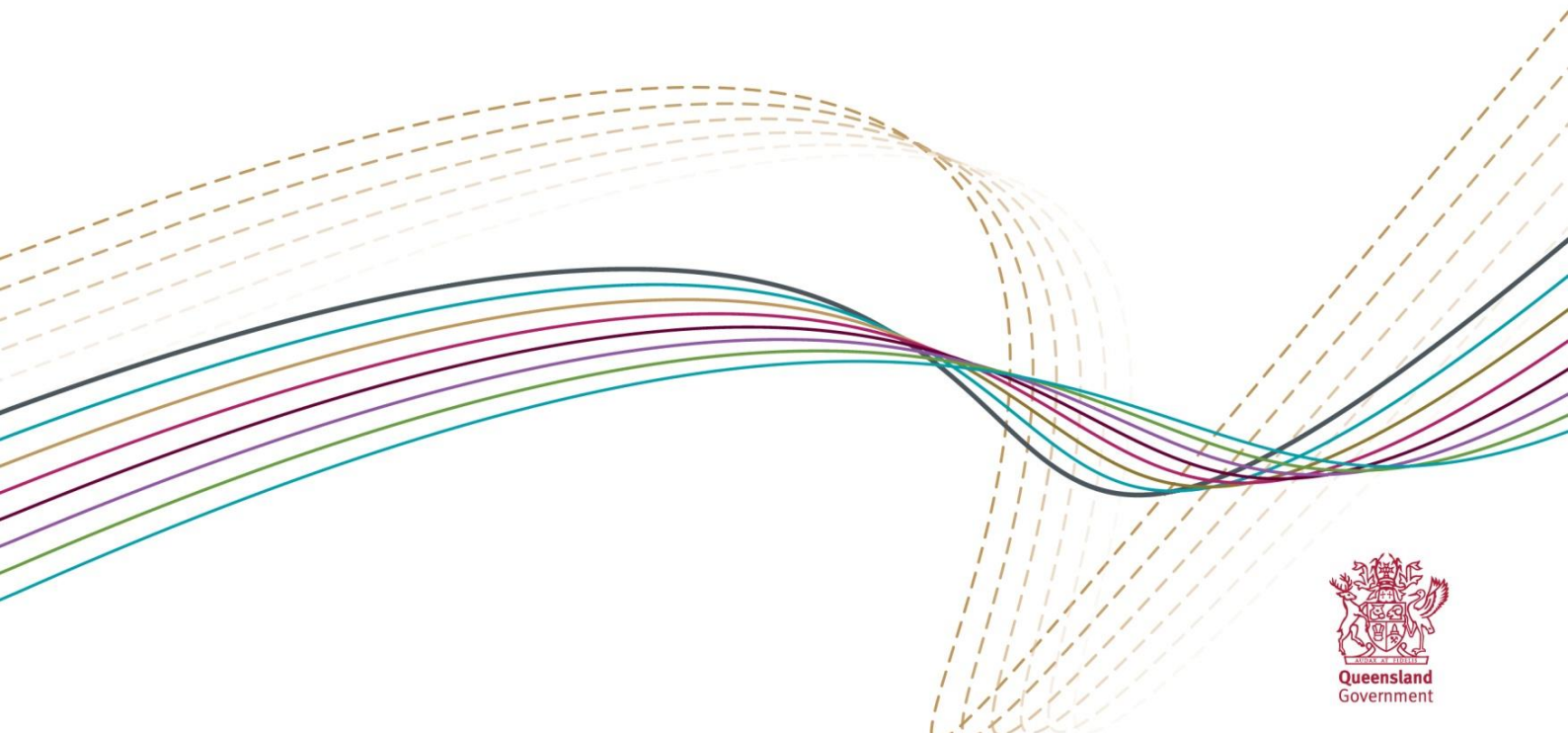
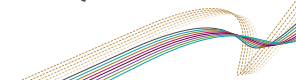


QUEENSLAND TREASURY

Diversity Figures, 2021

March 2023



**Queensland Government Statistician's Office**

Queensland Treasury

<http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au>

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About diversity figures

At the time of the 2021 Census, 22.7% of Queensland's total resident population¹ stated that they were born overseas, a slight increase from 21.6% at the 2016 Census.

The Queensland Government values the cultural, social and economic benefits this diversity generates within Queensland and has compiled this report to illustrate the unique features of our diverse population and how this has changed over time.

The report uses data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2011, 2016 and 2021 Censuses of Population and Housing to provide a snapshot of Queensland's population diversity².

Some interesting social and cultural characteristics of Queenslanders are featured, including:

- the source countries of overseas-born residents
- ancestry
- overseas languages spoken other than English
- English language proficiency of overseas language speakers
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents
- Australian South Sea Islander residents
- religion
- profound or severe disability among overseas language speakers
- education and employment characteristics of overseas-born people
- long-term health conditions.

Further information regarding the statistics presented in this report can be obtained from Multicultural Affairs and the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (see page 38 for details).

1 in 5

**1,170,328 Queenslanders
were born overseas in
more than 220 countries³**

¹ 5.9% (305,794) of persons who were usual residents of Queensland did not state their birthplace at the time of the 2021 Census. These people are included in Queensland's total usual resident population.

² Unless otherwise stated, all Census data in this report relate to place of usual residence, which is where persons usually live, rather than the place where they were counted on Census night (10 August 2021). Usual residents of Queensland will be referred to as 'Queenslanders' throughout this document. Random adjustment of Census data has been made by the ABS to minimise the risk of identifying individuals. See the [ABS website](#) for more information.

³ The definition of countries in this report follows that of the ABS publication *Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2016* which adopts a broad definition of 'country' that includes the following national entities: sovereign nation states, administrative subdivisions within some sovereign states, external territories and dependencies and regions under disputed ownership or control. For further information refer to the publication on the [ABS website](#).

Country of birth

Census 2021 data show that more than 5.1 million residents were counted in Queensland, an increase of 9.6% from 4.7 million in 2016. Queensland also became more culturally diverse during this time.

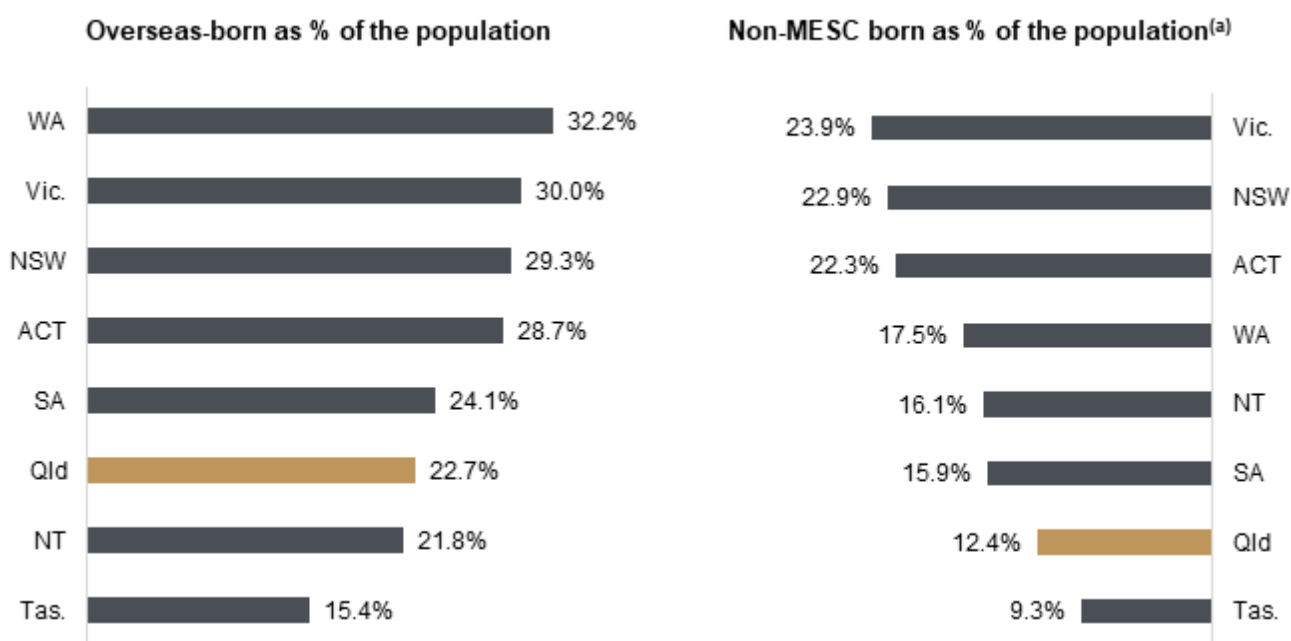
More than 1.1 million Queenslanders (1,170,328 people or 22.7% of the population) reported they were born overseas in 2021, up from 21.6% (1,015,879 people) in 2016 and 20.5% (888,636 people) in 2011.

Growth in the overseas-born population of Queensland from 2016 to 2021 (up by 15.2%) exceeded that in the rest of Australia over the same period (up by 14.1%).

In 2021, Queensland had the third largest overseas-born population by number after New South Wales (2.4 million people) and Victoria (2.0 million people). However, the proportion of Queenslanders born overseas was third lowest of all states and territories in Australia, after Tasmania and the Northern Territory (Figure 1).

Queensland also had a relatively small population born in a non-main English-speaking country (non-MESC)⁴ (12.4%)—about half that of Victoria (23.9%) and New South Wales (22.9%). However, the proportion of non-MESC-born people in Queensland has increased from 11.1% in 2016 and 9.5% in 2011.

Figure 1 Overseas-born and non-MESC^(a) born people as a proportion of the total population, states and territories, 2021



(a) Non-MESC born excludes Australian-born and MESC-born people and includes people born in countries not identified individually, 'Inadequately described' and 'At sea' responses.

In 2021, the largest numbers of overseas-born Queenslanders hailed from New Zealand (208,572 people, or 4.0% of the total population) and England (191,731 people, or 3.7% of the total population) (Table 1). Together, these two communities accounted for 34.2% of all residents born overseas, down from 37.6% in 2016 and 41.8% in 2011.

⁴ For the purposes of this report, main English-speaking countries (MESC) include all people born in New Zealand, South Africa, United States of America, Canada, Ireland, the United Kingdom (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) and its crown dependencies of Guernsey (Channel Island), Isle of Man and Jersey (Channel Island). The MESC list is not an attempt to classify countries based on whether English is the predominant or official language of each country. It is a list of the main countries from which Australia receives, or has received, significant numbers of overseas settlers who are likely to speak English. It is important to note that being born in a non-mainly English-speaking country (non-MESC) does not imply a lack of proficiency in English.



The next most common birthplace countries were India and China, which have both moved up in the rankings over the last decade. In 2011, India was the fourth most common country of birth (30,259 people or 0.7% of the total population), increasing to be the third most common in 2021 (71,819 people or 1.4% of the total population). Similarly, China increased from the sixth most common overseas country of birth in 2011 (27,036 people or 0.6% of the total population), to fourth most common in 2021 (55,762 people or 1.1% of residents). Over the same period the number of residents born in the Philippines, Vietnam and United States of America also increased while the number of people born in Scotland and Germany remained relatively constant.

Table 1 Top 10 overseas countries of birth, Queensland, 2011, 2016 and 2021

2011				2016				2021			
Rank	Country of birth	Persons	% of total population	Rank	Country of birth	Persons	% of total population	Rank	Country of birth	Persons	% of total population
1	New Zealand	192,036	4.4	1	New Zealand	201,202	4.3	1	New Zealand	208,572	4.0
2	England	179,495	4.1	2	England	180,775	3.8	2	England	191,731	3.7
3	South Africa	35,549	0.8	3	India	49,144	1.0	3	India	71,819	1.4
4	India	30,259	0.7	4	China ^(a)	47,111	1.0	4	China ^(a)	55,762	1.1
5	Philippines	29,462	0.7	5	South Africa	40,133	0.9	5	Philippines	51,529	1.0
6	China ^(a)	27,036	0.6	6	Philippines	39,656	0.8	6	South Africa	49,699	1.0
7	Scotland	24,057	0.6	7	Scotland	21,881	0.5	7	Vietnam	24,455	0.5
8	Germany	21,027	0.5	8	Germany	20,387	0.4	8	Scotland	22,756	0.4
9	Vietnam	16,269	0.4	9	Vietnam	19,547	0.4	9	Germany	20,981	0.4
10	USA	15,811	0.4	10	South Korea	18,331	0.4	10	USA	20,271	0.4

(a) Excludes Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, and Taiwan.

In the rest of Australia, England was the main country of birth, followed by India, China and New Zealand (Table 2). People born in New Zealand represented a much higher proportion of the Queensland population (4.0%) compared with the rest of Australia (1.6%).

Of all New Zealand-born Australian residents, 39.3% lived in Queensland. People born in China, India, Italy, Vietnam and Malaysia were comparatively under-represented in Queensland with proportions for these countries of birth less than half of those measured for the rest of Australia. Nevertheless, South Korea, Taiwan, the south-east Asian countries of Malaysia and Thailand as well as Australia's other Pacific neighbours featured in the top 20 countries of birth in Queensland. Papua New Guinea and Fiji each contributed 0.3% of the total Queensland population born overseas

**Table 2 Top 20 overseas countries of birth, Queensland and rest of Australia, 2021**

Queensland				Rest of Australia			
Rank	Country of Birth	Persons	% of total population	Rank	Country of Birth	Persons	% of total population
1	New Zealand	208,572	4.0	1	England	735,754	3.6
2	England	191,731	3.7	2	India	601,535	3.0
3	India	71,819	1.4	3	China ^(a)	493,866	2.4
4	China ^(a)	55,762	1.1	4	New Zealand	321,919	1.6
5	Philippines	51,529	1.0	5	Philippines	242,370	1.2
6	South Africa	49,699	1.0	6	Vietnam	233,542	1.2
7	Vietnam	24,455	0.5	7	Italy	150,112	0.7
8	Scotland	22,756	0.4	8	Malaysia	148,987	0.7
9	Germany	20,981	0.4	9	South Africa	139,505	0.7
10	United States of America	20,271	0.4	10	Sri Lanka	119,898	0.6
11	South Korea	19,658	0.4	11	Nepal	111,701	0.6
12	Papua New Guinea	17,085	0.3	12	Scotland	95,732	0.5
13	Malaysia	16,618	0.3	13	Greece	88,951	0.4
14	Taiwan	16,600	0.3	14	Iraq	87,593	0.4
15	Fiji	14,465	0.3	15	Hong Kong ^(b)	87,329	0.4
16	Thailand	13,870	0.3	16	Lebanon	85,682	0.4
17	Netherlands	13,746	0.3	17	Pakistan	83,202	0.4
18	Japan	13,236	0.3	18	South Korea	82,429	0.4
19	Italy	13,217	0.3	19	United States of America	81,038	0.4
20	Canada	12,883	0.2	20	Germany	80,275	0.4
	Other	301,363	5.8		Other	1,801,731	8.9
	Overseas ^(c)	1,170,328	22.7		Overseas ^(c)	5,873,151	29.0
	Australia	3,680,016	71.4		Australia	13,340,402	65.8
	Total^(d)	5,156,138	100.0		Total^(d)	20,266,650	100.0

(a) Excludes Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, and Taiwan.

(b) Special Administrative Region of China.

(c) Includes 'Inadequately described' and 'At sea'.

(d) Includes 'Not stated'.

