



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Local Government

Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics



Picture

About Australia's regions

June 2008

About this booklet

Environmental and competitive pressures, new technology, changing demographics and social values have resulted in fundamental social and economic changes in Australia's regions. These circumstances have created a widely recognised need for improved access to factual information about conditions in Australia's regions.

This booklet provides an accessible introduction to social, economic and environmental statistics for Australia's regions. Information is presented under the following broad themes: population; society; regional economies; housing; transport and communications; education and health; and environmental issues.

BITRE has updated this booklet annually since its initial publication in 2003. The 2008 update presents the most recently available data for each topic. It is the most comprehensive update that has been undertaken to date due to the 2006 census. Of the 43 information pages, 37 have been updated. Information from the 2006 Census and material on disability (page 38) have been included for the first time.

This booklet is not intended to provide a comprehensive assessment of social and economic conditions in Australia's regions. The data sources used have a range of limitations, and readers should rely on their own skill and judgement in applying any information to particular issues or circumstances. For further information on a specific topic, please refer to the original data source or to the list of useful contacts (page 47).

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data has been used with permission from the ABS.

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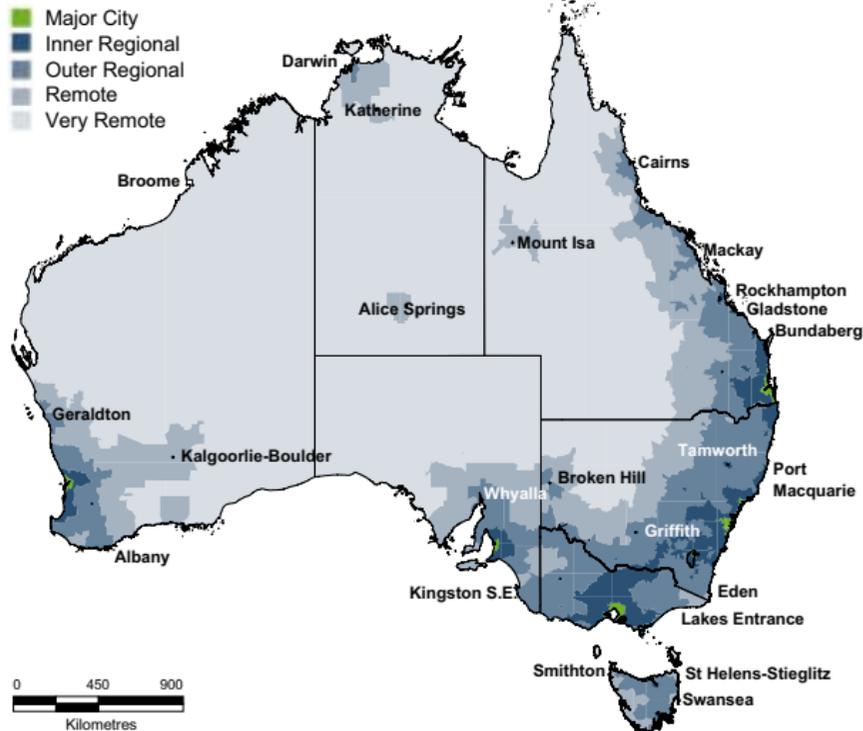
Australia's regions

Regions do not always have commonly accepted boundaries. Regions can be defined by formal boundaries (as in the case of state or local governments), by a sense of economic and social interdependence, by natural environments and landscapes, or by other connections that distinguish them from neighbouring areas.

In this booklet, the main spatial concept used to summarise information about Australia's regions is the ABS Remoteness Structure. In this year's booklet, we are using 2006 ABS Remoteness Class boundaries, except where otherwise noted. This classification groups Census Collection Districts into five broad classes of remoteness, which share common characteristics in terms of physical distance from services and opportunities for social interaction. These classes are: Major Cities of Australia; Inner Regional Australia; Outer Regional Australia; Remote Australia; and Very Remote Australia. Remoteness classes cut across state and local government boundaries, enabling a better understanding of the patterns of socio-economic experience across Australia's regions.

The concept of remoteness used to design the ABS Remoteness Structure is based upon measuring road distance from any point to the nearest ABS Urban Centre in each of five population size classes. For example, any location within a short distance of an urban centre of more than 250 000 persons belongs to the Major Cities class. The population size of the urban centre is used as a proxy for the availability of a range of services.

Figure 1 Remoteness Classes in Australia, 2006



Note: Christmas Island & Cocos (Keeling) Islands are part of Very Remote Australia. Other external territories are excluded from the classification.

Source: ABS Australian Standard Geographical Classification: Remoteness Structure, 2006.

Examples of localities in each remoteness class

Major Cities of Australia:

Melbourne CBD, Newcastle CBD, Fremantle, Surfers Paradise, Noosa

Inner Regional Australia:

Hobart, Wodonga, Bunbury, Tamworth

Outer Regional Australia:

Darwin, Whyalla, Cairns, Swan Hill, Gunnedah

Remote Australia:

Alice Springs, Mount Isa, Port Lincoln, Esperance, Kununurra

Very Remote Australia:

Longreach, Coober Pedy, Tennant Creek, Ceduna

Population

Table 1 Overview: selected population indicators by Remoteness Class, 2007^a

	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote	Australia
Population (<i>thousand persons</i>)	14 399	4 144	1 987	316	171	21 017
Share of total population (<i>per cent</i>)	68.5	19.7	9.5	1.5	0.8	100.0
Average annual population growth, 2002 to 2007 (<i>per cent</i>)	1.4	1.5	0.9	0.1	0.2	1.4
Area (<i>thousand square kilometres</i>)	18	245	834	1 020	5 588	7 704
Population density (<i>persons per square kilometre</i>)	808.2	16.9	2.4	0.3	^b	2.7
Share of 2006 population who moved to a different state/territory between 2001 and 2006 (<i>per cent</i>)	4	5	6	7	7	4

a. Population estimates for 2007 are preliminary.

b. Population density for Very Remote category is 0.03 persons per square kilometre. Population density was calculated by dividing the 2007 population by the 2006 areas because Remoteness Areas are only provided in census years. The differences between 2006 and 2007 small area population estimates are minor and unlikely to significantly affect these population density estimates.

Sources: ABS *Regional Population Growth, Australia 2006-07* (Cat 3218.0); ABS *Census of Population and Housing 2006*; ABS 2006 area data supplied on request. Estimates for Remoteness Classes derived by BITRE.

Table 2 Population growth by state and territory and Remoteness Class, 2002–2007^a

State and territory	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional (per cent)	Remote	Very Remote	Total
NSW	0.9	0.9	-0.2	-2.2	-2.6	0.8
VIC	1.5	1.0	0.4	-1.6	b	1.4
QLD	2.6	2.6	2.1	-0.1	-0.5	2.4
SA	0.8	1.8	0.3	0.6	-2.2	0.8
WA	1.8	3.4	0.7	0.7	0.4	1.8
TAS	b	0.9	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.9
NT	b	b	1.8	0.6	1.7	1.5
ACT	1.1	-5.0	b	b	b	1.0
Australia	1.4	1.5	0.9	0.1	0.2	1.4

a. Population growth rates are average annual growth rates. Population estimates for 2007 are preliminary. Estimates for Remoteness Classes derived by BITRE.

b. For the purposes of the ABS Remoteness Structure, there are no regions in this category for this state or territory.

Source: ABS *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2006–07* (Cat. 3218.0).

Table 3 Local government areas (LGAs) with fastest population increases and decreases, 2002–2007^a

Fastest increases				Fastest decreases			
LGA	State	Remoteness Class ^b	Average annual growth rate (per cent)	LGA	State	Remoteness Class ^b	Average annual growth rate (per cent)
Perth	WA	Major Cities	9.8	Laverton	WA	Very Remote	-6.8
Capel	WA	Inner Regional	8.2	Dalwallinu	WA	Remote	-5.1
Melton	VIC	Major Cities	8.0	Bourke	NSW	Remote	-4.1
Ravensthorpe	WA	Very Remote	7.9	Anangu			
Melbourne	VIC	Major Cities	7.8	Pitjantjatjara	SA	Very Remote	-3.5
Wanneroo	WA	Major Cities	7.2	Richmond	QLD	Very Remote	-3.4
Weipa	QLD	Very Remote	7.0	Leonora	WA	Very Remote	-3.3
Wyndham	VIC	Major Cities	6.2	Central Darling	NSW	Very Remote	-3.2
Adelaide	SA	Major Cities	5.9	Coober Pedy	SA	Very Remote	-3.2
Thamarrurr	NT	Remote	5.9	Mullewa	WA	Remote	-3.2
				Blackall	QLD	Very Remote	-3.0

a. Table excludes LGAs with a population of less than 1000 in 2002. Population estimates for 2007 are preliminary.

b. The majority of each LGA's population fits within the stated Remoteness Class (ASGC 2006 boundaries).

