



Gold Coast City Council

# Surfers Paradise Statistical Profile

## Introduction

This information is for Surfers Paradise Statistical Local Area (SLA) in Gold Coast City. Unless otherwise stated, all data are from the Time Series Profile of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2001 Census of Population and Housing (taken on 7 August 2001), which counts both residents and domestic visitors to the SLA on Census night.

## Resident Population

The preliminary estimate of the resident population of Surfers Paradise at 30 June 2002 was 17,207 people, an increase of 3,135 or 22.3% since 1997.

## Age

In 2001, the number of people aged under 15 years represented 10.9% of the population of Surfers Paradise (up from 8.4% in 1991), lower than for Gold Coast City (19.3%). People aged 65 years and over represented 20.0% (down from 26.6% in 1991), higher than for Gold Coast City (15.2%) (Table 1).

Table 1. Age profile

Persons (excluding overseas visitors)

Age (years)	1991			1996			2001		
	Surfers Paradise			GCC	Surfers Paradise				
	%	%	%		No.	Females	Persons		
0-4	3.6	3.4	3.7	6.1	456	421	877		
5-9	2.4	2.8	3.7	6.6	450	417	867		
10-14	2.5	2.3	3.4	6.6	402	405	807		
15-19	5.5	4.4	4.8	6.5	539	588	1,127		
20-24	10.7	11.0	10.8	6.5	1,294	1,234	2,528		
25-34	14.6	16.6	17.1	14.1	2,132	1,873	4,005		
35-44	10.2	10.8	11.7	14.4	1,470	1,273	2,743		
45-54	11.3	12.1	12.8	13.6	1,454	1,538	2,992		
55-64	12.7	11.1	11.9	10.4	1,393	1,406	2,799		
65-74	17.3	15.0	10.7	8.3	1,171	1,329	2,500		
75+	9.3	10.5	9.4	6.9	1,039	1,159	2,198		
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	11,800	11,643	23,443		

## Educational qualifications

In 2001, the proportion of people aged 15 years and over in Surfers Paradise with a Bachelor degree or higher was 10.5% (up from 5.6% in 1991), higher than Gold Coast City (Table 2).

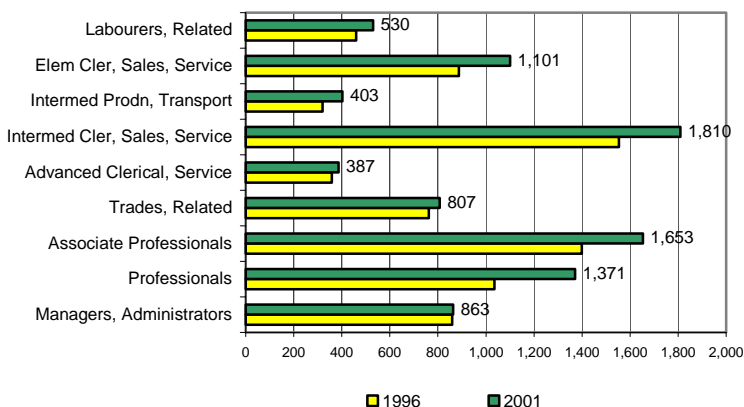
Table 2. Educational Qualifications

Persons aged 15 years and over (excluding overseas visitors)

Level of education	1991		1996		2001	
	Surfers Paradise		GCC		Surfers Paradise	
	%	%	%	No.	%	
Postgraduate Degree	0.7	1.0	1.3	262	1.0	
Grad Dip & Grad Cert	0.4	0.6	0.7	154	0.8	
Bachelor Degree	4.4	6.9	8.5	1,772	7.0	
Advanced Dip and Dip	4.0	5.5	6.0	1,254	5.8	
Trade Certificate	11.6	12.6	12.9	2,698	17.4	
Not stated	22.3	19.1	25.5	5,323	13.6	
Not applicable	56.4	54.3	45.1	9,429	54.5	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	20,892	100.0	

Figure 1. Occupation

Employed persons (excluding overseas visitors)



## Employment

The labour force in Surfers Paradise in 2001 represented 48.6% of people aged 15 years and over (down from 50.9% in 1991), lower than for Gold Coast City (57.6%). From 1991 to 2001, part-time employment in Surfers Paradise increased from 14.0% to 17.2% (Table 3). The unemployment rate\* decreased from 14.0% to 9.5%.

