



Regional Movers Index

Jun 2026 Quarter Report

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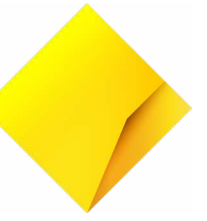


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What is the Regional Movers Index?



The **Regional Movers Index (RMI)** presents fresh analysis of movements between Australia's capital cities and regions.

The **Index** is a partnership between Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) and the Regional Australia Institute (RAI), powered by analysis of proprietary data to create an up-to-date and granular picture of a large sample of relocations.

Released quarterly, the RMI was established at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic to track the movement of capital city people to the regions. The RMI publication also highlighted that regional people were tending to stay in regions to avoid those severe capital-city lockdowns. Housing and cost of living pressures are continuing to influence the patterns of movement within Australia, and the RMI publication has been refined to focus on the net migration flows to give current information on the extent to which regional populations are either growing or shrinking. See Appendix A1 for RMI definitions and methodology.

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- The **Index** is powered by CBA data from relocations amongst more than 14.6 million customers.
 - Quarterly and annual changes are presented in the **Index**.
 - This **Index** is a valuable resource for both the public and private sectors. By tracking people's movements, it enables early identification of growth trends, and flags places emerging as hotspots needing fresh thinking on housing and infrastructure.

Regional Movers Index

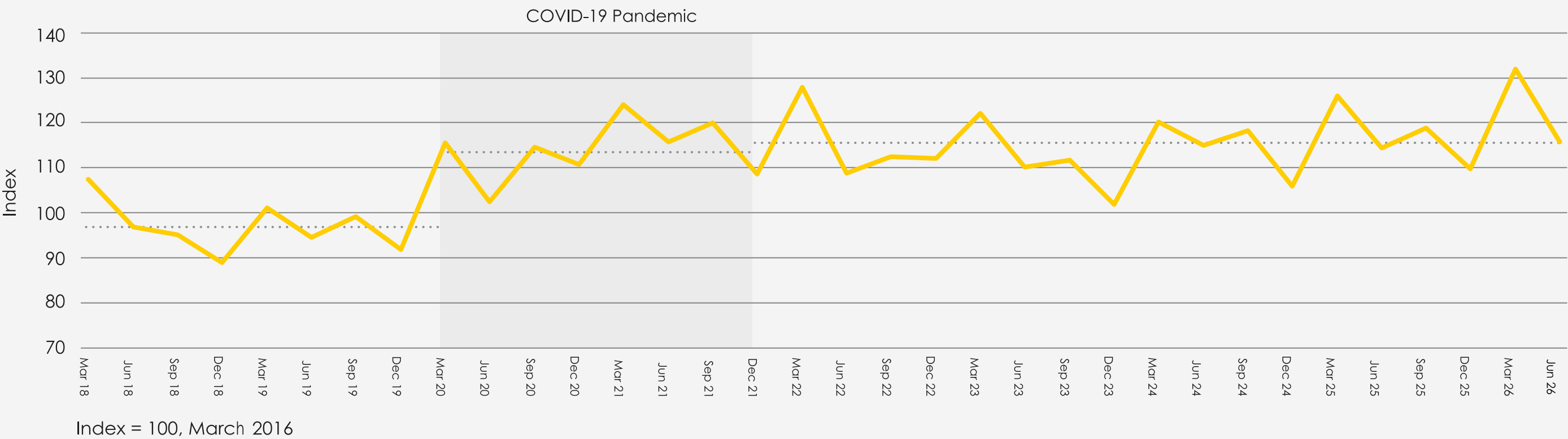
Capital-city movement to regional Australia reaches equal-highest level for a June quarter

The Regional Movers Index (RMI), which tracks population movement from Australia’s capital cities to regional Australia, recorded its equal-highest June quarter on record.

The index in June 2026 matched the high in June 2021, during the COVID pandemic, and was 1.1 per cent higher than the June 2025 quarter.

While there was a drop in the RMI from the March to June quarter, this is consistent with the typical decline in movement that occurs in the late autumn and winter months. The equal record high for the June quarter continues the strong run of results for regional movers over time.

Regional Movers Index: Population flows from capital cities to regional Australia

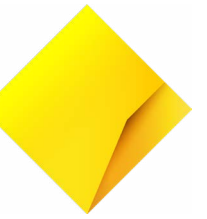


Breakdown of total major relocations
June Quarter 2026

		To	
		Regional Australia	Capital Cities
From	Regional Australia	12.4%	9.0%
	Capital Cities	11.7%	66.9%

See p20, Note on methodology: definitions of inter-regional, inter-capital, region-region and capital- region migration, which discusses the shares under this breakdown of total major relocations. RMI base year is March 2016 (Index = 100).

Net Internal Migration to Regional Australia



Movers to the regions continue to outnumber movers to the cities

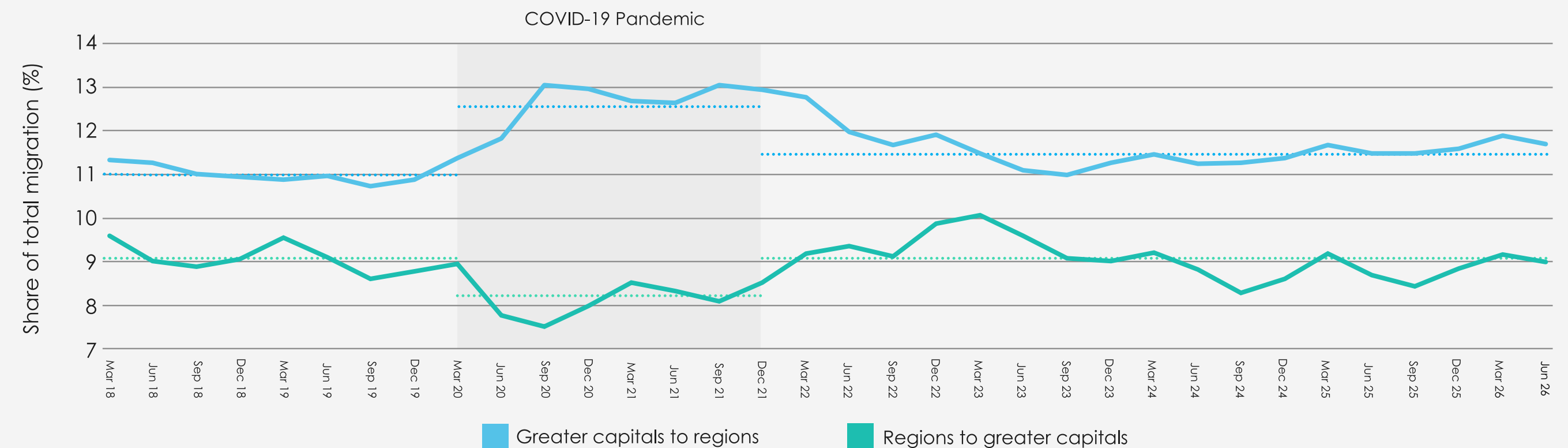
Australians continue to move from capital cities to regions in far greater numbers than from regions to capitals.

Throughout the June 2026 quarter, capital city residents moving to Australia's regions outnumbered those making a move in the opposite direction by 30.0 per cent. This equates to almost four capital-to-region movers for every three region-to-capital movers.

