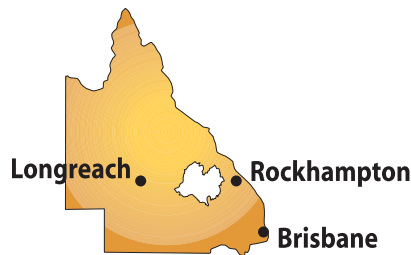


### Introduction

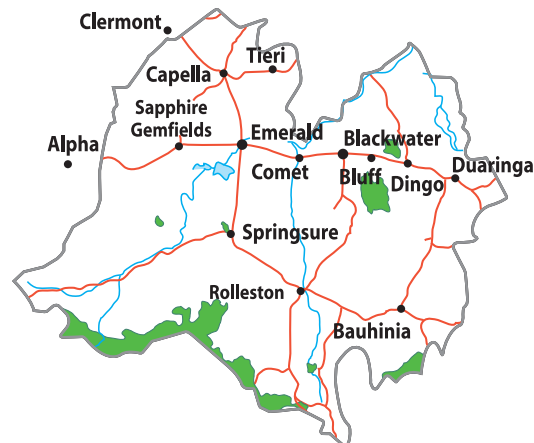
The Central Highlands region is located in Central Queensland and includes the major townships of Emerald, Springsure, Rolleston, Duaringa, Blackwater, Capella, Tieri and the four townships in the Sapphire Gemfields. The region covers a significant section of the Bowen Basin, an area of coal reserves and mining related communities that extends over approximately 60,000 square kilometres of Central Queensland. This is the largest coal reserve in Australia, extracting over 100 million tonnes annually and representing Queensland's most important export commodity.

The Central Highlands is rich in minerals and agriculture, and boasts the largest sapphire producing fields in the Southern Hemisphere. The region produces cattle, cotton, grain, citrus and, more recently, table grapes, thanks to irrigation from water storage on the Nogoia and Comet Rivers. The Central Highlands region contains major freight routes, including the north-south link between Charters Towers and northern New South Wales which has been identified as an inland alternative link between Cairns and Melbourne.



### Central Highlands Snapshot

	Central Highlands	Queensland
Population:	29,244	4,293,915
Population projection (2031):	46,872	6,273,885
Annual population growth, 2008-31	2.1%	1.7%
Average age:	34.1 years	37.0 years
Average weekly income:	\$826.43	\$602.25
Gross Regional Product:	\$4.1 billion	\$216.2 billion
Unemployment rate:	2.1%	3.7%



### Major Projects

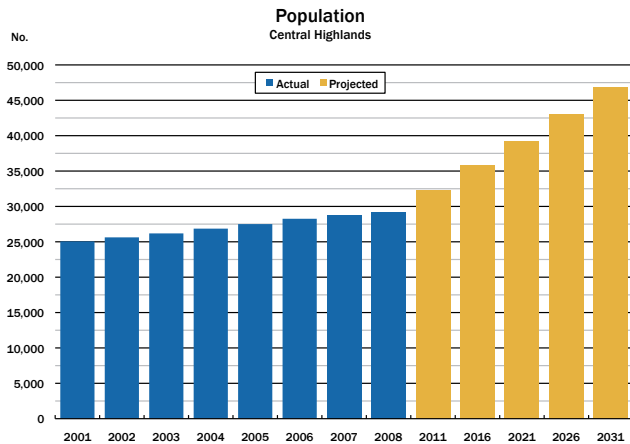
#### Central Highlands Development Register

Project	Cost	Timing	Status
<b>Community Infrastructure</b>			
Emerald Town Centre Redevelopment	\$8.9+ million	2008-10	Under construction
Emerald Airport Upgrade	\$6.9 million	Completion Aug 2010	Under construction
McIndoe Park Function Centre	\$850,000	December 2009	Committed
Blackwater Aquatic Centre	\$1.5 million	December 2009	Under construction
Hunter Street Sporting Complex	\$2 million	2009/10	Under construction
Emerald Weather Radar	\$5 million		In progress
Sunrise Rotary BMX Park	\$618,000	2009/10	Assessing tenders
Emerald Driver Training & Motor Sport Complex	\$2 million	2009/10	Developing track plan
Gemfields Swimming Pool Complex	\$1 million	2009/10	Assessing tenders
<b>Transport Infrastructure</b>			
Grantleigh to Tunnel Duplication	\$49 million	To be completed Sept 2009	Under construction
Local government road construction & maintenance	\$21.1 million	2009/10	Committed
<b>Tourism</b>			
Rubyvale Gem Gallery Expansion	\$500,000+	Completion early 2010	Under construction
CH Tourism Feasibility Study	\$100,000	Completed by Dec 2009	In progress
<b>Energy</b>			
Blackwater to Emerald line rebuild	\$28 million	2010-11	Under study
<b>Mining</b>			
Ensham Central Opencut Project	\$140 million	2010	Under study
Cook Underground Expansion	\$30 million	2009	
Togara North Underground	\$350 million	2013	Under study
Kestrel Coal Underground Expansion	\$1.1 billion	Production to commence 2012	Under construction
Curragh Opencut Expansion	\$130 million	June 2011	Under construction
Ensham Central B&P Underground	\$140 million	Expected start-up 2011	
Yarrabee Opencut		2010	
Minyango Underground		2012	Under study
Yamala Underground	\$350 million	2013	Under study

For Further Information go to [www.chdc.com.au/reports](http://www.chdc.com.au/reports)

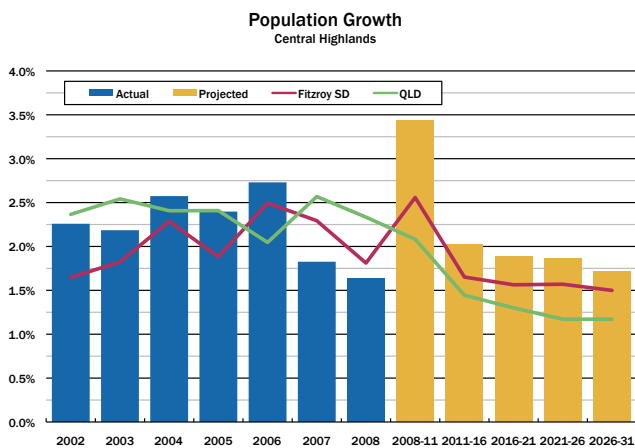
## Population

The estimated resident population of the Central Highlands region was 29,244 in 2008, representing an annual population increase of 472 persons, or 1.6% from the level recorded in 2007. The full-time equivalent (FTE) population of the Central Highlands also includes approximately 2,500 non-resident workers, or those who work in the region for extended periods of time.



Source: ABS 3218.0, Dept of Infrastructure & Planning

Over the past five years, the population of the Central Highlands has increased at an average annual rate of 2.2%, the same as the rate for the Fitzroy SD and marginally lower than the State growth (2.4%) over the same period.



