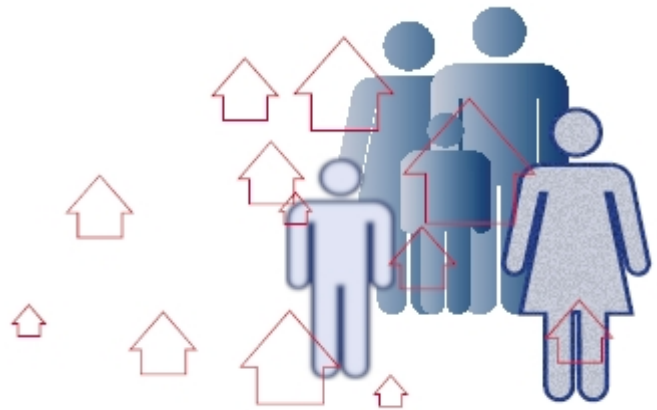


# POPULATION update

## No. 9 issued August 2007

*Queensland population update, No. 9, August 2007* contains analysis of the latest available Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) estimates of the resident population of Queensland, based on preliminary results of the 2006 Census of Population and Housing. These statistics, which were released in June 2007, include preliminary estimates of the population as at December 2006, preliminary estimated resident population (ERP) statistics for June 2006 based on the new census results, and preliminary rebased quarterly estimates from September quarter 2001 to March quarter 2006. Final rebased estimates will be released in June 2008. Some brief discussion of intercensal population changes in capital cities and major regional areas is also included. See *Queensland population update No. 10*, due for release in August 2007, for analysis of local government area population changes.



### Highlights

#### *Queensland's population now exceeds 4.1 million people*

By the end of December 2006, Queensland's population had grown to 4,132,000 people and between the 2001 and 2006 censuses, the State population increased by 463,000 or 12.7%. This represents an average annual increase of more than 92,500 or almost 1,800 people every week.

#### *Queensland's population growth largest in Australia for fifth consecutive year*

In the year to June 2006, Queensland experienced the largest growth of any state or territory for the fifth consecutive year. Between 1991 and 2006, Queensland's population grew by

1.1 million people and its growth has been consistently strong for many years. It is the only state or territory in Australia to grow by more than 50,000 people every year since 1986.

#### *Queensland's population growth the fastest in Australia*

From 2001 to 2006, Queensland was Australia's fastest-growing state or territory, with an average annual population growth over the five-year period of 2.4%, much higher than the corresponding national growth rate of 1.3% per annum. After Queensland, the next fastest-growing states were Western Australia (1.6% per annum) and Victoria (1.3% per annum).

### *Queensland's share of national growth still the nation's largest*

Queensland's share of Australia's population growth in the five years to June 2006 was more than one-third (35.9%). In comparison, the relative shares of NSW and Victoria over this period were 18.8% and 25.1% respectively.

### *Strong net interstate migration continues*

Between 2001 and 2006, net interstate migration to Queensland averaged almost 33,000 people per year, or more than 630 people every week. Only Queensland and Tasmania recorded an average annual gain from net interstate migration in the latest intercensal period. In the year to June 2006, Queensland's net interstate migration gain (25,800) was the lowest recorded between 2001 and 2006, but it still equated to an average net gain of almost 500 people each week. This was a result of nearly 1,900 interstate arrivals and nearly 1,400 interstate departures each week. Western Australia recorded the second-highest net interstate migration (3,100) in the latest year.

### *Another record year for births in Queensland*

A record number of 53,455 births were registered in Queensland in 2005-2006, higher than the previous record number (52,092) reached in 2004-2005. Natural increase (births minus deaths) contributed 29,238 people to Queensland's population in the year to June 2006, more than the average annual natural increase (26,000) between 2001 and 2006.

