

Small business in Queensland, June 2023

This report presents summary statistics about small businesses in Queensland, including business counts by industry type and the contribution of small business to employment in Queensland.

Data are sourced from published Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data and collated by the Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO). Please refer to notes at the end of this report for information about ABS sources used including reference periods.

Business counts and industry profile

Counts by business size

There were 2,589,873 businesses actively trading in Australia as at 30 June 2023. Of these, 497,002 businesses were operating in Queensland, representing 19.2% of all businesses in Australia.

Small businesses were the predominant type of business actively trading in Queensland (97.1%), similar to their share nationally (97.3%).

There were 482,836 small businesses actively trading in Queensland as at 30 June 2023, 2.9% more than in the previous year (469,290). In the same period, there were 13,321 medium businesses and 845 large businesses trading in Queensland.

Industry¹ composition of small business

As at 30 June 2023, the construction industry represented the largest share of all small businesses in Queensland (17.4%), followed by the professional, scientific and technical services (12.5%) (Figure 1).

Of Queensland's top ten industries by number of small businesses, the agriculture, forestry, and fishing industry had the largest difference in share than that recorded at the national level (1.7 percentage points higher). Together, the top ten industries accounted for more than four out of five small businesses in Queensland (85.3%).

The construction industry had the largest number of small businesses in Queensland



ABS definitions used in this report:

Small business: A non-employing business or a business employing less than 20 people. 'Non-employing' includes sole proprietorships and partnerships without employees.

Medium business: A business employing between 20 and 199 employees.

Large business: A business employing 200 employees or more.

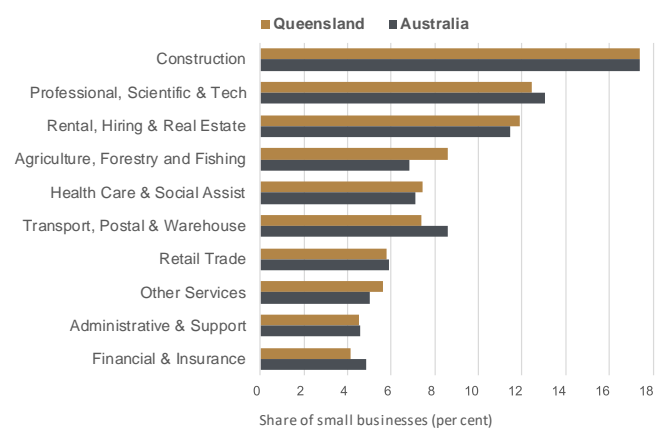
As at 30 June 2023, Queensland had:

482,836
small businesses

13,321
medium businesses

845
large businesses

Figure 1 Top 10 small business industries², as at 30 June 2023



¹ Industry based on *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification* (ANZSIC), 2006.

² Based on Queensland's top ten industries by small business share.

Contribution of small business to employment

Business size and share of employment

Businesses of all sizes employed 2,548,000 persons in Queensland as at 30 June 2023³.

This comprised 1,072,000 persons employed in a small business (42.1%), 611,000 persons employed in a medium business (24.0%) and 864,000 persons employed in a large business (33.9%). Almost three in five (56.6%) small businesses in Queensland were a micro business (non-employing to four employees).

Small business has made a significant contribution to total employment in Queensland. Over the previous decade the smallest share of people employed in small business was 41.6% as at 30 June 2019 and the largest share was 44.2% as at 30 June 2016 (Figure 2).

Queensland accounted for one in five (20.0%) persons employed nationally in small businesses as at 30 June 2023. Nationally, the contribution of small business to employment declined by 1.9 percentage points from June 2014 to June 2023 (from 43.4% to 41.5%).

Employment by business size

Between June 2014 and June 2023, the number of persons employed in a small business in Queensland increased by 155,000 (up 16.9%). The number of persons employed in medium business increased by 109,000 (up 21.8%), while the number of persons employed in large business increased by 168,000 (24.2%) (Figure 3).

