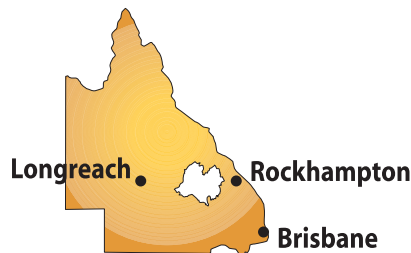


Introduction

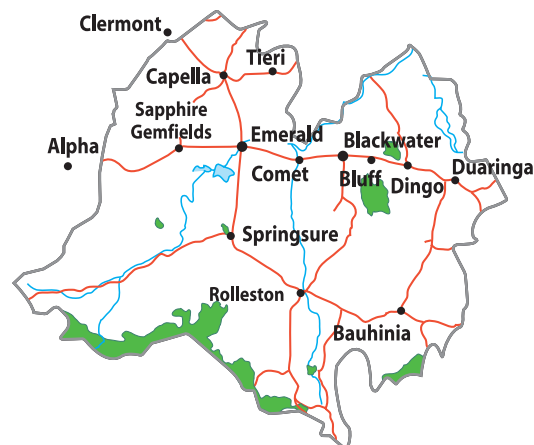
The Central Highlands region is located in Central Queensland and includes the major townships of Emerald, Springsure, Rolleston, Duaringa, Blackwater, Capella, Tieri and the four townships in the Sapphire Gemfields. The region covers a significant section of the Bowen Basin, an area of coal reserves 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:	\$4.3 billion	\$243.8 billion
Unemployment rate:	2.4%	4.9%



Major Projects

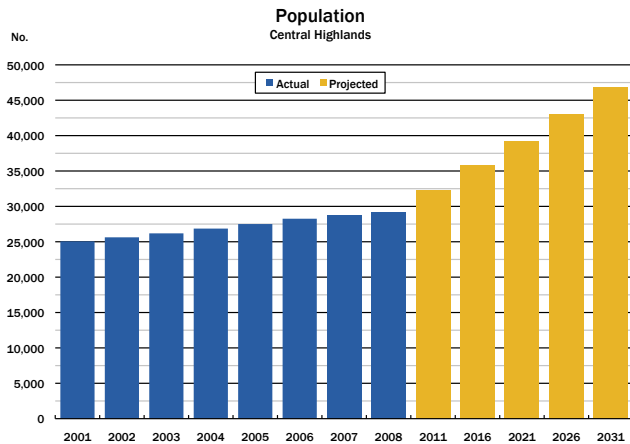
Central Highlands Development Register

Project	Cost	Timing	Status
Community Infrastructure			
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
Transport Infrastructure			
Grantleigh to Tunnel Duplication	\$49 million	To be completed Sept 2009	Under construction
Local government road construction & maintenance	\$21.1 million	2009/10	Committed
Tourism			
Rubyvale Gem Gallery Expansion	\$500,000+	Completion early 2010	Under construction
CH Tourism Feasibility Study	\$100,000	Completed by Dec 2009	In progress
Energy			
Blackwater to Emerald line rebuild	\$28 million	2010-11	Under study
Mining			
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

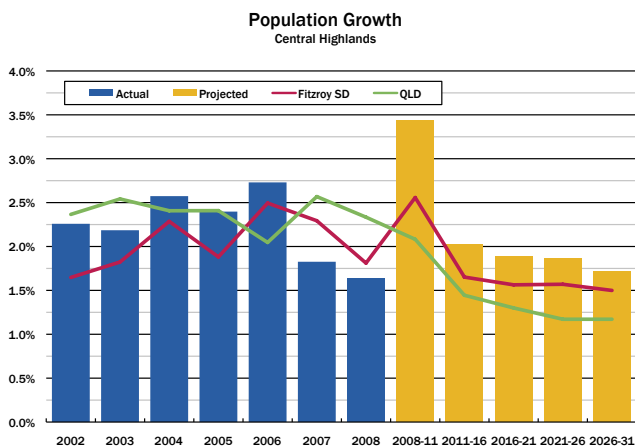
Population

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

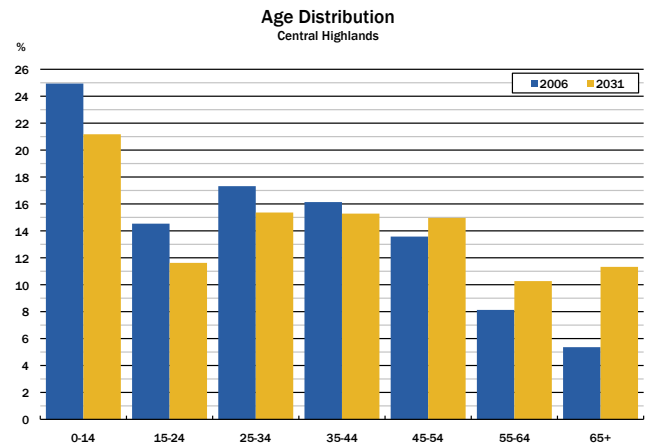
Population projections to the year 2031 show that the population of the Central Highlands is expected to increase by 2.1% per annum to approximately 46,872 persons. By comparison, the forecast growth rate for both the Fitzroy SD and Queensland over the same period is 1.7% per annum

	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

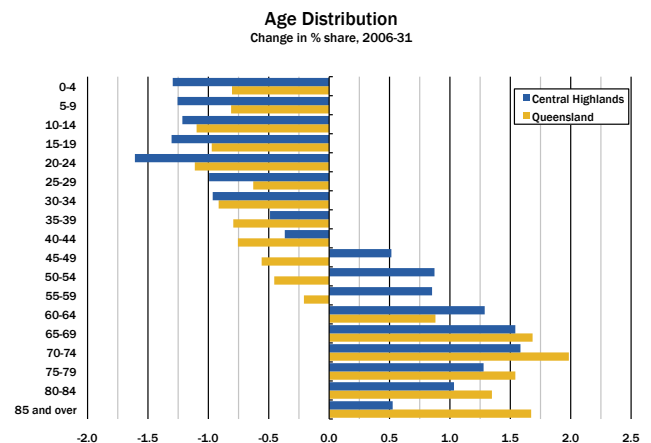
Age Distribution

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.