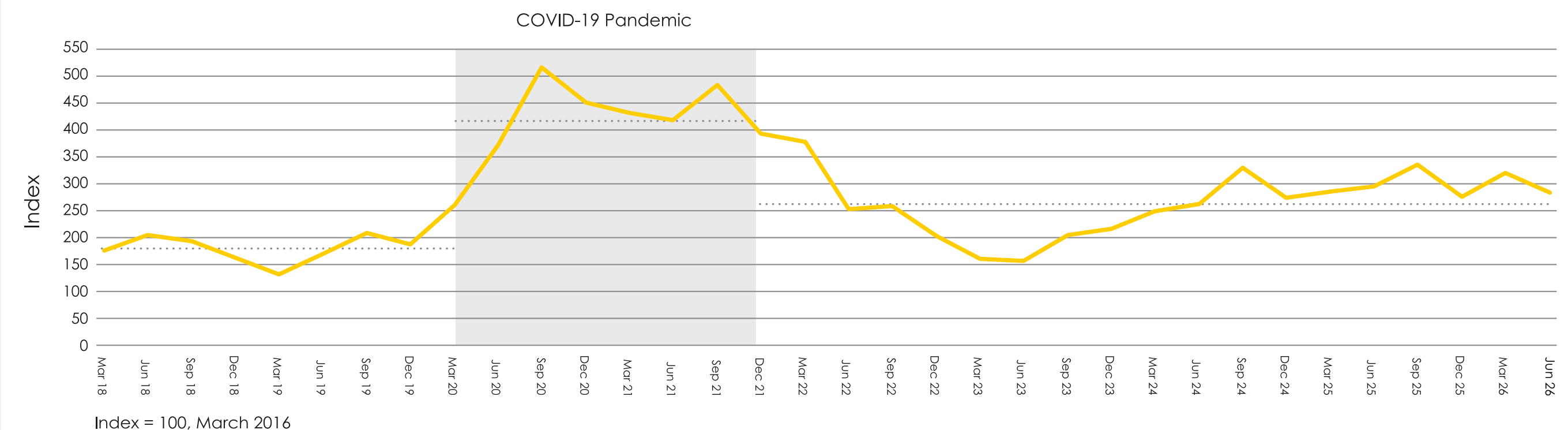
Migration from capitals to regions accounted for 11.7 per cent of all internal migration. By comparison, movements from regions to capitals accounted for 9.0 per cent of all internal migration.

Overall, the trend of positive net migration to the regions continues, following a dip in 2022-23, and remains well above the post-COVID average.

Regional migration - share of all internal migration



Net migration to regional areas – indexed



Migration Patterns By State

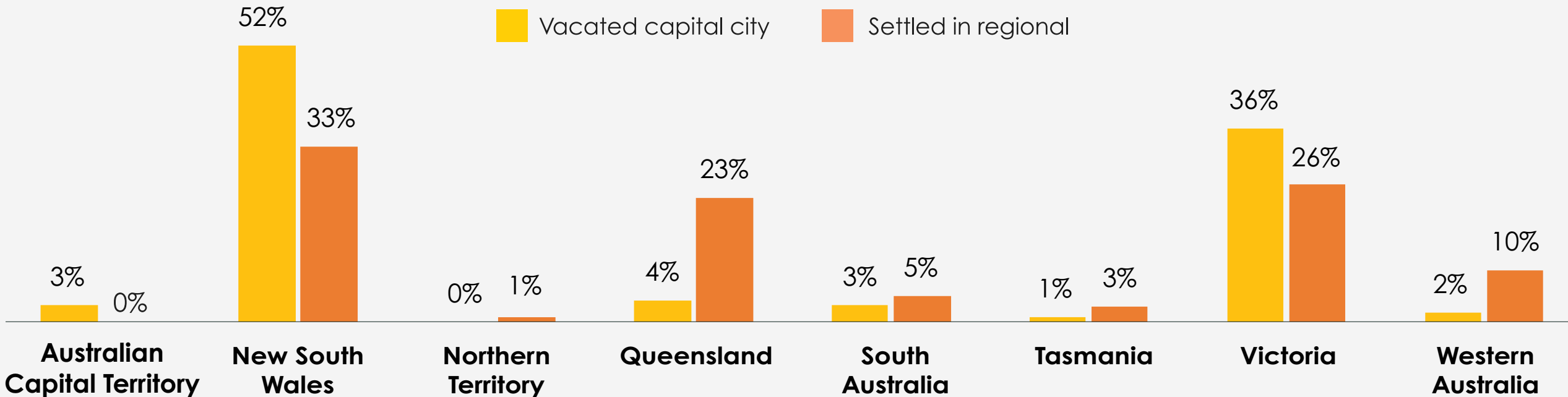
Regional Queensland's share slips as city movers spread more widely

The two largest capitals, Sydney and Melbourne, continue to be the major sources of net outflows to Australia's regions in the June quarter 2026.

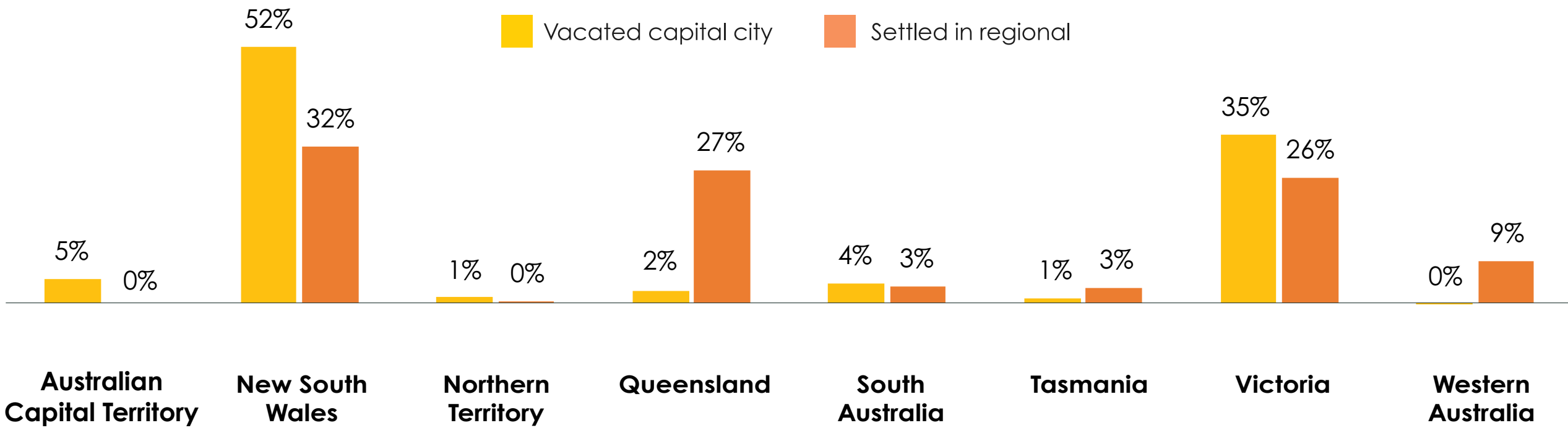
In the June 2026 quarter, Sydneysiders accounted for 52 per cent of net outflows across all capital cities, with Melburnians accounting for 36 per cent - almost identical to their share of outflows twelve months prior in the June quarter 2025. Brisbane recorded a small increase in share of net outflows compared to the June quarter 2025.

Regional New South Wales, regional South Australia, regional Western Australia and the Northern Territory marginally increased their share of internal movers in the year to June 2026, in comparison to the previous year. Regional Queensland experienced a decline in share while Tasmania and regional Victoria saw no change.

Capital city net outflows – regional area net inflows, state shares
June Quarter 2026



Capital city net outflows – regional area net inflows, state shares
June Quarter 2025



Regional Hotspots by Share

Top Five LGAs: the largest net internal migration inflows

The Sunshine Coast retains its dominant position accounting for 8.7 per cent of the share of total net migration, followed by Greater Geelong with 5.0 per cent and Lake Macquarie with 4.1 per cent.

Lake Macquarie recorded a 13.5 per cent increase in quarterly net internal migration and has risen from fifth place to third place since the March 2026 RMI.

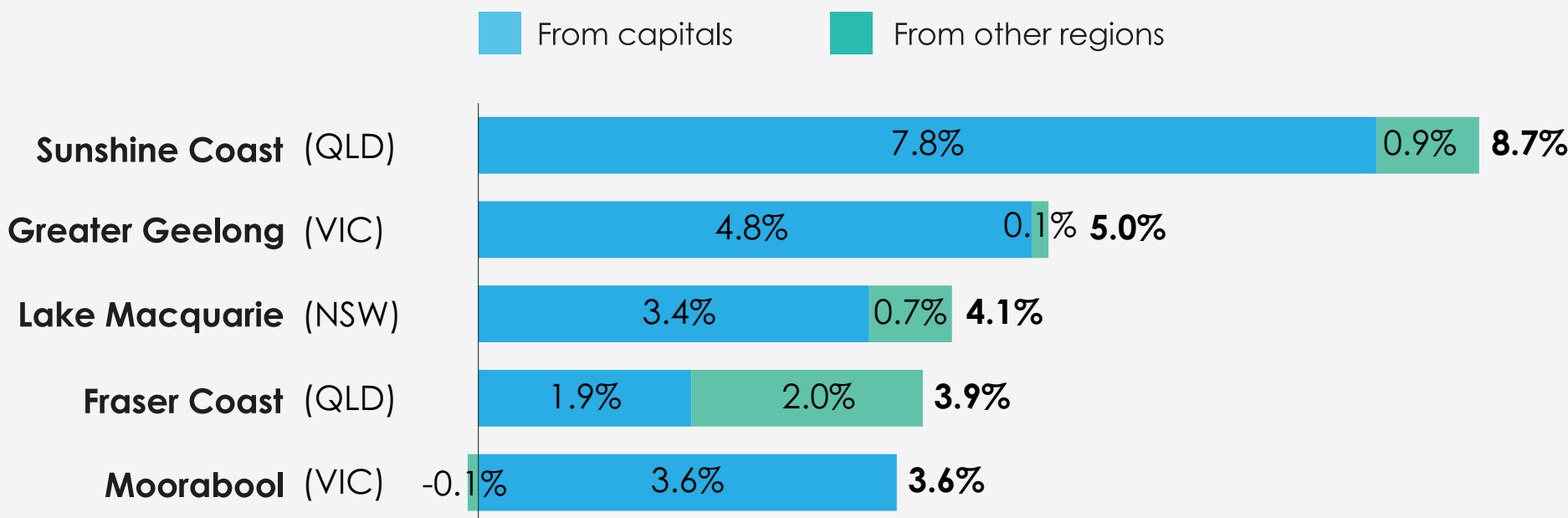
Capital city movers are the highest share of total net migration for Sunshine Coast, Greater Geelong, Lake Macquarie and Moorabool. Fraser Coast receives a slightly higher share of movers from other regions.

