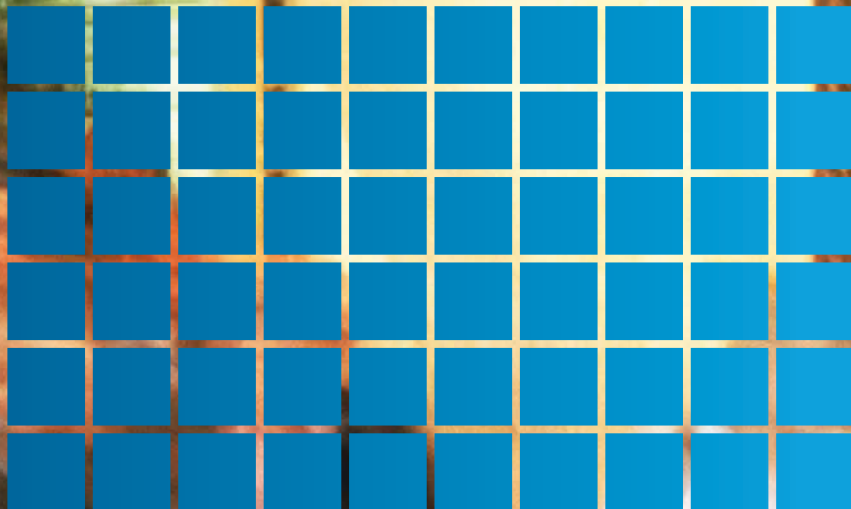


Office of Economic and
Statistical Research

Queensland Treasury



Queensland Government population projections to 2056:
Queensland and statistical divisions
2011 edition



Queensland Government



Foreword

Queensland's population is continuing to grow strongly, as it has for the past four decades. The population projections presented in this summary document provide an update to the Queensland Government's 2008 edition. This update shows that the projected population growth for the whole of Queensland over the next 45 years has been revised upwards.

The medium series projections indicate that annual growth over the next 45 years will be at a similar level to that recorded over most of the past decade. Continuing growth of this magnitude over the longer term creates both challenges and opportunities. To this end the Queensland Government is focused on a long term economic strategy centred around boosting productivity capacity, creating the industries of the future, managing population growth and strengthening fiscal capacity.

The Government has responded to continuing, relatively strong population growth with the establishment of Growth Management Queensland, following the Queensland Growth Management Summit of March 2010. The groundwork paved by the State Government's regionalisation strategy, statutory regional planning and record infrastructure spend are further examples of our commitment to managing population growth. Looking to the longer term, the Q2 aspirations provide a guiding framework to ensure that all aspects of growth management are coordinated and properly sequenced. Indeed, decisions taken now and over the next few years may affect the trajectory of Queensland's longer term population growth.

The projections contained in this report reflect current information and knowledge of births, deaths and migration, and provide a "looking glass" into the future to highlight some key issues requiring consideration. In particular, the ageing of the population, set to gather momentum in the coming years as the first of the baby boomers pass 65 years of age in 2011, is a significant challenge facing Queensland, Australia and many other countries worldwide.

However, we should remain mindful of the potential for considerable volatility in future growth outcomes. This is reflected in the range between the low series (with annual growth more akin to that of the long run average of the three decades to 2001) and the high series (with average annual growth around 40 per cent higher than the medium series).

In the meantime, I am pleased to release these updated population projections. This information is critical to planning for Queensland's continued future success, and I trust that it will give valuable direction to the Queensland Government and our partners as we build our future together.

The Honourable Andrew Fraser MP
Treasurer

Key points

- If Queensland's future population resembles the medium series projections, it will grow from 4.1 million people in 2006 to 6.1 million people by 2026 and reach 9.1 million in 2056.
- Higher growth (2.0 million people) is projected for the 20 years to 2026 than was recorded in the previous 20 years (1.5 million).
- Average increases of 96,300 people each year are expected over the five years to 2016, increasing to an average annual increase of 104,100 people in the five years to 2056.
- Short-term growth rates estimated at 2.4% for the five years to 2011 are projected to ease to 1.2% over the next 50 years.
- The number of births is projected to rise from around 54,000 in 2006 to 70,000 by 2020, 80,000 by 2033 and 100,000 by 2054. The number of deaths is projected to double by 2038 and be two and a half times the 2006 level by 2050.
- Queensland is expected to grow substantially from both interstate and overseas migration.
- Ageing of the population will cause the projected median age of Queenslanders to rise from 36.0 years in 2006 to 42.8 years in 2056.
- The majority of growth is projected for the relatively older age groups with the number of people aged 65 years or more in 2056 to be four and a half times the number in 2006.
- By 2026, South East Queensland is anticipated to have a population approximately the same size as Queensland's total in 2006 (just over 4 million people).

