

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, the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS), the 2008 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS) and the Australian Bureau of Statistics Labour Force Survey.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS)

The 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey 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. This included information on health-related actions, health risk factors, health status, socioeconomic circumstances and women's health. The survey provides comparisons over time in the health of Indigenous Australians. 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.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey

The ABS conducted the 2002 NATSISS between August 2002 and April 2003. The 2008 NATSISS was conducted between August 2008 and April 2009. The survey provides information about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of Australia for a wide range of areas of social concern including health, education, culture and labour force participation. The 2008 NATSISS included for the first time children aged under 15. The NATSISS will be conducted every six years, with the next survey planned for 2013.

The 2008 NATSISS collected information by personal interview from 13,300 Indigenous Australians across all states and territories of Australia, including those living in remote areas. The sample covered persons aged 15 years and over who are usual residents in selected private dwellings. It collected information on a wide range of subjects including

family and culture, health, education, employment, income, financial stress, housing, and law and justice.

Census of Population and Housing

The ABS Census of Population and Housing is conducted at 5-yearly intervals, with 2006 being the most recent, and it is designed to include all Australian households. The Census uses the ABS standard Indigenous status question for each household member.

Although the Census data are adjusted for under-count at the person level to arrive at the estimated resident population, no such adjustment is done at the household level. This affects the accuracy of the person counts at the household level to provide adjusted household estimates.

The 1996 and 2001 Census used the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, but the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations replaced this for the 2006 Census.

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 were not available, but data on Indigenous participation in CDEP were collected as part of the 2004–05 NATSIHS and 2008 NATSISS and are discussed at the end of the indicator.

ABS Labour Force Survey

The ABS runs the Labour Force Survey (LFS) monthly by the ABS and this 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 2009. 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 NATSISS, NATSIHS and Census data

The NATSISS, 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 NATSISS and 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 NATSISS, the results on the NATSISS were slightly higher on employment and unemployment rates. The 2008 NATSISS estimated that 54% of Indigenous persons aged 15–64 years were employed, 11% were unemployed and 36% 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 2008 edition of this report for persons aged 15–64 years (2006 Census) and new data from the 2008 NATSISS for persons aged 15–64 years. Data from the NATSISS are presented first followed by data from the 2006 Census.

NATSISS data

- In 2008, the labour force participation rate for the Indigenous population aged 15–64 years was estimated to be 54% employed (48% in non-CDEP and 6% in CDEP) and 11% unemployed. The remaining 36% were not in the labour force (Table 2.07.1).
- After adjusting for differences in age structure, Indigenous Australians aged 15–64 years were less likely than non-Indigenous Australians to be employed (54% compared with 76%) and almost four times as likely to be unemployed (11% compared with 3%), according to the 2008 NATSISS and 2007–08 NHS data (Table 2.07.1).

Employment status by age and sex

- Indigenous Australians aged 35–44 and 45–54 years were more likely than those in all other age groups to be employed (64% and 62% respectively) (Table 2.07.1). Indigenous Australians aged 55–64 had the lowest proportion employed (39%).
- A higher proportion of Indigenous males reported they were employed than Indigenous females (63% compared with 46%) (Table 2.07.2). Indigenous males were also more likely than Indigenous females to be unemployed (12% compared with 9%).

- Based on the 2008 NATSISS and 2007-08 NHS data, Indigenous males aged 15-64 years were less likely than non-Indigenous males to be employed (63% compared with 82%). Indigenous females aged 15-64 years were also less likely than non-Indigenous females to be employed (46% compared with 70%) (Table 2.07.3).

Table 2.07.1: Persons aged 15–64 years: labour force status, by Indigenous status and age, 2008

	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												
In the labour force												
Employed CDEP	5,489	..	4,792	..	4,449	..	2,255	..	573 ^(a)	..	17,559	..
Employed non-CDEP	41,670	..	35,594	..	36,244	..	26,656	..	9,693	..	149,857	..
<i>Total employed</i>	<i>47,160</i>	<i>1,893,404</i>	<i>40,386</i>	<i>2,330,254</i>	<i>40,693</i>	<i>2,477,969</i>	<i>28,911</i>	<i>2,416,251</i>	<i>10,266</i>	<i>1,357,345</i>	<i>167,416</i>	<i>10,475,222</i>
Unemployed	16,050	159,859	8,644	96,528	5,545	57,422	2,733	50,564	425 ^(a)	31,127	33,396	395,500
Not in the labour force	40,570	730,687	20,900	392,345	17,614	452,127	15,268	397,201	15,958	938,199	110,310	2,910,558
Total	103,780	2,783,949	69,931	2,819,126	63,851	2,987,518	46,912	2,864,016	26,648	2,326,671	311,122	13,781,281
Per cent												
In the labour force												
Employed CDEP	5.3	..	6.9	..	7.0	..	4.8	..	2.2 ^(a)	..	5.6	..
Employed non-CDEP	40.2	..	50.9	..	56.8	..	56.8	..	36.4	..	48.2	..
<i>Total employed</i>	<i>45.4*</i>	<i>68.0*</i>	<i>57.8*</i>	<i>82.7*</i>	<i>63.7*</i>	<i>82.9*</i>	<i>61.6*</i>	<i>84.4*</i>	<i>38.5*</i>	<i>58.3*</i>	<i>53.8*</i>	<i>76.0*</i>
Unemployed	15.5*	5.7*	12.4*	3.4*	8.7*	1.9*	5.8*	1.8*	1.6 ^(a)	1.3	10.7*	2.9*
Not in the labour force	39.1*	26.2*	29.9*	13.9*	27.6*	15.1*	32.5*	13.9*	59.9*	40.3*	35.5*	21.1*
Total^(a)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

*Differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous rates are statistically significant for these categories.

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

Note: Non-Indigenous data are from the 2007–08 NHS.

Sources: NATSISS 2008 and NHS 07–08.

Table 2.07.2: Labour force status of Indigenous persons aged 15–64 years, by sex, 2008

	Males	Females	Persons
Labour force status		Per cent	
In the labour force			
Employed CDEP	7.4	4.0	5.6
Employed non-CDEP	55.3	41.6	48.2
<i>Total employed</i>	<i>62.7</i>	<i>45.6</i>	<i>53.8</i>
Unemployed	12.2	9.4	10.7
Not in the labour force	25.1	45.0	35.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	149,211	161,912	311,122

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.07.3: Labour force status of persons aged 15–64 years, by Indigenous status and sex, 2008

	Males			Females			Persons		
	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Ratio	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Ratio	Indigenous	Non-Indigenous	Ratio
	%	%		%	%		%	%	
In the labour force									
Employed CDEP	7.4	..	..	4.0	..	..	5.6	..	..
Employed non-CDEP	55.3	..	..	41.6	..	..	48.2	..	..
<i>Total employed</i>	<i>62.7</i>	<i>81.9</i>	<i>0.8[#]</i>	<i>45.6</i>	<i>70.2</i>	<i>0.6[#]</i>	<i>53.8</i>	<i>76.0</i>	<i>0.7</i>
Unemployed	12.2	2.9	4.2	9.4	2.9	3.3	10.7	2.9	3.7
Not in the labour force	25.1	15.2	1.6 [#]	45.0	27.0	1.7 [#]	35.5	21.1	1.7
Total	100.0	100.0	..	100.0	100.0	..	100.0	100.0	..
Total number	149,211	6,874,439	..	161,912	6,906,842	..	311,122	13,781,281	..