Three of the top five regions saw an increase in annual net internal migration – Sunshine Coast, Fraser Coast and Moorabool. Greater Geelong and Lake Macquarie saw a decrease in annual net internal migration.

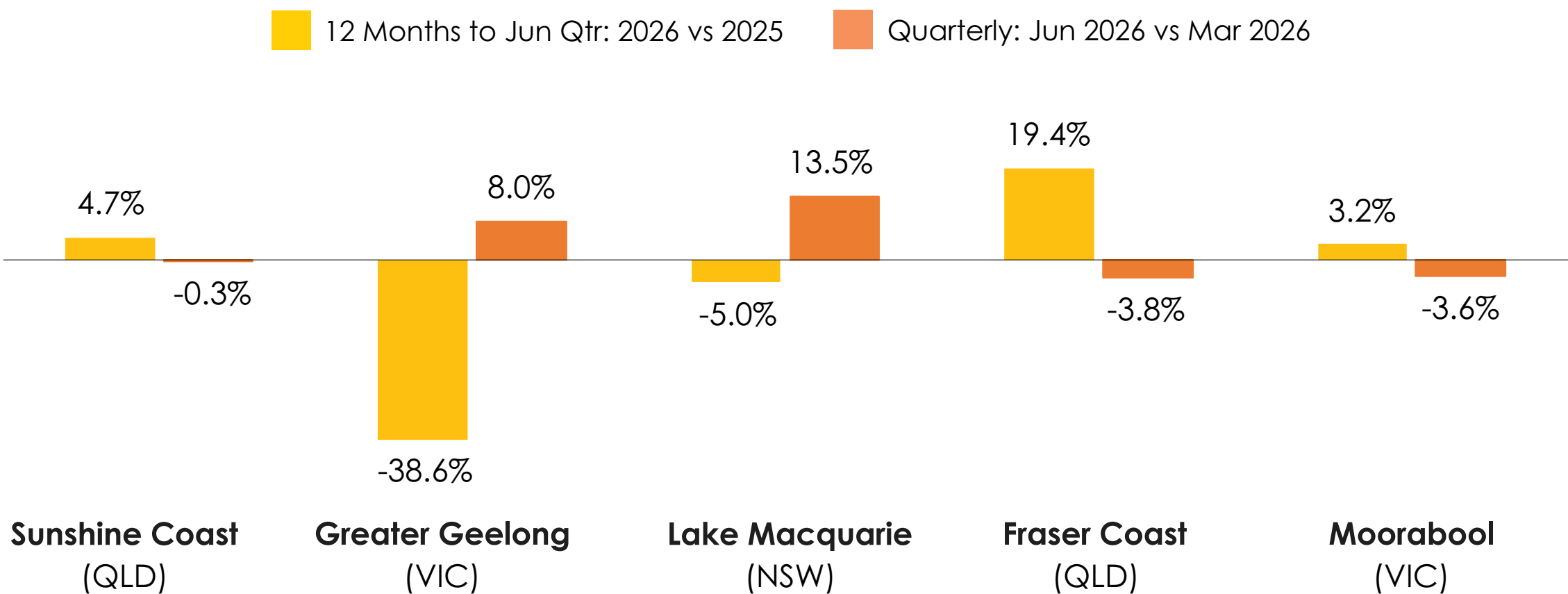
Net internal migration is: net flows (inflows – outflows) from capitals to regions + net flows (inflows – outflows) from region to region. Addition of the component shares may not equal total share due to rounding to one decimal point.

**a negative share of Net Regional-Regional Migration indicates the LGA experienced a net outflow of people to other regions; the percentage listed is the percent this LGA's outflows represents out of the sum of outflows from all LGAs that experienced a net outflow of people to other regions *a positive share of Net Regional-Regional Migration indicates the LGA experienced a net inflow of people from other regions; the percentage listed is the percent this LGA's inflows represents out of the sum of inflows to all LGAs that experienced a net inflow of people from other regions. See Appendix A3 for definitions and methodology.*

Top Five LGAs by share of **total net internal migration** to regional Australia, 12 Months to June Quarter 2026



Changes in **total net internal migration** inflows to Top Five LGAs



Regional Hotspots by Growth

Top Five LGAs: greatest growth in net internal migration inflows

Growth hotspots for net internal migration over the past year were concentrated in central Victoria, the Snowy Mountains and northern Queensland.

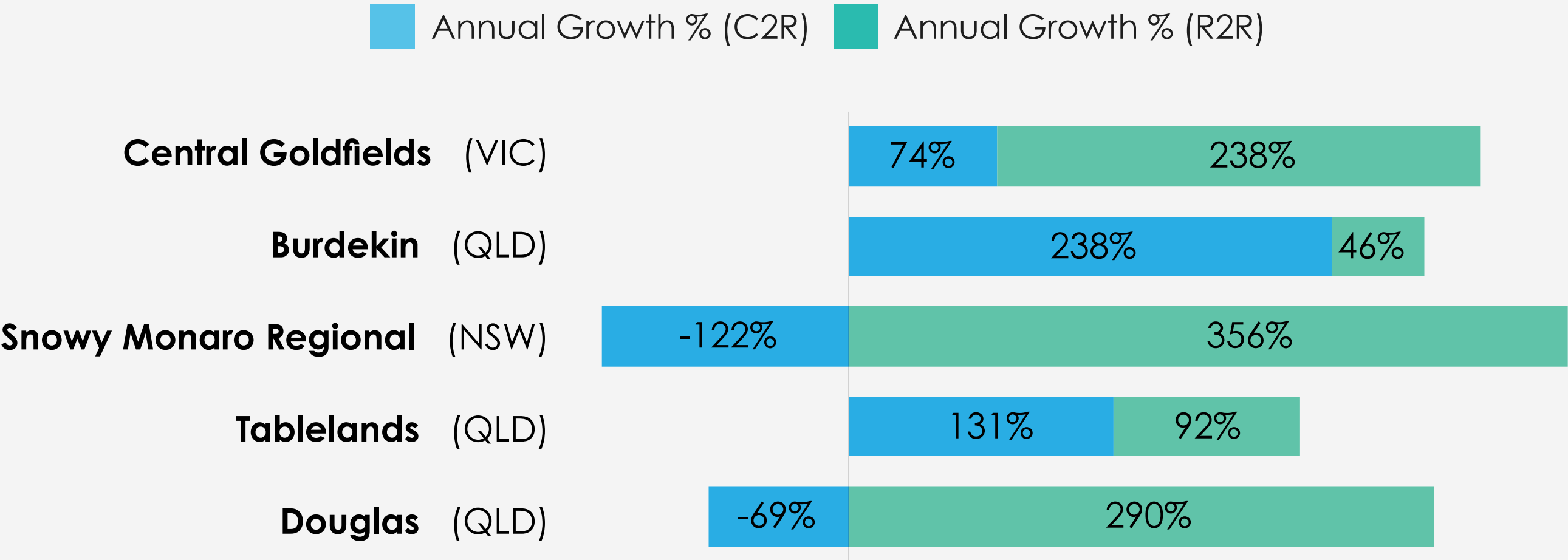
Central Goldfields (VIC) recorded the strongest growth, with net internal migration inflows increasing 312 per cent over the year. It was followed by Burdekin (QLD) at 285 per cent, Snowy Monaro Regional (NSW) at 233 per cent, Tablelands (QLD) at 223 per cent, and Douglas (QLD) at 221 per cent.