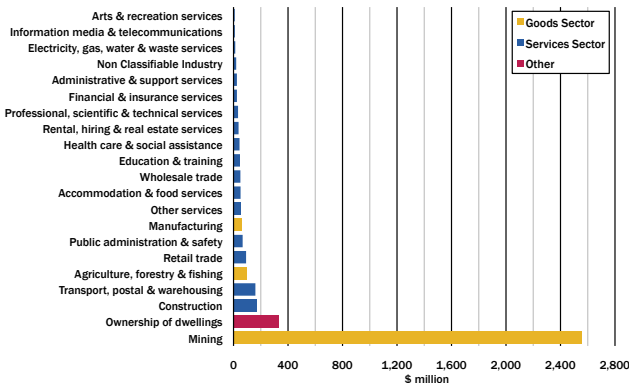


Source: Dept of Infrastructure & Planning

Gross Regional Product

The estimated Gross Regional Product (GRP) for the Central Highlands region increased significantly by 19.4% to \$4.3 billion in 2008/09. The Central Highlands contributed 1.8% to the gross state product of Queensland (\$243.8 billion) in 2008/09.

Gross Regional Product
Central Highlands, 2008/09

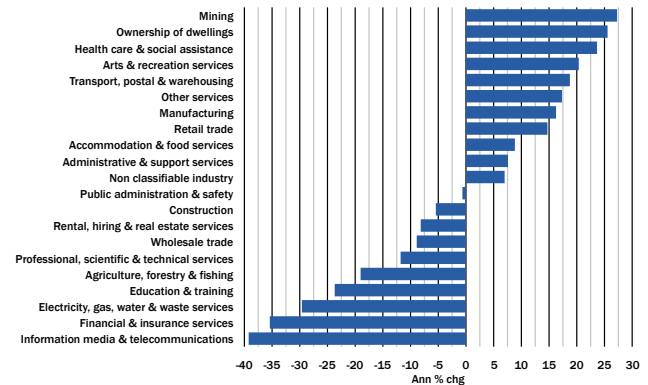


Source: Lawrence Consulting

With regard to industry, by far the largest contribution was made by the Mining industry, with approximately \$2.6 billion, or 59.2% of the total GRP for the Central Highlands. Other significant contributors were the Construction (4.0%), Transport, Postal & Warehousing (3.7%), Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing (2.3%) and Retail Trade (2.1%) sectors.

The Mining industry experienced the highest annual increase in GRP in 2008/09, rising by 27.3% from the level recorded in 2007/08. Other sectors that experienced high levels of annual growth included the Health Care & Social Assistance (up 23.7%), Arts & Recreation Services (up 20.4%), Transport, Postal & Warehousing (up 18.8%) and Other Services (up 17.3%) industries.

Gross Regional Product, Annual Industry Growth
Central Highlands, 2008/09



The Central Highlands received a relatively higher industry contribution to total GRP from the Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing; and Mining sectors than Queensland in 2008/09.

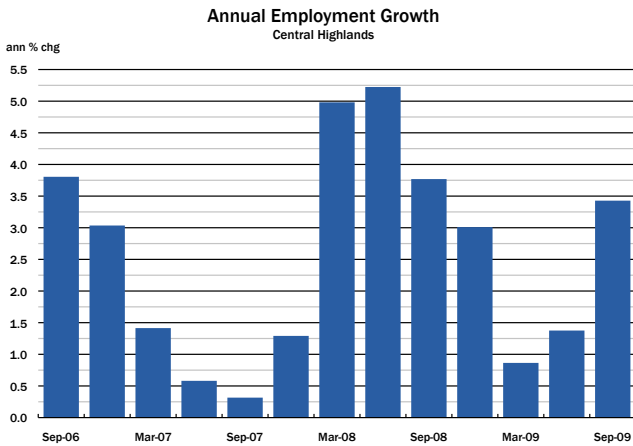
Gross Regional Product

Industry	Central Highlands			QLD		
	Level (\$m) 2008/09	% of total	Ann % chg	Level (\$m) 2008/09	% of total	Ann % chg
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	100.3	2.3	-19.0	4,923	2.0	3.9
Mining	2,557.0	59.2	27.3	23,083	9.5	25.3
Manufacturing	61.8	1.4	16.3	18,971	7.8	-1.1
Electricity, gas, water & waste services	12.8	0.3	-29.6	4,629	1.9	9.7
Construction	170.9	4.0	-5.4	18,627	7.6	3.0
Wholesale trade	50.4	1.2	-8.9	10,883	4.5	7.5
Retail trade	92.2	2.1	14.7	13,113	5.4	3.2
Accommodation & food services	51.6	1.2	8.8	7,140	2.9	4.5
Transport, postal & warehousing	160.5	3.7	18.8	16,388	6.7	14.3
Information media & telecommunications	9.7	0.2	-39.2	5,359	2.2	11.8
Financial & insurance services	24.9	0.6	-35.4	15,552	6.4	9.9
Rental, hiring & real estate services	37.0	0.9	-8.2	7,729	3.2	0.2
Professional, scientific & technical services	33.2	0.8	-11.8	11,225	4.6	1.1
Administrative & support services	24.7	0.6	7.6	4,829	2.0	-2.4
Public administration & safety	66.9	1.5	-0.6	12,620	5.2	5.7
Education & training	47.5	1.1	-23.7	9,059	3.7	3.4
Health care & social assistance	44.0	1.0	23.7	13,789	5.7	6.9
Arts & recreation services	5.1	0.1	20.4	1,403	0.6	-3.0
Other services	52.6	1.2	17.3	5,226	2.1	14.6
Non classifiable industry	19.6	0.5	7.0			
Total Industry (\$m)	3,622.7	83.9	17.2	204,548	83.9	7.1
Ownership of dwellings	334.6	7.7	25.6	18,890	7.7	14.8
GRP at Factor Cost / Total Factor Income	3,957.2	91.6	17.9	223,438	91.6	7.7
Taxes less subsidies on production and imports	279.5	6.5	7.8	15,781	6.5	-1.5
Statistical discrepancy (I)	81.7	1.9		4,611	1.9	
Gross Regional Product	4,318.4	100.0	19.4	243,829	100.0	9.1

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

Labour Market

The estimated number of employed persons in the Central Highlands region was 17,741 in the September Quarter 2009, an increase of 588 persons, or 3.4% from the September Quarter 2008. This also marked the twenty-first consecutive quarter of positive annual growth in employment for the region.

