

NOTEPopulation statistics in this

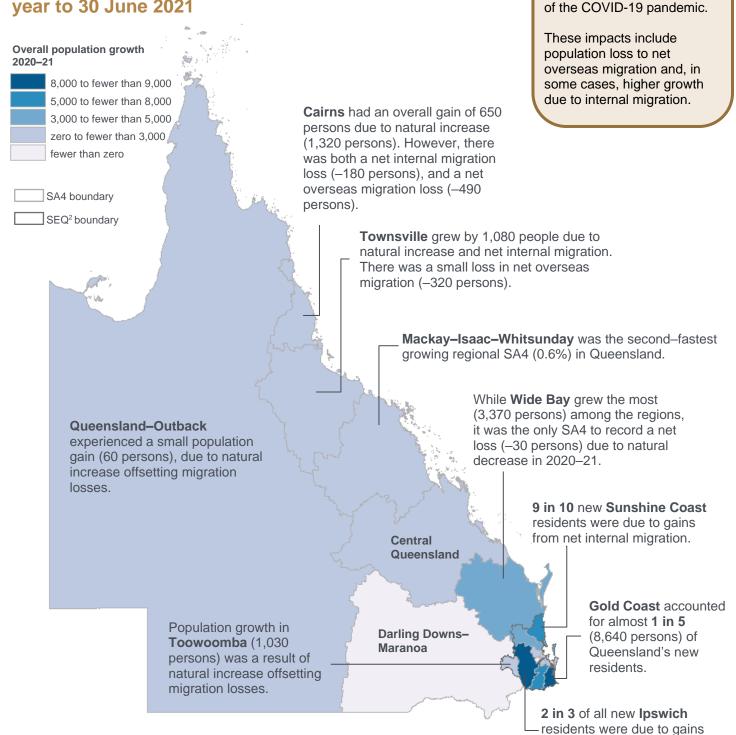
release include time periods impacted by measures in

place to mitigate the impacts

Population growth highlights and trends, Queensland regions, 2022 edition

Source: ABS *Regional population*, released 29 March 2022, 10:30a.m. AEST

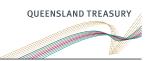
Highlights—population change in Queensland SA4s¹, year to 30 June 2021



¹ Statistical area level 4.



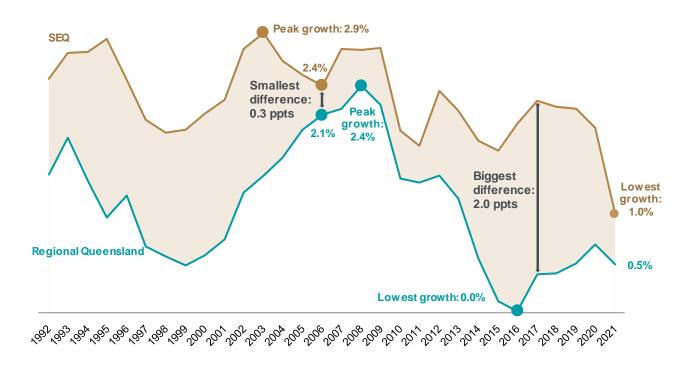
from net internal migration.



Overview of Queensland's regions

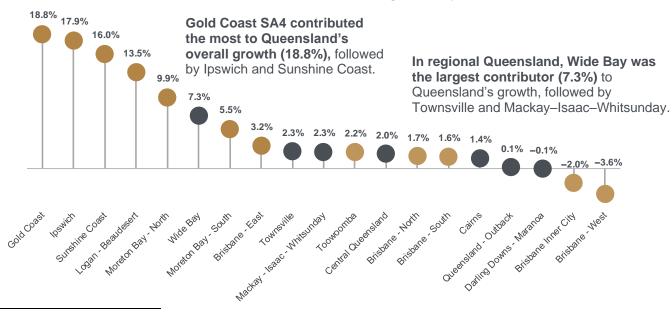
Annual population growth rate, SEQ² and regional Queensland, year to 30 June

Population growth in SEQ has been higher than in regional Queensland over the reporting period...



- The 2020–21 growth rate (1.0%) in SEQ was the slowest recorded during the reporting period from 1991–92.
- During the same period, growth rates in regional Queensland varied between zero in 2015–16 and 2.4% in 2007–08. In 2020–21, regional Queensland grew by 0.5%.

Contribution to Queensland's population growth by SA4, 2020-21



² In this section of the report, the South East Queensland (SEQ) region is composed of the following SA4s: Brisbane–East, Brisbane–North, Brisbane–South, Brisbane–West, Brisbane Inner City, Gold Coast, Ipswich, Logan–Beaudesert, Moreton Bay–North, Moreton Bay–South, Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba



South East Queensland SA4s

- More than **7 in 10** Queenslanders (72.8% or 3.8 million persons) lived in SEQ at 30 June 2021.
- Over the 10 years to 30 June 2021, SEQ grew at around triple the annual rate (1.9%) of the rest of Queensland (0.6%).
- While annual SEQ population growth in the five years to 30 June 2021 overall was 1.9% on average, growth in the most recent year, 2020–21, was 1.0%.