Central Goldfields rose from third place in the March 2026 RMI to take top spot in June 2026.

Burdekin's growth was driven mainly by arrivals from capital cities, while Tablelands benefited from a mix of capital city and regional migration. The remaining regions were driven primarily by migration from other regional areas.

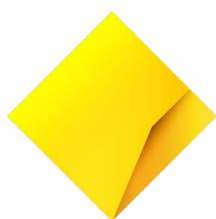
Burdekin, which is south of Townsville, and Tablelands and Douglas, which are in Far North Queensland, highlight significant growth in internal movers to northern Queensland locations.

Top Five LGAs by **annual growth in total net internal migration inflows**
12 Months to June Quarter 2026 vs 2025, % change



C2R = Capitals to Regions R2R = Regions to Regions

Most Popular Places for Capital-City Movers



Top Five LGAs: the largest net capital-regional migration

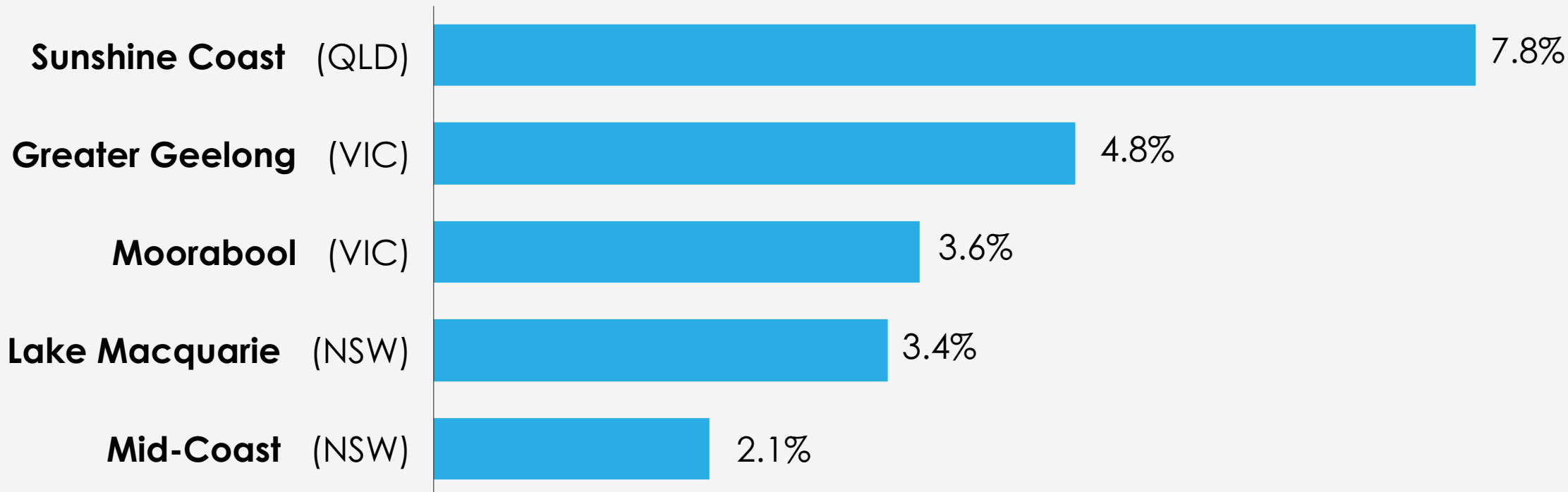
These regional Australian LGAs attracted the highest share of people leaving capital cities.

The Sunshine Coast remains the favourite destination for capital city movers, accounting for 7.8 per cent of net migration from capitals to regions in the past 12 months to June 2026. Greater Geelong, with 4.8 per cent of capital movers, is in clear second place despite a large decline in annual net capital to region inflows.

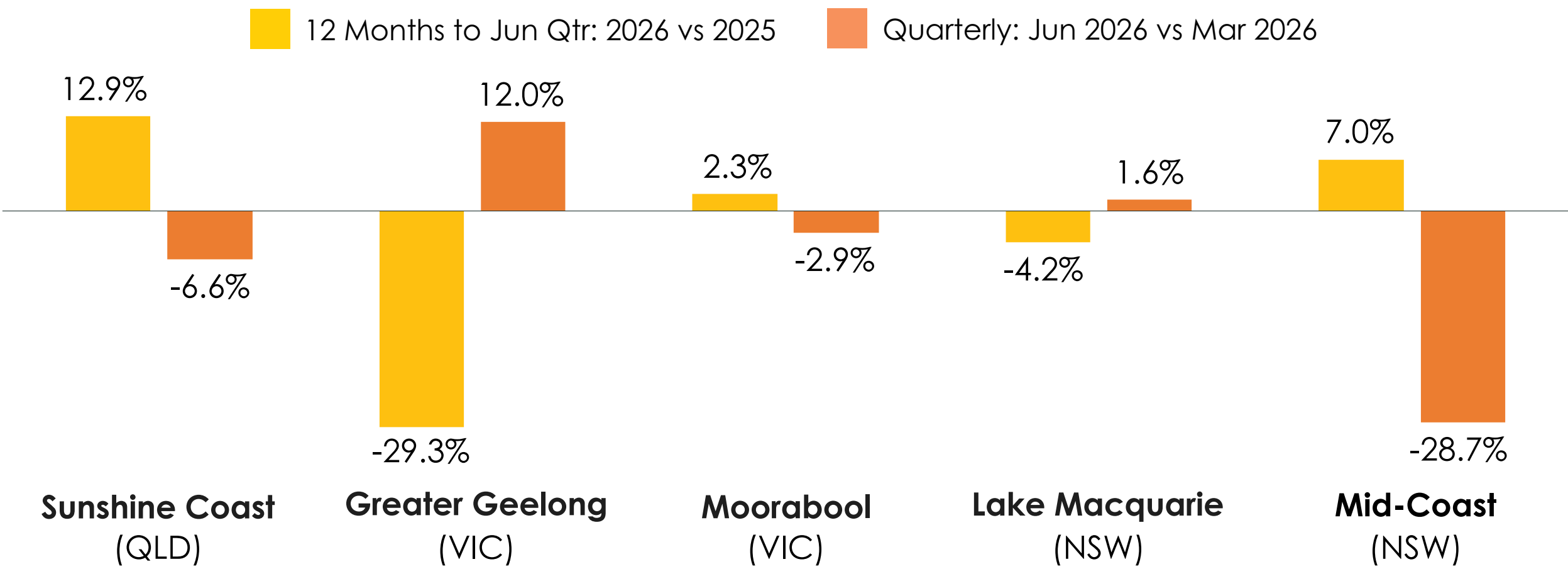
Moorabool, Lake Macquarie and Mid-Coast round out the top 5, with Moorabool and Mid-Coast also seeing annual growth in net inflows.

There was no change in the top five regions for capital to regional movers from the March 2026 RMI.

Top Five LGAs by share of net capital-regional migration
12 Months to June Quarter 2026



Quarterly and annual change in net capital-regional migration inflows to Top Five LGAs



Net migration inflows from capitals are inflows from capitals minus outflows to capitals.