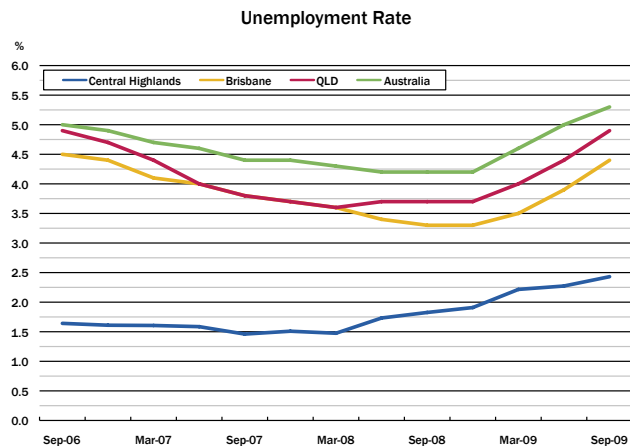


Source: DEEWR

Labour Market			
	Level	Ann	
	Sep Qtr 2009	% chg	
Employed persons (no.)	17,741	3.4	
Unemployed (no.)	442	38.6	
Unemployment rate ^(a) (%)	2.4	0.6	
Labour force (no.)	18,183	4.1	

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

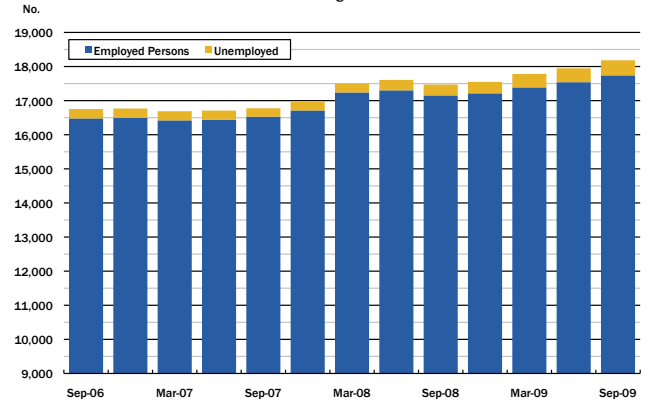
The unemployment rate in the Central Highlands was 2.4% in the September Quarter 2009, which represented an annual increase of 0.6 percentage points.



Source: DEEWR

Unemployment in the Central Highlands region is significantly lower than the averages for Brisbane (4.4%), Queensland (4.9%) and Australia (5.3%).

Labour Force
Central Highlands

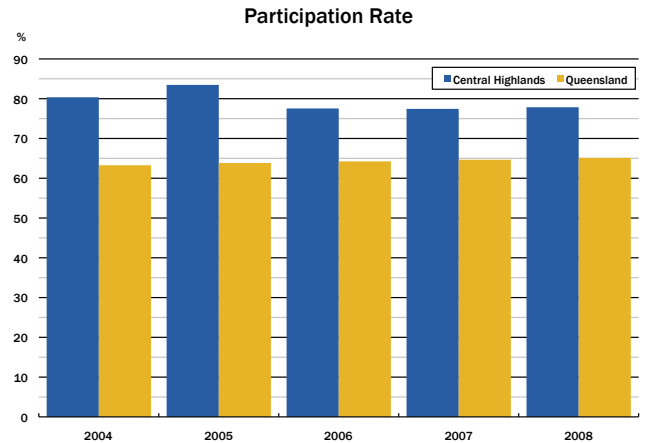


Source: DEEWR

The annual growth in employed persons led to an increase of 4.1% in the size of the labour force in the Central Highlands, to approximately 18,183 persons in the September Quarter 2009. There was, however, a significant annual increase of 38.6% 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 77.9% in 2008, which was significantly higher than the rate for Queensland (65.1%).



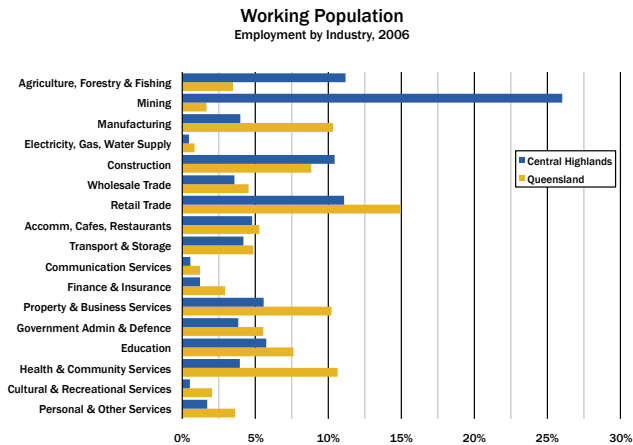
Source: ABS 3218.0, DEEWR & Lawrence Consulting

Participation Rate			
	Level	Level	Ann
	2008	2007	% chg ^(a)
Central Highlands	77.9	77.4	0.4
Queensland	65.1	64.7	0.5

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

Employment by Industry

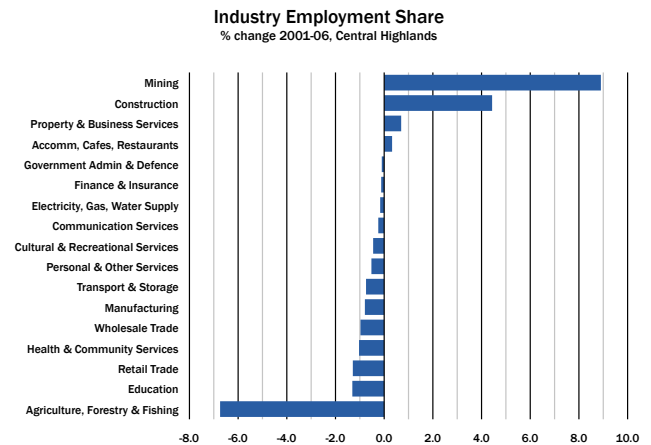
The total working population of the Central Highlands (i.e. the number of persons whose place of employment is in the region), as at the 2006 Census, was approximately 15,143 persons, which represented an increase of 1,092 persons since the 2001 Census.