Rate of population change in SEQ SA4s

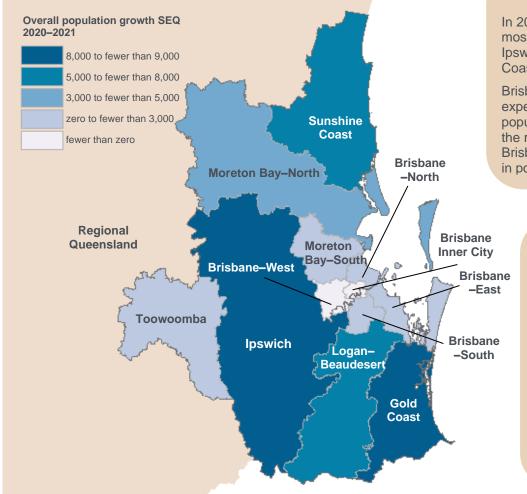
- Growth rates in all Queensland SA4s moderated in 2020–21. Brisbane Inner City (–0.3%) and Brisbane–West (–0.9%) both experienced population declines.
- In 2020–21, Ipswich SA4 grew the fastest (2.2%), followed by Sunshine Coast (1.9%) then Moreton Bay–North (1.7%) and Logan– Beaudesert (1.7%).
- The fastest average annual growth rates during the decade to June 2021 were in Moreton Bay–South (2.7%), Ipswich (2.7%), Sunshine Coast (2.3%) and Brisbane Inner City (2.3%).

SEQ SA4s that grew faster

Gold Coast and Logan-Beaudesert were the only SA4s in SEQ where the average annual population growth rate was higher in the five years to June 2021 than in the 5 years to June 2016:

- Gold Coast (2.2% to 2.3%)
- Logan–Beaudesert (1.8% to 2.0%)

Size of population change in SEQ SA4s



Year to June 2021

In 2020–21, Gold Coast grew the most (8,640 persons), followed by Ipswich (8,220) and Sunshine Coast (7,360).

Brisbane–West (–1,670) experienced a decline in population for the first time during the reporting period from 1992. Brisbane Inner City also declined in population (–940) in 2020–21.

10 years to June 2021

In the 10 years to June 2021, Gold Coast grew the most, increasing by an average of 13,070 persons per year, next was Ipswich (8,820) and then the Sunshine Coast (8,210).

Brisbane–West (1,510 per year) had the smallest average annual growth, followed by Toowoomba (1,670) and Brisbane–East (2,580).



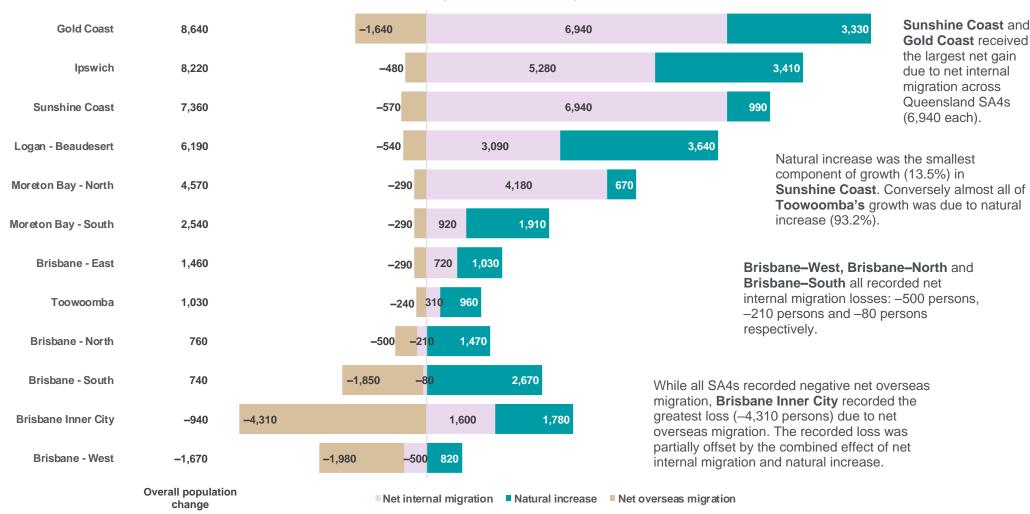
Average annual population change, 10 years, 5 years and 1 year to June 2021, SEQ SA4s

