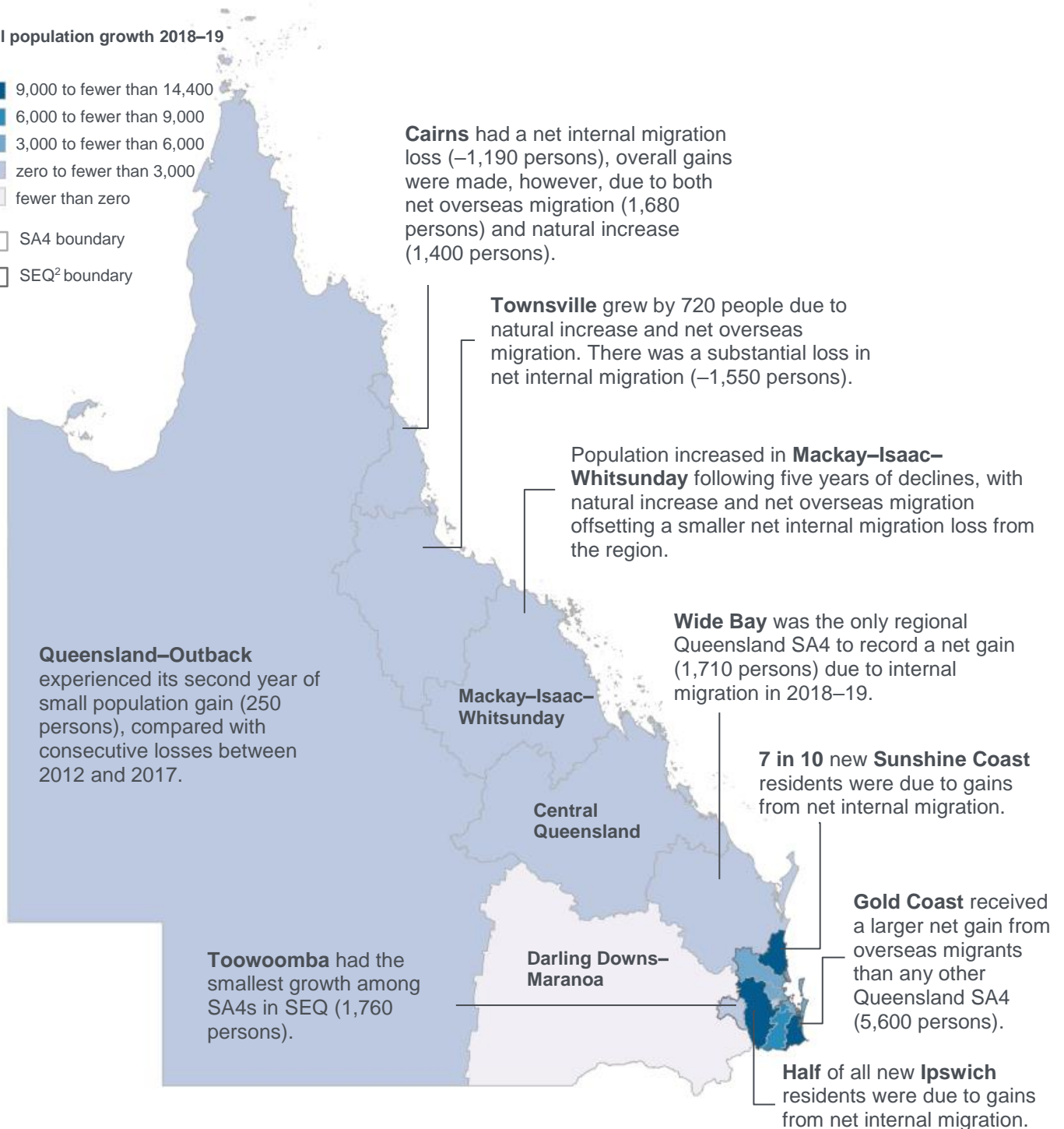
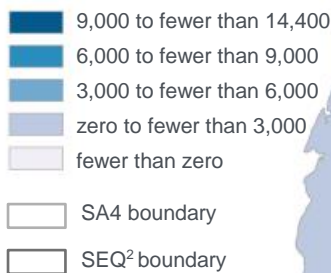


# Population growth highlights and trends, Queensland regions, 2020 edition

Source: ABS 3218.0, released 25 March 2020, 10:30a.m. AEST

## Highlights—population change in Queensland SA4s<sup>1</sup>, year to 30 June 2019

### Overall population growth 2018–19

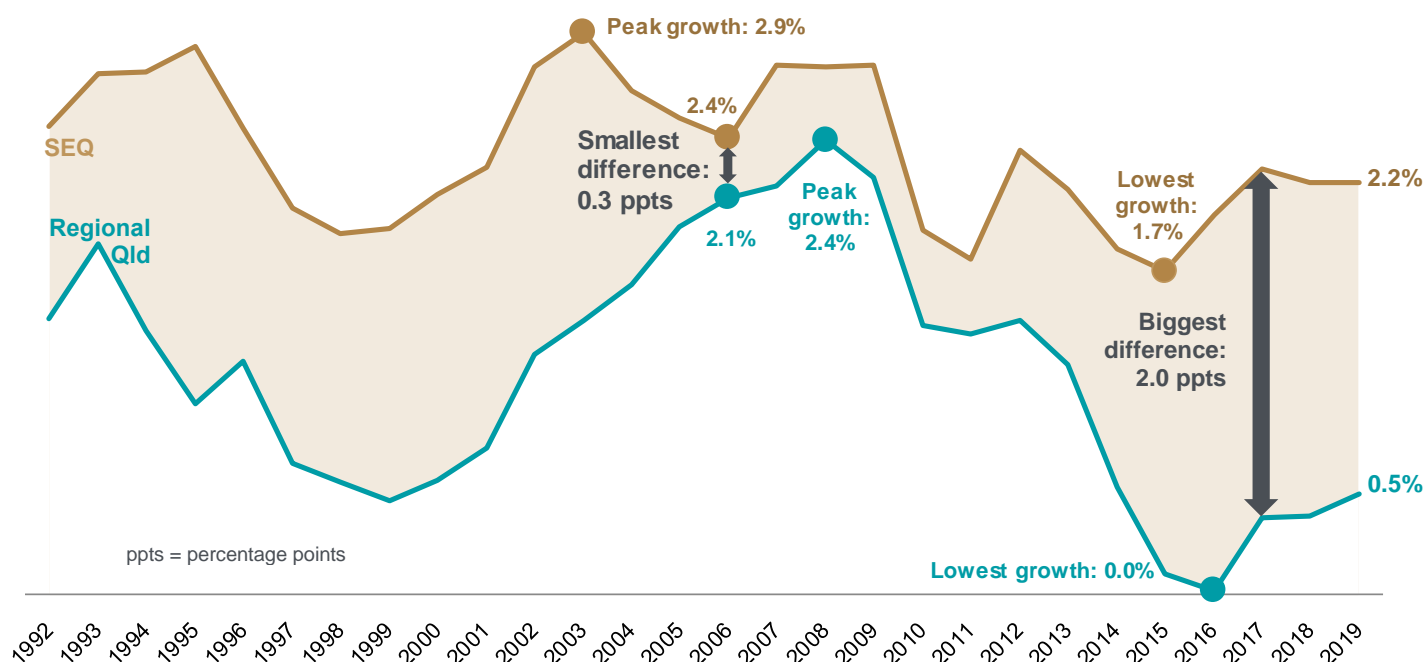


<sup>1</sup> Statistical area level 4.

