



Department of State and  
Regional Development

# **New South Wales Regional Labour Force Profiles**

## **Central Coast Sydney Subregion**

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# MAP

## FIGURE 1: CENTRAL COAST METROPOLITAN SUBREGION



## **ABOUT THIS PROFILE**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to better understand the skills and labour make-up of the Central Coast Metropolitan Subregion (the subregion) as part of the broad goal of achieving economic development objectives, such as attracting and retaining investment and fostering job growth.

State Plan priorities P1 (increased investment) and E3 (jobs closer to home) are supported by the contribution this profile makes to the evidence base for policy.

This profile outlines the labour force characteristics of the subregion. The subregion is made up of the following local government areas (LGAs):

- Gosford
- Wyong

The profile looks at the size of the labour force, skills, and labour availability and capacity in the subregion.

### **Data source**

Data in this profile is sourced from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The Census provides the most accurate and detailed picture of the labour force.

The profile focuses on the labour characteristics of subregions, which usually take many years to change in essence. This iteration of the profile does not include information from the quarterly ABS Labour Force Survey, which is not always compatible with the subregions in this profile series and does not cover the range of labour market aspects available from the Census.

### **Reference period**

All data in this profile refers to the position as at August 2006. Specifically, the 2006 Census was held on 8 August 2006 and labour data generally pertains to the 'last week' prior to Census night. The labour force status of a person is also derived by looking at whether work was sought in the 'last four weeks' prior to Census night.

### **Presentation of results**

The profile compares labour force indicators in Central Coast to the Sydney average and indicates its position among Sydney metropolitan subregions.

The subregions covered in these profiles are consistent with the planning areas in the "City of Cities" Metropolitan Strategy, which sets out the framework and growth strategy for employment, transport, infrastructure and housing in Sydney. The metropolitan area of Sydney has been arranged into 11 subregions that combine local government areas with similar issues and challenges.

The profile looks at labour indicators in both proportional and absolute terms. For example, the profile provides data on both the unemployment rate and the number of unemployed people. Central Coast's position, relative to other Sydney subregions, is expressed in terms of quartiles (divisions of 25%). The first quartile represents a position in the top 25% of subregions and the fourth quartile represents a position in the bottom 25% of subregions. Quartile analysis allows for a top level understanding of how the subregion's labour force relates to the other subregions in Sydney.

Statistical tables of all subregions by labour force characteristic are provided in the appendix to the report to allow readers to view and compare all subregions.

### **More information**

The Census provides a rich dataset of demographic information. This profile is intended as an introduction to the labour force of the subregion and may point to specific areas of further investigation.

The profile is based on broad level data that is readily available in standard tables. More detailed data is available. Data can be provided at more detailed categories for items including industry, occupation, age and sex, which can focus analysis to a greater degree. Tables can also be customised to include different cross-tabulation of variables than those presented in standard tables.

### **Business Information Unit**

Department of State and Regional Development  
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## GLOSSARY

<b>Employed, worked part-time</b>	Worked less than 35 hours in the last week.
<b>Employed, worked full-time</b>	Worked 35 hours or more in the last week
<b>Field of Study – society and culture</b>	Includes law and economics, as well as humanities disciplines.
<b>Labour Force</b>	Number of persons over 15 years who are either employed or are unemployed and looking for work.
<b>Metropolitan Subregion</b>	The composition of Sydney subregions is set out by the NSW Department of Planning. Further information on the subregions can be found in the publication <i>City of Cities – A Plan for Sydney’s Future</i> .
<b>Participation Rate</b>	Employed plus unemployed (labour force) as a proportion of the total population aged 15 plus.
<b>Proportions, totals and “inadequately described/not stated” categories</b>	Inadequately and not stated categories are excluded in the derivation of proportions. For example, the unemployment rate is derived as (number unemployed/number employed and employed) – the number of persons whose labour force status is not stated or inadequately described is excluded from the total labour force. Similarly, all totals in tables, unless indicated otherwise, exclude inadequately described and not stated figures.
<b>Underutilisation (assumed)</b>	A measure of potentially unused labour capacity. The number of underutilised persons is the sum of unemployed and part-time employed persons. It is assumed in this profile that all part-time employees are able and willing to work full-time. This assumption is necessary because it is not possible to readily identify part-time workers who are unable or unwilling to work more hours from standard Census tables.
<b>Usual Residence/Place of employment</b>	Most of the data in this profile is based on the usual residence of persons to reflect the labour available in the subregion. In contrast, data for place of work is based on the location of persons’ workplace. The different bases allow a comparison of the labour available in the subregion and the number of people who work in the subregion.
<b>% pts</b>	Percentage points. The simple difference between two percentage values, for example, the difference between 7.5% and 6.5% is 1% pt.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Size and composition**

The labour force of the Central Coast is the seventh largest in Sydney, representing 6.5% of Sydney's total labour force.

The Central Coast has the second highest unemployment rate among Sydney subregions, 1.8% points higher than Sydney's rate of 5.3%.

### **Skills**

The Central Coast ranks highly for the proportion of people employed in occupations such as sales, community and personal service workers, technicians and trade workers, and labourers. The Central Coast has a lower proportion and number of people employed as managers and professionals than the Sydney average.

In industry terms, the Central Coast is ranked in the top quartile of subregions for the concentration of residents employed in construction, utilities, retail, accommodation and food services, public administration and safety and health care and social assistance. The Central Coast has some of the lowest concentrations and numbers of employment in wholesale trade, financial and insurance services, professional, scientific and technical services, administration and support services, and education and training. These industries of employment are ranked in the bottom quartile of Sydney subregions.

Of all Sydney subregions, the Central Coast has the highest proportion and number of people with a certificate or diploma qualification. The Central Coast's high concentration of people with a certificate or diploma is consistent with the subregion's profile of school qualifications. The subregion has the lowest concentration of Year 12 completions and the highest concentration of people who have completed Year 10 or equivalent.

The Central Coast is ranked in the top quartile for the number of people who have studied architecture and building, agriculture, environmental and related studies, health, food, hospitality and personal services, engineering and related technologies, and education.

The Central Coast has the lowest number and proportion of people who speak another language and speak English well or very well. The top languages in the Central Coast are Chinese languages, Italian and Spanish.