Population projections for Queensland

Queensland's population is projected to grow from 4.1 million people in the year to June 2006¹ to 6.6 million by 2031 and 9.1 million by 2056.

The population has grown from 2.6 million people 20 years ago to 4.1 million people in 2006, an increase of 1.5 million people since 1986. In comparison, the population is projected to grow by 2.0 million people in the next 20 years, to reach 6.1 million in 2026 (medium series). Growth of this magnitude is projected to result in Queensland's population in 2018 being double that of 1986, and increasing threefold by 2044.

Queensland's population milestones

1 million	1938
2 million	1974
3 million	1992
4 million	2006
5 million	2016*
6 million	2026*
7 million	2036*
8 million	2045*
9 million	2055*

* Projected population in year ending 30 June.

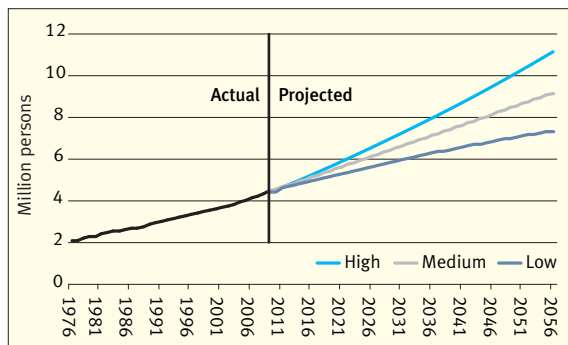
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 3105.0.65.001 and 3101.0; and Queensland Government Population Projections, 2011 edition (medium series)

¹ All figures in this publication are for the year to 30 June, unless otherwise stated.

Three projection series – low, medium and high – have been produced (Figure 1 and Table 1). Queensland is projected to grow from 4.1 million people in 2006 to between 6.0 (low series) and 7.3 million people

(high series) by 2031. Continuing strong population growth is anticipated to lead to a population of between 7.3 (low series) and 11.1 million people (high series) by 2056.

Figure 1: Actual and projected population, Queensland, as at 30 June 1976 to 2056



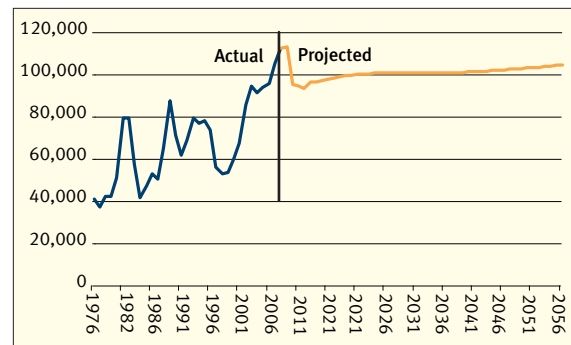
Source: ABS, 3101.0; and Queensland Government Population Projections, 2011 edition

Table 1: Actual and projected population, Queensland, as at 30 June 2006, 2031 and 2056

	2006	2031	2056
Low	4,090,900	5,957,400	7,318,600
Medium	4,090,900	6,592,900	9,142,600
High	4,090,900	7,267,600	11,147,500

Source: ABS, 3101.0; and Queensland Government Population Projections, 2011 edition

Figure 2: Actual and projected annual population change, Queensland, years ending 30 June 1976 to 2056



Source: ABS 3101.0; and Queensland Government Population Projections, 2011 edition (medium series)

Annual population growth has fluctuated substantially in the past 30 years (Figure 2). Population growth over the past decade in Queensland is the highest ever recorded. The updated projections published in this report have taken this into account. A significant drop in projected growth is expected from a current high of 116,500 to a low of 93,800 in the year ending 30 June 2012, due to tightened entry conditions to Australia and the current, relatively low levels of net interstate migration. However, growth is expected to remain fairly constant over the projection period 2013-2056, averaging about 100,800 additional people each year. This outcome is due to

assumed, relatively stable levels of all three components of population change over the longer term.

Growth rates are projected to slow over the projection period as the size of Queensland's population steadily increases. Growth rates are projected to average 2.4% each year in the five years to 2011, on par with rates between 2001 and 2006. They are then projected to slow steadily to average 1.2% per annum in the five years to 2056.

Implications

Queensland's population is projected to continue to grow and age, regardless of which growth scenario is assumed (low, medium or high).

Increased population

An increase in population will bring both advantages and challenges. As the number and diversity of people increases there is the potential for expanded social and cultural experiences, as well as economic growth and associated opportunities. Planning is the key to dealing with the changes expected from increased population. With foresight, coordination and strong management, the projected population increase can be accommodated.