Difference between rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons are NOT statistically significant for these categories.

Sources: NATSISS 2008 and NHS 07–08.

Employment status by state/territory and remoteness

- The proportion of Indigenous Australians who were unemployed ranged from 7.2% in Tasmania to 13% in New South Wales (Table 2.07.4). The proportion of Indigenous Australians not in the labour force ranged from 20% in the Australian Capital Territory to 40% in New South Wales. The Northern Territory had the highest proportion of Indigenous Australians employed in CDEP (18%).
- In New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia the proportion of Indigenous Australians unemployed was significantly higher than non-Indigenous Australians. 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 (19% compared with 1.2%) and less likely to be employed in non-CDEP (33% compared with 53%) (Table 2.07.6; Figure 2.07.1).
- Indigenous Australians in Non-remote areas were more likely to be unemployed than Indigenous Australians in Remote areas (11% and 9.2% respectively) (Table 2.07.7).

Table 2.07.4: Labour force status of Indigenous persons aged 15–64 years, by state/territory, 2008

Labour force status	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
	Per cent								
In the labour force									
Employed CDEP	1.9*	0.5*	4.1*	10.2	5.2	n.p.	n.p.	17.5	5.6
Employed non-CDEP	45.4	54.6	55.4	46.1	46.5	n.p.	n.p.	33.3	48.2
<i>Total employed</i>	<i>47.3</i>	<i>55.1</i>	<i>59.5</i>	<i>56.3</i>	<i>51.7</i>	<i>59.6</i>	<i>72.1</i>	<i>50.8</i>	<i>53.8</i>
Unemployed	12.5	11.1	9.0	11.4	12.0	7.2	7.8	10.3	10.7
Not in the labour force	40.1	33.8	31.5	32.3	36.3	33.2	20.1	38.9	35.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total Number	91,046	20,692	86,523	41,841	17,038	11,748	2,705	39,529	311,122

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

Source: NATSISS 2008.

Table 2.07.5: Labour force status of persons aged 15-64 years, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2008

	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																		
Employed CDEP	1,769 ^(a)	..	114 ^(a)	..	3,561 ^(a)	..	4,274	..	886	..	n.p.	..	n.p.	..	6,919	..	17,559	..
Employed non-CDEP	41,331	..	11,289	..	47,934	..	19,284	..	7,925	..	n.p.	..	n.p.	..	13,179	..	149,857	..
<i>Total employed</i>	<i>43,100</i>	<i>3,359,973</i>	<i>11,402</i>	<i>2,690,530</i>	<i>51,495</i>	<i>2,056,501</i>	<i>23,558</i>	<i>1,106,261</i>	<i>8,811</i>	<i>758,701</i>	<i>7,002</i>	<i>212,349</i>	<i>1,950</i>	<i>198,162</i>	<i>20,098</i>	<i>92,745</i>	<i>167,416</i>	<i>10,475,222</i>
Unemployed	11,411	138,640	2,292	85,426	7,766	81,329	4,777	32,492	2,038	40,771	843	11,726	211	n.p.	4,058	n.p.	33,396	395,500
Not in the labour force	36,535	1,015,448	6,998	720,386	27,263	577,563	13,506	239,593	6,188	232,295	3,903	82,344	544	n.p.	15,374	n.p.	110,310	2,910,558
Total^(a)	91,046	4,514,061	20,692	3,496,343	86,523	2,715,393	41,841	1,378,347	17,038	1,031,767	11,748	306,419	2,705	236,813	39,529	102,138	311,122	13,781,281
Per cent																		
In the labour force																		
Employed CDEP	1.9 ^(a)	..	0.5 ^(a)	..	4.1 ^(a)	..	10.2	..	5.2	..	n.p.	..	n.p.	..	17.5	..	5.6	..
Employed non-CDEP	45.4	..	54.6	..	55.4	..	46.1	..	46.5	..	n.p.	..	n.p.	..	33.3	..	48.2	..
<i>Total employed</i>	<i>47.3</i>	<i>74.4</i>	<i>55.1</i>	<i>77.0</i>	<i>59.5</i>	<i>75.7</i>	<i>56.3</i>	<i>80.3</i>	<i>51.7</i>	<i>73.5</i>	<i>59.6</i>	<i>69.3</i>	<i>72.1</i>	<i>83.7</i>	<i>50.8</i>	<i>90.8</i>	<i>53.8</i>	<i>76.0</i>
Unemployed	12.5	3.1	11.1	2.4	9.0	3.0	11.4	2.4	12.0	4.0	7.2#	3.83#	7.8	n.p.	10.3	n.p.	10.7	2.9
Not in the labour force	40.1	22.5	33.8	20.6	31.5	21.3	32.3	17.4	36.3	22.5	33.2	26.9	20.1	n.p.	38.9	n.p.	35.5	21.1
Total^(a)	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	100.0	100.0

Difference between rates for Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons is NOT statistically significant for this category.

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

Sources: NATSISS 2008 and NHS 07-08.

Table 2.07.6: Labour force status of Indigenous persons aged 15–64 years, by remoteness, 2008

Labour force status	Remote	Non-remote	Australia
	Per cent		
In the labour force			
Employed CDEP	19.4	1.2	5.6
Employed non-CDEP	33.0	53.1	48.2
<i>Total employed</i>	<i>52.4</i>	<i>54.3</i>	<i>53.8</i>
Unemployed	9.2	11.2	10.7
Not in the labour force	38.5	34.5	35.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	76,612	234,510	311,122

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.07.7: Labour force status of persons aged 15–64 years, by Indigenous status and remoteness, 2008

		Labour force status								
		In the labour force					Not in the labour force	Total	Total Number	
		Employed CDEP	Employed non-CDEP	Total employed	Unemployed					
Major Cities	Indigenous	%	n.p	n.p	58.7	12.0	29.4	100.0	100,991	
	Non-Indigenous	%	..	..	76.7	2.7	20.7	100.0	9,636,665
	Rate Ratio ^(a)		..	..	0.8*	4.5*	1.4*	..	..
Inner Regional	Indigenous	%	n.p	n.p	50.7	11.6	37.7	100.0	64,412	
	Non-Indigenous	%	..	..	74.2	3.4	22.4	100.0	2,770,937
	Rate Ratio ^(a)		..	..	0.7*	3.4*	1.7*	..	..
Outer Regional	Indigenous	%	2.8 ^(a)	48.4	51.3	9.9	38.9	100.0	69,108	
	Non-Indigenous	%	..	..	75.4	3.2	21.4	100.0	1,230,512
	Rate Ratio ^(a)		..	..	0.7*	3.1*	1.8*	..	..
Total Non-remote	Indigenous	%	1.2 ^(a)	53.1	54.3	11.3	34.5	100.0	234,510	
	Non-Indigenous	%	..	..	76.0	2.9	21.1	100.0	13,638,114
	Rate Ratio ^(a)		..	..	0.7*	3.9*	1.6*	..	..
Remote	Indigenous	%	9.5 ^(a)	39.6	49.1	11.2	39.7	100.0	28,072	
	Non-Indigenous	%	..	..	73.0	3.2 ^(a)	23.8	100.0	141,819
	Rate Ratio ^(a)		..	..	0.7*	3.5*	1.7*	..	..
Very remote	Indigenous	%	25.1	29.2	54.3	8.0	37.8	100.0	48,540	
	Non-Indigenous	%	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Rate Ratio ^(a)		..	..	..	..	..	..	..

