

Queensland Government population projections, 2025 edition: Background research

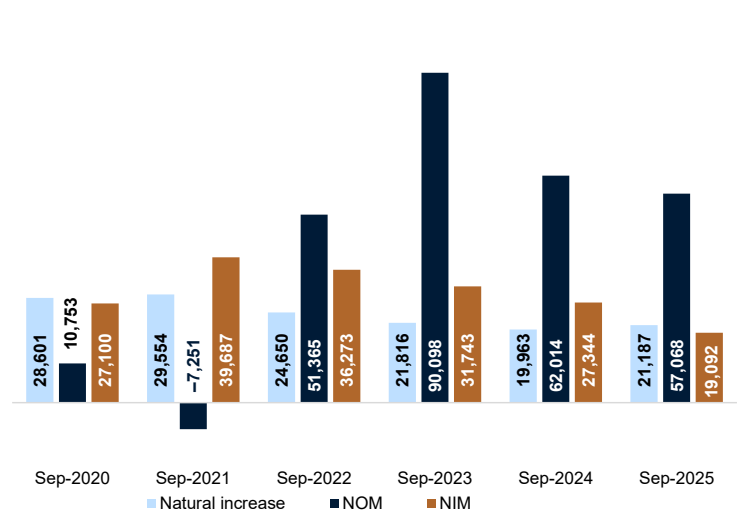
Queensland's population

At 30 September 2025, Queensland's population reached 5.69 million, up 1.74% on the previous year. Recent data show that growth in Queensland's population has slowed since the high interstate and overseas migration figures recorded during the COVID-19 pandemic (Figure 1).

Queensland's share of Australia's population remained relatively stable in recent quarters — at 20.5% since December 2023 quarter. Notably, Queensland's population share has slowly risen over time, from less than 20.0% in the late 2000s.

Queensland is also the only jurisdiction to experience net interstate migration gains in every quarter in the current time series (from 1981).

Figure 1 Components of growth, year to September, Queensland



1.0 Introduction

The Queensland Government population projections for the state of Queensland are generated using a multi-regional cohort component model. This methodology, which ages population cohorts over time, incorporates assumptions about the future levels of fertility, mortality, net overseas migration (NOM) and net interstate migration (NIM). This paper examines historical trends in these components of Queensland's population change, in addition to research into possible future trends, where available.

Historical data for the components of population change were sourced primarily from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Other data were sourced from a range of agencies and organisations including Queensland Health, the Centre for Population (Commonwealth Treasury), the United Nations and the Human Mortality Database.

The time periods available and data quality varies across data sources, and changes to the generation methods influence the comparability of data over time. Where available, data for these components during the period impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic are also presented. The data presented within this paper may be subject to future revision.

COVID-19 Pandemic

The World Health Organization declared the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) a worldwide pandemic on 11 March 2020. The pandemic, and associated response measures and restrictions enacted by different levels of government both within Australia and internationally, have affected population growth in Australia since early 2020. Most restrictions and associated health measures were eased incrementally in Australia during 2022, although impacts on population growth were ongoing.

The Australian Government closed its international border to non-citizens and non-residents from 20 March 2020. Restrictions on movements across the international border remained in place for nearly two years. On 21 February 2022, Australia reopened to fully vaccinated visa holders, and from 6 July 2022, vaccination requirements were lifted for all arrivals.

During 2020 and 2021, state and territory governments enacted restrictions on border crossings, with variations in the specific conditions and timing between jurisdictions. Queensland's state border was first closed to interstate arrivals from selected 'COVID-19 hot spots' on 26 March 2020. Domestic travellers were again able to travel to Queensland with no restrictions from 15 January 2022.

COVID-19 and the resulting closure of Australia's international border affected the flow of overseas migrants. In the year to June 2021, all Australian states and territories, including Queensland, experienced a net loss of population due to overseas migration for the first time in the modern record. The opening of international borders saw a rapid recovery in NOM arrivals leading to record NOM to Queensland in 2022–23.

2.0 Fertility

Fertility

There are several fertility concepts relevant to population projections.

Total fertility rate (TFR) in a specific year:

- the average number of babies that would be born to a woman if she were to live to at least the end of her childbearing years and had the same age-specific fertility rates (ASFRs) across her childbearing years as observed in that reporting year. It is derived by summing single-year ASFRs.

The TFR depends on the current age structure and ASFRs of the female population.

Replacement level fertility:

- the TFR at which a population exactly replaces itself from one generation to the next, without migration or changes to maternal or child mortality. The rate is approximately 2.1 births per woman for many countries, including Australia.
- with no migration and unchanged mortality rates, a TFR below replacement-level fertility will eventually lead to population decline.
- net positive migration can offset a below-replacement TFR and generate population growth.

Completed cohort fertility rate (CCFR):

- the average number of children born to women in a specific birth cohort across all their childbearing years.

Tempo effect:

- a change in the timing of childbearing.

Quantum effect:

- a change in the number of children born to women across their childbearing years.

2.1 Long-term trends

The ABS publishes the number of registered births on an annual basis, together with the TFR for each year. These show that, consistent with long-term international trends, Australia's TFR has varied considerably over the last century. There has been a general downward trend in TFR in recent decades, with levels since 2019 being the lowest on record (Figure 2).

From the late 1970s to the early 2000s, Australia's TFR gradually declined, reflecting the increasing tendency to delay partnering and childbearing. Australia's fertility rate then temporarily increased to a peak of 2.02 births per woman in 2008, the highest recorded since 1976. Australia's TFR subsequently resumed falling and, in 2024, reached the lowest level ever recorded (1.48 babies per woman). TFR for 2024–25, published in December 2025, shows a slightly more positive figure at 1.52 births per woman, up from 1.49 in 2023–24.

While there are many reasons for declining fertility rates, they are primarily due to a reduction in desired family size and the postponement of family formation, underpinned by higher levels of female education and employment as well as access to birth control and reproductive technologyⁱ. This is demonstrated, in part, by the increasing median age of mothers. Since 1975, the median age of first-time mothers in Australia has increased from 23.6 years to 30.8 years in 2024. It is not clear from the current data when the delay in first birth will plateau or slow. As the median age of first-time mothers increases, time for recuperation, the extent to which delayed births are subsequently made up, decreases.

Female labour force participation rates no longer show much of the 'fertility dip' traditionally associated with the childbearing years (Figure 3). Census data from 2021 show relatively stable female labour force participation rates between the ages 20 to 54 years, encompassing Generation X (born 1965 to 1980), through to the leading edge of Generation Z (born 1997 to 2012).

Figure 2 Total fertility rate, Australia

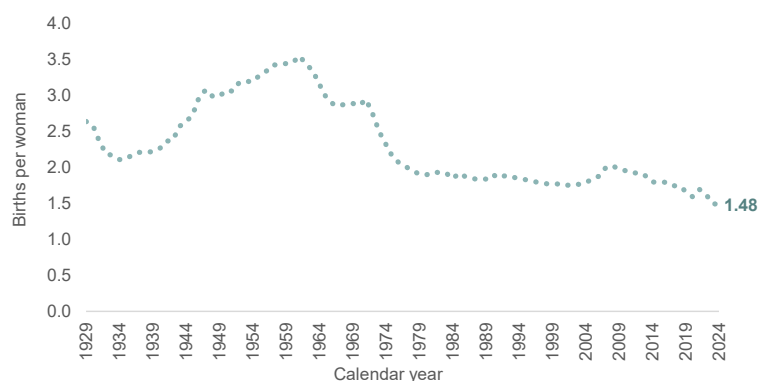
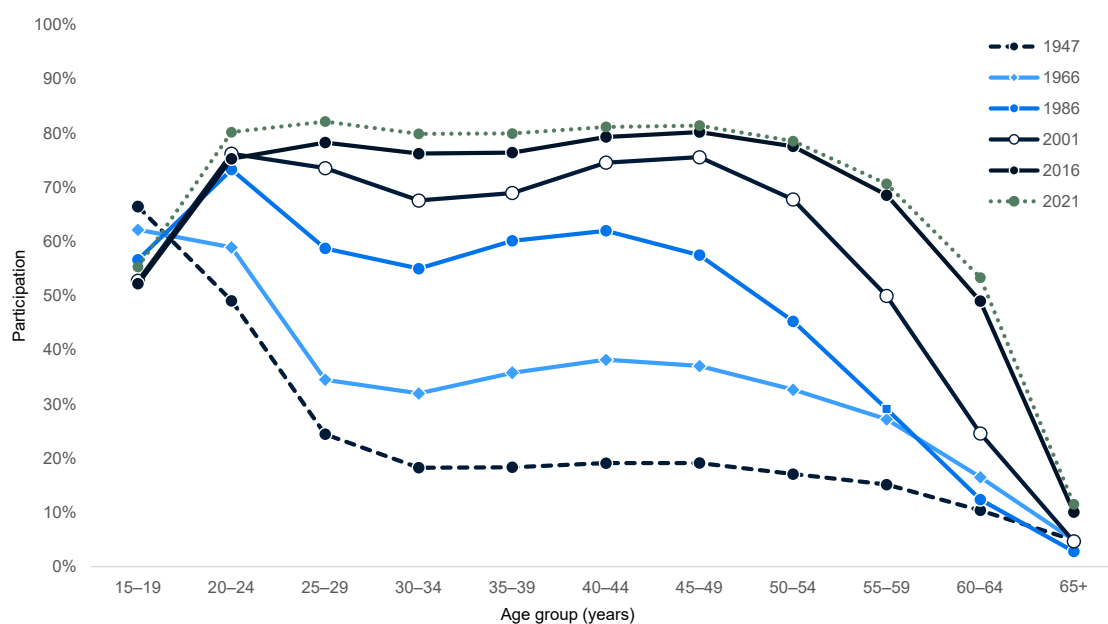


Figure 3 Female labour force participation rates, Australia



Comparable data for Queensland's TFR are available from 1971 onwards and show that Queensland's TFR has followed a similar trajectory to that of Australia. Over the 23 years to 2024, Queensland's TFR peaked at 2.17 babies per woman in 2009, and slowly declined from that point, falling to 1.51 by 2024. TFR experienced a small increase in 2021, reaching 1.79 (Figure 4). A simple linear trend through the TFR shows that the 1.54 recorded in 2023, and the 1.51 in 2024, represent a return to the trend seen over the years from 2009 to 2020.