### **Labour participation and capacity**

The Central Coast has a low participation rate of 58.7%, 6.9% pts lower than the Sydney average. The participation profile of the Central Coast includes the highest part-time employment rate of any Sydney subregion. The subregion also has a high proportion of unemployed people looking for full-time work. The subregion's relatively high unemployment rate and concentration of part-time workers combine to give it the highest underutilisation rate of any other Sydney subregion, about 7% pts higher than the Sydney average.

There are just over 13,900 tertiary students in the Central Coast. The Central Coast is in the bottom quartile for the proportion and number of part-time and full time tertiary students.

## A: SIZE AND COMPOSITION

### Population

The total population over 15 years of age in the Central Coast is 237,074 people, which represents 7.3% of the total population of Greater Metropolitan Sydney (Sydney) over 15 years of age.

### Size of the labour force

The size of the total labour force is the total number of people over the age of 15 who are employed and unemployed people looking for work.

There are 129,960 people in the Central Coast labour force. This represents 6.5% of Sydney's total labour force, and puts the Central Coast in the third quartile of Sydney subregions (rank 7/11).

### Employment

The number of people who are working as a proportion of people who want to work in the Central Coast is 92.9% (Table 1.1). This is 1.8% pts lower than the Sydney employment rate of 94.7%, and in the bottom quartile of Sydney subregions (rank 10/11).

**Table 1.1**

	Central Coast	Sydney	Central Coast	Central Coast	Sydney	Central Coast
	%	%	% Rank	Persons	Persons	Persons Rank
<b>Employed</b>	92.9	94.7	10	120,712	1,903,525	8

There are 120,712 people employed in the Central Coast, and this puts it in the third quartile of subregions (rank 8/11) for this category (Table 1.1)

### Unemployment

The unemployment rate for the Central Coast is 7.1%, which is 1.8% pts higher than the Sydney unemployment rate. The Central Coast has the second highest unemployment rate of Sydney subregions which places it in the second quartile (rank 2/11) (Table 1.2).

**Table 1.2**

	Central Coast	Sydney	Central Coast	Central Coast	Sydney	Central Coast
	%	%	% Rank	Persons	Persons	Persons Rank
<b>Unemployed</b>	7.1	5.3	2	9,248	106,490	5

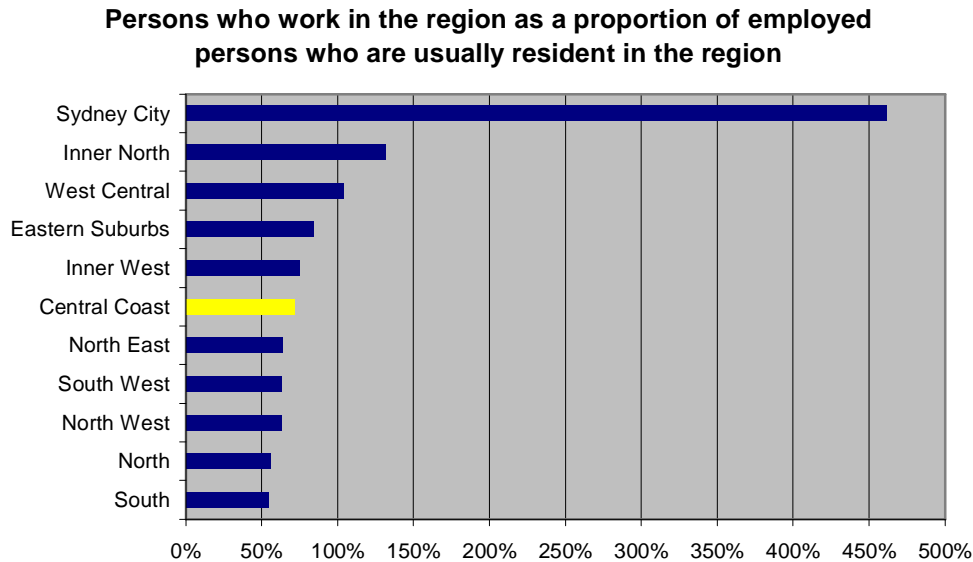
There are 9,248 unemployed people in the Central Coast, putting it in the second quartile of Sydney subregions (rank 5/11) (Table 1.2).

### The Subregion as a place of employment

This section is based on a comparison of where people live and where people work. This comparison highlights whether a subregion draws workers from other subregions or supplies workers to other subregions. This profile does not include 'journey to work' data, which reveals exactly how many people in the subregion work outside the region. Nevertheless, this comparison provides useful information on the 'net trade' in employment between the subregion and external areas.

The number of people who work in the Central Coast is about 29% pts less than the number of employed people who are usually resident in the area. In common with most other outer metropolitan areas of Sydney, the Central Coast is a net exporter of employed people and is in the middle rank of subregions for this measure.

