Regional Movers Index

June 2025 Quarter Report
[correction issue]

Powered by:

Commonwealth Bank

REGIONAL AUSTRALIA INSTITUTE

What is the Regional Movers Index?

The **Regional Movers Index** 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. At the time of launch, the report noted that people in regional areas were staying in regions to avoid the lockdowns in the capital cities. Since then, housing and cost of living pressure continue to influence patterns of movement within Australia, and the RMI publication has been refined to focus on the net migration flows to give current information on regional LGAs that are growing in population. See pp 17-19 in the appendix for details on the various revisions to the methodology that focuses on these net flows.

- The **Index** is powered by CBA data from relocations amongst more than 14.6 million of its customers.
- Quarterly and annual changes are presented in the **Index**.
- This **Index** is an invaluable 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.

This Regional Movers Index report for June 2025 has been re-issued in January 2026 with some corrections.

See Appendix A1 for definitions and methodology.

Regional Movers Index

The Regional Movers Index declines as fewer Australians relocate during the June 2025 quarter

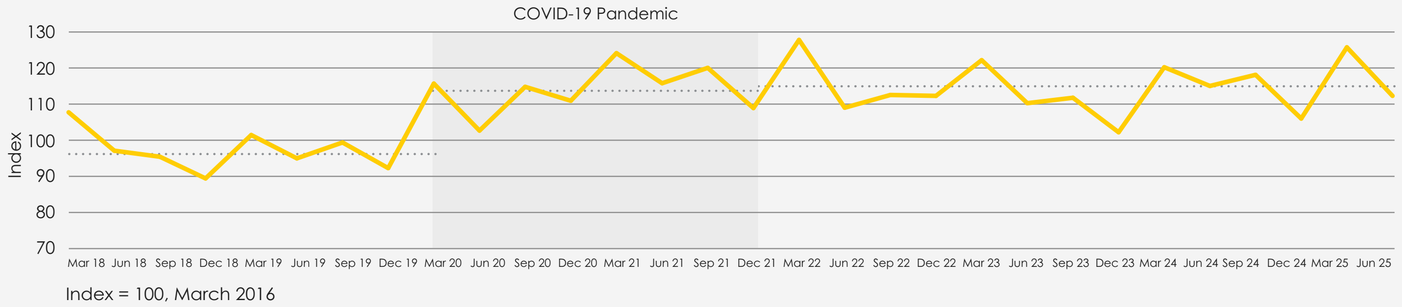
The Regional Movers Index (RMI) – which tracks migration from capital cities to regional areas – declined by 10.8 per cent in the June quarter of 2025, reaching a level that is 2.4 per cent lower than a year earlier.

This decline comes amid a broader reduction in mobility across the country. During the June 2025 quarter, the total number of relocations Australia-wide was 9.4 per cent lower than in the previous quarter and 4.5 per cent lower than a year earlier.

Despite this slowdown, migration from Australia's capitals to the regions has remained elevated since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The direction of relocations continues to favour the regions. Many more Australians continue to move from capital cities to regions (11.5 per cent of all movements) than from regions to capital cities (8.7 per cent).

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



Index = 100, March 2016

Breakdown of total major relocations
June Quarter 2025

From	To: Regional Australia	To: Capital Cities
Regional Australia	12.2%	8.7%
Capital Cities	11.5%	67.6%

See pg 19, Note on methodology: definitions of inter-regional, inter-capital, region-to-capital and capital- region migration, which discusses the shares under this breakdown of total major relocations.

Net Internal Migration to Regional Australia

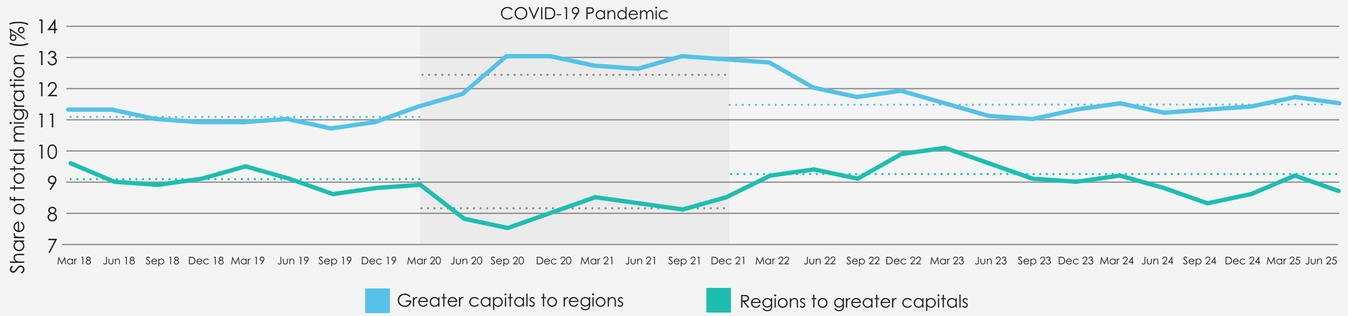
More people continue to move from cities to regions than from regions to cities

In the June 2025 quarter, capital city people moving to Australia's regions outnumbered regional people making a move in the opposite direction by 32 per cent, maintaining a positive gap in favour of regional population growth.