Over the same period, employment in small business in Queensland was highest as at 30 June 2023 (1,072,000 persons) and lowest as at 30 June 2020 (900,000 persons).

Figure 2 Business size and share of employment, Queensland, as at 30 June

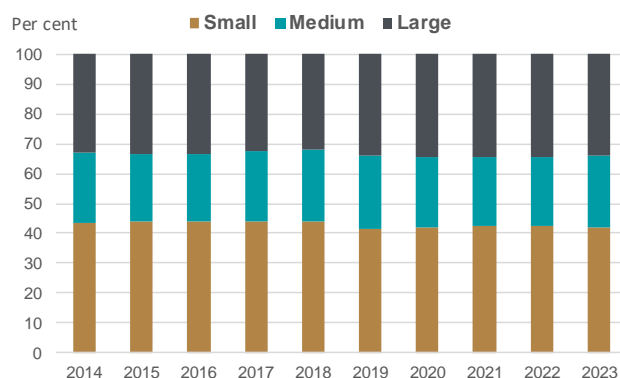


Figure 3 Employment by business size, Queensland, as at 30 June

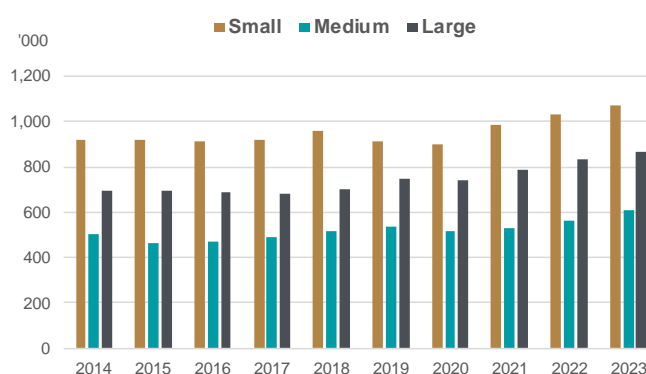
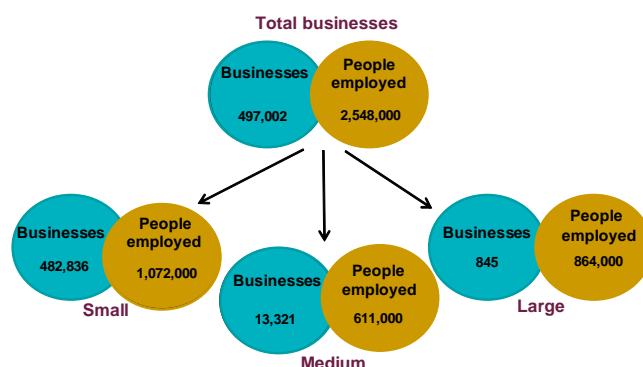


Figure 4 Business employment, Queensland, as at 30 June 2023



³ For more information, please refer to the explanatory notes in *Australian Industry*.



Data sources

ABS, *Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, July 2019 - June 2023*

These counts represent a complete enumeration of economically active businesses on the ABS Business Register (ABSBR). Business counts from the ABSBR are based, in part, on tax data supplied by the Australian Tax Office (ATO) and Australian Business Register (ABR). Counts of businesses comprise businesses actively trading in goods or services in the Australian market sector excluding:

- Reserve Bank of Australia,
- General Government, and
- Non-Profit Institutions Serving Households.

ABS, *Australian Industry, various editions*

Data in *Australian Industry* are collected from the annual Economic Activity Survey conducted by the ABS, and administrative data from Business Activity Statements provided by businesses to the ATO.

Figures quoted from *Australian Industry* exclude persons employed in the general government sector (public administration; education and training; health care and social assistance); persons employed in finance, insurance and superannuation funds; and persons employed in defence and in private households. However, the figures do include persons employed in general government businesses classified to water supply, sewerage and drainage services.

Measures of employment from these data sources are not consistent with data published in *Labour Force, Australia*.

