

# Population growth highlights and trends, Queensland, 2022 edition

Source: ABS *National, state and territory population* (released 16 December 2021)

Statistics in this release have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The closure of the international and state borders from late March 2020 has had an impact on both net overseas migration and net interstate migration.

## Highlights from 2020–21

- Queensland had the largest population increase (45,930 persons) of any Australian state or territory ahead of New South Wales (22,240 persons) and Western Australia (17,420 persons).
- Queensland's annual population growth rate (0.9%) was the fastest of the states and territories and higher than the 2020–21 national average (0.2%), however the state's annual growth was slower than the rate recorded for the previous year (1.6%) and the lowest recorded since the early 1940s.
- Net interstate migration (NIM) of 30,940 persons was the largest driver of population growth for Queensland, closely followed by natural increase (births minus deaths) of 29,350 persons. These population gains were partially offset by a loss of 14,370 persons due to net overseas migration (NOM).
- Queensland was home to 20.3% of Australia's population at 30 June 2021, an increase in share from twenty years earlier (18.5%). Queensland's share of the national population had been relatively stable for the past decade.

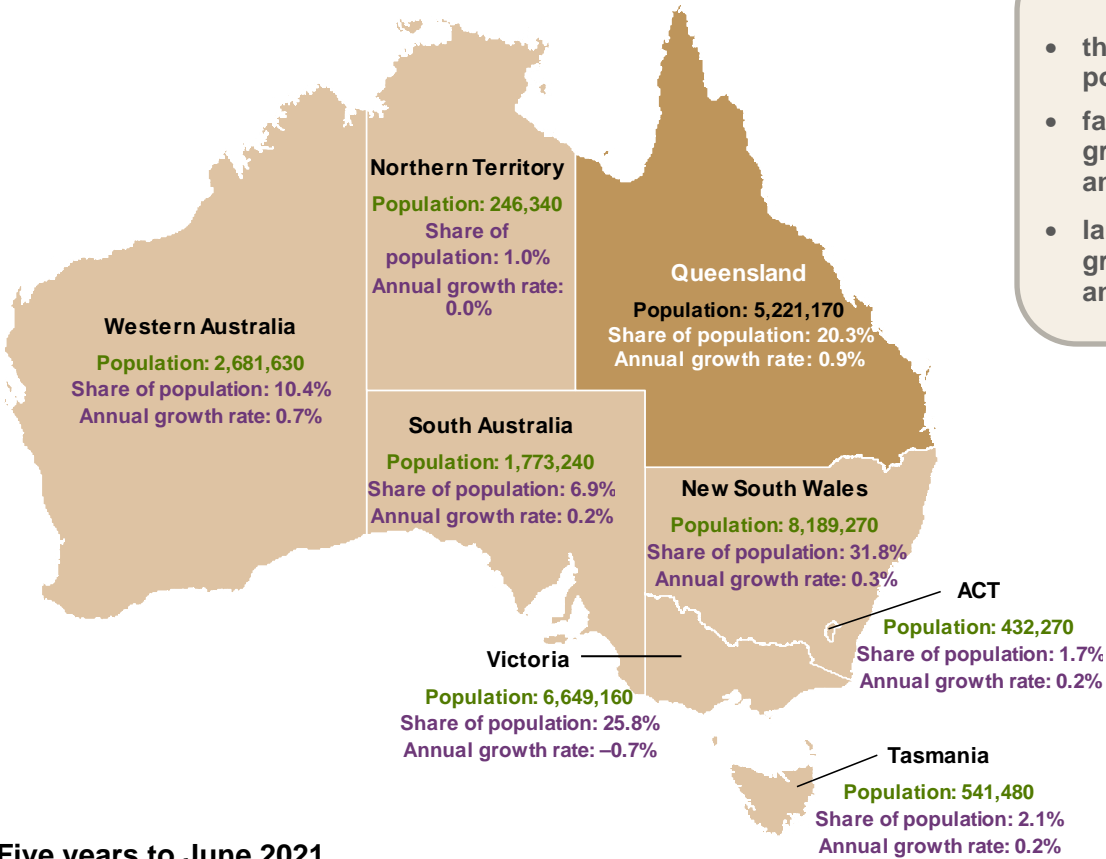
### Estimated resident population (persons)

