

# Prices across Queensland: how they compare

Index of retail prices in Queensland regional centres 2015



**Queensland Government Statistician's Office**

Economics Group

Queensland Treasury

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

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## How to use this booklet

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

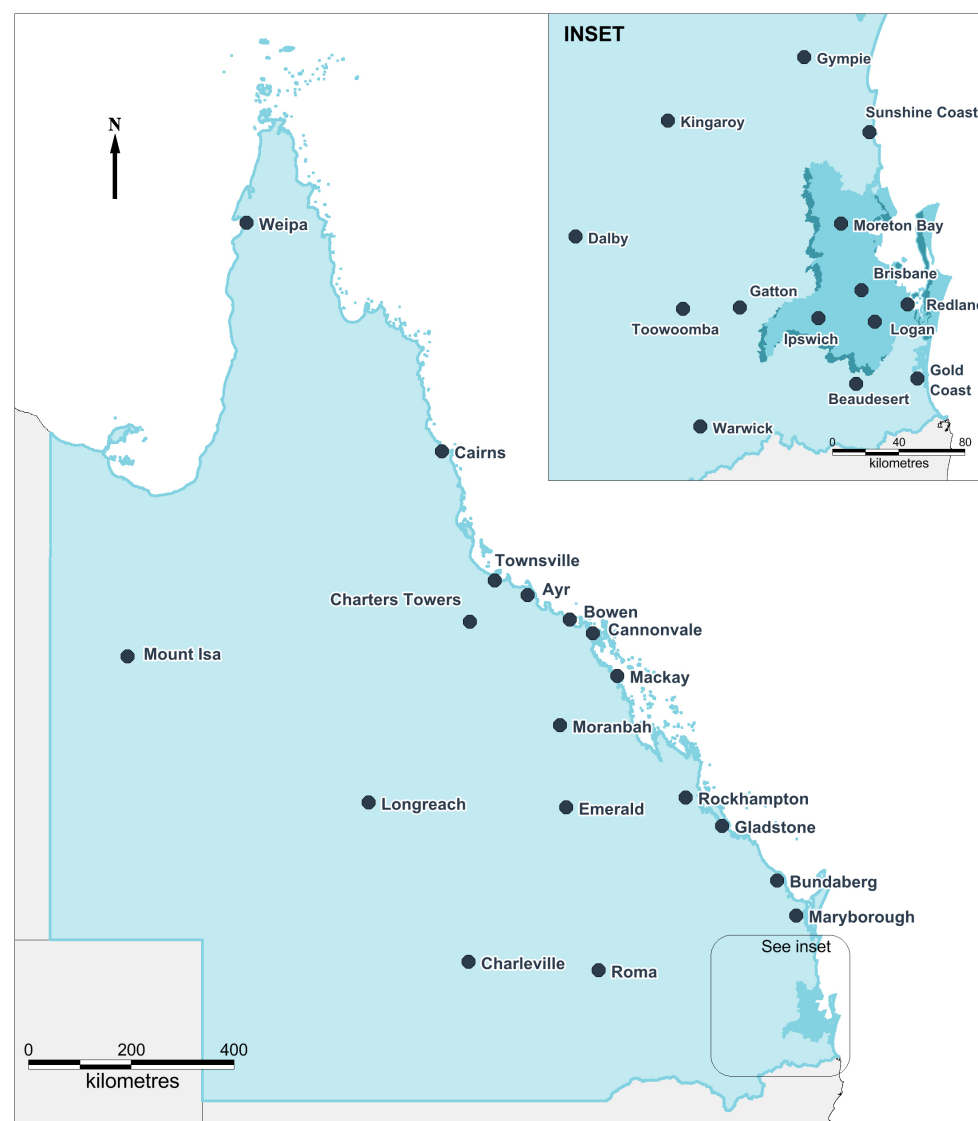
The index measures prices of a basket of goods and services in the following groups:

- alcohol and tobacco
- clothing and footwear
- communication
- 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 group are explained on page 13.

To show differences in prices, the Brisbane region has been given an index of 100, and all other centres have an index relative to the Brisbane region. For example, the Longreach index of 107.1 for alcohol and tobacco means that prices for these goods were 7.1 per cent higher than in the Brisbane region. Similarly, the Maryborough index of 95.9, means that prices there were 4.1 per cent lower than in the Brisbane region. For the purposes of this report an index is considered similar to the Brisbane region index of 100 if it is between 99.1 and 100.9 (inclusive).

## Centres surveyed



## Prices across Queensland – how they compare

The *Index of retail prices in Queensland regional centres 2015* (the Index) compares the prices of a basket of household goods and services between the Brisbane region (Brisbane, Ipswich, Logan, Moreton Bay and Redland LGAs) 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 overall prices paid by Queenslanders varied across the state by up to 37.6 per cent. Overall prices were higher than the Brisbane region in five centres surveyed, with the highest overall prices in Weipa; and lower in 22 centres, with the lowest overall prices in Maryborough. Gold Coast, Roma, Toowoomba, Moranbah and Mackay centres all had an All items index similar to the Brisbane region.

The Index is freely available from the Queensland Government Statistician's Office website ([www.qgso.qld.gov.au](http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au)) and is complemented by an interactive map available at [www.qgso.qld.gov.au/releases/index-retail-prices-2015-map](http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/releases/index-retail-prices-2015-map).

The table below shows a selection of key findings.

Group	Number of centres lower than Brisbane region	Lowest centre	Number of centres higher than Brisbane region	Highest centre	Variance (per cent)
All items	22	Maryborough	5	Weipa	37.6
All items less housing	7	Maryborough	16	Weipa	16.6
Alcohol and tobacco	6	Charters Towers	12	Weipa	21.9
Clothing and footwear	12	Gold Coast	12	Townsville	30.9
Food and non-alcoholic beverages	4	Rockhampton	25	Charleville	45.4
Furnishings, household equipment and services	18	Kingaroy	14	Mackay	66.4
Housing	26	Charleville	5	Weipa	122.0
Insurance and financial services	19	Gatton	13	Rockhampton	52.4
Recreation and culture	11	Ayr	13	Weipa	38.0
Transportation	5	Charleville	9	Mount Isa	7.4

# Index of retail prices in Queensland regional centres 2015

The table shows prices comparisons for individual groups, All items less housing, and All items.