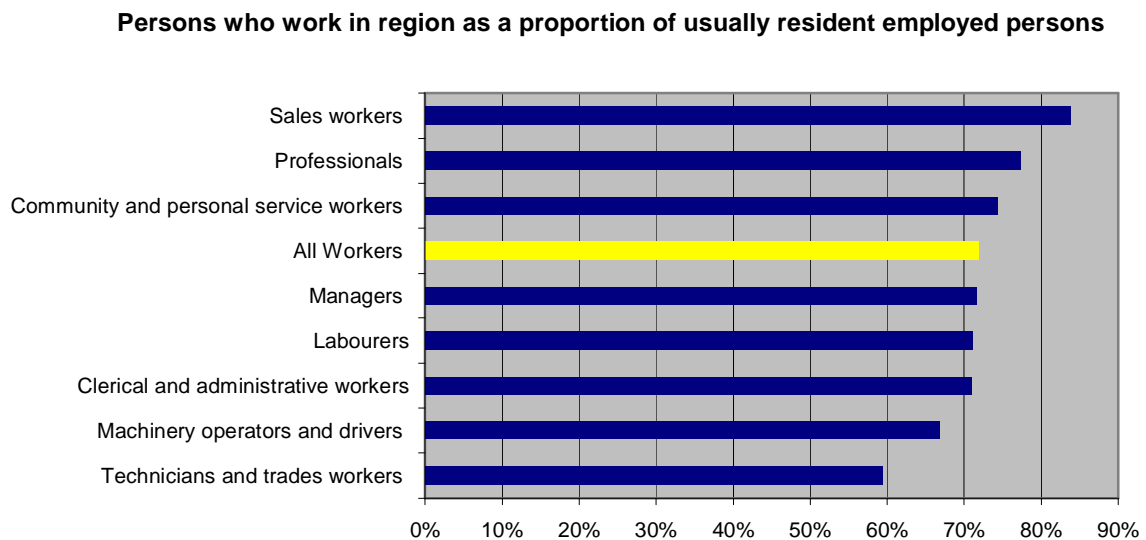
**Figure 1.3**



**Employment by occupation: place of work vs place of residence**

The Central Coast is a net exporter of workers across all occupation categories. As a proportion of the employed people resident in the Central Coast, the subregion’s largest exports are for technicians and trades workers, and machinery operators and drivers (Figure 1.4).

**Figure 1.4**



In absolute terms, the Central Coast’s largest net exports are for technicians and trades workers (7,864 people), clerical and administrative workers (5,287 people), and professionals (4,605 people) (Table 1.5).

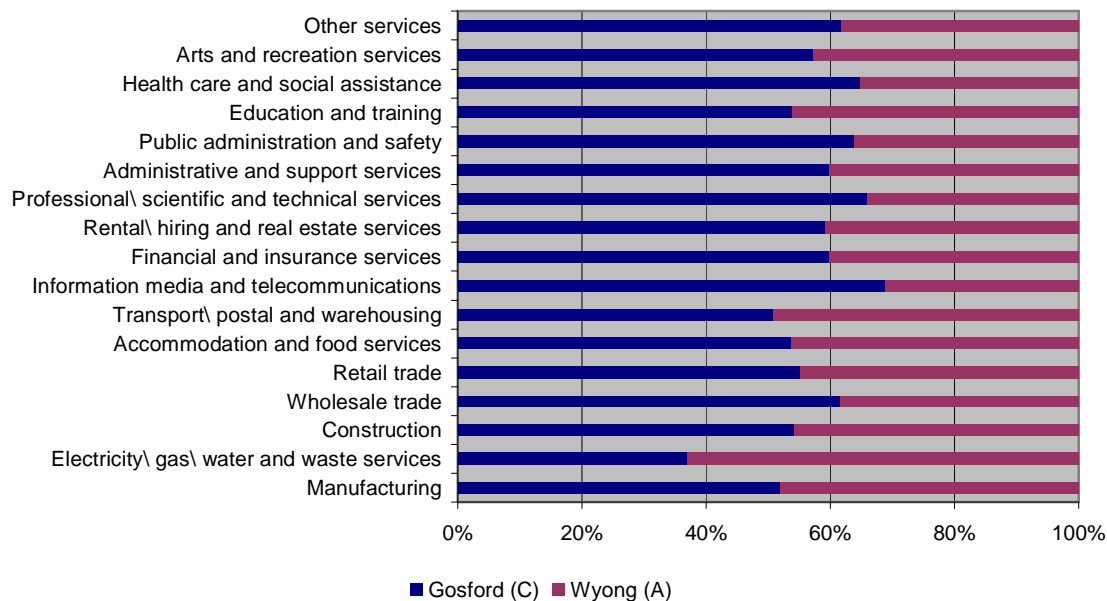
**Table 1.5**

	Work in Central Coast	Live in Central Coast	Difference	
			%	Persons
<b>Managers</b>	9,627	13,441	-28.4%	-3,814
<b>Professionals</b>	15,646	20,251	-22.7%	-4,605
<b>Technicians and trades workers</b>	11,501	19,365	-40.6%	-7,864
<b>Community and personal service workers</b>	9,330	12,552	-25.7%	-3,222
<b>Clerical and administrative workers</b>	12,944	18,231	-29.0%	-5,287
<b>Sales workers</b>	11,857	14,159	-16.3%	-2,302
<b>Machinery operators and drivers</b>	5,039	7,544	-33.2%	-2,505
<b>Labourers</b>	9,445	13,273	-28.8%	-3,828

**Place of employment by industry: LGAs within subregion**

Gosford is the larger place of employment within the Central Coast subregion, having the bulk of employment in all industries except utility services. Gosford’s share of employment is 60% or more in wholesale, information media and communications, professional, scientific and technical services, public administration, health care and social assistance, financial and insurance services, and other services (including automotive and machinery repair).

**Place of employment: Central Coast LGAs**

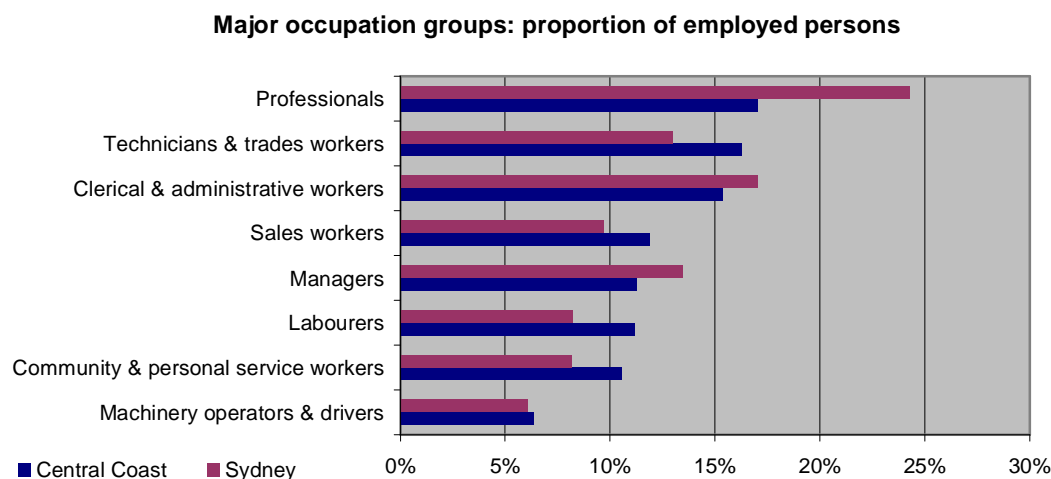


## B: SKILLS

### Employment by occupation

The occupation mix in the Central Coast is more broadly based than that of the wider Sydney subregion, with no single occupation taking up more than 20% of workers. Professionals make up the largest occupation group in the Central Coast, accounting for 17.0% of total people employed, followed by technicians and trade workers (16.3%), and clerical and administrative workers (15.3%) (Figure 2.1).