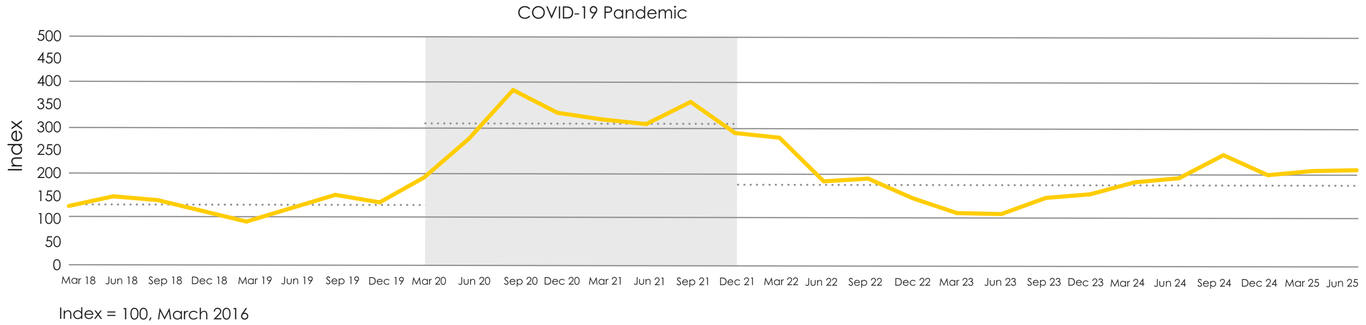
Migration from capitals to regions in the June 2025 quarter accounted for 11.5 per cent of all internal migration. Migration from regions into the capitals accounted for an 8.7 per cent share of all internal migration.

Amid the national decline in relocations, the decline was more pronounced in the relocations from regions to capitals than the relocations in the other direction. As a result, net migration to regional areas edged higher, up 0.7 per cent in the June quarter - reaching a level 9.3 per cent above that of a year earlier.

Regional migration - share of all internal migration



Net migration to regional areas – indexed



Index = 100, March 2016

Migration Patterns By State

Migration from capitals channelled to regional NSW and regional Queensland

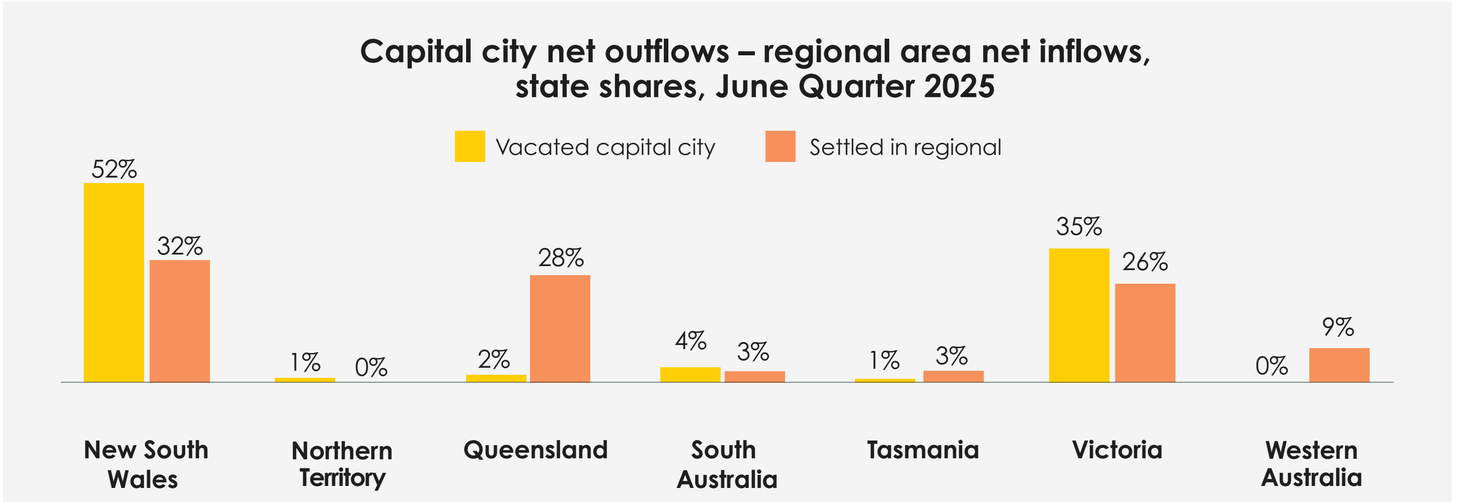
The charts opposite show the state-by-state breakdown of net migration, illustrating the share of **net migration out of capital cities to regions** and **net migration into regional areas from capital cities.**

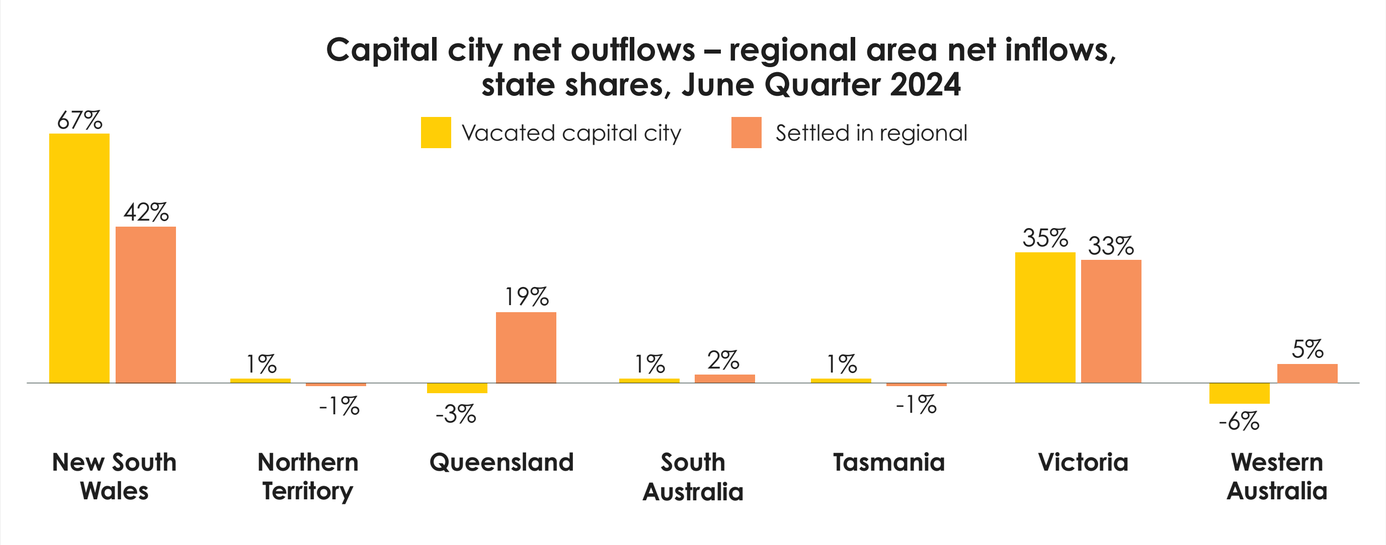
In the June 2025 quarter, Sydneysiders accounted for 52 per cent of the net outflow from all of the country's capitals into regions, Melburnians accounted for 35 per cent.