### *Overseas migration down from record year in 2005*

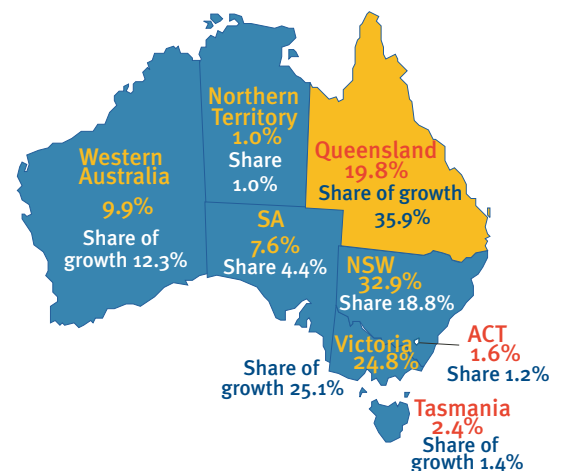
The preliminary figure (21,380 people) for net overseas migration to Queensland in the year to June 2006 was down substantially from the previous year (29,555), which was the highest ever recorded. However, based on previous revisions to overseas migration estimates it is expected that the Queensland figure will be revised upwards when the final figures for the year ending June 2006 are released in September 2007. Queensland's population gain from net overseas migration averaged almost 26,000 people over the five years to June 2006.

## Queensland's population and intercensal growth in the Australian context

Australia's population was 20.7 million at the end of December 2006. In the five years from June 2001 to June 2006, the national population increased by 1.3 million people, an average annual increase of about 260,000 or 1.4%. Queensland's population reached 4,132,000 in June quarter 2006. The estimate for 30 June 2006, based on the 2006 Census, was 4,092,000 people, and an increase of 463,000 over the five years since 2001. This represents an average annual increase of 92,500 people or 2.4%.

Queensland contributed more than one-third (35.9%) of Australia's growth over the five-year period, much more than its share (19.8%) of national population at the end of June 2006 (Figure 1). New South Wales and Victoria are Australia's most

Figure 1: Proportion of national resident population at 30 June 2006 and share of national population growth for five years to 30 June 2006



Source: ABS, Australian Demographic Statistics, cat. no. 3101.0

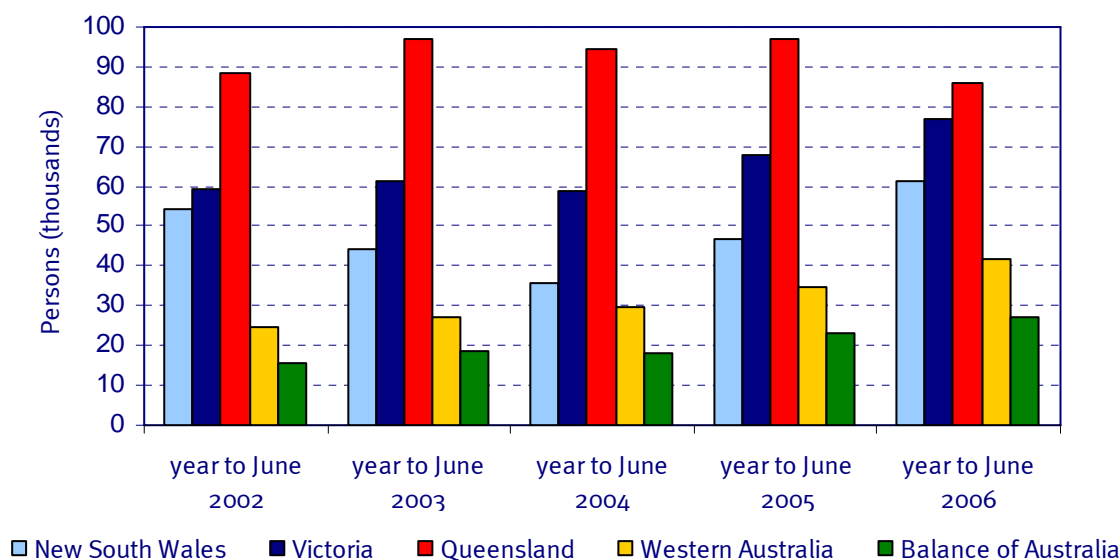
populated states with 6.9 million and 5.2 million people at the end of December 2006, representing shares of 32.9% and 24.8% respectively of national population. However, these states attracted a lower share of the nation's population growth between 2001 and 2006 (18.8% and 25.1% respectively) compared with Queensland.