Note: The ABS has broadened the categories of legislation used to define local government areas for statistical purposes to include the Indigenous Council areas in the states and the Northern Territory.

Source: BITRE analysis of ABS *Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2006–07* (Cat. 3218.0).

Table 4 Reasons for leaving previous location by region of origin (towards all destinations), 2005

Reason	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional (per cent)	Remote and Very Remote ^f	Australia
To be nearer to family or friends	9	12	12	11	10
Lifestyle/environment/climate	15	15	13	9	15
Change in family structure ^a	11	10	11	9	11
Economic consideration ^b	17	17	21	31	18
Change of housing type ^c	16	14	12	8	15
Rental/public housing ^d	13	12	11	16	12
Other ^e	19	20	20	16	19
Total	100	100	100	100	100

a. Aggregation of changes in family structure including separation/divorce, marriage, increase in family size, etc.

b. Aggregation of economic reasons including partner's employment, promotion, increased income, etc.

c. Aggregation of changes in housing type such as upgrade to larger house, move to newly constructed home, etc.

d. Aggregation of changes in rental including expiry of lease, from rental to own home, public housing became available, etc.

e. Aggregation of other responses including retirement, health reasons, move out of parents' house, etc.

f. Data relating to Remote and Very Remote classes are less reliable due to small sample sizes.

Source: Unit record data from GISSA National Migration Survey, August 2005.

Table 5 Ethnic diversity & Indigenous persons by Remoteness Class, 2006

	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote	Australia
Language spoken at home (thousand persons)						
English only	9 671.0	3 589.8	1 678.8	252.0	94.8	15 318.9
Australian Indigenous	4.3	1.2	3.7	7.2	39.1	55.5
Other language	2 811.8	131.6	80.0	9.6	6.0	3 043.5
Overseas born						
Persons (thousand)	3 674.1	422.6	199.9	28.4	10.3	4 345.7
Population share (per cent)	27.7	10.8	10.7	9.6	6.7	22.2
Share of overseas born who speak						
Language other than						
English at home (per cent)	54.0	21.6	26.8	23.8	28.3	49.3
English 'not well or not at all' (per cent)	11.3	2.9	4.5	3.0	4.8	10.1
Indigenous persons						
Males (thousand)	70.2	49.5	48.3	19.4	33.9	222.1
Females (thousand)	73.3	49.8	50.3	20.1	34.9	229.0
Population share (per cent)	1.1	2.5	5.3	13.4	44.8	2.3

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing (place of usual residence).

Table 6 Age by Remoteness Class, 2001 and 2006

	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional <i>(per cent)</i>	Remote	Very Remote	Australia
Share of population in each age group, 2006						
0–14	19.2	20.8	21.4	23.5	26.4	19.8
15–24	14.2	12.5	11.8	11.9	14.7	13.6
25–44	29.6	24.5	25.9	29.7	30.9	28.3
45–64	24.2	26.8	27.0	25.3	21.6	25.0
65+	12.8	15.4	13.8	9.6	6.3	13.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Share of population in each age group, 2001						
0–14	20.0	22.2	22.8	24.9	26.9	20.8
15–24	14.2	12.7	12.2	12.0	14.5	13.7
25–44	30.8	26.8	28.5	31.8	33.0	29.8
45–64	22.7	24.1	23.9	22.2	19.5	23.0
65+	12.4	14.2	12.6	9.1	6.1	12.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: ABS 2001 and 2006 Census of Population and Housing (place of usual residence). Estimates for Remoteness Classes derived by BITRE.

Table 7 Overview of Australia's territories, 2006–07

Territory	Population	Land area (square kilometres)^a	Governance
Ashmore and Cartier Islands	Uninhabited	2	Commonwealth
Australian Antarctic Territory	Transient	5 896 500	Commonwealth
Australian Capital Territory	339 865	2 358	Self-governing
Christmas Island	1 413	137	Commonwealth
Cocos (Keeling) Islands	592	14	Commonwealth
Coral Sea Islands	Transient	81	Commonwealth
Heard and McDonald Islands	Uninhabited	370	Commonwealth
Jervis Bay	390	73	Commonwealth
Norfolk Island ^b	1 385	35	Self-governing
Northern Territory	214 975	1 349 129	Self-governing
All territories	558 620	7 248 699	

a. 2007 area data for Australian Capital Territory, Christmas Island, Cocos Island, Jervis Bay and Northern Territory all sourced from ABS (Cat. 3218.0); all other area information sourced from Geoscience Australia.

b. Norfolk Island population data relates to 2006, not 2007.

Source: *ABS Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2006–07* (Cat. 3218.0); Geoscience Australia <www.ga.gov.au>; Norfolk Island Census 2006 <www.norfolk.gov.nf>

Society

Domestic violence

Domestic violence affects the social, emotional, physical and financial wellbeing of many Australians. The Supported Accommodation Assistance Program (SAAP) provides transitional accommodation and related support to people who are at risk of homelessness, including those escaping domestic violence. In 2005–06, the SAAP provided 51 000 periods of domestic violence related support, about 55 per cent of them in Major Cities. Reported domestic violence rates were highest in Very Remote Australia (13.7 SAAP periods per 1000 population), followed by Remote Australia (9.0), Outer Regional (3.2), Inner Regional (2.5) and Major Cities (2.0). The numbers for Very Remote and Remote Australia showed a decrease from 2004–05, when they were 16.7 and 12.8 respectively.

Source: AIHW unpublished data.

Suicide

In 2005, 2101 Australians committed suicide. The male suicide rate (16.4 deaths per 100 000 population) was much higher than the female rate (4.3 per 100 000 population). In fact, over the period 1995 to 2005, the male age-standardised suicide death rate was approximately four times higher than the corresponding female rate. Between 2001 and 2005, the age-standardised suicide death rate for the Northern Territory (24.0 per 100 000 population) was more than double the national rate (11.2). This was followed by Tasmania (39 per cent above the national rate) and Queensland and South Australia (14 per cent above the national rate). The high rate of suicide in the Indigenous population contributes to the high suicide rate in the Northern Territory.

Source: ABS *Suicides, Australia, 2005* (Cat. 3309.0).

Social capital

Social capital is a resource inherent in community relationships and networks. Potentially, it can be used by individuals and communities to achieve social and economic outcomes. While there is no universally accepted definition of what constitutes social capital, BITRE adopts the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) definition:

‘Networks, together with shared norms, values and understandings that facilitate cooperation within or among groups.’

Social capital is a multi-faceted concept which can be measured using a mix of subjective and objective indicators. The range of indicators that can be used includes measures of trust, social participation, the volunteering rate and community support. The multi-faceted nature of social capital means that it will rarely be uniformly high or low in a region. Rather, most regions will display both strengths and weaknesses with respect to the social capital indicators.

A person’s place of residence exerts a significant influence on the level of social capital resources which may be drawn upon. This result continues to hold when the demographic, social and economic characteristics of individuals are controlled for. Typically, individuals who live in rural areas and small towns display very high levels of community involvement (i.e. volunteering, active membership and the extent to which neighbours help each other out). At the other extreme, the five major metropolitan centres display relatively low levels of community involvement.

Sources: ABS 2004 *Measuring Social Capital: An Australian Framework and Indicators*, Information paper (Cat.1378.0); BTRE 2005 *Focus on Regions No. 4: Social Capital*.

Table 8 Social capital indicators by Remoteness Class, 2006–07

Proportion of people who report that they:	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional (per cent)	Remote ^a	Australia
Feel a part of the local community	71	77	80	84	73
Get together with friends/relatives once a week or more	60	56	58	63	59
Volunteer in a typical week	17	22	24	26	19
Are currently an active member of a sporting, hobby or community-based club or association	35	40	39	45	37
Could easily raise \$2000 in one week in an emergency	61	59	58	68	61
Can usually find someone to help out when needed	80	81	80	87	80

a. Data relating to the Remote Classes is less reliable due to small sample sizes. Very Remote areas are out of the scope of the HILDA survey.
Source: Unit record data from *Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey Wave 6 (2006–07)*. HILDA is funded by FaHCSIA and managed by the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research. Estimates for Remoteness Classes derived by BITRE.