The net migration from capitals into regions in the June 2025 quarter was channelled predominantly into the regions of the mainland eastern states. Regional New South Wales and regional Queensland welcomed the largest shares of 32 per cent and 28 per cent, respectively. Regional Victoria accounted for 26 per cent of the net migration into all regions from capital cities during the year.

This state breakdown in migration patterns reflects a resurgent regional Queensland – it significantly increased its share of total net capital city to regional migration from 19 per cent in the June 2024 quarter to 28 per cent in the June 2025 quarter.

Meanwhile, Tasmania has seen a reversal of the net outflows from its regions to capital cities. Tasmania's regions received net inflows from capital cities in the June 2025 quarter accounting for 3 per cent of all regional inflows.





Regional Hotspots by Share

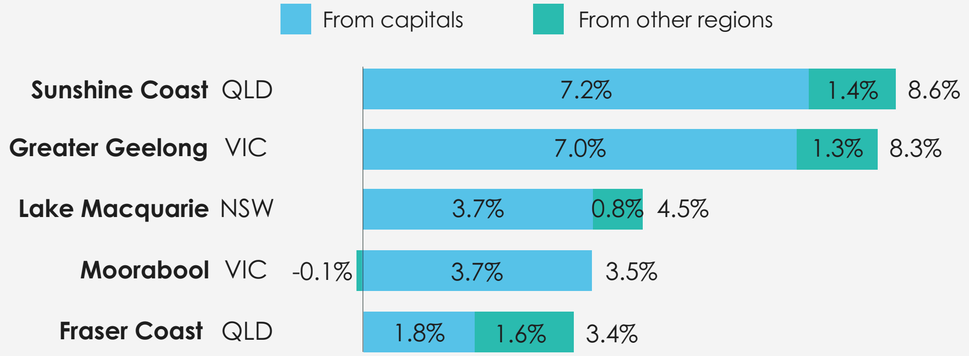
Top Five LGAs: the largest net internal migration inflows

The Sunshine Coast reclaimed the number one spot for net migration to Australia's regions in the year to June 2025. After taking the lead in the March quarter, Greater Geelong has slipped back to second place.

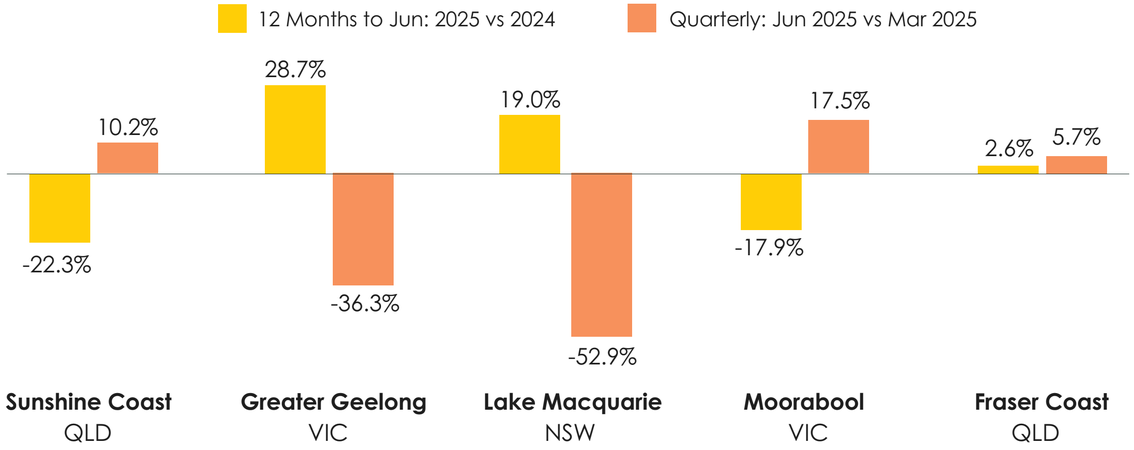
Both LGAs continue to gain significantly more population from the capitals than from other regions. This is also the case for Lake Macquarie in third place.

Moorabool in Victoria and Fraser Coast in Queensland rounded out the top five LGAs for greatest net internal migration. Fraser Coast in particular stands out for experiencing a more even split of net migration from both capitals and other regions.

Top Five LGAs by **share of total net internal migration** to regional Australia, 12 months to June 2025



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



Net internal migration is: net flows (inflows – outflows) from capitals to regions + net flows (inflows – outflows) from region to region.

Regional Hotspots by Growth

Top Five LGAs: greatest growth in net internal migration inflows

Growth hotspots of net internal migration during the 12 months to June 2025 were spread widely across the country.

These growth hotspots – where net internal migration in the 12 months to June 2025 grew most significantly over the previous year – are generally outside of the peri-urban, capital-city commuter belts.

