Population growth highlights and trends, Queensland, 2023 edition

Source: ABS *National, state and territory population* (released 15 December 2022)

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

Highlights from 2021–22

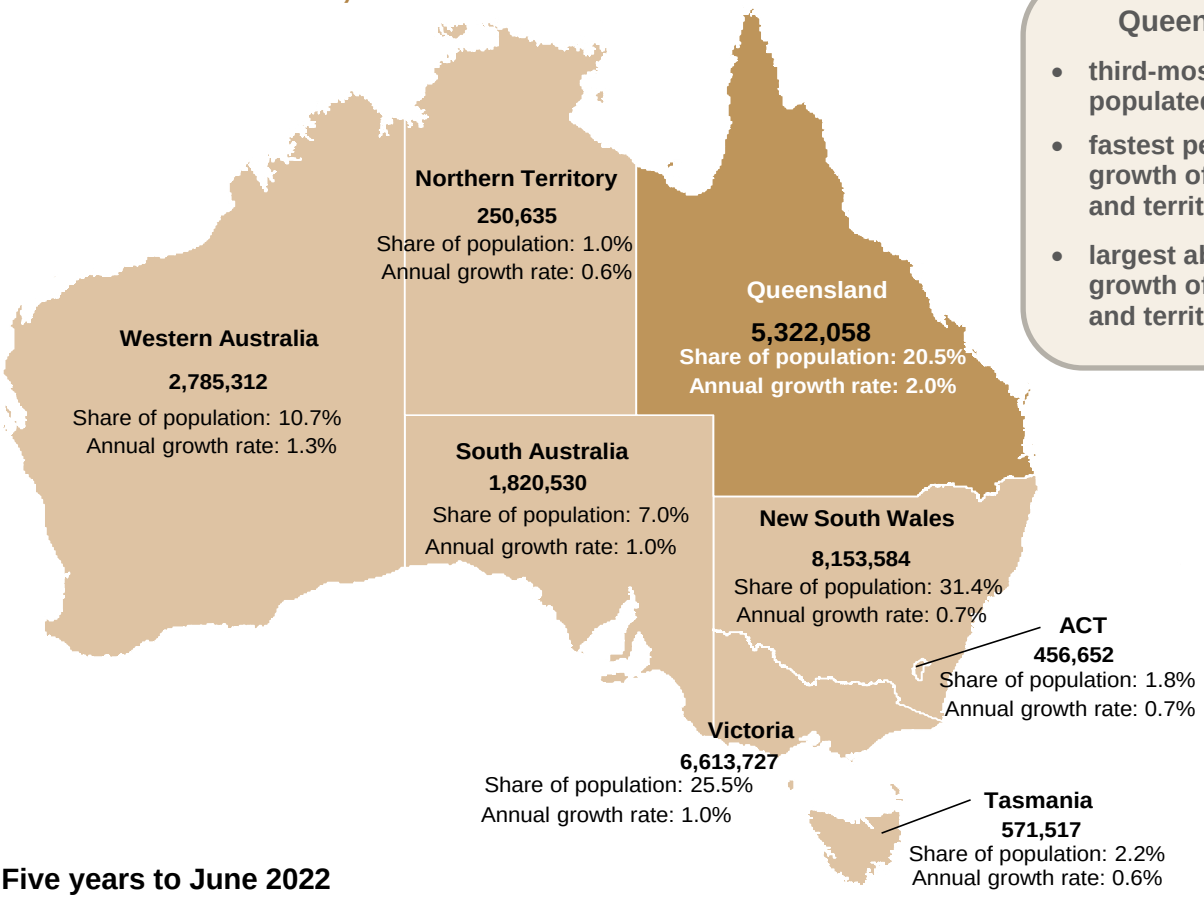
- Queensland had the largest population increase (104,400 persons) of any Australian state or territory ahead of Victoria (65,690), New South Wales (59,770 persons) and Western Australia (35,450 persons).
- Queensland's annual population growth rate (2.0%) was the fastest of the states and territories and higher than the 2021–22 national average (1.1%).
- Record net interstate migration (NIM) of 55,420 persons was the largest driver of population growth for Queensland, followed by natural increase (births minus deaths) of 27,650 persons. Net overseas migration (NOM) showed signs of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic impact, adding 23,430 persons to the Queensland population.
- Queensland was home to 20.5% of Australia's population at 30 June 2022, an increase in share from twenty years earlier (18.7%). Queensland's share of the national population had been relatively stable for the past decade.