\* Persons unemployed divided by persons in labour force

Table 3. Employment

Persons aged 15 years and over (excluding overseas visitors)

Labour force status	1991		1996		2001	
	Surfers Paradise		GCC		Surfers Paradise	
	%	%	%	No.	%	
Employed, working:						
Full time(a)	27.3	27.7	25.6	5,346	31.6	
Part time	14.0	16.8	17.2	3,603	18.8	
Not stated(b)	2.5	1.4	1.2	249	1.7	
Total employed.	43.8	45.9	44.0	9,198	52.0	
Unemployed, looking for:						
Full time work	6.0	5.7	3.4	718	4.1	
Part time work	1.1	1.0	1.2	245	1.5	
Total unemployed	7.1	6.7	4.6	963	5.6	
Total labour force	50.9	52.6	48.6	10,161	57.6	
Not in the labour force	42.8	41.6	32.8	6,845	36.7	
Not stated(c)	6.3	5.7	18.6	3,887	5.7	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	20,893	100.0	

(a) The definition of 'full-time' changed between the 1991 and 1996 Census

(b) Includes employed persons who did not state their hours worked

(c) Includes persons who did not state their labour force status

## Income

The median gross weekly individual income in Surfers Paradise in 2001 was in the range \$400-\$499 (up from the \$80-\$119 range in 1991). In Surfers Paradise, 8.0% of people aged 15 years and over received less than \$120 in 2001 (11.3% for Gold Coast City) and 8.6% received a high income of \$1,000 or more (7.3% for Gold Coast City) (Table 4).

Table 4. Income

Persons aged 15 years and over (excluding overseas visitors)

Weekly Individual Income	2001	
	Surfers Paradise	GCC
	%	No.
Negative-\$119	8.0	1,215
\$120-\$199	10.0	1,524
\$200-\$399	20.4	3,120
\$400-\$599	16.8	2,559
\$600-\$799	8.4	1,285
\$800-\$999	4.1	621
\$1000 or more	8.6	1,317
Not stated	23.8	3,632
Total	100.0	15,273

## Occupation

The main occupation in 2001 was Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers (1,810 people or 19.7% of employed people) followed by Associate Professionals (1,653 people or 18.0%) (Figure 1). Since 1996, the biggest increase was recorded in the number of people working as Professionals and there were no occupations showing a decrease.

# Surfers Paradise Statistical Profile

## Place of birth

In 2001, 29.0% of the Surfers Paradise population were overseas born, 12.5% in main English speaking countries and 16.5% in other countries. The proportion of overseas born people in Surfers Paradise was higher than for Gold Coast City (24.4%) (Table 5).

**Table 5. Place of birth**  
Persons (excluding overseas visitors)

Place of birth	1991		1996		2001	
	Surfers Paradise		GCC		GCC	
	%	%	%	No.	%	%
Australia	58.9	58.8	51.1	11,991	69.1	
MES(a)	13.9	13.6	12.5	2,924	15.2	
NMES(b)	18.8	19.9	16.5	3,869	9.2	
Not stated	8.4	7.8	19.9	4,659	6.5	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>23,443</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

(a) Main English speaking countries: comprises United Kingdom, USA, Ireland, South Africa, New Zealand and Canada

(b) Non-Main English Speaking Countries: other than the MES countries

## Household types

In 2001, 19.5% of the population of Surfers Paradise lived in a family comprising a couple with children (compared to 44.9% for Gold Coast City), and 29.3% lived in couple only households. The proportion of people in one parent families increased from 7.5% in 1991 to 7.6% in 2001, while the proportion of people living alone increased from 18.7% to 22.5% (Table 6).

**Table 6. Household types**  
Persons in family, group and lone person h/holds (excl overseas visitors)

Household type and Family type	1991 (a)		1996		2001 (b)	
	Surfers Paradise		GCC		GCC	
	%	%	%	No.	%	%
One family household:						
Couple with children	23.2	19.9	19.5	2,569	44.9	
Couple without children	30.4	29.7	29.3	3,864	23.1	
One parent family	7.5	7.7	7.6	1,004	12.9	
Other family	2.0	1.7	1.8	237	1.0	
Total	63.1	59.1	58.2	7,674	81.9	
Multi-family household	0.9	1.3	0.7	94	1.8	
Lone person household	18.7	21.4	22.5	2,964	10.7	
Group household	17.3	18.2	18.5	2,444	5.6	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>13,176</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

(a) In 1991, 'Manufactured Home Estates' and 'Accommodation for the Retired or Aged (self-care)' have been excluded. These dwellings were Non-private dwellings in 1991.

(b) In 2001, Serviced Apartments and persons living in Serviced Apartments have been included. These dwellings were Non-private dwellings in 1991 and 1996.

## Tenure of dwellings

Of the 11,460 occupied private dwellings in Surfers Paradise, 25.0% were fully owned (down from 31.3% in 1991), 7.4% were being purchased and 39.5% were being rented. Surfers Paradise recorded higher proportions of dwellings being rented and lower proportions being purchased than Gold Coast City (Table 7).

