# Population growth highlights and trends, Queensland, 2021 edition

Source: ABS *National, state and territory population* (released 17 December 2020)

Statistics in this release are partially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The closure of the international border by the Australian Government from 20 March 2020, and the Queensland Government closure of the state border, initially from 26 March 2020, in addition to other interstate border closures and lockdowns, may have impacted both net overseas migration and net interstate migration.

## Highlights from 2019–20

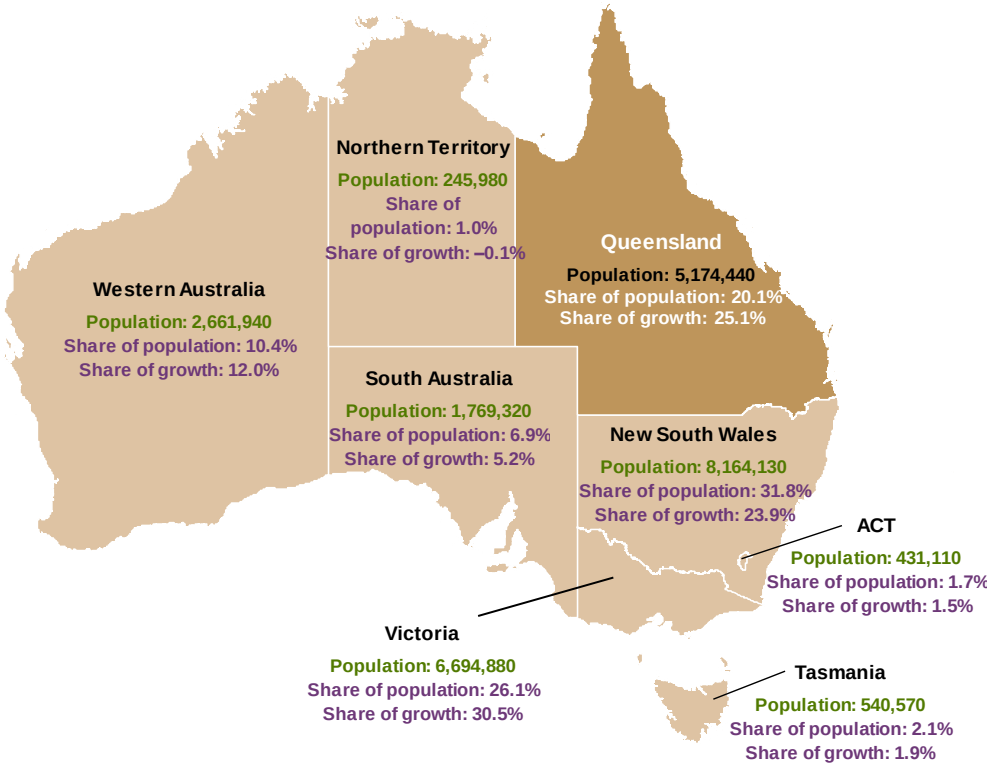
- Queensland had the second–largest population increase (80,550 persons) of any Australian state or territory after Victoria (98,000 persons), and larger than New South Wales (76,750 persons) for the first time since 2012.
- Queensland's annual population growth rate (1.6%) was the fastest of the states and territories and higher than the 2019–20 national average (1.3%), however the state's annual growth was slower than the rate recorded for the previous year (1.7%).
- Natural increase (births minus deaths) of 28,330 persons was the largest driver of population growth for Queensland, closely followed by net overseas migration (NOM) of 26,880 persons, together accounting for more than two-thirds of the growth in 2019–20. A further 25,350 persons were gained through net interstate migration (NIM).
- Queensland was home to 20.1% of Australia's population at 30 June 2020, 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.