Table 9 Recipients of selected government benefits by Remoteness Class, 2005–06

Payment type	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Regional and Remote (per cent)	Outer Regional and Remote	Australia
Income support recipients as a share of population over 15					
Age Pension	10.9	14.2		13.7	11.9
Disability Support Pension	3.9	5.7		5.0	4.4
Family Tax Benefits	8.5	11.6		10.2	9.3
Newstart Allowance	2.8	3.0		4.2	3.0
Parenting Payment	3.4	5.1		4.5	3.9
Youth Allowance	1.9	2.2		2.2	2.0
Income support as a share of regional income					
Age Pension	3.2	4.6		4.7	3.6
Disability Support Pension	1.1	1.9		1.7	1.3
Family Tax Benefits	1.3	2.0		2.0	1.5
Newstart Allowance	0.5	0.6		0.8	0.6
Parenting Payment	0.8	1.2		1.1	0.9
Youth Allowance	0.3	0.3		0.3	0.3

Notes: The survey excludes non-private dwellings (e.g. hospitals, institutions, hotels, hostels etc.) and dwellings in collection districts defined as Very Remote. Data relating to Outer Regional and Remote areas are less reliable due to smaller sample sizes.

Source: BITRE analysis of ABS Survey of Income and Housing 2005–06, Confidentialised Unit Record File data.

Table 10 Self-reported indicators of financial pressure by Remoteness Class, 2006–07

Share of persons aged 15+ in Remoteness Class	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote ^a	Australia
Given your current needs and financial responsibilities, you and your family are:					
Prosperous/very comfortable	17	15	14	17	16
Reasonably comfortable	53	53	50	55	53
Just getting along	28	29	32	25	28
Poor/very poor	3	3	3	4	3
Total^b	100	100	100	100	100
Due to a shortage of money you recently:					
Asked for financial help from friends/family	11	11	9	13	11
Asked for help from welfare/community organisation	3	3	3	2	3
Went without meals	3	3	3	2	3
Could not pay mortgage/rent on time	6	6	5	7	6

a. Data relating to Remote Classes are less reliable due to small sample sizes. Very Remote areas are out of scope for the HILDA survey.

b. Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

Source: Unit record data from *Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey Wave 6 (2006–07)*. HILDA is funded by FaHCSIA and managed by the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research. Estimates for Remoteness Classes derived by BITRE.

Regional economies

Table 11 Selected state and territory economic indicators, 2006–07

State and territory	Gross State Product (GSP)		Average annual growth, 2001–02 to 2006–07		Exports of goods and services per capita (\$)	Investment per capita	
	Total (\$ million)	Per capita (\$)	Total GSP (per cent)	GSP per capita (per cent)		Private (\$)	Public (\$)
NSW	321 325	46 816	2.1	1.4	7 145	8 701	1 782
VIC	242 595	47 096	2.9	1.6	6 175	10 560	1 298
QLD	187 339	45 496	4.9	2.5	10 724	12 869	3 056
SA	65 676	41 820	2.0	1.3	6 270	8 989	1 169
WA	127 775	61 490	5.1	3.4	28 353	19 485	2 264
TAS	19 239	39 160	3.1	2.3	7 024	6 817	1 238
NT	13 405	63 548	3.8	2.5	21 940	17 450	2 588
ACT	20 985	62 793	3.2	2.3	2 792	10 781	5 533
Australia	998 274	47 954	3.2	1.9	9 741	11 161	1 972

Notes: Chain volume measures are used throughout this table, and consequently, the sum of the state estimates may not equal the estimate for Australia. 'Investment' refers to gross fixed capital formation.

Sources: ABS Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 2006–07 (Cat. 5220.0).

Table 12 Gross value of agricultural production by state and territory, 2005–06

State and territory	Livestock	Livestock products ^a	Horticulture ^b	Grain ^c	Other crops ^d	Total agriculture	
						Share	Value
			(per cent)			(per cent)	(\$ million)
NSW	23	22	16	29	25	23	8 754
VIC	21	46	25	13	20	24	8 917
QLD	35	7	28	6	32	23	8 696
SA	7	8	19	17	9	12	4 368
WA	10	11	8	34	13	15	5 861
TAS	2	5	3	0	3	2	934
NT	2	0	1	0	0	1	290
ACT	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
Total^e	100	100	100	100	100	100	nr
Gross value							
(\$ million)	11 964	5 789	6 641	7 857	5 590	nr	37 841

a. Livestock products include wool, milk and eggs.

b. Horticulture includes fruit/nuts, grapes and vegetables. Nursery data not currently available.

c. Grain includes cereal for grains, wheat, barley, sorghum, maize, oats, rice and triticale.

d. Other crops include sugar cane, cotton, legumes and oilseeds.

e. Figures may not add to total due to rounding.

Source: ABS *Value of Selected Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia, Preliminary, 2005–06* (Cat 7502.0).

Fact: The value of agricultural production in Australia increased from \$35.6 billion in 2004–05 to \$37.8 billion in 2005–06. In terms of production value, Australia's most important agricultural commodities in 2005–06 were cattle and calves (\$7.7 billion), wheat (\$5.2 billion) and milk (\$3.3 billion).

Table 13 Employment for industry sectors by Remoteness Class, 2001 and 2006

Industry sector	Major Cities		Inner Regional		Outer Regional		Remote		Very Remote		Australia	
	2006	2001	2006	2001	2006	2001	2006	2001	2006	2001	2006	2001
Agriculture	1	1	6	8	14	17	18	21	14	16	3	4
Mining	1	0	1	1	3	2	9	8	10	10	1	1
Manufacturing	12	13	11	12	9	9	5	5	5	3	11	12
Infrastructure	15	14	15	14	14	13	13	12	11	11	15	14
Government and defence	5	4	5	4	6	5	7	6	18	19	5	5
Health/Education	18	17	20	19	17	16	16	15	18	15	18	17
Private services	49	50	41	42	37	38	32	33	26	27	46	47
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Notes: Infrastructure sector includes construction, communications, transport, electricity, gas and water. Private services sector includes wholesale, retail, accommodation, cafes and restaurants, property and business, finance and insurance, cultural and recreational and personal and other services. Data relating to Remote and Very Remote classes are less reliable due to the inclusion of the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme.

Source: ABS 2001 and 2006 Census of Population and Housing (place of usual residence). Estimates for Remoteness Classes were derived by BITRE.

Fact: Between 2001 and 2006 the agricultural sector's share of employment in Inner Regional, Outer Regional, Remote and Very Remote areas declined by between two and three percentage points reflecting, among other influences, the impact of drought.

Table 14 Number of businesses in each Remoteness Class, by size of business, 2006–07

Share of businesses who employ:	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional (per cent)	Remote	Very Remote	Australia
Zero employees	58	58	58	56	56	58
1–4 employees	27	25	24	25	25	26
5–19 employees	10	12	14	14	14	11
20–99 employees	4	3	4	4	3	3
100+ employees	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Notes: Businesses with turnover under \$50 000 per annum are not required to register for an ABN and would not be captured in the data.
 Businesses that operate at multiple locations are only counted once at their main headquarters.
 Non-employing businesses are those which do not have an income tax withholding role or have not remitted income tax withholding for five consecutive quarters.

Source: ABS *Counts of Australian Businesses* Cat No. 8165.0, including entries and exits.