Changing composition

Population ageing will create challenges, which will become increasingly apparent over the next two decades. For example, during the period 2006 to 2031, while the number of children (aged 0-14 years) in Queensland is projected to increase by 44.5% to 1.2 million, the number of older people (aged 65 years and over) is expected to more than double (increase of 161.0%) to reach 1.3 million people.

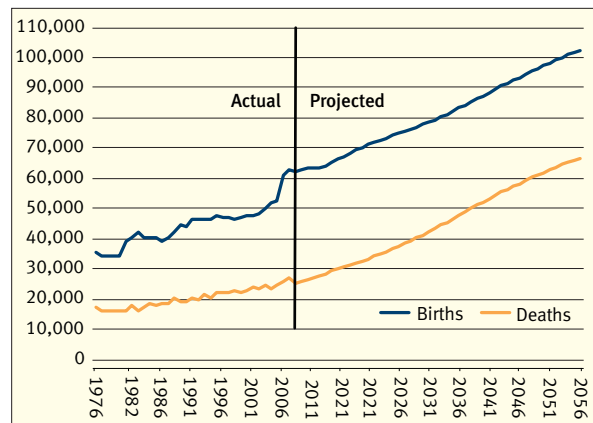
The expected demographic changes to Queensland's population will flow to the workforce, as projected increases in the number of children and older people outnumber increases among those of working age in every decade from 2016 to 2056. Currently, for every 100 people of

working age there are 65 people in older or younger age groups. By 2031, this ratio is projected to increase to 78, reaching 89 people for every 100 people of working age by 2056.

Location specific impacts

The impacts of future population growth will vary across the State. Projections of future growth should be examined at both the regional and local levels to determine the nature and scale of impacts in particular areas. Some areas can expect larger increases in numbers of young families with children while others will need to cater for increasing numbers of elderly.

Figure 3: Actual and projected births and deaths, Queensland, 1976 to 2056



Source: ABS 3105.0.65.001; ABS 3301.0; ABS 3302.0; and Queensland Government Population Projections, 2011 edition (medium series)

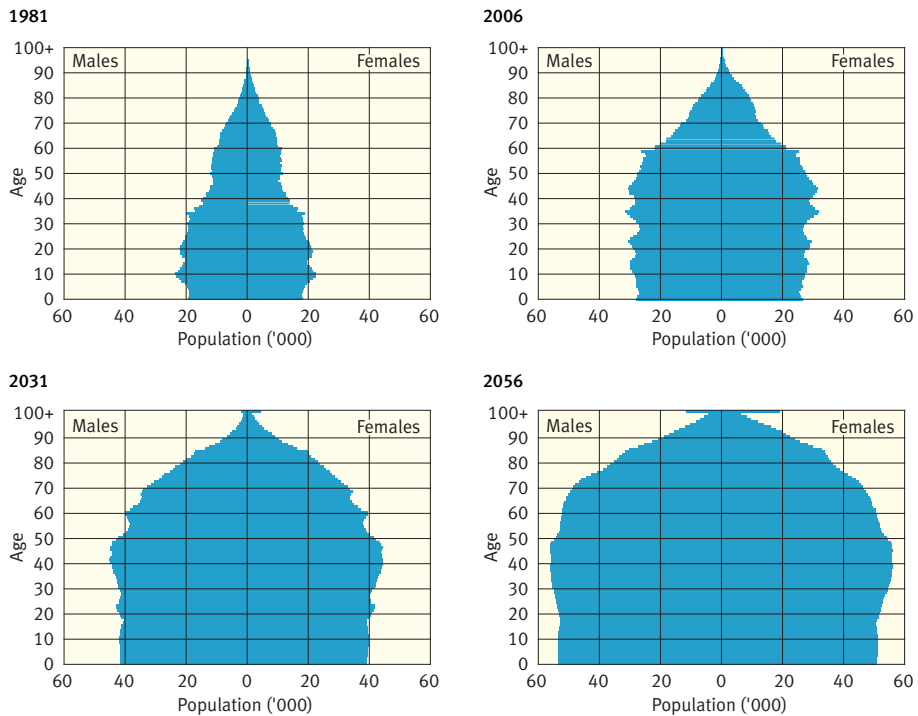
The number of births in Queensland each year is projected to steadily increase over the next 50 years, rising from about 54,100 births in 2006 to 70,300 by 2020 and 102,600 births per year by 2056.

In contrast, despite improvements in life expectancy, the number of deaths is projected to double over the next 30 years (from around 24,500 deaths in 2006 to more than 49,000 deaths in 2038) and be 2.7 times the 2006 level by 2056 (66,800 deaths) (Figure 3).

The projections illustrate some major changes to the age structure of the population. In 2006, the median age of Queenslanders (that is, the age at which half the population is older and half younger) was 36.0 years. Within two decades, the median age is projected to reach 39.3 years (by 2026), increasing further to 42.8 years by 2056.

