

2.07 Employment status including CDEP participation

The employment status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples aged 15–64 years

Data sources

Data for this measure come from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing and the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS).

Census of Population and Housing

The Census of Population and Housing is conducted by the ABS at 5-yearly intervals with 2006 the most recent, and is designed to include all Australian households. The Census uses the ABS standard Indigenous status question and it is asked for each household member. Although the Census data are adjusted for undercounts at the person level to arrive at the estimated resident population, no such adjustment is done for the statistics used in this measure.

The following labour force categories and terminologies apply to 2006 Census data:

- **Employed** – Persons aged 15 years and over who worked for payment or profit, as an unpaid helper in a family business for a minimum of 1 hour per week, during the week before Census night. Also includes those who were absent from a job or business and Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) participants.
- **Full-time workers** – Employed persons who reported working 35 hours or more in the week before Census night.
- **Part-time workers** – Employed persons who reported working less than 35 hours in the week before Census night.
- **Unemployed** – Persons aged 15 years who were not employed, but were actively looking for work and were available to start work, in the 4 weeks before Census night.
- **Not in the labour force** – persons who are not employed or unemployed as defined above, including persons who:
 - are retired
 - no longer work
 - do not intend to work in the future
 - are permanently unable to work
 - have never worked and never intend to work.
- **Participation rate** – for any group, the labour force expressed as a percentage of the civilian population in the same group.
- **Employment to population ratio** – for any group, the number of employed persons expressed as a percentage of the civilian population in the same group.

2006 Census data on participation in CDEP was not available, but data on Indigenous participation in CDEP was collected as part of the 2004–05 NATSIHS and is discussed at the end of the indicator.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS)

The 2004–05 NATSIHS collected information from 10,439 Indigenous Australians of all ages. This sample was considerably larger than the supplementary Indigenous samples in the 1995 and 2001 National Health Surveys. The survey was conducted in remote and non-remote areas of Australia and collected a range of information from Indigenous Australians about health-related issues including health-related actions, health risk factors, health status, socioeconomic circumstances and women's health. It is planned to repeat the NATSIHS at 6-yearly intervals, with the next NATSIHS to be conducted in 2010–11. Selected non-Indigenous comparisons are available through the 2004–05 National Health Survey (NHS). The labour force categories and terminologies for the 2004–05 NATSIHS are similar to those for the 2006 Census that have been used in this measure, except that the reference periods are in relation to the 2004–05 NATSIHS rather than the Census.

The 2004–05 NATSIHS also collected data on Indigenous participation in the CDEP scheme:

- **Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme** – enables participants (usually members of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities) to exchange unemployment benefits for opportunities to undertake work and training in activities that are managed by a local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community organisation. Participants in the program are therefore classified as employed.

ABS Labour Force Survey

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is run monthly by the ABS and is the main source of information about the labour force status of Australia's civilian population. From April 2001, the monthly LFS has included a question on Indigenous status. Results from the survey on Indigenous Australians are published annually by the ABS in the *Labour force characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, experimental estimates from the Labour Force Survey* publications, the latest of which was published in 2008. The labour force estimates for Indigenous Australians in this publication were produced by combining the LFS samples for each of the 12 months of a calendar year to produce annual estimates.

Data analyses

Comparison of Census and NATSIHS data

Both the NATSIHS and the Census collect information on the labour force status of Indigenous Australians, but the Census does not collect information on participation in Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) from all Indigenous persons as does the NATSIHS. In the Census, participation in CDEP is asked as a separate question only on the interviewer household forms and is not applicable to people enumerated on mainstream forms. Therefore, information on CDEP participation in the Census cannot be used as a count of all persons who are participating in the programs and is not presented here.

When comparing the labour force status of Indigenous persons recorded in the Census with that in the NATSIHS, the results are fairly similar. The 2004–05 NATSIHS estimated that 51% of Indigenous persons aged 15–64 years were employed, 9% were unemployed and 40% were not in the labour force. Results from the 2006 Census showed that 48% of Indigenous persons aged 15–64 years were employed, 9% were unemployed and 43% were not in the labour force.

This measure presents data included in the 2006 edition of this report for persons aged 15–64 years (2004–05 NATSIHS) and new data from the 2006 Census for persons aged 15–64 years. Data from the NATSIHS are presented first followed by data from the 2006 Census. Although analyses of the NATSIHS presents crude and age-standardised proportions, analyses from the Census presents crude proportions only. This is because the ABS has recently recommended that labour force data do not require age standardisation, as analysis has shown that labour force status is not highly associated with age, and age standardisation therefore has very little effect on the resulting proportions of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

NATSIHS data

- In 2004–05, the labour force participation rate for the Indigenous population aged 15–64 years was estimated to be 60% – 51% employed (40% in non-CDEP and 11% in CDEP) and 9% unemployed. The remaining 40% were not in the labour force.
- After adjusting for differences in age structure, Indigenous Australians aged 15–64 years were less likely than non-Indigenous Australians to be in the labour force (58% compared with 78%), less likely to be employed (51% compared with 75%) and more than twice as likely to be unemployed (8% compared with 3%) (Table 2.07.1).

Employment status by age and sex

- Indigenous Australians aged 25–34 and 35–44 years were most likely to be employed (58% and 63% respectively) than those in the younger and older age groups (Table 2.07.1). Indigenous Australians aged 15–24 were most likely to be unemployed (16%).
- A higher proportion of Indigenous males reported they were employed than Indigenous females (58% compared with 44%) (Table 2.07.2). Indigenous males were also more likely than Indigenous females to be unemployed (11% compared with 8%).

Table 2.07.1: Persons aged 15–64 years: labour force status, by Indigenous status and age, 2004–05

	15–24		25–34		35–44		45–54		55–64		Non age-standardised total		Age-standardised total		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio
	Number														
In the labour force	51,413	1,972,397	46,523	2,342,043	40,922	2,435,089	23,748	2,236,395	6,194	1,177,087	168,801	10,163,011	..	..	..
Employed CDEP	8,130	..	9,938	..	7,556	..	3,793	..	1,138	..	30,555	..	..	..	..
Employed non-CDEP	28,999	1,790,270	30,852	2,242,187	29,610	2,365,122	17,783	2,179,872	4,823	1,145,136	112,067	9,722,586	..	..	..
Total employed	37,129	1,790,270	40,790	2,242,187	37,166	2,365,122	21,576	2,179,872	5,961	1,145,136	142,622	9,722,586	..	..	..
Unemployed	14,285	182,127	5,733	99,857	3,756	69,967	2,172	56,523	233	31,951	26,179	440,425	..	..	..
Not in the labour force	40,654	663,802	23,249	419,311	18,135	464,476	15,830	469,185	14,735	922,338	112,603	2,939,112	..	..	..
Total	92,067	2,636,199	69,772	2,761,354	59,057	2,899,566	39,578	2,705,580	20,930	2,099,424	281,404	13,102,123	..	..	..
	Per cent														
In the labour force	56*	75*	67*	85*	69*	84*	60*	83*	30*	56*	60*	78*	58	78	0.7*
Employed CDEP	9	..	14*	..	13*	..	10	..	5	..	11	..	11	..	..
Employed non-CDEP	31*	68*	44*	81*	50*	82*	45*	81*	23*	55*	40*	74*	40	75	0.5*
Total employed	40*	68*	58*	81*	63*	82*	55*	81*	28*	55*	51*	74*	51	75	0.7*
Unemployed	16*	7*	8*	4*	6*	2*	5*	2*	1 ^(a)	2	9*	3*	8	3	2.3*
Not in the labour force	44*	25*	33*	15*	31*	16*	40*	17*	70*	44*	40*	22*	42	22	1.9*
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	..