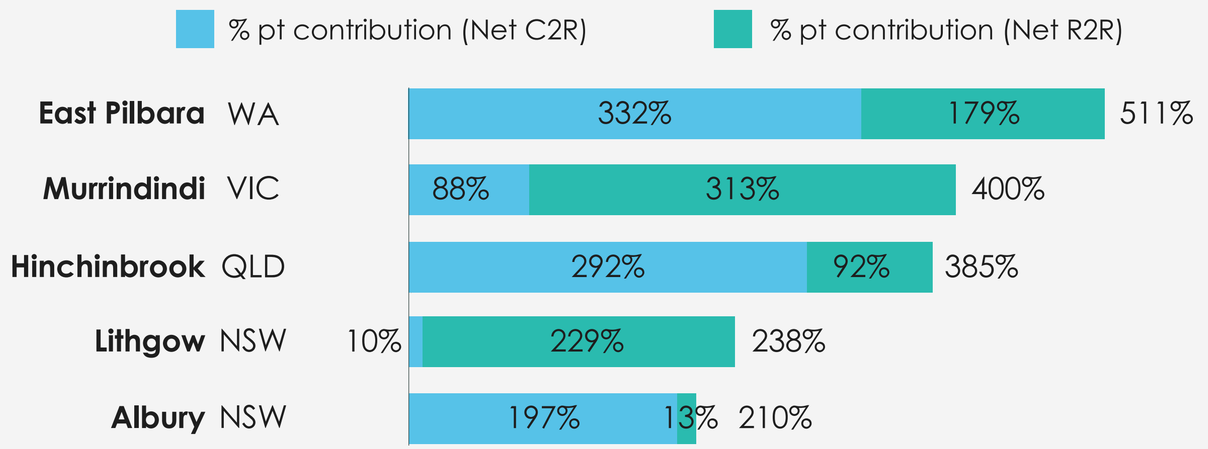
Across all regions, East Pilbara (WA) recorded the strongest annual growth in net internal migration, driven by inflows from both capitals and other regions, with capitals contributing more.

Murrindindi (Victoria) ranked second, with migration from other regions as the key driver of growth.

In third place, Hinchinbrook (Queensland) saw growth largely fuelled by migration from capitals. Lithgow (NSW) followed in fourth, with significant inflows from other regions.

Rounding out the top five was Albury (NSW), where growth was driven almost entirely by migration from capitals.

Top Five LGAs **by annual growth in total net internal migration inflows**
12 months to June 2025 vs 12 months to June 2024, % change



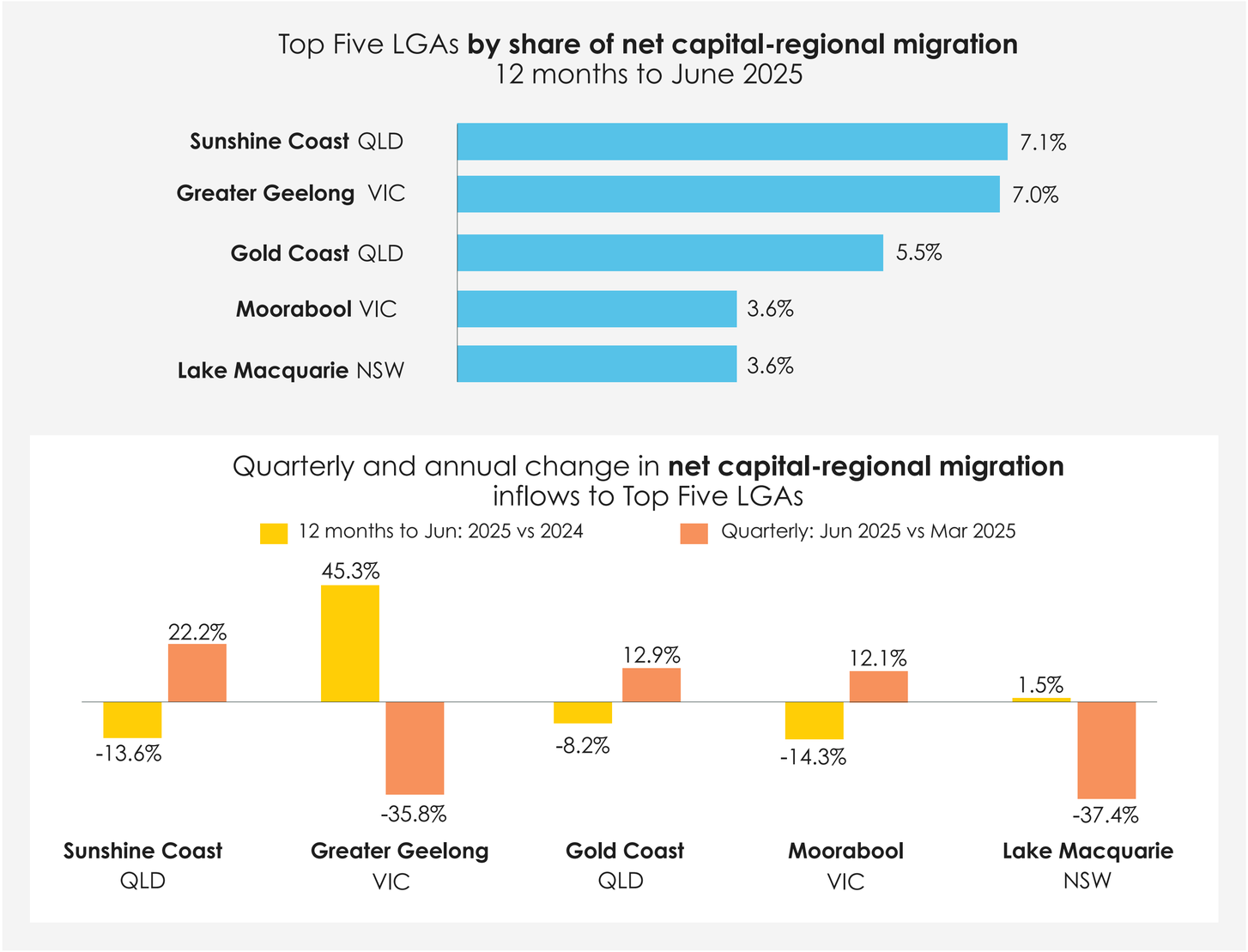
Most Popular Places for Capital City People

Top Five LGAs: largest net inflows from capitals

These regions across the country gained the highest share of population movement from capitals, in net terms.

