

# Small business in Queensland, June 2017

This report presents summary statistics about small businesses in Queensland, including business counts by industry type, and the contribution of small business to employment in Queensland.

Data presented in this report were sourced from published and unpublished Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data, and collated by the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO). Please refer to notes at the end of this report for more detailed information about the ABS sources used.

## Business counts and industry profile

### Counts by business size

In June 2017, there were 2,238,300 businesses actively trading in Australia. Of these, 437,640 businesses were operating in Queensland, representing 19.6% of all businesses in Australia.

Small businesses are the predominant type of business actively trading in Queensland (97.5%), consistent with their share nationally (97.5%).

In June 2017, there were 426,578 small businesses actively trading in Queensland, nearly 12,000 more than in June 2016 (414,684). In the same period there were 10,442 medium businesses and 626 large businesses trading in Queensland.

### Industry<sup>1</sup> composition of small business

Looking at the top ten industries for small business in Queensland in June 2017, the construction industry represented the largest share of small businesses (17.4%), followed by the rental, hiring and real estate services industry (11.8%) (Figure 1).

Both of these industries—along with the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry, and administrative and support services—had a higher share than that recorded at the national level. Together, the top ten industries accounted for more than four out of five small businesses in Queensland (83.4%).

The construction industry had the largest number of small businesses in Queensland



### ABS business definitions used in this report

**Small business:** A non-employing business or a business employing less than 20 people.

'Non-employing' includes sole proprietorships and partnerships without employees.

**Medium business:** A business employing between 20 and 199 employees.

**Large business:** A business employing 200 employees or more.

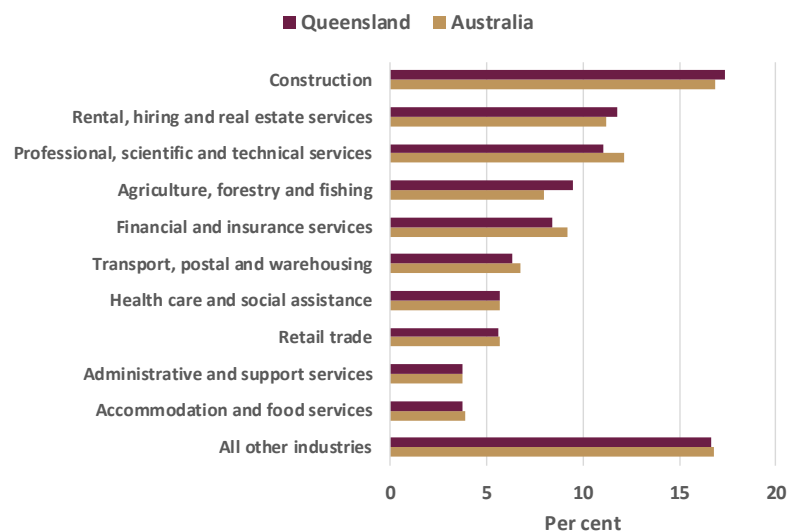
At June 2017, Queensland had:

**426,578**  
small businesses

**10,442**  
medium businesses

**626**  
large businesses

Figure 1 Top 10 small business industries<sup>(a)</sup>, June 2017



(a) Based on Queensland's top ten industries by small business share. Source: ABS 8165.0

<sup>1</sup> Industry based on *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006*.

## Contribution of small business to employment

It is important to note that the figures to follow quoted from the ABS *Australian Industry* collection exclude persons employed in the general government sector (public administration; education and training; health care and social assistance); persons employed in finance, insurance and superannuation funds; and persons employed in defence and in private households. However, the figures do include persons employed in general government businesses classified to water supply, sewerage and drainage services.

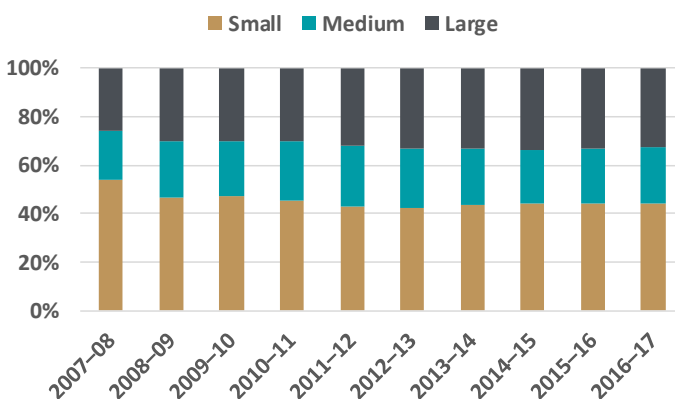
*Note: Measures of employment from these data sources are not consistent with data published in ABS 6202.0 Labour Force, Australia.*

Businesses of all sizes employed 2,104,000 persons in Queensland in June 2017<sup>2</sup>.