* Represents results with statistically significant differences between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations.

(a) Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 NHS.

Table 2.07.2: Labour force status of Indigenous persons aged 15–64 years, by sex, 2004–05

	Males	Females	Persons
Labour force status	%	%	%
In the labour force	69	51	60
Employed CDEP	13	9	11
Employed non-CDEP	46	35	40
<i>Total employed</i>	58	44	51
Unemployed	11	8	9
Not in the labour force	31	49	40
Total	100	100	100

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS.

Table 2.07.3: Labour force status of persons aged 15–64 years, by Indigenous status and sex, 2004–05

	Males			Females			Persons		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio
	%	%		%	%		%	%	
In the labour force	68	86	0.8*	50	71	0.7*	58	78	0.7*
Employed CDEP	12	..	..	9	..	..	11	..	..
Employed non-CDEP	46	82	0.6*	35	67	0.5*	40	75	0.5*
<i>Total employed</i>	59	82	0.7*	44	67	0.6*	51	75	0.7*
Unemployed	9	4	2.5*	7	3	2.0*	8	3	2.3*
Not in the labour force	32	14	2.2*	50	29	1.7*	42	22	1.9*
Total	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..

* Represents results with statistically significant differences between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations.

Note: Data are age-standardised.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 NHS.

Employment status by state/territory and remoteness

- The proportion of Indigenous Australians who were unemployed ranged from 12% in Tasmania to 6% in the Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory (Table 2.07.4). The proportion of Indigenous Australians not in the labour force ranged from 29% in the Australian Capital Territory to 50% in the Northern Territory. The Northern Territory had the highest proportion of Indigenous Australians employed in CDEP (24%).
- In every state and territory except the Australian Capital Territory where proportions were not statistically different, a higher proportion of Indigenous Australians than non-Indigenous Australians were unemployed. In every state and territory a higher proportion of Indigenous Australians than non-Indigenous Australians were not in the labour force (Table 2.07.5).

- Indigenous Australians in remote areas were more likely than Indigenous Australians in non-remote areas to be employed in CDEP (29% compared with 4%) and less likely to be employed in non-CDEP (23% compared with 46%) (Table 2.07.6; Figure 2.07.1).

Table 2.07.4: Labour force status of Indigenous persons aged 15–64 years, by state/territory, 2004–05

Labour force status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Per cent								
In the labour force	59	64	66	60	55	61	71	50	60
Employed CDEP	5	4 ^(a)	9	21	12	0 ^(b)	1 ^(b)	24	11
Employed non-CDEP	45	51	46	29	36	48	64	19	40
<i>Total employed</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>51</i>
Unemployed	9	9	11	9	7	12	6 ^(a)	6	9
Not in the labour force	41	36	34	40	45	39	29	50	40
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

(a) Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

(b) Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS.

Table 2.07.5: Labour force status of persons aged 15–64 years, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2004–05

	NSW		Vic		Qld		WA		SA		Tas		ACT		NT		Australia	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
	Number																	
In the labour force	48,614	3,371,351	11,256	2,568,214	49,751	1,983,571	23,988	989,308	8,768	769,523	6,567	219,869	1,812	187,635	18,044	73,540	168,801	10,163,011
Employed CDEP	3,929	..	645	..	6,918	..	8,326	..	1,984	..	38	..	18	..	8,697	..	30,555	..
Employed non-CDEP	37,297	3,221,271	8,942	2,454,330	34,360	1,893,972	11,848	952,823	5,680	738,449	5,237	208,252	1,646	180,483	7,058	73,007	112,067	9,722,586
<i>Total employed</i>	<i>41,226</i>	<i>3,221,271</i>	<i>9,588</i>	<i>2,454,330</i>	<i>41,278</i>	<i>1,893,972</i>	<i>20,174</i>	<i>952,823</i>	<i>7,663</i>	<i>738,449</i>	<i>5,275</i>	<i>208,252</i>	<i>1,664</i>	<i>180,483</i>	<i>15,755</i>	<i>73,007</i>	<i>142,622</i>	<i>9,722,586</i>
Unemployed	7,388	150,080	1,668	113,885	8,473	89,599	3,815	36,485	1,105	31,075	1,292	11,617	148	7,151	2,289	533	26,179	440,425
Not in the labour force	33,690	1,002,445	6,393	753,306	25,766	534,436	16,306	293,391	7,161	217,577	4,241	82,044	741	36,425	18,305	19,490	112,603	2,939,112
Total	82,304	4,373,796	17,649	3,321,520	75,517	2,518,007	40,294	1,282,698	15,930	987,100	10,808	301,913	2,553	224,060	36,349	93,030	281,404	13,102,123

(continued)

Table 2.07.5 (continued): Labour force status of persons aged 15–64 years, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2004–05

	NSW		Vic		Qld		SA		WA		Tas		ACT		NT		Australia	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
Per cent																		
In the labour force	58*	78*	62*	78*	63*	79*	54*	79*	58*	77*	60*	74*	71*	84*	51*	79*	58*	78*
Employed CDEP	4	..	3 ^(a)	..	9	..	12	..	20	..	0 ^(b)	..	1 ^(b)	..	25	..	11	..
Employed non-CDEP	46*	74*	51*	74*	44*	76*	36*	76*	30*	75*	50*	70*	65*	81*	21*	79*	40*	75*
<i>Total employed</i>	<i>51*</i>	<i>74*</i>	<i>54*</i>	<i>74*</i>	<i>53*</i>	<i>76*</i>	<i>48*</i>	<i>76*</i>	<i>50*</i>	<i>75*</i>	<i>50*</i>	<i>70*</i>	<i>66*</i>	<i>81*</i>	<i>46*</i>	<i>79*</i>	<i>51*</i>	<i>75*</i>
Unemployed	7*	3*	8	3	10*	4*	6*	3*	8*	3*	9*	4*	5 ^(a)	3	5*	1 ^{*(b)}	8*	3*
Not in the labour force	42*	22*	38*	22*	37*	21*	46*	21*	42*	23*	40*	26*	29*	16*	49*	21*	42*	22*
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

* Represents results with statistically significant differences between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations.

(a) Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

(b) Estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

Note: Data are age-standardised.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 NHS.

