

Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition

Introduction

This publication provides a spatial and temporal overview of Queensland's projected population change at state and sub-state levels, including an analysis of the age composition of the future population.

For additional reference material see the related information briefs covering [state and statistical areas level 4](#), and [local government areas and statistical areas level 2](#), [background research paper](#), and [methodology and assumptions paper](#).

Projections datasets can be found at www.oesr.qld.gov.au/subjects/demography/population-projections/index.php

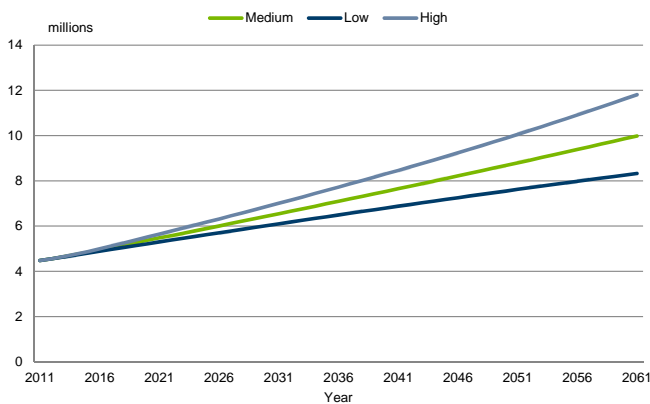
Queensland

Total population

Queensland's population is projected to grow from 4.5 million persons at June 2011 to 7.1 million by 2036 and more than double in size by 2061, increasing to 10.0 million persons.

Three projection series (low, medium and high) have been produced. Based on these series, Queensland's population is projected to grow from 4.5 million persons in 2011 to between 6.5 million and 7.7 million persons by 2036 (Figure 1). Continuing strong growth is expected to result in a population of between 8.3 million (low series) and 11.8 million (high series) by 2061 (Figure 1 and Table 1).

Figure 1: Projected population, by projection series, 30 June 2011 to 2061, Queensland



Source: ABS 3101.0 and Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition

Table 1: Projected population, by projections series, Queensland, as at 30 June

Series	2011	2036	2061
Low	4,476,800	6,493,400	8,325,500
Medium	4,476,800	7,095,200	9,986,400
High	4,476,800	7,724,300	11,809,000

Source: ABS 3101.0 and Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition

In the decade to 2011, the Queensland population increased at an average annual rate of 2.3%. Under the medium series, this rate is projected to decline slightly to 2.0% in the 2011 to 2021 period, with a further reduction in growth rates over the projection period, reaching 1.3% per annum in the decade to 2061.

Under the range of the three projections series (low, medium and high), average annual growth rates are projected to be between 1.7% and 2.3% in the decade to 2021, declining to between 0.9% and 1.6% in the 2051 to 2061 period (Table 2).

Table 2: Average annual population growth (%), Queensland

Period	Actual	Projection series		
		Low	Medium	High
2001–11	2.3			
2011–21		1.7	2.0	2.3
2021–31		1.4	1.8	2.2
2031–41		1.2	1.6	1.9
2041–51		1.0	1.4	1.7
2051–61		0.9	1.3	1.6

Source: ABS 3101.0 and Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition

Components of population change

State level population change is comprised of three components: natural increase (births less deaths); net interstate migration (interstate arrivals less interstate departures); and net overseas migration (overseas arrivals less overseas departures).

Based on the medium series, net overseas migration is projected to be the largest contributor to Queensland's population growth between 2011 and 2061 (46%), followed by natural increase (births less deaths) (40%) and net interstate migration (14%) (Table 3).

Table 3: Components of population growth, medium series, 30 June 2011 to 2061, Queensland

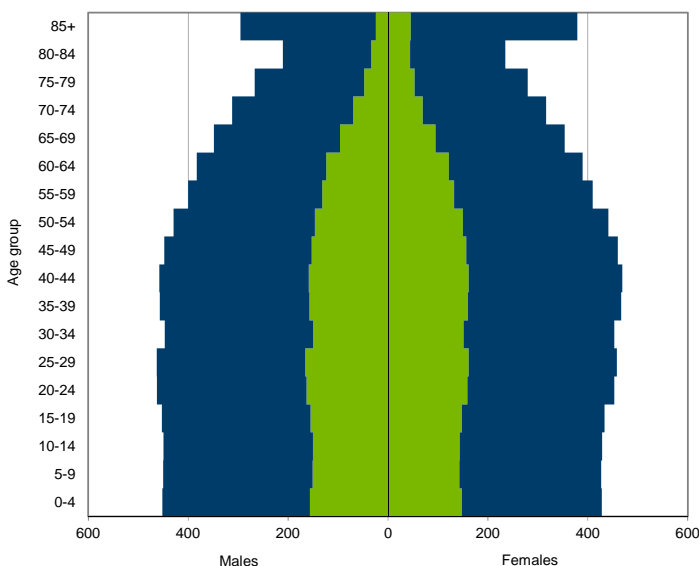
Components	Increase 2011 to 2061 (number)	% of growth
Net overseas migration	2,536,800	46.0
Natural increase	2,204,200	40.0
Net interstate migration	768,600	14.0
Total	5,509,600	100.0