(continued)

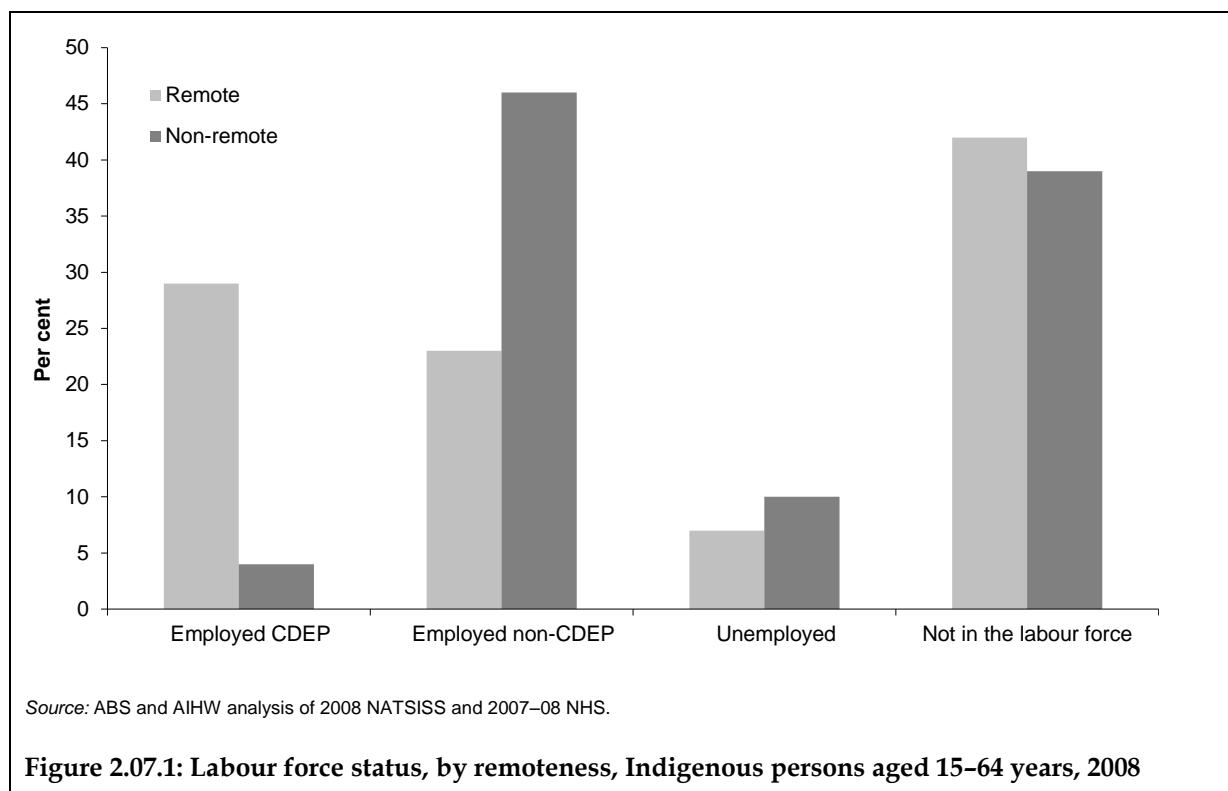
Table 2.07.7 (continued): Labour force status of persons aged 15–64 years, by Indigenous status and remoteness, 2008

		Labour force status								
		In the labour force					Not in the labour force	Total	Total Number	
		Employed CDEP	Employed non-CDEP	Total employed	Unemployed					
Total remote	<i>Indigenous</i>	%	19.4	33.0	52.4	9.2	38.5	100.0	76,612	
	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	%	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	<i>Rate Ratio^(a)</i>		..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Australia	<i>Indigenous</i>	%	5.6	48.2	53.8	10.7	35.5	100.0	311,122	
	<i>Non-Indigenous</i>	%	..	..	76.0	2.9	21.1	100.0	13,781,281
	<i>Rate Ratio^(a)</i>		..	..	0.7*	3.7*	1.7*	..	..

* Differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous rates are NOT statistically significant for all categories.

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

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 and Table 2.07.8 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 2009).