Location	Group <sup>(a)</sup>										
	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 <sup>(b)</sup> –										
<b>Brisbane</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Brisbane LGA	100.5	100.6	99.2	98.9	100.0	111.7	101.4	99.5	100.0	99.8	102.5
Ipswich LGA	98.2	104.0	99.8	103.9	99.8	77.3	103.5	99.8	100.7	100.8	95.5
Logan LGA	99.8	96.6	101.0	96.7	99.9	86.7	101.7	102.4	103.3	100.6	97.5
Moreton Bay LGA	100.2	99.1	105.6	105.0	100.1	87.7	95.5	100.3	97.3	101.0	98.1
Redland LGA	98.3	99.8	88.8	96.2	100.2	100.7	93.7	98.2	99.4	96.2	97.2
Ayr	98.9	94.5	111.3	92.7	100.4	68.5	111.6	90.4	102.3	100.9	93.7
Beaudesert	99.7	106.8	99.6	88.8	100.4	76.2	94.3	97.9	100.0	98.2	93.3
Bowen	99.6	97.5	112.0	94.3	100.6	68.2	111.3	96.8	101.9	102.4	94.8
Bundaberg	101.9	99.6	102.4	108.7	99.8	73.9	87.6	96.7	99.8	100.1	94.3
Cairns	105.6	100.3	114.1	112.8	100.0	92.4	112.5	105.0	100.7	106.8	103.6
Cannonvale	99.9	101.4	102.4	90.3	100.8	94.5	96.0	105.3	100.7	100.2	98.9
Charleville	107.1	104.5	127.3	110.5	100.4	56.3	110.5	102.9	97.2	108.7	97.1
Charters Towers	85.9	97.9	105.4	104.7	100.4	66.7	94.6	99.5	101.9	100.0	92.6
Dalby	101.1	98.6	125.6	93.3	99.9	65.4	86.3	95.9	98.9	102.8	94.5
Emerald	100.6	93.6	103.0	91.2	100.1	65.5	108.6	92.5	98.8	98.7	91.3
Gatton	99.6	108.0	114.9	112.7	100.1	73.9	85.6	90.5	100.9	102.5	96.1
Gladstone	100.3	105.6	112.7	113.7	100.1	78.6	90.1	106.3	99.4	104.7	98.9
Gold Coast	99.7	81.7	101.4	88.4	100.1	108.8	105.0	96.1	99.8	97.8	100.2
Gympie	102.6	95.0	102.7	82.0	100.2	68.7	95.7	102.6	101.4	98.8	92.1
Kingaroy	99.6	99.1	95.7	74.6	100.0	64.8	93.0	102.5	100.9	96.1	89.1
Longreach	107.1	99.9	108.8	90.9	100.2	69.5	104.9	100.0	101.9	102.1	94.9
Mackay	99.6	109.4	107.9	141.0	100.0	77.1	95.2	95.0	100.9	105.7	99.4
Maryborough	95.9	84.4	96.1	81.5	100.1	67.3	86.9	99.1	100.9	94.9	88.8
Moranbah	105.6	87.7	117.2	121.6	100.4	69.4	89.7	116.2	100.9	108.0	99.4
Mount Isa	103.0	92.8	101.9	98.4	100.1	110.8	90.3	100.7	104.6	100.2	102.6
Rockhampton	105.0	99.8	81.9	109.7	100.0	78.7	138.0	104.7	102.4	101.8	96.6
Roma	101.6	110.8	117.2	97.5	100.1	83.9	98.5	102.0	99.6	104.2	99.7
Sunshine Coast	97.2	103.7	108.4	117.3	100.2	107.1	93.4	99.0	99.3	102.9	103.8
Toowoomba	101.3	102.6	109.5	120.9	99.9	81.6	95.4	101.3	100.5	104.6	99.5
Townsville	100.7	112.6	114.2	82.9	100.1	80.8	111.6	99.1	100.9	102.6	97.7
Warwick	100.4	90.8	105.8	82.8	100.1	68.0	101.7	103.1	97.8	99.2	92.2
Weipa	107.8	101.9	123.6	108.2	100.6	178.3	96.0	128.4	103.2	111.5	126.4