Estimated resident population (persons)

June 2021	June 2022		Change	% Change
5,217,650	5,322,060	⬆	104,410	2.0%

Components of change		Share of change
Births	63,460	
Deaths	35,810	
Natural increase	**27,650**	**26.0%**
Overseas arrivals	58,580	
Overseas departures	35,150	
Net overseas migration	**23,430**	**22.0%**
Interstate arrivals	142,390	
Interstate departures	86,970	
Net interstate migration	**55,420**	**52.0%**

Trends nationwide, 2021–22



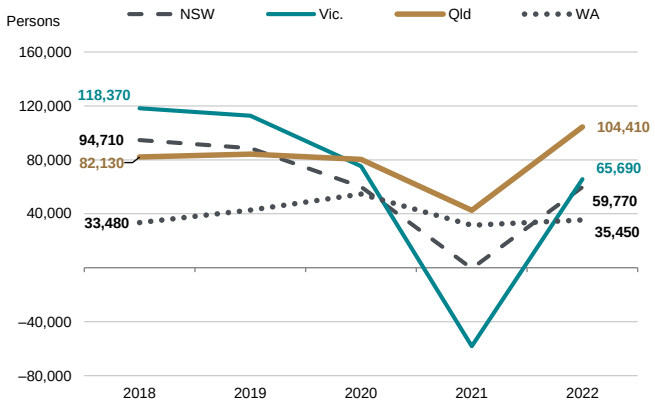
Queensland

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

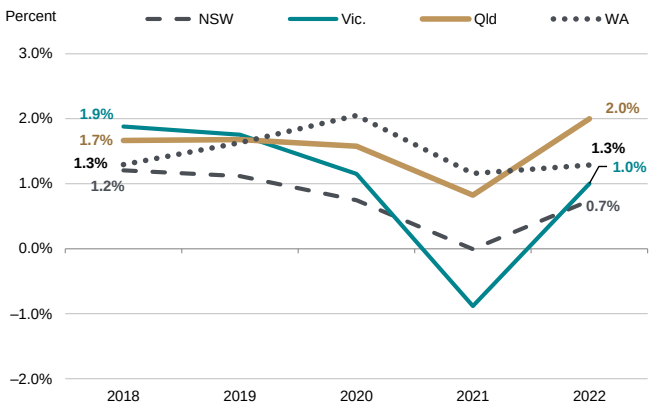
Five years to June 2022

- New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland together accounted for 73.0% of national population growth in the five years to June 2022.
- All states and territories saw a moderation in their annual population growth rates in the year to 30 June 2021, with growth rates subsequently rebounding in 2021–22. Queensland's annual growth rate increased to 2.0% in 2021–22 following a period of relatively steady growth in the three years from 2017–18, which then slowed to 0.8% growth in 2020–21 due to the impact of the pandemic and associated travel restrictions.
- Between June 2018 and June 2022, Queensland's population grew by 6.2% or 311,556 persons.