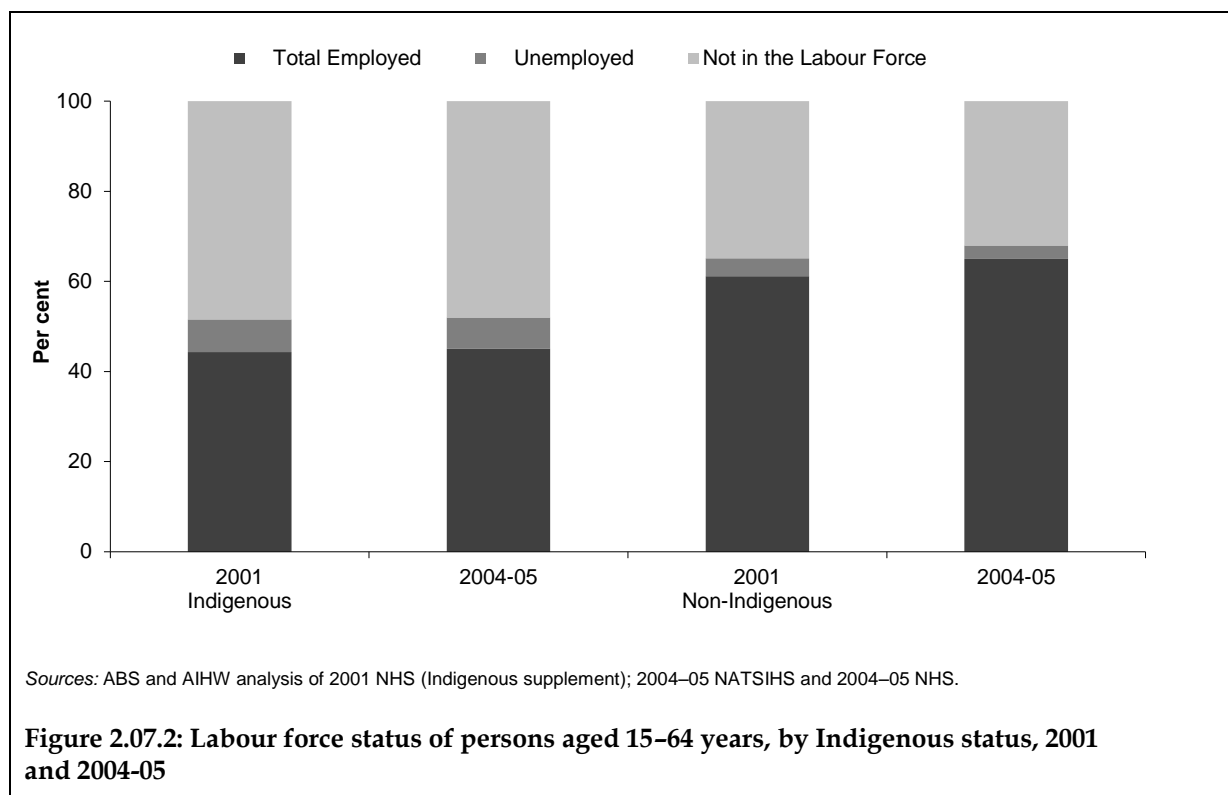


Table 2.07.8: Labour force status of persons aged 15-64 years, by Indigenous status, 2001 and 2004-05

	Indigenous		Non-Indigenous	
	2001	2004-05	2001	2004-05
Total Employed	44.3	45.0	61.2	65.0
Unemployed	7.2	7.0	4.0	3.0
Not in the Labour Force	48.5	48.0	34.9	32.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Sources: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2001 NHS (Indigenous supplement); 2004-05 NATSIHS and 2004-05 NHS.

Employment status by summary health characteristics

The 2004–05 NATSIHS and the 2008 NATSISS collected information on the labour force status and selected health characteristics of Indigenous Australians. Results are shown in tables 2.07.9a, 2.07.9b, 2.07.10a and 2.07.10b.

- In 2008, of the Indigenous Australians aged 15–64 years who reported they had excellent health, approximately 60% were employed, 12% unemployed and 29% were not in the labour force. Further, of the Indigenous Australians aged 15–64 who reported poor health, 24% were employed, 10% were unemployed and 66% were not in the labour force (Table 2.07.9a).
- In 2008, for Indigenous Australians aged 15–64 years both employed and unemployed most commonly reported good health (35% and 34% respectively) while more unemployed Indigenous Australians reported poor health than employed Indigenous Australians (6.2% and 2.8% respectively) (Table 2.07.9b).
- 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 2.07.10a). Approximately 13% of Indigenous Australians with no long-term health conditions were unemployed compared with 7.0% 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 2.07.10b).

Table 2.07.9a: Labour force status of Indigenous persons aged 15–64 years, by summary health characteristics, 2008

	Self-assessed health status				
	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor
	Per cent				
In the labour force					
Employed CDEP	6.3	6.0	6.2	3.8	3.8
Employed non-CDEP	53.5	54.8	48.5	40.5	20.1
<i>Total employed</i>	<i>59.7</i>	<i>60.8</i>	<i>54.7</i>	<i>44.3</i>	<i>23.9</i>
Unemployed	11.5	10.6	10.5	10.8	10.4
Not in the labour force	28.8	28.6	34.8	44.8	65.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number	52,343	87,141	107,047	44,735	19,857

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.07.9b: Labour force status of Indigenous persons aged 15-64 years, by summary health characteristics, 2008

	Self-assessed health status					Total
	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	
	Per cent					
In the labour force						
Employed CDEP	18.8	29.6	37.7	9.7	4.3	100.0
Employed non-CDEP	18.7	31.9	34.7	12.1	2.7	100.0
<i>Total employed</i>	18.7	31.6	35.0	11.8	2.8	100.0
Unemployed	18.0	27.8	33.6	14.5	6.2	100.0
Not in the labour force	13.7	22.6	33.8	18.2	11.8	100.0
Total	16.8	28.0	34.4	14.4	6.4	100.0

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.07.10a: 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 2.07.10b: 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

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

Preferred working hours

- During 2008, 35% of Indigenous Australians aged 15–24 years would have liked more hours at their current workplace and only 6% would have liked fewer hours than they were currently working. This is compared to older age groups that showed a steady decrease in those who would like more hours and an increase in those who would like less hours. For those aged 55–64 years, 23% of Indigenous persons would have liked fewer hours and 14% would have liked more hours (Table 2.07.11).

Commencement and duration of paid employment

- In 2008, 84% of 55–64 year old Indigenous Australians had been in their current employment for two years or more, compared to only 26% of 15–24 year old Indigenous Australians. Among those aged 15–24 years, Indigenous males (33%) were more likely to have been employed for over two years than Indigenous females (26%) (Table 2.07.12).
- In 2008, the percentage of Indigenous Australians who started their first paid employment between the ages 15 and 19 years ranged from 95% in the Australian Capital Territory to 75% in the Northern Territory. In Australia overall, 89% of Indigenous Australians had begun their first paid employment by the age of 19 years (Table 2.07.13).
- For Indigenous Australians, the amount of time employed throughout their lifetime varied by jurisdiction. The percentage of Indigenous Australians employed for 25 years or more ranged from 15% in the Northern Territory to 26% in the Australian Capital Territory (Table 2.07.14).

Table 2.07.11: Whether would like more, same or fewer hours, employed Indigenous persons aged 15-64 years, by age and sex, 2008

	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Total
Per cent						
Males						
Fewer hours	5.6	13.6	19.6	20.8	22.4	14.3
About the same hours	60.0	57.2	65.2	65.8	65.7	61.7
More hours	34.4	29.3	15.3	13.5	11.9	24.0
Total Employed	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Not known	1.1	0.0	0.1	0.6	1.5	0.5
Females						
Fewer hours	6.8	18.5	26.3	20.8	22.7	18.1
About the same hours	57.2	59.7	56.9	62.9	59.3	58.9
More hours	35.9	21.8	16.8	16.4	18.0	23.0
Total Employed	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Not known	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
Persons						
Fewer hours	6.1	15.6	22.7	20.8	22.5	16.0
About the same hours	58.8	58.2	61.3	64.3	63.1	60.5
More hours	35.0	26.2	16.0	14.9	14.3	23.5
Total Employed	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Not known	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.9	0.3
Total number	47,160	40,386	40,693	28,911	10,266	167,416

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.07.12: Length of time in current job, by sex and age, employed Indigenous persons aged 15-64 years, 2008

