

Prices across Queensland: how they compare

Index of retail prices in Queensland regional centres 2013



Great state. Great opportunity.

Queensland Government Statistician's Office

Economics Group

Queensland Treasury and Trade

<http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au>

© The State of Queensland (Queensland Treasury and Trade) 2014

You are free to copy, communicate and adapt the work, as long as you attribute the authors. This document is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia licence. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/au>. To attribute this work cite *Index of retail prices in Queensland regional centres, 2013*, Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury and Trade.



All data and information in this report are believed to be accurate and have come from sources believed to be reliable. However, Queensland Treasury and Trade does not guarantee or represent that the data and the information are accurate, up to date or complete, and disclaims liability for all claims, losses, damages or prices of whatever nature and howsoever occurring, arising as a result of relying on the data and information, regardless of the form of action, whether in contract, tort (including negligence), breach of statutory duty or otherwise.

Contents

Prices across Queensland – how they compare 4

How to use this booklet 5

Index of retail prices in Queensland regional centres, 2013 6

All items 7

All items less housing 8

Housing 9

Food and non-alcoholic beverages 10

Transportation 11

Clothing and footwear 12

Furnishings, household equipment and services 13

Recreation and culture 14

Other groups 15

Appendix 1: Comprehensive list of items 15

Explanatory notes 16



Prices across Queensland – how they compare

The Index of retail prices in Queensland regional centres 2013 compares the prices of a basket of household goods and services between Brisbane (Brisbane, Ipswich, Logan, Moreton Bay and Redland local government areas (LGA)) and 27 regional centres – Ayr, Beaudesert, Bowen, Bundaberg, Cairns, Cannonvale, Charleville, Charters Towers, Dalby, Emerald, Gatton, Gladstone, Gold Coast, Gympie, Kingaroy, Longreach, Mackay, Maryborough, Moranbah, Mount Isa, Rockhampton, Roma, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba, Townsville, Warwick and Weipa.

The Index shows that prices paid by Queenslanders varied across the State by up to 33.0 per cent. Overall prices were higher than Brisbane in 10 centres surveyed, with the highest overall prices in Weipa. The All items index were similar to Brisbane in Cairns, Bowen, and Redland LGA and lower in 19 centres, with the lowest overall prices in Gatton.

The Index is freely available from the Queensland Government Statistician's Office website and is complemented by an interactive map available at

www.qgso.qld.gov.au/releases/index-retail-prices-2013-map

Here is a selection of some key findings.



Clothing and footwear

Clothing and footwear prices were higher than Brisbane in 17 centres, with Moranbah the highest; and lower in 15 centres, with Ayr the lowest. Clothing and footwear prices varied across the State by up to 40.2 per cent.



Housing

Housing prices were higher than Brisbane in 12 centres, with the highest prices in Moranbah; and lower in 20 centres with the lowest in Charleville. The cost of housing varied across the state by up to 131.2 per cent.



Food and non-alcoholic beverages

Food and non-alcoholic beverage prices were higher than Brisbane in 18 centres, with the highest prices in Charleville. Prices were similar to Brisbane in Kingaroy and lower in 13 centres, with the lowest in Sunshine Coast. Food and non-alcoholic beverage prices varied across the State by up to 33.8 per cent.



Transportation

Transportation prices were higher than Brisbane in 12 centres, with Moranbah the highest. Prices were similar to Brisbane in Redland LGA, Bundaberg and Gympie; and lower in 17 centres with Mackay the lowest. Transportation prices varied across the State by up to 22.1 per cent.



Furnishings, household equipment and services

Furnishings, household equipment and services prices were higher than Brisbane in 14 centres, with the highest prices in Weipa. Prices were similar to Brisbane in Brisbane LGA and Moranbah and lower in 16 centres, with the lowest in Kingaroy. Prices varied across the State by up to 82.3 per cent.



Recreation and culture

Recreation and culture prices were higher than Brisbane in 19 centres, with the highest prices in Maryborough; and lower in 13 centres with the lowest in Ayr. Recreation and culture prices varied across the State by 46.0 per cent.

How to use this booklet

This booklet compares prices in regional Queensland with prices in Brisbane (Brisbane, Ipswich, Logan, Moreton Bay and Redland local government areas).

The index measures prices of a basket of goods and services in the following categories:

- alcohol and tobacco
- clothing and footwear
- communication and education
- food and non-alcoholic beverages
- furnishings, household equipment and services
- health
- housing
- insurance and financial services
- recreation and culture
- transportation.

The goods and services contained in each category are explained on page 15.

To show differences in prices, Brisbane has been given an index of 100, and all other centres have an index relative to Brisbane. For example, Charleville's index of 105.9 for alcohol and tobacco means that prices for these goods are 5.9 per cent higher than in Brisbane. Similarly, if Townsville had an index of 97.9, it would mean that prices there are 2.1 per cent lower than in Brisbane.

Centres with numbers in the range of 99.5 to 100.5 are considered to be similar to Brisbane.

The table on page 6 shows a comparison of all prices, and all prices less housing.

Graphs on pages 9 to 14 show housing, food and non-alcoholic beverages, transportation, clothing, furnishings, and recreation and culture. Variations in prices for alcohol and tobacco, health, and insurance and financial services are provided on page 15.

Read more about the index and how it was developed on page 16.



Index of retail prices in Queensland regional centres, 2013

This table shows price comparisons for All items, All items less housing, and individual categories.