Table 2.07.6: Labour force status of Indigenous persons aged 15–64 years, by remoteness, 2004–05

Labour force status	Remote	Non-remote	Australia
	Per cent		
In the labour force	58	61	60
Employed CDEP	29	4	11
Employed non-CDEP	23	46	40
<i>Total employed</i>	51	50	51
Unemployed	7	10	9
Not in the labour force	42	39	40
Total	100	100	100

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS.

Table 2.07.7: Labour force status of persons aged 15–64 years, by Indigenous status and remoteness, 2004–05

Labour force status	Remote			Non-remote			Total		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio ^(a)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio ^(a)	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio ^(a)
	%	%		%	%		%	%	
In the labour force	58	82	0.7*	58	78	0.7*	58	78	0.7*
Employed CDEP	28	..	..	4	..	..	11	..	..
Employed non-CDEP	24	80	0.3*	46	75	0.6*	40	75	0.5*
<i>Total employed</i>	52	80	0.7*	50	75	0.7*	51	75	0.7*
Unemployed	6	3 ^(b)	2.3*	8	3	2.4*	8	3	2.3*
Not in the labour force	42	18	2.4*	42	22	1.9*	42	22	1.9*
Total^(c)	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..

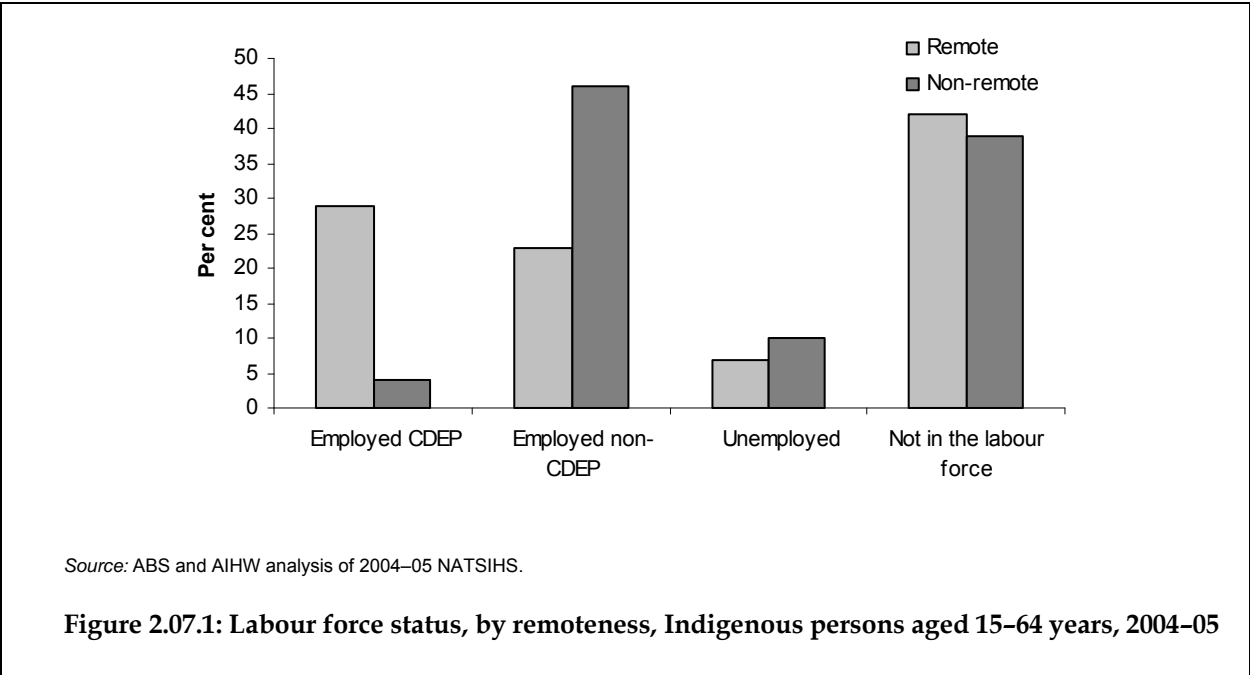
(a) Indigenous proportion divided by the non-Indigenous proportion.

(b) Estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution.

(c) Includes labour force status not stated.

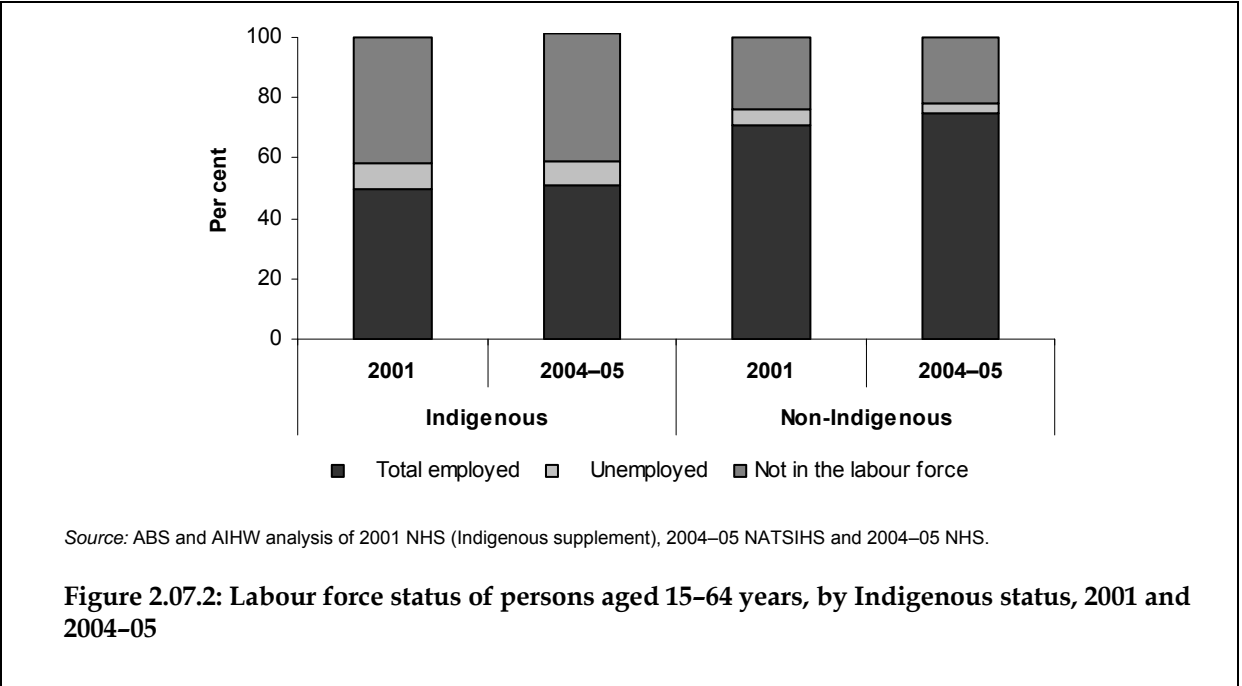
Note: Data are age-standardised.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2004–05 NHS.



