Population growth highlights and trends, Queensland, 2019 edition

Sources: ABS 3101.0 (released 21 March 2019); ABS 3218.0 (released 27 March 2019)

Highlights from 2017–18

- Queensland had the third largest population increase (83,590 persons) of any Australian state or territory after Victoria (139,070 persons) and New South Wales (120,310 persons).
- Queensland's annual population growth rate (1.7%) was slightly higher than the national average (1.6%), and was equal to the growth rate in 2016–17.
- Natural increase was the main contributor to population growth for Queensland, closely followed by net overseas migration (NOM) and thirdly, net interstate migration (NIM).
- Nearly 90% of Queensland's population growth occurred in the south-east corner of the state, with the fastest annual growth recorded for Ipswich (C) (3.5%).

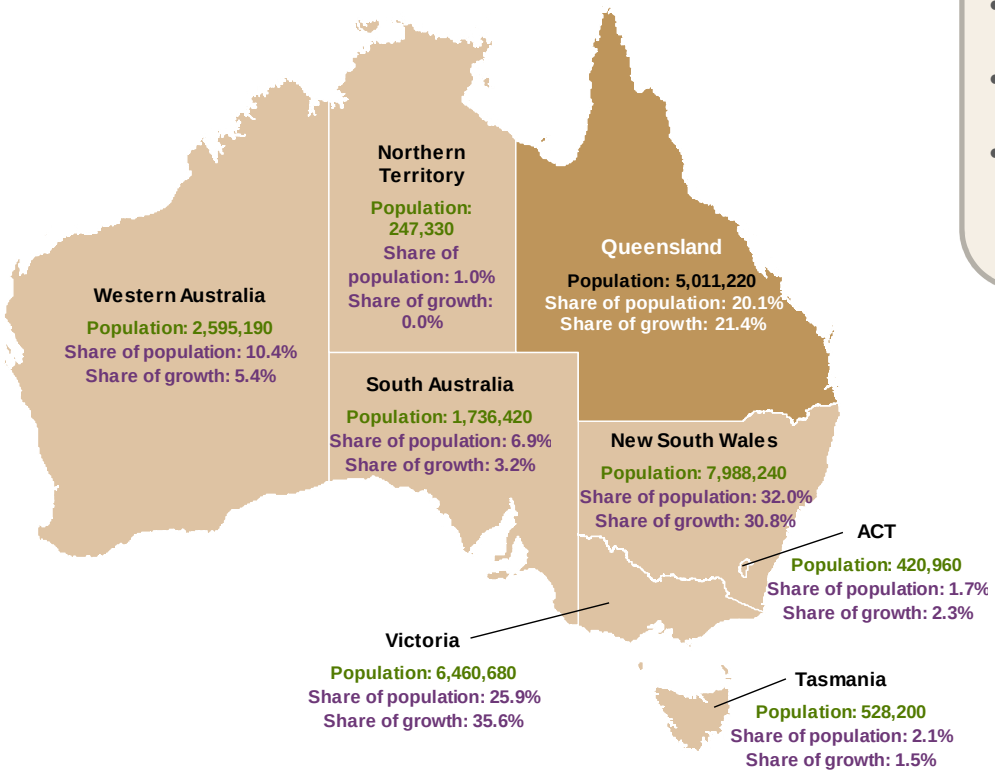
Key data

Estimated resident population (persons)

June 2017	June 2018		Change	% Change
4,927,630	5,011,220	↑	83,590	1.7%

Components of change:		Share of growth
Births	61,830	
Deaths	–31,610	
Natural increase	**30,220**	**36.2%**
Overseas arrivals	85,790	
Overseas departures	–57,130	
Net overseas migration	**28,670**	**34.3%**
Interstate arrivals	105,940	
Interstate departures	–81,240	
Net interstate migration	**24,700**	**29.5%**

Trends nationwide, 2017–18



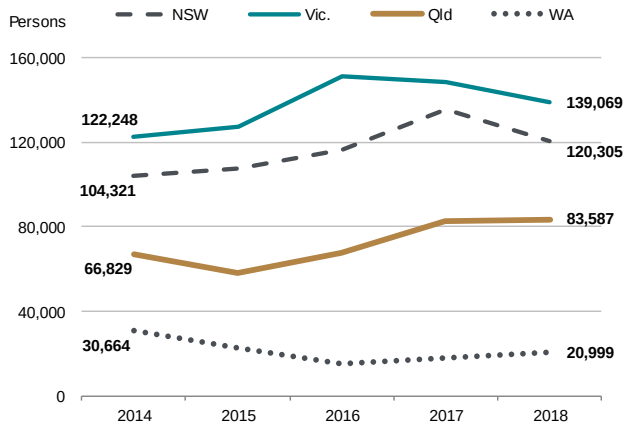
Queensland:

- third-most populated state
- third-largest share of growth
- share of national growth higher than share of national population.