The distribution of people born overseas across Queensland local government areas (LGAs), and suburbs in south east Queensland, is presented in Figure 2 and Figure 3 respectively. Among Queensland's LGAs, Brisbane had the highest proportion of residents born overseas (31.8%), closely followed by the Gold Coast (29.1%) and Logan (27.9%) (Table 3). Outside of south east Queensland, Cairns and Douglas had the highest proportions of overseas born people (22.3% and 21.4% respectively).

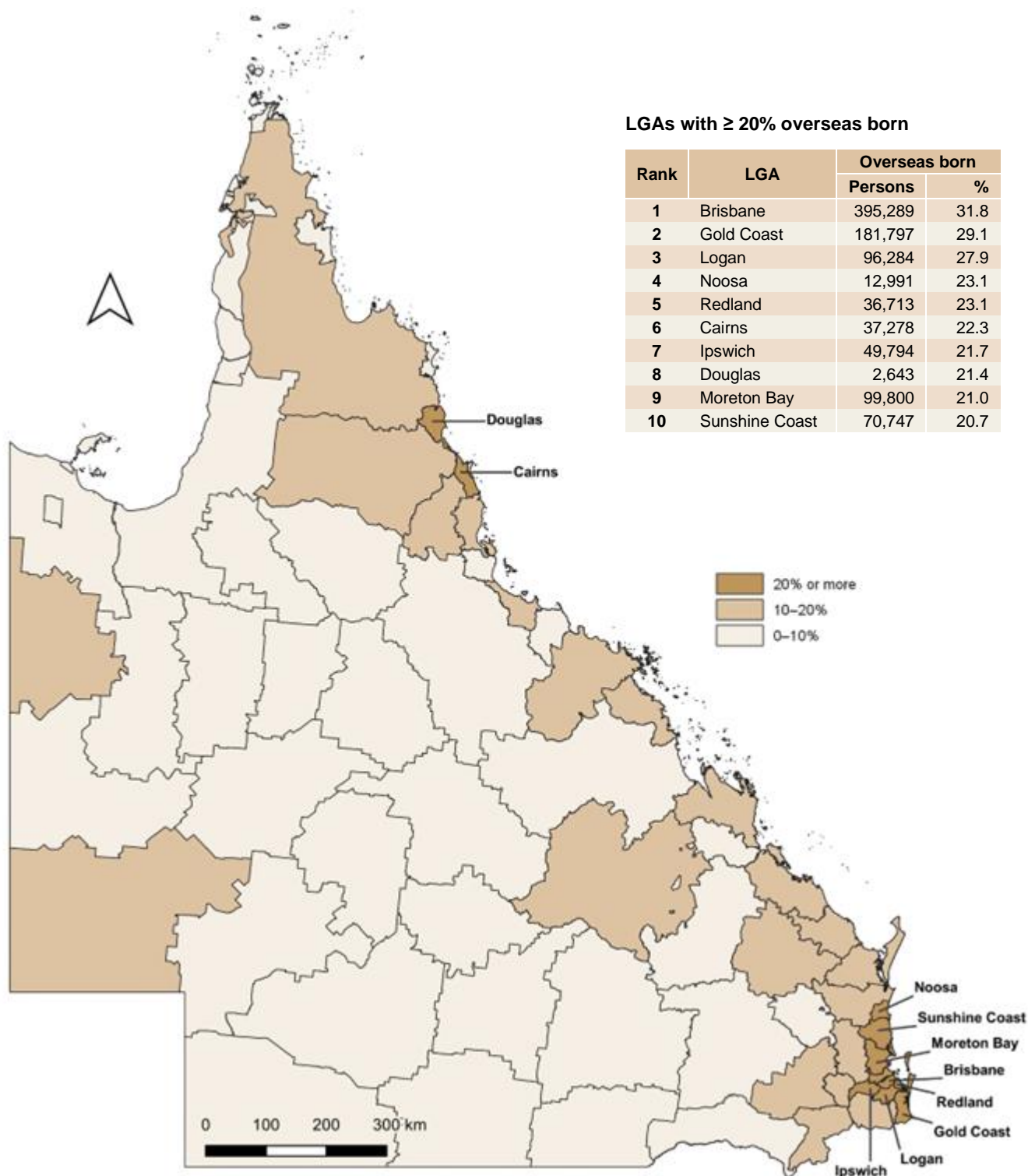
Comparative data on the number and proportion of people born overseas across all Queensland LGAs for 2016 and 2021 is shown in Table 4 (pages 9–10).

The data shows variable change in both the number and percentage of the overseas born population across Queensland's LGAs, with both increases and decreases observed. Some notable increases in the number and proportion of people born overseas between 2016 and 2021 include:

- Cairns, increasing from 33,699 to 37,278 people (up by 10.6%)
- Townsville, increasing from 25,588 to 27,071 people (up by 5.8%)
- Fraser Coast, increasing from 14,162 to 16,685 people (up by 17.8%)
- Lockyer Valley, near Brisbane, increasing from 5,010 to 5,814 people (up by 16.0%)

Further information about the overseas-born population in LGAs across Queensland can be found in the [Qld Regional Database](#) and [Qld Regional Profile](#) data exploration tools on the QGSO website and the [SBS Australian 2021 Census Explorer](#).

Figure 2 Overseas-born persons by local government area, Queensland, 2021



Source: Map produced by Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury.
 Data sourced from ABS Table Builder Pro, 2021 Census.

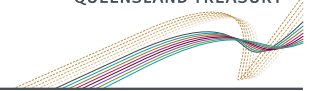


Table 3 Top 20 LGAs in Queensland with the highest proportion of people born overseas, 2021

1) Brisbane			Persons	%	5) Redland			Persons	%		
Population born overseas:			395,289	31.8	Population born overseas:			36,713	23.1		
Top overseas countries of birth:					Top overseas countries of birth:						
	England		42,311	3.4		England		10,163	6.4		
	New Zealand		41,744	3.4		New Zealand		8,036	5.0		
	China ^(a)		36,768	3.0		South Africa		2,881	1.8		
	India		35,188	2.8		Scotland		1,308	0.8		
Population speaking LOTE at home:			292,828	23.6	Population speaking LOTE at home:			11,360	7.1		
Most common LOTE spoken at home:			Mandarin	55,271	4.4	Most common LOTE spoken at home:			Afrikaans	1,031	0.6
2) Gold Coast			Persons	%	6) Cairns			Persons	%		
Population born overseas:			181,797	29.1	Population born overseas:			37,278	22.3		
Top overseas countries of birth:					Top overseas countries of birth:						
	New Zealand		44,485	7.1		England		6,522	3.9		
	England		30,748	4.9		New Zealand		4,715	2.8		
	China ^(a)		8,772	1.4		Papua New Guinea		2,361	1.4		
	South Africa		8,563	1.4		Philippines		2,132	1.3		
Population speaking LOTE at home:			83,795	13.4	Population speaking LOTE at home:			20,102	12.0		
Most common LOTE spoken at home:			Mandarin	11,721	1.9	Most common LOTE spoken at home:			Japanese	2,364	1.4
3) Logan			Persons	%	7) Ipswich			Persons	%		
Population born overseas:			96,284	27.9	Population born overseas:			49,794	21.7		
Top overseas countries of birth:					Top overseas countries of birth:						
	New Zealand		24,478	7.1		New Zealand		12,260	5.3		
	England		11,375	3.3		England		6,441	2.8		
	India		5,619	1.6		India		4,644	2.0		
	Philippines		3,794	1.1		Philippines		2,800	1.2		
Population speaking LOTE at home:			60,790	17.6	Population speaking LOTE at home:			30,970	13.5		
Most common LOTE spoken at home:			Samoan	4,557	1.3	Most common LOTE spoken at home:			Samoan	4,420	1.9
4) Noosa			Persons	%	8) Douglas			Persons	%		
Population born overseas:			12,991	23.1	Population born overseas:			2,643	21.4		
Top overseas countries of birth:					Top overseas countries of birth:						
	England		4,233	7.5		England		635	5.1		
	New Zealand		2,243	4.0		New Zealand		429	3.5		
	South Africa		633	1.1		Argentina		131	1.1		
	Germany		521	0.9		Germany		118	1.0		
Population speaking LOTE at home:			3,108	5.5	Population speaking LOTE at home:			989	8.0		
Most common LOTE spoken at home:			German	411	0.7	Most common LOTE spoken at home:			Spanish	265	2.1



Table 3 Top 20 LGAs in Queensland with the highest proportion of people born overseas, 2021 (continued)

9) Moreton Bay		Persons	%	
Population born overseas:		99,800	21.0	
Top overseas countries of birth:	New Zealand	23,135	4.9	
	England	22,529	4.7	
	South Africa	5,784	1.2	
	Philippines	5,178	1.1	
Population speaking LOTE at home:		38,862	8.2	
Most common LOTE spoken at home:		Punjabi	2,748	0.6

10) Sunshine Coast		Persons	%	
Population born overseas:		70,747	20.7	
Top overseas countries of birth:	England	20,153	5.9	
	New Zealand	14,563	4.3	
	South Africa	4,157	1.2	
	India	2,332	0.7	
Population speaking LOTE at home:		20,141	5.9	
Most common LOTE spoken at home:		German	1,537	0.4

11) Mareeba		Persons	%	
Population born overseas:		3,866	16.9	
Top overseas countries of birth:	England	634	2.8	
	Italy	464	2.0	
	New Zealand	459	2.0	
	Germany	199	0.9	
Population speaking LOTE at home:		2,151	9.4	
Most common LOTE spoken at home:		Italian	664	2.9

12) Whitsunday		Persons	%	
Population born overseas:		6,073	16.3	
Top overseas countries of birth:	England	1,215	3.3	
	New Zealand	1,125	3.0	
	Philippines	368	1.0	
	South Africa	234	0.6	
Population speaking LOTE at home:		2,329	6.3	
Most common LOTE spoken at home:		Spanish	303	0.8

13) Mount Isa		Persons	%	
Population born overseas:		3,053	16.3	
Top overseas countries of birth:	New Zealand	791	4.2	
	Philippines	497	2.7	
	England	221	1.2	
	South Africa	190	1.0	
Population speaking LOTE at home:		1,638	8.7	
Most common LOTE spoken at home:		Tagalog	190	1.0

14) Scenic Rim		Persons	%	
Population born overseas:		6,467	15.0	
Top overseas countries of birth:	England	2,046	4.8	
	New Zealand	1,502	3.5	
	South Africa	233	0.5	
	Germany	209	0.5	
Population speaking LOTE at home:		1,376	3.2	
Most common LOTE spoken at home:		German	155	0.4

15) Fraser Coast		Persons	%	
Population born overseas:		16,685	15.0	
Top overseas countries of birth:	England	5,216	4.7	
	New Zealand	3,374	3.0	
	Philippines	803	0.7	
	Germany	668	0.6	
Population speaking LOTE at home:		3,925	3.5	
Most common LOTE spoken at home:		German	398	0.4

16) Cassowary Coast		Persons	%	
Population born overseas:		4,223	14.5	
Top overseas countries of birth:	India	680	2.3	
	England	668	2.3	
	New Zealand	506	1.7	
	Philippines	294	1.0	
Population speaking LOTE at home:		2,705	9.3	
Most common LOTE spoken at home:		Punjabi	822	2.8



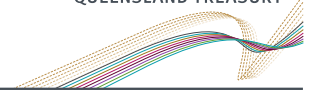
Table 3 Top 20 LGAs in Queensland with the highest proportion of people born overseas, 2021 (continued)

17) Lockyer Valley			Persons	%	19) Townsville			Persons	%
Population born overseas:			5,814	14.1	Population born overseas:		27,071	14.0	
Top overseas countries of birth:	England		1,096	2.7	Top overseas countries of birth:	England	4,784	2.5	
	New Zealand		913	2.2		New Zealand	4,121	2.1	
	India		373	0.9		Philippines	2,052	1.1	
	Taiwan		329	0.8		India	1,761	0.9	
Population speaking LOTE at home:			2,674	6.5	Population speaking LOTE at home:		13,291	6.9	
Most common LOTE spoken at home:		Mandarin	518	1.3	Most common LOTE spoken at home:		Tagalog	960	0.5
18) Cook			Persons	%	20) Toowoomba			Persons	%
Population born overseas:			638	14.1	Population born overseas:		24,059	13.9	
Top overseas countries of birth:	England		108	2.4	Top overseas countries of birth:	England	3,239	1.9	
	New Zealand		101	2.2		New Zealand	2,493	1.4	
	South Africa		31	0.7		Iraq	2,200	1.3	
	Samoa		30	0.7		India	1,987	1.1	
Population speaking LOTE at home:			238	5.3	Population speaking LOTE at home:		14,746	8.5	
Most common LOTE spoken at home:		Bislama	31	0.7	Most common LOTE spoken at home:		Kurdish	1,957	1.1

(a) Excludes Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, and Taiwan.

Notes:

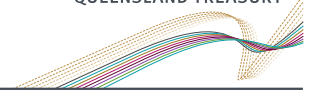
Population born overseas includes countries not identified individually, 'Inadequately described', and 'At sea' responses. Population born overseas excludes 'Not stated' responses. Population speaking LOTE (Language other than English) at home excludes Australian Indigenous Languages, Invented Languages, Sign Languages, and Supplementary codes including creoles, pidgins, 'inadequately described' and 'non-verbal, so described'.



