

This bulletin provides statistical information on Queensland's labour force. The main source of the data is the 2006 Census of Population and Housing conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Statistics in this bulletin are based on place of usual residence and only include those persons aged 15 years and over. Those residents overseas at the time of the census are not included. 'Not stated' and 'Inadequately described' responses are included in totals used for the calculation of proportions. This means that data in the remaining categories may be understated to a small extent.

Key points

- Queensland's labour force totalled more than 1.9 million persons in 2006. The participation rate was 61.8%, while the unemployment rate was 4.7%.
- Labour force status varied with age, sex and country of birth. Younger and older persons had lower participation rates. Females had a lower rate than males.
- Almost two-thirds (64.7%) of the workforce were in full-time positions in 2006. Younger persons, older persons and females were more likely to work part-time.
- There were considerable differences in male to female ratios across industries. The most male dominated industry was mining (86.7%), while the highest proportion of females was in health care and social assistance (78.8%).
- Industries with the oldest age profiles were agriculture, forestry and fishing; transport, postal and warehousing; education and training; and health care and social assistance. Those with the youngest profiles were accommodation and food services, and retail trade.
- With respect to occupations, almost one-quarter (24.5%) of males were employed as technicians and trade workers, while just over one-quarter (25.3%) of females were employed as clerical and administrative workers.
- The youngest age profile was for sales workers, labourers, and community and personal service workers. The oldest age profile was for managers, machinery operators and drivers, professionals, and clerical and administrative workers.
- Non-school qualifications were held by 53.8% of employed persons. The education and training (80.0%), professional, scientific and technical services (70.9%) and health care and social assistance (70.7%) industries had the largest proportion of persons with non-school qualifications.
- High income earners tended to be male, persons aged 45 years and over, owner managers of incorporated enterprises, and mining industry workers. Lowest paid were younger persons and contributing family workers.
- More than two-thirds (67.6%) of Queensland's workforce were employed in the south-east. Highest unemployment rates were in Wide Bay-Burnett (7.6%), Sunshine Coast (5.8%) and Gold Coast (5.3%). These regions, and West Moreton, also had the lowest participation rates. The lowest unemployment rates and highest participation rates were in the western areas.

Labour force status

At the time of the 2006 Census, Queensland's population aged 15 years and over was nearly 3.1 million (see Table 1) out of a total population of more than 3.9 million. The State had a labour force of more than 1.9 million persons. More than 95% of these people were employed, leaving an unemployment rate of 4.7%. The unemployment rate for males (4.4%) was slightly lower than that for females (5.1%). The labour force participation rate, i.e. the proportion of persons 15 years and over who were in the labour force, was 61.8%.

Table 1: Labour force (a) status by sex, Queensland, 2006

	Males	Females	Persons
Employed	984,568	840,429	1,824,997
Unemployed	45,636	45,314	90,950
<i>Total labour force (b)</i>	<i>1,030,204</i>	<i>885,743</i>	<i>1,915,947</i>
Not in the labour force	381,037	590,791	971,828
Labour force status not stated	110,256	99,964	210,220
Total population aged 15 years and over	1,521,497	1,576,498	3,097,995
Unemployment rate (%) (c)	4.4	5.1	4.7
Labour force participation rate (%) (d)	67.7	56.2	61.8

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

(b) Employed plus unemployed persons. It measures the number of people contributing to, actively looking for, and immediately available for work.

(c) Unemployed persons as a percentage of the total labour force.

(d) Labour force expressed as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over. It measures the proportion of the population who form the labour supply.

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

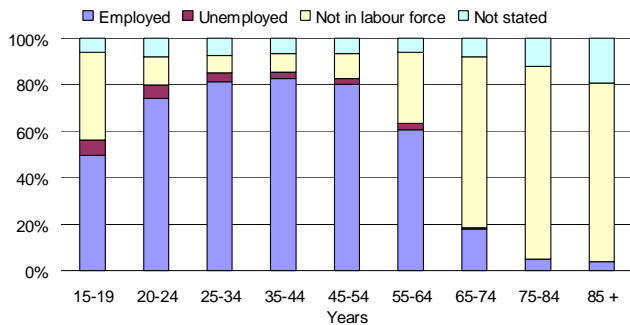
The Australian labour force participation rate was 60.4% in 2006, 1.4 percentage points lower than the rate for Queensland. The male rate for Australia was 66.6%, 1.1 percentage points below Queensland, while the female rate for the nation was 54.4%, 1.8 percentage points lower than the Queensland rate.

The unemployment rate for Australia in 2006 was 5.2%, higher than the Queensland rate of 4.7%. For males, the national rate of 5.2% was 0.8 percentage point above the state rate. For females, the Australian unemployment rate was 5.3%, which was 0.2 percentage point above Queensland's rate.

Over the five years to 2006, the number of persons employed in Queensland increased by 270,800, from 1,554,200 in 2001. Male employment grew by 134,300 in that time, while the number of females in employment rose by 136,500. The total unemployment rate fell substantially, from 8.3% in 2001 to 4.7% in 2006. The male rate of 4.4% in 2006 was about half the 2001 rate of 8.9%. The female rate fell from 7.6% to 5.1% during that time. The overall participation rate rose 0.5 percentage point, with the male rate down 1.1 percentage points and the female rate up 2.1 percentage points.

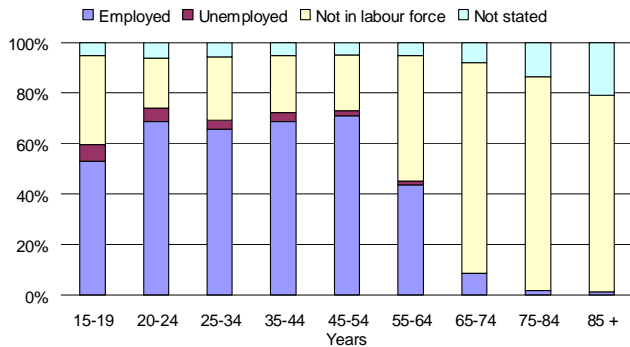
Labour force status varied considerably with age. The proportion of persons in the labour force in Queensland in 2006 was relatively low for persons aged 15-19 years and also fell away steadily from age 55 years for both males (see Figure 1) and females (see Figure 2).