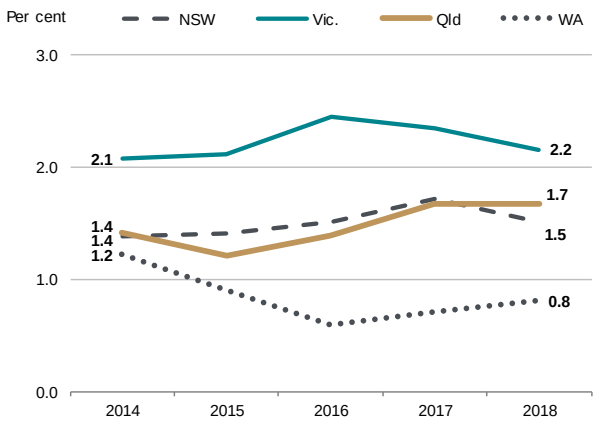
Five years to June 2018

- New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland accounted for 87.4% of national population growth in the five years to June 2018.
- Since 2015, Queensland's annual population growth rate has risen steadily to 1.7% in the year to June 2018 — faster than New South Wales for the first time since 2012–13, but slower than Victoria, which has been above 2.0% per annum since 2011–12.

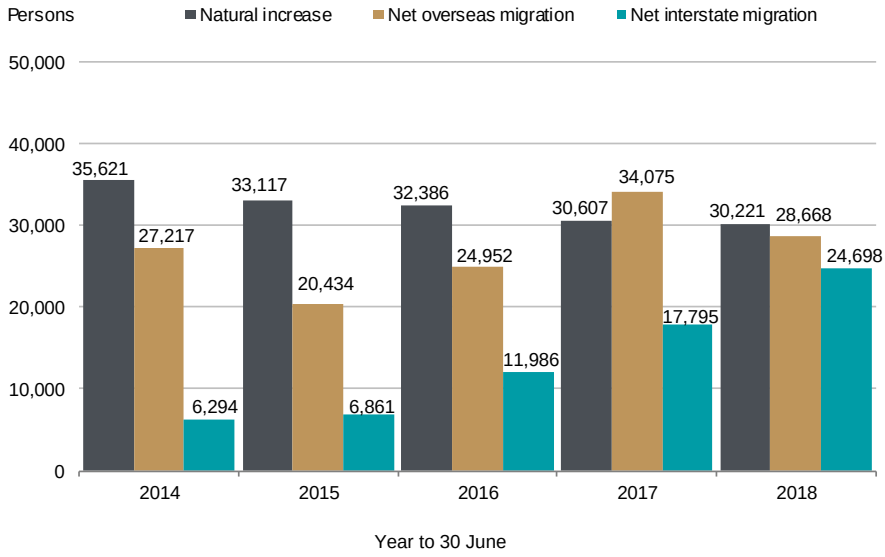
Annual absolute growth, year to 30 June



Annual percentage growth, year to 30 June



Components of population change, Queensland

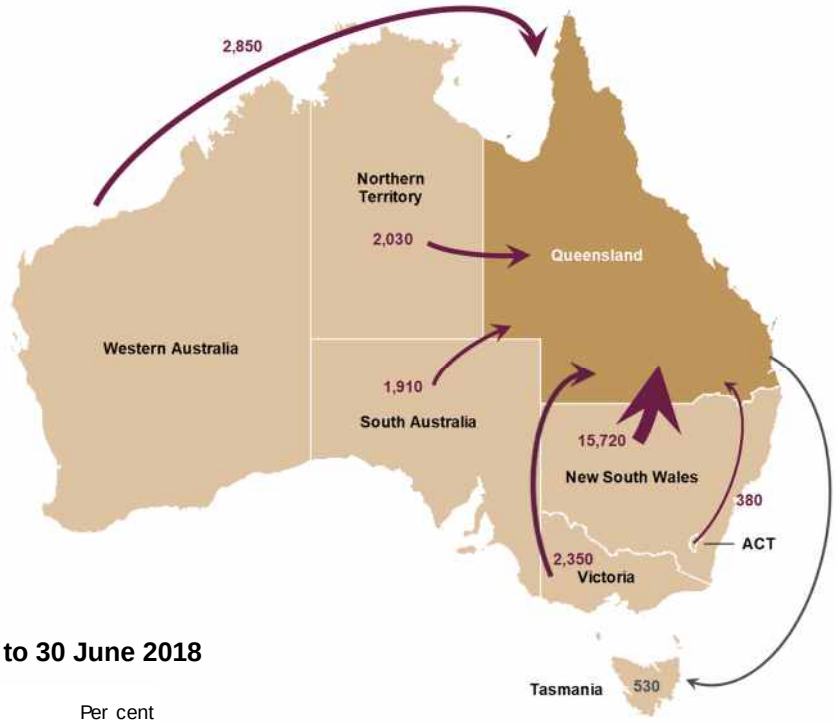


Queensland's gains from net overseas and interstate migration have been more variable than natural increase over the five years to 2017–18.

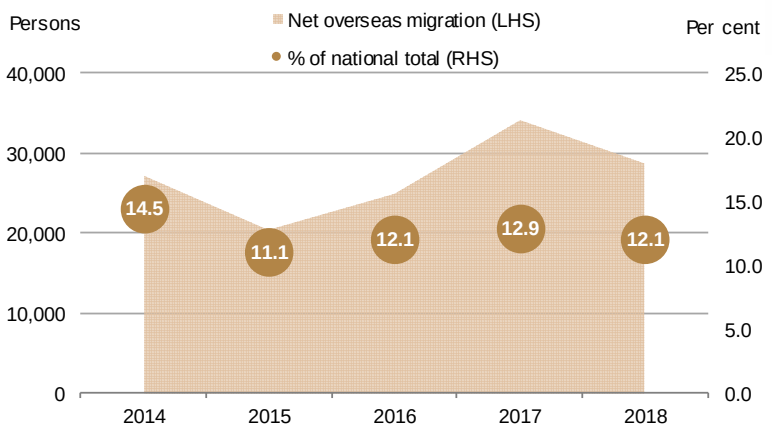
