



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

# Employment trends and the Australian labour market

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# Labour Market Performance

The Australian labour market has strengthened significantly over the last 20 years

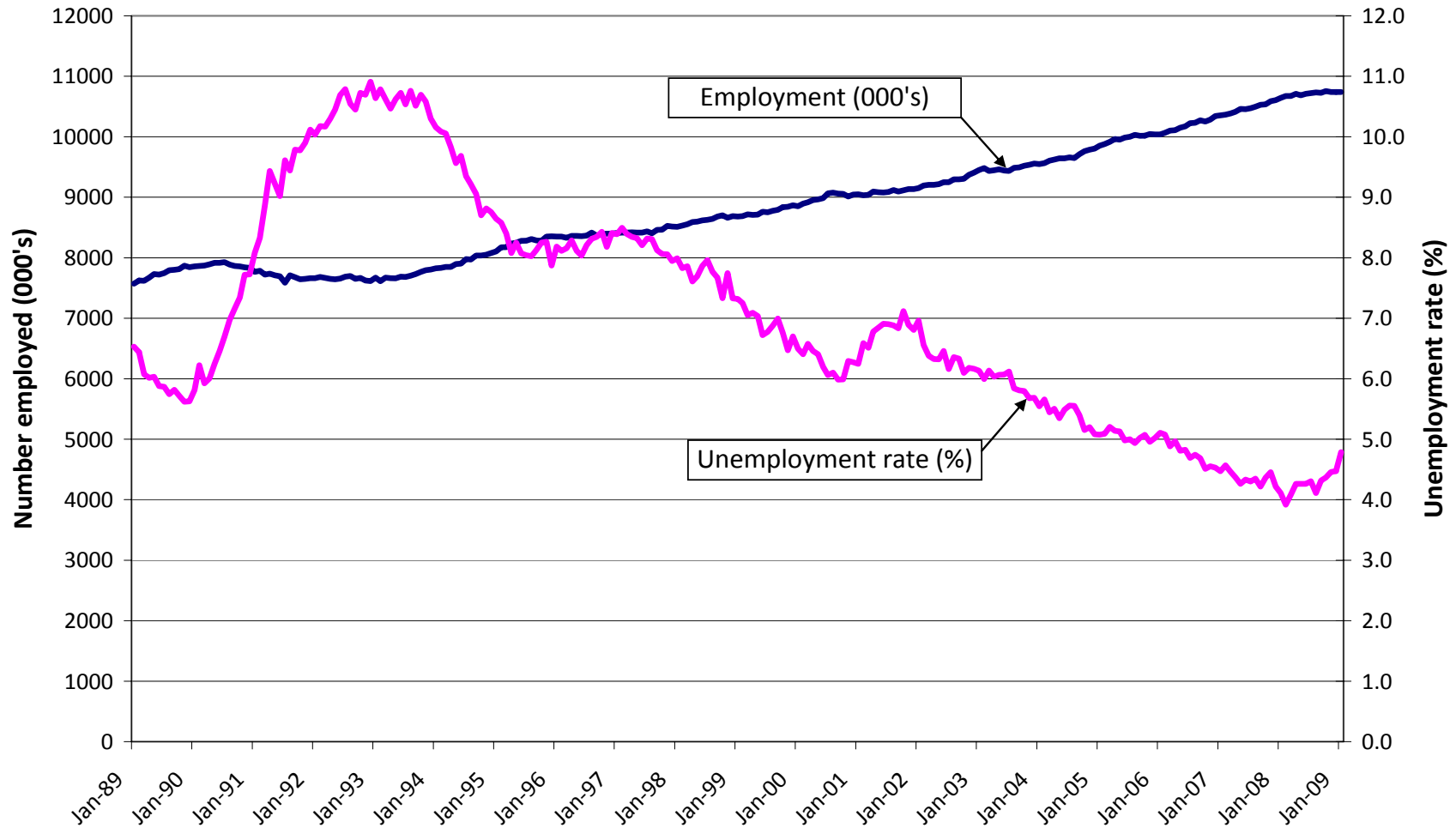
- Almost 3.2 million jobs have been created
- Unemployment rate: 4.8%
- Participation rate has increased to 65.1%

