



Census 2011: Population mobility within Queensland

Key points:

- At the time of the 2011 Census, 764,695 (17.9%) Queensland usual residents had a different usual address compared with one year prior to Census night, including 404,834 (9.5%) who had moved within the same Statistical Area Level 4 (SA4) and a further 195,021 (4.6%) who had moved between SA4s within Queensland.
- The largest net gain of population through intrastate migration between SA4s over the year to the 2011 Census occurred in Moreton Bay – South (1,114), while Brisbane – South and Brisbane – West recorded the largest net loss of persons during this period (2,045 and 1,920 persons respectively).

1. Regional population mobility

Population mobility refers to the geographic movement of people where there has been a change in the place of usual residence. To determine the level and spatial pattern of mobility, the Census asks individuals about the location of their usual residence both five years and one year prior to the Census. This bulletin focuses on population mobility between SA4 regions within Queensland during the year prior to the 2011 Census¹. The inward and outward flows of people across SA4 boundaries results in a net gain or loss of population through intrastate migration. The characteristics of persons migrating intrastate are explored in this bulletin by focusing on movement between Greater Brisbane² and the remainder of Queensland.

At the time of the 2011 Census, 17.9% (764,695) of Queensland's usual resident population aged one year and over had moved usual residence in the previous year (Table 1).

Table 1: Usual residents aged one year and over by type of move, Queensland, year to 2011 Census

Type of move	persons	– % –
Did not move ^(a)	3,278,187	76.7
Moved	764,695	17.9
<i>Within same Queensland SA4^(b)</i>	404,834	9.5
<i>Between Queensland SA4s^(c)</i>	195,021	4.6
<i>From interstate</i>	75,239	1.8
<i>From overseas</i>	63,184	1.5
<i>Other^(d)</i>	26,413	0.6
Not stated ^(e)	232,395	5.4
Total^(f)	4,275,277	100.0

(a) Includes 'Migratory – Offshore – Shipping (Qld)' and 'No Usual Address (Qld)'.
(b) Excludes movement within 'Migratory – Offshore – Shipping (Qld)' and 'No Usual Address (Qld)'.
(c) Excludes movement to/from 'Migratory – Offshore – Shipping (Qld)', 'No Usual Address (Qld)', 'Capital City Undefined (Greater Brisbane)' and 'State Undefined (Qld)'.
(d) Includes movements within 'Migratory – Offshore – Shipping (Qld)' and 'No Usual Address (Qld)'. Also includes movements of persons who stated that they were usually resident at a different address one year ago but either did not state that address or only partially stated that address (including moves from 'Capital City Undefined (Greater Brisbane)' and 'State Undefined (Qld)' and moves to/from 'No Usual Address (Qld)').
(e) Persons who did not state where they were usually resident one year ago.
(f) Components may not add to total due to rounding.

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing, B38 and TableBuilder Pro

¹ For the purposes of this bulletin, individuals who were no longer living at the same usual residence as one year prior to the 2011 Census were considered as having moved.
² Greater Capital City Statistical Area (GCCSA) of Brisbane.

2. Intrastate migration by region

In the year prior to the 2011 Census, there were 195,021 intrastate moves between SA4 regions in Queensland (Table 2).

Moreton Bay – South SA4 recorded the largest overall net gain (1,114 persons) through intrastate migration. Moreton Bay – North and Fitzroy also recorded large net gains of over 1,000 persons each.

In contrast, Brisbane – South, Brisbane – West and Queensland – Outback recorded the largest net losses, of 2,045, 1,920 and 950 persons respectively, through intrastate migration.