Queensland Government Statistician's Office

Table 4 Born overseas, LGAs in Queensland, 2016 and 2021

LGA <i>(in alphabetical order of local government area)</i>	2016 Census		2021 Census		LGA	2016 Census		2021 Census	
	Born overseas	% population	Born overseas	% population		Born overseas	% population	Born overseas	% population
Aurukun	27	2.1	17	1.5	Croydon	11	3.7	13	4.9
Balonne	263	6.0	272	6.3	Diamantina	18	6.2	31	11.7
Banana	1,174	8.2	1,126	7.8	Doomadgee	23	1.6	37	2.7
Barcaldine	163	5.7	148	5.2	Douglas	2,352	20.1	2,643	21.4
Barcoo	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	Etheridge	55	6.9	49	6.9
Blackall-Tambo	85	4.5	89	4.7	Flinders	75	4.9	90	6.0
Boulia	23	5.4	27	5.9	Fraser Coast	14,162	14.0	16,685	15.0
Brisbane	346,352	30.6	395,289	31.8	Gladstone	8,921	14.5	8,428	13.3
Bulloo	22	6.2	21	6.2	Gold Coast	157,183	28.3	181,797	29.1
Bundaberg	11,108	12.0	12,942	13.0	Goondiwindi	631	5.9	638	6.2
Burdekin	1,418	8.3	1,501	9.0	Gympie	5,342	10.8	6,160	11.6
Burke	23	7.0	26	6.2	Hinchinbrook	1,052	9.7	988	9.0
Cairns	33,699	21.5	37,278	22.3	Hope Vale	15	1.6	14	1.4
Carpentaria	143	7.3	132	6.3	Ipswich	39,009	20.1	49,794	21.7
Cassowary Coast	3,998	13.9	4,223	14.5	Isaac	2,098	10.0	2,127	9.6
Central Highlands	3,039	10.9	3,263	11.7	Kowanyama	17	1.8	16	1.5
Charters Towers	664	5.6	730	6.2	Livingstone	3,651	10.1	3,990	10.1
Cherbourg	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	Lockhart River	12	1.7	22	3.4
Cloncurry	265	8.7	311	8.5	Lockyer Valley	5,010	13.0	5,814	14.1
Cook	575	13.6	638	14.1	Logan	82,883	27.3	96,284	27.9



Queensland Government Statistician's Office

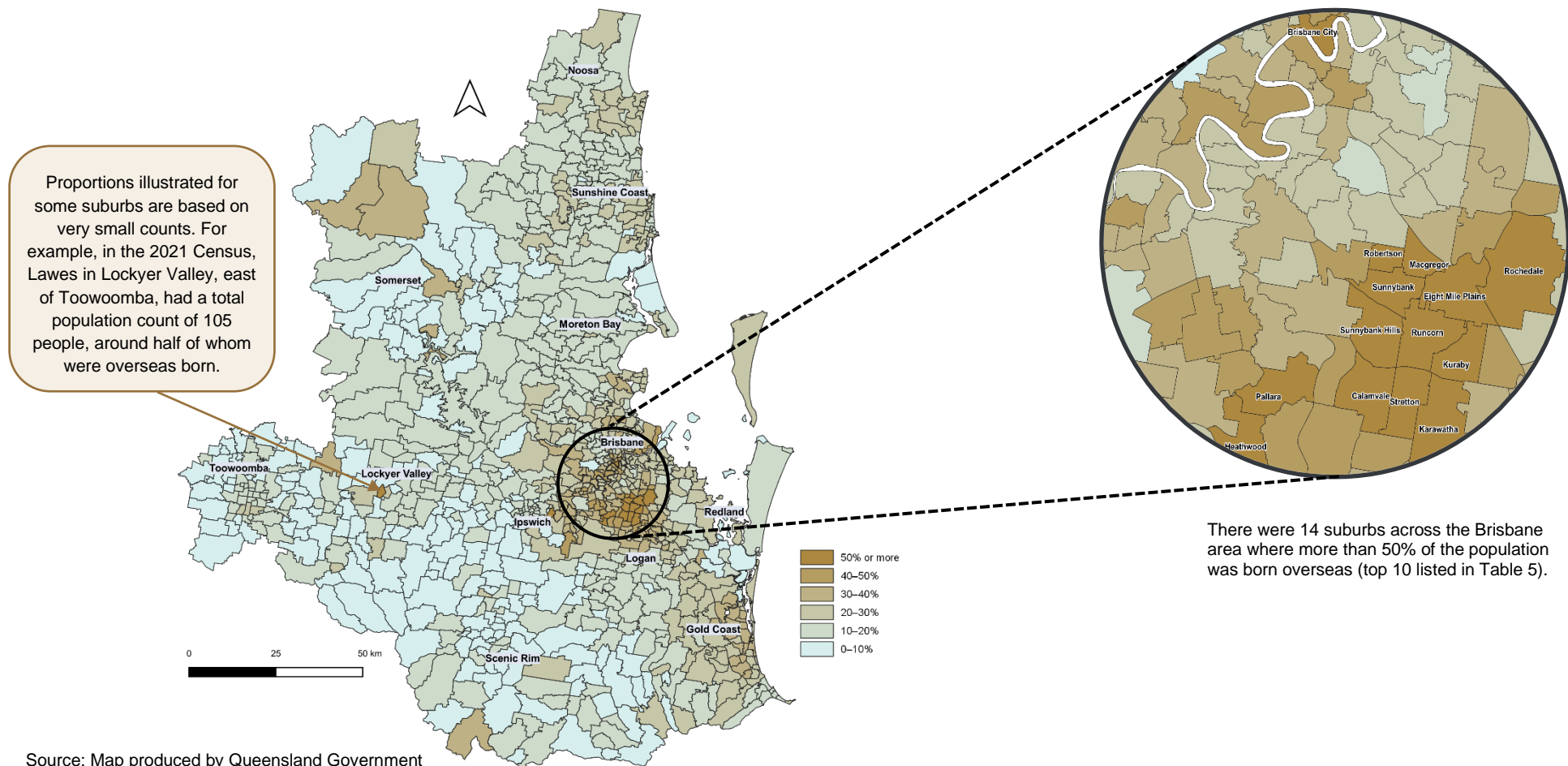
Table 4 Born overseas, LGAs in Queensland, 2016 and 2021 *(continued)*

LGA <i>(in alphabetical order of local government area)</i>	2016 Census		2021 Census		LGA	2016 Census		2021 Census	
	Born overseas	% population	Born overseas	% population		Born overseas	% population	Born overseas	% population
Longreach	252	6.9	279	7.7	Rockhampton	7,494	9.4	8,184	10.0
Mackay	13,472	11.7	14,486	11.9	Scenic Rim	5,716	14.3	6,467	15.0
McKinlay	58	7.3	40	4.8	Somerset	2,977	12.1	3,389	13.5
Mapoon	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	South Burnett	2,966	9.2	3,192	9.7
Maranoa	900	7	899	7	Southern Downs	3,639	10.4	3,724	10.3
Mareeba	3,570	16.6	3,866	16.9	Sunshine Coast	57,556	19.6	70,747	20.7
Moreton Bay	83,392	19.6	99,800	21.0	Tablelands	3,121	12.6	3,464	13.2
Mornington	37	3.2	28	2.7	Toowoomba	18,807	11.7	24,059	13.9
Mount Isa	3,015	16.1	3,053	16.3	Torres	238	6.6	262	7.7
Murweh	297	6.9	332	8.4	Torres Strait Island	178	3.9	137	3.3
Napranum	19	2.0	18	2.0	Townsville	25,588	13.7	27,071	14.0
Noosa	11,270	21.6	12,991	23.1	Weipa	398	10.2	404	9.9
North Burnett	982	9.4	1,035	10.3	Western Downs	2,388	7.1	2,673	7.9
Northern Peninsula Area	80	2.9	64	2.3	Whitsunday	5,189	15.4	6,073	16.3
Palm Island	47	1.9	25	1.2	Winton	53	4.7	59	5.2
Paroo	67	4.1	85	5.1	Woorabinda	14	1.5	10	1.0
Pormpuraaw	32	4.3	18	2.9	Wujal Wujal	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Quilpie	49	6	42	6	Yarrabah	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Redland	33,203	22.6	36,713	23.1	No usual address	3,157	25.2	2,907	19.8
Richmond	46	5.8	33	4.3	Migratory - Offshore - Shipping	40	26.7	26	14.2

(a) LGA boundaries are as at Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) 2021 and sourced from ABS Census of Population and Housing 2021, TableBuilder Pro.

n.p. not published due to small counts.

Figure 3 Overseas born persons by suburb⁵, south east Queensland, 2021



Source: Map produced by Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury. Data sourced from ABS Table Builder Pro, 2021 Census

⁵ Note there were 92 suburbs in south east Queensland with a usual resident count of less than 50 people including 14 suburbs with no usual residents counted at the time of the 2021 Census. This includes Eagle Farm in Brisbane with a count of 11 people, around half of whom were overseas-born.

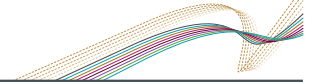


Table 5 Top 10 South east Queensland suburbs with the highest proportion of people born overseas, 2021^(a)

1) Robertson			Persons	%
Population born overseas:			2,806	59.1
Top overseas countries of birth:				
	China ^(b)		683	14.4
	India		436	9.2
	Taiwan		400	8.4
Population speaking LOTE at home:			2,865	60.3
Most common LOTE spoken at home:		Mandarin	1,263	26.6

2) Stretton			Persons	%
Population born overseas:			2,753	58.7
Top overseas countries of birth:				
	China ^(b)		690	14.7
	Taiwan		299	6.4
	New Zealand		188	4.0
Population speaking LOTE at home:			2,941	62.8
Most common LOTE spoken at home:		Mandarin	1,150	24.5

3) Rochedale			Persons	%
Population born overseas:			4,401	57.7
Top overseas countries of birth:				
	China ^(b)		1,504	19.7
	India		370	4.8
	South Korea		318	4.2
Population speaking LOTE at home:			4,720	61.8
Most common LOTE spoken at home:		Mandarin	2,241	29.4

4) Macgregor			Persons	%
Population born overseas:			3,445	57.6
Top overseas countries of birth:				
	China ^(b)		1,023	17.1
	Taiwan		379	6.3
	India		278	4.6
Population speaking LOTE at home:			3,396	56.8
Most common LOTE spoken at home:		Mandarin	1,483	24.8

5) Sunnybank			Persons	%
Population born overseas:			5,007	56.3
Top overseas countries of birth:				
	China ^(b)		1,499	16.9
	Taiwan		666	7.5
	India		318	3.6
Population speaking LOTE at home:			5,023	56.5
Most common LOTE spoken at home:		Mandarin	2,378	26.7

6) Pallara			Persons	%
Population born overseas:			2,154	55.8
Top overseas countries of birth:				
	India		599	15.5
	New Zealand		181	4.7
	Philippines		124	3.2
Population speaking LOTE at home:			2,279	59.0
Most common LOTE spoken at home:		Punjabi	310	8.0

7) Calamvale			Persons	%
Population born overseas:			9,941	55.2
Top overseas countries of birth:				
	China ^(b)		2,441	13.6
	India		1,056	5.9
	Taiwan		746	4.1
Population speaking LOTE at home:			10,461	58.1
Most common LOTE spoken at home:		Mandarin	3,852	21.4

8) Runcorn			Persons	%
Population born overseas:			7,610	53.6
Top overseas countries of birth:				
	China ^(b)		1,406	9.9
	India		1,295	9.1
	South Korea		650	4.6
Population speaking LOTE at home:			7,796	54.9
Most common LOTE spoken at home:		Mandarin	2,273	16.0

9) Brisbane City			Persons	%
Population born overseas:			6,657	52.9
Top overseas countries of birth:				
	China ^(b)		1,046	8.3
	South Korea		526	4.2
	India		442	3.5
Population speaking LOTE at home:			5,057	40.2
Most common LOTE spoken at home:		Mandarin	1,340	10.6

10) Sunnybank Hills			Persons	%
Population born overseas:			9,487	52.5
Top overseas countries of birth:				
	China ^(b)		2,735	15.1
	Taiwan		1,079	6.0
	India		725	4.0
Population speaking LOTE at home:			9,800	54.2
Most common LOTE spoken at home:		Mandarin	4,307	23.8

Notes:

Population born overseas includes countries not identified individually, 'Inadequately described', and 'At sea' responses. Excludes 'Not stated' responses.

Population speaking LOTE (Language other than English) at home excludes Australian Indigenous Languages, Invented Languages, Sign Languages, and Supplementary codes including creoles, pidgins, 'inadequately described' and 'non-verbal, so described'.

Percentages calculated as a proportion of the total population.

(a) Suburbs with an overseas-born population of less than 200 people were excluded. All 10 suburbs shown are in Brisbane City.

(b) Excludes Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, and Taiwan.

Year of arrival in Australia

Results from the 2021 Census show that of the more than 1.1 million people born overseas currently living in Queensland, 31.1% arrived between 1 January 2011 and 10 August 2021 (2021 Census date)⁶, 24.8% arrived between 2001 and 2010 and 41.4% arrived in or before 2000.

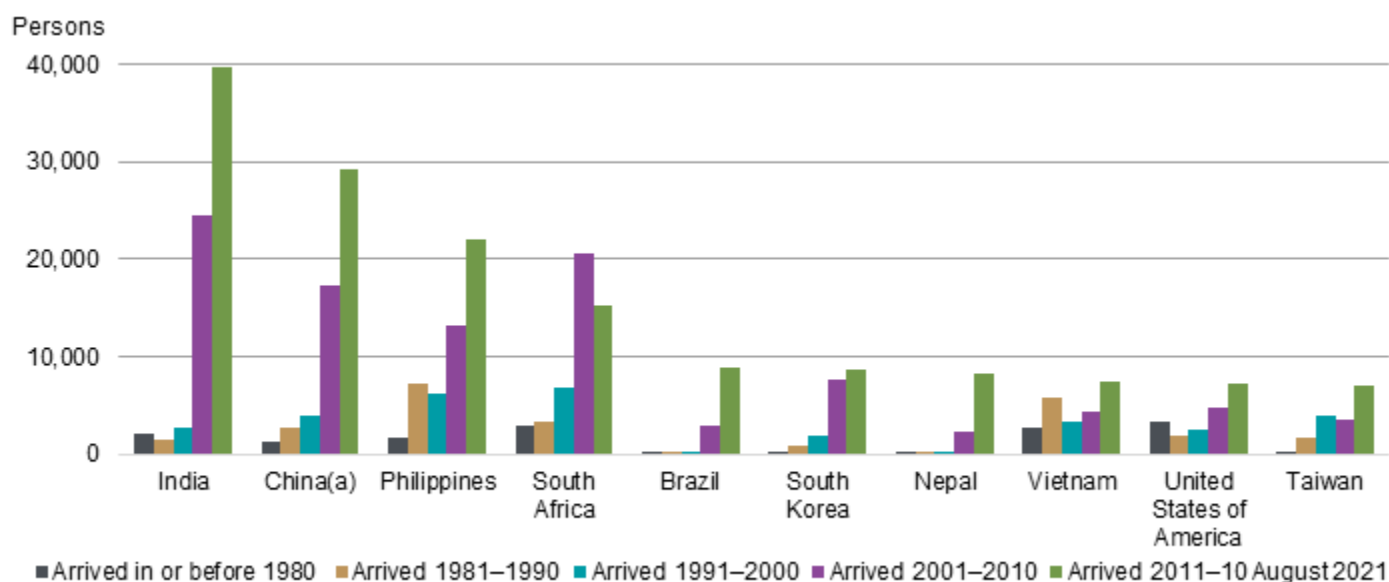
The year of arrival in Australia of people born overseas varied considerably by country of birth. Looking at the past three decades to 10 August 2021, 17.2% (35,947) of all New Zealand-born Queenslanders arrived between 1991 and 2000, 25.9% (53,962) arrived between 2001 and 2010 and 22.0% (45,851) arrived between 2011 and 2021.

There has been a similar trend in the share of England-born Queenslanders who arrived in Australia over the most recent three decades, with 8.7% (16,659) arriving between 1991 and 2000, 21.6% (41,380) arriving between 2001 and 2010 and 15.2% (29,171) arriving between 2011 and 2021.

A much smaller share of New Zealand-born Queenslanders (14.1% or 29,344 people) arrived in or before 1980 compared with the 40.7% (78,001 people) of England-born Queenslanders who arrived during the same period.

Figure 4 shows the year of arrival for the top 10 source countries of birth for Queensland residents (excluding New Zealand and England) who arrived between 2011 and 2021. The number of arrivals from all 10 countries have become progressively larger in every time period shown except for the Philippines, South Africa and Vietnam. Arrivals from South Africa were highest between 2001 and 2010, while arrivals from the Philippines and Vietnam were higher between 1981 and 1990 than between 1991 and 2000. Arrivals from India, China, the Philippines, Brazil and Nepal have been proportionately much larger since 2011, compared with previous time periods. In the period from 2011 to 10 August 2021, the number of arrivals from India and China exceeded 39,600 and 29,300 respectively, with over 22,100 arrivals from the Philippines. More than 15,300 people arrived from South Africa in the latest time period.

Figure 4 Year of arrival, overseas-born Queenslanders by top 10 countries of birth (excluding New Zealand and England), 2021



(a) Excludes Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, and Taiwan.

⁶ At the time of the 2021 Census, 30,388 Queensland usual residents who stated that they were born overseas (2.6% of the overseas-born population) did not state their year of arrival in Australia. These people are included in Queensland's total usual resident overseas-born population.

