up 1,715).
- For Queensland SA2s with populations of 2,000 or more at 30 June 2012, Pimpama SA2 (located in Gold Coast SA4) recorded the fastest annual growth rate to 30 June 2012 (12.7% or an additional 421 persons).

Table 1: Ten largest LGAs, at 30 June 2012, Queensland

Qld ranking	Aust. ranking	LGA	Population number
1	1	Brisbane (C)	1,110,473
2	2	Gold Coast (C)	526,173
3	3	Moreton Bay (R)	400,036
4	4	Sunshine Coast (R)	324,266
5	6	Logan (C)	293,485
6	19	Townsville (C)	184,526
7	25	Ipswich (C)	177,485
8	30	Cairns (R)	165,388
9	35	Toowoomba (R)	157,669
10	46	Redland (C)	145,507

Table 2: Ten largest growing LGAs^(a), Queensland

Qld ranking	LGA	Population increase	
		2010-11	2011-12
— number —			
1	Brisbane (C)	16,735	20,594
2	Gold Coast (C)	9,067	10,971
3	Moreton Bay (R)	8,694	9,985
4	Logan (C)	5,285	6,011
5	Sunshine Coast (R)	4,456	5,987
6	Ipswich (C)	5,066	5,285
7	Townsville (C)	3,586	4,412
8	Cairns (R)	2,089	3,210
9	Mackay (R)	2,291	3,121
10	Rockhampton (R)	1,234	3,086

(a) Based on the ten largest growing LGAs during 2011-12.

Table 3: Ten fastest growing LGAs^(a), Queensland

Qld ranking	LGA	Annual growth	
		2010-11	2011-12
— % —			
1	Weipa (T)	2.6	5.2
2	Central Highlands (R)	1.6	3.5
3	Ipswich (C)	3.0	3.1
4	Gladstone (R)	3.1	3.0
5	Whitsunday (R)	0.9	2.8
6	Rockhampton (R)	1.1	2.7
7	Mackay (R)	2.0	2.7
8	Moreton Bay (R)	2.3	2.6
9	Mount Isa (C)	1.1	2.5
10	Cloncurry (S)	1.2	2.5

(a) Based on LGAs with 2,000 persons or more as at 30 June 2012.

C = City, R = Regional Council, S = Shire, T = Town