Length of time in current job	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Total
Per cent						
Males						
< 1 month	14.8	7.3	3.8	2.1	3.7	7.7
1-< 6 months	20.0	10.0	8.8	8.4	6.7	12.2
6-<12 months	11.3	10.9	9.2	3.7	4.3	9.1
12-< 24 months	20.5	19.2	17.0	10.5	9.0	17.1
2 years or more	33.3	52.7	61.2	75.3	76.3	54.0
Total Employed	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Females						
< 1 month	11.6	9.0	6.2	7.1	2.7	8.2
1-< 6 months	18.0	14.3	12.1	6.0	4.7	12.6
6-<12 months	22.7	11.3	9.7	7.1	4.4	12.7
12-< 24 months	22.0	13.1	13.5	9.0	4.3	14.3
2 years or more	25.7	52.4	58.5	70.8	83.8	52.2
Total Employed	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Persons						
< 1 month	11.6	9.0	6.2	7.1	2.7	8.2
1-< 6 months	18.0	14.3	12.1	6.0	4.7	12.6
6-<12 months	22.7	11.3	9.7	7.1	4.4	12.7
12-< 24 months	22.0	13.1	13.5	9.0	4.3	14.3
2 years or more	25.7	52.4	58.5	70.8	83.8	52.2
Total Employed	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Not known	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.07.13: Age first started paid employment, by sex and state/territory, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, 2008

Age first started employment	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Per cent									
Males									
15-19	93.7	95.8	95.0	92.8	90.3	93.8	98.3 ^(a)	79.3	92.0
20-24	5.8 ^(b)	3.5 ^(b)	2.9 ^(b)	5.0 ^(b)	7.5 ^(b)	5.4 ^(a)	1.7	16.6	6.2
25+	0.5 ^(a)	0.7 ^(a)	2.1 ^(b)	2.2 ^(a)	2.2 ^(b)	0.8 ^(a)	—	4.1	1.8
Total ever in paid employment^(c)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Females									
15-19	88.5	87.2	87.4	84.5	82.8	91.6	90.9	71.0	85.2
20-24	6.3	7.4	7.6	5.8	8.8	4.7 ^(b)	8.1 ^(b)	16.9	8.1
25+	5.2	5.4	5.1 ^(b)	9.8	8.4	3.7 ^(b)	1.1 ^(a)	12.1	6.7
Total ever in paid employment^(c)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Persons									
15-19	91.2	91.2	90.9	88.5	86.4	92.6	94.7	75.1	88.5
20-24	6.1	5.6	5.4	5.4	8.2	5.0 ^(b)	4.8 ^(b)	16.8	7.2
25+	2.8	3.2	3.7 ^(b)	6.1	5.4	2.4 ^(b)	0.5 ^(a)	8.1	4.3
Total ever in paid employment^(c)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

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

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

(c) Excludes not stated responses

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

Table 2.07.14: Total length of employment over lifetime, by sex and state/territory, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, 2008

Length of time in employment	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Per cent									
Males									
Less than 1 year to 4 years	31.2	28.1	25.6	29.8	31.7	27.8	17.4	31.0	29.0
5 to 9 years	10.6	13.9	16.9	13.2	13.2	13.9	21.7	13.4	13.6
10 to 24 years	29.7	30.4	32.6	33.0	29.6	30.1	30.4	37.5	31.9
25 years or more	28.4	27.6	24.9	23.9	25.5	28.3	30.4	18.1	25.4
Total ever in paid employment ^(a)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Females									
Less than 1 year to 4 years	36.9	32.4	35.4	38.3	37.6	36.6	25.5	39.5	36.6
5 to 9 years	15.7	19.6	19.2	17.7	20.5	19.2	13.4 ^(b)	16.9	17.8
10 to 24 years	32.0	30.1	29.1	28.5	26.8	28.0	39.4	31.0	30.1
25 years or more	15.4	18.0	16.3	15.5	15.0	16.3	21.7	12.7	15.6
Total ever in paid employment ^(a)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Persons									
Less than 1 year to 4 years	34.1	30.3	30.8	34.1	34.7	32.3	21.5	35.2	32.9
5 to 9 years	13.2	16.8	18.1	15.5	17.0	16.6	17.5	15.1	15.7
10 to 24 years	30.9	30.2	30.8	30.7	28.2	29.0	34.9	34.2	31.0
25 years or more	21.9	22.7	20.4	19.6	20.2	22.1	26.0	15.4	20.4
Total ever in paid employment ^(a)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Excludes unknown responses.

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

Source: AIHW analyses of 2008 NATSISS.

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 2.07.15).
- A much higher proportion of Indigenous Australians were not in the labour force (43%) compared with non-Indigenous Australians (25%) (Table 2.07.15).

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 2.07.15). 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 (Table 2.07.16; Figure 2.07.3).
- Indigenous Australians had an employment to population ratio of 0.5, compared with the non-Indigenous ratio of 0.7 (Table 2.07.17; Figure 2.07.4).
- A higher proportion of Indigenous males than Indigenous females reported they were employed (53% compared with 43%) (Table 2.07.18). Indigenous males were also more likely than Indigenous females to be unemployed (10% compared with 7.9%).

Table 2.07.15: 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 2.07.15 (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.

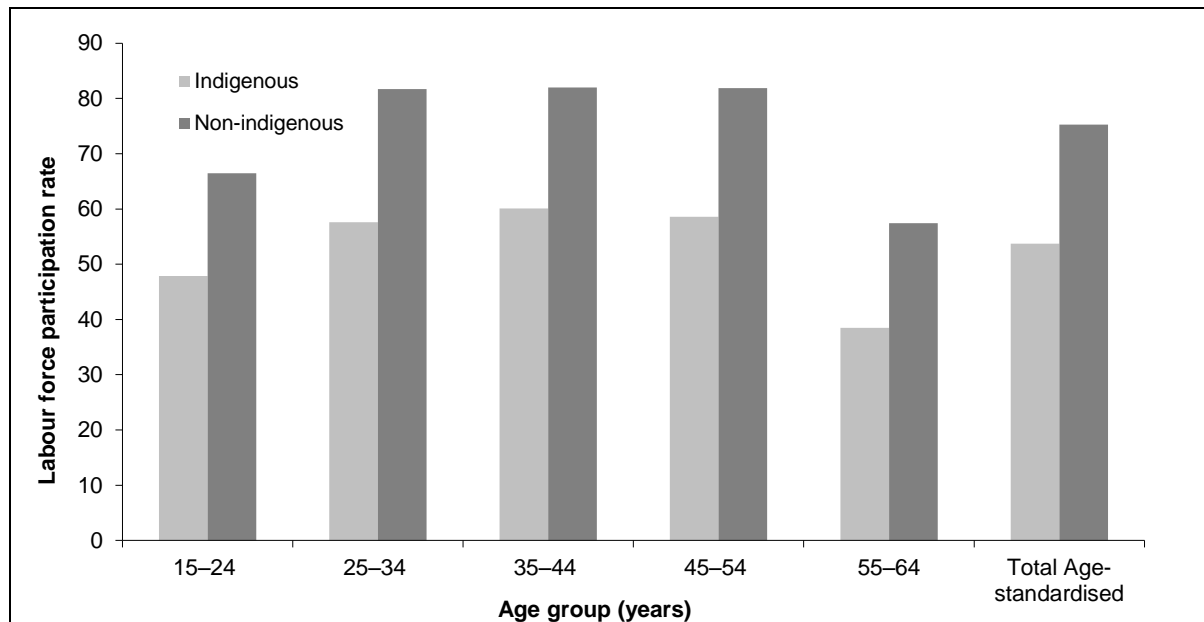
Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Table 2.07.16: Age-specific labour force participation rates, by Indigenous status, 2006

	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Total age-standardised
Indigenous	48	58	60	59	38	54
Non-indigenous	66	82	82	82	57	75

Note: Total directly age-standardised using the Australian 2001 standard population.