June 2020	June 2021		Change	% Change
5,175,250	5,221,170	↑	45,930	0.9%

### Components of change

	Share of change
Births	61,380
Deaths	-32,030
<b>Natural increase</b>	<b>29,350</b>
Overseas arrivals	22,210
Overseas departures	-36,580
<b>Net overseas migration</b>	<b>-14,370</b>
Interstate arrivals	112,070
Interstate departures	-81,130
<b>Net interstate migration</b>	<b>30,940</b>
	<b>67.4%</b>

## Trends nationwide, 2020–21



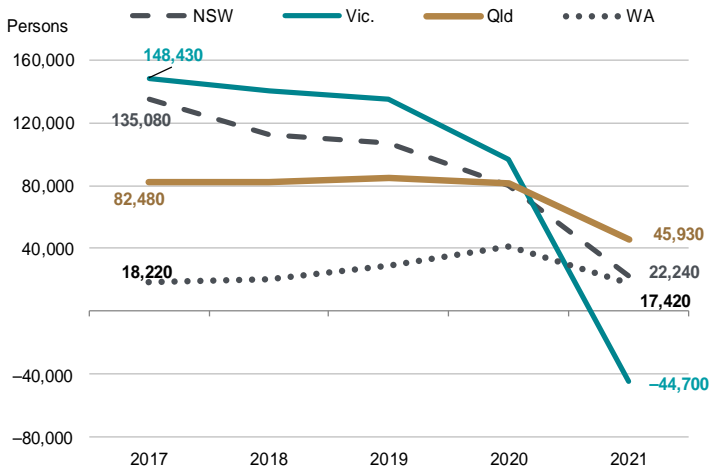
**Queensland**

- third-most populated state
- fastest percentage growth of the states and territories
- largest absolute growth of the states and territories

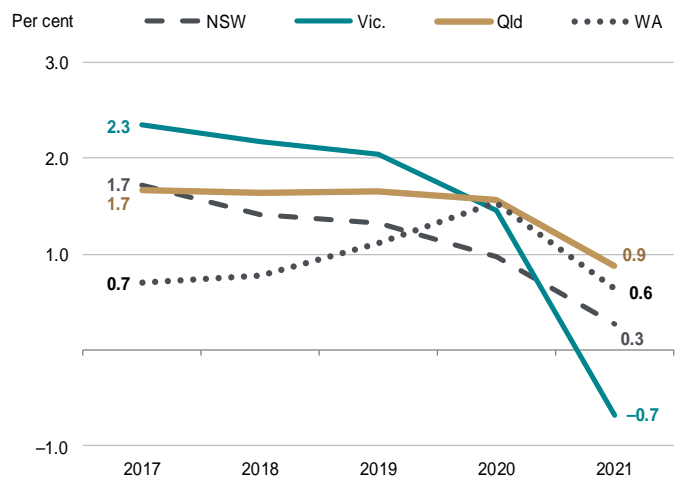
### Five years to June 2021

- New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland together accounted for 84.5% of national population growth in the five years to June 2021.
- All states and territories saw a moderation in their annual population growth rates in the year to 30 June 2021. Queensland's annual growth rate had been relatively steady in the four years since 2017, fluctuating between 1.6% and 1.7%, slowing to 0.9% in 2020–21.
- Between June 2017 and June 2021, Queensland's population grew by 6.0% or 293,540 persons.