Table 15 Labour market overview by state and territory, 2006 and 2007^a

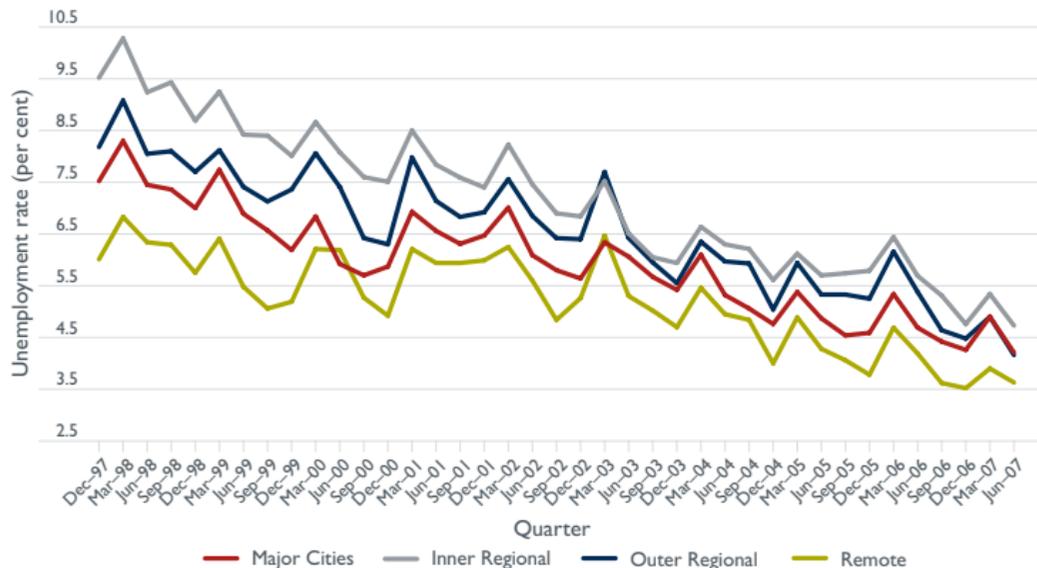
	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote	Australia
2007 (December quarter)						
Unemployment (<i>thousand</i>)	298.7	98.0	47.8	12.8	b	457.3
Unemployment rate (<i>per cent</i>)	4.0	4.5	4.2	4.3	b	4.1
2006 Employment						
Persons (<i>thousand</i>)	6 375.3	1 679.6	831.6	137.4	64.2	9104.2
Part time employed as share of total employed (<i>per cent</i>)	29.0	32.2	28.6	24.2	28.8	29.5
Self employed as share of total employed (<i>per cent</i>)	15.3	18.7	20.0	19.9	13.2	16.4
2006 Unemployment						
Persons (<i>thousand</i>)	340.8	104.4	46.3	5.8	3.2	503.8
Unemployment rate: male (<i>per cent</i>)	5.1	5.7	5.3	4.1	4.3	5.2
Unemployment rate: female (<i>per cent</i>)	5.1	6.0	5.3	4.0	5.4	5.3
2006 Labour force participation rate						
Males (<i>per cent</i>)	73	68	71	77	75	72
Females (<i>per cent</i>)	59	55	57	63	60	58

a. Relates to persons aged 15 and over. Those who worked 34 hours or less in the week prior to census night were classed as part-time employed.

b. Estimates for the Very Remote class are included in the figures for the Remote class.

Sources: Data for 2007 is from DEEWR's *Small Area Labour Markets, December Quarter 2007*. Estimates for Remoteness Classes were derived by BITRE. Data for 2006 is from ABS *2006 Census of Population and Housing (place of usual residence)*.

Figure 2 Unemployment by Remoteness Class, 1997–2007



Note: Due to BITRE concerns about the impact of definitional changes on the time series data for Very Remote Australia, the category has been excluded.

Source: DEEWR *Small Area Labour Markets* (December 1997 to June 2007). Estimates for Remoteness Classes were derived by BITRE based on 2001 Australian Standard Geographical Classification.

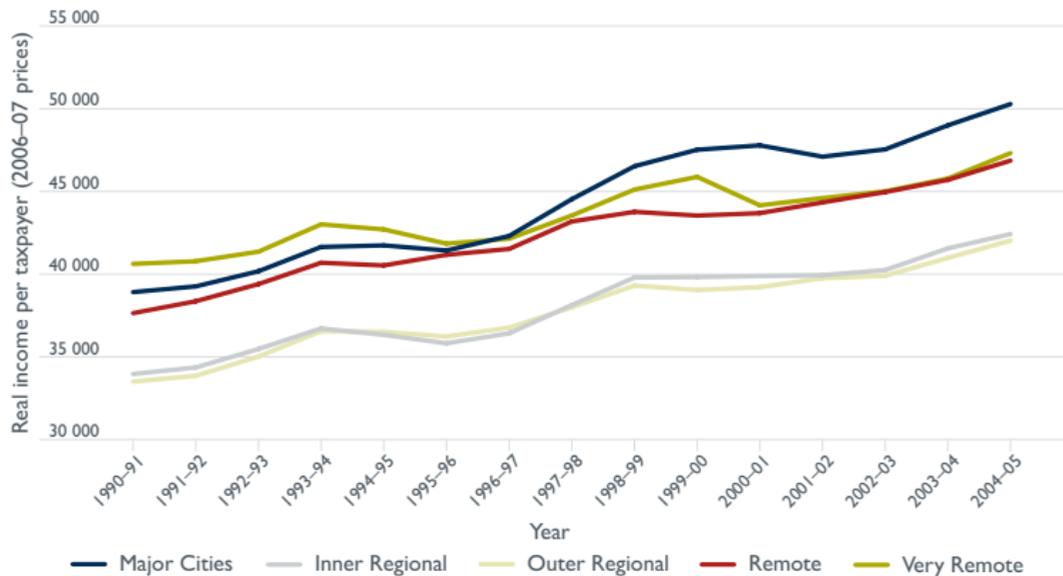
Table 16 Local government areas (LGAs) with highest and lowest real income per taxpayer, 2004–05

Highest incomes			Lowest incomes		
LGA	Real income per taxpayer (\$)	Average annual growth since 1990–91 (per cent)	LGA	Real income per taxpayer (\$)	Average annual growth since 1990–91 (per cent)
Mosman NSW*	127 010	4.9	Barraba NSW [^]	34 049	1.4
Hunter's Hill NSW*	117 021	5.3	Stanthorpe QLD [^]	34 055	1.4
Woollahra NSW*	114 546	4.1	Peterborough SA [^]	34 104	0.6
Peppermint Grove WA*	98 460	4.6	Monto QLD [^]	34 205	1.2
Cottesloe WA*	98 002	4.6	Ilfracombe QLD+	34 240	-0.3
Ku-ring-gai NSW*	90 383	3.0	Mundubbera QLD [^]	34 295	0.9
Nedlands WA*	89 373	3.2	Tasman TAS [^]	34 609	1.5
North Sydney NSW*	86 139	3.5	Kolan QLD [^]	34 726	1.5
Stonnington VIC*	82 921	3.2	Perry QLD [^]	34 747	1.4
Lane Cove NSW*	81 629	3.5	Buloke VIC [^]	35 012	1.7

Notes: Incomes are expressed in terms of 2006–07 dollars. Geography is 2001 LGAs. The symbol after the LGA name denotes the Remoteness Class accounting for the majority of the LGA's population (Major Cities =; Outer Regional =[^]; Very Remote =+).

Source: BITRE Taxable Income Database, 2007 update <www.bitre.gov.au>.

Figure 3 Real income per taxpayer by Remoteness Class, 1990–91 to 2004–05



Source: BITRE Taxable Income Database 2007 update, <www.bitre.gov.au>.

Table 17 Visitor expenditure for states and territories, 2006

State and territory	Visitor expenditure ^a (\$ million)			Share of exp. in capital city (per cent)	Region with highest total expenditure (outside capital city) ^b		
	Domestic visitors ^c	Overseas visitors	All visitors		Domestic day	Domestic overnight	Overseas visitors
NSW	16 180	5 330	21 510	50	Hunter	North Coast NSW	Northern Rivers Tropical NSW
VIC	10 752	2 738	13 490	60	Mornington Peninsula	Western ^e	Geelong
QLD	14 228	3 562	17 790	23 ^d	Gold Coast	Gold Coast	Tropical North QLD
SA	3 484	493	3 977	56	Barossa	Limestone Coast	na
WA	5 508	1 372	6 880	60	Australia's South West	Australia's South West	Australia's South West
TAS	1 910	242	2 152	48	Launceston and Tamar Valley	Launceston and Tamar Valley	Launceston and Tamar Valley
NT	1 459	408	1 867	50	na	Alice Springs	Petermann ^f
ACT	1 071	221	1 292	100	nr	nr	nr
Australia	54 592	14 386	68 958	53	Gold Coast	Gold Coast	Tropical North QLD

a. Expenditure includes domestic airfares, long distance costs and package expenditure. It excludes international airfares and major purchases including motor vehicles. It refers to visitors aged 15 and over.

b. Relates to tourism regions defined by Tourism Research Australia.

c. Relates to both day and overnight visitors.