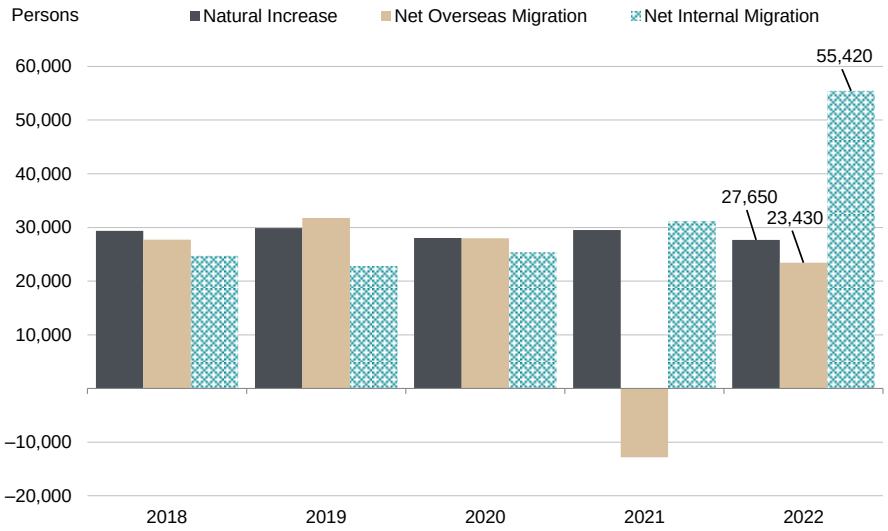
Annual absolute growth, year to 30 June



Annual percentage growth, year to 30 June



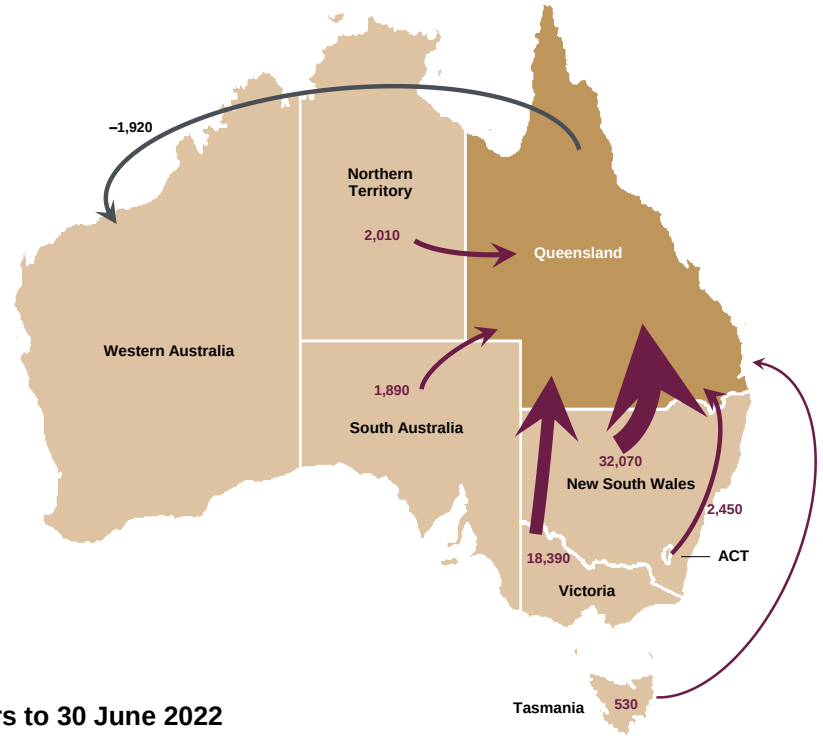
Components of population change, Queensland