## Overview of Queensland's regions

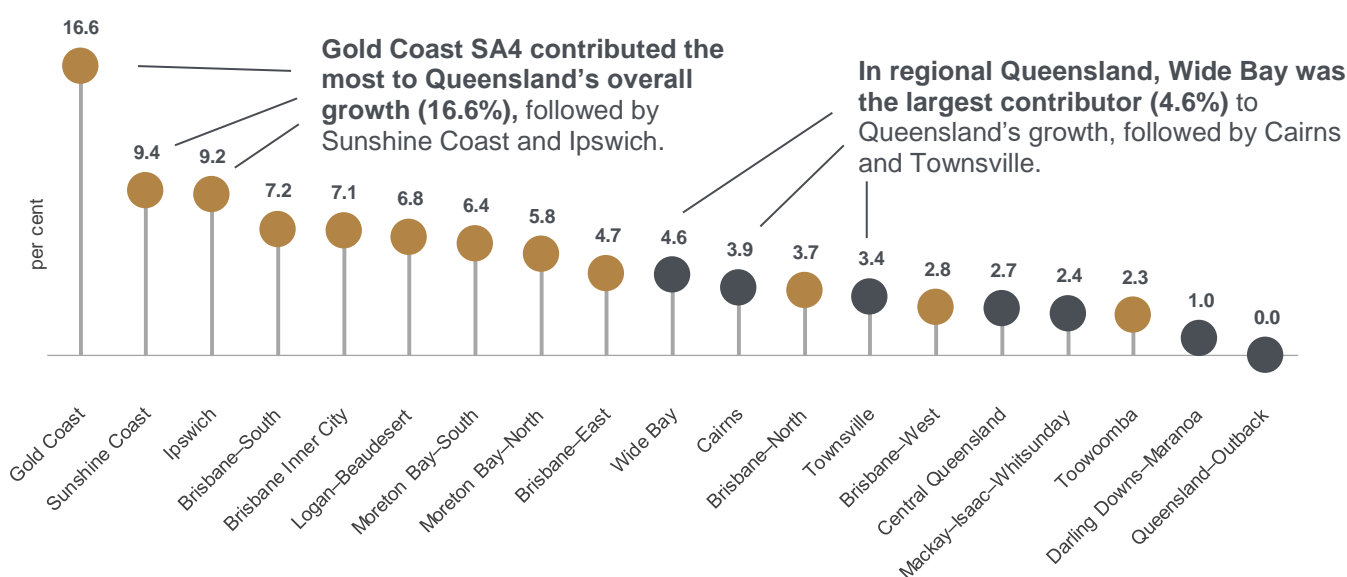
### Annual population growth rate, SEQ<sup>2</sup> and regional Queensland, year to 30 June 2019

Population growth in SEQ has been higher than in regional Queensland for many decades...



- In the 20 years from 1999, growth rates in SEQ varied between the range of 1.7% in 2014–15 and 2.9% in 2002–03.
- During the same period, growth rates in regional Queensland varied between virtually unchanged in 2015–16 and 2.4% in 2007–08.

### Contribution to Queensland's population growth by SA4, twenty years to June 2019



<sup>2</sup> 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–Baudekert, Moreton Bay–North, Moreton Bay–South, Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba.

## South East Queensland SA4s

- More than **7 in 10** Queenslanders (72.5% or 3.7 million persons) lived in SEQ at June 2019.
- Over the 10 years to June 2019, SEQ grew at more than double the rate (2.0%) of the rest of Queensland (0.7%).
- SEQ population growth was steady at 2.0% per annum in the five years to June 2019. The annual population growth rate in SEQ between 2018 and 2019 (2.2%) exceeded both the 5 and 10 year averages.

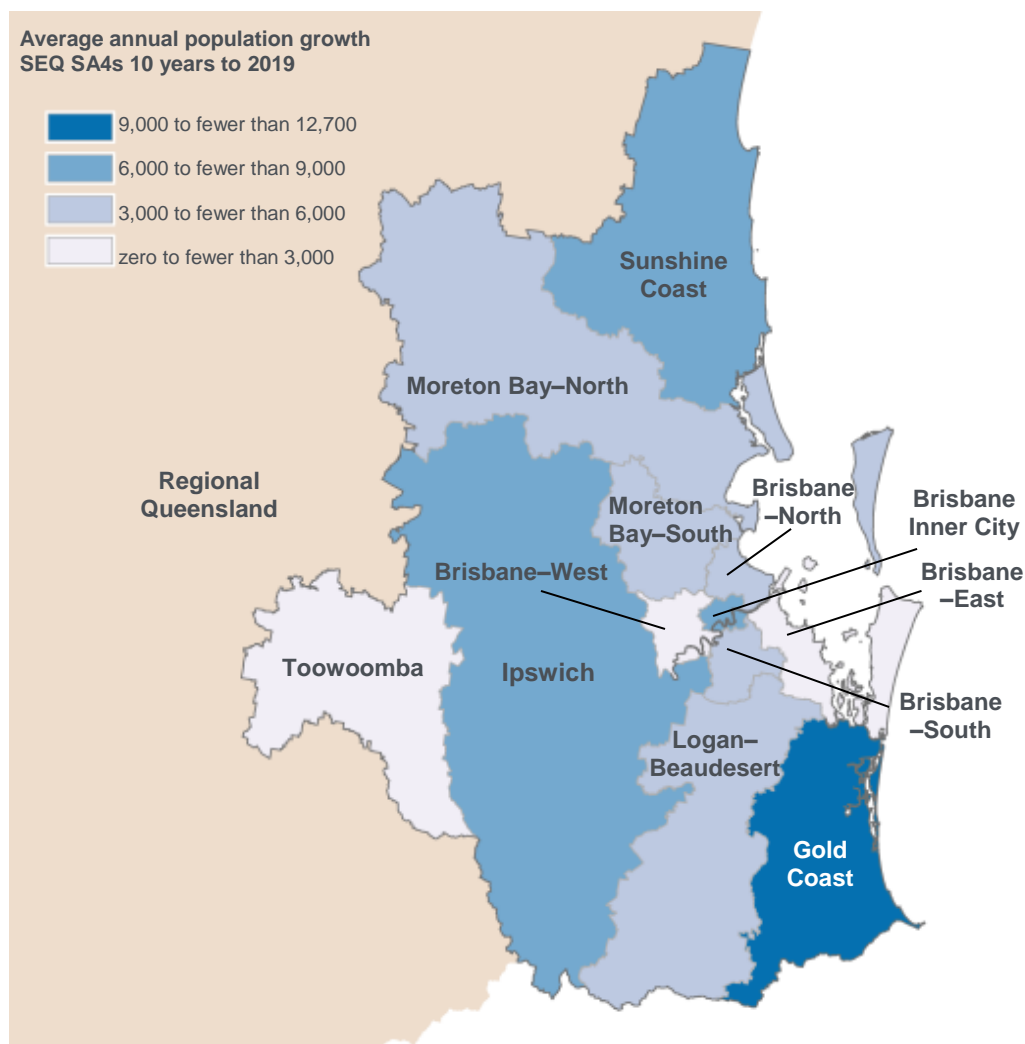
### Rate of population change in SEQ SA4s

