



NSW Youth - 2006 Census

Introduction

This report examines selected 2006 Census labour force and education data for persons aged 15-24 in NSW. Regional data are analysed for the Labour Market Regions and Employment Service Areas (ESAs) established by DEEWR for the purposes of tendering out employment services under Job Network.

The Census data are based on written responses provided by householders and for some items may be particularly subjective.

Summary

- Between 1996 and 2006, employment of persons aged 15-19 grew by 10.6 per cent and the number who were unemployed declined by 12.6 per cent.
- Labour force participation for 20-24 year olds declined in the decade to 2006, associated with a rise in the number in full-time education from 70,000 to 123,000.
- Just over two-thirds (69.9 per cent) of 15-19 year olds and around one-third (33.3 per cent) of 20-24 year olds in NSW were attending an education institution.
- The five ESAs in NSW with the lowest proportions of youth to working age population are all coastal areas outside of Sydney.
- While only two ESAs – Northern Beaches Sydney and Queanbeyan – had unemployment rates for 15-19 year olds that were less than 10 per cent, just over 40 per cent of ESAs had unemployment rates for 20-24 year old in single figures.
- Four of the five ESAs with the highest unemployment rates for 20-24 year olds were on the NSW North Coast.
- Snowy ESA had the highest participation rate for 20-24 year olds with 92.4 per cent while Grafton had the lowest at 64.9 per cent.
- The proportion of 15-19 year olds attending an educational institution, including school, varied from 84.9 per cent in the Northern Beaches Sydney ESA to less than 50 per cent in Snowy, Oxley and Gwydir Namoi.

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The population of persons aged 15-19 rose by 6.4 per cent between 1996 and 2006, which was less than the growth for the working age population (15-64) of 9.9 per cent. Employment of persons aged 15-19 grew by 10.6 per cent and the number who were unemployed declined by 12.6 per cent. The participation rate for 15-19 year olds was the same in 2006 as in 1996 while the unemployment rate fell from 18.3 per cent to 15.1 per cent (see Table 1).

**Table 1: Census Labour Force Characteristics
NSW Persons Aged 15-19**

	1996	2006
Population	412,748	439,235
% of persons aged 15 to 64	10.4%	10.0%
Employed	155,675	172,252
Unemployed	34,909	30,523
% of population unemployed	8.5%	6.9%
Unemployment rate	18.3%	15.1%
Participation rate	46.2%	46.2%

While the unemployment rate for 15-19 year olds was much higher than for 20-24 year olds (and other age groups), the ratio of unemployed to population was almost the same (6.9 per cent for 15-19 year olds and 6.8 per cent for 20-24 year olds in 2006). This is because a much higher proportion of 15-19 year olds were not in the labour force. The ABS Labour Force Survey indicates that 70 per cent of 15-19 year olds were attending full-time education in 2006.

**Table 2: Census Labour Force Characteristics
NSW Persons Aged 20-24**

	1996	2006
Population	435,691	431,408
% of persons aged 15 to 64	10.9%	9.9%
Employed	294,519	288,257
Unemployed	43,841	29,468
% of population unemployed	10.1%	6.8%
Unemployment rate	13.0%	9.3%
Participation rate	77.7%	73.6%

The population of persons aged 20-24 fell by 1.0 per cent between 1996 and 2006, resulting in a one percentage point fall in the proportion the age group comprises of the working age population (see Table 2). Labour force participation declined in the decade to 2006 with employment falling 2.1 per cent and unemployment falling by

almost one third. The unemployment rate of persons aged 20-24 declined from 13.0 per cent in 1996 to 9.3 per cent in 2006.

The fall in labour force participation in this age group was associated with an increase in participation in full-time education. ABS Labour Force Survey data indicate that the number of 20-24 year olds attending full-time education increased from 70,000 in 1996 to 123,000 in 2006.

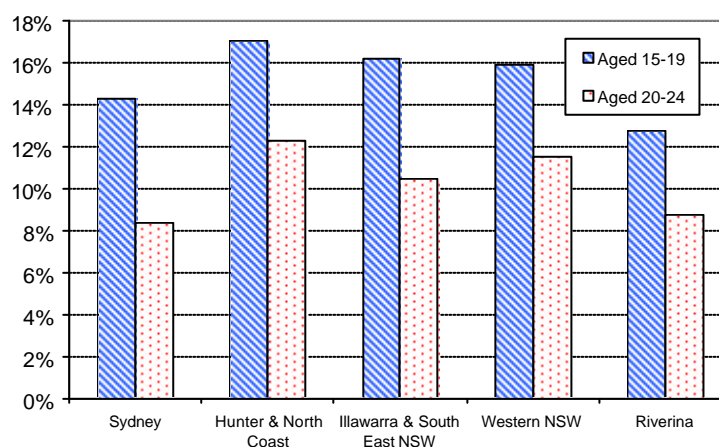
Labour Market Regions

A table showing selected 2006 Census information for youth for the NSW Labour Market Regions is on the last page of this report (page 8). The proportion that persons aged 15-24 comprised of the working age population (15-64) was fairly consistent across the regions. Riverina had the highest proportion with 21.2 per cent and Hunter and North Coast had the lowest with 19.4 per cent.

