

# Population growth trends and projections

Schools Planning Forum 2024

Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO)

# Queensland Government Population Projections

- Typically released twice every five-year census cycle
- Range of substate geographies included (Statistical Areas Levels 2, 3 and 4, and Local Government Areas)
- Data released include population, dwellings, household types and living arrangements
- For population, three series are generally developed (low, medium and high series) to illustrate range of possible future outcomes.

Geography	Series	Horizon	Interval	Age
State	Low, medium, high	50-years	Annual	Single year of age to 99 years, 100+
Greater Brisbane and 10 remaining SA4s	Low, medium, high	25-years	5-year intervals	5-year age groups for 0–4 to 80–84, 85+
SA2s	Medium			
LGAs	Low, medium, high			

# 2023 edition Queensland Government Projections

- Finalised early 2023, replacing 2018 edition
- 2021 base year (using ABS preliminary rebased 2021 ERP, not final rebased)
- Incorporated:
  - Recent demographic data and trends, including impacts experienced since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic
  - Data from Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census of Population and Housing, and Edition Three of ASGS
  - Input of Population Projections Expert Advisory Group
  - Latest available council planning information and feedback at time of production (2022)

# State and regional methodology

## State and Statistical Areas Level 4

- Cohort-component model driven by demographic factors (births, deaths, migration)
- Input of Expert Advisory Group into state level assumptions

Demographic component	Assumption setting
Fertility	Total fertility rate
Mortality	Sex-specific annual improvements to life expectancy at birth
Interstate migration	Net interstate migration
Overseas migration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Net overseas migration (NOM) for Australia (benchmarked to Commonwealth budget forecasts)</li><li>• Queensland share of Australian NOM</li></ul>

# SA2 and LGA methodology

- Dwelling supply data and feedback from councils' officers
- Population-trend and cohort-component models
- Look at a range of data including occupancy rates, birth rates, broad hectare, building approvals, etc.
- Constrained to SA4 level projections
- Includes assumptions about intrastate movements

School-aged persons projections published at the SA2-level based on the SA2 projections

**Primary school-aged** are 5 to 11 year olds

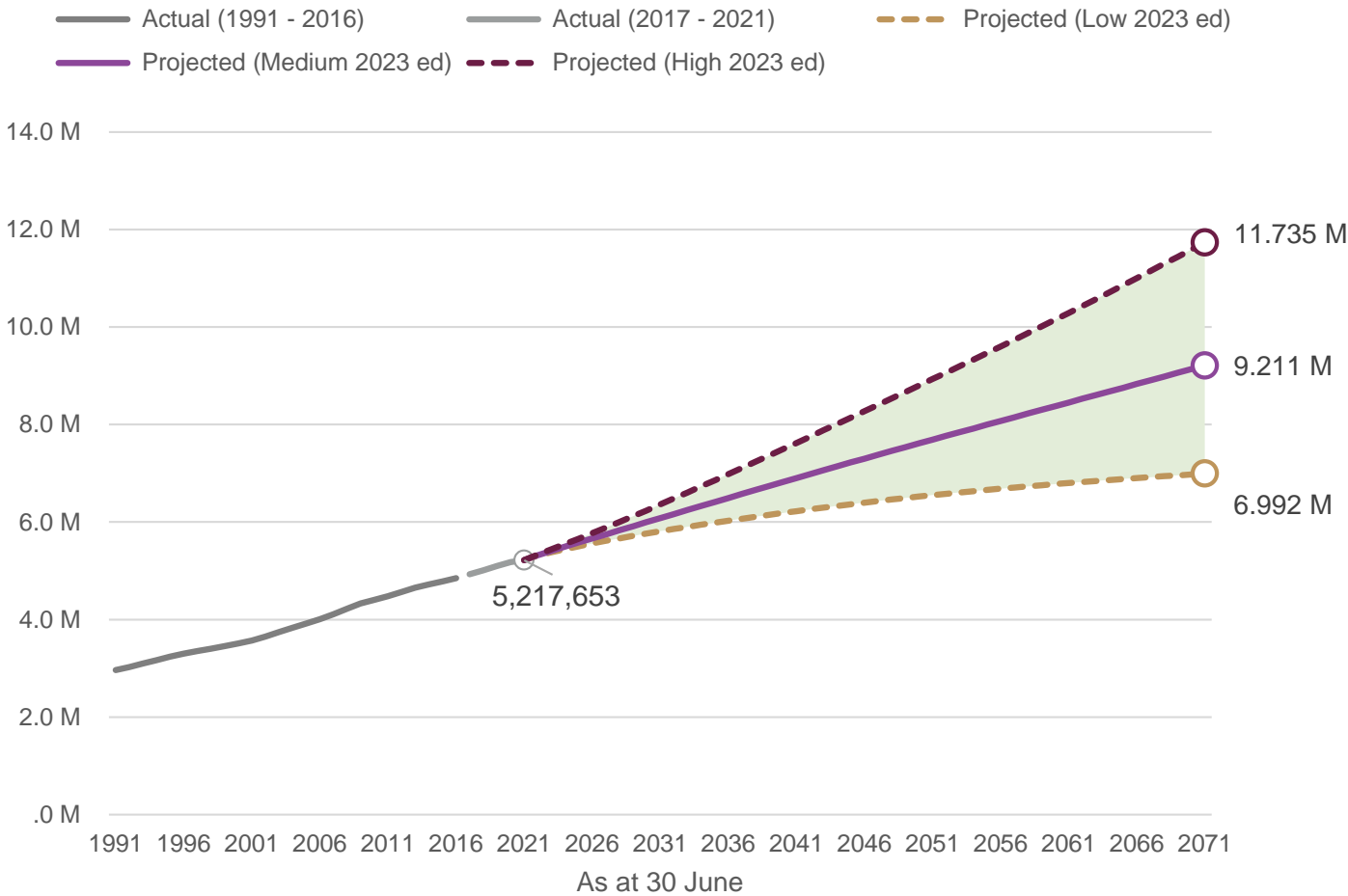
**Secondary school-aged** are 12 to 17 year olds

[Education: Projected school-aged persons | Queensland Government Statistician's Office \(qgso.qld.gov.au\)](https://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/education/projected-school-aged-persons)

# 2023 edition summary

- At the time of development, there was still notable uncertainty associated with COVID-19's impact on the population
- Queensland's population is projected to grow from 5.22 million in 2021 to between:
  - 6.40 million and 8.27 million by 2046
  - 6.99 million and 11.74 million by 2071
- Queensland's projected growth is more strongly driven by net overseas migration, compared with natural increase and net interstate migration
- All age groups are projected to increase but as a share of the population, younger age groups are projected to decrease.

# 50 years projected growth 2021 to 2071



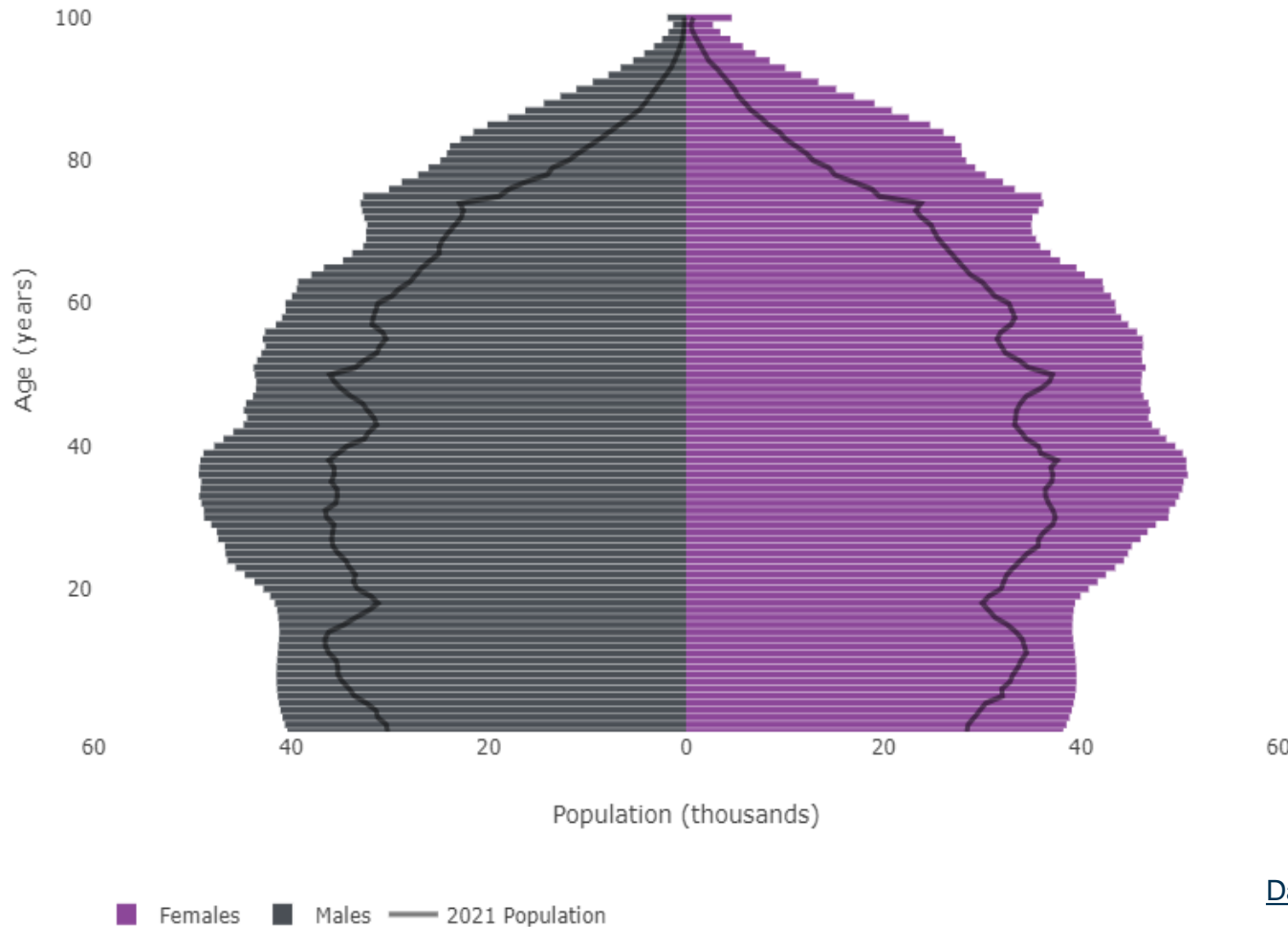
50 years projected growth  
2021 to 2071