**Estimated resident population (persons)**

| June 2019 | June 2020 | Change | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5,093,880 | 5,174,440 | 80,550 | 1.6% |

| Components of change | | Share of growth |
|---|---|---|
| Births | 61,160 | |
| Deaths | –32,830 | |
| **Natural increase** | **28,330** | **35.2%** |
| Overseas arrivals | 82,720 | |
| Overseas departures | –55,850 | |
| **Net overseas migration** | **26,880** | **33.4%** |
| Interstate arrivals | 101,790 | |
| Interstate departures | –76,440 | |
| **Net interstate migration** | **25,350** | **31.5%** |

# Trends nationwide, 2019–20



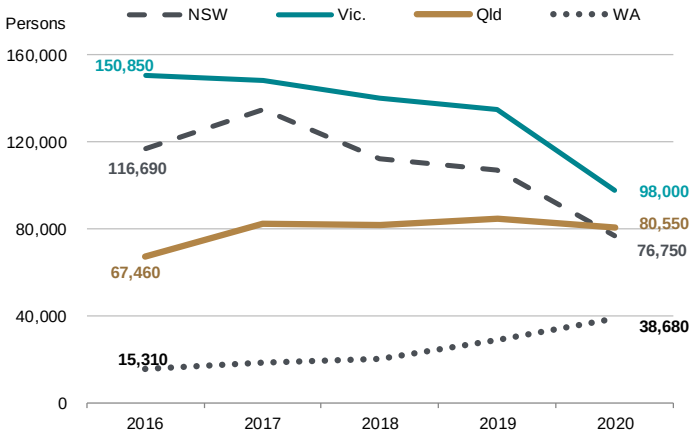

**Queensland**

- third-most populated state
- second-largest share of growth
- fastest growth rate of the states and territories

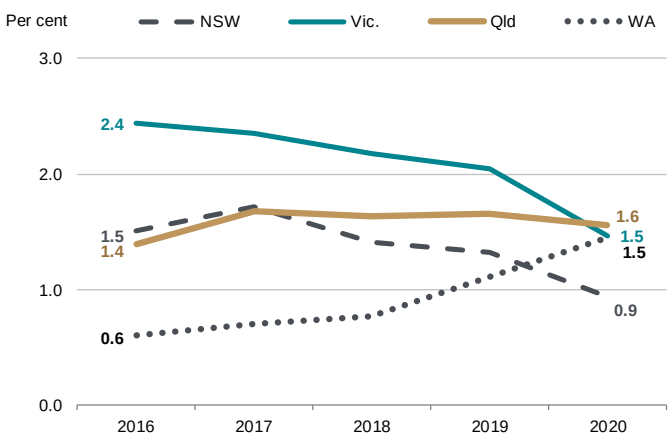
## Five years to June 2020

- New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland together accounted for 86.4% of national population growth in the five years to June 2020.
- Queensland's annual population growth rate has been relatively steady in the three years since 2017, fluctuating between 1.6% and 1.7%, has been faster than New South Wales' growth rate every year since 2017, and in 2019–20 was also faster than Victoria for the first time since 2010–11.
- Between June 2015 and June 2020, Queensland's population grew by 8.3% or 396,750 persons.

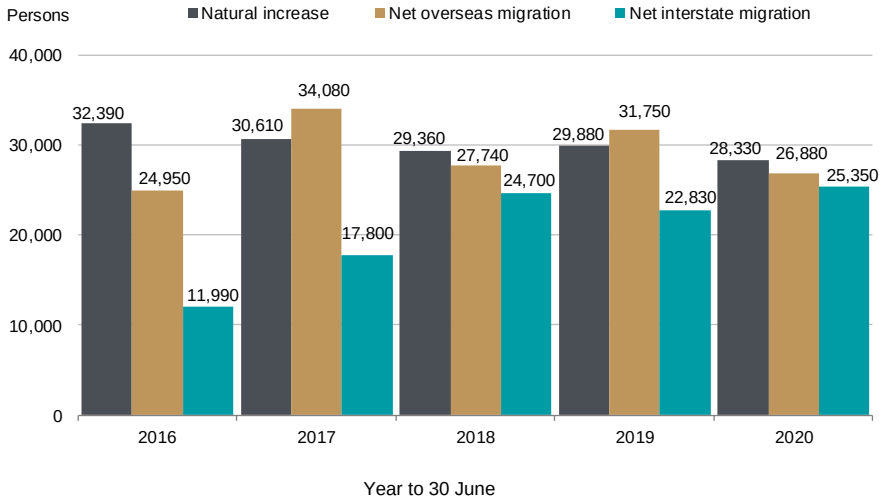
### Annual absolute growth, year to 30 June