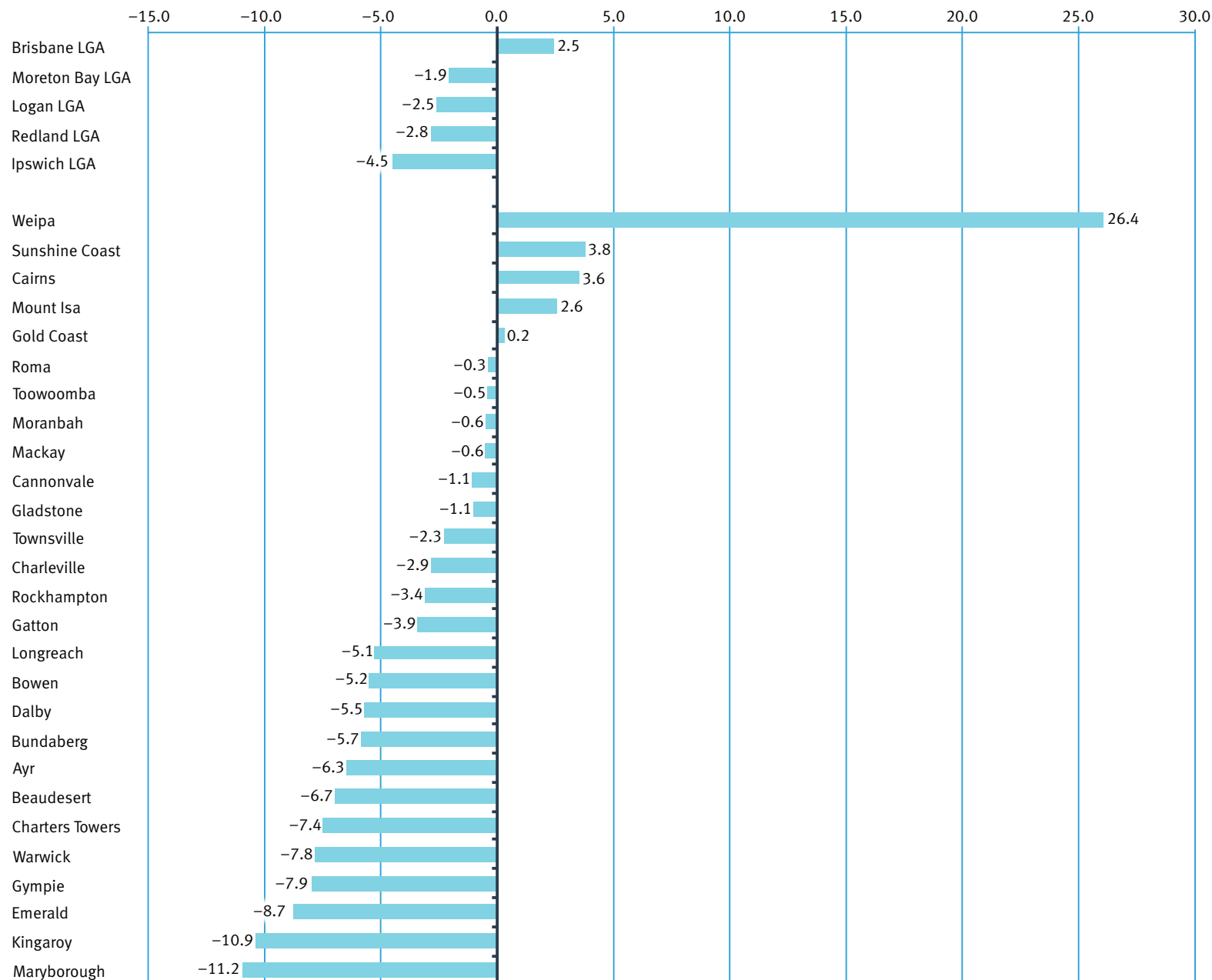
(a) Separate indexes for Communication and Education are not shown as they were treated as the same across Queensland.

(b) Indexes are rounded to one decimal place.

## All items

### All goods and services (including housing).

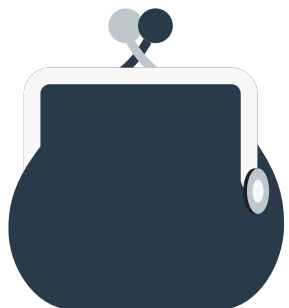
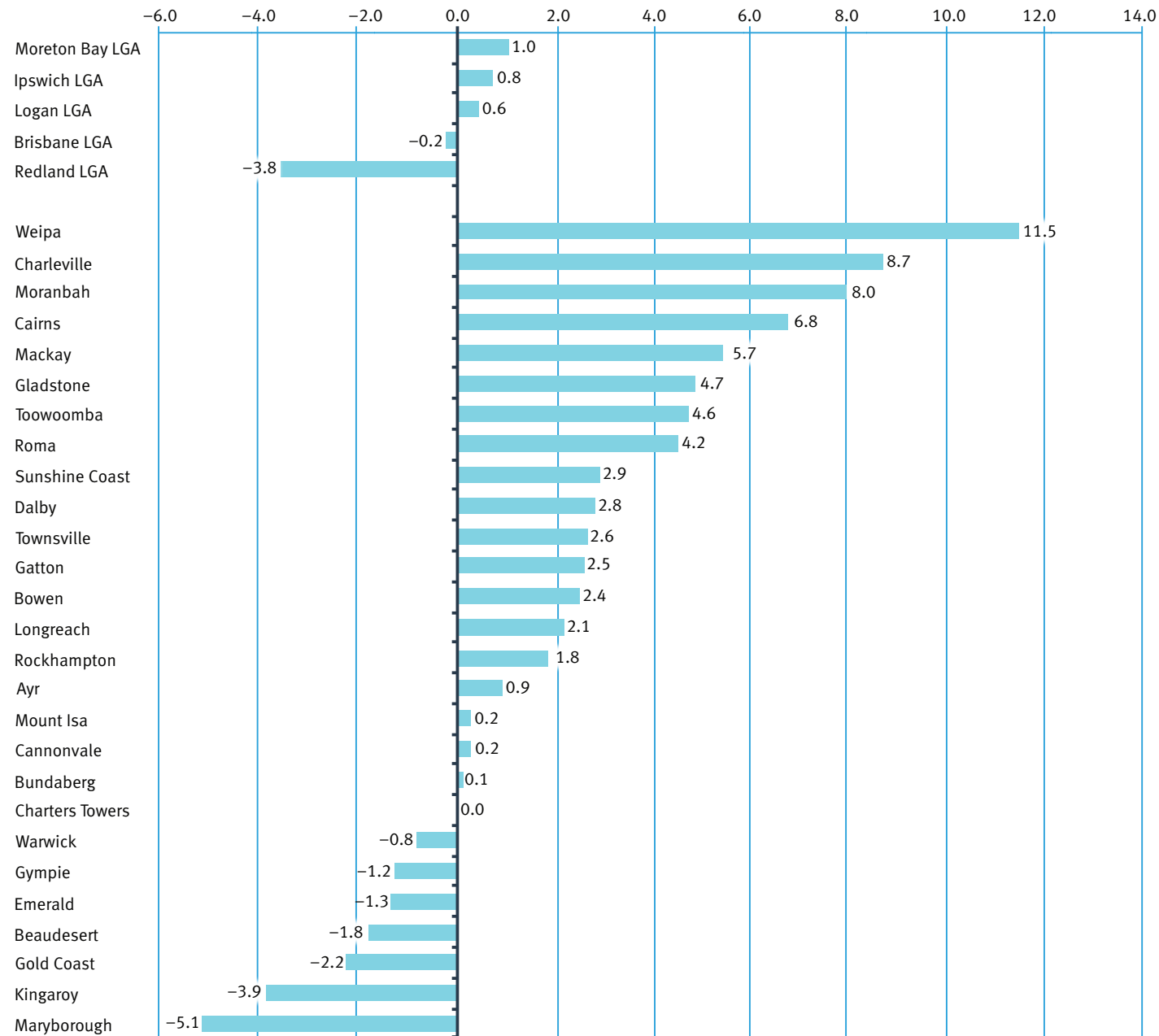
The All items index varied across the state by up to 37.6 per cent, ranging from Weipa at 126.4 or 26.4 per cent above the Brisbane region, to Maryborough with an index of 88.8 or 11.2 per cent below the Brisbane region.