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.

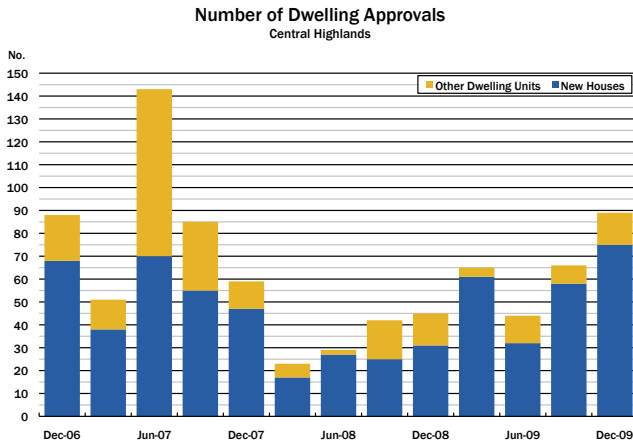
Employment by Industry, Working Population									
Industry	Total 2006	Central Highlands			Queensland				
		% of total	Actual chg 2001-06	% chg 2001-06	Total 2006	% of total	Actual chg 2001-06	% chg 2001-06	
Agriculture	1,693	11.2	-825	-6.7	60,417	3.5	-11,812	-1.4	
Mining	3,940	26.0	+1,535	+8.9	28,866	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	
Total	15,143	100.0	+1,092	0.0	1,737,650	100.0	+248,504	0.0	

Source: ABS 2006 Census



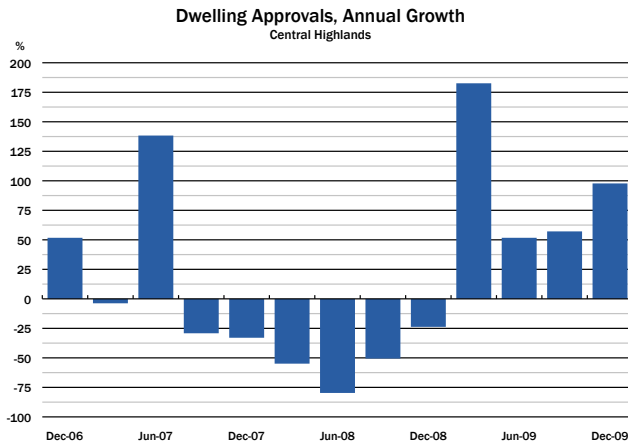
Dwelling Approvals

The number of dwellings approved in the Central Highlands region was 264 in the year to the December Quarter 2009, which represented a substantial increase of 89.9% from the level recorded in the year to the December Quarter 2008.



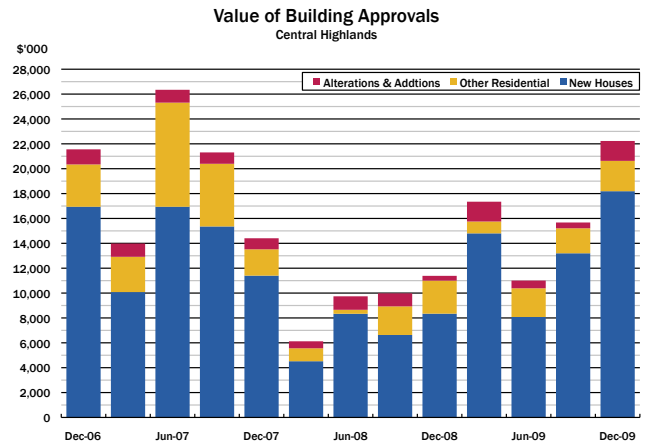
Source: ABS 8731.3

The number of new house approvals increased considerably by 126.0% to 226 in the year to the December Quarter 2009, although the number of other dwelling approvals (i.e. units/townhouses) recorded a marginal decrease of 2.6%.



Source: ABS 8731.3

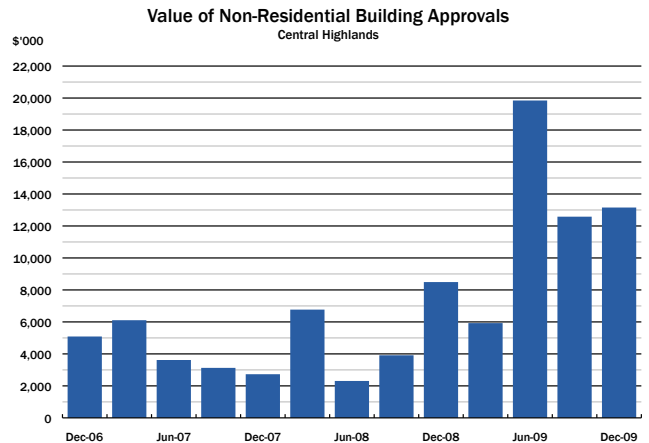
The total value of residential buildings approved in the Central Highlands was \$66.3 million in the year to the December Quarter 2009, representing an annual increase of 78.0%.



Source: ABS 8731.3

Construction

The value of non-residential building approvals in the Central Highlands increased substantially by 139.8% to \$51.5 million in the year to the December Quarter 2009.