Table 6 highlights the composition of overseas arrivals into Queensland over time by country of birth. Those born in New Zealand and England featured consistently as the top two arrivals prior to the 2011–2021 period; however, the other major countries of birth have changed considerably over time.

Five of the top 10 countries of arrival prior to 1980 were European countries—England, Scotland, Germany, Netherlands and Italy. Papua New Guinea was also among the top 10 countries in this period, following independence from Australia in 1975.

Between 1981 and 1990, Vietnam was among the top 10 countries of arrival following the end of the Vietnam War, as was its maritime neighbour the Philippines. Arrivals of people born in these two countries, together with those from South Africa, Scotland, Fiji, Germany, China and Malaysia strongly underpinned the migration landscape of this period.

In the 1991–2000 period, there was an increase in arrivals of people from South Africa and the Asia-Pacific region. In South Africa, legislation supporting apartheid was repealed in the early 1990s, and a new constitution was adopted in 1993.

Since 2000, arrivals from Asian and Pacific countries have continued to feature in the top 10 countries, including an increasing number of arrivals from India. In the 2011–2021 period, arrivals from India were the second largest among the top 10 countries of birth. Arrivals from China were the third highest during this period, while arrivals from England were the fourth highest.

Table 6 Top 10 countries of birth by year of arrival, overseas-born Queenslanders, 2021

Rank	Arrived in or before 1980 ^(a)	Arrived 1981–1990	Arrived 1991–2000	Arrived 2001–2010	Arrived 2011–2021 ^(b)
1	England	New Zealand	New Zealand	New Zealand	New Zealand
2	New Zealand	England	England	England	India
3	Scotland	Philippines	South Africa	India	China ^(c)
4	Germany	Vietnam	Philippines	South Africa	England
5	Netherlands	South Africa	China ^(c)	China ^(c)	Philippines
6	Italy	Scotland	Taiwan	Philippines	South Africa
7	Papua New Guinea	Fiji	Vietnam	South Korea	Brazil
8	United States of America	Germany	Fiji	Zimbabwe	South Korea
9	Malaysia	China ^(c)	India	United States of America	Nepal
10	South Africa	Malaysia	Japan	Japan	Vietnam

(a) Arrived between 1905 and 1980.

(b) Arrived between 1 January 2011 and 10 August 2021.

(c) Excludes Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, and Taiwan.

The top 20 countries of birth for arrivals to Queensland between 2016 and 2021 featured a diverse range of world regions. Arrivals from countries in Southern Asia—India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka—together accounted for 16.0% of all recent arrivals, whereas these three countries contributed 11.8% of overseas arrivals between 2010 and 2016⁷. For the first time since 2011, arrivals from Colombia (South America), Iraq (Middle East) and Hong Kong (Chinese Asia), were ranked in the top 20 recent arrivals in Queensland (Table 7).

Table 7 Top 20 countries of birth by world region, recent arrivals^(a), Queensland, 2021

Rank	World region ^(b)	Country of birth	Persons	%
1	Southern Asia	India	23,278	11.9
2	New Zealand	New Zealand	18,422	9.4
3	Chinese Asia (includes Mongolia)	China ^(c)	17,991	9.2
4	United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man	England	12,593	6.4
5	Maritime South-East Asia	Philippines	11,684	6.0
6	Southern and East Africa	South Africa	8,148	4.1
7	South America	Brazil	6,480	3.3
8	Southern Asia	Nepal	5,951	3.0
9	Japan and the Koreas	South Korea	4,569	2.3
10	Chinese Asia (includes Mongolia)	Taiwan	4,217	2.1
11	Mainland South-East Asia	Vietnam	4,159	2.1
12	Northern America	United States of America	4,146	2.1
13	South America	Colombia	3,906	2.0
14	Mainland South-East Asia	Thailand	3,504	1.8
15	Maritime South-East Asia	Malaysia	2,919	1.5
16	Middle East	Iraq	2,896	1.5
17	Chinese Asia (includes Mongolia)	Hong Kong^(d)	2,858	1.5
18	Japan and the Koreas	Japan	2,561	1.3
19	Northern America	Canada	2,500	1.3
20	Southern Asia	Sri Lanka	2,277	1.2
		Other ^(e)	51,035	26.0
Total recent arrivals (overseas born)			196,341	100.0

(a) Arrived between 1 January 2016 and 10 August 2021.

(b) Based on the 2-digit classification level in the *ABS publication Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC)*.

(c) Excludes Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, and Taiwan.

(d) Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong.

(e) Includes inadequately described, at sea, and those responses that were not able to be defined at the country classification level (including higher-ordered responses such as 'not further defined' and 'not elsewhere classified').

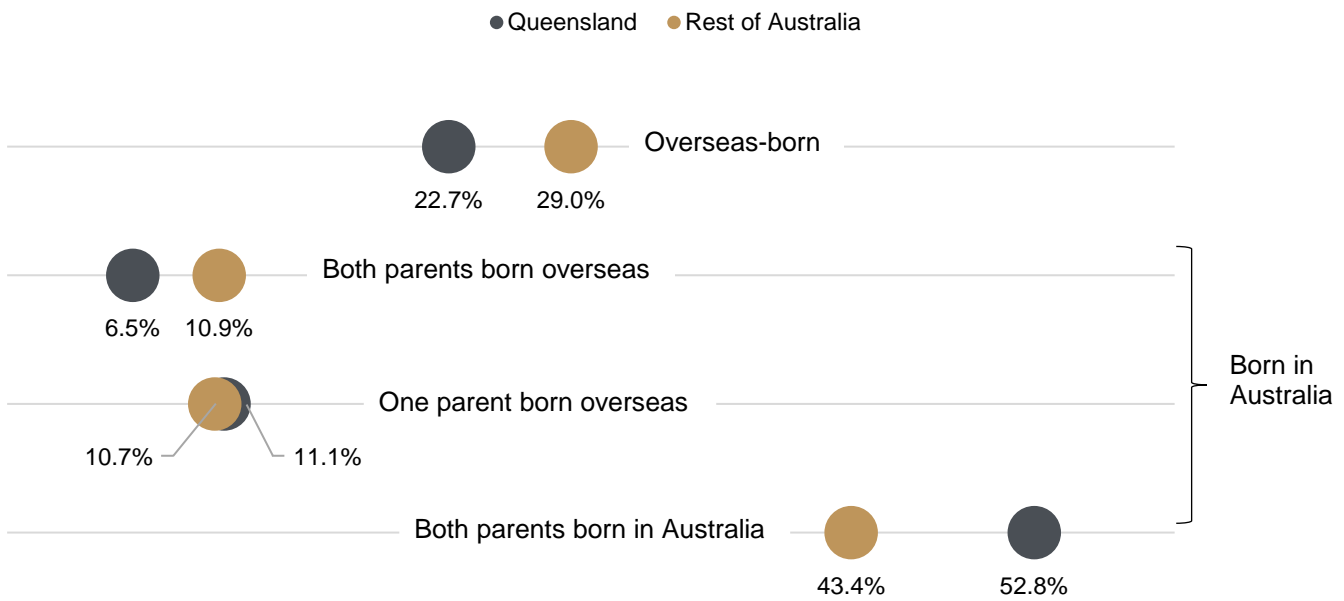
Note: Countries included in the top 20 countries of birth for the first time are shown in bold.

⁷ Diversity Figures, June 2018, Table 7.

Country of birth of parents

Two in five (40.3%) Queenslanders were either born overseas or were Australian born with at least one parent born overseas. In addition to the 22.7% of Queensland residents born overseas, 11.1% of the Queensland population was born in Australia and had one parent born overseas, and 6.5% of the population was born in Australia and had both parents born overseas (Figure 5). A higher proportion of the rest of Australia (50.6%) was either born overseas or had at least one parent born overseas. This was largely a result of a higher proportion of both people born overseas (29.0%) and people born in Australia with both parents born overseas (10.9%).

Figure 5 Country of birth and birthplace of parents^(a), Queensland and rest of Australia, 2021



(a) 'Birthplace not stated' and 'birthplace for either or both parents not stated' not shown on chart. Proportions calculated as a percentage of total usual residents for each region.

Over the last ten years the proportion of Australian-born Queensland residents with both parents also born in Australia declined from 56.2% in 2011⁸ to 52.8% in 2021 (the proportion was 53.8% in 2016). The proportion of Australian-born Queenslanders with one parent born overseas has remained relatively stable (10.5% in both 2011 and 2016 and 11.1% in 2021) while the proportion of those with both parents born overseas has increased slightly (5.2% in 2011, 5.6% in 2016 and 6.5% in 2021).

2 in 5

2,077,866 Queenslanders were either born overseas or have at least one parent born overseas

⁸ Diversity Figures, June 2018

Language other than English, and proficiency in spoken English

There were 645,269 Queensland residents who spoke an overseas language other than English at home—12.5% of the population⁹. This was considerably lower than the corresponding proportion in Victoria (27.2%), New South Wales (26.3%) and the Australian Capital Territory (24.2%).

In 2021, the most common language other than English spoken at home in Queensland was Mandarin, followed by Vietnamese and Punjabi (compared with Mandarin, Arabic and Vietnamese in the rest of Australia) (Table 8).

Table 8 Top 10 overseas languages other than English spoken at home, Queensland and rest of Australia, 2021

Queensland				Rest of Australia			
Rank	Language ^(a)	Persons	% of total population	Rank	Language ^(a)	Persons	% of total population
1	Mandarin	83,607	1.6	1	Mandarin	601,667	3.0
2	Vietnamese	31,370	0.6	2	Arabic	350,986	1.7
3	Punjabi	30,873	0.6	3	Vietnamese	289,391	1.4
4	Spanish	29,642	0.6	4	Cantonese	267,848	1.3
5	Cantonese	27,437	0.5	5	Greek	219,168	1.1
6	Korean	21,904	0.4	6	Italian	210,059	1.0
7	Hindi	21,344	0.4	7	Punjabi	208,161	1.0
8	Tagalog	20,603	0.4	8	Hindi	175,787	0.9
9	Italian	17,989	0.3	9	Spanish	141,732	0.7
10	Japanese	17,928	0.3	10	Nepali	121,007	0.6

(a) Based on 4-digit language codes in the ABS publication, Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL), 2016.

In Queensland, 10.8% of residents spoke an overseas language other than English at home and spoke English very well or well. This proportion was significantly lower than in Victoria and New South Wales (22.8% and 21.8% respectively) (Table 9)¹⁰.

Table 9 Persons who speak an overseas language other than English at home by proficiency in spoken English, state and territories, 2021

State or territory	Speaks English very well or well		Speaks English not well or not at all	
	Persons	% of population	Persons	% of population
NSW	1,757,625	21.8%	345,990	4.3%
Vic.	1,481,630	22.8%	272,757	4.2%
Qld	557,787	10.8%	81,358	1.6%
SA	261,012	14.7%	44,578	2.5%
WA	409,111	15.4%	55,016	2.1%
Tas.	42,327	7.6%	4,495	0.8%
NT	34,245	14.7%	3,587	1.5%
ACT	98,335	21.6%	10,565	2.3%
Australia^(a)	4,643,617	18.3%	818,698	3.2%

(a) Includes Other Territories.

⁹ Overseas languages other than English do not include Australian Indigenous Languages, Invented Languages, Sign Languages or languages covered by supplementary codes including creoles, pidgins, 'inadequately described' and 'non-verbal, so described'. At the time of the 2021 Census, 323,054 usual residents of Queensland did not state their language spoken at home. Of these, 22,173 stated they spoke a language other than English at home, but did not specify which language, and are not included in the total for overseas languages other than English.

¹⁰ 47,264 usual residents of Australia stated specified they spoke an overseas language other than English at home but did not state proficiency in spoken English. Of these, 6,119 were usual residents of Queensland.

For those Queenslanders who spoke an overseas language other than English at home and spoke English not well or not at all, the most common overseas languages spoken were Mandarin, followed by Vietnamese and Cantonese (Table 10).

Table 10 Top 10 overseas languages^(a) for persons who speak English not well or not at all, Queensland, 2021

Rank	Language	Persons	% of total population
1	Mandarin	18,828	23.1
2	Vietnamese	8,866	10.9
3	Cantonese	5,503	6.8
4	Korean	5,405	6.6
5	Punjabi	2,704	3.3
6	Spanish	2,550	3.1
7	Japanese	2,236	2.7
8	Arabic	2,206	2.7
9	Thai	1,874	2.3
10	Italian	1,566	1.9

(a) Based on 4-digit language codes in the ABS publication, Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL), 2016. Overseas languages other than English do not include Indigenous Languages, Invented Languages, Sign Languages or Languages covered by ABS supplementary codes.

12.5%

645,269 Queenslanders spoke at least one of around 190 overseas languages other than English at home¹¹

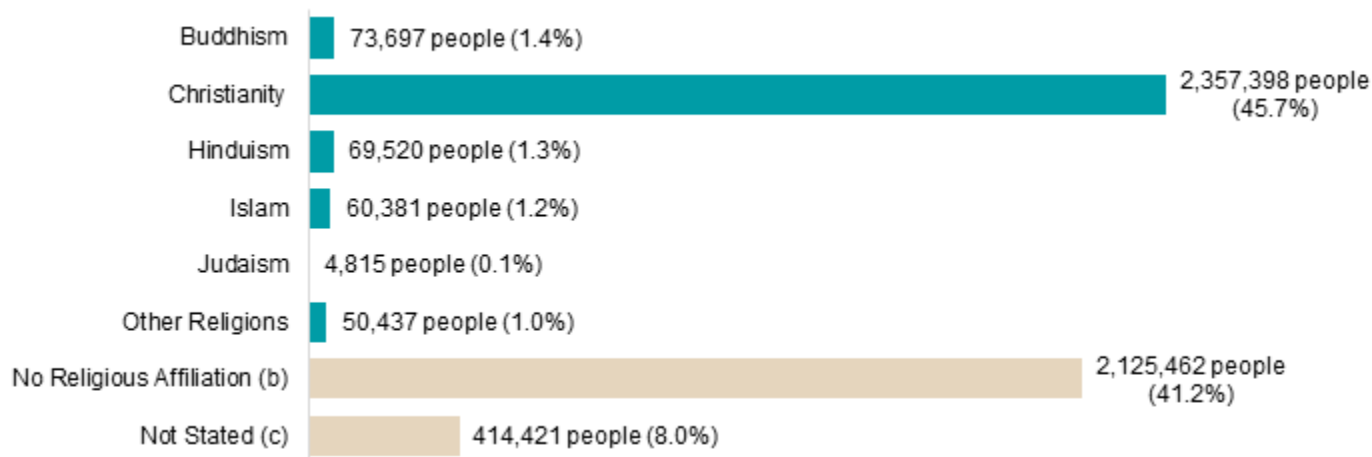
¹¹ Excludes languages that were 'not further defined' or 'not elsewhere classified'.

Religious affiliation

In the 2021 Census, the most common religious affiliation was Christianity (2,357,398 people or 45.7% of the total population), followed by Buddhism (1.4%), Hinduism (1.3%) and Islam (1.2%) (Figure 6).

There were 2,125,462 people (41.2% of the total population) with no religious affiliation, while 414,412 (8.0%) did not answer the question on religious affiliation or inadequately described their response¹².

Figure 6 Religious affiliation^(a), Queensland, 2021



(a) Based on 1-digit religion codes in the ABS publication, *Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups, 2016*.

(b) Includes 'No Religion, so described', 'Secular Beliefs' (e.g., 'Atheism', 'Humanism') and 'Other Spiritual Beliefs' (e.g., 'New Age', 'Theism').