Time series analyses

Various data sources suggest different trends in employment status. Data from the NATSIHS and National Health Surveys presented in Figure 2.07.2 suggest that there has been little change in the labour force status of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians between 2001 and 2004-05. However, data from the 1994 NATSIS and 2002 NATSISS indicate that, nationally, the labour force participation rate for Indigenous Australians aged 15-64 years increased from 57% in 1994 to 64% in 2002 and the unemployment rate fell from 30% to 20% in the same period (SCRGSP 2005).



Employment status by summary health characteristics

The 2004–05 NATSIHS collected information on the labour force status and selected health characteristics of Indigenous Australians. Results are shown in tables 2.07.8a and 2.07.8b.

- In 2004–05, approximately 65% of Indigenous Australians aged 15–64 years with reported excellent/very good/good health were in the labour force (55% employed) compared with 43% of Indigenous Australians with reported fair/poor health (35% employed) (Table 2.07.8a). Approximately 13% of Indigenous Australians with no long-term health conditions were unemployed compared with 7% of Indigenous Australians with three or more long-term conditions.
- Indigenous Australians with no long-term health conditions were three times as likely as non-Indigenous Australians with no long-term health conditions to be unemployed. Indigenous Australians with three or more long-term health conditions were twice as likely as non-Indigenous Australians with three or more long-term health conditions to be unemployed (Table 2.07.8b).

Table 2.07.8a: Labour force status of Indigenous persons aged 15–64 years, by summary health characteristics, 2004–05^(a)

	Self-assessed health status		Number of long term conditions				Total ^(b)
	Excellent/very good/good	Fair/poor	0	1	2	3+	
	Per cent						
In the labour force	65	43	60	65	65	56	60
Employed CDEP	12	7	16	12	9	8	11
Employed non-CDEP	43	28	31	43	47	40	40
<i>Total employed</i>	55	35	47	55	56	49	51
Unemployed	10	8	13	10	9	7	9
Not in the labour force	35	57	40	35	35	44	40
Total^(c)	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total number	222,665	58,668	66,107	53,741	49,337	112,219	281,404

(a) Proportions are calculated of those in each category of self-assessed health status and number of long-term conditions, the proportion in each labour force status category.

(b) Includes self-assessed health status not stated and number of long-term conditions not stated.

(c) Includes labour force status not stated.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2004–05 NATSIHS.

Table 2.07.8b: Labour force status of persons aged 15–64 years, by summary health characteristics and Indigenous status, 2004–05

	Self-assessed health status						Number of long-term health conditions															
	Excellent/very good/good			Fair/Poor			0			1			2			3+			Total			
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Rate ratio	
	%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%	%		%
In the labour force	64	81	0.8*	45	61	0.7*	61	79	0.8*	64	82	0.8*	62	82	0.8*	56	76	0.7*	58	78	0.7*	
Employed CDEP	12	..	..	7	..	..	17	..	..	12	..	..	9	..	..	8	..	..	11	..	..
Employed non-CDEP	45	..	..	29	..	..	35	..	..	44	..	..	46	..	..	40	..	..	40	..	..
<i>Total employed</i>	57	78	0.7*	36	56	0.6*	52	76	0.7*	56	79	0.78	55	79	0.7*	48	72	0.7*	51	75	0.7*	
Unemployed	7	3	2.2*	9	5	1.8*	9	3	2.7*	8	3	2.4*	7	3	2.5*	8	4	1.9*	8	3	2.3*	
Not in the labour force	36	19	1.9*	55	39	1.4*	39	21	1.9*	36	18	2.1*	38	18	2.1*	44	24	1.8*	42	22	1.9*	
Total^(a)	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..	100	100	..	

* Represents results with statistically significant differences in the Indigenous/non-Indigenous comparisons.

(a) Includes labour force status not stated.

Note: Data are age standardised

Source: ABS & AIHW analysis of 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey & 2004–05 National Health Survey.

Census data

- In 2006, Indigenous Australians aged 15–64 years were less likely than non-Indigenous Australians to be employed (48% compared with 72%), particularly in full-time work (26% of Indigenous Australians employed full-time compared with 46% of non-Indigenous Australians) (Table 2.07.9).
- A much higher proportion of Indigenous Australians were not in the labour force (43%) compared with non-Indigenous Australians (25%).

Employment status by age and sex

- Indigenous Australians aged 35–44 and 45–54 years were more likely to be employed (55% and 56% respectively) than those in the younger and older age groups (Table 2.07.9). Indigenous Australians aged 15–24 were most likely to be unemployed (11%).
- In 2006, Indigenous Australians had a 54% labour force participation rate, compared with 75% for non-Indigenous Australians (Figure 2.07.3).
- Indigenous Australians had a employment to population ratio of 0.5, compared with the non-Indigenous ratio of 0.7 (Figure 2.07.4).
- A higher proportion of Indigenous males than Indigenous females reported they were employed (53% compared with 43%) (Table 2.07.10). Indigenous males were also more likely than Indigenous females to be unemployed (10% compared with 8%).

Table 2.07.9: Persons aged 15–64 years: labour force status, by Indigenous status and age, 2006

	15–24		25–34		35–44		45–54		55–64		Total	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
	Number											
Employed												
Employed, worked full-time	14,038	721,919	16,801	1,368,405	16,875	1,429,557	12,719	1,400,982	4,261	708,193	64,694	5,629,056
Employed, worked part-time	14,218	641,896	10,359	414,020	10,416	589,654	6,798	523,203	2,750	349,029	44,541	2,517,802
Employed, away from work ^(a)	3,711	108,469	3,067	123,119	2,761	124,325	1,922	115,414	842	76,810	12,303	548,137
<i>Total employed</i>	<i>31,967</i>	<i>1,472,284</i>	<i>30,227</i>	<i>1,905,544</i>	<i>30,052</i>	<i>2,143,536</i>	<i>21,439</i>	<i>2,039,599</i>	<i>7,853</i>	<i>1,134,032</i>	<i>121,538</i>	<i>8,694,995</i>
Unemployed												
Unemployed, looking for full-time work	6,475	85,035	4,086	66,697	3,297	58,208	1,652	50,181	456	29,012	15,966	289,133
Unemployed, looking for part-time work	2,736	76,188	1,580	30,956	1,375	33,823	652	23,888	233	17,241	6,576	182,096
<i>Total unemployed</i>	<i>9,211</i>	<i>161,223</i>	<i>5,666</i>	<i>97,653</i>	<i>4,672</i>	<i>92,031</i>	<i>2,304</i>	<i>74,069</i>	<i>689</i>	<i>46,253</i>	<i>22,542</i>	<i>471,229</i>
Not in the labour force	39,953	795,814	23,034	422,149	19,865	461,434	14,392	442,778	12,142	846,835	109,386	2,969,010
Labour force status not stated	4,885	29,354	3,386	27,156	3,175	29,610	2,380	26,082	1,515	29,350	15,341	141,552
Total	86,016	2,458,675	62,313	2,452,502	57,764	2,726,611	40,515	2,582,528	22,199	2,056,470	268,807	12,276,786