Through the 1980s and 1990s, fertility rates among younger Queensland women decreased, while those among women in their 30s increased (Figure 5).

While rates among all age groups increased during the baby bounce in the mid to late 2000s, this was followed by decreases in fertility among women under 35 years of age. In contrast, fertility rates among women in their late 30s and early 40s continue to be relatively stable.

Similar to the national data, the median age of Queensland women giving birth has increased over time, reaching 31.2 years in 2024 (Figure 6), up from 25.4 years in 1975. Data from first-time mothers are available up to 2020 and for 2024, and show a similar pattern of increase, reaching 29.7 years in 2020 and increasing to 29.9 in 2024. These levels compare to 23.1 years in 1975.

Figure 5 Selected age-specific fertility rates, Queensland

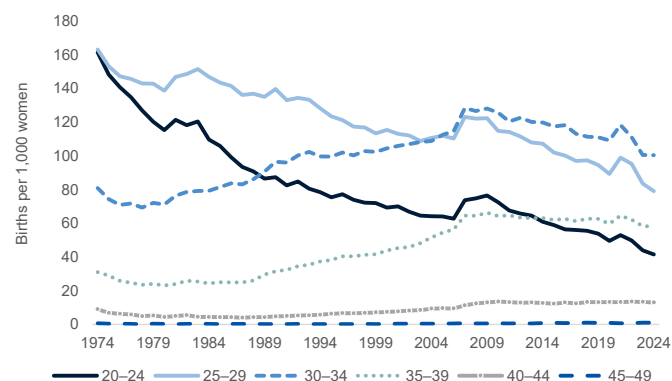


Figure 4 Total fertility rates, Queensland

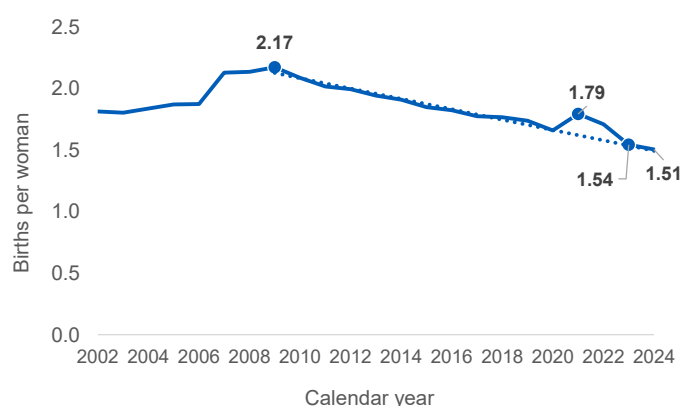
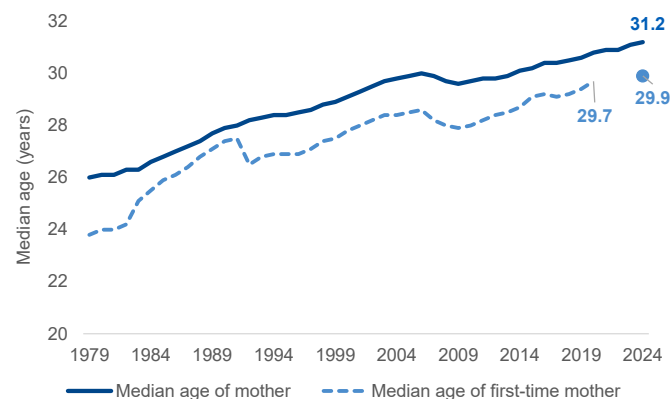


Figure 6 Median age of women giving birth, Queensland



2.2 Recent trends

Fertility impacts during the COVID-19 pandemic

Both Australia and Queensland experienced a small increase in fertility in 2021, to 1.70 and 1.79 births per woman respectively, compared with levels recorded in 2020 (1.59 and 1.66). Data from the Queensland Perinatal Data Collection (QPDC) to December 2024 show that the slightly higher fertility recorded in 2021 led to 62,393 live births to Queensland mothers, a level last seen in the years 2012 to 2014 (Figure 7). The number of live births in 2023 decreased markedly from this peak, falling to 57,441, while preliminary data for 2024 and 2025 showed continued moderated births of 56,898 and 56,939 respectively.

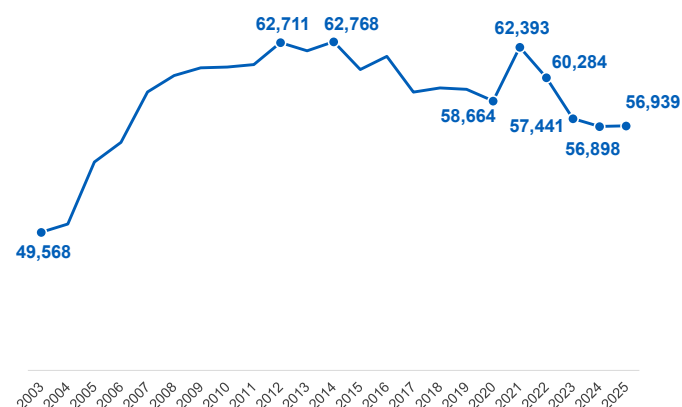
Post pandemic

As noted previously, Australia's total fertility rate in 2023 was the lowest on record (1.48), as was Queensland's at 1.51 births per woman.

This has occurred against a backdrop of record high temporary migration, including that of international students. Many of these temporary migrants are counted in the estimated resident population and will, in turn, be factored into fertility and paternity calculations.

Using Census data from 2021, the Centre for Populationⁱⁱ casts doubt on whether temporary migrants, in particular, students, contribute significantly to births while in Australia — these data showed that the number of children born to temporary visa holders of all ages is lower than both Australian-born and other overseas-born women. This was especially apparent among younger age groups.

Figure 7 Live births to Queensland mothers^(a)



(a) Data in the most recent years are preliminary and subject to revision.

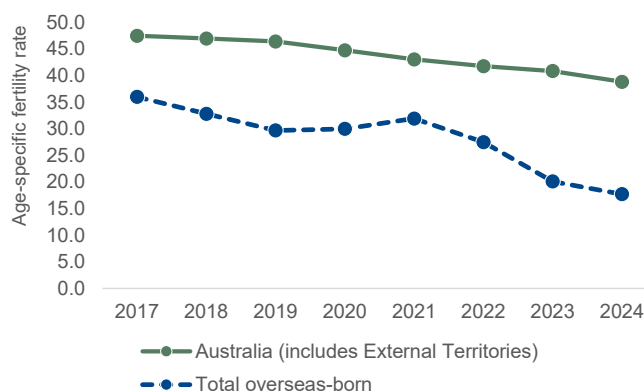
Total fertility rates by country of birth showed that TFR for all overseas born women in 2024 was 1.25 compared with 1.64 for Australian born women.

The difference between cohorts was much less in 2017 (1.68 for overseas born women and 1.76 for Australian born women), but has increased over time, with the divergence more apparent in recent years.

The overseas born female population grew much faster than the Australian born female population between 2017 to 2024, while the number of births to each cohort decreased.

The overall female overseas born population in 2024 was 25.1% higher than in 2017, compared with 1.3% for Australian born women — much of the increase in overseas born females occurred in both 2023 and 2024, most likely due to the influx of temporary student visa holders. Over the same period, the number of births to overseas born females decreased by 4.3% compared with 6.0% for Australian born females.

Figure 8 Age-specific fertility rate for 20–24 year olds, overseas born and Australian born



The difference in fertility rates is starker when looking at younger women (Figure 8). In 2024, overseas born 20–24 year old women had an age-specific rate at around less than half the rate of Australian born women (17.7 births per 1,000 overseas born women compared with 38.8 per 1,000 for Australian born women). Age-specific fertility rates of overseas born women and Australian women converged with increasing age.

McDonald (2020)ⁱ speculated that as much as 50% of the fertility decline among women in their 20s over the last decade was due to two compositional changes:

- the large increase in the number of temporary migrants, who are likely to have fertility rates close to zero
- to a lesser extent, the continued shift of women from the low education category to the high education category which involves a shift in the age of childbearing.

2.3 The future of fertility

In 2021, just over half of the world's 204 countries and territories included in the 2021 Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Studyⁱⁱⁱ had a TFR below replacement level — a TFR of 2.1 babies per woman of child-bearing age is currently considered replacement level for developed countries. The GBD Study estimates that by 2050, 155 of 204 (76%) countries and territories studied will have fertility rates below what is necessary to sustain population size over time. The GBD also predicts a future demographic divide, where the share of the world's livebirths will nearly double in low-income regions, from 18% in 2021 to 35% in 2100; and births in sub-Saharan Africa will account for one in every two children born by 2100. The forecast Australian TFR in the 2021 GBD study shows a gradual decline to 1.45 in 2050 and 1.32 by 2100.

The World Population Prospect 2024 revision published by the United Nations Population Division similarly shows falling fertility rates over time in most countries, with more than half of the countries and areas estimated to have below replacement fertility currently. Some of the greatest declines have occurred in developing^{iv} countries including China and India, with TFR in 2023 at 0.999 and 1.98, respectively. In 2023, China, Hong Kong SAR, Taiwan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Puerto Rico all recorded TFRs below 1.0, down from 4.0 or greater in 1965. The World Population Prospect 2024 revision anticipates the Australian TFR to be fairly stable up to 2100.

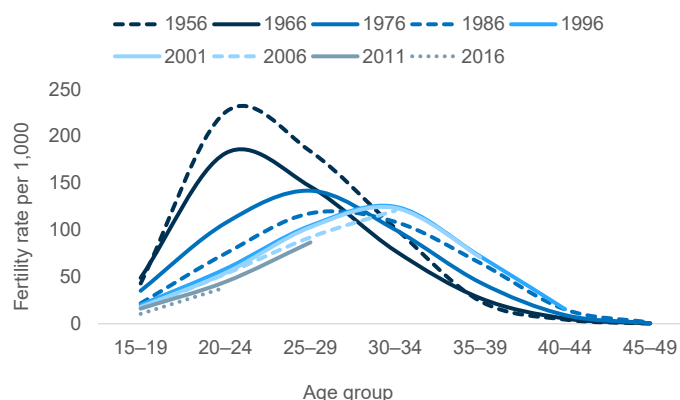
While projections assumption setting is based on TFR, TFR does not fully capture the fertility story. CCFR, the tempo effect and the quantum effect also need to be considered. Unfortunately, due to the way it is measured, completed cohort fertility (CCF) has a long lag effect, i.e., a cohort must age to the end of their childbearing years before it can be measured.