SA4	Estim	ated resident popul	ation as at 30 June		Aver	age annual growt	h	Average annual growth		
	2011	2016	2020	2021	2011–2021	2016–2021	2020–21	2011–2021	2016–2021	2020–21
		— numbe	r—			— number —		— % —		
South East Queensland	3,138,740	3,462,230	3,763,970	3,802,870	66,410	68,130	38,900	1.9	1.9	1.0
Brisbane-East	218,730	231,400	243,100	244,550	2,580	2,630	1,460	1.1	1.1	0.6
Brisbane-North	198,480	214,770	228,440	229,210	3,070	2,890	760	1.4	1.3	0.3
Brisbane-South	328,770	356,780	381,730	382,470	5,370	5,140	740	1.5	1.4	0.2
Brisbane-West	178,110	187,150	194,840	193,170	1,510	1,200	-1,670	0.8	0.6	-0.9
Brisbane Inner City	236,750	264,950	298,420	297,480	6,070	6,510	-940	2.3	2.3	-0.3
Gold Coast	528,770	589,930	650,860	659,500	13,070	13,910	8,640	2.2	2.3	1.3
lpswich	291,050	333,700	371,050	379,270	8,820	9,110	8,220	2.7	2.6	2.2
Logan-Beaudesert	300,180	328,710	357,070	363,260	6,310	6,910	6,190	1.9	2.0	1.7
Moreton Bay-North	222,580	243,260	261,580	266,150	4,360	4,580	4,570	1.8	1.8	1.7
Moreton Bay-South	172,790	201,950	223,920	226,460	5,370	4,900	2,540	2.7	2.3	1.1
Sunshine Coast	318,280	356,760	393,010	400,370	8,210	8,720	7,360	2.3	2.3	1.9
Toowoomba	144,260	152,860	159,970	161,000	1,670	1,630	1,030	1.1	1.0	0.6
Queensland	4,476,780	4,845,150	5,175,250	5,221,230	74,450	75,220	45,990	1.6	1.5	0.9



Components of population change, SEQ SA4s, year to June 2021

Ranked largest to smallest net growth 2020-21

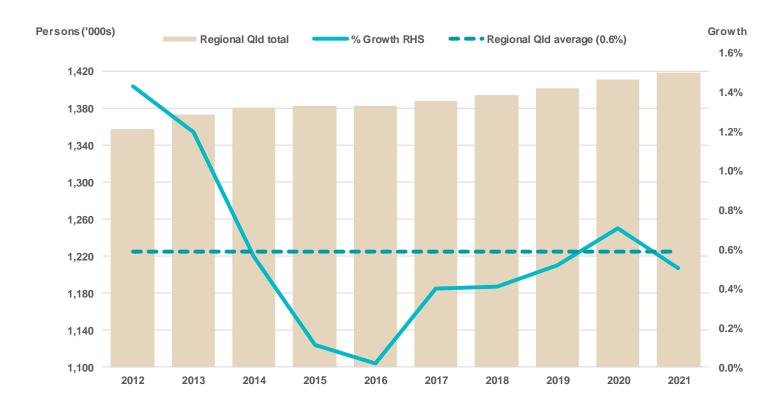




Regional Queensland SA4s

- Fewer than **3 in 10** Queenslanders (27.2% or 1.42 million persons) lived in regional Queensland at 30 June 2021.
- In 2020–21, Wide Bay (1.1%) was the fastest growing SA4 in regional Queensland, followed by Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday (0.6%) and Townsville (0.5%).
- Over the 10 years to June 2021, regional Queensland's population increased by an average of 0.6% per year, around one-third the rate for SEQ (1.9%).
- In 2020–21, Wide Bay (1.1%) was the only regional SA4 to have a growth rate higher than the 10-year annual average for regional Queensland. The growth rate for Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday (0.6%) equalled the 10-year average, while all other SA4s had rates of 0.5% or lower in 2020–21.

Population change in regional Queensland, 10 years to June 2021



- Cairns had the fastest average annual growth rate in regional Queensland for the 10 years to June 2021 (1.0%), followed by Wide Bay (0.9%) and Townsville (0.7%).
- In the five years to June 2021, compared with the five years to June 2016, the average annual rate of population growth moderated in all regional SA4s, except Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday (0.2% compared with 0.3%) and Wide Bay (0.9% in both periods). Queensland–Outback was the only SA4 to experience population loss during 2011–12 to 2015–16 (–1.0%) then growing by 0.1% over 2016–17 to 2020–21.
- The fastest growing regional SA4 over 2016–17 to 2020–21 was Wide Bay at 0.9% per year, on average. This was followed by Cairns (0.8%) and Townsville (0.5%).
- Darling Downs–Maranoa grew by less than 0.1% over the five years from 2016–17 to 2020–21 compared with 0.5% over the five years prior to this.



Size of population change in regional Queensland SA4s

In the year to June 2021:

- Wide Bay SA4 increased by the most persons (up 3,370), followed by Townsville (1,080) and Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday (1,060).
- This compares with a year earlier when Cairns had the second-largest population growth among regional Queensland SA4s (2,180 persons), followed by Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday (1,780 persons).
- Population decreased marginally in Darling Downs–Maranoa (-40 persons).
- The smallest net population gain was in Queensland–Outback (60 persons).

Over the 10 years to June 2021:

- The largest average annual population increases were in:
 - Wide Bay (2,550 persons)
 - o Cairns (2,390 persons)
 - o Townsville (1,520 persons).
- In contrast, Queensland—Outback SA4 experienced the only population decrease (–380 persons per year).