Queensland had slightly below one-fifth (19.8%) of Australia's population at the end of June 2006, more than one percentage point higher than its share (18.7%) in June 2001. In comparison, the national population share of New South Wales declined from 33.9% to 32.9% over the intercensal period while Victoria's share remained steady at 24.8%. Western Australia had the next largest share after Victoria with 10.0% in 2006, up slightly from 9.8% in 2001. Queensland, Western Australia, Victoria and were the only states with shares of national population growth between 2001 and 2006 in excess of their national population share.



Queensland's annual population growth has outstripped the population increases for all other states and territories since 30 June 2001 (Figure 2). Queensland's gains for the last five years have largely been at the expense of New South Wales, where the annual population increase declined from 89,000 people in 2001 to 35,500 people in 2004 (although rebounding over the past two years to more than 61,200 in 2006). Queensland experienced higher levels of growth than Victoria also in the same period, with Victoria's annual growth falling from 63,400 people in 2001 to 58,900 people in 2004, and then increasing strongly in subsequent years to be 76,600 in 2006. Queensland's annual growth decreased by 11,300 or 11.6% to 85,800 in 2006, compared with the preceding year's figure. The annual population increase in the year to June 2005, 97,000, was the largest recorded by any state in Australia since 1981-82, and the highest ever recorded in Queensland.

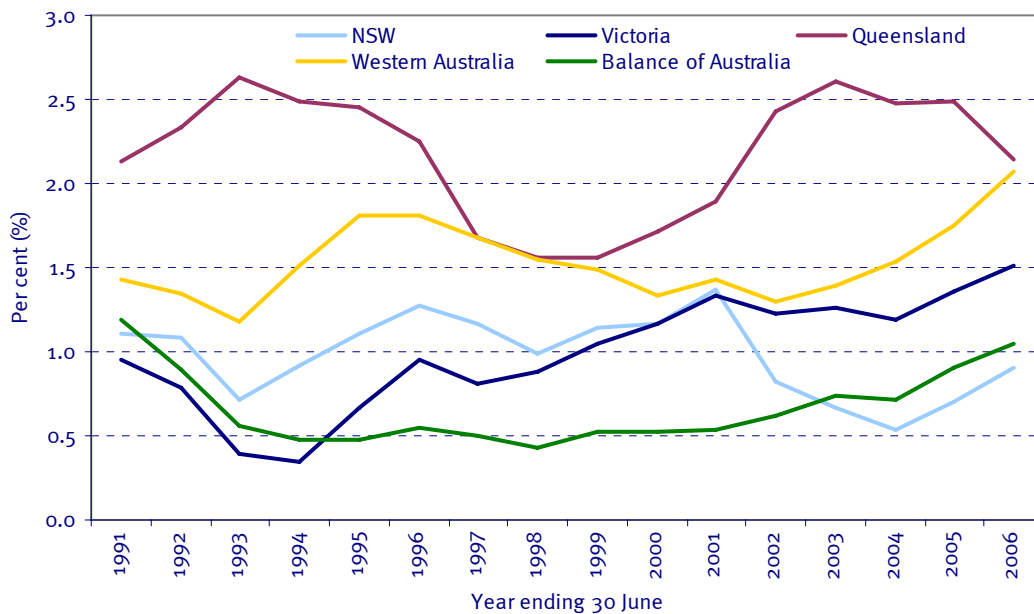
**Figure 2: Annual population increase, states and territories, 2001 to 2006**



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Australian Demographic Statistics*, cat. no. 3101.0

In all years from June 2001 to June 2006, Queensland was the fastest-growing state or territory in Australia, growing by more than 2.0% every year. Queensland's average annual increase over the five-year period was 2.4%. In comparison, the national growth rate was 1.3% annually over the same period and the corresponding growth rates for Western Australia and Victoria, the next fastest-growing states, were 1.6% and 1.3% respectively. Western Australia's annual growth rate accelerated in the intercensal period, increasing from 1.3% in the year to June 2002 to 2.1% in the year to June 2006. The growth rates of Australia's resource-rich states, Queensland and Western Australia, were almost equal (2.1%) in 2005-06.