However, in recent months, the Global Financial Crisis has begun to have an adverse effect on labour market conditions

- The number of unemployed people increased by 17.4% between August 2008 and January 2009
- Over this time, the unemployment rate increased from 4.1% to 4.8%



# Labour Market Performance



Source: ABS *Labour Force, Australia*, January 2009

# Structural change in Australia

Since the 1970s, Australia's economic base has shifted from primary and secondary industries to service based industries

While Manufacturing output has increased over this time, growth in output and employment in the industry has been slower than in other industries

➤ Employment in Manufacturing fell by 1.7% between November 1998 and November 2008

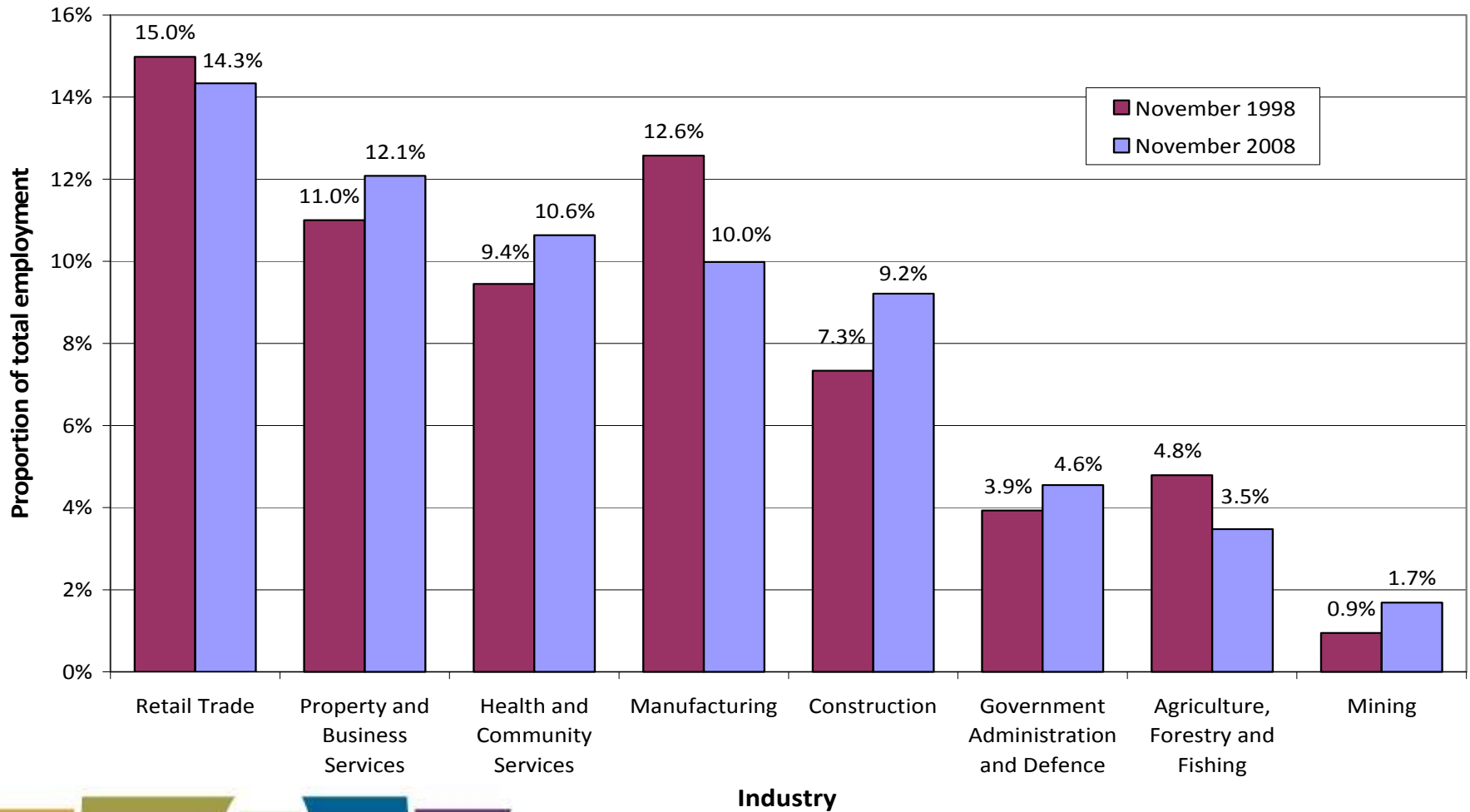
Over the same period, employment in service industries, such as Property and Business Services and Health and Community Services has increased significantly