The largest population increases are projected to be among older people, especially those aged 65 years or more from 2016 onwards. Queensland's past, current and future age profile is shown in Figure 4.

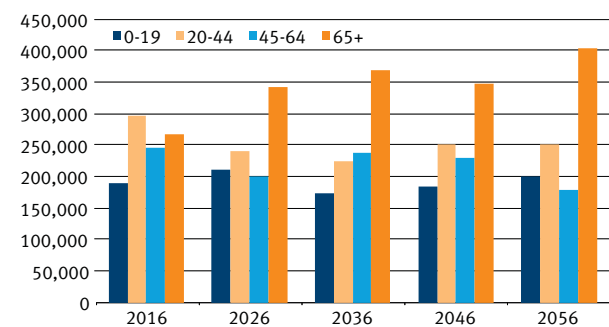
Figure 4: Population pyramids, Queensland, as at 30 June 1981, 2006, 2031 and 2056



Source: ABS 3201.0; and Queensland Government Population Projections, 2011 edition (medium series)

People of younger working age (20-44 years) are projected to record the largest increase in the current decade to 2016 (Figure 5). However, relatively older people aged 65 years and over are projected to experience the largest increases in every subsequent decade.

Figure 5: Projected population change by broad age groups, Queensland, decades ending 2016 to 2056



Source: ABS 3201.0; and Queensland Government Population Projections, 2011 edition (medium series)

Assumptions

The core assumptions for fertility, mortality and migration in these projections were chosen to represent the most likely growth scenario, represented by the medium series. In the high series, the assumptions for all these components of population growth reflect an outcome of higher population growth compared with the medium series. Similarly, in the low series, fertility and migration assumptions are lower, and the assumed mortality expressed as life expectancy is shorter, with each individual assumption contributing to project a lower population growth. Compared with the previous Queensland Government population projections (2008 edition) the most notable revisions are for fertility and overseas migration.

Fertility, expressed as Total Fertility Rate (TFR), has been revised upwards for the medium series to reflect the current level of approximately 2.0 children per woman at the beginning of the projection period. The TFR has been assumed to decline to a level of 1.9 by 2013-14 and remain constant thereafter. In the high series, the TFR was trended up to 2.1, and in the low series the TFR was assumed to decline to 1.7 by 2013-14, remaining constant thereafter in both projection series. The projection processes also involved maintaining current fertility differentials between Australia and Queensland's regions. The age specific fertility profiles were also modified to account for women giving birth later in life.

The **mortality** assumptions, expressed as life expectancy at birth, trended to higher levels by the end of the projection period in 2056, when life expectancy has been assumed to reach 89.4 years for males and 92.2 years for females in the medium series. The assumptions used here were predicated on the view that increases in life expectancy will moderate over the projection period under both the medium and low scenarios, while continuing to improve under the high series.

The assumptions for **overseas migration** were based on the premise that Queensland will receive approximately the same share of overseas migration to Australia as its share of population, on average, over the projection period. In the medium series, annual net overseas migration for Australia was assumed

Population projections for statistical divisions

By 2056, the Queensland population is projected to be 123.5% larger than in 2006. The number of people aged less than 20 years is projected to grow by 86.0% while the younger working age group (20-44 years) is projected to grow by a similar proportion (86.6%). The number of people in the older working age category (45-64 years) is projected to increase by a larger amount (increase of 107.8%). However, the largest growth is projected for people aged 65 years or more. The number of people aged 65 to 84 years is projected to be almost four times larger in 2056 than in 2006 while the age group of 85 years and over is projected to be more than nine times larger than in 2006.

■ The patterns of population change in Queensland's statistical divisions (SDs) are projected to continue in line with the experience over the past 20 years (Table 2 and Figure 7).

South East Queensland (Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and West Moreton SDs) is projected to record most of Queensland's growth, accounting for 67.5% of the State's total population increase over the 25 years to 2031. This is anticipated to consist of average annual growth of 1.8% in Brisbane SD, 2.2% in Gold Coast SD, 2.2% in Sunshine Coast SD and 3.0% in West Moreton SD over the 2006 to 2031 period. South East Queensland is projected to grow from 2.7 million people in 2006 to 4.4 million people by 2031, an average annual increase of 2.0%.

Similarly, other coastal regions of Queensland are also projected to grow strongly between 2006 and 2031, including in particular Mackay SD with an average annual increase of 2.3% over this period.