- In 2018–19 Brisbane Inner City SA4 grew the fastest (3.2%), followed by Ipswich (3.0%) and Moreton Bay–South (2.5%).
- The fastest average annual growth rates during the decade to June 2019 were in Moreton Bay–South (3.0%), Ipswich (2.8%) and Brisbane Inner City (2.4%).
- Population growth slowed for many SEQ SA4s over the five years to June 2019 compared with the previous five years. Moreton Bay–North, Brisbane–East, Ipswich and Toowoomba experienced the largest slowdowns.

#### SEQ SA4s that grew

Brisbane Inner City, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast were the only SA4s in SEQ where the average annual population growth rate was higher in the five years to June 2019 than in the 5 years to June 2014 (2.8% compared with 2.0% for Brisbane Inner City, and 2.4% compared with 2.1% for both the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast).

### Size of population change in SEQ SA4s



#### Year to June 2019

In 2018–19, Gold Coast grew the most (14,320 persons), followed by Ipswich (10,710) and Sunshine Coast (9,110).

The smallest population growth in 2018–19 was in Toowoomba (1,750 persons), followed by Brisbane–West (2,040) and then Brisbane–East (3,040).

#### 10 years to June 2019

In the 10 years to June 2019, Gold Coast grew the most, increasing by an average of 12,700 persons per year, next was Ipswich (8,660) and then the Sunshine Coast (7,590).

Toowoomba had the smallest average annual growth (1,740 persons per year), followed by Brisbane–West (1,820) and then Brisbane–East (2,850).



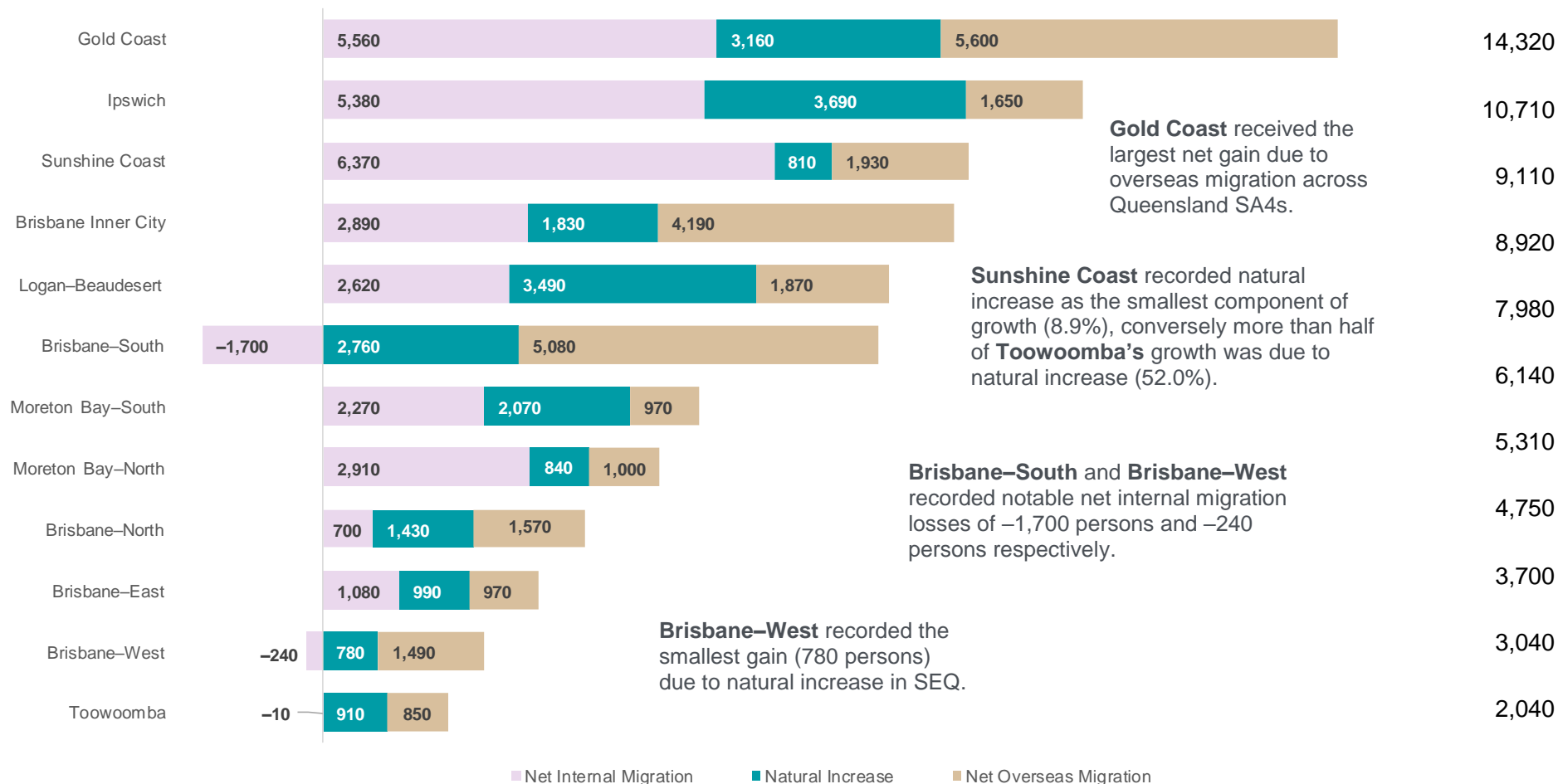
Queensland Government Statistician's Office

