

This bulletin contains information on children and young people aged 0 to 24 years in Queensland. The data in this bulletin mainly come from the five-yearly Census of Population and Housing conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), and are based on place of usual residence unless otherwise stated. Where other sources of data have been used, these have been referenced. The topics covered in this bulletin include general demography, education, labour force, disability and caring for people with a disability.

Key points

- There were about 1,350,000 children and young people aged 0–24 years in Queensland in 2006, representing 34.5% of the State's total population. The highest proportion of 0–14 year olds was in the North West statistical division and the lowest was in the Gold Coast. Northern had the highest proportion of 15–24 year olds and Wide Bay-Burnett the lowest. The State's Indigenous population had a much younger profile with 57.4% aged 0–24 years.
- The number of people in this age group is increasing, but their proportion of the total population is declining. In 1971 there were about 850,000 persons in Queensland aged 0–24 years, making up 46.6% of the total population. By 2051 a projected 1.9 million people in Queensland will be in this age group, but they will only comprise about a quarter of the population.
- Almost 120,000 persons aged 0–24 years in Queensland in 2006 were born overseas. About 100,000 of all persons aged 0–24 spoke a language other than English at home, indicating the cultural diversity of the population.
- Young people attending infant/primary and secondary educational institutions in Queensland in 2006 numbered about 350,000 and 240,000 respectively.
- Increases above the level of population growth have been recorded in the number of full-time students aged 15–24 years attending university or other tertiary education institutions in recent years.
- Persons aged 15–19 years are more likely to be employed part-time compared with the overall workforce. Part-time employment rates for persons aged 20–24 years are more comparable with the rest of the workforce.
- The accommodation and food services and retail trade industries were the largest employers of young people, particularly 15–19 year olds.
- The top two occupations for 15–19 year olds were as sales workers and labourers, while 20–24 year olds were more likely to be employed as technicians and trades workers and clerical and administrative workers.
- Youth unemployment rates in Queensland have been trending downwards in recent years. In 2006–07, the unemployment rates for 15–19 year olds were 12.1% for males and 10.4% for females, while for 20–24 year olds the rates were 5.5% for males and 5.1% for females.

Demography

The 2006 Census counted about 3,904,500 persons resident in Queensland. Of this total, there were 1,345,700 persons aged 0–24 years, representing 34.5% of the population. Males slightly outnumbered females in the 0–24 years age group (687,300 males compared with 658,400 females, or a ratio of 51.1 to 48.9). More than 800,000 or 20.7% of the Queensland population are aged 0–14 years while a further 13.8% are aged 15–24 years.

A long-term trend in Queensland has been for an increasing number of children and young people but as a declining proportion of the total population. In the 1971 Census there were 852,000 persons¹ aged 0–24 years in Queensland, representing 46.6% of the population. By 1996 the number had increased to 1,212,800 persons², but the proportion had fallen to 37.3% of the total. In 2006 there were 1,345,700 persons² aged 0–24 years, comprising 34.5% of the total population.

These trends are projected to continue. Population projections released by the Queensland Government in 2006 show that there are projected to be 1.9 million persons aged 0–24 years in Queensland by 2051, representing just 26.7% of the total population.³

The Indigenous population has a much younger profile compared with the overall population. This is reflected in the proportion of Indigenous persons aged 0–24 years. In the 2006 Census, 57.4% of Queensland's Indigenous population were aged 0–24 years compared with 34.5% of the total population. The disparity was even greater for the 0–14 years age group. Of the total Indigenous population, 38.9% were counted in this age group compared with only 20.7% of the overall Queensland population.

The proportion of children and young people in Queensland varies between statistical divisions. The North West recorded the highest proportion of persons aged 0–14 years in its total population in the 2006 Census (26.0%), while the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast had the lowest (18.7% and 19.5% respectively). The highest proportions of persons aged 15–24 years were in Northern and Brisbane (15.3% and 14.9% respectively) while the lowest was in Wide Bay-Burnett (10.8%) (see Table 1).

¹ Based on place of enumeration.

² Based on place of usual residence.