- Net interstate migration increased steadily over the 5-year period, accounting for 29.5% of growth in the year to June 2018, up from 9.1% in 2013–14.
- Natural increase declined slowly over the 5-year period, however still accounted for more than 1 in 3 additions to the population in 2017–18.

- Queensland and Victoria were the only jurisdictions to experience gains from net interstate migration each year for the five years to June 2018.
- There has been positive net migration from Western Australia to Queensland since June 2016.

Net interstate migration flows to and from Qld, 2017–18



Net overseas migration, Queensland, five years to 30 June 2018



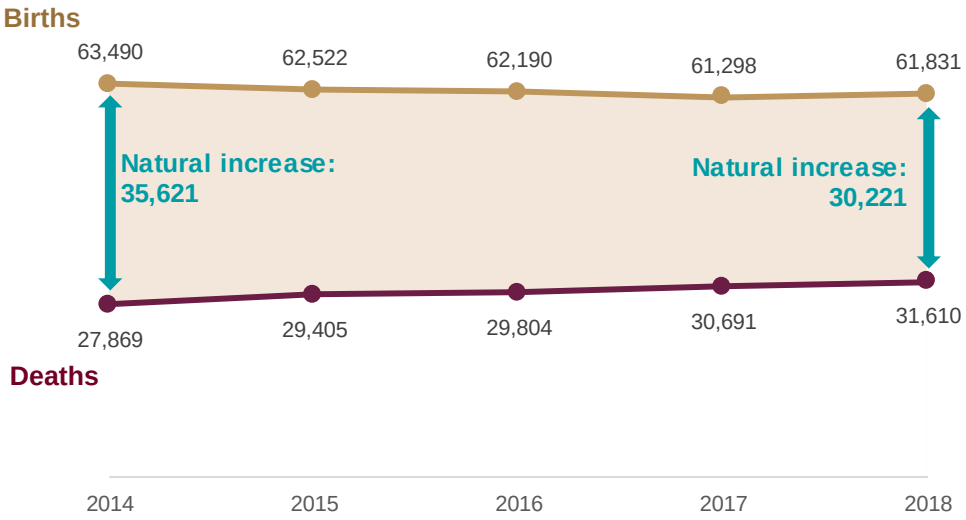
Queensland's gain from overseas migration was 15.9% lower in 2017–18 (28,670) than 2016–17 (34,080), reflecting the decline reported at the national level (–9.9%).