### Annual percentage growth, year to 30 June



# Components of population change, Queensland

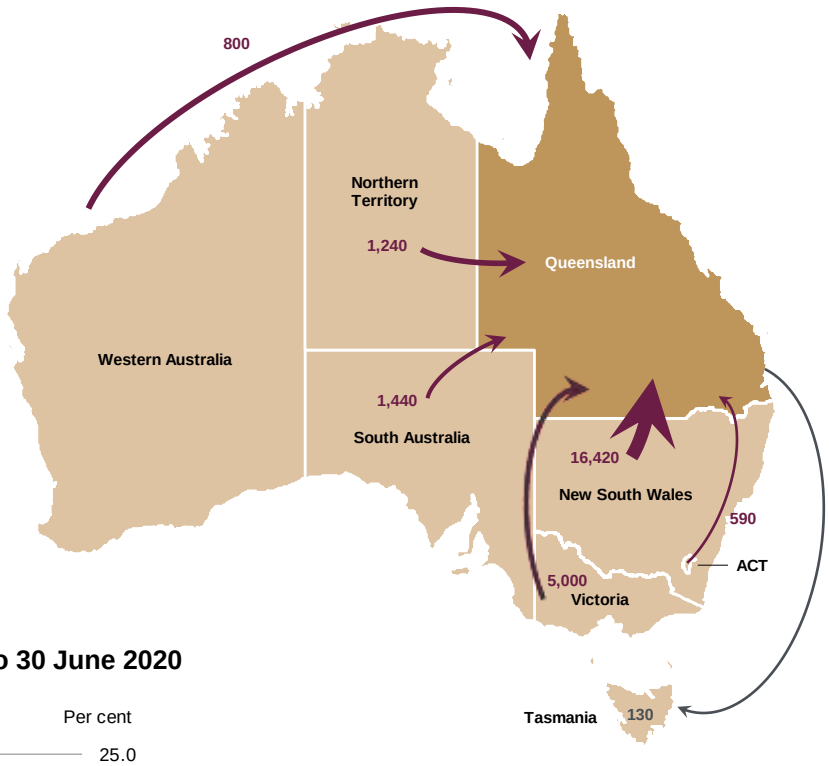



**Queensland's gains from net overseas and interstate migration have been more variable than natural increase over the five years to June 2020.**

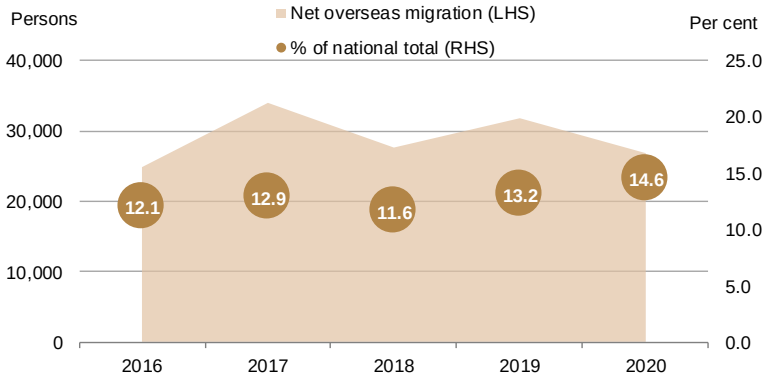
- Net interstate migration reached a 5-year high in 2019–20 after falling slightly in 2018–19. NIM accounted for 31.5% of growth in the year to June 2020, up from 17.3% in 2015–16.
- Natural increase declined slowly over the 5 years to June 2020, however still accounted for more than 1 in 3 additions to the population in the year to June 2020.

- Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania were the only jurisdictions to experience gains from net interstate migration each year for the six years to June 2020.
- Since 2017 there have been gains to Queensland from Victoria, with the gain in 2019–20 more than twice that of 2018–19. These recent gains follow five years of net losses from Queensland to Victoria.
- Nationally, interstate movements were down almost 9% in 2019–20 compared with 2018–19.

**Net interstate migration flows to and from Qld, 2019–20**




**Net overseas migration, Queensland, five years to 30 June 2020**




Queensland's preliminary estimated gain from overseas migration in 2019–20 (26,880 persons) was 15.3% lower than in 2018–19 (31,750 persons).

