



Census 2011: Labour Force in Queensland

Key points:

- At the time of the 2011 Census, there were 2,171,076 persons aged 15 years and over in the labour force in Queensland.
- Queensland had the second-highest unemployment rate (6.1%) and the fourth-highest labour force participation rate (62.8%) in Australia.
- The unemployment rate for Indigenous persons was higher than for non-Indigenous persons (18.0% compared with 5.8%).
- The 'Health care and social assistance' industry had the largest number of employed persons in Queensland (242,559).
- At the time of the 2011 Census, Gold Coast SA4 had the largest labour force in Queensland (256,666 persons).

(Note: The Census of Population and Housing and the Labour Force Survey (LFS) both measure information about the labour market activity of people aged 15 years and over. However there are a number of differences between the two that should be considered when comparing the data, as estimates produced from these collections are not the same. For more information please see the ABS fact sheet [Differences between the LFS and the Census.](#))

1. Labour force status

At the time of the 2011 Census, there were 3,456,875 persons aged 15 years and over in Queensland, of which 2,171,076 persons aged 15 years and over were in the labour force (Table 1). This figure represented a labour force participation rate of 62.8%. The labour force participation rate was highest in males (67.8%).

Queensland's labour force comprised 2,039,279 employed persons and 131,797 unemployed persons, which represented an unemployment rate of 6.1%. The unemployment rate was the same for males and females.

Table 1: Labour force status by gender, Queensland, 2011

Labour force status	Males	Females	Persons
	– persons –		
Employed	1,081,485	957,794	2,039,279
Unemployed	69,720	62,077	131,797
Total labour force	1,151,205	1,019,871	2,171,076
Not in the labour force	435,638	643,664	1,079,302
Total population 15+	1,698,473	1,758,402	3,456,875
	– per cent –		
Unemployment rate	6.1	6.1	6.1
Labour force participation rate	67.8	58.0	62.8
Employment to population rate	63.7	54.5	59.0

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing (B37)

2. Age

At the time of the 2011 Census, Queensland's highest unemployment in was in the 15-19 years age group (16.6%), while the age group of 75-84 years had the lowest unemployment rate (2.0%) (Table 2). The highest labour force participation rate in Queensland was in the 35-44 years age group (79.7%).

Table 2: Labour force status by age group, Queensland, 2011

Age group	Labour force persons	Unemployment rate – per cent –	Participation rate
15-19	162,010	16.6	55.1
20-24	223,029	9.9	75.9
25-34	458,259	5.8	78.0
35-44	494,785	4.7	79.7
45-54	469,994	4.1	79.5
55-64	298,706	4.2	59.6
65-74	57,272	2.4	17.8
75-84	6,275	2.0	3.6
85+	745	4.0	1.1
Total	2,171,075	6.1	62.8

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing (B42)

3. Indigenous status

At the time of the 2011 Census, there were 53,361 Indigenous persons in the labour force in Queensland (Table 3). This figure represented 2.5% of Queensland's total labour force.

The unemployment rate for Indigenous persons was higher than for non-Indigenous persons (18.0% compared with 5.8% at that time). Conversely, the labour force participation rate for Indigenous persons was lower than for non-Indigenous persons (54.8% compared with 66.2%).

**Table 3: Labour force status by Indigenous status, Queensland, 2011**

Labour force status	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Total (a)
		– persons –	
Employed	43,759	1,982,376	2,039,277
Unemployed	9,602	121,058	131,798
Total labour force	53,361	2,103,434	2,171,075
Not in the labour force	40,059	1,024,997	1,079,303
Total population 15+	97,357	3,179,070	3,456,876
		– per cent –	
Unemployment rate	18.0	5.8	6.1
Labour force participation rate	54.8	66.2	62.8
Employment to population rate	44.9	62.4	59.0

(a) Includes Indigenous status not stated.

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing (I14)

4. Labour force status by State/Territory

In 2011, Queensland had the third-largest labour force in Australia (Table 4), behind New South Wales (3,334,856 persons) and Victoria (2,675,477 persons).

At the time of the 2011 Census, Queensland had the second highest unemployment rate in Australia (6.1%). Tasmania had the highest unemployment rate (6.4%), while the Australian Capital Territory had the lowest (3.6%).

Queensland had the fourth highest participation rate in Australia (62.8%). The Australian Capital Territory had the highest (69.9%), while Tasmania had the lowest participation rate (57.8%).

Table 4: Labour force status by State/Territory, Queensland, 2011

State/Territory	Labour force persons	Unemployment rate – per cent –	Participation rate
NSW	3,334,856	5.9	59.7
Vic.	2,675,477	5.4	61.4
Qld	2,171,076	6.1	62.8
SA	784,328	5.7	59.9
WA	1,152,200	4.7	64.0
Tas.	232,127	6.4	57.8
NT	103,966	5.3	63.9
ACT	203,207	3.6	69.9
Australia	10,658,459	5.6	61.4

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing (B37)

5. Employment by Industry

At the time of the 2011 Census, the 'Health care and social assistance' industry had the largest number of employed persons in Queensland (242,559) (Table 5). This was followed by the 'Retail trade' industry (217,610 employed persons) and the 'Construction' industry (183,780 employed persons).

