

AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL

PROFILE

Australian Rules Football is played by almost 120,000 adults nationally.

On average, Australian Rules Football participants:

- Will be a young, single male
- Are most likely to be employed in the transport industry, or as a tradesman or in intermediate production
- Have attained a Secondary School Certificate
- Will live in a non-capital city region of Victoria, South Australia or Tasmania
- Will be Australian born

Other organised sports and physical activities undertaken by Australian Rules Football participants include the more traditional sports of outdoor cricket, basketball, golf, tennis and netball.

AGE AND GENDER

Australian Rules Football is played by almost 1% of Australians aged 18 years and over. While it is played by a small number of females, it is almost exclusively a sport undertaken by males, who account for 98.3% (117,900) of all Australian Rules Football participants.

Australian Rules Football tends to be dominated by younger people. Indeed, 54% (64,500) of all participants are aged between 18-24 years. The 25-34 year age group accounts for a further 37.2% (44,600) of players, while persons aged 35 years and over, who represent 51.8% of participants in all organised sport comprise only 8.9% of Australian Rules Football participants.

Like most other sports and physical activities, participation rates declines progressively with age. For persons aged 18-24 years, 3.6% this population group participate in the sport, while 1.6% of 25-34 year olds play Australian Rules Football. This rate decreases to 0.3% for persons aged 35 years and over.

RESIDENCE

South Australia has the highest participation rate of people taking part in Australian Rules Football, with 2.2% of the population aged 18 years and over participating in the sport. Tasmania, the Northern Territory, Victoria and Western Australia have participation rates of 2.1%, 1.8%, 1.6% and 1.5% respectively. Only New South Wales and Queensland have participation rates lower than the Australian average of almost 1%.

For all organised sports and physical activities, people residing in non-capital city regions have higher participation rates than those people living in a capital city (31% compared to 26.2%). This is also observed for Australian Rules Football,

with 1.1% of non-capital city residents participating in the sport compared to 0.8% of capital city residents benefiting from the sport.

BIRTHPLACE

Participants in Australian Rules Football are unlikely to have been born outside Australia. Of all Australian Rules Football participants, only 3.6% of them were not born in Australia. The proportion of Australian born adults who participate in Australian Rules is 96.4%, which is much higher than the percentage of Australian born adults in the whole population (72.6%). For players born overseas, the rate of participation for those born in the United Kingdom, Ireland or New Zealand is 0.2% and for people born in “other countries” only 0.1% participate in Australian Rules Football.

MARITAL STATUS

The dominance of young men playing Australian Rules Football is largely why there is a high proportion of persons who have never been married participating in this sport.

The proportion of Australian Rules players who have never been married is 61.1% (73,200 people), and is significantly higher than both the proportion of Australian adults, and the number of all sports participants who have never been married (22.1% and 29.5% respectively).

The situation is reverse for those participants who are married, with 37.2% of participants married. This compared to 61.1% of all participants in sport and physical activity and 64.5% of all Australian adults who are married.

LABOUR FORCE STATUS

Australian Rules Football players seem to leave school at a younger age without pursuing tertiary studies.

Just over 80% of participants in Australian Rules Football are employed, either full time or part time. By comparison, for all sports and physical activities, 73.1% are employed, while only 60.5% of all Australians are employed.

While a high percentage of Australian Rules Football participants are employed, a relatively high proportion is unemployed – 10.3% compared to 4.5% of all Australian adults and 4.1% of all participants in other sports. The remaining 9% of participants are not in the labour force (presumably some are students), compared with 33.8% of Australian adults not being in the labour force.

OCCUPATION AND INDUSTRY

A higher proportion, 18.2%, of Australian Rules Football players work as intermediate production and transport workers than any other single occupation group. Within the whole Australian population there are only 5.5% of adults working with this type of occupation.

Trade persons and related workers (15.9%) and labourers and related workers (9.2%) are other occupations in which high proportions of Australian Rules players' work. Both of these percentages are higher than the proportion of all Australians with these occupations. Only 10.8% of all Australian adults are trades people while 4.7% are labourers.

Very few people are represented in professional, managerial or advanced clerical occupations. Only 8.2% of Australian Rules Footballers compared with 22% of all sports participants and 28.4% of all Australians have this type of occupation.

