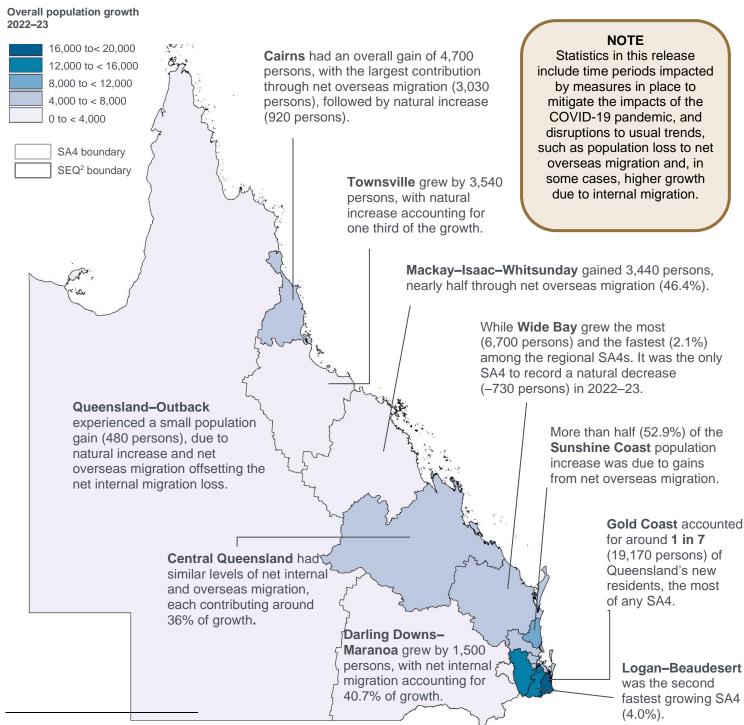


Population growth highlights and trends, Queensland regions, 2024 edition

Source: ABS Regional population, released 26 March 2024

Highlights—population change in Queensland SA4s¹, year to 30 June 2023



¹ Statistical area level 4, Australian Statistical Geography Standard, Edition 3.

² In this section of the report, the South East Queensland (SEQ) region is composed of the following SA4s: Brisbane–East, Brisbane–North, Brisbane–South, Brisbane–West, Brisbane Inner City, Gold Coast, Ipswich, Logan–Beaudesert, Moreton Bay–North, Moreton Bay–South, Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba



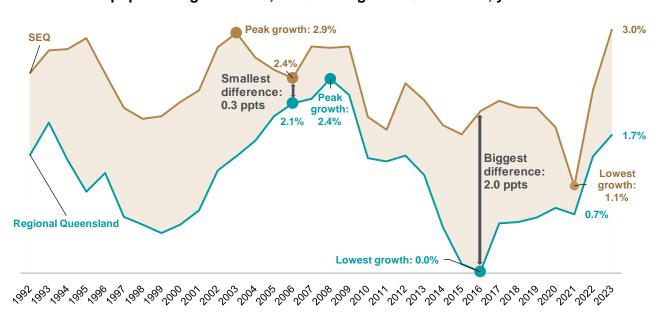


Overview of Queensland's regions

Population growth in SEQ was higher than in regional Queensland in each year of the reporting period 1992 to 2023.

Following the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and an associated drop in growth rates during 2020–21, population growth rates in both SEQ and regional Queensland recovered in both 2021–22 and 2022–23 to levels higher than in any year recorded in the decade to 2022–23.

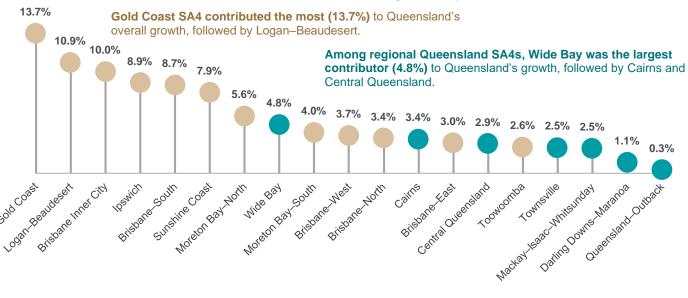
Annual population growth rate, SEQ and regional Queensland, year to 30 June



In 2022–23, SEQ grew at the fastest rate recorded in the timeseries from 1991–92 onwards. The 2022–23 growth rate in SEQ (3.0%) was nearly three times higher than in 2020–21 (1.1%), when SEQ recorded the slowest growth during the reporting period (since 1991–92). The growth in SEQ in 2022–23 followed the 2.2% growth recorded the previous year.