Increasingly Popular Places for Capital-City Movers

Top Five LGAs: greatest growth in net inflows from capitals

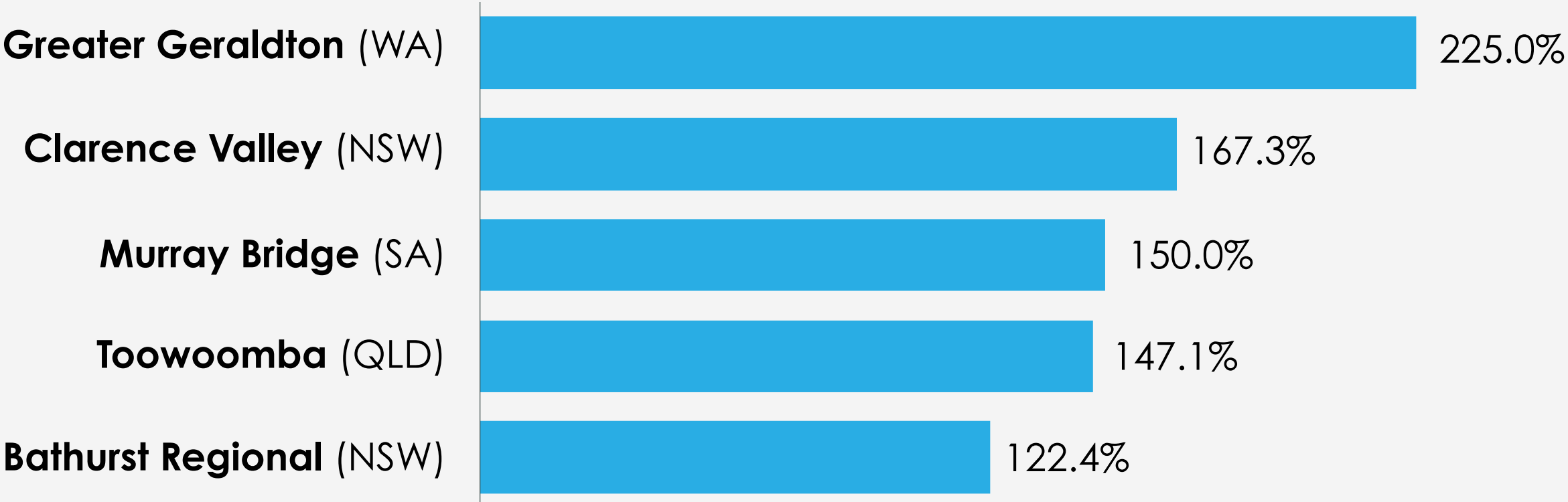
Growth hotspots for net inflows from capitals are spread across regional destinations in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia.

The WA regional city of Greater Geraldton recorded the strongest growth, with net inflows from capitals rising 225.0 per cent year on year to June 2026.

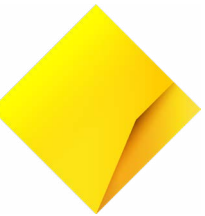
Clarence Valley (NSW) and Murray Bridge (SA) followed in second and third place, with growth of 167.3 per cent and 150.0 per cent, respectively.

Toowoomba remained in the top five with growth of 147.1 per cent, after reaching top place in the March 2026 quarter. Bathurst rounded out the top 5 with growth of 122.4 per cent.

Top Five LGAs by **annual growth in net capital-regional migration**
12 Months to Jun 2026 vs 2025, % change



Inter-Regional Migration

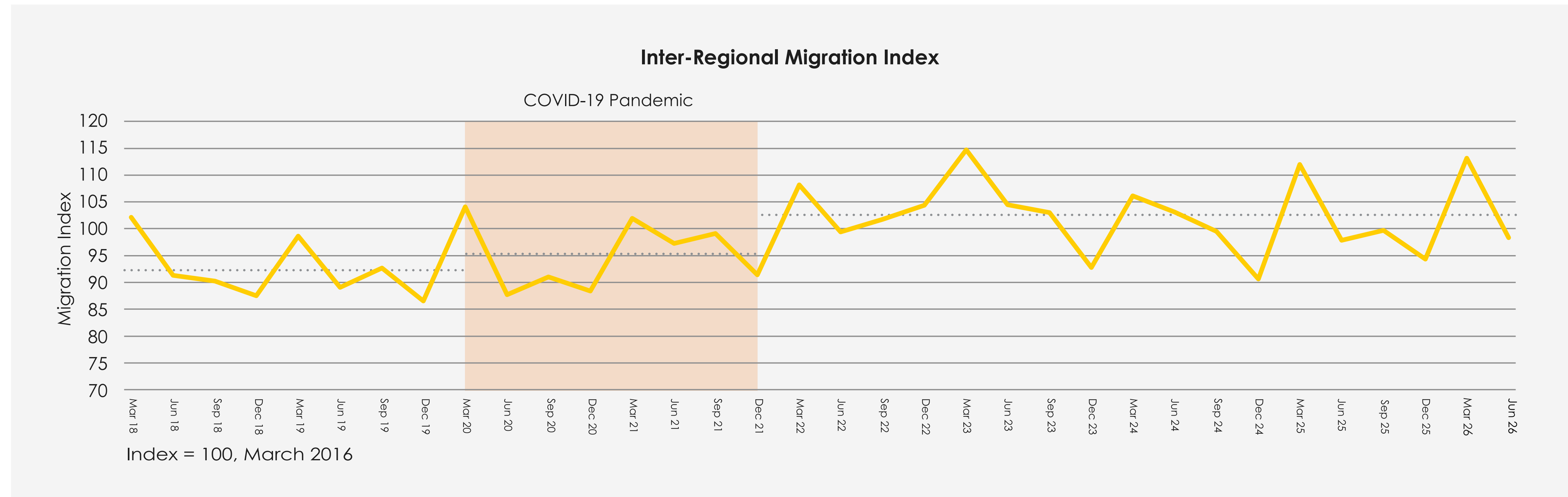


Inter-regional migration in June edges up on last year, but remains below recent peak

The inter-regional migration index tracks the level of movement between regional areas, capturing how many people are relocating within regional Australia rather than between cities and regions.

Inter-regional migration was 13 per cent lower in the June 2026 quarter than the March 2026 quarter, reflecting typical seasonal movement in the autumn and winter months.

The index in June 2026 sits above the pre-COVID and COVID-era averages and is slightly higher than the June 2025 quarter, although it remains below post-COVID averages and the peak June result from 2023.



Most Popular Places for Regional Movers

Top Five LGAs: largest net inflows from regions

The five LGAs receiving the largest shares of net region-to-region migration continue to be concentrated in New South Wales and Queensland in the 12 months to June quarter 2026.

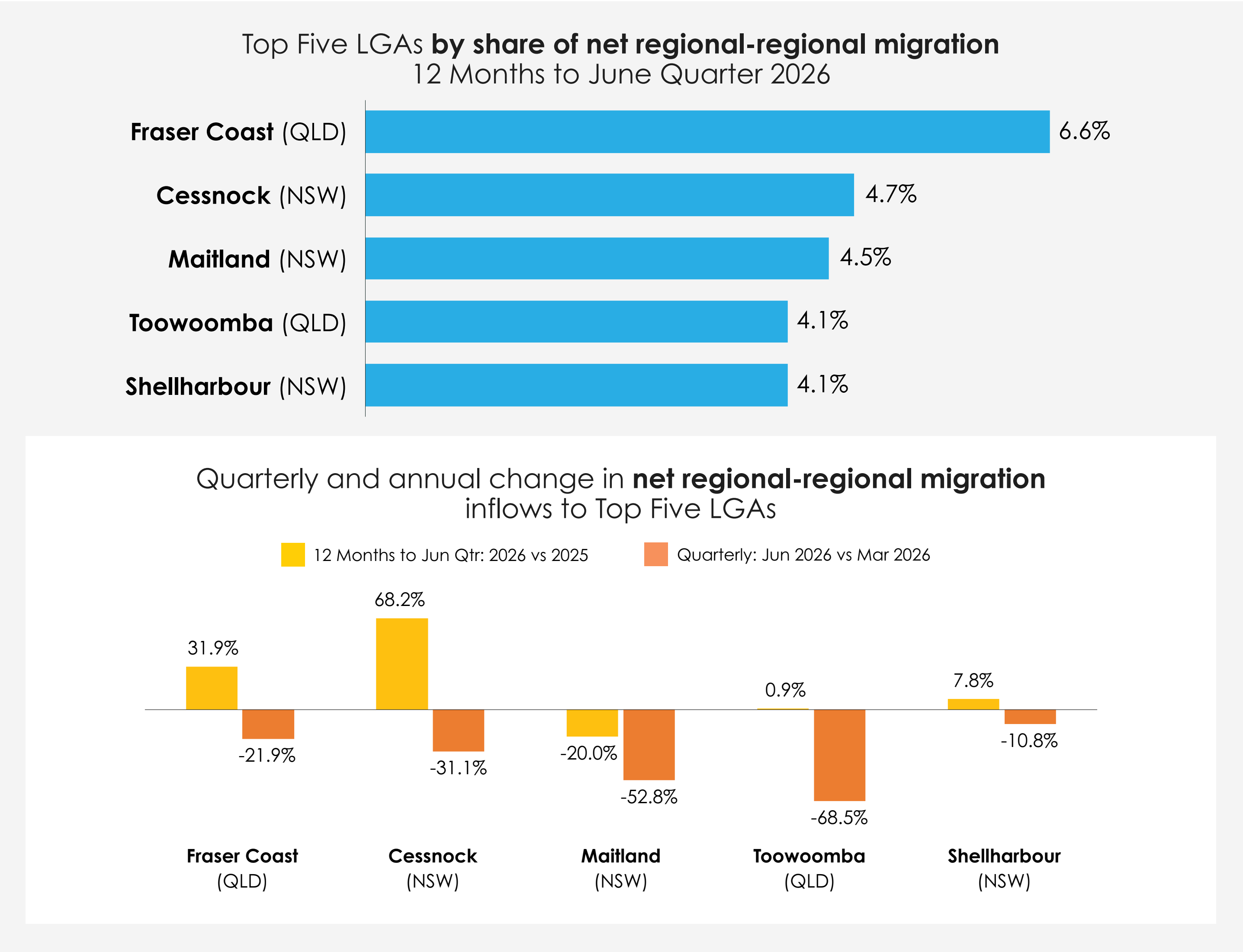
The Fraser Coast (6.6 per cent), which includes Maryborough and Hervey Bay, and Cessnock (4.7 per cent) and Maitland (4.5 per cent) in the Hunter Valley, recorded the largest net inflows from other regional areas.