## All items less housing

### All good and services (excluding housing).

With housing excluded from the All items index, the index varied across the state by up to 16.6 per cent, ranging from Weipa with an index of 111.5 or 11.5 per cent above the Brisbane region, to Maryborough with an index of 94.9 or 5.1 per cent below the Brisbane region.

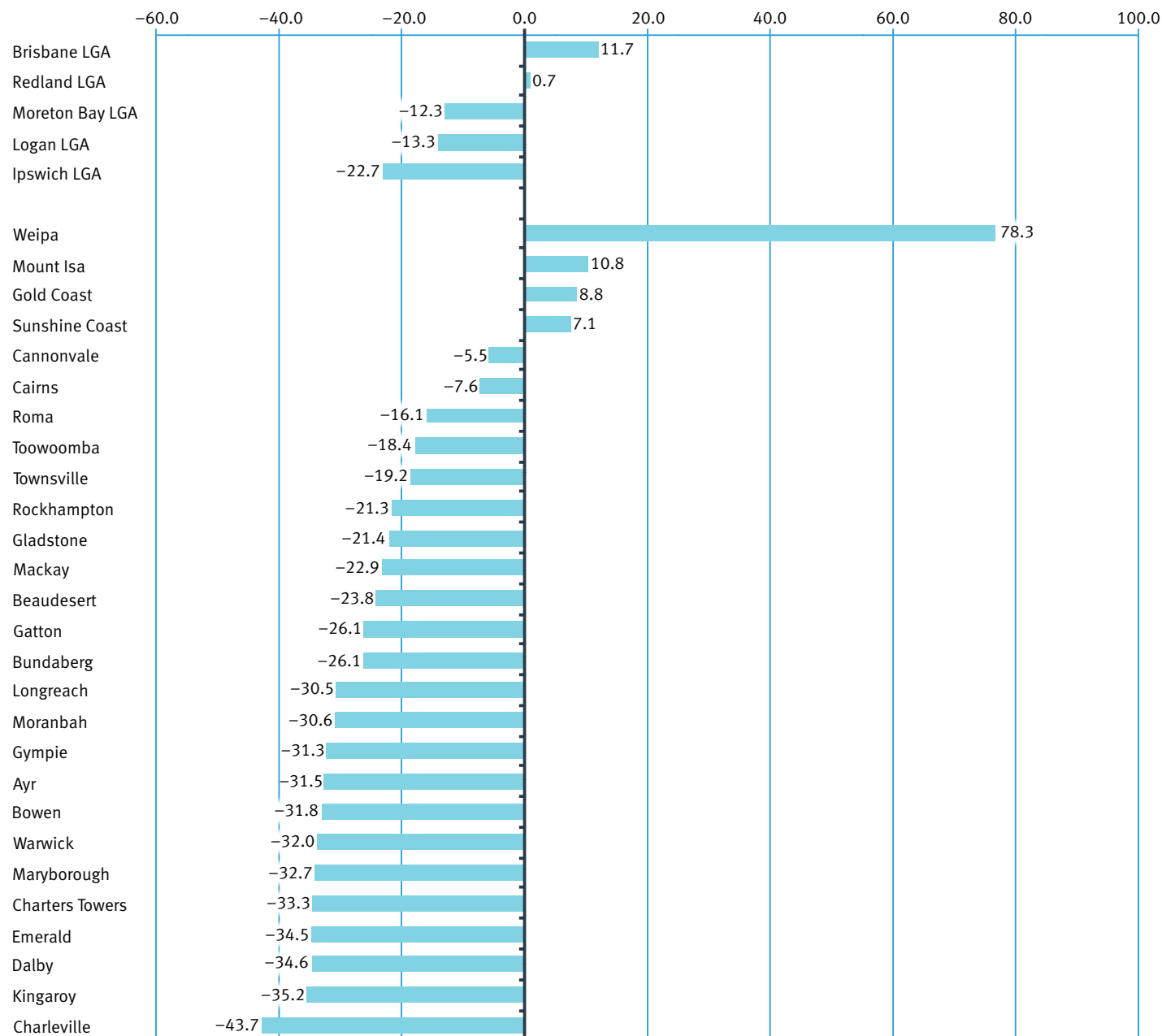




# Housing

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

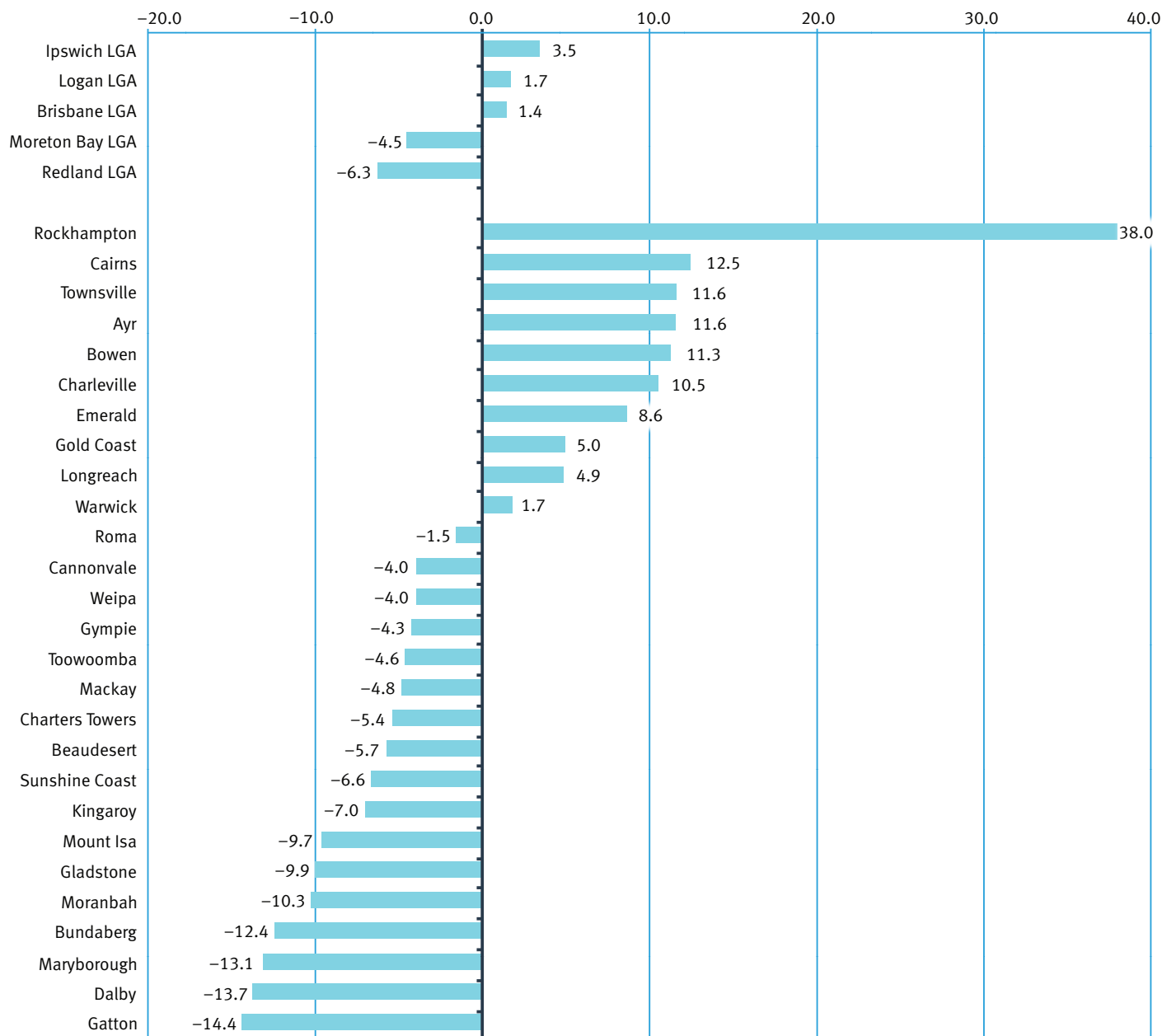
Housing accounts for around 22.2 per cent of the average Queensland household expenditure (read more about household expenditure under Weighting on page 14). Prices in this group varied across the state by up to 122.0 per cent, ranging from Weipa with an index of 178.3 or 78.3 