(continued)

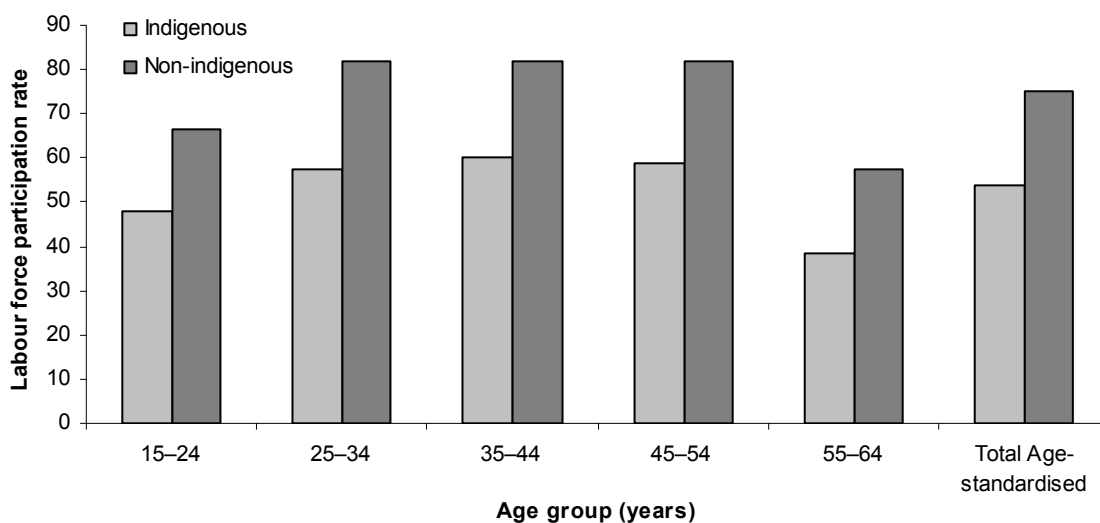
Table 2.07.9 (continued): Persons aged 15–64 years: labour force status, by Indigenous status and age, 2006

	15–24		25–34		35–44		45–54		55–64		Total	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
	Per cent ^(b)											
Employed												
Employed, worked full-time	17.3	29.7	28.5	56.4	30.9	53.0	33.3	54.8	20.6	34.9	25.5	46.4
Employed, worked part-time	17.5	26.4	17.6	17.1	19.1	21.9	17.8	20.5	13.3	17.2	17.6	20.7
Employed, away from work ^(a)	4.6	4.5	5.2	5.1	5.1	4.6	5.0	4.5	4.1	3.8	4.9	4.5
<i>Total employed</i>	<i>39.4</i>	<i>60.6</i>	<i>51.3</i>	<i>78.6</i>	<i>55.1</i>	<i>79.5</i>	<i>56.2</i>	<i>79.8</i>	<i>38.0</i>	<i>55.9</i>	<i>48.0</i>	<i>71.7</i>
Unemployed												
Unemployed, looking for full-time work	8.0	3.5	6.9	2.7	6.0	2.2	4.3	2.0	2.2	1.4	6.3	2.4
Unemployed, looking for part-time work	3.4	3.1	2.7	1.3	2.5	1.3	1.7	0.9	1.1	0.9	2.6	1.5
<i>Total unemployed</i>	<i>11.4</i>	<i>6.6</i>	<i>9.6</i>	<i>4.0</i>	<i>8.6</i>	<i>3.4</i>	<i>6.0</i>	<i>2.9</i>	<i>3.3</i>	<i>2.3</i>	<i>8.9</i>	<i>3.9</i>
Not in the labour force	49.2	32.8	39.1	17.4	36.4	17.1	37.7	17.3	58.7	41.8	43.2	24.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Includes persons who stated they worked but who did not state the number of hours worked.

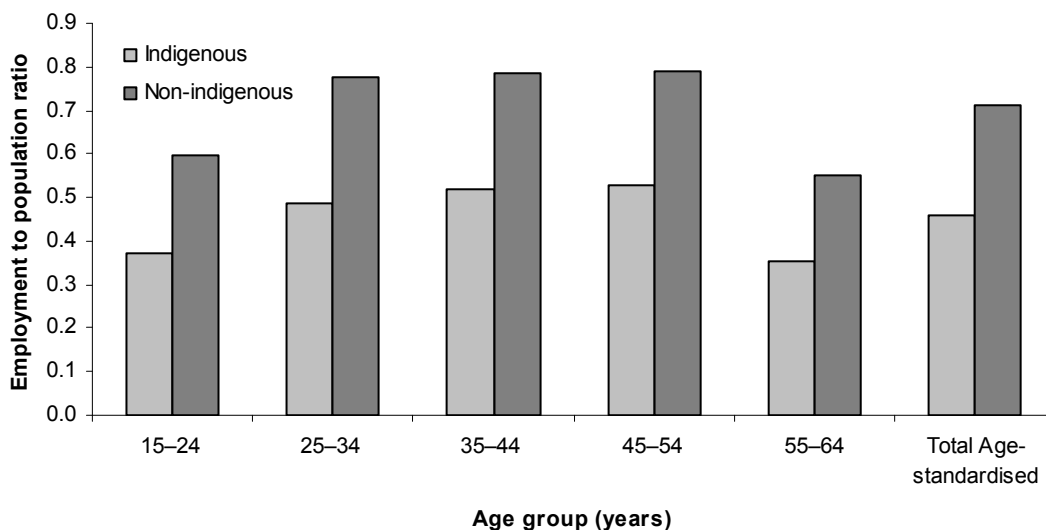
(b) Because of the large proportion of Indigenous respondents for whom labour force status was not stated, all proportions are calculated without including 'not stated' in total.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.



Note: Total directly age-standardised using the Australian 2001 standard population.
 Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Figure 2.07.3: Age-specific labour force participation rates, by Indigenous status, 2006



Note: Total directly age-standardised using the Australian 2001 standard population.
 Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Figure 2.07.4: Age-specific employment to population ratios, by Indigenous status, 2006

Table 2.07.10: Labour force status^(a) of persons aged 15–64 years, by Indigenous status and sex, 2006

	Males			Females			Persons		
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Ratio
	%	%		%	%		%	%	
Employed									
Employed, worked full-time	32.4	60.5	0.5	19.1	32.6	0.6	25.5	46.4	0.5
Employed, worked part-time	15.0	12.6	1.2	20.0	28.7	0.7	17.6	20.7	0.9
Employed, away from work ^(b)	5.6	4.8	1.2	4.2	4.3	1.0	4.9	4.5	1.1
<i>Total employed</i>	<i>53.0</i>	<i>77.8</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>43.2</i>	<i>65.6</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>48.0</i>	<i>71.7</i>	<i>0.7</i>
Unemployed									
Unemployed, looking for full-time work	7.9	3.1	2.5	4.8	1.7	2.8	6.3	2.4	2.6
Unemployed, looking for part-time work	2.0	1.1	1.8	3.1	1.9	1.6	2.6	1.5	1.7
<i>Total unemployed</i>	<i>10.0</i>	<i>4.2</i>	<i>2.4</i>	<i>7.9</i>	<i>3.6</i>	<i>2.2</i>	<i>8.9</i>	<i>3.9</i>	<i>2.3</i>
Not in the labour force	37.0	18.0	2.1	48.9	30.8	1.6	43.2	24.5	1.8
Total	100.0	100.0	..	100.0	100.0	..	100.0	100.0	..