Table 2: Intrastate migration by SA4, Queensland, year to 2011 Census

SA4	Intrastate arrivals ^(a)	Intrastate departures ^(b)	Net gain/loss
	– number –		
Brisbane – East	9,092	8,747	345
Brisbane – North	12,553	12,378	175
Brisbane – South	17,926	19,971	-2,045
Brisbane – West	11,025	12,945	-1,920
Brisbane Inner City	19,942	20,307	-365
Cairns	5,994	6,777	-783
Darling Downs – Maranoa	5,581	5,692	-111
Fitzroy	8,601	7,599	1,002
Gold Coast	11,482	11,549	-67
Ipswich	12,669	12,214	455
Logan – Beaudesert	13,068	13,649	-581
Mackay	7,360	6,529	831
Moreton Bay – North	10,587	9,585	1,002
Moreton Bay – South	10,952	9,838	1,114
Queensland – Outback	4,394	5,344	-950
Sunshine Coast	10,220	9,603	617
Toowoomba	6,110	5,798	312
Townsville	7,134	6,439	695
Wide Bay	10,331	10,057	274
Queensland SA4s	195,021	195,021	0

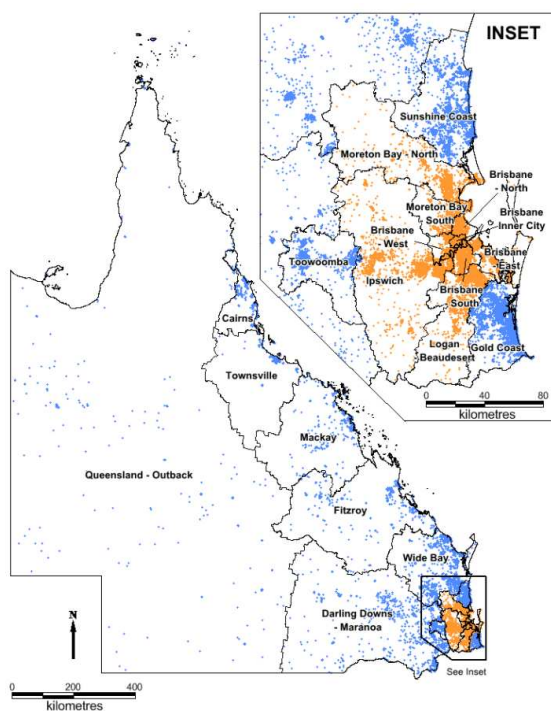
(a) Excludes arrivals from 'Capital City Undefined (Greater Brisbane)', 'Migratory – Offshore – Shipping (Qld)', 'State Undefined (Qld)' and 'No Usual Address (Qld)'.
(b) Excludes departures to 'Migratory – Offshore – Shipping (Qld)' and 'No Usual Address (Qld)'.
Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder Pro



3. Intrastate migration to and from Greater Brisbane

Greater Brisbane represents the socio-economic extent of the Brisbane capital city area and encompasses the nine SA4 regions in the south-east corner of the State³, excluding Toowoomba, Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast (Figure 1). There were 61,125 intrastate moves between Greater Brisbane and SA4s in the rest of Queensland⁴ in the year to the 2011 Census. The regional distribution of these moves is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Regional distribution of intrastate moves to and from Greater Brisbane, year to 2011 Census



1 blue dot = 1 intrastate move from Greater Brisbane
 1 orange dot = 1 intrastate move to Greater Brisbane

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder Pro

Greater Brisbane recorded a net loss of 2,265 persons through intrastate migration, with 31,695 persons moving from Greater Brisbane to elsewhere in the State compared with 29,430 persons moving to Greater Brisbane over the same period (Table 3). The largest of these intrastate moves was from Greater Brisbane to the Gold Coast (8,097). The counter flow from the Gold Coast to Greater Brisbane was also high (7,491).

The largest net losses recorded by Greater Brisbane over the year, were to the Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast (691 and 606 persons respectively). Greater Brisbane recorded the largest net gains from Townsville and Cairns (352 and 324 persons respectively).

³ Brisbane – East, Brisbane – North, Brisbane – South, Brisbane – West, Brisbane Inner City, Ipswich, Logan – Beaudesert, Moreton Bay – North and Moreton Bay – South.

