



Census 2011: Journey to Work, Queensland

Key points

In the week prior to the 2011 Census:

- of the 1,775,100 people who recorded journeys to work that started and ended in a Queensland region, the majority (94.9%) worked in their region of residence; and
- 22,802 (1.1%) employed residents of Queensland worked interstate, with New South Wales the primary work destination, followed by Western Australia.

1. Journey to work, Queensland

Introduction

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Census of Population and Housing includes questions on workplace address and method of travel to work. Combining this information with place of usual residence for employed people gives statistics on journey to work patterns. This bulletin focuses on journeys to work for all employed people aged 15 years and over within and between SA4 regions of Queensland, as well as featuring journey to work patterns in Greater Brisbane¹, South East Queensland (SEQ) and Townsville SA4. Interstate flows and the industry and occupation characteristics of selected Queensland regions are also included. Method of travel to work is also provided for journeys taken and reported on the day of the Census (9 August 2011).

Major journey to work patterns

There were 2,039,275 people living in Queensland recorded as being employed in the week prior to the 2011 Census. Of this group, 87.0% or 1,775,100 people recorded journeys to work that started and ended in a Queensland region (Table 1). The majority (94.9%) of these people worked in their region of residence. Gold Coast SA4 had the highest proportion of residents working in other Queensland regions (14.4%), followed by Sunshine Coast SA4 (10.8%) and Toowoomba SA4 (10.6%). Queensland - Outback SA4 had the highest proportion of workers living elsewhere (14.3%) followed by Darling Downs - Maranoa SA4 (12.0%) and Toowoomba SA4 (10.6%). The remaining 13.0% (264,175) included people who worked interstate, lived in Queensland but did not have a usual residential address, lived or worked in Migratory - Offshore - Shipping (Qld) SA4, who did not state or only partially stated a place of work, or did not have a fixed work address.

Table 1: Journey to work^(a) summary, employed usual residents, Queensland regions^(b), 2011

Region ^(b)	Region of residence				Region of employment			
	Commuted to same region	– % –	Commuted to different region	– % –	Commuted from same region	– % –	Commuted from different region	– % –
Greater Brisbane ¹	879,078	97.4	23,293	2.6	879,078	95.6	40,677	4.4
Cairns	84,877	96.7	2,933	3.3	84,877	98.1	1,625	1.9
Darling Downs - Maranoa	44,987	91.6	4,116	8.4	44,987	88.0	6,106	12.0
Fitzroy	84,501	97.0	2,586	3.0	84,501	94.4	5,049	5.6
Gold Coast	168,142	85.6	28,352	14.4	168,142	92.8	12,996	7.2
Mackay	70,841	97.9	1,533	2.1	70,841	91.7	6,415	8.3
Queensland - Outback	30,931	95.8	1,349	4.2	30,931	85.7	5,156	14.3
Sunshine Coast	102,179	89.2	12,311	10.8	102,179	96.3	3,874	3.7
Toowoomba	49,524	89.4	5,844	10.6	49,524	89.4	5,865	10.6
Townsville	87,239	95.8	3,857	4.2	87,239	98.7	1,176	1.3
Wide Bay	81,736	94.4	4,891	5.6	81,736	97.5	2,126	2.5
	Total commuting within region: 1,684,035 (94.9%)		Total commuting between regions: 91,065 (5.1%)		Total journeys in Queensland regions: 1,775,100 (100.0%)			

(a) Includes journeys that started and ended in the Queensland regions listed, and persons who worked from home. Table excludes persons who did not work in the week prior to the 2011 Census, who gave a place of work outside of Queensland, who worked or lived in 'Migratory - Offshore - Shipping (Qld)' or who did not state, or only partially stated a workplace address, who had no fixed workplace address, or no usual residential address. Proportions calculated as a percentage of the total employed persons living in the region (origin) or working in the region (destination) respectively.

(b) All regions listed are Statistical Area Level 4, except Greater Brisbane (refer to footnote ¹ below).

Note: For the region Greater Brisbane, Census respondents coded to the category 'Place of Work Capital city undefined (Greater Brisbane)' are included in the count of persons *commuting to the same region*.

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing

¹ Includes the SA4s of Brisbane - East, Brisbane - North, Brisbane - South, Brisbane - West, Brisbane Inner City, Ipswich, Logan - Beaudesert, Moreton Bay - North, Moreton Bay - South SA4s.



South East Queensland

There were 1,383,386 employed people living in SEQ². Half of these people (694,947)³ lived and worked in the same SA4 within SEQ. There were a further 29,920 SEQ residents (2.2%) who worked outside the region. This included 17,162 people (1.2%) working interstate, and 12,758 (0.9%) working in the rest of Queensland.