Series	Growth (millions)	Rate (per year)
Low	1.78	0.6%
Medium	3.99	1.1%
High	6.52	1.6%

# Projected population, 2021 and 2046, 2023 edition

Queensland population pyramid 2046

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office



## By 2046, medium series

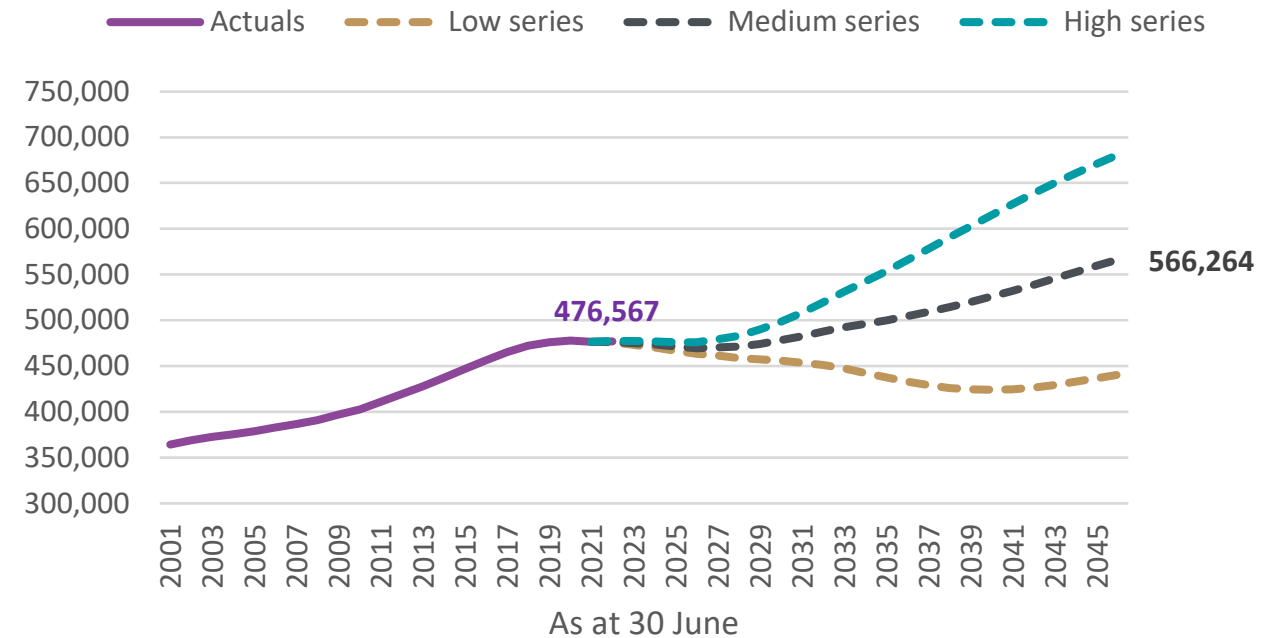
- 0–4 year olds
  - 398,004 (96,152 growth)
- 5–11 year olds
  - 566,264 (89,697 growth)
- 12–17 year olds
  - 482,769 (77,028 growth)

[Data visualisations](#) | [Queensland Government Statistician's Office](#), [Queensland Treasury](#)



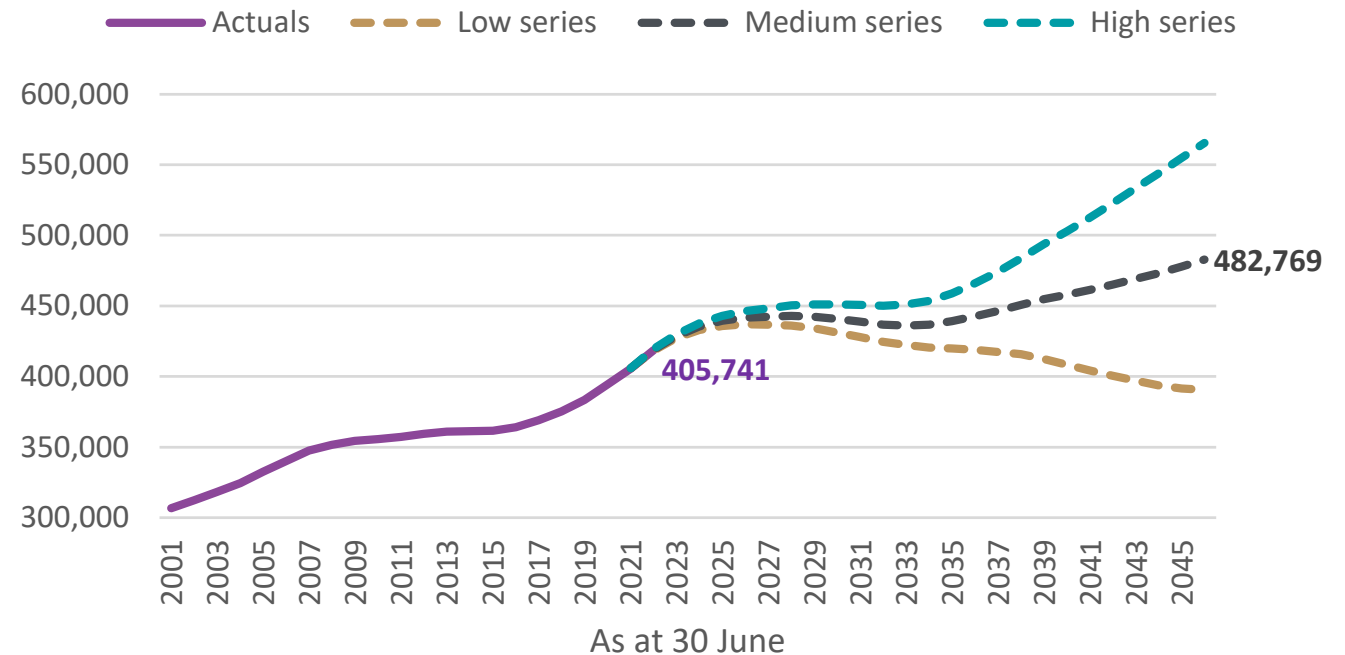
# 2023 edition school-aged projections, Queensland

- Primary school-aged persons
  - Between 441,000 and 681,000 persons by 2046
  - Between 451,000 and 877,000 persons by 2071
- Impact of ageing baby bounce cohort evident
- Moderating births and declining fertility leading to projected slowing of growth in primary school aged population for several years
- Subsequent increase in growth.



