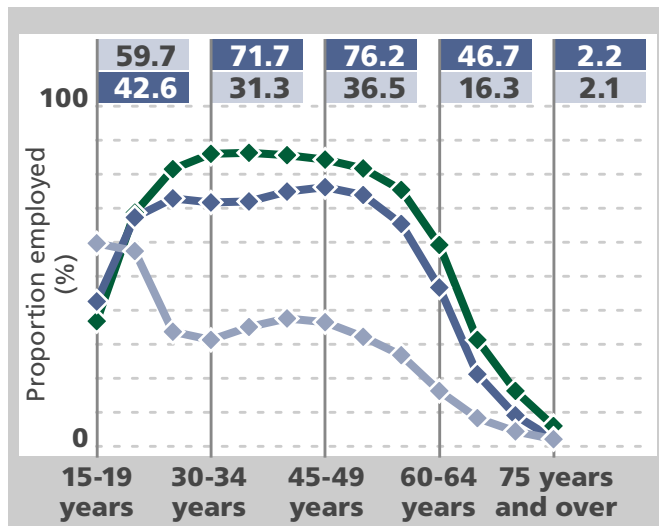


Six in ten Australians aged 15 years and over were employed (60%) in 2016, according to the 2016 Census of Population and Housing. This data summary provides an overview of employment in Australia on Census night.

For the most authoritative and recent estimates of employment, refer to *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0).

### Women and employment

The 2016 Census found that 56% of women in Australia were employed, compared with 65% of men. Women's employment has increased significantly since the 1966 Census, when just over one-third of women were employed (34%). Over the same period, the proportion of men who were employed has declined from 83%.



There have been some dramatic changes to women's employment across the life cycle. In 1966, employment was highest for younger women, with 60% of young women aged 15–19 years being employed, with a noticeable dip during the peak child bearing years (31% of women aged 30–34 years were employed).

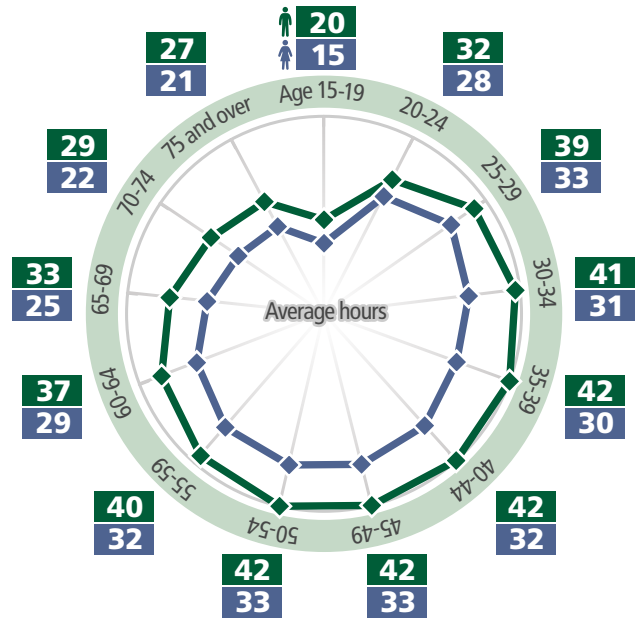
Over time, women's employment levels have increased across most age groups and the pattern has become more similar to that of men. In 2016, the proportion of women employed was lower in the teenage years (43%), with a rise in the mid-twenties, a small dip in the child-bearing years, before increasing to relatively higher employment up until the fifties when employment levels begin to decline as women begin to retire.

### Hours of paid work

The average number of hours worked in 2016 was 39 hours per week for men and 30 hours for women, the same as the 2011 Census. Women worked fewer hours in paid employment than men across all age groups.

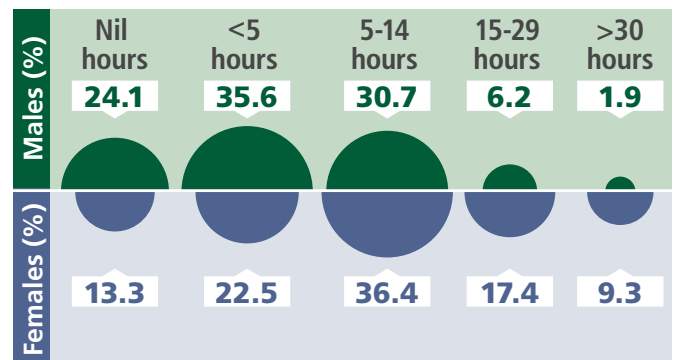
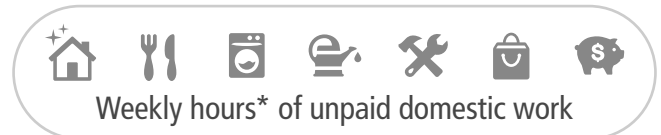
The average hours worked was lowest for teenagers, as they start their working life, and next lowest for people aged 75 years and over, as they transition towards retirement. The highest average hours was for men aged 35–54 years (42 hours per week).

