



# Queensland population update no. 12

## Latest demographic trends February 2008

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) released a new edition of *Australian Demographic Statistics*, June Quarter 2007 in December 2007 (cat. no. 3101.0).

*Population Update No. 12*, based on this latest ABS release, contains an analysis of the latest demographic trends in Australia, with an emphasis on Queensland. All electronic information on the ABS website ([www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)) is available free of charge.

### Key points

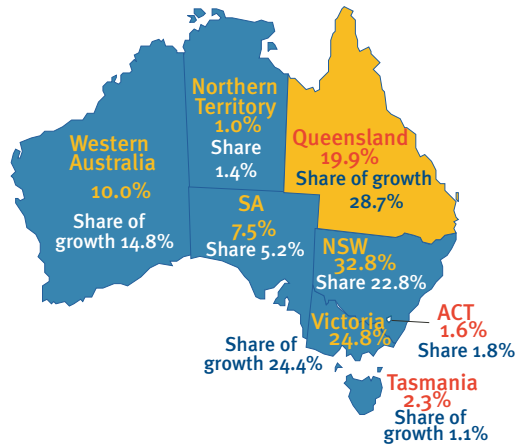
- Queensland's population reached 4.18 million by the end of June 2007.
- Queensland was the largest-growing state or territory in the year to June 2007 an increase of 90 500 people followed by Victoria (76 900) and New South Wales (71 900).
- Western Australia was the fastest growing state or territory in the year to June 2007 with an increase of 2.3%, slightly ahead of Queensland's growth rate (2.2%) and well ahead of the national average (1.5%).
- In 2006-07, Queensland experienced the largest net interstate migration of all states and territories (27 000 persons), up 7.1% over the previous year (25 200 people).
- Net interstate migration accounted for 19.9% of Queensland's total population growth during the year to June 2007.
- Net overseas migration was 33 500 people in 2006-07— 8% higher than the previous year's figure of 33 000.
- At 30 June 2007, 19.9% of Australians were Queenslanders, compared with 19.8% the previous year.
- Based on preliminary estimates, the number of births in Queensland reached a new high of 54 600 for the year ending 30 June 2007 and was 0.7% higher than the previous year's figure of 54 200.

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

Australia's population was 21 million by the end of June 2007 and increased by 315 700 people from the figure in June 2006 (20.7 million). Queensland's estimated resident population was 4.18 million at the end of June 2007. The state accounted for 28.7% of the nation's

population growth — more than its share of the national population and much larger than the contributions made by Victoria (24.4%) and New South Wales (22.8%) (Figure 1). Queensland's share of Australia's population was 19.9% compared with 24.8% for Victoria and 32.8% for New South Wales.

**Figure 1: Proportion of national resident population at 30 June 2007 and share of national population growth for the year to 30 June 2007**