Table 2: Actual and projected population, Queensland statistical divisions^(a), years ending 30 June 1986, 2006 & 2031

Statistical division	1986	2006	2031
Brisbane	1,229,700	1,857,800	2,908,100
Gold Coast	194,500	466,400	798,400
Sunshine Coast	116,500	295,100	508,200
West Moreton	52,100	86,400	179,200
South East Qld ^(b)	1,592,900	2,705,700	4,393,800
Wide Bay-Burnett	169,000	264,100	425,100
Darling Downs	181,300	225,800	345,300
South West	28,800	26,400	30,800
Fitzroy	162,700	206,200	344,900
Central West	14,700	12,500	13,800
Mackay	117,500	159,800	279,800
Northern	157,700	209,900	346,300
Far North	163,000	247,300	372,600
North West	37,000	33,200	40,400
Queensland	2,624,600	4,090,900	6,592,900

(a) ASGC 2008

(b) South East Queensland is not the same as SEQ Region, as it does not include Toowoomba Statistical District.

Source: Office of Economic and Statistical Research estimates; ABS 3218.0; and Queensland Government Population Projections, 2011 edition (medium series)

Table 3: Actual and projected percentage share of State population, Queensland statistical divisions^(a), as at 30 June 1986, 2001 and 2031

Statistical Division	1986	2006	2031
Brisbane	46.9	45.4	44.1
Gold Coast	7.4	11.4	12.1
Sunshine Coast	4.4	7.2	7.7
West Moreton	2.0	2.1	2.7
South East Qld ^(b)	60.7	66.1	66.6
Wide Bay-Burnett	6.4	6.5	6.4
Darling Downs	6.9	5.5	5.2
South West	1.1	0.6	0.5
Fitzroy	6.2	5.0	5.2
Central West	0.6	0.3	0.2
Mackay	4.5	3.9	4.2
Northern	6.0	5.1	5.3
Far North	6.2	6.0	5.7
North West	1.4	0.8	0.6
Queensland	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) ASGC 2008

(b) South East Qld is not the same as SEQ Region as it does not include Toowoomba Statistical District.

Source: ABS 3218.0; Queensland Government population projections, 2011 edition (medium series); and Office of Economic and Statistical Research estimates

In contrast, the three western regions are projected to account for a very small part of the State's growth in the next 25 years, with little change in total population levels (Figures 6 and 7).

■ Brisbane SD has the largest population of any of Queensland's SDs. In 1986, nearly 47% of Queenslanders lived in the capital city SD (Table 3). This share eased slightly to reach 45.4% by 2006 and is projected to fall further to 44.1% by 2031. The population of Brisbane SD is also projected to account for around two-thirds of South East Queensland's population by 2031, down considerably from 77.2% in 1986.

Gold Coast SD accounted for 17.2% of South East Queensland's population in 2006, up from 12.2% in 1986, while Sunshine Coast SD accounted for 10.9% up from 7.3%. Both areas are projected to further increase their share of the State and South East Queensland populations as a result of continuing strong population growth.

South East Queensland is projected to account

to decline to 180,000 within three years, remaining constant thereafter (the Queensland share increasing from 19.4% to 24.4% over the projection period). In the low and high series, the assumed levels trend to 130,000 and 230,000 respectively. The Queensland share increases to 24.0% in the low series and 24.9% in the high series.

For **interstate migration** it was assumed that the very low levels currently being experienced will return to historical average levels. Annual net interstate migration to Queensland has been assumed to increase to 17,500 in the low series, 25,000 in the medium series and 32,500 in the high series, within three years.

With reference to **intrastate migration**, the projections use separate in-migration and out-migration rates to reflect the propensity of

population groups to move to or from each statistical division in Queensland. Assumptions for changes to the rates at which people move to and from individual regions are based on historical trends, knowledge of current and proposed major infrastructure and residential developments, and a series of less optimistic to more optimistic migration rate profiles that form the low, medium and high assumptions.

Background research papers describing historical trends in fertility, mortality, and intrastate, interstate and overseas migration, which informed the setting of the assumptions used in the Queensland Government Population Projections, 2011 edition, are available for download. (See back page for details.)

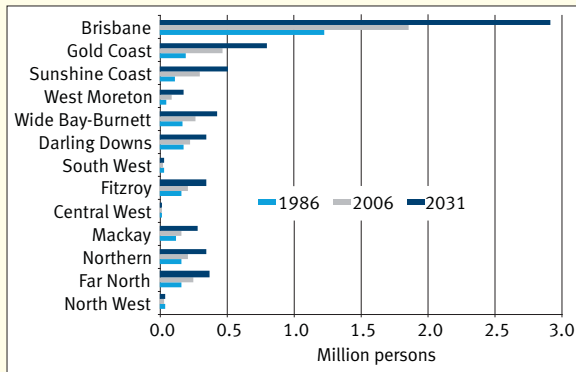
Sensitivity to assumptions

The assumptions regarding future fertility, mortality and migration largely determine the projected future population. The extent to which these assumptions differ from actual future outcomes will determine the accuracy of the population projections. The following examples illustrate the effect of variations in these key assumptions:

- A difference of 0.1 children per woman above or below the assumed medium series TFR (1.9) would result in the total population in 2056 being around 240,000 higher or lower than under the current medium series. These people would all be aged 48 years and under, being born between 2008 and 2056.

sions

Figure 6: Actual and projected population, Queensland statistical divisions^(a), years ending 30 June 1986, 2006 and 2031



(a) ASGC 2008

Source: Office of Economic and Statistical Research estimates; ABS 3218.0; and Queensland Government Population Projections, 2011 edition (medium series)

for just over two thirds (67.5%) of Queensland's population growth during the period 2006-2031. Brisbane SD is projected to record 42.0% of the

State's growth during this period, slightly less than its share of growth over the past 20 years (42.8%). Also, the share of Queensland's total

growth in Sunshine Coast SD is projected to ease slightly to 8.5% compared with 12.2% over the previous 20 years, while the Gold Coast's share of Queensland's total growth is projected to drop to 13.3% from 18.5% over the previous 20 years.

Each of the remaining regions, except Wide Bay-Burnett (6.4%), Northern (5.5%) and Fitzroy (5.5%), is projected to account for less than 5.5% of Queensland's growth over the 25 years to 2031. However, all regions outside South East Queensland except Wide Bay-Burnett and Far North

are projected to record slightly larger shares of growth in the next 25 years compared with the previous 20 years.

Each SD is projected to experience a range of impacts depending on the characteristics of the population and the scale of population change. In each SD, ageing is expected to be one of the most significant of these impacts. Table 4 shows that all SDs, except for South West and Central West, are projected to experience rapid increases in the number of people aged 65 years and over. In absolute terms, the largest

increases are anticipated to occur in the south-east of the State. In Brisbane SD, the number of working age people aged 20-64 years are projected to increase 42.8%, while those aged 65 years and over are projected to increase by 171.1% over the 25 year period.

Table 4: Projected population change by broad age group, Queensland statistical divisions^(a), years ending 30 June 2006 to 2031

Statistical Division	0-19		20-64		65 and over		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Brisbane	210,900	41.8	492,700	42.8	346,700	171.1	1,050,300	56.5
Gold Coast	68,200	59.5	169,100	58.9	94,700	146.2	332,000	71.2
Sunshine Coast	42,100	55.3	102,100	59.6	68,900	144.1	213,100	72.2
West Moreton	19,300	78.3	50,900	101.7	22,600	192.7	92,800	107.3
<i>South East Qld^(b)</i>	<i>340,600</i>	<i>47.3</i>	<i>814,700</i>	<i>49.1</i>	<i>532,800</i>	<i>163.0</i>	<i>1,688,100</i>	<i>62.4</i>
Wide Bay-Burnett	29,200	41.2	75,100	50.7	56,800	125.6	161,100	61.0
Darling Downs	20,200	30.7	56,200	43.8	43,000	136.5	119,400	52.9
South West	200	2.7	2,400	15.5	1,800	59.4	4,400	16.9
Fitzroy	30,400	49.2	72,300	59.0	36,100	164.5	138,800	67.3
Central West	-100	-3.3	900	12.1	500	29.9	1,300	10.2
Mackay	24,600	54.6	68,700	69.1	26,700	174.6	120,000	75.1
Northern	25,800	42.2	65,000	51.2	45,600	208.5	136,400	65.0
Far North	16,500	23.1	59,300	39.3	49,400	198.8	125,300	50.7
North West	-200	-1.8	4,100	20.2	3,200	154.7	7,200	21.6
Queensland	487,200	43.6	1,218,800	49.2	796,000	161.0	2,501,900	61.2

(a) ASGC 2008

(b) South East Qld is not the same as SEQ Region as it does not include Toowoomba Statistical District.

Source: ABS 3235.0; and Queensland Government Population Projections, 2011 edition (medium series)

- A difference of one year in life expectancy at birth by the end of the projection period, either side of the medium series assumptions for both males and females, would result (approximately) in a 63,000 difference in the total population by 2056. The major impact of these differences would be reflected in the number of people in the older age groups.
- A difference of 20,000 above or below the assumed medium series annual net overseas migration for Australia (180,000) would result in 290,000 additional or fewer people in Queensland by the year 2056. A variation of one percentage point in the assumed Queensland share of Australia's net overseas migration would lead to approximately 53,000 fewer or more persons in the Queensland population by end of the projection period.
- A difference of 5,000 people above or below the medium series annual net interstate migration assumption (25,000) would result in the total population in 2056 being around 290,000 higher or lower than the medium series projected population.