Table 5: Employment by industry, Queensland, 2011

Industry	Employed persons	
	persons	% of total employed
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	55,416	2.7
Mining	52,955	2.6
Manufacturing	171,669	8.4
Electricity, gas, water & waste services	24,828	1.2
Construction	183,780	9.0
Wholesale trade	74,288	3.6
Retail trade	217,610	10.7
Accommodation & food services	141,855	7.0
Transport, postal & warehousing services	107,072	5.3
Information media & telecommunications	25,358	1.2
Financial & insurance services	54,153	2.7
Rental, hiring & real estate services	37,007	1.8
Professional, scientific & technical services	132,754	6.5
Administrative & support services	65,015	3.2
Public administration & safety	136,818	6.7
Education & training	160,921	7.9
Health care & social assistance	242,559	11.9
Arts & recreation services	28,444	1.4
Other services	78,713	3.9
Inadequately described/Not stated	48,060	2.4
Total	2,039,275	100.0

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing (B43)

Between the 2001 and 2011 Census periods, the largest absolute increase in employed persons in Queensland was in the 'Health care and social assistance' industry (96,030 persons) (Table 6). This was followed by the 'Construction' industry (75,946 persons) and the 'Professional, scientific and technical services' industry (49,489 persons). The 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' industry had the largest absolute decrease in employed persons (19,828 persons).

The highest percentage increase in employed persons over these Census periods was in the 'Mining' industry (174.6%), followed by the 'Construction' industry (70.1%) and the 'Electricity, gas, water and waste services' industry (64.9%). The 'Agriculture, forestry and fishing' industry had the highest percentage decrease in employed persons (25.9%).



Table 6: Change in employed persons by industry, Queensland, 2001 to 2011 (a)

Industry	Change from 2001 to 2011	
	persons	per cent
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	-19,828	-25.9
Mining	33,668	174.6
Manufacturing	8,283	5.0
Electricity, gas, water & waste services	9,845	64.9
Construction	75,946	70.1
Wholesale trade	-1,407	-1.8
Retail trade	37,386	20.6
Accommodation & food services	26,548	22.9
Transport, postal & warehousing	26,343	32.4
Information media & telecommunications	-3,722	-12.7
Financial & insurance services	10,086	22.6
Rental, hiring & real estate services	6,560	21.4
Professional, scientific & technical services	49,489	58.3
Administrative & support services	15,383	30.7
Public administration & safety	40,578	41.8
Education & training	36,493	29.2
Health care & social assistance	96,030	64.7
Arts & recreation services	5,893	25.8
Other services	16,650	26.6
Inadequately described/Not stated	13,144	37.2
Total	483,368	30.8

(a) Based on place of enumeration.

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing (T33)

6. Employment by occupation

At the time of the 2011 Census, 18.9% of all employed persons in Queensland were in the 'Professionals' occupation group (Table 7). This was followed by the 'Technicians and trades' occupation group (14.9%) and the 'Clerical and administrative' occupation group (14.7%).

Table 7: Employment by occupation (a), Queensland, 2011

Occupation	Employed persons	
	persons	% of total employed
Managers	245,607	12.0
Professionals	385,582	18.9
Technicians and trades	304,564	14.9
Community and personal service	202,978	10.0
Clerical and administrative	299,323	14.7
Sales	199,635	9.8
Machinery operators and drivers	149,321	7.3
Labourers	215,234	10.6
Inadequately described/Not stated	37,032	1.8
Total	2,039,276	100.0

(a) Based on persons aged 15 years and over.

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing (B45)

7. Regional employment

At the time of the 2011 Census, Gold Coast SA4 had the largest labour force in Queensland (256,666 persons or 11.8% of Queensland's total labour force) (Table 8). This was followed by Brisbane - South SA4 (168,782 persons or 7.8%) and Sunshine Coast SA4 (145,347 persons or 6.7%).

Queensland's highest unemployment rate was in Wide Bay SA4 (8.8%), followed by Moreton Bay - North SA4 (7.5%) and Gold Coast SA4 (7.4%). Mackay SA4 had Queensland's lowest unemployment rate (3.6%), followed by Darling Downs - Maranoa SA4 (3.9%) and Fitzroy SA4 (4.4%).

Queensland's highest labour force participation rate was in Moreton Bay - South SA4 (70.9%), while Wide Bay SA4 had the lowest participation rate (50.1%).

Table 8: Labour force status by Statistical Area Level 4 (SA4), Queensland, 2011

Statistical Area Level 4 (SA4)	Labour force	Unemployment rate	Labour force participation rate
	persons	- per cent -	
Brisbane - East	110,423	5.2	65.7
Brisbane - North	102,871	4.8	65.7
Brisbane - South	168,782	5.7	65.6
Brisbane - West	92,430	5.1	66.9
Brisbane Inner City	136,109	4.9	70.6
Cairns	110,594	7.0	62.7
Darling Downs - Maranoa	57,775	3.9	60.7
Fitzroy	105,800	4.4	64.3
Gold Coast	256,666	7.4	62.1
Ipswich	132,106	7.1	61.0
Logan - Beaudesert	142,629	7.1	63.9
Mackay	88,035	3.6	67.1
Moreton Bay - North	97,091	7.5	56.9
Moreton Bay - South	91,029	4.8	70.9
Queensland - Outback	39,484	5.3	62.9
Sunshine Coast	145,347	7.1	58.4
Toowoomba	67,495	5.0	61.3
Townsville	111,738	5.1	65.0
Wide Bay	109,862	8.8	50.1
Queensland	2,171,076	6.1	62.8

(a) Includes the SA4's of 'Migratory - Offshore - Shipping' and "Special Purpose Codes".

Source: ABS 2011 Census of Population and Housing (B37)

For more information, please see Queensland Treasury and Trade's *Queensland Regional Profiles* and *Queensland Regional Database* at www.oesr.qld.gov.au.

All data in this report are based on place of usual residence (except where stated) and were sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Census of Population and Housing (www.abs.gov.au).

Labour force statistics, by definition and as reported in this bulletin, include all persons aged 15 years and over.

The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the total labour force.

The labour force participation rate is the number of persons in the labour force expressed as a percentage of persons aged 15 years and over.

The employment to population rate is the number of employed persons expressed as a percentage of persons aged 15 years and over.

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