Location	Group ^(a)										
	Alcohol and tobacco	Clothing and footwear	Food and non-alcoholic beverages	Furnishings, household equipment and services	Health	Housing	Insurance and financial services	Recreation and culture	Transportation	All items less housing	All items
	– index number ^(b) –										
Brisbane	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Brisbane LGA	99.3	99.3	102.4	100.3	99.9	110.8	100.7	100.6	101.5	100.8	103.0
Ipswich LGA	103.7	101.7	94.2	95.2	100.0	78.8	98.5	95.5	95.9	97.2	93.1
Logan LGA	101.4	107.7	93.7	103.8	100.2	87.8	104.4	94.3	102.7	99.4	96.9
Moreton Bay LGA	99.9	96.5	101.1	98.8	100.2	87.6	96.9	102.2	95.4	99.4	96.8
Redland LGA	98.3	97.5	98.4	99.4	99.9	101.6	96.1	106.2	100.5	100.1	100.4
Ayr	100.5	91.2	107.5	116.7	100.3	67.6	100.0	82.7	97.2	99.9	92.8
Beaudesert	101.3	101.1	102.1	88.7	100.0	79.1	102.0	84.3	92.6	95.9	92.1
Bowen	97.9	104.7	101.1	98.1	100.4	90.6	100.2	112.4	100.9	102.2	99.6
Bundaberg	101.0	102.1	87.6	118.8	99.9	75.0	89.8	103.6	100.5	99.6	94.1
Cairns	103.0	101.7	112.9	112.0	100.0	88.4	100.2	95.7	96.6	103.3	100.0
Cannonvale	99.0	102.2	98.4	106.2	100.6	110.7	95.6	113.2	102.1	102.5	104.3
Charleville	105.9	102.5	120.2	103.1	100.6	55.7	103.2	97.4	93.0	104.1	93.3
Charters Towers	100.3	97.1	92.1	97.2	100.2	71.9	93.6	108.6	104.3	99.4	93.3
Dalby	97.2	97.9	101.4	119.4	100.2	86.1	86.4	96.7	93.1	99.6	96.6
Emerald	109.1	104.4	103.8	98.6	99.9	129.8	94.0	105.3	102.5	102.5	108.5
Gatton	100.6	104.2	94.0	82.5	99.9	75.9	88.4	89.3	93.6	93.4	89.5
Gladstone	102.8	93.2	94.1	114.0	100.0	133.4	93.2	109.2	96.6	100.8	108.0
Gold Coast	95.9	101.9	110.9	98.7	100.1	105.5	102.3	108.2	102.3	103.7	104.1
Gympie	100.5	97.1	89.3	113.7	100.2	69.8	93.1	118.6	99.6	101.6	94.6
Kingaroy	97.6	91.4	100.0	82.0	100.1	68.2	86.6	98.8	101.2	96.3	90.0
Longreach	106.0	101.1	106.6	107.7	100.5	74.5	98.4	101.4	108.6	104.3	97.6
Mackay	105.5	104.6	113.7	93.7	100.0	120.2	98.8	104.5	91.6	102.3	106.3
Maryborough	96.5	96.3	86.8	86.1	100.1	68.0	90.5	128.7	92.7	98.0	91.3
Moranbah	103.9	131.4	112.3	100.1	100.0	186.9	87.6	88.5	113.7	103.7	122.2
Mount Isa	103.2	94.8	117.6	89.6	100.1	138.0	92.0	108.3	98.4	103.1	110.8
Rockhampton	102.6	97.4	107.0	108.9	100.0	86.6	94.4	105.8	96.6	102.6	99.1
Roma	97.9	100.8	106.4	98.5	100.3	124.3	94.4	98.0	104.2	100.9	106.1
Sunshine Coast	99.8	96.8	86.4	89.9	100.0	100.9	95.3	89.9	93.5	92.9	94.7
Toowoomba	102.3	106.1	99.2	98.0	100.0	79.6	92.7	101.8	96.5	99.3	95.0
Townsville	97.9	96.6	96.8	111.0	100.2	93.4	102.9	101.9	93.7	99.8	98.4
Warwick	103.0	98.8	105.1	108.4	100.2	68.0	89.3	98.5	96.1	100.6	93.4
Weipa	108.9	108.2	109.8	164.3	100.4	154.3	98.8	111.9	106.6	113.5	122.5

^(a) Separate indices for Communication and Education are not shown as they were treated as the same across Queensland.

^(b) Indices are rounded to one decimal place.

All items

This graph shows that the All items index varied across the State by up to 33.0 per cent, ranging from Weipa, the most expensive at 122.5 or 22.5 per cent more expensive than Brisbane, to Gattton, with an index of 89.5 or 10.5 per cent less expensive than Brisbane.