This comprised 933,000 persons employed in a small business (44.3%), 484,000 persons employed in a medium business (23.0%) and 687,000 persons employed in a large business (32.7%) (Figure 2).

While small business makes a significant contribution to total employment in Queensland, its share has fallen from 53.8% in June 2008 to 44.3% in 2017.

**Figure 2 Business size and proportion of employment, Queensland**



Source: ABS 8155.0, unpublished data

In June 2017, Queensland small businesses accounted for one in five persons (19.6%) employed nationally in small businesses. More than three in five small

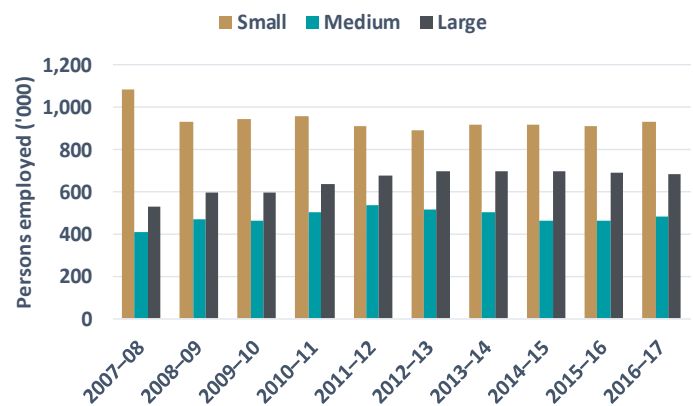
businesses in Queensland in June 2017 were non-employing (63.5%).

Between June 2008 and June 2017, the number of persons employed in a small business in Queensland decreased by 155,000 (down 14.2%) (Figure 3).

Conversely, the number of persons employed in a medium or large business increased by 75,000 (18.3%) and 160,000 (30.4%) respectively.

Employment in small and medium-sized businesses in Queensland has increased slightly in the two years to June 2017, while employment in large business has decreased slightly.

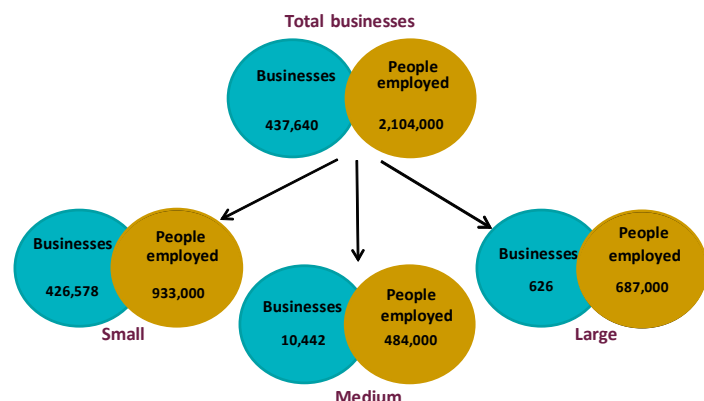
**Figure 3 Employment by business size, Queensland**



Source: ABS 8155.0, unpublished data

Nationally, the contribution of small business to employment also declined over the period June 2008 to June 2017, although to a lesser degree (from 49.9% to 43.8%).

**Figure 4 Business employment, Queensland, June 2017**



Source: ABS 8165.0 and ABS 8155.0, unpublished data

<sup>2</sup> For more information, please refer to the explanatory notes in ABS 8155.0, *Australian Industry*.



## Data sources used in this report

### **ABS 8165.0, *Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, June 2013 to June 2017***

These counts published by the ABS represent a complete enumeration of economically active businesses on the Australian Bureau of Statistics Business Register (ABSBR). Business counts from the ABSBR are based, in part, on tax data supplied by the Australian Tax Office (ATO) and Australian Business Register (ABR) data supplied by the Registrar. Counts of businesses comprise businesses actively trading in goods or services.

### **ABS 8155.0, *Australian Industry***

Data in this publication are collected from the annual Economic Activity Survey conducted by the ABS, and administrative data from Business Activity Statements provided by businesses to the ATO. The scope of this collection consists of business entities operating in the Australian economy during 2016–17, with employment estimates relating to June 2017.