Note: Changes are average annual % changes for 2007-2026

Source: ABS 3218.0, Dept of Infrastructure & Planning

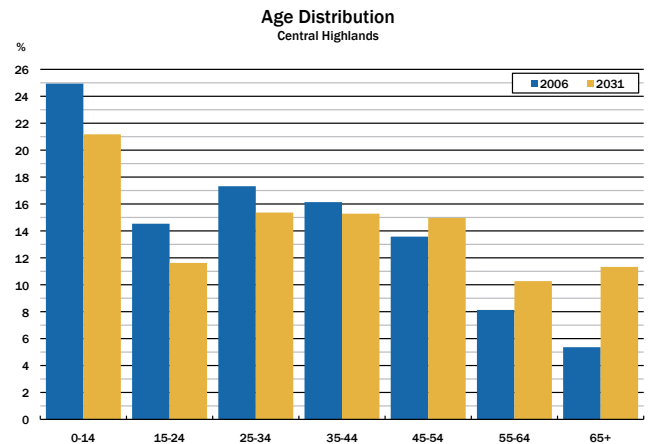
Population projections to the year 2031 show that the population of the Central Highlands is expected to increase by 2.1% per annum to approximately 46,872 persons. By comparison, the forecast growth rate for both the Fitzroy SD and Queensland over the same period is 1.7% per annum

	Population								
	2007	Ann % chg	Avg ann % chg (2003-08)	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	Avg ann % chg (2008-31)
Central Highlands	29,244	1.6	2.2	32,359	35,765	39,264	43,053	46,872	2.1
Fitzroy SD	214,753	1.8	2.2	231,656	251,426	271,702	293,706	316,393	1.7
Queensland	4,293,915	2.3	2.4	4,567,713	5,040,325	5,478,715	5,884,439	6,273,885	1.7

Source: ABS 3218.0, Dept of Infrastructure & Planning

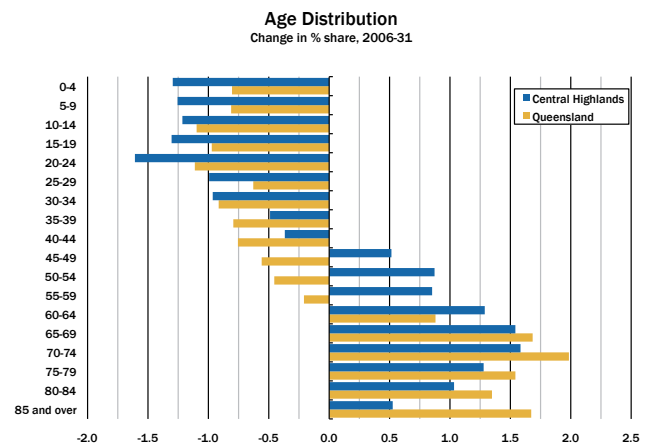
## Age Distribution

According to population forecasts, the average age of the Central Highlands is expected to increase from 31.4 years in 2006 to 36.1 years in 2031, a rise of 4.7 years. By comparison, the average age for Queensland was 36.5 years in 2006, rising by 4.5 years to 41.0 years by 2031.



Source: Dept of Infrastructure & Planning

Between 2006 and 2031, there will be an anticipated increase in the total population share of the Central Highlands in all age brackets from 45 years and older. The 70-74 years age group is expected to record the largest increase in proportional population share between 2006 and 2031 (up 1.6 percentage points), followed by the 65-69 years (up 1.5 percentage points) and both the 60-64 years and 75-79 years (up 1.3 percentage points) age brackets.

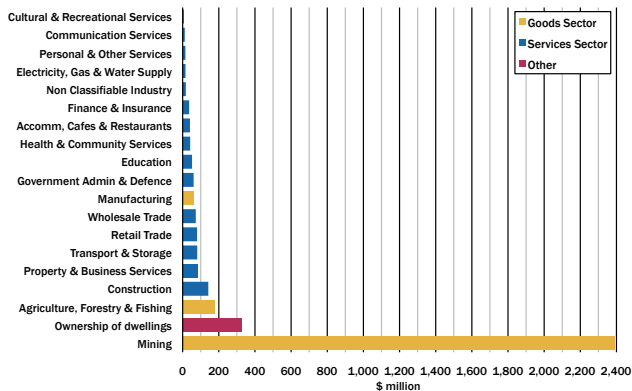


Source: Dept of Infrastructure & Planning

## Gross Regional Product

The estimated Gross Regional Product (GRP) for the Central Highlands region decreased marginally by 0.9% to \$4.1 billion in 2007/08. The Central Highlands contributed 1.9% to the gross state product of Queensland (\$216.2 billion) in 2007/08.

**Gross Regional Product**  
Central Highlands, 2007/08

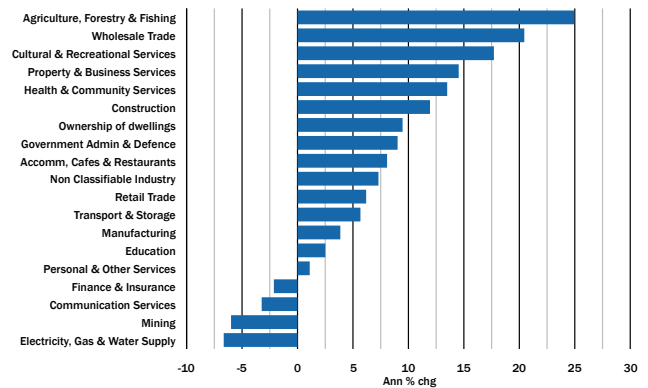


Source: Lawrence Consulting

With regard to industry, by far the largest contribution was made by the Mining industry, with approximately \$2.4 billion, or 57.7% of the total GRP for the Central Highlands. Other significant contributors to the GRP of the Central Highlands were the Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing (4.2%), Retail Trade (3.1%), Construction (3.4%), Property & Business Services (2.1%) and Transport & Storage (1.9%) sectors.

The Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing industry experienced the highest annual increase in GRP in 2007/08, rising by 25.0% from the level recorded in 2006/07. Other sectors that experienced high levels of annual growth included the Wholesale Trade (up 20.4%), Cultural & Recreational Services (up 17.7%), Property & Business Services (up 14.5%) and Health & Community Services (up 13.5%) industries.

**Gross Regional Product, Annual Industry Growth**  
Central Highlands, 2007/08



The Central Highlands received a relatively higher industry contribution to total GRP from the Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing; and Mining sectors than Queensland in 2007/08.