Brisbane⁴ is a major work destination in SEQ. More than half (53.8% or 636,007) of all people both living and working in SEQ (1,182,742) worked in Brisbane. Outside of Brisbane, Moreton Bay - South SA4 had highest percentage of employed residents working in Brisbane (52.6%) (Table 2).

While those SA4s located the furthest from Brisbane had the smallest percentage of residents working in Brisbane, there were 24,982 Moreton Bay - North residents, 15,917 Gold Coast residents and 5,187 Sunshine Coast residents working in Brisbane the week before the 2011 Census.

Moreton Bay - North and Logan - Beaudesert have relatively high proportions of employed residents working in other (neighboring) SA4s in SEQ (10.7% and 10.5% respectively). Compared with other regions, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast SA4s had a relatively high proportion of employed residents working in areas outside of SEQ (3.8% and 3.6% respectively) (See the [Journey to work](#) table on the Government Statistician website for further details).

Townsville SA4

Townsville SA4 comprises Charters Towers - Ayr - Ingham SA3 and Townsville SA3.

There were 105,990 employed people *residing* in Townsville SA4 (Table 3) at the time of the 2011 Census. Of these residents, more than four out of five (81.3%) lived and worked in the same SA3 within Townsville SA4. Almost 71,000 lived and worked in Townsville SA3, and 15,247 lived and worked in Charters Towers - Ayr - Ingham.

There were 791 (0.7%) Townsville SA4 residents working interstate in the week prior to the Census. A further 3.6% worked somewhere else in the rest of Queensland, including 1.5% (1,633) in Queensland - Outback SA4 and 0.9% (981) in Mackay SA4 (Figure 1).

In the week prior to the 2011 Census, there were 88,947 people whose *place of work* was Townsville SA4. Almost all those employed in Townsville SA4 were also usual residents of Townsville SA4 (98.1% or 87,239 people). A further 380 people were interstate residents and 299 people were residents of Cairns SA4.

Table 2: Journey to work summary, SEQ, 2011

Region of residence	Region of employment					Total
	Brisbane ⁴	Same region ^(a)	SEQ balance ^(b)	Australia balance ^(c)	Other ^(d)	
– persons –						
Brisbane ⁴	462,045		50,285	7,841	58,748	578,919
Gold Coast	15,917	168,142	9,621	8,978	35,027	237,685
Ipswich	36,116	63,272	4,441	3,627	15,247	122,703
Logan – Beaudesert	46,151	50,775	13,946	1,742	19,845	132,459
Moreton Bay – North	24,982	40,599	9,572	1,653	13,053	89,859
Moreton Bay – South	45,609	23,339	6,830	1,149	9,761	86,688
Sunshine Coast	5,187	102,179	3,734	4,930	19,043	135,073
– % –						
Brisbane ⁴	79.8		8.7	1.4	10.1	100.0
Gold Coast	6.7	70.7	4.0	3.8	14.7	100.0
Ipswich	29.4	51.6	3.6	3.0	12.4	100.0
Logan – Beaudesert	34.8	38.3	10.5	1.3	15.0	100.0
Moreton Bay – North	27.8	45.2	10.7	1.8	14.5	100.0
Moreton Bay – South	52.6	26.9	7.9	1.3	11.3	100.0
Sunshine Coast	3.8	75.6	2.8	3.6	14.1	100.0

- (a) Where the region of employment is the same region as the region of residence.
- (b) SEQ excluding Brisbane and the same region.
- (c) Other Queensland SA4s and interstate.
- (d) Includes regions of employment coded to 'State/Territory Undefined (Qld)', 'Capital City Undefined (Greater Brisbane)', 'Migratory - Offshore - Shipping (Qld)', 'No Fixed Address (Qld)' and not stated.

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing

Table 3: Region of employment, Townsville SA4 residents^(a), 2011

	persons	– % –
Lived and worked in Townsville SA4	87,239	82.3
Lived and worked in the same SA3 ^(a)	86,167	81.3
Charters Towers - Ayr - Ingham SA3	15,247	14.4
Townsville SA3	70,920	66.9
Lived in the area and worked in a different SA3 ^(a)	1,072	1.0
Lived in the area, but worked outside Townsville SA4	16,364	15.4
Rest of Qld	3,817	3.6
Interstate	791	0.7
Other ^(b)	11,756	11.1
Work location not stated	2,388	2.3
Total employed residents	105,990	100.0

- (a) Charters Towers - Ayr - Ingham and Townsville SA3s.
- (b) Includes place of work responses coded to 'State/Territory Undefined (Qld)', 'Capital City Undefined (Greater Brisbane)', 'Migratory - Offshore - Shipping (Qld)', and 'No Fixed Address (Qld)'.Coast SA4s.