⁴ Excluding arrivals and departures from 'Migratory – Offshore – Shipping (Qld)' and 'No Usual Address (Qld)' and departures from 'State Undefined (Qld)'. Includes movements from 'Capital City Undefined (Greater Brisbane)'.

Table 3: Intrastate moves to and from Greater Brisbane by SA4, year to 2011 Census

SA4	Departures from:	Arrivals to:	Net gain/loss to:
	Greater Brisbane ^(a)		
– number –			
Cairns	1,622	1,946	324
Darling Downs – Maranoa	2,116	1,622	-494
Fitzroy	2,784	2,273	-511
Gold Coast	8,097	7,491	-606
Mackay	2,258	2,047	-211
Queensland – Outback	1,058	746	-312
Sunshine Coast	5,610	4,919	-691
Toowoomba	2,204	2,304	100
Townsville	1,879	2,231	352
Wide Bay	4,067	3,851	-216
Total^(b)	31,695	29,430	-2,265

(a) Departures from Greater Brisbane include departures from the category 'Capital City Undefined (Greater Brisbane)'.

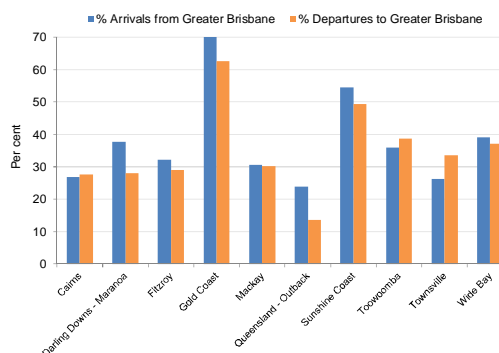
(b) Arrivals and departures from 'Migratory – Offshore – Shipping (Qld)' and 'No Usual Address (Qld)' and arrivals from 'State Undefined (Qld)' are excluded from this analysis.

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder Pro

Due to geographical proximity, the SA4s with the highest proportion of arrivals from Greater Brisbane⁵ were the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast (70.0% and 54.6% of all arrivals respectively) (Figure 2). The Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast also had the highest proportion of departures to Greater Brisbane⁶ among all SA4s (62.7% and 49.3% of all departures respectively) over this period.

Persons from Greater Brisbane represented only 23.9% of arrivals to Queensland – Outback in the year to the 2011 Census. Only 13.6% of departures from this remote SA4 region moved to Greater Brisbane over this period. Darling Downs – Maranoa also had a higher representation of arrivals from Greater Brisbane (37.7%) compared with the proportion of persons departing to Greater Brisbane (28.0%). In comparison, Townsville, Toowoomba and Cairns all had a higher representation of persons departing for Greater Brisbane compared with the number of persons arriving from the capital city region.

Figure 2: Greater Brisbane as a proportion of intrastate moves by SA4^(a), year to 2011 Census



(a) Includes arrivals from 'Capital City Undefined (Greater Brisbane)' but excludes arrivals from 'State Undefined (Qld)'. Excludes arrivals and departures from 'Migratory – Offshore – Shipping (Qld)' and 'No Usual Address (Qld)'.

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder Pro

⁵ Calculated as a proportion of the total number of intrastate arrivals.

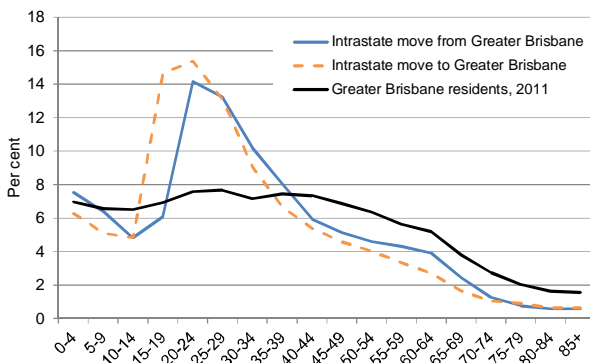
⁶ Calculated as a proportion of the total number of intrastate departures.