per cent above the Brisbane region, to Charleville with an index of 56.3 or 43.7 per cent below the Brisbane region.



## Insurance and financial services

### Household contents insurance (excluding building insurance), comprehensive motor vehicle insurance, financial services, and deposit and loan facilities.

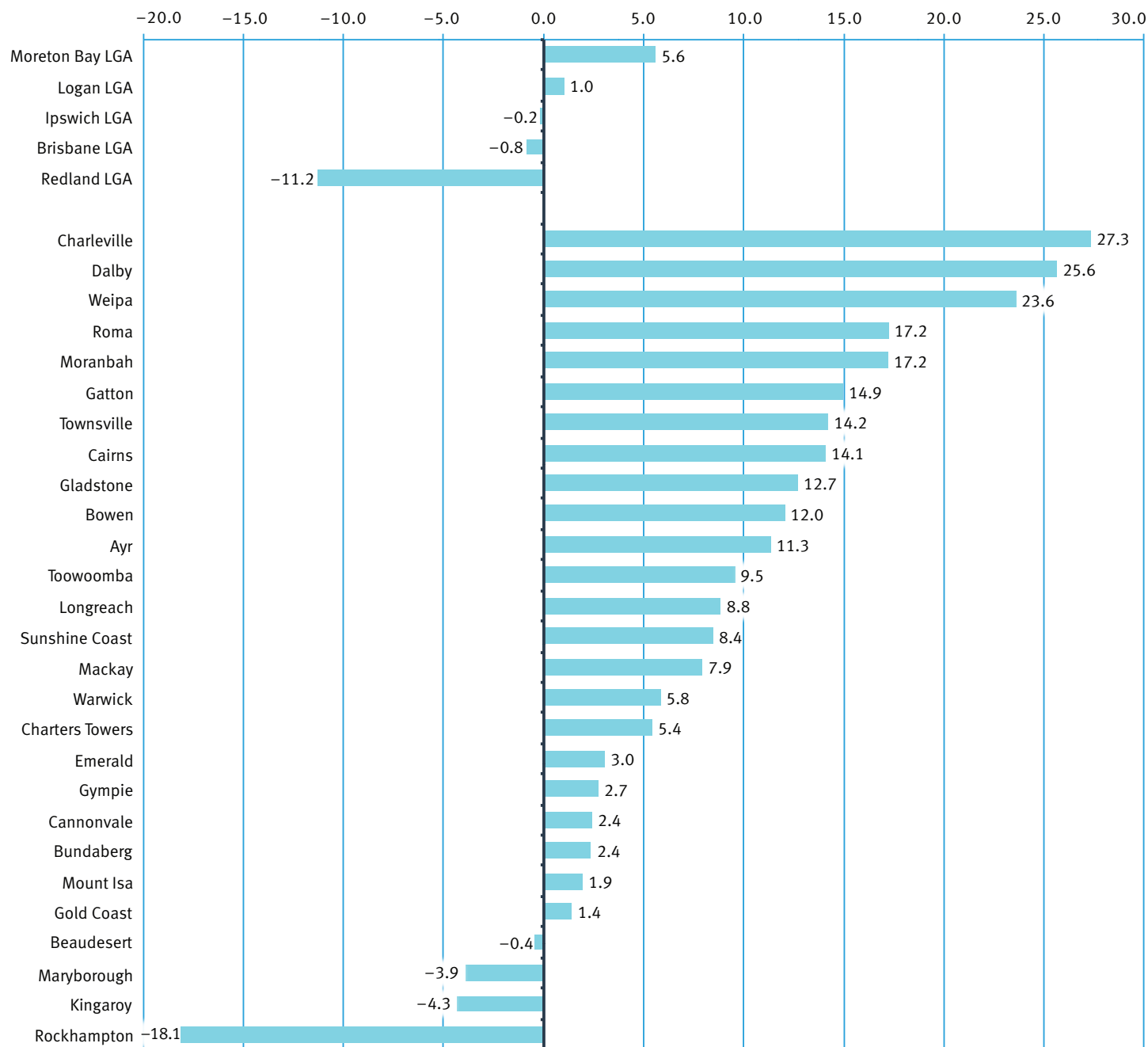
Insurance and financial services account for around 6.0 per cent of the average Queensland household expenditure (read more about household expenditure under Weighting on page 14). Prices in this group varied across the state by up to 52.4 per cent, ranging from Rockhampton with an index of 138.0 or 38.0 per cent above the Brisbane region, to Gatton with an index of 85.6 or 14.4 per cent below the Brisbane region.