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

Table 2.07.17: Age-specific employment to population ratios, by Indigenous status, 2006

	15–24	25–34	35–44	45–54	55–64	Total age-standardised
Indigenous	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5
Non-Indigenous	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.7

Note: Total directly age-standardised using the Australian 2001 standard population.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

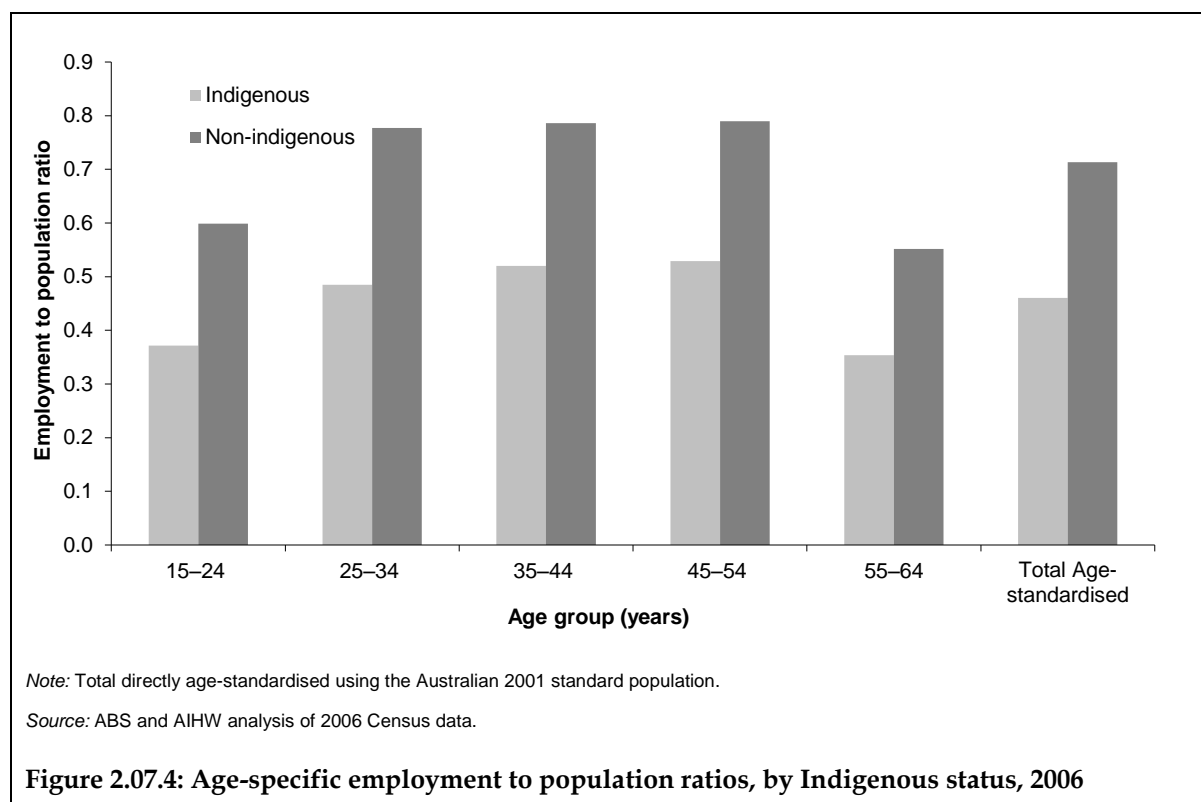


Table 2.07.18: Labour force status^(a) of persons aged 15–64 years, by Indigenous status and sex, 2006

	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 2.07.19). 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 2.07.19).
- The difference between Indigenous and non-Indigenous total employment varied by remoteness. The largest difference between Indigenous and non-Indigenous total employment was observed in *Very remote* areas (47% and 83% respectively). The largest amount of unemployment among Indigenous Australians however was in *Inner regional* areas (10%) (Table 2.07.20).
- 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 2.07.21; Figure 2.07.5).

Table 2.07.19: 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 2.07.19 (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 2.07.20: 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 2.07.20 (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.

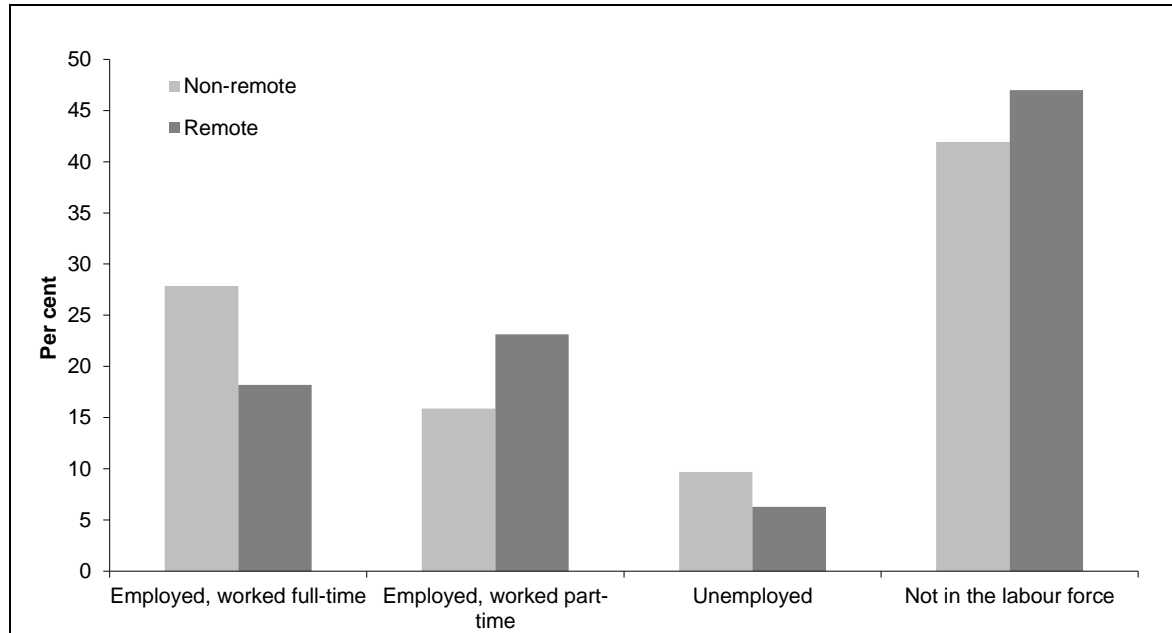
(b) Because of the large proportion of Indigenous respondents for whom labour force status was not stated, all proportions are calculated without including 'not stated' in total.