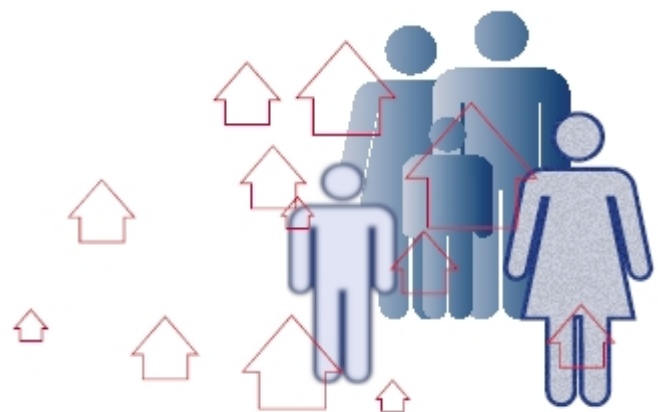
**Figure 3: Annual population growth, states and territories, 1991 to 2006**



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Australian Demographic Statistics*, cat. no. 3101.0

## Components of Queensland's intercensal population change in the Australian context

Net population change at a state level is derived from three components – natural increase, net interstate migration and net overseas migration. Natural increase is calculated as births minus deaths using registration records of these events for people resident in Queensland. However, statistics of interstate and overseas migration are estimates only, calculated from different administrative sources indicating movement of people.





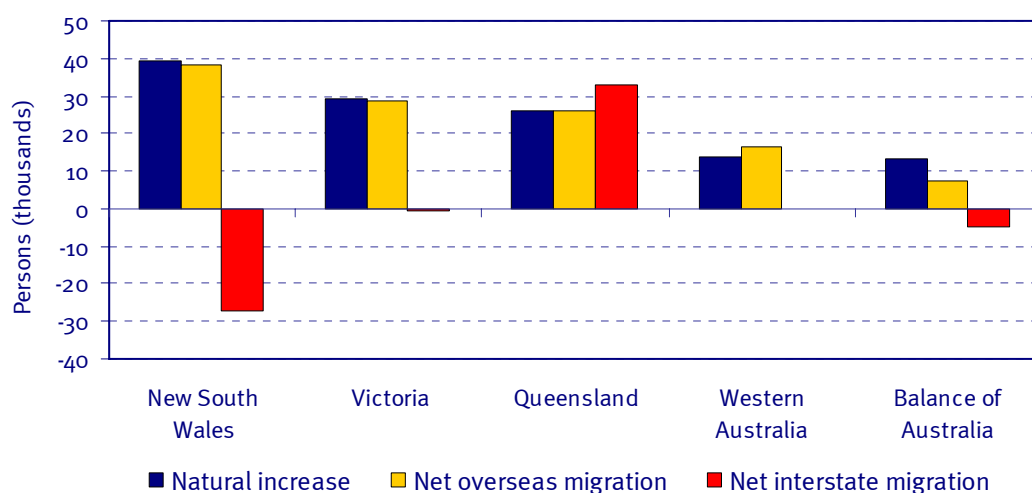
Estimates of net interstate migration are derived from Census data on interstate movement in the preceding one year and administrative information on interstate movements advised by Medicare Australia. From September quarter 2006, the ABS introduced an improved method for calculating net overseas migration. The key change is the replacement of the '12/12 month rule' for determining a person's residence in Australia by a '12/16 months' rule. This requires a person to be in Australia for 12 months out of a 16 month period to be counted in the estimated resident population figure. Further information is available in the technical notes of this report and in the ABS Information Paper: *Improved Methods for Estimating Net Overseas Migration* (cat no. 3107.0.55.003).