Source: ABS 8731.3

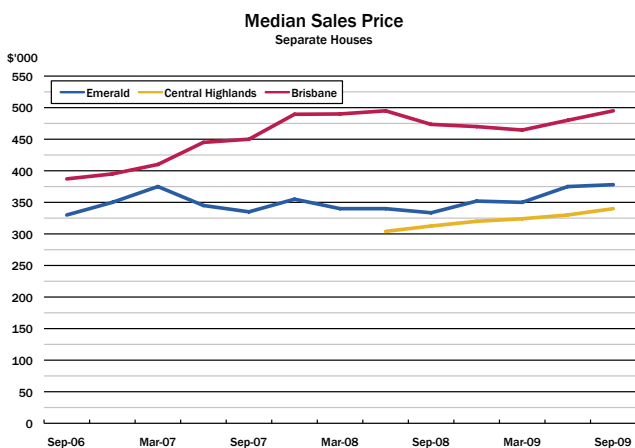
Building Approvals

	Level Yr to Jun Qtr 2009	Level Yr to Jun Qtr 2008	Ann % chg
Number			
Dwellings:	264	139	89.9
New houses	226	100	126.0
Other dwellings	38	39	-2.6
Value (\$'000)			
Dwellings:	66,256	37,222	78.0
New houses	54,269	27,832	95.0
Other dwellings	7,711	6,317	22.1
Alts & adds	4,276	3,073	39.1
Non-dwelling	51,505	21,482	139.8
Total building	117,761	58,703	100.6

Source: ABS 8731.3

Property Sales

The median house price for the Central Highlands was \$340,000 in the September Quarter 2009, representing an increase of 8.8% from the figure recorded in the September Quarter 2008 (\$312,500). The median sales price for units / townhouses and vacant urban land in the Central Highlands was \$285,000 and \$105,000, respectively, in the September Quarter 2009.



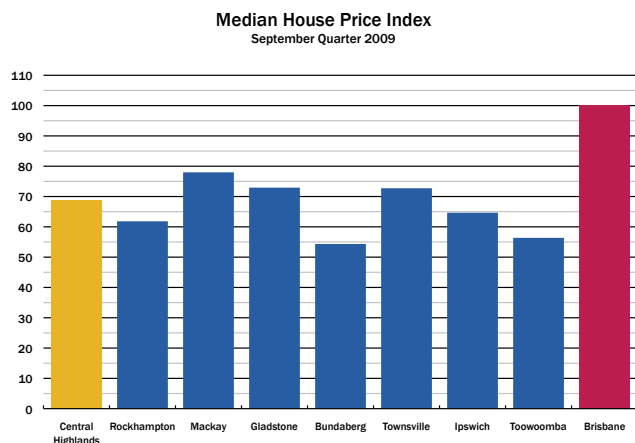
Source: REIQ

	Central Highlands		Brisbane	
	Level Sep Qtr 2009	Ann % chg	Level Sep Qtr 2009	Ann % chg
Separate houses	340,000	8.8	495,000	4.5
Units/townhouses	285,000	0.0	389,500	3.9
Vacant urban land	105,000	14.1	280,000	-3.1

Source: REIQ

Median House Price Index

The median house price index for the Central Highlands in the September Quarter 2009 was 68.7 when compared to Brisbane (index of 100), indicating that house prices were approximately 31.3% below those in the capital city.

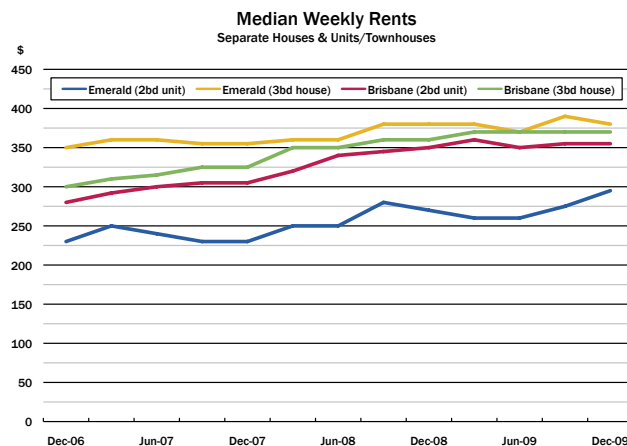


Note: Brisbane = 100

Source: REIQ, Lawrence Consulting

Weekly Rents

Median weekly rents for two bedroom units/townhouses in Emerald increased annually by 9.3% over the year to the December Quarter 2009, whilst rental prices for three bedroom houses remained unchanged.



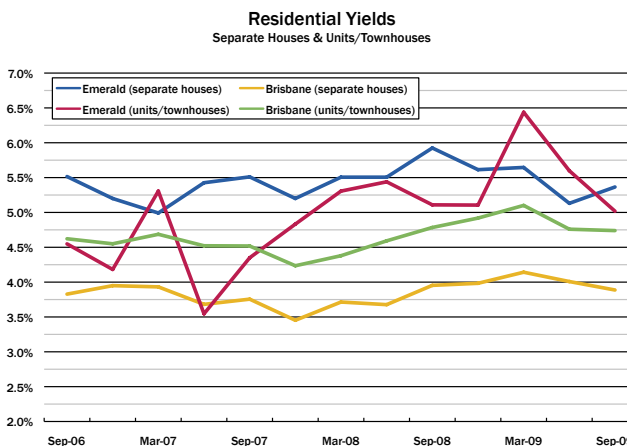
Source: Residential Tenancies Authority

	Emerald		Brisbane	
	Level Dec Qtr 2009	Ann % Chg	Level Dec Qtr 2009	Ann % Chg
Flats / Units				
One bedroom	300	7.1	275	1.9
Two bedroom	295	9.3	355	1.4
Three bedroom	390	-2.5	435	7.4
Separate Houses				
Three bedroom	380	0.0	370	2.8
Four bedroom	500	4.2	440	4.8

Source: Residential Tenancies Authority

Rental Yields

The average gross housing rental yield in Emerald was 5.4% in the September Quarter 2009, whilst the average yield for units/townhouses was 5.0%. By comparison, the average yields for houses and units in Brisbane were 3.9% and 4.7%, respectively, in the September Quarter 2009.

