
The Queensland Government has published to the OESR website population projections for total persons and age/sex groupings at the following geographic levels:

- State of Queensland
- Statistical division (SD)
- Local government area (LGA)
- Statistical local area (SLA).

These data project the permanent resident population only and do not include visitors or temporary residents.

Population projections should not be interpreted as accurate forecasts or predictions. Projections are the consequence of applying certain assumptions about the direction and magnitude of future fertility, mortality and migration trends, applied to a base population. Population projections do not attempt to measure any possible economic, social or political implications that may influence future population growth and distribution. Therefore, the extent to which population projections accurately coincide with future population growth largely depends on the degree to which assumptions about future population growth turn out to be correct.

Users should exercise caution in the interpretation and use of projections, particularly at the smaller geographic levels, where the uncertainty involved in generating projections is greater.

**State and SD projections**

Population projections for Queensland and SDs are generated using a cohort component model by applying certain assumptions about the future growth and variation in certain demographic variables i.e. fertility, mortality, and overseas and interstate/intrastate migration. The setting of these assumptions was informed by the Queensland Government Population Projections Advisory Group, which included representatives from Treasury and Trade through the Office of Economic and Statistical Research (Chair) and the Departments of Transport and Main Roads, Premier and Cabinet, Health, Community Safety, Public Works, Communities, Employment Economic Development and Innovation, Justice and Attorney-General, Education and Training, and the Queensland Police Service. Valuable demographic input was also provided by the Queensland Centre for Population Research (QCPR) at the University of Queensland. Further information on these projections is included in the papers Background research and Methodology, assumptions and scenarios for Queensland.

**LGA projections**

LGA projections are produced within a hybrid demographic and rate ratio model using the SD projections as constraints, taking into account trends in the components of population change. The 2011 edition of the Queensland Government population projections was the first edition to include population projections for all of Queensland’s 17 Indigenous LGAs (previously not included). Indigenous LGAs were projected using a different methodology as the factors influencing population growth in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are significantly different to those that influence the non-Indigenous population. Further details are provided in the background paper Methodology for local government areas.

**SLA and CD projections**

SLA population projections, produced using an allocation model, are constrained by the 2011 edition of the Queensland Government population projections by LGA (medium series). SLA population projections are developed using information on share of growth of the relevant LGA, which is based on information about broadhaectare land supply, vacant lots and infill and redevelopment potential, including their expected dwelling densities. Information is generally provided by local governments as part of their current planning schemes. Where required, alternative information may be obtained, or assumptions made about provision of residential land, to extrapolate projections outside the timeframe of current planning schemes.

**Projection methodology — uncertainty in projections**

The assumptions and models underlying the population projections are based on analysis of trends for a large number of factors including migration profiles, household type and land supply. The influences of short-term activities or unusual events are usually not modelled. For example, the models do not explicitly incorporate the effects of change in policy directions, natural disasters or change in state, national or global economic conditions.
Where a population is relatively large in size, it is more likely that the realised population in future years will be close to
the projected figure, compared with smaller populations. For small populations, the veracity of input data can be
certain. For example, sourced small age/sex estimated resident population figures and natural increase data may
have been confidentialised prior to inclusion in the model. Additionally, the impact of a single industry or the approval
of a single urban development project is magnified at the small area level, compared with the sum of all those
activities at higher levels of geography.

Various consultation strategies were conducted to improve the quality of the 2011 edition population projections. A
project advisory group contributed to the state and SD level projections, while a survey of local governments and other
regional stakeholders contributed to the LGA projections. Councils were consulted to ascertain infill and
redevelopment potential at the SLA level, and provide feedback on draft SLA population projection outputs generated
by the projections team.

As the future size of fertility, mortality and population movements are unpredictable, three series of projections (low,
medium and high) were provided for LGAs and larger areas. Each projection series is based on a set of assumptions
for each component of population change. The medium series population growth assumptions were chosen to
represent the most likely scenario. The low and high series projections have been produced to represent a plausible
range of population growth outcomes around the medium series. There is, however, no certainty that any of these
outcomes will be achieved or even that the population will fall within the stated range. While only medium series
population projections have been produced at the SLA level, projections at this level of geography are similarly
affected by uncertainty in future population trends.

Data availability
The 2011 edition population projections for total population and by age and sex at the state, SD, LGA and SLA levels
are available from the OESR website. Please contact OESR for any further information regarding these projections.