They were followed by Toowoomba in Queensland (4.1 per cent) and Shellharbour in New South Wales (4.1 per cent).

Cessnock's net regional inflows were a significant 68.2 per cent higher over the year.

The same top four regions for net regional inflows were observed in the March 2026 RMI, with only Cessnock and Maitland switching second and third places in the June quarter.

It should be noted that the net migration inflows from regions are: inflows to a region minus the outflow to other regions.



Increasingly Popular Places for Regional Movers

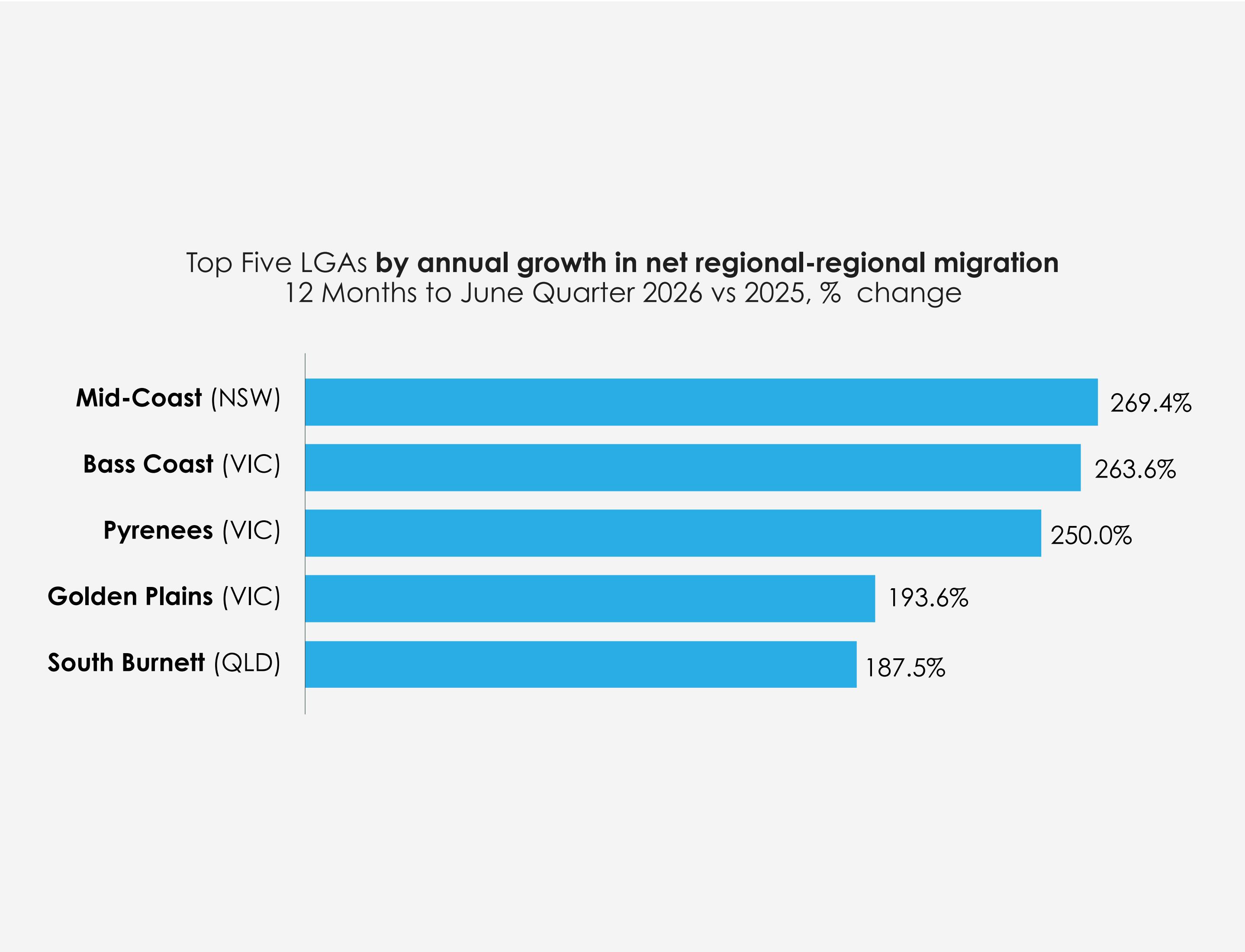
Top Five LGAs: greatest growth in net inflows from regions

Coastal regions in New South Wales and Victoria remain hotspots for regional-to-regional migration growth.

Mid-Coast in New South Wales recorded the strongest growth, with net inflows from other regional areas rising 269.4 per cent over the year. Victoria's Bass Coast ranked second, up 263.6 per cent.

Other fast-growing destinations included Pyrenees (250.0 per cent) and Golden Plains (193.6 per cent) in Victoria, and South Burnett (187.5 per cent) in Queensland.

Mid-Coast and Bass Coast also occupied the top two places for growth in net regional inflows in the March 2026 RMI.



Appendix

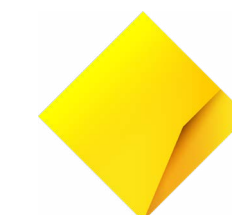


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A1: Regional Movers Index

Methodology Notes



- 1 CBA-RAI Regional Movers Index is defined as movement of CBA personal customers from capital cities to regional areas (see Appendix 3). Index = 100, March 2016 quarter.
- 2 Customer movement or population flows refers to CBA personal customers changing their address as stored in CBA technological systems. Customers must have stayed at one address for 6 Months (prior to moving) to be counted.
- 3 Capital cities/Regional areas defined through ABS 1270.0.55.001 GCCSA boundaries. Capital cities go by the GCCSA_NAMES of: Greater Sydney, Greater Melbourne, Greater Brisbane, Greater Adelaide, Greater Perth, Greater Hobart, Greater Darwin and Australian Capital Territory. Regional areas go by the GCCSA_NAMES of: Rest of NSW, Rest of Vic, Rest of QLD, Rest of SA, Rest of TAS, Rest of NT. Offshore and 'No usual address' GCCSA_NAMES excluded. ACT has no regional areas.
- 4 Relocations within capitals and within regions are those that are across different LGAs. That is, relocations WITHIN a given LGA are not considered or counted as a relocation. See p20, Note on methodology: definitions of inter-regional, inter-capital, region-capital and capital-region migration. The Net regional migration index is calculated as movement from capital areas to regional less movement from regional areas to capital cities. Index = 100, March 2016 quarter.
- 5 LGAs are defined through ABS 1270.0.55.003 ASGS Volume 3 – Non-ABS Structures.
- 6 To be listed on the RMI appendix – and considered for the various Top 5 rankings – an LGA must:
 - Have had net internal migration inflows in last 12 Months to June 2026 of 50 or more people.
 - Have had a base of net internal migration, net capital-region or net region-region inflows in the 12 Months to June 2025 of more than 10 people. This is to filter out significant outlier results associated with changes in small numbers. Significant outlier growth rates are not published or ranked.
- 7 Fifteen LGAs have a percentage of their constituency defined as Capital and the other percentage defined as Regional. These LGAs include Scenic Rim (Qld), Light (SA), Barossa (SA), Yarra Ranges (Vic), Lockyer Valley (Qld), Kingborough (Tas), Murrindindi (Vic), Derwent Valley (Tas), Murray (WA), Adelaide Plains (SA), Moorabool (Vic), Mitchell (Vic), Macedon Ranges (Vic), Unincorporated NT and Unincorporated SA.
- 8 The proportion of CBA customers in each state as percentage of total customers is representative of overall Australian population (ABS National, state and territory population released 18th June 2021 for December 2020 reference period).
- 9 The Business Banking business unit of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia ABN 48 123 123 124 AFSL 234945 (Bank) has prepared this report. References to the “Group” are to the Bank and its subsidiaries (including Commonwealth Securities Limited ABN 60 067 254 300 AFSL 238814, Commonwealth Australia Securities LLC and CBA Europe Ltd) and includes the directors, employees and representatives of the Bank and its subsidiaries.

