

Chapter 4: Working

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Fast Facts

1. Melbourne's businesses generally employ less than 20 people (90%) and only 1% employ 200+ people – mostly in inner areas (2004 estimates).
2. Participation in the labour force (the proportion of adults aged 15 years or more in work or looking for work) varies across Melbourne, ranging from 18% of males in Cardinia to 69% in Casey. Female participation ranges from 42% in Brimbank, Hume and Greater Dandenong to 49% in Yarra (2001).
3. Melbourne's main employment areas are in central Melbourne, the south east (around Dandenong, Monash, Kingston) and Hume.
4. Melbourne's total employment increased 47% between 1971 and 2001. Areas with 5% or more of Melbourne's employment in 1971 were the City of Melbourne (31%), Yarra (7%), and Port Phillip and Kingston (5%). By 2001 they were the City of Melbourne (19%), Monash (6%) and Dandenong and Kingston (5%).
5. Most Melbourne employees are full-time (73% in 2005). Forty seven per cent of Melbourne women in the labour force work part-time compared to 15% of males.
6. The proportion of part-time workers almost doubled between 1978 and 2004, from 14% to 26.9% of the work force.
7. Most of Victoria's freight activity is within the metropolitan area, with 99% of freight carried by the road network. Metropolitan freight traffic is projected to double over the next 20 years.