(a) Because of the large proportion of Indigenous respondents for whom labour force status was not stated, all proportions are calculated without including 'not stated' in total.

(b) Includes persons who stated they worked but who did not state the number of hours worked.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Employment status by state/territory and remoteness

- The proportion of Indigenous Australians who were unemployed ranged from 11% in New South Wales to 7% in the Northern Territory (Table 2.07.11). The proportion of Indigenous Australians not in the labour force ranged from 28% in the Australian Capital Territory to 55% in the Northern Territory.
- In every state and territory, a higher proportion of Indigenous Australians than non-Indigenous Australians were unemployed, and were not in the labour force (Table 2.07.11).
- Indigenous Australians in non-remote areas were more likely than those in remote areas to be employed full-time and more likely to be unemployed (Table 2.07.12; Figure 2.07.5).

Table 2.07.11: Labour force status of persons aged 15–64 years, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2006

	NSW		Vic		Qld		WA		SA		Tas		ACT		NT	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
	Number															
Employed																
Employed, worked full-time	19,634	1,814,135	5,091	1,406,228	20,684	1,134,235	7,320	573,598	3,236	413,792	3,043	117,002	1,018	115,093	4,633	54,266
Employed, worked part-time	12,059	788,717	2,564	648,126	13,399	495,486	6,233	257,289	2,505	206,632	1,887	62,556	366	44,812	5,509	13,992
Employed, away from work ^(a)	3,241	173,530	794	137,297	3,689	104,382	1,919	61,412	743	42,082	429	13,308	114	10,761	1,370	5,286
<i>Total employed</i>	<i>34,934</i>	<i>2,776,382</i>	<i>8,449</i>	<i>2,191,651</i>	<i>37,772</i>	<i>1,734,103</i>	<i>15,472</i>	<i>892,299</i>	<i>6,484</i>	<i>662,506</i>	<i>5,359</i>	<i>192,866</i>	<i>1,498</i>	<i>170,666</i>	<i>11,512</i>	<i>73,544</i>
Unemployed																
Unemployed, looking for full-time work	5,953	107,087	1,119	76,972	3,954	50,311	1,882	19,095	928	22,690	605	8,632	135	3,019	1,386	1,291
Unemployed, looking for part-time work	2,437	63,831	475	48,935	1,786	33,257	708	14,199	314	13,587	250	4,673	53	2,873	550	714
<i>Total unemployed</i>	<i>8,390</i>	<i>170,918</i>	<i>1,594</i>	<i>125,907</i>	<i>5,740</i>	<i>83,568</i>	<i>2,590</i>	<i>33,294</i>	<i>1,242</i>	<i>36,277</i>	<i>855</i>	<i>13,305</i>	<i>188</i>	<i>5,892</i>	<i>1,936</i>	<i>2,005</i>
Not in the labour force	33,412	1,013,711	6,818	766,165	27,015	550,470	14,774	269,832	6,810	235,572	3,670	78,918	669	39,831	16,129	14,203
Labour force status not stated	3,685	49,605	946	36,802	3,603	27,650	2,267	12,818	822	9,043	239	3,165	52	1,274	3,728	1,184
Total	80,421	4,010,616	17,807	3,120,525	74,130	2,395,791	35,103	1,208,243	15,358	943,398	10,123	288,254	2,407	217,663	33,305	90,936

(continued)

Table 2.07.11 (continued): Labour force status of persons aged 15–64 years, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2006

	NSW		Vic		Qld		WA		SA		Tas		ACT		NT	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
Per cent ^(b)																
Employed																
Employed, worked full-time	25.6	45.8	30.2	45.6	29.3	47.9	22.3	48.0	22.3	44.3	30.8	41.0	43.2	53.2	15.7	60.5
Employed, worked part-time	15.7	19.9	15.2	21.0	19.0	20.9	19.0	21.5	17.2	22.1	19.1	21.9	15.5	20.7	18.6	15.6
Employed, away from work ^(a)	4.2	4.4	4.7	4.5	5.2	4.4	5.8	5.1	5.1	4.5	4.3	4.7	4.9	5.0	4.6	5.9
<i>Total employed</i>	<i>45.5</i>	<i>70.1</i>	<i>50.1</i>	<i>71.1</i>	<i>53.6</i>	<i>73.2</i>	<i>47.1</i>	<i>74.6</i>	<i>44.6</i>	<i>70.9</i>	<i>54.2</i>	<i>67.7</i>	<i>63.6</i>	<i>78.9</i>	<i>38.9</i>	<i>81.9</i>
Unemployed																
Unemployed, looking for full-time work	7.8	2.7	6.6	2.5	5.6	2.1	5.7	1.6	6.4	2.4	6.1	3.0	5.7	1.4	4.7	1.4
Unemployed, looking for part-time work	3.2	1.6	2.8	1.6	2.5	1.4	2.2	1.2	2.2	1.5	2.5	1.6	2.2	1.3	1.9	0.8
<i>Total unemployed</i>	<i>10.9</i>	<i>4.3</i>	<i>9.5</i>	<i>4.1</i>	<i>8.1</i>	<i>3.5</i>	<i>7.9</i>	<i>2.8</i>	<i>8.5</i>	<i>3.9</i>	<i>8.7</i>	<i>4.7</i>	<i>8.0</i>	<i>2.7</i>	<i>6.5</i>	<i>2.2</i>
Not in the labour force	43.5	25.6	40.4	24.8	38.3	23.2	45.0	22.6	46.9	25.2	37.1	27.7	28.4	18.4	54.5	15.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Includes persons who stated they worked but who did not state the number of hours worked.