All items index

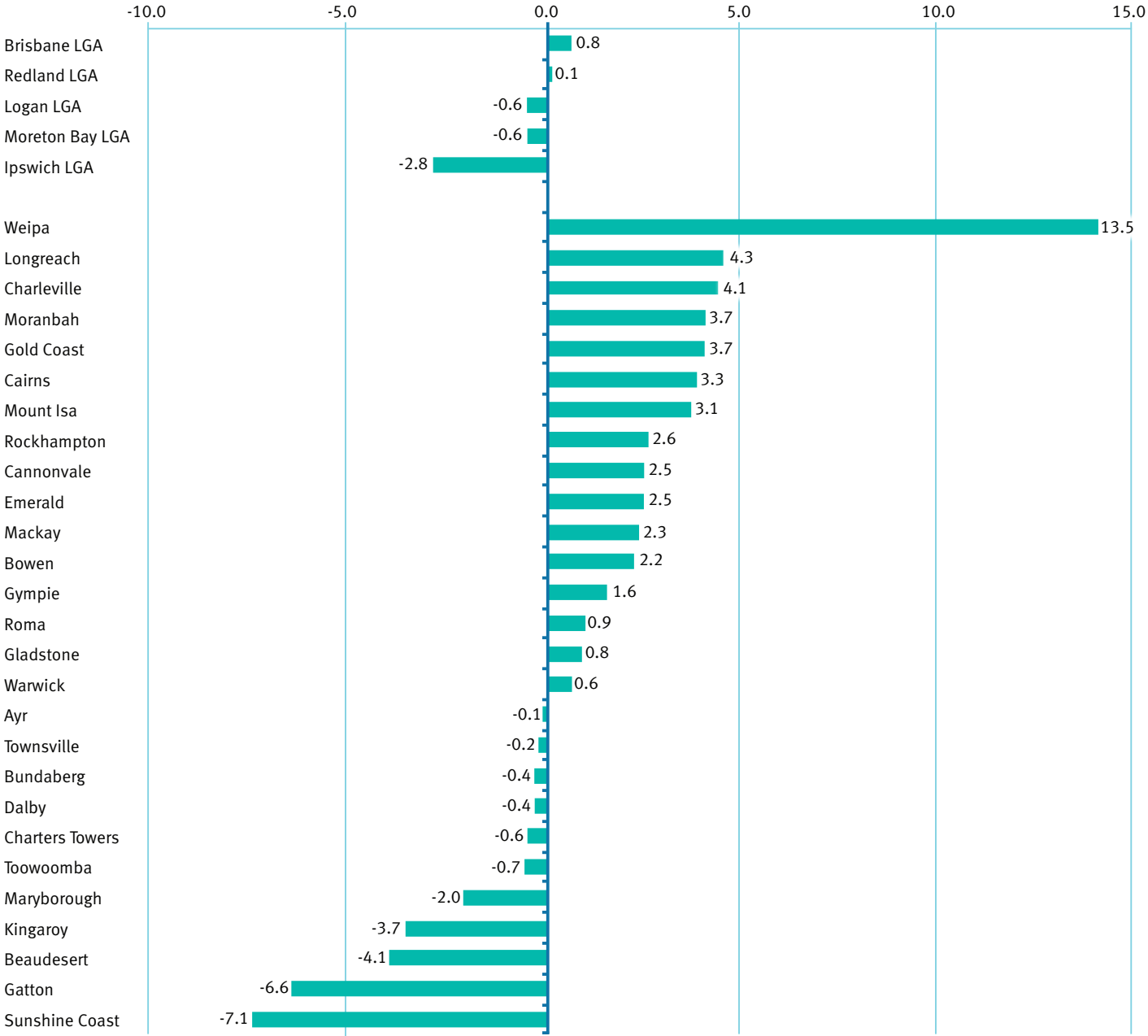


All items less housing

When housing is excluded from the All items index, the index varied across the State by up to 20.6 per cent, ranging from Weipa with an index of 113.5 or 13.5 per cent more expensive than Brisbane, to the Sunshine Coast (index of 92.9, or 7.1 per cent less expensive than Brisbane).



All items less housing index



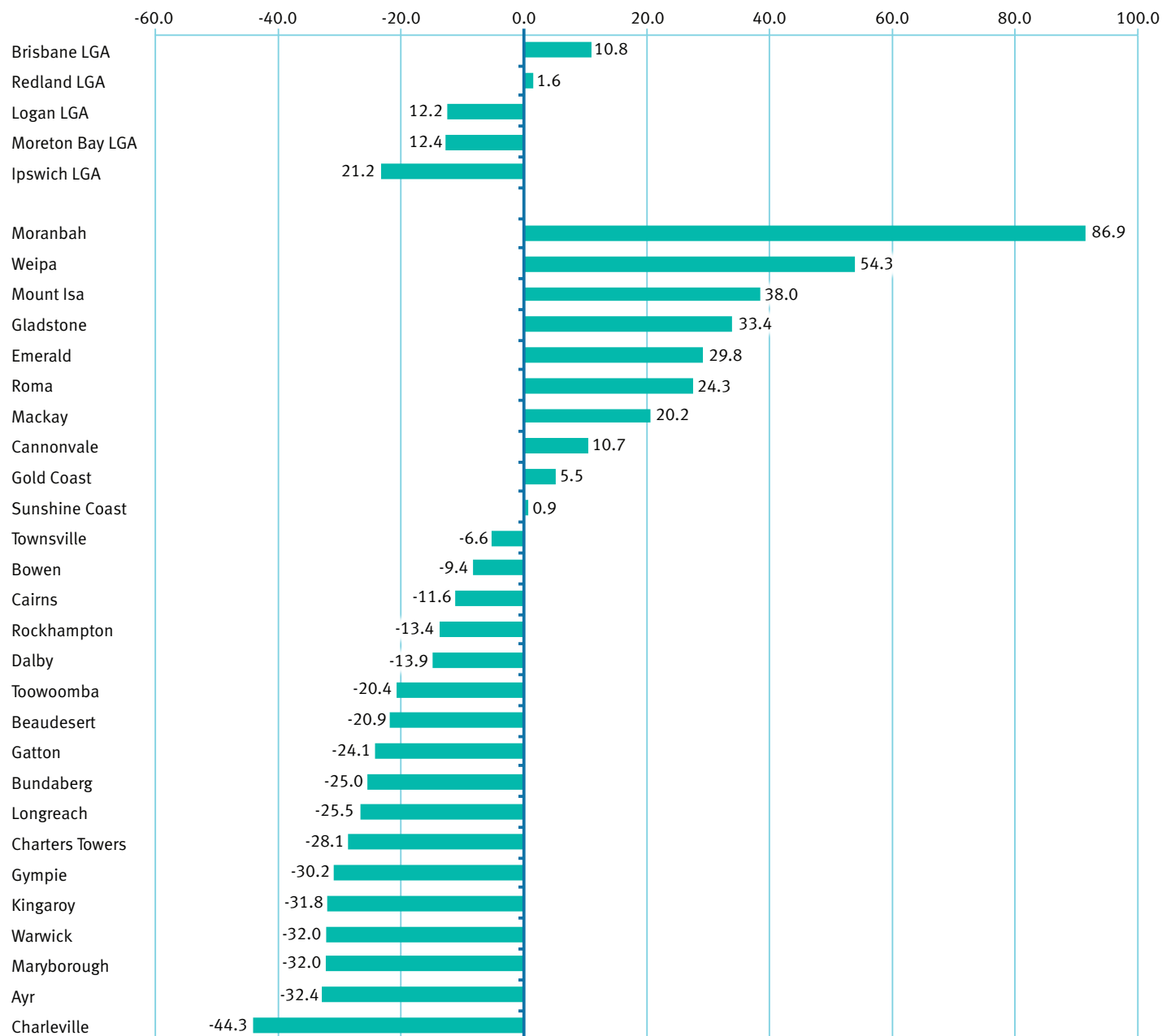
Housing

Median weekly rents for dwellings, electricity and other household fuels.