4. Age profile

Age is strongly associated with regional population mobility as younger people are less likely to own their own home or to have a family, and are more likely to relocate to further educational or work opportunities⁷. Consistent with this, the peak age for both moving to and from Greater Brisbane in the year to the 2011 Census was 20-24 years (Figure 3), although the median age of persons departing Greater Brisbane was higher than those arriving (28.9 years compared with 26.2 years)⁸. In comparison, the median age of all Greater Brisbane residents was 35.0 years. Persons aged 15-19 years comprised a notably higher proportion of persons moving to Greater Brisbane compared with the age profile of persons departing Greater Brisbane (14.6% and 6.1% respectively). At the time of the 2011 Census, 6.9% of the Greater Brisbane resident population was aged 15-19 years.

Figure 3: Intrastate moves^(a) to and from Greater Brisbane by age group, year to 2011 Census



(a) Arrivals and departures from 'Migratory – Offshore – Shipping (Qld)' and 'No Usual Address (Qld)' and arrivals from 'State Undefined (Qld)' are excluded from this analysis.

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder Pro

While six of the 10 SA4 regions outside of Greater Brisbane recorded similar median ages⁸ for intrastate arrivals and intrastate departures, the following SA4s recorded notable differences; Wide Bay (arrivals, 31.8 years and departures, 25.7 years), Darling Downs – Maranoa (arrivals, 28.0 years and departures, 24.5 years) and Sunshine Coast (arrivals, 31.2 years and departures, 27.8 years). Townsville was the only SA4 outside of Greater Brisbane to record a median age for intrastate departures of at least one year higher than that of intrastate arrivals (26.8 years and 25.6 years respectively).

Outside of Greater Brisbane, Toowoomba and Townsville shared the lowest median age for intrastate arrivals (both 25.6 years). Darling Downs – Maranoa had the lowest median age for intrastate departures (24.5 years). In comparison, Wide Bay recorded the highest median age for intrastate arrivals (31.8 years) and the Gold Coast had the highest median age for intrastate departures (28.7 years).

⁷ ABS 4102.0 Australian Social Trends, June 2009.
⁸ Government Statistician estimates.

5. Labour force profile

At the time of the 2011 Census, the proportion of employed persons moving to Greater Brisbane from elsewhere⁹ in the State was similar to the proportion of employed persons moving out¹⁰ of Greater Brisbane (62.2% compared with 63.6%) (Table 4).

The top three industries of employment with a higher proportion of Greater Brisbane intrastate arrivals than intrastate departures were retail trade, accommodation and food services, and professional, scientific and technical services (Table 4). Conversely, the top three industries of employment with a higher proportion of intrastate departures from Greater Brisbane were in the industries of education and training, mining and agriculture, forestry and fishing.

Table 4: Labour force and industry of employment profile of persons moving to and from Greater Brisbane, year to 2011 Census

	Arrivals to: Greater Brisbane		Departures from: Greater Brisbane	
	persons	– % –	persons	– % –
<i>Labour force status^(a)</i>				
Employed	15,340	62.2	16,129	63.6
Unemployed	2,304	9.3	2,015	7.9
Not in labour force	6,816	27.6	7,011	27.7
Total^(b)	24,654	100.0	25,353	100.0
<i>Industry of employment^(c)</i>				
Agriculture/Forestry/Fishing	133	0.9	390	2.4
Mining	475	3.1	750	4.7
Manufacturing	1,029	6.7	1,059	6.6
Electricity/Gas/Water/Waste	158	1.0	194	1.2
Construction	1,434	9.3	1,559	9.7
Wholesale Trade	506	3.3	505	3.1
Retail Trade	1,748	11.4	1,519	9.4
Accommodation/Food	1,429	9.3	1,207	7.5
Transport/Postal/Warehousing	683	4.5	683	4.2
Information Media/ Telecommunications	246	1.6	220	1.4
Financial/Insurance Services	439	2.9	411	2.5
Rental/Hiring/Real Estate	270	1.8	305	1.9
Professional/Scientific/ Technical Services	1,177	7.7	990	6.1
Administrative/Support Services	570	3.7	495	3.1
Public Administration/ Safety	1,157	7.5	1,220	7.6
Education & Training	1,031	6.7	1,358	8.4
Health Care & Social Assistance	1,828	11.9	2,141	13.3
Arts & Recreation Services	246	1.6	269	1.7
Total^(d)	15,337	100.0	16,129	100.0