During the same timeseries, growth rates in regional Queensland varied between zero (2015–16) and 2.4% (2007–08). In 2022–23, regional Queensland grew by 1.7%, up from the previous year (1.4%), but notably slower than SEQ.

Contribution to Queensland's population growth by SA4, 2022–23





South East Queensland SA4s

More than 7 in 10 Queenslanders (73.0% or 3.98 million persons) lived in SEQ at 30 June 2023.

SEQ's share of growth over this period was higher at 87.3% of Queensland's total. Over the 10 years to 30 June 2023, SEQ grew at almost triple the average annual rate (2.0%) of the rest of Queensland (0.7%).

While overall annual SEQ population growth in the five years to 30 June 2023 was also 2.0% per year on average, growth in the most recent year, 2022–23, was 3.0%. This reflects a recovery from the disrupted trends and lower growth experienced since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rate of population change in SEQ SA4s

Growth rates increased in all Queensland SA4s in 2022–23, when compared with the previous 5-year period, with the lowest growth rates for SEQ SA4s occurring in Brisbane–East (1.7%), Brisbane–North (2.1%) and Toowoomba (2.1%).

In the year to 30 June 2023 the fastest growing SEQ SA4s were Brisbane–Inner City (4.6%), Logan–Beaudesert (4.0%), followed by Ipswich and Brisbane–South (both 3.2%).

Over the longer period, the 10-years to June 2023, the fastest average annual growth rates were recorded in Brisbane–Inner City (2.6%), followed by Ipswich (2.5%) and Sunshine Coast (2.4%).

Size of population change in SEQ SA4s Overall population growth SEQ 2022-23 16,000 to< 20,000 Annual population growth 12,000 to < 16,000 In 2022–23, Gold Coast SA4 gained the most 8,000 to < 12,000 people (19,170 persons), followed by Logan-Beaudesert (15,150) and 4,000 to < 8,000 Brisbane-Inner City (13,950). 0 to < 4,000Toowoomba (3,590) had the smallest **Sunshine** increase in 2022-23, followed by Coast Brisbane-East (4,200) and Brisbane-North (4,800).**Brishane** Moreton Bay-North -North Regional Queensland Moreton **Brisbane** 10 year population growth Bay-South **Inner City Brisbane-West** In the 10 years to June 2023, Gold Coast SA4 grew the most, increasing by an average of 12,790 persons per Toowoomba **Brisbane** year, followed by Sunshine -Fast Coast (9,000) and Ipswich (8,800).**Ipswich** Brisbane-West (increase of **Brisbane** 1.590 persons per vear) had -South the smallest average annual Gold growth, followed by Coast Logan-Toowoomba (2,230) and **Beaudesert** Brisbane-East (2,540).



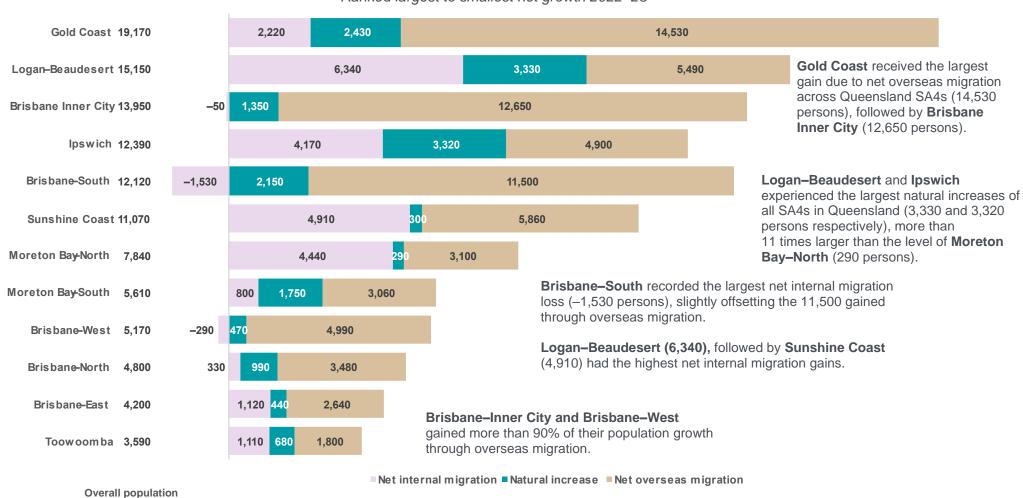
Average annual population change, 10 years, 5 years and 1 year to 30 June 2023, SEQ SA4s