After unseating the Sunshine Coast in the previous quarter, Greater Geelong has slipped back to the number two position, for largest net inflows from capitals. The Sunshine Coast reclaimed number one position, accounting for 7.1 per cent of the net migration from capitals to regions.

The Gold Coast, Moorabool and Lake Macquarie round out the top five positions, accounting for 5.5 per cent, 3.6 per cent and 3.6 per cent, respectively, of the net migration from capitals to regions.



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

Increasingly Popular Places for Capital City People

Top Five LGAs: greatest growth in net inflows from capitals

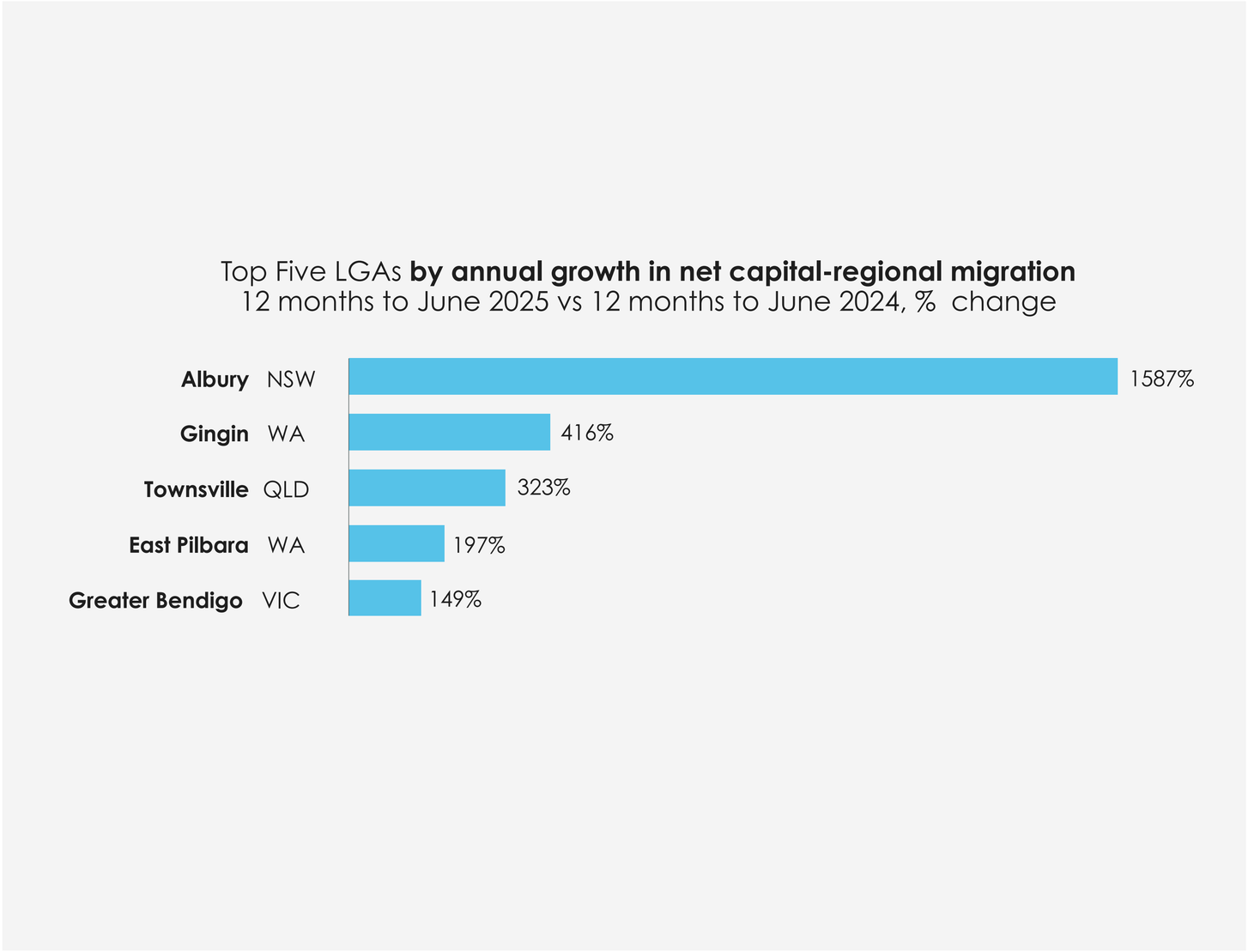
Hotspots for growth in net inflows from capitals are spread widely across the country.

The New South Wales border town of Albury experienced the greatest growth in net migration from capitals – a 17-fold increase in the 12 months to June 2025 compared with the previous year.

Second place, for growth in net migration from capitals, is Western Australia's Gingin.

Townsville in Queensland, East Pilbara in Western Australia and Greater Bendigo in Victoria make up third, fourth and fifth places, respectively.

Both Townsville and Greater Bendigo have consistently experienced strong growth in migration from capitals, and this trend continued in the latest update.