Queensland's share of national net overseas migration has remained subdued at 12.1% in the year to June 2018, lower than the 12.9% experienced in the year to June 2017.

Natural increase is slowly starting to decline as:

- the number of births stabilises, and
- the number of deaths increases due to the ageing population.

Natural increase, Queensland, five years to 30 June 2018



Population trends by age and sex, Queensland

- Queensland's population is ageing, because of:
  - sustained low levels of fertility
  - increased life expectancy
  - movement of the large baby boomer cohort (those born in 1946 to 1965) into the older age groups.

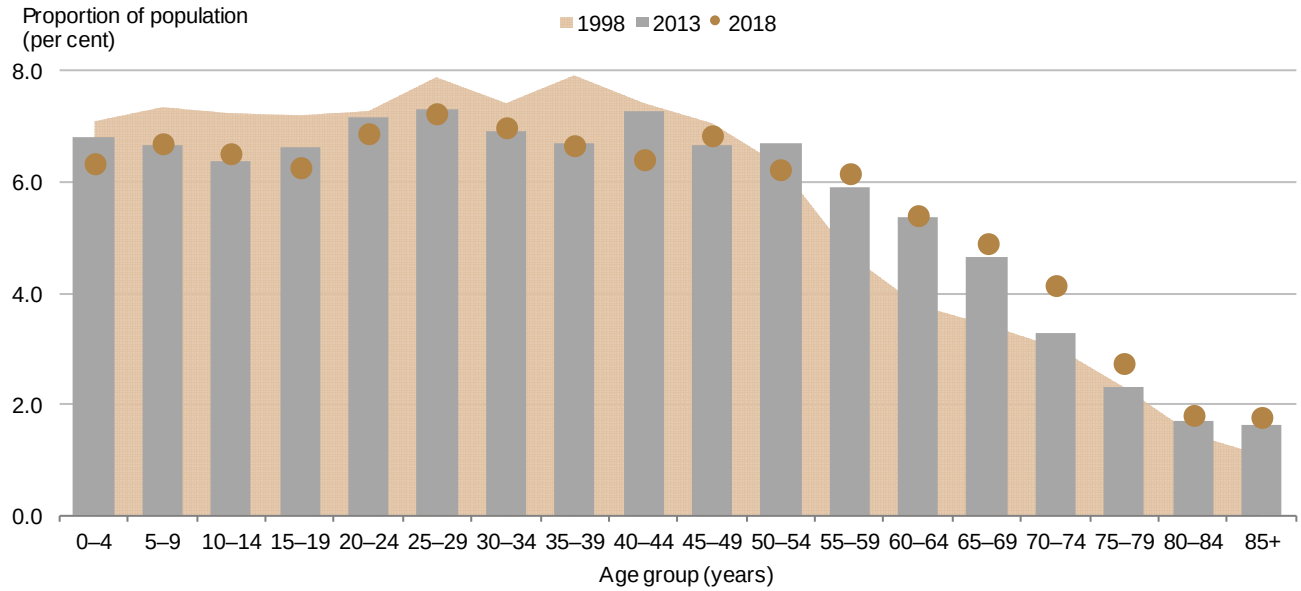
Living longer…

65-year olds in Queensland in 2017 could expect to live to:

- 84 years of age if male
- 87 years of age if female.

- At 30 June 2018, there were proportionally fewer persons in each five–year age group up to 50–54 years of age, and proportionally more in older age groups compared with 20 years earlier. The largest proportional shifts have occurred in the five–year age groups from 55–59 to 65–69.
- While the overall share of the population aged 15–64 years (the working-age population) decreased slightly between 1998 and 2018 (from 67.0% to 65.1%), the proportion of the population aged 65 years and older increased (from 11.3% to 15.4%) over the same period. Even with Queensland's ageing population, at 30 June 2018, persons aged 25–29 years were the largest group proportionally (7.2%).

