

Queensland's future households

Queensland Government household projections, 2025 edition

Sources: Queensland Government Population, Household and Dwelling Projections, 2025 edition; ABS, *Regional Population by Age and Sex*, 2024

Introduction

This report provides an overview of Queensland's projected household types and living arrangements for the state, Greater Brisbane Capital City Statistical Area (GCCSA) and remaining statistical areas level 4 (SA4s). A [methodology paper](#)ⁱ is available, which provides further information on the methods used. It is highly advised that the methodology paper be read in conjunction with this report to clarify the household type and living arrangement definitions used in this report.

Detailed data tables for [Queensland](#)ⁱⁱ and [SA4s](#)ⁱⁱⁱ are also available. The method includes the production of projected populations by living arrangement. These data have been made available for [Queensland](#) and [SA4s](#).

To account for future uncertainty, three projection series (low, medium, high) have been developed for Queensland and SA4s. These provide a range of outcomes for the possible future number of households^{iv} and persons by living arrangement.

Queensland

Under the medium series assumptions, the total number of households in Queensland is projected to increase from 2.045 million in 2021 to 2.920 million by 2046, and to 3.580 million by 2071 (Table 1) — an overall increase of around 1.534 million households.

Around 57.1% of the overall growth of households in the medium series is projected to occur in the first 25 years to 2046. This compares with 68.8% of the total 972,200 households under the low series and 50.0% of the total 2,257,800 households under the high series.

Table 1 Projected households, by series, Queensland

Series	2021	2046	2071	Change 2021 to 2071
Low	2,045,360	2,714,585	3,017,518	972,158
Medium	2,045,360	2,920,410	3,579,069	1,533,710
High	2,045,360	3,175,322	4,303,187	2,257,827

In 2021, couple family with children was the most common household type (585,700), followed by couple family with no children (563,400) and lone person households (507,700) (Table 2). By 2071:

- Couple family with no children households are projected to be the most common household type in the low (869,700) and medium series (1,003,700).
- Couple family with children households are projected to remain the most common household type under the high series only (1,202,800), largely due to the higher level of fertility assumed in the high series.
- Lone person households are projected to remain the third-most common household type in each series.

In 2021, there were also 231,900 one parent family households, 91,100 group households, 41,300 multiple family households, and 24,400 other family households. In each series, one parent family households are projected to grow the fastest (annual average growth rates: low — 1.0%, medium — 1.4%, high — 1.8%).

Table 2 Projected households, by household type and series, Queensland

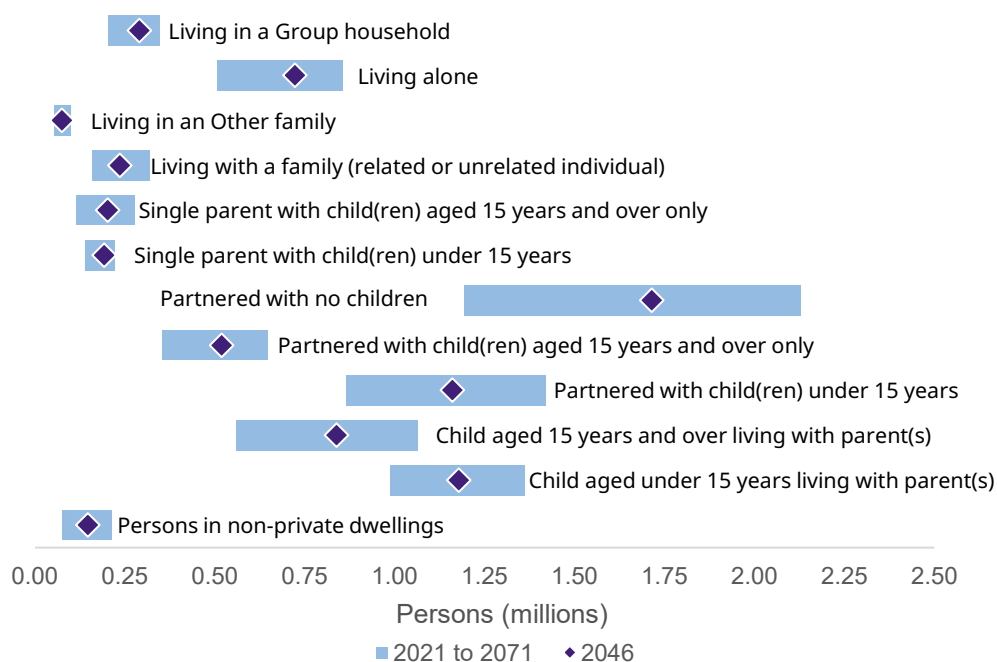
Household type	2021		2071	
	Actual	Low	Medium	High
Couple family with children	585,667	817,089	991,659	1,202,762
Couple family with no children	563,361	869,742	1,003,725	1,178,112
One parent family	231,886	377,588	455,214	555,414
Other family	24,396	38,264	45,704	54,957
Multiple family household	41,305	61,276	72,582	86,796
Lone person household	507,685	724,438	855,843	1,040,662
Group household	91,060	129,120	154,342	184,485
Total households	2,045,360	3,017,518	3,579,069	4,303,187

