

Brisbane booming in the middle and round the edges

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Brisbane is the place to be, but people aren't living where you may think, new population figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics reveal.

The data, which captures a decade of change to 2011, reveals the Greater Brisbane Region, which excludes the Gold and Sunshine coasts, increased by 25 per cent (432,300 people) and was just behind Greater Perth (26 per cent) as the second-fastest growing capital city in Australia.

The region (2,146,577) now accounts for nearly half of the state's population (4,474,098), while the Brisbane Local Government Area is home to 1,089,743 people, or 21.5 per cent more people than in 2001.

But much of change fuelling the greater Brisbane region expansion was recorded outside the Brisbane City Council limits, with the largest regional population growth recorded at Springfield Lakes in Ipswich City, and at the Moreton Bay Regional Council areas of North Lakes, Mango Hill and Cashmere.

The estimated residential population at Springfield Lakes went from zero to 10,600 people between 2001 and 2011, with North Lakes and Mango Hill growing by 17,100, and Cashmere boosted by an extra 9200 residents.

Still, Brisbane's inner-city stands out as a major hub for population growth, having jumped by 29 per cent overall in the 10-year period, including a 229.7 per cent boom in the CBD alone.

Queensland Centre for Population Research senior research fellow Tom Wilson said the days when the city's heart emptied outside work hours were over.

“These figures are what we've expected, with housing developments in the emerging suburbs among the areas that are growing rapidly, but the inner-city story is a phenomenon that has really taken hold over the last 10 years,” Dr Wilson said.

“We've had huge residential growth in the CBD and we can attribute that to young, professional couples who probably work in the city – couples without children in the 20-to-34-years-old age range – and also a big growth in overseas students.

"CBD residential data shows a lot of people attending higher education, and not speaking English at home.”