This bulletin contains information on internet access in Queensland. The data come from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and also, where indicated, the May 2007 Queensland Household Survey (QHS 2007) by the Office of Economic and Statistical Research (OESR). The Census asked people if the internet could be accessed at their dwelling. Usual residence data have been used in this bulletin, except where stated. About 3.1% of households did not state whether or not their dwelling had an internet connection and are excluded from most analyses. The QHS asked respondents aged 18 years and over whether they had access to a computer and internet at home, what form of internet access they had, its cost per month and their level of internet skills.

Key points

- At the time of the 2006 Census, more than six in ten (62.8%) households in Queensland had access to the internet, placing Queensland with Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory as the three states and territories with the highest rates of access.

- Among capital cities, Brisbane had the second highest rate of internet access (67.0%) after Canberra.

- In Queensland, households in major cities were more likely to have internet access than households in regional and remote areas. A dial-up connection was more common in regional and remote (but not very remote) areas compared with major cities.

- Households in Brisbane, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast statistical divisions were more likely to have access to the internet compared with other Queensland regions.

- Younger Queenslanders were more likely to have internet access at home than older people, with 85.7% of those aged 18–24 years having access (QHS 2007).

- Males and females were about equally likely to have access to the internet at home (QHS 2007).

- People with tertiary qualifications were more likely to have internet access at home (92.3%) than those who had completed secondary school (80.9%) and those who had not completed secondary school (63.3%) (QHS 2007).

- Queensland households with higher incomes had higher rates of access to the internet than lower income households.

- Indigenous households in Queensland were less likely (41.6%) to have access to the internet than non-Indigenous households (63.5%).

- About half (49.3%) of adults in Queensland rated their internet skills as very good or good (QHS 2007).

1 Questions asked about the internet are not comparable between the 2006 and 2001 censuses. The 2006 Census asked: “Can the internet be accessed at this dwelling?” The 2001 Census asked people whether they used a computer at home in the week before the Census and whether they used the internet anywhere in the week before the Census. This was the first time questions on computer and internet use or access had been asked in the Census.
A total of 67.0% of all households in Brisbane had access to the internet (including 46.4% with a broadband internet connection). Canberra had the highest rate of internet (73.7%) and broadband access (52.4%). Hobart recorded the lowest rate of households connected to the internet (56.3%) and who used broadband (32.2%).

**Internet access in city, regional and remote areas**

Internet access is notably lower for households located outside of major cities, and in particular, for those located in more remote parts of Queensland (see Figure 3). While 66.5% of households in Queensland city centres had access to the internet, this reduced to 57.6% in inner regional areas, 57.8% in outer regional areas, 51.5% in remote areas and 43.2% in very remote areas.

**Internet access in Queensland regions**

Rates of internet access vary considerably throughout Queensland. Brisbane Statistical Division (SD) had the highest rate of internet access with 67.0% of households having access to the internet (including 46.4% of households using a broadband connection). Gold Coast (65.1%) and Sunshine Coast (64.6%) SDs also had high rates of internet access (see Figure 4).

**Age and internet access**

In 2007, an estimated 85.7% of people aged 18–24 years had access to the internet at home compared with 44.1% of people aged 65 years and over (83.4% and 38.3% respectively in 2006). The 35–44 years age group had the highest access rate (87.9% (QHS 2007) (see Figure 5).

**Gender and internet access**

There were no significant differences in internet access rates between the genders in 2007 with approximately 77.3% of males and 76.4% of females having internet access at home (73.0% and 71.2% respectively in 2006) (QHS 2007).

**Educational qualifications and internet access**

In 2007, tertiary qualified persons in Queensland had higher rates of access to the internet at home (92.3%) than those without tertiary qualifications. Persons who had completed year 12 of secondary school as their highest qualification were more likely to have access to the internet at home (81.2%) than those who had not completed year 12 (63.3%). This pattern was also found in 2006, with home internet access by 88.0% of tertiary qualified persons, 75.7% of those who had completed year 12, and 57.4% of those who had not completed year 12 (QHS 2007).