Source: ABS *Labour Force Survey, Australia*, November 2008,  
Australian National Accounts, September 2008

# Change in industry structure

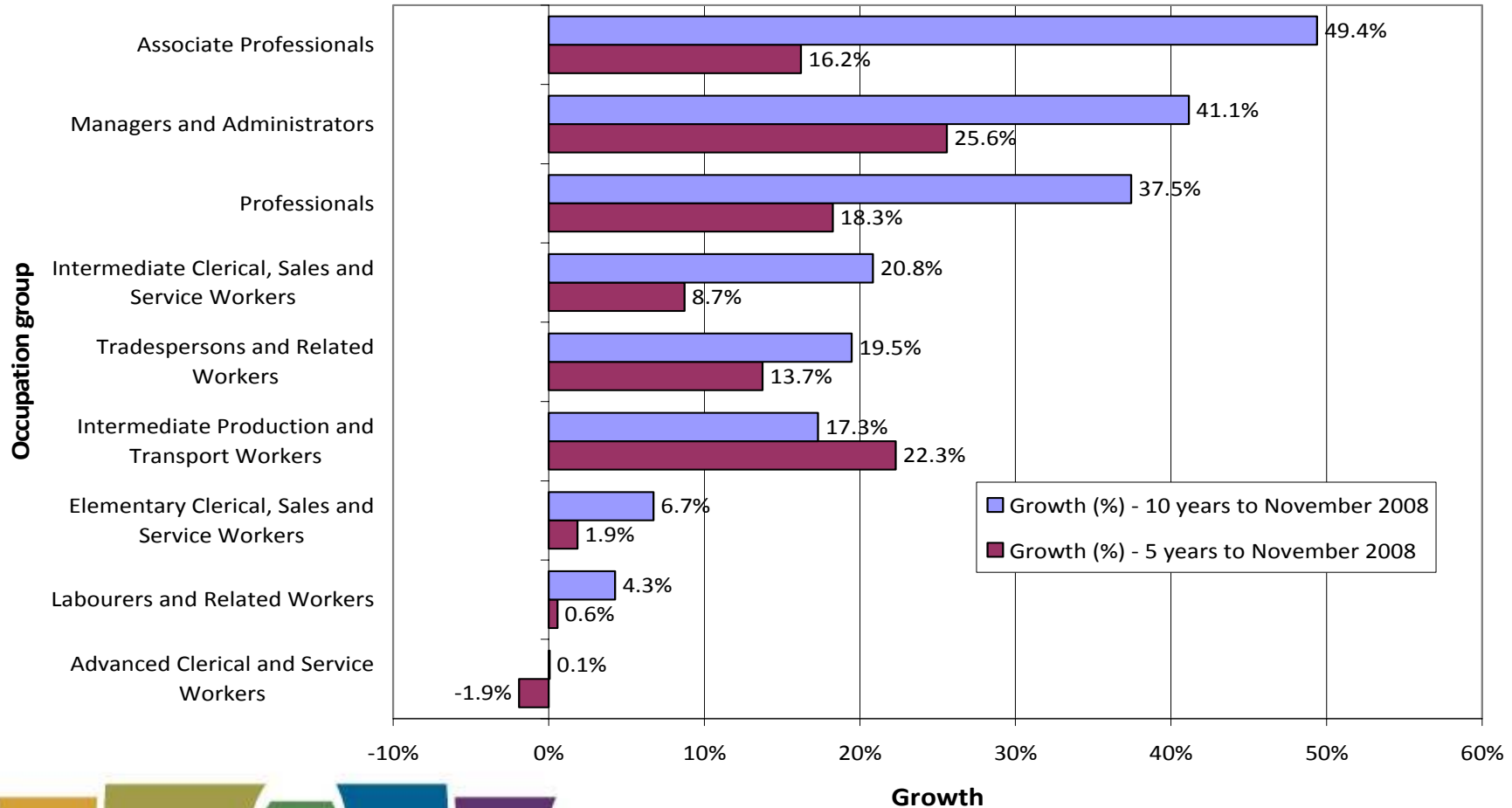
Proportion of total employment – Nov 1998 and Nov 2008