Figure 1: Labour force status by age group, males, Queensland, 2006



Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Figure 2: Labour force status by age group, females, Queensland, 2006



Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

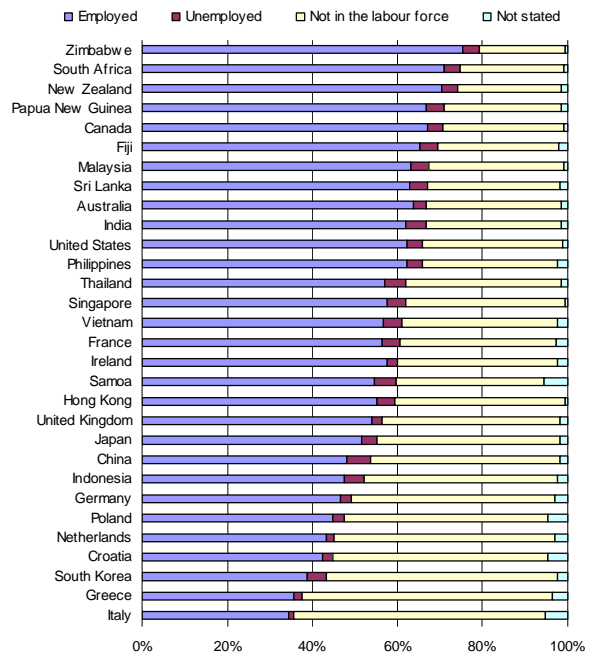
The proportion of males in the labour force was generally higher than for females except for the 15-19 years age group. The participation rates for males in the 20-54 years age groups were in the range 80-85%. Female participation rates peaked at around 72-74% for ages 20-24 years and 35-54 years, dipping slightly for ages 25-34 years when more women have full-time family responsibilities. The charts also show that the proportion of unemployed persons generally declined with age for both males and females.

Labour force status also varied by country of birth (see Figure 3). Those with the highest proportions of persons in the labour force in Queensland in 2006 were Zimbabwe (79.4%), South Africa (74.6%), New Zealand (74.2%), Papua New Guinea (70.9%), Canada (70.7%), Fiji (69.6%), Malaysia (67.2%), Sri Lanka (67.0%) and Australia (66.9%). Those with the lowest proportions were Italy (35.5%), Greece (37.4%) and South Korea (43.4%). Participation rates for persons from countries such as Italy and Greece are low as a large number of these people arrived in Australia earlier than those from other countries and are consequently older.

The highest proportions of unemployed persons were for those born in China, Samoa, Thailand, South Korea, India, Indonesia and Vietnam. The lowest proportions were from Italy, Netherlands, Greece, United Kingdom, Croatia, Germany and Ireland.

While female participation was lower than male participation across all countries of birth, the patterns of male and female participation were generally similar, i.e. if female participation

Figure 3: Labour force status by country of birth, Queensland, 2006



Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

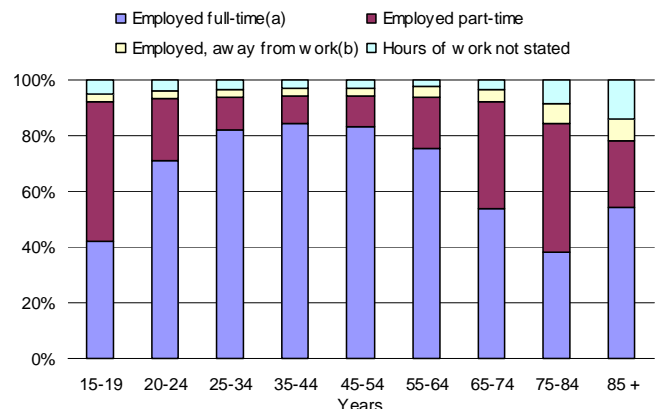
for a particular country of birth was relatively high/low, male participation was also relatively high/low. Females born in Greece and Italy, for example, had particularly low participation rates of 27.0% and 26.9% respectively.

Employment status

Almost two-thirds (64.7%) of persons employed in Queensland in 2006 were in full-time positions and less than a third (29.1%) were in part-time jobs. Whereas 77.4% of employed males were in full-time positions and 16.5% in part-time work, employed females were more evenly spread between full-time (49.9%) and part-time (43.8%) employment.

Employment status also varied according to age, with part-time employment being more common among younger and older age groups for both males (see Figure 4) and females (see Figure 5).

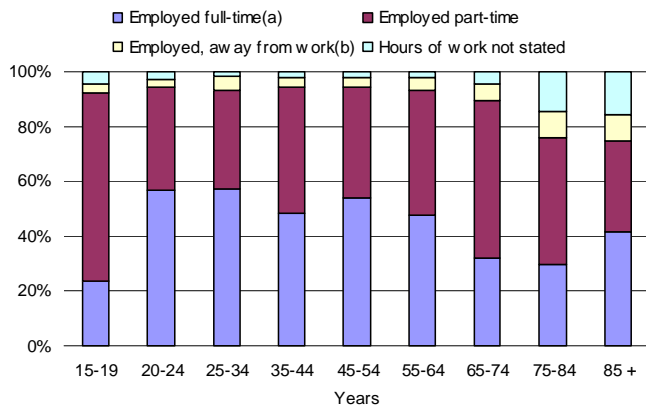
Figure 4: Employment status by age group, males, Queensland, 2006



- (a) 'Employed, worked full-time' is defined as having worked 35 hours or more in all jobs during the week prior to census night.
- (b) Comprises employed persons who did not work any hours in the week prior to census night.

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Figure 5: Employment status by age group, females, Queensland, 2006



(a) 'Employed, worked full-time' is defined as having worked 35 hours or more in all jobs during the week prior to census night.
 (b) Comprises employed persons who did not work any hours in the week prior to census night.
 Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

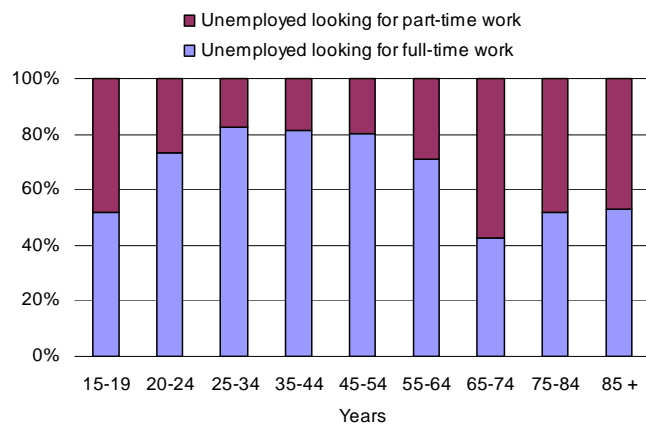
Around 83% or more of employed males aged 25-54 years were employed full-time. However, family responsibilities are reflected in employment status data for females, resulting in a lower proportion of females employed full-time compared with males at all age groups. Part-time employment was more popular with females aged 35-44 years than for age groups immediately younger or older.

Unemployment status

About six in 10 (60.6%) unemployed persons in Queensland in 2006 were seeking full-time work and 39.4% were looking for part-time jobs. While 72.6% of unemployed males were looking for full-time employment, only 48.5% of unemployed females sought full-time work.