# 2023 edition school-aged projections, Queensland

- Secondary school-aged persons:
  - Between 390,000 and 566,000 persons by 2046
  - Between 416,000 and 748,000 persons by 2071

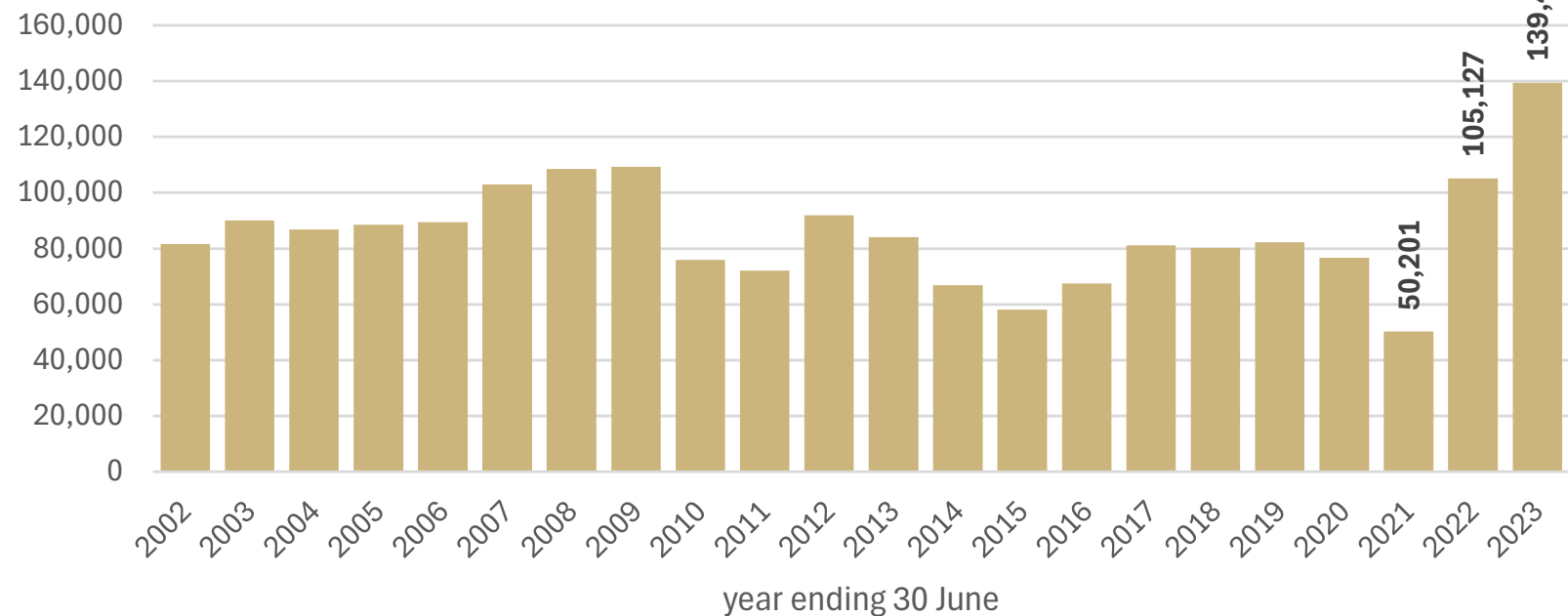


# Components of population growth



# Population growth, Queensland

Annual population growth



- Record growth in total pop in 2022–23
- Growth not evenly distributed across Queensland.

These 5 LGAs grew by the greatest number of persons in 2022–23, and accounted for 69.3% of Queensland's total growth

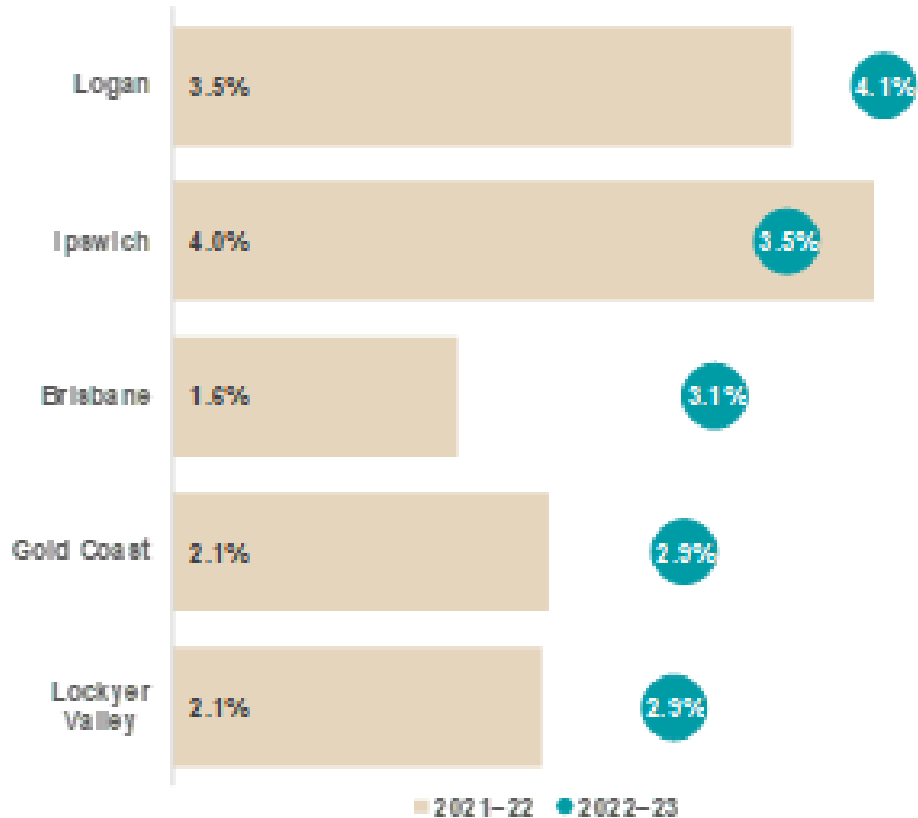
	Number (persons)	Growth rate
Brisbane	39,730	3.1%
Gold Coast	18,909	2.9%
Logan	14,714	4.1%
Moreton Bay	13,332	2.7%
Sunshine Coast	10,038	2.8%