(c) Includes 'inadequately described' responses.

The number of people who reported no religious affiliation increased by 52.0% (727,164 people) between 2016 to 2021¹³. The number of people reporting Christianity as their religion decreased over the same period by 277,944 people (10.5%). Sikhism and Hinduism experienced proportionally large increases in followers of 10,277 (58.9%) and 23,563 (51.3%) respectively. An additional 15,500 people followed Islam in 2021 compared with 2016, an increase of 34.5%.

50.7%

2.6 million Queenslanders reported an affiliation with one of more than 110 religions¹⁴

¹² There were 414,421 Queenslanders (8.0% of the usual resident population) that chose not to answer the 2021 Census question on religious affiliation.

¹³ Change over time data reported here sourced from ABS 2021 Census of Population and Housing Time Series Profile.

¹⁴ Of these 110+ religions, 86 were Christian religions. For further information about how religions were classified in the 2021 Census, see the ABS publication, *Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups, 2016*.

Ancestry

Ancestry, when used in conjunction with a person's country of birth and their parents' country of birth, provides a good indication of the ethnic background of first and second-generation Australians. The ancestry data collected in the census are a measure of self-identification of ethnic or cultural background and therefore provides a broad measure of cultural diversity.

The most common ancestries reported at the time of the 2021 Census in both Queensland and rest of Australia were English, Australian and Irish, representing a total of 60.9% of the total ancestry responses for Queensland residents, and greater than that reported for the rest of Australia (53.5%) (Table 11).

German and Australian Aboriginal ancestries were more common in Queensland compared with the rest of Australia, while Chinese, Italian, Indian and Greek ancestries were more common in the rest of Australia, reflecting the different settlement patterns of these communities.

Table 11 Top 10 ancestries^(a), Queensland and rest of Australia, 2021

Queensland				Rest of Australia			
Rank	Ancestry ^(b)	Number	% of total reported ancestries	Rank	Ancestry ^(b)	Number	% of total reported ancestries
1	English	1,959,880	28.1	1	English	6,426,050	24.3
2	Australian	1,724,657	24.7	2	Australian	5,872,100	22.2
3	Irish	567,928	8.1	3	Irish	1,842,909	7.0
4	Scottish	527,011	7.6	4	Scottish	1,649,763	6.2
5	German	309,723	4.4	5	Chinese	1,230,562	4.7
6	Australian Aboriginal	205,922	3.0	6	Italian	955,795	3.6
7	Chinese	160,075	2.3	7	German	716,410	2.7
8	Italian	152,571	2.2	8	Indian	690,309	2.6
9	Indian	93,648	1.3	9	Australian Aboriginal	535,388	2.0
10	Dutch	80,826	1.2	10	Greek	392,037	1.5

(a) Respondents to the census are asked to report up to two ancestries on the census form, both of which are included in these figures. Total reported ancestries are the sum of the total number of first responses for ancestry and the total number of second responses for ancestry.

(b) Based on 4-digit ancestry codes in the ABS publication, *Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups (ASCCEG) 2016*.

Since 2016, English and Australian have slightly decreased as a proportion of all ancestries reported in Queensland. English accounted for 29.1% of reported ancestries in 2016 compared with 28.1% in 2021, and Australian accounted for 26.8% in 2016, decreasing to 24.7% in 2021. Irish (9.2% in 2016) and Scottish ancestries (7.9% in 2016) both decreased slightly as a proportion of total reported ancestries. Other ancestries in the top 10 did not change significantly since 2016, except for Australian Aboriginal (up from 0.6% in Queensland and from 0.5% in Rest of Australia).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

At the time of the 2021 Census, 237,299 people or 4.6% of Queensland's residents identified as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. This figure represented 29.2% of Australia's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population (812,730 people). Queensland had the second largest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population after New South Wales (278,038 people). Of Australian residents who identified as being of only Torres Strait Islander origin, almost two-thirds (64.5%) lived in Queensland, and of those who identified as being of only Aboriginal origin more than one quarter (26.0%) lived in Queensland. Furthermore, of those who identified as being of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, 61.3% lived in Queensland.

The majority (81.5%) of Indigenous Queenslanders identified as being Aboriginal, with a further 9.2% identifying as Torres Strait Islander and 9.3% identifying as being both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

In the five years to 2021, Queensland's count of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents increased by 50,817 persons or 27.3%. This growth may reflect several factors, including natural population increase, improved data collection methods and the increasing propensity for people to identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander in the census¹⁵.

¹⁵ Detailed analysis on contributing factors to the high-level increase of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people was published in the ABS publication, *Understanding the Increase in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Counts, 2011-2016*.

Australian South Sea Islanders

At the time of the 2021 Census, there were 5,562 Queensland residents reporting an Australian South Sea Islander ancestry, compared with 1,669 people in the rest of Australia. This is a decrease from 2016, when 6,826 people in Queensland and 2,570 people in the rest of Australia identified as having Australian South Sea Islander ancestry. Nevertheless, the 2021 Census counts of people with South Sea Islander ancestry were well above the numbers in the 2011 Census, when 3,093 people in Queensland and 938 people in the rest of Australia identified as having Australian South Sea Islander ancestry. The significant increases in Australian South Sea Islander population numbers from 2011 to 2021 may reflect greater willingness of people with Australian South Sea Islander ancestry to identify as such in the census, and a greater awareness by people that they have Australian South Sea Islander ancestry¹⁶.

While Australian South Sea Islanders lived in 53 LGAs across Queensland in 2021, almost half (48.6%) lived in five LGAs: Mackay, Brisbane, Rockhampton, Townsville and Cairns (Table 12).

Almost two-thirds (63.8%) of Australian South Sea Islanders in Queensland also identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander ancestry, with 53.8% identifying as Aboriginal, 4.9% identifying as Torres Strait Islander and 5.1% identifying as both.

Table 12 Top five local government areas, Australian South Sea Islanders^(a), Queensland, 2021

LGA	Number	% of total Australian South Sea Islander population
Mackay	846	15.2
Brisbane	619	11.1
Rockhampton	533	9.6
Townsville	399	7.2
Cairns	308	5.5
Balance of Queensland	2,857	51.4
Total	5,562	100.0

(a) Based on 4-digit ancestry codes in the ABS publication, Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups (ASCCEG), 2016

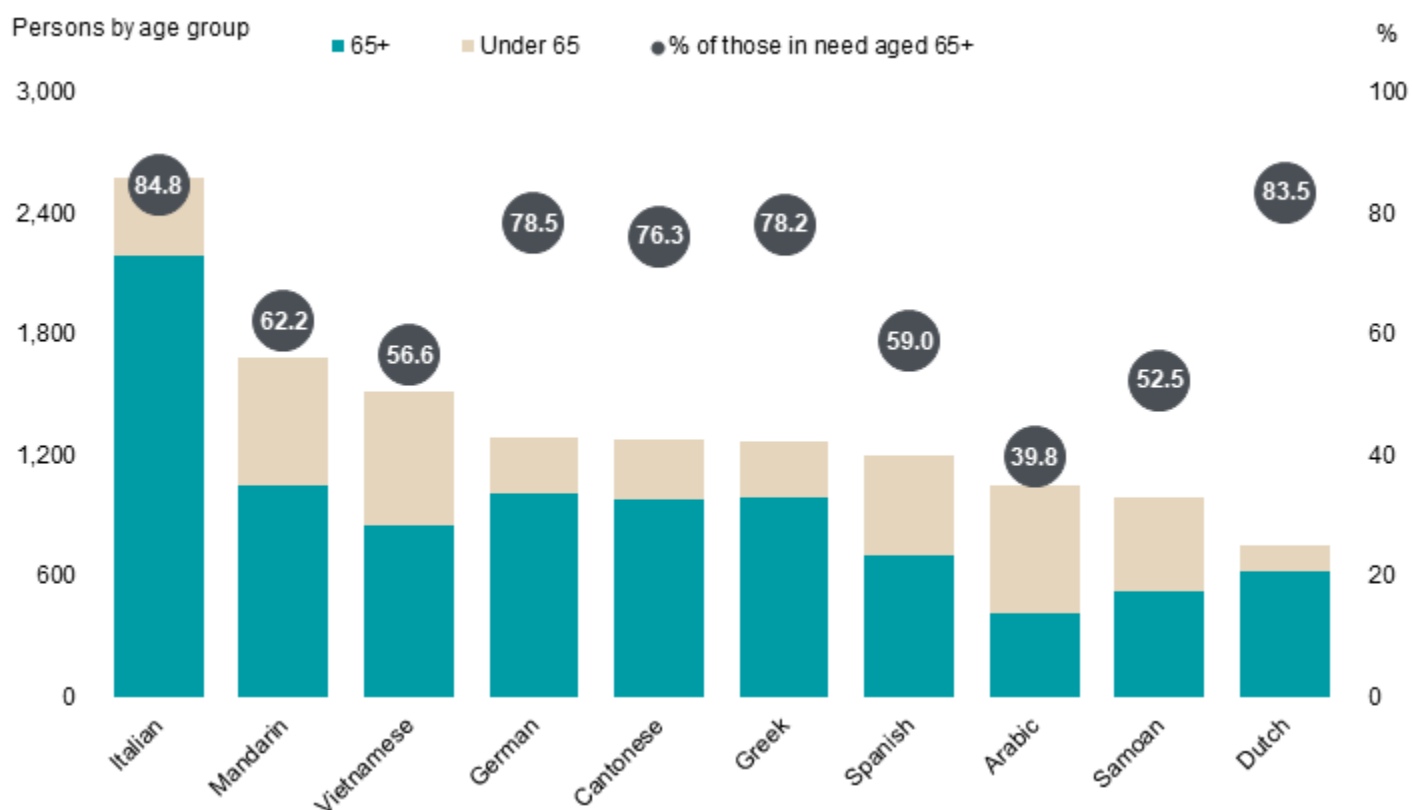
¹⁶ August 2013 marked the 150th Anniversary of the arrival of the first South Sea Islanders brought to Queensland. There was significant media coverage surrounding this milestone and outreach to the community, including the [2014 Australian South Sea Islander Community Survey](#).

Disability—need for assistance

There were almost 27,000 usual residents of Queensland who spoke an overseas language other than English (LOTE) at home and had a need for assistance with core activities¹⁷ at the time of the 2021 Census. Of this group, 62.9% (16,855 persons) were aged 65 years or over.

Italian speakers represented the highest number of people with a need for disability support (2,583 persons) followed by Mandarin and Vietnamese speakers (1,690 and 1,511 people respectively) (Figure 7).

Figure 7 Top 10 LOTE^(a) languages spoken by persons in need of assistance with core activities, Queensland, 2021



(a) Languages other than English (LOTE) spoken at home excludes Australian Indigenous Languages, Invented Languages, Sign Languages, and Supplementary codes including creoles, pidgins, 'inadequately described' and 'non-verbal, so described'. For further information see the ABS publication, *Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL), 2016*.

¹⁷ The Core Activity Need for Assistance variable has been developed to measure the number of people with a profound or severe disability. As with the ABS Surveys of Disability, Ageing and Carers, the 2021 Census of Population and Housing Core Activity Need for Assistance variable records people with a profound or severe core activity limitation. *People with a profound or severe core activity limitation are those needing assistance in their day to day lives in one or more of the three core activity areas of self-care, mobility and communication because of: a long-term health condition (lasting six months or more), a disability (lasting six months or more), and/or old age.*

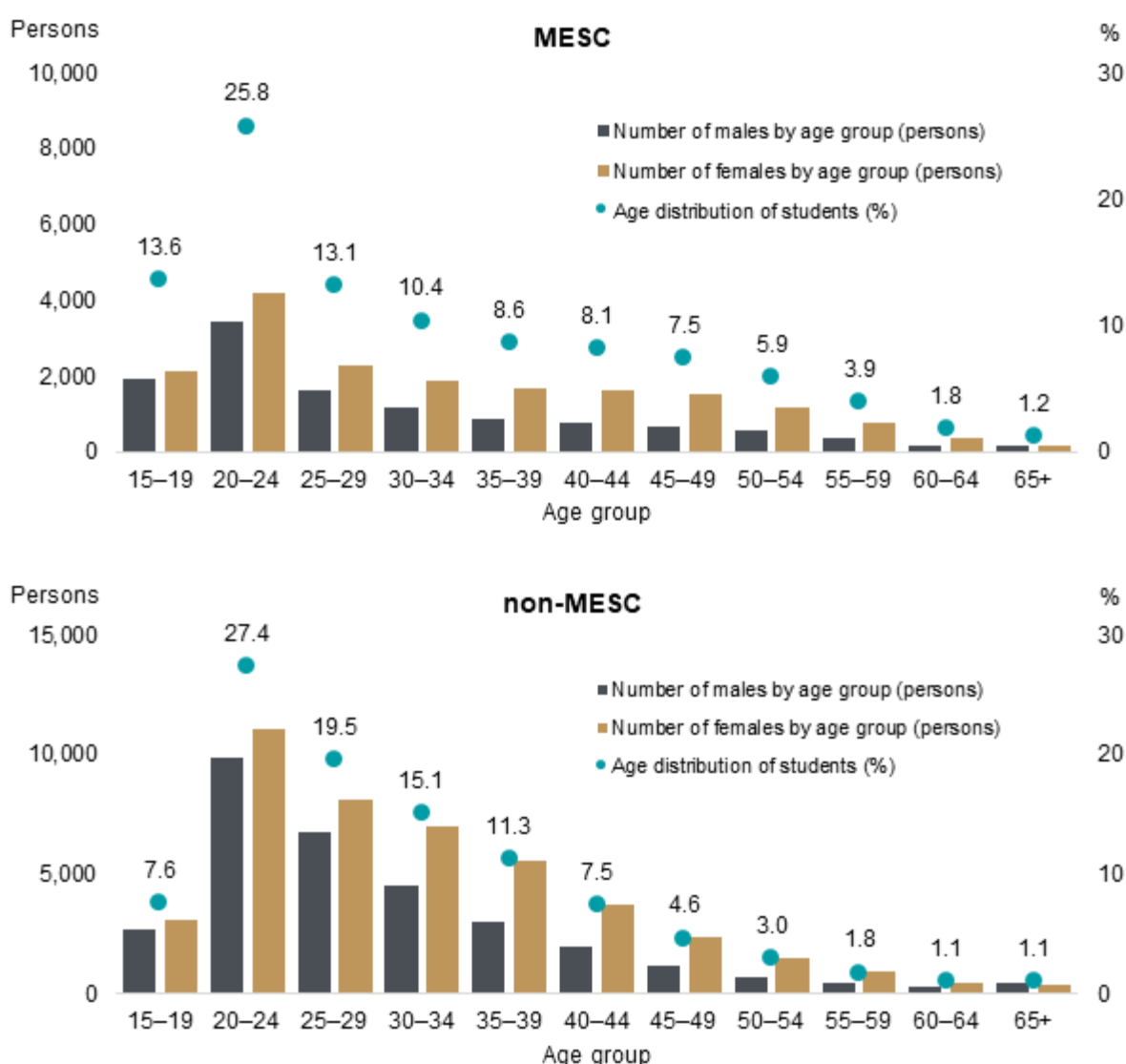
Education and qualifications

Studying—higher education

There were 29,788 MESC-born people and 76,333 non-MESC born people studying higher education in Queensland in 2021. For both cohorts, across almost all age groups, female students outnumbered males (Figure 8).