Housing accounts for around 22.2 per cent of the average Queensland household expenditure (read more about household expenditure under Weighting on page 16). Prices in this category varied across the State by up to 131.2 per cent, ranging from Moranbah with an index of 186.9 or 86.9 per cent more expensive than Brisbane, to Charleville (index of 55.7, or 44.3 per cent less expensive than Brisbane).



Housing index



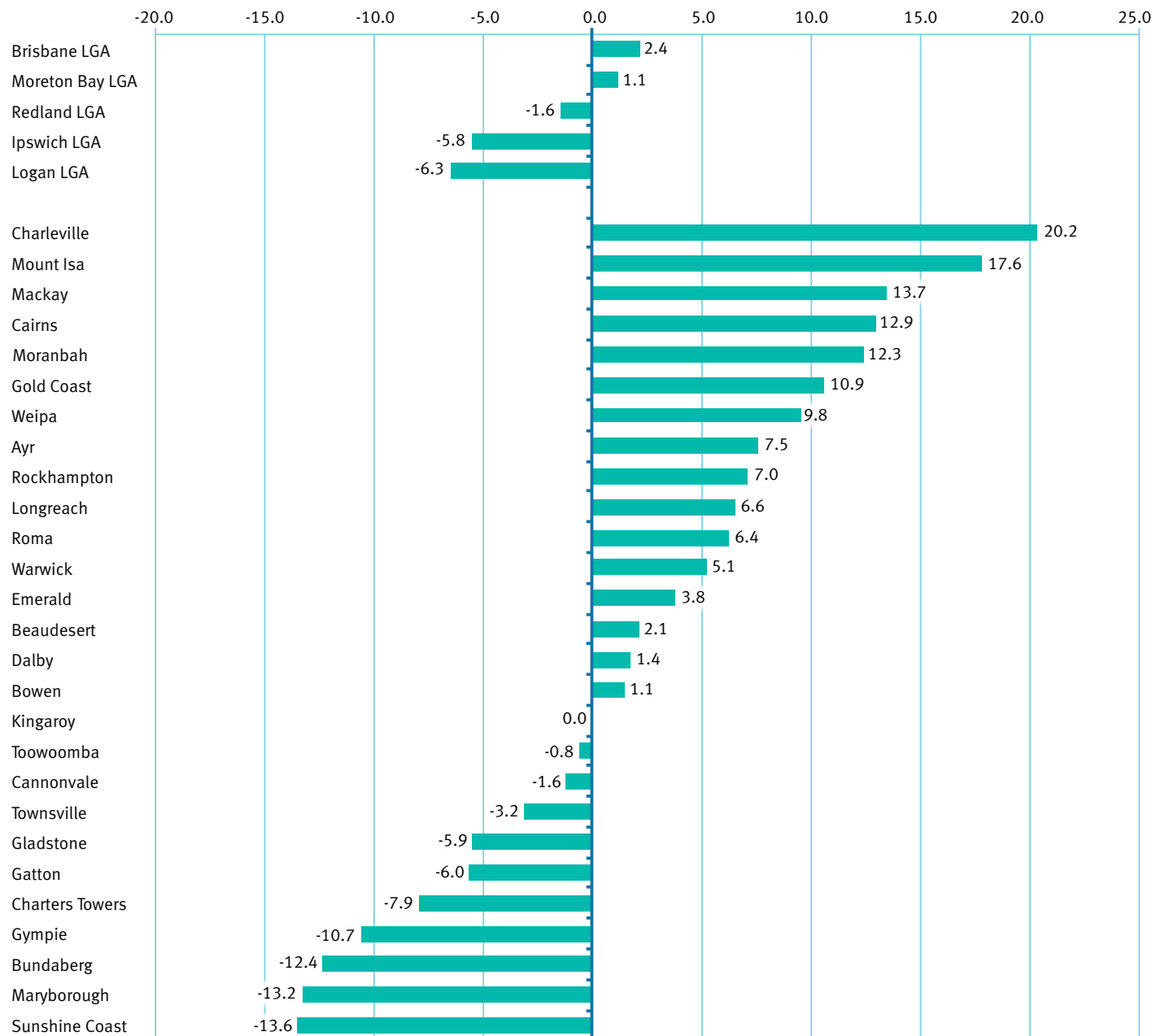
Food and non-alcoholic beverages

Bread and cereal products, dairy and related products, fruit and vegetables, dining-out meals and takeaway, meat and seafood, non-alcoholic beverages.

Food and non-alcoholic beverages account for around 16.3 per cent of the average Queensland household expenditure (read more about household expenditure under Weighting on page 16). Prices in this category varied across the State by up to 33.8 per cent, ranging from Charleville with an index of 120.2 or 20.2 per cent more expensive than Brisbane, to the Sunshine Coast (index of 86.4, or 13.6 per cent less expensive than Brisbane).