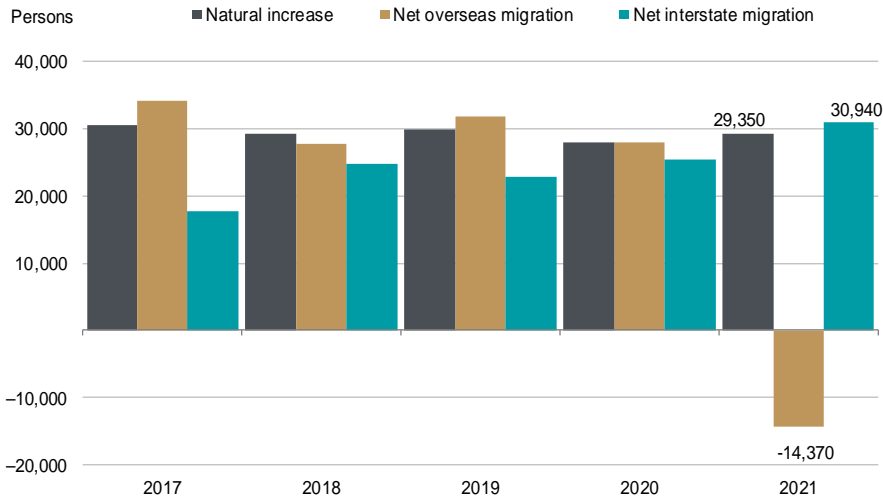
Annual absolute growth, year to 30 June



Annual percentage growth, year to 30 June



## Components of population change, Queensland

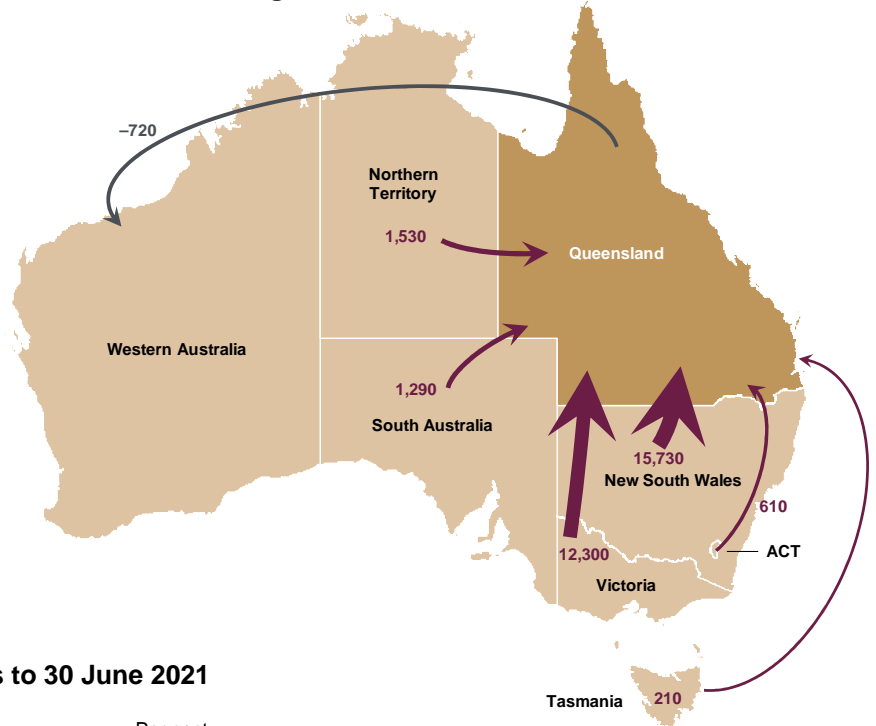


Queensland's gains from net overseas and interstate migration have been more variable than natural increase over the five years to June 2021.