Source: Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition

Age Structure

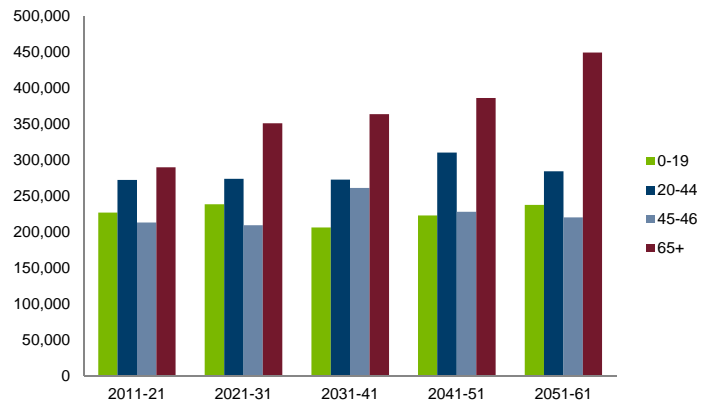
The age structure of the Queensland population is projected to change significantly over the next fifty years. This change will be represented by increasing numbers of people in all age groups (Figure 2) and ageing of the population (Figure 3).

Figure 2: Projected population by age group and sex (thousands), medium series, 30 June 2011 and 2061, Queensland



Source: ABS 3101.0 and Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition, medium series

Figure 3: Projected population change by broad age groups, medium series, decades ending 2021 to 2061, Queensland



Source: ABS 3101.0 and Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition, medium series

Ageing of the population will result in an increase to the median age of the Queensland population. This is projected to increase from 36.6 years in 2011 to 40.2 years by 2036 and further increase to 41.6 years by 2061.

There will also be significant increases in the number of people in the older age groups.

The population aged 65 years and over is projected to increase from 580,000 persons at June 2011 to 1.4 million persons by 2036 and 2.4 million persons by 2061. The proportion of Queensland's population aged 65 years and over is projected to increase from 13.0% to 19.8% between 2011 and 2036 and represent nearly a quarter of the population by 2061 (Table 3).

Queensland's very old population (85 years and over) is projected to increase from 70,000 persons to 604,000 between 2011 and 2061 (increasing from 1.6% to 6.0% of the state population over the same period) (Table 4).

Table 4: Projected population and share of population, age groups 65 years and over and 85 years and over, Queensland

Age groups	2011	2036	2061
Population 65 years and over			
<i>Number</i>	580,000	1,403,000	2,417,000
<i>% of population</i>	13.0	19.8	24.2
Population 85 years and over			
<i>Number</i>	70,000	239,000	604,000
<i>% of population</i>	1.6	3.4	6.0

Source: ABS 3101.0 and Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition, medium series

The number of children in Queensland is projected to increase significantly over the next 50 years.

Queensland children aged 5 to 11 years (primary school age) are projected to increase from 411,000 in 2011 to 618,000 by 2036 and 817,000 by 2061 (Table 5).

Despite the increase in the size of the population aged 5 to 11 years, the percentage share of this age group of the total population is projected to decline slightly, from 9.2% in 2011 to 8.7% by 2036 and 8.2% by 2061.

The population of 12 to 17 year olds (secondary school age) in Queensland is projected to increase from 357,000 in 2011 to 532,000 by 2036 and 699,000 by 2061.

The proportion of the population aged 12 to 17 years old is projected to decline slightly over the projection horizon, from 8.0% in 2011 to 7.5% in 2036 and 7.0% by 2061.

Table 5: Projected population and share of population, age groups 5–11 year olds and 12–17 year olds, 2011 to 2061, Queensland

Age groups	2011	2036	2061
Population 5–11 year olds			
Number	411,000	618,000	817,000
% of population	9.2	8.7	8.2
Population 12–17 year olds			
Number	357,000	532,000	699,000
% of population	8.0	7.5	7.0

Source: ABS 3101.0 and Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition, medium series