The increasing median age of new mothers shows that first births are being increasingly delayed over time, resulting in a compressed time frame for subsequent births. Gray and Lazzari (2023)^v used data from the 2021 Census to examine CCF for six cohorts: 1952–56, 1957–61, 1962–66, 1967–71, 1972–76 and 1977–81, with women in the latter cohort aged 40–44 years by the 2021 Census. They concluded that CCF has declined slowly over time from 2.22 births for the 1952–56 cohort, to 1.89 for the 1977–81 cohort, largely due to an increase in childlessness, and a decrease in larger families. Further, the authors found that while childlessness rates by education level have converged, women with lower education have become increasingly likely to have large families.

Australia's CCF has been steadily declining over time, from 2.46 for women born in 1945 to 1.99 among women born in 1971^{vi}. More recently, the ABS estimated that the CCF for women born in 1975 was 2.03 births per woman. The Centre for Population (2024) estimated a CCF of 1.71 births per woman for the cohort reaching 50 in 2042 (aged 19 in 2011). While this is above current published TFR, it is well down from the CCF of 1.99 births per woman for woman born in 1971 (aged 50 years in 2021).

Figure 9 shows the age-specific fertility rates of selected cohorts of women, that is, women who were aged 15–19 years in 1956, 1966, 1976, etc., as they aged through their childbearing years. The data demonstrates a change in tempo, with the peak fertility shifting to older age cohorts over time, from 20–24 years among the 1956 and 1966 cohort, to 30–34 years for the 1996 and 2001 cohorts. The peak fertility rate also decreased from 226 births per 1,000 females for the 1956 cohort, to 118 per 1,000 for the 1986 cohort. For subsequent cohorts, peak fertility at 30–34 years ranged from 123 to 125 per 1,000.

Figure 9 Fertility rates, birth cohorts aged 15–19 years in selected years



Societal drivers contributing to fertility decline such as rising female labour force participation, declining housing affordability and societal norms around family composition will continue to influence fertility decisions in the future. Of note, the Department of Treasury (2024)^{vii} concluded that low fertility will persist into the future, and in 2023^{viii}, projected that the high levels of female participation in the labour force (shown in Figure 3) will remain stable over the next 40 years.

It should be acknowledged that populations can continue to grow even when fertility falls below replacement rate, as long as there is a large enough cohort of women moving into their childbearing years — the effect of the age structure of the current population on its future size and composition is referred to as population momentum. Overseas migration also provides additional population, which in turn can also impact on births by increasing the size of the childbearing cohort.

3.0 Life expectancy

Life expectancy

Life expectancy at birth estimates the average number of years that a newborn baby born during a certain period would live, assuming they experience the age and sex-specific mortality rates recorded during that period through their lifetime.

Life expectancy can be used to compare mortality across populations or through time, as it standardises for the size, age and sex composition of the underlying population. This is important, as people of different ages, sexes and time periods do not experience the same mortality rates.

Life expectancy changes over the course of a person's life. As a person ages, their chance of reaching older age increases.

3.1 Long term trends

Consistent with national and international trends, male and female life expectancies at birth in Queensland have increased substantially since the late 1800s (Table 1). Historical life-expectancy improvements reflect improved prevention, detection and treatment of non-communicable diseases, better nutrition, hygiene and control of infectious diseases, improved road safety, as well as a reduction in tobacco smoking^{ix,x}.

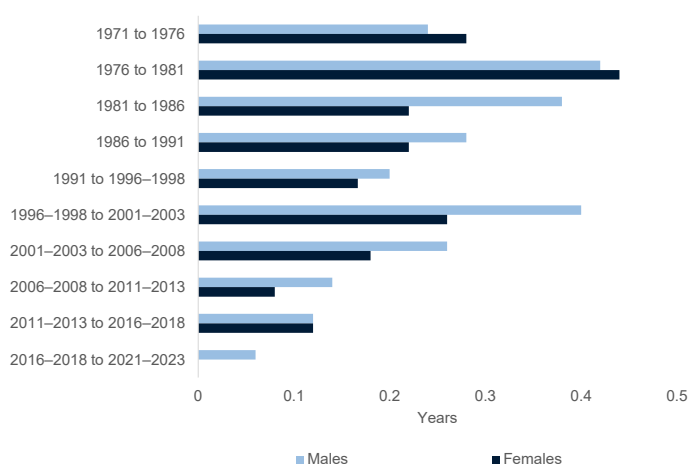
The magnitude of improvements in life expectancy has been variable over time. While average annual improvements were quite strong from the 1970s to the early-2000s, these have since slowed (Figure 10).

3.2 Recent trends

ABS estimates show life expectancy at birth increasing over recent years to 80.9 years for Queensland males in 2019–2021, and 85.1 years for Queensland females (Figure 11). Since then, the two subsequent rolling 3-year periods showed small decreases, with life expectancy at birth in 2021–2023 falling to 80.5 years for males and 84.7 years for females. No change was reported in 2022–2024.

Nationally, decreases in life expectancy were recorded in both 2020–2022 and 2021–2023, for the first time since 1985.

Figure 10 Life expectancy at birth by sex, average annual improvements^(a), 5-year intervals, Queensland



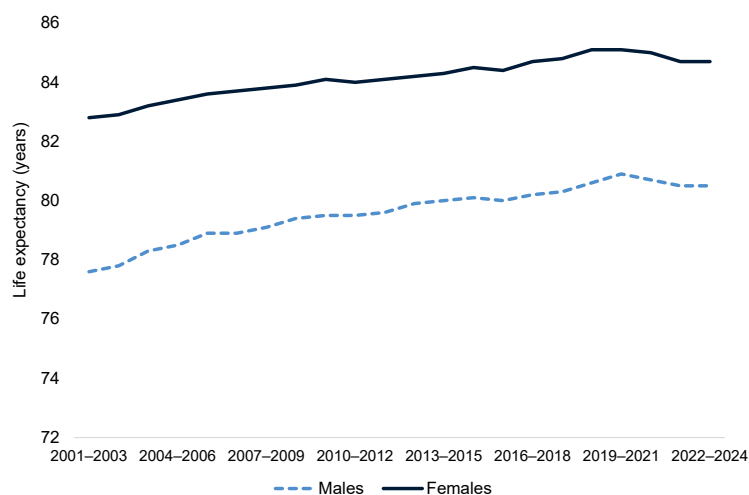
(a) The average annual improvement in male life expectancy between 2016–2018 to 2021–2023 was 0.06 years. Female life expectancy was unchanged.

Table 1 Life expectancy at birth^(a), selected periods, Queensland

Period	Males	Females
	— Years —	
1881–1890	41.3	49.8
1891–1900	49.5	55.8
1901–1910	54.2	59.3
...		
1971	67.8	74.7
1976	69.0	76.1
1981	71.1	78.3
1986	73.0	79.4
1991	74.4	80.5
1996–1998	75.6	81.5
2001–2003	77.6	82.8
2006–2008	78.9	83.7
2011–2013	79.6	84.1
2016–2018	80.2	84.7
2019–2021	80.9	85.1
2020–2022	80.7	85.0
2019–2021	80.9	85.1
2020–2022	80.7	85.0
2021–2023	80.5	84.7
2022–2024	80.5	84.7

(a) Data from after 1994 are based on three years of death registrations and estimated resident population data to reduce the impact of year-to-year statistical variations, particularly at younger ages where there are small numbers of deaths and at very old ages where the underlying population is small.

Figure 11 Life expectancy at birth, Queensland



3.2.1 Mortality rates

Queensland's infant mortality rate rapidly decreased over the 20 years to 2004, from 9.0 deaths per 1,000 live births to 5.2 per 1,000. Since then, the pace of change has moderated considerably with infant mortality rates ranging from a low of 3.5 in 2018 to 5.4 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2009 and 2010. In 2024, the rate was 5.0 deaths per 1,000 live births, up from 4.4 in 2023.

Queensland's mortality rates in all 5-year age cohorts, except centenarians, decreased over the 40-year period 1984 to 2024. Features include:

- consistent patterns in rates over time among age groups over 40 years of age, though at lower levels each decade
- proportionally large decreases in rates among younger age cohorts, for example:
 - from 0.8 deaths per 1,000 to 0.3 per 1,000 for 15–19 year olds
 - from 0.9 deaths per 1,000 to 0.4 per 1,000 for 20–24 year olds
- a proportionally small decrease among 35–39 year olds, from 1.2 deaths per 1,000 in 1984, to 0.8 per 1,000 in 2024.

COVID-19 as an underlying cause of death

Throughout the pandemic, the ABS reported the total number of deaths due to COVID-19 registered by jurisdictional Registries of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

Queensland experienced very few COVID-19 deaths in 2020 and 2021— seven people died in Queensland with COVID-19 attributed as the underlying cause of death (either the acute infection or the long-term effects).

This figure increased to 69 deaths by the end of January 2022 and subsequently reached a total of 1,691 deaths during 2022 (Table 2). The number of COVID-19 related deaths (people who died with COVID-19 rather than directly from the virus itself) in 2022 was 646, falling to 351 deaths in 2023. For context, there were 38,160 deaths recorded from all causes within Queensland in 2022, and 36,622 deaths in 2023^{xii}.

The ABS note that while Australia’s age-standardised mortality rate stabilised in 2023 (513.0 deaths per 100,000 people) compared with 2022 (547.6 deaths per 100,000 people), there was still approximately 5.1% higher than expected mortality in 2023. COVID-19 fell to be the 12th leading cause of death in 2024, down from 9th in 2023, and 3rd in 2022^{xiii}.

Modelling of excess deaths in Queensland for 2022, the peak of Queensland’s pandemic related deaths shows an excess mortality estimate of 10.6%.