**Average annual population change, 10 years, 5 years and 1 year to June 2019, SEQ SA4s**

SA4	Estimated resident population as at 30 June				Average annual growth			Average annual growth		
	2009	2014	2018	2019	2009–2019	2014–2019	2018–19	2009–2019	2014–2019	2018–19
	— number —				— number —			— % —		
<b>South East Queensland</b>	<b>3,027,030</b>	<b>3,338,480</b>	<b>3,615,270</b>	<b>3,693,040</b>	<b>66,600</b>	<b>70,910</b>	<b>77,770</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.2</b>
Brisbane–East	212,180	227,270	237,620	240,660	2,850	2,680	3,040	1.3	1.2	1.3
Brisbane–North	192,010	208,950	222,180	225,890	3,390	3,390	3,700	1.6	1.6	1.7
Brisbane–South	318,760	345,960	369,850	375,990	5,720	6,010	6,140	1.7	1.7	1.7
Brisbane–West	175,140	184,200	191,300	193,340	1,820	1,830	2,040	1.0	1.0	1.1
Brisbane Inner City	229,540	253,320	282,370	291,290	6,170	7,590	8,920	2.4	2.8	3.2
Gold Coast	509,130	564,950	621,800	636,120	12,700	14,230	14,320	2.3	2.4	2.3
Ipswich	275,760	317,670	351,680	362,390	8,660	8,940	10,710	2.8	2.7	3.0
Logan–Beaudesert	289,600	318,890	341,280	349,260	5,970	6,070	7,980	1.9	1.8	2.3
Moreton Bay–North	212,390	236,120	251,510	256,260	4,390	4,030	4,750	1.9	1.7	1.9
Moreton Bay–South	163,110	189,350	213,800	219,110	5,600	5,950	5,310	3.0	3.0	2.5
Sunshine Coast	308,360	341,640	375,170	384,280	7,590	8,530	9,110	2.2	2.4	2.4
Toowoomba	141,060	150,140	156,710	158,460	1,740	1,660	1,750	1.2	1.1	1.1
<b>Queensland</b>	<b>4,328,770</b>	<b>4,719,650</b>	<b>5,009,420</b>	<b>5,094,510</b>	<b>76,570</b>	<b>74,970</b>	<b>85,090</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.7</b>

### Components of population change, SEQ SA4s, year to June 2019

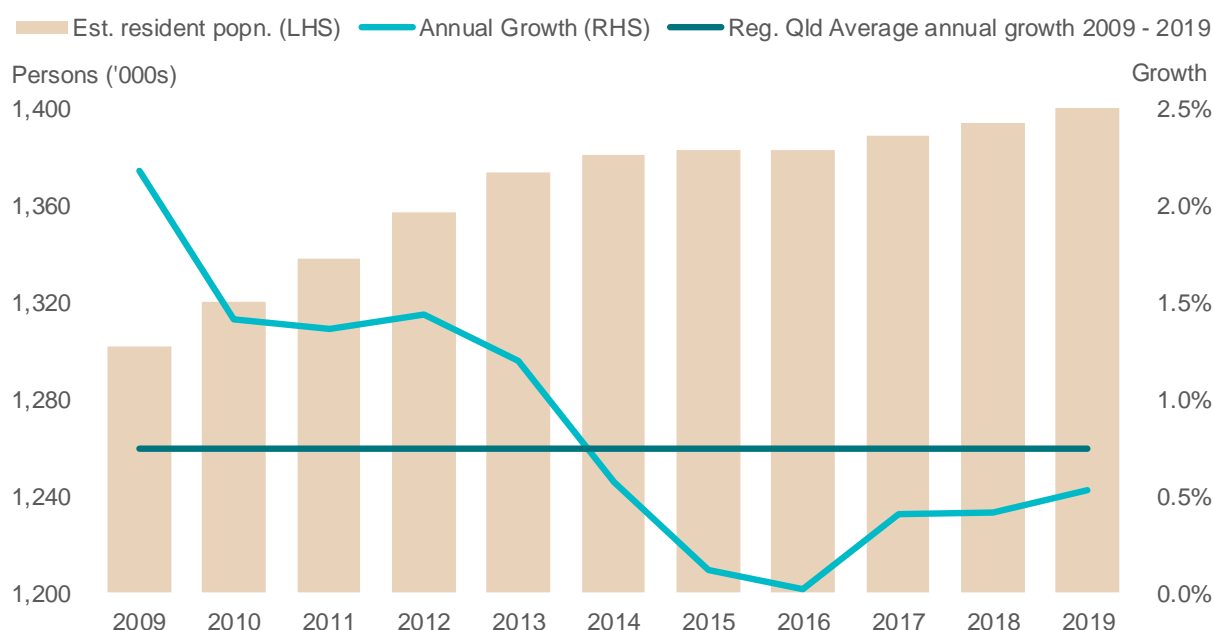
Ranked largest to smallest net growth 2018–19



## Regional Queensland SA4s

- Fewer than **3 in 10** Queenslanders (27.5% or 1.40 million persons) lived in regional Queensland at June 2019.
- Over the 10 years to June 2019, regional Queensland's population increased by an average of 0.7% per year, less than half the rate for SEQ (2.0%).
- In the 2018–19 year, both Cairns and Wide Bay regional SA4s had growth rates higher than the 10-year average for regional Queensland.

### Population change in regional Queensland, 10 years to June 2019



### Rate of population change in regional Queensland SA4s

- The average annual rate of population growth slowed in all regional SA4s in the five years to June 2019 compared with the five years to June 2014. Two SA4s, Mackay–Isaac–Whitsunday and Queensland–Outback experienced population loss during the 2014–2019 period (–0.3% and –0.6% per annum respectively), however both recovered slightly to record population growth in the year to 30 June 2019 (0.3% respectively).
- The fastest growing regional SA4 during the 2014–2019 period was Cairns, which had an average annual growth rate of 0.9%. This rate was considerably slower than the 1.3% achieved during the 2009–2014 period. At 1.1%, Cairns also achieved the fastest average annual growth rate in regional Queensland for the 10 years to June 2019.
- Central Queensland had an average annual population growth of 1,530 persons over the 10 years to June 2019, however during the five years to June 2019 averaged a net loss of 40 persons per annum.
- Townsville's average annual growth more than halved from 1,990 persons over the 10-year period to June 2019 to 870 per annum during the most recent five-year period.
- In 2018–19, Wide Bay (0.9%) was the fastest growing SA4 in regional Queensland, followed by Cairns (0.8%) and Central Queensland (0.6%).

## Size of population change in regional Queensland SA4s

In the year to June 2019:

- Wide Bay SA4 increased the most (up 2,670 persons).
- Cairns had the second-largest population growth among regional Queensland SA4s (1,890 persons), followed by Central Queensland (1,310 persons).
- Population decreased in Darling Downs–Maranoa (–40 persons).
- The smallest net population gain was in Queensland–Outback (250 persons).

Over the 10 years to June 2019:

- The largest average annual population increases were in:
  - Cairns (2,690 persons)
  - Wide Bay (2,580 persons)
  - Townsville (1,990 persons)
- In contrast, Queensland–Outback SA4 experienced the only population decrease (–210 persons per year).