A2: Regional LGAs

Share of Migration, Changes in Total Net Internal Migration



LGA	State	Share of TOTAL NIM (%)	Share of NET C2R Migration (%)	Share* of NET R2R Migration (%)	12 months to Jun 2026 vs 12 months to Jun 2025 (%)
Sunshine Coast	QLD	8.7%	7.8%	2.9%	4.7%
Greater Geelong	VIC	5.0%	4.8%	0.5%	-38.6%
Lake Macquarie	NSW	4.1%	3.4%	2.3%	-5.0%
Fraser Coast	QLD	3.9%	1.9%	6.6%	19.4%
Moorabool	VIC	3.6%	3.6%	-0.3%	3.2%
Maitland	NSW	2.7%	1.3%	4.5%	-16.2%
Cessnock	NSW	2.6%	1.1%	4.7%	14.4%
Mid-Coast	NSW	2.5%	2.1%	1.6%	23.4%
Shellharbour	NSW	2.2%	0.9%	4.1%	-14.0%
Gympie	QLD	2.0%	0.8%	4.0%	8.7%
Toowoomba	QLD	2.0%	0.8%	4.1%	29.8%
Port Macquarie-Hastings	NSW	2.0%	1.3%	2.2%	-12.0%
Tweed	NSW	1.9%	1.1%	2.9%	21.7%
Greater Bendigo	VIC	1.9%	1.3%	1.9%	-25.6%
Ballarat	VIC	1.9%	1.7%	0.6%	-16.9%
Shoalhaven	NSW	1.9%	1.7%	0.4%	-20.2%
Bass Coast	VIC	1.8%	1.5%	0.9%	11.0%
Port Stephens	NSW	1.7%	1.2%	1.7%	15.5%
Busselton	WA	1.7%	1.3%	1.1%	-6.6%
Bundaberg	QLD	1.6%	0.8%	2.9%	30.2%
Ballina	NSW	1.5%	0.8%	2.4%	33.3%

LGA	State	Share of TOTAL NIM (%)	Share of NET C2R Migration (%)	Share* of NET R2R Migration (%)	12 months to Jun 2026 vs 12 months to Jun 2025 (%)
Augusta-Margaret River	WA	1.4%	1.0%	1.3%	31.0%
Townsville	QLD	1.2%	1.0%	0.7%	-21.7%
Snowy Valleys	NSW	1.2%	1.2%	0.2%	9.9%
Baw Baw	VIC	1.2%	1.6%	-1.3%	-8.6%
Alexandrina	SA	1.2%	1.0%	0.6%	41.4%
Livingstone	QLD	1.2%	0.4%	2.7%	-9.9%
Surf Coast	VIC	1.1%	1.0%	0.1%	32.6%
Noosa	QLD	1.0%	1.3%	-0.8%	2.8%
Clarence Valley	NSW	1.0%	0.5%	1.8%	107.9%
South Burnett	QLD	1.0%	0.7%	1.1%	65.5%
Hindmarsh	VIC	1.0%	1.1%	-0.4%	168.6%
East Gippsland	VIC	1.0%	0.7%	0.8%	-22.5%
Victor Harbor	SA	0.9%	0.7%	0.7%	31.1%
Byron	NSW	0.9%	1.3%	-1.5%	19.2%
Albany	WA	0.8%	0.4%	1.2%	53.4%
Greater Geraldton	WA	0.8%	0.4%	1.4%	47.0%
Moirra	VIC	0.8%	0.6%	0.6%	27.4%
Wingecarribee	NSW	0.8%	1.5%	-2.4%	-20.4%
Golden Plains	VIC	0.8%	0.3%	1.6%	114.3%
Scenic Rim	QLD	0.7%	0.2%	1.7%	-5.6%
Murray River	NSW	0.7%	0.3%	1.2%	50.8%

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A2: Regional LGAs

Share of Migration, Changes in Total Net Internal Migration

LGA	State	Share of TOTAL NIM (%)	Share of NET C2R Migration (%)	Share* of NET R2R Migration (%)	12 months to Jun 2026 vs 12 months to Jun 2025 (%)
Gladstone	QLD	0.6%	0.3%	1.3%	4.0%
Wodonga	VIC	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	-30.5%
Albury	NSW	0.6%	0.8%	-0.6%	-55.9%
Goulburn Mulwaree	NSW	0.6%	0.4%	0.6%	30.2%
Bathurst Regional	NSW	0.6%	0.7%	-0.4%	192.6%
Eurobodalla	NSW	0.6%	0.5%	0.3%	-21.2%
Tablelands	QLD	0.6%	0.2%	1.1%	222.9%
Barossa	SA	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%	128.4%
Orange	NSW	0.5%	0.7%	-0.5%	6.3%
Nambucca Valley	NSW	0.5%	0.3%	0.8%	83.8%
Richmond Valley	NSW	0.5%	0.2%	1.2%	19.7%
Mount Alexander	VIC	0.5%	0.5%	0.0%	176.9%
Central Goldfields	VIC	0.5%	0.3%	0.6%	311.8%
Latrobe (Vic)	VIC	0.5%	0.6%	-0.3%	-37.5%
Capel	WA	0.5%	0.2%	1.0%	-2.8%
Northam	WA	0.5%	0.5%	0.0%	36.1%
Bega Valley	NSW	0.5%	0.5%	-0.1%	-34.7%
Meander Valley	TAS	0.5%	0.0%	1.4%	62.0%
Warrnambool	VIC	0.5%	0.4%	0.3%	11.5%
Copper Coast	SA	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%	4.5%
Broome	WA	0.4%	0.4%	0.1%	40.5%

LGA	State	Share of TOTAL NIM (%)	Share of NET C2R Migration (%)	Share* of NET R2R Migration (%)	12 months to Jun 2026 vs 12 months to Jun 2025 (%)
Strathbogie	VIC	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%	-10.5%
Wellington	VIC	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%	8.9%
Harvey	WA	0.4%	0.3%	0.1%	-39.6%
Murrindindi	VIC	0.4%	0.4%	-0.3%	26.6%
Murray Bridge	SA	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	123.3%
Devonport	TAS	0.3%	0.3%	0.1%	-49.7%
Douglas	QLD	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%	220.7%
Ceduna	SA	0.3%	0.3%	0.1%	0.0%
Pyrenees	VIC	0.3%	0.1%	0.7%	37.9%
Kempsey	NSW	0.3%	0.4%	-0.2%	-16.8%
Denmark	WA	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	-2.2%
Hepburn	VIC	0.3%	0.4%	-0.3%	13.2%
Gingin	WA	0.3%	0.3%	0.1%	-23.6%
Indigo	VIC	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	95.3%
Southern Midlands	TAS	0.3%	0.3%	-0.1%	36.7%
Campaspe	VIC	0.3%	0.6%	-1.0%	-45.9%
Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional	NSW	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	90.5%
Benalla	VIC	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	-33.9%
Colac-Otway	VIC	0.3%	0.2%	0.1%	-16.1%
Glamorgan/Spring Bay	TAS	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	59.2%
Loddon	VIC	0.3%	0.2%	0.4%	169.0%

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A2: Regional LGAs

Share of Migration, Changes in Total Net Internal Migration



LGA	State	Share of TOTAL NIM (%)	Share of NET C2R Migration (%)	Share* of NET R2R Migration (%)	12 months to Jun 2026 vs 12 months to Jun 2025 (%)
Waroon	WA	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	196.2%
Loxton Waikerie	SA	0.3%	0.1%	0.5%	111.1%
Northern Midlands	TAS	0.3%	0.1%	0.6%	15.2%
Toodyay	WA	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%	44.2%
Exmouth	WA	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	39.6%
Mid-Western Regional	NSW	0.3%	0.5%	-0.8%	-24.7%
Barkly	NT	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	105.7%
Lismore	NSW	0.3%	0.3%	-0.2%	2.9%
Mansfield	VIC	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%	-15.7%
Northampton	WA	0.3%	0.1%	0.5%	55.6%
Break O'Day	TAS	0.2%	0.1%	0.6%	32.7%
Glenelg	VIC	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	7.9%
Yass Valley	NSW	0.2%	0.5%	-0.9%	-49.3%
Adelaide Plains	SA	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	131.0%
Queenscliffe	VIC	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	-10.7%