The impact of the pandemic continues, with registered death data showing 706 deaths in Queensland in 2024 due to COVID-19, equating to 1,350 years of potential life lost. Preliminary mortality data show a further 302 deaths in 2025^{xiv}.

Excess mortality

Excess mortality is used to account for changes in mortality due to all causes, not just COVID-19. It reflects the impacts of changes in personal behaviour, as well as restrictions and measures enacted during the pandemic, on all causes of death, including increases or reductions in deaths from other causes.

Excess mortality is the difference between the observed number of all-cause deaths during a period and the expected number of deaths based on recent history.

To account for the natural variation in the number of deaths, excess mortality for a particular period is considered to be higher or lower than expected only if it falls outside the 95% confidence interval of the expected estimate for the same period^{xi}.

Table 2 COVID-19 related deaths^(a) summary statistics, Queensland

Year	COVID-19 related deaths ^(b)		Deaths due to COVID-19 ^(c)		Excess mortality ^(d)
	— number —	Age-standardised mortality rate (per 100,000)	— number —	Age-standardised mortality rate (per 100,000)	— % —
2020	0	..	4	n.p.	-4.3
2021	0	..	3	n.p.	1.0
2022	646	9.4	1,691	24.3	10.6
2023	351	4.9	766	10.6	4.6

n.p. not published

Notes:

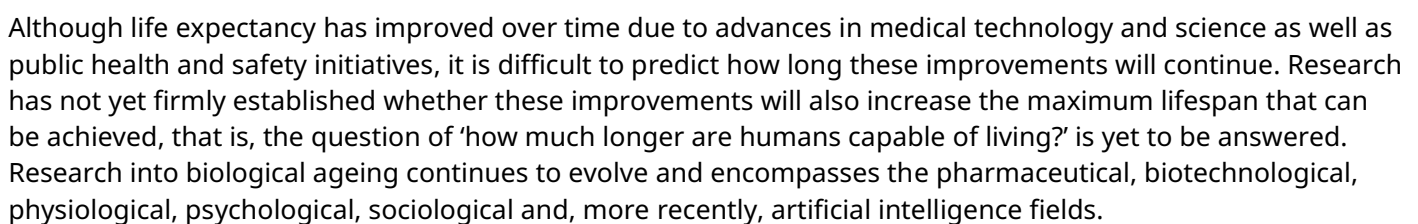
- (a) Data are provisional and subject to change.
- (b) COVID-19 related deaths have an associated cause of either ICD-10 code U07.1 COVID-19, virus identified; U07.2 COVID-19, virus not identified; or U09 Post COVID-19 condition.
- (c) Includes COVID-19 deaths (both doctor and coroner certified) that occurred and were registered by 31 January 2024. Numbers will differ to disease surveillance systems.
- (d) Excess mortality modelling in 2023 is only based on registered deaths up to 31 December 2023 received by the ABS by 31 March 2024.

Source: ABS, COVID-19 Mortality in Australia: Deaths that occurred and were registered by 31 January 2024

While declining infant mortality has played a significant role in increasing life expectancy over time, mortality rates have declined across all age groups, resulting in increasing life expectancy across all ages. Using life expectancy data for Australian males from the Human Mortality Database^{xv} shows that males of all ages are now living longer than 50 years ago (Figure 12). For example:

- Similar patterns are evident among women over time.

Life expectancy (years)



While it is probable that Australia will see an increase in the number of centenarians over the coming decades as the post-World War II birth population ages, to improve life expectancy, an increase in both the number and proportion of people surviving to very old ages, for example, well beyond 100 years would also be required. A 2023 paper by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)^{xvi} noted that while Australia has seen significant gains in life expectancy over time, this has not been matched by changes in the maximum age at death.

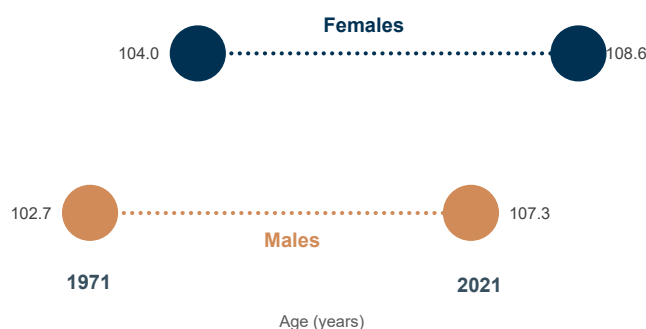
In 2024, 1 in 65 Australian deaths registered was a centenarian, up from 1 in 920, 50 years earlier.

Looking at deaths of people 105 years and older shows an improvement but at much lower ratios, 1 in 18,470 deaths in 1973 and 1 in 1,254 deaths in 2023. The AIHW report looked at the average age of the 10 most elderly deaths over time — while the data show year on year variability, a comparison of 1971 and 2021, shows that the average age at death increased by 4.6 years for both females and males (Figure 13).

AIHW concluded that the current data indicate that mortality is being compressed into older ages and may be converging towards a maximum:

- while there has been a small improvement to maximum life span in Australia over time, the rate of increase is much slower than for the average life span (life expectancy)
- the gains in longevity based on the average expected age for 85 year olds are outpaced by the gains in maximum age at death.

Figure 13 Average age at death for the 10 most elderly deaths by sex, Australia



4.0 Overseas migration

Net overseas migration

Net overseas migration (NOM) is the net gain or loss of population through immigration to and emigration from Australia, regardless of nationality, citizenship, legal status, or visa category.

From September quarter 2006, ABS estimates of NOM have been based on a traveller's actual duration of stay or absence using the '12/16' rule.

- an incoming international traveller who stays in Australia for 12 months or more within a 16-month period, and who is not currently counted in Australia's population, is defined to be a migrant arrival.
- an outgoing traveller who is subsequently absent from Australia for 12 months or more within a 16-month period, and who is currently counted in the population, is defined to be a migrant departure.

Some overseas migration data can be further disaggregated by their visa status: Australian citizens, New Zealand citizens, permanent visa holders, temporary student visa holders and all other temporary visa holders.

4.1 Recent trends

The ABS introduced a new method for measuring overseas migration in 2006–07. Since that time, there has been considerable variation in estimates of NOM both nationally and in Queensland. These variations reflect changing economic conditions, immigration programs and policies, and more recently, the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overseas migration impacts during the COVID-19 pandemic

In each of the years from 2014–15 to 2020–21, annual population growth was lower than 2.0% per year, with a notable drop to 0.1% recorded in 2020–21, reflecting the impact of border restrictions on NOM. NOM was the most significant contributor to Queensland's population over the three years to 2024–25, adding around 214,030^{xvii} additional residents — around 3 in every 5 additional residents over the period were attributed to NOM. While Queensland experienced record NOM in both 2022–23 and 2023–24, NOM moderated in 2024–25 to 55,670 persons due to decreasing arrivals and increasing departures.

Queensland's share of NOM in Australia was 19.8% in 2006–07, remaining relatively stable over time before dropping to 11.1% in 2014–15, then trending upwards to 14.5% by 2019–20 (Figure 14).

While NOM for Australia and Queensland was negative in 2020–21 due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, positive levels returned in 2021–22, with the Queensland share again estimated at 14.7%.

Notably, while Queensland's overall NOM gain fell in 2024–25, its share of Australia's NOM increased from 16.1% in 2022–23 to 18.3% in 2024–25.

Quarterly NOM data was highly variable during the pandemic period. Between June quarter 2020 and December quarter 2021, Queensland recorded either NOM losses or historically low levels of NOM gains.

Following the removal of travel restrictions, Queensland's NOM recovered to reach 26,520 persons in March quarter 2023 — the highest quarterly gain recorded in the current timeseries (since July 2006^{xviii}). Eight of the highest recorded quarterly NOM gains in the current time series occurred in the most recent 12 quarters (2022–23 to 2024–25).

After the opening of international borders, post pandemic, migrant arrivals increased rapidly, reaching a record 124,520 persons in 2022–23, largely driven by temporary visa holders (Figure 15). In comparison, migrant departures have been much slower to recover and are yet to return to levels recorded prior to the pandemic.

Migrant arrivals in 2023–24 moderated from the record high, falling 6.3%, before decreasing by a further 8.5% to 106,550 in 2024–25. In comparison, migrant departures were up by 18.9% in 2023–24 and increased by a further 13.6% in 2024–25 to 50,880.

Figure 14 Net overseas migration, Queensland and Australia

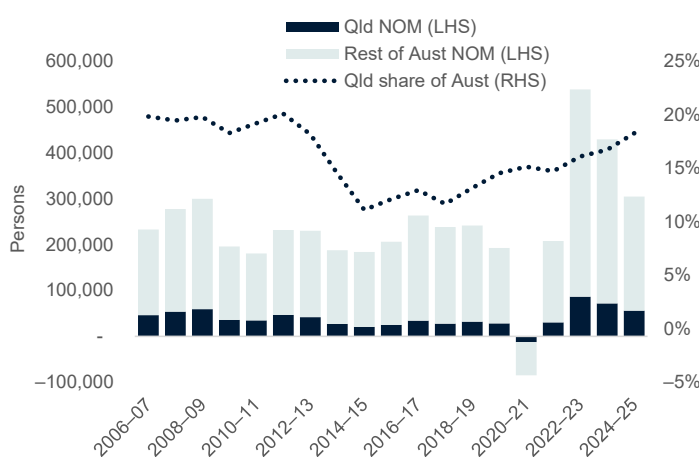
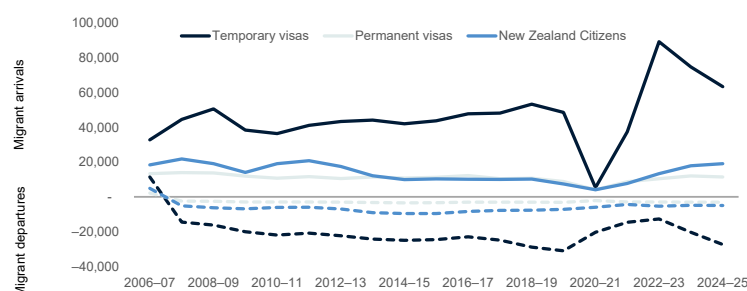


Figure 15 Migrant arrivals and departures by selected visa category, Queensland



Queensland accounted for 37.2% of the national NOM gain of 38,210 New Zealand citizens in 2024–25.

