

Population growth highlights and trends, Queensland, 2020 edition

Sources: ABS 3101.0 (released 19 December 2019)

Highlights from 2018–19

- Queensland had the third-largest population increase (85,680 persons) of any Australian state or territory after Victoria (132,790 persons) and New South Wales (109,360 persons).
- Queensland's annual population growth rate (1.7%) was slightly higher than both the 2018–19 national average (1.5%) and the state's growth rate recorded in 2017–18 (1.6%).
- Net overseas migration (NOM) of 32,960 people was the largest driver of population growth for Queensland, closely followed by natural increase (births minus deaths) of 29,880 people, together accounting for nearly three-quarters of the growth in 2018–19. A further 22,830 people were gained through net interstate migration (NIM).
- Queensland was home to 20.1% of Australia's population at 30 June 2019, an increase in share from twenty years earlier (18.4%). Queensland's share of the national population has been relatively stable for the past decade.

Key data

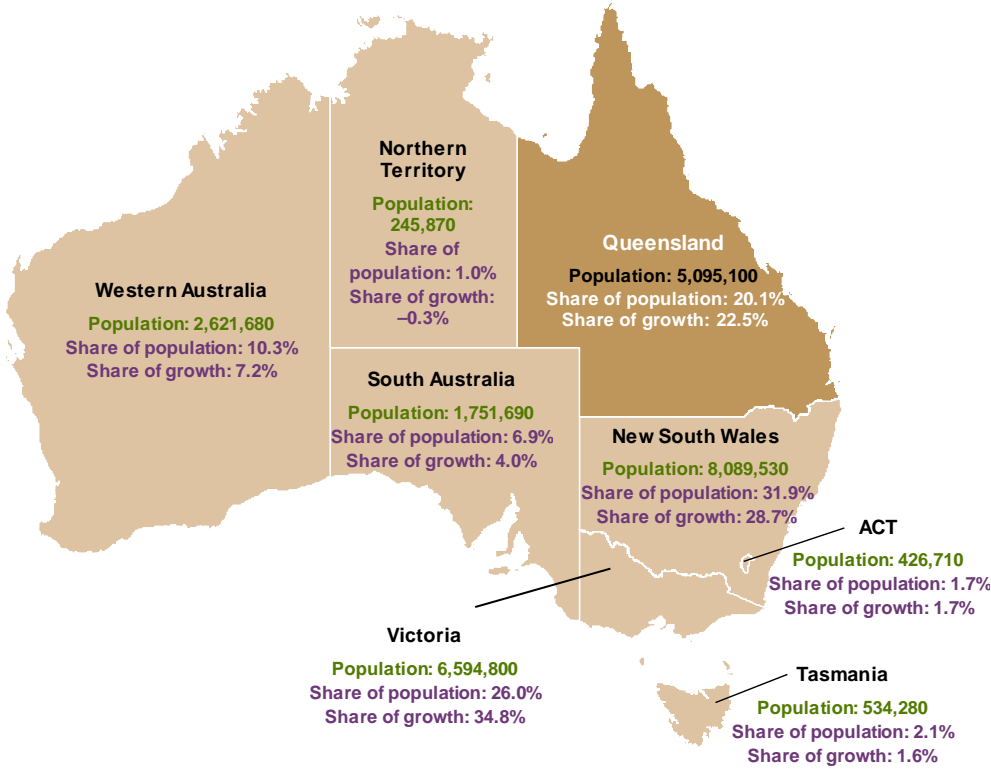
Estimated resident population (persons)

June 2018	June 2019		Change	% Change
5,009,420	5,095,100	↑	85,680	1.7%

Components of change

Births	60,630	
Deaths	-30,750	
Natural increase	29,880	34.9%
Overseas arrivals	90,100	
Overseas departures	-57,140	
Net overseas migration	32,960	38.5%
Interstate arrivals	108,020	
Interstate departures	-85,190	
Net interstate migration	22,830	26.6%