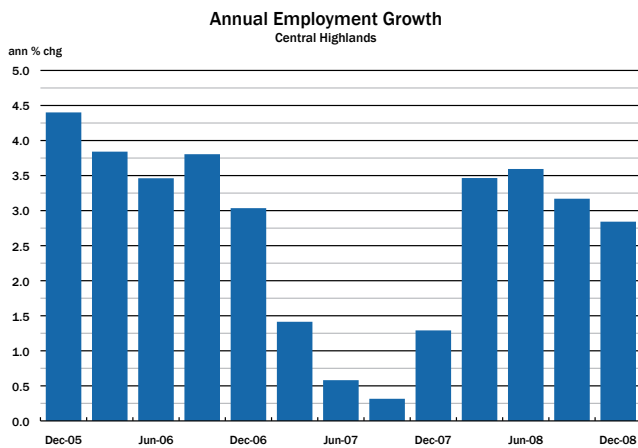
### Gross Regional Product

Industry	Central Highlands			QLD		
	Level (\$m) 2007/08	% of total	Ann % chg	Level (\$m) 2007/08	% of total	Ann % chg
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	175.4	4.2	25.0	7,112	3.3	25.7
Mining	2,390.1	57.7	-6.0	19,733	9.1	-2.0
Manufacturing	64.1	1.5	3.9	18,000	8.3	6.9
Electricity, Gas & Water Supply	15.7	0.4	-6.7	3,715	1.7	15.0
Construction	141.9	3.4	11.9	17,965	8.3	15.0
Wholesale Trade	72.6	1.8	20.4	9,050	4.2	13.5
Retail Trade	79.6	1.9	6.2	13,460	6.2	8.1
Accommodation, Cafes & Restaurants	40.4	1.0	8.1	5,172	2.4	6.2
Transport & Storage	80.5	1.9	5.7	12,654	5.9	8.7
Communication Services	11.6	0.3	-3.2	3,755	1.7	-0.5
Finance & Insurance	35.9	0.9	-2.1	9,631	4.5	-0.6
Property & Business Services	85.4	2.1	14.5	21,150	9.8	12.1
Government Administration & Defence	60.6	1.5	9.0	8,571	4.0	3.6
Education	52.0	1.3	2.5	8,054	3.7	10.0
Health & Community Services	41.6	1.0	13.5	12,315	5.7	10.5
Cultural & Recreational Services	4.2	0.1	17.7	2,418	1.1	10.1
Personal & Other Services	15.3	0.4	1.1	3,966	1.8	6.8
Non Classifiable Industry	17.6	0.4	7.3		0.0	0.0
<b>Total Industry (\$m)</b>	<b>3,384.5</b>	<b>81.7</b>	<b>-1.6</b>	<b>176,721</b>	<b>81.7</b>	<b>8.2</b>
Ownership of dwellings	327.5	7.9	9.5	17,100	7.9	20.3
<b>GRP at Factor Cost / Total Factor Income</b>	<b>3,711.9</b>	<b>89.7</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>193,821</b>	<b>89.7</b>	<b>9.1</b>
Taxes less subsidies on production and imports	427.4	10.3	-2.8	22,319	10.3	6.8
Statistical discrepancy (I)	1.1	0.0		57	0.0	
<b>Gross Regional Product</b>	<b>4,140.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>216,197</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8.9</b>

Note: All values are in current prices.  
Source: Lawrence Consulting

## Labour Market

The estimated number of employed persons in the Central Highlands region was 17,186 in the December Quarter 2008, an increase of 2.8% from the December Quarter 2007. This also marked the eighteenth consecutive quarter of positive annual growth in employment for the region.

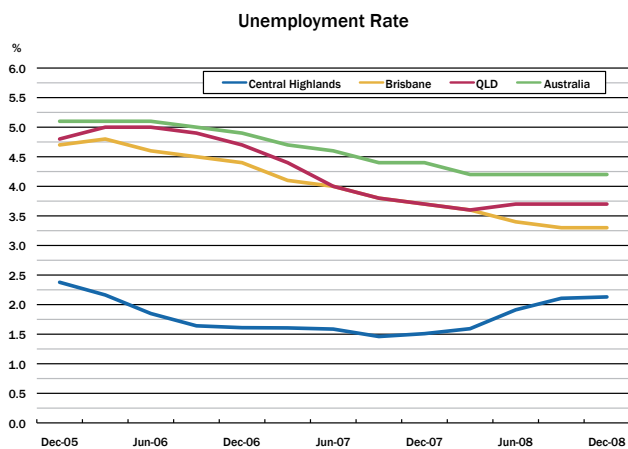


Source: DEEWR

Labour Market			
	Level	Ann % chg	
	Dec Qtr 2008		
Employed persons (no.)	17,186	2.8	
Unemployed (no.)	374	46.1	
Unemployment rate <sup>(a)</sup> (%)	2.1	0.6	
Labour force (no.)	17,560	3.5	

Note: (a) Unemployment rate changes are percentage point changes.  
Source: DEWR

The unemployment rate in the Central Highlands was 2.1% in the December Quarter 2008, which represented an annual increase of 0.6 percentage points.

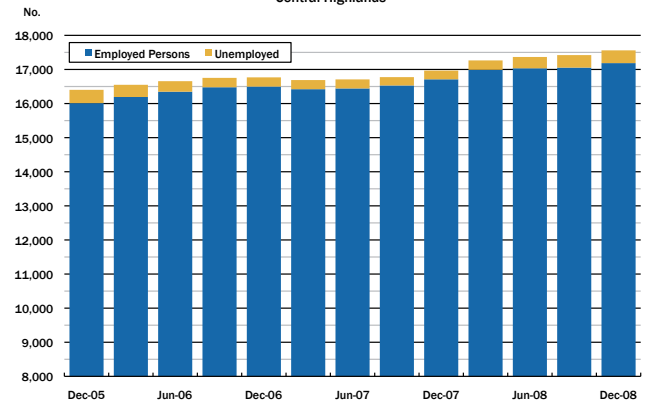


Source: DEEWR

Unemployment in the Central Highlands region is significantly lower than the averages for Brisbane (3.3%), Queensland (3.7%) and Australia (4.2%).

## Labour Force

Central Highlands

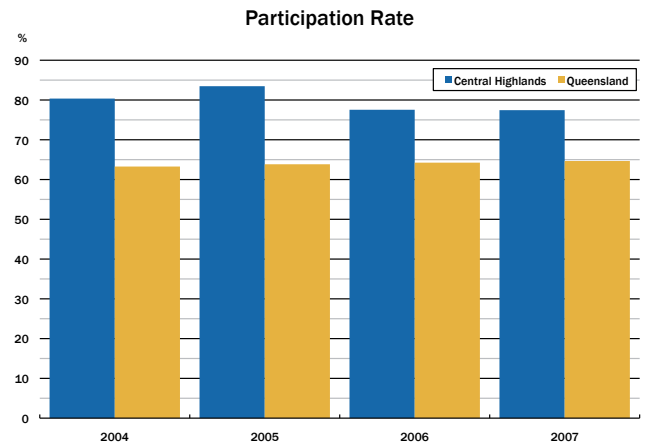


Source: DEEWR

The annual growth in employed persons led to an increase of 3.5% in the size of the labour force in the Central Highlands, to approximately 17,560 persons in the December Quarter 2008. There was, however, a significant annual increase of 46.1% in the number of unemployed persons in the region.

## Participation Rate

The participation rate (i.e. the proportion of the resident population aged 15 and over in the labour force) in the Central Highlands was estimated at 77.4% in 2007, which was significantly higher than the rate for Queensland (64.7%).



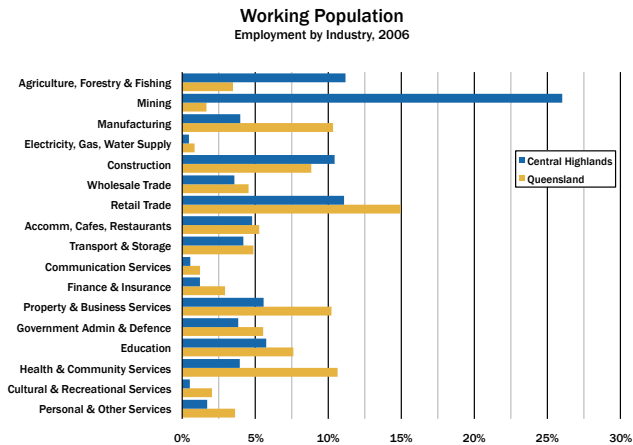
Source: ABS 3218.0, DEEWR & Lawrence Consulting

Participation Rate			
	Level 2007	Level 2006	Ann % chg <sup>(a)</sup>
Central Highlands	77.4	77.5	-0.1
Queensland	64.7	64.2	0.4

Note: (a) Changes are percentage point changes.  
Source: ABS 3218.0, DEWR & Lawrence Consulting

## Employment by Industry

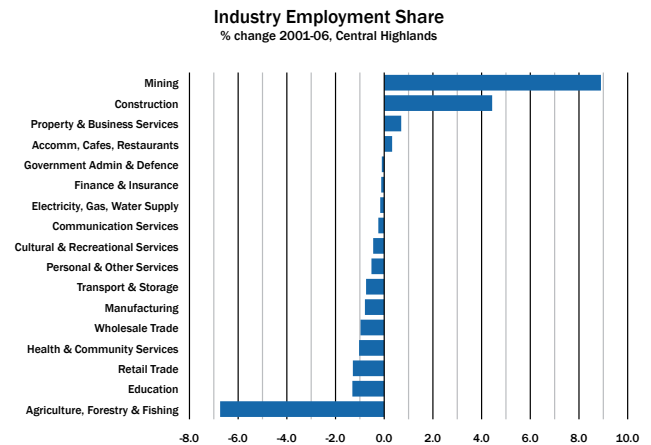
The total working population of the Central Highlands (i.e. the number of persons whose place of employment is in the region), as at the 2006 Census, was approximately 15,143 persons, which represented an increase of 1,092 persons since the 2001 Census.