(b) Because of the large proportion of Indigenous respondents for whom labour force status was not stated, all proportions are calculated without including 'not stated' in total.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Table 2.07.12: Labour force status of persons aged 15–64 years, by Indigenous status and remoteness, 2006

	Major Cities		Inner Regional		Outer Regional		Remote		Very Remote	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
	Number									
Employed										
Employed, worked full-time	26,616	4,016,276	13,646	984,065	13,216	500,521	4,926	85,310	6,059	33,428
Employed, worked part-time	12,970	1,757,281	8,931	506,119	8,574	215,640	3,716	27,634	10,262	7,719
Employed, away from work ^(a)	3,979	377,815	2,308	104,370	2,690	53,008	1,274	8,300	1,976	3,225
<i>Total employed</i>	<i>43,565</i>	<i>6,151,372</i>	<i>24,885</i>	<i>1,594,554</i>	<i>24,480</i>	<i>769,169</i>	<i>9,916</i>	<i>121,244</i>	<i>18,297</i>	<i>44,372</i>
Unemployed										
Unemployed, looking for full-time work	5,457	195,403	4,025	61,430	3,721	26,593	1,134	2,701	1,501	734
Unemployed, looking for part-time work	2,245	130,705	1,613	35,468	1,525	13,547	551	1,295	614	342
<i>Total unemployed</i>	<i>7,702</i>	<i>326,108</i>	<i>5,638</i>	<i>96,898</i>	<i>5,246</i>	<i>40,140</i>	<i>1,685</i>	<i>3,996</i>	<i>2,115</i>	<i>1,076</i>
Not in the labour force	32,781	2,040,528	23,627	614,240	24,096	265,035	10,096	29,712	18,299	7,760
Labour force status not stated	3,964	98,653	2,375	25,635	3,326	13,642	2,022	2,010	3,489	838
Total	88,012	8,616,661	56,525	2,331,327	57,148	1,087,986	23,719	156,962	42,200	54,046

(continued)

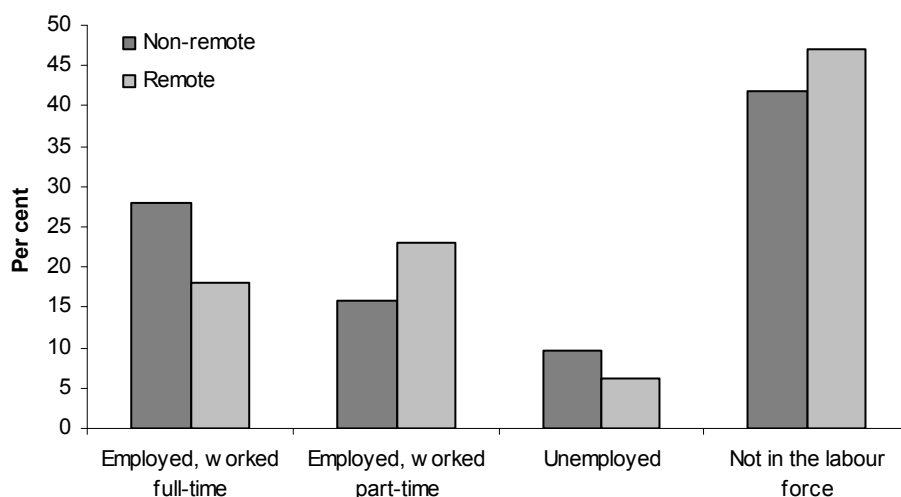
Table 2.07.12 (continued): Labour force status of persons aged 15–64 years, by Indigenous status and remoteness, 2006

	Major Cities		Inner Regional		Outer Regional		Remote		Very Remote	
	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.	Indig.	Non-Indig.
	Per cent ^(b)									
Employed										
Employed, worked full-time	31.7	47.2	25.2	42.7	24.6	46.6	22.7	55.1	15.7	62.8
Employed, worked part-time	15.4	20.6	16.5	22.0	15.9	20.1	17.1	17.8	26.5	14.5
Employed, away from work ^(a)	4.7	4.4	4.3	4.5	5.0	4.9	5.9	5.4	5.1	6.1
<i>Total employed</i>	<i>51.8</i>	<i>72.2</i>	<i>46.0</i>	<i>69.2</i>	<i>45.5</i>	<i>71.6</i>	<i>45.7</i>	<i>78.2</i>	<i>47.3</i>	<i>83.4</i>
Unemployed										
Unemployed, looking for full-time work	6.5	2.3	7.4	2.7	6.9	2.5	5.2	1.7	3.9	1.4
Unemployed, looking for part-time work	2.7	1.5	3.0	1.5	2.8	1.3	2.5	0.8	1.6	0.6
<i>Total unemployed</i>	<i>9.2</i>	<i>3.8</i>	<i>10.4</i>	<i>4.2</i>	<i>9.7</i>	<i>3.7</i>	<i>7.8</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>5.5</i>	<i>2.0</i>
Not in the labour force	39.0	24.0	43.6	26.6	44.8	24.7	46.5	19.2	47.3	14.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Includes persons who stated they worked but who did not state the number of hours worked.

(b) Because of the large proportion of Indigenous respondents for whom labour force status was not stated, all proportions are calculated without including 'not stated' in total.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.



Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Figure 2.07.5: Labour force status, by remoteness, Indigenous persons aged 15-64 years, 2006

Employment by sector, hours worked and occupation

- In 2006, approximately 59% of Indigenous persons aged 15-64 years employed in the labour force were working full-time compared with 69% of non-Indigenous persons of the same age (Table 2.07.13).
- Around three-quarters (74%) of Indigenous employed persons were working in the private sector, 12% were working for state/territory government, 10% were working for local government and 4% were working for the Commonwealth Government. In comparison, approximately 85% of non-Indigenous persons were working in the private sector, 9% in state/territory government, 1% in local government and 4% in the Commonwealth Government.
- In 2006, the most common occupations for Indigenous employed persons were labourers (24%), community and personal service workers (16%), and clerical and administrative workers (13%). For non-Indigenous employed persons the most common occupations were professionals (20%), clerical and administrative workers (15%) and technicians and trades workers (15%).

Table 2.07.13: Employed persons aged 15–64 years, by hours worked, sector and occupation, 2006

	Number		Proportion	
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous
Hours worked				
Employed, worked full-time	64,693	5,629,054	59.2	69.1
Employed, worked part-time	44,541	2,517,804	40.8	30.9
<i>Total^(a)</i>	<i>109233</i>	<i>8146857</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Sector				
Commonwealth Government	5,001	356,294	4.3	4.1
State/territory government	13,873	781,959	11.9	9.1
Local government	11,224	121,053	9.6	1.4
Private sector	86,566	7,331,451	74.2	85.3
<i>Total^(b)</i>	<i>116674</i>	<i>8590759</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Occupation				
Managers	6,726	1,130,708	5.6	13.1
Professionals	13,647	1,742,161	11.5	20.2
Technicians and trades workers	14,631	1,262,162	12.3	14.6
Community and personal service workers	18,565	766,997	15.6	8.9
Clerical and administrative workers	15,167	1,316,622	12.7	15.3
Sales workers	8,250	865,948	6.9	10.0
Machinery operators and drivers	9,906	575,147	8.3	6.7
Labourers	28,854	890,635	24.2	10.3
Inadequately described	3,409	81,442	2.9	0.9
Total^(c)	119,152	8,631,817	100.0	100.0

(a) Total excludes hours worked not stated.

(b) Total excludes sector not stated.

(c) Total excludes occupation not stated.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Time series analyses

Various data sources suggest different trends in employment status.

