

Small business in Queensland, June 2020

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 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 2020, there were 2,422,404 businesses actively trading in Australia. Of these, 464,990 businesses were operating in Queensland, representing 19.2% of all businesses in Australia.

Small businesses are the predominant type of business actively trading in Queensland (97.4%), similar with their share nationally (97.5%).

In June 2020, there were 452,989 small businesses actively trading in Queensland, over 7,000 more than in June 2019 (445,883). In the same period there were 11,270 medium businesses and 727 large businesses trading in Queensland.

Industry¹ composition of small business

Looking at the top ten industries for small business in Queensland in June 2020, the construction industry represented the largest share of small businesses (16.7%), followed by the professional, scientific and technical services (11.7%) (Figure 1).

Of the top ten industries, the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry had the largest difference in share than that recorded at the national level (1.6 percentage points higher). Together, the top ten industries accounted for more than four out of five small businesses in Queensland (84.4%).

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.

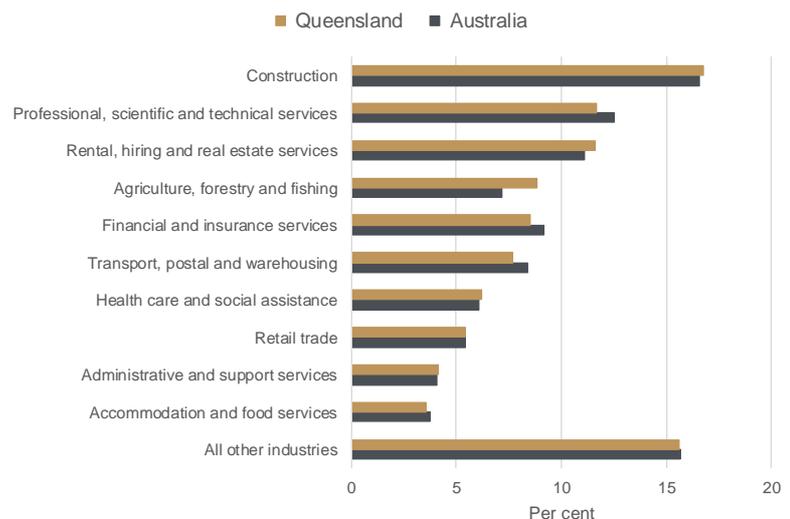
At June 2020, Queensland had:

445,883
small businesses

11,270
medium businesses

727
large businesses

Figure 1 Top 10 small business industries^(a), June 2020



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

¹ 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.

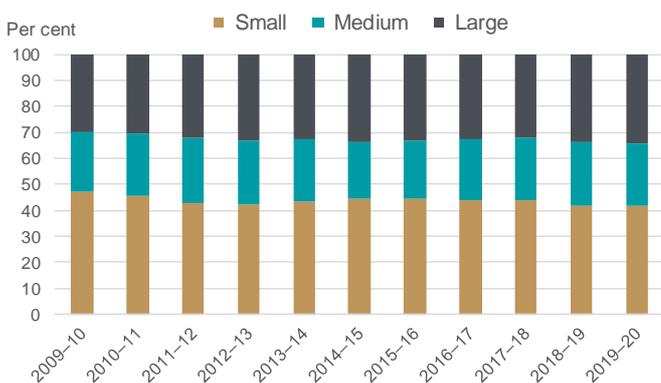
Note: Measures of employment from these data sources are not consistent with data published in ABS 6202.0 Labour Force, Australia.

Businesses of all sizes employed 2,156,000 persons in Queensland in June 2020².

This comprised 901,000 persons employed in a small business (41.8%), 512,000 persons employed in a medium business (23.7%) and 743,000 persons employed in a large business (34.5%) (Figure 2).

While small business makes a significant contribution to total employment in Queensland, its share has fallen from 47.1% in 2009–10 to 41.8% in 2019–20.

Figure 2 Business size and proportion of employment, Queensland



Source: ABS 8155.0

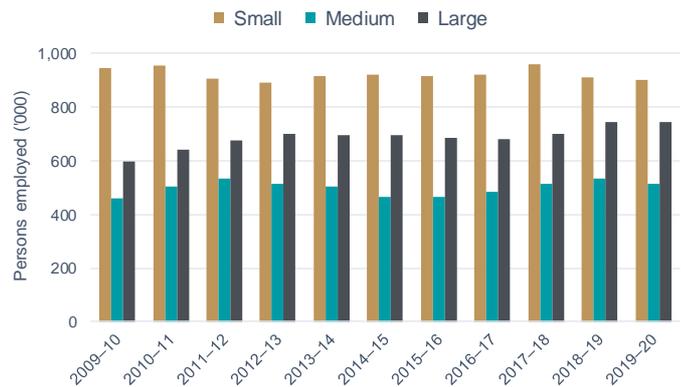
In June 2020, Queensland small businesses accounted for one in five persons employed nationally in small businesses (19.3%). More than three in five small businesses in Queensland in June 2020 were non-employing (65.6%).

Between June 2010 and June 2020, the number of persons employed in a small business in Queensland decreased by 45,000 (down 4.8%) (Figure 3).

Conversely, the number of persons employed in a medium or large business increased by 50,000 (10.8%) and 144,000 (24.0%) respectively.

During the last 11 years, employment in small businesses in Queensland was highest in June 2018 (961,000 persons), while in June 2013 small businesses had the lowest employment (894,000 persons).

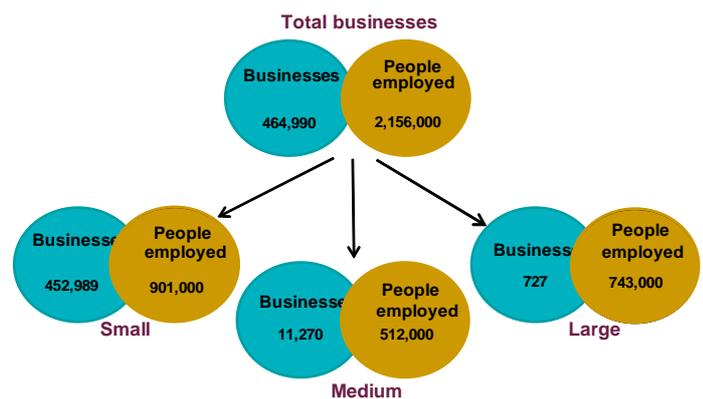
Figure 3 Employment by business size, Queensland



Source: ABS 8155.0

Nationally, the contribution of small business to employment also declined over the period June 2010 to June 2020 (from 47.1% to 41.3%).

Figure 4 Business employment, Queensland, June 2020



Source: ABS 8165.0 and ABS 8155.0

² 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, July 2016 to June 2020*

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 2019–20, with employment estimates relating to June 2020.