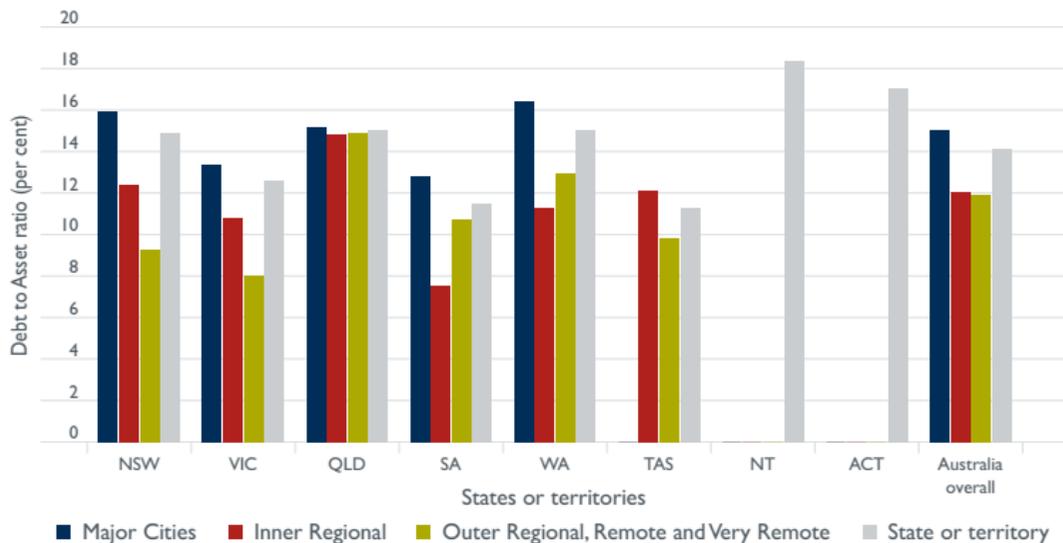
d. Gold Coast is not counted as part of Queensland's capital city.

e. Western refers to the Great Ocean Road area

f. Petermann includes Uluru.

Source: Tourism Research Australia Regional Expenditure Tables, 2006. <www.tra.australia.com>.

Figure 4 Debt to Asset ratio of all households by state and territory and Remoteness Class, 2005–06



Notes: The Debt to Asset ratio shows the proportion of assets that are financed through debt, and therefore provides an indication of the extent to which households in a region are highly leveraged.

Household debt includes credit card debts, loans for property, study, vehicles and investments. Assets include property, vehicles, dwelling contents, bank accounts, shares, trusts, debentures and bonds, superannuation and business assets.

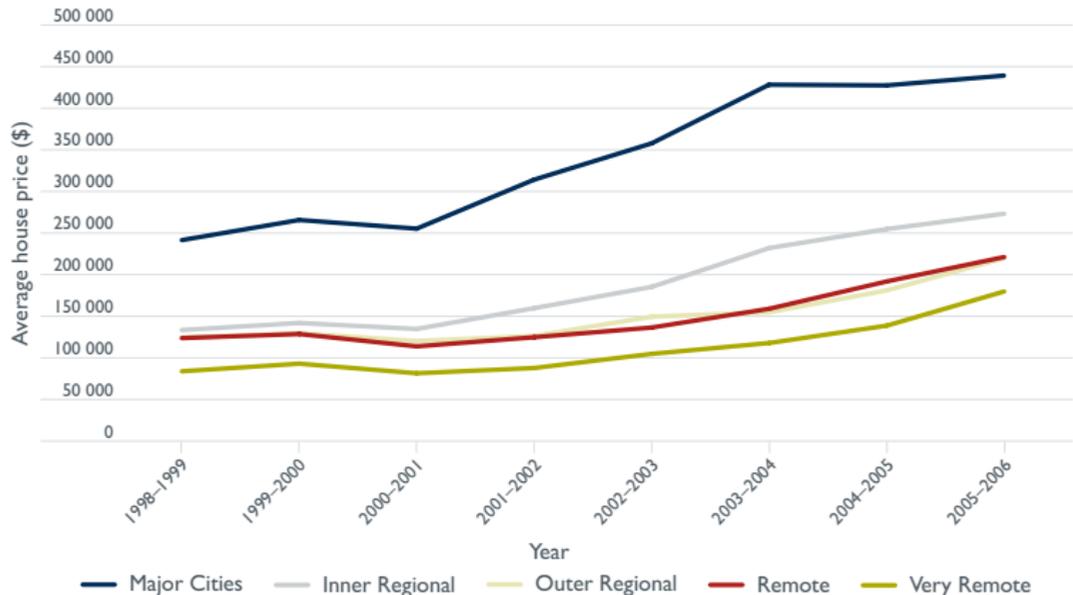
There is insufficient sample to disaggregate the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory by Remoteness Classes.

Source: ABS 2005–06 Survey of Income and Housing, data available on request.

Fact: The spatial pattern of the Debt to Asset ratio varies across regions and by Remoteness Class. Households in the Major Cities have a high Debt to Asset ratio relative to the other Remoteness Classes in each state. The ACT and the Northern Territory record the highest Debt to Asset ratio as a whole compared to all other states.

Housing

Figure 5 Average house prices by Remoteness Class, 1998–99 to 2005–06



Notes: House prices are in 2006–07 constant dollars. The analysis only includes Tasmania from 2002–03 onwards. Includes house prices only (as distinct from unit prices).

Source: *Australian Property Monitors* <www.apm.com.au>. Derivations for Remoteness Classes by BITRE.

Table 18 Local government areas (LGAs) with highest and lowest average house prices, 2005–06

Highest house prices			Lowest house prices		
LGA	Average house price 2005–06 (\$ thousands)	Average annual increase since 2000–01 (per cent)	LGA	Average house price 2005–06 (\$ thousands)	Average annual increase since 2000–01 (per cent)
Peppermint Grove WA*	2 938	16.0	Blackall QLD±	76	9.0
Mosman NSW*	2 016	7.0	Booringa QLD§	82	11.0
Woollahra NSW*	1 990	6.0	Taroom QLD§	83	10.0
Hunter's Hill NSW*	1 416	5.0	Coober Pedy SA±	87	8.0
Nedlands WA*	1 372	19.0	Peterborough SA^	87	18.0
Manly NSW*	1 363	10.0	Winton QLD±	88	13.0
Mosman Park WA*	1 359	22.0	Yarriambiack VIC^	89	10.0
Waverley NSW*	1 272	9.0	Flinders QLD±	90	14.0
Claremont WA*	1 201	17.0	Dalwallinu WA§	92	-1.0
Lane Cove NSW*	1 191	9.0	Southern Mallee SA§	94	12.0

Notes: All prices are in 2006–07 constant dollars. The analysis uses 2005 LGAs. The symbol after the LGA name denotes the Remoteness Class accounting for the majority of the LGA's population (Major Cities=*; Outer Regional=^; Remote=§ Very Remote=±). Only LGAs with ten or more houses sold in both 2000–01 and 2005–06 have been included.

Source: *Australian Property Monitors*, <www.apm.com.au>. LGAs were coded to Remoteness Classes by BITRE.

Table 19 Housing tenure and costs by Remoteness Class, 2006

	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote	Australia
Dwelling tenure type						
Fully owned (<i>per cent</i>)	33	38	38	32	22	34
Being purchased (<i>per cent</i>)	35	34	31	26	13	34
Being rented (<i>per cent</i>)	29	25	28	38	58	28
Other/not stated (<i>per cent</i>)	4	4	4	5	6	4
Total (<i>per cent</i>)	100	100	100	100	100	100
Dwellings being purchased						
Mean weekly repayments (\$)	375	290	263	274	232	348
Repayments as a share of mean gross household weekly income for purchasers (<i>per cent</i>)	22	21	19	18	16	21
Dwellings being rented						
Mean weekly rental (\$)	256	193	185	168	102	236
Rental as a share of mean gross household weekly income for renters (<i>per cent</i>)	24	24	21	14	9	23

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing (place of usual residence), data available on request.

Transport and communications

Table 20 Transport mode usage for domestic interregional, non-commuter passenger trips by Remoteness Class, 2006

Main transport mode	Passengers' home region					Australia
	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional (per cent)	Remote	Very Remote	
Car	83	88	91	85	82	85
Bus	9	6	5	11	13	8
Rail	5	3	1	1	1	4
Air	2	3	2	2	2	2
Other/not stated	1	1	1	2	1	1
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Notes: Relates to domestic travel only. Includes day trips (round trip distance of at least 50 kilometres) and overnight trips (destination must be at least 40 kilometres from home). Excludes persons under 15 and routine trips (e.g. commuting, weekly shopping trip). 'Car' includes private, company and hire vehicles. Other/not stated includes passenger ferries, campervans and miscellaneous modes. Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

Source: *Tourism Research Australia National Visitor Survey 2006*. Estimates for Remoteness Classes derived by BITRE.