Food and non-alcoholic beverages index



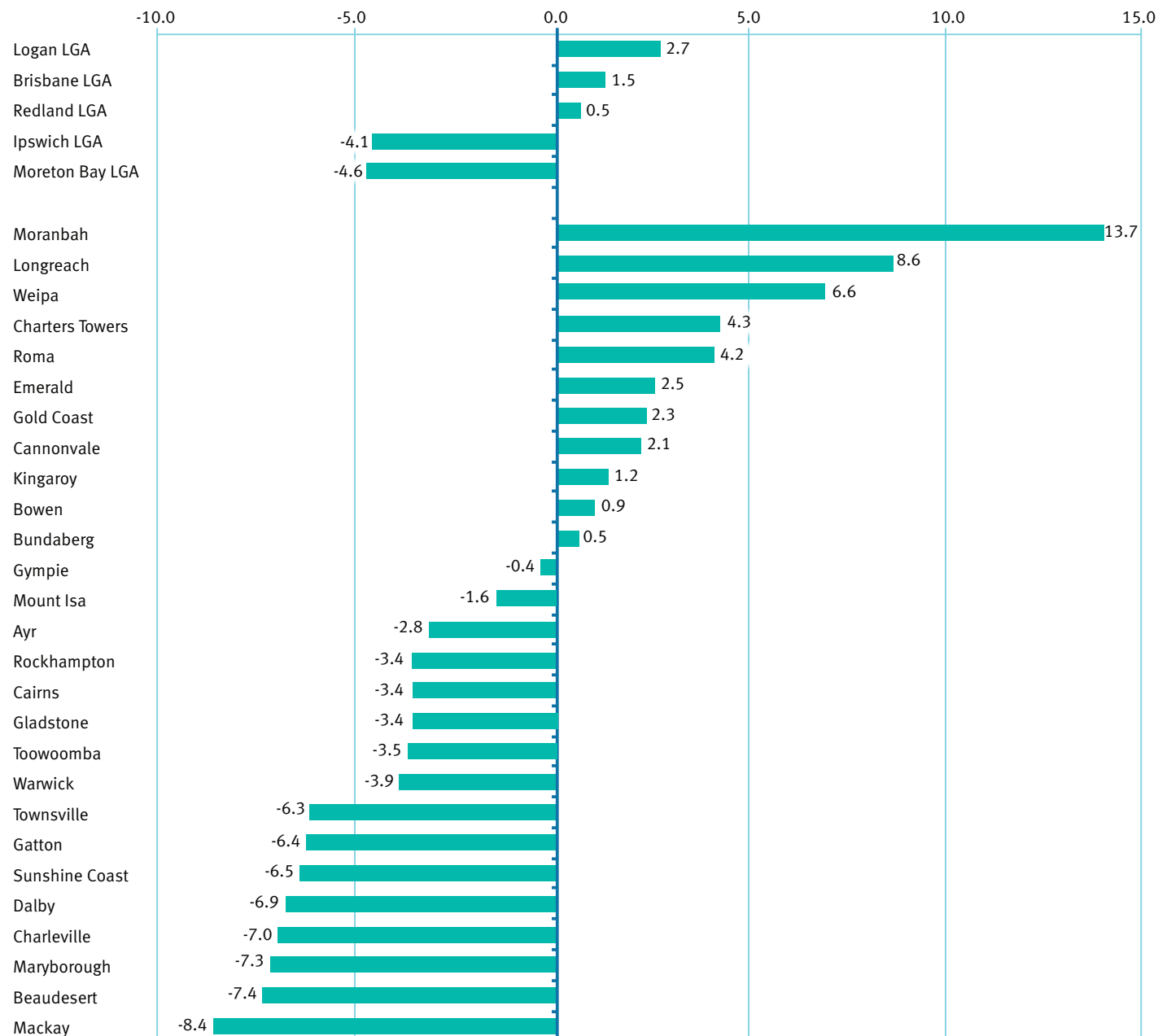
Transportation

Unleaded and diesel fuel, mechanic charges, taxi fares, vehicle registration, roadside assistance membership, CTP insurance and driver licences, and sundries such as car batteries, motor oil, tyres and spark plugs.

Transportation accounts for around 11.4 per cent of the average Queensland household expenditure (read more about household expenditure under Weighting on page 16). Prices in this category varied across the State by up to 22.1 per cent, ranging from Moranbah with an index of 113.7 or 13.7 per cent more expensive than Brisbane, to Mackay (index of 91.6 or 8.4 per cent less expensive than Brisbane).



Transportation index



Clothing and footwear

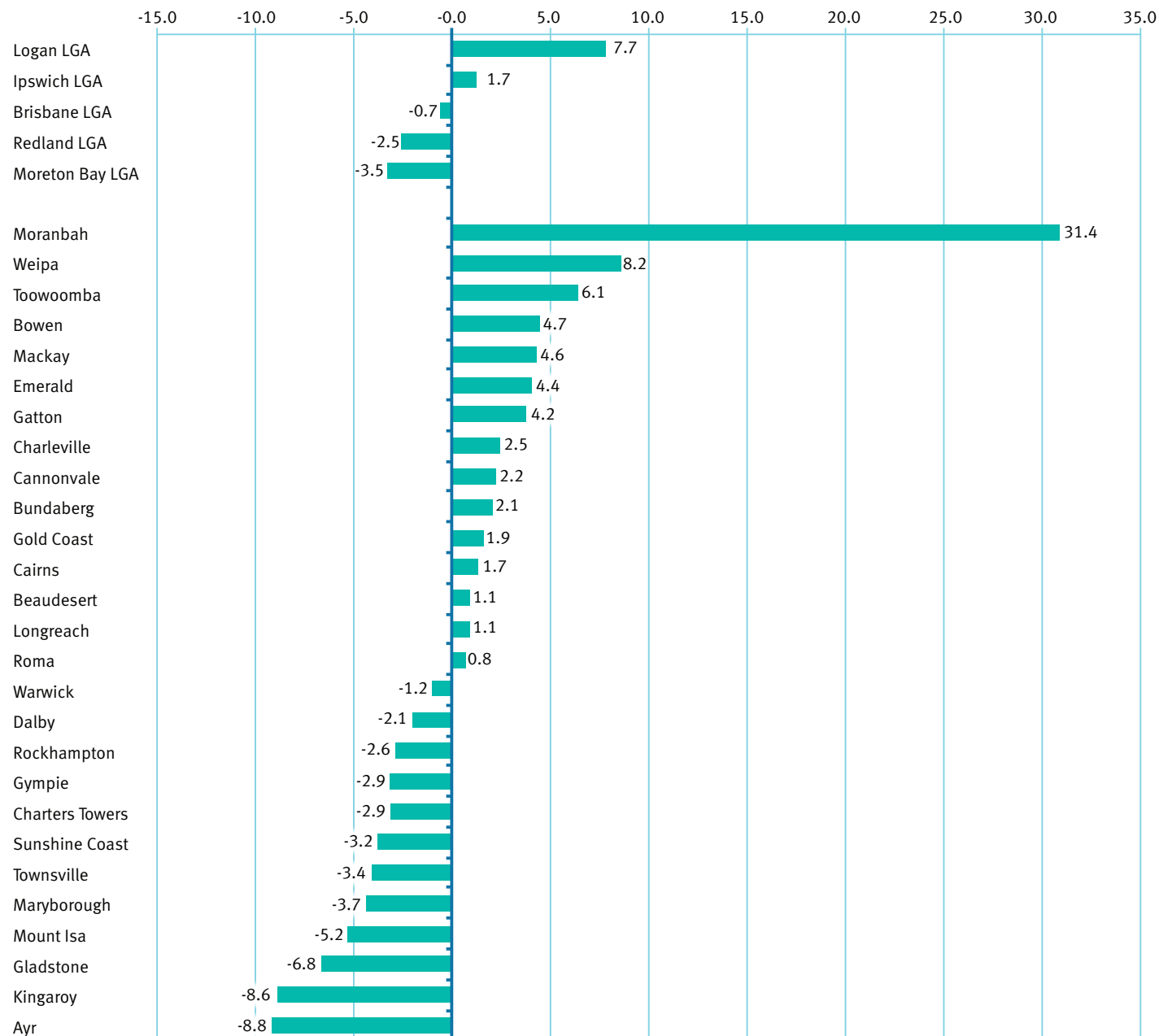
Adults' and children's clothing and footwear, and drycleaning.