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing

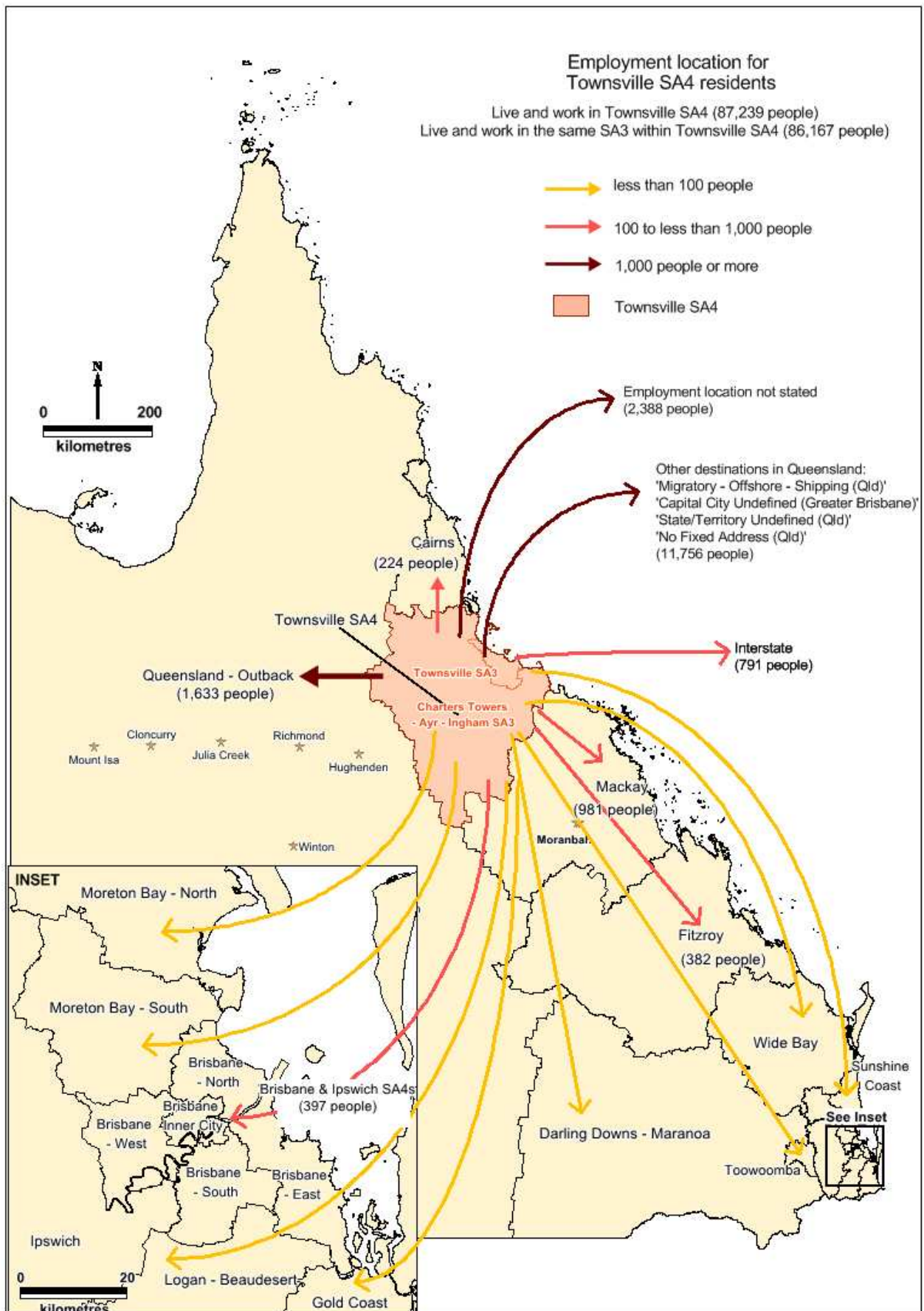
² Includes the SA4s of Brisbane - East, Brisbane - North, Brisbane - South, Brisbane - West, Brisbane Inner City, Gold Coast, Ipswich, Logan - Beaudesert, Moreton Bay - North, Moreton Bay - South and Sunshine Coast SA4s.

³ This figure excludes 215,404 people who did not live and work in the same SA4 within the Brisbane region.

⁴ Includes the SA4s of Brisbane - East, Brisbane - North, Brisbane - South, Brisbane - West and Brisbane Inner City.