Table 21 Method of travel to work by Remoteness Class, 2006

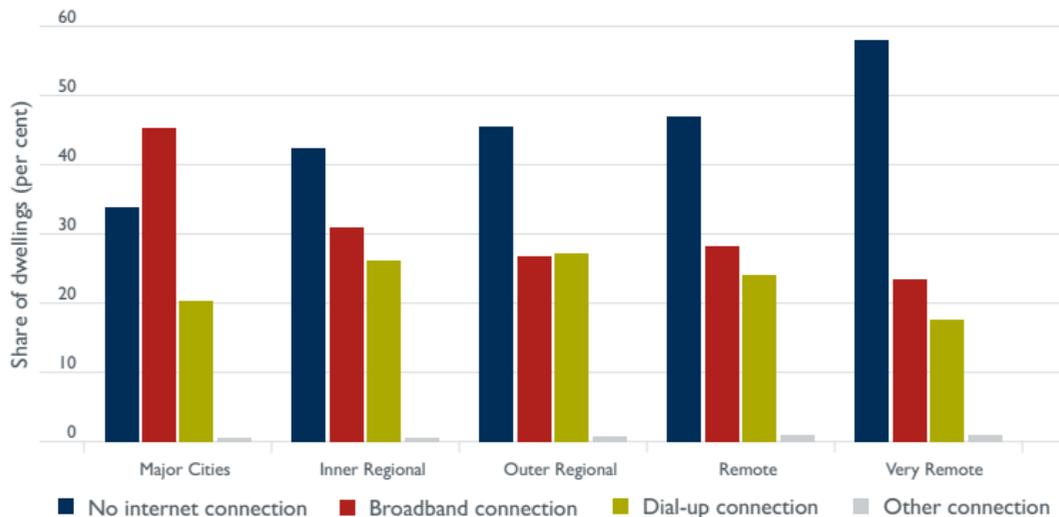
Method	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional (per cent)	Remote	Very Remote	Australia
Car, as driver	70.5	78.3	74.2	65.7	40.2	71.9
Car, as passenger	6.6	8.2	8.6	9.0	9.6	7.1
Truck	1.3	2.2	2.4	2.1	1.9	1.6
Motorbike/scooter	0.7	0.9	1.2	1.1	0.9	0.8
Bicycle	1.1	1.1	1.6	2.2	2.0	1.2
Walked only	3.9	5.4	7.7	13.4	35.6	4.9
Bus	4.1	1.1	1.4	2.4	5.1	3.3
Train/tram	6.3	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	4.5
Other response/ multiple travel methods	5.4	2.4	2.9	4.0	4.7	4.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Notes: This table excludes persons who did not respond, did not go to work, or worked at home. Other response includes ferries and taxis.

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing (place of usual residence).

Fact: The car is still the most popular means of getting to work, with almost 80 per cent of Australians choosing this method. Between 2001 and 2006, for Australia as a whole, there was little change, except for a slight increase in the number of car drivers (71.0 to 71.9 per cent), a decrease in car passengers (7.6 to 7.1 per cent) and a decrease in travel by truck (2.0 to 1.6 per cent).

Figure 6 Computer and internet usage by Remoteness Class, 2006



Notes: Broadband connection refers to Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) connections. Other connection includes Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN), wireless, cable, satellite and other connection methods.

Based on 2001 Remoteness Class boundaries.

Source: ABS 2006 *Patterns of Internet Access in Australia* (Cat. 8146.0.55.001).

Internet usage and access

- From the 2001 to 2006 census periods, the percentage of Australian dwellings with Internet access increased from 35 to 63 per cent.
- At the end of March 2007 the number of non dial-up subscribers was 4.34 million, compared with dial-up subscribers of 2.09 million. Non dial-up connections include Digital Subscriber Line (DSL), wireless, cable and satellite.
- Non dial-up subscribers increased by 16 per cent between September 2006 and March 2007. The growth was driven mainly by household subscribers.
- Non dial-up subscribers represented 67 per cent of total internet subscribers in Australia at the end of March 2007 compared with 60 per cent at the end of September 2006.
- Connections with download speeds of 1.5Mbps or greater increased by 470 000, or 43 per cent, between September 2006 and March 2007.
- In 2006 the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) reported that individuals living in households with an equivalised income of more than \$2000 per week were three times more likely to have broadband access than those on less than \$600 per week.
- In the same report, the ABS calculated that Indigenous people are half as likely to have broadband access than Non-Indigenous people.
- For the 2006–07 financial year the communications sector contributed 2.5 per cent to Australia's GDP.

Sources: *ABS Internet Activity Australia, March 2007* (Cat. 8153.0); *ABS Australian System of National Accounts 2006–07* (Cat. 5204.0); *ABS Patterns of Internet Access in Australia 2006* (Cat. 8146.0.55.001); *ABS Household Use of Information Technology, Australia, 2006–07* (Cat. 8146.0).

Education and health

Table 22 Attendance at government and non-government schools by Remoteness Class, 2006

	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional <i>(per cent)</i>	Remote	Very Remote	Australia
Primary school attendance						
Government	67	71	75	77	89	69
Catholic	21	18	18	19	7	20
Other non-government	12	11	7	4	4	11
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
Secondary school attendance						
Government	56	64	75	76	88	60
Catholic	23	21	17	15	5	22
Other non-government	20	16	8	9	8	18
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100
16-year-olds still at school or in further education^a						
Males	80	78	74	65	35	78
Females	82	82	79	68	46	81

a. As a share of all 16-year-olds.

Notes: Secondary school or further education—includes secondary government, Catholic, other non government, technical or further educational institutions including TAFE colleges and university or other tertiary institutions.

Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

Sources: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing (place of usual residence). Estimates for Remoteness Classes were derived by BITRE. Data on 16-year-olds available on request from ABS.

Table 23 Further educational qualifications by Remoteness Class, 2006

	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote	Australia
Percentage of persons aged 15+ with a highest qualification of:						
Postgraduate degree (per cent)	3.2	1.3	0.9	0.9	0.6	2.6
Graduate diploma or graduate certificate (per cent)	1.6	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.8	1.4
Bachelor degree (per cent)	13.4	7.8	6.3	6.9	5.3	11.5
Advanced diploma or diploma (per cent)	7.7	6.2	5.0	5.1	3.9	7.1
Certificate (per cent)	15.6	19.6	17.1	18.1	14.6	16.6
Bachelor degree or higher level qualification (thousands)						
Males	949	135	47	7	3	1 140
Females	1 051	185	72	12	5	1 325
All persons: 2006	2 000	320	118	20	8	2 466
All persons: 2001	1 510	262	109	17	7	1 919
Change 2001–06 (per cent)	32	22	8	18	14	29

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing (place of usual residence). Estimates for Remoteness Classes were derived by BITRE.

Table 24 Selected indicators of health status by state and territory, 2004–2006

	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	ACT	Australia
Life expectancy at birth, 2006 (years)									
Male	78.6	79.3	78.5	78.6	79.1	77.4	72.1	80.0	78.7
Female	83.4	83.7	83.4	83.6	83.8	82.3	78.1	83.9	83.5
Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births)^a									
Average rate, 2004–2006	4.8	4.6	5.2	3.8	4.5	3.7	9.7	5.9	4.8
Selected causes of death—standardised rates per 100 000 population (2005)									
Cancer	177	177	177	176	174	205	208	161	178
Ischaemic heart disease	105	102	115	112	102	115	106	80	106
Stroke	54	49	55	52	43	44	43	52	52
Diabetes	12	19	16	16	18	29	30	18	16
Transport accidents	6	8	8	11	9	11	25	9	8
Respiratory disease	50	46	50	56	43	47	88	37	49

a. Defined by the ABS as 'the number of deaths of children under one year of age in one calendar year per 1000 live births in the same calendar year'.

Sources: ABS Deaths Australia, 2006 (Cat 3302.0), ABS Causes of Death, Australia, 2005 (Cat 3303.0).

Table 25 Selected self-reported health risk factors by Remoteness Class^a, 2004–05

Share of persons over 18 years of age who reported:	Major Cities	Inner Regional (per cent)	Outer Regional, Remote, Very Remote	Australia (per cent)	
				Male	Female
Current smoker	19.9	23.0	26.2	26.3	20.0
Risky/high alcohol risk ^b	12.6	14.8	16.3	15.4	11.6
Sedentary/low exercise level	69.9	70.6	72.2	66.8	73.7
Overweight/obese Body Mass Index	47.9	51.1	53.5	58.6	40.2
Low/no usual daily intake of fruit ^c	45.5	45.4	50.1	52.4	39.9

a. 2001 Remoteness Class boundaries used.

b. 'Risky' refers to the consumption of 50–75 millilitres of alcohol per day for males, or 25–50 millilitres for females. 'High alcohol risk' refers to the consumption of more than 75 millilitres per day for males, or over 50 millilitres for females. One standard drink is equivalent to 12.5 millilitres of alcohol.

c. Low daily intake of fruit equals one serve or less.