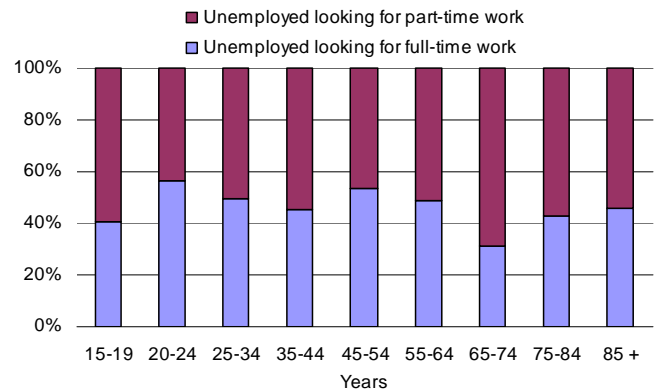
Unemployment status by age (see Figures 6 and 7) followed a similar pattern to employment status by age. Unemployed younger and older persons were more likely to seek part-time work. A higher proportion of unemployed females aged 35-44 years were looking for part-time work compared with unemployed females immediately younger or older.

Figure 6: Unemployment status by age group, males, Queensland, 2006



Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Figure 7: Unemployment status by age group, females, Queensland, 2006

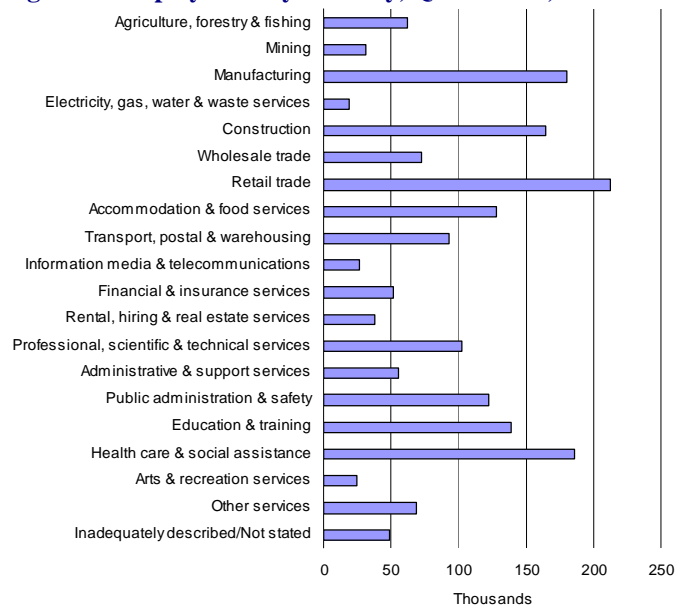


Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Employment by industry

Figure 8 indicates that retail trade employed the largest number of people in Queensland in 2006 (about 212,400 persons or 11.6% of all jobs). This was followed by health care and social assistance (10.2% of the total), manufacturing (9.9%) and construction (9.0%).

Figure 8: Employment by industry, Queensland, 2006

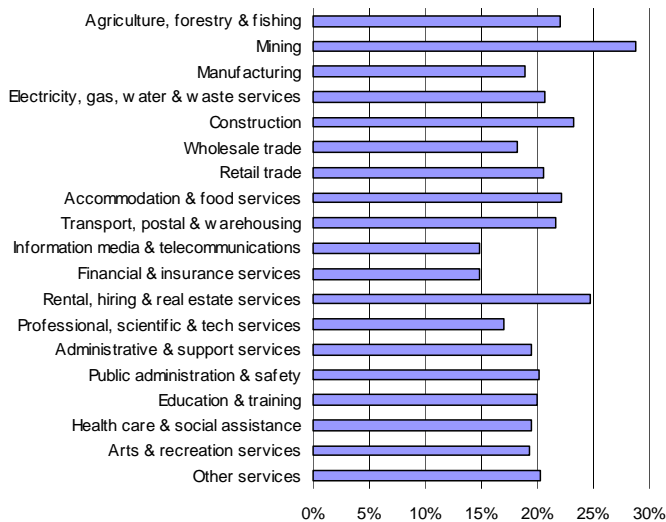


Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

The proportion of the State's employed labour force in construction increased from 6.9% in 2001 to 9.0% in 2006, while health care and social assistance rose from 9.5% to 10.2%, professional, scientific and technical services from 5.4% to 5.6%, and mining from 1.2% to 1.7%. The proportion in manufacturing fell from 10.5% to 9.9%, while education and training decreased from 8.0% to 7.6%, accommodation and food services from 7.4% to 7.0%, and agricultural, forestry and fishing from 4.7% to 3.4%.

Queensland accounted for 20.0% of employment in Australia in 2006. Industries where the State's proportion of national employment was highest were mining (28.7%), rental, hiring and real estate services (24.7%) and construction (23.2%) (see Figure 9). The lowest proportions were in financial and insurance services (14.9%), information media and telecommunications (14.9%) and professional, scientific and technical services (17.0%).

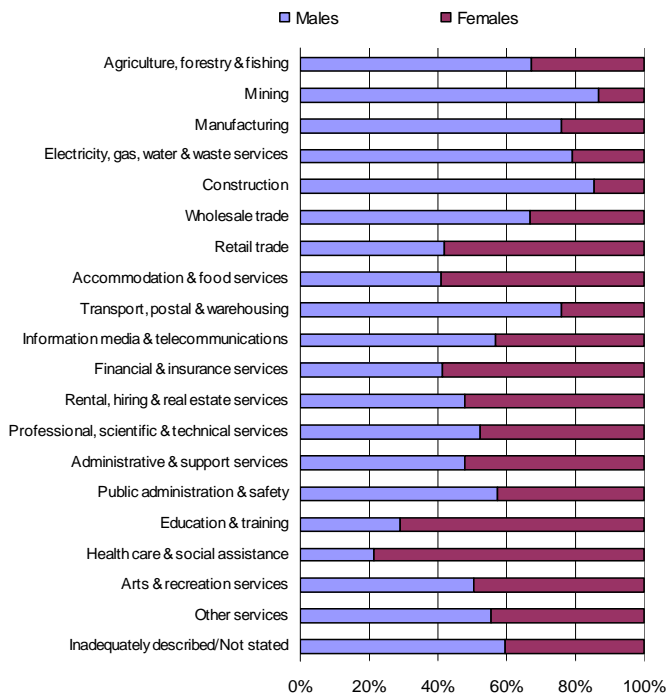
Figure 9: Employment by industry, Queensland as a percentage of Australia, 2006



Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

There were substantial differences in the distribution of males and females across industries in Queensland in 2006 (see Figure 10). The most male dominated industry was mining, with males making up 86.7% of employment. Other industries with a high proportion of males were construction (85.6%), electricity, gas, water and waste services (79.2%), transport, postal and warehousing (76.1%) and manufacturing (75.9%). Industries where females dominated were health care and social assistance (78.8%), education and training (71.0%), accommodation and food services (59.2%) and financial and insurance services (58.8%).