Average annual population change, 10 years, 5 years and 1 year to June 2021, regional Queensland SA4s

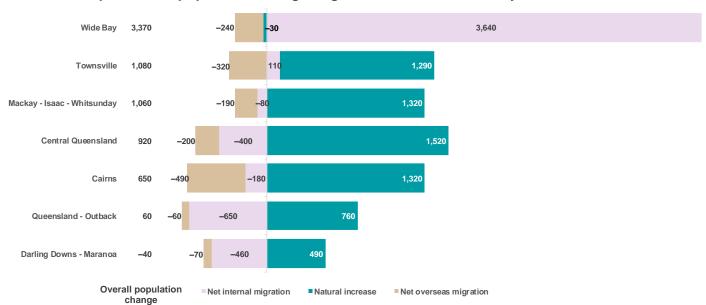
SA4	Estimate	d resident po	pulation at 3	0 June	Avera	verage annual growth Average annual				wth
	2011	2016	2020	2021	2011–2021	2016–2021	2020–21	2011–2021	2016–2021	2020–21
		— numb	oer —		-	— number —			- %-	
Regional Queensland	1,338,040	1,382,920	1,411,270	1,418,370	8,030	7,090	7,090	0.6	0.5	0.5
Cairns	232,780	246,680	256,000	256,650	2,390	1,990	650	1.0	0.8	0.3
Central Queensland	125,260	128,400	128,700	128,660	340	50	-40	0.3	0.0	0.0
Darling Downs- Maranoa	217,120	225,550	228,170	229,090	1,200	710	920	0.5	0.3	0.4
Mackay-Isaac- Whitsunday	171,560	173,300	174,790	175,840	430	510	1,060	0.2	0.3	0.6
Queensland- Outback	86,630	82,570	82,740	82,800	-380	50	60	-0.5	0.1	0.1
Townsville	224,680	234,310	238,780	239,860	1,520	1,110	1,080	0.7	0.5	0.5
Wide Bay	280,000	292,110	302,100	305,470	2,550	2,670	3,370	0.9	0.9	1.1
Queensland	4,476,780	4,845,150	5,175,250	5,221,230	74,450	75,220	45,990	1.6	1.5	0.9

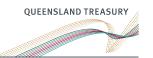


Components of population change, regional Queensland SA4s, year to June 2021

- Wide Bay grew by the most persons (3,370) and was also the fastest growing (1.1%) SA4 in the regions, driven by a significant boost in net internal migration.
- Townsville and Wide Bay were the only regional Queensland SA4s to record a net gain due to internal migration (110 persons and 3,640 persons respectively).
- All regional SA4s had a net loss due to overseas migration (departures exceeded arrivals), ranging between –60 and –490 persons.
- Cairns had losses due to net internal migration (–180 persons) and overseas migration (–490), which were more than offset by natural increase (1,320).
- With the exception of Wide Bay, all regional SA4s recorded a net gain from natural increase (births exceeded deaths) in 2020–21. Central Queensland recorded the largest gain from natural increase (1,520 persons), with net gains in other regional SA4s ranging from 490 to 1,320 persons.
- Darling Downs–Maranoa was the only regional SA4 to have population loss in 2020–21 (–40 persons), with the key driver being a net internal migration loss.

Components of population change, regional Queensland SA4s, year to June 2021





South East Queensland LGAs³

- At 30 June 2021, around **1 in 4** Queenslanders (1.27 million persons) lived in Brisbane, the most populous local government area (LGA) both in SEQ and Queensland.
- Gold Coast had the second-largest population (643,460 persons) followed by:
 - o Moreton Bay (486,650 persons)
 - o Logan (348,020 persons)
 - Sunshine Coast (343,590 persons).

These LGAs also had the largest populations in all of Queensland.

• In the 10 years to June 2021, Gold Coast had the largest increase in their share of the Queensland population, up by 0.8 percentage points. This was followed by Ipswich (up 0.7 percentage points), Moreton Bay and Sunshine Coast (both up by 0.6 percentage points). Toowoomba experienced the region's biggest decline in share of Queensland's population over the period, decreasing by 0.2 percentage points.

Estimated resident population, SEQ local government areas, at 30 June 2021

LGA	State ranking	Estimate	d resident po	oulation as at	30 June	Estimated resident population as at 30 June			
	ranking (a)	2011	2016	2020	2021	2011	2016	2020	2021
		— number —			— % of Qld —				
Brisbane	1	1,089,880	1,184,750	1,272,620	1,272,460	24.3	24.5	24.6	24.4
Gold Coast	2	515,200	575,300	635,060	643,460	11.5	11.9	12.3	12.3
Moreton Bay	3	390,050	439,290	479,580	486,650	8.7	9.1	9.3	9.3
Logan	4	287,470	314,510	341,910	348,020	6.4	6.5	6.6	6.7
Sunshine Coast	5	267,240	302,840	336,440	343,590	6.0	6.3	6.5	6.6
Ipswich	6	172,200	200,100	229,800	236,710	3.8	4.1	4.4	4.5
Toowoomba	8	155,470	164,170	170,340	171,140	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.3
Redland	10	143,710	152,220	160,320	161,460	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1
Noosa	16	51,040	53,920	56,580	56,800	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Scenic Rim	18	37,440	40,980	43,620	44,030	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Lockyer Valley	19	35,880	39,500	42,260	42,840	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Somerset	27	22,200	25,150	26,280	26,550	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
South East Queensland		3,167,790	3,492,740	3,794,800	3,833,700	70.8	72.1	73.3	73.4