Source: ABS National Health Survey 2004–05 (Cat. 4364.0).

Table 26 Health professionals in the labour force by Remoteness Class, 2006

	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional	Remote	Very Remote	Australia
Number of health professionals per 100 000 population^a						
Generalist medical practitioners	205	128	113	116	61	178
Other medical practitioners (excluding generalists) ^a	123	56	36	24	10	99
Registered nurses	642	701	573	463	352	642
Midwives	61	66	62	58	46	62
Dental practitioners	54	30	24	16	9	45
Pharmacists	87	60	51	36	14	77
Other health professionals ^b	681	611	522	493	403	647
All health professionals	1 853	1 652	1 380	1 207	895	1 751
2001 all health professionals	1 597	1 389	1 136	910	655	1 497
Growth from 2001–2006 of all health professionals (per cent)	16	19	21	33	37	17

a. Includes medical practitioners such as surgeons, psychiatrists, anaesthetists and psychiatrists.

b. Includes other health professionals such as optometrists, physiotherapists, podiatrists, dieticians and medical imaging professionals.

Note: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

Sources: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing (place of usual residence), ABS Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, first edition, 2006 (Cat.1220.0).

Table 27 Proportion of people requiring assistance with core activities^a, 2006

Age group (years)	Major Cities	Inner Regional	Outer Regional (per cent)	Remote	Very Remote	Australia
0-4	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.9
5-14	1.9	2.2	1.8	1.4	1.0	2.0
15-19	1.4	1.7	1.6	1.0	0.9	1.5
20-24	1.0	1.7	1.5	1.0	0.7	1.2
25-34	1.1	1.8	1.5	0.9	0.8	1.2
35-44	1.7	2.3	2.2	1.5	1.2	1.8
45-54	2.6	3.3	3.3	2.3	2.6	2.8
55-64	4.6	5.6	5.5	4.8	5.5	5.0
65-74	8.0	7.1	7.2	7.1	11.0	7.7
75-84	20.6	18.9	19.1	18.6	23.6	20.1
85 and older	47.0	48.2	48.6	47.5	41.0	47.4
Total persons	4.0	4.7	4.3	3.0	2.5	4.1

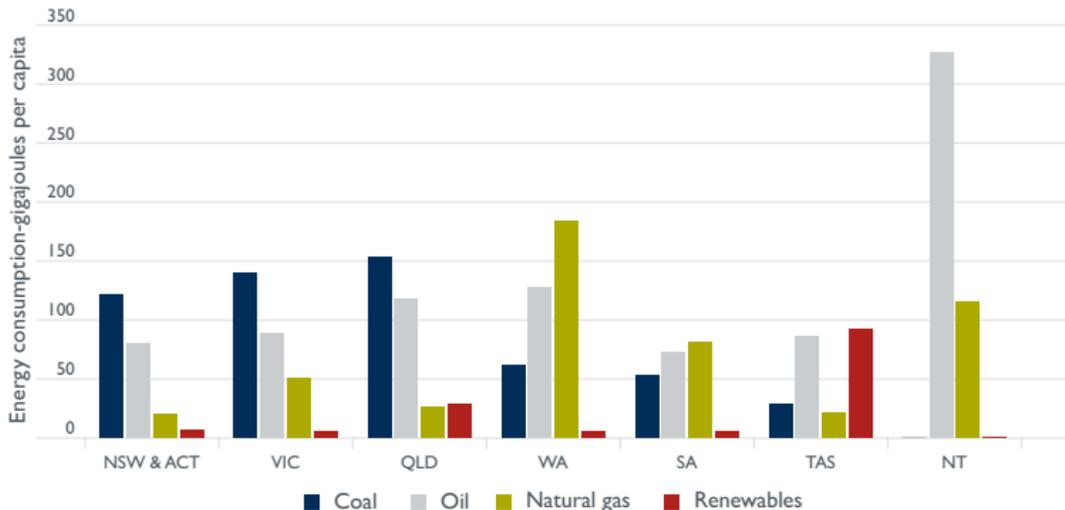
a. Defined as 'needing help or assistance in one or more of the three core activity areas of self-care, mobility and communication because of a disability, long-term health condition (lasting six months or more) or old age.' (ABS)

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing (place of usual residence).

Fact: The LGA with the highest proportion of people who needed assistance with core activities was Maralinga Tjarutja (SA) at 12.8 per cent, followed by Mount Morgan (QLD) at 8.5 per cent.

Environmental issues

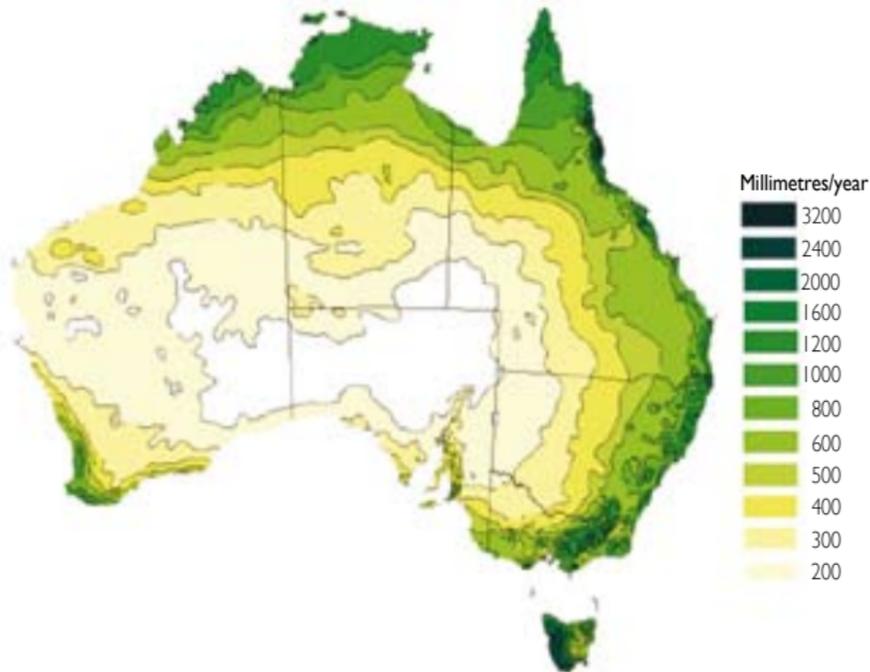
Figure 7 Per capita primary energy consumption by fuel type, states and territories, 2005–06



Notes: Consumption levels are based on gross, rather than net amounts. Coal includes black coal, brown coal, coke and brown coal briquettes. Renewables include bagasse, hydroelectricity, solar energy and woodwaste.

Sources: BITRE analysis of ABARE *Australian Energy Statistics – Australian Energy Consumption by Fuel-Energy Units 1960–61 to 2005–06* and ABS *Australian Demographic Statistics, June 2007—Estimated Resident Population, States and Territories* (Cat. 3101.0).

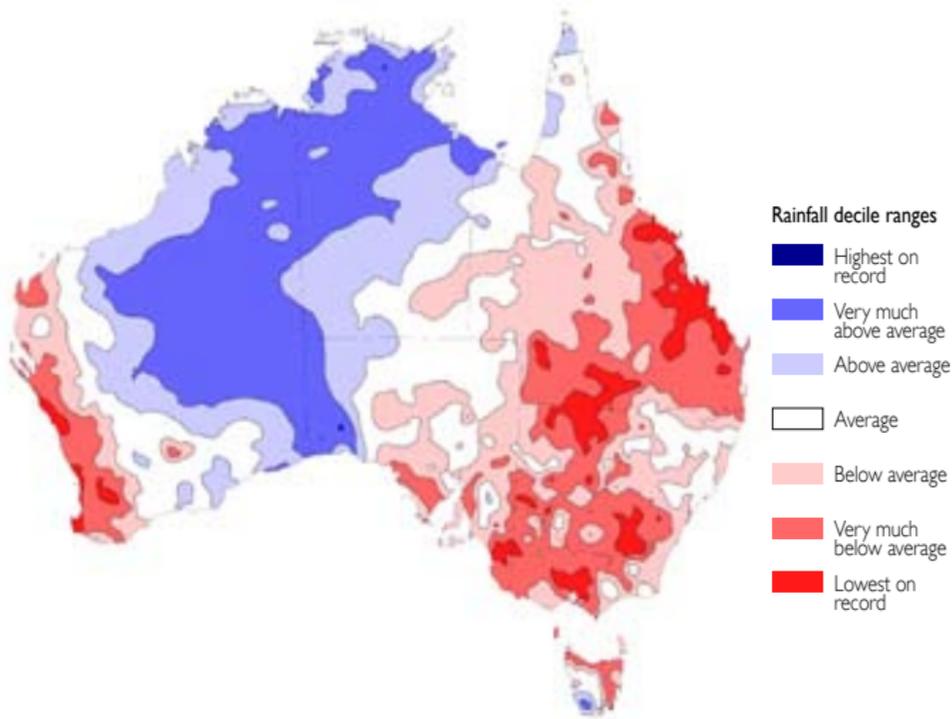
Figure 8 Average annual rainfall based on 30 year climatology (1961–1990)



Australia is one of the driest inhabited continents. Water is a valuable resource, essential to support an increasing human population, and to sustain economic development, and ecosystem health and biodiversity.