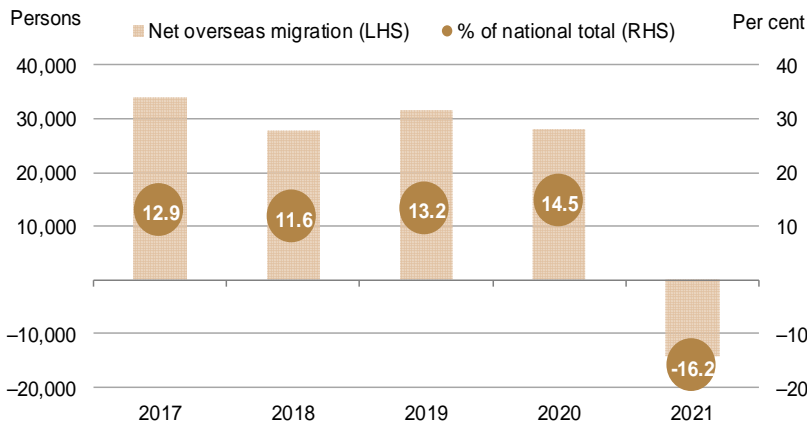
- Net interstate migration reached a 5-year high in 2020–21 contributing 30,940 people to the population. NIM accounted for 67.4% of growth in the year to June 2021, up from 21.6% in 2016–17.
- Net overseas migration for Queensland was negative in 2020–21, with a loss of 14,370 people — the first full financial year loss recorded in the official NOM data.

- Queensland is the only jurisdiction that has gained population through net interstate migration in every quarter since June 1981.
- New South Wales continues to be the largest source of interstate migrants.
- Since 2017–18 there have been net gains to Queensland from Victoria, with the gain in 2020–21 more than twice that in 2019–20. These recent net gains follow five years of losses from Queensland to Victoria, with the 2020–21 gain the highest since 1994–95.
- Queensland's population gain from net interstate migration exceeded the gain from natural increase for the first time since 2004–05.

### Net interstate migration flows to and from Qld, 2020–21



### Net overseas migration, Queensland, five years to 30 June 2021



Preliminary estimates show that Queensland's net overseas migration was -14,370 persons in 2020–21. Over the previous 10 years Queensland gained an average of 31,700 persons per year through NOM.

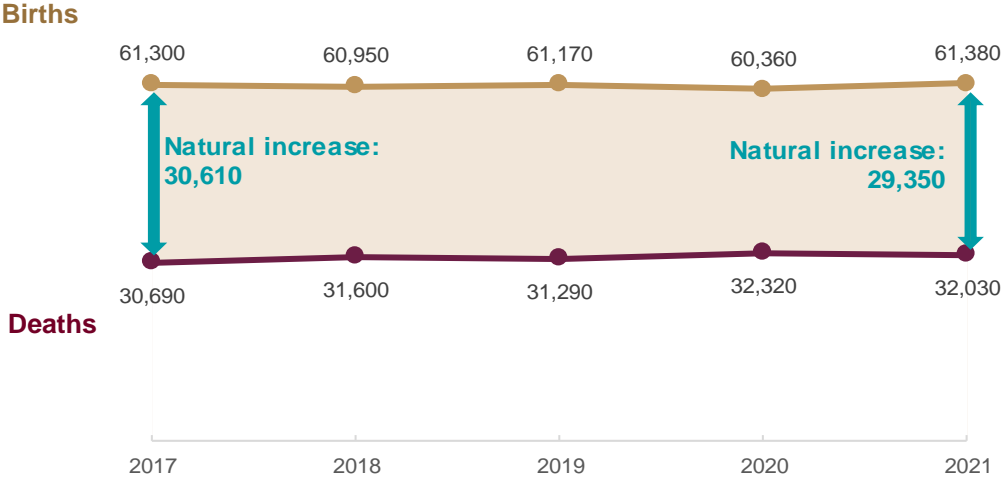
The 2020–21 NOM loss was the first recorded in the official NOM timeseries (from 1972), with the previous low in 1976 (gain of 968 persons).

In absolute terms, Queensland's share of national NOM increased slightly to 16.2% in the year to June 2021, up from the 14.5% share recorded for the previous year.

