

Main Features

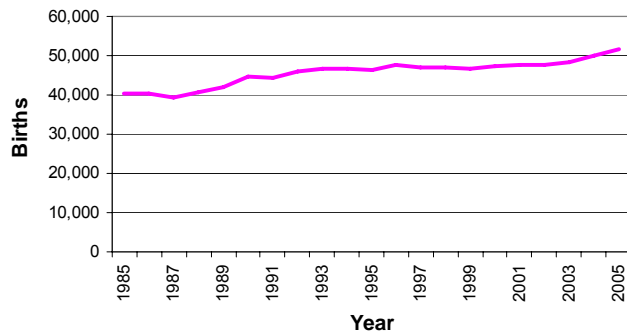
Registered births, 2005

	Number	Annual change (%)
Queensland	51,661	↑ 3.4%
Australia	259,791	↑ 2.2%

Commentary

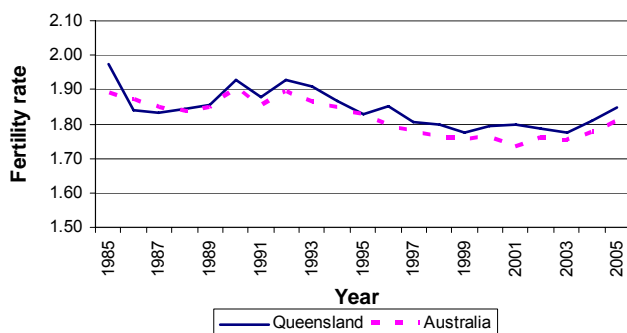
- A total of 51,661 births were registered in Queensland in 2005, comprising 26,702 males (51.7%) and 24,959 females (48.3%). This was an increase of 3.4% compared with the previous year (49,940 births) (Figure 1). Australia had an increase of 2.2% from 254,246 registered births in 2004 to 259,791 registered births in 2005.

Figure 1: Registered births, Queensland



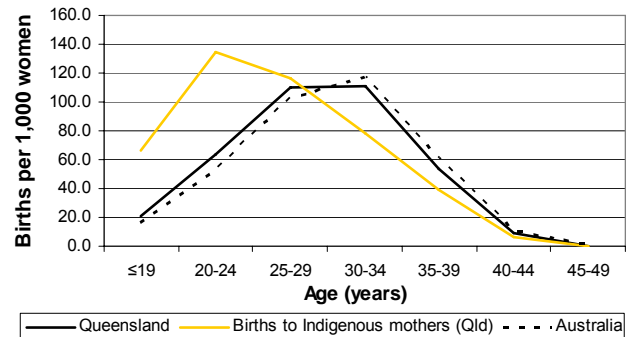
- The total fertility rate¹ in Queensland increased to 1.846 in 2005 compared with 1.811 in the previous year. This rate is slightly higher than Australia's total fertility rate of 1.806, which increased from 1.774 in 2004 (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Total fertility rate¹



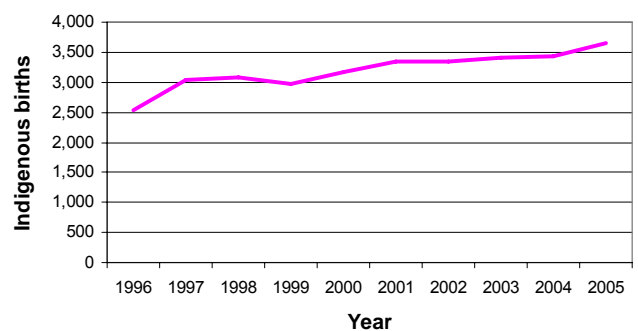
- In 2005, Queensland women in the 30–34 years age group had the highest fertility rate (110.9 births per 1,000 women) (Figure 3), marginally higher than in the 25–29 years age group (110.1 births per 1,000 women). For Australia as a whole, women aged 30–34 years had the highest fertility rate (117.5 births per 1,000 women). Fertility rates for Queensland Indigenous women peaked in the 20–24 years age group (134.8 per 1,000 women).

Figure 3: Registered births per 1,000 women, by age, 2005



- The median age of Queensland mothers in 2005 was 29.9 years. The median age of Queensland fathers (where age was known) was slightly higher at 32.2 years. Both Queensland figures are slightly lower than the national figures of 30.7 years for mothers and 32.9 years for fathers.
- The number of registered Indigenous births² in Queensland in 2005 was 3,657. This was 6.8% higher than in the previous year (Figure 4). Australia recorded 12,078 registered Indigenous births in 2005, up 0.6% from the previous year. Of the total Queensland registered births, 7.1% were to an Indigenous mother or father, compared with 4.6% for Australia.

Figure 4: Registered Indigenous births², Queensland



- The total fertility rate of Australian Indigenous women is lower than for New Zealand Maori women and slightly higher than for American Indian women. In 2005, the total fertility rate for Australian Indigenous mothers (2.057 births per woman) was lower than that for New Zealand Maori women (2.603). The total fertility rate for American Indian women in 2004, the latest year available, was 1.734, compared with 2.113 for Australian Indigenous women in that year.

1. The number of children a woman would bear during her lifetime if she experienced current age-specific fertility rates.
2. Coverage of Indigenous births in Queensland for 2001 to 2005 is estimated at 99% based on Census projections.