

Queensland Government population projections, 2015 edition

Please note: Each edition of the Queensland Government population projections is compiled using the latest information available at time of production. These components change over time and, as such, direct comparisons should not be made between these projections and past and future editions.

Introduction

This publication provides a spatial and temporal overview of Queensland's projected population change at state and sub-state levels. Analysis of the age composition of the future population is included, with a focus on the older population and children of schooling age.

For a more detailed analysis of the projection results see the related information briefs covering [state and statistical areas level 4](#)¹, and [local government areas and statistical areas level 2](#)².

Projections data tables³ are on the QGSO website.

Uncertainty

Future levels of fertility, mortality, overseas migration and internal migration can be unpredictable, and this introduces uncertainty into projections of the future population. To account for this uncertainty, past and recent trends in the components of population change have been analysed and three projection series (low, medium and high) have been developed to illustrate a range of possible future outcomes. However, there can be no certainty that any particular outcome will be realised.

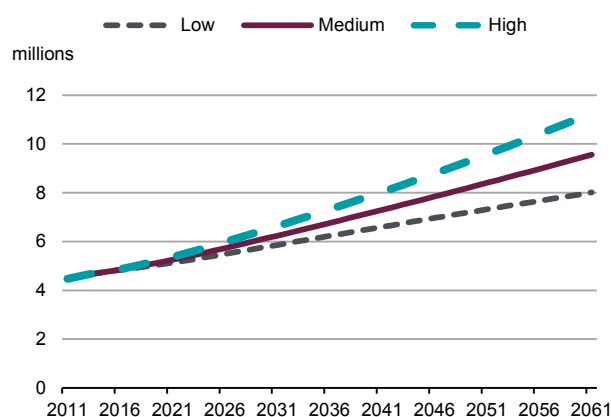
For further information on the analysis of data trends and methods used to compile the 2015 population projections see the [Background research paper, Methodology and assumptions paper](#)⁴ and [Frequently asked questions](#)⁵.

Queensland

Total population

Based on the low, medium and high projection series, Queensland's population is projected to grow from 4.5 million persons in 2011 to between 6.2 million and 7.3 million persons by 2036. Continuing growth is expected to result in a population of between 8.0 million (low series) and 11.3 million persons (high series) by 2061 (Figure 1 and Table 1).

Figure 1 Projected population, by projection series, at 30 June, Queensland



Source: Queensland Government population projections, 2015 edition and ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*

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

Series	2011	2036	2061
Low	4,476,800	6,230,800	8,010,600
Medium	4,476,800	6,763,200	9,560,600
High	4,476,800	7,321,300	11,274,500

Source: Queensland Government population projections, 2015 edition and ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*

¹ <http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/products/reports/qld-govt-pop-proj-qld-sa4/index.php>

² <http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/products/reports/qld-govt-pop-proj-lga-sa2/index.php>

³ <http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/subjects/demography/population-projections/index.php>

⁴ <http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/subjects/demography/population-projections/reports/qld-govt-pop-proj-reference-info/index.php>

⁵ <http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/subjects/demography/population-projections/reports/qld-govt-pop-proj/qld-govt-pop-proj-faq.php>

In the 10 years to 30 June 2011, population growth in Queensland was 2.3%. Growth rates are projected to slow under each of the three projection series. Under the range of the three projections series (low, medium and high), growth rates are projected to range between 1.4% and 1.8% in the 10 years to 2021, moderating to between 0.9% and 1.7% in the 10 years to 2061 (Table 2).

Table 2 Population growth (%), 10 years ending 30 June, Queensland

	Actual	Low	Medium	High
2011	2.3
2021	..	1.4	1.6	1.8
2031	..	1.3	1.7	2.1
2041	..	1.2	1.6	1.9
2051	..	1.0	1.4	1.8
2061	..	0.9	1.3	1.7