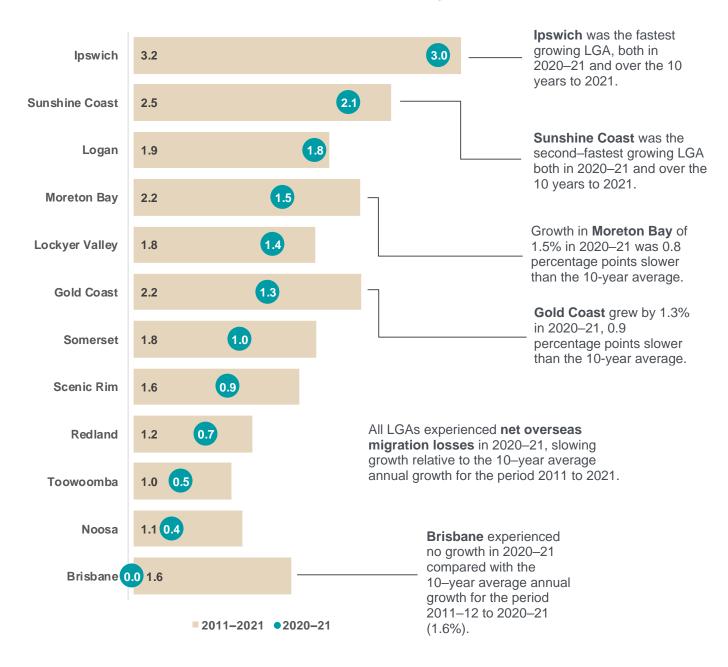
⁽a) Ranked based on population size at 30 June 2021

³ For the purposes of this publication, Toowoomba LGA has been included in South East Queensland.



Average annual growth rate, SEQ local government areas, 10 years 2011–12 to 2020–21, and 2020–21

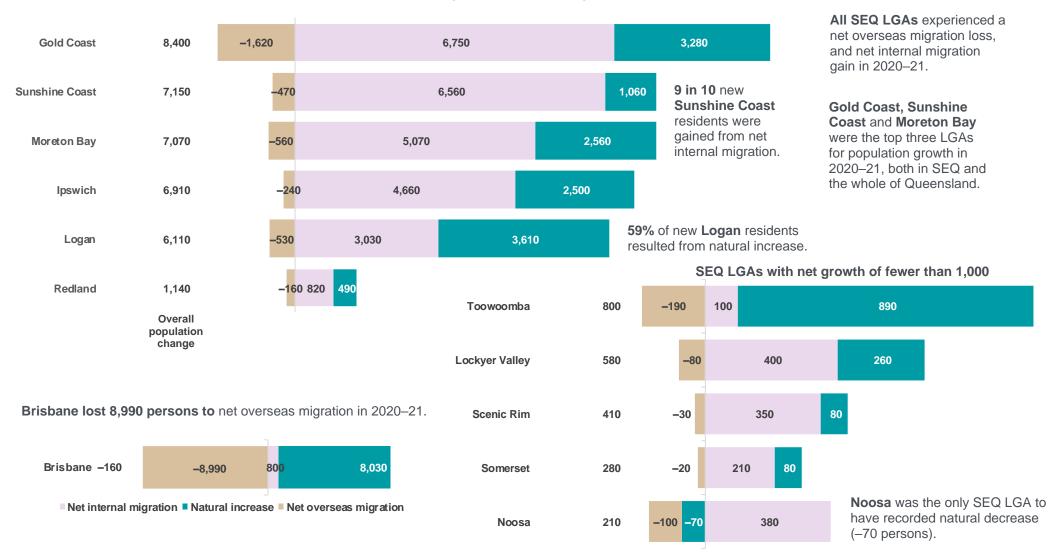
(a) Ranked fastest to slowest % growth in 2020-21

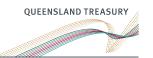




Components of population growth, SEQ local government areas, year to June 2021

Ranked largest to smallest net growth 2020-21





Regional Queensland LGAs

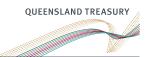
The analysis in this section is limited to regional LGAs with a population of greater than 10,000 persons at 30 June 2021.

- At 30 June 2021, Townsville had the largest population of all LGAs in regional Queensland with 197,990 persons, representing 3.8% of Queensland's population.
- Cairns had the second-largest population (168,850 persons), followed by Mackay (118,720 persons).
- The seven largest LGAs in regional Queensland saw their relative share of the total Queensland population at 30 June 2021 decline compared with their respective share at 30 June 2011.