SA4	Estim	nated resident popu	lation as at 30 June		Aver	age annual growt	h	Averag	e annual growth	n rate
UAT .	2013	2018	2022	2023	2013–2023	2018–2023	2022–23	2013–2023	2018–2023	2022–23
		— person	s —		— persons —			— % —		
South East Queensland	3,279,380	3,606,680	3,869,500	3,984,560	70,520	75,570	115,050	2.0	2.0	3.0
Brisbane-East	224,830	237,150	246,010	250,210	2,540	2,610	4,200	1.1	1.1	1.7
Brisbane-North	205,820	221,310	230,820	235,620	2,980	2,860	4,800	1.4	1.3	2.1
Brisbane-South	341,250	367,460	383,580	395,700	5,440	5,650	12,120	1.5	1.5	3.2
Brisbane-West	182,710	190,900	193,390	198,570	1,590	1,530	5,170	0.8	0.8	2.7
Brisbane Inner City	247,940	282,490	305,720	319,660	7,170	7,440	13,950	2.6	2.5	4.6
Gold Coast	554,570	617,660	663,320	682,490	12,790	12,970	19,170	2.1	2.0	2.9
Ipswich	309,330	349,180	384,930	397,320	8,800	9,630	12,390	2.5	2.6	3.2
Logan-Beaudesert	313,830	342,380	378,290	393,450	7,960	10,210	15,150	2.3	2.8	4.0
Moreton Bay-North	232,230	252,710	276,550	284,390	5,220	6,340	7,840	2.0	2.4	2.8
Moreton Bay-South	184,000	211,330	226,450	232,050	4,810	4,140	5,610	2.3	1.9	2.5
Sunshine Coast	334,330	376,120	413,240	424,310	9,000	9,640	11,070	2.4	2.4	2.7
Toowoomba	148,540	158,000	167,200	170,790	2,230	2,560	3,590	1.4	1.6	2.1
Queensland	4,652,820	5,006,620	5,320,940	5,460,420	80,760	90,760	139,480	1.6	1.8	2.6

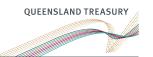


Components of population change, SEQ SA4s, year to 30 June 2023

Ranked largest to smallest net growth 2022–23



change



0.4%

0.2%

0.0%

2023

Queensland Government Statistician's Office

Regional Queensland SA4s

Fewer than 3 in 10 Queenslanders (27.0% or 1.48 million persons) lived in regional Queensland at 30 June 2023.

In 2022–23, Wide Bay SA4 (2.1% growth rate) was the fastest growing SA4 in regional Queensland, followed by Cairns and Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday (1.8% each).

Over the 10 years to 30 June 2023, regional Queensland's population increased by an average of 0.7% per year, less than half of the SEQ average annual growth rate (2.0%). However, in 2022–23, regional Queensland's growth rate was more than twice as fast (1.7%) as the average annual rate recorded during the 10 years to June 2023, and was the fastest annual growth rate of the past decade. This reflects a continuation of the higher than average growth experienced in 2021–22 (1.4%) as Queensland entered the post-pandemic period with fewer restrictions on population movement both internal and international.

In 2022–23, Queensland–Outback experienced growth (0.6%) for the second consecutive year, with population loss recorded each year from 2021–22 to 2020–21.

Persons ('000s) Growth Regional Qld total (LHS) % Growth (RHS) - Regional Qld 10-year average (0.7%) 1.500 1.8% 1,480 1.6% 1,460 1.4% 1.440 1.2% 1.0% 1.420 1,400 0.8% 1.380 0.6%

Population change in regional Queensland, 10 years to 30 June 2023

In addition to being the fastest growing in 2022–23, Wide Bay (1.2%), Cairns (1.0%) and Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday (0.7%) had the fastest average annual growth rate in regional Queensland for the 10 years to June 2023.

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

The fastest growing regional SA4s over 2018 to 2023 were Wide Bay and Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday, both growing at 1.6% per year, on average. This was followed by Cairns and Central Queensland (both 1.0%). Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday experienced the most notable change in annual average growth when compared with growth over 2013 to 2018 (1.7 percentage points higher).