Source: ABS 2006 Census

In 2006, the largest industry employer in the Central Highlands was the Mining sector with 3,940 persons, or 26.0% of the total workforce. The Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing (11.2%), Retail Trade (11.1%), Construction (10.4%), Education (5.8%) and Property & Business Services (5.6%) sectors were also significant employers.

Between 2001 and 2006, there was an increase in total industry employment share in the Mining (up 8.9 percentage points); Construction (up 4.4 percentage points); Property & Business Services (up 0.7 percentage points); and Accommodation, Cafes & Restaurants (up 0.3 percentage points) sectors in the Central Highlands, mainly at the expense of Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing, which decreased by 6.7 percentage points.



Source: ABS 2006 Census

The Central Highlands has a greater proportion of persons employed in the Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing; Mining; and Construction sectors than Queensland.

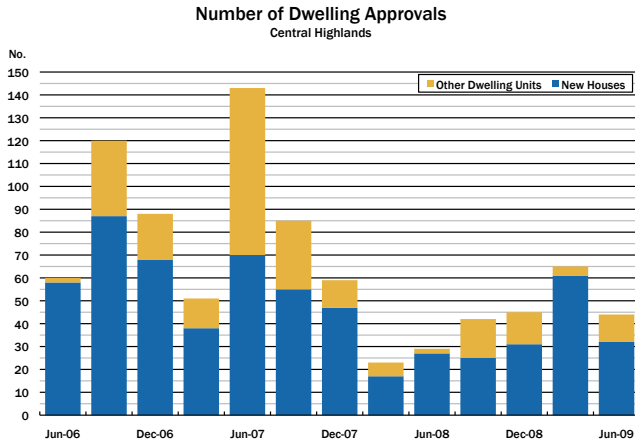
Employment by Industry, Working Population								
Industry	Total 2006	Central Highlands			Queensland			
		% of total	Actual chg 2001-06	% chg 2001-06	Total 2006	% of total	Actual chg 2001-06	% chg 2001-06
Agriculture	1,693	11.2	-825	-6.7	60,417	3.5	-11,812	-1.4
Mining	3,940	26.0	+1,535	+8.9	28,866	1.7	+10,676	+0.4
Manufacturing	602	4.0	-68	-0.8	179,495	10.3	+18,655	-0.5
Electricity, Gas & Water Supply	70	0.5	-18	-0.2	14,714	0.8	+2,670	0.0
Construction	1,580	10.4	+737	+4.4	153,586	8.8	+48,270	+1.8
Wholesale Trade	541	3.6	-98	-1.0	78,943	4.5	+1,861	-0.6
Retail Trade	1,678	11.1	-60	-1.3	259,776	14.9	+27,900	-0.6
Accommodation, Cafes & Restaurants	725	4.8	+98	+0.3	91,663	5.3	+6,643	-0.4
Transport & Storage	634	4.2	-59	-0.7	84,668	4.9	+10,941	-0.1
Communication Services	84	0.6	-28	-0.2	21,255	1.2	-1,025	-0.3
Finance & Insurance	184	1.2	-4	-0.1	51,005	2.9	+7,923	0.0
Property & Business Services	844	5.6	+159	+0.7	177,555	10.2	+29,429	+0.3
Government Administration & Defence	581	3.8	+28	-0.1	96,329	5.5	+23,907	+0.7
Education	871	5.8	-121	-1.3	132,248	7.6	+16,027	-0.2
Health & Community Services	597	3.9	-102	-1.0	184,872	10.6	+38,579	+0.8
Cultural & Recreational Services	79	0.5	-58	-0.5	35,473	2.0	-484	-0.4
Personal & Other Services	259	1.7	-55	-0.5	62,888	3.6	+7,189	-0.1
Non-Classified Economic Units	163	1.1	+105	+0.7	21,736	1.3	+16,170	+0.9
Not stated	18	0.1	-74	-0.5	2,161	0.1	-5,015	-0.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,143</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>+1,092</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1,737,650</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>+248,504</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Source: ABS 2006 Census



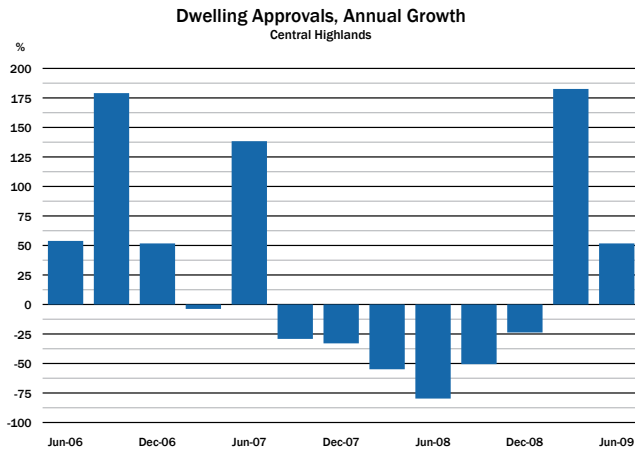
## Dwelling Approvals

The number of dwellings approved in the Central Highlands region was 196 in the year to the June Quarter 2009, which was unchanged from the level recorded in the year to the June Quarter 2008.



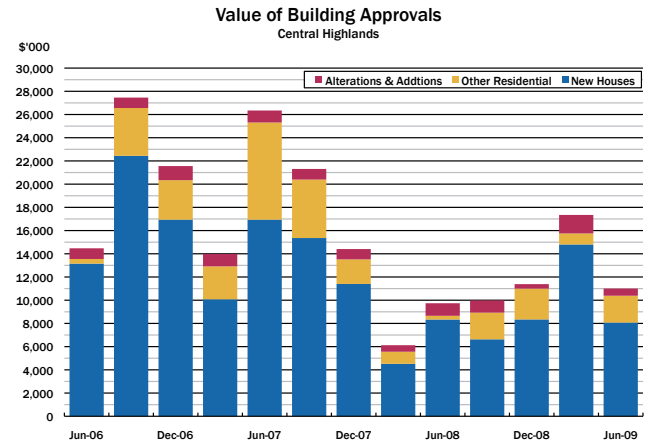
Source: ABS 8731.3

The number of new house approvals increased by 2.1% to 149 in the year to the June Quarter 2009, although the number of other dwelling approvals (i.e. units/townhouses) recorded a decrease of 6.0% to 47.



Source: ABS 8731.3

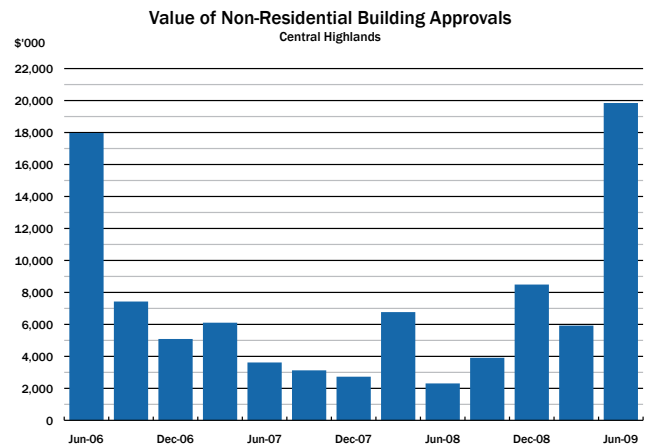
The total value of residential buildings approved in the Central Highlands was \$49.7 million in the year to the June Quarter 2009, representing a small annual decrease of 3.6%.