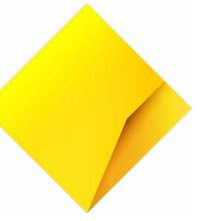
LGA	State	Share of TOTAL NIM (%)	Share of NET C2R Migration (%)	Share* of NET R2R Migration (%)	12 months to Jun 2026 vs 12 months to Jun 2025 (%)
Mitchell	VIC	0.2%	0.5%	-0.9%	-29.0%
Dungog	NSW	0.2%	0.1%	0.4%	8.3%
East Pilbara	WA	0.2%	0.3%	-0.2%	-45.2%
Yankalilla	SA	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	-10.0%
Southern Downs	QLD	0.2%	0.2%	-0.1%	-67.5%
Cowra	NSW	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	64.9%
Latrobe (Tas)	TAS	0.2%	0.1%	0.5%	-49.2%
Chittering	WA	0.2%	0.3%	-0.3%	122.2%
Mid Murray	SA	0.2%	0.2%	-0.1%	-30.2%
Snowy Monaro Regional	NSW	0.2%	0.2%	-0.1%	233.3%
Kentish	TAS	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	184.2%
North Burnett	QLD	0.2%	0.1%	0.4%	20.5%
Yorke Peninsula	SA	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	-20.3%
Burdekin	QLD	0.2%	0.1%	0.3%	284.6%

*a negative share of Net Regional-Regional Migration indicates the LGA experienced a net outflow of people to other regions; the percentage listed is the percent this LGA's outflows represents out of the sum of outflows from all LGAs that experienced a net outflow of people to other regions

*a positive share of Net Regional-Regional Migration indicates the LGA experienced a net inflow of people from other regions; the percentage listed is the percent this LGA's inflows represents out of the sum of inflows to all LGAs that experienced a net inflow of people from other regions. See Appendix A3 for definitions and methodology.

A3: Note on methodology

Net migration and population growth



The Regional Movers Index was first published in 2021 at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic to answer a pertinent question: to what extent were capital city residents moving to the regions? The RMI confirmed the pandemic had triggered an increase in movement of people from capital cities to regions. It also highlighted that regional residents were tending to stay within regions and less inclined to move to the capitals.

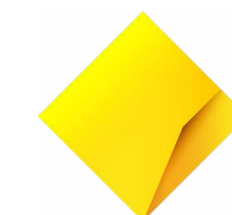
In the post-COVID era the RMI publication has continued to provide up-to-date data on movement between Australia's capital cities and regions, and within regional Australia. The RMI has extended its initial focus on one-way population movement from capitals to regions to now also present data on net flows of population movement. Further, the RMI breaks down net migration flows to regional LGAs between net migration from capital cities and net migration from other regions.

As a formula, Total Net Internal migration = Net flows (inflows - outflows) from Capital to Region + Net flows (inflows - outflows) from Region to Region

The RMI gives policymakers, industry and communities valuable insight into net internal migration – a key driver of local population change, alongside natural increase (births minus deaths) and net overseas migration, the three components that together determine population change.

A3: Note on methodology

Ranking the Top Five LGAs



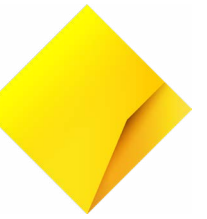
In considering net internal migration – and its constituent parts of net migration from capitals and net migration from other regions – this edition of the RMI ranks regions accordingly, i.e. based on:

- (1) Total Net Internal Migration** – the report identifies the top five regional local government areas receiving the largest net internal migration inflows (irrespective of whether these inflows are from capitals or other regions) during the 12 Months to the June quarter 2026. It also identifies the top five regional LGAs that have experienced the most significant growth in net internal migration inflows (again, irrespective of whether these inflows are from capitals or other regions).
- (2) Net Capital-to-Regional Migration** – the report identifies the top five regional LGAs receiving the largest net migration inflows from capital cities. It does so by identifying and ranking the regions that have received the greatest share of total net migration inflows from all capitals to all regional LGAs. It also identifies the top five regional LGAs that have experienced the most significant growth in net migration inflows from capital cities.
- (3) Net Region-to-Region Migration** – the report identifies the top five regional LGAs receiving the largest net migration inflows **from regional areas**. It does so by identifying the regions that have experienced the greatest share of total net migration inflows **among the regional LGAs that have experienced net inflows**. The report also identifies the top five regional LGAs that have experienced the most significant growth in net migration inflows from regional areas.

Regarding the ranking of regions experiencing the most significant growth in net migration inflows, the RMI has sought to filter out – and not include in the rankings – significant outlier results due to changes in small numbers. There are many regional LGAs with small populations prone to experiencing small net internal migration flows and therefore large percentage changes in growth rates. These places are not included in the RMI rankings. Specifically, an LGA must meet two criteria to be considered and ranked in the RMI publication:

1. The LGA must have experienced total net internal migration inflows in the 12 Months to the June quarter 2026 of 50 or more people.
2. The LGA must have experienced net internal migration inflows from either capitals or other regions of more than 10 people in the base period. Specifically:
 - a) LGAs where the net migration **inflows from either capitals or regions were 10 people or less in the base period** were not ranked among the regions experiencing the most significant growth in total net migration inflows.
 - b) LGAs where the net migration **inflows from capitals were 10 people or less in the base period** were not ranked among the regions experiencing the most significant growth in net migration **inflows from capitals**.
 - c) And LGAs where the net **migration inflows from other regions were 10 people or less in the base period** were not ranked among the regions experiencing the most significant growth in net migration inflows **from regions**.

A3: Note on methodology



Definitions of inter-regional, inter-capital, region-to-capital and capital-to-region migration

The Regional Movers Index publication focuses on migration (as indicated by CBA customer relocations) from capital cities to regions. Specifically, the relocations from capital city Local Government Areas to regional LGAs. Since December 2022 the publication also considers (but previously hadn't focused on) migration in the other direction – from regional LGAs to capital-city LGAs. These relocations are necessarily between different LGAs (with some exceptions noted in Appendix A1).

Other relocations that occur during any given quarter are those within and between capital cities and also those within and between regions. In addition to relocations between different LGAs, a significant number of relocations in any given quarter are within a given LGA – households changing their homes but remaining within their overall community.

Until December 2022 the RMI publication included these relocations within its overall analytical framework. Including these gives a higher number of relocations than excluding them and this influences the numbers in the RMI report up to that issue showing the shares that each type of relocation accounts for out of all relocations. These shares are highlighted typically at the beginning of each quarter's publication (see Table: Breakdown of total internal migration on p3 of December 2022 edition). Under that analytical framework, of all relocations:

- those within regional Australia have accounted for roughly 22 per cent;
- those from regional Australia to capitals have accounted for around 4 per cent;
- those from capitals to regional Australia have accounted for around 6 per cent, and
- those within and between capitals have accounted for around 68 per cent each quarter.

From December 2022 the Regional Movers Index publication includes additional detailed analysis on inter-regional migration – migration within and between Australia's regions. This is to provide an indication of another key source of population growth at the LGA level (beyond the inflows from capital city LGAs). Relocations within a given regional LGA will not affect that LGA's overall population, and excluding these moves does not affect the RMI analysis of capital to regional flows or regional to capital flows. To get more accurate results of relocations between regions, the RMI now uses a revised analytical framework to exclude relocations that occur within any given LGA. We have applied this framework across the relevant elements of the publication for internal consistency. Under this revised analytical framework, we are analysing fewer but what might be called major relocations (see **Table: Breakdown of total major relocations** of p3 of this edition). Reducing the base number of relocations has changed the relative shares:

- those within regional Australia account for 12.4 per cent;
- those from regional Australia to capitals account for 9.0 per cent;
- those from capitals to regional Australia account for 11.7 per cent, and
- those within and between capitals account for 66.9 per cent this latest quarter.

Rebasing the analysis does not change the historical pattern of **capital city to regional flows** or **regional to capital flows** that underpin the RMI net migration index.