Source: ABS and AIHW analysis of 2006 Census data.

Table 2.07.21: Labour force status, by remoteness, Indigenous persons aged 15-64 years, 2006

	Non-remote (per cent)	Remote (per cent)
Employed, worked full-time	27.9	18.2
Employed, worked part-time	15.9	23.1
Unemployed	9.7	6.3
Not in the labour force	41.9	47.0

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 2.07.22).
- 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 (Table 2.07.22).
- 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 2.07.22).

Table 2.07.22: 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>100.0</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.

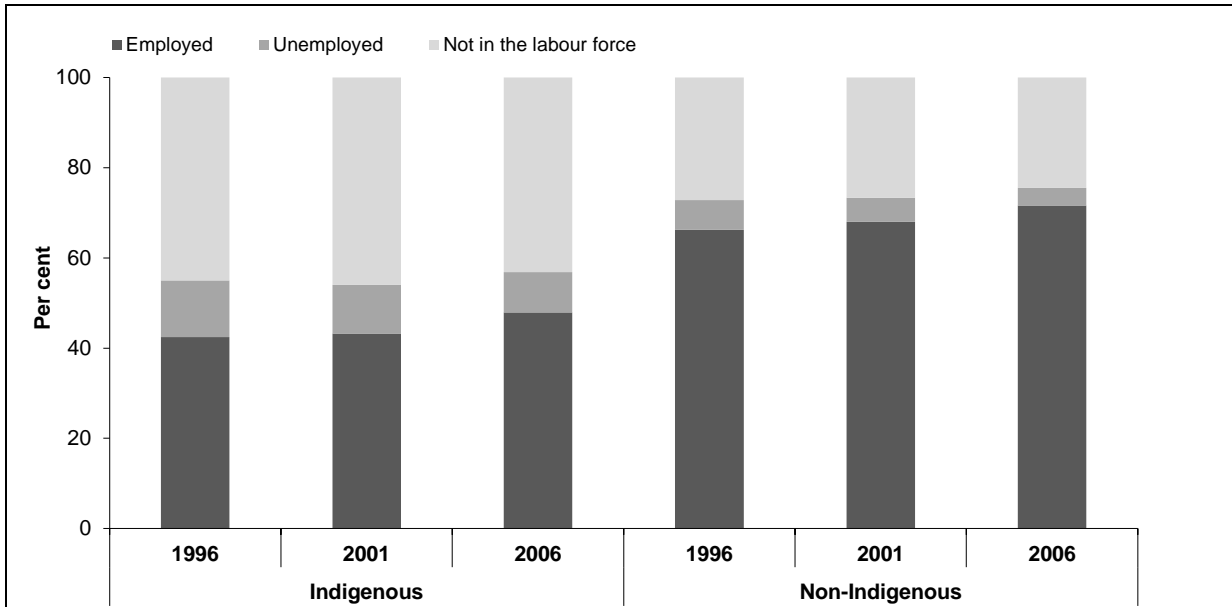
- Census data from 1996, 2001 and 2006 presented in Table 2.07.23 and Figure 2.07.6 suggest that there have been only slight changes in the labour force status of Indigenous Australians aged 15–64 years between 1996 and 2006. Over this period the employment rate for Indigenous Australians increased from 43% to 48% and the unemployment rate fell slightly from 13% to 8.9%.
- Data from the ABS Labour Force Survey over period 2002–2009 indicates that after a steady decrease in unemployment from 11% in 2002 to 8.3% in 2008, unemployment increased to 11% again in 2009. Minor changes in employment occurred over the same period and those not in the labour force increased from 39% in 2002 to 42% in 2009 (Table 2.07.24; Figure 2.07.7).

Table 2.07.23: 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

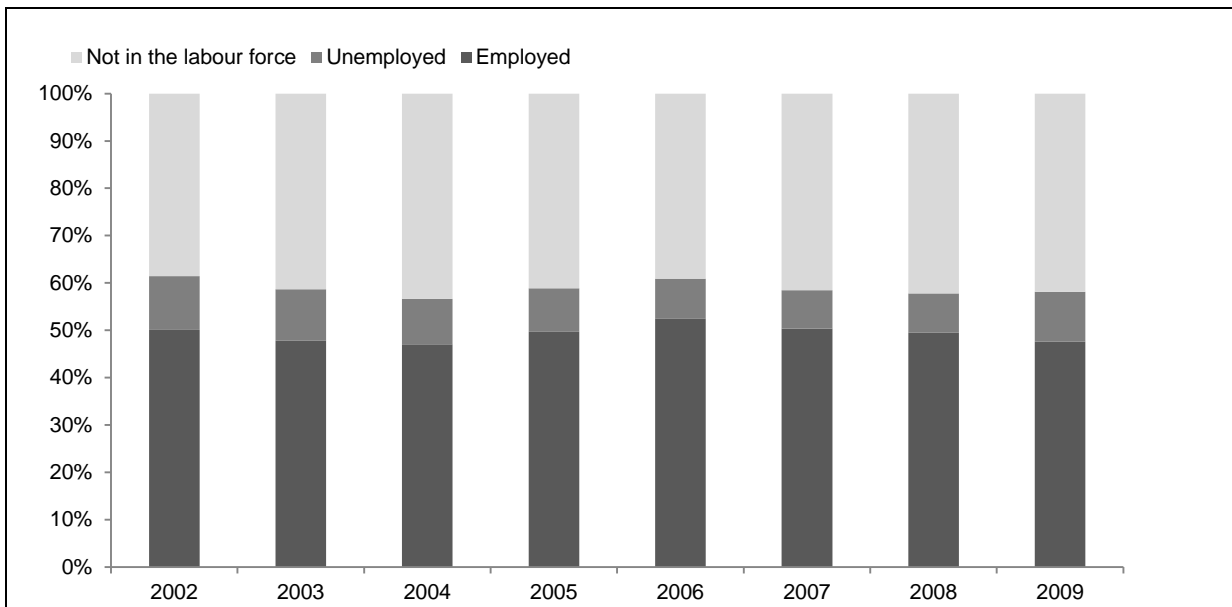
(a) Total excludes labour force status not stated.

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 2009.

Figure 2.07.7: Labour force status of Indigenous persons aged 15-64 years, 2002 to 2009

Table 2.07.24: Labour force status of Indigenous persons aged 15–64 years, 2002 to 2009 (per cent)

Year	Employed	Unemployed	Not in the labour force	Total
2002	50.1	11.3	38.6	100.0
2003	47.8	10.9	41.4	100.0
2004	47.0	9.6	43.4	100.0
2005	49.7	9.2	41.1	100.0
2006	52.5	8.4	39.1	100.0
2007	50.4	8.1	41.5	100.0
2008	49.6	8.3	42.2	100.0
2009	47.6	10.5	41.9	100.0

Source: ABS 2009.

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 the 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).