Source: ABS *Labour Force Survey, Australia*, November 1998-2008

# Employment growth by occupation

5 and 10 years change to November 2008



Source: ABS *Labour Force Survey, Australia*, November 2008

# Local Government Administration

At the time of the 2006 Census, employment in Local Government Administration made up 26.2% of total employment in the Government Administration and Defence industry

Employment in Local Government Administration grew by 33.6% between 2001 and 2006

In 2006, Local Government Administration employed 129 100 workers

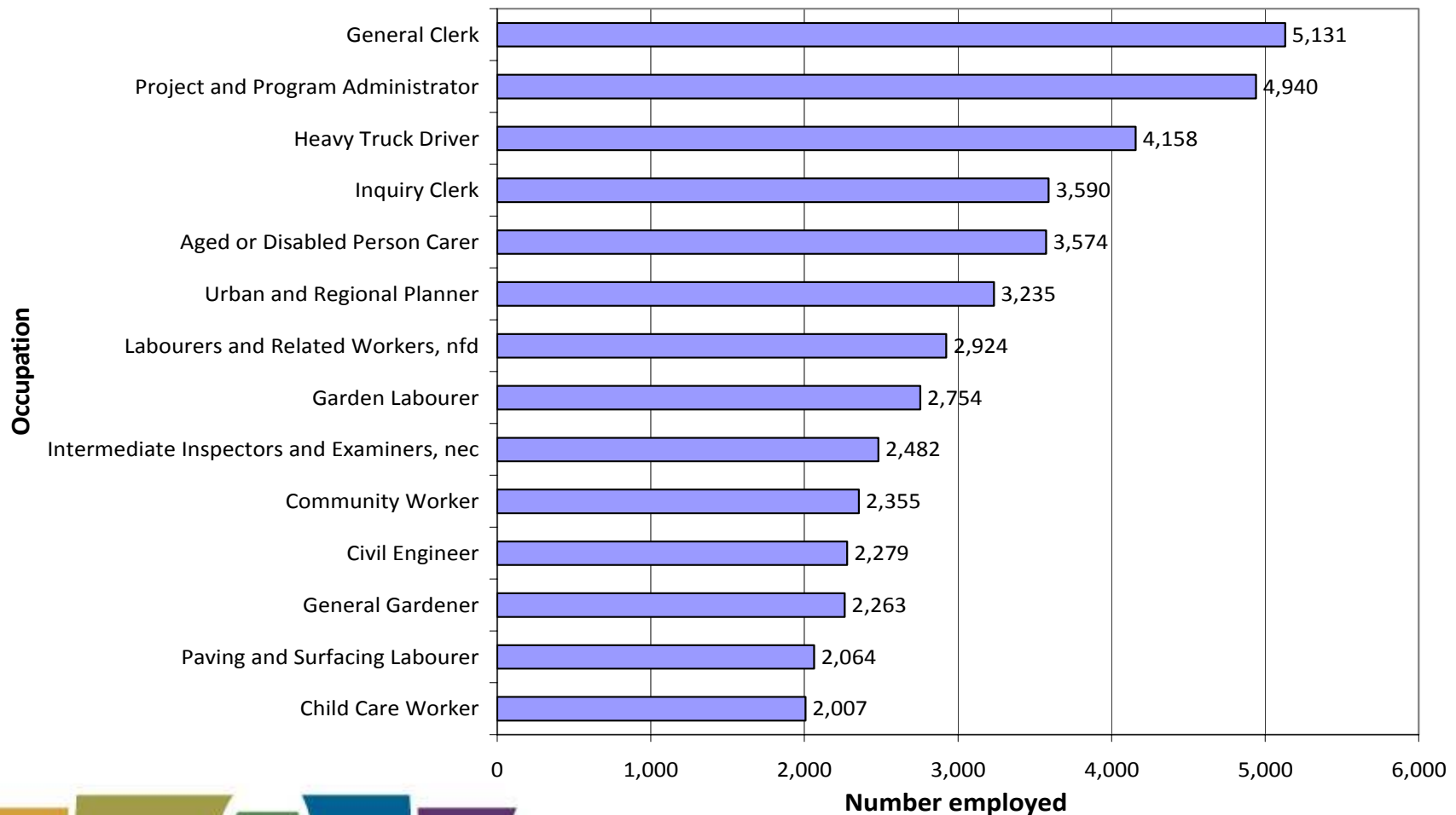
➤ A lower proportion of workers in Local Government Administration were employed in higher skilled occupations (46.0%), compared with workers across all industries (53.2%)



Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing

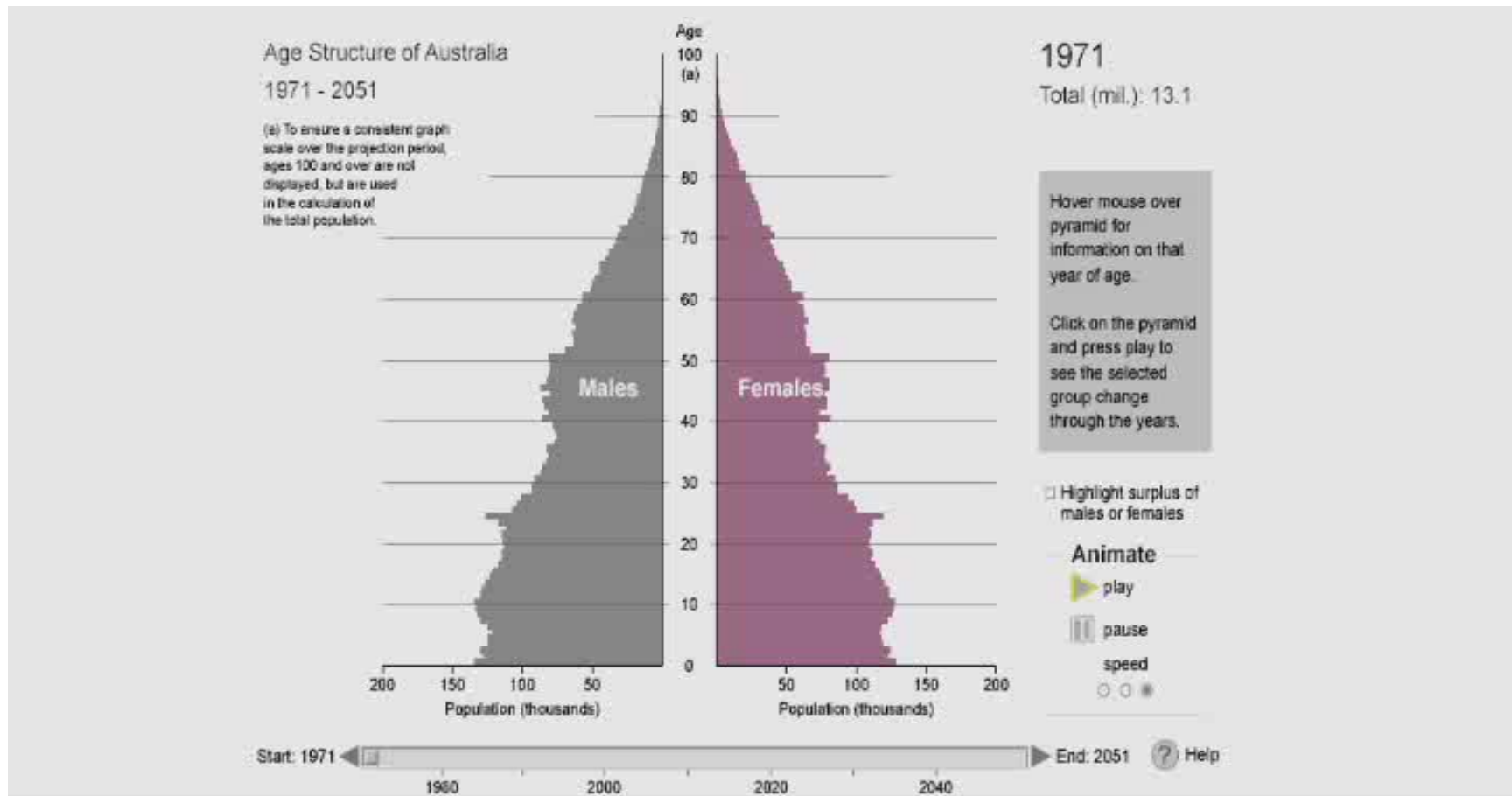
# Local Government Administration

## Most common occupations



Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing

# Ageing Population 1971 to 2051



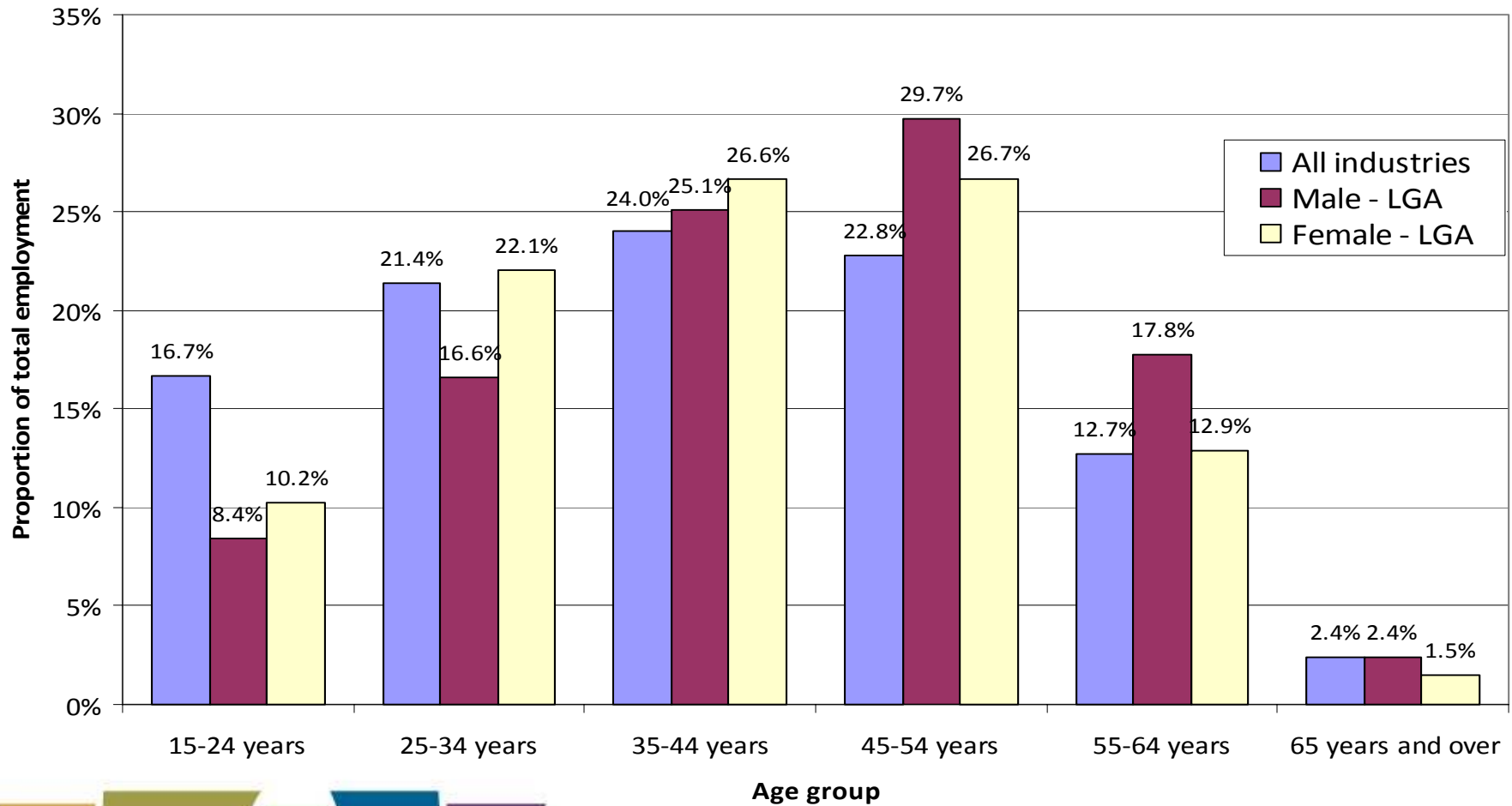
# Ageing Workforce

- The Australian workforce is getting older:
  - Around 2 out of every 5 workers are aged 45 years or older
  - Around half of the workforce in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing; Education; and Health and Community Services are aged over 45 years
  - The median age of the workforce in 2006 was 40 years
  - In 2006, 46.1% of the workforce in Local Government Administration were aged 45 years and over