(a) Count of persons aged 15 years and over.
 (b) Includes not stated.
 (c) Count of employed persons aged 15 years and over.
 (d) Includes Other Services, inadequately described and not stated.
 Note: Excludes arrivals from 'Capital City Undefined (Greater Brisbane)' and 'State Undefined (Qld)' and arrivals and departures from 'Migratory – Offshore – Shipping (Qld)' and 'No Usual Address (Qld)'.

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing, TableBuilder Pro

⁹ Excludes arrivals from 'Migratory – Offshore – Shipping (Qld)', 'No Usual Address (Qld)', 'Capital City Undefined (Greater Brisbane)' and 'State Undefined (Qld)'.
¹⁰ Excludes departures to 'Migratory – Offshore – Shipping (Qld)' and 'No Usual Address (Qld)'.



Notes

Population counts in this bulletin are based on Census counts by place of usual residence. Persons who did not state their usual address, or only partially stated their usual address (coded to either 'Capital City Undefined (Greater Brisbane)' and 'State Undefined (Qld)' or who had 'No Usual Address' have been excluded from the SA4 level analysis as it is not possible to determine their migration status at this level. However, in sections 3 and 4 relating to movements to and from Greater Brisbane, arrivals from 'Capital City Undefined (Greater Brisbane)' have been included in the calculation of total moves from Greater Brisbane.

Persons aged less than one year on Census night have been excluded from all analysis as they had not been born one year prior.

Census counts by place of usual residence exclude overseas visitors and Australian residents temporarily overseas.

A population census is limited in capturing the mobility of the population in that it can determine whether a person has moved between two points in time, but not how many times that person has moved within that period of time. The Census data does not capture the movements of those who migrated to another SA4 region and returned to their home SA4 region within the year before the Census night. As a result, the total number of persons who moved between SA4s will be more than that captured by the Census, after return and repeat movements are taken into account. However, the counter flow of arrivals and departures from one SA4 region to another means the actual redistribution of population is much smaller than the number of intrastate moves or intrastate movers.

It should be noted that the labour force status, occupation and educational achievement of regional arrivals who were usually resident in a SA4 region on Census night may not be equivalent to their labour force status, occupation and educational achievement at the time of movement into that SA4 region.

Geographies in this bulletin are based on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard, July 2011. SA4s represent labour markets where there is a high degree of interconnectivity between the labour supply and demand.

All data in this bulletin have been sourced from ABS TableBuilder Pro unless otherwise stated. TableBuilder Pro independently applies a confidentiality process and random cell adjustments to each table of data during its extraction. As a result, data presented here may show some minor differences to the same data generated at a different time in TableBuilder Pro, or sourced from another ABS product or consultancy service.

For more information, please see Queensland and Treasury and Trade's *Queensland Regional Profiles* and *Queensland Regional Database* at www.oesr.qld.gov.au.

All data in this report were sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Censuses of Population and Housing (www.abs.gov.au).

Government Statistician
Economic and Structural Policy
Queensland Treasury and Trade
Phone: (07) 3035 6418
Email: oesr@treasury.qld.gov.au



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