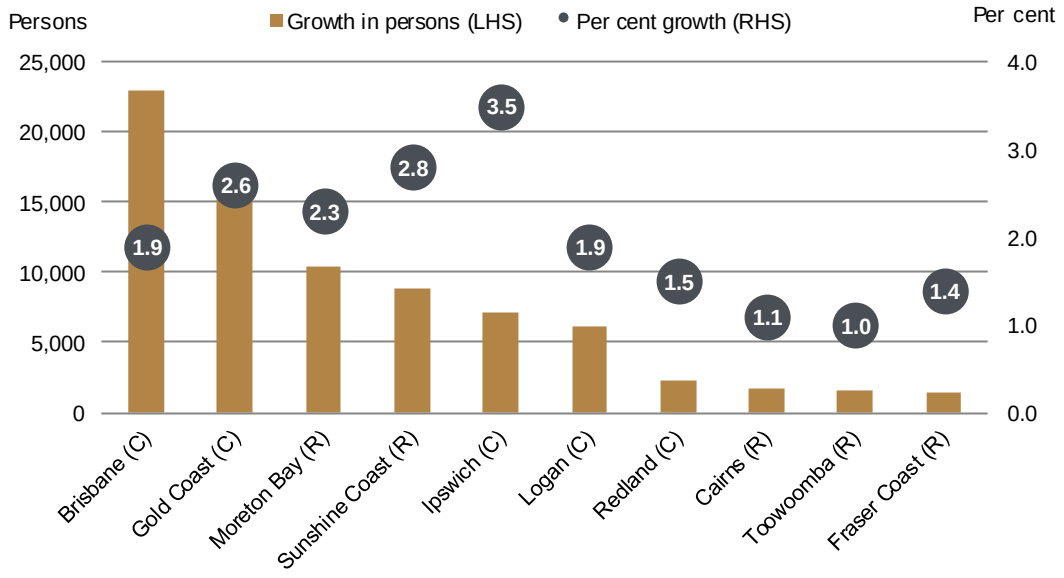
Proportion of population by age group, Queensland, as at 30 June 2018



Key population trends, Queensland regions

- Population growth in Queensland continues to be largely concentrated in the South East with 87.7% of Queensland's growth in 2017–18 occurring in the local government areas (LGAs[1]) of Brisbane (C), Gold Coast (C), Moreton Bay (R), Sunshine Coast (R), Ipswich (C), Logan (C) and Redland (C).
- Outside of South East Queensland notable levels of growth occurred in the regional LGAs of Cairns (C) (1,760 persons), Toowoomba (R) (1,640) and Fraser Coast (R) (1,420) in the year to 30 June 2018[2]. Twenty-five LGAs experienced population decline in the 12 months to June 2018. These were mostly located west of the Great Dividing Range, with the largest decrease in Mount Isa (C) where the population declined by 310 persons.

Top 10 largest-growth LGAs[3], year to 30 June 2018

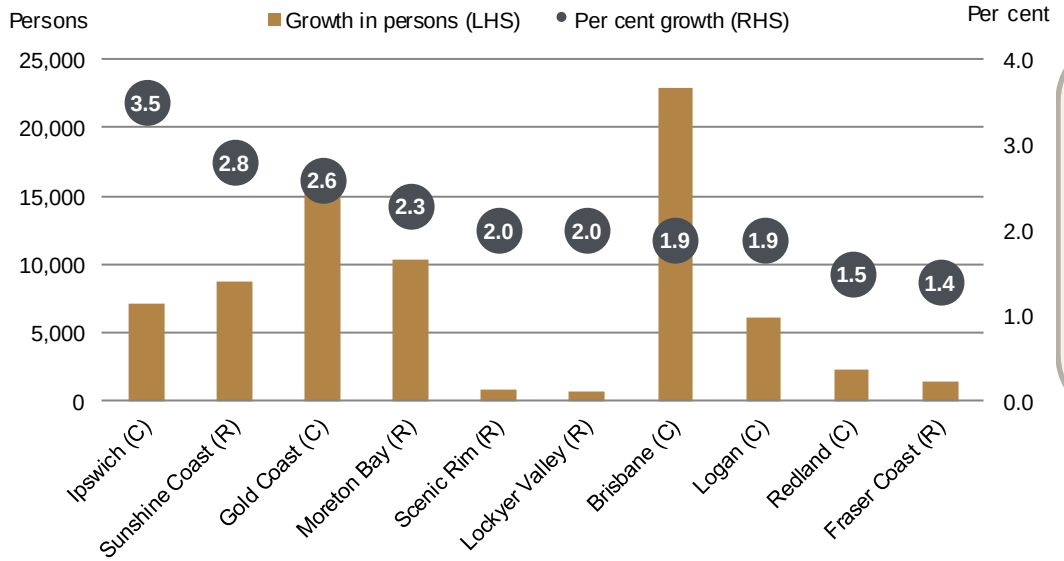


The two most populated LGAs also grew by the greatest number of people in 2017–18:

- Brisbane grew by 22,940 persons
- Gold Coast grew by 15,630 persons.