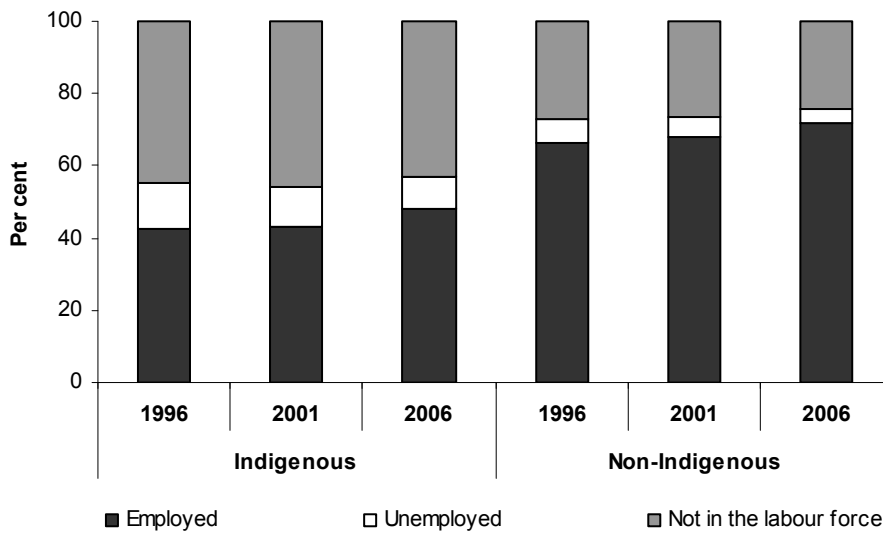
- Census data from 1996, 2001 and 2006 presented in Table 2.07.14 and Figure 2.07.6 suggest that there have been only slight changes in the labour force status of Indigenous Australians aged 15–64 years between 1996 and 2006. Over this period the employment rate for Indigenous Australians increased from 43% to 48% and the unemployment rate fell slightly from 13% to 9%.
- Similarly, data from the ABS Labour Force Survey over the 5-year period 2002–2006 also indicate that there has been only minor change in the labour force status of Indigenous Australians aged 15–64 years (Figure 2.07.7).
- However, data from the 1994 NATSIS and 2002 NATSISS indicate that, nationally, the labour force participation rate for Indigenous Australians aged 18–64 years increased from 57% in 1994 to 64% in 2002 and the unemployment rate fell from 30% to 20% in the same period (SCRGSP 2005).

Table 2.07.14: Labour force status of persons aged 15–64 years, by Indigenous status, 1996, 2001 and 2006

	Indigenous			Non-Indigenous		
	1996	2001	2006	1996	2001	2006
	Per cent					
Employed	42.5	43.2	47.9	66.2	68.0	71.7
Unemployed	12.5	10.8	8.9	6.6	5.3	3.8
Not in the labour force	45.0	45.9	43.2	27.2	26.7	24.5
Total^(a)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

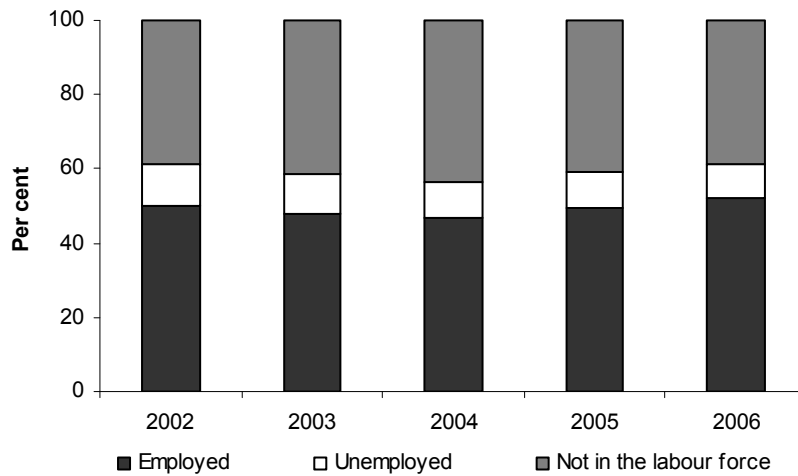
(a) Total excludes labour force status not stated.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 1996, 2001 and 2006 Census data.



Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 1996, 2001 and 2006 Census data.

Figure 2.07.6: Labour force status of persons aged 15-64 years, by Indigenous status, 1996, 2001 and 2006



Source: ABS 2007.

Figure 2.07.7: Labour force status of Indigenous persons aged 15-64 years, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006

Data quality issues

Census of Population and Housing

The Census uses the National health data dictionary standard Indigenous status question and it is asked for each household member. Measures that are drawn from Census data are subject to broad data concerns relating to the unexplainable growth in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population since the 1991 Census, and limitations of self-identification. Other Census data issues relate to the accuracy of the Census count itself, for example whether people are counted more than once, or are undercounted (ABS 1996).

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS)

The NATSIHS uses the standard Indigenous status question. The NATSIHS sample was specifically designed to select a representative sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and thus overcome the problem inherent in most national surveys with small and unrepresentative Indigenous samples. As with other surveys, the NATSIHS is subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. Calculations of standard errors and significance testing help to establish the accuracy of the estimates and differences.

Information recorded in this survey is essentially 'as reported' by respondents. The ABS makes every effort to collect accurate information from respondents, particularly through careful questionnaire design, pre-testing of questionnaires, use of trained interviewers and assistance from Indigenous facilitators. Nevertheless, some responses may be affected by imperfect recall or individual interpretation of survey questions.

Non-Indigenous comparisons are available through the National Health Survey (NHS). The NHS was conducted in Major Cities, Inner and Outer Regional areas and Remote areas, but Very Remote areas were excluded from the sample. Time series comparisons are available through the 1995 and 2001 National Health Surveys.

In remote communities there were some modifications to the NATSIHS content in order to accommodate language and cultural appropriateness in traditional communities and help respondents understand the concepts. Some questions were excluded and some reworded. Also, paper forms were used in communities in remote areas and computer-assisted interview (CAI) instruments were used in non-remote areas. The CAI process included built-in edit checks and sequencing.

Further information on NATSIHS data quality issues can be found in the 2004–05 NATSIHS publication (ABS 2006).

ABS Labour Force Survey

The ABS monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS) included a question on Indigenous status from April 2001. The reliability of estimates from the survey is affected by the relatively small size of the Indigenous population, the small number of Indigenous persons in the LFS sample, and particular collection difficulties in remote areas (ABS 2008). Indigenous estimates from the LFS have methodological and definitional differences from other sources such as the Census of Population and Housing. The differences in the methodologies used affect the comparability of the data.

Results from the survey on Indigenous Australians are published annually by the ABS in the Labour force characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, experimental estimates from the Labour Force Survey publications (ABS 2008). The ABS considers the estimates in this publication experimental because of the experimental nature of the Indigenous population projections used in producing these estimates and the small sample of Indigenous people in the LFS.

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