Similar proportions of Australian Rules players worked in the manufacturing, electricity and gas or construction industries, 23%, or in wholesale trade or retail trade industries, 21%. This contrasts to the entire Australian population where the percentage of persons in these industries was 13.5% and 10.8% respectively.

Another 10.5% of Australian Rules participants work in the agriculture, forestry and fishing and mining industries. In comparison, only 3.2% of all Australian adults work in these industries.

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

The highest educational qualification attained by the majority of Australian Rules participants was a Secondary School Certificate. This qualification was held by 64.7% of participants. This percentage was higher than the proportion of all organised sport and physical activities with a secondary school certificate at 45.2%, and of all Australian adults with this qualification, which was 51.6%.

The percentage of Australian Rules participants with a trade certificate was 14.9%. The number of Australian rules participants with this qualification was higher than the percentage of all adults with the qualification, which was 12.3%. This reflects the higher than average percentage of Australian Rules players whose occupation is in the trade and related workers group.

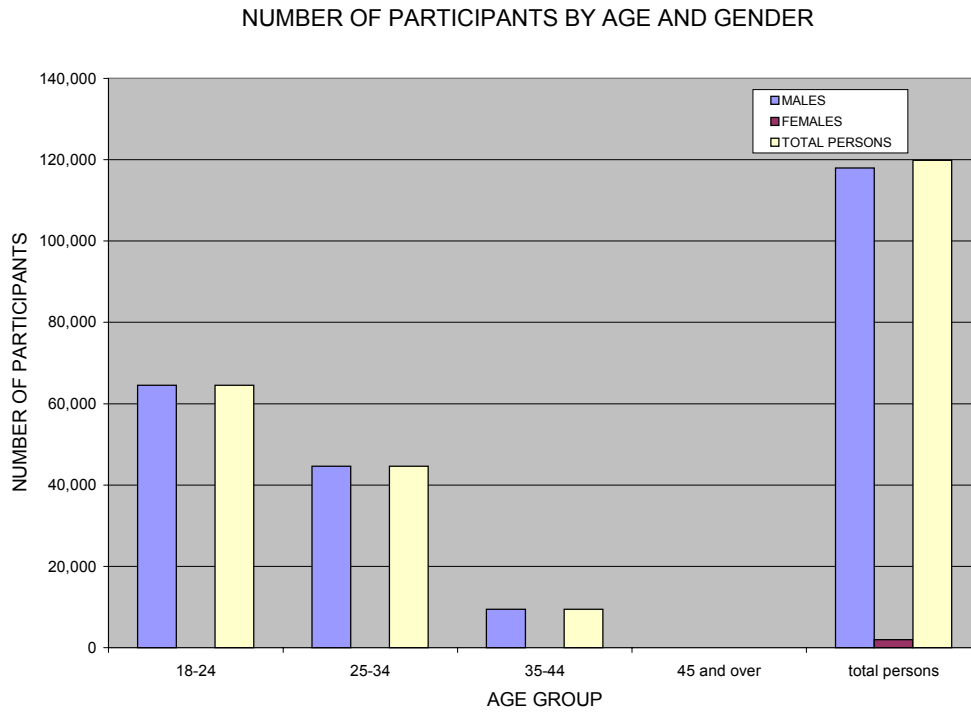
Few footballers have bachelors degrees or diplomas in relation to the rest of the sports participants in Australia.