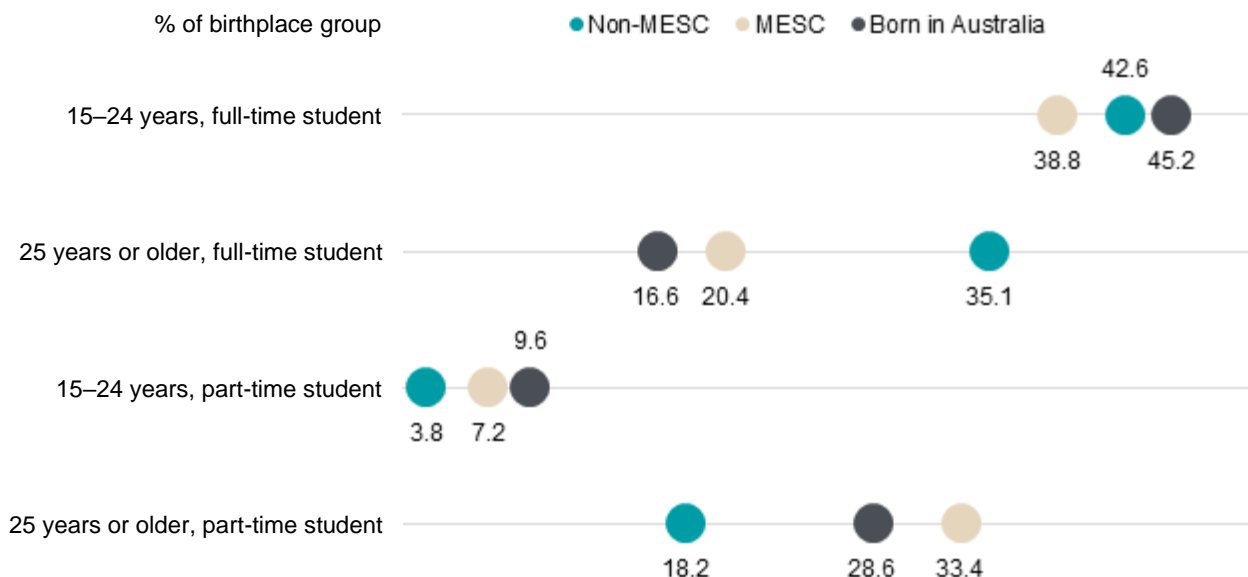
The distribution of students in both cohorts was skewed to the younger ages, with 52.6% of MESC-born students and 54.5% of non-MESC born students aged between 15 and 29 years. Declines in the proportion of MESC-born across the five-year age groups between the ages of 30 and 49 years were very gradual, compared with steeper declines in the proportion studying for non-MESC born students across the same age groups.

Figure 8 MESC and non-MESC born people studying higher education, Queensland, 2021



More than three-quarters of non-MESC-born people were studying at university¹⁸ full-time compared with almost six in 10 of MESC-born people. This was the result of the difference in the proportion of full-time students aged 25 years and older—more than one third (35.1%) of non-MESC born students in this age group studied full-time compared with one-fifth (20.4%) of MESC-born students (Figure 9). The largest proportion (42.6%) of the non-MESC-born population studying at university in 2021, was aged 15–24 years and attending full-time.

Figure 9 Proportion^(a) of university students in each birthplace group by age and student status, 2021



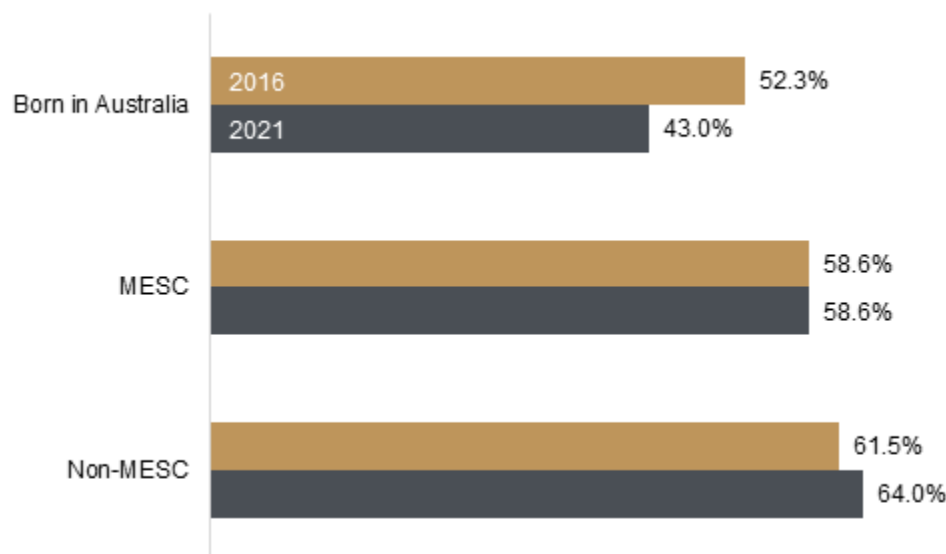
(a) Calculated as a proportion of persons who stated they attended a university or other higher education institution in each census year. Total count includes persons who did not state full-time or part-time student status.

¹⁸ Counts of persons studying at 'University or other Tertiary Institutions' only. Excludes those studying at a 'Technical or Further Educational Institution (including TAFE Colleges)' or 'Other type of Educational Institution' (e.g., professional associations, business colleges).

Non-school qualifications¹⁹

In the 2021 Census, a higher proportion of non-MESC-born Queenslanders (64.0%) had a non-school qualification compared with 58.6% of MESC-born and 43.0% of Australian-born Queenslanders (Figure 10). Between 2016 and 2021, the proportion of usual residents with non-school qualifications increased for non-MESC born Queenslanders but not for the other cohorts from 2016 to 2021. The proportion of MESC-born people with post-school qualifications was unchanged while the corresponding proportion for people born in Australia decreased.

Figure 10 Proportion of each birthplace group with non-school qualification, 2016 and 2021

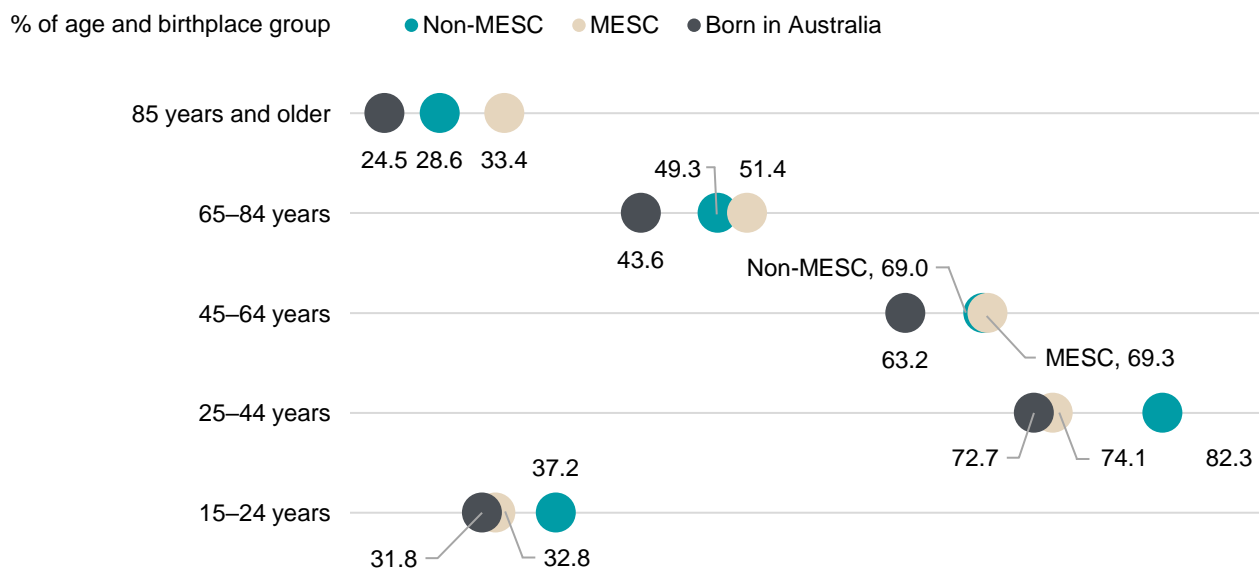


In 2021, a higher proportion of females than males had non-school qualifications in the non-MESC-born population, whereas proportionally more MESC-born males than females had qualifications. Across all three birthplace groups, females outnumbered males in the age groups between 15 and 44 years. Females also outnumbered males in the 45–64 years age group in the Australian-born and non-MESC-born population. Across all three birthplace groups, there were proportionally more males than females in the 65 years and older age cohorts with non-school qualifications.

Across all broad age groups, MESC and non-MESC-born groups had a higher proportion of people with non-school qualifications compared with those born in Australia (Figure 11). The non-MESC cohort aged 25–44 years had the highest proportion of people with qualifications (82.3%) compared with all other age group cohort combinations. Australia has a migration programme heavily skewed toward skilled migration, which may have influenced this outcome.

¹⁹ For this section, calculations exclude those in each birthplace group who inadequately described or did not state the level of education and/or field of study. Data applies to persons aged 15 years and older.

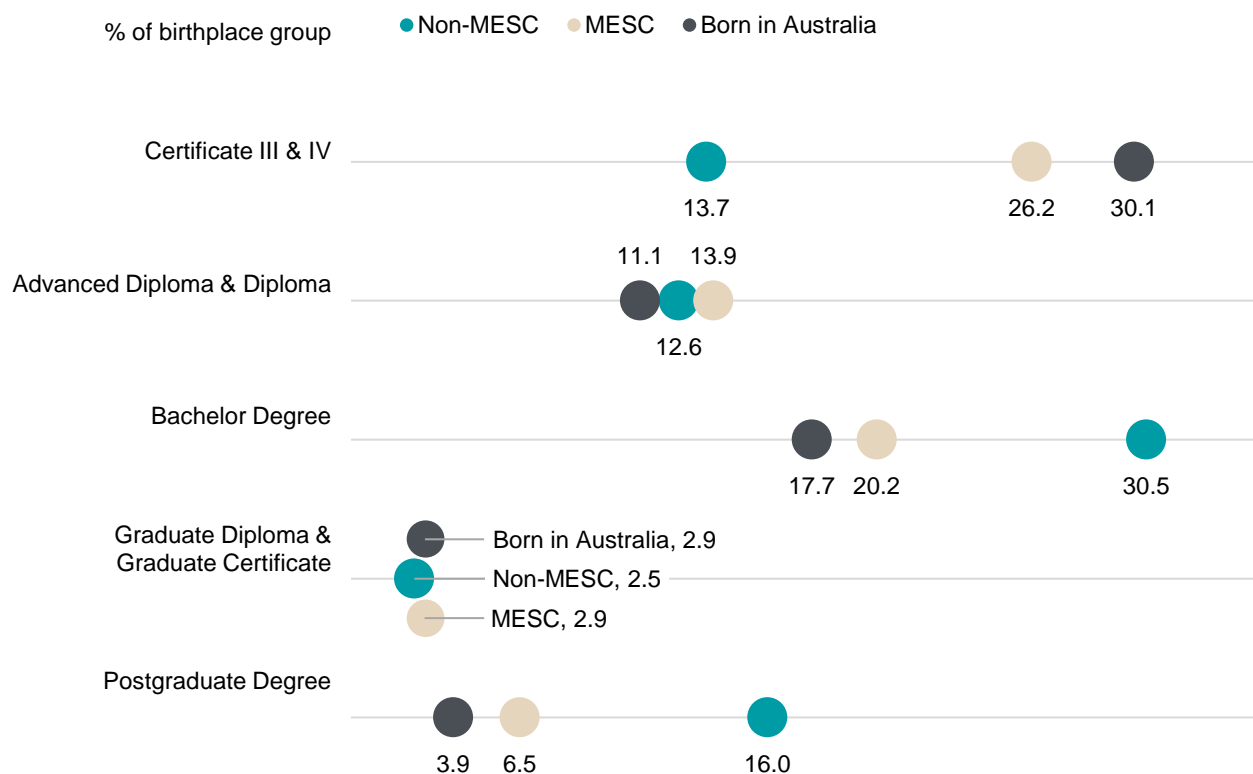
Figure 11 Proportion of each birthplace group with non-school qualification by age group, 2016 and 2021



Highest non-school qualification, persons aged 20–64 years

Just over one in four (26.2%) MESC-born people aged 20–64 years had a Certificate III or IV qualification, compared with one in seven (13.7%) of non-MESC-born people (Figure 12). Conversely, a higher proportion of non-MESC born people in this age cohort were qualified to the level of bachelor degree (30.5%) than MESC-born people (20.2%). Just under one-quarter (24.7%) of the non-MESC-born working age population had no non-school qualification, a smaller proportion than for both the MESC-born and Australian-born working age populations (30.3% and 34.2% respectively).

Figure 12 Highest non-school qualification, persons aged 20–64 years^(a), 2021

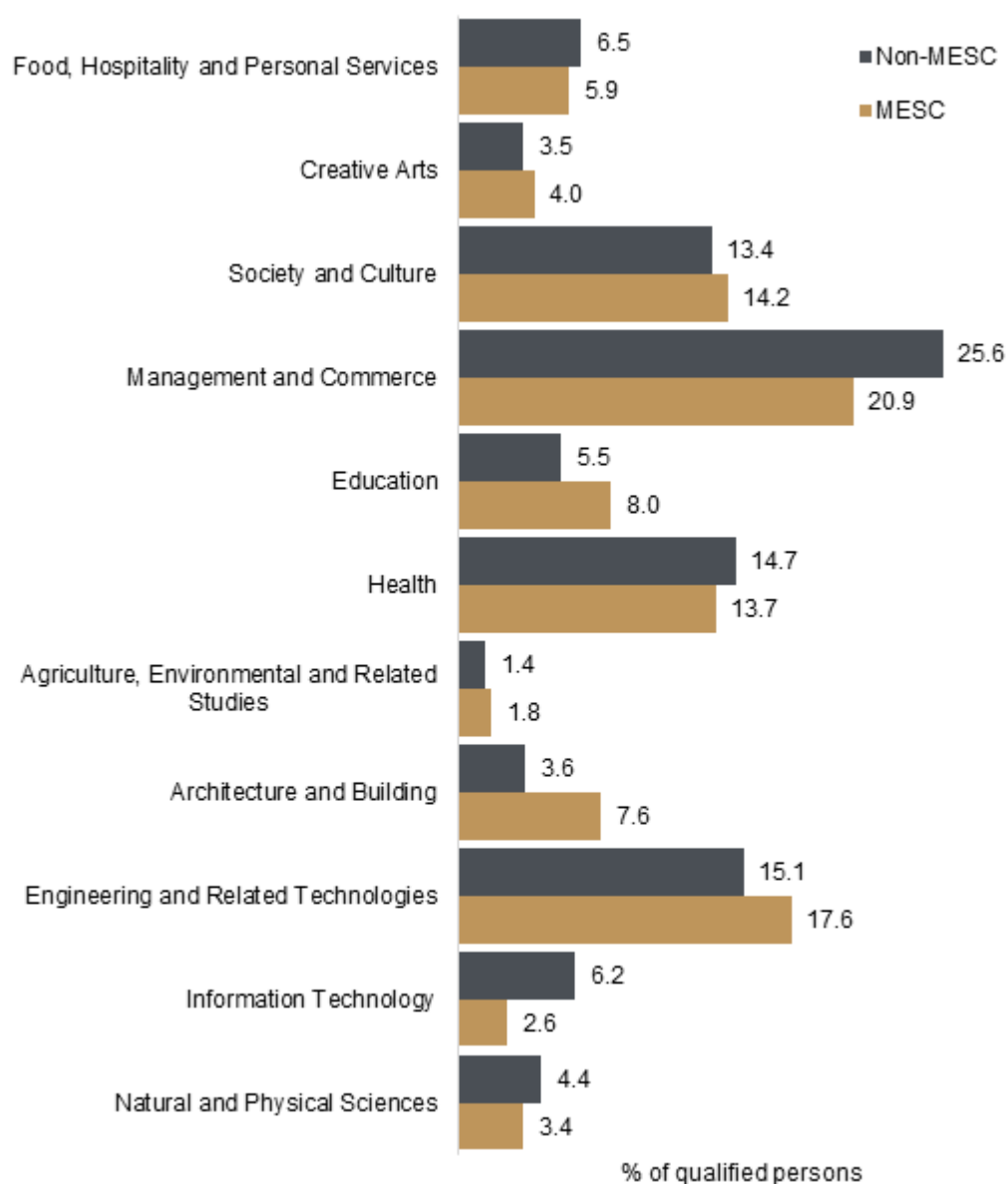


(a) There were 335,096 people, 456,198 people and 1,946,392 people aged 20–64 years in the MESC, non-MESC and Australian-born Queensland population respectively (excluding people whose level of education was 'not stated' or 'inadequately described').