**Figure 2.1**



The Central Coast is in the top quartile of Sydney subregions for the proportion of:

- sales workers (rank 1/11)
- community and personal service workers (rank 1/11)
- technicians and trade workers (rank 2/11)
- labourers (rank 3/11) (Table 2.2).

Despite making up the largest occupation group in the Central Coast, the proportion of professionals is 7.3% pts lower than the Sydney average, therefore placing the Central Coast in the bottom quartile of Sydney subregions (rank 10/11). Managers and clerical and administrative workers are also ranked in the bottom quartile (both rank 9/11) (Table 2.2).

**Table 2.2**

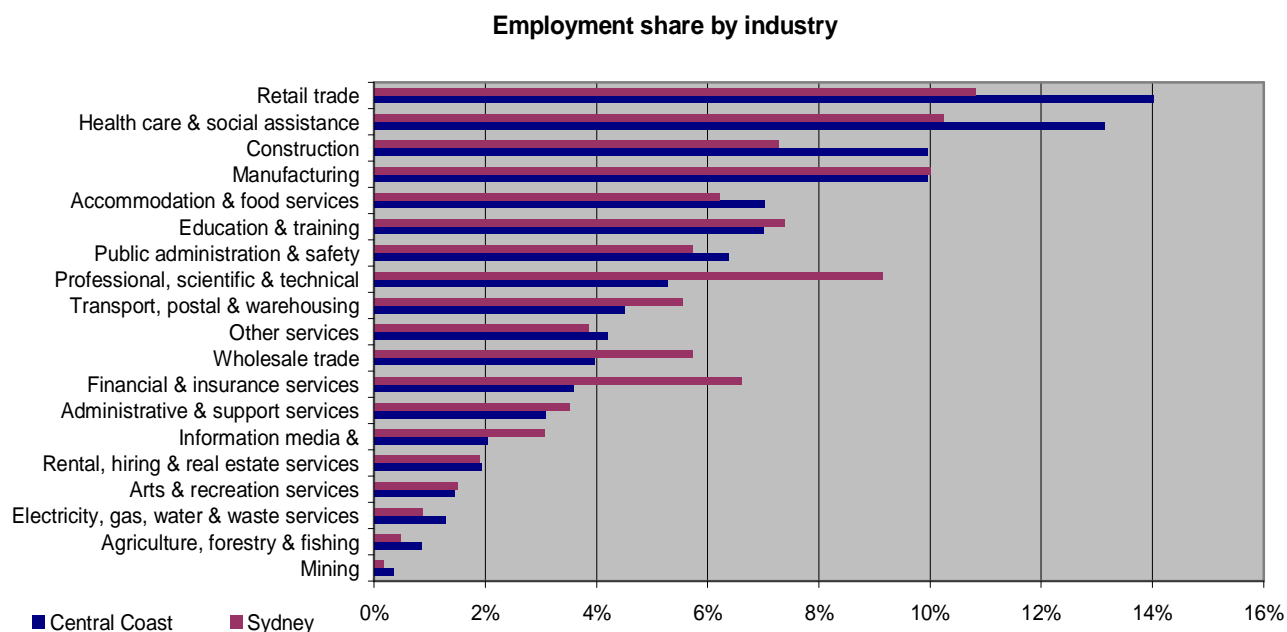
Occupation	Central Coast	Sydney	Central Coast	Central Coast	Sydney	Central Coast
	%	%	% rank	Persons	Persons	Person rank
<b>Managers</b>	11.3	13.5	9	13,441	250,976	10
<b>Professionals</b>	17.0	24.3	10	20,251	452,283	11
<b>Technicians &amp; trades workers</b>	16.3	13.0	2	19,365	241,725	5
<b>Community &amp; personal service workers</b>	10.6	8.2	1	12,552	152,711	5
<b>Clerical &amp; administrative workers</b>	15.3	17.1	9	18,231	318,013	8
<b>Sales workers</b>	11.9	9.7	1	14,159	181,401	5
<b>Machinery operators &amp; drivers</b>	6.3	6.1	4	7,544	113,669	5
<b>Labourers</b>	11.2	8.2	3	13,273	153,457	5

In absolute terms, the Central Coast has the lowest number of professionals (rank 11/11), and is also in the bottom quartile for the number of managers (rank 10/11). The Central Coast does not appear in the top quartile for any occupation group, with the remainder of occupation groups falling into the second and third quartiles of Sydney subregions (Table 2.2).

### Employment by industry

Retail trade makes up the largest proportion of workers in the Central Coast, accounting for 14.0% of all workers in the subregion. This is followed by health care and social assistance (13.1%) and construction and manufacturing, which account for 9.9% each (Figure 2.3)

**Figure 2.3**



The Central Coast is ranked first among Sydney subregions for the proportion of workers in a number of industries:

- electricity, gas, water and waste services (rank 1/11)
- construction (rank 1/11)
- retail trade (rank 1/11)
- health care and social assistance (rank 1/11).

The subregion is also ranked in the top quartile for the proportion of workers in mining (rank 2/11), agriculture, forestry and fishing (rank 3/11), accommodation and food services (rank 3/11), and public administration and safety (3/11) (Table 2.4).

The industries for which the Central Coast’s proportion of workers is in the bottom quartile of Sydney subregions are wholesale trade (rank 11/11), financial and insurance services (rank 11/11), professional, scientific and technical services (rank 10/11), administrative and support services (rank 10/11), information media and telecommunications (rank 9/11), and education and training (rank 9/11) (Table 2.4).

