

# Mexican tide shows no signs of abating

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Brisbane is still attracting large numbers of southern citizens.

South-East Queensland continues to be the most popular destination for domestic migration, with more than 1200 people a week moving to the region from 2001-2006.

Two million Australians moved home to a new city or region between 2001 and 2006, the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows.

Of 10 regions highlighted by the ABS as having received high levels of internal migration, only two - the West Australian centres of Mandurah and Bunbury - were outside Queensland.

Brisbane received the largest influx of new residents of major regions, an addition of 178,000 people. Taking into account the people leaving Brisbane, this resulted in a net increase of around 40,000 people.

During the same five-year period, 89,700 people moved to the Gold Coast-Tweed (net 34,500) and 48,300 (net 17,500) to the Sunshine Coast. The total works out to about 1215 people a week moving to South-East Queensland, or 353 extra people a week.

Sydney was the largest sole contributor of new residents to Brisbane, responsible for approximately 30,000 people over the period (17% of all arrivals).

A number of new arrivals to the region also came from Melbourne (nearly 15,000 people, or 8% of arrivals). Intrastate migration from elsewhere in Queensland also contributed to a lot of the growth in Brisbane.

Going the other way, people fleeing Brisbane made up about one quarter of new arrivals on both the Gold and Sunshine Coasts. Former Brisbane residents also made up a large proportion of people arriving in Hervey Bay (18 per cent of arrivals).

It's not all retirees coming to Queensland, either. More than 40 per cent of those who moved interstate were aged 20-39 years of age, compared to less than nine per cent of those new residents aged 65 years and over.

"While people moving to these regions were slightly more likely to have a non-school qualification, they also tended to have slightly higher levels of unemployment; perhaps indicating that much of the attraction of these places is lifestyle rather than employment opportunities," the report said.

The data was sourced from the Australian Social Trends quarterly release