.. = not applicable

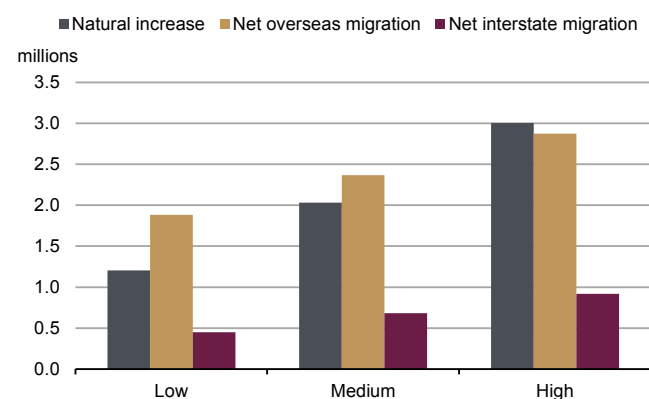
Source: Queensland Government population projections, 2015 edition and ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*

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 low, medium and high projection series, net overseas migration is projected to add between 1.9 and 2.9 million persons to Queensland's population between 2011 and 2061. Natural increase is projected to add between 1.2 and 3.0 million persons, with net interstate migration expected to make the smallest contribution, adding between 450,000 and 920,000 persons in the 50-year period to 2061 (Figure 2).

Figure 2 Components of population growth, by projection series, 30 June 2011 to 2061, Queensland

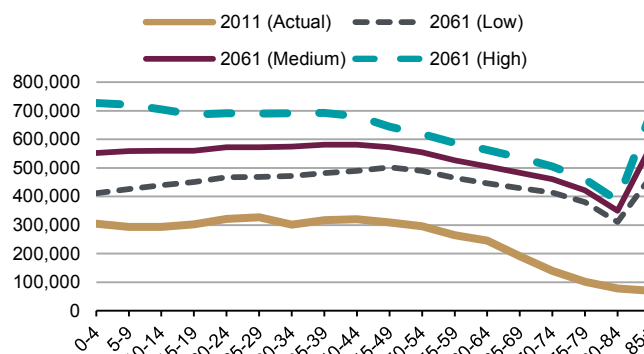


Source: Queensland Government population projections, 2015 edition

Age structure

The age structure of the Queensland population is projected to change significantly in the 50-year period to 2061 (Figure 3). While there will be increasing numbers of persons in all age groups, a significant increase in the older population and larger numbers of children are projected.

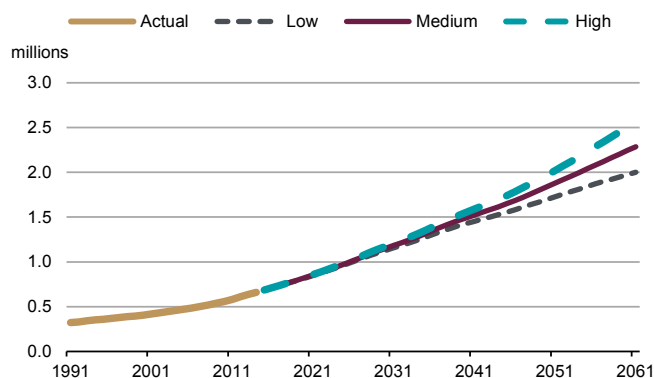
Figure 3 Population by age group, at 30 June, Queensland



Source: Queensland Government population projections, 2015 edition and ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*

The Queensland population aged 65 years and over increased from 320,000 to 580,000 persons in the 20 years from 1991 to 2011. This population is projected to more than double by 2036, reaching between 1.3 and 1.4 million persons. By 2061, it is projected that there will be between 2.0 and 2.6 million persons aged 65 years and over in Queensland (Figure 4).

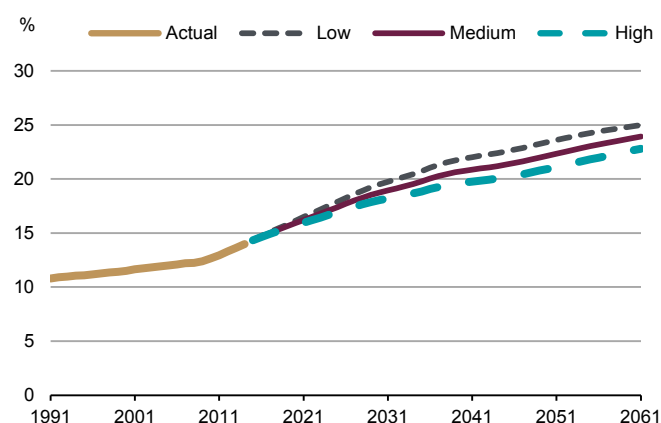
Figure 4 Population aged 65 years and over, at 30 June, Queensland



Source: Queensland Government population projections, 2015 edition and ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*

Similarly, older persons will comprise a greater proportion of Queensland's population. In 1991, 10.8% of the Queensland population was aged 65 years and over. This proportion reached 13.0% in 2011 and is projected to reach between 19.1% and 21.0% in 2036, and between 22.8% and 25.0% by 2061 (Figure 5).