### Average annual population change, 10 years, 5 years and 1 year to June 2019, regional Queensland SA4s

SA4	Estimated resident population as at 30 June				Average annual growth			Average annual growth		
	2009	2014	2018	2019	2009–2019	2014–2019	2018–19	2009–2019	2014–2019	2018–19
	— number —				— number —			— % —		
<b>Regional Queensland</b>	<b>1,301,740</b>	<b>1,381,180</b>	<b>1,394,150</b>	<b>1,401,470</b>	<b>9,970</b>	<b>4,060</b>	<b>7,320</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Cairns	226,920	242,630	251,950	253,840	2,690	2,240	1,890	1.1	0.9	0.8
Central Queensland	211,560	227,010	225,510	226,810	1,530	–40	1,310	0.7	0.0	0.6
Darling Downs – Maranoa	122,170	128,540	128,750	128,710	650	30	–40	0.5	0.0	0.0
Mackay–Isaac –Whitsunday	165,530	176,060	172,480	173,010	750	–610	530	0.4	–0.3	0.3
Queensland–Outback	84,620	85,250	82,290	82,530	–210	–540	250	–0.2	–0.6	0.3
Townsville	217,240	232,780	236,380	237,100	1,990	860	720	0.9	0.4	0.3
Wide Bay	273,690	288,900	296,790	299,470	2,580	2,110	2,670	0.9	0.7	0.9
<b>Queensland</b>	<b>4,328,770</b>	<b>4,719,650</b>	<b>5,009,420</b>	<b>5,094,510</b>	<b>76,570</b>	<b>74,970</b>	<b>85,090</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.7</b>

### Components of population change, regional Queensland SA4s, year to June 2019

- All regional SA4s recorded net population gains due to natural increase (births exceeded deaths) in 2018–19, with the largest gain in Central Queensland (1,550 persons).
- All regional SA4s had a net population increase due to overseas migration (arrivals exceeded departures), with gains ranging between 180 and 1,680 persons.
- Wide Bay was the only regional Queensland SA4 to record a net gain due to internal migration (1,710 persons).
- Cairns had a net internal migration loss (–1,190 persons), but had significant net gains from overseas migration (1,680) and natural increase (1,400).
- Darling Downs–Maranoa was the only regional SA4 to have population loss between 2018 and 2019 (–40 persons), with the key driver being a relatively large negative net internal migration.

### Components of population change, regional Queensland SA4s, year to June 2019





## South East Queensland LGAs<sup>3</sup>

- At 30 June 2019, around **1 in 4** Queenslanders (1.25 million persons) lived in Brisbane (C), the most populous local government area (LGA) both in SEQ and Queensland.
- Gold Coast (C) had the second-largest population (620,520 persons) followed by:
  - Moreton Bay (R) (469,470 persons)
  - Logan (C) (334,360 persons)
  - Sunshine Coast (R) (328,430 persons).

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

- In the 10 years to June 2019, Gold Coast (C) and Moreton Bay (R) had the largest increases in their share of the Queensland population (both up 0.7 percentage points). The third-largest increase was in Ipswich (C), which increased its share by 0.6 percentage points. Toowoomba (R) experienced the region's biggest loss in share of population over the period, decreasing by 0.2 percentage points.

### Estimated resident population, SEQ local government areas, at 30 June 2019

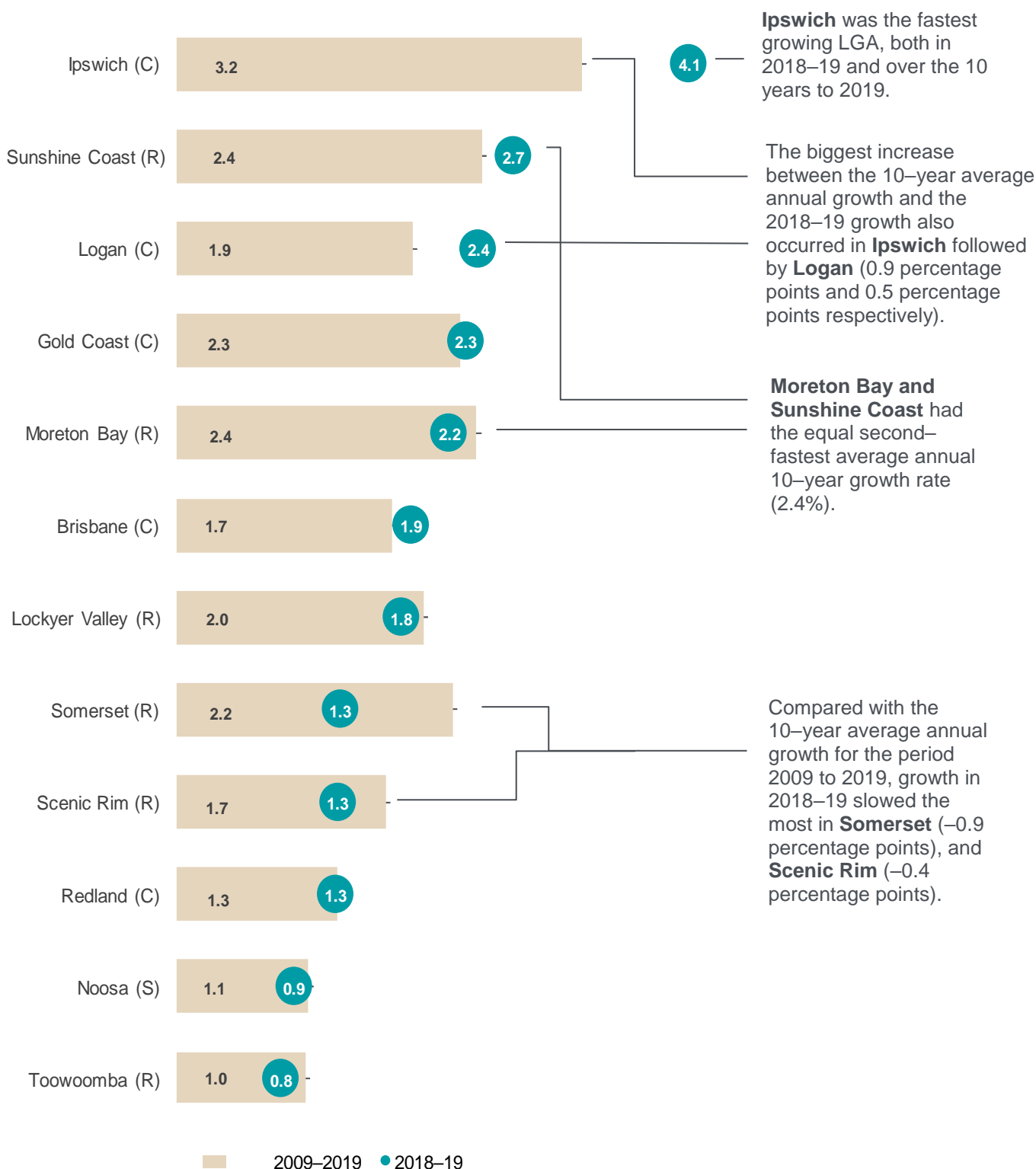
LGA	State ranking (a)	Estimated resident population as at 30 June				Estimated resident population as at 30 June			
		2009	2014	2018	2019	2009	2014	2018	2019
		— number —				— % of Qld —			
Brisbane (C)	1	1,057,690	1,149,110	1,230,940	1,253,980	24.4	24.3	24.6	24.6
Gold Coast (C)	2	495,840	550,720	606,530	620,520	11.5	11.7	12.1	12.2
Moreton Bay (R)	3	370,450	419,760	459,460	469,470	8.6	8.9	9.2	9.2
Logan (C)	4	277,370	305,150	326,490	334,360	6.4	6.5	6.5	6.6
Sunshine Coast (R)	5	258,050	288,650	319,840	328,430	6.0	6.1	6.4	6.4
Ipswich (C)	6	161,660	189,200	213,570	222,310	3.7	4.0	4.3	4.4
Toowoomba (R)	8	152,530	161,520	167,610	169,010	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.3
Redland (C)	10	139,860	148,830	156,830	158,820	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1
Noosa (S)	16	50,320	52,990	55,360	55,870	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.1
Scenic Rim (R)	18	36,530	39,880	42,580	43,120	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Lockyer Valley (R)	19	34,330	38,360	41,000	41,730	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Somerset (R)	27	21,070	24,460	25,880	26,220	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
<b>Queensland</b>	..	<b>4,328,770</b>	<b>4,719,650</b>	<b>5,009,420</b>	<b>5,094,510</b>				