Post-pandemic, Queensland experienced a rapid increase in temporary visa holders, reaching 89,190 arrivals in 2022–23, offset by relatively few migrant departures (-12,670 persons). Temporary visa holder arrivals

moderated in 2023–24 to 74,720 persons, while departures increased to 20,300 persons. In 2024–25, there were 63,420 arrivals, offset by 27,410 departures.

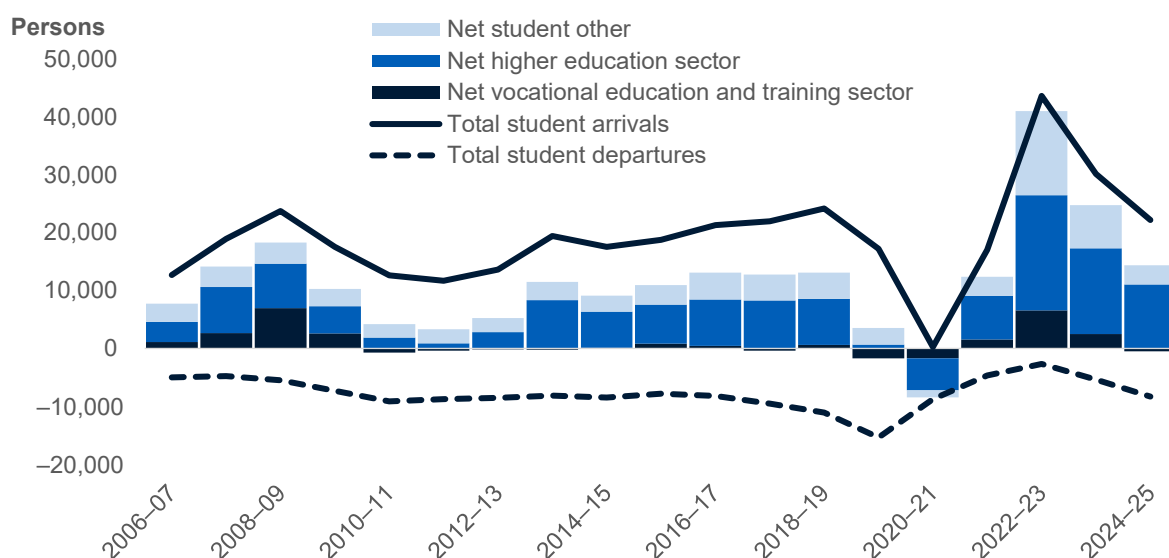
Notably, New Zealand Citizen arrivals have also increased over the three most recent years, reaching 19,130 persons in 2024–25, the highest level recorded since 2011–12. Queensland saw a net gain of 14,210 New Zealand citizens in 2024–25, 37.2% of Australia's total.

Temporary student visa holders accounted for more than half of NOM attributed to temporary visa holders in 11 of the 19 years from 2006–07.

International border closures during the pandemic disproportionately affected international students, with NOM losses recorded for all student visa types in 2020–21, following a notable contraction in numbers in 2019–20 (Figure 16). The recovery in international student numbers experienced in 2021–22 (12,420 persons) was surpassed in 2022–23, with a record NOM gain of 40,990 students for Queensland. This figure was more than double the previous peak recorded in 2008–09 (18,280 persons).

NOM gain through student visa holders decreased dramatically over the following two years, to 13,920 persons in 2024–25, due to softening arrivals and increasing departures.

Figure 16 Temporary visa holders — students, Queensland

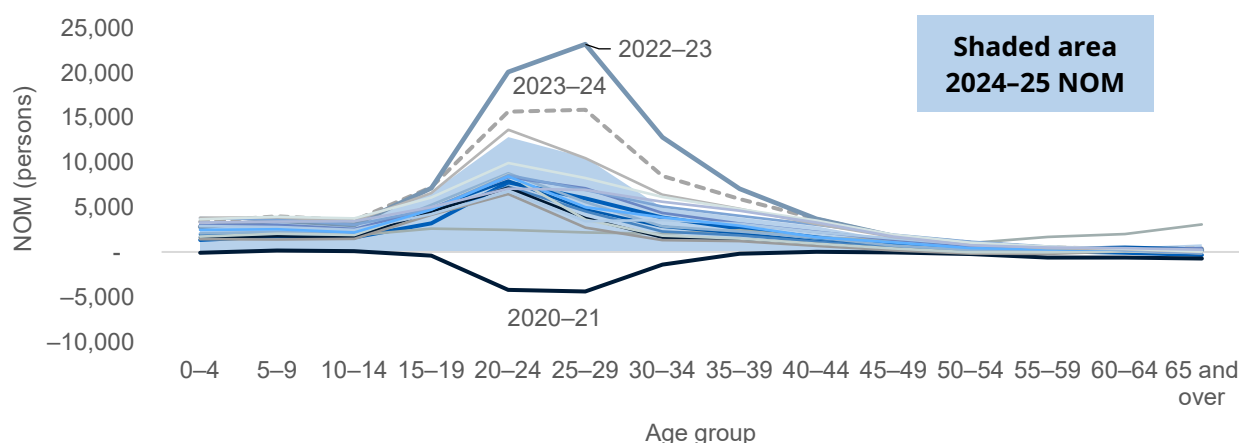


Almost half of the student migrant arrivals in 2022–23 were higher education visa holders. While the overseas migration data released by the ABS does not provide a breakdown, other data sources indicate that these arrivals were likely to include both commencing students and returning students.

Higher education courses cover a range of course levels including Bachelor degrees and postgraduate studies. Students enrolled in these courses are likely to be studying in Australia for at least two years. As such, migrant departures may take some time to recover due to both fewer arrivals during the pandemic period, and students taking time to complete their studies.

While NOM levels vary between years, typically patterns by age have been relatively consistent over time — from 2007–08 to 2018–19, 20–24 year olds were Queensland's largest NOM cohort (Figure 17). The pandemic years disrupted this pattern, with the largest gain in 2019–20, among person aged 65 years and older. In both 2022–23 and 2023–24, the largest NOM cohort was 25–29 year olds, followed by 20–24 year olds. The following year, 2024–25, saw 20–24 year olds as the largest NOM group, closely followed by 25–29 year olds.

These large younger cohorts are driven by temporary visa holders, primarily students, followed by working holiday makers — Working Holiday visa (subclass 417) is typically restricted to persons aged 18 to 30 years.

Figure 17 NOM, by age, 2006–07 onwards, Queensland

4.2 The future of overseas migration

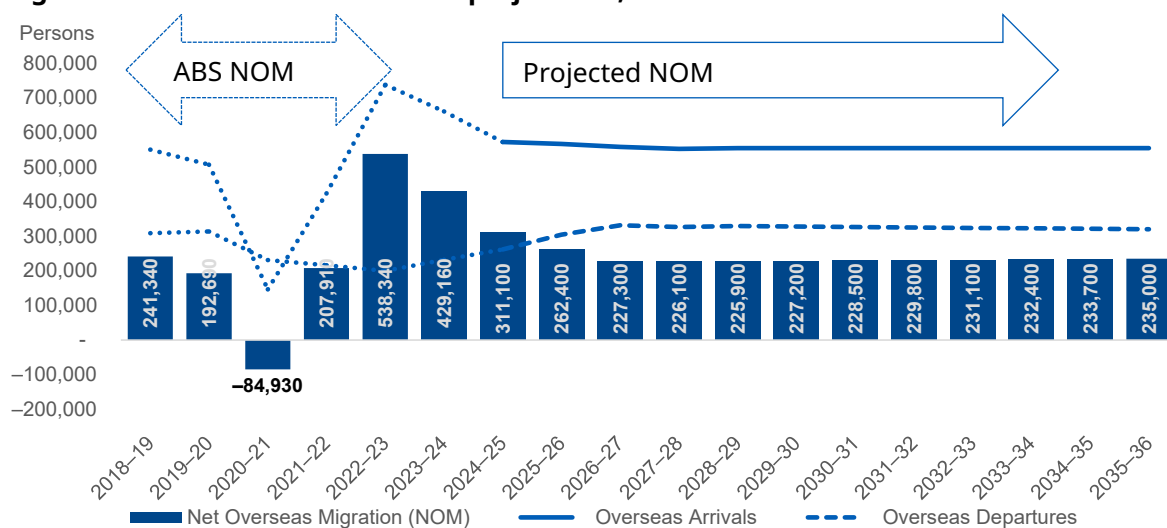
There is an expectation that departures will recover once visas issued during the peak periods reach their end of stay, and that arrivals will reduce as new migration policies take effect.

The Australian Government has responded to concerns over increased migration in recent years by implementing a number of reforms to reduce overall migration and increase skilled migration by targeting temporary skilled migration to address skills needs. These are included in the Migration Strategy^{xix} released on 11 December 2023.

The Australian Government's Centre for Population (the Centre) routinely produces population projections to inform Commonwealth budgets and the annual Population Statement. These are regularly revised to reflect the latest available information about population and migration related policies and typically contain a breakdown of projected growth by components, both nationally and for jurisdictions. National projections associated with the 2025 Population Statement (9 January 2026) included breakdowns by visa category which provide insights into the assumed future impacts of recent migration policy changes.

NOM was projected to decrease rapidly over the two years 2024–25 and 2025–26 as a result of:

- assumed decreases in migrant arrivals which are projected to fall to 594,000 persons by 2026–27
- assumed increases in migrant departures, projected to grow to 370,000 persons by 2026–27 (Figure 18).

Figure 18 NOM estimates and projections, Australia

Preliminary NOM for 2024–25 released by the ABS on 18 December 2025 showed NOM moderating slightly faster than projected, 305,570 persons compared with the 311,100 projected by the Centre, due to fewer arrivals and more departures than projected. The 2024 Population Statement projected national NOM to be around 341,700 in 2024–25.

New Zealand Citizens

Of note, and particularly relevant to Queensland, the Centre projected that the national NOM gain from New Zealand would decline over time, from 38,300 persons in 2024–25 to 16,500 persons in 2028–29, driven largely by an assumed decrease in migrant arrivals, rather than changes in migrant departures. The 2024 Population Statement reports that high levels of New Zealand migrant arrivals have historically been associated with high unemployment in New Zealand. Preliminary NOM for 2024–25 shows a gain of 38,210 New Zealand citizens.