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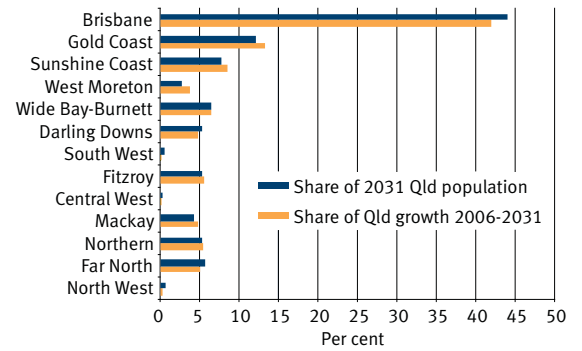
Queensland

■ Projected population 2031 and average annual population growth (%), 30 June 2006 to 30 June 2031, statistical divisions^(a)

Total population 2031 **6,592,856**

Average annual growth 2006 to 2031 **1.9% p.a.**

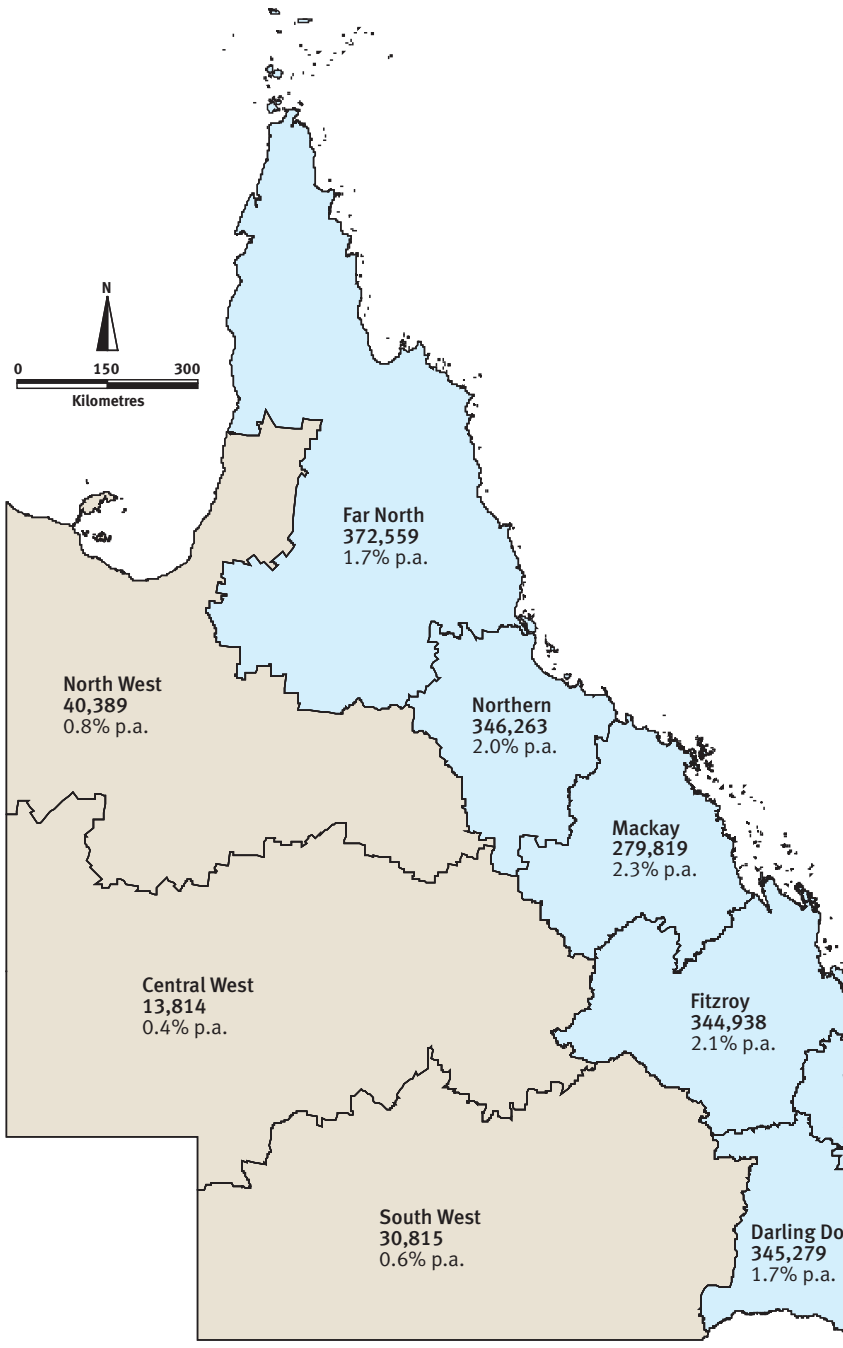
Figure 7 Projected population change (%), Queensland statistical divisions^(a), 30 June 2006 to 30 June 2031



(a) ASGC 2008

Source: Queensland Government population projections, 2011 edition (medium series)

Map produced by Office of Economic and Statistical Research.