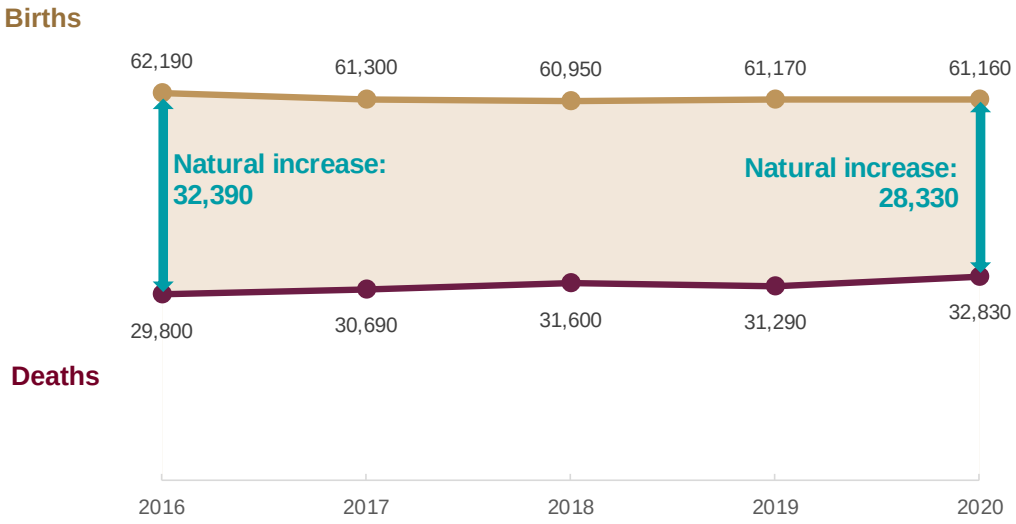
Queensland's share of national NOM increased slightly to 14.6% in the year to June 2020, up from the 13.2% share recorded for the previous year.

Over the last five years, gain from NOM has ranged between 24,950 and 34,080 persons.

**Natural increase is slowly starting to decline as:**

- the number of births remains relatively stable
- the number of deaths increases due to Queensland's increasing population size and ageing of the population.

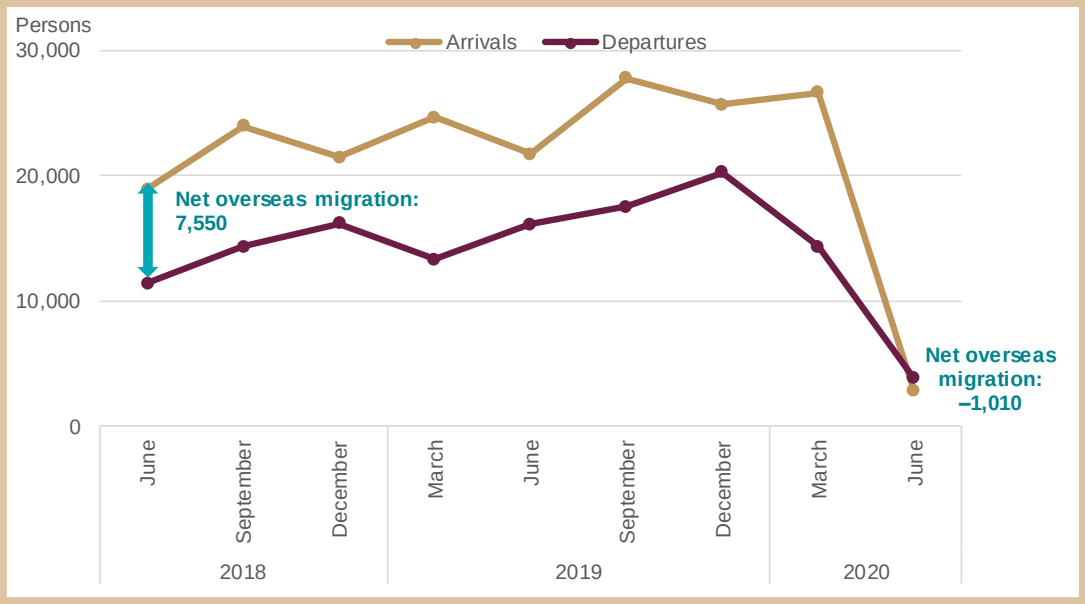
**Natural increase, Queensland, five years to 30 June 2020**




## Impact of international travel restrictions on NOM

In late March 2020, the Australian Government implemented restrictions on international travel to curb the spread of COVID-19. As a large portion of Queensland's population growth in recent years has come from NOM, these restrictions had a direct impact on both Queensland's NOM, and associated population growth for the affected period during 2019–20. Preliminary overseas migration arrivals in June quarter 2020 were 87% lower than in June quarter 2019 (2,770 arrivals compared with 21,710), while overseas migration departures were 76% lower (3,790 departures compared with 16,110).