(a) Ranked based on population size at 30 June 2019

<sup>3</sup> For the purposes of this publication, Toowoomba (R) has been included in South East Queensland.

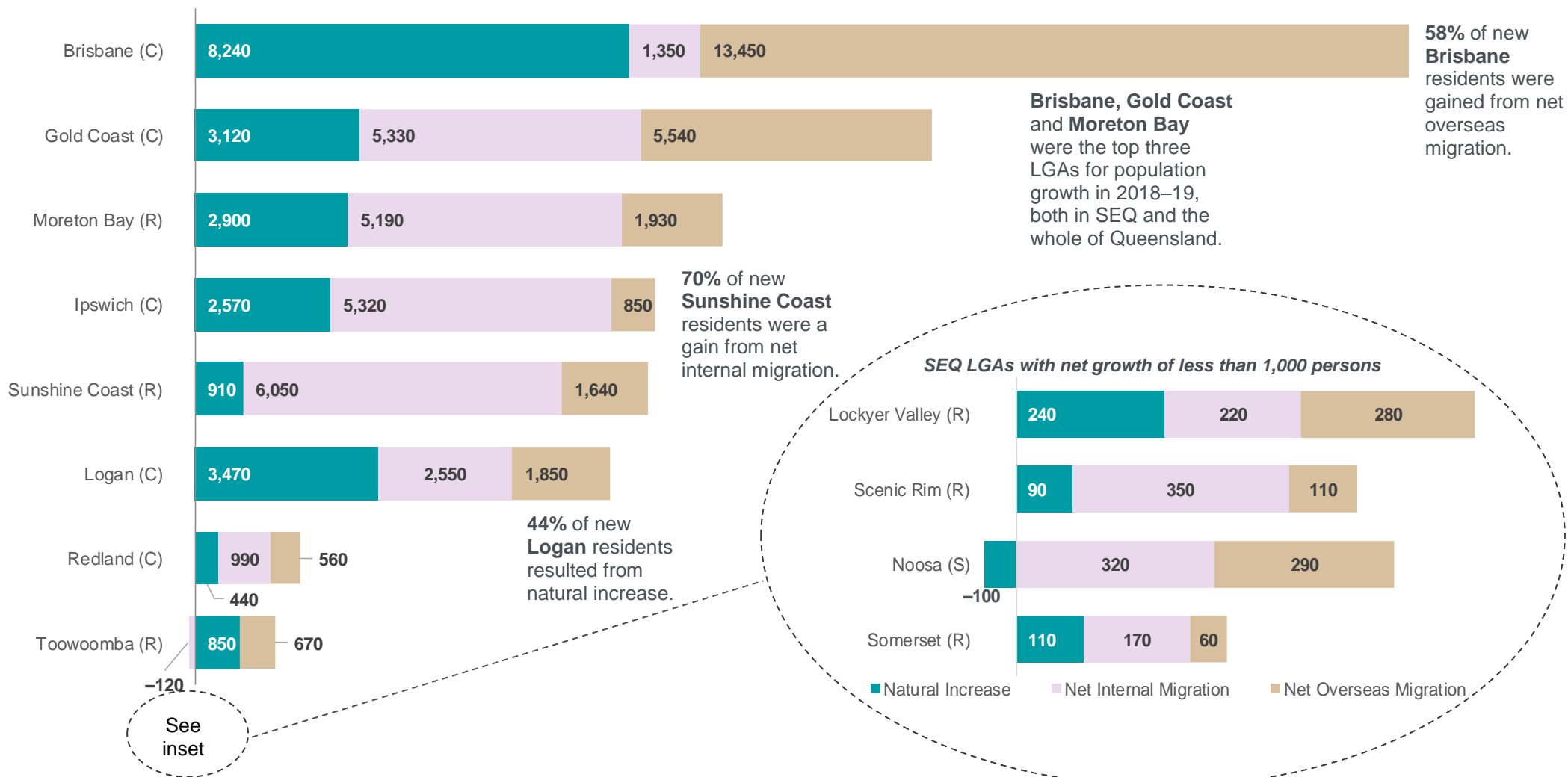
### Average annual growth rate, SEQ local government areas, 10 years 2009–2019 and 2018–19

Ranked fastest to slowest % growth in 2018–19



### Components of population growth, SEQ LGAs, year to June 2019

Ranked largest to smallest net growth 2018–19



## 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 2019.

- At 30 June 2019, Townsville had the largest population of all LGAs in regional Queensland with 195,030 persons, representing 3.8% of Queensland's population.
- Cairns had the second-largest population (166,860 persons), followed by Mackay (116,760 persons).
- All of the 10 largest LGAs in regional Queensland saw their relative share of the total Queensland population at 30 June 2019 decline compared with their respective share at 30 June 2009.

### Estimated resident population, regional Queensland local government areas<sup>(a)</sup>, at 30 June 2019

LGA	State ranking	Estimated resident population as at 30 June				Estimated resident population as at 30 June			
		2009	2014	2018	2019	2009	2014	2018	2019
		— number —				— % of Qld —			
Townsville (C)	7	173,070	188,780	194,020	195,030	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.8
Cairns (R)	9	145,960	158,570	165,460	166,860	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.3
Mackay (R)	11	111,460	118,920	116,510	116,760	2.6	2.5	2.3	2.3
Fraser Coast (R)	12	94,810	101,330	105,450	106,710	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1
Bundaberg (R)	13	90,340	94,030	95,280	95,860	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.9
Rockhampton (R)	14	77,450	82,140	81,050	81,510	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.6
Gladstone (R)	15	57,050	63,370	62,960	63,410	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2
Gympie (R)	17	45,770	49,090	51,580	52,450	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0
Livingstone (S)	20	32,470	36,060	37,630	38,080	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7
Southern Downs (R)	21	33,980	35,580	35,590	35,450	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7
<b>Queensland</b>	..	<b>4,328,770</b>	<b>4,719,650</b>	<b>5,009,420</b>	<b>5,094,510</b>				

(a) Top 10 local government areas, based on population size at 30 June 2019.