Of the LGAs with populations of 10,000 or more persons that were the fastest growing LGAs in the year to 30 June 2018 — those with growth rates of above two per cent — were all in South East Queensland: Ipswich (C) (3.5%), Sunshine Coast (R) (2.8%), Gold Coast (C) (2.6%) and Moreton Bay (R) (2.3%).

Top 10 fastest growth LGAs[3], year to 30 June 2018



Among the 39 LGAs with more than 10,000 residents in 2017–18:

- **growth** occurred in 26 LGAs (from 30 persons up to 22,940)
- **losses** occurred in 13 LGAs, all regional (from –4 persons to –310).

[1] (C) = City (R) = Regional Council
[2] Regional estimated resident population figures are preliminary and subject to further revision.
[3] Only local government areas with a population of greater than 10,000 considered for these analyses.

Population growth characteristics of South East Queensland[4]

While the populations of all the LGAs in South East Queensland grew in the year to 30 June 2018, the contribution of each of the components of population growth varied between LGAs (see graph below).

Natural increase

- Natural increase was the major contributor to population change in Logan (C) in 2017–18, accounting for more than half (55.3%) of the growth in that LGA. While Logan had the highest proportion of growth due to natural increase, Brisbane (C) had the largest increase in number due to natural increase of all LGAs (an additional 8,200 persons, more than double that of Logan at 3,390 persons).

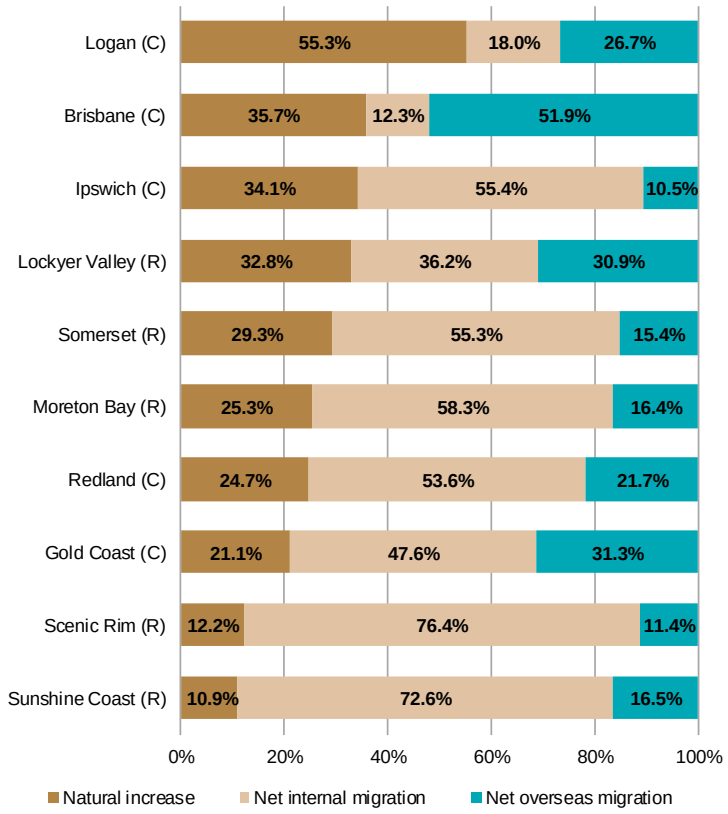
Net internal migration

- Net internal migration was the major contributor to change in 2017–18 for more than half of the LGAs in South East Queensland. Scenic Rim (R) experienced the highest proportion of population growth due to net internal migration in South East Queensland (76.4%) followed by Sunshine Coast (R) (72.6%).