Population by living arrangement (medium series)

In 2021, the largest population by living arrangement in Queensland was partnered with no children (1.195 million), followed by child aged under 15 years living with parent(s) (986,600), and partnered with child(ren) under 15 years of age (867,000) (Figure 1). There were also 558,800 children aged 15 years and over living with parent(s), and 507,700 persons living alone.

People in partnered with no children living arrangements are projected to remain the most common in both 2046 (1.715 million) and 2071 (2.129 million). Children aged under 15 years living with parent(s) are projected to remain the second most common living arrangement in 2046 (1.178 million), while in 2071, partnered with child(ren) under 15 years is projected to be the second most common living arrangement (1.421 million).

The number of persons living alone is projected to increase to 855,800 persons by 2071. While remaining among the smallest cohorts, the number of persons living in non-private dwellings is projected to almost triple by 2071 to reach 214,800.

Figure 1 Projected population by living arrangement, growth over 2021 to 2071, Queensland, medium series

Statistical areas level 4

Households and household types

In 2021, the Greater Brisbane GCCSA was home to 979,800 households, compared with over 1.065 million households in the Rest of Queensland. In the 25 years to 2046, under the medium series, the number of households in Greater Brisbane is projected to increase by 507,200 to reach 1.487 million (an average annual increase of 1.7%) (Table 3). Around 25% of the growth is anticipated to occur in the 5-year period 2021 to 2026, in line with the accelerated population growth over this period.

Growth in the Rest of Queensland is projected to be slower than in Greater Brisbane, with the number of households projected to increase by 367,800 and an average annual increase of 1.2% (Table 3).

The fastest growing SA4 in the Rest of Queensland is expected to be Gold Coast, growing by 134,100 households, and at an average annual increase matching that of Greater Brisbane (1.7%). Sunshine Coast, up by 78,300, is projected to be the second fastest growing SA4, at 1.6% per year on average, while Queensland - Outback is projected to be the slowest growing SA4, at 0.3% per year on average.

Table 3 Projected households, Greater Brisbane and Rest of Queensland SA4s (medium series)

Region	Households		Change	
	2021	2046	2021–2046	% ^(a)
Region	— n —			% ^(a)
Greater Brisbane GCCSA	979,760	1,486,967	507,208	1.7%
Rest of Queensland	1,065,600	1,433,443	367,843	1.2%
Cairns	105,735	134,042	28,307	1.0%
Darling Downs – Maranoa	53,087	59,229	6,141	0.4%
Central Queensland	91,280	116,848	25,568	1.0%
Gold Coast	256,686	390,785	134,098	1.7%
Mackay – Isaac – Whitsunday	71,853	94,576	22,723	1.1%
Queensland – Outback	29,621	31,695	2,074	0.3%
Sunshine Coast	163,754	242,006	78,252	1.6%
Toowoomba	65,250	87,453	22,203	1.2%
Townsville	95,247	114,867	19,621	0.8%
Wide Bay	133,086	161,942	28,856	0.8%
Queensland	2,045,360	2,920,410	875,050	1.4%

(a) Average annual.

Couple family with children was the predominant household type in 2021 for Greater Brisbane (30.9%), Central Queensland (28.3%), Gold Coast (28.7%), and Mackay – Isaac – Whitsunday (29.5%) (Table 4). In all other SA4s, except Queensland – Outback, couple family with no children was the primary household type. By 2046, couple family with children households are projected to remain the primary household type only in Greater Brisbane and Gold Coast.

Lone person households are projected to continue to be the predominant household type in Queensland – Outback, accounting for 30.4% of households in 2046 compared with 29.8% in 2021. Lone person households are also projected to be the primary household type in Townsville in 2046 (27.4%), though closely followed by couple family with no children households (27.3%).