1.360

1,340

1,320

2014

2015

2016

2017



Size of population change in regional Queensland SA4s

In the year to 30 June 2023:

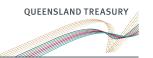
- Wide Bay SA4 again experienced the largest increase of the regional Queensland SA4s (up by 6,700 persons), followed by Cairns (4,700 persons) and Central Queensland (4,070 persons).
- This is similar to a year earlier when Wide Bay (6,780 person increase) was followed by Cairns (3,600 persons), and Central Queensland (3,140 persons).
- The smallest SA4 population gain in 2022–23 was in Queensland–Outback (480 persons).

Over the 10 years to 30 June 2023:

- The largest average annual population increases were in:
 - Wide Bay (3,710 persons per year)
 - o Cairns (2,520)
 - o Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday (1,340).
- Queensland—Outback SA4 experienced the only average annual population decrease (-400 persons per year).

Average annual population change, 10 years, 5 years and 1 year to 30 June 2023, regional Queensland SA4s

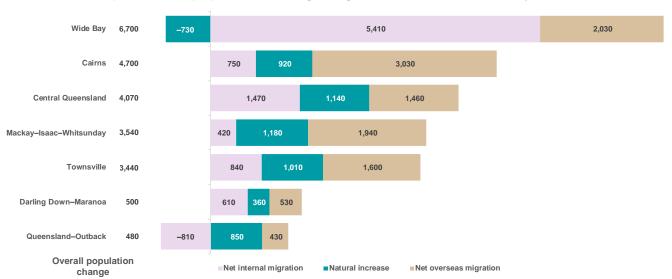
SA4	Estimated	d resident p	opulation at	30 June	Average annual growth			Average annual growth		
JA4	2013	2018	2022	2023	2013-2023	2018–2023	2022–23	2013–2023	2018–2023	2022–23
		— pers	ons —		-	– persons –			-% -	
Regional Queensland	1,373,440	1,399,940	1,451,440	1,475,870	10,240	15,190	24,430	0.7	1.1	1.7
Cairns	240,210	252,210	260,660	265,370	2,520	2,630	4,700	1.0	1.0	1.8
Central Queensland	224,900	226,530	234,170	238,230	1,330	2,340	4,070	0.6	1.0	1.7
Darling Downs-Maranoa	127,990	129,370	130,990	132,490	450	620	1,500	0.3	0.5	1.1
Mackay-Isaac- Whitsunday	176,280	175,530	186,200	189,640	1,340	2,820	3,440	0.7	1.6	1.8
Queensland-Outback	86,210	81,840	81,680	82,160	-400	60	480	-0.5	0.1	0.6
Townsville	230,810	235,460	240,260	243,800	1,300	1,670	3,540	0.5	0.7	1.5
Wide Bay	287,060	299,000	317,470	324,180	3,710	5,030	6,700	1.2	1.6	2.1
Queensland	4,652,820	5,006,620	5,320,940	5,460,420	80,760	90,760	139,480	1.6	1.8	2.6



Components of population change, regional Queensland SA4s, year to 30 June 2023

- Wide Bay SA4 had both the largest and fastest growth (6,700 persons and 2.1%) of the regional Queensland SA4s, driven primarily by a large gain through net internal migration (5,410 persons). The gain through net internal migration recorded for Wide Bay was more than three times larger than next biggest NIM gain for a regional SA4, (Central Queensland with 1,470 persons).
- Queensland–Outback was the only regional Queensland SA4 to record a net loss due to internal migration (–810 persons), although this was offset by natural increase (850) and overseas migration (430) combined.
- Cairns experienced the greatest net overseas migration of all regional SA4s (3,030 persons), and 27.5% of the total gain through net overseas migration to regional Queensland.
- Except for Wide Bay (–730 persons), all regional SA4s recorded a net gain from natural increase (births exceeded deaths) in 2022–23. Townsville recorded the largest gain from natural increase (1,180 persons), with net gains in other regional SA4s ranging from 360 to 1,140 persons.
- Natural increase was the largest component of growth for only Queensland Outback (850 persons), while net
 overseas migration was the largest component for Cairns, Townsville and Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday.