Trends nationwide, 2018–19



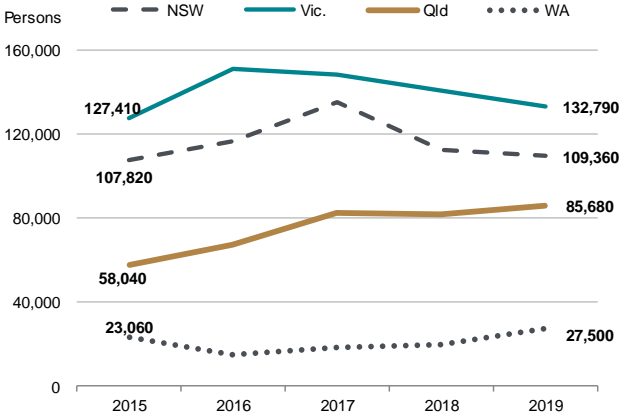
Queensland

- third-most populated state
- third-largest share of growth
- second-fastest growth rate behind Victoria.

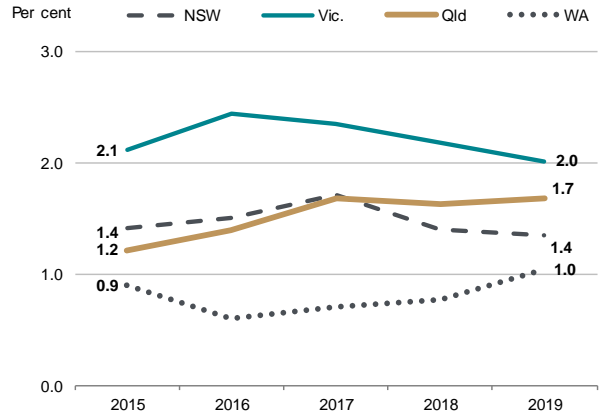
Five years to June 2019

- New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland together accounted for 87.7% of national population growth in the five years to June 2019.
- Since 2015, Queensland's annual population growth rate has risen to 1.7% in the year to June 2019 — faster than New South Wales for the second consecutive year, but slower than Victoria, which has experienced growth above 2.0% per annum since 2011–12.
- Between June 2014 and June 2019, Queensland's population grew by 8.0% or 375,450 persons.

