
Queensland small area population projections

Methods & assumptions

This paper explains the process of producing the Queensland (QLD) projected enrolment counts at 27 August 2028 by Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1).

1. Disclaimer

It is important to recognise that the projection results in this report reflect the assumptions made about future fertility, mortality and migration trends. While these assumptions are formulated on the basis of an objective assessment of historical demographic trends and their possible future dynamics, there can be no certainty that they will be realised.

The ABS takes responsibility for the method employed, however in accordance with ABS policy regarding small area population projections, the assumptions used are the final responsibility of the client, and the projections are not official ABS population statistics.

The projections may be referred to as "...projections prepared by the ABS according to assumptions reflecting prevailing trends agreed to by the Australian Electoral Commission".

No liability will be accepted by the ABS for any damages arising from decisions or actions based upon this population projection consultancy service.

2. Projection Method

The base population for the Queensland cohort-component projections was preliminary estimated resident population (ERP) by age and sex as at 30 June 2024, as released by the ABS in [National, state and territory population](#) on 18 June 2026. The base population for SA1 projections was final ERP by age and sex as at 30 June 2024, as updated by the ABS in [Regional population by age and sex, 2024](#) on 28 August 2025.

Annual fertility rates, mortality rates, internal migration, and overseas migration by age and sex were applied to the base population to produce a projected population, which then became the base population for projecting the next year and so on. This cycle was repeated until the projection horizon was reached.

For each SA1 in QLD, total population aged 18 years and over was projected using average historical growth from 01 July 2021 to 30 June 2024. Projected enrolment counts at the SA1 level was derived by applying enrolment ratios to the projected population age 18 and over. The projected SA1 enrolment counts were constrained to the projected total enrolment count of their parent Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2).

Complete process:

1. State projections. The total Queensland population at 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2029 was projected by single year of age and sex, from a base (observed) population at 30 June 2024.
2. Greater Capital City Statistical Area (GCCSA) projections. The total population of both GCCSAs in Queensland at 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2029 was projected by single year of age and sex, from a base (observed) population 30 June 2024, and constrained to the state level.
3. Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) projections. The total population of all SA2s in Queensland at 01 July 2024 to 30 June 2029 was projected by single year of age and sex, from a base (observed) population 30 June 2024, and constrained to the GCCSA level.

4. Projected population aged 18 and over at the roll count date, 28 July 2026, and the enrolment projection date, 27 August 2028, was calculated by linear interpolation between the projected populations at 30 June 2024 and 30 June 2029.
5. SA1 population aged 18 and over is derived as a percentage share of the parent SA2 population aged 18 and over. The share of QLD SA1 population aged 18 and over by SA2 at 30 June 2026 and 30 June 2029 was estimated by extrapolating the average annual growth between 01 July 2021 and 30 June 2024. Forecasted SA1 shares were calculated using dampened average annual growth, with recent years weighted more heavily to better reflect current SA1-level trends within the SA2 out to 27 August 2028.
6. The enrolled population at 27 August 2028, by SA1, was calculated by applying a ratio to the population aged 18 and over. The ratio assumed no change over the projection timeframe and was the enrolled population at 28 July 2026 divided by the projected population aged 18 and over at 28 July 2026 for each SA1. The enrolled population at 27 August 2028 was then constrained to the total projected electors in the parent SA2 at 27 August 2028, which was calculated by applying the same enrolment ratio calculation at the SA2 level.

3. Assumptions at the State level

Assumptions for the state-level projection were based on both recently observed and long-term trends for given components of population change. Assumptions for the components of natural increase (births and deaths) were taken from previously published *National, state and territory population* data. Assumptions for both net internal and overseas migration were developed by combining observed, forecasted, and extrapolated data for the timeframe from 30 June 2024 to 30 June 2029. To project future internal migration outcomes, the annual weighted average from 01 July 2014 to 30 June 2020, and 01 July 2021 to 30 June 2025 was calculated¹. To project future overseas migration outcomes, the annual average from 01 July 2015 to 30 June 2025 was calculated.

Table 1: Assumed components for Queensland, 2026-2030

Population component	Year ending 30 June					
	2025 ^A	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Fertility – total fertility rate^B	1.490	1.490	1.490	1.490	1.490	1.490
Mortality – Standardised Death Rate	5.1	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.8
Net interstate migration – persons^C	22,000	22,800	23,600	24,400	25,100	25,900
Net overseas migration – persons^C	55,500	51,500	47,700	44,000	40,600	37,200

^A These are observed from the 18 June 2026 publication of [National, State and Territory Population](#)

^B Rounded to two decimal places.