Source: ABS 8731.3

## Construction

The value of non-residential building approvals in the Central Highlands increased substantially by 155.7% to \$38.2 million in the year to the June Quarter 2009.



Source: ABS 8731.3

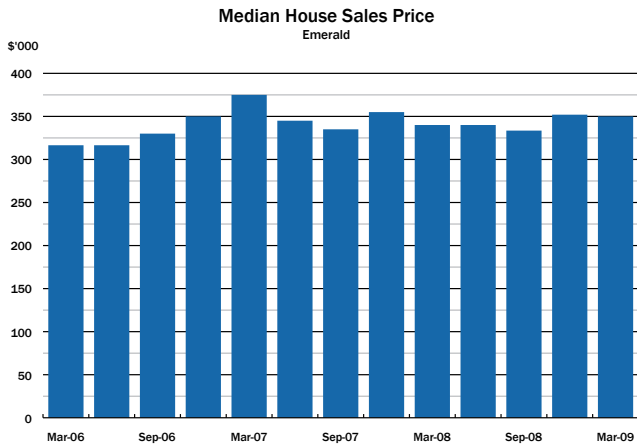
### Building Approvals

	Level Yr to Jun Qtr 2009	Level Yr to Jun Qtr 2008	Ann % chg
<b>Number</b>			
Dwellings:	196	196	0.0
New houses	149	146	2.1
Other dwellings	47	50	-6.0
<b>Value (\$'000)</b>			
Dwellings:	49,712	51,578	-3.6
New houses	37,854	39,615	-4.4
Other dwellings	8,218	8,517	-3.5
Alts & adds	3,640	3,446	5.6
Non-dwelling	38,176	14,932	155.7
<b>Total building</b>	<b>87,888</b>	<b>66,510</b>	<b>32.1</b>

Source: ABS 8731.3

## Property Sales

The median house price for the Central Highlands was \$324,000 in the March Quarter 2009, representing an increase of 6.2% from the figure recorded in the March Quarter 2008 (\$305,000). The median sales price for units / townhouses and vacant urban land in the Central Highlands was \$210,000 and \$100,000, respectively, in the March Quarter 2009.



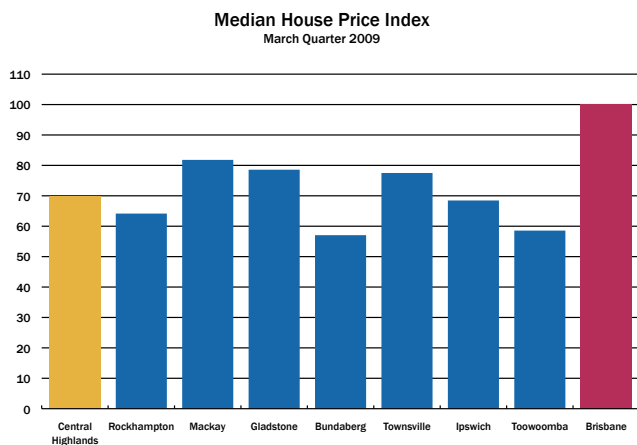
Source: REIQ

	Central Highlands		Brisbane	
	Level - Mar Qtr 2009	Ann % chg	Level - Mar Qtr 2009	Ann % chg
Separate houses	324,000	6.2	464,500	-5.2
Units/townhouses	210,000	n.a.	367,000	0.0
Vacant urban land	100,000	n.a.	284,000	13.6

Source: REIQ

## Median House Price Index

The median house price index for the Central Highlands in the March Quarter 2009 was 69.8 when compared to Brisbane (index of 100), indicating that house prices were approximately 30.2% below those in the capital city.

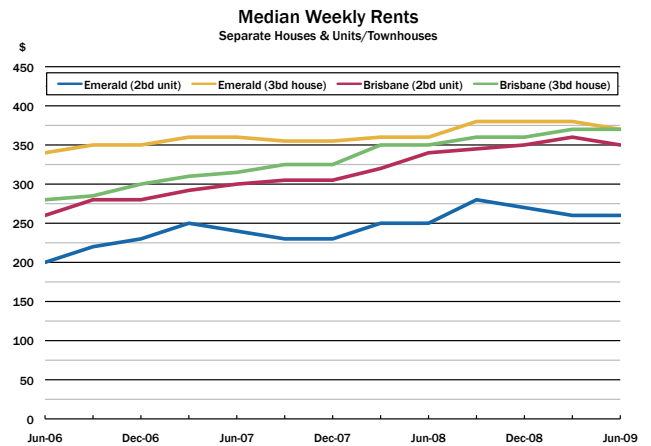


Note: Brisbane = 100

Source: REIQ, Lawrence Consulting

## Weekly Rents

Annual growth in median weekly rental prices in Emerald was positive for all dwelling types over the year to the June Quarter 2009. Rental prices for two bedroom units/townhouses and three bedroom houses increased annually by 4.0% and 2.8%, respectively.



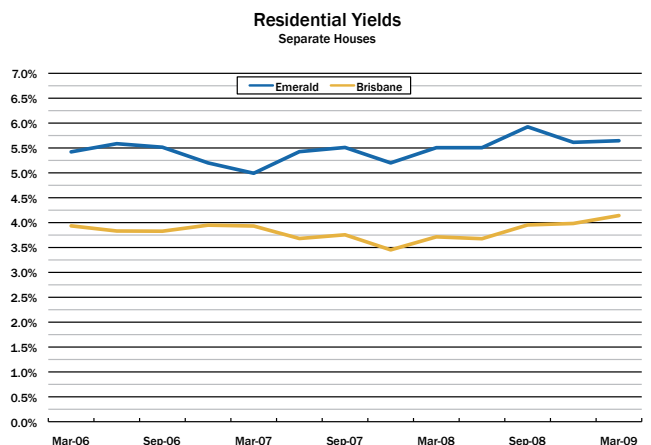
Source: Residential Tenancies Authority

	Emerald		Brisbane	
	Level Jun Qtr 2009	Ann % Chg	Level Jun Qtr 2009	Ann % Chg
<b>Flats / Units</b>				
One bedroom	300	7.1	260	4.0
Two bedroom	260	4.0	350	2.9
Three bedroom	375	8.7	420	10.5
<b>Separate Houses</b>				
Three bedroom	370	2.8	370	5.7
Four bedroom	480	6.7	430	4.9

Source: Residential Tenancies Authority

## Rental Yields

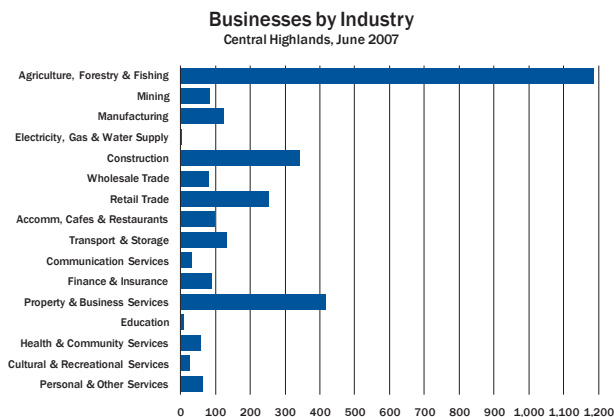
The average gross housing rental yield in Emerald was 5.6% in the March Quarter 2009, which was an increase of 0.1 percentage points from the March Quarter 2008 and was also significantly higher than the average for Brisbane (4.1%).