**Income and internet access**

Generally, Queensland households with higher incomes had higher rates of access to the internet than lower income households (see Figure 6). However, access to the cheaper dial-up option was greater for households with gross weekly income between $1,000 and $2,500.

Of households with a gross weekly income of more than $2,500, 88.2% had access to the internet (including 67.8% with a broadband connection). For households with gross weekly income between $1,000 and $1,700, 72.3% had access to the internet (including 45.2% with a broadband connection). This fell to 31.9% for households with a gross weekly income of less than $500 (including 17.0% with a broadband connection).
Indigenous households and internet access

Indigenous households\(^2\) in Queensland had lower rates of access to the internet (41.6\%) than non-Indigenous households (63.5\%). Indigenous households (25.9\%) in Queensland also had lower rates of broadband access compared with non-Indigenous households (40.6\%) (see Figure 7).

Figure 7: Internet access of Indigenous and non-Indigenous households by access type, Queensland, 2006

![Internet access of Indigenous and non-Indigenous households by access type](image)

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

In Brisbane SD, 53.6\% of Indigenous households had internet access compared with 67.3\% of non-Indigenous households. The smallest differences were in West Moreton, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast SDs.

In regional areas, the differences were greater with only 25.0\% of Indigenous households in Far North SD having an internet connection compared with 60.8\% of non-Indigenous households, a difference of 35.8 percentage points.

In other SDs there were also considerable differences in internet access between Indigenous households and non-Indigenous households such as in North West (34.0 percentage points), Northern (26.1 percentage points) and Central West (24.9 percentage points) (see Figure 8).

Figure 8: Internet access of Indigenous and non-Indigenous households by statistical division, Queensland, 2006

![Internet access of Indigenous and non-Indigenous households by statistical division](image)

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

In other states and territories there were also differences in internet access between Indigenous households and non-Indigenous households. Queensland had the fourth highest access rate for non-Indigenous households (63.5\%) and fifth highest for Indigenous households (41.6\%), for a difference of 21.9 percentage points.

The states and territories with the greatest variation between Indigenous households and non-Indigenous households in terms of internet access were Northern Territory with a difference of 46.0 percentage points and Western Australia with a 30.9 percentage points difference. The states and territories with the smallest difference between Indigenous households and non-Indigenous households were Tasmania and Australian Capital Territory with 3.9 percentage points and 10.4 percentage points respectively (see Figure 9).

Figure 9: Internet access of Indigenous and non-Indigenous households by Australian states and territories, 2006

![Internet access of Indigenous and non-Indigenous households by Australian states and territories](image)

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Internet access and household composition

Queensland households consisting of a couple family with one or more children had a higher rate of internet access (83.3\%) than households of a couple family without children (63.3\%). Households made up of a one parent family with one or more children had an internet access rate of 60.5\%, 22.8 percentage points lower than couple families with one or more children.

Internet access rates for households consisting of a couple with one child (79.3\%) were lower than households made up of a couple with more than one child (85.5\%).

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\(^2\) A household with Indigenous person(s) is any household that had at least one person of any age as a resident at the time of the Census who identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin.
Households with a single parent, no matter how many children, consistently had lower rates of access to the internet. Internet access rates for households of a single parent with one child (57.0%) were lower than households of a single parent with two or more children (64.7%).

Multiple family households had higher internet access rates (70.8%) than single parent households or households with no children (see Figure 10).

**Figure 10: Internet access by household composition by access type, Queensland, 2006**

Among Queenslanders aged 18 years and over, internet skills were rated as either very good or good by 49.3% (QHS 2007). The proportion of people rating their internet skills as very good or good fell with age. Among those aged 18–24 years, 78.7% felt their internet skills were good or very good, compared with 15.6% for persons aged 65 years and over (see Figure 11).

Overall, 4.8% of persons who had access to a computer at home had never used the internet. Once again there was a difference between age groups, with 0.3% of persons aged 18–24 years having not used the internet while 18.3% of persons aged 65 years and over had never used the internet.

**Figure 11: Internet skill level of adults by age group, Queensland, 2007**

Source: ABS, 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Source: OESR, Queensland Household Survey, May 2007