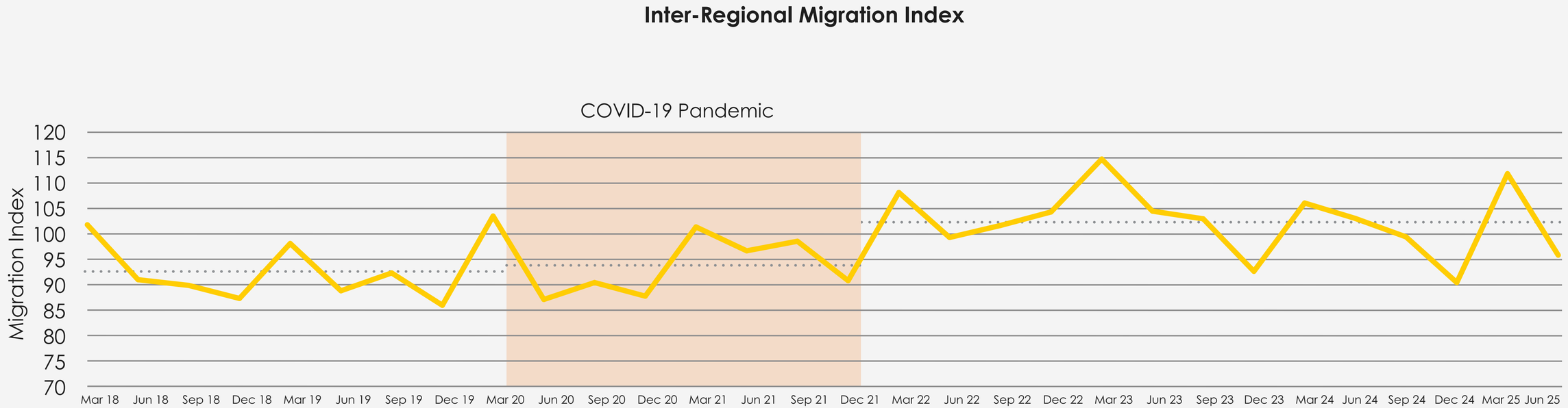


Inter-Regional Migration

Dip in inter-regional migration

Consistent with the decline in relocations generally across the country, inter-regional migration fell by 14.3 per cent in the June 2025 quarter. The latest level of inter-regional migration is also 7.0 per cent lower than a year earlier.

Mobility within regional Australia looks to have come off the boil, following the peak level of relocations that occurred during the March quarter of 2023.



Most Popular Places for Regional People

Top Five LGAs: largest net inflows from regions

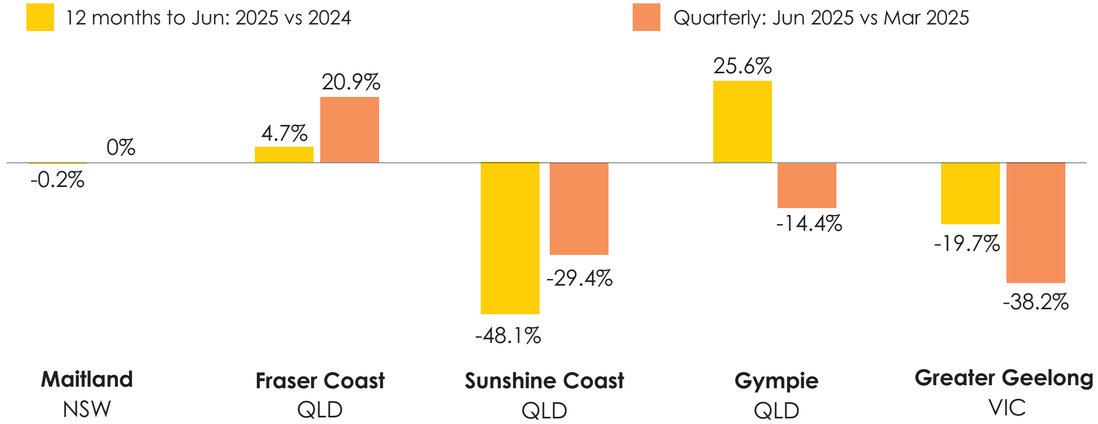
While this publication mostly focuses on migration flows between capitals and regions, it is also the case that some regions across the country are gaining significant population from other regions, in net terms. Many of these regions also receive strong net inflows from capital cities.

Maitland in New South Wales saw the largest net inflows from other regions in the 12 months to June 2025, followed by Fraser Coast, Sunshine Coast, and Gympie in Queensland. Greater Geelong in Victoria rounded out the fifth most popular place for regional people relocating within regions.

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

Top Five LGAs **by share of net regional-regional migration**
12 months to June 2025

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



Increasingly Popular Places for Regional People

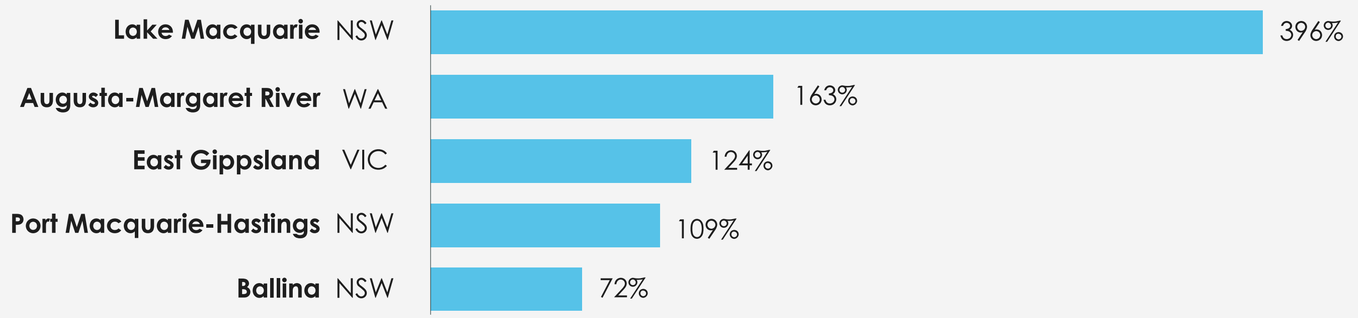
Top Five LGAs: greatest growth in net inflows from regions

The top five LGAs with the highest rates of growth in net migration from other regions are spread widely, spanning NSW, WA and Victoria.

Taking out the top spot was Lake Macquarie with a growth rate more than double Augusta-Margaret River in second place.