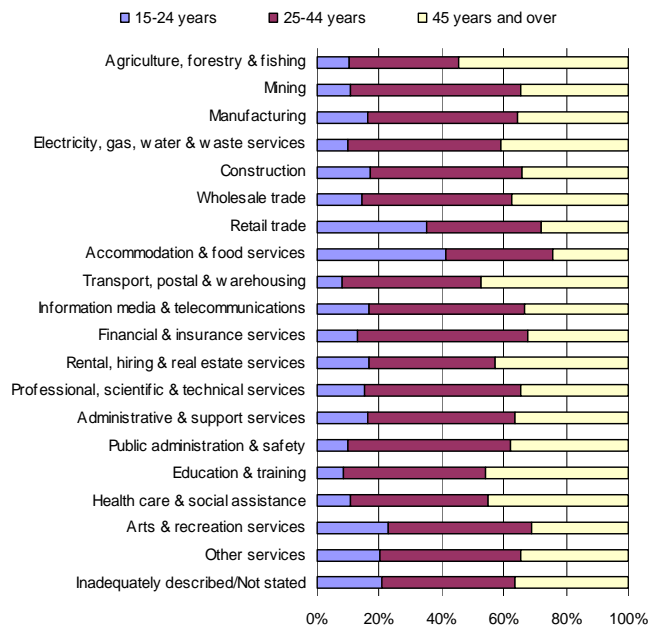
Figure 10: Employment by industry by sex, Queensland, 2006



Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

The age distribution of employed persons also varied substantially across industries (see Figure 11). The proportion of persons aged 15-24 years was considerably higher in accommodation and food services (41.5%) and retail trade (35.3%) compared with other industries. The industries with the greatest proportion of employed persons aged 45 years and over were agriculture, forestry and fishing (54.7%), transport, postal and warehousing (47.2%) and education and training (46.1%). Industries with the largest proportion aged 25-44 years were mining (54.7%), financial and insurance services (54.3%) and public administration and safety (52.0%).

Figure 11: Employment by industry by age group, Queensland, 2006

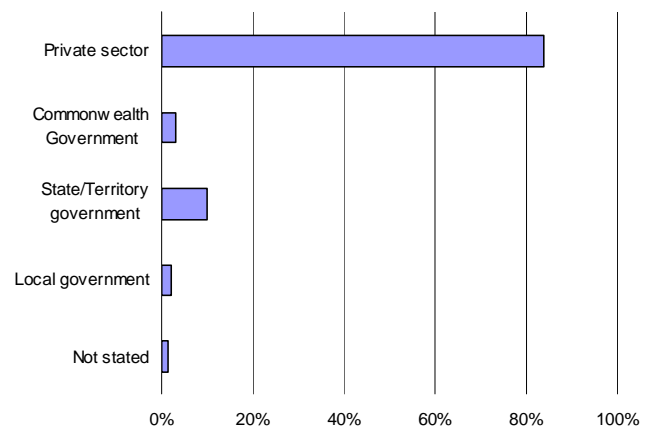


Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Employment by industry sector

Over four-fifths (83.7%) of employed persons in Queensland in 2006 worked in the private sector (see Figure 12). A further 9.9% were employed by state/territory government, 3.3% by the Commonwealth government and 1.9% by local government.

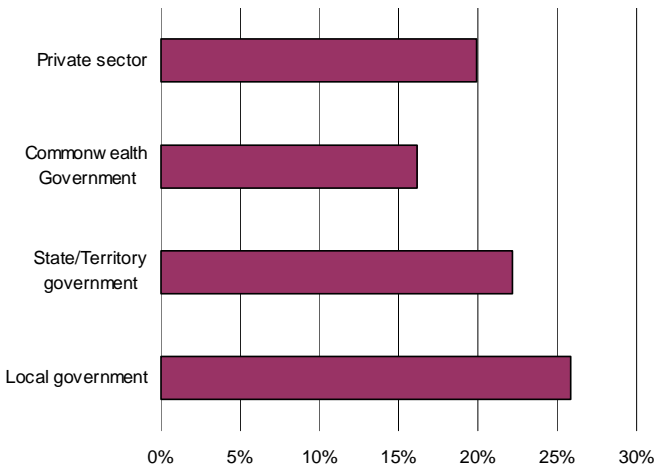
Figure 12: Employment by industry sector, Queensland, 2006



Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

One-fifth (20.0%) of Australia's population resided in Queensland at the time of the 2006 Census. Queensland had an almost equal proportion (19.9%) of persons working in private enterprise to the rest of Australia, but had proportionately more local (25.8%) and state (22.2%) government employees than the rest of Australia and fewer Commonwealth government (16.2%) employees (see Figure 13).

Figure 13: Employment by industry sector, Queensland as a percentage of Australia, 2006

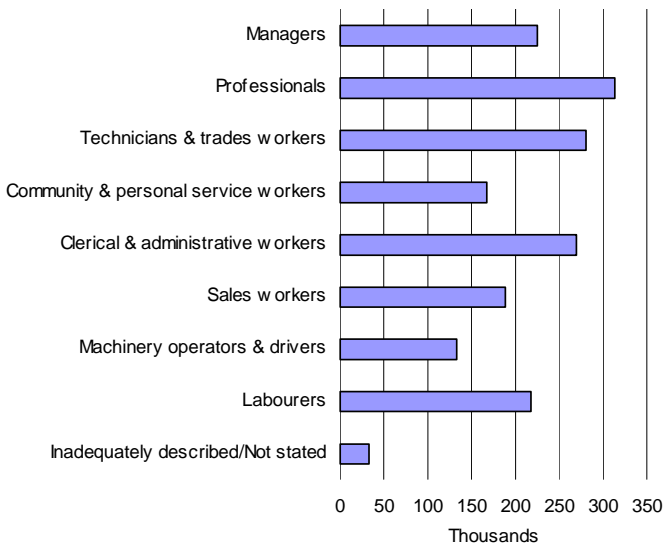


Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Employment by occupation

The occupation with the largest number of people in Queensland in 2006 was professionals, employing 312,900 persons or 17.1% of all employed persons (see Figure 14). The next largest occupation was technicians and trades workers with 15.4% of the total.