Clothing and footwear account for around 3.8 per cent of the average Queensland household expenditure (read more about household expenditure under Weighting on page 16).

Prices in this category varied across the State by up to 40.2 per cent, ranging from Moranbah with an index of 131.4, or 31.4 per cent more expensive than Brisbane, to Ayr (index of 91.2 or 8.8 per cent less expensive than Brisbane).



Clothing and footwear index



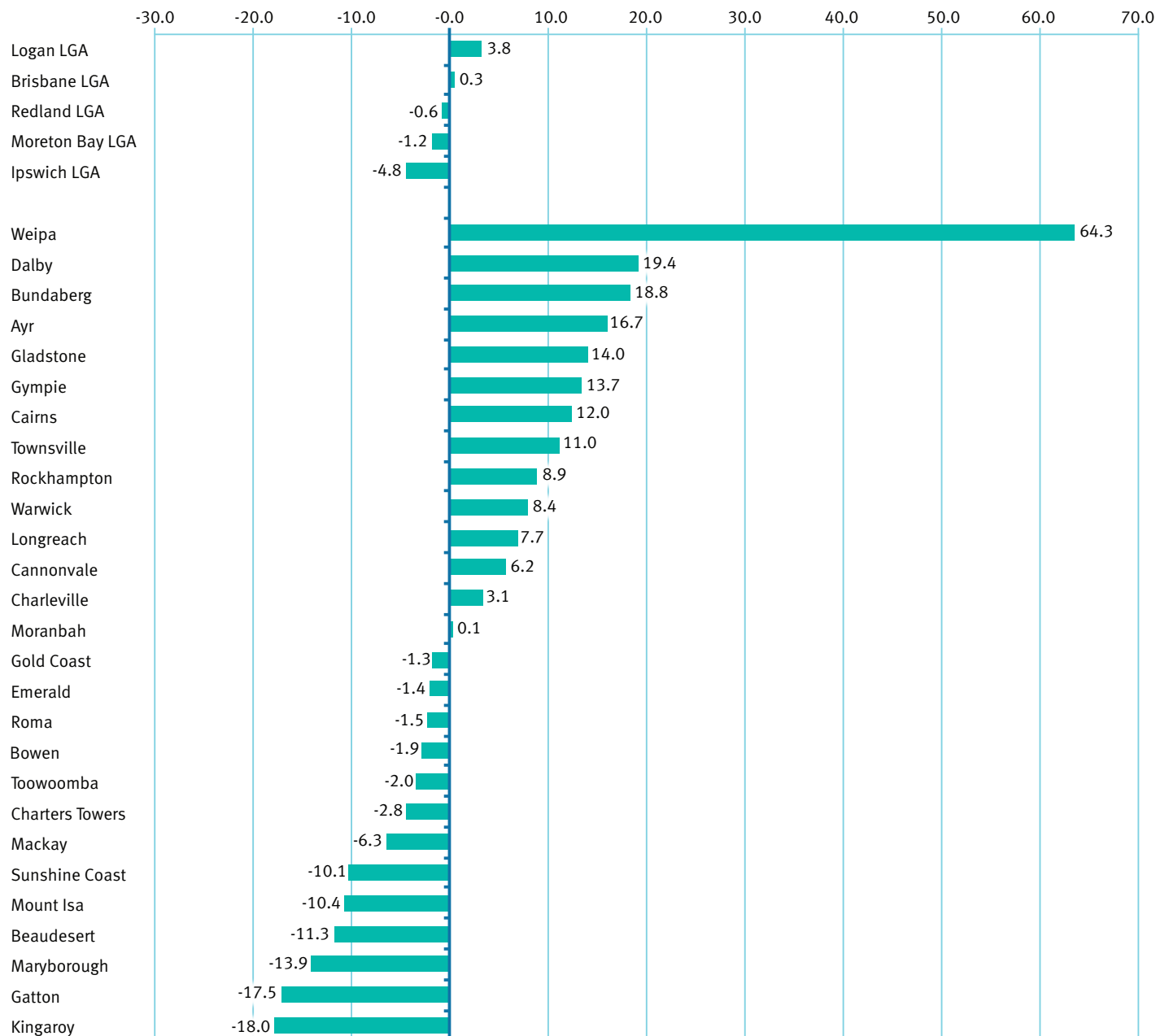
Furnishings, household equipment and services

Furniture (bedroom, lounge, dining), appliances, utensils and tools (whitegoods, gardening and maintenance tools, kitchen utensils, cleaning utensils), household textiles (e.g., bath towels and pillows), men's and women's haircuts, other household goods such as cleaning products, nappies, batteries and toiletries.