Estimated resident population, regional Queensland local government areas^(a), at 30 June 2021

LGA	State	Estim	nated resident po	Estimat		ident population at) June			
	ranking	2011	2016	2020	2021	2011	2016	2020	2021
			— numb	— % of Qld —					
Townsville	7	180,110	191,350	196,770	197,990	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.8
Cairns	9	150,990	161,570	168,410	168,850	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.2
Mackay	11	115,960	117,220	117,880	118,720	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.3
Fraser Coast	12	97,660	102,960	108,190	109,860	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1
Bundaberg	13	92,060	94,260	96,360	96,910	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.9
Rockhampton	14	78,940	81,320	81,990	82,310	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.6
Gladstone	15	59,460	63,020	63,850	64,190	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2
Gympie	17	46,840	50,330	52,930	53,730	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Livingstone	20	33,390	36,950	38,610	39,130	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7
Whitsunday	21	32,420	34,540	35,920	36,150	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Regional Queensland		1,308,990	1,352,410	1,380,440	1,387,530				

⁽a) Top 10 local government areas based on population size at 30 June 2021.



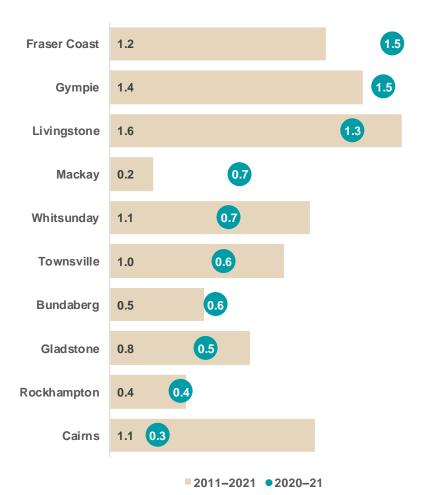
Fastest population growth

The analyses in this section are limited to regional LGAs with a population of greater than 10,000 persons at 30 June 2021.

- The LGAs of Fraser Coast (1.5%), Gympie (1.5%), and Livingstone (1.3%) had the fastest population growth rates in regional Queensland in 2020–21.
- Among the top 10 LGAs, Cairns recorded the greatest disparity between growth rates in 2020–21 (0.3%) and the 10-year annual average (1.1% over 2011–2021).

Population growth rates, top 10 regional Queensland local government areas, 10 years 2011–12 to 2020–21, and 2020–21

Ranked fastest to slowest percentage growth 2020–21





Largest population growth

The analyses in this section are limited to the top 10 regional LGAs with largest growth in 2020–21.

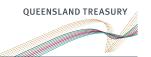
- Fraser Coast had the largest population growth of all LGAs in regional Queensland (up 1,670 persons) in 2020–21.
- In the 10 years to June 2021, the largest average annual population changes occurred in the LGAs of Townsville and Cairns (up 1,790 persons per annum each).
- Of the 10 regional LGAs with the largest growth in 2020–21, four had growth in 2020–21 that was higher than the average annual 10-year growth. They were Fraser Coast (1,670 persons compared with 1,220 for the 10-year average), Gympie (790 and 690), Mackay (840 and 280) and Bundaberg (560 and 490).

Average annual growth, top 10 regional Queensland local government areas to June 2021

Ranked largest to smallest growth 2020-21

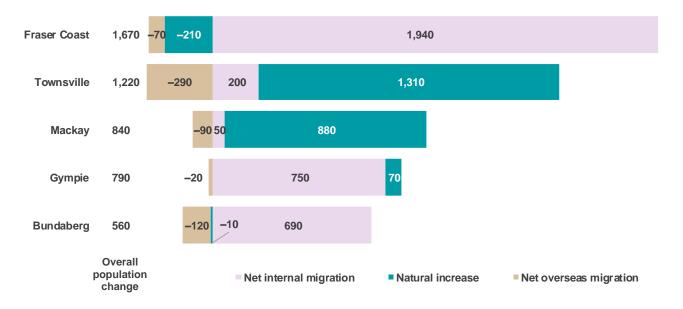
LGA	State	Estima	ted resident po	pulation at 30	Aver	age annual grov	wth		
20/1	ranking ^(a)	2011	2016	2020	2021	2011–2021	2016–2021	2020–21	
		— number —				— number —			
Fraser Coast	12	97,660	102,960	108,190	109,860	1,220	1,380	1,670	
Townsville	7	180,110	191,350	196,770	197,990	1,790	1,330	1,220	
Mackay	11	115,960	117,220	117,880	118,720	280	300	840	
Gympie	17	46,840	50,330	52,930	53,730	690	680	790	
Bundaberg	13	92,060	94,260	96,360	96,910	490	530	560	
Livingstone	20	33,390	36,950	38,610	39,130	570	440	510	
Cairns	9	150,990	161,570	168,410	168,850	1,790	1,460	440	
Gladstone	15	59,460	63,020	63,850	64,190	470	230	340	
Rockhampton	14	78,940	81,320	81,990	82,310	340	200	320	
South Burnett	24	31,800	32,630	32,630	32,920	110	60	290	
Regional Queensland		1,308,990	1,352,410	1,380,440	1,387,530	7,850	7,030	7,090	