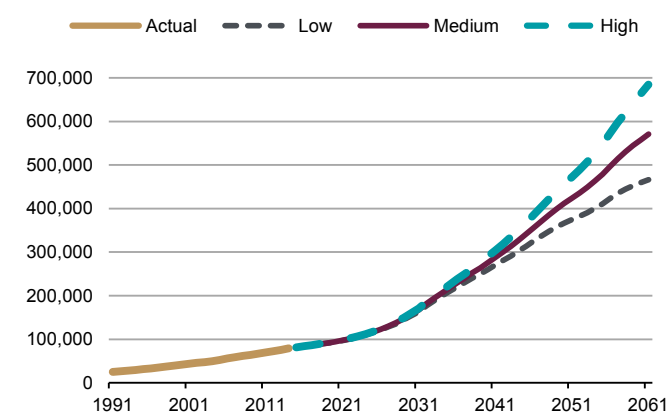
Figure 5 Population aged 65 years and over, by proportion, at 30 June, Queensland



Source: Queensland Government population projections, 2015 edition and ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*

The Queensland population aged 85 years and over increased significantly from 25,000 to 70,000 persons in the 20 years between 1991 and 2011. This population is projected to reach between 220,000 and 238,000 persons by 2036, then between 466,000 and 685,000 by 2061 (Figure 6).

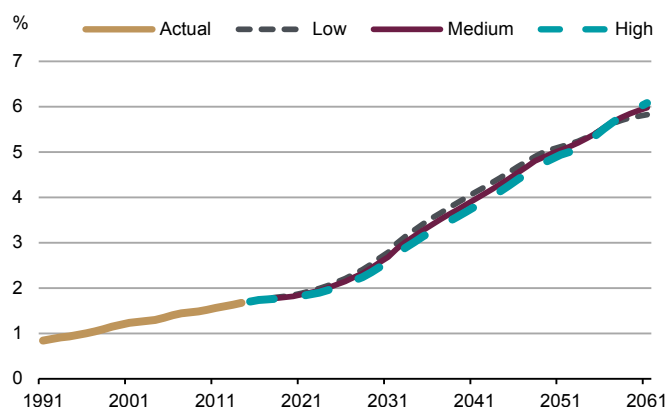
Figure 6 Population aged 85 years and over, at 30 June, Queensland



Source: Queensland Government population projections, 2015 edition and ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*

In 1991, only 0.8% of the Queensland population was aged 85 years and over. This proportion doubled to 1.6% by 2011 and is projected to reach between 3.2% and 3.5% by 2036, and between 5.8% and 6.1% by 2061 (Figure 7).

Figure 7 Population aged 85 years and over, by proportion, at 30 June, Queensland



Source: Queensland Government population projections, 2015 edition and ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*

The projected changes in the age structure of the Queensland population will result in an increase in the median age from 36.6 years in 2011 to between 40.2 and 44.0 years by 2061 (Table 3).

Table 3 Median age (years), at 30 June, Queensland

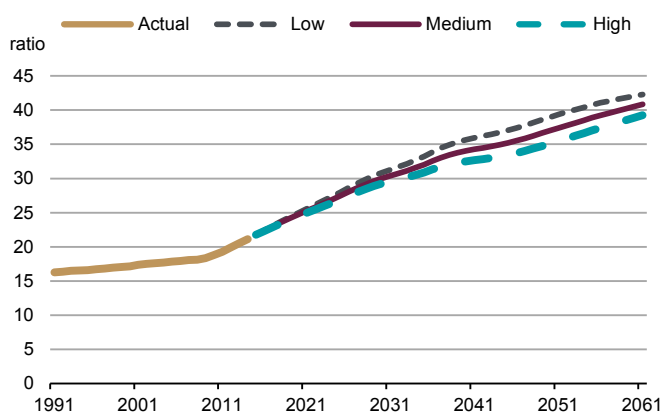
	Actual	Low	Medium	High
2011	36.6
2021	..	38.5	38.0	37.6
2031	..	40.5	39.3	38.2
2041	..	41.9	40.3	38.8
2051	..	42.9	41.2	39.4
2061	..	44.0	42.1	40.2

.. = not applicable

Source: Queensland Government population projections, 2015 edition

The aged dependency ratio is defined as the number of persons aged 65 years and over per 100 persons aged 15–64 years. This ratio increased from 16.2 to 19.3 in the 20-year period to 2011, and is projected to increase further to between 31.3 and 33.9 by 2036 and between 39.3 and 42.3 by 2061 (Figure 8).