**Table 2.4**

Industry	Central Coast %	Sydney %	Central Coast % rank	Central Coast Persons	Sydney Persons	Central Coast Persons rank
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	0.8	0.5	3	1,001	8,559	3
Mining	0.3	0.2	2	400	3,162	3
Manufacturing	9.9	10.0	4	11,723	184,993	5
Electricity, gas, water & waste services	1.3	0.9	1	1,524	15,939	5
Construction	9.9	7.3	1	11,725	134,629	5
Wholesale trade	4.0	5.7	11	4,674	105,842	10
Retail trade	14.0	10.8	1	16,528	200,291	5
Accommodation & food services	7.0	6.2	3	8,279	115,027	6
Transport, postal & warehousing	4.5	5.5	6	5,318	102,512	6
Information media & telecommunications	2.1	3.1	9	2,418	56,857	11
Financial & insurance services	3.6	6.6	11	4,211	122,164	11
Rental, hiring & real estate services	1.9	1.9	6	2,284	35,116	9
Professional, scientific & technical services	5.3	9.2	10	6,228	169,351	11
Administrative & support services	3.1	3.5	10	3,636	64,878	10
Public administration & safety	6.4	5.7	3	7,516	105,692	6
Education & training	7.0	7.4	9	8,260	136,623	10
Health care & social assistance	13.1	10.2	1	15,477	189,211	5
Arts & recreation services	1.4	1.5	7	1,686	27,698	10

In absolute terms, the Central Coast is in the top quartile for the number of people employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing (rank 3/11), and mining (rank 3/11) (Table 2.4).

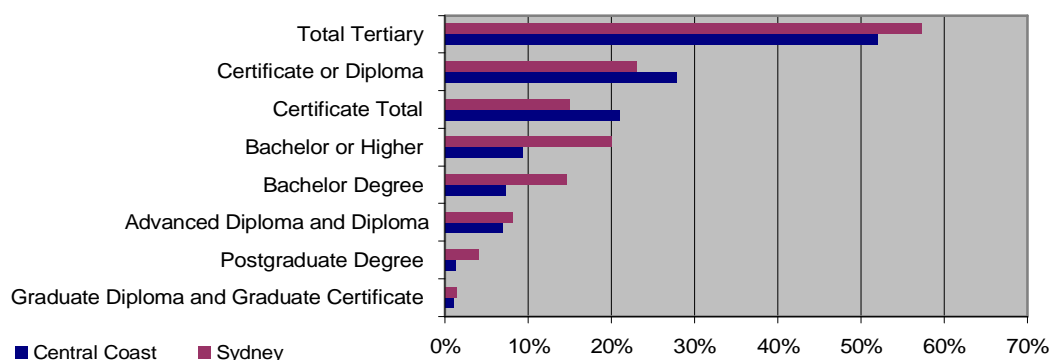
There are fewer people employed in information, media and telecommunications, financial and insurance services, and professional, scientific and technical services in the Central Coast than any other subregion (Table 2.4). The Central Coast is also in the bottom quartile for the number of people employed in wholesale trade (rank 10/11), administrative and support services (rank 10/11), arts and recreation services (rank 10/11), and rental, hiring and real estate (rank 9/11).

### Educational attainment

The proportion of people over 15 years of age in the Central Coast that have attained a non-school qualification is 52%, which is 5.3% pts lower than the wider Sydney subregion (57.3%), and in the bottom quartile of Sydney subregions (rank 9/11). The most common non-school qualification for the Central Coast is a certificate or diploma, which is held by 27.9% of people over 15 years.

**Figure 2.5**

**Persons with a non-school qualification as a proportion of total population over 15 years**



The Central Coast has the lowest proportion, 9.4%, of people whose highest qualification is a bachelor degree or higher (rank 11/11) (Table 2.6). Conversely, the Central Coast has the highest proportion of people who have a certificate or diploma (Table 2.6).

**Table 2.6**

Qualification	Central Coast	Sydney	Central Coast	Central Coast	Sydney	Central Coast
	%	%	% Rank	Persons	Persons	Persons Rank
Postgraduate Degree	1.3	4.1	11	2,977	134,905	11
Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate	0.9	1.3	9	2,236	44,347	10
Bachelor Degree	7.2	14.6	11	22,242	484,227	11
Advanced Diploma and Diploma	6.9	8.1	9	16,330	267,647	9
Certificate Total	21.0	14.9	1	49,703	493,123	5
Bachelor or Higher	9.4	20.0	11	22,242	663,479	11
Certificate or Diploma	27.9	23.0	1	66,033	760,770	5
Total Tertiary	52.0	57.3	9	123,206	1,897,509	8

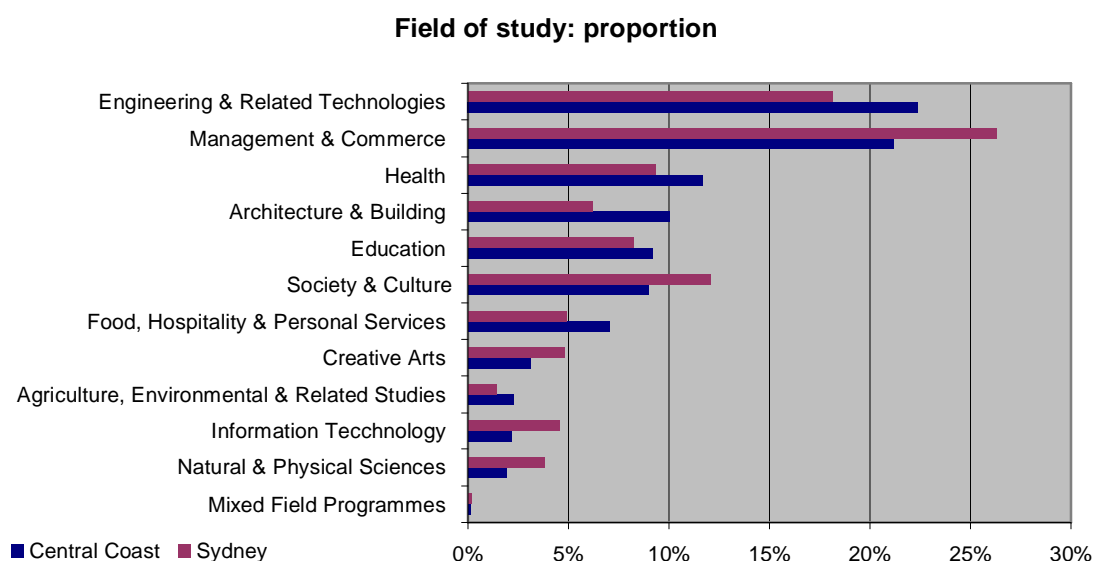
Note: Total tertiary includes non-school qualification not stated and inadequately described

There are 123,206 people over 15 years of age in the Central Coast who have attained a non-school qualification, placing the subregion in the third quartile of Sydney subregions (rank 8/11). Certificate or diploma accounts for the largest number of number of people with non-school qualifications, however it is only ranked in the second quartile of Sydney subregions (rank 5/11). Of all the Sydney subregions, the Central Coast has the fewest number of people who have a bachelor or higher, which ranks the subregion in the bottom quartile (rank 11/11).