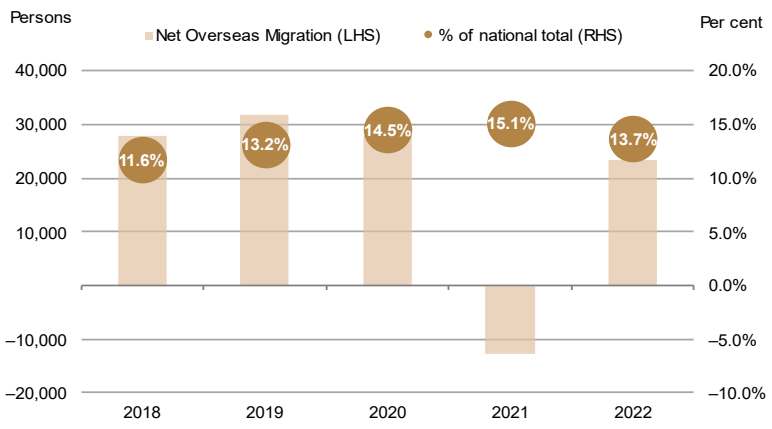
Queensland's gains from net overseas and interstate migration have been more variable than natural increase over the five years to June 2022.

- Net interstate migration reached a 5-year high in 2021–22 contributing 55,420 people to the population. NIM accounted for 52.0% of growth in the year to June 2022, up from 30.2% in 2017–18.
- Net overseas migration for Queensland recorded a net gain of 23,430 people in 2021–22, this follows a 12,850 NOM loss in 2020–21—the first full financial year loss on record for 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 2021–22 more than twice that in 2019–20. These recent net gains follow five years of losses from Queensland to Victoria. The 2021–22 gain from Victoria was 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 overseas migration, Queensland, five years to 30 June 2022



Preliminary estimates show that Queensland's net overseas migration gain was 23,430 persons in 2021–22. Over the previous 10 years, Queensland gained an average of 26,970 persons per year through NOM.

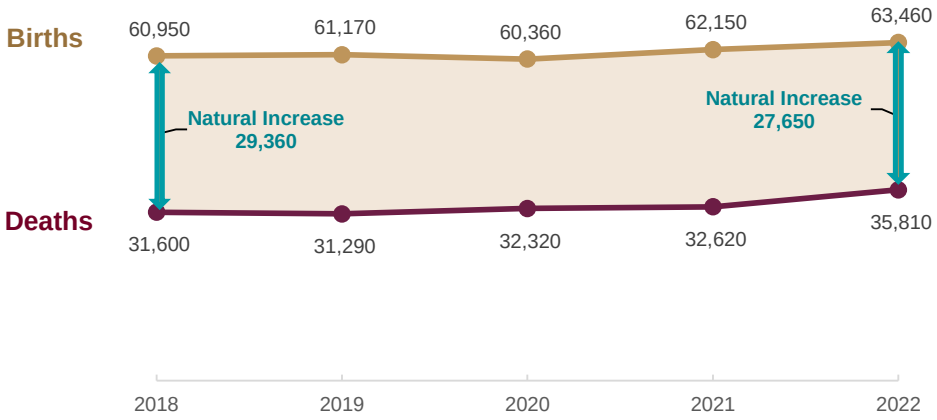
In absolute terms, Queensland's share of the national NOM gain was 13.7% in the year to June 2022.

Queensland's share of the national NOM gains has ranged between 11.1% and 14.5% in the years since 2013–14. While in 2020–21, the only year of NOM loss for the period, Queensland accounted for 15.1% of the national loss.

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.