Table 4 Share of projected household types, Greater Brisbane and Rest of Queensland SA4s (medium series), 2046

	Couple family with children	Couple family with no children	One parent family	Other family	Multiple family household	Lone person household	Group household
Greater Brisbane GCCSA	29.8%	25.8%	12.5%	1.3%	2.2%	23.7%	4.6%
Rest of Queensland	25.3%	29.6%	12.2%	1.0%	1.8%	25.8%	4.2%
Cairns	23.2%	28.5%	12.8%	1.2%	1.8%	28.0%	4.5%
Darling Downs – Maranoa	23.4%	31.7%	10.9%	1.1%	1.3%	28.9%	2.8%
Central Queensland	26.1%	27.9%	12.2%	1.1%	1.9%	27.7%	3.1%
Gold Coast	28.0%	27.6%	13.0%	1.1%	2.0%	22.8%	5.5%
Mackay – Isaac – Whitsunday	26.9%	28.9%	11.0%	1.0%	1.9%	26.9%	3.5%
Queensland – Outback	25.1%	23.6%	11.9%	1.7%	4.1%	30.4%	3.1%
Sunshine Coast	25.4%	32.9%	11.5%	0.8%	1.6%	23.7%	4.1%
Toowoomba	25.3%	28.4%	12.1%	1.1%	1.5%	28.1%	3.5%
Townsville	25.0%	27.3%	12.9%	1.3%	1.8%	27.4%	4.3%
Wide Bay	19.6%	34.6%	11.9%	1.0%	1.4%	28.1%	3.4%
Queensland	27.6%	27.7%	12.4%	1.2%	2.0%	24.8%	4.4%

Living arrangements

In every region except Greater Brisbane and Queensland – Outback, the predominant living arrangement in 2046 is projected to be partnered with no children. In Greater Brisbane, 24.3% of residents will be living with their partner and children, down marginally from 24.7% in 2021 (Table 5).

While lone person households are projected to be the predominant household type in 2046 in Queensland – Outback, partnered with children is projected to be the main living arrangement, accounting for 20.9% of residents.

The number of people living in non-private dwellings is projected to at least double in Greater Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, and Wide Bay by 2046, largely as a result of the ageing of the population. The Australian Bureau of Statistics definition of non-private dwellings includes correctional facilities, detention centres, hostels, boarding schools and residential colleges, nursing homes, and other non-self-contained accommodation for the aged.

Table 5 **Share of persons by projected living arrangements, Greater Brisbane and Rest of Queensland SA4s (medium series), 2046**

	Persons in non- private dwellings	Living alone	Partnered with children	Partnered with no children	Single with children	Child aged 15 and older, living with parents	Child aged under 15 living with parents	Other
Greater Brisbane GCCSA	1.8%	9.3%	24.3%	21.6%	5.4%	12.3%	16.7%	8.7%
Rest of Queensland	2.3%	10.7%	21.7%	25.7%	5.5%	10.6%	15.7%	7.8%
Cairns	1.9%	11.8%	20.4%	25.3%	6.0%	10.3%	16.1%	8.3%
Darling Downs – Maranoa	2.9%	12.2%	20.3%	27.8%	5.0%	9.2%	16.8%	5.8%
Central Queensland	2.7%	11.4%	22.4%	24.3%	5.6%	9.9%	17.4%	6.3%
Gold Coast	1.5%	9.1%	23.4%	23.5%	5.6%	11.9%	15.5%	9.3%
Mackay – Isaac – Whitsunday	3.4%	11.0%	22.8%	24.9%	5.0%	9.5%	16.8%	6.5%
Queensland – Outback	6.5%	11.4%	20.9%	19.0%	6.0%	8.5%	19.9%	7.8%
Sunshine Coast	1.9%	9.9%	21.9%	28.7%	5.1%	10.8%	14.4%	7.4%
Toowoomba	2.9%	11.8%	22.0%	25.0%	5.5%	10.1%	16.0%	6.7%
Townsville	3.0%	11.2%	21.2%	23.4%	5.8%	10.9%	16.7%	7.8%
Wide Bay	2.1%	12.5%	18.0%	32.0%	5.7%	9.5%	13.2%	7.1%
Queensland	2.0%	9.9%	23.1%	23.6%	5.4%	11.5%	16.2%	8.3%

Sources and notes

- i www.qgso.qld.gov.au/statistics/theme/population/household-dwelling-projections/overview#current-release-qld-government-household-projections-methodology
- ii www.qgso.qld.gov.au/statistics/theme/population/household-dwelling-projections/state#current-release-projected-households-series-household-type-qld
- iii www.qgso.qld.gov.au/statistics/theme/population/household-dwelling-projections/regions#current-release-projected-households-series-household-type-sa4-qld
- iv Projected numbers of households and persons quoted in the report have generally been rounded to the nearest 100.

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