Natural increase, Queensland, five years to 30 June 2021

**Natural increase is slowly declining 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.

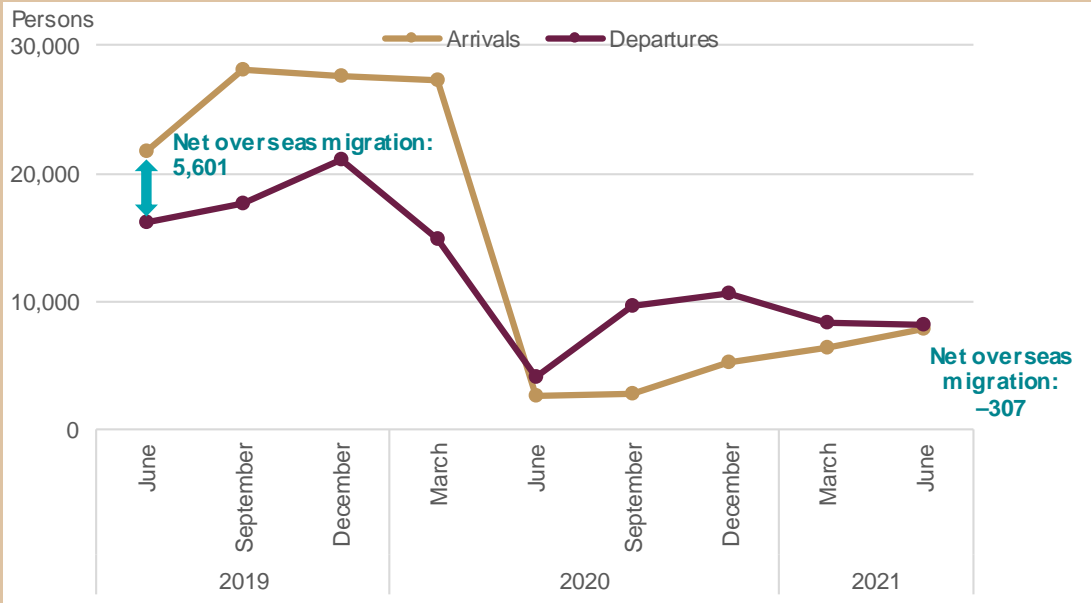


**Impact of international travel restrictions on NOM**

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 and 2020–21. Preliminary overseas migration arrivals in June quarter 2021 were three times as high as the June quarter 2020 (7,780 arrivals compared with 2,530), although were 64.2% lower than in June quarter 2019.

In June quarter 2021, while preliminary overseas migration departures were double that of the same quarter in 2020 (8,090 departures compared with 4,040), they were around half the level recorded in June quarter 2019 (49.8% lower).

The preliminary NOM for Queensland for June quarter 2021 recorded a net loss of 310 persons, compared with an average gain of 6,300 persons in the June quarter of the previous five years to 2019. This was the fifth consecutive quarterly net loss due to overseas migration for Queensland. Prior to this period, the previous quarterly loss due to net overseas migration was in December quarter 1994 (-160 persons).