Temporary student visa holders

As noted in the Migration Strategy, “international students and graduates make up the largest share of ‘permanently temporary’ migrants, with 108,000 having lived in Australia for 5 or more years.” This is, in part, due to students shifting on to another student visa while onshore or by shifting back to another student visa from a graduate visa. Numbers of international students staying in Australia on a second, or subsequent student visa grew by over 30% to more than 150,000 in 2022–23. The Government has introduced new policies to restrict ‘visa hopping’ by students. Further, visitor visa holders will no longer be able to apply for student visas onshore^{xx}. The visitor to student pathway saw over 36,000 applications from 1 July 2023 to the end of May 2024. Further, the Grattan Institute recently found that a growing share of Temporary Graduate visa-holders are returning to further study visas when their initial visa expires: up from 16% of those first issued with a Temporary Graduate visa in 2014, to 32% for those issued with the visa in 2018^{xxi}.

Given the sheer volume of international student arrivals in recent years, these new policies are likely to impact on levels of arrivals and departures, and length of stay. Measures to limit ‘visa hopping’ will mean some people will depart who would otherwise have remained in Australia. The Centre projects that temporary student arrivals will decrease from recent highs to 157,500 in 2024–25, before settling at around 187,000 per year over the longer run (Figure 19). These are expected to be offset by projected increases in departures as the current student cohorts complete their studies (Figure 20). According to the 2024 Population Statement, the increase in wait times of onshore student visa processing, and a large number of people seeking review of visa decisions by the Administrative Review Tribunal (ART) may further delay potential departures. Depending on their visa conditions, those applying for another visa from within Australia can continue to work and study in Australia while they await the outcome of their reviews. As at 31 March 2026, there were 51,582 active student visa refusal cases awaiting review by the ART^{xxii}.

Figure 19 Projected migrant arrivals by type, Australia

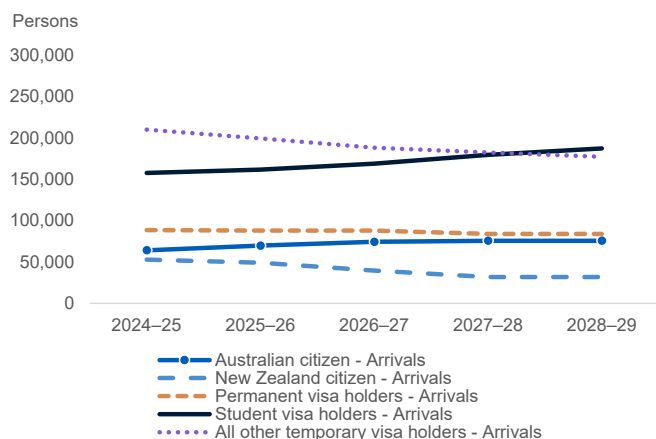
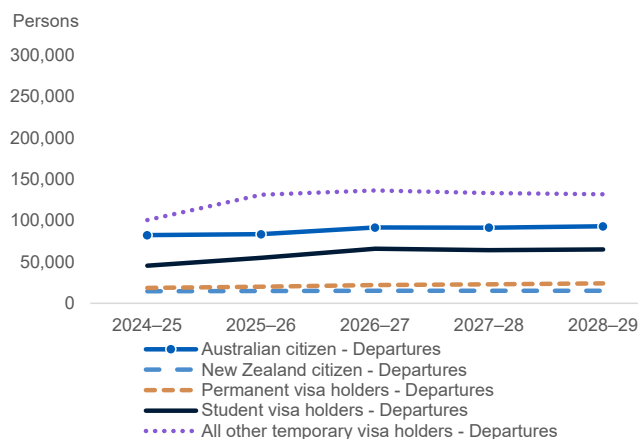


Figure 20 Projected migrant departures by type, Australia



The 2025 Population Statement projects that temporary student visa holders will contribute 36% of Australia's NOM in 2024–25, before increasing slightly to 53.9% in 2028–29.

Other temporary visa holders

This group includes visitors, skilled workers and working holiday makers. Migrant arrivals in this group are projected to decrease over time to 177,200 by 2028–29. In contrast, migrant departures are expected to continue to increase, peaking at 136,500 in 2026–27. The 2025 Population Statement notes that visitor visa migrant arrivals have recently declined as a result of changes in migration rules that prevent visitors applying for a student visa while in Australia.

Working holiday maker migrant arrivals in 2022–23 and 2023–24 were the highest levels recorded in the current time series, while migrant departures were yet to recover. These visa holders can stay up to three years if specific eligibility criteria are met. The 2024 Population Statement noted that working holiday makers have been staying in Australia longer than they were before the pandemic, with a greater share staying over 12 months. As such, once this wave reaches the limits of their stays, departures could be expected to increase.

Migrant arrivals on temporary work (skilled) visas were also high in 2022–23 and 2023–24, while departures were the lowest recorded in the current time series.

Permanent visa holders

Permanent visa holders are projected to fall to a net of 59,700 persons by 2028–29.

The Department of Home Affairs^{xxiii} reports that for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 September 2024, Permanent Skilled visa application lodgements increased by 18.3 per cent compared with same period in the previous year, including increases of 13.1 per cent in Migration Skilled and 48.3 per cent in Non-migration Skilled visas being lodged.

Notable temporary visa subclasses

Working holiday visa (subclass 417)

- up to a 3 year stay if eligibility conditions are met

Skills in demand (subclass 482)

- up to a 4 year stay, with exceptions
- replaces temporary work (skilled) (subclass 457); Temporary Skill Shortage (subclass 482) with stays of 2 to 4 years, typically.

Temporary graduate (subclass 485)

- new conditions introduced in December 2024.

5.0 Interstate migration

Net interstate migration

Net interstate migration (NIM) is the net result of population movement into a state or territory from other states or territories to reside (arrivals), minus equivalent movement out of the state or territory (departures).

The ABS models NIM using:

- change of address data from Medicare
- movements derived from Department of Defence data
- Census-based expansion factors
 - Expansion factors account for missing movements due to delayed Medicare registrations and address updates, and for some usual residents not eligible for Medicare. They are multiplied by Medicare movement data to get estimates of interstate migration by state, age and sex.

5.1 Long-term trends

The current interstate migration time series published by the ABS commenced in June 1981. Data are published quarterly with a 6-month lag. The overall Australian migration rate shows considerable volatility over time, with sharp drops and peaks associated with significant events including economic downturns (Figure 21). Apart from the recent pandemic associated shocks, Australia's interstate migration rate has been trending down since the 1990s.

There has been considerable variation in Queensland's interstate migration over time, with arrivals typically more variable than departures (Figure 22).

Figure 21 Interstate migration rate, Australia

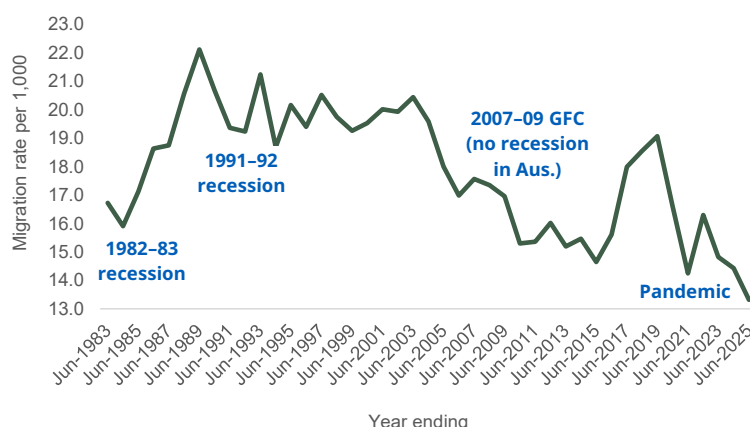
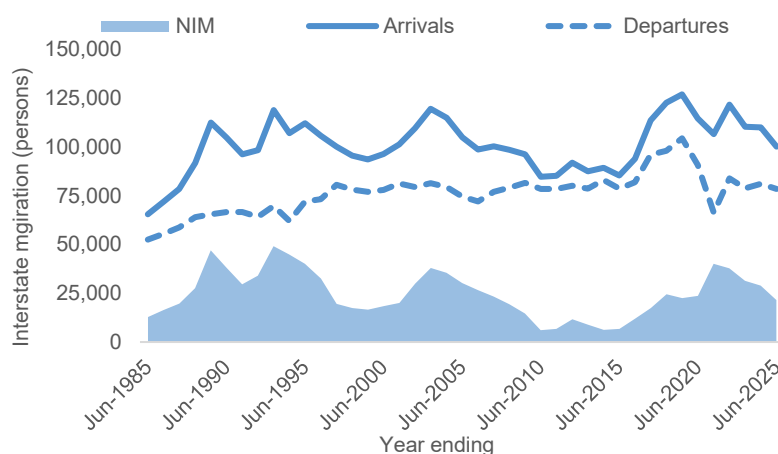


Figure 22 Annual interstate migration, Queensland



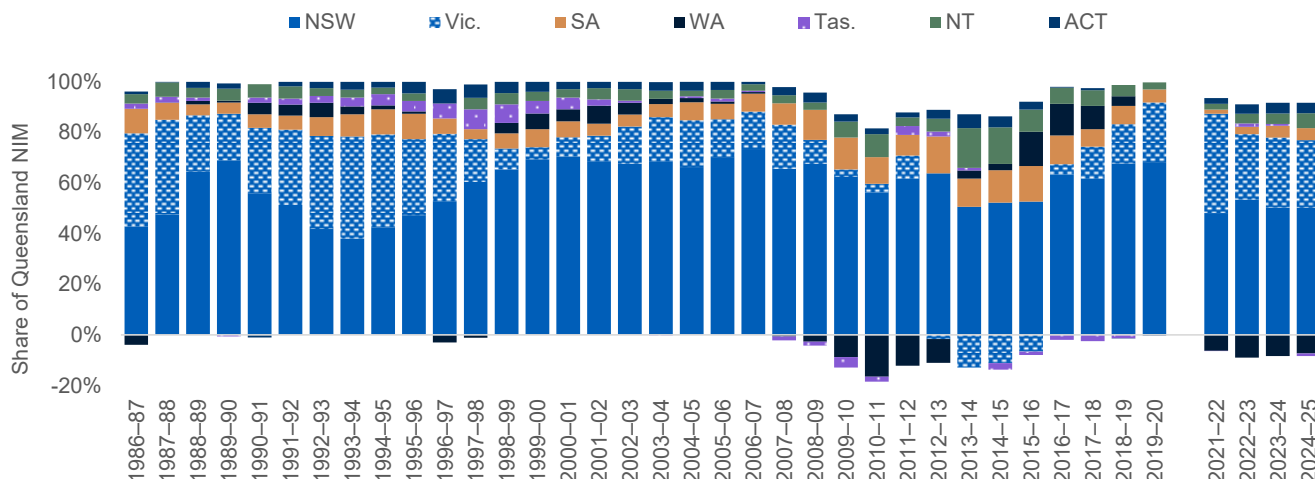
Queensland experienced more than a decade of moderating to relatively low NIM from 2004–05 onwards, due to declining arrivals and relatively stable departures.