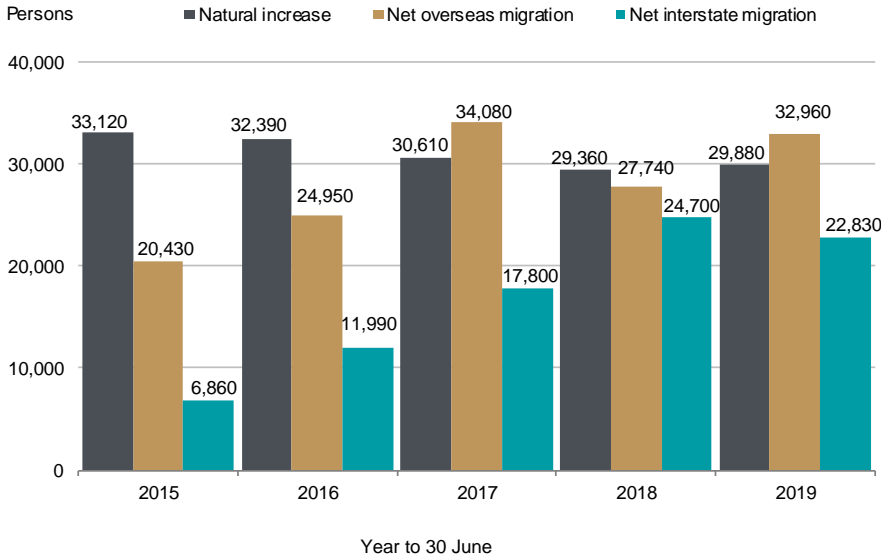
Annual absolute growth, year to 30 June



Annual percentage growth, year to 30 June



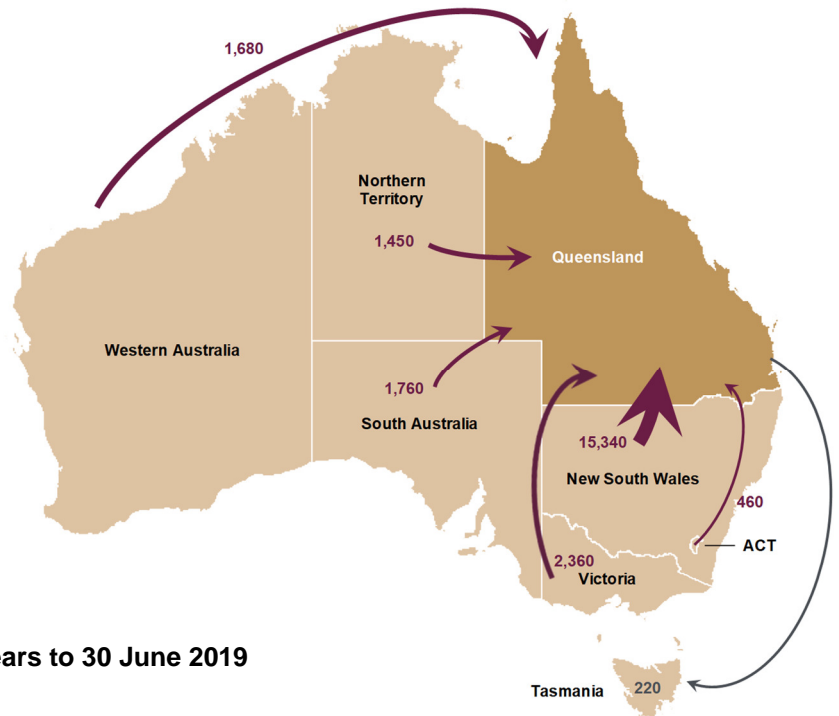
Components of population change, Queensland



Queensland's gains from net overseas and interstate migration have been more variable than natural increase over the five years to 2018–19.

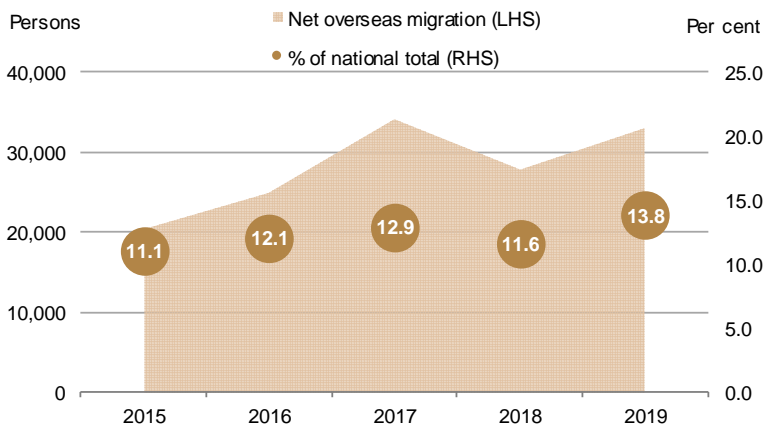
- Net interstate migration increased steadily over the 4 years to 2017–18, falling slightly in 2018–19. NIM accounted for 26.6% of growth in the year to June 2019, up from 11.4% in 2014–15.
- Natural increase declined slowly over the 4 years to 2017–18, however still accounted for more than 1 in 3 additions to the population in 2018–19.

Net interstate migration flows to and from Qld, 2018–19



- Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania were the only jurisdictions to experience gains from net interstate migration each year for the five years to June 2019.
- There has been positive net migration from Western Australia to Queensland since June 2016.

Net overseas migration, Queensland, five years to 30 June 2019



Queensland's preliminary estimated gain from overseas migration was 18.8% higher in 2018–19 (32,960 people) compared with 2017–18 (27,740 people), and 4,930 higher than the average for the five years to 2019.

Queensland's share of national NOM increased slightly to 13.8% in the year to June 2019, up from the 11.6% share recorded for the previous year.