Net overseas migration

- Net overseas migration was the major contributor to population change in Brisbane (C), with around half of Brisbane's population growth attributed to net overseas migration (51.9%). This was the highest proportion of growth due to net overseas migration in South East Queensland. Net overseas migration was also a major contributor to population change in the LGAs of Gold Coast (C), Lockyer Valley (R) and Logan (C) (31.3%, 30.9% and 26.7% respectively), with more than a quarter of the population growth in each of these LGAs attributed to net overseas migration.

Components of population, selected LGAs in South East Queensland, at 30 June 2018



	Natural increase	Net internal migration	Net overseas migration	Total growth
Logan (C)	3,390	1,100	1,640	6,130
Brisbane (C)	8,200	2,820	11,920	22,940
Ipswich (C)	2,440	3,960	750	7,140
Lockyer Valley (R)	260	290	250	790
Somerset (R)	110	200	60	360
Moreton Bay (R)	2,620	6,050	1,700	10,370
Redland (C)	560	1,220	490	2,270
Gold Coast (C)	3,300	7,440	4,890	15,630
Scenic Rim (R)	100	640	100	830
Sunshine Coast (R)	960	6,370	1,450	8,780

[4] For the purposes of this publication, Noosa (S) and Toowoomba (R) have not been included in the analysis of South East Queensland LGAs.

Technical notes

Population data used in this publication were the most recent available at the time of preparation and have been sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) publications *Australian Demographic Statistics, September 2018* (ABS 3101.0) and *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2017–18* (ABS 3218.0).

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.

All ERP and component data up to and including June 2016 are final. ERP for June 2017 is revised and for June 2018 is preliminary. The ABS has rebased ERPs up to June quarter 2016 — see *Quality Assurance of Rebased Population Estimates, 2016* (ABS 3250.0.55.001) for further information on calculation of the ERP and the rebasing cycle.

Natural increase data for September quarter 1991 to June quarter 2016 are final. Data for September quarter 2016 to June quarter 2017 are revised (based on date of occurrence). Data for September 2017 to June 2018 are preliminary (based on date of registration).

Net overseas migration data for September quarter 1991 to June quarter 2016 are final. Data for September quarter 2016 to September quarter 2017 are final (based on actual traveller behaviour). Data for December quarter 2017 to June quarter 2018 are preliminary (based on modelled traveller behaviour). Estimates for the September quarter 2006 onwards use an improved methodology based on the '12/16 month rule' and are not directly comparable with estimates from earlier periods.

The preliminary estimates for September 2017 onwards are the first based on a new methodology for NOM. The change in method is due to the removal of outgoing passenger cards by the Department of Home Affairs from July 2017. For further information see the feature article on 'Improvements to estimation of new overseas migration' in ABS 3101.0, September quarter 2017.

Net interstate migration data for September quarter 2011 to June quarter 2016 are final. Data for September 2016 to June quarter 2018 are preliminary (based on modelled expansion factors from 2016 Census).

For years prior to 2015–16, the sum of the components of population change does not equal the change in ERP over the year due to intercensal difference. For further details on ERP and component data, refer to the explanatory notes, ABS 3101.0, *Australian Demographic Statistics*, September 2018.

A range of supporting data tables is available on the QGSO website (http://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_n is the population at the end of the period and n is the length of the period between P_n 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, with the exception of 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.

Intercensal difference

The difference between two estimates at 30 June of a census year population, the first based on the latest census and the second arrived at by updating the 30 June estimate of the previous census year with intercensal components of population change which take account of information available from the latest census. Intercensal difference is determined once rebasing is complete, and is the difference between final ERP and the final updated components of ERP.

Natural increase

The excess of births over deaths in a given area. Although usually positive, natural increase can be negative if the population has an older age structure such that more deaths than births are experienced over a period of time.

Net interstate migration (NIM)

The net result of population movement into the region from interstate minus population movement out of the region to other states. During intercensal years, the ABS prepares state and territory–level quarterly estimates of net interstate migration using indicators of population change.

Net migration

Net migration refers to the net result of population movement into and out of a given area. It is the resulting change in population from the combination of overseas migration, interstate migration and internal (intrastate) migration.

Net overseas migration (NOM)

The difference between the number of people settling in a given area from overseas and the number of people departing that area to live overseas. Estimates of overseas migration data are derived from Department of Home Affairs actual arrival and departure information for individual passengers, and revised for each period to include only those people, regardless of nationality, citizenship or legal status, who have been in (or out of) Australia for 12 of the previous 16 months (the '12/16 month rule'). By this definition, some temporary residents in Australia are included in the net overseas migration figure.