The period 2016–17 to 2017–18 saw increases in both arrivals and departures, with a faster increase in arrivals than departures, resulting in increasing NIM. Departures reached a record 104,430 departures from Queensland to other states and territories in 2018–19, also matched by record arrivals (127,070 persons) at that point.

The subsequent pandemic period had a considerable impact on interstate arrivals with Queensland seen as a destination of choice from other states and territories. Queensland experienced a relatively high number of arrivals in 2021–22 (121,700 persons) resulting in high NIM (37,810 persons) for that year.

Queensland is the only jurisdiction to have gained population through NIM in every quarter since June 1981. The largest source of NIM to Queensland has consistently been New South Wales (Figure 23). The second-largest flow of NIM to Queensland over the past seven years has been from Victoria. However, net interstate flows between Queensland and Victoria have been mixed over the years. Queensland experienced a net outflow of population to Victoria over the years 2012–13 through to 2015–16, which overlapped to some extent with the years Queensland experienced a period of record low NIM. Similarly, Queensland has experienced net outflows to Western Australia since 2019–20, peaking at –3,420 persons in 2022–23.

Analyses by the University of Queensland (2020)^{xxiv} found that some of the flows to Queensland from other jurisdictions include recently arrived immigrants who migrated to Queensland after arriving and residing in Sydney and Melbourne, the main ports of entry to Australia.

Figure 23 Net interstate migration by region of departure^(a), Queensland

(a) Interstate migration data by regions of arrival and departure for 2020-21 are not comparable to other years as their sums are not consistent with the net interstate migration totals published elsewhere.

5.2 Recent trends

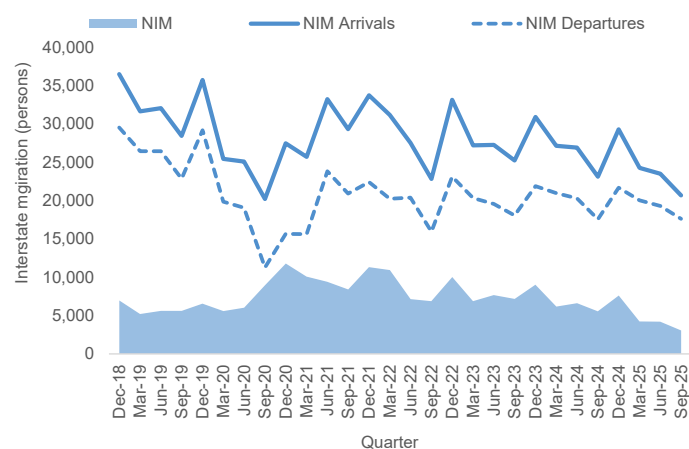
The current ABS time series since 1981 shows that Queensland has consistently recorded more interstate arrivals than departures, and therefore consistently positive NIM.

Interstate migration impacts during the COVID-19 pandemic

The pandemic and associated management measures disrupted interstate migration trends, with impacts seen on both the magnitude and timing of movements around the nation. Various measures relating to movements across Queensland's state border were introduced from 26 March 2020, and variously applied, until lifted entirely from 15 January 2022.

Despite border closures, interstate arrivals to Queensland remained relatively high throughout the pandemic with at least 20,000 arrivals each quarter (Figure 24).

Quarterly NIM has since moderated from some of the relatively high levels recorded during the pandemic period, falling to 3,060 persons in September quarter 2025, the lowest quarterly result since 2015.

Figure 24 Quarterly interstate migration, Queensland

Some moves recorded in the 2021 NIM were likely to be people who were already in Queensland^{xxv}.

NIM modelling relies heavily on change-of address records in Medicare. The ABS compared Medicare and Census data over-time and found that the level of under-reporting of change of address data in Medicare changed in the most recent intercensal period, which coincided with the pandemic period. In particular, there was an uptake of COVID-19 vaccinations in 2021 which impacted on usual Medicare reporting behaviours — for June, September and December quarters 2021, Medicare change of address data showed an implausibly high number of moves for these quarters attributed to widespread updating of Medicare records as people got vaccinated for COVID-19. Not all the address changes recorded in each quarter happened within the quarter. The ABS also found that there was an increase in electronic Medicare claiming options at the doctor's office, online and by mobile phone app which was associated with increased under-reporting of address change.

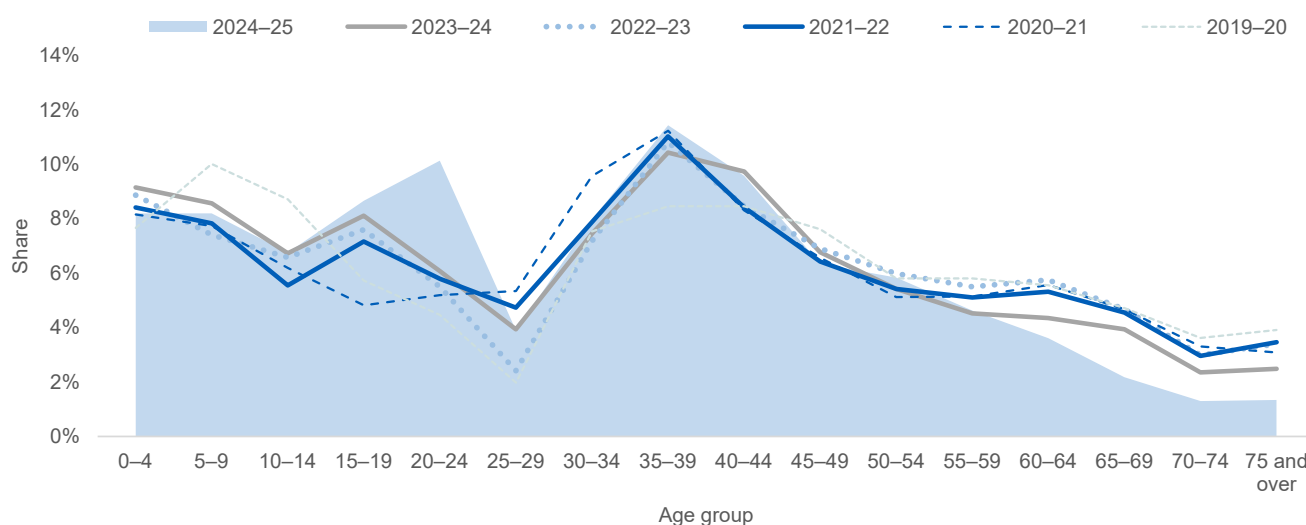
5.2.1 Age profile of NIM

While NIM mobility patterns by age have varied over time, typically NIM gains have been recorded in all age groups over the time series (Figure 25). The exception was the 10-year period 2009–10 to 2018–19 where NIM losses were recorded among 25–29 year olds. NIM in this age group recovered during the pandemic period, to comprise 2% to 5% of NIM each year over 2019–20 to 2024–25.

The greatest NIM gains each year have typically been among young children or people in their 30s — age groups typically associated with families.

The highest mobility in NIM arrivals and departures in 2024–25 occurred among 20–24 and 25–29 year olds. This pattern was similar to NOM arrivals and departures. Unlike NOM, however, the greatest net gains in NIM were seen among 35–39 year olds, followed by 20–24 year olds, the latter being somewhat of a departure from patterns seen in other years.

Figure 25 Net interstate migration, distribution by age, selected years, Queensland



5.3 The future of interstate migration

Reasons for internal migration

Throughout the current time series, NIM has experienced considerable variation, driven largely by volatility in arrivals rather than departures. Research into internal migration (interstate and intrastate) has identified a range of factors driving internal migration (both interstate and intrastate), including:

- age
- proximity to family and friends
- housing affordability and availability
- amenity and lifestyle
- labour force status and employment related factors.

The Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) longitudinal survey collects information from respondents about reasons for migration. Kalemba et al (2022)^{xxvi} using data from 2002 to 2018, identified that:

- housing reasons accounted, on average, for 40% of all **intrastate** movement and, together with family reasons, drove almost two-thirds of all intrastate movement.
- family reasons accounted for, on average, 33% of all **interstate** migration, and was on par with employment-related migration.
- the observed decline in internal migration over the study period was not driven by a single reason
- despite small year-on-year variations, the relative importance of reasons for migration remained largely stable over the entire period.

More recently, a survey of over 4,300 Australian residents from a representative sample^{xxvii} found that the most important trigger for a move for people migrating interstate and from overseas was 'to take up a job' (over 35% of respondents who had moved during the past five years), followed by 'to be near family or friends'. Variations by age included: retirement, healthcare and being near family and friends were substantially more important for over 60s, while access to tertiary education was much more important for under 30s.

Factors for not moving also showed clear age patterns: cost of moving was most important for younger people, schooling was most important for middle-aged cohorts, while health and other government services were most important for older people.