## 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 14). Prices in this group varied across the state by up to 45.4 per cent, ranging from Charleville with an index of 127.3 or 27.3 per cent above the Brisbane region, to Rockhampton with an index of 81.9 or 18.1 per cent below the Brisbane region.



## Transportation

**Motor vehicles, 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.**

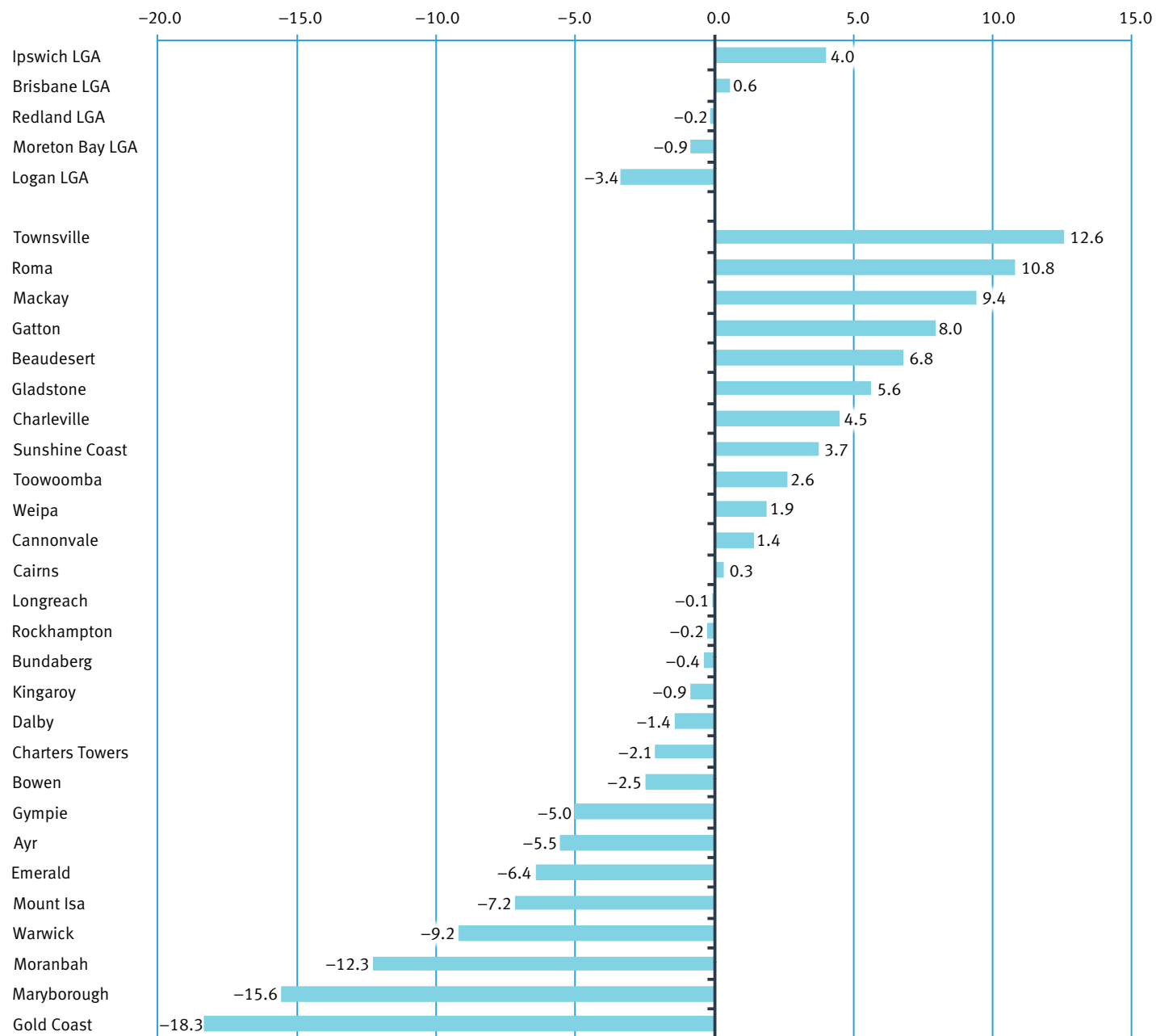
Transportation accounts for around 11.4 per cent of the average Queensland household expenditure (read more about household expenditure under Weighting on page 14). Prices in this group varied across the state by up to 7.4 per cent, ranging from Mount Isa with an index of 104.6 or 4.6 per cent above the Brisbane region, to Charleville with an index of 97.2 or 2.8 per cent below the Brisbane region.