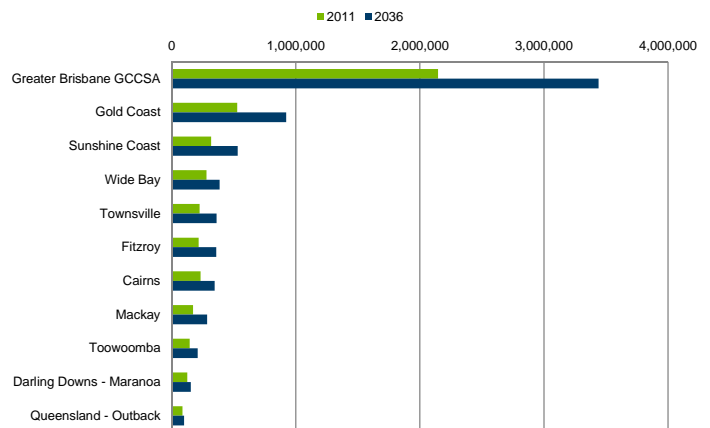
Queensland regions

Total population

Greater Brisbane Greater Capital City Statistical Area¹ (GCCSA) is projected to remain the most populous region in Queensland, increasing from 2.15 million persons in 2011 to 3.44 million in 2036. Gold Coast Statistical Area Level 4 (SA4) is projected to have the second largest population in 2036 (increasing from 529,000 to 922,000 persons in the 25 years to 2036), followed by Sunshine Coast (318,000 to 532,000), Wide Bay (280,000 to 385,000), Townsville (225,000 to 361,000), Fitzroy (217,000 to 359,000), Cairns (233,000 to 346,000) and Mackay (172,000 to 284,000) (Figure 4).

Queensland–Outback is projected to have the smallest population of all Queensland SA4s by 2036 (100,000), followed by Darling Downs–Maranoa (155,000) and Toowoomba (209,000).

Figure 4: Projected populations, Queensland SA4s



Source: ABS 3218.0 and Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition, medium series

The largest population increases between 2011 and 2036 in Queensland SA4s (excluding Greater Brisbane GCCSA) are projected to occur in Gold Coast (393,500), Sunshine Coast (213,400) and Fitzroy (142,100). Greater Brisbane GCCSA is projected to increase by 1,293,700 persons over the period (Table 6).

Gold Coast is projected to be the fastest growing SA4 between 2011 and 2036, increasing by an average annual rate of 2.3%. Sunshine Coast is projected to have the second fastest growth of Queensland SA4s (2.1%), followed by Mackay (2.0%) (Table 4). Queensland–Outback is projected to have the smallest population growth of the Queensland SA4s, increasing by 13,300 persons at a rate of 0.6% per annum.

Table 6: Projected population increase, 2011 to 2036, Queensland SA4s

Ranking ^(a)	Region/SA4	Change 2011 to 2036	
		% ^(b)	number
1	Greater Brisbane GCCSA	1.9	1,293,700
2	Gold Coast	2.3	393,500
3	Sunshine Coast	2.1	213,400
4	Fitzroy	2.0	142,100
5	Townsville	1.9	136,400
6	Cairns	1.6	113,500
7	Mackay	2.0	112,700
8	Wide Bay	1.3	105,100
9	Toowoomba	1.5	64,900
10	Darling Downs–Maranoa	0.9	29,700
11	Queensland–Outback	0.6	13,300
	Queensland	1.9	2,618,400

Source: ABS 3218.0 and Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition, medium series

(a) Ranked by absolute growth 2011 to 2036.

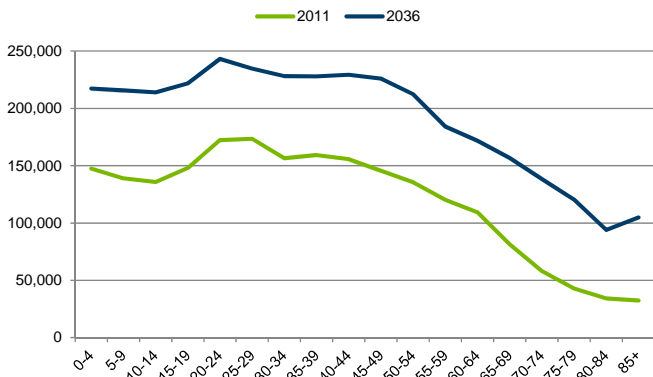
(b) Average annual growth rate.

¹ Greater Brisbane GCCSA comprises the statistical areas level 4 of Brisbane – East, Brisbane – North, Brisbane – South, Brisbane – West, Brisbane Inner City, Ipswich, Logan – Beaudesert, Moreton Bay – North and Moreton Bay – South.

Regional age structures

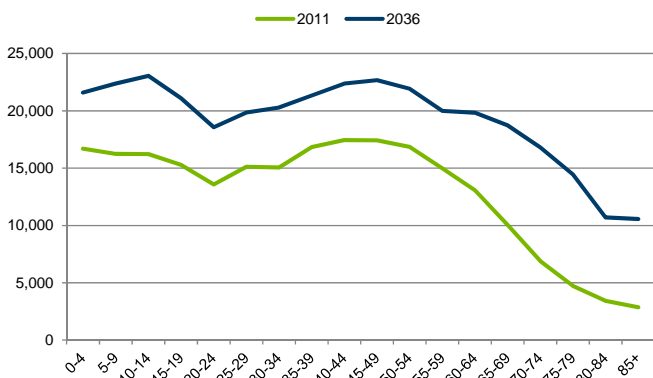
Between 2011 and 2036, the majority of Queensland's regions are projected to experience growth across all age groups. Figures 5 to 15 show the population by five year age groups for each of Queensland's regions in 2011 and 2036.