³ Queensland Government, *Population Projections to 2051: Queensland and Statistical Divisions*, 2006 (medium series) (see www.oesr.qld.gov.au)

Table 1: Persons aged 0–14 years and 15–24 years by statistical division, Queensland, 2006

| Statistical division | Persons aged 0-14 years | % of the population | Persons aged 15-24 years | % of the population |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Brisbane | 358,748 | 20.3 | 262,557 | 14.9 |
| Gold Coast | 90,157 | 18.7 | 65,381 | 13.6 |
| Sunshine Coast | 53,920 | 19.5 | 31,958 | 11.6 |
| West Moreton | 15,039 | 21.9 | 7,941 | 11.6 |
| Wide Bay-Burnett | 52,483 | 20.6 | 27,434 | 10.8 |
| Darling Downs | 47,312 | 22.1 | 28,828 | 13.5 |
| South West | 5,859 | 23.6 | 2,896 | 11.7 |
| Fitzroy | 43,394 | 23.0 | 26,095 | 13.9 |
| Central West | 2,343 | 21.6 | 1,399 | 12.9 |
| Mackay | 32,833 | 21.9 | 19,768 | 13.2 |
| Northern | 42,960 | 21.8 | 30,002 | 15.3 |
| Far North | 52,193 | 22.6 | 28,582 | 12.4 |
| North West | 8,060 | 26.0 | 4,518 | 14.6 |
| Queensland (a) | 806,536 | 20.7 | 539,201 | 13.8 |

(a) Includes off-shore areas and migratory.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *2006 Census: Basic Community Profile*

Some 119,000 persons aged 0–24 years in Queensland in 2006 were born overseas. This is probably understated due to the large number of persons in this age group who had a 'not stated' birthplace. Main overseas countries of birth for this age group were New Zealand (33,800 persons), United Kingdom (16,100), South Africa (7,200), China (4,400), Philippines (3,600), Taiwan (3,500), South Korea (3,400) and United States (3,100).

A further indication of the cultural diversity of children and young people in Queensland is the number who speak a language other than English at home. At the time of the 2006 Census, 102,600 persons aged 0–24 years spoke another language at home.

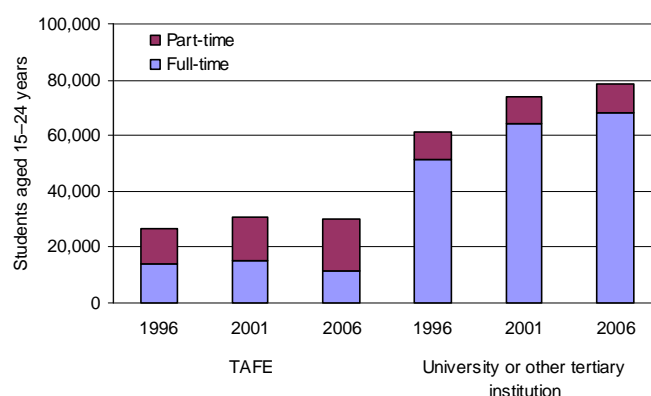
Education

Increasing numbers of young persons are attending infants/primary and secondary educational institutions in Queensland. These increases can be explained mainly by an increase in the number of persons of schooling age. Between the 1996 and 2006 Censuses, attendance at an infants or primary educational institution increased from 325,600 persons to 348,500 persons, while attendance at a secondary educational institution increased from 208,300 persons to 236,700 persons.⁴

The number of 15–24 year olds attending tertiary educational institutions in Queensland has continued to increase above the level of increase in the population, while the number attending a technical or further education (TAFE) institution has increased in line with population. According to the 1996 Census, there were 26,800 persons aged 15–24 years attending a TAFE institution and 61,400 attending a university or other tertiary institution in Queensland. By the 2006 Census, these numbers had increased to 29,800 and 78,300 persons respectively, representing increases of 11.1% and 27.5% over this period (see Figure 1).

There was a shift towards full-time study for young people, with the overall increase in students aged 15–24 years in tertiary education being accounted for by an increase in full-time students from 51,200 in 1996 to 68,400 in 2006 (increasing the proportion of full-time students from 83.3% and 87.3%). Over the same period, the numbers of part-time students aged 15–24 years decreased slightly from 10,300 to 9,900.

In contrast, the proportion of students aged 15–24 years studying full-time at TAFE decreased from 50.9% to 38.0% between 1996 and 2006, with 11,300 studying full-time in 2006 and 18,500 studying part-time.

Figure 1: Students aged 15–24 years at TAFE or university by enrolment status, Queensland, 1996, 2001 and 2006

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census Tables*, cat. no. 2068.0

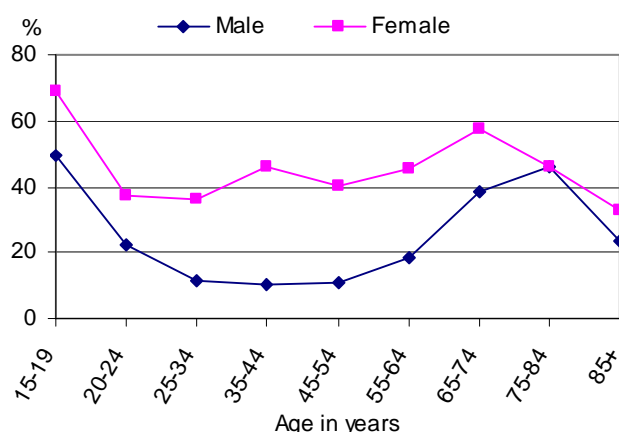
Labour force

Labour force data are collected from persons aged 15 years and over in the Census of Population and Housing and in the monthly Labour Force Survey conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

At the time of the 2006 Census, there were 330,800 employed persons aged 15–24 years counted in Queensland, representing 18.1% of all employed persons. In this age group, there were 168,700 employed males and 162,100 employed females.