## Clothing and footwear

### Adults' and children's clothing and footwear, and dry cleaning.

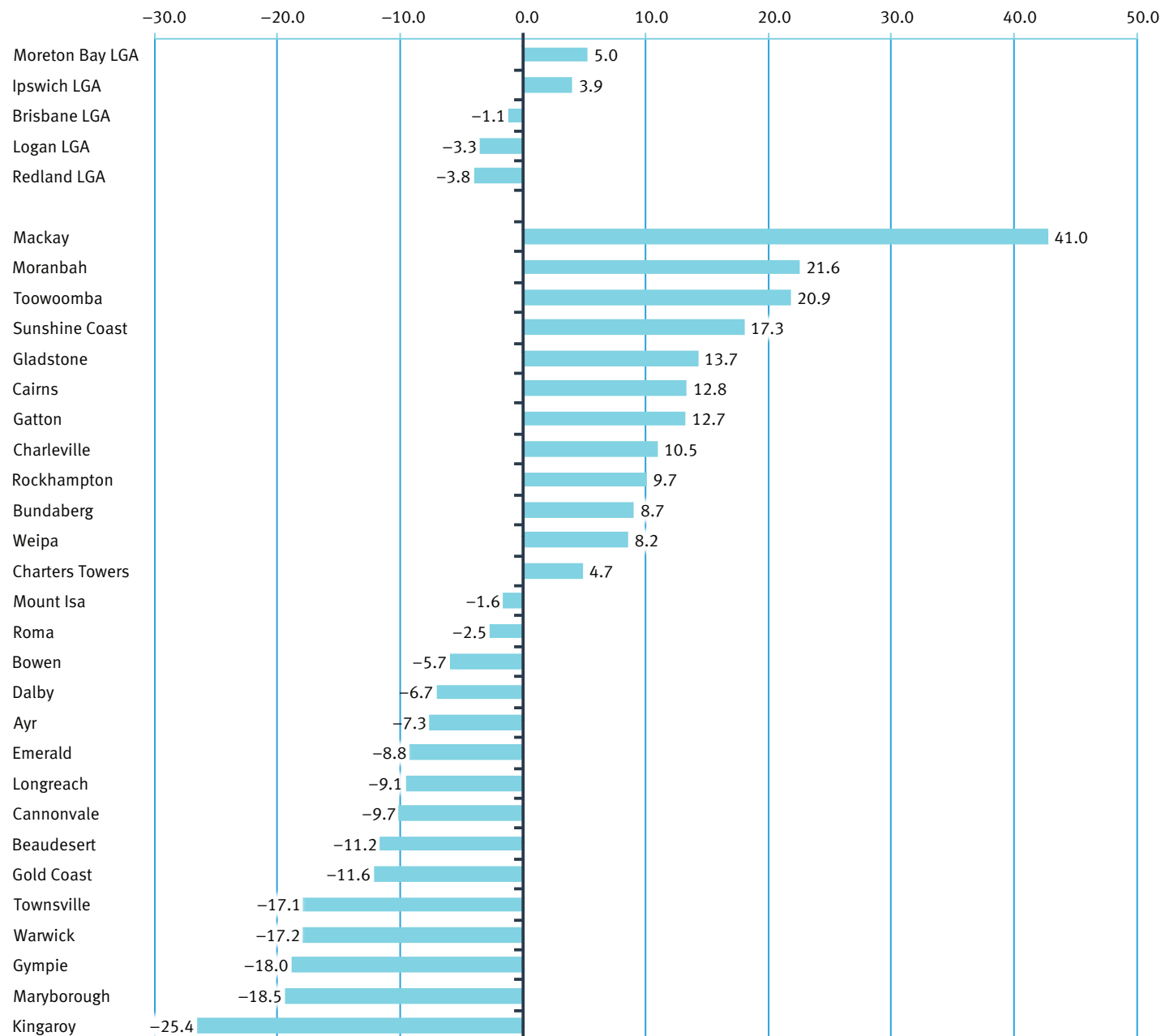
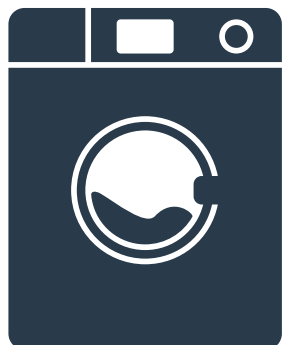
Clothing and footwear account for around 3.8 per cent of the average Queensland household expenditure (read more about household expenditure under Weighting on page 14). Prices in this group varied across the state by up to 30.9 per cent, ranging from Townsville with an index of 112.6 or 12.6 per cent above the Brisbane region, to Gold Coast with an index of 81.7 or 18.3 per cent below the Brisbane region.