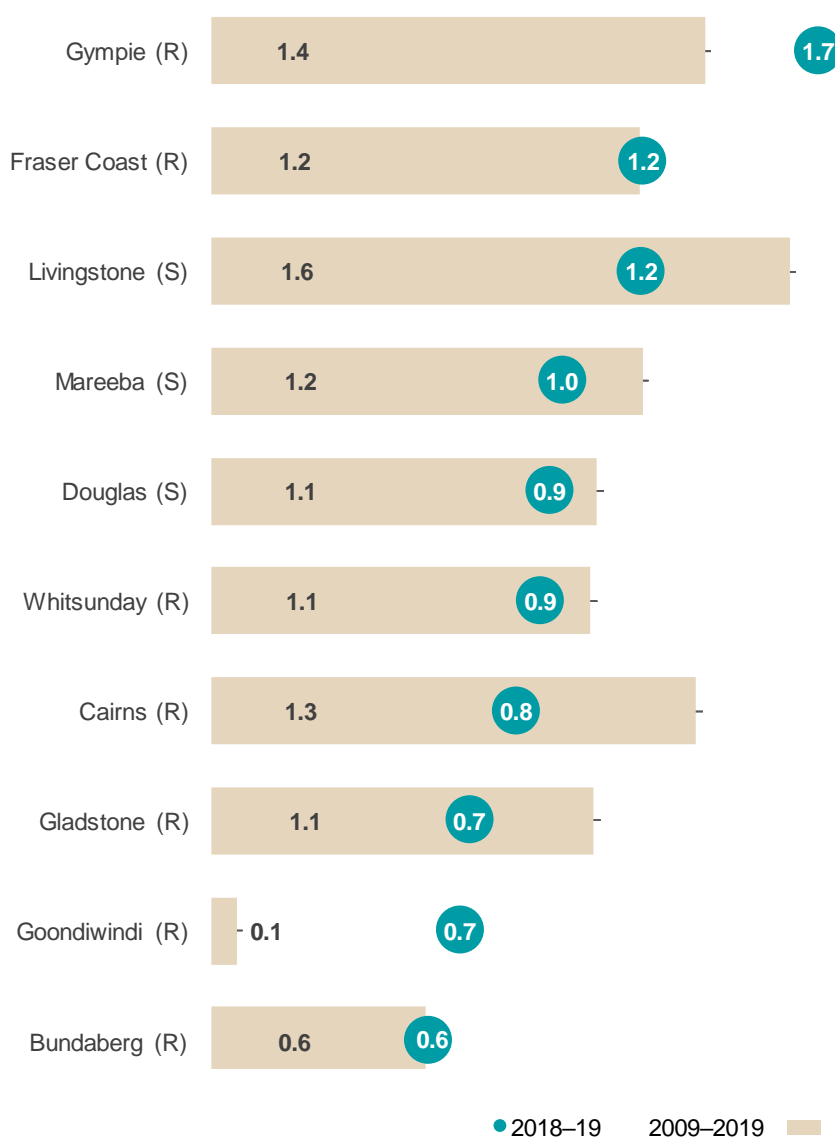
### Fastest population growth

The analysis in this section is limited to regional LGAs with a population of greater than 10,000 persons at 30 June 2019.

- The LGAs of Gympie (1.7%), Fraser Coast (1.2%) and Livingstone (1.2%) had the fastest population growth rates in regional Queensland in 2018–19.
- The only regional LGAs charted with faster recent growth (2018–19) compared with their respective 10 year (2009–2019) average annual growth were Goondiwindi (0.7% compared with 0.1%) and Gympie (1.7% compared with 1.4%).

### Population growth rates, top 10 regional local government areas, 10 years 2009–2019 and 2018–19

Ranked fastest to slowest percentage growth 2018–19



## Largest population growth

The analysis in this section is limited to the top 10 regional LGAs with largest growth in 2018–19.

- Cairns had the largest population growth of all LGAs in regional Queensland (up 1,400 persons) in 2018–19.
- In the 10 years to June 2019, the largest average annual population changes occurred in the LGA of Townsville (up 2,200 persons per annum), followed by Cairns (2,090).
- Of the 10 regional LGAs with the largest growth in 2018–19, four had growth in 2018–19 that was higher than the average annual 10-year growth. They were Gympie (870 persons compared with 670 for the 10-year average), Fraser Coast (1,260 and 1,190), Rockhampton (460 and 410) and Bundaberg (580 and 550).

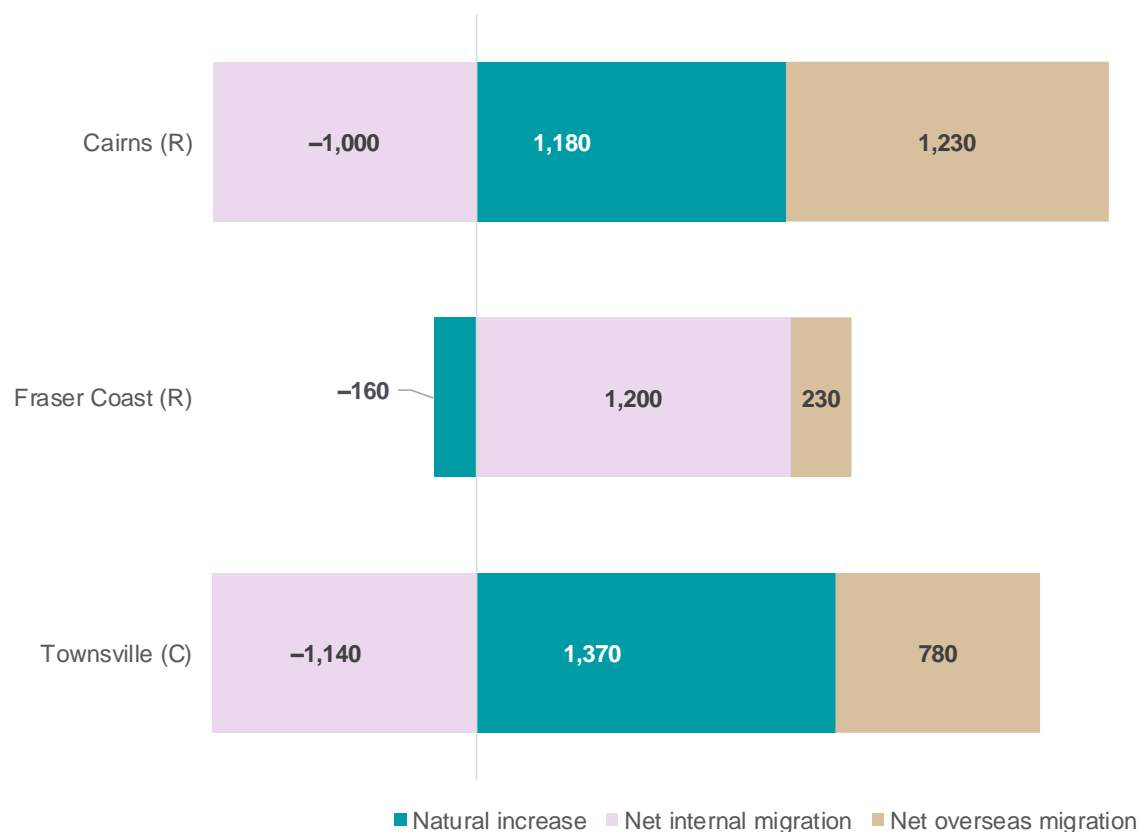
### Average annual growth, top 10 regional local government areas to June 2019