### Average hours worked in week prior to Census



### Hours of unpaid work

Employed women did more hours of unpaid domestic work such as housework, grocery shopping, gardening and repairs than employed men.



\*Hours in the week prior to Census for employed people.



In 2016, over half of employed men did nil or less than five hours per week of unpaid domestic work (60%) compared with a third of employed women (36%). Men were also less likely than women to do 15 hours or more per week of unpaid domestic work (8% of men and 27% of women). This pattern applied across all hours of paid work, even for those working more than 49 hours per week.

## EMPLOYMENT IN AUSTRALIA

### Cultural diversity

Just over six in ten adults born in Australia were employed, according to the 2016 Census (62%), compared to 56% of people born overseas.

The employment levels in Australia varied widely by country of birth, reflecting immigration policies and waves of migration. Four out of five adults born in Nepal were employed at the time of the 2016 Census (79%), followed by Zimbabwe (76%) and Brazil (74%).









Top Five		2016
Country of birth		Proportion employed (%)
1	 Nepal	79.2
2	 Zimbabwe	76.4
3	 Brazil	73.5
4	 South Africa	71.8
5	 Canada	71.1

\*Countries are the 50 most common responses reported in the 2016 Census.

### Industry

Four-fifths of employed Australians worked in industries providing services (80%), such as health care, education and retail. This has grown slightly since 2011 (78%).

#### Top four industries of employment

	Males	Females
TOP 1	 <b>122 529</b> Computer system design and related services	 <b>321 934</b> Hospitals (except psychiatric hospitals)
TOP 2	 <b>115 279</b> Cafes and restaurants	 <b>197 671</b> Primary education
TOP 3	 <b>113 378</b> Supermarket and grocery stores	 <b>177 219</b> Aged care residential services
TOP 4	 <b>110 581</b> Road freight transport	 <b>140 890</b> Supermarket and grocery stores

Computer system design was the top industry for men in 2016 (122,500 men or 2.3% of employed men), and

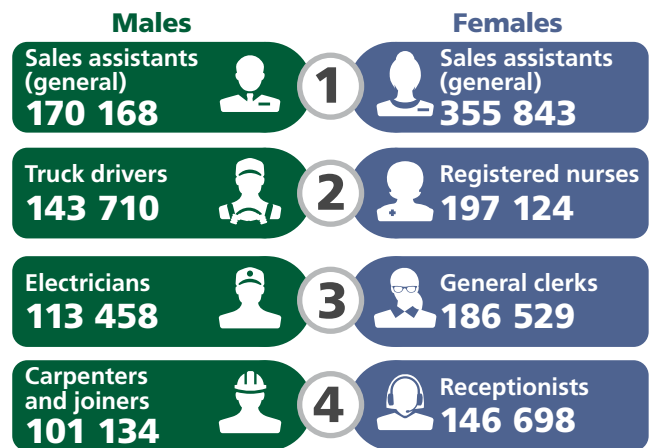
Hospitals was the top industry for women (321,900 or 6.6% of employed women). Road freight transport was another top industry of employment for men, and men made up over four-fifths of people in this industry (85%). Aged care residential services was a top industry for women, and this industry was dominated by women (84%).

### Occupation

Over one-fifth of employed men (22%) worked as tradespeople or technicians in 2016. Electricians and Carpenters and joiners were two of the top four occupations for men in 2016. Sales assistant was the most common occupation for both men (170,200 or 3.1%) and women (355,900 or 7.1% of employed women). Women made up about two-thirds (68%) of people in this occupation.

One-quarter of employed women (26%) worked in professional occupations, with Registered nurses the second most common occupation.

#### Top four occupations



### How do people get to work?

Driving a car to work was the most common method of travel to work at 62%. Throughout Australia, 3.5% of people walked to work and 1.0% rode a bicycle. These results are very similar to those in the 2011 Census. Hobart was the capital city with the most people who walked to work (5.5%) and Canberra had the most people who rode (2.6%).

### Where people live and work

Almost four in five employed Australians (79%) worked in the eastern mainland states and territories, consistent with the Census count that 79% of Australians lived in these areas. Almost all Australians lived in the same state or territory in which they worked (99% in each of the states in 2016). The main exceptions were the Australian Capital Territory, where 87% of people who worked there also lived there, and the Northern Territory (92%).

Notes: For information about the differences between the Census and the Labour Force Survey, see *Understanding the Census and Census Data* (cat. no. 2900.0). People who did not state their labour force status in the Census have been excluded from the statistics in this data summary sheet.

Source: All visual representations are based on data collected in the 2016 Census. For definitions of the terms used above, see the *Census Dictionary* (cat. no. 2901.0). For more information about 2016 Census data release and products, go to [www.abs.gov.au/census](http://www.abs.gov.au/census). This data summary was released as part of *Reflecting Australia: Stories from the Census, 2016* (cat. no. 2071.0).