

South West Region Profile



Population: 26,119

Local Councils:

- » Balonne Shire Council
- » Bulloo Shire Council
- » Murweh Shire Council
- » Paroo Shire Council
- » Quilpie Shire Council
- » Roma Regional Council

Estimated population

- As at 30 June 2007, the estimated population of the region was 26,119, representing 0.6% of the state's population.

Age profiles

- In June 2007, 23.3% of persons were aged 0 to 14 years, 64.8% were aged 15 to 64 years and 12.0% were aged 65 years and over.

Urban centres and localities*

- The region comprises twelve urban centres and localities.
- Roma had the largest population at 30 June 2007, with 6,372 persons.
- Roma also had the highest population density in the region, with 552.6 persons per square kilometre.

*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).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons

- At the 2006 Census of Population and Housing, the region had 2,741 persons of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin.
- This represents 11.1% of the region's total population.

Overseas-born persons

- At the 2006 Census, 991 persons were born overseas (4% of the total population).
- 22,302 persons were Australian-born (90.1% of the total population).
- Roma had the largest number of overseas-born persons (439), followed by Murweh (242).

Proficiency in spoken English

- At the 2006 Census, 236 persons born overseas stated that they spoke a language other than English at home (23.8% of the overseas-born population).
- Of these persons, 50 stated that they spoke English not well, or not at all.

One-parent families

- At the 2006 Census, there were 831 one-parent families in the region, representing 13.0% of all families.

School students

- In the 12 months ending 31 December 2006, there were 4,689 school students in the region.
- Roma had the largest number of school students (2,218), followed by Murweh with 1,096 school students.

Post-school qualifications

- At the 2006 Census, there were 7,494 persons aged 15 years and over with a qualification.
- This represents 39.6% 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 388 unemployed persons, representing an unemployment rate of 3.0%.
- The unemployment rate in Queensland was 4.7%.
- Within the region, the highest unemployment rate was recorded in Paroo (7.0%), followed by Quilpie (4.5%).

Building approvals

- In the 12 months ending 30 September 2008, 73 dwelling units in new residential buildings were approved in the region.
- Valued at \$16.2 million, the approvals represented 0.1% of the total value of state's approvals.
- The value of non-residential building approvals was \$8.3 million, which represented 0.1% of the state's approvals.

Reference: www.oesr.qld.gov.au