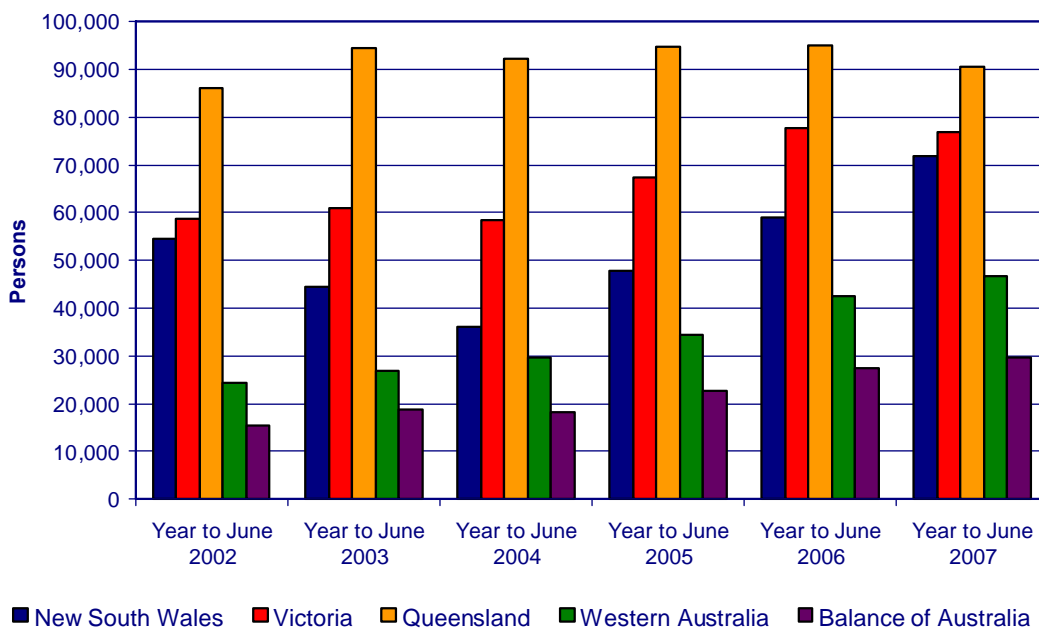


Source: ABS, Australian Demographic Statistics, cat. no. 3101.0

Queensland had the largest population growth of all Australian states and territories, with 90 500 new Queenslanders added in the year to June 2007. This represents an average weekly increase of 1740 people. In 2006-07 the

populations of Victoria and New South Wales increased by 76 900 people and 71 900 people respectively. As Figure 2 shows, Queensland had the largest annual population increase of all states during the past six years, followed by Victoria and New South Wales.

**Figure 2: Annual population increase, states and territories, 2001-02 to 2006-07**  
(Source: ABS, Australian Demographic Statistics, June 2007, cat. no. 3201.0)





Queensland's annual population growth was relatively constant at approximately 90 000 people from 2002-07. In comparison, Victoria's annual population increased by 58 800 in 2001-02, rising to 76 900 in 2006-07. The New South Wales

population increase was lower than Victoria in all years between 2002 and 2007. In 2001-02 the population of New South Wales increased by 54 600 people, rising to 71 900 people by the end of the 2007 financial year.

**Figure 3: Annual population growth, states and territories, 1990-91 to 2006-07**

(Source: ABS, *Australian Demographic Statistics*, June 2007, cat. no. 3201.0)