While looking into the possible impacts of the pandemic on interstate migration, Bernard et al (2020)^{xxiv} modelled interstate migration rates as a function of real GDP per capita at the national level, unemployment rate, female labour force participation, and the share of the population aged 20 to 40 years, to determine associations over both the short and long term. It was identified that GDP per capita was the only variable to have a statistically significant association with both short (positive) and long term (negative) migration. The researchers surmised that as countries develop economically, the level of internal migration goes down. The proportion of 20 to 40 year olds in the population was positively associated with interstate migration over the long-term i.e. an increase in the share of population in this age group will increase the interstate migration rate. At the state and territory level, the modelling showed that an increase in a state's relative unemployment rate and property prices will result in increased migration out of the state, with the relative unemployment rate increase also associated with lowered migration into that state^{xxvii}.

Referring to the overall decline in the rate of interstate moves over recent decades, the Centre for Population (2024)ⁱⁱ speculate that this could, in part, be driven by the increase in double income families over the past 20 years — these families require greater benefits to be derived from a move to make leaving two careers, networks, and incomes beneficial.

Access to, and improvements in remote working options and conditions may influence internal mobility, allowing people to live in areas away from where they work, or become digital nomads, i.e. workers unconstrained by geographic location. Certainly, the COVID-19 pandemic saw working from home (WFH) introduced for those employees in roles that could readily WFH. Speculation that this would result in permanent structural change leading to full-time remote working arrangements now seems somewhat premature, with many employers adopting flexible hybrid models post pandemic and more recently working towards transitioning workers back into the office more days each week^{xxviii,xxix}.

Surveys show that nationally, the average number of WFH days per week decreased from a peak of 2.95 days per person in March 2020, to 1.15 days in September 2022. A more recent survey, March 2023, found levels similar to that reported in September 2022. While questions about WFH days are not asked in each Census of Population and Housing, the 2026 Census will shed more light on whether journey to work patterns and migration patterns have changed since the 2016 and 2021 Censuses.

Modelling by The Centre for International Economics (2023)^{xxx} concluded that while there is a significant relationship between higher unemployment and lower rates of migration, the clearest predictor of future net migration is historical net migration. Depending on whether or not the peak pandemic years were included in calculations, the 20-year annual average NIM level for Queensland ranged from 18,770 to 19,440 persons (Table 3).

Table 3 Long-term annual average interstate migration to September 2025, Queensland

	Arrivals	Departures	Net
20-year average, pre-pandemic			
Persons	101,510	82,440	19,070
20-year average, excluding pandemic peak years (2021 and 2022)			
Persons	101,110	82,340	18,770
20-year average, including pandemic peak years			
Persons	101,890	82,490	19,400

Note: Data are rounded to nearest 10.

6.0 Notes

Recent and/or relevant changes to visas

Under Australia's recent migration Strategy ([Migration Strategy – At a Glance](#)), a number of changes to visa conditions and eligibility have been implemented or are due to be phased in. Many of these are designed to manage the nature and level of temporary overseas migrant arrivals. A selection of these are described below.

From the end of 2023, the Temporary Residence Transition stream of the Employer Nomination Scheme (subclass 186 visa) was made available to all Temporary Skill Shortage (TSS) visa holders whose employers wish to sponsor them. Applicants need to continue to work in the occupation nominated for their TSS visa, with occupations not limited to the Medium and Long-term Strategic Skills List, and eligibility was reduced from three years to two years employment with the sponsoring employer.

Student visas

In September 2023, changes were made to prevent students from enrolling in other concurrent courses during the first six months of study in their principal course. The Government has replaced the Genuine Temporary Entrant (GTE) requirement for Student visas with a Genuine Student (GS) requirement effective for student visa applications lodged on and after 23 March 2024. New English language requirements were also introduced on 23 March 2024 – these requirements do not apply to Student visa applications lodged before 23 March 2024.

From 10 May 2024, the financial requirement that applies to Student and Student Guardian visas will be set at \$29,710 for an individual student. The new financial requirement applies to any visas lodged on or after 10 May 2024.

A revised age limit for applying for a temporary graduate visas in 2024, [lowering it from 50 to 35 years old](#), has been introduced for most applicants, except for Masters by research graduates, PhD graduates, and graduates who hold a Hong Kong or British National Overseas passport.

Changes have also been made to the [duration of stay](#) for international students on temporary graduate visas, with bachelor degrees and Masters by coursework graduates now allowed to stay for two-years initially, and three years for Masters by research and PhD graduates. The duration of stay may be different for Indian nationals, as well as Hong Kong and British National Overseas passport holders.

As of 1 January 2025, every student visa application must include a valid Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE), or it will be deemed invalid.

Restrictions on applying for a student visa while in Australia when holding certain visas have also been introduced.

Visitor Visa holders will not be able to apply for Student Visas onshore.

Temporary Graduate Visa holders will not be able to apply for Student Visas onshore. In their **Graduates in Limbo** [report](#), the Grattan Institute found that 32 per cent of Temporary Graduate Visa holders in 2018 were returning to study when their visa expired in order to prolong their stay in Australia.

New Zealand citizens

From 1 July 2023, New Zealand citizens holding a Special Category (subclass 444) visa who have been living in Australia for more than four years — and arrived in Australia after 26 February 2011 — will be eligible to apply directly for Australian citizenship without having to apply for a permanent visa.

Temporary Skilled migration visas

Several changes to Temporary Skilled visas have been progressively introduced over time and will impact on the Temporary Skilled visa data in this report. Some of the more recent changes are outlined below.

From 1 July 2023, the Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold (TSMIT) increased significantly to \$70,000, and any new nomination applications must meet or exceed the new TSMIT.

7.0 General data sources

Fertility

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021, *Australian Historical Population Statistics*, <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/historical-population/2021>

Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Births Australia*, various editions, <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/births-australia/latest-release>

Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census of Population and Housing*, various editions

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2024, *Registered births, fertility and summary by age and state or territory of usual residence, 1975 onwards* [Data Explorer], accessed 15 December 2025

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2024, *Registered births, confinements and median age of parents by nuptiality and state or territory of usual residence, 1975 onward* [Data Explorer], accessed 15 December 2025

Queensland Health, *Queensland Perinatal Data Collection* (QPDC), unpublished data

United Nations, DESA, Population Division 2024, *World Population Prospects 2024*

Life expectancy

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2025, *Causes of Death, Australia, 2024*

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2024, *COVID-19 Mortality in Australia: Deaths registered until 31 January 2024*, <https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/covid-19-mortality-australia-deaths-registered-until-31-january-2024>

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2024, *Deaths, Year of registration, Age at death, Sex, States, Territories and Australia* [Data Explorer], accessed 15 December 2025

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2024, *Infant deaths and Infant mortality rates, Year of registration, Age at death, Sex, States, Territories and Australia* [Data Explorer], accessed 15 December 2025

HMD 2024, *Human Mortality Database*. Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (Germany), University of California, Berkeley (USA), and French Institute for Demographic Studies (France) www.mortality.org, accessed 3 March 2025

Queensland Government Statistician's Office 2025, *Life expectancy at birth (years) by sex, Queensland and Australia*, <https://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/statistics/theme/population/vital-statistics/life-expectancy>

Overseas migration

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2026, *National, state and territory population*, September 2025

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2025, *Overseas migrant arrivals and departures by visa group by state, quarterly and financial years* [Data Explorer], accessed 18 December 2025

Centre for Population 2024, *2024 Population Statement*, the Australian Government, Canberra

Centre for Population 2026, *2025 Population Statement*, the Australian Government, Canberra

Commonwealth of Australia 2025, *Mid-year economic and fiscal outlook, 2025–26*

Interstate migration

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2026, *Interstate migration: Arrivals, departures and net, State/territory, Age and sex - Financial years* [Data Explorer], accessed 25 March 2026

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2026, *Interstate Migration by States and Territories of Arrival and Departure by Sex* [Data Explorer], accessed 25 March 2026

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2026, *National, state and territory population*, September 2025

8.0 End notes

- i McDonald, P. 2020, *A Projection of Australia's Future Fertility Rates*, Centre for Population Research Paper, Australian Government, Canberra https://population.gov.au/sites/population.gov.au/files/2021-09/2020_mcdonald_fertility_projections.pdf.
- ii Centre for Population 2024, *2024 Population Statement*, Australian Government, Canberra <https://population.gov.au/publications/statements/2024-population-statement>.
- iii GBD 2021 Fertility and Forecasting Collaborators, 2024. *Global fertility in 204 countries and territories, 1950-2021, with forecasts to 2100: a comprehensive demographic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021*. The Lancet. 20 March 2024. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(24)00550-6.
- iv Developing countries as recognised by the World Trade Organisation.
- v Gray, E., & Lazzari, E. 2023, *The continuing decline in cohort fertility and mixed evidence of narrowing educational differences*. Australian Population Studies, 7(1), 1. <https://doi.org/10.37970/aps.v7i1.112>
- vi Australian National University 2022, Gray et al, *Impacts of policies in fertility rates*, Centre for Population Research Paper, The Australian Government, Canberra https://population.gov.au/sites/population.gov.au/files/2022-03/ANU_Impacts-of-Policies-on-Fertility-Rates-Full-report.pdf.
- vii Australian Government 2024, Centre for Population Research Paper, *Fertility decline in Australia: Is it here to stay?* <https://population.gov.au/sites/population.gov.au/files/2024-10/Fertility-decline-Australia-2024.pdf>.
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- xiii Australian Bureau of Statistics 2025, *Causes of Death, Australia, 2024*, <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/health/causes-death/causes-death-australia/2024>
- xiv Australian Bureau of Statistics 2025, *Deaths due to acute respiratory infections in Australia*, viewed 23 April 2026, <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/health/causes-death/deaths-due-acute-respiratory-infections-australia/latest-release#deaths-due-to-acute-respiratory-infections-by-state-and-territory>.
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In Australia, for the purposes of overseas migration (or international migration), a person is added to the population if they have been (or expect to be) residing in Australia for 12 months or more (i.e. an overseas migrant arrival) thus becoming an Australian resident. Likewise, an Australian resident is removed from the population if they leave Australia for 12 months or more (i.e. an overseas migrant departure). The 12 months does not have to be continuous and is measured over a 16-month period.

Prior to 1 July 2006, overseas migration estimation methods used a '12/12 month rule' to determine if a traveller contributed to Australia's estimated resident population (ERP). For a person to have immigrated or emigrated, they must have stayed in, or been absent from, Australia for a continuous period of 12 months.

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