## Furnishings, household equipment and services

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

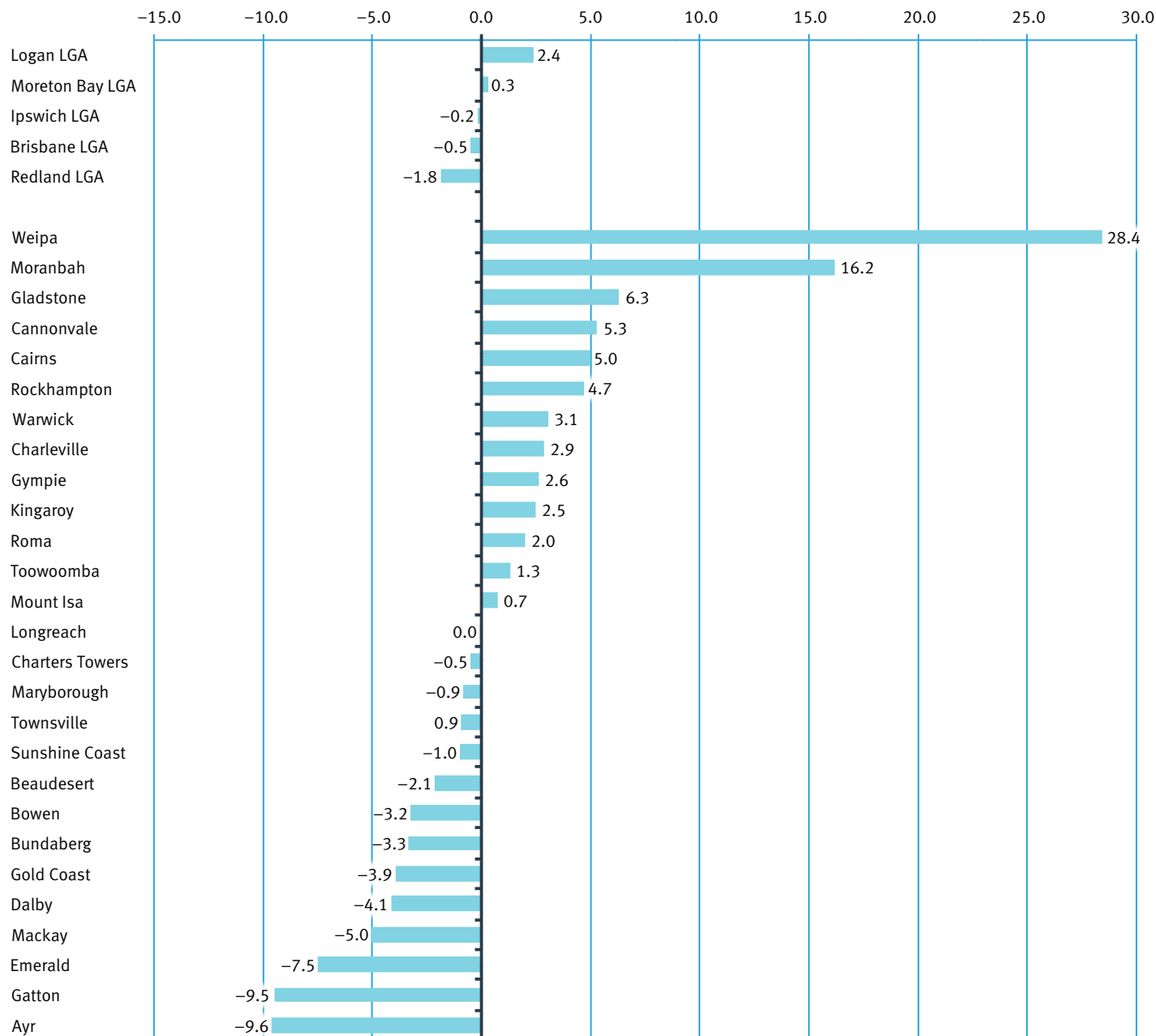
Furnishings, household equipment and services account for approximately 8.9 per cent of all goods and services purchased by the average Queensland household (read more about household expenditure under Weighting on page 14). Prices in this group varied across the state by up to 66.4 per cent, ranging from Mackay with an index of 141.0 or 41.0 per cent above the Brisbane region, to Kingaroy with an index of 74.6 or 25.4 per cent below the Brisbane region.



## Recreation and culture

Sports balls, board and console games, computer repairs, electrical appliances such as blu-ray players/ recorders, digital cameras, MP3 players, game consoles, TVs, tablets, 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 14). Prices in this group varied across the state by up to 38.0 per cent, ranging from Weipa, with an index of 128.4 or 28.4 per cent above the Brisbane region, to Ayr with an index of 90.4 or 9.6 per cent below the Brisbane region.



## Other groups

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

- Alcohol and tobacco – 21.9 per cent
- Health – 1.0 per cent

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

## Appendix 1: Summary list of items

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

(a) Treated as the same across Queensland.

(b) South East Queensland electricity prices were discounted to reflect the competition that occurs in the market.



## Explanatory notes

The Index was developed by Queensland Government Statistician's Office in Queensland Treasury, following a survey of retail prices in August 2015.

For the purpose of the Index, the Brisbane region 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, 2010 and 2013) indexes cannot be compared over time as they are calculated relative to Brisbane region 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 overall 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 indexes are subject to seasonal and other influences on price levels in different centres at different points in time.

The survey data were collected under the authority of the *Statistical Returns Act 1896* by trained statistical field staff, who visited retail outlets and service establishments in each location in 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 group 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 the Brisbane region.

In the small number of instances where a substitute item could not be found, the price at the nearest centre was used. For example: a motor vehicle could not be priced in Moranbah, therefore the prices of motor vehicles in Mackay were used.

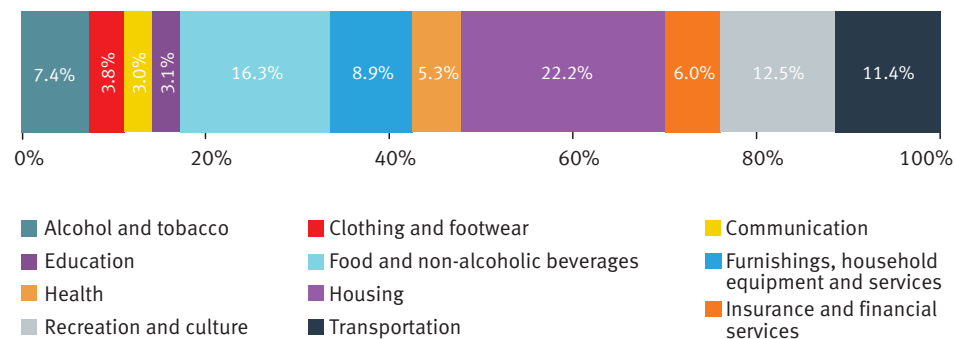
For some groups, such as Education, Communication and Financial services – and some components of Health, Transportation and Recreation – prices were not collected separately from each locality but treated as the same across all centres.

A component of the Transportation prices included average unleaded petrol and diesel prices for the month of August 2015. Averages were used due to the volatility of daily fuel prices. These data were purchased from FUELtrac.

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. Information published by the Queensland Competition Authority was used to calculate electricity prices.

### Weighting

In compiling the indexes, 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 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Consumer Price Index. These weights were derived using data from the ABS publications *A Guide to the Consumer Price Index*, 16th Series, 2011 (ABS 6440.0) and *Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Detailed expenditure items*, 2009–10 (ABS 6530.0). The following weights, representing average household expenditure, were applied to each group of goods and services in developing the Index:



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