As Chart 1 illustrates, the unemployment rates for 15-19 year olds varied from 12.7 per cent in the Riverina to 17.0 per cent in Hunter and North Coast. The unemployment rates for 20-24 year olds ranged from 8.3 per cent in Sydney to 12.3 per cent in Hunter and North Coast.

Labour force participation of 15-19 year olds was highest in the Riverina (56.5 per cent) and Hunter and North Coast (55.4 per cent) and lowest in Sydney (45.6 per cent) where there was a higher proportion of young people in full-time education. Labour force participation for 20-24 year olds was fairly constant for most regions between 79 and 81 per cent with the exception of Western NSW where the rate was 76.2 per cent.

**Chart 1: 2006 Census Unemployment Rates
Persons Aged 15-19, 20-24**



Just over two-thirds (69.9 per cent) of 15-19 year olds and around one-third (33.3 per cent) of 20-24 year olds in NSW were attending an education institution. Sydney recorded an above average proportion for both age groups with 72.5 per cent and 36.2

per cent. All other regions were less than the State average with Western NSW having the lowest proportions of 63.7 per cent for 15-19 year olds and 22.9 per cent for 20-24 year olds.

Around 76,700 or 8.8 per cent of persons aged 15-24 in NSW were attending a technical or further education institution in 2006 and 138,500 or 15.9 per cent were attending university or other higher education. The highest proportion attending TAFE was in Illawarra and South East NSW with 9.5 per cent while the lowest was in Western NSW with 8.1 per cent. Sydney recorded the highest proportion attending university or other higher education with 18.7 per cent while Western NSW was the lowest with 10.1 per cent.

Around 20 per cent of persons aged 15-24 in Sydney were attending technical or further education, or university or other higher education full-time compared with around 12 to 13 per cent for the non-Sydney regions.

Employment Service Areas

Tables showing selected 2006 Census information for youth for the Employment Service Areas (ESAs) within the NSW Labour Market Regions can be accessed from the NSW Labour Economics Office section of the Workplace site under 'Publications', 'Regional Information', '2006 Census' and 'Youth' or from the link in the footnote¹. There are 47 ESAs in NSW.

As shown in Table 3, the proportion that 15-24 year olds comprise of the working age population varies across ESAs from 26.5 per cent in Central Western NSW to 15.5 per cent in Eurobodalla. Three of the ESAs with the highest proportions of young people have universities and other tertiary institutions in their main centre – Bathurst in Central Western, Wagga Wagga in Central Murrumbidgee and Armidale in North East NSW. The five ESAs with the lowest proportions of youth to working age population are all coastal areas outside of Sydney.

Table 3: NSW ESAs with Highest and Lowest Proportions of Youth (15-24) to Working Age Population (15-64)

ESA	ESA	ESA	ESA
Central Western NSW	26.5%	Eurobodalla	15.5%
Central Murrumbidgee	23.3%	Lower South Coast NSW	16.1%
Snowy	23.0%	Grafton	16.6%
North East NSW	23.0%	Kempsey	16.8%
Macarthur	22.9%	Taree	16.8%

¹ Link to Regional Information page:
www.workplace.gov.au/workplace/Publications/ResearchStats/LabourMarketAnalysis/LEO/NSW/RegionalInformation-NSW.htm

Tables 4 and 5 show the ESAs with the lowest and highest unemployment rates for 15-19 year olds and 20-24 year olds respectively. Northern Beaches Sydney, Queanbeyan and Snowy² had the lowest unemployment rates for both groups of young people. Kempsey ESA had the highest unemployment rate for both the 15-19 and 20-24 age groups while North East NSW was also in the top five for both groups. Four of the five ESAs with the highest unemployment rates for 20-24 year olds were on the NSW North Coast. While only two ESAs had unemployment rates for 15-19 year olds that were less than 10 per cent, just over 40 per cent of ESAs had unemployment rates for 20-24 year old in single figures.