## Natural Increase

Natural increase (births minus deaths) contributed 29,238 people to Queensland's population in the year to June 2006. This represents more than one-third (34.1%) of the state's population growth. A record number of 53,455 births were registered in the state in 2006, higher than the previous record number (52,092) reached in 2005. The number of deaths in Queensland has also increased by around 1,700 per annum since 2001 to reach 24,200 in the year ending 30 June 2006. On average, natural increase contributed 26,000 people annually to Queensland's population growth between 2001 and 2006 (Figure 4).

Natural increase in New South Wales and Victoria in the intercensal period was higher than in Queensland, as both states have a larger population base. Average annual natural increase between 2001 and 2006 was 39,200 in New South Wales and 29,200 in Victoria. Queensland's average annual natural increase (26,000) was only about 3,000 lower than natural increase in Victoria, which has a population exceeding Queensland's by around one million. This is the result of the different age structures in the two states; Queensland's younger age structure means that there are more women in childbearing ages. Also there is a lower proportion of the population in the older cohorts which results in lower levels of mortality.

**Figure 4: Components of average annual population change, states and territories, 5 years to June 2006**



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Australian Demographic Statistics*, cat. no. 3101.0

## Net Interstate Migration

Queensland's population gain from net interstate migration averaged almost 33,000 people over the five years to June 2006. In this period, only Queensland and Tasmania had an average annual population gain from net interstate migration. Tasmania's average annual net gain was about 600 people. In the year to June 2006, Queensland's net migration (25,800) was the lowest recorded in the five-year period, but still an average net gain of almost 500 people each week. This was a result of nearly 1,900 interstate arrivals and nearly 1,400 interstate departures each week. Western Australia recorded the second-highest net interstate migration (3,100) in the year to June 2006.