Ranked largest to smallest growth 2018–19

LGA	State ranking <sup>(a)</sup>	Estimated resident population as at 30 June				Average annual growth		
		2009	2014	2018	2019	2009–2019	2014–2019	2018–19
		— number —				— number —		
Cairns (R)	8	145,960	158,570	165,460	166,860	2,090	1,660	1,400
Fraser Coast (R)	10	94,810	101,330	105,450	106,710	1,190	1,080	1,260
Townsville (C)	11	173,070	188,780	194,020	195,030	2,200	1,250	1,010
Gympie (R)	12	45,770	49,090	51,580	52,450	670	670	870
Bundaberg (R)	14	90,340	94,030	95,280	95,860	550	370	580
Rockhampton (R)	17	77,450	82,140	81,050	81,510	410	–120	460
Gladstone (R)	18	57,050	63,370	62,960	63,410	640	10	450
Livingstone (S)	19	32,470	36,060	37,630	38,080	560	400	450
Whitsunday (R)	21	31,840	34,360	35,040	35,360	350	200	320
Mackay (R)	22	111,460	118,920	116,510	116,760	530	–430	250
<b>Queensland</b>	..	<b>4,328,770</b>	<b>4,719,650</b>	<b>5,009,420</b>	<b>5,094,510</b>	<b>76,570</b>	<b>74,970</b>	<b>85,090</b>

(a) Ranked by largest growth 2018–19

**Components of population growth, top three largest growth regional Queensland LGAs June 2019**  
*Ranked largest to smallest growth 2018–19*



- In the year to June 2019, Cairns had its largest population gain from net overseas migration (1,230 persons) followed by natural increase (1,180), which were negated somewhat by a net loss due to interstate migration (-1,000).
- Townsville's growth was due mainly to natural increase (1,370 persons), and a smaller amount (780) from overseas migration.
- Fraser Coast's growth was overwhelmingly due to internal migration (1,200 persons). There was a small loss due to natural decrease (-160 persons) but this was offset by overseas migration (230 persons).

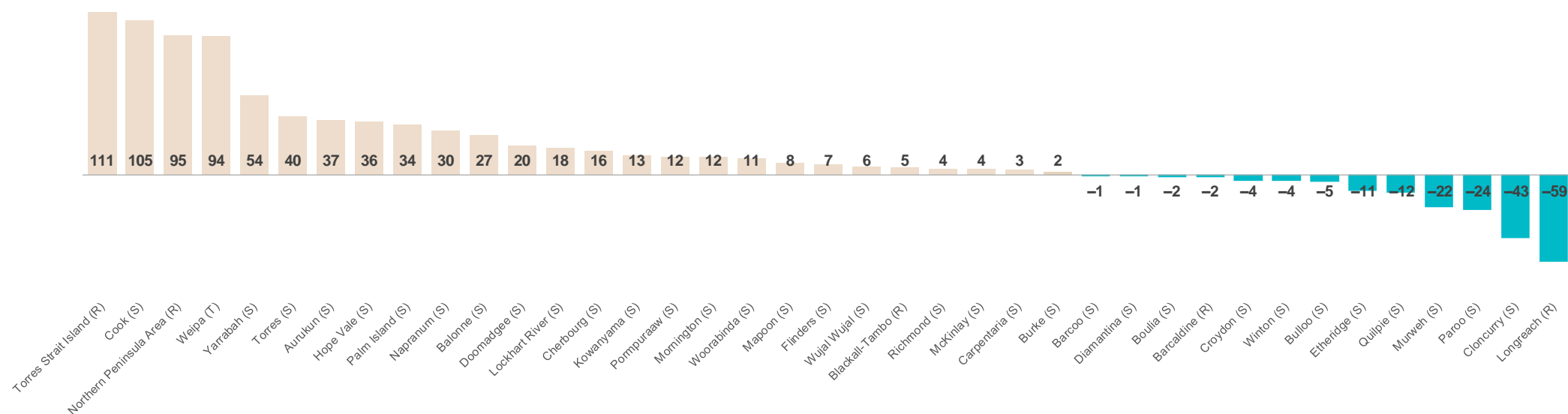
### Population change in regional Queensland LGAs

For regional Queensland LGAs with a population of fewer than 10,000 persons at 30 June 2019

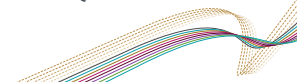
- At 30 June 2019, there were 39 LGAs in Queensland with an estimated resident population of fewer than 10,000 persons, ranging from 270 people in Barcoo (S) to 5,100 in Torres Strait Island (R).
- In the year to 30 June 2019, there were 26 LGAs which each had a small population increase of 110 persons or less, and 13 with estimated population losses of up to 60 persons, with Longreach estimated to have the largest loss of the smaller LGAs in Queensland.

### Population change in the year to 30 June 2019

LGAs with population less than 10,000 at June 2019







## 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 Growth, Australia, 2018–19* (ABS 3218.0), released 25 March 2020.

The status of ERP data changes over time from preliminary to revised to final as new component data become available. 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 and component data up to and including June 2016 are final. ERPs for June 2018 are revised and ERPs for June 2019 are preliminary.
- Natural increase data for June 2018 are revised (based on date of occurrence), for June 2019 they are preliminary (based on date of registration).
- Net overseas migration data for June 2018 are final (based on actual traveller behaviour), for June 2019 they are preliminary (based on modelled traveller behaviour).
- Net interstate migration data for June 2018 are preliminary (based on census expansion factors), for June 2019 they are preliminary (based on expansion factors from the 2016 Census).

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.qgso.qld.gov.au](http://www.qgso.qld.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,  $P_n$  is the population at the end of the period and  $n$  is the length of the period between  $P_n$  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 2011 to 2021,  $n$  is 10,  $P_0$  is the population in 2011 and  $P_n$  is the population in 2021.

### 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's official estimate of overseas migration for sub-state areas—regional overseas migration estimates (ROME)—prepared on an annual (year ending 30 June) basis.