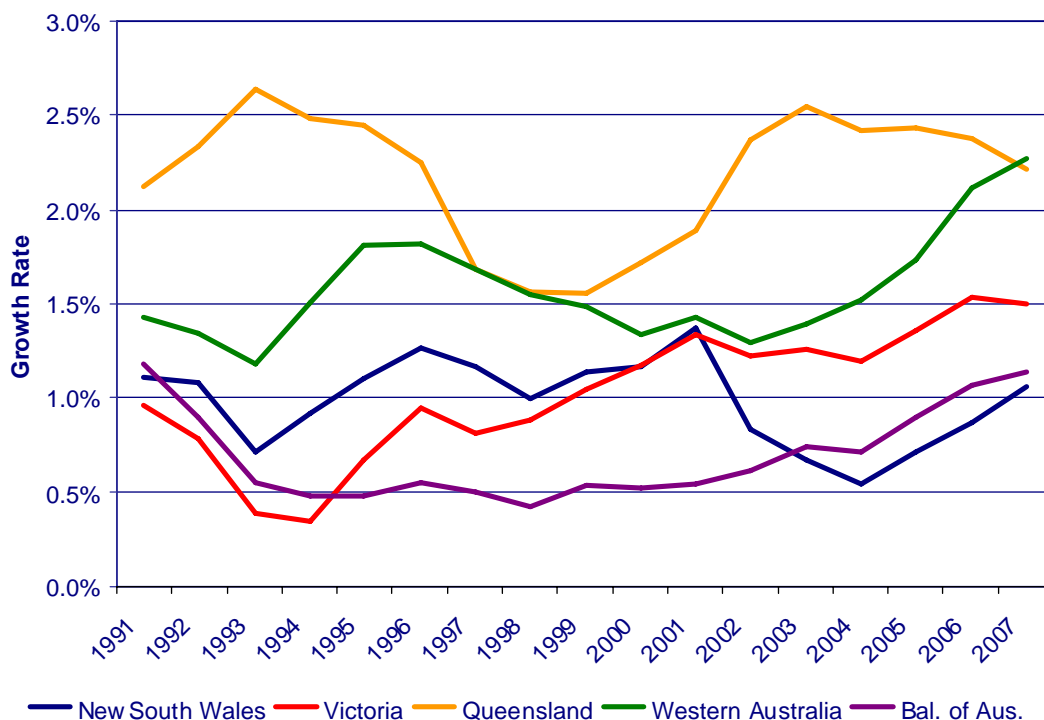


Figure 3 shows that Western Australia grew marginally faster (2.3%) than Queensland (2.2%) in 2006-07. South Australia and Tasmania had the slowest growth rates over the year with 1.0% and 0.7% respectively. The national growth rate in 2006-07 was 1.5%. While

population growth in Queensland in 2006-07 was slightly slower than in 2005-06 (2.4%), growth rates in New South Wales, Western Australia, and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) increased in the latest year. For example, the ACT grew by 1.2% in 2005-06 and by 1.7% in 2006-07.

## Queensland compared to Australia

Population change results from two factors:

- natural increase (the difference between the number of births and deaths) and
- migration (net overseas and net interstate movement).

In 2006-2007, Queensland's total fertility rate (1.880 births per woman) was slightly lower than in the previous year (1.899) while fertility rates in most other parts of Australia increased slightly. However, in all states and territories except Tasmania and the Northern Territory, total fertility rates in 2006-07 fell below the replacement level of 2.1 births per woman.

Standardised death rates (deaths per 1000 persons) declined in Australia in

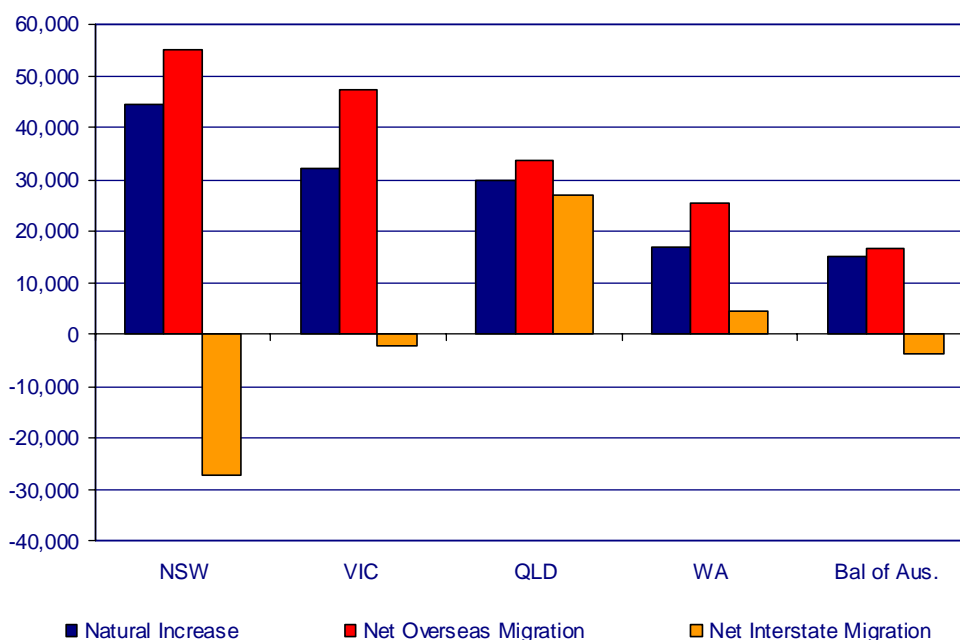
2006-07 from the previous year. In Queensland, the rate was 5.90, slightly lower than 6.12 the previous year.