Figure 8 Aged dependency ratio, at 30 June, Queensland



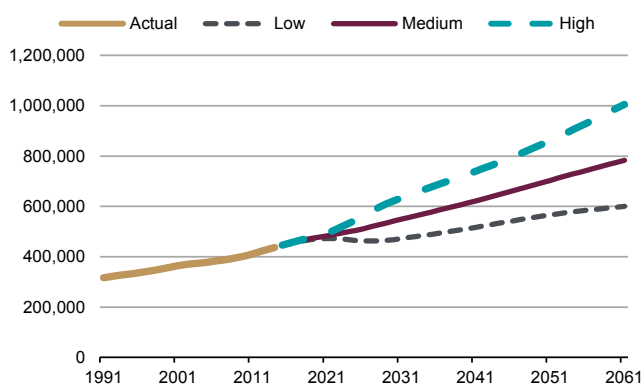
Source: Queensland Government population projections, 2015 edition and ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*

School-aged children

There have been significant increases in the numbers of school-aged children in Queensland in recent years. In the 20 years to 2011, the number of children aged 5 to 11 years (primary-school age) increased from 317,000 to 411,000 and the number of children aged 12 to 17 years (secondary-school age) increased from 278,000 to 357,000.

The number of primary school-age children in Queensland is projected to increase further to between 493,000 and 687,000 persons by 2036, and between 601,000 and 1,006,000 by 2061 (Figure 9).

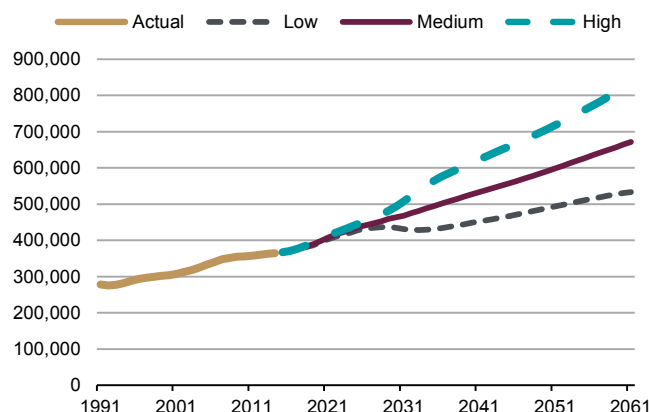
Figure 9 Persons aged 5 to 11 years, at 30 June, Queensland



Source: Queensland Government population projections, 2015 edition and ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*

The population of secondary school-age children in Queensland is projected to increase from 357,000 in 2011 to between 433,000 and 576,000 persons by 2036 and between 534,000 and 833,000 by 2061 (Figure 10).

Figure 10 Persons aged 12 to 17 years, at 30 June, Queensland



Source: Queensland Government population projections, 2015 edition and ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*

Queensland SA4s

More detailed information on the projected total populations and age structures for each of Queensland's statistical areas level 4 (SA4s) are available in the [SA4 snapshot](#)⁶.

Total population

Under the medium series, Gold Coast is projected to remain the most populous SA4 in Queensland, increasing from 529,000 persons in 2011 to 883,000 by 2036. Ipswich SA4 is projected to have the second-largest population in 2036 (increasing from 291,000 to 670,000 persons by 2036), followed by Logan–Beaudesert, Sunshine Coast, Brisbane-South, Brisbane Inner City and Moreton Bay-North (Table 4).

Queensland–Outback is projected to remain the least populous SA4 in Queensland, increasing from 87,000 persons in 2011 to 97,000 by 2036.