Source: Residential Tenancies Authority

## Businesses by Industry & Turnover

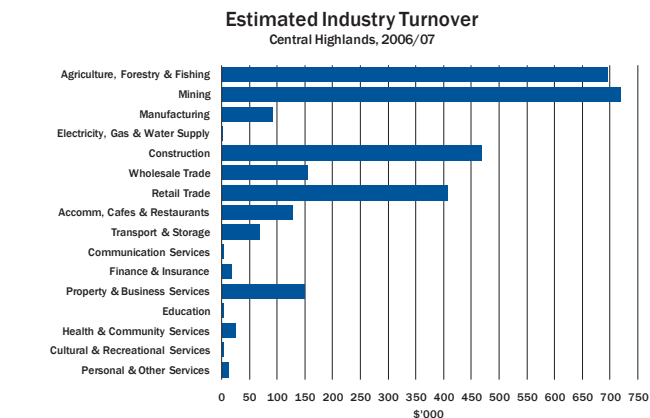
The most recent ABS Australian Business Register indicated there were an estimated 2,991 business entities registered in the Central Highlands in June 2007. Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing is the largest industry in terms of business numbers in the Central Highlands, accounting for 39.6% of the total number of businesses, followed by Property & Business Services (13.9%), Construction (11.3%) and Retail Trade (8.3%).



Source: ABS Australian Business Register - June 2007

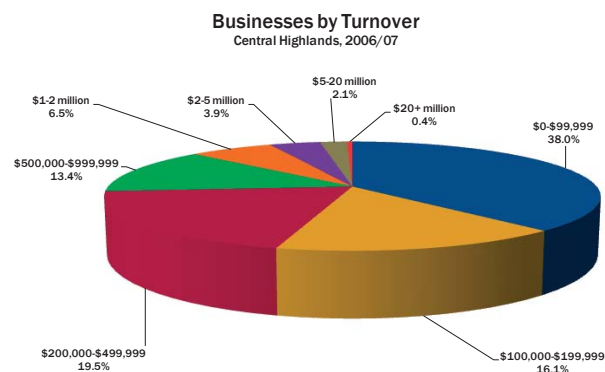
The estimated total turnover of all industry in the Central Highlands was \$2.9 billion in 2006/07, with the largest contributions made by the Mining (\$718.3 million), Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing (\$694.5 million), and Construction (\$468.7 million) sectors.

The average turnover of all businesses in the Central Highlands was approximately \$983,400 in 2006/07, with the Mining sector recording the highest average industry turnover (\$8.6 million), followed by Wholesale Trade (\$1.9 million), Retail Trade (\$1.6 million), Construction (\$1.4 million) and Accommodation, Cafes & Restaurants (\$1.3 million).



Source: ABS Australian Business Register - June 2007

The largest proportion of businesses (38.0%) recorded annual turnover in the \$0-\$99,999 range, followed by the \$200,000-\$499,999 (19.5%) and \$100,000-\$199,999 (16.1%) turnover ranges. Approximately 12.9% of business in the Central Highlands recorded annual turnover in excess of \$1 million in 2006/07.



Source: ABS Australian Business Register - June 2007

### Businesses by Industry, 2006/07

Industry	No.	% of total	Estimated total turnover (\$m)	% of total	Average turnover (\$'000)
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	1,185	39.6	694.5	23.6	586.0
Mining	84	2.8	718.3	24.4	8,551.3
Manufacturing	123	4.1	91.2	3.1	741.5
Electricity, Gas & Water Supply	3	0.1	0.2	0.0	62.5
Construction	339	11.3	468.7	15.9	1,382.5
Wholesale Trade	81	2.7	153.6	5.2	1,895.8
Retail Trade	255	8.5	406.7	13.8	1,594.7
Accommodation, Cafes & Restaurants	96	3.2	127.5	4.3	1,327.7
Transport & Storage	132	4.4	67.7	2.3	512.5
Communication Services	30	1.0	4.2	0.1	140.0
Finance & Insurance	90	3.0	17.6	0.6	195.4
Property & Business Services	417	13.9	149.4	5.1	358.2
Education	9	0.3	3.3	0.1	370.8
Health & Community Services	57	1.9	24.0	0.8	421.1
Cultural & Recreation Services	27	0.9	3.0	0.1	111.1
Personal & Other Services	63	2.1	11.6	0.4	183.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,991</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>2,941.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>983.4</b>

Note: The number of businesses in the Government Administration & Defence industry division was not available for separate publication.

Source: ABS Australian Business Register - June 2007

## Productivity

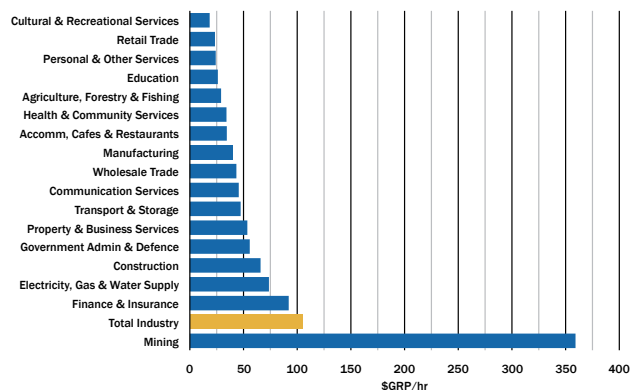
Productivity is a key component of economic growth and is a measure of the efficiency of production within a region. Dividing the GRP of a region by total hours worked will measure the labour productivity within that region, i.e. the average amount of output produced by an hour worked by a person within that region.

The Central Highlands recorded total industry productivity (or industry value added per hour worked) of approximately \$104.66 in 2007/08, which was significantly higher than the average for Queensland (\$53.33). The average industry productivity for the Central Highlands decreased by 4.5% from the level recorded in 2006/07 (\$109.61).

The Mining sector recorded the highest industry productivity level (\$359.22/hr) in the Central Highlands in 2007/08, followed by the Finance & Insurance (\$92.09), Electricity, Gas & Water Supply (\$73.67), Construction (\$65.87), Government Administration & Defence (\$55.80) and Property & Business Services (\$53.56) industries.

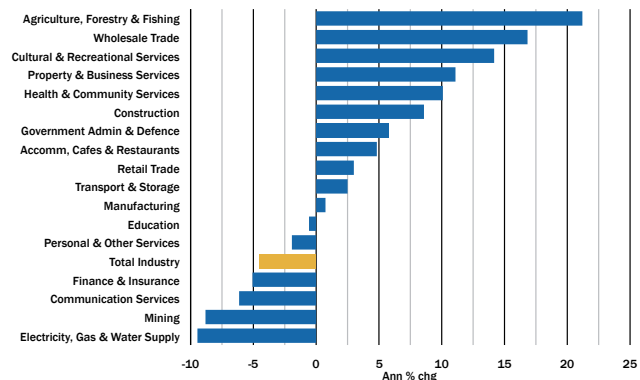
The Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing sector recorded the highest industry productivity growth rate of 21.2% in 2007/08, followed by Wholesale Trade (up 16.8%), Cultural & Recreational Services (up 14.2%), Property & Business Services (11.1%) and Health & Community Services (10.1%).

Industry Productivity  
Central Highlands, 2007/08



Source: Lawrence Consulting

Productivity, Annual Industry Growth  
Central Highlands, 2007/08



Source: Lawrence Consulting

The Central Highlands recorded higher industry productivity in the Accommodation, Cafes & Restaurants; and Government Administration & Defence sectors than Queensland in 2007/08.