In Queensland the number of births and deaths remained stable with more than twice as many births as deaths. Over the last five years, the number of births averaged 51 500 annually compared with 24 200 deaths. While the trend toward natural increase is currently rising in Queensland, population projections suggest that natural decrease will eventually replace natural increase in the long-term future (post-2050). The number of deaths will exceed births because of population ageing and the expected decrease in the average number of children born.

Figure 4 shows that the components of Queensland's population change (natural increase, net interstate and overseas migration) vary considerably from those for other states and territories – all three components are strongly positive.

**Figure 4: Components of population change, states and territories, 2006-2007**

(Source: ABS, *Australian Demographic Statistics*, June 2007, cat. no. 3201.0)





## Natural increase

Natural increase (births minus deaths) added 30 000 people to Queensland's population in the year ending June 2007, compared with 44 300 people in New South Wales and 31 900 people in Victoria. This represents 33.1% (one third) of Queensland's total population increase in 2006-07 and 21.7% of Australia's natural increase. Natural increase was 1.0% higher than the previous year's figure of 29 700.

Queensland's average annual increase (30 000) was only 2000 lower than in Victoria (31 900), whose population exceeds Queensland by more than one million.

## Net interstate migration

Queensland's net gain from interstate migration in the year to June 2007 (27 000) was significantly higher than any other state or territory, increasing by 7.1% from the previous year's figure of 25 200. Net interstate migration contributed 29.8% of Queensland's population growth in 2006-07.

The net gain from interstate migration in 2006-07 equates to 500 people moving to Queensland every week from other states or territories. Over the five years to June 2007, Queensland gained an average of 31 400 people from interstate migration. During this period, only Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia experienced an average annual net gain from interstate migration.

In the year to June 2007, Queensland's net interstate migration (27 000) was the second lowest recorded over the past five-year period. The lowest recording occurred in 2005-06 (25 200). Western Australia had the second-highest net interstate migration (4 400) in the year to June 2007, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (1 900) and the Northern Territory (228). The remaining States had negative net interstate migration for the latest financial year.

## Net overseas migration

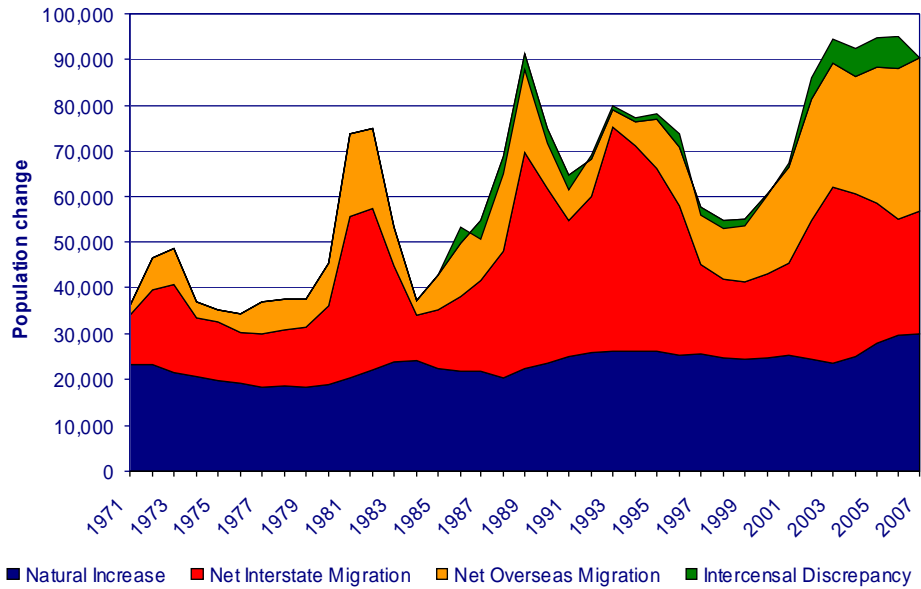
In the year to June 2007 net overseas migration to Queensland was 33 500—1.8% higher than the previous year (33 000) and the highest annual total over the past five-years. Net overseas migration contributed 37.0% to Queensland's population growth in the year to June 2007 - ranking third of all states and territories in 2006-07. New South Wales had the largest net gain from overseas migration (54 900) followed by Victoria (47 200), influenced by the large number of overseas born Australians already living there.