## Population trends by age and sex, Queensland

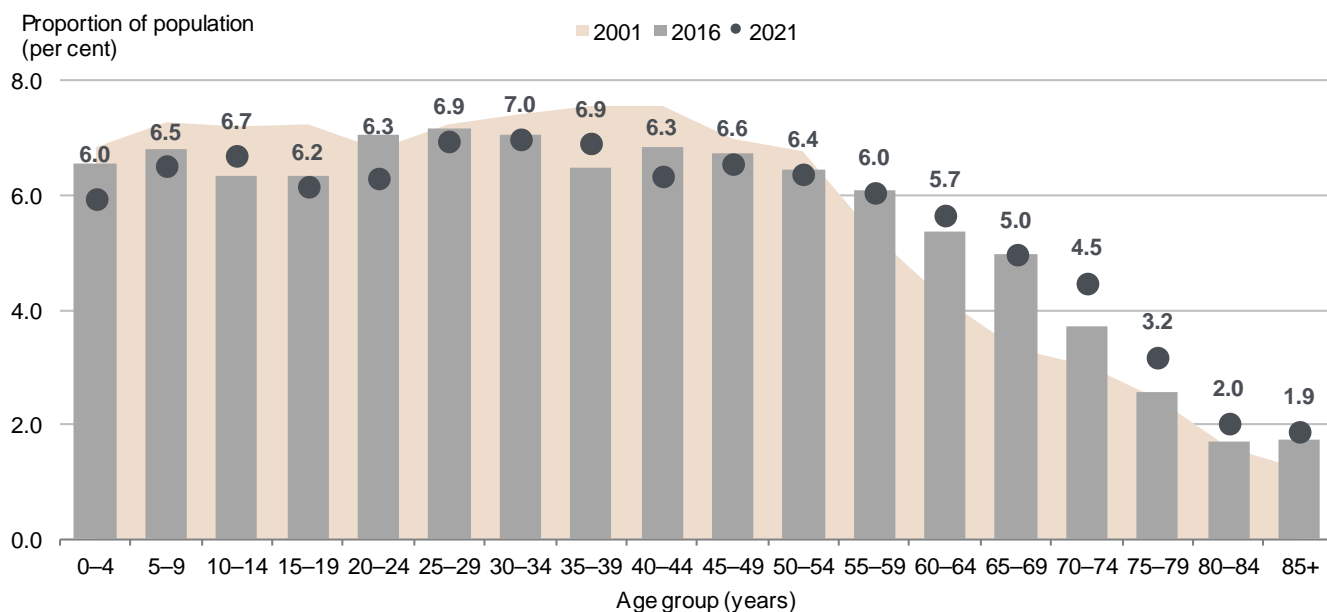
- Queensland's population is ageing due to:
  - sustained low levels of fertility
  - increased life expectancy
  - movement of the large 'baby boomer' cohort (those born in 1946 to 1965) into the older age groups.
- At 30 June 2021, there were proportionally fewer persons in each five-year age group 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 2016 was in the 70–74 years age group, increasing to 4.5% of the state population, up from 3.7% five years earlier.
- While the overall share of the population aged 15–64 years (the working-age population) decreased between 2001 and 2021 (from 67.1% to 64.3%), the proportion of the population aged 65 years and older increased (from 11.6% to 16.6%) over the same period. In 2021 around 1 in 6 Queenslanders were aged 65 years or older, up from 1 in 9 in 2001. The numbers of old (65+ years) and very old (85+ years) people in the population more than doubled since 2001, and have increased by 21.3% and 16.5% respectively over the five years since 2016.
- Even with Queensland's ageing population, at 30 June 2021, persons aged 30–34 years were the largest group proportionally (7.0%), accounting for 364,540 persons, followed by those aged 25–29 years and 35–39 years (both 6.9%).

### Living longer...

Queenslanders aged 65 years in 2020 could expect to live to:

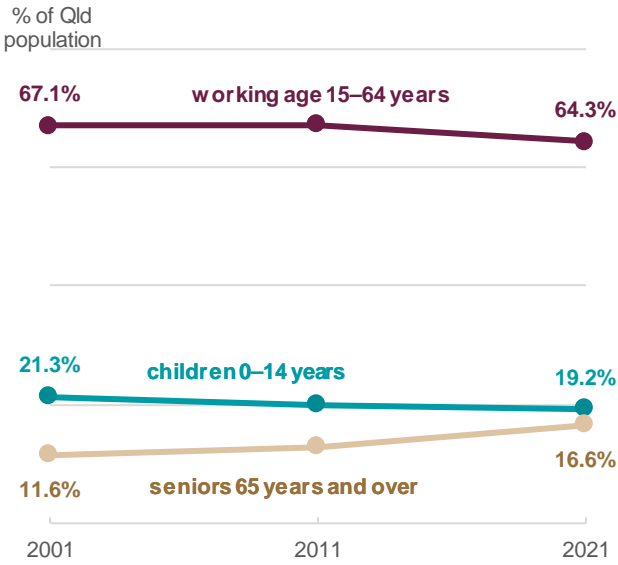
- 85 years of age if male
- 88 years of age if female.