The preliminary NOM for Queensland for June quarter 2020 recorded a net loss of 1,010 persons, compared with an average gain of 6,300 persons for June quarters in the five years to 2019. This was the first quarterly net loss due to overseas migration for Queensland since the December quarter 1994 (160 persons).



# Population trends by age and sex, Queensland

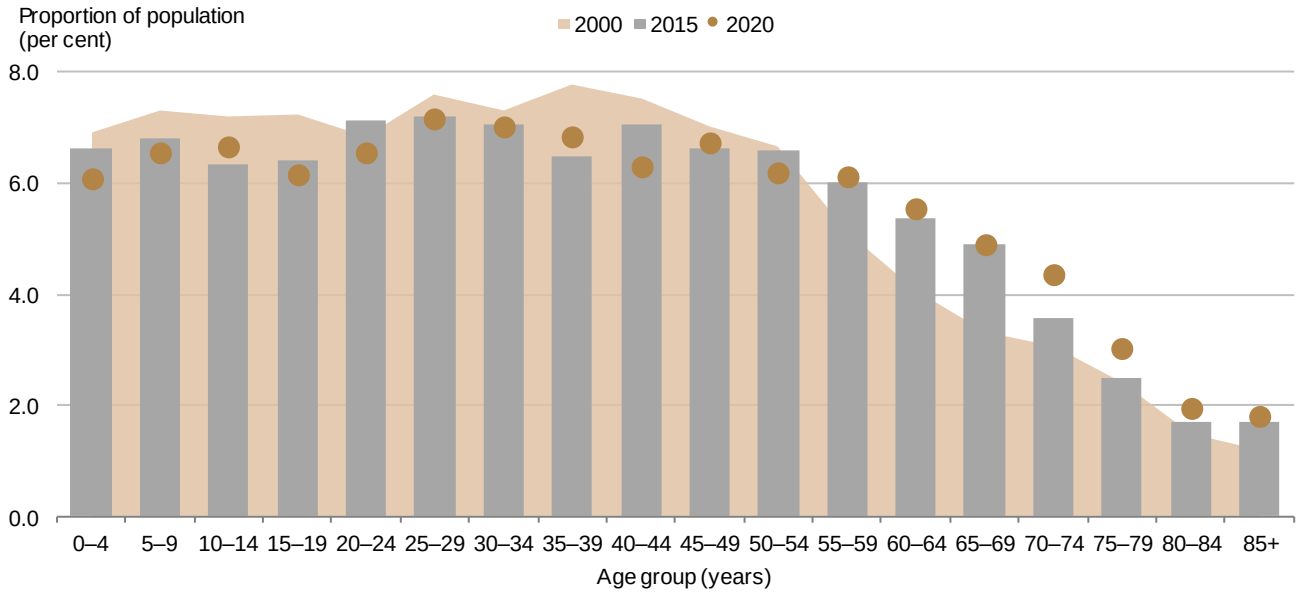
**Living longer…**

Queenslanders aged 65 years in 2019 could expect to live to:

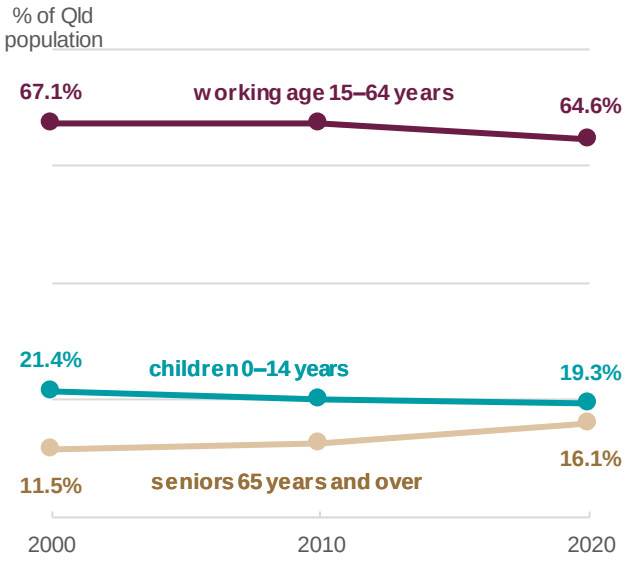
- 85 years of age if male
- 88 years of age if female.