Highest non-school qualification—field of study

The distribution of highest non-school qualification by field of study was similar for both MESC and non-MESC-born people living in Queensland in 2021. There were notably higher proportions of non-MESC-born persons qualified in the fields of Management and Commerce, and Information Technology (differences of 4.7 and 3.6 percentage points, respectively), while higher proportions of MESC persons were qualified in the fields of Architecture and Building, Engineering and Related Technologies, and Education (differences of 4.0, 2.5 and 2.5 percentage points respectively) (Figure 13).

Figure 13 Highest non-school qualification by field of study^(a) and overseas birthplace group, 2021^(b)



(a) Mixed Field Programmes not charted.

(b) Excludes persons whose field of study was inadequately described or not stated.

Labour force characteristics

This section relates to people aged 20–64 years, commonly known as the working age population. The labour force characteristics of Australian-born and MESC-born workers were similar. Non-MESC-born workers showed slightly different characteristics from these two cohorts.

According to the results of the 2021 Census, non-MESC-born people had the highest unemployment rate (5.9%), and the lowest workforce participation rate²⁰ of the three groups (78.9%) (Table 13).

For employed persons who worked full-time, MESC-born workers had the highest median annual income (\$80,500), followed by those born in Australia (\$75,900) and non-MESC-born workers (\$70,100).

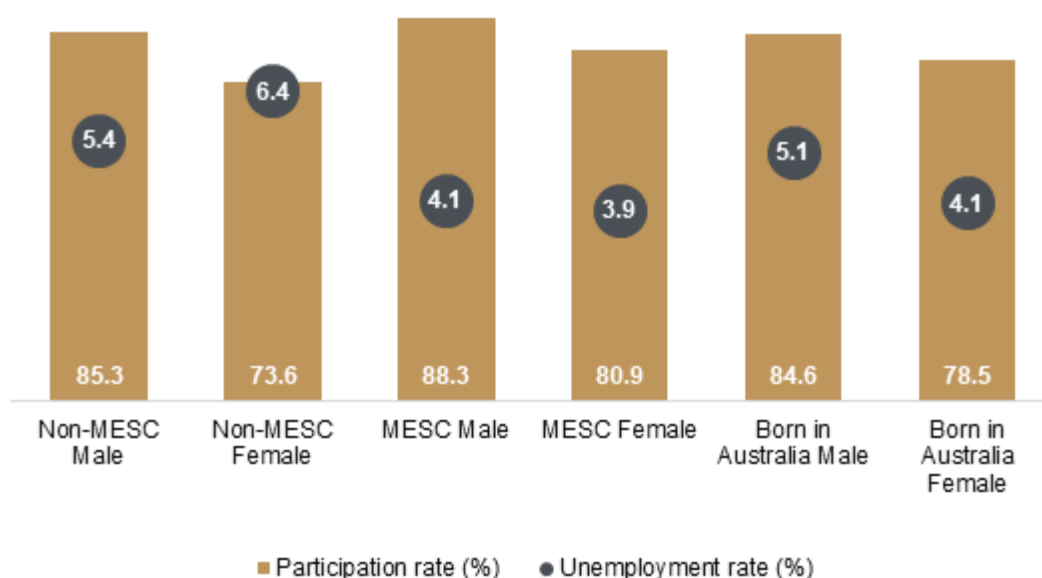
Table 13 Key labour force^(a) characteristics by birthplace group, Queensland, 2021

	Non-MESC	MESC	Born in Australia
	– persons –		
Employed	349,051	278,824	1,541,409
Unemployed	74,370	21,792	74,373
Total labour force	423,421	300,616	1,615,782
Not in the labour force	99,375	52,800	366,178
	– % –		
% unemployed	5.9	4.0	4.6
Participation rate	78.9	84.6	81.5

(a) Excludes labour force not stated. Working-age population only, 20–64 years old.

Participation rates for females were lower than males across all three birthplace groups (Figure 14). MESC-born people had the highest female and male participation rates (80.9% and 88.3%, respectively). Non-MESC females had the highest unemployment rate at 6.4%, while the lowest unemployment rate was 3.9% for MESC-born females.

Figure 14 Workforce participation rate and unemployment rate by sex and birthplace group, persons aged 20–64 years, Queensland, 2021^(a)

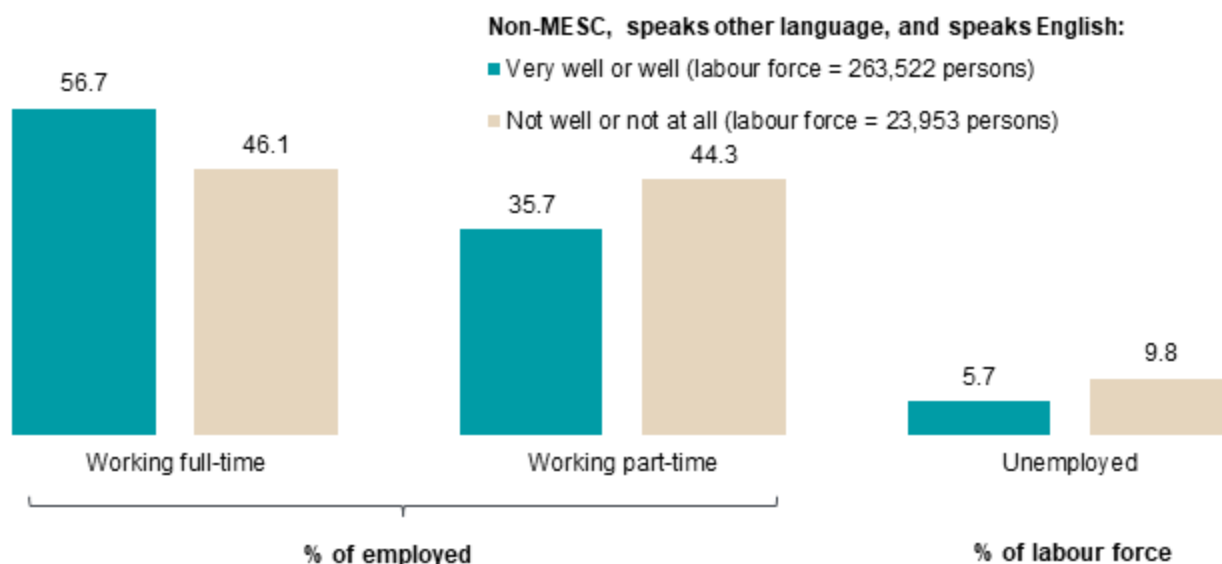


(a) Excludes persons who did not state their labour force status. There were 470,220 non-MESC, 343,295 MESC and 1,981,957 Australian-born usual residents of Queensland aged 20–64 years who stated their labour force status in the 2021 Census.

²⁰ The participation rate refers to the percentage of people in the working-age population that are in the labour force.

Non-MESC-born people who spoke another language and spoke English very well or well had higher levels of full-time employment (56.7%) than non-MESC-born people speaking English not well or not at all (46.1%), and lower proportions of the labour force either working part-time or unemployed (Figure 15).

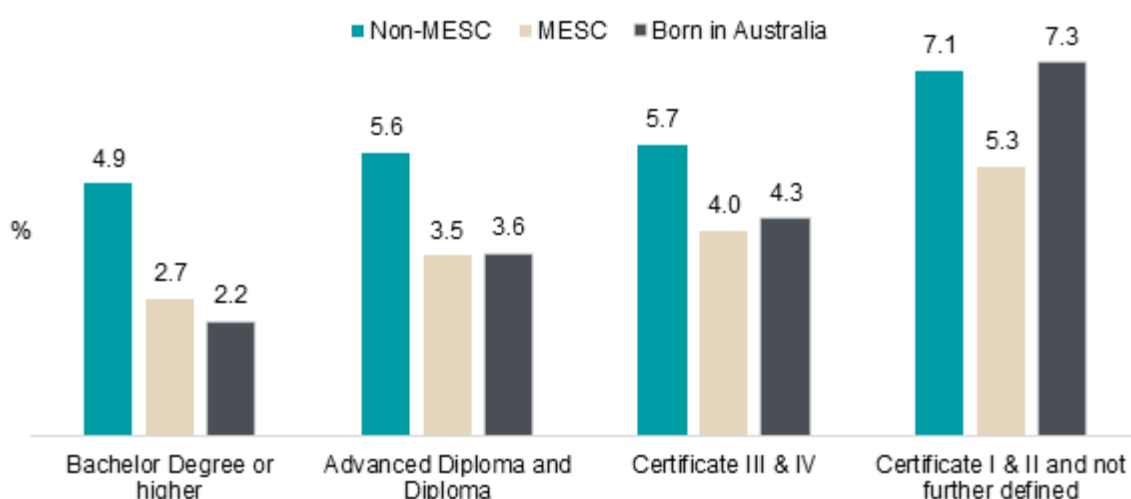
Figure 15 Non-MESC employment status and English language proficiency, persons aged 20–64 years, Queensland, 2021^(a)



(a) Employed 'away from work' and 'hours of work not stated' responses not charted. Excludes persons who did not state 'other language' and/or English proficiency and/or their labour force status.

Non-MESC-born people had high rates of unemployment relative to other birthplace groups, even accounting for differences in the level of highest non-school qualification (Figure 16). MESC-born and Australian-born people had similar unemployment rates across most qualification levels, except for those with qualifications at the Certificate I and II level.

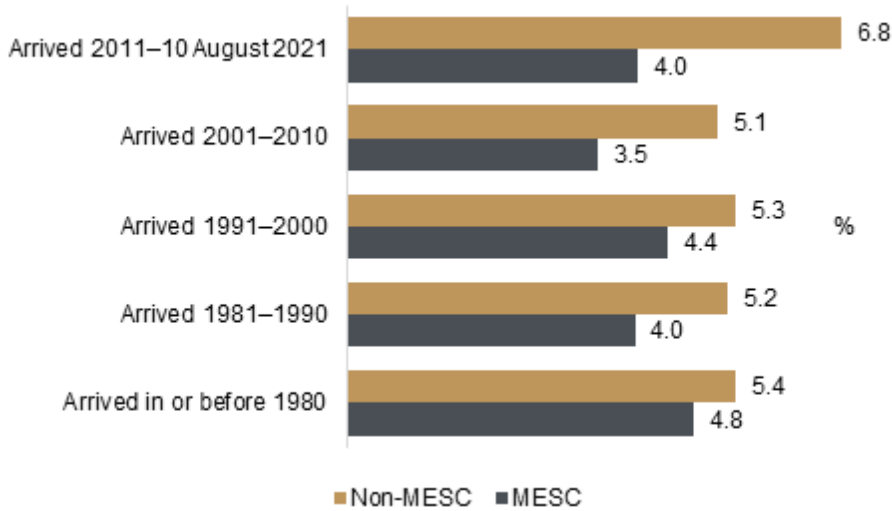
Figure 16 Unemployment rate by level of highest non-school qualification^(a) and birthplace group, persons aged 20–64 years, Queensland, 2021



(a) Excludes responses where the level of qualification was inadequately described or not stated or where qualifications were outside the scope of the ABS publication *Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001*.

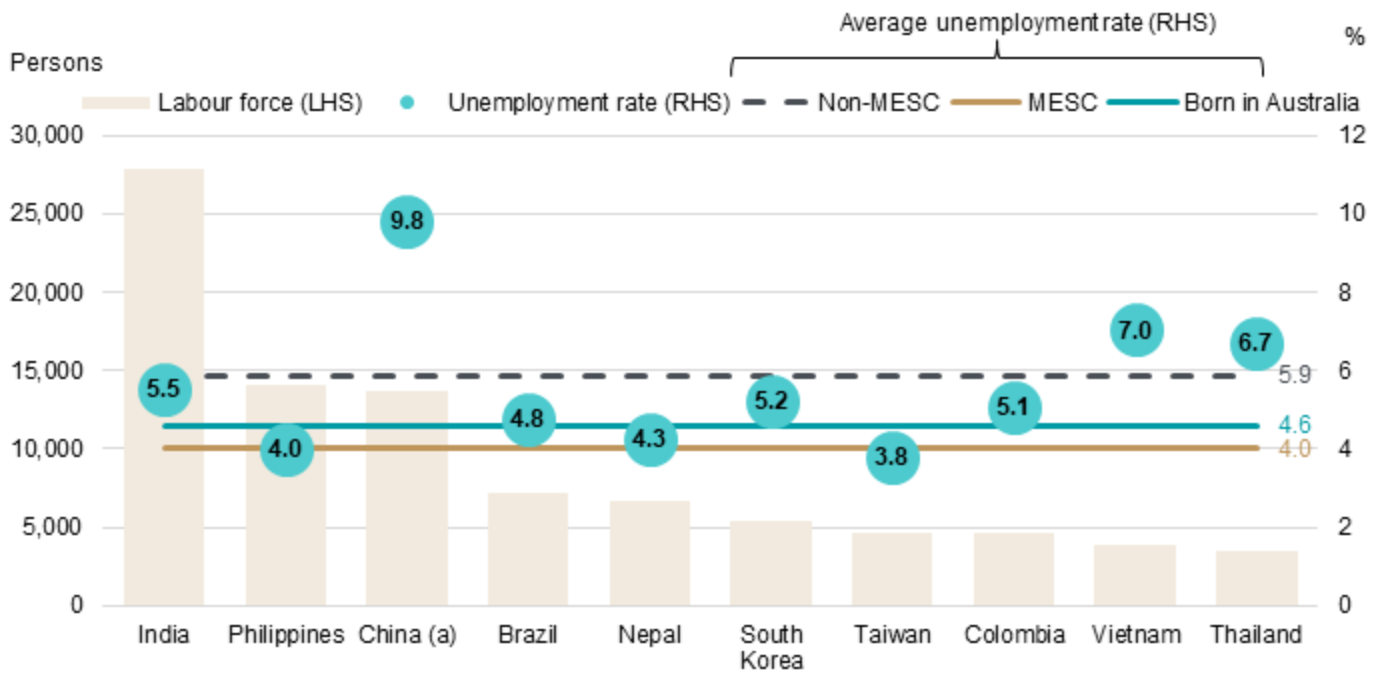
A higher proportion of non-MESC-born people aged 20-64 years who arrived between 2011 and 10 August 2021 were unemployed (6.8%) than MESC born people (4.0%) in the same age cohort and were more likely to be unemployed than MESC-born people for all years of arrival prior to 2011 (Figure 17).