Natural increase, Queensland, five years to 30 June 2022



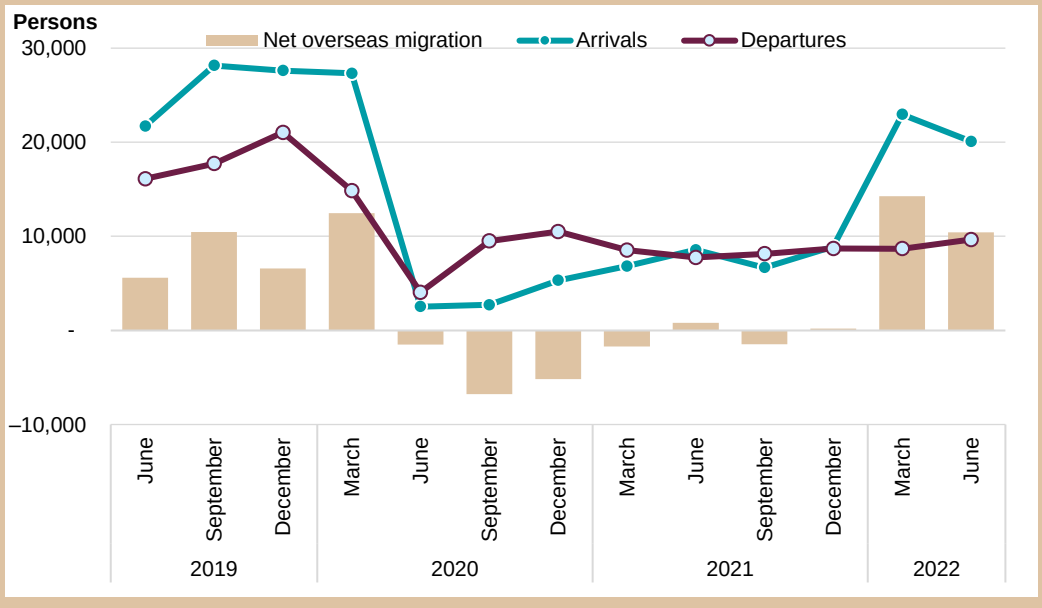
Impact of international travel restrictions on NOM

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. However, easing of these restrictions from late 2021 has seen a resumption in overseas arrivals and departures, resulting in a return to population gains through NOM. Preliminary overseas migration arrivals in June quarter 2022 were around 13 times higher than in June quarter 2021 (10,422 arrivals compared with 808), and similar to the levels recorded in June quarter 2019 (pre-COVID).

In June quarter 2022, while preliminary overseas migration departures were slightly higher than that of the same quarter in 2021 (9,648 departures compared with 7,751), they were around half the level recorded in June quarter 2019 (40.1% lower).

The preliminary NOM figures for Queensland indicate net losses in the four consecutive quarters from June 2020 to March 2021, and again in September quarter 2021. Prior to this period, the previous quarterly loss due to net overseas migration was in December quarter 1994 (–160 persons).

While both migrant arrivals and departures are below pre-COVID levels, the NOM gains for March and June quarters 2022 are similar to or higher than those recorded in the comparable pre-COVID period.