Figure 1: Region of employment for Townsville SA4 residents, 2011



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing



2. Method of travel to work

On Census day 2011 in Queensland, 68.8% of employed people travelled to work by car, truck or taxi, 5.9% travelled to work by public transport only, and 4.8% either walked or cycled to work (Table 4).

Gold Coast (175,213) had the largest number of residents travelling to work by car, truck or taxi in Queensland, followed by Brisbane - South (99,559) and Logan - Beaudesert (99,345). Toowoomba had the highest proportion of residents driving to work (77.2%) while Brisbane Inner City has the lowest proportion (49.5%). Brisbane Inner City had the highest proportion and number of public transport users (18.7%, 24,153). Queensland - Outback had the highest proportion of residents that walked or cycled only to work (18.4%), with Brisbane Inner City the next highest proportion (12.7% or 16,485 people).

The top four SA4s with the highest number of residents catching only public transport to work were Brisbane Inner City (24,153), Brisbane - South (23,244), Brisbane - North (12,732) and Brisbane - West (12,149). These areas also had the highest proportions of residents catching only public transport to work.

There were 1,850 Gold Coast residents who rode a motorbike or motor scooter to work, the highest number in the State, while Townsville had the highest proportion of people that used this mode of transport to get to work (1.4% or 1,478 people), followed by Brisbane Inner City (1.2% or 1,528 people).

Table 4: Mode of travel for journeys to work^(a) by SA4 of journey origin, Queensland, 2011

SA4	Car, truck, taxi ^(b)		Motorbike or motor scooter		Public transport only ^(c)		Walked only, cycled only		Employed persons ^(d)
	persons	%	persons	%	persons	%	persons	%	
Brisbane - East	73,839	70.5	883	0.8	6,711	6.4	2,364	2.3	104,707
Brisbane - North	61,615	62.9	1,020	1.0	12,732	13.0	3,180	3.2	97,909
Brisbane - South	99,559	62.6	1,444	0.9	23,244	14.6	5,862	3.7	159,095
Brisbane - West	51,293	58.5	858	1.0	12,149	13.8	4,510	5.1	87,726
Brisbane Inner City	64,135	49.5	1,528	1.2	24,153	18.7	16,485	12.7	129,481
Ipswich	89,153	72.7	1,205	1.0	6,128	5.0	2,872	2.3	122,697
Logan - Beaudesert	99,345	75.0	1,114	0.8	6,443	4.9	2,407	1.8	132,460
Moreton Bay - North	64,212	71.5	714	0.8	4,021	4.5	2,510	2.8	89,858
Moreton Bay - South	59,794	69.0	961	1.1	6,059	7.0	1,543	1.8	86,689
<i>Greater Brisbane¹</i>	<i>662,945</i>	<i>65.6</i>	<i>9,727</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>101,640</i>	<i>10.1</i>	<i>41,733</i>	<i>4.1</i>	<i>1,010,625</i>
Cairns	73,473	71.4	1,030	1.0	1,849	1.8	6,586	6.4	102,877
Darling Downs - Maranoa	37,276	67.2	383	0.7	298	0.5	4,099	7.4	55,502
Fitzroy	73,511	72.7	975	1.0	2,206	2.2	5,004	4.9	101,129
Gold Coast	175,213	73.7	1,850	0.8	6,814	2.9	8,804	3.7	237,686
Mackay	60,982	71.8	636	0.7	2,283	2.7	4,823	5.7	84,876
Queensland - Outback	21,362	57.1	363	1.0	586	1.6	6,888	18.4	37,374
Sunshine Coast	96,714	71.6	999	0.7	1,968	1.5	5,370	4.0	135,073
Toowoomba	49,526	77.2	551	0.9	392	0.6	2,686	4.2	64,141
Townsville	78,498	74.1	1,478	1.4	1,778	1.7	5,567	5.3	105,991
Wide Bay	72,361	72.2	1,079	1.1	1,065	1.1	5,054	5.0	100,168
Queensland ^(e)	1,403,757	68.8	19,103	0.9	121,198	5.9	97,139	4.8	2,039,275

(a) Method of travel to work not shown for those persons who did not work on the day of the census, or worked at home, or did not state their method of travel to work.

(b) This category includes persons who used only one or a combination of more than one of these modes of transport.

(c) Includes persons who used only one or a combination of more than one of the following modes of transport: bus, ferry, train and tram.

(d) 'Other' travel modes, or combinations of different travel modes, not shown as separate categories in this table.

(e) Queensland total includes non-spatial SA4s of 'Migratory - Offshore - Shipping' and 'No Usual Address (Qld)'.