Table 4: NSW ESAs with Lowest and Highest Unemployment Rates for Persons Aged 15-19

ESA		ESA	
Northern Beaches Sydney	8.2%	Kempsey	20.4%
Queanbeyan	8.6%	Taree	20.4%
Snowy	10.3%	Wollongong	19.8%
St George/Sutherland	10.8%	Shoalhaven	19.6%
Sturt	10.9%	North East NSW	19.5%

Table 5: NSW ESAs with Lowest and Highest Unemployment Rates for Persons Aged 20-24

ESA		ESA	
Snowy	3.5%	Kempsey	22.9%
Northern Beaches Sydney	4.2%	Grafton	17.4%
Queanbeyan	4.2%	Richmond	16.2%
Hawkesbury	5.7%	Tweed	15.6%
North Shore Sydney	6.6%	North East NSW	15.2%

Table 6 indicates that the ESAs with the highest participation rates for 15-19 year olds are all outside of Sydney with the Hunter recording the highest at 59.8 per cent. On the other hand, the ESAs with the lowest participation rates for persons 15-19 are all in Sydney with Inner City/Eastern Suburbs the lowest at 38.6 per cent. As discussed earlier, these regional differences reflect the higher proportion of youth in Sydney attending an educational institution full-time.

²2006 Census data for Snowy ESA indicates that, relative to most other ESAs in NSW, the area has a high proportion of youth to working age population, low youth unemployment, high labour force participation for 20-24 year olds and very low youth participation in education. The 2006 Census count was in August when a lot of young people would have been working at the snowfields within the ESA. The data collected for the Community Profiles used in this report should be based on place of usual residence. However the Census data can be subjective depending on the responses of those who filled in the form.

Table 6: NSW ESAs with Highest and Lowest Participation Rates for Persons Aged 15-19

ESA		ESA	
Hunter	59.8%	Inner City/Eastern Suburbs Sydney	38.6%
Queanbeyan	59.5%	Fairfield/Liverpool	38.9%
Upper Hunter	59.5%	Canterbury/Bankstown	39.0%
Far West NSW	58.5%	North Shore Sydney	40.6%
Central Murrumbidgee	58.1%	Inner West Sydney	41.0%

Snowy ESA had the highest participation rate for 20-24 year olds with 92.4 per cent while Grafton had the lowest at 64.9 per cent (see Table 7).

Table 7: NSW ESAs with Highest and Lowest Participation Rates for Persons Aged 20-24

ESA		ESA	
Snowy	92.4%	North East NSW	72.9%
Queanbeyan	88.1%	Southern Tablelands	71.7%
Northern Beaches Sydney	87.4%	Kempsey	70.1%
Hawkesbury	85.4%	Central Western NSW	68.8%
Upper Hunter	84.8%	Grafton	64.9%

For around three quarters of the ESAs, the proportion of 15-19 year olds attending an educational institution, including school, was between 60 and 70 per cent. As Table 8 indicates, the five ESAs with the highest proportions were all in Sydney with North Shore easily the highest proportion of 84.9 per cent. Two ESAs outside of Sydney also had over 70 per cent of 15-19 year olds attending an educational institution – Southern Highlands and North Coast.

Table 8: NSW ESAs with Highest and Lowest Proportions of 15-19 Year Olds Attending Educational Institutions (including School)

ESA		ESA	
North Shore Sydney	84.9%	Snowy	26.2%
St George/Sutherland	76.3%	Oxley	48.9%
Northern Beaches Sydney	76.0%	Gwydir Namoi	49.9%
Inner West Sydney	75.6%	Far West NSW	56.6%
Central West Sydney	75.2%	Orana	60.2%

While one-third of 20-24 year olds across NSW were attending an educational institution, the proportion varied considerably from 50.2 per cent in North Shore Sydney to 7.7 per cent in Snowy and Oxley (see Table 9). For just over one quarter (28 per cent) of ESAs the proportion of 20-24 year olds attending an educational institution was over 30 per cent and for two fifths of ESAs (40 per cent) the proportion was less than 20 per cent.

**Table 9: NSW ESAs with Highest and Lowest Proportions
of 20-24 Year Olds Attending Educational Institutions (including School)**

ESA		ESA	
North Shore Sydney	50.2%	Snowy	7.7%
Inner West Sydney	45.0%	Oxley	7.7%
Inner City/Eastern Suburbs Sydney	40.6%	Murray Darling	11.1%
Wollongong	40.2%	Gwydir Namoi	12.4%
North East NSW	39.2%	Far West NSW	12.5%

While the proportion of persons aged 15-24 attending university or other higher education was 15.9 per cent across NSW, for well over half (62 per cent) of ESAs the proportion was less than 10 per cent. Most of the ESAs where the proportion was higher than the NSW average were either in Sydney or in major regional centres such as Wollongong, Bathurst and Armidale.

The ESA with the highest proportion of persons aged 15-24 attending technical or further education was Southern Suburbs (which comprises the LGAs of Kiama and Shellharbour) with 11.5 per cent. Other ESAs where the proportion of youth attending further or technical education was more than 10 per cent were Hunter, Upper Hunter, Blue Mountains, Hastings, Hawkesbury, Central Eastern NSW, St George/Sutherland and Southern Highlands.

