

# Labour force: Female labour force participation

Females 20 to 54 years in the labour force as a proportion of all females aged 20 to 54 years: data from the 2001 Census

## Overview

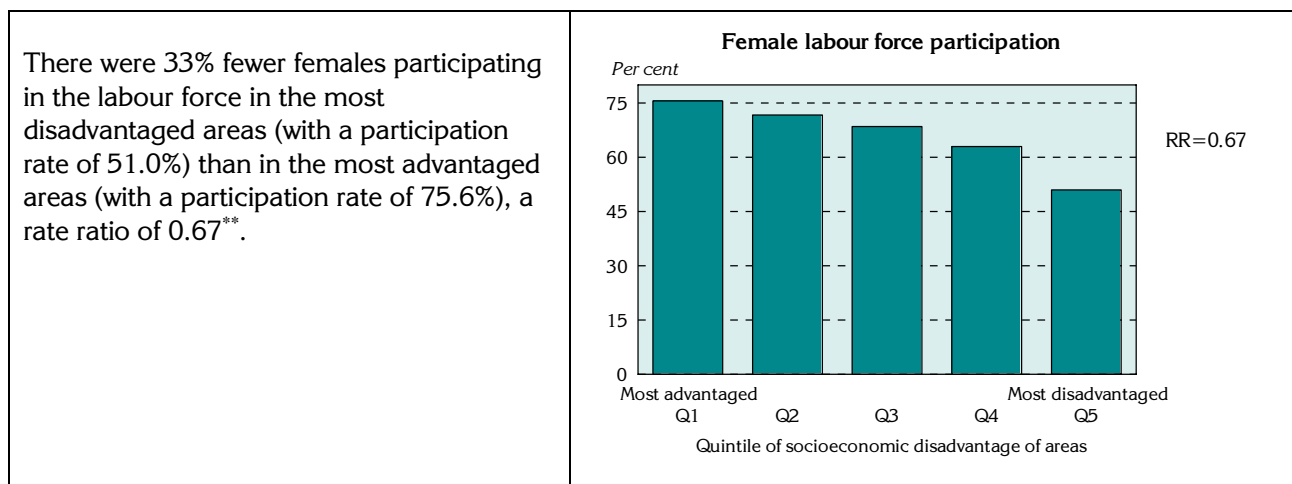
*The marked increase in women’s participation in paid work (at a time of decline in male participation) has been one of the most significant trends in Australian society over the last three decades. Women are both remaining in the work force longer (partly by delaying childbirth), and re-entering the workforce after childbirth, because of changes in social perceptions of the role of women and increased economic pressures on families.*

Approximately two thirds (65.8%, 123,130) of females aged 20 to 54 years in the Central Northern region were participating in the labour force (Table 14). The SLAs with the highest female labour force participation rates form a solid block to the east, south and south-east of the city, and stand in marked contrast to the lowest rates (Map 13). Local variations in female labour force participation have complex causes, and their implications for social health and for the provision of services such as child care are not straightforward. For example, high participation rates are not necessarily an indication of the need for child-care facilities; participation may be high partly because good services already exist, at least for better-off families. Low participation rates may indicate the existence of a welfare-dependent population, especially single mothers, for whom participation in low-paid employment has not been financially worthwhile.

The highest participation rates in this region were in Adelaide Hills - Ranges (77.3%), Unley - East (77.1%), Norwood Payneham St Peter’s - West (76.8%), Adelaide Hills - Central (76.3%), Burnside - North-East and Unley - West (both 75.9%), Burnside - South-West (75.5%) and Prospect (75.0%).

The largest number were located in Tea Tree Gully - South (5,597), Charles Sturt - Coastal (5,445), Tea Tree Gully - North (5,364), Salisbury - South-East (5,335), Tea Tree Gully - Central (5,019), Campbelltown - East (4,748) and Port Adelaide Enfield - Coast (4,658).

The lowest female labour force participation rate was in Playford - West Central (36.4%, 1,086), followed by - Elizabeth (39.2%, 2,149), Port Adelaide Enfield - Port (48.7%, 2,889), Salisbury - Inner North (53.2%, 3,409) and - Central (54.0%, 3,650), Port Adelaide Enfield - Inner (55.2%, 2,458), Salisbury Balance (55.7%, 792) and Playford - West (58.5%, 1,142).



Note: In the chart, Q1 to Q5 are groupings of areas (quintiles), where Q1 represents the most socioeconomically advantaged 20% of the population and Q5 represents the most socioeconomically disadvantaged 20%.