### Productivity, 2007/08

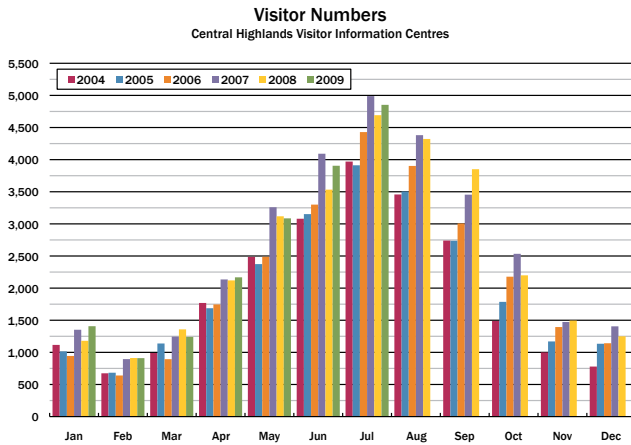
Industry	Central Highlands			Queensland		
	Level (\$value added/hr)	Annual change (\$)	Ann % chg	Level (\$value added/hr)	Annual change (\$)	Ann % chg
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	29.11	5.09	21.2	38.59	6.91	21.8
Mining	359.22	-34.72	-8.8	398.40	-20.95	-5.0
Manufacturing	39.62	0.29	0.7	45.40	1.58	3.6
Electricity, Gas & Water Supply	73.67	-7.69	-9.5	125.25	12.88	11.5
Construction	65.87	5.21	8.6	69.37	7.14	11.5
Wholesale Trade	43.36	6.25	16.8	47.96	4.37	10.0
Retail Trade	23.42	0.68	3.0	29.83	1.35	4.7
Accommodation, Cafes & Restaurants	34.44	1.59	4.8	30.97	0.87	2.9
Transport & Storage	47.32	1.16	2.5	70.70	3.57	5.3
Communication Services	45.56	-2.98	-6.1	72.01	-2.67	-3.6
Finance & Insurance	92.09	-4.92	-5.1	97.24	-3.67	-3.6
Property & Business Services	53.56	5.35	11.1	62.48	4.95	8.6
Government Administration & Defence	55.80	3.04	5.8	51.77	0.21	0.4
Education	26.08	-0.15	-0.6	33.23	2.05	6.6
Health & Community Services	34.13	3.13	10.1	41.94	2.78	7.1
Cultural & Recreational Services	18.48	2.29	14.2	33.47	2.09	6.7
Personal & Other Services	24.12	-0.48	-1.9	33.16	1.12	3.5
<b>Total Industry</b>	<b>104.66</b>	<b>-4.95</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>53.33</b>	<b>2.45</b>	<b>4.8</b>

Note: All values are in current prices.  
Source: Lawrence Consulting



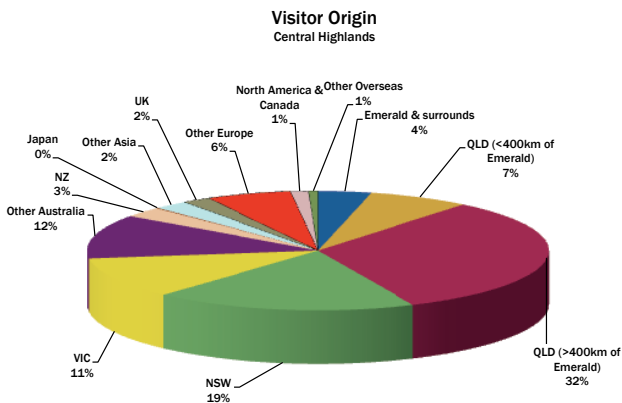
## Visitor Numbers

Total visitor numbers through Visitor Information Centres in the Central Highlands region were 30,686 in the year to July 2009, representing an increase of 1.7% from the level recorded in the year to July 2008 (30,161). The number of visitors to VICs in the region has increased at an average annual rate of 5.5% since July 2004. The total number of visitors to the Central Highlands region is estimated at 125,000 annually.



Source: Central Highlands Tourism

The primary source markets for visitors to the Central Highlands region in the year to July 2009 were from other parts of Queensland greater than 400km from Emerald (32.3%), while 41.6% came from interstate locations (including 18.5% from NSW and 11.2% from Victoria) and 15.2% from overseas.



Source: Tourism Research Australia

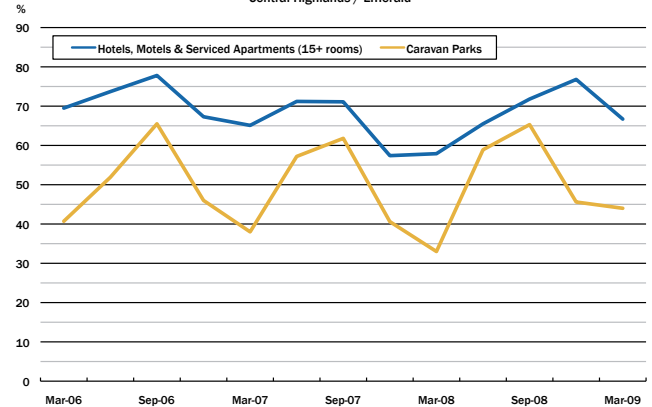
## Tourist Accommodation

There were 29 accommodation establishments with more than 5 rooms operating in the Central Highlands in the March Quarter 2009 and 8 caravan parks.

The room occupancy rate for all establishments with 5 or more rooms in the Central Highlands was 64.8% in the March Quarter 2009, whilst the site occupancy for caravan parks was 44.0%. Total takings from accommodation in the Central Highlands were \$5.8 million in the March Quarter 2009.

### Occupancy Rate

Central Highlands / Emerald



Source: ABS Survey of Tourist Accommodation

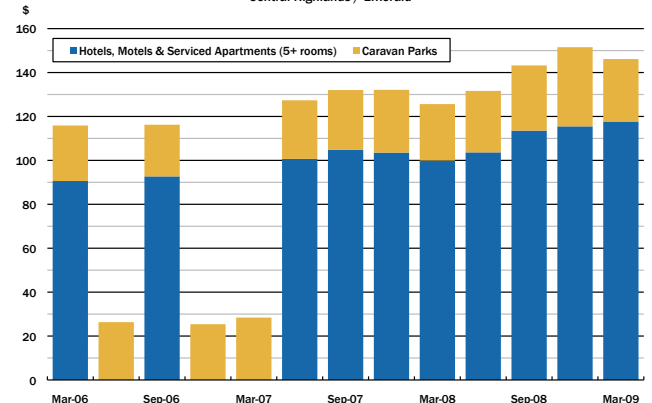
### Tourist Accommodation

	Central Highlands	Emerald	
<b>Hotels, Motels &amp; Serviced Apartments (5+ rooms)</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Ann % chg</b>
	<b>Mar Qtr 2009</b>	<b>Mar Qtr 2009</b>	
Establishments	29	17	13.3
Guest Rooms	790	550	29.7
Bed Spaces	2067	1431	24.8
Employment	297	166	10.7
Room occupancy (%)	64.8	66.7	8.8
Guest arrivals	17303	18583	30.0
Average stay (nights)	2.3	2.2	10.0
Takings from accomm (\$'000)	5044.2	3883.2	74.5
Takings per room night occupied (\$)	112.31	117.69	17.8
<b>Caravan Parks</b>			
Establishments	8	n.a.	n.a.
Total Capacity	698	n.a.	n.a.
Employment	38	n.a.	n.a.
Site occupancy (%)	44.0	n.a.	n.a.
Takings from accomm (\$'000)	786.0	n.a.	n.a.
Takings per site night occupied (\$)	28.44	n.a.	n.a.