**Table 7. Tenure of dwellings**  
Occupied private dwellings

Tenure type	1991(a)		1996		2001(b)	
	Surfers Paradise		GCC		GCC	
	%	%	%	No.	%	%
Fully owned	31.3	29.7	25.0	2,862	33.3	
Being purchased(c)	4.7	6.2	7.4	852	22.8	
Rented:						
State Housing Authority	0.5	0.1	0.3	40	2.5	
Other landlord type(c)	41.7	44.7	38.0	4,351	31.7	
Not stated	3.4	0.7	1.2	135	0.5	
Other Tenure type(c)	18.4	18.6	28.1	3,220	9.2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>11,460</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

(a) In 1991, 'Manufactured Home Estates' and 'Accommodation for the Retired or Aged (self care)' have been excluded. These dwellings were Non-private dwellings in 1991.

(b) In 2001, Serviced apartments and persons living in Serviced apartments have been included. These dwellings were Non-private dwellings in 1991 and 1996

(c) There were changes in definition between the 1991 and 1996 Census.

## Dwellings

In Surfers Paradise in 2001, 12.4% of all private dwellings were separate houses (down from 14.5% in 1991), 7.0% were semi-detached, row/terrace or townhouses (up from 3.6%), and 74.8% were flats, units or apartments (down from 80.1%). In Gold Coast City, 57.1% of dwellings were separate houses, 16.1% were semi-detached and 23.6% were flats (Table 8). The average household size in Surfers Paradise declined from 2.0 people per occupied private dwelling in 1991 to 1.9 in 2001.

**Table 8. Dwellings**  
Private dwellings (occupied and unoccupied)

Dwelling Structure	1991(a)		1996		2001(b)	
	Surfers Paradise		GCC		GCC	
	%	%	%	No.	%	%
Separate house	14.5	13.8	12.4	1,653	57.1	
Semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse	3.6	3.0	7.0	928	16.1	
Flat, unit or apartment:						
In 1 or 2 storey block	14.6	14.5	10.4	1,385	8.0	
In 3 or more storey block	65.4	65.3	64.4	8,591	15.3	
Attached to a house	0.2	0.2	0.1	7	0.3	
Total	80.1	80.0	74.8	9,983	23.6	
Other dwelling:						
Caravan, houseboat	0.0	0.0	0.2	21	1.5	
Improvised, tent etc	0.0	0.0	0.2	25	0.1	
Attached to a shop, office	0.1	0.1	0.1	14	0.2	
Total	0.1	0.1	0.4	60	1.7	
Not stated	1.6	3.1	5.4	723	1.6	

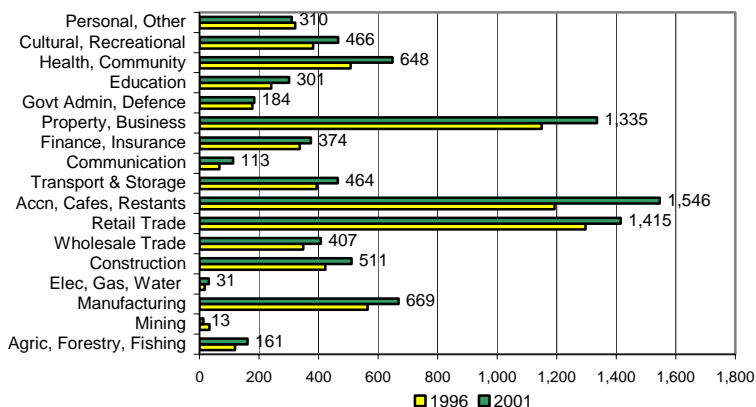
(a) In 1991, 'Manufactured Home Estates' and 'Accommodation for the Retired or Aged (self-care)' have been excluded. These dwellings were Non-private dwellings in 1991.

(b) In 2001, Serviced Apartments and persons living in Serviced Apartments have been included. These dwellings were Non-private dwellings in 1991 and 1996.

## Industry

The main industry of employment in 2001 was Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurants (1,546 people or 16.8% of employed people) followed by Retail Trade (1,415 people or 15.4%) (Figure 2). Since 1996, the biggest increase was recorded in the number of people working in Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurants and the biggest decrease was in Mining.

**Figure 2. Industry**  
Employed persons (excluding overseas visitors)



## Other population facts from the 2001 Census

	Surfers Paradise	GCC
Visitors from different SLA (No.) (a)	13,889	48,720
Lived at same address 5 years ago (%) (b)	23.4	38.5
Households with no motor vehicle (%) (a)	18.1	9.1

(a) Sourced from Basic Community Profile, ABS 2001 Census of Population and Housing

(b) Sourced from Usual Residents Profile, ABS 2001 Census of Population and Housing

This profile was prepared by the Planning Information and Forecasting Unit, Department of Local Government and Planning, for Gold Coast City Council