East Gippsland in Victoria and Port Macquarie-Hastings and Ballina in NSW round out the top five places experiencing the strongest growth in net migration from other regions during the last 12 months.

Top Five LGAs **by annual growth in net regional-regional migration**
12 months to June 2025 vs 12 months to June 2024, % change



Appendix

A1: Regional Movers Index
Methodology Notes

1 CBA-RAI Regional Movers Index is defined as movement of CBA customers from capital cities to regional areas (see A1.2). Index = 100, March 2016 quarter.

2 Customer movement or population flows refers to CBA 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 p 18, Note on methodology: definitions of inter-regional, inter-capital, region-capital and capital-region migration.

5 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.

6 LGAs are defined through ABS 1270.0.55.003 ASGS Volume 3 – Non ABS Structures.

7 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 2025 of 50 or more people.
- Have had a base of net internal migration, net capital-region or net region-region inflows in last 12 months to June 2024 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.

8 14 LGAs have a percentage of their constituency defined as Capital and the other percentage defined as Regional. These LGAs include Scenic Rim (R), Light (RegC), Barossa (DC), Yarra Ranges (S), Lockyer Valley (R), Kingborough (M), Murrindindi (S), Derwent Valley (M), Murray (S), Mallala (DC), Moorabool (S), Mitchell (S), Macedon Ranges (S), Unincorporated NT.]

9 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).

10 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: All 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 2025 vs 12 months to Jun 2024 (%)
Sunshine Coast	VIC	**8.6%**	7.1%	4.5%	-22.3%
Greater Geelong	QLD	**8.3%**	7.0%	4.2%	28.7%
Lake Macquarie	NSW	**4.5%**	3.6%	2.6%	19.0%
Moorabool	VIC	**3.5%**	3.6%	-0.4%	-17.9%
Fraser Coast	QLD	**3.4%**	1.8%	4.9%	2.6%
Maitland	NSW	**3.3%**	1.5%	5.6%	19.5%
Greater Bendigo	VIC	**2.6%**	1.8%	2.7%	89.6%
Shellharbour	NSW	**2.6%**	1.4%	3.7%	29.9%
Shoalhaven	NSW	**2.4%**	2.0%	1.2%	9.2%
Ballarat	VIC	**2.4%**	1.8%	1.7%	20.1%
Port Macquarie-Hastings	NSW	**2.3%**	1.6%	2.1%	2.0%
Cessnock	NSW	**2.3%**	1.4%	2.8%	-8.1%
Gold Coast	QLD	**2.2%**	5.5%	-10.1%	-31.0%
Mid-Coast	NSW	**2.1%**	2.0%	0.4%	1.8%
Gympie	QLD	**1.9%**	0.5%	4.3%	12.4%
Busselton	WA	**1.8%**	1.3%	1.6%	11.5%
Tweed	NSW	**1.7%**	1.2%	1.5%	-5.6%
Bass Coast	VIC	**1.7%**	1.6%	0.3%	5.2%
Townsville	QLD	**1.6%**	0.7%	2.8%	-2.6%
Toowoomba	QLD	**1.6%**	0.3%	3.9%	26.2%
Port Stephens	NSW	**1.5%**	1.2%	1.0%	-27.8%
Albury	NSW	**1.4%**	0.9%	1.4%	209.9%
Livingstone	QLD	**1.3%**	0.6%	2.4%	22.0%
Baw Baw	VIC	**1.3%**	1.7%	-1.1%	-35.6%

LGA	State	Share of TOTAL NIM (%)	Share of NET C2R Migration (%)	Share* of NET R2R Migration (%)	12 months to Jun 2025 vs 12 months to Jun 2024 (%)
Bundaberg	QLD	**1.3%**	0.7%	2.0%	-23.8%
East Gippsland	VIC	**1.3%**	1.0%	0.9%	70.5%
Ballina	NSW	**1.2%**	0.7%	1.6%	14.7%
Snowy Valleys	NSW	**1.2%**	1.2%	-0.3%	56.3%
Augusta-Margaret River	WA	**1.1%**	0.8%	1.1%	24.3%
Noosa	QLD	**1.0%**	1.6%	-1.8%	23.5%
Wingecarribee	NSW	**1.0%**	1.4%	-1.4%	0.7%
Alexandrina	SA	**0.9%**	0.8%	0.2%	-1.3%
Surf Coast	VIC	**0.8%**	1.0%	-0.7%	-25.9%
Latrobe	VIC	**0.8%**	0.7%	0.4%	48.7%
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional	NSW	**0.8%**	1.1%	-0.9%	44.6%
Scenic Rim	QLD	**0.8%**	0.3%	1.7%	15.8%
Byron	NSW	**0.8%**	1.5%	-2.3%	66.1%
Bega Valley	NSW	**0.7%**	0.6%	0.6%	15.0%
Eurobodalla	NSW	**0.7%**	0.7%	0.0%	28.3%
Mackay	QLD	**0.7%**	0.1%	1.8%	-62.8%
Victor Harbor	SA	**0.7%**	0.5%	0.8%	73.6%
Southern Downs	QLD	**0.7%**	0.5%	0.6%	0.0%
Whitsunday	QLD	**0.7%**	0.7%	0.0%	-30.9%
Gladstone	QLD	**0.7%**	0.2%	1.3%	-39.0%
Harvey	WA	**0.6%**	0.2%	1.3%	13.9%
South Burnett	QLD	**0.6%**	0.5%	0.4%	45.3%
Moira	VIC	**0.6%**	0.7%	-0.3%	34.4%
Greater Geraldton	WA	**0.5%**	0.1%	1.3%	-7.5%

* 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 outflows represents out of the sum of inflows to all LGAs that experienced a net inflow of people from other regions. See p 18 on the Appendix A4 for definitions and methodology.