Australia's river basins and groundwater supplies experience variable flows and climatic conditions, which impacts on resource availability.

Figure 9 Australian rainfall deciles, 2007



Droughts are common in Australia. The main cause of the recent drought in southeast Australia is a regularly occurring climatic event in the Pacific Ocean called El Niño. However, climate change may have also played a role in some areas with unusually long periods of rainfall deficit.

Sources: BOM Australian Climate Statement 2006; Climate Education: Drought, Climate Variability and El Niño <www.bom.gov.au>

Table 28 Water consumption in gigalitres by state and territory, 2004–05^a

	NSW and ACT	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS	NT	Australia
Livestock, pasture, grains & other agriculture	1 908	962	647	483	229	110	36	4 374
Sugar, cotton and rice	1 589	6	1 973	–	152	–	–	3 721
Dairy farming	263	1 710	69	95	54	85	–	2 276
Horticulture ^b	374	602	227	443	100	64	11	1 820
Domestic	604	405	493	144	362	69	31	2 108
Domestic per capita average daily use (<i>litres</i>) ^c	245	222	340	258	493	392	419	282
Sewerage and drainage	637	793	426	71	128	20	8	2 083
Electricity and gas	75	99	81	3	13	–	1	271
Other ^d	528	415	445	127	457	87	54	2 113
Total^e	5 978	4 993	4 361	1 365	1 495	434	141	18 767

a. Water consumption = self-extracted use + distributed water use + reuse water use – water supplied to other users – in-stream use – distributed water used by the environment.

b. Horticulture includes vegetables, fruit and grapes.

c. Per capita estimate uses data from ABS *Australian Demographic Statistics, Dec 2005* (Cat. 3101.0).

d. Other includes manufacturing, mining, services to agriculture, hunting and trapping, forestry and fishing, and other industry.

e. Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

Source: BITRE analysis of ABS *Water Account for Australia 2004–05* (Cat. 4610.0).

Fact: Water consumption in Australia decreased from 21 702 gigalitres in 2000–01 to 18 767 gigalitres in 2004–05. Excepting Tasmania, all states and territories reduced domestic water use per capita in 2004–05 compared with 2000–01.

Table 29 Areas of high risk or hazard of dryland salinity by state and territory

	Hectares at high risk or hazard	Projected hectares at high risk or hazard	
	2000	2020	2050
NSW	181 000	579 000	1 300 000
VIC	670 000	1 310 000	3 110 000
QLD	na	na	3 100 000
SA	390 000	495 000	600 000
WA	4 363 000	5 230 000	8 800 000
TAS	54 000	70 000	90 000
NT and ACT	minor	unknown	unknown
Australia	5 658 000	7 684 000	16 900 000

Note: Information should not be interpreted as actual areas affected since the assessments are likely to overestimate areal extent particularly in dissected (hilly) landscapes. Rather the data identify areas or regions within which dryland salinity occurs or could occur.

Source: *National Land and Water Resources Audit 2001* <www.environment.gov.au/atlas>.

Fact: Dryland salinity significantly decreases agricultural productivity, and threatens ecosystems and biodiversity. It also reduces the life of infrastructure resources as salt destroys the properties of bitumen and concrete structures. Estimates suggest that 52 000 kilometres of major roads and 3600 kilometres of railways could be affected by the year 2050. Australian rural towns are also potentially affected. Over 200 towns could suffer damage to infrastructure and other community assets from dryland salinity by 2050.

Table 30 Average annual cost of natural disasters by state and territory, 1967–2005

State and territory	Flood	Severe storms	Cyclones	Earthquakes	Bushfires	Total
<i>Cost (\$ million in 2005 Australian dollars)^a</i>						
NSW	172.3	217.1	0.6	145.7	23.9	559.6
VIC	40.2	23.8	0.0	0.0	36.7	100.6
QLD	124.5	46.7	99.3	0.0	0.7	271.2
SA	19.3	16.7	0.0	0.0	13.0	49.0
WA	4.7	13.0	43.3	3.1	4.6	68.7
TAS	6.9	1.2	0.0	0.0	11.5	19.5
NT	9.1	0.4	138.5	0.3	0.0	148.3
ACT	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	9.7	10.2
Australia	376.9	325.2^b	281.6	149.1	100.1	1232.9
Share of total (per cent) ^c	30.9	26.7	23.1	12.2	8.2	100.0

a. These figures exclude the cost of death and injury.

b. Figure includes costs associated with a storm involving several eastern states (\$216.7 million) which has not been allocated to any individual state data in the table.

c. Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

Source: BITRE analysis of Emergency Management Australia database <www.ema.gov.au>.

International comparisons

Table 31 Comparison of indicators across selected countries, 2000–2010

	Australia	Italy	India	United Kingdom	United States of America
People per square kilometre (2004)	3	193	330	246	30
Population distribution (2005)					
– Urban (<i>per cent</i>)	88	68	29	89	81
– Rural (<i>per cent</i>)	12	32	71	11	19
Life expectancy at birth (2005–2010)					
– Male (<i>years</i>)	78	77	63	76	75
– Female (<i>years</i>)	83	83	66	81	80
Total fertility rate (2005–2010) ^a	1.8	1.4	2.8	1.8	2.1
Public expenditure on education as percentage of GDP, 2005	4.5	4.5	3.2	5.6	5.3
Per capita GDP (\$US) (2006)	37 924	31 440	784	39 207	43 562
Unemployment rate (2005) ^b (<i>per cent</i>)	5	8	5 ^c	5	5

a. This is the total number of children that a woman would bear if her child-bearing years follow the current fertility patterns and she lives through her entire child-bearing years.

Total fertility rates are estimated by the United Nations using the latest available demographic data from countries and given as five-year averages. Unemployment estimates are not strictly comparable. For example, Australian data relates to persons aged 15 years and over whereas the UK and the USA relate to persons aged 16 years and over.

c. 2004. Data is based on a national sample survey conducted every five years.

Sources: United Nations Statistics Division <www.unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic>; <www.unstats.un.org/unsd/snaama>; UNESCO Institute for Statistics <www.uis.unesco.org>. All sources accessed January 2008.

Abbreviations and acronyms

\$US	United States dollar	GDP	Gross Domestic Product
ABARE	Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics	GISCA	National Centre for Social Applications of Geographic Information Systems
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics	GSP	Gross State Product
ACCC	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission	LGA	Local Government Area
ACT	Australian Capital Territory	na	Not available
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare	nr	Not relevant
BOM	Bureau of Meteorology	NSW	New South Wales
BITRE	Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics	NT	Northern Territory
BTRE	Bureau of Transport and Regional Economics	QLD	Queensland
Cat.	Catalogue number	SA	South Australia
DEEWR	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations	TAS	Tasmania
exp.	Ependiture	VIC	Victoria
FaHCSIA	Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
		WA	Western Australia

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Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

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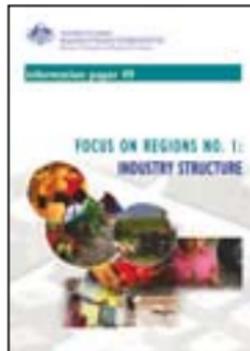
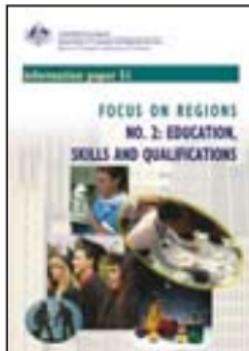
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