Younger persons, in the 15–19 years age group, are more likely to be employed part-time compared with the overall workforce. Just over two-thirds (68.9%) of employed females and almost half (49.7%) of employed males aged 15–19 years in Queensland were employed part-time in 2006. Part-time employment rates for persons aged 20–24 years were 37.6% for females and 22.2% for males, more comparable with the rest of the workforce (see Figure 2).

⁴ Based on place of enumeration. Excludes those who stated that they attended an educational institution but did not state the type of educational institution.

Figure 2: Part-time employment as a proportion of total employment, by sex, Queensland, 2006


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006 Census: Basic Community Profile

Over half of all employed 15–19 year olds (53.8%) and more than a quarter of employed 20–24 year olds (27.8%) in 2006 were in retail trade and accommodation and food services. The next two largest employers of young people were in manufacturing and construction, accounting for 14.8% of employed 15–19 year olds and 19.2% of employed 20–24 year olds (see Table 2).

Table 2: Employment by industry, persons aged 15–19 years and 20–24 years, Queensland, 2006

| Industry | 15–19 years | | 20–24 years | |
|---|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % |
| Agriculture, forestry & fishing | 2,460 | 1.8 | 3,997 | 2.1 |
| Mining | 641 | 0.5 | 2,681 | 1.4 |
| Manufacturing | 10,640 | 7.7 | 18,496 | 9.6 |
| Electricity, gas, water & waste services | 474 | 0.3 | 1,361 | 0.7 |
| Construction | 9,904 | 7.1 | 18,360 | 9.6 |
| Wholesale trade | 3,254 | 2.3 | 7,007 | 3.6 |
| Retail trade | 43,550 | 31.4 | 31,371 | 16.3 |
| Accommodation & food services | 31,013 | 22.4 | 21,987 | 11.4 |
| Transport, postal & warehousing | 1,916 | 1.4 | 5,528 | 2.9 |
| Information media & telecommunications | 1,287 | 0.9 | 3,119 | 1.6 |
| Financial & insurance services | 1,309 | 0.9 | 5,494 | 2.9 |
| Rental, hiring & real estate services | 2,494 | 1.8 | 3,857 | 2.0 |
| Professional, scientific & technical services | 3,578 | 2.6 | 11,935 | 6.2 |
| Administrative & support services | 3,065 | 2.2 | 5,963 | 3.1 |
| Public administration & safety | 2,700 | 1.9 | 9,666 | 5.0 |
| Education & training | 2,835 | 2.0 | 9,130 | 4.8 |
| Health care & social assistance | 4,828 | 3.5 | 15,045 | 7.8 |
| Arts & recreation services | 2,195 | 1.6 | 3,477 | 1.8 |
| Other services | 5,690 | 4.1 | 8,264 | 4.3 |
| Total employed (a) | 138,606 | 100.0 | 192,180 | 100.0 |

(a) Includes inadequately described and not stated responses.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006 Census: Basic Community Profile

Young people aged 15–24 years made up 18.1% of employed people. The industries which relied on young workers to the greatest extent were accommodation and food services (41.5% of employees aged 15–24 years) and retail trade (35.3% aged 15–24 years).

In the 2006 Census, the largest proportions of 15–19 year olds were employed as sales workers (34.0% of those in employment) and labourers (20.6%). For 20–24 year olds, the main occupations were as technicians and trades workers (19.6%), clerical and administrative workers (14.4%) and sales workers (14.0%) (see Table 3).

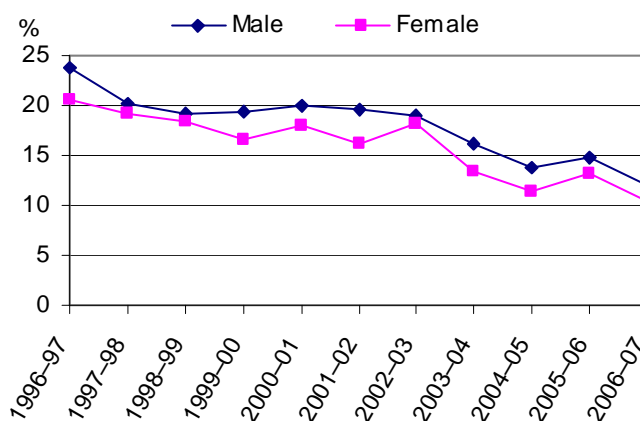
Table 3: Employment by occupation, persons aged 15–19 years and 20–24 years and total persons, Queensland, 2006