Figure 14: Employment by occupation, Queensland, 2006

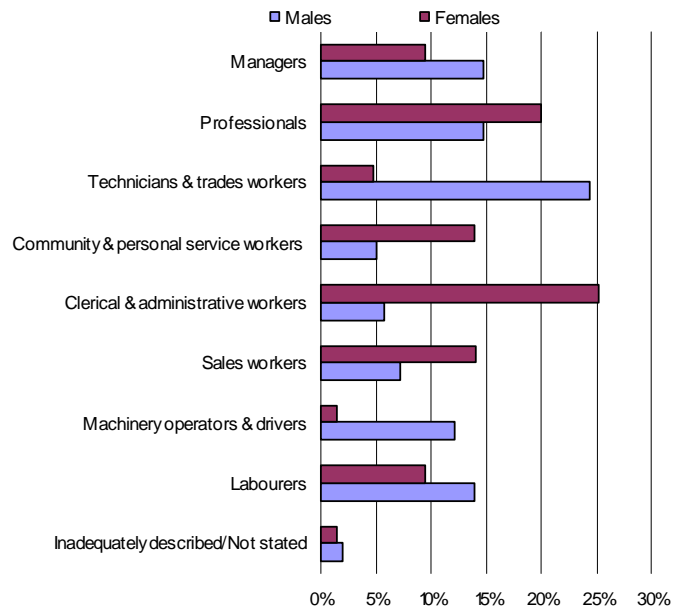


Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

The proportion of professionals in the Queensland employed labour force increased from 16.4% in 2001 to 17.1% in 2006, while technicians and trades workers rose from 14.8% to 15.4% and labourers went up from 11.5% to 11.9%. Other occupations fell slightly as a proportion of the total, although all occupations recorded a solid increase in numbers employed. In comparison, Australia had a greater proportion of managers (13.2%) and professionals (19.8%) than Queensland in 2006.

There were major differences in the distribution of males and females across occupations (see Figure 15). Almost one-quarter (24.5%) of males were employed as technicians and trades workers, compared with 4.7% of females. Conversely, over one-quarter (25.3%) of females were employed as clerical and administrative workers compared with 5.8% of males.

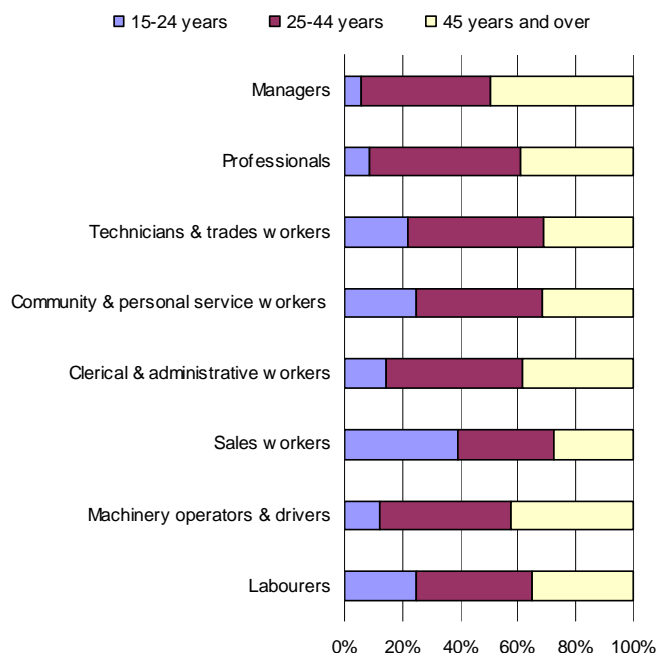
Figure 15: Employment by occupation by sex, Queensland, 2006



Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

There were also significant differences in age structure across occupations (see Figure 16). The occupations that generally require qualifications and/or considerable experience had higher proportions of older workers. The youngest age profiles were for sales workers, labourers, and community and personal service workers. The oldest age profiles were for managers, machinery operators and drivers, professionals, and clerical and administrative workers.

Figure 16: Employment by occupation by age group, Queensland, 2006



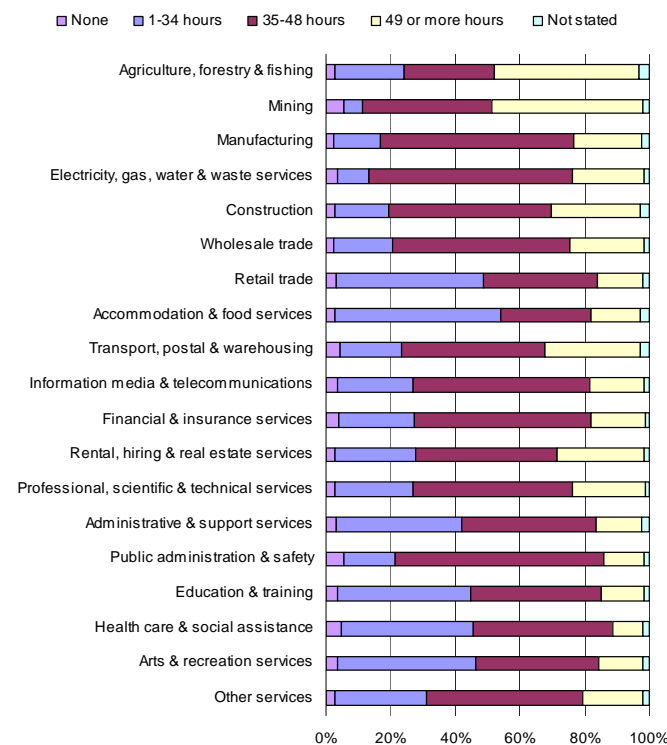
Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Hours worked

Almost two-thirds (64.7%) of employed persons in Queensland worked full-time, i.e. at least 35 hours, in the week before the 2006 Census. Less than one-third (29.1%) of employed persons worked part-time or 1 to 34 hours. More than four times as many employed males worked full-time (77.4%) compared with part-time (16.5%). Females were more evenly divided between full-time (49.9%) and part-time (43.8%). About a fifth (19.2%) of employed persons worked 49 or more hours a week, with 27.5% of males and 9.5% of females working these hours.

Industries with the greatest proportion of employed persons working full-time were the male dominated industries of mining (86.7%), electricity, gas, water and waste services (85.1%) and manufacturing (81.2%) (see Figure 17). The highest proportion of employed persons working 49 or more hours a week was in mining (46.7%), followed by agriculture, forestry and fishing (44.6%). The industries with the largest proportion of part-time workers were accommodation and food services (51.3%), retail trade (45.5%), arts and recreation services (42.5%), education and training (41.1%) and health care and social assistance (40.6%).