⁶ <http://www.gqso.qld.gov.au/products/reports/qld-govt-pop-proj-sa4-snapshot/index.php>

Table 4 Projected population and population change, Queensland SA4s, 30 June 2011 to 2036

SA4	Population		Population change
	2011	2036	2011–2036
	— 000s —		000s
Brisbane-East	219.0	271.6	52.5
Brisbane-North	198.5	250.7	52.2
Brisbane-South	328.8	416.5	87.8
Brisbane-West	178.1	200.2	22.1
Brisbane Inner City	236.8	369.1	132.4
Cairns	232.8	324.8	92.0
Darling Downs–Maranoa	125.3	147.3	22.0
Fitzroy	217.1	324.2	107.1
Gold Coast	528.8	882.6	353.8
Ipswich	291.1	669.8	378.8
Logan–Beaudesert	300.2	522.2	222.0
Mackay	171.6	249.9	78.3
Moreton Bay-North	222.3	367.8	145.5
Moreton Bay-South	172.8	258.6	85.8
Queensland–Outback	86.6	96.8	10.2
Sunshine Coast	318.3	514.9	196.6
Toowoomba	144.3	197.5	53.2
Townsville	224.7	333.8	109.2
Wide Bay	280.0	364.8	84.8

Source: Queensland Government population projections, 2015 edition (medium series) and ABS 3218.0, *Regional population growth, Australia*

The Ipswich SA4 is projected to experience the largest population growth between 2011 and 2036, up 379,000 persons. The population of the Gold Coast is also projected to grow significantly (354,000 persons), followed by Logan–Beaudesert, Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay-North.

Age structures

Most of Queensland's SA4s are projected to experience population growth across all age groups in the 25 year period to 2036. For more detailed information see the [data and charts](#)⁷ for each SA4 in Queensland.

Queensland LGAs

More detailed information on the projected total populations and age structures for each of Queensland's local government areas (LGAs) are available in the [LGA snapshot](#)⁸.

⁷ <http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/subjects/demography/population-projections/tables/proj-pop-age-group-sex-sa4-qld/index.php>

⁸ <http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/products/reports/qld-govt-pop-proj-lga-snapshot/index.php>

Total population

Brisbane is projected to remain the most populous LGA in Queensland, increasing from 1.09 million persons in 2011 to between 1.37 million and 1.50 million persons by 2036. Gold Coast is projected to have the second-largest population in 2036 (increasing from 515,000 to between 788,000 and 949,000 persons in the 25 years to 2036), followed by Moreton Bay, Logan, Ipswich, Sunshine Coast and Townsville (Table 5).

Table 5 Projected population, at 30 June, Queensland LGAs^(a)

LGA	2011	2036		
	Actual	Low	Medium	High
	000s	— 000s —		
Brisbane (C)	1089.9	1366.5	1433.7	1504.2
Gold Coast (C)	515.2	788.3	866.6	949.3
Moreton Bay (R)	390.1	572.2	618.4	666.9
Logan (C)	287.5	445.5	490.5	538.0
Ipswich (C)	172.2	413.1	484.7	560.3
Sunshine Coast (R)	267.2	413.3	453.0	494.6
Townsville (C)	180.1	259.6	288.6	318.7
Cairns (R)	151.0	208.9	227.5	247.1
Toowoomba (R)	155.5	190.8	205.0	219.9
Redland (C)	143.7	176.5	184.7	193.2

C = City R = Regional Council

(a) Top 10 LGAs ranked by population size in 2036 (medium series).

Source: Queensland Government population projections, 2015 edition and ABS 3218.0, *Regional population growth, Australia*

Gold Coast is projected to experience the largest population growth of all Queensland LGAs between 2011 and 2036, up between 273,000 and 434,000 persons. The population of Brisbane is also projected to grow significantly (between 277,000 and 414,000 persons), followed by Ipswich, Moreton Bay and Logan. Townsville LGA is projected to have the largest population growth in regional Queensland, followed by Cairns and Mackay (Table 6).

Table 6 Projected population change, by projection series, Queensland LGAs^(a), 30 June 2011 to 2036

LGA	Low	Medium	High
	— 000s —		
Gold Coast (C)	273.1	351.4	434.1
Brisbane (C)	276.6	343.8	414.3
Ipswich (C)	240.9	312.5	388.1
Moreton Bay (R)	182.1	228.3	276.8
Logan (C)	158.0	203.0	250.5
Sunshine Coast (R)	146.0	185.7	227.3
Townsville (C)	79.5	108.5	138.6
Cairns (R)	57.9	76.5	96.1
Mackay (R)	39.5	55.4	71.8
Toowoomba (R)	35.3	49.6	64.4

C = City R = Regional Council

(a) Top 10 LGAs ranked by absolute growth from 2011 to 2036.