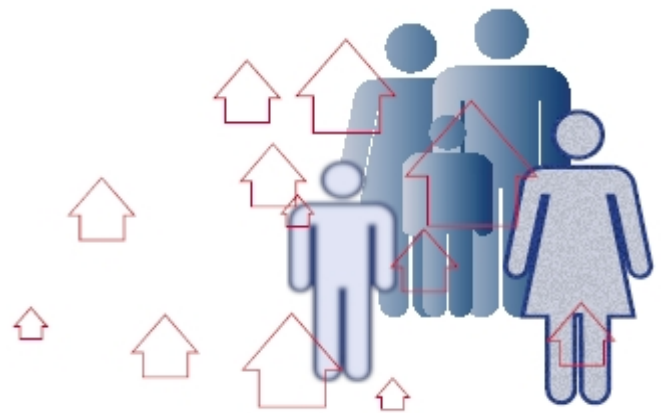


## Net Overseas Migration

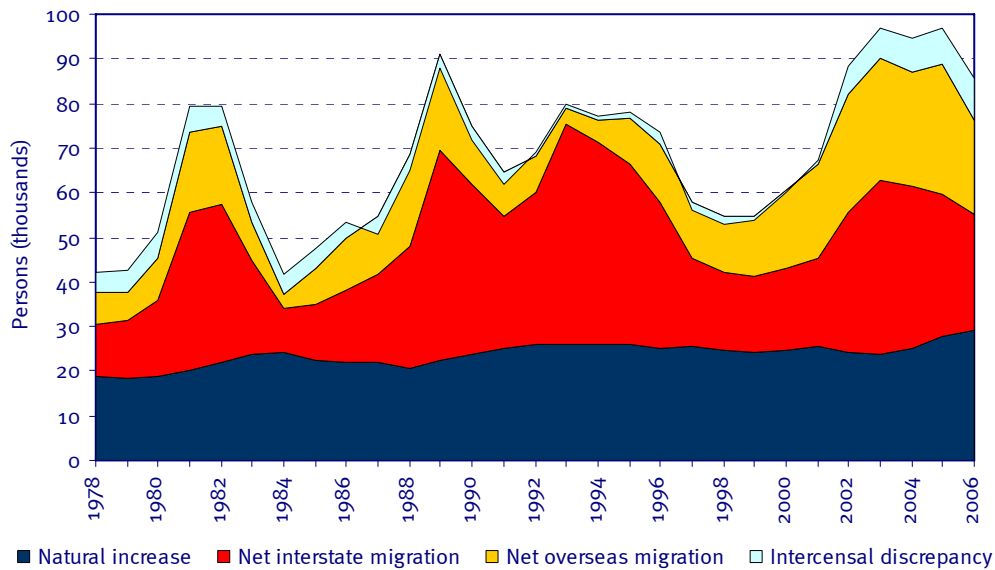
The preliminary figure (21,380 people) for net overseas migration to Queensland in the year to June 2006 was down substantially from the previous year (29,555), which was the highest ever recorded in the state. Queensland's population gain from net interstate migration averaged almost 26,000 people over the five years to June 2006. The figure for the year to June 2006 is expected to be revised upwards when final figures are released in September 2007. Annual net overseas migration to New South Wales and Victoria averaged 38,500 and 28,600 respectively between 2001 and 2006. The relatively high number of overseas migrants entering these two states is largely related to the relatively large number of overseas born Australians living in these two states.

## Components of population change in Queensland

Figure 5 shows that natural increase has risen slowly since 1974, though growth has accelerated in the last two years due mainly to increases in the number of births. By comparison, net interstate migration and net overseas migration have shown more annual volatility, with notable peaks having occurred in 1982, 1989, 1993, 2003 and again in 2005. In cumulative terms, net interstate migration has been the largest contributor to population growth in Queensland from 1974 to 2006 (around 848,000 people), with natural increase the second largest component (around 766,000 people). Net overseas migration has been a relatively minor contributor to overall population growth since 1974, contributing around 434,000 people in that period. However, it is worth noting that the contribution from net overseas migration has risen strongly since the early 1990s. In the year to June 1993, net overseas migration contributed 3,800 people or around 5% of Queensland's annual population increase. By 2006, the corresponding figure was 21,400 people or 25% of the total. Over the last 5 years, net overseas migration accounted for almost one-third of Queensland's population increase (31.6%).



**Figure 5: Components of population change, Queensland, year ended 30 June (a)**



(a) The sum of the three components of population change from 2001 to 2006 do not equal total population change due to intercensal discrepancy. Refer to Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Australian Demographic Statistics*, December Quarter 2006, cat. no. 3101.0

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Australian Demographic Statistics*, cat. no. 3101.0

## Estimated resident population of Australia's capital cities and Queensland's major regional centres

The following analysis is based on preliminary figures from the 2006 Census. The estimated resident population (ERP) of Sydney, Australia's most heavily populated capital city Statistical Division (SD) was almost 4.3 million by 30 June 2006 (Table 1). Brisbane's population was more than 1.8 million people, half the number in Melbourne SD (3.7 million people). In the five years to 30 June 2006, Brisbane's population increased by an annual average of 38,300 people. Over the same period, Melbourne's average annual population increase was 54,500, the largest of all capital cities. The corresponding figure for Sydney was 31,200. Perth's population increased by an annual average of 23,500 people between 2001 and 2006, whereas the average annual intercensal population increase in Adelaide and Hobart was 7,600 and 1,700 respectively.