Map 13: Female labour force participation, CNAHS, 2001

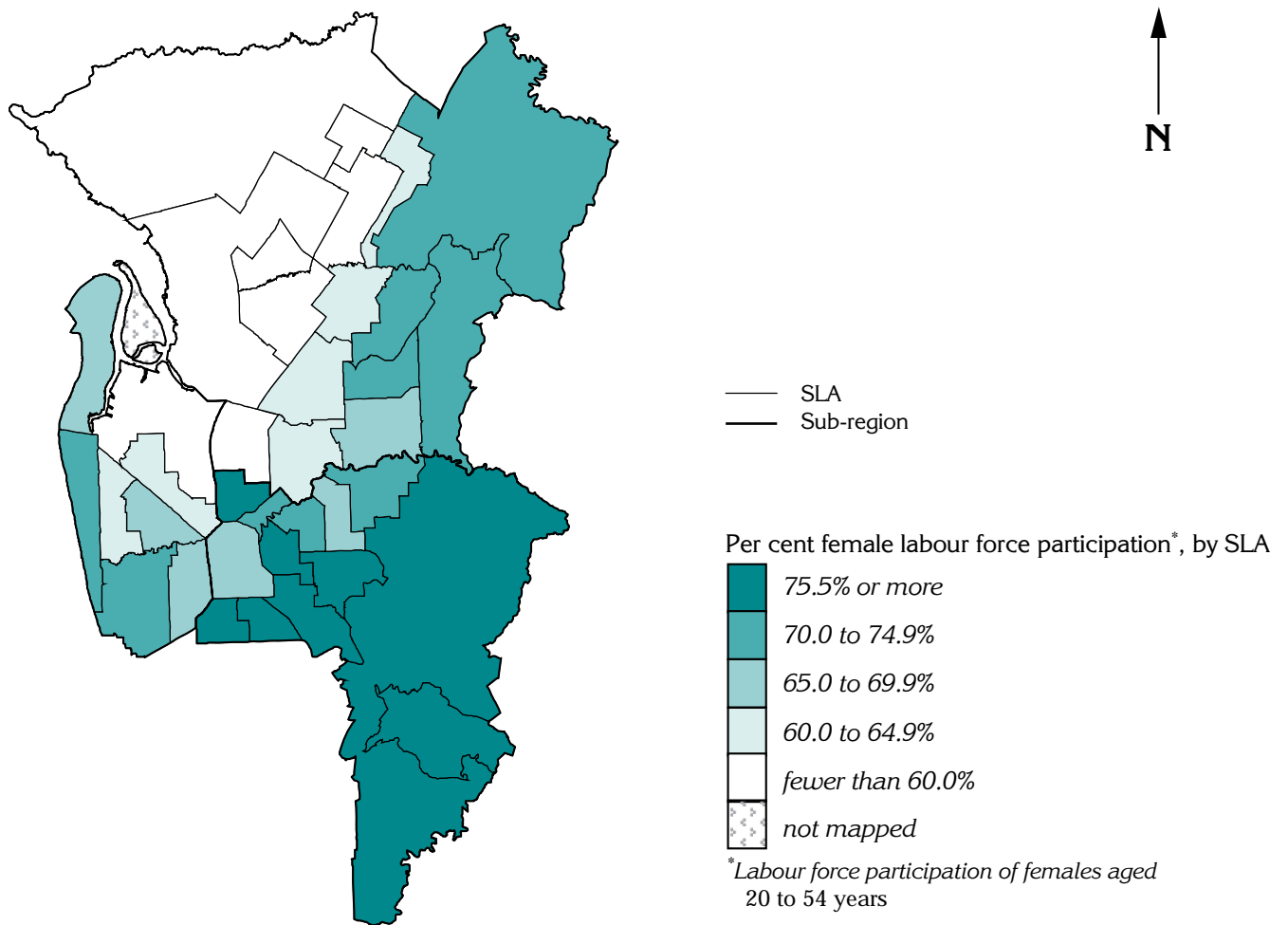


Table 14: Female labour force participation, CNAHS, 2001

Area	Number	Per cent
<b>CNAHS</b>		
Quintile 1: most advantaged areas	27,036	75.6
Quintile 2	26,702	71.7
Quintile 3	27,784	68.5
Quintile 4	21,281	63.0
Quintile 5: most disadvantaged areas	20,327	51.0
<b>Rate ratio</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>0.67**</b>
<b>Northern</b>	<b>49,805</b>	<b>60.8</b>
<b>Western</b>	<b>32,510</b>	<b>65.0</b>
<b>Central East</b>	<b>40,815</b>	<b>73.9</b>
<b>CNAHS</b>	<b>123,130</b>	<b>65.8</b>
<b>Southern</b>	<b>54,541</b>	<b>68.6</b>
<b>Metropolitan regions</b>	<b>177,671</b>	<b>66.6</b>
<b>State total</b>	<b>238,979</b>	<b>66.3</b>

\* indicates statistical significance: see page 19