Figure 5: Projected population by age group (years), Greater Brisbane GCCSA



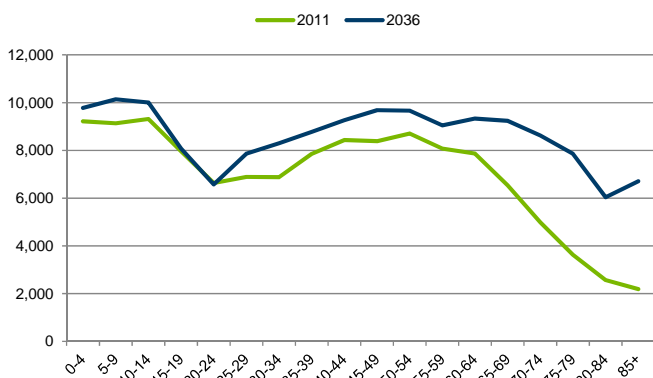
Source: ABS 3235.0 and Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition, medium series

Figure 6: Projected population by age group (years), Cairns SA4



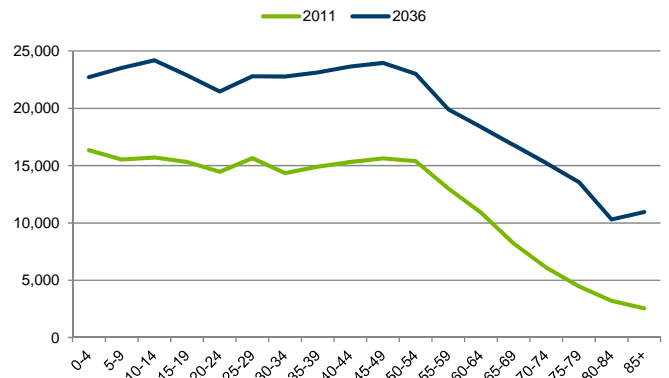
Source: ABS 3235.0 and Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition, medium series

Figure 7: Projected population by age group (years), Darling Downs–Maranoa SA4



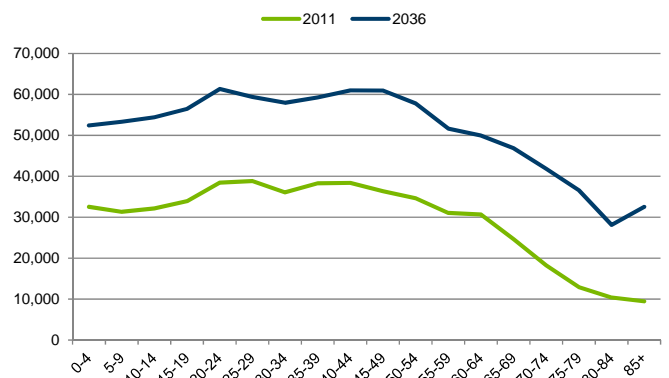
Source: ABS 3235.0 and Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition, medium series

Figure 8: Projected population by age group (years), Fitzroy SA4



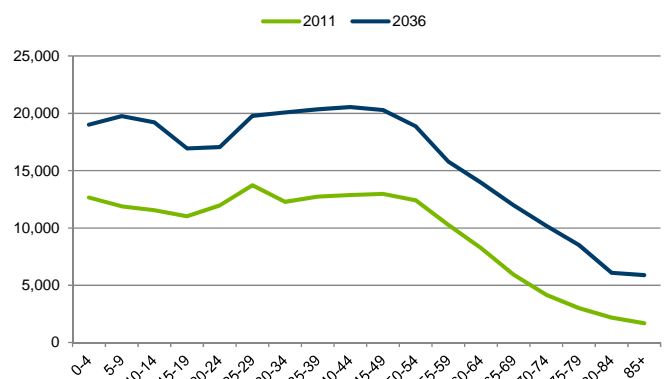
Source: ABS 3235.0 and Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition, medium series

Figure 9: Projected population by age group (years), Gold Coast SA4



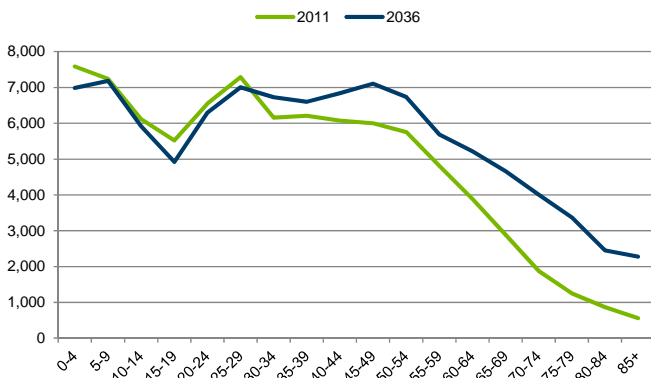
Source: ABS 3235.0 and Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition, medium series