Population trends by age and sex, Queensland

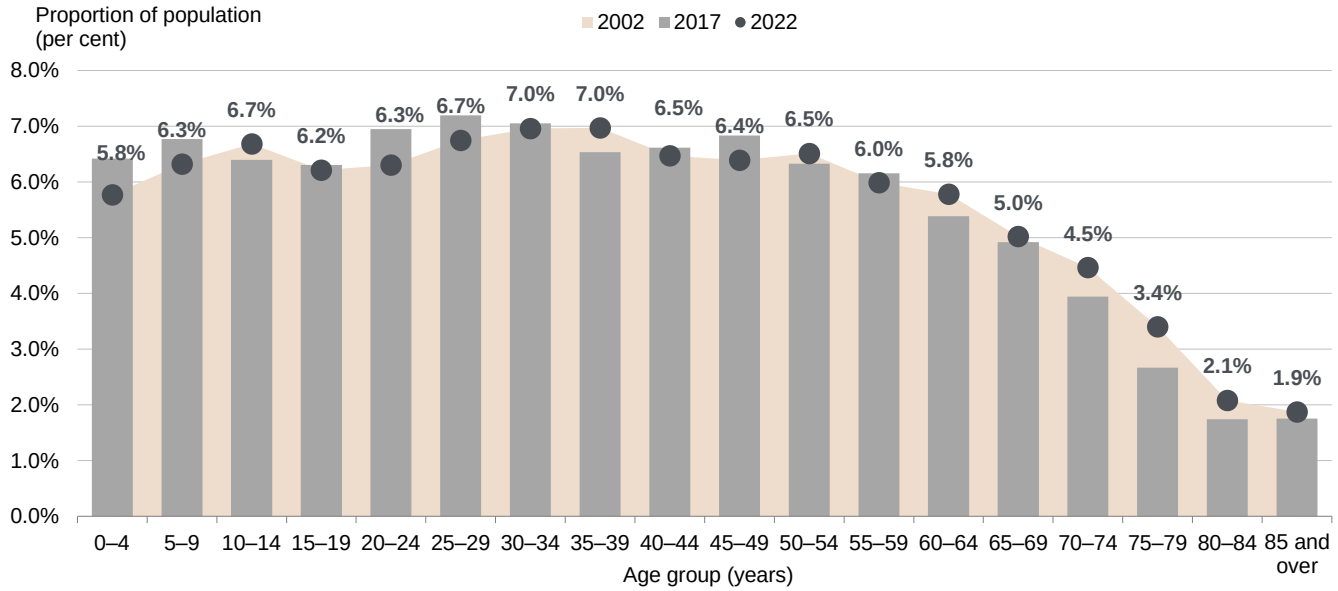
Living longer…

Queenslanders aged 65 years in 2021 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 2022, 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 shift in the 65–69 years age group (+1.6 percentage points). The largest proportional increase in the five years since 2017 was in the 75–79 years age group, increasing to 3.4% of the state's population, up from 2.7% five years earlier.
- While the overall share of the population aged 15–64 years (the working-age population) decreased between 2002 and 2022 (from 67.1% to 64.4%), the proportion of the population aged 65 years and older increased (from 11.8% to 16.9%) over the same period. In 2022, around 1 in 6 Queenslanders were aged 65 years or older, up from 1 in 9 in 2002. The numbers of old (65+ years) and very old (85+ years) people in the population have both more than doubled since 2002, and have increased by 21.1% and 15.3% respectively over the five years since 2017.
- At 30 June 2022, persons aged 30–34 and 35–39 years were the largest groups proportionally, each accounting for 7.0% (371,000 persons) of the total population, followed by those aged 25–29 years (6.7%).

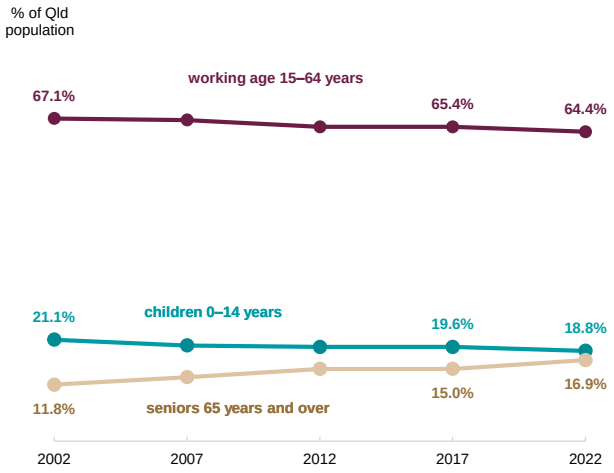
Proportion of population by age group, Queensland, as at 30 June 2022



- In 2022, children aged 0–14 years accounted for a smaller proportion of Queensland's population compared with five years earlier (18.8% compared with 19.6% in 2017). The largest proportional decrease since 2017 was in the 0–4 years age group, decreasing from 6.4% of the population to 5.8% in 2022. At the same time, there were 40,610 additional children in the 10–14 years age group, reflecting the notable increase in the annual number of births seen between 2006 and 2008 (from 52,700 births annually to 63,200) flowing through this age group.
- The dependency ratio (number of dependents per 100 working-age[1] population) has increased from 53.0 in 2017 to 55.4 in 2022, driven primarily by increases in the old–age dependency ratio (65 years and over), from 23.0 to 26.2 per 100 working age persons, over the five years. The child dependency ratio (0–14 years) declined slightly over the same period (from 30.0 in 2017 to 29.2 children per 100 working age persons in 2022).