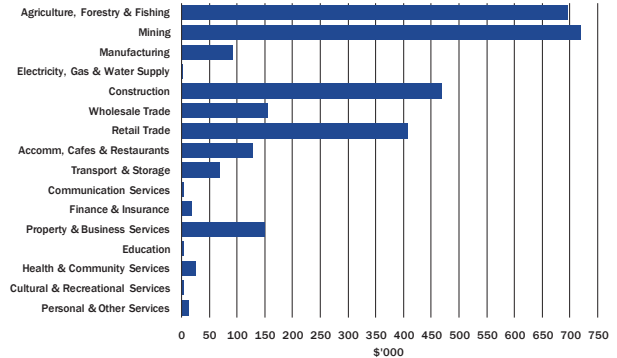


Source: Residential Tenancies Authority

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%).

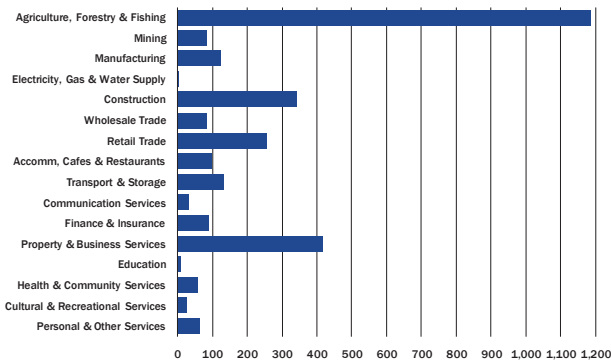
Estimated Industry Turnover
Central Highlands, 2006/07



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.

Businesses by Industry
Central Highlands, June 2007

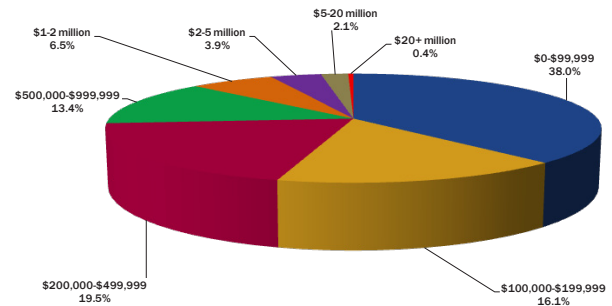


Source: ABS Australian Business Register - June 2007

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).

Businesses by Turnover
Central Highlands, 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
Total	2,991	100.0	2,941.2	100.0	983.4

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 \$92.53 in 2008/09, which was significantly higher than the average for Queensland (\$51.23).

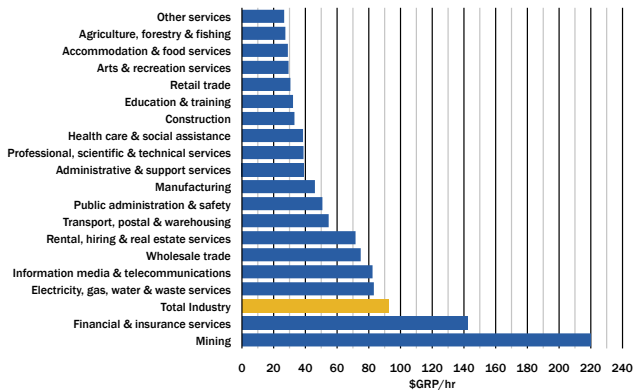
Average industry productivity for the Central Highlands increased by 13.0% from the level recorded in 2007/08 (\$81.87), which was also greater than the growth rate for Queensland (4.6%).

The Mining sector recorded the highest industry productivity level (\$220.12/hr) in the Central Highlands in 2008/09, followed by the Financial & Insurance Services (\$142.04), Electricity, Gas, Water & Waste Services (\$83.18), Information Media & Telecommunications (\$82.36) and Wholesale Trade (\$74.90) industries.

The Information Media & Telecommunications sector recorded the highest industry productivity growth rate of 31.3% in 2008/09, followed by Arts & Recreation Services (up 11.1%), Wholesale Trade (up 10.3%), Administrative & Support Services (6.1%) and Public Administration & Safety (5.8%).

Industry Productivity

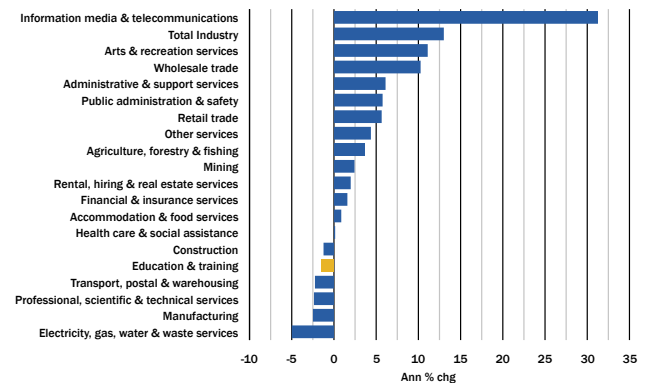
Central Highlands, 2008/09



Source: Lawrence Consulting

Productivity, Annual Industry Growth

Central Highlands, 2008/09



Source: Lawrence Consulting

The Central Highlands recorded higher industry productivity in the Financial & Insurance Services; Health Care & Social Assistance; and Arts & Recreation Services sectors than Queensland in 2008/09.

