



# Census 2011: Queensland's Changing Population

## Key points:

- Queensland's count of usual residents grew by 428,205 to 4,332,739 in the five years to 2011.
- The number of residents who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander increased by 28,244 or 22.1% over the five years to 2011.
- While the population of all five-year age cohorts increased over the five years to 2011, the largest increases were evident in the age cohorts 25-29 years (51,760 persons) and 60-64 years (51,312).
- While median weekly household income increased by \$191 or 18.4% over the five years to 2011, median weekly rent increased by \$100 or 50.0%.

## 1. Population

The 2011 Census counted 4,332,739 usual residents of Queensland on Census night, 9 August 2011 (Table 1). Queensland accounted for 20.1 per cent of Australia's total usual residents, making it Australia's third largest state by population.

Queensland's usual resident count grew by 11.0% or 428,205 in the five years to 2011. This was similar to the growth rate experienced in the five years to the 2006 Census (10.9%).

**Table 1: Population size and growth**

	2001	2006	2011
Population <sup>(a)</sup>	– persons –		
Queensland	3,522,044	3,904,534	4,332,739
Australia	18,769,249	19,855,288	21,507,719
5-year change	– % –		
Queensland	8.5	10.9	11.0
Australia	5.7	5.8	8.3

(a) These data are usual resident Census counts and differ from Queensland's estimated resident population published in ABS 3101.0.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing: 1996, 2001 (U01), 2006 (B01) and 2011 (B01)

Within Queensland, the Statistical Area Level 4 (SA4) with the most population growth in the five years to the 2011 Census was Gold Coast (51,834 people). Ipswich also grew substantially more than the remaining SA4s (39,209 people). A further five SA4s experienced increases of more than 25,000 people in the same period. Queensland - Outback grew the least (8,400 people).

Moreton Bay - South had the highest rate of growth in the five years to 2011 (18.2%), followed by Ipswich (16.2%). The slowest growth occurred in Brisbane - West (5.3%) (Table 2).

**Table 2: Population growth<sup>(a)</sup>, Queensland regions, 2006 to 2011**

Statistical Area Level 4 (SA4)	Population growth	
	persons	% change
Brisbane - East	18,509	9.7
Brisbane - North	16,996	9.7
Brisbane - South	26,210	9.0
Brisbane - West	8,606	5.3
Brisbane Inner City	19,377	8.7
Cairns	17,945	7.7
Darling Downs - Maranoa	8,637	7.5
Fitzroy	18,346	9.0
Gold Coast	51,834	10.7
Ipswich	39,209	16.2
Logan - Beaudesert	27,455	10.5
Mackay	19,245	11.7
Moreton Bay - North	26,544	14.1
Moreton Bay - South	25,471	18.2
Queensland - Outback	8,400	9.5
Sunshine Coast	25,189	8.6
Toowoomba	9,938	7.7
Townsville	20,174	9.9
Wide Bay	20,009	7.8
<b>Queensland<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>411,028</b>	<b>10.2</b>

(a) Based on place of enumeration.

(b) Includes the SA4's of 'Migratory - Offshore - Shipping' and 'Special Purpose Codes'.

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing (T01)

## 2. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population

On Census night 2011, 155,824 people or 3.6% of Queensland's usual residents identified as being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin (Table 3). This was an increase of 28,246 or 22.1% in the five years to 2011.

The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people aged 15-24 years who were attending a university or other higher education institution rose to 1,284 in 2011. This represented a 59.7% increase over five years and a higher growth rate than shown by non-Indigenous students (25.0%) of the same age.