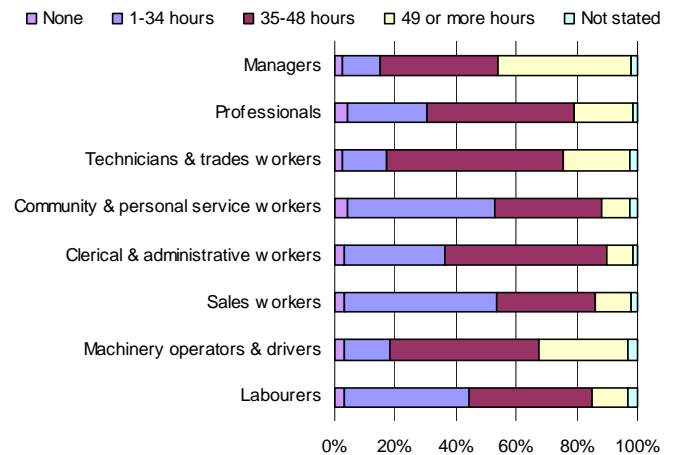
Figure 17: Employment by industry by hours worked in a week, Queensland, 2006



Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

The occupation with the greatest proportion of persons working full-time was managers (83.1%) (see Figure 18). Managers also had the highest proportion (43.8%) who worked 49 or more hours in the week before the census. Other occupations with a high proportion of full-time workers were technicians and trades workers (80.0%) and machinery operators and drivers (78.7%). The occupations with the highest proportion of part-time workers were sales workers (50.5%) and community and personal service workers (48.9%).

Figure 18: Employment by occupation by hours worked in a week, Queensland, 2006



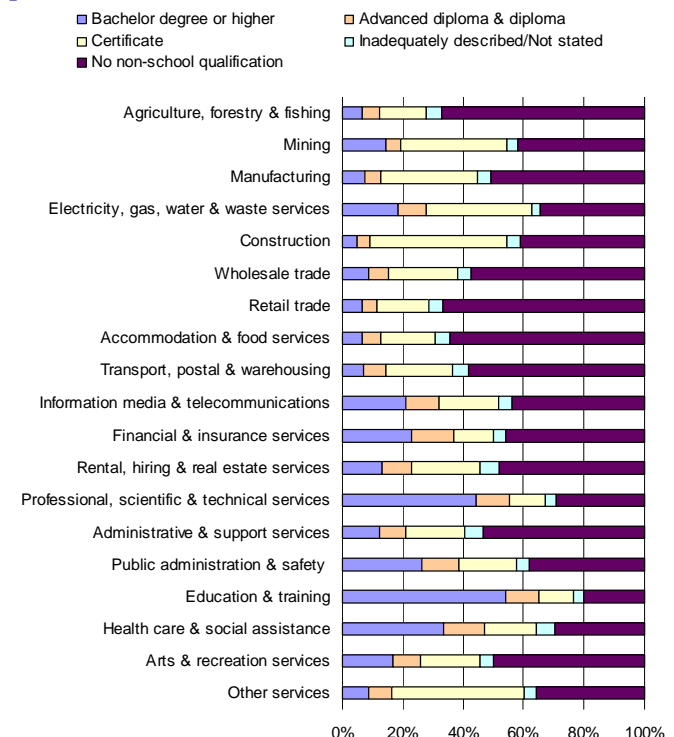
Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Qualifications of employed persons

Non-school qualifications were held by 50.4% of persons 15 years and over in Queensland in 2006. In comparison, 53.8% of employed persons held non-school qualifications. While a larger proportion of employed males than employed females held non-school qualifications, there was a predominance of certificate qualifications among males. More employed females held a university qualification than did employed males.

Industries with the greatest proportion of employed persons with a non-school qualification were education and training (80.0%), professional, scientific and technical services (70.9%) and health care and social assistance (70.7%) (see Figure 19). The industry with the highest proportion of persons with a bachelor degree or higher qualification was education and training (53.9%), followed by professional, scientific and technical services (44.4%) and health care and social assistance (33.8%).

Figure 19: Employment by industry by highest non-school qualification, Queensland, 2006

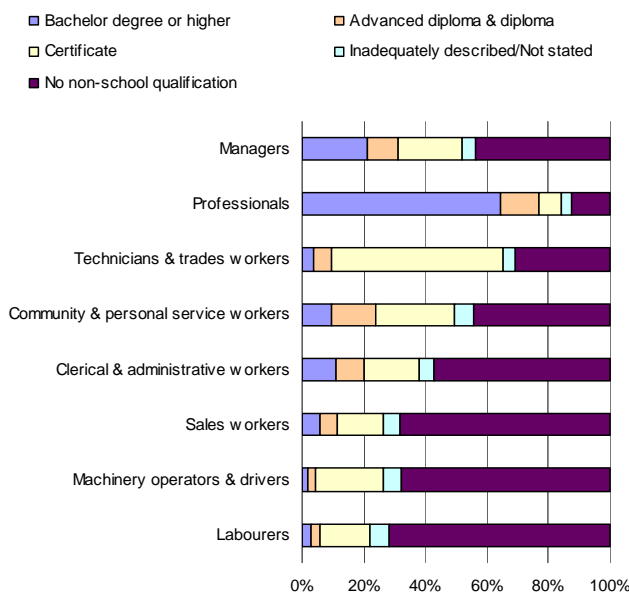


Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

The highest proportions of persons with advanced diploma and diploma qualifications were in financial and insurance services (14.1%), health care and social assistance (13.2%) and public administration and safety (12.1%). Highest proportions of persons with a certificate qualification were in construction (45.5%) and other services (44.0%). Industries with the largest proportion of employed persons without non-school qualifications were agriculture, forestry and fishing (67.3%), retail trade (66.8%) and accommodation and food services (64.4%).

On an occupation basis, the proportion of persons with a non-school qualification ranged from 87.7% for professionals to 28.6% for labourers (see Figure 20). The highest proportion of employed persons with a bachelor degree or higher qualification was professionals (64.3%). The occupation with the greatest proportion holding a certificate qualification was technicians and trades workers (44.0%).

Figure 20: Employment by occupation by highest non-school qualification, Queensland, 2006



Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Individual income of employed persons

Income levels of employed males tended to be higher than those of employed females (see Figure 21). The proportion of males in Queensland in 2006 earning \$2,000 and over per week (6.9%) was more than four times greater than the proportion of employed females in this income bracket (1.7%). At lower income levels, the proportions of females in the categories \$1 to \$149, \$150 to \$249 and \$250 to \$399 were over twice that for males.

A major reason for the disparities is that a larger proportion of males are employed full-time and a larger proportion of females work part-time. However, males working full-time had higher incomes on average than females working full-time. Similarly, for part-time workers, males had higher incomes than females, although for those earning between \$1 and \$149, there was a greater proportion of males than females.