Figure 10: Projected population by age group (years), Mackay SA4



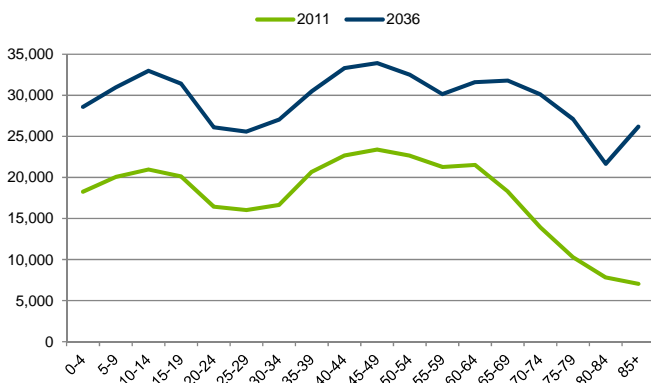
Source: ABS 3235.0 and Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition, medium series

Figure 11: Projected population by age group (years), Queensland–Outback SA4



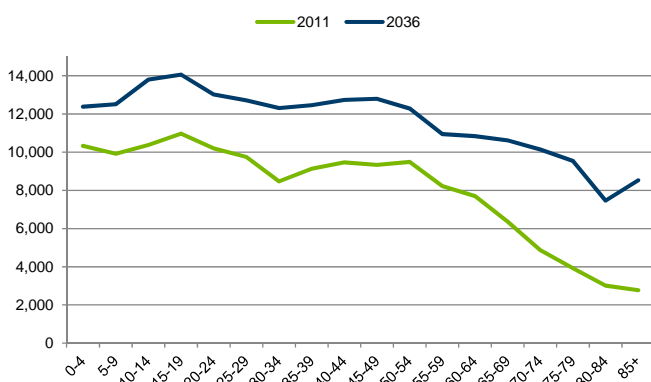
Source: ABS 3235.0 and Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition, medium series

Figure 12: Projected population by age group (years), Sunshine Coast SA4



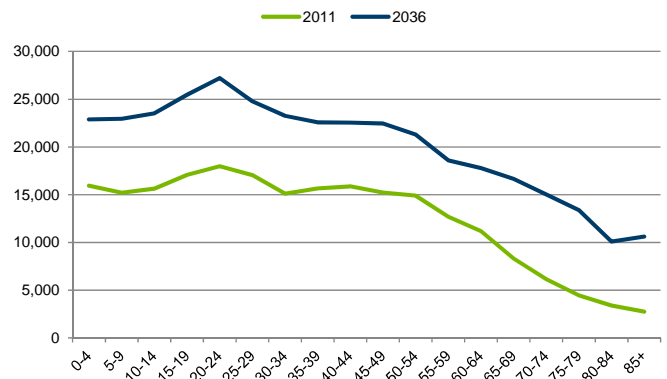
Source: ABS 3235.0 and Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition, medium series

Figure 13: Projected population by age group (years), Toowoomba SA4



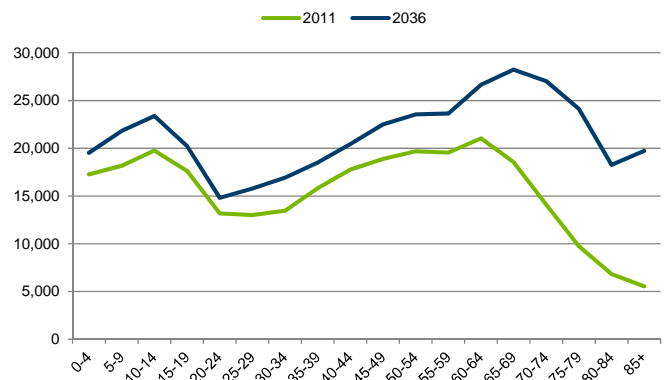
Source: ABS 3235.0 and Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition, medium series

Figure 14: Projected population by age group (years), Townsville SA4



Source: ABS 3235.0 and Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition, medium series

