



Cost of Living

Professionals and businesses look to the Toowoomba region to establish themselves in what has been described by the Courier Mail as “the Miracle City” for its “targeted investment and catalytic projects”.

For a decade, economic growth has averaged about 3.5%, exceeding the state average of 3.1%.

Toowoomba is a hub for logistics, freight and technology, driving industry to the region and exporting our products through the Brisbane West Wellcamp Airport.

The region is able to boast a growing population, connectivity to the state via our highways, a strong housing market and world-class accessible education, health care, agriculture, and government services. The current population of about 163,000 is projected to grow to 205,025 people by 2036.

“As the largest inland regional city in Australia after Canberra, it is one of the strongest and most diversified economies in Queensland.”

- Paul Syvret, The Courier-Mail

Toowoomba was named the fourth most family friendly city in Australia according to Suncorp Bank’s Family

“ Our region is recognised as one of Australia’s most diverse and stable economies, with robust commercial and industrial enterprises.

– Toowoomba Regional Council Mayor, Paul Antonio ”

Friendly City Report 2014, and in 2016 Toowoomba was voted the 5th most beautiful place in Australia by Expedia further recognising its liveability status.

The region is also a very affordable place to live with a median house price of around \$352,250 as at March 2016¹, well below the state average. The Toowoomba region’s median income level (\$43,435 p.a. in 2012/13) was close to the state average (\$44,574 p.a.) but lower house prices mean it is much easier to maintain a better lifestyle². The median house price-to-income ratio was 7.2 in 2013, lower than 6 out of the 7 South East Qld LGAs³

Toowoomba also provides a diverse range of urban areas to live, catering to a wide range of household types.

1 Source: REIQ’s Queensland Market Monitor - Mar Qtr 2016

2 Based on most recent ABS data: Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, 2012-13

3 Includes: Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Moreton Bay, Logan, Redland and Ipswich.



Modelling by .id shows that despite lower average income levels, a family of two working professionals and two children living in Toowoomba is actually financially better off than in Brisbane once lower housing and commute costs are factored in. If the value of travel time savings due to reduced traffic congestion are monetised, the family is actually more than \$9,000 better off per year.

Information by the Australian Bureau of Statistics from the 2016 Census shows the suburb Highfields grew by about 2.5%, with Cambooya-Wyreema also growing by 2.1%. Suburbs around Toowoomba including Glenvale, Highfields, Mt Lofty, Westbrook, Cotswold Hills, also have major development projects in development.

Meringandan/Kleinton and Mount Kynoch has been listed in ShapingSEQ as potential future growth areas⁴

Outside of Toowoomba, the cost of living, including housing, compared to Brisbane is -5.7% lower in Dalby, -7.9% lower in Warwick, -10.9% lower in Kingaroy and -5.1% lower in Gatton, according to the Queensland Government Prices across Queensland: how they compare: 2015.

More information in Toowoomba Region's Economic Profile, March 2017 



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4. ShapingSEQ is the Queensland Government's new regional planning framework aimed at sustainably managing change and growth in south-east Queensland. Visit <http://www.shapingseq.com.au/ShapingSEQ>