In 2006-2007 the main sources of settler arrivals into Queensland were New Zealand (39.4%), the United Kingdom (19.4%) and South Africa (4.1%) (Source: *Immigration Update 2006-07*, Department of Immigration and Citizenship).

Figure 5 shows that natural increase has been relatively steady since 1970-71 with some increase in the recent years, due to a record number of births. By contrast, net overseas migration and net interstate migration have shown considerable volatility over time, with notable peaks in 1982, 1989, 1993 and again in 2003. Net overseas migration has remained high since 2002-03, in 2006-07 reaching the highest level since 1970-71. Also its relative contribution to Queensland's growth in the last six years was much greater.



**Figure 5: Components of population change, Queensland, 1970-71 to 2006-07**  
 (Source: ABS, *Australian Demographic Statistics*, June 2007, cat. no. 3201.0)



## Changing age structure

Australia's population, like that of many developed countries, is ageing as a result of sustained low fertility and increasing life expectancy. In 1987 Queensland children aged 0-14 years comprised almost a quarter (23.7%) of the population (Figure 6). By 2007 the proportion had fallen to about one fifth (20.2%). In contrast, older

age groups now account for much higher shares of the population. Queenslanders aged 45-64 in 1987 represented 18.3% of the total population but by 2007 accounted for a quarter (25.0%) of the population. People who had reached the age of 65 years or more in 1987 comprised 10.5% of the population, but by 2007 represented 12.2%.

**Figure 6: Population change, broad age groups, persons, Queensland 1987 and 2007**  
 (Source: ABS, *Population by Age and Sex, Australian States and Territories*, June 2007, cat. no. 3201.0)