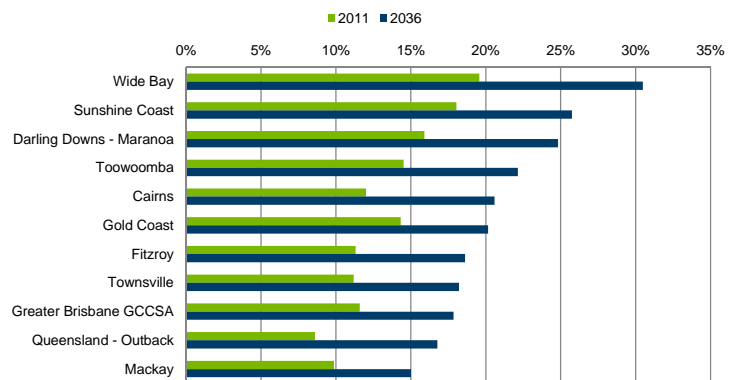
Figure 15: Projected population by age group (years), Wide Bay SA4



Source: ABS 3235.0 and Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition, medium series

By 2036, Wide Bay (at 30.5%) is projected to have the largest proportion of its population aged 65 years and over of all Queensland SA4s. Sunshine Coast (25.7%) is projected to have the second largest, followed by Darling Downs–Maranoa (24.8%). The SA4s of Mackay (15.0%) and Queensland–Outback (16.8%) are projected to have the smallest proportion of their respective SA4 populations aged 65 years and over (Figure 16).

Figure 16: Proportion of population aged 65 years and over, Queensland SA4s, at 30 June



Source: ABS 3235.0 and Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition, medium series

The numbers of children in Queensland SA4s are also projected to increase in the next 25 years. Between 2011 and 2036, the number of 5–11 year olds (primary age children) living in Greater Brisbane GCCSA is projected to increase from 193,200 to 301,500. In Gold Coast SA4 the number of children aged 5 to 11 years is projected to increase from 44,200 to 75,000. Large increases are also projected in Sunshine Coast (28,400 to 44,000), Fitzroy (21,800 to 33,200), Mackay (16,600 to 27,600) and Townsville (21,400 to 32,300) (Table 7).

Table 7: Population aged 5–11 years, 30 June 2011 to 2036, Queensland SA4s

Rank ^(a)	SA4	2011	2036	Change 2011 to 2036
1	Greater Brisbane GCCSA	193,200	301,500	108,300
2	Gold Coast	44,200	75,000	30,800
3	Sunshine Coast	28,400	44,000	15,600
4	Fitzroy	21,800	33,200	11,400
5	Mackay	16,600	27,600	11,000
6	Townsville	21,400	32,300	10,900
7	Cairns	22,700	31,600	8,800
8	Wide Bay	25,900	31,100	5,200
9	Toowoomba	13,900	17,800	3,800
10	Darling Downs–Maranoa	12,900	14,200	1,300
11	Queensland–Outback	10,000	9,800	-200
	Queensland	411,000	618,000	207,000

Source: ABS 3235.0 and Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition, medium series

(a) Ranked by absolute growth from 2011 to 2036.

The population of 12–17 year olds (secondary school age) in Greater Brisbane GCCSA is projected to increase from 167,100 to 256,900 between 2011 and 2036. Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast SA4s are also projected to have large increases (up 26,700 and 14,400 respectively) (Table 8).

Table 8: Population aged 12-17 years, 30 June 2011 to 2036, Queensland SA4s

Rank ^(a)	SA4	2011	2036	Change 2011 to 2036
1	Greater Brisbane GCCSA	167,100	256,900	89,700
2	Gold Coast	39,200	65,900	26,700
3	Sunshine Coast	25,400	39,800	14,400
4	Fitzroy	19,000	28,900	9,900
5	Townsville	19,500	29,000	9,500
6	Mackay	13,500	22,000	8,500
7	Cairns	19,500	27,300	7,800
8	Toowoomba	13,100	17,200	4,100
9	Wide Bay	23,600	27,500	3,900
10	Darling Downs–Maranoa	10,700	11,300	600
11	Queensland–Outback	6,600	6,200	-400
	Queensland	357,200	531,900	174,700

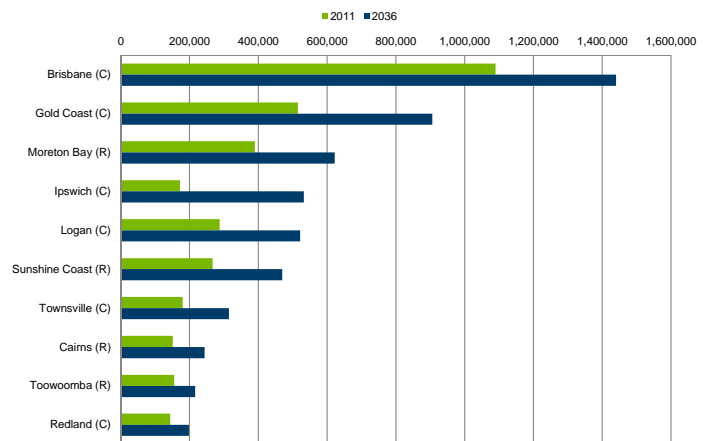
Source: ABS 3235.0 and Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition, medium series

(a) Ranked by absolute growth from 2011 to 2036.