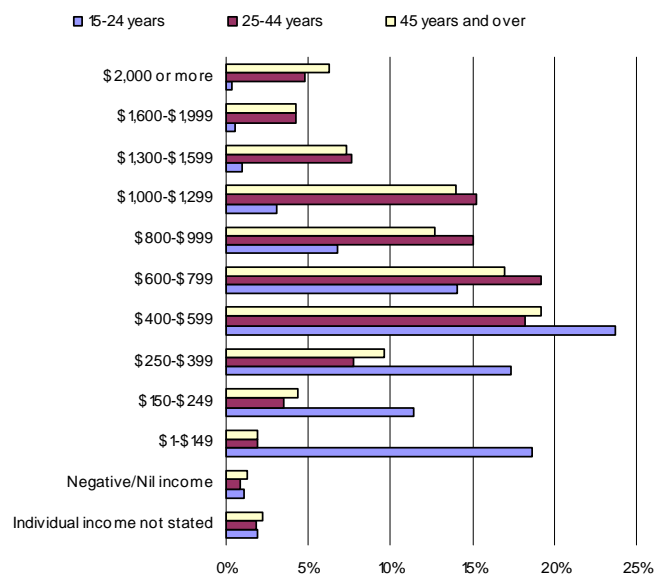
Figure 21: Weekly income of employed persons by sex, Queensland, 2006



Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Not surprisingly, older employed persons rather than younger persons were predominant in the higher income brackets (see Figure 22). Among employed persons aged 15-24 years, only 49.4% had an income of \$400 or more a week. In contrast, 84.2% of employed persons aged 25-44 years and 80.6% of those aged 45 years and over received this level of income.

Figure 22: Weekly income of employed persons by age group, Queensland, 2006

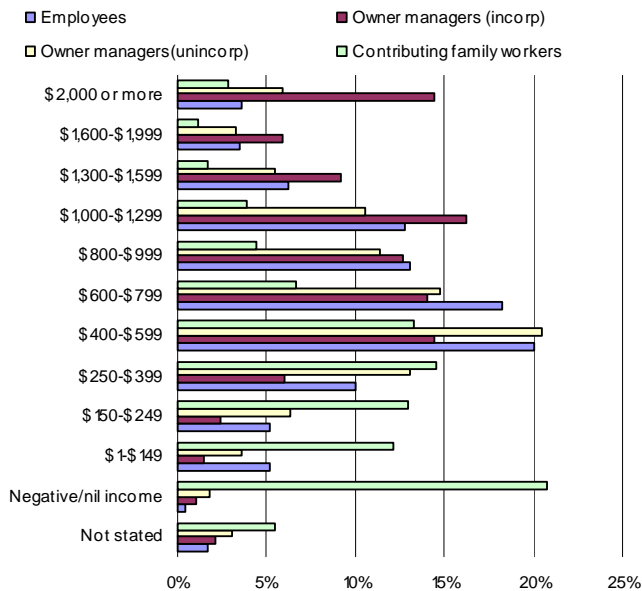


Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

In general, contributing family workers dominated the lower income ranges, while employees featured strongly in the middle income ranges and owner managers of incorporated enterprises were over-represented in the highest range (see Figure 23). Almost three in four (73.7%) contributing family workers earned less than \$600 a week, compared with 40.8% of employees, 45.4% of owner managers of unincorporated enterprises and 25.4% of owner managers of incorporated enterprises.

The proportion of employees with an income level of \$600 to \$999 (31.4%) was higher than that for owner managers of incorporated (26.7%) and unincorporated enterprises (26.2%) and contributing family workers (11.1%). The proportion of owner managers of incorporated enterprises earning \$1,000 and over a week (45.8%) was nearly twice the proportion for employees (26.1%) and owner managers of unincorporated enterprises (25.3%), and more than four times that of contributing family workers (9.7%). The highest proportion of persons earning in excess of \$2,000 a week was owner managers of incorporated enterprises (14.5%).

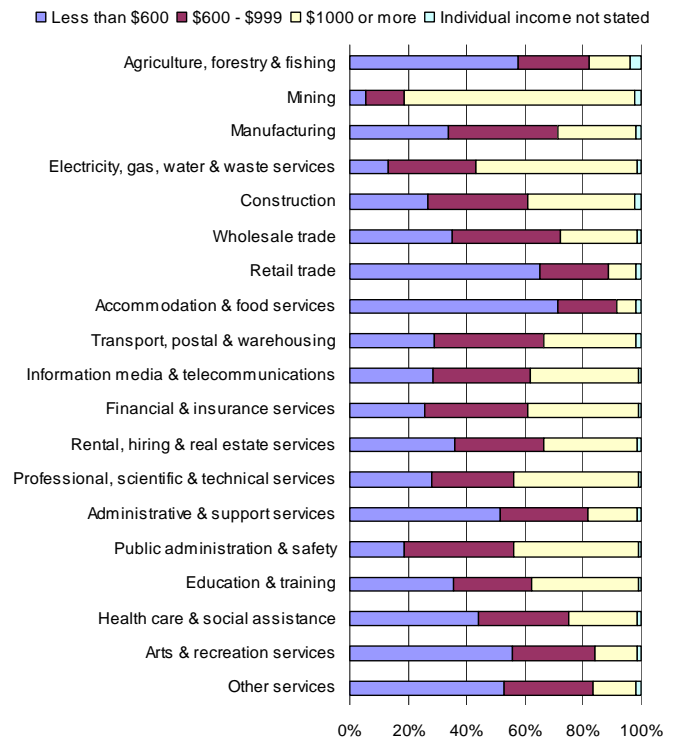
Figure 23: Weekly income by employment type, Queensland, 2006



Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Industries employing a large proportion of persons with a non-school qualification tended to have the highest incomes, namely mining, where over three-quarters of employed persons had an income of \$1,000 and over, and electricity, gas, water and waste services, where more than half earned this amount (see Figure 24). The industries with the greatest proportion of low income workers were accommodation and food services; retail trade; agriculture, forestry and fishing; and arts and recreation services, with more than 55% of persons in these industries earning less than \$600 a week in 2006. These industries feature large numbers of part-time, casual and seasonal workers, as well as family members on low or no pay.

Figure 24: Weekly income of employed persons by industry, Queensland, 2006



Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Regional employment

More than 1.8 million persons were employed in Queensland at the time of the 2006 Census, with over 1.2 million of these (67.6%) working in South East Queensland (see Table 2). Regional Queensland employed about 587,000 persons, with the largest numbers in Far North Statistical Division (about 107,000), Darling Downs (97,000), Wide Bay-Burnett (95,000) and Northern (94,000).