Components of population change, regional Queensland SA4s, year to June 2023





South East Queensland LGAs³

- At 30 June 2023, around **1 in 4** Queenslanders (1.32 million persons) lived in Brisbane, the most populous local government area (LGA) both in SEQ and Queensland.
- Gold Coast had the second-largest population (666,090 persons) followed by:
 - o Moreton Bay (510,100 persons)
 - o Logan (377,700 persons)
 - Sunshine Coast (365,940 persons).

These LGAs also had the largest populations in all of Queensland.

- When compared with 2012–13, Ipswich had the largest increase in Queensland population share, up by 0.7 percentage points to 4.6%. This was followed by Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast (both up 0.6 percentage points), and Moreton Bay and Logan (up by 0.5 percentage points each).
- Brisbane, Toowoomba, Redlands and Noosa all experienced declines in their respective share of Queensland's population over the ten-year period, each decreasing by 0.1 percentage points.

Estimated resident population, SEQ local government areas, at 30 June 2023

LGA	State	Estimated	d resident po	oulation as at	30 June	Estimated resident population as at 30 June				
	ranking (a)	2013	2018	2022	2023	2013	2018	2022	2023	
			— pers	ons —		— % of Qld —				
Brisbane	1	1,132,000	1,226,940	1,283,430	1,323,160	24.3	24.5	24.1	24.2	
Gold Coast	2	540,690	602,440	647,180	666,090	11.6	12.0	12.2	12.2	
Moreton Bay	3	410,690	458,010	496,770	510,100	8.8	9.1	9.3	9.3	
Logan	4	300,550	327,770	363,060	377,770	6.5	6.5	6.8	6.9	
Sunshine Coast	5	281,970	320,610	355,900	365,940	6.1	6.4	6.7	6.7	
Ipswich	6	183,690	211,950	242,640	251,150	3.9	4.2	4.6	4.6	
Toowoomba	8	159,920	169,320	178,390	181,820	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.3	
Redland	10	147,330	156,890	163,730	166,810	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1	
Noosa	16	52,360	55,510	57,340	58,370	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	
Scenic Rim	18	38,730	42,370	44,330	45,250	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	
Lockyer Valley	19	37,680	40,540	42,630	43,850	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	
Somerset	28	23,620	25,330	25,710	26,250	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	
South East Queensland		3,309,210	3,637,670	3,901,110	4,016,560	71.1	72.7	73.3	73.6	

(a) Ranked based on population size at 30 June 2023

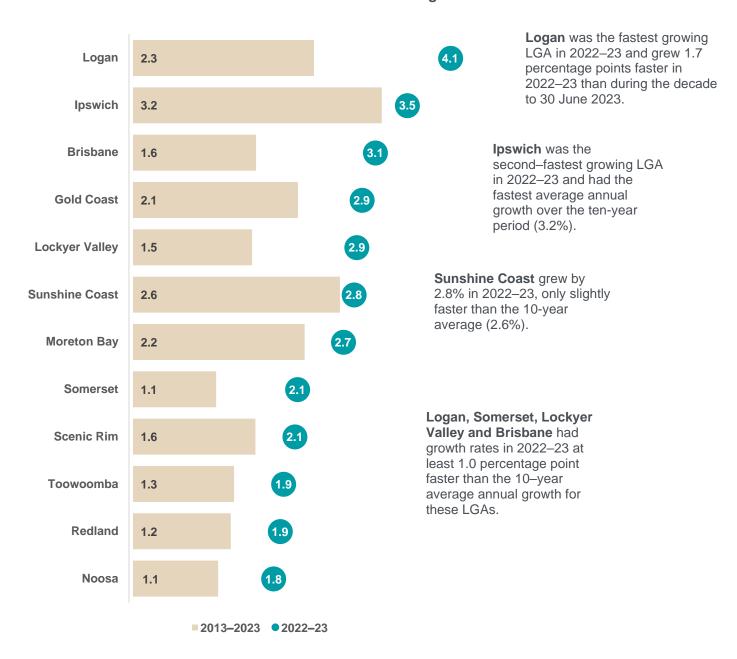
³ For the purposes of this publication, Toowoomba LGA has been included in South East Queensland.