OTHER ORGANISED SPORTS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

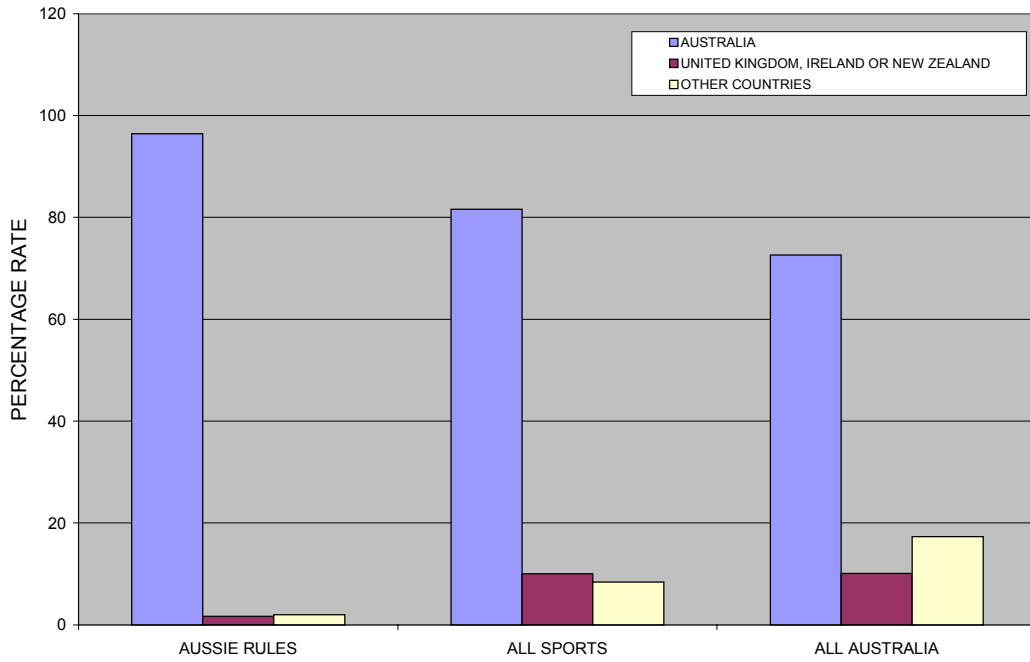
Australian Rules Football participants play a wide range of other sports. However, 41.3% (49,500) of its participants play only this sport. Just over 35.9% (43,000) participates in one additional sport or physical activity. Only 16.6% (19,900) takes part in two other sports and 6.2% (7,500) play in three or more sports or physical activities.

Of the other organised sports or physical activities played by footballers, outdoor cricket is the most popular. Over 21.2% (25,400 people) also participate in this

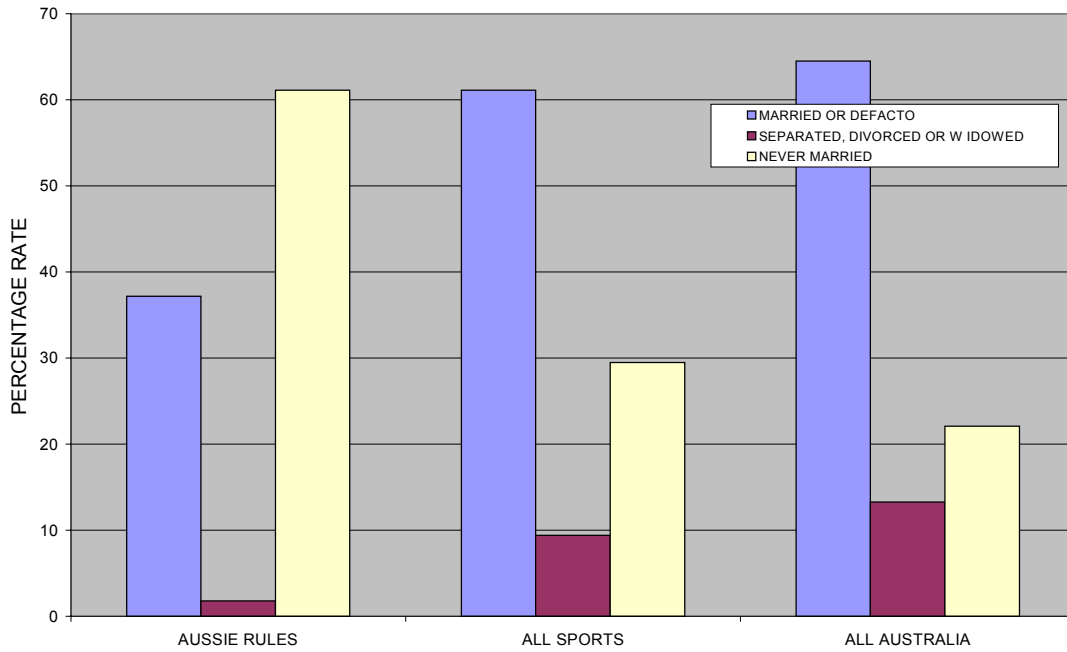
sport. Other pursuits favoured by Australian Rules participants include basketball (11,000), golf (9,700), tennis (9,400) and netball (8,100).