Table 2: Labour force status by statistical division, Queensland, 2006

Statistical division	Employed	Unemployed	Not in labour force	Total 15 years and over (a)
Brisbane	862,349	39,272	417,701	1,404,384
Gold Coast	222,902	12,431	123,177	392,164
Sunshine Coast	119,627	7,305	81,838	222,348
West Moreton	28,735	1,468	20,025	53,591
<i>South East Qld</i>	<i>1,233,613</i>	<i>60,476</i>	<i>642,741</i>	<i>2,072,487</i>
Wide Bay-Burnett	95,275	7,797	86,700	202,174
Darling Downs	96,764	4,523	56,228	166,442
South West	12,719	395	4,716	18,913
Fitzroy	87,628	4,125	42,861	145,008
Central West	5,647	179	2,110	8,510
Mackay	72,760	2,649	30,514	117,338
Northern	94,373	4,370	45,180	153,709
Far North	107,467	4,988	50,695	178,855
North West	14,570	554	4,915	22,880
<i>Regional Qld</i>	<i>587,203</i>	<i>29,580</i>	<i>323,919</i>	<i>1,013,829</i>
Queensland (b)	1,824,995	90,950	971,831	3,097,997

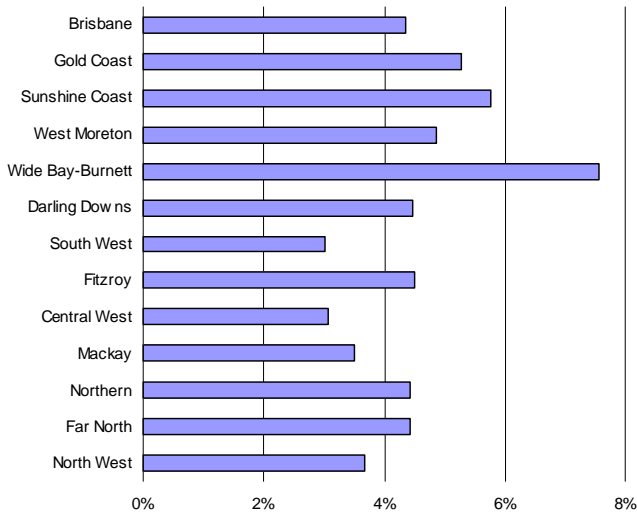
(a) Includes persons who did not state their labour force status.

(b) Includes off-shore and migratory and no usual address.

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Unemployment rates tended to be higher in coastal areas (see Figure 25). Wide Bay-Burnett Statistical Division had the highest rate in 2006, with 7.6% of its labour force out of work, followed by Sunshine Coast (5.8%) and Gold Coast (5.3%). The lowest unemployment rates were recorded in South West, Central West, Mackay and North West statistical divisions with rates of around 3-4%.

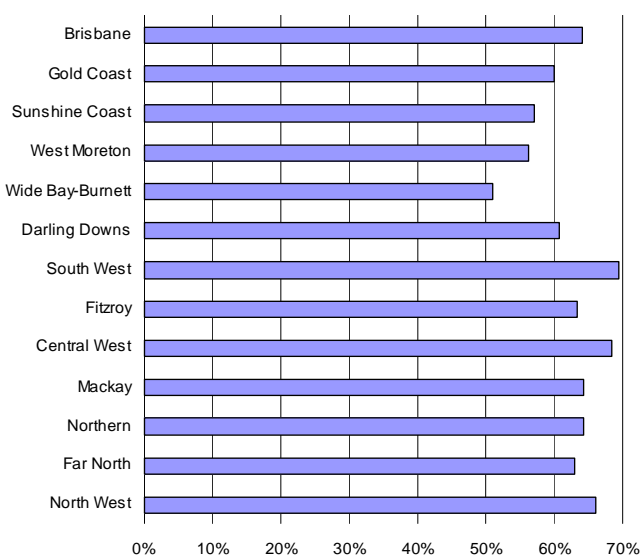
Figure 25: Unemployment rate by statistical division, Queensland, 2006



Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

In contrast, labour force participation rates were lower in coastal areas and higher in western areas (see Figure 26). This may be due to the amenity value of coastal areas and the mining boom in western regions. Other contributing factors include the relatively large proportion of older people living in areas such as Wide Bay-Burnett, Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast compared with the younger age profile of western areas. There is a high inverse correlation between unemployment rates and participation rates for Queensland's statistical divisions, with a correlation coefficient of -0.94 (with a value of 1 being perfect linear correlation and zero being no correlation).

Figure 26: Labour force participation rate by statistical division, Queensland, 2006

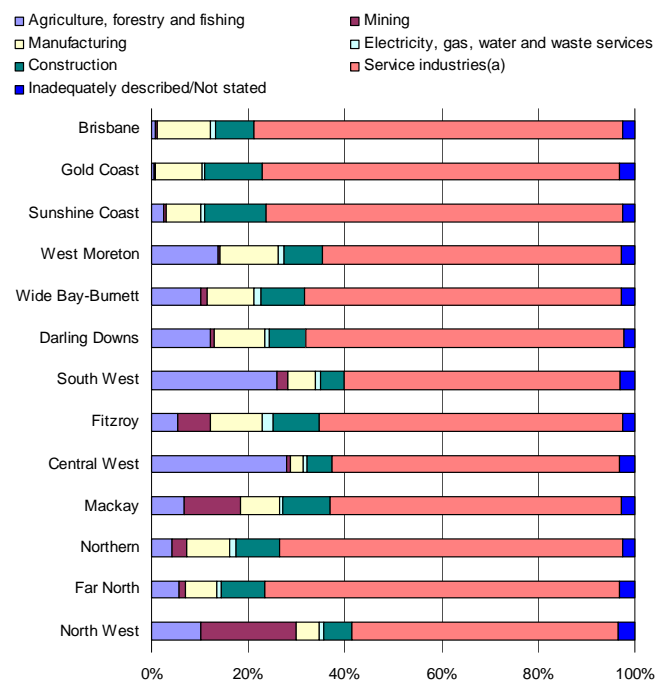


Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Service industries dominated employment in all statistical divisions (even the rural areas), ranging from a high of 76.2% of employment in Brisbane Statistical Division, 73.8% and 73.7% on the Gold and Sunshine Coasts respectively and 73.4% in Far North, to a low of 55.3% in North West (see Figure 27).

Two statistical divisions had more than a quarter of their employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing: Central West (28.0%) and South West (26.0%). The largest proportions of employed persons in mining were in North West (19.8%) and Mackay (11.7%) divisions. Manufacturing was highest in West Moreton (11.9%), followed by Brisbane, Fitzroy and Darling Downs where the proportions were about 11%. The average proportion of persons employed in construction across the State was 9.0%. Several statistical divisions employed higher proportions in this industry, namely Sunshine Coast (12.8%), Gold Coast (12.0%), Mackay (9.6%) and Fitzroy (9.3%).

Figure 27: Employment by industry by statistical division, Queensland, 2006



(a) Service industries encompass the following industries: wholesale trade; retail trade; accommodation & food services; transport, postal & warehousing; information media & telecommunications; financial & insurance services; rental, hiring & real estate services; professional, scientific & technical services; administrative & support services; public administration & safety; education & training; health care & social assistance; arts & recreation services; and other services.

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

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