⁽a) Ranked by largest growth 2020-21



Components of population growth, top five largest growth regional Queensland LGAs June 2021

Ranked largest to smallest growth 2020-21



- In the year to June 2021, Fraser Coast recorded the largest population gain from net internal migration (1,940 persons) among all regional LGAs. Notably, it also recorded the largest natural decrease (–210).
- Townsville's growth was due mainly to natural increase (1,310 persons), and a smaller amount (200) from internal migration.
- Similar to Townsville, Mackay's growth was overwhelmingly due to natural increase (880 persons).
- In comparison, growth in both Gympie and Bundaberg was due to net internal migration.



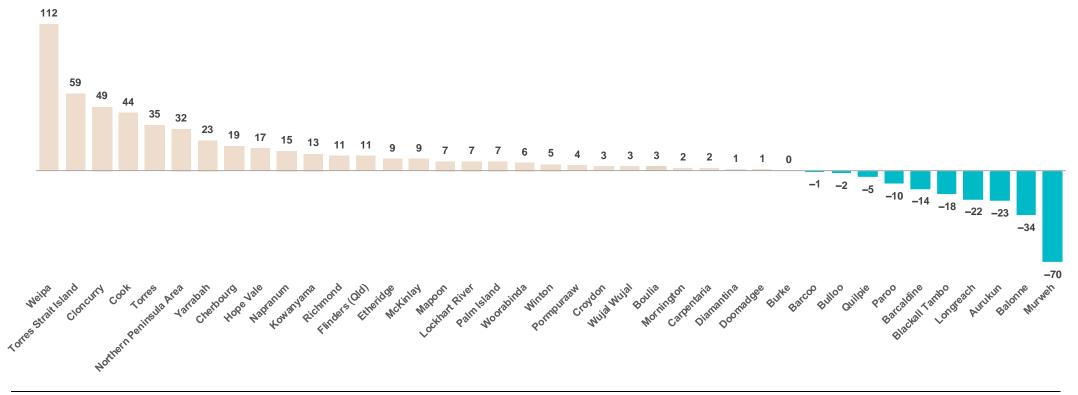
Population change in regional Queensland LGAs

For regional Queensland LGAs with a population of fewer than 10,000 persons at 30 June 2021

- At 30 June 2021, there were 39 LGAs in Queensland with an estimated resident population of fewer than 10,000 persons, ranging from 260 people in Barcoo to 5,240 in Torres Strait Island.
- In the year to 30 June 2021, 28 LGAs each had a small population increase of 120 persons or less. Ten LGAs recorded estimated population losses of up to 70 persons, with Murweh estimated to have the largest loss (–70) of the smaller LGAs in Queensland.