Productivity, 2008/09

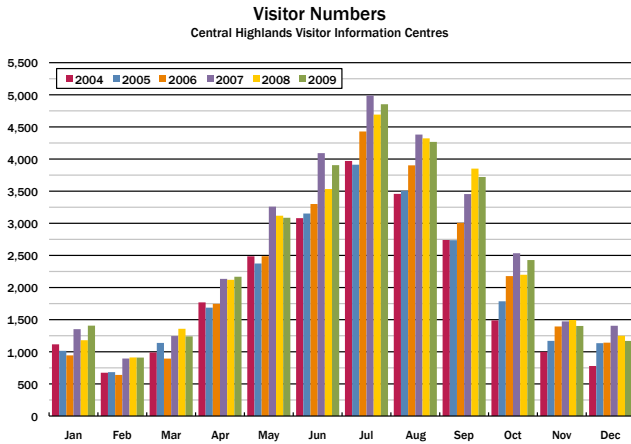
Industry	Central Highlands			Queensland		
	Level (\$value added/hr)	Annual change (\$)	Ann % chg	Level (\$value added/hr)	Annual change (\$)	Ann % chg
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	27.40	+0.96	3.6	30.31	+1.23	4.2
Mining	220.12	+5.23	2.4	226.91	+6.67	3.0
Manufacturing	46.02	-1.18	-2.5	49.93	-0.98	-1.9
Electricity, gas, water & waste services	83.18	-4.38	-5.0	84.76	-3.94	-4.4
Construction	33.12	-0.41	-1.2	37.73	-0.25	-0.7
Wholesale trade	74.90	+6.97	10.3	82.66	+8.13	10.9
Retail trade	30.57	+1.64	5.7	32.39	+1.91	6.3
Accommodation & food services	28.97	+0.25	0.9	30.16	+0.43	1.5
Transport, postal & warehousing	54.69	-1.26	-2.3	59.71	-1.02	-1.7
Information media & telecommunications	82.36	+19.62	31.3	83.30	+20.21	32.0
Financial & insurance services	142.04	+2.23	1.6	139.06	+2.97	2.2
Rental, hiring & real estate services	71.64	+1.39	2.0	76.97	+1.94	2.6
Professional, scientific & technical services	38.84	-0.94	-2.4	41.54	-0.76	-1.8
Administrative & support services	39.16	+2.26	6.1	43.53	+2.75	6.7
Public administration & safety	50.75	+2.77	5.8	53.15	+3.19	6.4
Education & training	32.22	-0.48	-1.5	32.52	-0.29	-0.9
Health care & social assistance	38.54	+0.02	0.0	37.92	+0.24	0.6
Arts & recreation services	29.40	+2.94	11.1	25.61	+2.69	11.8
Other services	26.64	+1.12	4.4	30.24	+1.44	5.0
Total Industry	92.53	+10.65	13.0	51.23	+2.25	4.6

Note: All values are in current prices.

Source: Lawrence Consulting

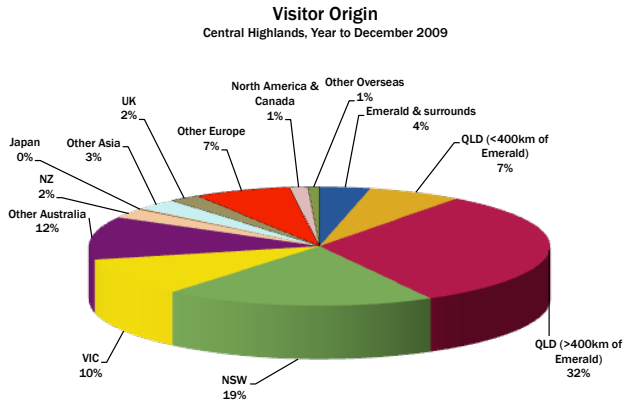
Visitor Numbers

Total visitor numbers through Visitor Information Centres in the Central Highlands region were 30,556 in the year to December 2009, representing an increase of 1.8% from the level recorded in the year to December 2008 (30,030). The number of visitors to VICs in the region has increased at an average annual rate of 5.3% over the past five years. 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 December 2009 were from other parts of Queensland greater than 400km from Emerald (31.8%), while 41.1% came from interstate locations (including 19.1% from NSW and 10.3% from Victoria) and 16.9% from overseas.



Source: Tourism Research Australia

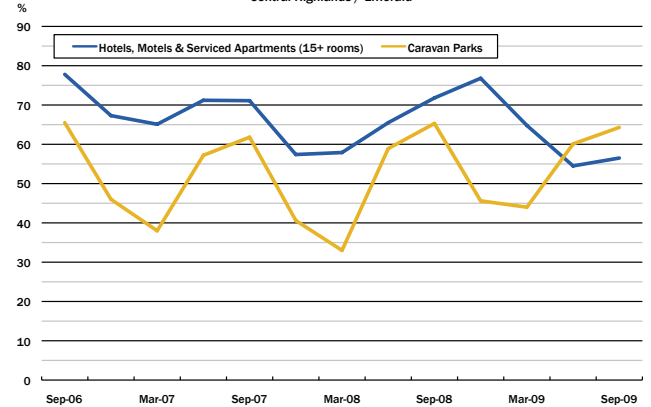
Tourist Accommodation

There were 30 accommodation establishments with more than 5 rooms operating in the Central Highlands in the September Quarter 2009 and 8 caravan parks.

The room occupancy rate for all establishments with 5 or more rooms in the Central Highlands was 56.5% in the September Quarter 2009, whilst the site occupancy for caravan parks was 64.3%. Total takings from accommodation in the Central Highlands were \$6.4 million in the September Quarter 2009.

Occupancy Rate

Central Highlands / Emerald



Source: ABS Survey of Tourist Accommodation

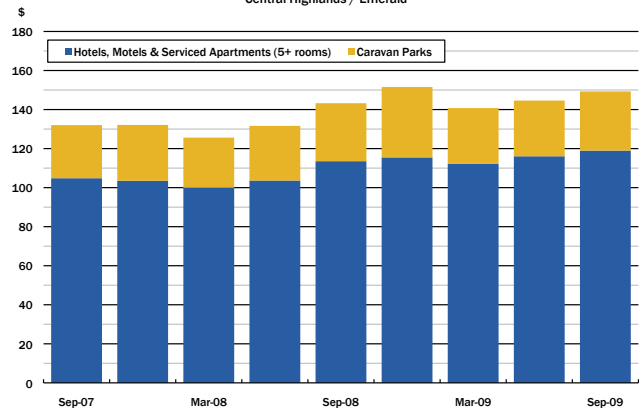
Tourist Accommodation

Hotels, Motels & Serviced Apartments (5+ rooms)	Central Highlands		Emerald	
	Level Sep Qtr 2009	Qrtly % chg	Level Sep Qtr 2009	Ann % chg
Establishments	30	0.0	18	20.0
Guest Rooms	837	-0.2	598	44.1
Bed Spaces	2,208	1.8	1,574	37.5
Employment	332	6.4	201	28.8
Room nights	43,482	4.5	29,861	9.0
Room occupancy (%)	56.5	2.0	54.3	-17.5
Guest arrivals	31,826	24.1	23,807	49.9
Guest nights	56,778	7.2	39,247	17.4
Average stay (nights)	5,174	7.1	3,709	19.2
Takings from accomm (\$'000)	1.8	-14.3	1.6	-23.8
Takings per room night occupied (\$)	118.98	2.5	124.20	9.4
Caravan Parks				
Establishments	8	0.0		
Total Capacity	700	1.2		
Employment	40	-14.9		
Site nights occupied	41,431	9.5		
Site occupancy (%)	64.3	4.2		
Takings from accomm (\$'000)	1,255	16.2		
Takings per site night occupied (\$)	30.29	6.1		