[1] Working-age population is traditionally considered to be those aged 15–64 years.

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 65.4% recorded in 2017. 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.

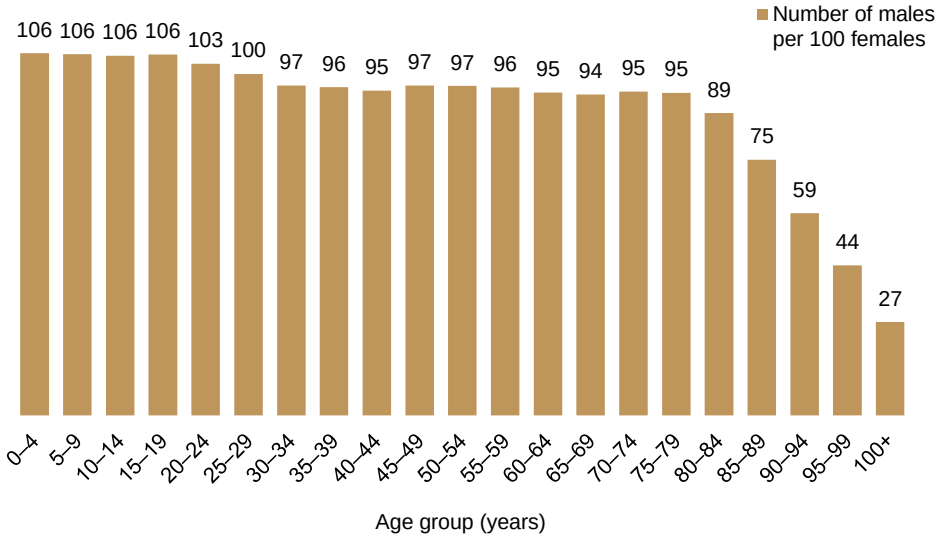
Seniors are the fastest growing group in the Queensland population:

- The population aged 65 years and over has more than doubled since 2001 to reach 897,075 persons in 2022.
- The average annual growth rate since 2017 for seniors is 3.9%, compared with 1.1% for the rest of the population.

At 30 June 2022, Queensland's estimated resident population included 2,637,424 males and 2,684,634 females. The median age (age where half the population is younger/older) for Queensland's males and females was 37.8 and 39.3 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 2022



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 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.

All ERP and component data up to and including June 2016 are final. ERPs from September 2016 to June 2021 are revised and for June 2022 is preliminary. The ABS has rebased ERP up to June quarter 2021 — see *Methodology used in rebased population estimates, June 2021* 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 2021 are revised (based on date of occurrence). Data for September 2021 to June 2022 are preliminary (based on date of registration).

Net overseas migration data for September quarter 1991 to June quarter 2021 are final. Data for September quarter 2021 to March quarter 2022 are revised (based on actual traveller behaviour). Data for June quarter 2022 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 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, *Australian Demographic Statistics*, *September 2017*. Due to the disruption in travel patterns during COVID-19, from March 2022 preliminary estimates are modelled on traveller behaviour from the corresponding quarter of 2018. Estimates prior to March 2022 remain modelled based on the behaviour of similar travellers from one year earlier. The characteristics defining similar travellers are: age, country of citizenship, direction of first and last movement in the reference quarter, initial ERP status, time spent out of Australia, and visa group.

Net interstate migration — for June, September and December quarters 2021, Medicare change of address data showed an implausibly high number of moves for these quarters 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, undercount adjustments in the affected quarters have been revised. Net interstate migration data for September quarter 2011 to June quarter 2016 are final. Data for September quarter 2016 to June quarter 2022 are preliminary (based on modelled expansion factors from 2016 Census).

For years prior to 2020–21, 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, June 2022*.

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.