**Table 3: Census count of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander usual residents**

	2001	2006	2011
– persons –			
Persons	112,772	127,578	155,824
% total persons	3.1	3.3	3.6
% increase <sup>(a)</sup>	18.1	13.1	22.1

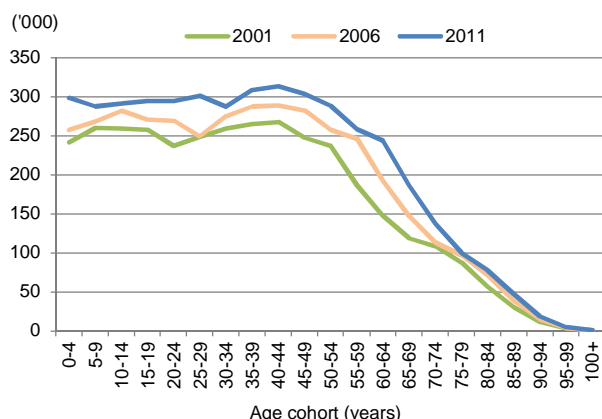
(a) Increase over previous Census year.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing: 1996, 2001, 2006 and 2011 (I02)

### 3. Age structure

While the median age of Queenslanders (36 years) has not changed since the 2006 Census, Queensland's age profile has changed. In 2011, there were a comparatively small number of persons aged 30-34 years (Figure 1). This 'dip' in age cohorts was apparent in the 2001 Census, where it was visible among 20-24 year olds and again in 2006, among 25-29 year olds.

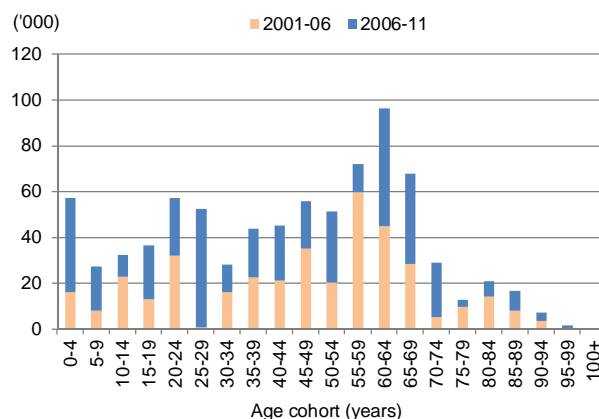
**Figure 1: Population count, Queensland**



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing: 2001 (U04), 2006 (B04) and 2011 (B04)

This moving cohort and the ageing of the baby boomer generation contributed to the two age cohorts 25-29 years (51,760 persons) and 60-64 years (51,312 persons) having the largest population increases over the five years to 2011 (Figure 2). The youngest age cohort, 0-4 years, also grew strongly (40,813 persons or 15.9%) while the 5-9 years cohort showed a more moderate growth rate (7.1%).

**Figure 2: Population growth, Queensland**



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing: 2006 and 2011 (B04)

### 4. Young people

Queensland's count of young people (aged 15-24 years) grew by 48,562 (or 9.0%) to 587,764 in the five years to the 2011 Census. The proportion of the total population in this age group (13.6%) in 2011 was similar to the 2006 Census proportion (13.8%).

In August 2011, 17.1% of young people aged 15-24 years stated they were studying full-time at TAFE or university, compared with 14.8% in 2006 (Table 4).

**Table 4: Student status, persons aged 15-24 years, Queensland**

	2006		2011	
	persons	%	persons	%
Studying full-time <sup>(a)</sup>	79,739	14.8	100,685	17.1
Studying part-time <sup>(a)</sup>	28,434	5.3	30,100	5.1
Other	431,029	79.9	456,979	77.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>539,202</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>587,764</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Includes 15-24 year olds studying at TAFE or university.

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing: 2006 (B04 and B14) and 2011 (B04 and B15)

### 5. Older people

Over the five years to 2011, Queensland's male population aged 65 years and older grew at a faster rate than the female population (19.6% compared with 16.3%). While this decreased the gender imbalance among older people, there was still a larger number of women (302,689) than men (266,292) in this age group in 2011.

