

# EMPLOYMENT

WORK



- The City of Playford is located on the Northern-most fringes of metropolitan Adelaide, 30 kilometres from the CBD
- The second largest of South Australia's 19 metropolitan councils, the City of Playford contains 35 suburbs and covers an area of 346 km<sup>2</sup>

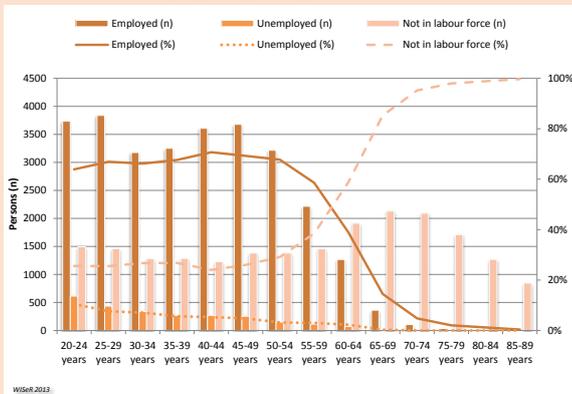
Employment and participation in the labour market are major determinants of the economic wellbeing of individuals and families. Those with access to secure and fulfilling work have a greater likelihood of increased life opportunities, adequate income, better health and wellbeing. On the other hand, unemployment, under-employment, or less secure employment, such as casual work, also bring greater risk of social exclusion from the community.<sup>1</sup>

## Labour force participation

A total of 33,813 (59%) of City of Playford residents were engaged with the labour market (i.e. were employed or seeking work). Labour market participation was comparatively higher in Greater Adelaide at 64%.

Conversely, the City of Playford had a higher proportion of unemployed residents looking for work than the metropolitan average at 10% compared to 6%.

Labour force status by age, City of Playford, 2011



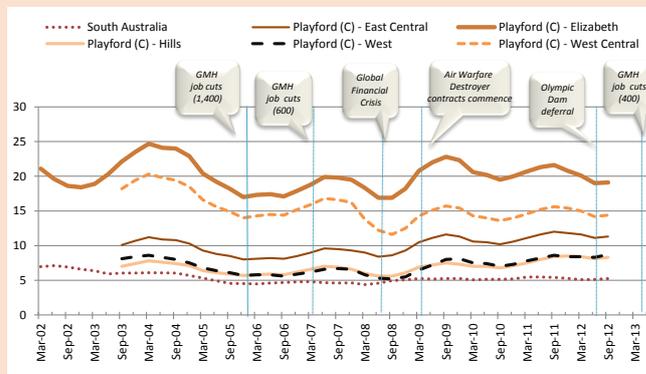
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011.

Across the age groups, the proportion of employed residents remained relatively static between the ages of 20 to 54 years at around 67%, noting a peak of 71% in the 40 to 44 year group and a low of 64% in 20 to 24 year olds.

Unemployment was disproportionately higher in the young, with 11% of 20 to 24 year olds reporting they were unemployed, this proportion reduced in a linear fashion to retirement age. Around one quarter of those aged 20 to 49 years did not participate in the labour force. Non-participation then rose steeply until the age of 70 years where very few remained in the labour force.

The most recent small area labour market data is shown below at Statistical Local Area (SLA) level, along with some critical events impacting on employment in the Northern Adelaide suburbs.

Unemployment rate by SLA (smoothed series), City of Playford, March 2002 to March 2013



Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations 2012.

The Playford (C) – Elizabeth SLA had one of the nation's highest suburban unemployment rates at 19% in September 2012, while the Playford - West Central SLA and Playford - East Central SLA remained exceptionally high at double the state rate. While there is some seasonal variation, these rates have remained consistently high.

## Employment hours

Of those residents who were employed in 2011, the majority were working full-time. Marginally more City of Playford residents (66%) were employed full-time than in Greater Adelaide (64%).

Twice as many males were employed full-time than females (67% versus 33%). Conversely, females were twice as likely as males to be engaged in part-time employment in the City of Playford (69% versus 31%).

According to the ABS Underemployed Workers Survey<sup>2</sup>, around a quarter of part-time workers in Australia wanted to work more hours, with just over half of these preferring to work full-time.

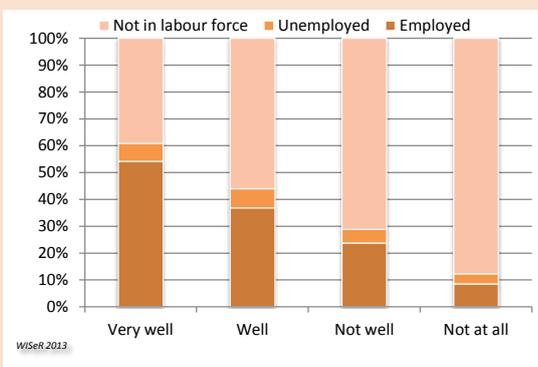
## Labour force participation for diverse population groups

While overall the City of Playford unemployment rate is amongst the highest in suburban Australia, the City of Playford is home to large sub-populations, including Indigenous Australians, youth and humanitarian migrants, who are at particular risk of even higher levels of unemployment.