# Ageing Workforce

## Local Government Administration



Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing

# Women in the workforce

Over the last 20 years, the number of females in the labour force has increased by 54.3%. In addition,

- The participation rate for females has increased to 58.3%
- Females now account for 45.4% of total employment

The number of females working in the Government Administration and Defence industry increased by 43.4% between 2001 and 2006

- At the time of the 2006 Census, females accounted for 43.7% of total employment in Local Government Administration
- Females in Local Government Administration have a younger age profile, compared with males

# Part-time workers

Over the last 20 years the number of people in part-time employment has almost doubled

- Part-time employment now accounts for 28.6% of total employment
- While females make up 71.2% of part-time workers, part-time employment growth over the last 20 years has been strongest for males
- Despite full-time employment falling by 0.6% between August 2008 and January 2008, part-time employment increased by 1.8%
- At the time of the 2006 Census, part-time workers accounted for 27.1% of total employment in Local Government Administration

# Local Government Administration

## Sex and employment status by occupation

Major employing occupations	Proportion of total employment		Total employment	Proportion employed on a part-time basis		
	Male	Female		Male	Female	Total
General Clerks	17.8%	82.2%	5134	11.3%	31.2%	27.7%
Project and Program Administrators	40.6%	59.4%	4941	6.5%	23.4%	16.6%
Truck Drivers	98.9%	1.1%	4156	5.3%	23.4%	5.5%
Mobile Construction Plant Operators	99.2%	0.8%	3993	4.7%	9.4%	4.8%
Special Care Workers	8.2%	91.8%	3779	70.8%	79.4%	78.7%
Inquiry and Admissions Clerks	17.7%	82.3%	3603	18.5%	35.6%	32.6%
Gardeners	88.3%	11.7%	3562	8.4%	19.9%	9.8%
Cleaners	48.5%	51.5%	3461	35.7%	77.5%	57.2%
Urban and Regional Planners	55.2%	44.8%	3239	6.8%	22.3%	13.7%
Civil Engineers	90.8%	9.2%	2280	5.9%	17.2%	6.9%

Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing

# The Global Financial Crisis

Latest forecasts from the Treasury

- GDP growth in Australia is predicted to slow to 1% in the 2008-09 financial year and 0.75% in 2009-10
- Employment is expected to contract in 2009 and remain weak in 2010
  - As a result, the unemployment rate is expected to rise to 5.5% by June 2009 and 7% by June 2010
- These forecasts take into account the Australian Government's \$42 billion Nation Building and Jobs Plan, which is expected to support 90 000 jobs over the forecast period



Source: Treasury, *Updated Economic and Fiscal Outlook*, February 2009

# The Global Financial Crisis

Some industries, regions and individuals will be disproportionately affected

- Industries most likely to be directly affected by the crisis are the Finance and Insurance and Property and Business Services industries
- Industries closely linked with the business cycle, such as Construction, Manufacturing and Retail Trade are also likely to be adversely affected
- In the recession of the early 1990s, regions most prone to large increases in unemployment were those that were already the most disadvantaged
- People with the least skills and experience are the most vulnerable to job loss and unemployment
  - Young people, people with low qualifications, recent migrants and people in casual employment are the most vulnerable groups



## For more information:

- ABS website: (<http://www.abs.gov.au>)
- Labour Market Information Portal:  
(<http://www.workplace.gov.au/lmip>)
- SkillsInfo: (<http://www.skillsinfo.gov.au>)
- New Jobs publication:  
(<http://www.skillsinfo.gov.au/skills/IndustryOutlooks/>)
- Australian Jobs: (<http://www.workplace.gov.au>)