### Study fields

The most popular field of study completed by people living in the Central Coast is engineering and related technologies, which accounts for 22.4% of all qualifications awarded (Figure 2.7, Table 2.8).

**Figure 2.7**



With the exception of mixed field programmes (rank 8/11), the proportions for all other categories of fields of study for the Central Coast are ranked in either the top or bottom quartiles of Sydney subregions (Table 2.8).

The fields of study that appear in the top quartile of Sydney subregions are:

- Architecture and building (rank 1/11)
- Agriculture, environmental and related studies (rank 1/11)
- Health (rank 1/11)
- Food, hospitality and personal services (rank 1/11)
- Engineering and related technologies (rank 2/11)
- Education (rank 3/11)

The areas of study that appear in the bottom quartile of Sydney subregions are:

- Natural and physical sciences (rank 11/11)
- Information technology (rank 11/11)
- Management and commerce (rank 11/11)
- Society and culture (rank 11/11)
- Creative arts (rank 10/11).

**Table 2.8**

Field of Study	Central Coast	Sydney	Central Coast	Central Coast	Sydney	Central Coast
	%	%	% Rank	Persons	Persons	Persons Rank
Natural & Physical Sciences	1.9	3.8	11	1,782	56,618	11
Information Technology	2.2	4.6	11	2,035	67,437	11
Engineering & Related Technologies	22.4	18.2	2	20,944	268,334	5
Architecture & Building	10.0	6.2	1	9,382	91,091	4
Agriculture, Environmental & Related Studies	2.3	1.4	1	2,119	21,138	3
Health	11.6	9.3	1	10,896	137,701	7
Education	9.2	8.3	3	8,617	122,074	7
Management & Commerce	21.2	26.3	11	19,841	388,300	10
Society & Culture	9.0	12.1	11	8,392	178,193	11
Creative Arts	3.1	4.8	10	2,884	71,311	10
Food, Hospitality & Personal Services	7.0	4.9	1	6,580	72,410	5
Mixed Field Programmes	0.1	0.2	8	138	3,118	9

In absolute terms, the most popular field of study completed by those living in the Central Coast is engineering and related technologies (20,944 people), followed closely by management and commerce (19,841 people).

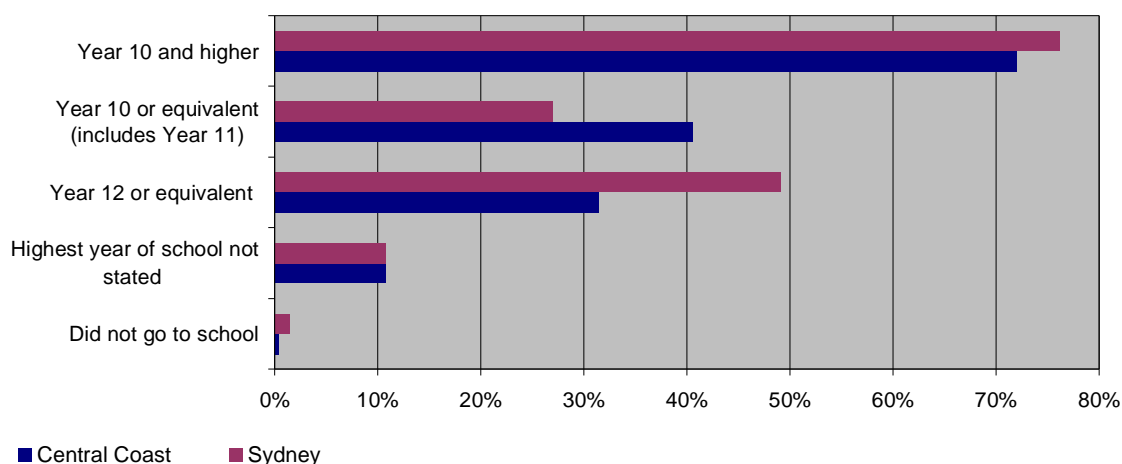
The number of people with qualifications in agriculture, environmental and related studies is the only field of study in which the Central Coast is ranked in the top quartile of Sydney subregions (rank 3/11). Natural and physical sciences, information technology, society and culture, management and commerce and creative arts are all ranked in the bottom quartile of Sydney subregions (Table 2.8).

## School qualifications

The concentration of people with school qualifications to Year 10 or higher in the Central Coast is 3.5% pts below the Sydney average and in the bottom quartile of subregions (rank 9/11), accounting for 72.0% of all people over 15 years (Table 2.10).

**Figure 2.9**

**School qualifications as a proportion of total population over 15 years**



At 40.6%, the Central Coast has the highest proportion of people who have completed schooling to Year 10 or equivalent. This is 13.6% pts higher than the proportion for Sydney (27.0%), placing the Central Coast in the top quartile of Sydney subregions (rank 1/11). By contrast, the Central Coast has the lowest proportion of people who have completed schooling to Year 12 or equivalent. 31.4% of people in the Central Coast have completed schooling to Year 12 or equivalent, which is 17.7% pts lower than the proportion for Sydney (49.1%), placing the subregion in the bottom quartile of Sydney subregions (rank 11/11). These two differences in proportions is reflected in the high proportion of people in the Central Coast who have attained a certificate or diploma and the low proportion who have attained a bachelor or higher.