A2: All 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 2025 vs 12 months to Jun 2024 (%)
Albany	WA	**0.5%**	0.4%	0.5%	-31.4%
Capel	WA	**0.5%**	0.2%	1.1%	107.5%
Clarence Valley	NSW	**0.5%**	0.2%	1.0%	-63.7%
Orange	NSW	**0.5%**	0.8%	-0.9%	-5.8%
Yass Valley	NSW	**0.5%**	0.5%	-0.1%	57.8%
Murray River	NSW	**0.5%**	0.2%	0.9%	7.6%
Goulburn Mulwaree	NSW	**0.5%**	0.4%	0.1%	0.0%
Richmond Valley	NSW	**0.5%**	0.2%	1.0%	60.3%
Strathbogie	VIC	**0.5%**	0.4%	0.3%	0.0%
East Pilbara	WA	**0.4%**	0.4%	0.2%	510.5%
Copper Coast	SA	**0.4%**	0.3%	0.4%	107.4%
Gingin	WA	**0.4%**	0.4%	0.2%	164.3%
Bunbury	WA	**0.4%**	0.3%	0.2%	27.1%
Kempsey	NSW	**0.4%**	0.3%	0.4%	26.2%
Wangaratta	VIC	**0.4%**	0.3%	0.3%	24.1%
Golden Plains	VIC	**0.4%**	0.2%	0.6%	-48.5%
Northam	WA	**0.4%**	0.2%	0.4%	-28.7%
Hindmarsh	VIC	**0.4%**	0.5%	-0.5%	68.4%
Mid-Western Regional	NSW	**0.4%**	0.6%	-0.8%	-47.5%
Wellington	VIC	**0.4%**	0.6%	-0.6%	-10.4%
Ceduna	SA	**0.3%**	0.3%	0.0%	12.3%
Denmark	WA	**0.3%**	0.3%	0.2%	89.4%
Mid Murray	SA	**0.3%**	0.2%	0.3%	11.8%
Mansfield	VIC	**0.3%**	0.4%	-0.3%	-7.8%

LGA	State	Share of TOTAL NIM (%)	Share of NET C2R Migration (%)	Share* of NET R2R Migration (%)	12 months to Jun 2025 vs 12 months to Jun 2024 (%)
Huon Valley	TAS	**0.3%**	0.3%	0.2%	192.9%
Kangaroo Island	SA	**0.3%**	0.2%	0.3%	28.1%
Murrindindi	VIC	**0.3%**	0.3%	-0.1%	400.0%
Nambucca Valley	NSW	**0.3%**	0.2%	0.3%	66.7%
Light	SA	**0.3%**	0.3%	0.0%	65.2%
Queenscliffe	VIC	**0.3%**	0.2%	0.3%	4.2%
Rockhampton	QLD	**0.3%**	0.2%	0.2%	-3.9%
Lithgow	NSW	**0.3%**	0.6%	-1.0%	238.1%
Yankalilla	SA	**0.3%**	0.2%	0.1%	68.3%
Yorke Peninsula	SA	**0.2%**	0.2%	0.1%	-7.0%
Greater Hume Shire	NSW	**0.2%**	0.1%	0.5%	22.2%
Barossa	SA	**0.2%**	0.4%	-0.4%	-42.9%
Moyne	VIC	**0.2%**	0.2%	0.2%	82.9%
Pyrenees	VIC	**0.2%**	0.2%	0.2%	146.2%
Hinchinbrook	QLD	**0.2%**	0.1%	0.3%	384.6%
Dandaragan	WA	**0.2%**	0.1%	0.3%	28.9%
Dungog	NSW	**0.2%**	0.2%	0.2%	9.4%
Donnybrook-Balingup	WA	**0.2%**	0.1%	0.3%	41.0%
Mount Alexander	VIC	**0.2%**	0.5%	-1.0%	-50.9%
Toodyay	WA	**0.2%**	0.2%	0.1%	-40.4%
Exmouth	WA	**0.2%**	0.2%	0.1%	-8.8%
Goyder	SA	**0.2%**	0.1%	0.3%	188.9%
Tablelands	QLD	**0.2%**	0.0%	0.6%	-51.0%

* 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 outflows represents out of the sum of inflows to all LGAs that experienced a net inflow of people from other regions. See p 18 on the Appendix A4 for definitions and methodology.

A4: Note on methodology

Net migration and population growth

The Regional Movers Index publication was established at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic to answer the pertinent question at the time: were capital city people fleeing to the regions? The RMI showed this to be well and truly the case. It also highlighted that regional people were tending to stay in regions and avoid those severe capital-city lockdowns.

Now that Australia is living with COVID and population flows from regions to capitals have resumed, the RMI publication is honing its focus to understand the **NET** migration inflows that Australia's regions are continuing to experience. That is, the RMI is now not only considering the one-way flow of population movements from capitals to regions, but it is also considering the population movements in the other direction, by focusing on net flows. The RMI publication is also now considering the breakdown of net migration flows into the various regional LGAs: net migration from capital cities and net migration from other regions. Together, this provides an invaluable source of information on a key driver of local population changes: net internal migration.

A region's population will change according to changes in:

- Its **natural increase** – local births minus deaths
- Its **net overseas migration** – overseas people moving in minus local people moving overseas
- Its **net internal migration** – people from other regions (within Australia) moving in minus local people moving to other regions (within Australia)
- Calculated as:
  Total Net internal migration = Net flows (inflows - outflows) from Capital to Region + Net flows (inflows - outflows) from Region to Region

The RMI's reporting on net internal migration sheds much-needed light on this notorious swing variable underneath total population changes. It will also provide policymakers, industry and communities with the added understanding of local population dynamics driven by capital city versus regional migration patterns.

A4: 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 June 2025. 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 previous 12 months 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.**

A4: 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 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 roughly 13 per cent;
- those from regional Australia to capitals account for around 10 per cent;
- those from capitals to regional Australia account for around 11 per cent, and
- those within and between capitals account for around 66 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.