Greatest

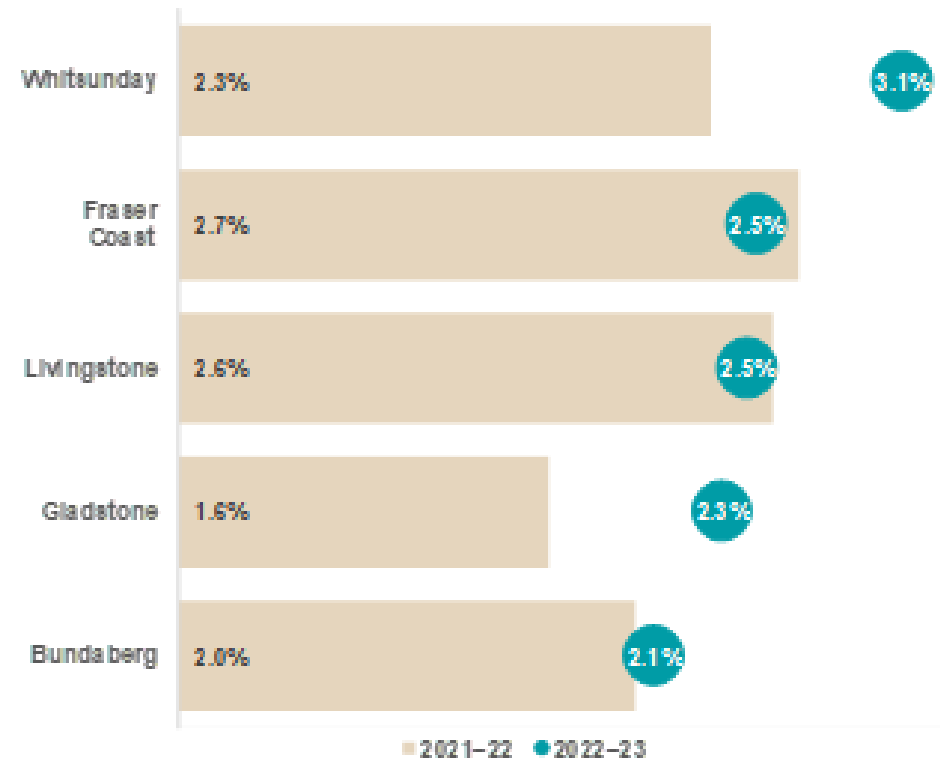
Fastest

# Fastest growing LGAs in 2022-23

## South East Queensland



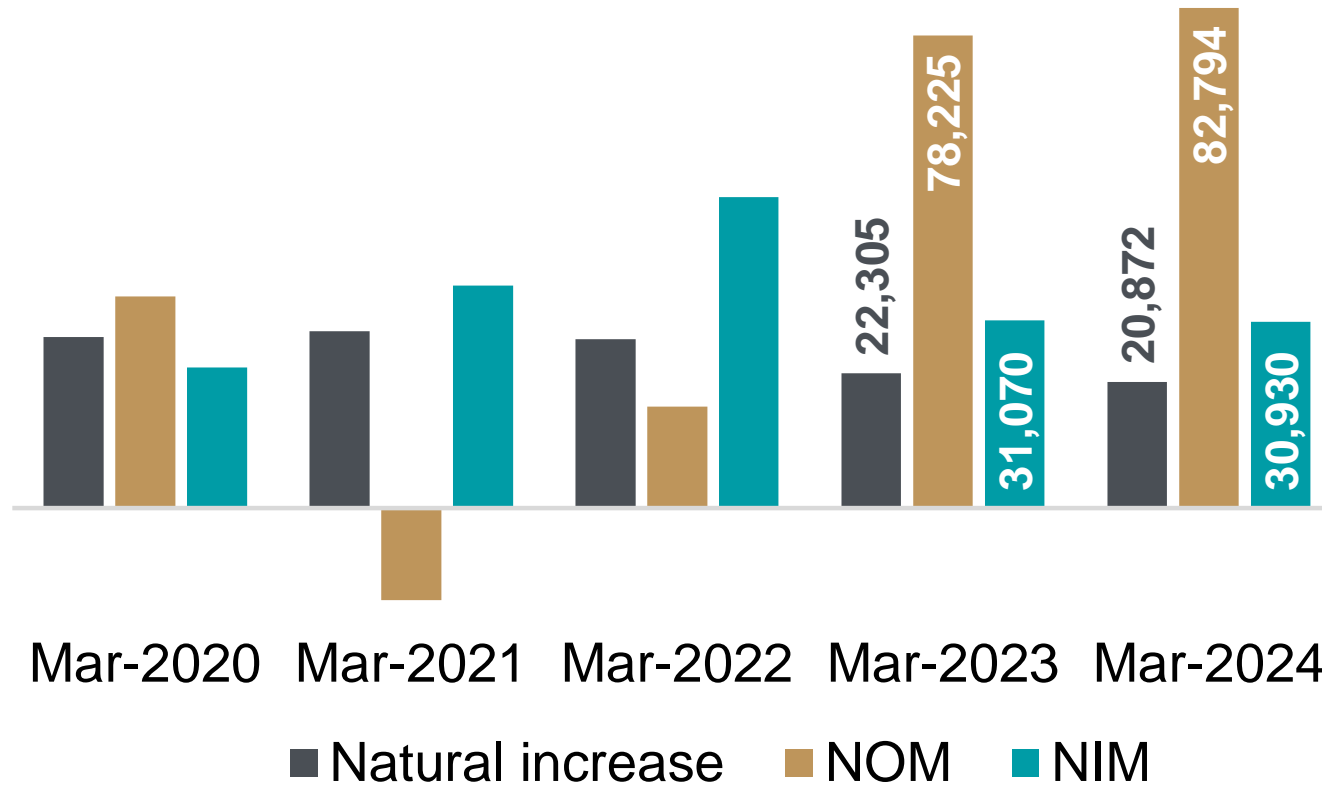
## Rest of Queensland



# Components of change - Queensland

NOM has maintained the high levels seen post-pandemic

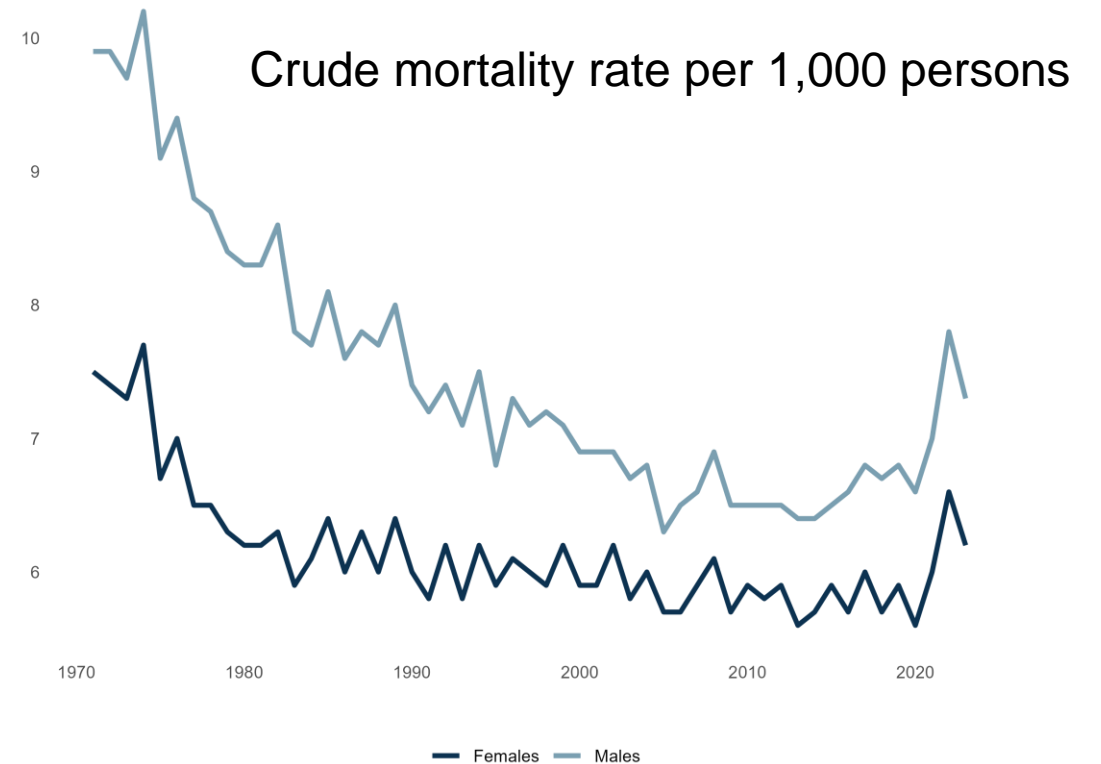
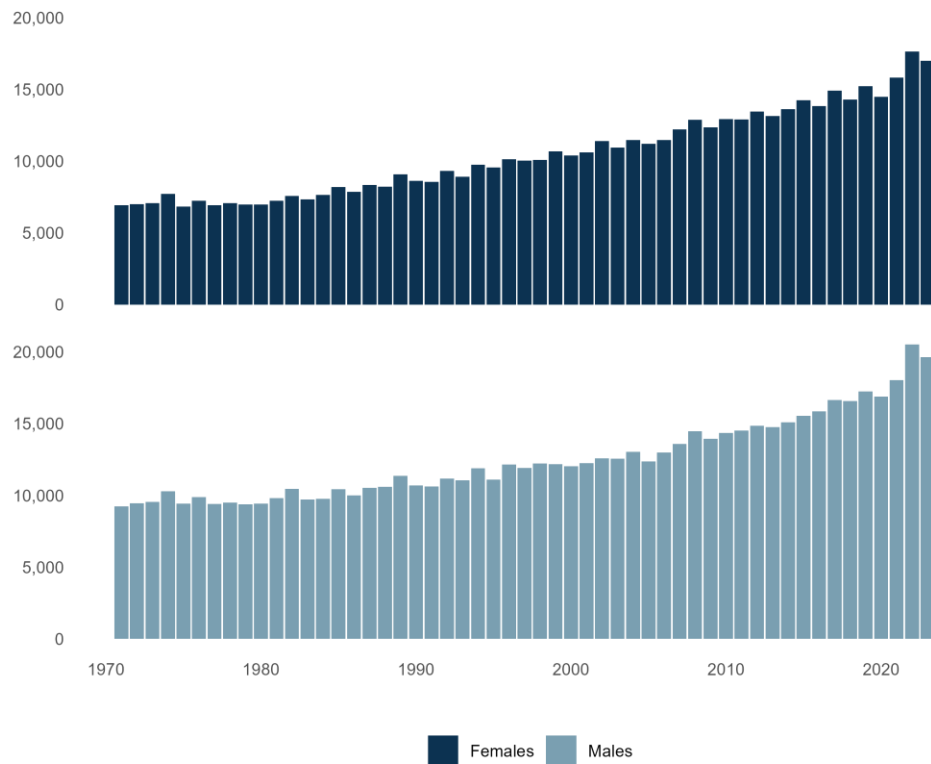
NIM is moderating, with both arrivals and departures similar to a year prior



# Natural increase components — Deaths

Deaths have picked up in recent years, mainly affecting the older population

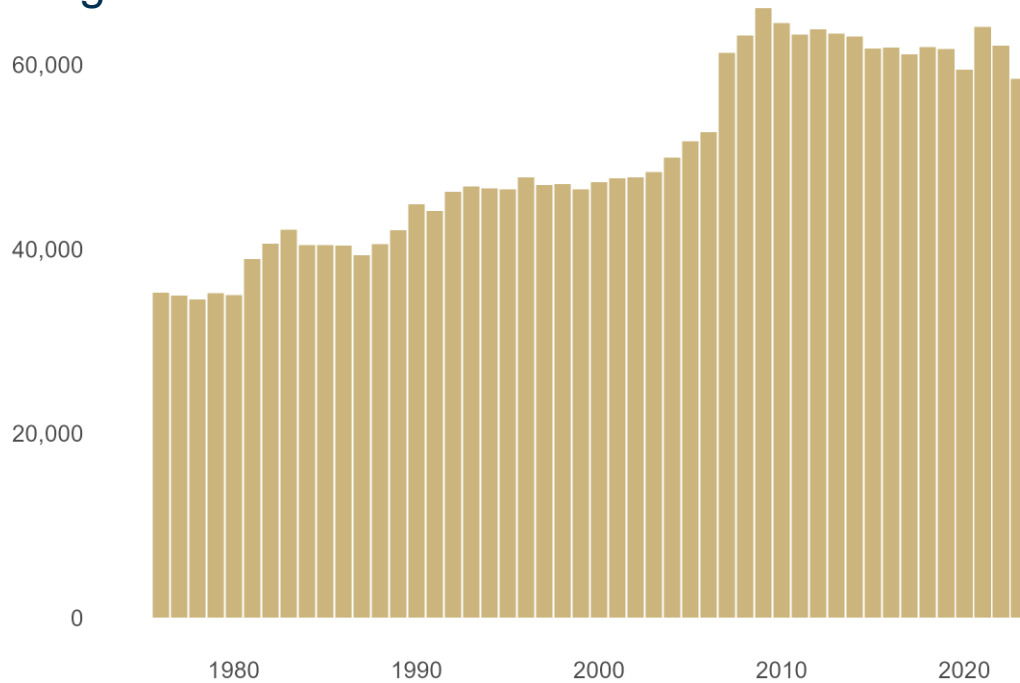
- Age-specific death rates have moderated in 2023 from 2022 peak across Australia
- COVID-19 deaths almost halved in 2023, although virus-related mortality rates still high