Furnishings, household equipment and services account for approximately 8.9 per cent of all goods and services purchased by the average Queensland household (read more about household expenditure under Weighting on page 16). Prices in this category varied across the state by up to 82.3 per cent, ranging from Weipa, with an index of 164.3, or 64.3 per cent more expensive than Brisbane, to Kingaroy (index of 82.0, or 18 per cent less expensive than Brisbane).



Furnishings, household equipment and services index



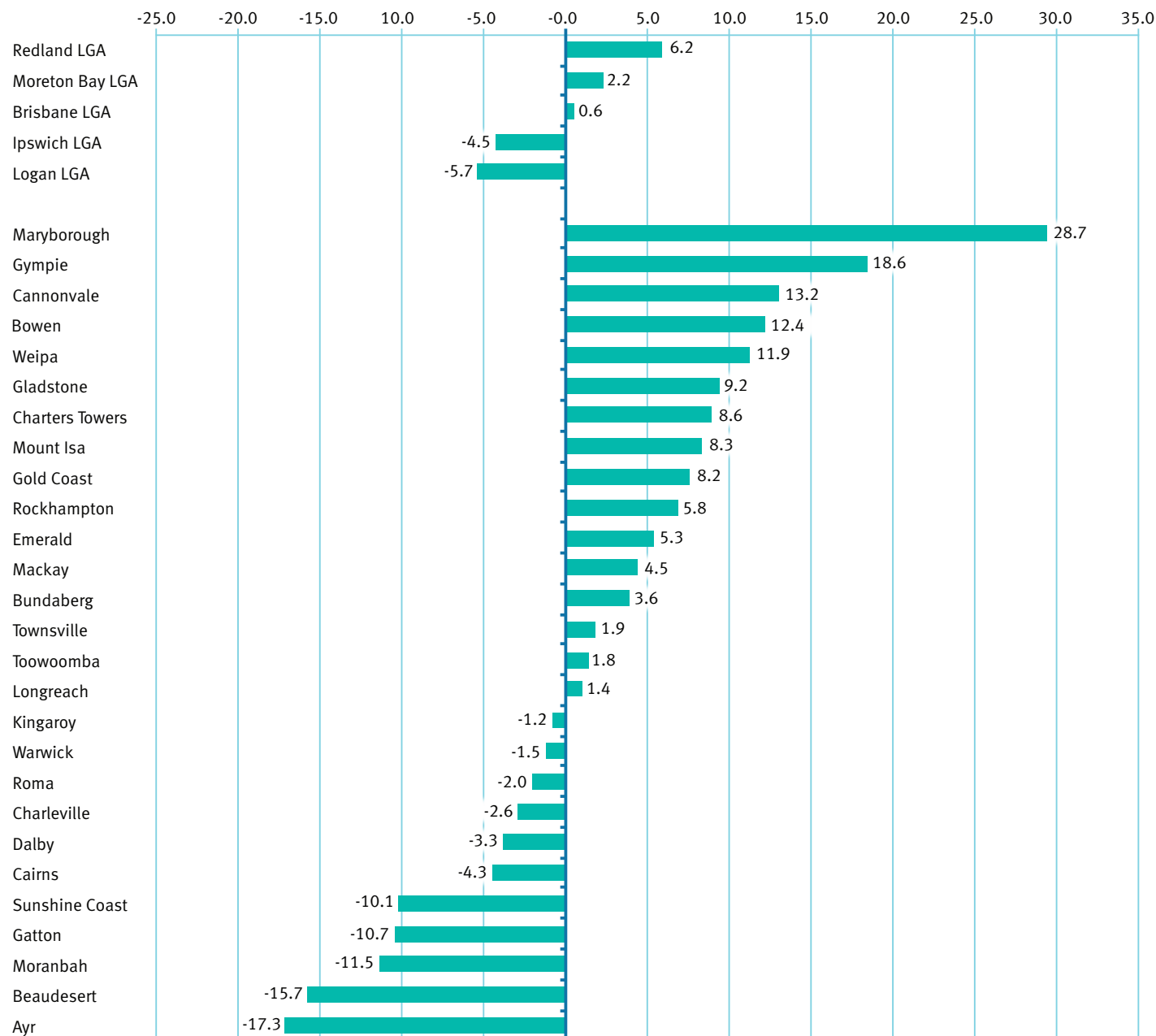
Recreation and culture

Bicycles, board and console games, computer repairs, DVD hire, electrical appliances such as blu-ray players/ recorders, digital cameras, MP3 players, game consoles, TVs, laptops/ notebooks, newspapers, books, stationery, pet food, photographic services such as processing digital photos, holiday travel and accommodation (domestic and international), sports participation (swimming pool and tennis court hire).

Recreation and culture account for approximately 12.5 per cent of all goods and services purchased by the average Queensland household (read more about household expenditure under Weighting on page 16). Prices in this category varied across the state by up to 46.0 per cent, ranging from Maryborough, with an index of 128.7 or 28.7 per cent more expensive than Brisbane, to Ayr (index of 82.7, or 17.3 per cent less expensive than Brisbane).



Recreation and culture index



Other groups

The variation in prices across the State for other groups were:

- Alcohol and tobacco – 13.2 per cent
- Health – 0.7 per cent
- Insurance and financial services – 18.0 per cent

Charts were not included for Communication and Education as these were treated as the same across Queensland.