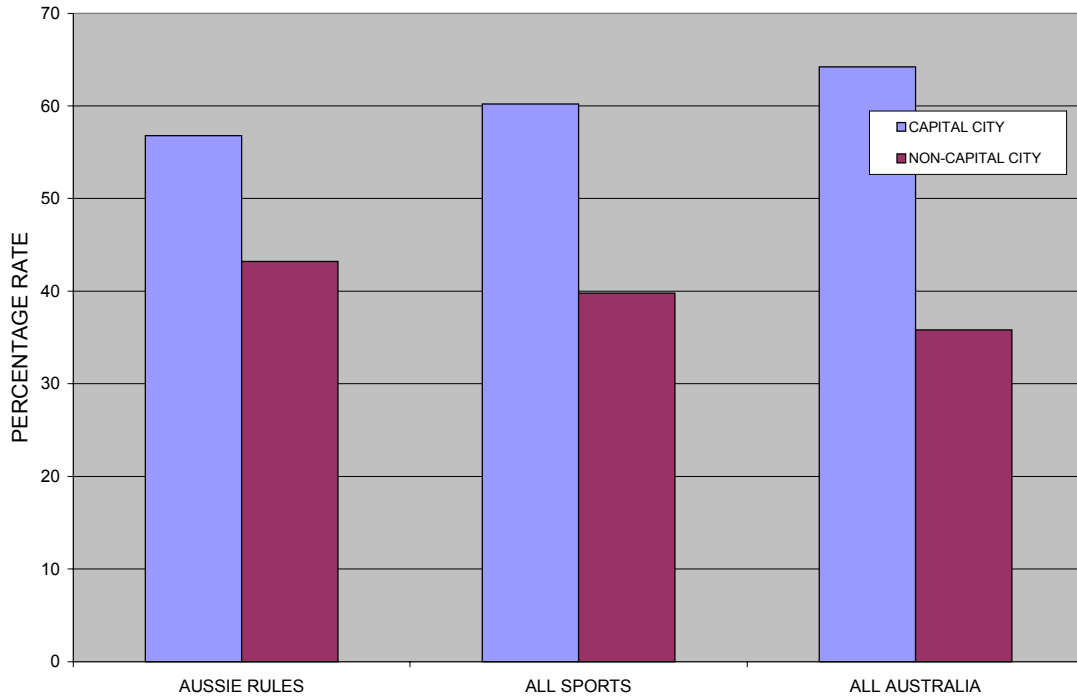
RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH



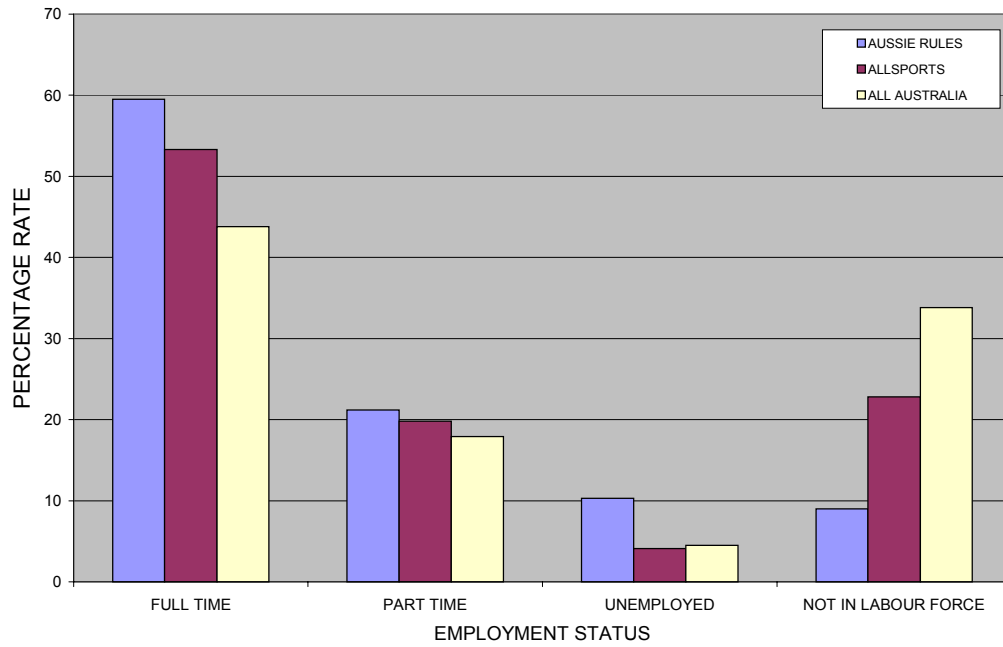
RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY MARITAL STATUS