For the 2002 NATSISS, it was estimated that there were 165,700 Indigenous households compared with 144,700 enumerated in the 2001 Census. Although the Census data are adjusted for undercounts at the person level to arrive at the estimated resident population, no such adjustment is done at the household level. This affects the accuracy of the person counts at the household level to provide adjusted household estimates.

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey

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. It therefore overcomes 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 identify 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 and Very remote* areas, but *Very remote* areas were excluded from the sample. Time series comparisons are available through the 1995 and 2001 NHS.

In *Remote and Very 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 NATSIHS 2004–05 publication (ABS 2006).

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey

The NATSISS is conducted in all states and territories and includes remote and non-remote areas. The 2008 sample was 13,300 persons in 6,900 households, with a response rate of 82% of households. Up to three randomly selected Indigenous people were chosen from selected households to participate in the survey. Trained ABS interviewers conducted the survey using face-to-face interviews. In non-remote areas interviewers used a notebook computer to record responses, while in remote areas a paper questionnaire was used. Interviewers obtained the consent of a parent or guardian before interviewing those aged 15 to 17 years. Indigenous persons usually resident in non-private dwellings such as hotels, motels,

hostels, hospitals, short-stay caravan parks, prisons and other correctional facilities were excluded.

The NATSISS uses the standard Indigenous status question. The NATSISS sample was specifically designed to select a representative sample of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

As with other surveys, the NATSISS is subject to sampling and non-sampling errors.

Care has been taken to ensure that the results of this survey are as accurate as possible. Trained ABS officers conducted all interviews. However, some factors may affect the reliability of the data.

Information recorded in this survey is 'as reported' by respondents, and therefore may differ from information available from other sources or collected using different methodologies.

Data on health-related indicators have been age-standardised to the 2001 total Australian population to account for differences in the age structures of the states and territories and the Indigenous and non-Indigenous population.

Time series comparisons for the 2008 survey are available through the 1994 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey and the 2002 NATSISS. However not all data elements align across the three (1994, 2001 and 2008) NATSISS surveys, hence care is required when reviewing results across the three surveys. There are no strictly comparable non-Indigenous results available for the 2008 NATSISS because the latest General Social Survey (which has been used in the past to compare with Indigenous results from the NATSISS) was run in 2006, with the next being run in 2010–11. Data from other ABS surveys run in 2008 may, however, be used to obtain rough non-Indigenous comparisons for some data items. Where possible, the ABS has provided recommendations for non-Indigenous data comparisons these have been adopted in this report.

The 2008 NATSISS has a relatively large level of under-coverage when compared to other ABS surveys. There was also an increase in under-coverage compared to previous ABS Indigenous surveys. For example, the estimated under-coverage in the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS) was 42%. The overall under-coverage rate for the 2008 NATSISS is approximately 53% of the in-scope population at the national level. This rate varies across the states and territories (ABS 2010).

Further information on NATSISS data quality issues can be found in the *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey: User's guide 2008* (ABS 2010).

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 2009). 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 2009). 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.

List of symbols used in tables

n.a.	not available
–	rounded to zero (including null cells)
0	zero
..	not applicable
n.e.c.	not elsewhere classified
n.f.d.	not further defined
n.p.	not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated

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List of tables

Table 2.07.1:	Persons aged 15–64 years: labour force status, by Indigenous status and age, 2008	983
Table 2.07.2:	Labour force status of Indigenous persons aged 15–64 years, by sex, 2008	984
Table 2.07.3:	Labour force status of persons aged 15–64 years, by Indigenous status and sex, 2008.....	985
Table 2.07.4:	Labour force status of Indigenous persons aged 15–64 years, by state/territory, 2008.....	986
Table 2.07.5:	Labour force status of persons aged 15–64 years, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2008	987
Table 2.07.6:	Labour force status of Indigenous persons aged 15–64 years, by remoteness, 2008	988

Table 2.07.7:	Labour force status of persons aged 15–64 years, by Indigenous status and remoteness, 2008	989
Table 2.07.8:	Labour force status of persons aged 15–64 years, by Indigenous status, 2001 and 2004-05.....	992
Table 2.07.9a:	Labour force status of Indigenous persons aged 15-64 years, by summary health characteristics, 2008	993
Table 2.07.9b:	Labour force status of Indigenous persons aged 15-64 years, by summary health characteristics, 2008	994
Table 2.07.10a:	Labour force status of Indigenous persons aged 15–64 years, by summary health characteristics, 2004–05	994
Table 2.07.10b:	Labour force status of persons aged 15–64 years, by summary health characteristics and Indigenous status, 2004–05	995
Table 2.07.11:	Whether would like more, same or fewer hours, employed Indigenous persons aged 15-64 years, by age and sex, 2008	997
Table 2.07.12:	Length of time in current job, by sex and age, employed Indigenous persons aged 15-64 years, 2008	998
Table 2.07.13:	Age first started paid employment, by sex and state/territory, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, 2008.....	999
Table 2.07.14:	Total length of employment over lifetime, by sex and state/territory, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over, 2008.....	1000
Table 2.07.15:	Persons aged 15–64 years: labour force status, by Indigenous status and age, 2006	1002
Table 2.07.16:	Age-specific labour force participation rates, by Indigenous status, 2006	1004
Table 2.07.17:	Age-specific employment to population ratios, by Indigenous status, 2006	1005
Table 2.07.18:	Labour force status of persons aged 15–64 years, by Indigenous status and sex, 2006.....	1006
Table 2.07.19:	Labour force status of persons aged 15–64 years, by Indigenous status and state/territory, 2006	1007
Table 2.07.20:	Labour force status of persons aged 15–64 years, by Indigenous status and remoteness, 2006	1009
Table 2.07.21:	Labour force status, by remoteness, Indigenous persons aged 15-64 years, 2006.....	1011
Table 2.07.22:	Employed persons aged 15–64 years, by hours worked, sector and occupation, 2006.....	1013
Table 2.07.23:	Labour force status of persons aged 15–64 years, by Indigenous status, 1996, 2001 and 2006	1014
Table 2.07.24:	Labour force status of Indigenous persons aged 15–64 years, 2002 to 2009 (per cent)	1016

List of figures

- Figure 2.07.1: Labour force status, by remoteness, Indigenous persons aged 15–64 years, 2008..... 991
- Figure 2.07.2: Labour force status of persons aged 15–64 years, by Indigenous status, 2001 and 2004-05..... 992
- Figure 2.07.3: Age-specific labour force participation rates, by Indigenous status, 2006 1004
- Figure 2.07.4: Age-specific employment to population ratios, by Indigenous status, 2006 1005
- Figure 2.07.5: Labour force status, by remoteness, Indigenous persons aged 15–64 years, 2006..... 1011
- Figure 2.07.6: Labour force status of persons aged 15–64 years, by Indigenous status, 1996, 2001 and 2006 1015
- Figure 2.07.7: Labour force status of Indigenous persons aged 15–64 years, 2002 to 2009 1015