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



- In 2021, children aged 0–14 years accounted for a smaller proportion of Queensland's population compared with five years earlier, however the number of children had increased by 45,540 compared with 2016. Most of the increase was in the 10–14 years age group, which saw an additional 42,800 children, reflecting the notable increase in the annual number of births seen between 2006 and 2007 (from 52,700 to 61,300 births) flowing through this age group.
- The dependency ratio (number of dependents per 100 working age population) has increased to 55.6 in 2021, up from 52.5 in 2016, driven primarily by increases in the old age dependency ratio (65 years and over), from 22.4 to 25.8 per 100 working age persons, in five years. The child dependency ratio (0–14 years) declined slightly over the same period (from 30.0 in 2016 to 29.8 children per 100 working age persons in 2021).

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



Just under two-thirds (64.3%) of the Queensland population are in the traditional working-age group of 15–64 years, slightly lower than the 65.6% 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.

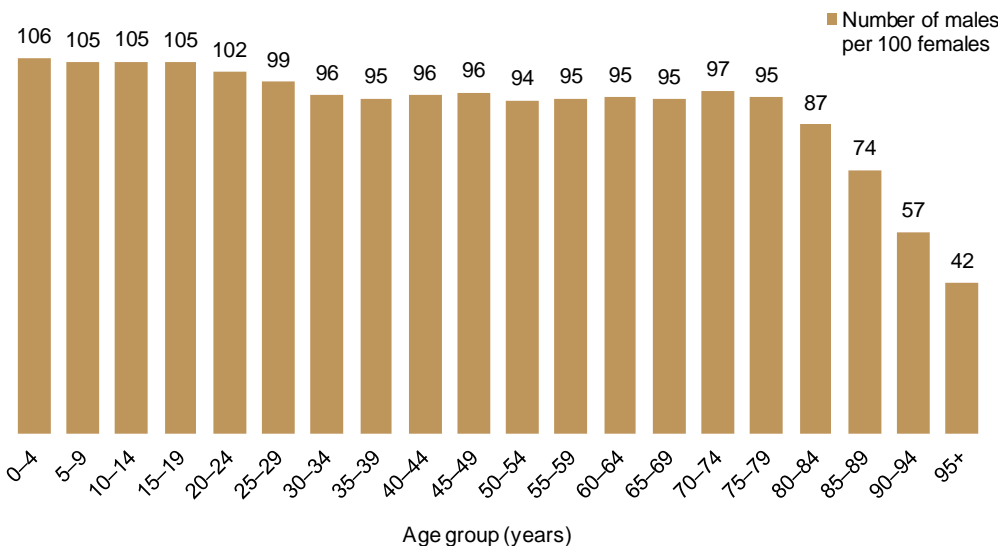
#### Seniors are the fastest growing group in the Queensland population:

- The population aged 65 years and over has more than doubled since 2001 to reach 864,810 persons in 2021.
- The average annual growth rate since 2016 for seniors is 3.9%, compared with 1.1% for the rest of the population.

At 30 June 2021, Queensland's estimated resident population included 2,579,240 males and 2,641,930 females. The median age (age where half the population is younger/older) for Queensland's males and females was 37.5 and 38.9 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 2021



#### 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 2021*.

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 2020 is revised and for June 2021 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 2020 are revised (based on date of occurrence). Data for September 2020 to June 2021 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 2020 are final (based on actual traveller behaviour). Data for September quarter 2020 to June quarter 2021 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 - for the June quarter 2021 release, Medicare change of address data showed an implausibly high number of moves for this quarter due to widespread updating of Medicare records as people got vaccinated for COVID-19. Not all the address changes recorded in this quarter happened within this quarter. To treat for this, under-count adjustments in this quarter and those made in previous quarters have been revised. Interstate migration was revised for September 2020, December 2020 and March 2021 quarters in this release. 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 are available on the QGSO website ([www.qgso.qld.gov.au](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.