Queensland LGAs

At 30 June 2036, Brisbane (1.44 million), Gold Coast (905,700), Moreton Bay (622,300), Ipswich (532,600), Logan (521,700) and Sunshine Coast (469,900) are projected to be the most populous local government areas (LGAs) in Queensland. With the exception of Redland, three of the remaining four LGAs in the top 10 are in regional Queensland (Townsville, Cairns and Toowoomba) (Figure 17).

Figure 17: Projected ten largest populations, 30 June 2036, Queensland LGAs



Source: ABS 3218.0 and Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition, medium series

The top six of Queensland's top 10 LGAs by population growth between 2011 and 2036 were located in South East Queensland (SEQ), followed by Townsville, Cairns, Mackay and Gladstone. The largest population increases are projected to occur in Gold Coast (390,500), Ipswich (360,400) and Brisbane (350,300) (Table 9).

Table 9: Projected ten largest population increases, 30 June 2011 to 2036, Queensland LGAs

Rank ^(a)	LGA	Change 2011 to 2036	
		% ^(b)	number
1	Gold Coast (C)	2.3	390,500
2	Ipswich (C)	4.6	360,400
3	Brisbane (C)	1.1	350,300
4	Logan (C)	2.4	234,300
5	Moreton Bay (R)	1.9	232,200
6	Sunshine Coast (R)	2.3	202,600
7	Townsville (C)	2.3	134,200
8	Cairns (R)	1.9	93,100
9	Mackay (R)	2.2	81,900
10	Gladstone (R)	2.9	61,800

Source: ABS 3218.0 and Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition, medium series

(a) Ranked by absolute growth from 2011 to 2036.

(b) Average annual growth rate.

Ipswich is projected to be the fastest growing LGA, projected to increase by 4.6% per annum on average over the next 25 years, followed by Scenic Rim (3.2%) and Gladstone (2.9%).

The populations of the majority of Queensland's LGAs are projected to age over the next 25 years. Between 2011 and 2036, Brisbane (up 126,900) is projected to have the largest increase in the population aged 65 years and over. Gold Coast (up 108,000), Moreton Bay (78,000) and Sunshine Coast (70,800) are projected to have the next largest increases (Table 10).

Table 10: Population aged 65 years and over, 30 June 2011 to 2036, Queensland LGAs

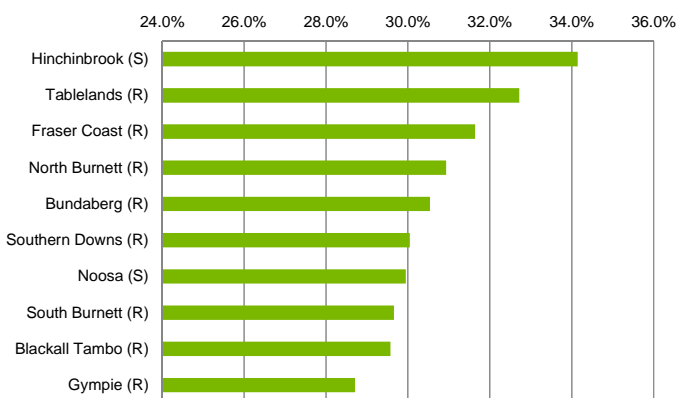
Rank ^(a)	LGA	2011	2036	Change 2011 to 2036
1	Brisbane (C)	124,800	251,600	126,900
2	Gold Coast (C)	73,600	181,600	108,000
3	Moreton Bay (R)	50,200	128,200	78,000
4	Sunshine Coast (R)	47,600	118,400	70,800
5	Logan (C)	26,800	84,600	57,800
6	Ipswich (C)	16,600	70,200	53,600
7	Townsville (C)	17,500	52,600	35,100
8	Cairns (R)	14,700	43,600	28,900
9	Redland (C)	20,600	49,100	28,500
10	Toowoomba (R)	23,700	50,600	26,900

Source: ABS 3235.0 and Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition, medium series

(a) Ranked by absolute growth from 2011 to 2036.

By 30 June 2036, of LGAs with a population greater than 2,000 persons, Hinchinbrook LGA is projected to have the largest proportion of its population aged 65 years and over (34.1%). Tablelands (32.7%) and Fraser Coast (31.6%) had the next largest proportions (Figure 18).

Figure 18: Projected ten largest proportions of population 65 years and over, 30 June 2036, Queensland LGAs



Source: Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition, medium series

Queensland SA2s

By 30 June 2036, the most populous Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) in Queensland is projected to be Ripley (112,000 persons), followed by Coomera (87,300) and Greenbank (86,600). These three SA2s are also projected to have the largest growth in population over the 2011 to 2036 period (Table 10).

All of the top 10 SA2s with the largest projected population increases are located in South East Queensland, with the exception of Deeragun (46,200), which is located in the Townsville local government area (Table 11).