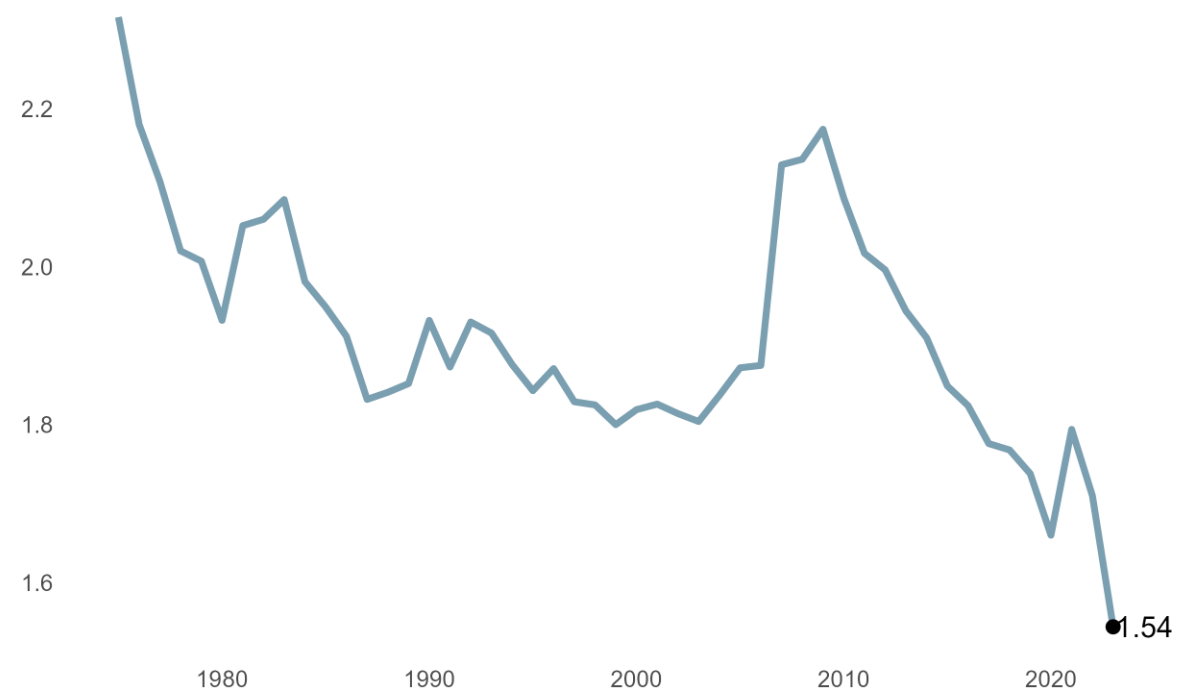
# Natural increase components — Births

- Births continued to moderate from 'baby bounce' peak despite short-term lift in 2021
- Ongoing monitoring indicates 2024 births likely close to 2023 levels

## Registered births



## Fertility rates

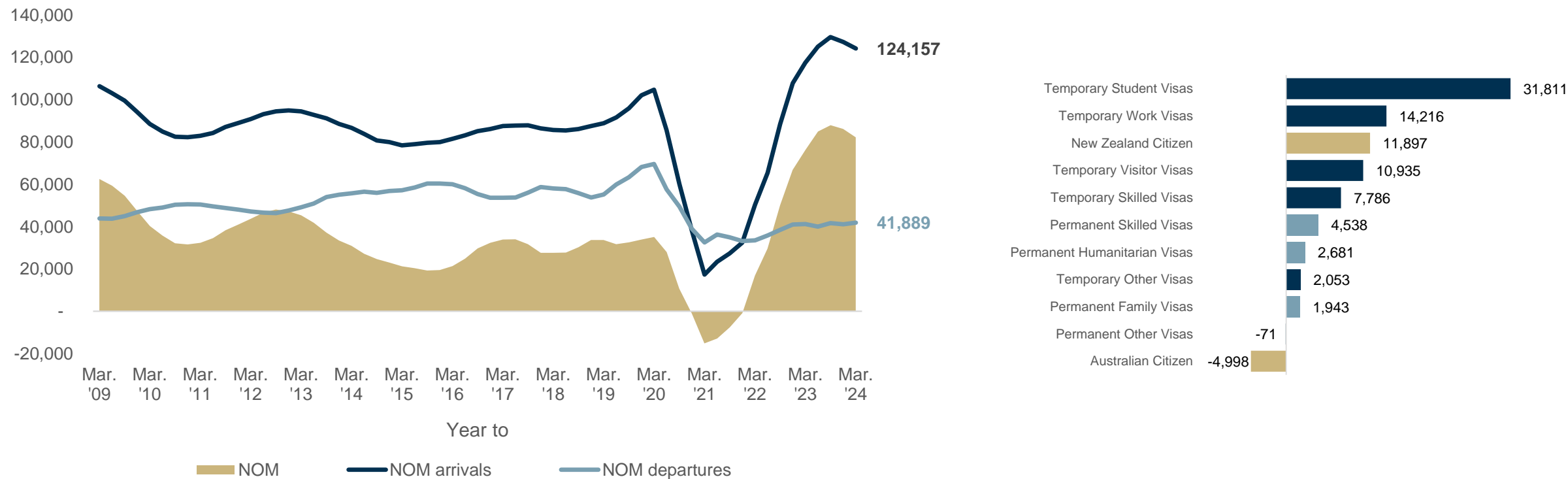




# Overseas migration — Queensland

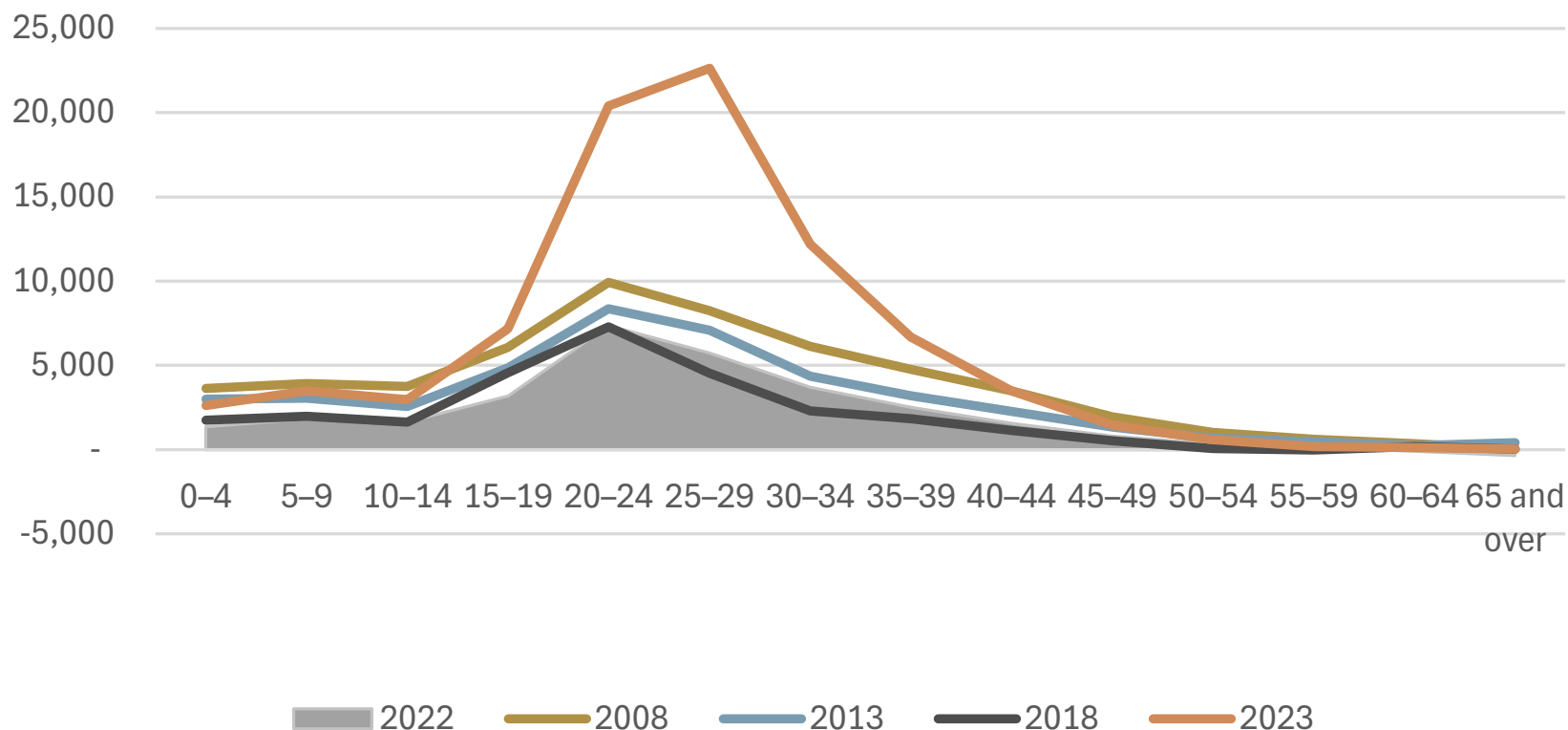
Migrant arrivals have returned to above pre-pandemic levels, however departures have been slower to recover

