



Queensland  
Government

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND STATISTICAL RESEARCH

INFORMATION BRIEF

REGIONAL POPULATION GROWTH

2002-03

ABS 3218.0

Released 10:30am EDT, 12 March 2004

Main Features

Preliminary estimated resident population at June 2003

Queensland	3,796,775
Percentage share of Australia	19.1%
Australia	19,881,469

Population growth, top 3 states, 12 months to June 2003

Queensland	↑	2.3%
Western Australia	↑	1.4%
Victoria	↑	1.2%
Australia	↑	1.2%

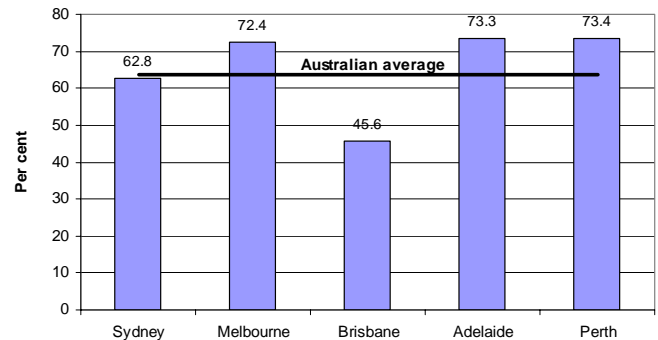
Capital city statistical division share of state at June 2003

Hobart	41.9%
Brisbane	45.6%
Sydney	62.8%
Melbourne	72.4%
Adelaide	73.3%
Perth	73.4%
Australia	63.8%

Commentary

- Queensland's estimated resident population at June 2003 was 3,796,775 persons, representing 19.1% of Australia's population.
- Queensland's population increased by 85,803 persons during the twelve months to June 2003. The rate of growth (2.3%) was the fastest within Australia, followed by Western Australia (1.4%) and Victoria (1.2%).
- There are 158 local government areas in Queensland, 32 of which are Aboriginal Councils and Islander Councils. The ABS has been unable to estimate population change for these council areas in Queensland from 30 June 2002 to 30 June 2003.\* Of the remaining 126 local government areas, about 70 per cent experienced population growth or had a constant population in the year ended June 2003. Of the 38 local government areas that recorded a decline in population, 29 of these lost 30 persons or less during the year.
- Queensland is the most decentralised State in mainland Australia (Figure 1). At June 2003, only 46% of Queensland's population resided in the Brisbane Statistical Division (SD). This compared with 72% of persons in Victoria residing in the Melbourne SD and 63% of persons in New South Wales residing in the Sydney SD.

Figure 1: Capital city statistical division population as a proportion of State, June 2003



- Brisbane (2.5%) recorded the highest population increase of all the capital cities during 2002-03, followed by Perth (1.5%) and Melbourne (1.3%).
- Within Queensland, the largest population increases over the year to June 2003 occurred in Brisbane City (20,808 persons), Gold Coast City (16,099 persons), Pine Rivers Shire (6,208 persons) and Maroochy Shire (4,931 persons) (Table 1).
- Brisbane City and Gold Coast City were ranked first and second in Australia in terms of population increase. The shires of Pine Rivers and Maroochy were ranked sixth and eighth respectively.

Table 1: Top ten population increases by local government area, Queensland, year ending June 2003

Qld ranking	Aust ranking	Local government area	Increase (number)
1	1	Brisbane City	20,808
2	2	Gold Coast City	16,099
3	6	Pine Rivers Shire	6,208
4	8	Maroochy Shire	4,931
5	12	Redland Shire	4,189
6	14	Caloundra City	4,026
7	15	Caboolture Shire	3,839
8	19	Cairns City	2,814
9	21	Ipswich City	2,639
10	28	Hervey Bay City	2,231

\* The June 2003 estimated resident population for these areas has been held constant from 2002.