Population change in regional Queensland LGAs in the year to 30 June 2021

LGAs with population less than 10,000 at June 2021

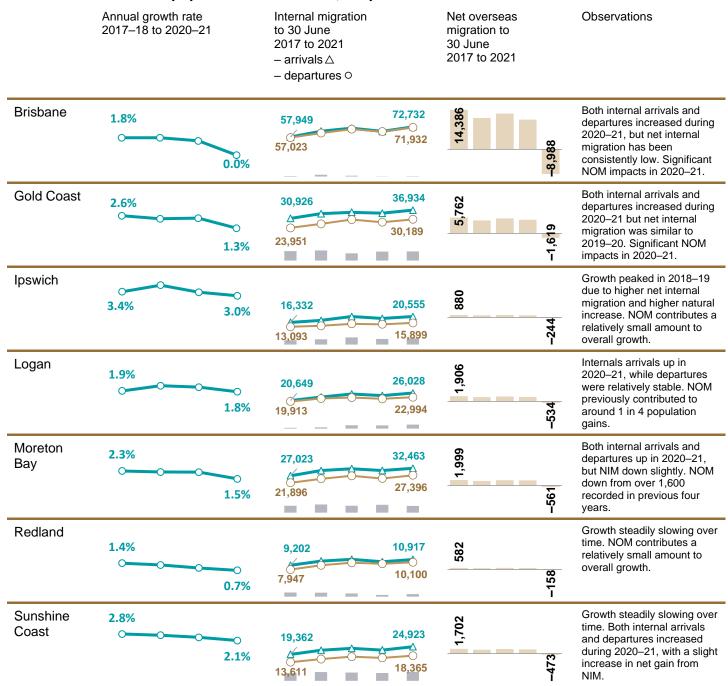


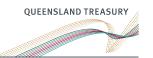


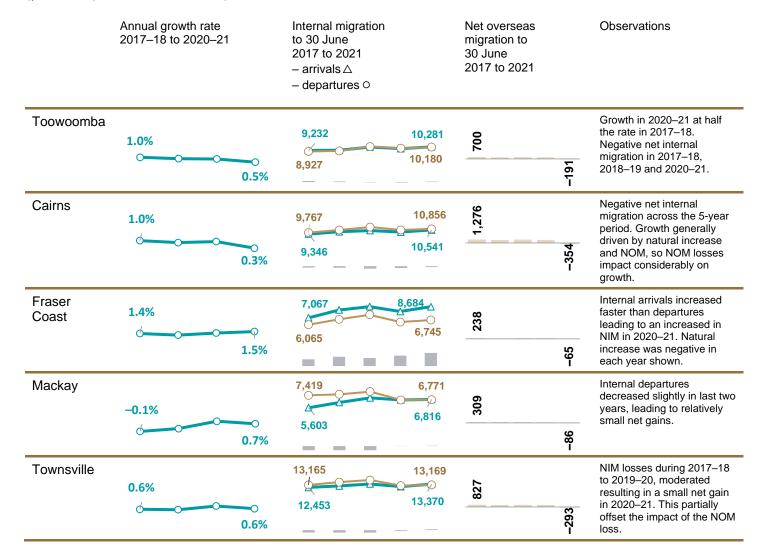
Spotlight on COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic began in early 2020, with Australia closing its international borders firstly to China, and then to the rest of the world. At various times over the months to 30 June 2021, states and territories also implemented localised lockdowns and border closures. These measures impacted on migration levels to, from and within Australia. While Queensland, along with other states and territories, saw net overseas migration fall to negative levels during the heightened COVID-19 period, net interstate migration to Queensland strengthened due to an increase in arrivals and a softening of departures. Intrastate migration patterns were also impacted. Queensland's LGAs were not impacted uniformly by these changes. For example, Brisbane and Gold Coast experienced the largest NOM losses in 2020–21, as they are typically the recipients of the largest NOM gains.

Queensland LGAs with populations of over 100,000 persons in 2020-21









Technical notes

Population data used in this publication were the most recent available at the time of preparation and have been sourced from the ABS publication *Regional population* (2020–21), released 29 March 2022.

The status of estimated resident population (ERP) data changes over time from preliminary to revised to final as new component data become available. Users should exercise caution when analysing and interpreting the most recent annual and quarterly estimates for all components of ERP, particularly when making time series comparisons. Complete accuracy of ERP figures is not claimed by the ABS and should not be assumed.

Status of quarterly ERP data

- All ERP and component data up to and including June 2016 are final. ERPs for June 2020 are revised and ERPs for June 2021 are preliminary.
- Natural increase data for June 2020 are revised (based on date of occurrence), for June 2021 they are preliminary (based on date of registration).
- Net overseas migration data for June 2020 are final (based on actual traveller behaviour), for June 2021 they are preliminary (based on modelled traveller behaviour).
- Net interstate migration data for June 2020 are preliminary (based on census expansion factors), for June 2021 they
 are preliminary (based on expansion factors from the 2016 Census).

Regional–level (SA4, LGA) population estimates in this report were produced by the ABS using census data and administrative by-product data and are subject to some error. A degree of caution should be exercised when using the estimates, especially for areas with very small populations.

A new method was introduced to estimate total sub-state populations out from the 2016 Census base, with population change estimated using births, deaths, and internal and overseas migration. For further information see ABS feature article: 'New methodology used to prepare sub-state population estimates' (ABS, 3218.0, released 24 April 2018).

Figures included in the text throughout this report are rounded to the nearest 10, although all calculations and percentages are based on unrounded data.

A range of supporting data tables is available on the QGSO website (www.qgso.qld.gov.au).



Glossary

Average annual rate of population change

Also known as the average annual population growth rate. It is calculated as a percentage using the formula below, where P_0 is the population at the start of the period, P_0 is the population at the end of the period and P_0 in years.

$$\left[\left(\frac{P_n}{P_0} \right)^{\frac{1}{n}} - 1 \right] \times 100$$

For example, to calculate the average annual rate of population change from 2011 to 2021, n is 10, P_0 is the population in 2011 and P_n is the population in 2021.

Estimated resident population (ERP)

The official measure of the population of Australia is based on the concept of residence. It refers to all people, regardless of nationality, citizenship or legal status, who usually live in Australia, except for foreign diplomatic personnel and their families. It includes usual residents who are overseas for less than 12 out of the preceding 16 months. It excludes overseas visitors who are in Australia for less than 12 out of the preceding 16 months.

Natural increase

The excess of births over deaths in each area. Although usually positive, a natural decrease may occur where deaths are greater than births. This is most likely to occur if the population has an older age structure.

Net internal migration

The movement of people across a specified boundary within Australia due to changing their place of usual residence. This figure is calculated using ABS' official estimate of internal migration for sub-state areas—regional internal migration estimates (RIME)—including intra and interstate migration, prepared on an annual (year ending 30 June) basis.

Net overseas migration

The difference between the number of people settling in an area from overseas and the number of people departing that area to live overseas. This figure is calculated using ABS's official estimate of overseas migration for sub-state areas—regional overseas migration estimates (ROME)—prepared on an annual (year ending 30 June) basis.