Fastest population growth

Average annual growth rate, SEQ local government areas, 10 years to 30 June 2023, and 2022–23

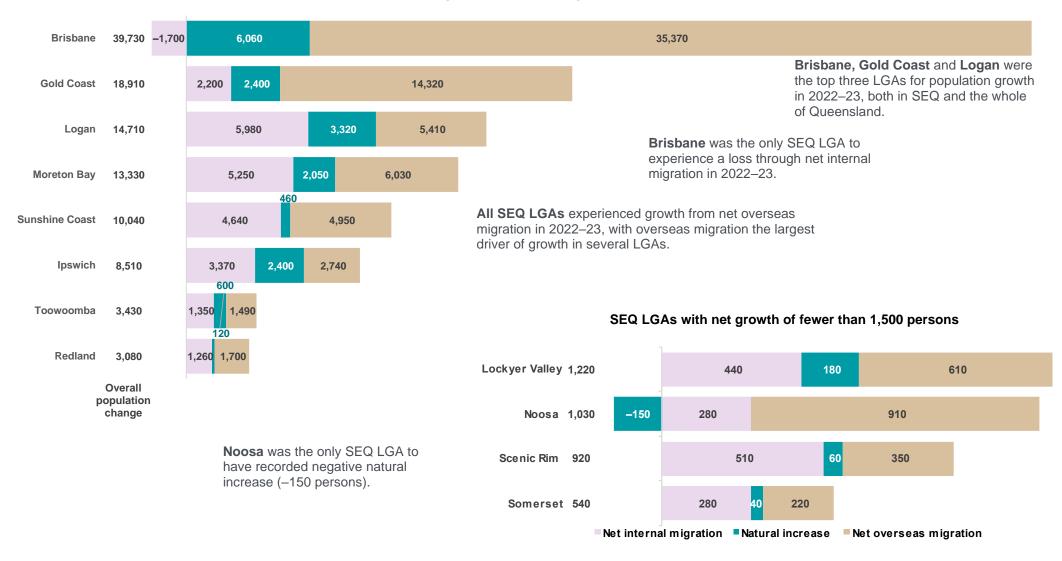
Ranked fastest to slowest % growth in 2022–23

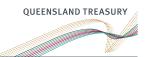




Components of population growth, SEQ local government areas, year to June 2023

Ranked largest to smallest net growth 2022–23





Regional Queensland LGAs

The analysis in this section is limited to regional LGAs with a population of greater than 10,000 persons at 30 June 2023.

- At 30 June 2023, Townsville had the largest population of all LGAs in regional Queensland with 201,430 persons, representing 3.7% of Queensland's population.
- Cairns had the second-largest population (175,400 persons), followed by Mackay (126,910 persons).
- Excluding Fraser Coast, the seven largest LGAs in regional Queensland saw their relative share of the total Queensland population at 30 June 2023 decline compared with their respective share at 30 June 2013.

Estimated resident population, regional Queensland local government areas^(a), at 30 June 2023

LGA	State ranking	Estim	Estimat		sident population at 30 June							
		2013	2018	2022	2023	2013	2018	2022	2023			
		-	— persons —						— % of Qld —			
Townsville	7	186,520	193,110	198,130	201,430	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.7			
Cairns	9	156,760	165,720	171,990	175,400	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.2			
Mackay	11	118,880	118,350	124,950	126,910	2.6	2.4	2.3	2.3			
Fraser Coast	12	100,290	106,380	115,070	117,940	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.2			
Bundaberg	13	93,850	96,600	102,070	104,170	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.9			
Rockhampton	14	81,750	81,410	83,600	84,520	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.5			
Gladstone	15	62,160	63,080	65,300	66,840	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2			
Gympie	17	48,490	51,670	55,110	56,170	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0			
Livingstone	20	35,280	37,950	40,900	41,910	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8			
Whitsunday	21	34,110	35,650	38,510	39,710	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7			
Regional Queensland		1,343,620	1,368,960	1,419,830	1,443,860	28.9	27.3	26.7	26.4			

⁽a) Top 10 regional Queensland LGAs based on population size at 30 June 2023.



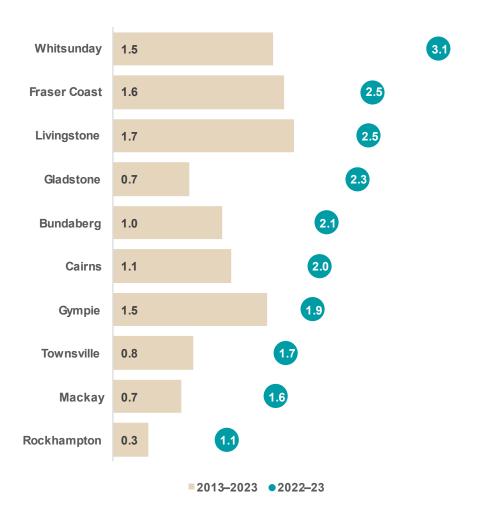
Fastest population growth

The analyses in this section are limited to regional LGAs with a population of greater than 10,000 persons at 30 June 2023.