- Queensland's population is ageing due to:
  - 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 2020, 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, with the largest proportional shifts in the five–year age groups from 60–64 to 65–69. The largest proportional increase since 2015 was for the 70–74 years age group.
- While the overall share of the population aged 15–64 years (the working-age population) decreased between 2000 and 2020 (from 67.1% to 64.6%), the proportion of the population aged 65 years and older increased (from 11.5% to 16.1%) over the same period.
- Even with Queensland's ageing population, at 30 June 2020, persons aged 25–29 years were the largest group proportionally (7.2%), accounting for 370,290 persons, followed by those aged 30–34 years (7.0%).

**Proportion of population by age group, Queensland, as at 30 June 2020**



### Working-age population seeing a decline in share




Two-thirds (64.6%) of the Queensland population are in the traditional working-age group from 15–64 years, slightly lower than the 65.9% recorded five years earlier. This is a continuation of the slow decline in the proportion of the population that is of working age that has occurred over the past two decades.

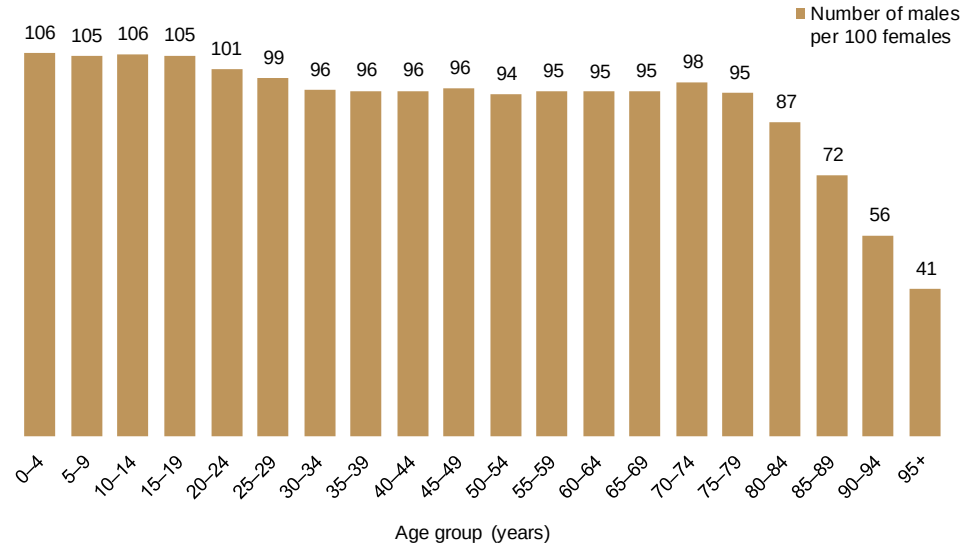
**Seniors are the fastest growing group in the Queensland population**:

- The population aged 65 years and over has more than doubled since 2000 to reach 831,160 persons in 2020.
- The average annual growth rate since 2015 for seniors is 3.9%, compared with 1.2% for the rest of the population.

At 30 June 2020, Queensland's estimated resident population included 2,556,580 males and 2,617,860 females. The median age (age where half the population is younger/older) for Queensland's males and females was 37.0 and 38.5 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 increasingly fewer men per 100 women in each consecutive five year age group.

### Sex ratio by selected age groups, year to 30 June 2020




**There were:**

- more males than females in age groups under 25 years
- more females than males in all older age groups, including more than twice as many females aged 95 years or older.

# 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) publication *National, state and territory population,* December 2020.

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 2019 is revised and for June 2020 is preliminary. The ABS has rebased ERP up to June quarter 2016 — see *Quality Assurance of Rebased Population Estimates, 2016* 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 2019 are revised (based on date of occurrence). Data for September 2019 to June 2020 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 2019 are final (based on actual traveller behaviour). Data for September quarter 2019 to June quarter 2020 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 estimates of net 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 2020 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 Methodology section, ABS, *National, state and territory population, December 2020*.

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, $P_n$ 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.