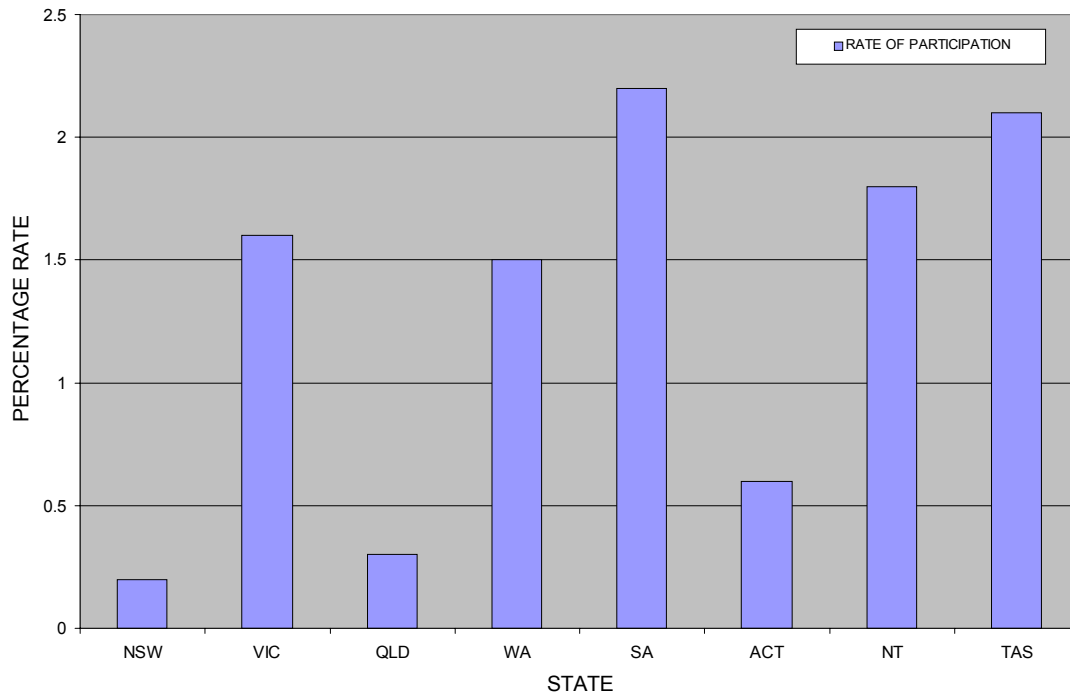
RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY CAPITAL CITY VS NON-CAPITAL CITY