Table 11: Projected ten largest population increases, 30 June 2011 to 2036, Queensland SA2s

Rank ^(a)	SA2	Change 2011 to 2036	
		% ^(b)	number
1	Ripley	15.7	109,100
2	Coomera	9.5	78,300
3	Greenbank	8.2	74,500
4	Caloundra-West	6.1	52,900
5	Rosewood	6.6	47,000
6	Deeragun	5.7	46,200
7	Springfield Lakes	6.9	45,800
8	Jimboomba	4.6	42,200
9	Landsborough	6.9	41,700
10	Bellbird Park-Brookwater	7.0	38,700

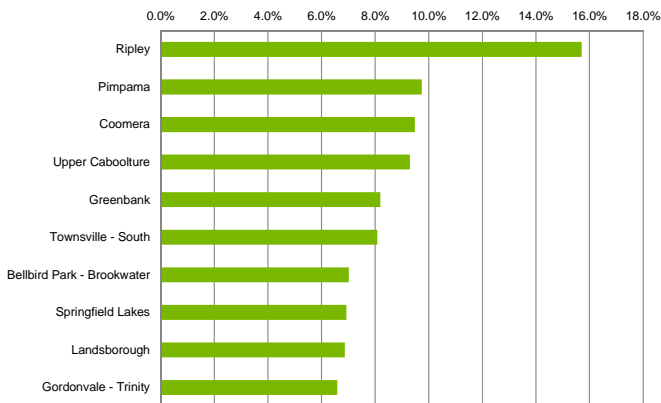
Source: ABS 3218.0 and Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition, medium series

(a) Ranked by absolute growth from 2011 to 2036.

(b) Average annual growth rate.

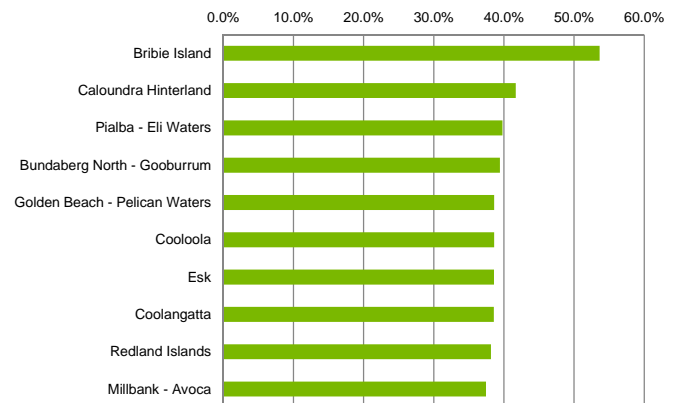
Among SA2s with populations of 2,000 or more in 2011, the Ripley SA2 is projected to be the fastest growing SA2 in Queensland between 2011 and 2036, increasing by an annual average rate of 15.7%, followed by Pimpama (9.7%) and Coomera (9.5%). All the top 10 SA2s with the highest projected growth rates were in SEQ, with the exception of Townsville-South (8.1%) and Gordonvale-Trinity (Cairns) (6.6%) (Figure 19). The population of Eagle Farm-Pinkenba is projected to grow from 300 to 9,900 people between 2011 and 2036, at an average annual rate of 15.4%.

Figure 19: Projected ten largest population increases, average annual % change, 30 June 2011 to 2036, Queensland SA2s



Source: ABS 3218.0 and Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition, medium series

Figure 20: Projected ten largest proportions of population 65 years and over, 30 June 2036, Queensland SA2s



Source: Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition, medium series

The populations of many of Queensland's SA2s are projected to age over the next 25 years. Between June 2011 and 2036, Caloundra-West is projected to have the largest growth in population aged 65 years and over (13,700), followed by Southport (11,300), Greenbank (9,700) and Rosewood (9,000) (Table 12).

Table 12: Population aged 65 years and over, 30 June 2011 to 2036, Queensland SA2s

Rank ^(a)	SA2	2011	2036	Change 2011 to 2036
1	Caloundra-West	3,000	16,600	13,700
2	Southport	4,800	16,100	11,300
3	Greenbank	800	10,500	9,700
4	Rosewood	1,400	10,500	9,000
5	Ripley	100	8,600	8,500
6	Beaudesert	2,100	10,500	8,400
7	Jimboomba	1,300	8,900	7,500
8	Landsborough	1,100	8,600	7,500
9	Coomera	400	7,600	7,200
10	Townsville – South	500	6,800	6,300

Source: ABS 3235.0 and Queensland Government population projections, 2013 edition, medium series

(a) Ranked by absolute growth from 2011 to 2036.

Among SA2s with populations of 2000 persons or more in 2036, Bribie Island is projected to have the largest proportion of its population aged 65 years and over (53.6%), followed by Caloundra Hinterland (41.7%) and Pialba–Eli Waters (39.8%) (Figure 20).

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