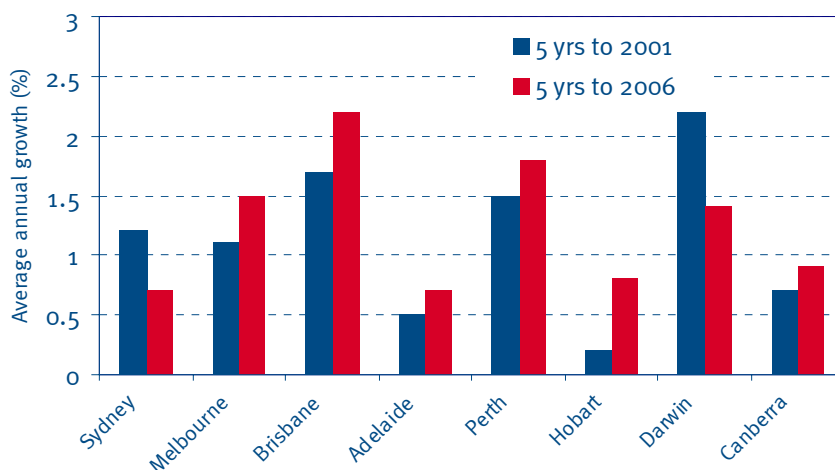
**Table 1: Population and population growth, capital city Statistical Divisions, 1996-2001 and 2001- 2006**

Capital City Statistical Division	Average annual population change				Estimated Resident Population at 30 June 2006
	5 yrs to June 2001		5 year to June 2006		
	no.	%	no.	%	
Sydney	49,427	1.2	31,221	0.7	4,284,379
Melbourne	37,669	1.1	54,550	1.5	3,744,373
Brisbane	25,666	1.7	38,253	2.2	1,820,400
Adelaide	5,910	0.5	7,627	0.7	1,146,119
Perth	19,582	1.5	25,302	1.8	1,519,510
Hobart	313	0.2	1,657	0.8	205,566
Darwin	2,203	2.2	1,505	1.4	114,368
Canberra	2,204	0.7	3,000	0.9	333,940

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Regional Population Growth, 1996 to 2006*, cat. no. 3218.0

Between 2001 and 2006, Brisbane’s average annual intercensal growth rate (2.2%) was the highest of all capital cities with Perth being the second fastest-growing capital city SD (1.8%). With the exceptions of Sydney and Darwin, all capital city SDs grew faster in the five years to June 2006 than in the previous five-year period. This was most apparent in Hobart, where the average annual growth rate increased from 0.2% in the five years to June 2001 to 0.8% in the next five years. In contrast, average intercensal growth in Sydney declined from 1.2% in the five years to June 2001 to 0.7% between 2001 and 2006 (Figure 6).

**Figure 6: Average annual population growth rates, capital city Statistical Divisions, 1996-2001 and 2001-2006**



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Regional Population Growth, 1996 to 2006*, cat. no. 3218.0

Outside capital city SDs, the ABS has defined Statistical Districts (SDists). These are predominately urban areas generally defined as containing an urban centre population of 25,000 people or more. At the end of

June 2006, Gold Coast–Tweed was Australia’s most populated SDist with 565,300 people. Over the five years between 2001 and 2006, it was also the largest–growing SDist with an annual average increase of 18,100 people. Five out of the ten SDists in Australia with the largest population in June 2006 were located in Queensland: Gold Coast–Tweed, Sunshine Coast (224,100 people), Townsville (153,000), Cairns (131,600) and Toowoomba (121,900). Of these five SDists, Hervey Bay was the fastest–growing between 2001 and 2006 with annual average growth of 5.1%, which was well above Queensland’s average growth rate (2.4%) over this period. Hervey Bay was also the fastest–growing SDist in Australia and Sunshine Coast was the second–fastest (3.8%). In the five years to June 2006, Gold Coast–Tweed SDist had the largest average annual population increase (18,100 people) of all Australian SDists. This figure was well ahead of the increase in Newcastle SDist (5,000), which has a similarly–sized population (517,500) to Gold Coast–Tweed SDist in 2006. Within Queensland, seven of the ten SDists had average annual growth rates between 2001 and 2006 in excess of the state average (2.2%) (Table 2). All ten Queensland SDists grew faster between 2001 and 2006 than they did in the previous five years. In Cairns, Mackay, Gladstone, and Rockhampton, average annual growth rates were substantially higher between 2001 and 2006 than they were in the previous five years.