Figure 17 Unemployment rate by year of arrival, overseas-born persons aged 20–64 years, Queensland, 2021



Of those non-MESC-born recent arrivals in the working age population, rates of unemployment varied by country of birth, as illustrated for the selected countries in Figure 18. The unemployment rate for seven of the countries charted were below the average unemployment rate for all non-MESC-born Queenslanders.

Figure 18 Unemployment rate of top 10 non-MESC-born by size of labour force, persons aged 20–64 years, arrived from 1 January 2011 to 10 August 2021, Queensland



(a) Excludes Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, and Taiwan.

Industry and occupation²¹

Industry

The top-ranked industry of employment in Queensland across all three country of birth groupings was Health Care and Social Assistance (Table 14). Retail Trade also appeared in the top five industries of employment for all birthplace groups. For the non-MESC-born and MESC-born populations, the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services Industry sat in the number three and five spots respectively, perhaps reflective of Australia's migration programme favouring skilled migrants.

Table 14 Top five broad industries^(a) of employment by birthplace group, Queensland, 2021

Non-MESC			MESC			Born in Australia		
Rank	Industry	Persons	Rank	Industry	Persons	Rank	Industry	Persons
1	Health Care and Social Assistance	75,183	1	Health Care and Social Assistance	50,896	1	Health Care and Social Assistance	247,799
2	Accommodation and Food Services	41,458	2	Construction	30,647	2	Retail Trade	174,102
3	Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	28,188	3	Education and Training	25,787	3	Construction	172,596
4	Retail Trade	26,537	4	Retail Trade	24,960	4	Education and Training	164,564
5	Manufacturing	25,026	5	Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	23,894	5	Public Administration and Safety	120,089

(a) Division-level industry classification according to the ABS publication *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006 (Revision 2.0)*.

Health Care and Social Assistance, Construction, and Accommodation and Food Services had the largest proportional differences in employment shares when comparing the proportion of employed non-MESC-born and MESC-born populations by industry classification (Figure 19).

Figure 19 Employed persons by birthplace group for selected industries, Queensland, 2021

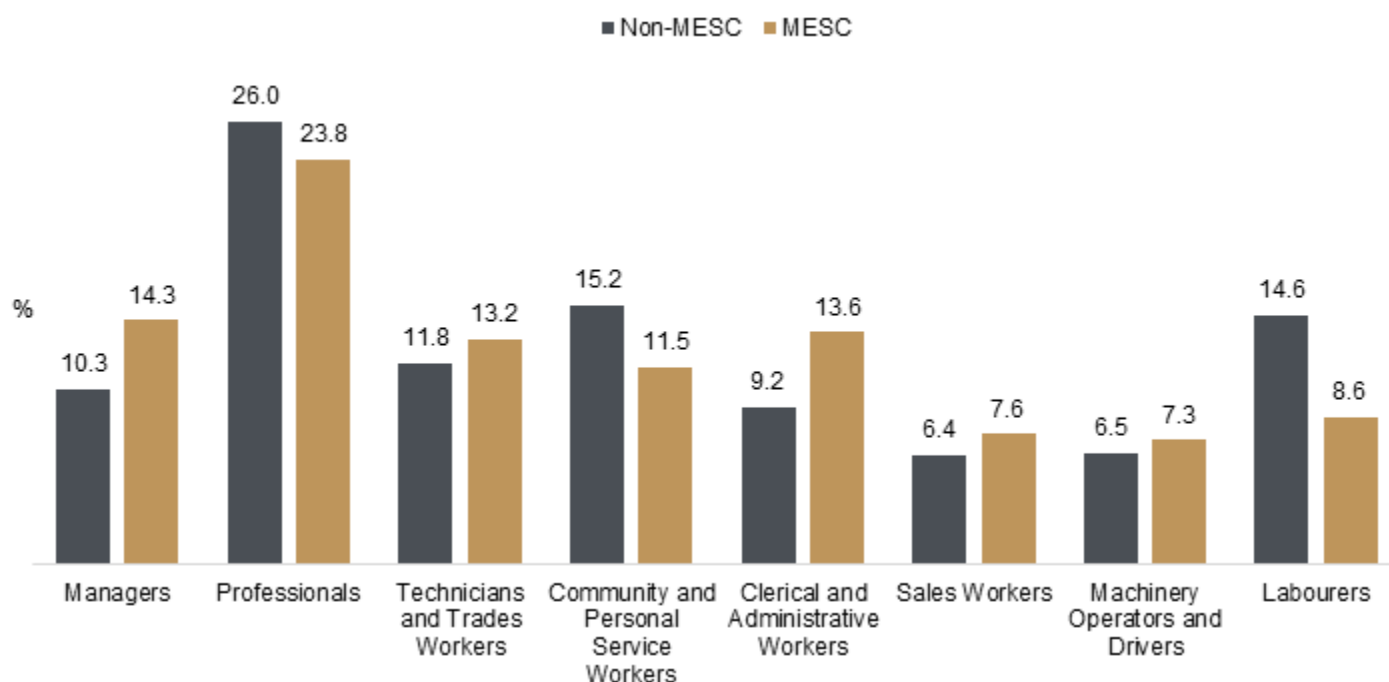


²¹ Data applicable to employed people aged 15 years and over. Proportions calculated using total populations that exclude those in each birthplace group who inadequately described or did not state their industry of employment or occupation.

Occupation

The largest proportion of employed non-MESC-born and MESC-born people worked as Professionals, with 26.0% and 23.8% respectively employed in this occupation group (Figure 20). The second largest and third-largest broad occupation groups for employed non-MESC-born persons were Community and Personal Services Workers (15.2%) and Labourers (14.6%) while Managers and Clerical and Administrative Workers were the second largest and third-largest employed MESC-born persons (14.3% and 13.6% respectively).

Figure 20 Proportion of employed persons by major occupation groups^{(a)(b)}, 2021



(a) 1-digit classification according to the ABS publication *Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO), 2013, Version 1.2*.

(b) Excludes responses where occupation was inadequately described or not stated.

Table 15 lists the top 10 occupations at the most detailed classification level for non-MESC-born and MESC-born people working full-time in Queensland. 'Truck Drivers' was the top occupation for MESC-born persons (2.0% of the MESC total), while 'Registered Nurses' was the top occupation for non-MESC-born persons (3.5% of the non-MESC total). The top three occupations of non-MESC-born persons were included in the 'Professionals' Major Group of ANZSCO as was the 6th ranked occupation of 'General Practitioners and Resident Medical Officers'. In comparison, the top ten occupations of MESC-born workers were drawn from a broader range of occupation groups, with 'Registered Nurses' the only top 10 occupation in the 'Professionals' Group.

Table 15 Top 10 occupations^(a) for full-time workers by birthplace group, 2021

Non-MESC				MESC			
Rank	Occupation	Persons	%	Rank	Occupation	Persons	%
1	Registered Nurses	6,971	3.5	1	Truck Drivers	3,828	2.0
2	Software and Applications Programmers	5,329	2.6	2	General Clerks	3,570	1.9
3	Accountants	5,269	2.6	3	Advertising, Public Relations and Sales Managers	3,550	1.9
4	Chefs	4,918	2.4	4	Registered Nurses	3,388	1.8
5	Retail Managers	4,400	2.2	5	Retail Managers	3,293	1.7
6	General Practitioners and Resident Medical Officers	4,108	2.0	6	Storepersons	3,046	1.6
7	Aged and Disabled Carers	3,330	1.7	7	Contract, Program and Project Administrators	2,830	1.5
8	Child Carers	3,245	1.6	8	Construction Managers	2,731	1.4
9	Commercial Cleaners	3,057	1.5	9	Electricians	2,730	1.4
10	Packers	3,054	1.5	10	Sales Assistants (General)	2,591	1.4
	All other occupations	157,953	78.3		All other occupations	157,080	83.3
	Total^(b)	201,634	100.0		Total^(b)	188,637	100.0

(a) 4-digit classification according to the ABS publication *Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, 2013, Version 1.3*.

(b) Total excludes occupation inadequately described or not stated.

Long-term health conditions

The 2021 Census, for the first time, asked people about their selected long-term health conditions — arthritis, asthma, cancer (including remission), dementia, diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes), heart disease (including heart attack or angina), kidney disease, lung conditions (including COPD or emphysema), mental health conditions (including depression or anxiety) and stroke²². One of the key findings of the Census was that there is a strong link between age and incidence of long-term health conditions, as the proportion of those with a long-term health condition increases with age²³.

Table 16 shows that the four most prevalent long-term health conditions reported by those aged 65 years and over for all three birthplace groups were arthritis, heart disease, diabetes and cancer. Among non-MESC-born people, a lower proportion (24.2%) reported that they had arthritis, compared with the MESC-born (30.6%) and Australian-born populations (34.0%). Also, non-MESC-born people reported a lower incidence of cancer (8.6%), compared with MESC-born (11.8%) and Australian-born (12.5%) people.

In the 65 years and over age group, a higher proportion (37.3%) of non-MESC-born people reported that they had no long-term health conditions than either MESC-born people (33.0%) or those born in Australia (29.5%).

Table 16 Proportion of each birthplace group aged 65 years and over reporting one or more long-term health conditions, Queensland, 2021

Non-MESC				MESC				Born in Australia			
Rank	Long-term health condition	No. of responses ^(a)	%	Rank	Long-term health condition	No. of responses ^(a)	%	Rank	Long-term health condition	No. of responses ^(a)	%
1	Arthritis	24,280	24.2	1	Arthritis	39,675	30.6	1	Arthritis	190,463	34.0
2	Diabetes	18,250	18.2	2	Heart disease	22,279	17.2	2	Heart disease	105,858	18.9
3	Heart disease	15,730	15.7	3	Diabetes	16,279	12.5	3	Diabetes	81,382	14.5
4	Cancer	8,617	8.6	4	Cancer	15,273	11.8	4	Cancer	69,919	12.5
5	Mental health condition	6,841	6.8	5	Asthma	11,752	9.0	5	Asthma	59,672	10.7
6	Asthma	6,541	6.5	6	Lung condition	11,459	8.8	6	Mental health condition	56,653	10.1
7	Lung condition	4,957	5.0	7	Mental health condition	10,240	7.9	7	Lung condition	49,534	8.9
8	Dementia	4,712	4.7	8	Stroke	5,331	4.1	8	Dementia	23,823	4.3
9	Stroke	4,018	4.0	9	Dementia	5,171	4.0	9	Stroke	23,663	4.2
10	Kidney disease	3,421	3.4	10	Kidney disease	4,393	3.4	10	Kidney disease	21,127	3.8
	Any other long-term health condition	15,617	15.6		Any other long-term health condition	18,361	14.1		Any other long-term health condition	81,679	14.6
	None	37,386	37.3		None	42,899	33.0		None	165,268	29.5
	Total persons^(b)	100,131			Total persons^(b)	129,864			Total persons^(b)	559,599	

(a) Respondents had the option to record multiple long-term health conditions therefore the sum of total responses count will not equal the total person count.

(b) Total excludes persons whose long-term health conditions were not stated.

²² Respondents could also report 'any other long-term health condition(s)'. The Census included a single, long-term health conditions question which asked people of all ages if they have been told by a doctor or nurse that they have any of the long-term health conditions shown in Table 16. Data exclude people who did not state a response.

²³ ABS Information on long-term health conditions <https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/long-term-health-conditions>

Table 17 shows the number and proportion of MESC-born and non-MESC-born people reporting at least one long-term health condition at the Statistical Area 4 (SA4) level. Wide Bay SA4, which includes the coastal urban centre of Hervey Bay, has the oldest population on average in Queensland, with a median age of 48.8 years compared with the Queensland median age of 38.4 years at 30 June 2021²⁴. This region had the highest proportion of males and females in the non-MESC-born and MESC-born populations in Queensland with at least one long-term health condition. More than half of males (50.8%) and females (51.7%) in the MESC-born population in Wide Bay SA4 reported at least one long-term health condition, whereas just less than one-third of non-MESC-born males (32.9%) and females (30.7%) were in this category.

The second highest proportions of males (30.4%) and females (29.7%) with at least one long-term health condition among the non-MESC-born population were reported in Moreton Bay - North SA4, which includes the residential community of Bribie Island, near Brisbane. The second-highest proportions of MESC-born persons with at least one long-term health condition occurred in the Darling Downs – Maranoa SA4 west of Toowoomba, accounting for 45.7% of males and 46.9% of females in the area. The median ages of the resident population in both Moreton Bay - North SA4 (42.2 years) and Darling Downs – Maranoa SA4 (42.4 years) were above the Queensland median age at 30 June 2021.

Table 17 MESC and non-MESC-born people reporting at least one long-term health condition^(a) by SA4, Queensland, 2021

Statistical Area 4	non-MESC				MESC			
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
	— Number —		— % —		— Number —		— % —	
Brisbane - East	2,396	3,064	27.5	27.3	5,607	6,343	32.5	37.1
Brisbane - North	3,122	3,968	19.2	20.5	3,253	3,470	31.6	35.8
Brisbane - South	8,349	10,190	16.2	17.8	4,415	4,628	29.9	33.9
Brisbane - West	2,790	3,486	18.3	19.3	3,350	3,470	28.8	31.9
Brisbane Inner City	3,395	4,371	13.1	14.5	4,120	4,193	25.7	29.2
Cairns	2,645	3,552	21.1	21.6	3,527	3,571	35.3	35.4
Central Queensland	975	1,256	17.9	19.9	2,143	2,303	34.0	37.9
Darling Downs - Maranoa	576	639	23.0	23.1	1,133	1,243	45.7	46.9
Gold Coast	7,926	9,957	21.2	21.3	14,816	16,956	31.5	35.3
Ipswich	5,100	6,107	20.9	21.7	5,559	6,529	34.4	39.6
Logan - Beaudesert	5,444	6,702	21.6	24.0	7,276	8,435	35.4	40.1
Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday	936	1,141	19.1	19.0	1,760	1,895	31.9	34.0
Moreton Bay - North	2,348	3,012	30.4	29.7	6,204	7,259	41.5	45.8
Moreton Bay - South	2,139	2,659	20.9	21.8	4,049	4,696	30.2	35.7
Queensland - Outback	325	383	18.1	18.8	446	464	27.9	28.1
Sunshine Coast	2,983	3,816	24.2	24.3	8,810	9,992	34.5	36.5
Toowoomba	1,091	1,489	14.1	17.2	1,465	1,804	38.4	45.0
Townsville	1,692	2,134	23.2	24.1	2,450	2,646	37.4	39.7
Wide Bay	2,213	2,727	32.9	30.7	5,702	6,092	50.8	51.7
Queensland^(b)	56,456	70,648	19.8	20.9	86,093	95,980	33.7	37.4

(a) Includes persons who reported one condition, two conditions or three or more conditions and excludes not stated responses.

(b) Excludes 'Migratory-Offshore-Shipping' and 'No usual address' categories

²⁴ Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury, *Queensland Regional Profiles*

Diversity Figures is a joint project of the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs, and Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury. For more information, please contact the Queensland Government Statistician's Office or Multicultural Affairs on (07) 3097 7700 or at www.multicultural.qld.gov.au.