SELECTED 2006 CENSUS INFORMATION FOR YOUTH - NSW LABOUR MARKET REGIONS

	NSW TOTAL [#]		Sydney		Hunter & North Coast		Illawarra & South East NSW		Western NSW		Riverina	
	Number	Per cent*	Number	Per cent*	Number	Per cent*	Number	Per cent*	Number	Per cent*	Number	Per cent*
Persons aged 15-19												
Population	439,235	100.0%	271,401	100.0%	73,373	100.0%	40,406	100.0%	35,119	100.0%	18,768	100.0%
Employed**	172,252	39.2%	99,835	36.8%	32,262	44.0%	16,849	41.7%	14,375	40.9%	8,855	47.2%
- Full-time	52,215	11.9%	28,695	10.6%	9,692	13.2%	5,157	12.8%	5,106	14.5%	3,544	18.9%
- Part-time	103,497	23.6%	61,208	22.6%	19,568	26.7%	10,167	25.2%	7,933	22.6%	4,570	24.3%
Unemployed	30,523	6.9%	16,627	6.1%	6,610	9.0%	3,260	8.1%	2,722	7.8%	1,293	6.9%
Not in the labour force	213,211	48.5%	139,209	51.3%	31,316	42.7%	18,270	45.2%	16,512	47.0%	7,826	41.7%
Labour force status not stated	23,240	5.3%	15,724	5.8%	3,184	4.3%	2,026	5.0%	1,508	4.3%	795	4.2%
Unemployment rate	15.1%		14.3%		17.0%		16.2%		15.9%		12.7%	
Participation rate***	48.7%		45.6%		55.4%		52.4%		50.9%		56.5%	
Attending an education instit. (incl. school)	307,204	69.9%	196,674	72.5%	49,272	67.2%	26,409	65.4%	22,388	63.7%	12,166	64.8%
Persons aged 20-24												
Population	431,408	100.0%	296,432	100.0%	58,295	100.0%	33,171	100.0%	27,824	100.0%	15,582	100.0%
Employed**	288,257	66.8%	197,802	66.7%	38,883	66.7%	22,596	68.1%	17,835	64.1%	11,069	71.0%
- Full-time	175,472	40.7%	119,541	40.3%	23,055	39.5%	13,785	41.6%	11,599	41.7%	7,436	47.7%
- Part-time	92,766	21.5%	64,366	21.7%	13,156	22.6%	7,305	22.0%	4,979	17.9%	2,949	18.9%
Unemployed	29,468	6.8%	18,002	6.1%	5,467	9.4%	2,618	7.9%	2,322	8.3%	1,052	6.8%
Not in the labour force	82,074	19.0%	55,857	18.8%	11,072	19.0%	5,996	18.1%	6,309	22.7%	2,821	18.1%
Labour force status not stated	31,609	7.3%	24,772	8.4%	2,875	4.9%	1,961	5.9%	1,356	4.9%	640	4.1%
Unemployment rate	9.3%		8.3%		12.3%		10.4%		11.5%		8.7%	
Participation rate***	79.5%		79.4%		80.0%		80.8%		76.2%		81.1%	
Attending an education institution	143,581	33.3%	107,267	36.2%	16,160	27.7%	9,426	28.4%	6,370	22.9%	4,105	26.3%
Persons aged 15-24												
Population	870,643	100.0%	567,833	100.0%	131,668	100.0%	73,577	100.0%	62,943	100.0%	34,350	100.0%
% of working age population (15-64)	20.2%		20.4%		19.4%		19.9%		20.1%		21.2%	
Education attendance												
Technical or further education	76,728	8.8%	48,943	8.6%	12,428	9.4%	7,008	9.5%	5,117	8.1%	3,218	9.4%
- Full-time	29,252	3.4%	20,680	3.6%	3,998	3.0%	2,039	2.8%	1,495	2.4%	1,039	3.0%
University or other higher education	138,535	15.9%	106,235	18.7%	13,799	10.5%	8,289	11.3%	6,363	10.1%	3,841	11.2%
- Full-time	121,694	14.0%	93,885	16.5%	11,697	8.9%	7,154	9.7%	5,602	8.9%	3,351	9.8%

Notes: The Census data are based on written responses provided by householders and for some items may be particularly subjective.

[#] NSW Total includes areas of NSW which fall within Victorian Labour Market Regions plus those where no region is identified.

* Per cent of the population of that age group.

** Employed includes persons away from work and where hours of work were not stated (in addition to persons working full-time and part-time).

*** Participation rate = (Employed + Unemployed) / Population. Persons whose labour force status was not stated are excluded from the calculation.