Appendix 1: Comprehensive list of items

Group	Item
Alcohol and tobacco	Beer, wine, spirits, cigarettes/tobacco.
Clothing and footwear	Dry cleaning. Men's, women's, boys' and girls' clothing. Men's, women's and children's shoes.
Communication	Fixed telephone account and postal charges. ^(a)
Education	Primary and secondary school fees, and higher education institution fees. ^(a)
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	Bread and cereal products. Dairy and related products. Fruit and vegetables. Meals out and take away foods. Meat and seafood. Non-alcoholic beverages.
Furnishings, household equipment and services	Furniture (bedding, lounge and dining). Household appliances, utensils and tools (whitegoods, gardening and maintenance tools, kitchen utensils and cleaning utensils). Household textiles (bath towels and pillows). Men's and women's haircuts. Other household goods (cleaning products, nappies, batteries and toiletries).
Health	Medical products (cold and flu tablets, cough mixture, moisturiser, paracetamol and Ventolin inhaler). Medical, dental and hospital services. ^(a)
Housing	Electricity ^(a) , kerosene, median weekly rent.
Insurance and financial services	Household contents insurance. Comprehensive motor vehicle insurance. Financial services, and deposit and loan facilities. ^(a)
Recreation and culture	Bicycles and board games. Computer repairs, console games and DVD hire. Electrical appliances (blu-ray player/recorders, digital cameras, MP3 players, game consoles, television sets, laptops/notebooks). Newspapers, books and stationery. Pet food. Photographic services (developing digital photos). Holiday travel and accommodation (domestic and international). ^(a) Sports participation (swimming pool and tennis court hire).
Transportation^(b)	Fuel (unleaded and diesel). Mechanic charges. Sundries (car batteries, motor oil, tyres and spark plugs). Other (vehicle registration, roadside assistance membership, compulsory third party insurance and driver licences) ^(a) . Taxi charges

^(a) Treated as the same across Queensland.

^(b) Excludes the purchase of a new car, which was collected in previous years.

Explanatory notes

The index was developed by the Queensland Government Statistician's Office in Queensland Treasury and Trade, following a survey of retail prices in July and August 2013.

For the purpose of the Index, Brisbane comprised five local government areas: Brisbane, Ipswich, Logan, Moreton Bay and Redland. The other centres surveyed were Ayr, Beaudesert, Bowen, Bundaberg, Cairns, Cannonvale, Charleville, Charters Towers, Dalby, Emerald, Gatton, Gladstone, Gold Coast, Gympie, Kingaroy, Longreach, Mackay, Maryborough, Moranbah, Mount Isa, Rockhampton, Roma, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba, Townsville, Warwick and Weipa.

Although the survey has been conducted a number of times (annually from 1990 to 1995, then in 1997, 1999, 2001, 2006 and 2010) indices cannot be compared over time as they are calculated relative to Brisbane prices which will also have changed over time.

Users of the data should be aware that:

- differences in price levels shown in the index should be regarded as indicative rather than absolute
- differences in living costs that result from differences in consumption patterns between localities are not reflected in the index numbers
- the appropriateness of the items and weights used will vary from centre to centre
- the information is collected at one point in time, and the relativities represented by the indices are subject to seasonal and other influences on price levels in different centres at different points in time.

The survey data were collected by trained statistical field staff who visited retail outlets and service establishments in each location in July and August. As far as possible, goods and services of similar specifications were priced at each location. Prices collected were for the same brand and package size or other specifications across regional locations. Field staff recorded prices in survey books using a tablet device or paper. The survey book allowed a choice from a range of items in each category and, when a listed item was not available, the price and detail of a substitute item were recorded. All substituted items were then priced in Brisbane.

In the small number of instances where a substitute item could not be found, the price at the nearest largest centre was used. For example: dress fabric could not be priced in Gatton, therefore the price of dress fabric in Toowoomba was used.

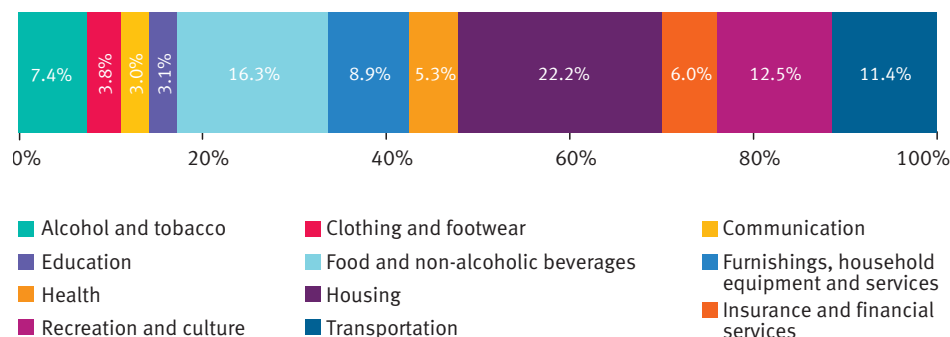
For some categories, such as Education, Communication and Financial services; and some components of Health, Transportation and Recreation, prices were not collected separately from each locality but treated as the same across all centres.

A component of the transport prices included average unleaded petrol and diesel prices for the month of August 2013. Averages were used due to the volatility of daily fuel prices. These data were purchased from FUELtrac. Previous collections included car prices but they have been excluded from the 2013 index due to the negotiable nature of car purchases and subsequent difficulties accurately collecting these data.

In the case of housing, a 'cost of use' approach was taken, which uses rental data as a measure of housing prices. Detailed data on rents were obtained from the Queensland Residential Tenancies Authority.

Weighting

In compiling the indices, the price of each item was weighted according to its relative importance to total household expenditure. The weights used in combining the collected prices are derived from estimates of household consumption or expenditure used for compilation of the ABS Consumer Price Index. These weights were derived using data from the ABS publications *A Guide to the Consumer Price Index, 16th Series, 2011* (cat. no. 6440.0) and *Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Detailed expenditure items, 2009–10* (cat. no. 6530.0). The following weights, representing average household expenditure, were applied to each group of goods and services in developing the Index:



www.treasury.qld.gov.au