**Table 2.10**

School Qualifications	Central Coast	Sydney	Central Coast	Central Coast	Sydney	Central Coast
	%	%	% Rank	Persons	Persons	Persons Rank
Year 10 and higher	72.0	76.1	9	170,630	2,523,109	8
Year 12 or equivalent	31.4	49.1	11	74,414	1,628,362	11
Year 10 or equivalent (includes Year 11)	40.6	27.0	1	96,216	894,747	5
Did not go to school	0.3	1.4	11	805	45,913	10
Highest year of school not stated	10.7	10.8	5	25,394	357,930	7

There are 170,630 people in the Central Coast who have completed Year 10 and higher, which accounts for the largest number of people with a school qualification in the subregion. Although it accounts for the largest number of people, school qualifications to Year 10 and higher is ranked in the third quartile of Sydney subregions (rank 8/11). Of all the Sydney subregions, the Central Coast has the fewest number of people who have completed Year 12 or equivalent, which ranks the subregion in the bottom quartile (rank 11/11) (Table 2.8).

## Languages

The Central Coast has the highest proportion of people who only speak English within the Sydney subregion (95.7% compared with 68.7% for Sydney) and is ranked first among Sydney subregions. The Central Coast also has the lowest proportion of people who speak another language and speak English well or very well, 21.7% pts below the Sydney total (rank 11/11) (Table 2.11).

**Table 2.11**

Proficiency in spoken English	Central Coast	Sydney	Central Coast	Central Coast	Sydney	Central Coast
	%	%	% Rank	Persons	Persons	Persons Rank
Speaks English only	95.7	68.7	1	270,102	2,636,010	3
Speaks other language and speaks English very well or well	3.8	25.5	11	10,648	977,380	11
Speaks other language and speaks English not well or not at all	0.5	5.8	11	1,346	224,447	11
Speaks other language and speaks English total	4.3	31.3	11	11,994	1,201,827	11

Around 270,100 people in the Central Coast speak English only, placing the subregion in the top quartile of Sydney subregions (rank 3/11). In absolute terms, the Central Coast has the smallest number of people who speak another language and speak English well or very well (rank 11/11).

The most popular languages spoken in the Central Coast are Chinese languages, Italian and Spanish (Table 2.12).

**Table 2.12**

Language	Speaks English only	Speaks other language and speaks English			Not stated	Total
		Very well or well	Not well or not at all	Total		
<b>Speaks other language:</b>						
<b>Chinese languages:</b>		816	261	1,077	15	1,092
Mandarin		292	94	386	6	392
Cantonese		486	158	644	9	653
Italian		967	91	1,058	19	1,077
Spanish		787	105	892	12	904
German		752	23	775	9	784
Greek		590	88	678	7	685
Dutch		486	6	492	7	499
Arabic		383	24	407	10	417
French		375	12	387	0	387
Maltese		344	22	366	6	372
Tagalog (excludes Filipino)		304	8	312	4	316
Filipino (excludes Tagalog)		234	6	240	3	243
Polish		220	15	235	0	235
<b>Total (includes languages not shown and not stated)</b>	270,099	10,646	1,348	11,994	15,864	297,957

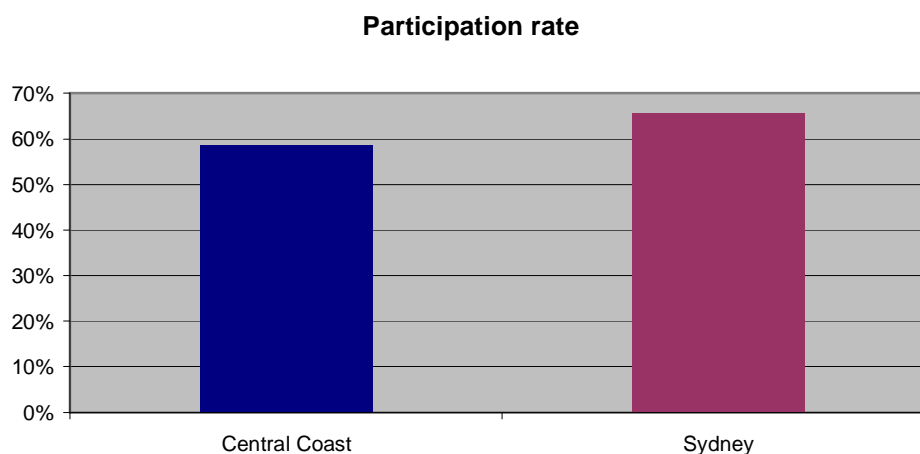
\* Total includes other languages not shown

## C: LABOUR PARTICIPATION AND CAPACITY

### Participation rate

The participation rate for Central Coast is 58.7%, which is 6.9% pts lower than the participation rate for Sydney (65.6%), and places the subregion in the bottom quartile of Sydney subregions (rank 10/11) (Figure 3.1).

**Figure 3.1**



### Part-time employment

The proportion of employed people who are working part-time in the Central Coast is 35.6%, which is 6.7% pts above the proportion for Sydney (29.0%) and the highest of any subregion (Table 3.2).

**Table 3.2**

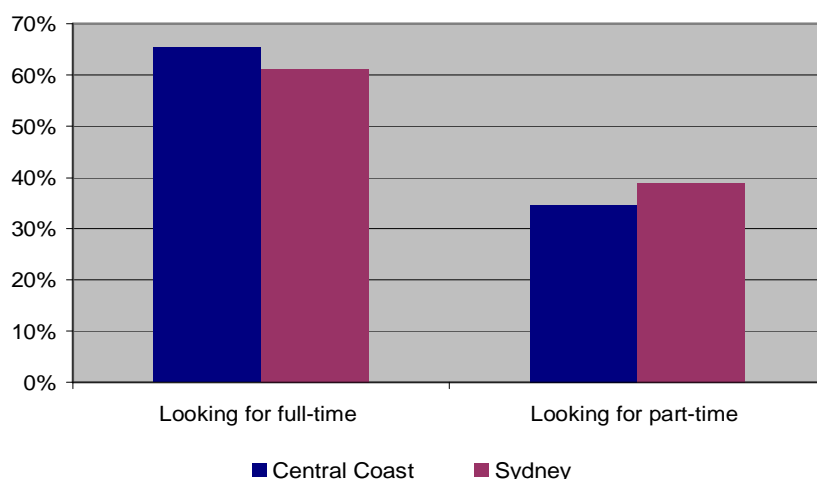
	Central Coast	Sydney	Central Coast	Central Coast	Sydney	Central Coast
	%	%	% Rank	Persons	Persons	Persons Rank
<b>Part-time employment</b>	35.6	29.0	1	40,074	516,784	5

### Unemployed people: type of work sought

The proportion of unemployed people looking for full-time work in the Central Coast is 65.3%, 4.2% pts above the proportion for Sydney (61.1%). The Central Coast has the second highest proportion of unemployed people looking for full-time work (rank 2/11) (Table 3.4). Conversely, the proportion of unemployed in the Central Coast looking for part-time work is 34.7%, which is in the bottom quartile for the proportion of unemployed looking for part-time work (rank 10/11).