Source: ABS Survey of Tourist Accommodation

Takings per Room/Site Night Occupied

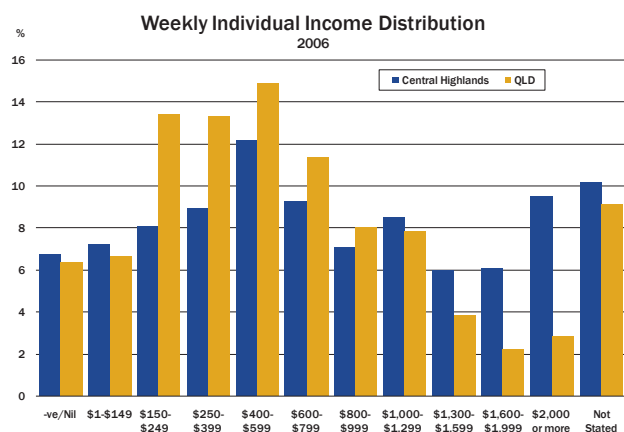
Central Highlands / Emerald



Source: ABS Survey of Tourist Accommodation

Weekly Income

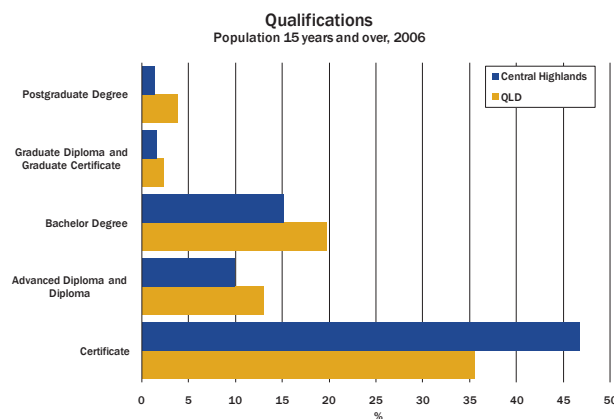
The average individual weekly income for the Central Highlands was \$826.43 in 2006, significantly higher than the average for Queensland (\$602.25). By comparison, the average household weekly income for the Central Highlands was \$1,623.09, whilst the average family weekly income was \$1,785.51.



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	% of total	No.	% of total
Person Characteristics						
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	-
Selected Characteristics						
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	-
Family Characteristics						
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
Dwelling Characteristics						
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
Population					
Estimated resident population	2008	29,244	28,772	+472	1.6%
Projected population	2031	46,872	n.a.	+17,628	2.1%
Employment					
Employed persons (no.)	Sep Qtr 2009	17,741	17,153	+588	3.4%
Unemployment rate (%) ^(a)	Sep Qtr 2009	2.4	1.8	+0.6	0.6%
Labour force (persons)	Sep Qtr 2009	18,183	17,472	+711	4.1%
Participation rate (%) ^(a)	2008	77.9	77.4	+0.4	0.4%
Business Investment					
Gross Regional Product (\$ million)	2008/09	4,318.4	3,616.9	+701.4	19.4%
Productivity (\$value added/hr worked)	2008/09	92.53	81.87	+10.65	13.0%
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 Dec Qtr 2009	51,505	21,482	+30,023	139.8%
Private Consumption					
No. of dwelling approvals	Yr to Dec Qtr 2009	264	139	+125	89.9%
Value of dwelling approvals (\$'000)	Yr to Dec Qtr 2009	66,256	37,222	+29,034	78.0%
Property Market					
Median sales price – houses (\$)	Sep Qtr 2009	340,000	312,500	+27,500	8.8%
Median sales price – units/townhouses (\$)	Sep Qtr 2009	285,000	285,000	0	0.0%
Median sales price – vacant urban land (\$)	Sep Qtr 2009	105,000	92,000	+13,000	14.1%
Median weekly rent – 2bd unit (\$)	Dec Qtr 2009	295	270	+25	9.3%
Median weekly rent – 3bd house (\$)	Dec Qtr 2009	380	380	0	0.0%
Rental yield (%) – houses ^(a)	Sep Qtr 2009	5.4	5.9	-0.6	-0.6%
Rental yield (%) – units/townhouses ^(a)	Sep Qtr 2009	5.0	5.1	-0.1	-0.1%
Tourism					
Visitor numbers – Information Centres	Yr to Dec 2009	30,556	30,030	+526	1.8%
Establishments	Sep Qtr 2009	30	28	+2	7.1%
Room occupancy (%)	Sep Qtr 2009	56.5	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Takings from accomm (\$'000)	Sep Qtr 2009	6,428.6	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Transport					
Passenger movements – Emerald Airport	2008/09	119,832	106,758	+13,074	12.2%
Average price of petrol (c/kL)	December 2009	125.0	106.2	+18.8	17.7%

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

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD

PO Box 1425
Emerald QLD 4720 Australia
Telephone: (07) 4982 4386

E-mail: enquiries@chdc.com.au

Website: www.chdc.com.au

DISCLAIMER: The data produced in Central Highlands Economic Profile is believed to be the most recent and accurate data available at the time of publication. No responsibility is accepted for any inadvertent errors.

COPYRIGHT: The concepts and information contained in this document are the property of Central Highlands Development Corporation. Use or copying of this document in whole or in part without written permission of Central Highlands Development Corporation constitutes an infringement of copyright.

Prepared by:


lawrence consulting

PO Box 2567, Toowoomba Q 4350
P +61 7 4613 0206 M 0437 180 566

E reuben@lawrenceconsulting.com.au W www.lawrenceconsulting.com.au