All visa categories have either recovered or exceed pre-pandemic levels; Predominantly temporary visas in year to March 2023 and 2024



# Net overseas migration — Queensland

NOM by age group

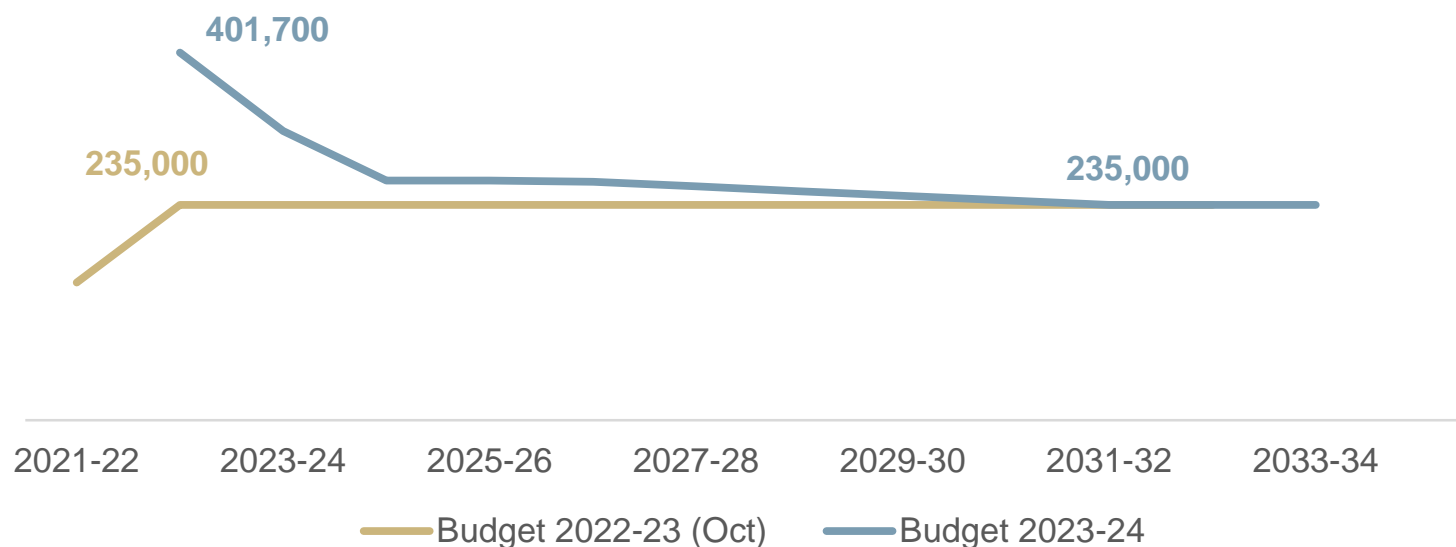


- High volume in 2022–23
- Pattern by age generally consistent with historical trends
  - Peak in 20–24 and 25–29 year olds
  - Includes people here on temporary visas meeting the 12/16 rule

# Commonwealth Treasury NOM forecasts

- Released twice yearly to inform budget
- Variable to NOM uncertainty in COVID recovery
- Important as NOM is the largest component of projected growth

Australian NOM



Commonwealth control the policy levers for overseas migration including permanent migration caps and skilled migration visas.

Vast majority of NOM are temporary migrants who are counted towards the population because they meet the 12/16 rule.

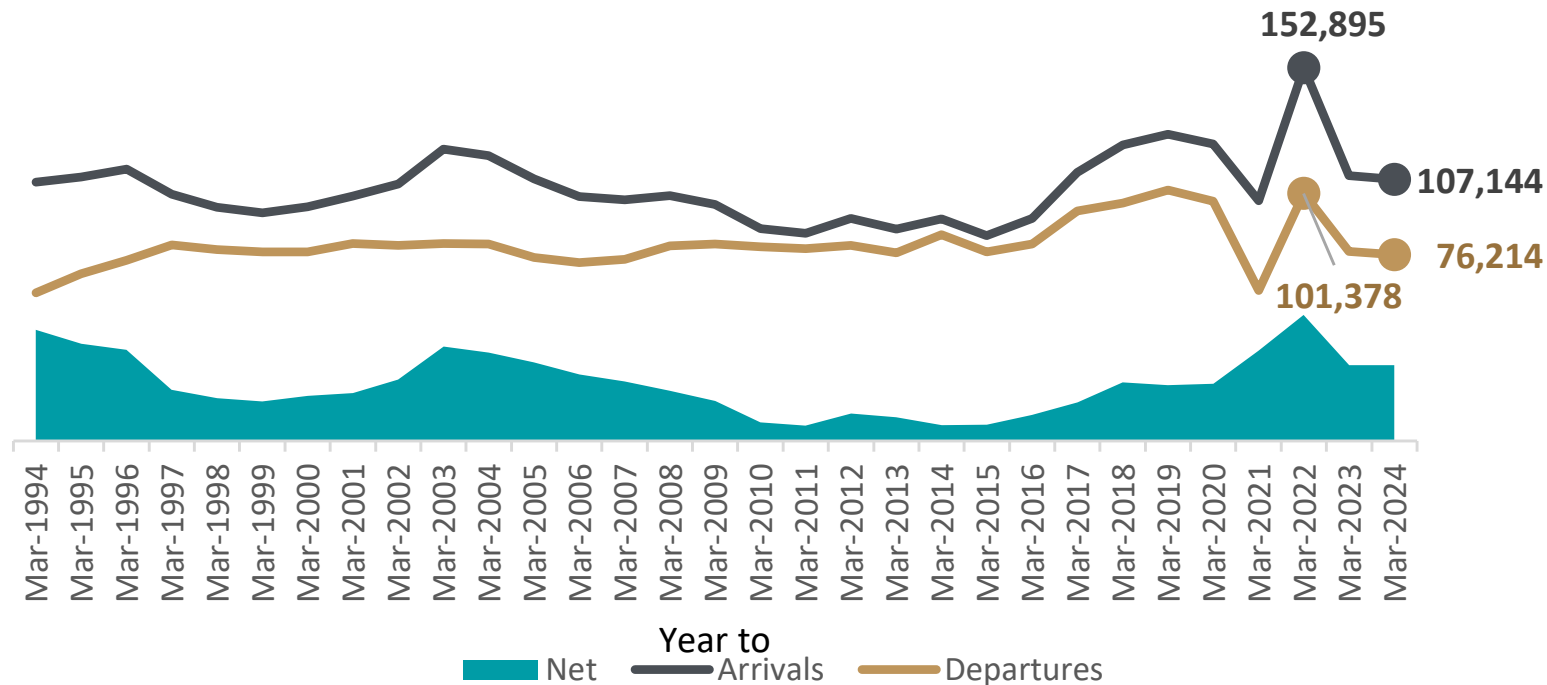
More recently, caps on student visas have been introduced for higher education and VET.