| Occupation | 15–19 years | 20–24 years | Total persons |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| | % | % | % |
| Managers | 1.7 | 5.4 | 12.4 |
| Professionals | 2.0 | 12.7 | 17.1 |
| Technicians & trades workers | 16.7 | 19.6 | 15.4 |
| Community & personal service workers | 11.4 | 13.2 | 9.1 |
| Clerical & administrative workers | 8.4 | 14.4 | 14.8 |
| Sales workers | 34.0 | 14.0 | 10.4 |
| Machinery operators & drivers | 3.1 | 5.9 | 7.2 |
| Labourers | 20.6 | 13.3 | 11.9 |
| Total employed (a) | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

(a) Includes inadequately described and not stated responses.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006 Census: Basic Community Profile

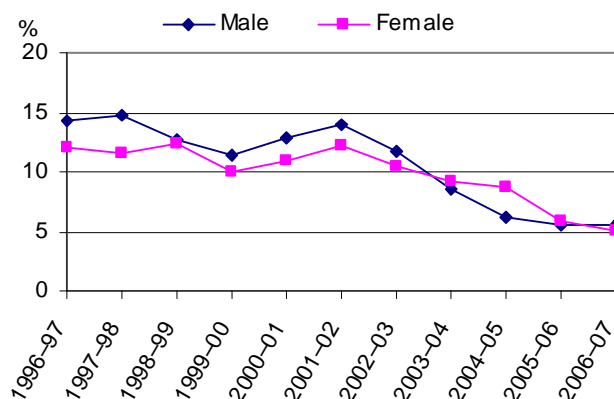
Youth unemployment rates in Queensland have been trending downwards in recent years. The male unemployment rate for 15–19 year olds fell from 23.8% in 1996–97 to 12.1% in 2006–07, while the female rate decreased from 20.7% to 10.4% over the same period (see Figure 3 and Table 4).

Figure 3: Unemployment rate (a), 15–19 years age group, by sex, Queensland, 1996–97 to 2006–07


(a) Average annual rate.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Labour Force Survey, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001

The unemployment rates for 20–24 year olds were generally below those for 15–19 year olds. The male unemployment rate decreased from 14.3% in 1996–97 to 5.5% in 2006–07, while the female rate decreased from 12.1% to 5.1% (see Figure 4 and Table 4).

Figure 4: Unemployment rate (a), 20–24 years age group, by sex, Queensland, 1996–97 to 2006–07

(a) Average annual rate.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Labour Force Survey*, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001**Table 4: Unemployment rate (a), persons aged 15–19 years and 20–24 years, by sex, Queensland, 1996–97 to 2006–07**

| Year | 15–19 years | | 20–24 years | |
|---------|-------------|----------|-------------|----------|
| | Male % | Female % | Male % | Female % |
| 1996–97 | 23.8 | 20.7 | 14.3 | 12.1 |
| 1997–98 | 20.2 | 19.2 | 14.8 | 11.6 |
| 1998–99 | 19.2 | 18.3 | 12.7 | 12.4 |
| 1999–00 | 19.4 | 16.6 | 11.5 | 9.9 |
| 2000–01 | 19.9 | 17.9 | 12.8 | 10.9 |
| 2001–02 | 19.6 | 16.2 | 14.0 | 12.2 |
| 2002–03 | 19.0 | 18.2 | 11.8 | 10.6 |
| 2003–04 | 16.3 | 13.4 | 8.6 | 9.1 |
| 2004–05 | 13.8 | 11.5 | 6.2 | 8.7 |
| 2005–06 | 14.8 | 13.2 | 5.6 | 5.9 |
| 2006–07 | 12.1 | 10.3 | 5.5 | 5.1 |

(a) Average annual rate.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Labour Force Survey*, cat. no. 6291.0.55.001

Disability and carers

Questions on the need for assistance with core activities (self-care, mobility and communication) were asked for the first time in the Census of Population and Housing in 2006. The results showed that of 0–24 year olds, 13,600 males (2.0%) and 7,800 females (1.2%) had a profound or severe disability. Another new question indicated that 22,100 young people aged 15–24 years (or 4.1%) provided unpaid assistance to a family member or other person with a disability.

Queensland Treasury

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Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian

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Statistics and information on the safety, health and wellbeing of children and young people aged under 18 years can be found in the Commission's *Snapshot 2007: Children and young people in Queensland*
www.ccypcg.qld.gov.au/about/publications/snapShot07.html

Other Commission reports provide information on children and young people in the child protection and juvenile justice systems and on child deaths.

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