^C Rounded to the nearest hundred.

4. Assumptions at the Greater Capital City Statistical Area level

A similar process was used for determining internal migration assumptions at the GCCSA level, with a weighted time period of 01 July 2014 to 30 June 2020, and 01 July 2021 to 30 June 2025 considered, selected for the most recently available data as well as to remove years affected by the Covid-19 pandemic². Net overseas migration

¹ This involves giving progressively greater weight to the years closer to the projection base year.

² Regional Internal Migration Estimates (RIME) and Regional Overseas Migration Estimates (ROME) data has only been published below the state-level starting from the 2011-12 Financial Year, while Net Internal Migration (NIM) and Net Overseas Migration data goes back to 1971. RIME at the GCCSA level does not add up to NIM at the state level, as RIME also considers inter-GCCSA movements that aren't captured by inter-state movements in NIM. Trends in RIME and ROME data are scaled to NIM and NOM respectively.

assumptions at the GCCSA level used an average from 01 July 2015 to 30 June 2025 Total internal and overseas movements up to 30 June 2024 were used from [Regional population, 2023-24 financial year](#) data published on 28 August 2025.

Table 2: Assumed components for Greater Brisbane, 2025-2030

Population component	Year ending 30 June					
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Fertility – total fertility rate ^A	1.427	1.427	1.427	1.427	1.427	1.427
Mortality – Standardised Death Rate ^A	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7
Regional Internal Migration Estimates – persons	11,300 ^B	11,700 ^C	12,100 ^C	12,500 ^C	12,900 ^C	13,200 ^C
Regional Overseas Migration Estimates – persons	33,900 ^B	31,200 ^C	28,900 ^C	26,600 ^C	24,400 ^C	22,300 ^C

^A These are scaled from State and Territory assumptions using assumptions in the 23 November 2023 publication of [Population Projections, Australia](#), rounded to three decimal places.

^B These are observed values from the 31 March 2026 publication of [Regional population, 2024-25](#)

^C Rounded to the nearest hundred.

Table 3: Assumed components for Rest of Queensland, 2025-2030

Population component	Year ending 30 June					
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Fertility – total fertility rate ^A	1.580	1.580	1.580	1.580	1.580	1.580
Mortality – Standardised Death Rate ^A	5.6	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1
Regional Internal Migration Estimates – persons	10,600 ^B	11,000 ^C	11,500 ^C	11,900 ^C	12,300 ^C	12,700 ^C
Regional Overseas Migration Estimates – persons	21,800 ^B	20,000 ^C	18,600 ^C	17,200 ^C	15,800 ^C	14,500 ^C

^A These are scaled from State and Territory assumptions using assumptions in the 23 November 2023 publication of [Population Projections, Australia](#), rounded to three decimal places.

^B These are observed values from the 31 March 2026 publication of [Regional population, 2024-25](#)

^C Rounded to the nearest hundred.

5. Assumptions at the Statistical Area Level 2 and below

Migration profiles at the SA2 level were based on internal and overseas migration data by age and sex from 01 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 that were validated for the [Digital Atlas Projections](#) published by Geoscience Australia 14 June 2024. This data was selected as best for this jurisdiction due to having been custom validated for a longer time series than a single year of historical data.

SA1 population assumptions were average annual historical growth in the share of the population aged 18 and over of corresponding SA2 population from 01 July 2021 to 30 June 2024, extrapolated to 30 June 2029.

The ratio of enrolled population to population aged 18 and over at 28 July 2026 was assumed to be constant up to 27 August 2028.

6. Data and method quality

The relationship between the projected enrolment counts and the projected population at 27 August 2028 maintained a consistent relationship across the projection horizon. However, other quality issues may persist as they are unable to be isolated and so cannot be accounted for. As such, anomalous SA1s could be subject to further adjustments.

Other SA1s with anomalous ratios of roll count to population can be explained. These include areas with

- Prisons
- Secondary and tertiary student accommodation
- Brisbane CBD areas with a lower proportion of Australian citizens
- Tourist areas with small permanent populations
- Areas with recorded enrolments but no or little ERP prior to 28 July 2026

7. Geography

SA1 boundaries are from the [*Australian Statistical Geography Standard \(ASGS\): Edition 3 – Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, July 2021*](#).

8. Time references

Throughout this document, references to periods such as 01 July XX to 30 June XX are in equal steps because midnight on 30 June is technically the start of 1 July. The start (1 July) and finish (30 June) timepoints are as at midnight.