**Figure 3.3**

**Unemployed looking for full-time and part-time work: proportion**



The number of unemployed people looking for full-time work in the Central Coast is 6,043, while 3,205 unemployed people are looking for part-time work, which ranks the subregion in the second quartile of Sydney subregions for these categories (both ranked 5/11) (Table 3.4).

**Table 3.4**

	Central Coast	Sydney	Central Coast	Central Coast	Sydney	Central Coast
	%	%	% Rank	Persons	Persons	Persons Rank
Looking for full-time work	65.3	61.1	2	6,043	65,112	5
Looking for part-time work	34.7	38.9	10	3,205	41,378	5

### Assumed underutilisation

Underutilisation can be defined as the sum of unemployed and part-time workers who can work full-time in the labour force. Part-time workers are defined as people employed less than 35 hours per week. It is not possible from Census data to readily exclude part-time workers who do not want to work full-time. It is therefore assumed that all part-time workers are able and willing to work full-time.

The Central Coast has the highest underutilisation rate of all Sydney subregions, with the Central Coast’s underutilisation rate of 38.0% being 7% pts above the rate for Sydney (Table 3.5). This high underutilisation rate follows directly from the Central Coast’s high unemployment rate (Table 1.2) and high level of part-time employment (Table 3.2).

**Table 3.5**

	Central Coast	Sydney	Central Coast	Central Coast	Sydney	Central Coast
	%	%	% Rank	Persons	Persons	Persons Rank
Underutilisation	38.0	31.0	1	49,322	623,274	5

Despite the Central Coasts high underutilisation rate, the actual number of underutilised people in the Central Coast (49,322) is relatively less than other Sydney subregions, placing the Central Coast in the second quartile for this characteristic (rank 5/11) (Table 3.5).

## Hours worked by occupation: worked less than 25 hours

Of all the Sydney subregions, the Central Coast has the highest proportion (27.0%) of workers employed for less than 25 hours per week. The Central Coast's proportion of workers for this characteristic is 4.6% pts greater than the proportion for Sydney (22.5%) (Table 3.6). The high proportion of people working less than 25 hours per week is most likely a reflection of demand factors, as evidenced by the high part-time and underutilisation rates in the subregion.

The Central Coast is ranked in the top quartile for the proportion of professionals (rank 1/11), managers (rank 2/11), sales workers (rank 2/11), and clerical and administrative workers (rank 3/11) working less than 25 hours per week. The proportions for all other occupational groups are ranked in the middle quartiles of Sydney subregions.

**Table 3.6**

Occupation: worked less than 25 hours	Central Coast	Sydney	Central Coast	Central Coast	Sydney	Central Coast
	%	%	% Rank	Persons	Persons	Persons Rank
<b>Managers</b>	10.6	9.5	2	1,403	23,311	10
<b>Professionals</b>	23.5	18.3	1	4,689	81,396	9
<b>Technicians &amp; trades workers</b>	13.7	12.9	7	2,574	30,272	5
<b>Community and personal service workers</b>	39.0	38.2	5	4,763	56,556	5
<b>Clerical and administrative workers</b>	30.2	24.8	3	5,410	77,406	5
<b>Sales workers</b>	47.0	41.6	2	6,478	73,404	5
<b>Machinery operators &amp; drivers</b>	16.6	13.1	5	1,201	14,337	5
<b>Labourers</b>	37.0	34.0	6	4,753	50,264	5
<b>Total</b>	27.0	22.5	1	31,695	415,004	6

Despite being ranked in the top quartile for the proportion of managers and professionals that work less than 25 hours in the Central Coast, these two occupation groups employ relatively small numbers of people. There are 1,403 managers and 4,689 professionals in the Central Coast that work less than 25 hours per week, both of which are in the bottom quartile of Sydney subregions and rank 10/11 and 9/11 respectively (Table 3.6). The number of people employed across all other occupation groups fall into the second quartile of Sydney subregions (all ranking 5/11) (Table 3.6).

## Students

The number of non-school students provides an indication of the pipeline of future tertiary educated employees that could be available from a subregion.

Census statistics on the full/part-time status of students by educational institution should be treated with caution. The type of educational institution attended was not stated for a large proportion of total students, and the full/part-time status of these students could not be assigned to the type of institution they were attending.

In the Central Coast, the number of tertiary students as a proportion of the total population over 15 years is 5.9%, compared with 9.6% for Sydney. Of all the Sydney subregions, the Central Coast has the smallest proportion of full-time students, coming in 2.7% pts less than the Sydney average and ranking in the bottom quartile (rank 11/11). The Central Coast also has the lowest proportion of part-time tertiary students, which is represented in its ranking in the bottom quartile (rank 11/11) (Table 3.7).

**Table 3.7**

Tertiary Students	Central Coast	Sydney	Central Coast	Central Coast	Sydney	Central Coast
	%	%	% Rank	Persons	Persons	Persons Rank
<b>Part-time students</b>	3.6	4.4	11	8,568	144,207	9
<b>Full-time students</b>	2.2	4.9	11	5,211	163,968	11
<b>Total tertiary students</b>	5.9	9.4	11	13,990	312,339	11

In absolute terms, the Central Coast has the fewest number of total tertiary students (13,990 students) and full-time tertiary students (5,211) of all Sydney subregions. The Central Coast also has one of the lowest numbers of part-time tertiary students compared to other Sydney subregions. The Central Coast is ranked in the bottom quartile for all categories of tertiary students (Table 3.7).

# **APPENDIX 1**

Statistical tables: all subregions