Source: Queensland Government population projections, 2015 edition and ABS 3218.0, *Regional population growth, Australia*

Age structures

Age structures are projected to change significantly during the 25-year period to 2036 in many of Queensland's LGAs. For more detailed information see the [data and charts](#)⁹ for each LGA in Queensland.

Older persons

The number of persons aged 65 years and over is projected to increase significantly in most Queensland LGAs in the 25-year period to 2036. Brisbane (up 127,000 persons) is projected to have the largest increase in the population aged 65 years and over. Gold Coast (up 101,000), Moreton Bay (79,000) and Sunshine Coast (67,000) are projected to experience the next-largest increases in this age group (Table 7).

Table 7 Population aged 65 years and over, medium series 30 June 2011 to 2036, Queensland LGAs^(a)

LGA	2011	2036	Change 2011 to 2036
— 000s —			
Brisbane (C)	124.8	251.6	126.8
Gold Coast (C)	73.6	174.6	101.1
Moreton Bay (R)	50.2	128.9	78.7
Sunshine Coast (R)	47.5	114.1	66.6
Logan (C)	26.8	82.1	55.3
Ipswich (C)	16.6	64.4	47.9
Townsville (C)	17.5	49.6	32.1
Cairns (R)	14.7	41.4	26.6
Toowoomba (R)	23.7	49.3	25.7
Redland (C)	20.6	44.9	24.3

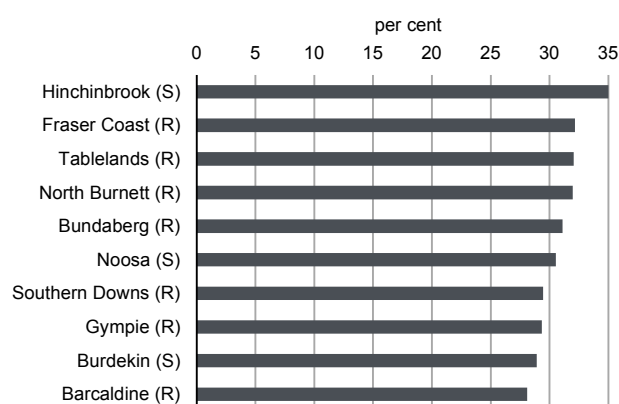
C = City R = Regional Council

(a) Top 10 LGAs ranked by absolute growth from 2011 to 2036.

Source: Queensland Government population projections, 2015 edition (medium series) and ABS 3235.0, *Population by age and sex, regions of Australia*

By 30 June 2036, Hinchinbrook LGA is projected to have the largest proportion of its population aged 65 years and over (35.0%). Fraser Coast (32.2%) and Tablelands (32.0%) are projected to have the next largest proportions (Figure 11).

Figure 11 Projected 10 largest proportions of population aged 65 years and over, 30 June 2036, Queensland LGAs



S = Shire R = Regional Council

Source: Queensland Government population projections, 2015 edition (medium series)

Queensland SA2s

There is considerable population growth projected for a number of Queensland statistical areas level 2 (SA2s). The largest growth is projected for Ripley (situated in Ipswich), up by 102,000 persons between 2011 and 2036. Other areas of high growth include Jimboomba (60,000), Coomera (55,000) and Rosewood (50,000) (Table 8).

All of the top 10 SA2s with the largest projected population increases are located in South East Queensland, with the exception of Deeragun (34,000 persons), which is located in the Townsville local government area.