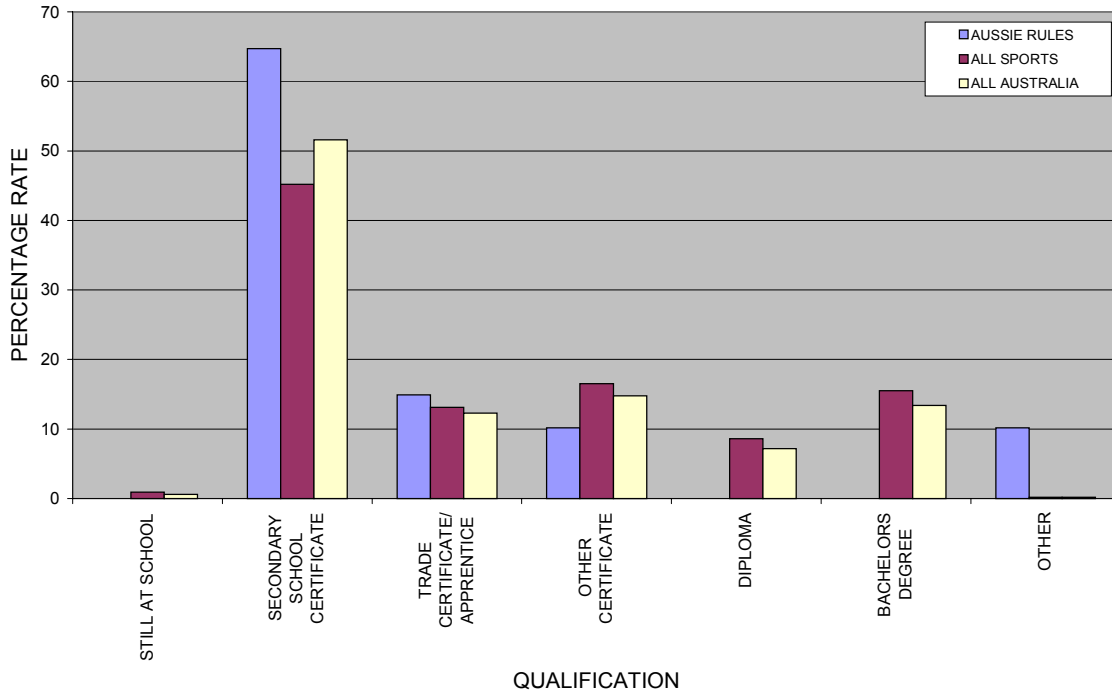
RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS



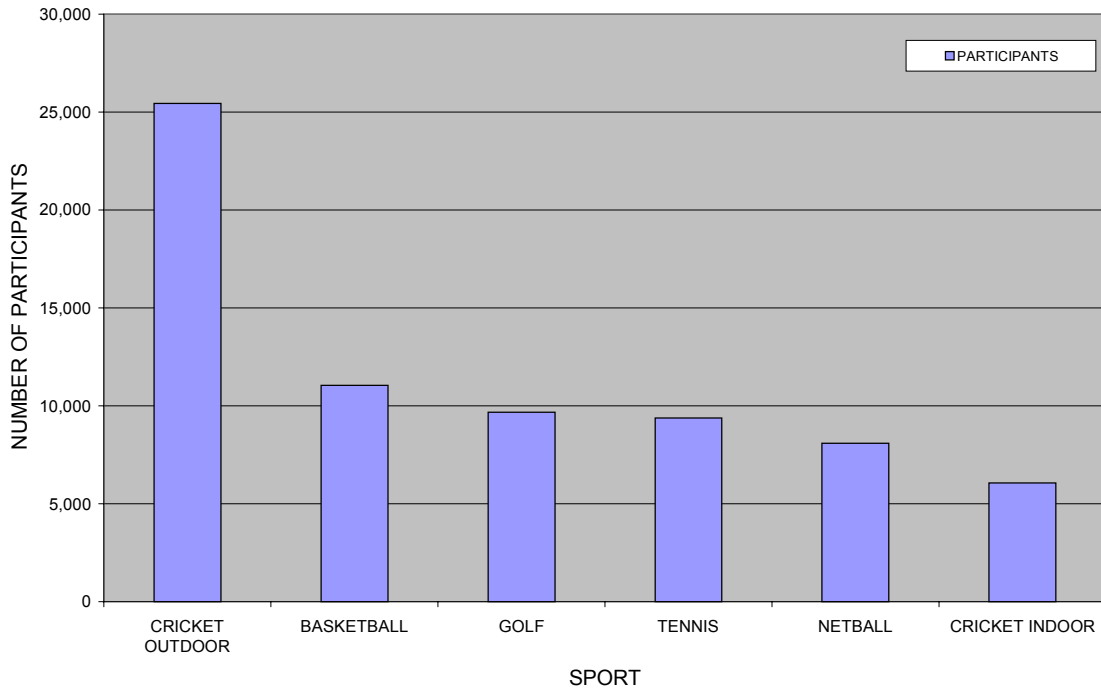
RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY STATE



RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION



OTHER SPORTS PLAYED BY AUSSIE RULES PARTICIPANTS



NUMBER OF SPORTS PLAYED BY AUSSIE RULES PARTICIPANTS AND ALL PARTICIPANTS