- The LGAs of Whitsunday (3.1%), Fraser Coast (2.5%) and Livingstone (2.5%) had the fastest population growth rates in regional Queensland in 2022–23.
- All LGAs in regional Queensland grew faster in 2022–23 than the 10 years to 2023.
- Among the top 10 LGAs, Whitsunday and Gladstone recorded the greatest disparity between growth rates in 2022–23 (3.1% and 2.3% respectively) and their 10-year annual average growth rates (1.5% and 0.7% respectively per year over the decade to 2023).

Population growth rates, top 10 regional Queensland local government areas, 10 years to 30 June 2023, and 2022–23

Ranked fastest to slowest % growth 2022-23





Largest population growth

The analyses in this section are limited to the top 10 regional LGAs with largest growth in 2022–23.

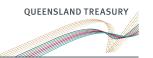
- Cairns had the largest population growth of all LGAs in regional Queensland (up 3,410 persons) in 2022–23.
- The largest average annual population change in the 10 years to 30 June 2023 occurred in:
 - Cairns (1,860 persons per year)
 - Fraser Coast (1,770 persons per year)
 - o Townsville (1,490 persons per year).
- Of the 10 regional LGAs with the largest growth in 2022–23, all had growth in 2022–23 that was higher than the average annual 10-year growth.

Average annual growth, top 10 regional Queensland local government areas to 30 June 2023

Ranked largest to smallest growth 2022-23

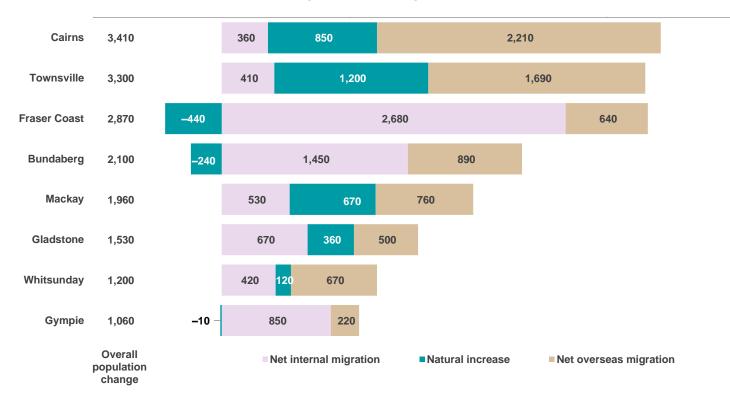
LGA	State	Estima	ted resident po	pulation at 30	Avera	age annual grow	wth			
	ranking ^(a)	2013	2018	2022	2023	2013-2023	2018–2023	2022–23		
		— persons —				— persons —				
Cairns	9	156,760	165,720	171,990	175,400	1,860	1,940	3,410		
Townsville	7	186,520	193,110	198,130	201,430	1,490	1,670	3,300		
Fraser Coast	12	100,290	106,380	115,070	117,940	1,770	2,310	2,870		
Bundaberg	13	93,850	96,600	102,070	104,170	1,030	1,510	2,100		
Mackay	11	118,880	118,350	124,950	126,910	800	1,710	1,960		
Gladstone	15	62,160	63,080	65,300	66,840	470	750	1,530		
Whitsunday	21	34,110	35,650	38,510	39,710	560	810	1,200		
Gympie	17	48,490	51,670	55,110	56,170	770	900	1,060		
Livingstone	20	35,280	37,950	40,900	41,910	660	790	1,010		
Rockhampton	14	81,750	81,410	83,600	84,520	280	620	920		
Regional Queensland		1,343,620	1,368,960	1,419,830	1,443,860	10,020	14,980	24,030		

(a) Ranked by largest growth 2022-23



Components of population growth, regional Queensland LGAs with growth greater than 1,000 in 2022–23

Ranked largest to smallest growth 2022-23



- In the year to June 2023, Fraser Coast recorded the largest net internal migration (2,680 persons) among all regional LGAs similar to 2021–22. Net internal migration accounted for 93% of its total population change. Notably, Fraser Coast also recorded the largest natural decrease (–440 persons).
- Similar to Fraser Coast, Bundaberg's growth was largely due to net internal migration and it also experienced natural decrease. Bundaberg received the second largest net internal migration of all regional LGAs (1,450 persons).
- Cairns received the most growth from net overseas migration (2,210 persons) of all regional LGAs, followed by Townsville (1,690 persons).
- Townsville also recorded the greatest natural increase (1,200 persons) of all regional LGAs.