The unemployment rate for the Indigenous population was chronically high at 22%, while the youth unemployment rate (for those seeking work and aged 15 to 24 years) was 18%, compared to 12% in metropolitan Adelaide.

The 5,768 persons residing in the City of Playford who reported speaking a language other than English at home were asked to rate their English proficiency. While 53% of City of Playford residents were employed, proportionately fewer of those who did not speak English at home were employed (42%). There was a clear relationship between English proficiency in this group and engagement in the labour force, with those proficient in English much more likely to be employed.

Labour force participation by Non-English speaking at home, City of Playford, 2011



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011.

## Employment trends

Minor proportional changes were evident between 2006 and 2011 in the labour force status of City of Playford residents. In terms of the relative populations in the City of Playford at the two periods, 0.5% more residents were employed full-time in 2011 compared to 2006, with 0.7% more employed in a part-time capacity in 2011. This was mainly accounted for by the slight reduction (0.5%) in the proportion of those reporting they were not in the labour force and a reduction (0.7%) in those who did not state their labour force status in 2011.

However due to the increased population in the region, this equated to large changes in the numbers of persons reporting for each of the labour force sub-categories. An additional 4,284 Playford residents were employed in 2011 with 59% of these working in a full-time capacity. In 2011, 763 more Playford residents were seeking work – with 55% of these looking to work full-time, while 2,405 more residents were not in the labour force.

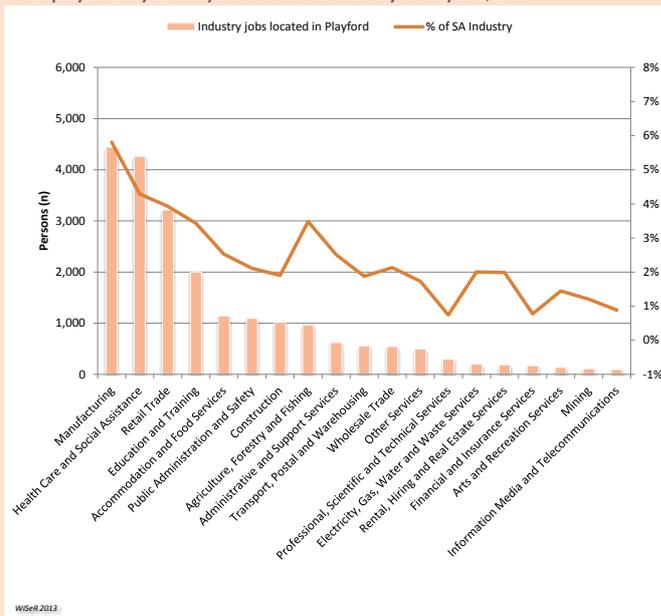
## Employment Industry

Just under 70% of employed residents travelled outside of the City of Playford for work, predominantly in the manufacturing, retail, health and social assistance, construction, public administration and transportation industries.

On the other hand, just over one-third (31%) of employed City of Playford residents lived and worked in the City of Playford in 2011. The occupation types of City of Playford residents differ from the general patterns seen in Greater Adelaide. Over 5,000 City of Playford residents are labourers (17%), whereas in Greater Adelaide, professionals are the most prevalent occupation (22%). The number of technicians and trades workers, and machinery operators and drivers are on average greater in the City of Playford.

A total of 21,646 persons reported their place of work was within the City of Playford boundary at the 2011 Census. Of these, 4,437 were in manufacturing, accounting for 6% of manufacturing jobs in South Australia. Motor vehicle manufacturing provided employment for 2,437 within the City of Playford boundary with 776 local residents contributing 32% of this workforce. A high number of people (4,260) worked within the City of Playford boundary in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry, 786 (42%) of whom were local residents.

Employment by Industry for Jobs located in City of Playford, 2011



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011, count method: Place of work.

The City of Playford had a higher than average number of jobs in manufacturing and the health care and social assistance industry, and comparatively fewer jobs in construction, public administration and safety, professional, scientific and technical services, and financial and insurance services.

1. Hetzel D, Page A, Glover J, Tennant S. Inequality in South Australia: Key determinants of wellbeing. Vol 1: The Evidence. Adelaide: DH (SA), 2004.

2. Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2013). Underemployed workers, Australia (Cat. no. 6265.0). Retrieved 29 April, 2013, from [http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/B1E6EC886F642B82CA257B18000D3A0F/\\$File/62650\\_september%202012.pdf](http://www.ausstats.abs.gov.au/ausstats/subscriber.nsf/0/B1E6EC886F642B82CA257B18000D3A0F/$File/62650_september%202012.pdf)