

Darling Downs Region Profile



Population: 227,955

Local Councils:

- » Dalby Regional Council
- » Goondiwindi Regional Council
- » Southern Downs Regional Council
- » Toowoomba Regional Council

Estimated population

- As at 30 June 2007, the estimated population of the region was 227,955, representing 5.5% of the state's population.

Age profiles

- In June 2007, 21.6% of persons were aged 0 to 14 years, 64.1% were aged 15 to 64 years and 14.2% were aged 65 years and over.

Urban centres and localities*

- The region comprises 33 urban centres and localities.
- Toowoomba had the largest population at 30 June 2007, with 101,999 persons.
- Toowoomba also had the highest population density in the region, with 859.9 persons per square kilometre.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons

- At the 2006 Census of Population and Housing, the region had 6,507 persons of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.
- This represents 3.1% of the region's total population.

Overseas-born persons

- At the 2006 Census, 17,564 persons were born overseas (8.3% of the total population).
- 183,065 persons were Australian-born (86.2% of the total population).
- Toowoomba had the largest number of overseas-born persons (12,866), followed by Southern Downs (2,860).

Proficiency in spoken English

- At the 2006 Census, 5,015 persons born overseas stated that they spoke a language other than English at home (28.5% of the overseas-born population).
- Of these persons, 798 stated that they spoke English not well, or not at all.

One-parent families

- At the 2006 Census, there were 8,090 one-parent families in the region, representing 14.4% of all families.

School students

- In the 12 months ending 31 December 2006, there were 42,210 school students in the region.
- Toowoomba had the largest number of school students (28,494), followed by Southern Downs with 6,185 school students.

Post-school qualifications

- At the 2006 Census, there were 73,449 persons aged 15 years and over with a qualification.
- This represents 44.4% of the population in this age group, which was lower than that for Queensland (50.4%).

Unemployment rate and labour force

- At the 2006 Census, the region had 4,510 unemployed persons, representing an unemployment rate of 4.5%.
- The unemployment rate in Queensland was 4.7%.
- Within the region, the highest unemployment rate was recorded in Southern Downs (5.3%), followed by Toowoomba (4.4%).

Building approvals

- In the 12 months ending 30 September 2008, 1,371 dwelling units in new residential buildings were approved in the region.
- Valued at \$287.9 million, the approvals represented 2.7% of the total value of state's approvals.
- The value of non-residential building approvals was \$141 million, which represented 1.6% of the state's approvals.

Reference: www.oesr.qld.gov.au

*An urban centre is a population cluster of 1,000 or more people while a locality is a population cluster of between 200 and 999 people (Source: www.oesr.qld.gov.au).