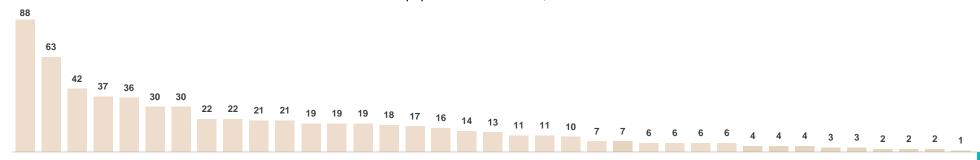
Population change in regional Queensland LGAs

For regional Queensland LGAs with a population of fewer than 10,000 persons at 30 June 2023

- At 30 June 2023, 39 LGAs in Queensland had an estimated resident population of fewer than 10,000 persons, ranging from 270 persons in Diamantina and Croydon to 4,670 persons in Cook.
- In the year to 30 June 2023, 37 LGAs had a small population increase of 90 persons or fewer.

Population change in regional Queensland LGAs in the year to 30 June 2023

LGAs with population less than 10,000 at 30 June 2023







Technical notes

Population data used in this publication were the most recent available at the time of preparation and have been sourced from the ABS publication *Regional population* (2022–23), with the latest updates to this publication released on 26 March 2024.

The status of estimated resident population (ERP) data changes over time from preliminary to revised to final as new component data become available, and subsequently to preliminary rebased and final rebased following a Census. 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.

Status of quarterly ERP data

- All ERP data up to and including June 2021 are final rebased. ERPs for June 2022 are revised, and for June 2023 are preliminary.
- ERP data for years 2017 through 2021 were updated to final rebased status based on the 2021 Census, however not all component estimates for periods 2016–17 through 2020–21 have been similarly revised. As a result, the published components for this period do not sum to annual change in final rebased ERP. Caution should be applied when using both components and population estimates prior to June 2021.
- This publication features substate component data only for the period 2022–23. These data sum to annual change in ERP between June 2022 and June 2023.
 - o Natural increase data for June 2023 are preliminary and based on date of registration.
 - o Net overseas migration data for June 2023 are preliminary and based on modelled traveller behaviour.
 - Net interstate migration data for June 2023 are preliminary and based on expansion factors from the 2021 Census.
- See <u>Regional population methodology</u>, <u>2022–23</u> for additional details relating to the status of each of the component indicators.

Regional–level (SA4, LGA) population estimates in this report were produced by the ABS using census data and administrative by-product data and are subject to some error. A degree of caution should be exercised when using the estimates, especially for areas with very small populations.

A new method was introduced to estimate total sub-state populations out from the 2016 Census base, with population change estimated using births, deaths, and internal and overseas migration. For further information see ABS feature article: 'New methodology used to prepare sub-state population estimates' (ABS, 3218.0, released 24 April 2018). Figures included in the text throughout this report are rounded to the nearest 10, although all calculations and percentages are based on unrounded data.

A range of supporting data tables is available on the QGSO website (www.ggso.gld.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_0 is the population at the period 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 2012 to 2022, n is 10, P_0 is the population in 2012 and P_n is the population in 2022.

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, except for 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.

Natural increase

The excess of births over deaths in each area. Although usually positive, a natural decrease may occur where deaths are greater than births. This is most likely to occur if the population has an older age structure.

Net internal migration

The movement of people across a specified boundary within Australia due to changing their place of usual residence. This figure is calculated using ABS' official estimate of internal migration for sub-state areas—regional internal migration estimates (RIME)—including intra and interstate migration, prepared on an annual (year ending 30 June) basis.

Net overseas migration

The difference between the number of people settling in an area from overseas and the number of people departing that area to live overseas. This figure is calculated using ABS' official estimate of overseas migration for sub-state areas—regional overseas migration estimates (ROME)—prepared on an annual (year ending 30 June) basis.