Source: ABS Survey of Tourist Accommodation

### Takings per Room/Site Night Occupied

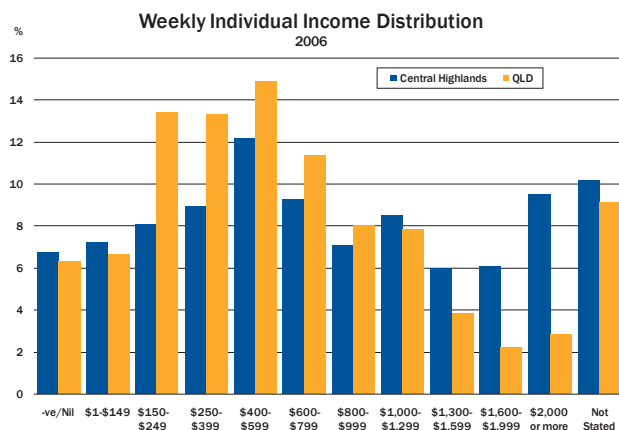
Central Highlands / Emerald



Source: ABS Survey of Tourist Accommodation

## Weekly Income

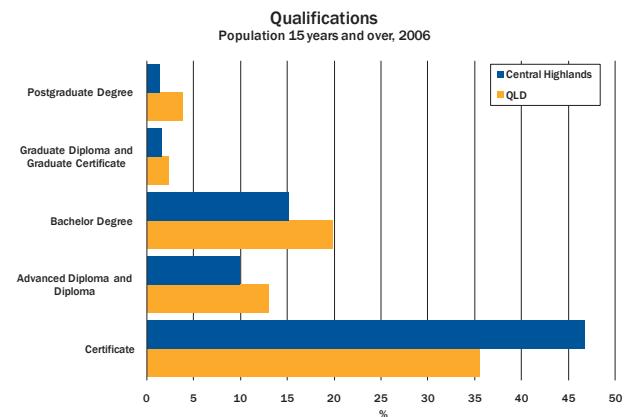
The average individual weekly income for the Central Highlands was \$826.43 in 2006, significantly higher than the average for Queensland (\$602.25). By comparison, the average household weekly income for the Central Highlands was \$1,623.09, whilst the average family weekly income was \$1,785.51.



Source: ABS 2006 Census

## Qualifications

In 2006, 68.1% of persons 15 years and older in the Central Highlands had attained some form of qualification. Of these, 18.1% held a bachelor degree or higher while a further 4.1% held an advanced diploma or diploma. The most common form of qualification was a certificate, with 46.8% of those aged 15 years and over having attained this qualification.



Source: ABS 2006 Census

### Key Demographic Indicators, 2006 Census

	Central Highlands		Queensland		Australia	
	No.	% of total	No.	% of total	No.	% of total
<b>Person Characteristics</b>						
Total persons (excluding overseas visitors)	26,476	-	3,904,532	-	19,855,288	-
Males	14,243	53.8	1,935,381	49.6	9,799,252	49.4
Females	12,233	46.2	1,969,151	50.4	10,056,036	50.6
Average age	34.1	-	36.7	-	37.3	-
<b>Selected Characteristics</b>						
Australian citizenship	23,233	87.8	3,362,046	86.1	17,095,569	86.1
Persons born overseas	2,207	8.3	699,446	17.9	4,416,037	22.2
Overseas visitors	212	0.8	72,922	1.9	206,358	1.0
Country of Birth - Australia	22,240	84.0	2,935,260	75.2	14,072,944	70.9
Language spoken at home - English only	24,156	91.2	3,371,684	86.4	15,581,333	78.5
Income (Population aged 15 years and over):						
Average individual income (\$/weekly)	826.43	-	602.25	-	611.35	-
Average household income (\$/weekly)	1,623.09	-	1,190.60	-	1,211.65	-
Average family income (\$/weekly)	1,785.51	-	1,333.00	-	1,377.18	-
<b>Family Characteristics</b>						
Total families	6,583	-	1,032,034	-	5,219,165	-
Couple families with children	3,511	53.3	446,739	43.3	2,362,582	45.3
Couple families without children	2,410	36.6	403,854	39.1	1,943,643	37.2
One parent families	585	8.9	164,220	15.9	823,254	15.8
Other families	77	1.2	17,221	1.7	89,686	1.7
<b>Dwelling Characteristics</b>						
Total private dwellings (includes unoccupied private dwellings)	12,049	-	1,660,750	-	8,426,559	-
Occupied private dwellings:	10,179	-	1,508,522	-	7,596,183	-
Fully owned	2,772	27.2	458,468	30.4	2,478,264	32.6
Being purchased	2,428	23.9	473,248	31.4	2,448,205	32.2
Rented	4,042	39.7	452,596	30.0	2,063,947	27.2
Other tenure type	176	1.7	14,830	1.0	65,715	0.9
Not stated	762	7.5	109,379	7.3	540,050	7.1

Source: ABS 2006 Census

## Key Economic Indicators, Central Highlands

	Period	Level	Level – 12 mths ago	Change	Annual % change
<b>Population</b>					
Estimated resident population	2008	29,244	28,772	+472	1.6%
Projected population	2031	46,872	n.a.	+17,628	2.1%
<b>Employment</b>					
Employed persons (no.)	Dec Qtr 2008	17,186	16,711	+475	2.8%
Unemployment rate (%) <sup>(a)</sup>	Dec Qtr 2008	2.1	1.5	+0.6	0.6%
Labour force (persons)	Dec Qtr 2008	17,560	16,967	+593	3.5%
Participation rate (%) <sup>(a)</sup>	2007	77.4	77.5	-0.1	-0.1%
<b>Business Investment</b>					
Gross Regional Product (\$ million)	2007/08	4,140.5	4,177.0	-36.5	-0.9%
Productivity (\$value added/hr worked)	2007/08	104.66	109.61	-4.95	-4.5%
Number of businesses	June 2007	2,991	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Total industry turnover (\$ million)	2006/07	2,941.2	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Average industry turnover (\$'000)	2006/07	983.4	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Value of non-dwelling approvals (\$'000)	Yr to Jun Qtr 2009	38,176	14,932	+23,244	155.7%
<b>Private Consumption</b>					
No. of dwelling approvals	Yr to Jun Qtr 2009	196	196	0	0.0%
Value of dwelling approvals (\$'000)	Yr to Jun Qtr 2009	49,712	51,578	-1,866	-3.6%
Motor vehicle registrations	2007	21,584	20,578	+1,006	4.9%
<b>Property Market</b>					
Median sales price – houses (\$)	Mar Qtr 2009	324,000	305,000	+19,000	6.2%
Median sales price – units/townhouses (\$)	Mar Qtr 2009	210,000	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Median sales price – vacant urban land (\$)	Mar Qtr 2009	100,000	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Median weekly rent – 2bd unit (\$)	Jun Qtr 2009	260	250	+10	4.0%
Median weekly rent – 3bd house (\$)	Jun Qtr 2009	370	360	+10	2.8%
Rental yield (%) <sup>(a)</sup>	Mar Qtr 2009	5.6	5.5	+0.1	0.1%
<b>Tourism</b>					
Visitor numbers – Information Centres	Yr to July 2009	30,686	30,161	+525	1.7%
Establishments	Mar Qtr 2009	29	28	+1	3.6%
Room occupancy (%)	Mar Qtr 2009	64.8	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Takings from accomm (\$'000)	Mar Qtr 2009	5,830.2	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
<b>Transport</b>					
Passenger movements – Emerald Airport	2007/08	100,029	95,712	+4,317	4.5%
Average price of petrol (c/kL)	July 2009	127.4	158.7	-31.3	-19.7%

Note: (a) Changes are percentage point changes.

## Central Highlands Development Corporation Ltd (CHDC)

**VISION**...what we want to be... "Taking the lead"

**MISSION**...what we exist to do... "Enable Sustainable Regional Growth"

**GOALS**...what has to be accomplished:

- Advocate for sustainable regional growth for the Central Highlands**
- Proactively market and promote the Central Highlands "as a region of choice"**
- Enhance the skills base of the Central Highlands**
- Stimulate business and infrastructure development**
- Sustain, refresh and grow our organisation**

## For More Information

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