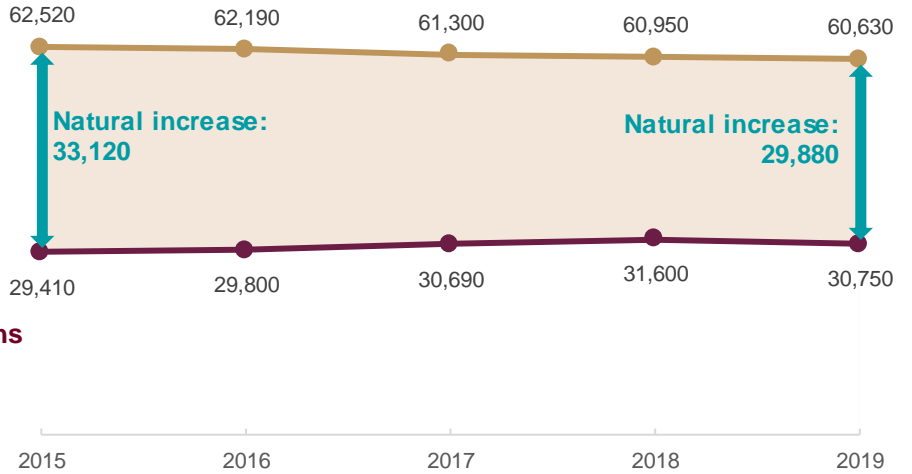
Over the last five years, gain from NOM has ranged between 20,430 and 34,080 persons.

Natural increase, Queensland, five years to 30 June 2019

Natural increase is slowly starting to decline as:

- the number of births slowly decreases
- the number of deaths increases due to the increasing population size and ageing of the population.

Births



Deaths

Population trends by age and sex, Queensland

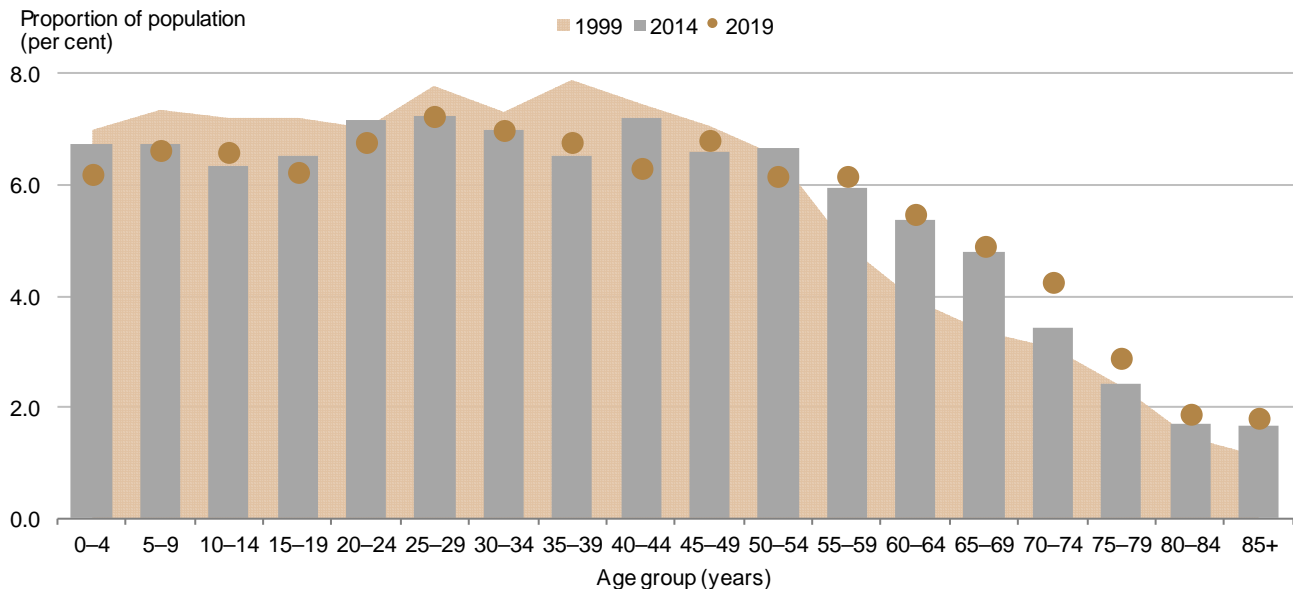
- Queensland's population is ageing because of:
 - sustained low levels of fertility
 - increased life expectancy
 - movement of the large 'baby boomer' cohort (those born in 1946 to 1965) into the older age groups.
- At 30 June 2019, there were proportionally fewer persons in each five-year age group 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 60–64 to 65–69.
- While the overall share of the population aged 15–64 years (the working-age population) decreased between 1999 and 2019 (from 67.0% to 64.9%), the proportion of the population aged 65 years and older increased (from 11.4% to 15.7%) over the same period. Even with Queensland's ageing population, at 30 June 2019, persons aged 25–29 years were the largest group proportionally (7.2%), accounting for 369,060 persons.