Map legend

Share of 2031 Population

- Greater than 7%
- Between 1 and less than 7%
- Less than 1%

Far North Statistical division
372,559 Projected population at 30 June 2031
1.7% p.a. Average annual growth 2006 to 2031 p.a. = per annum

Summary table of assumptions

Series	Fertility (TFR)	Mortality (life expectancy at birth)	Interstate migration	Overseas migration
Low	Queensland total fertility rate of 2.0 in 2008-09 declining linearly over a five year period to 1.7, then constant thereafter.	Reducing improvements in life expectancy at birth in Queensland, to reach 85.0 years for males and 88.2 years for females by 2055-56.	Net interstate migration for Queensland of 8,500 persons in 2009-10, increasing to 17,500 persons in 2012-13, then constant thereafter.	Net overseas migration for Australia dropping to 130,000 by 2011-12 and remaining constant for the remainder of the projection period. Queensland share increasing from 19.4% to 24.0% over the projection period.
Medium	Queensland total fertility rate of 2.0 in 2008-09 declining linearly over a five year period to 1.9, then constant thereafter.	Reducing improvements in life expectancy at birth in Queensland, to reach 89.4 years for males and 92.2 years for females by 2055-56.	Net interstate migration for Queensland of 11,000 persons in 2009-10, increasing to 25,000 persons in 2012-13, then constant thereafter.	Net overseas migration for Australia dropping to 180,000 by 2011-12 and remaining constant for the remainder of the projection period. Queensland share increasing from 19.4% to 24.4% over the projection period.
High	Queensland total fertility rate of 2.0 in 2008-09 increasing linearly over a five year period to 2.1, then constant thereafter.	Continuing improvements in life expectancy at birth in Queensland, to reach 93.9 years for males and 96.3 years for females by 2055-56.	Net interstate migration for Queensland of 21,000 persons in 2009-10, increasing to 32,500 persons in 2012-13, then constant thereafter.	Net overseas migration for Australia dropping to 230,000 by 2011-12 and remaining constant for the remainder of the projection period. Queensland share increasing from 19.4% to 24.9% over the projection period.

Further information

Queries about this publication	Office of Economic and Statistical Research Phone: 07 3224 5326
More detailed data and background research papers	www.oesr.qld.gov.au Office of Economic and Statistical Research Phone: 07 3224 5326
Information about the POPSTAR projection model	www.gpem.uq.edu.au/qcpr-software
Projections for local government areas and smaller areas*	www.oesr.qld.gov.au/pifu Office of Economic and Statistical Research Phone: 07 3224 5326

* Population projections for local government areas are available from the website, as part of the publication Queensland Government population projections to 2031: local government areas, 2011 edition. Population projections for smaller areas will be available on request — please contact the Office of Economic and Statistical Research for more information.

When referencing these projections, please use the following description: **Queensland Government population projections, 2011 edition**

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Queensland Government

Process

The 2011 edition projections were produced under a collaborative, whole-of-government process with all Queensland Government agencies invited to participate. Agencies represented on the Population Projections Advisory Group were Treasury through the Office of Economic and Statistical Research (Chair) and the Departments of Transport and Main Roads, Premier and Cabinet, Health, Community Safety, Public Works, Communities, Employment Economic Development and Innovation, Justice and Attorney-General, Education and Training, and the Queensland Police Service.

Valuable demographic input was also provided by the Queensland Centre for Population Research (QCPR) at the University of Queensland.

The 2011 edition of the Queensland Government population projections is the fourth produced

using a state-of-the-art, multi-regional cohort component population projection model (POPSTAR) developed by QCPR. The model produces projections by single year of age and by sex for each year of the projection period, adding projected births and in-migration and subtracting deaths and out-migration for each year into the future. These projections update the previous series produced in 2008.

Background research papers were produced to assist the Advisory Group to determine the assumptions used in the model. These reports are available for downloading (see further information above). While the chosen assumptions represent the Advisory Group's current preferred options, other outcomes may result from changed circumstances in the future. As a result, three series: low, medium and high, were produced to indicate the most likely range

of outcomes that may eventuate. Users should recognise the variability associated with any population projections and focus on the range that populations may fall within rather than absolute numbers within any one series.

State and statistical division projections are revised twice every five years in line with the ABS Census of Population and Housing cycle. Population projections at local government area level are produced at the same time, and these projections sum to State and statistical division totals. A thorough consultation process is incorporated into the production of the local government area projections. This process includes seeking regional intelligence from councils and other groups about current and future population and dwelling information and major infrastructure, resource and residential development projects.