# Interstate migration — Queensland

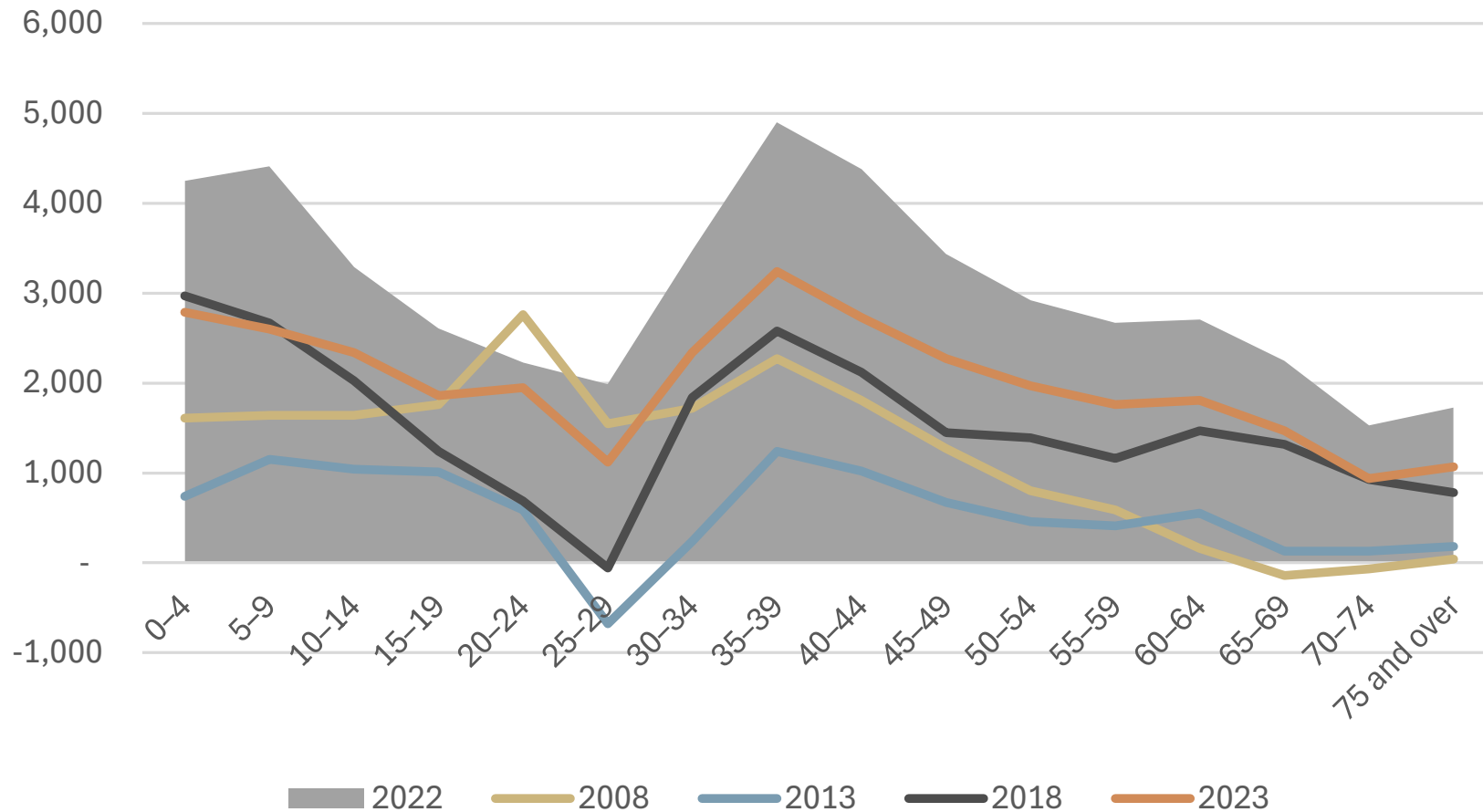
Interstate migration appears to have moderated from record high in 2021

QLD generally receives net positive gains from interstate migration from other states (primarily NSW and Victoria)

**Qld NIM arrivals and departures have both decreased**

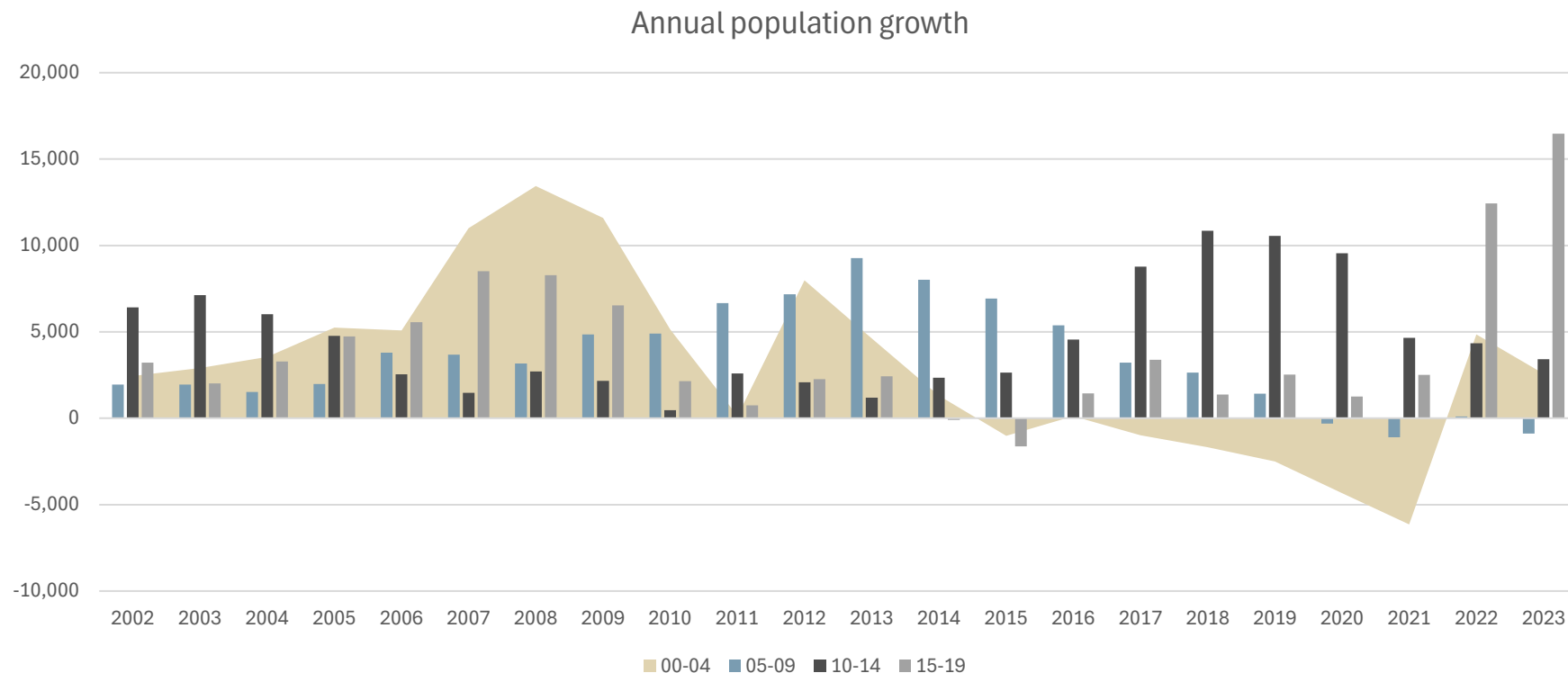


# Net interstate migration, Queensland



- High volume in 2021–22
- Pattern by age generally consistent with historical trends
  - Dip in 25–29 year olds
  - Peak in 30s and very young children

# Population growth, Queensland



- Population decline in 0–4 year olds over 2016–17 to 2020–21
- Followed by smaller decreases in 5–9 year olds
- Despite annual gains from NIM in these groups
- Small NOM loss in 0–4 year olds in 2020–21

**2023 edition update**

# 2023 edition update

- 2023 edition update released
- As a result of updated demographic information, particularly net overseas migration
  - Substantial revisions to **Federal Budget's** short-term NOM forecasts
- Only updated **State and SA4** region-level population projections (driven by demographic changes only)

## SA2 and LGA:

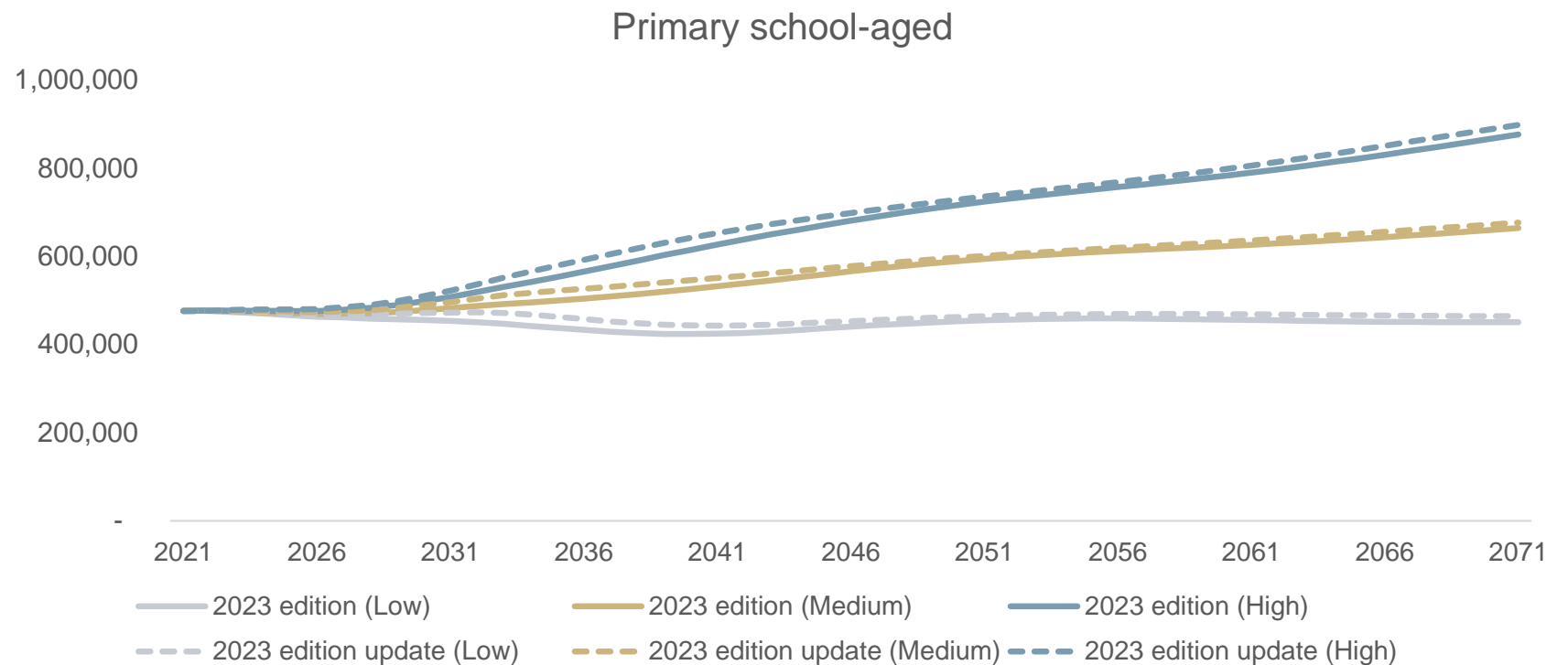
2023 edition remains the current set of Queensland Government population projections, including school-aged persons projections product