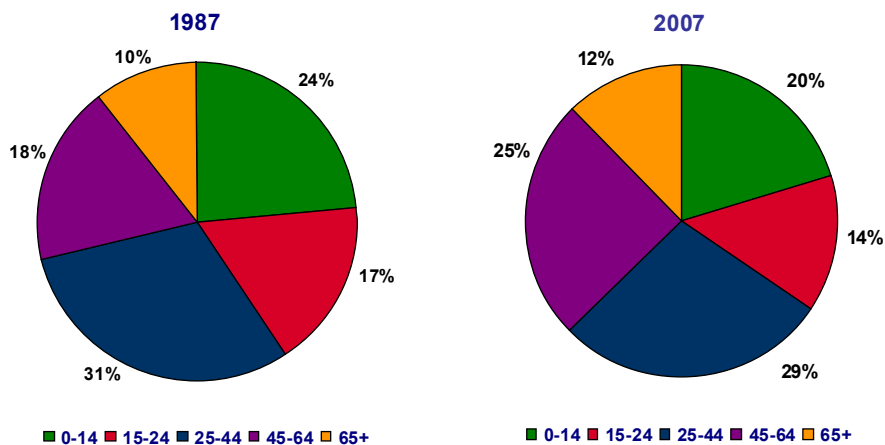


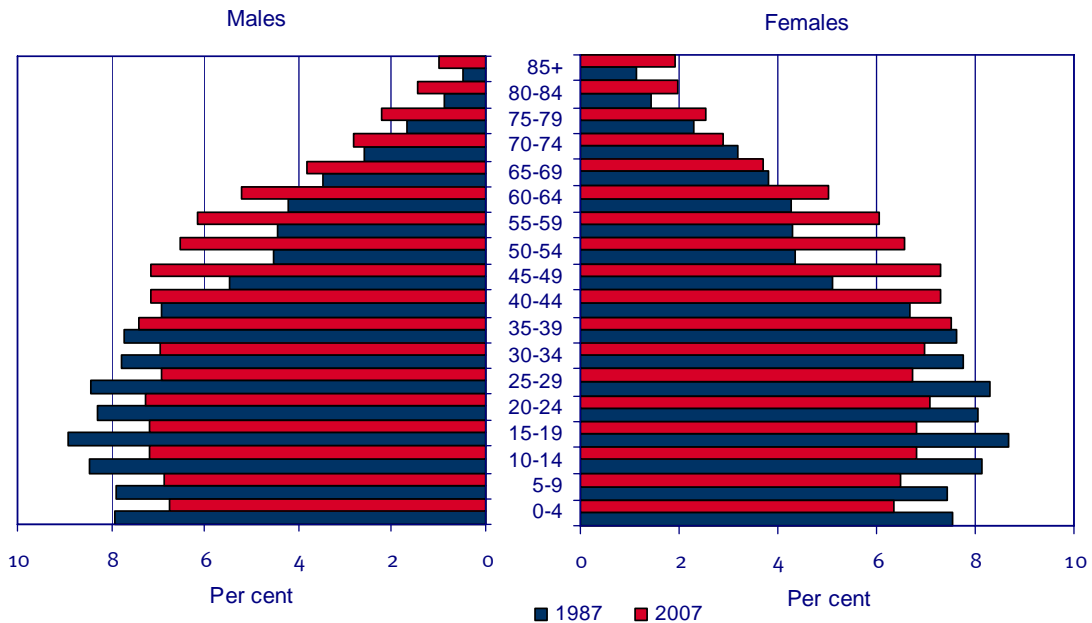


Figure 7 shows that in 2007 the number of middle-aged Queenslanders equalled or exceeded those in younger age groups. In contrast, when these Queenslanders were children or young adults in 1987, the majority of males and females were aged between 15 and 19 years. Males comprised 8.9% and females 8.7% of the State's population. By 2007 the proportion

of this younger age group had declined to 7.2% for males and 6.8% for females. Those aged 35-39 now represent the largest group of Queenslanders. (M=7.4%; F=7.5%), reflecting the influence of population ageing and net interstate and overseas migration on Queensland's age structure between 1987 and 2007.

**Figure 7: Population change, age and sex, Queensland 1987 and 2007**

(Source: ABS, *Population by Age and Sex, Australian States and Territories*, June 2007, cat. no. 3201.0)





## For updates visit: [www.infrastructure.qld.gov.au/planning](http://www.infrastructure.qld.gov.au/planning)

The Planning and Forecasting Information Unit provides a comprehensive range of professional products and services in the areas of population, housing trends, projections and urban land supply. Standard and customised products are available.

### Queensland population updates

Brief reports containing up-to-date information on the latest demographic trends in Queensland. Each update is produced as soon as possible after the release of new population data.

#### Queensland population update, No. 12, February 2008

Contains June 2007 population estimates for Queensland.

#### Queensland population update, No. 11, November 2007

Contains 2006 population estimates based on reformed local government area (LGA) boundaries.

### Fact sheets

Population and housing fact sheets present the latest information on population and housing trends, including estimated resident population, natural increase, net migration, dwelling approvals and future population projections. The fact sheets on residential land activity, updated regularly present a variety of land and dwelling statistics.

The Census fact sheets are based on the first release of 2006 Census data and will be updated for the second release of the Census data during 2008. The fact sheets are available for the LGAs on the reformed boundaries and contain population and housing information.

### Upcoming releases

#### Broadhectare study 6

A geographical information system is used to measure future land supply for residential development in LGAs in South East Queensland. Edition 6 reports for Brisbane City and Gold Coast City will be released in the first half of 2008.

#### 2008 edition population projections

New population projections, based on the 2006 Census results, will be available from mid-2008. LGA projections are produced twice every five years, with this edition containing population projections by age and sex on the reformed LGA boundaries out to 2031.

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