Living longer...

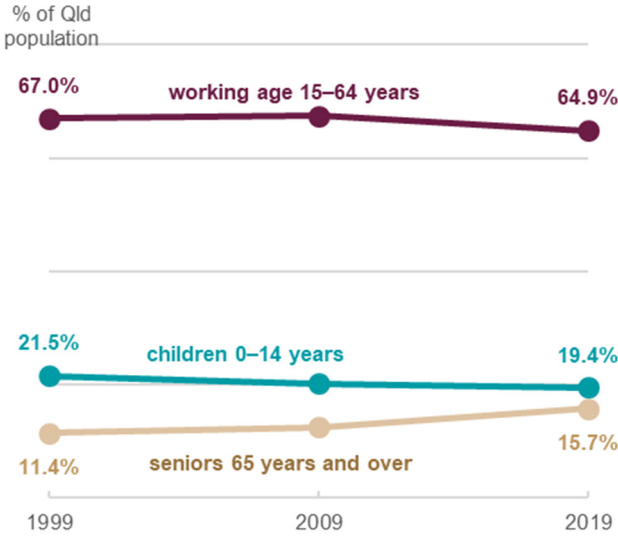
Queenslanders aged 65 years in 2018 could expect to live to:

- 85 years of age if male
- 88 years of age if female.

Proportion of population by age group, Queensland, as at 30 June 2019



Working age population seeing a decline in share



Two-thirds (64.9%) of the Queensland population are in the traditional working-age group from 15–64 years, slightly lower than the 66.2% recorded five years earlier, and continuing a slow decline in the proportion of the population that is of working age that has occurred over the past two decades.

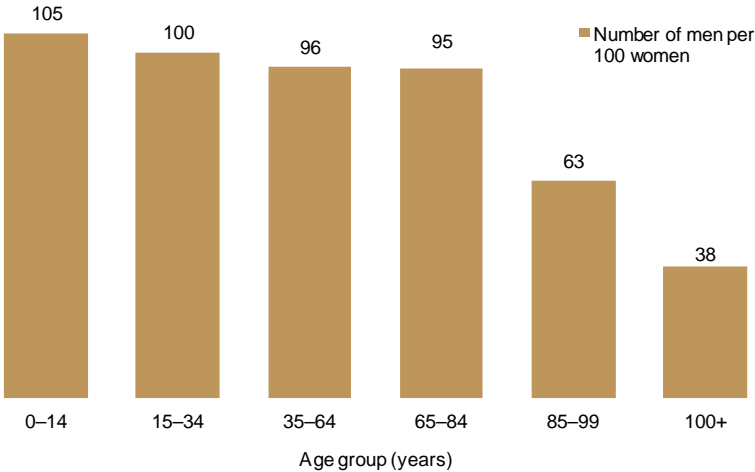
Seniors are the fastest growing group in the Queensland population:

- The population aged 65 years and over has more than doubled since 1999.
- The average annual growth rate since 2014 for seniors is 3.9%, compared with 1.1% for the rest of the population.

At 30 June 2019, Queensland's estimated resident population included 2,519,220 males and 2,575,880 females. The median age (age where half the population are younger/older) for Queensland's males and females was 36.7 and 38.1 years respectively.

The impact of relatively higher mortality rates for males across the various life stages is reflected in longer life expectancy for females, and results in the sex ratio (number of males per 100 females) decreasing with increasing age. The largest differences are experienced in the age groups beyond 85 years, with only 63 men per 100 women.

Sex ratio by selected age groups, year to 30 June 2019



There were:

- more males than females in age groups under 15 years
- more females than males in all older age groups.



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, December 2019* (ABS 3101.0).

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 2018 is revised and for June 2019 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 2018 are revised (based on date of occurrence). Data for September 2018 to June 2019 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 June quarter 2018 are final (based on actual traveller behaviour). Data for September quarter 2018 to June quarter 2019 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 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 2019 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, December 2019*.

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.