### 6. Cultural diversity

Between the 2006 and 2011 Census, the proportion of Queensland residents born overseas increased from 17.9% to 20.5% in the five years to 2011 (Table 5).

In 2011, the main languages other than English spoken at home were Mandarin (0.9% of the population), followed by Cantonese (0.5%) and Vietnamese (0.5%), similar to the proportions in 2006.



**Table 5: Indicators of cultural diversity, Queensland**

	2006	2011
	- persons -	
Born overseas	699,448	888,636
Speaks language other than English at home	303,096	423,841
	- % total persons -	
Born overseas	17.9	20.5
Speaks language other than English at home	7.8	9.8

Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing: 2006 and 2011 (B01)

## 7. Household composition

On Census night in 2011, approximately two-thirds (66.8%) of households in occupied private dwellings included family groups. The mix of household types has remained steady since 2001 (Table 6).

**Table 6: Household types, Queensland**

Household type	2001	2006	2011
	- households -		
Couple family, no children	343,411	392,710	437,689
Couple family, children <sup>(a)</sup>	416,470	443,509	487,018
One parent family	145,765	158,538	176,791
Lone person household	295,523	316,789	353,508
Other households	154,444	196,975	193,531
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,355,613</b>	<b>1,508,521</b>	<b>1,648,537</b>
	- % total households -		
Couple family, no children	25.3	26.0	26.6
Couple family, children <sup>(a)</sup>	30.7	29.4	29.5
One parent family	10.8	10.5	10.7
Lone person household	21.8	21.0	21.4
Other households	11.4	13.1	11.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Includes non-dependent children.

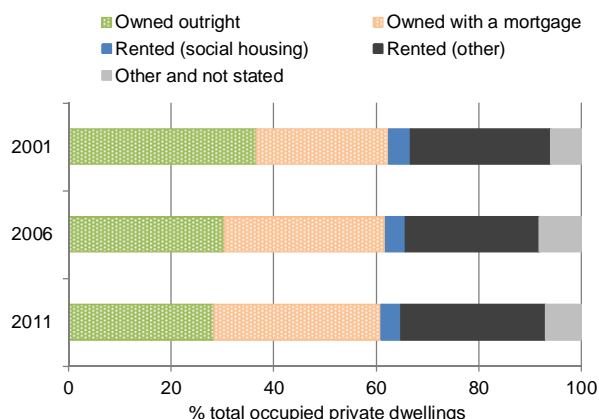
Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing (T14)

In each of the three Census years 2001, 2006 and 2011, approximately four in 10 private dwellings occupied on Census night housed a family with one or more children (of any age and not necessarily dependent). There was a small increase in the proportion of couples without children over the 10 years to 2011, from 25.3% to 26.6%.

## 8. Housing tenure

The proportion of homes (occupied private dwellings) in Queensland which were owned outright decreased between 2001 and 2011, with the biggest change occurring in the five year period to 2006 (Figure 3). The proportion of homes which were owned with a mortgage increased to 32.6% and those rented increased to 32.0% (including social housing).

**Figure 3: Housing tenure, Queensland**



Source: ABS Census of Population and Housing: 2001, 2006 and 2011 (T18)

The median weekly household income increased by \$191 or 18.4% over the five years to 2011, while the median weekly rent increased by \$100 or 50%. The median monthly mortgage repayment increased by \$550 or 42.3% over the same period (Table 7).

**Table 7: Median household income and housing costs, Queensland**

Median	2006	2011	5-year change	
	- \$ -	- \$ -	\$	%
Household income (Weekly)	1,036	1,227	191	18.4
Rent (weekly)	200	300	100	50.0
Mortgage repayment (Monthly)	1,300	1,850	550	42.3

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing (T02)

For more information, please see OESR's *Queensland Regional Profiles* and *Queensland Regional Database* at [www.oesr.qld.gov.au](http://www.oesr.qld.gov.au).

All data in this report were sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Censuses of Population and Housing ([www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)).

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