**Table 2: Population and population growth, Queensland Statistical Districts, 1996–2001 and 2001–2006**

Statistical District	Average annual population change				Estimated Resident Population at 30 June 2006
	5 yrs to June 2001		5 yrs to June 2006		
	no.	%	no.	%	
Gold Coast–Tweed	15,135	3.5	18,101	3.6	565,256
Sunshine Coast	5,762	3.4	7,597	3.8	224,127
Townsville	2,332	1.8	3,776	2.7	152,954
Cairns	1,248	1.1	3,726	3.1	131,564
Toowoomba	1,485	1.4	2,489	2.2	121,894
Hervey Bay	740	2.0	2,245	5.1	50,825
Mackay	738	1.2	2,555	3.7	77,544
Bundaberg	551	1.0	1,291	2.2	63,262
Gladstone	351	0.9	1,316	3.2	45,678
Rockhampton	-64	-0.1	1,193	1.7	73,333

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Regional Population Growth, 1996 to 2006*, cat. no. 3218.0

## Technical notes

Sources: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Australian Demographic Statistics, December Quarter 2006*, cat. no. 3101.0, ABS, *Regional Population Growth, 1996 to 2006*, cat. no. 3218.0 and ABS Information Paper: *Improved Methods for Estimating Net Overseas Migration*, cat. no. 3107.0.55.003.

## Intercensal error and intercensal discrepancy

Intercensal error occurs when there is a difference between the latest Census–based Estimated Resident Population (ERP) figures for 30 June 2006 and ERP figures based on the previous Census. Factors that contribute to the intercensal error are: errors in the Census–based estimates of the population at the

current or previous census date, and/or errors in the estimates of any components of population change (natural increase, interstate and net overseas migration) since the previous Census. After the intercensal error is adjusted for revisions to the components of population change (births, deaths and migration), the remaining portion is referred to as the intercensal discrepancy.

## Net Overseas Migration (NOM)

From September quarter 2006 the ABS introduced an improved method for estimating NOM based on a new system for calculating and classifying NOM. Previously a '12/12 month rule' was applied in NOM statistics in determining ERP estimates. This meant that many overseas students and business travellers residing long-term in Australia would not be included in the ERP because they do not spend a continuous 365 day period in Australia. Similarly, many Australians working or studying overseas would not be removed from the ERP because they are not absent for a continuous 365 day period.

The key methodological change introduced to NOM estimates is that travellers' durations of stay in Australia or overseas will be measured across a 16 month period. The 12/16 month rule for determining a travellers' duration of stay can be applied when data on movements are available for the 16 months following a reference quarter. For this reason, the 12/16 month rule is only fully applied to final NOM estimates based around the construction of detailed movement histories for each overseas traveller.

## Practice of rebasing ABS population estimates

Preliminary rebased population estimates were released by the ABS for December quarter 2006. Two series of calculations were made in rebasing the quarterly population estimates to take account of the 2006 Census results. The first series of calculations was applied to construct a new preliminary estimated resident population (ERP) for 30 June 2006 from which estimates for the next intercensal period (e.g. 2006-2011) will be made. Because this new population estimate uses the Census as its main data source, it is said to be 'based' on the 2006 census and is referred to as a population base.

The second series of calculations was made to revise the 19 intercensal quarterly estimates preceding June quarter 2006 (i.e. September quarter 2001 to March quarter 2006) to produce preliminary rebased estimates which ensure that the ERP time series for the previous intercensal periods are comparable with the latest estimates. As the result of the revision of the quarterly estimates the sum of the individual components of population change (natural increase, net interstate migration and net overseas migration) may not be the same as the rebased quarterly ERP. The rebased population estimates will be updated again to produce final rebased estimates for December quarter 2007.

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