# 2023 edition update school-aged projections

## Queensland

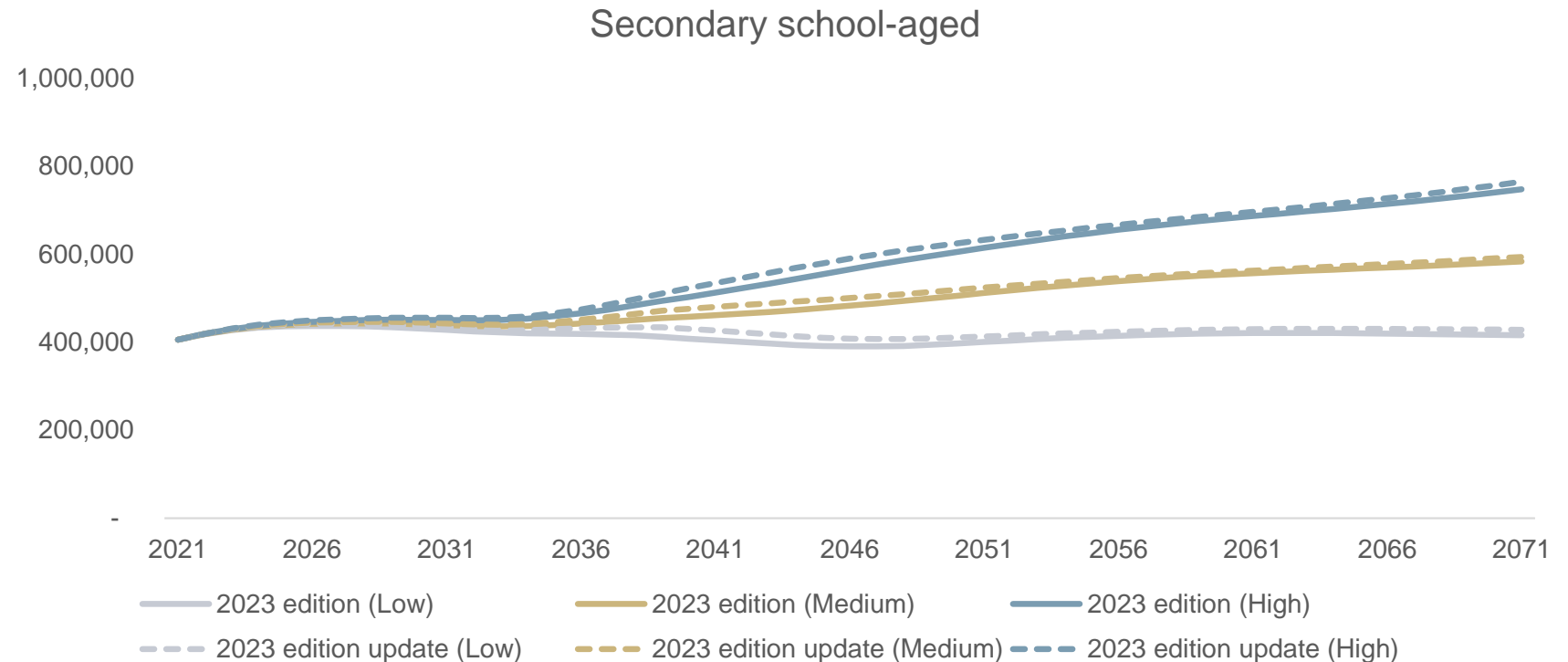
- Primary school-aged persons:
  - Between 453,000 and 699,000 persons by 2046
  - Between 465,000 and 898,000 persons by 2071



# 2023 edition update school-aged projections

## Queensland

- Secondary school-aged persons:
  - Between 408,000 and 590,000 persons by 2046
  - Between 428,000 and 764,000 persons by 2071



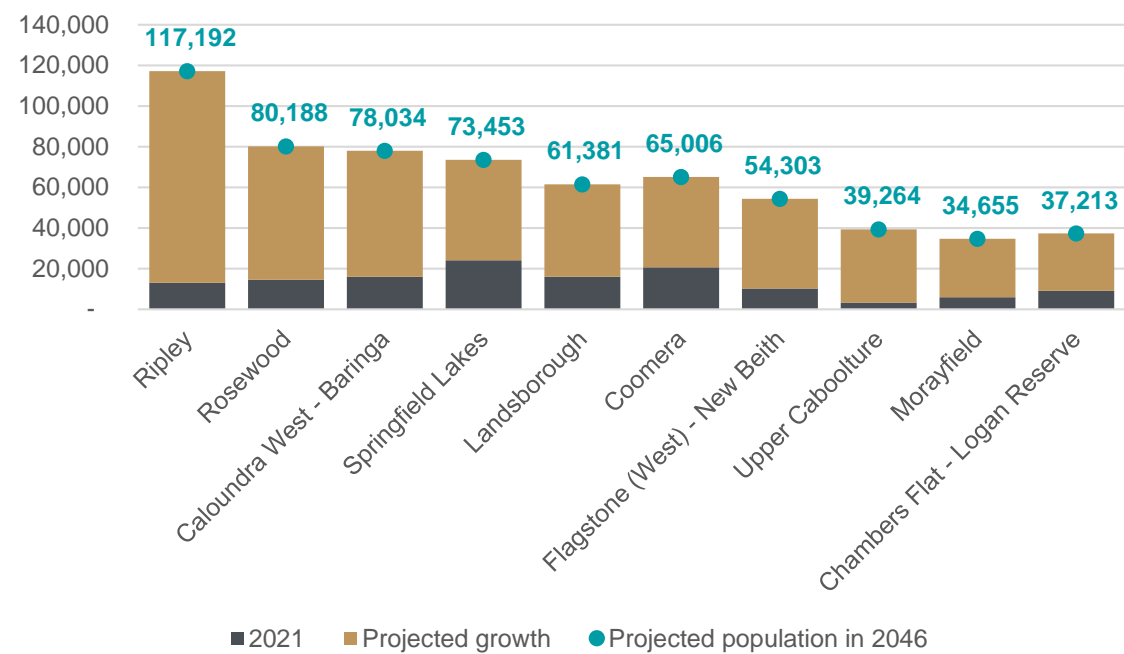
# Queensland's regions

2023 edition only



# Small area growth

- The top 10 growth hotspots over the 25-year horizon to 2046 are all located in SEQ.
- Populations in each are projected to at least triple.



SA2	Total growth	Primary	Secondary
Ripley	104,170	10,530	8,760
Rosewood	65,700	6,460	4,820
Caloundra West-Baringa	62,070	5,420	4,940
Springfield lakes	49,420	4,680	3,800
Landsborough	45,470	3,180	2,980
Coomera	44,390	4,640	3,870
Flagstone (West)-New Beith	44,120	3,770	3,200
Upper Caboolture	35,970	2,470	2,260
Morayfield	28,710	2,280	2,040
Chambers Flat-Logan Reserve	28,210	2,890	2,430

# Regional growth SA2s

**500+ additional primary school aged children projected**

- **Cairns**
  - Gordonvale-Trinity
  - Trinity beach-Smithfield
- **Central Queensland**
  - Parkhurst-Kawana
  - Yeppoon
- **Mackay - Isaac – Whitsunday**
  - Eimeo - Rural View
  - Shoal Point - Bucasia
- **Townsville**
  - Burdell - Mount Low
  - Douglas
  - Townsville - South

# Outlook

- Demographic components have shifted and are still evolving post-2021
  - Consideration of uncertainty in overseas migration
  - Fertility levels still declining
  - Changes in housing demand and land use planning
- Collaborative process important:
  - **2023 edition update for State and Regions**
  - **2023 edition for SA2s and LGAs**
- Ongoing monitoring and preparation for next edition:
  - Demographic updates
  - Council planning scheme updates
  - State development and planning initiatives
  - Commonwealth planning and policy

# Sources

Queensland Government Population Projections (2023 edition)

<https://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/statistics/theme/population/population-projections/overview>

Projected school-aged persons based on the Queensland Government Population Projections (2023 edition)

<https://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/statistics/theme/society/education/projected-school-aged-persons>

Queensland Government Population Projections (2023 edition update)

<https://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/statistics/theme/population/population-projections/2023-edition-update>

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