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing



3. Working at home

On Census day 2011, 99,373 (4.9%⁵) employed Queensland residents worked at home. Darling Downs - Maranoa had the highest percentage of employed persons working at home (11.6%), followed by Queensland - Outback (8.5%), Sunshine Coast (7.2%) and Wide Bay (6.4%). Brisbane North (3.3%) had the smallest percentage of people working from home followed by Townsville (3.4%).

Gold Coast recorded the largest number of employed people working at home (13,148). No other SA4 had more than 10,000 people working at home. Toowoomba recorded the smallest number of people working from home (2,401) followed by Queensland - Outback (3,134) and Brisbane - North (3,275).

4. Interstate work journeys

In the week prior to Census 2011, 22,802 (1.1%) employed residents of Queensland worked interstate in the week prior to Census night. Of all the states and territories⁶, the ACT had the highest proportion of people working interstate (3.5%), while Western Australia has the smallest proportion (0.5%).

In Queensland, New South Wales was the primary destination for interstate workers (11,460 people), followed by Western Australia (4,199 people) and Victoria (3,363 people). Of those Queenslanders working in New South Wales, the largest number worked in Richmond - Tweed SA4 (4,342 people) followed by Greater Sydney (3,472 people). Of those Queenslanders working in Western Australia, about one third (1,494 people) worked in the Pilbara SA3.

In the week prior to the 2011 Census, 21,624 usual residents of other states and territories worked in Queensland. New South Wales was the primary source of interstate workers travelling to Queensland (14,819 people), followed by 3,460 people from Victoria. Of the New South Wales residents, more than half (60.2% or 8,914 people) resided in Richmond - Tweed, followed by Greater Sydney (18.0% or 2,667 people).

The top three destinations for interstate workers in Queensland were Gold Coast (7,309 workers or 33.8%), Greater Brisbane (4,768 workers or 22.1%) and Queensland workplaces either not defined or specified with no fixed address (21.3% or 4,601 workers).

5. Occupation and industry

The top three industries of employment for interstate residents working in Queensland were construction (13.6%), health care and social assistance (9.7%) and professional, scientific and technical services (7.7%).

The top three occupations for interstate residents working in Queensland were professionals (22.4%),

technicians and trades workers (17.5%) and managers (12.6%).

The health care and social assistance industry employed the highest proportion of interstate residents in Gold Coast SA4 (16.2%), while the professional, scientific and technical services industries employed the highest proportion of interstate residents working in Greater Brisbane (14.9%) (Table 5).

Table 5: Top three industries of employment, selected Queensland regions of employment, interstate residents^(a), 2011

	persons	%
Gold Coast SA4		
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,182	16.2
Accommodation and Food Services	832	11.4
Retail Trade	708	9.7
Place of Work - Qld - other ^(b)		
Construction	1,087	23.7
Mining	488	10.6
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	356	7.7
Greater Brisbane		
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	709	14.9
Construction	556	11.7
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	491	10.3

(a) Employed persons aged 15 years and older.

(b) Capital City Undefined (Greater Brisbane), 'State/Territory Undefined (Qld)' and 'No Fixed Address (Qld)'.

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing

⁵ As a proportion of total, including those who travelled to work, worked at home, or did not go to work on Census day and where mode of travel to work was not stated.

⁶ Excluding Other Territories.



Notes

Journey to work data are subject to inconsistencies due to the difference in the time period covered by each of the relevant variables. The journey to work place of origin is derived from the usual residential address of employed persons in 2011. Census counts by place of usual residence exclude overseas visitors and Australian residents temporarily overseas.

The journey to work destination is obtained from the question on employer's workplace address for the main job held in the week before the 2011 Census. The method/s of travel to work is applicable only for the journey to work taken on the day of the Census (9 August 2011).

Geographies used in this bulletin include Statistical Area Level 4 (SA4), Statistical Area Level 3 (SA3) and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas (GCCSA) of Brisbane from the 2011 Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), July. SA4s represent labour markets where there is a high degree of interconnectivity between the labour supply and demand. SA3s are clusters of SA2s that have similar regional characteristics. The GCCSAs represent the socio-economic extent of each of the eight State and Territory capital cities.

These data were sourced from the 2011 Census of Population and Housing TableBuilder Pro online tool, extracted 30 October 2012. Cells in these tables have been randomly adjusted to avoid the release of confidential data. No reliance should be placed on small cells. In addition, as each table generated is adjusted independently, data downloaded at a different time, or subtotals and totals generated from data at different geographies may show some minor discrepancies.

For more information, please visit Queensland 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).

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