Table 8 Projected 10 largest population increases, 30 June 2011 to 2036, Queensland SA2s^(a)

SA2	2011	2036	Change 2011 to 2036
— 000s —			
Ripley	2.9	104.6	101.7
Jimboomba	20.2	79.8	59.6
Coomera	9.1	63.8	54.7
Rosewood	12.0	61.9	49.8
Caloundra - West	15.6	59.5	44.0
Greenbank	12.1	56.0	43.9
Southport	29.6	65.9	36.3
Springfield Lakes	10.5	45.3	34.8
Deeragun	15.6	49.8	34.2
Bellbird Park - Brookwater	8.7	42.6	33.9

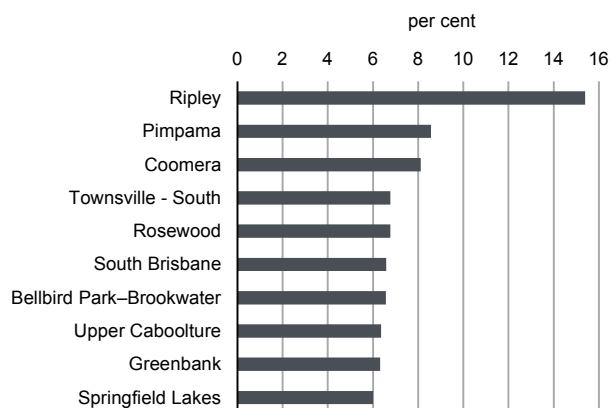
(a) Top 10 SA2s ranked by absolute growth from 2011 to 2036.

Source: Queensland Government population projections, 2015 edition (medium series) and ABS 3218.0, *Regional population growth, Australia*

⁹ <http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/subjects/demography/population-projections/tables/proj-pop-medium-series-age-group-sex-lga-qld/index.php>

For SA2s with a population of 2,000 or more persons in 2011, Ripley is projected to be the fastest growing area in Queensland between 2011 and 2036, increasing by an annual average rate of 15.4%. Other SA2s which are projected to experience fast population growth rates include Pimpama (8.6%), Coomera (8.1%) and Townsville-South (6.8%) (Figure 12).

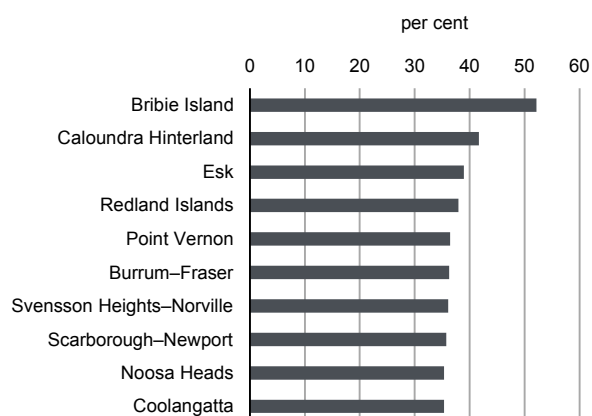
Figure 12 Projected 10 largest population increases, average annual % change, 30 June 2011 to 2036, Queensland SA2s



Source: Queensland Government population projections, 2015 edition (medium series) and ABS 3218.0, *Regional population growth, Australia*

Of all Queensland SA2s with a population of 2,000 or more persons in 2011, Bribie Island is projected to have the largest proportion of its population aged 65 years and over (52.2%) by 2036, followed by Caloundra Hinterland (41.7%) and Esk (38.9%) (Figure 13).

Figure 13 Projected 10 largest proportions of population 65 years and over, 30 June 2036, Queensland SA2s



Source: Queensland Government population projections, 2015 edition (medium series)

The number of persons aged 65 years and over is projected to increase significantly in many Queensland SA2s over the 25-year period to 2036. The largest increases in this older age group are projected to occur in Caloundra-West (up 12,000 persons), followed by Southport (10,000), Jimboomba (10,000) and Rosewood (9,000) (Table 9).

Table 9 Population aged 65 years and over, 30 June 2011 to 2036, Queensland SA2s (a)

SA2	2011	2036	Change 2011 to 2036
— 000s —			
Caloundra - West	3.0	15.1	12.1
Southport	4.8	15.0	10.2
Jimboomba	1.3	11.0	9.7
Rosewood	1.4	10.8	9.4
Ripley	0.1	7.8	7.7
Greenbank	0.8	7.1	6.3
Beaudesert	2.1	7.8	5.7
Caboolture	3.3	8.9	5.6
Maroochydore - Kuluin	3.7	9.3	5.6
Boronia Heights - Park Ridge	1.7	7.1	5.4

(a) Top 10 SA2s ranked by absolute growth from 2011 to 2036.

Source: Queensland Government population projections, 2015 edition (medium series) and ABS 3235.0, *Population by age and sex, regions of Australia*