

OUTDOOR SOCCER

PROFILE

There are just under 129,000 people over the age of 18 participating in soccer in Australia.

On average, soccer participants:

- Are male, aged 34 years and younger
- Reside in the capital city region of New South Wales
- Are Australian born
- Will probably be married
- Are likely to be employed as professionals and trades related workers
- Possess a secondary school certificate
- Earn more than \$19,000 per year.

Most participants in soccer will only play this sport. Those who do play other sports and physical activities are likely to participate in aerobics and fitness, golf, outdoor cricket and touch football.

AGE AND GENDER

Soccer is played by almost 129,000 adults nationally. This is a participation rate of 1% for the population aged 18 years or over. While it is played by some 14,500 women, it is predominately a sport undertaken by males, who account for 88.7% of all participants.

Like most other sports, participation declines with age. Persons in the 18-24 years age group who play soccer, participate at a rate of 2.7%. This age group represents 38% of all participants in soccer. The 25-34 year age group accounts for a similar proportion of soccer players -37.5% - though their participation rate of 1.8% is significantly lower than the previous age groups. Persons aged 35 years or over, who represent 51.8% of participants in all organised sports and physical activities constitute 24.5% of all soccer players.

RESIDENCE

In terms of participation rates, New South Wales has the greatest proportion of soccer participants. Indeed, 14 in every one thousand adults play soccer in New South Wales; this is a participation rate of 1.4%. The only other region, which has a participation rate higher than the Australian average of 1%, is the Australian Capital Territory where 1.2% of the adult population participates in soccer.

For all other organised sports and physical activities, people living in non-capital city regions have a higher participation rate than those living in capital cities – 31% compared to 26.2%. However, for soccer, the reverse is true. Almost three-quarters of soccer players (72.8%) live in the capital city region, equivalent to a participation rate for people in this area of 1.1%. By contrast, the participation rate for people living in non-capital city regions is 0.8%.

BIRTHPLACE

The majority of soccer players were born in Australia. Indeed, 71% of soccer players are Australian born, while 11.4% were born in the United Kingdom, Ireland and New Zealand and 17.6% were born in “other countries”. These proportions are virtually the same as the percentage of all adult Australians born in these countries – 72.6% were born in Australia, 10.1% were born in the United Kingdom, Ireland or New Zealand and 17.3% were born in “other countries”. Soccer is, compared with most other sports, unsurprisingly popular with people born in “other countries”.

MARITAL STATUS

The proportion of married soccer players (49.3%) is lower than both the proportion of married people participating in organised sport and physical activities (61.1%) and the percentage of married Australians (64.5%). The situation is reversed for persons who have never been married. Indeed, 46.4% of players have never been married, while for all organised sport and physical activity participants and all Australians aged 18 years or over, the proportions in this category are 29.5% and 22.1% respectively.

LABOUR FORCE STATUS

Almost 90% of soccer players are employed and only 7.4% are not in the labour force. By comparison, for all sport and physical activity participants, 73.1% are employed and 22.8% are neither working nor looking for work.

OCCUPATION AND INDUSTRY

Higher proportions of soccer players work as professionals (19.1%) than any other single occupation group. Within the whole Australian population, 11.4% of people have an occupation that falls within this group.

Trades persons and related workers (16.1%) and associate professionals (13.1%) are other occupations in which high proportions of soccer player's work. Both these percentages are higher than the proportion of all Australians with these occupations (9.1% of all Australians are trades persons and related workers and 5.8% are associate professionals). Relatively few soccer players are managers and administrators, or advanced clerical and service workers.

Over 22% of all soccer players work in the manufacturing industry. By comparison, only 8.1% of all Australian adults work in this industry.

Other industries in which high proportions of soccer player work are retailing (13.2%) and the construction industry (11.8%). The percentages of all Australians working in these industries are 9% and 5.1% respectively.

HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION

The highest qualification attained by more soccer players than any other qualification is a secondary school certificate, held by 39.3% of participants. This percentage is lower than the proportions of all organised sport and physical activity participants with a secondary school certificate (45.2%) and all persons with this qualification (51.6%).

There is also a high proportion of soccer players with a bachelors degree (23%) or a trade certificate (22.3%). Both of these proportions are higher than the percentage of all Australians with these qualifications – 13.4% and 12.3% respectively.

INCOME

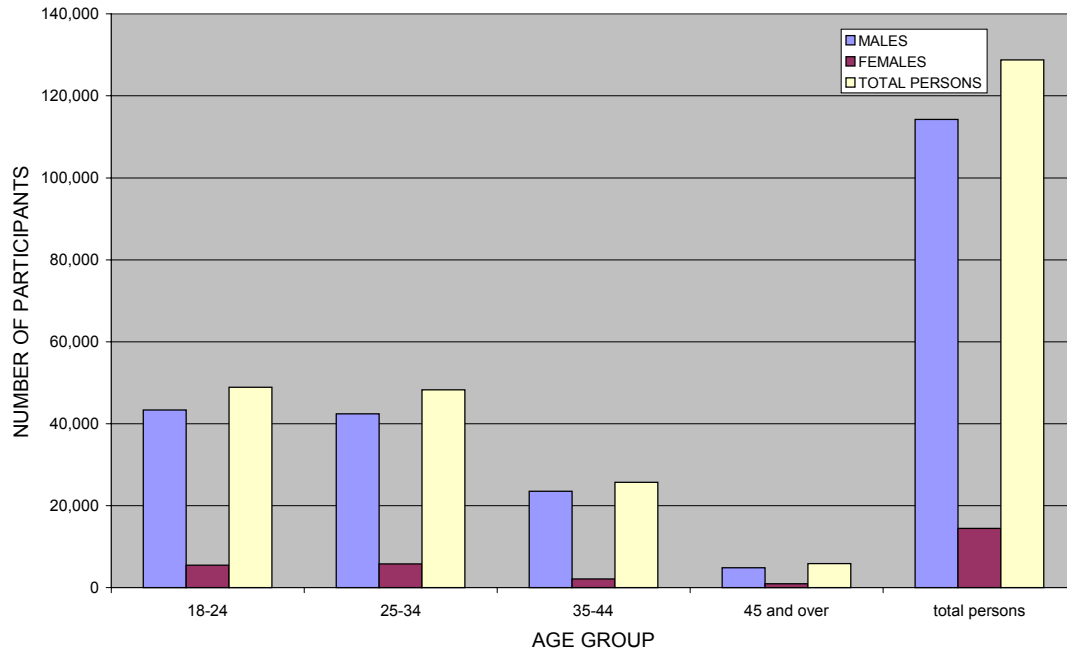
Soccer players generally earn higher incomes than all sport and physical activity participants – the proportion of soccer players who earn more than \$38,000 per annum (38.3%) is much higher than the proportion of all sports participants with this level of income (23.2%). At the lower income level, 11.4% of soccer players earn \$9,000 per annum or less, about half the percentage of all sport and physical activity participants with incomes in this range (22.5%).

OTHER ORGANISED SPORTS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

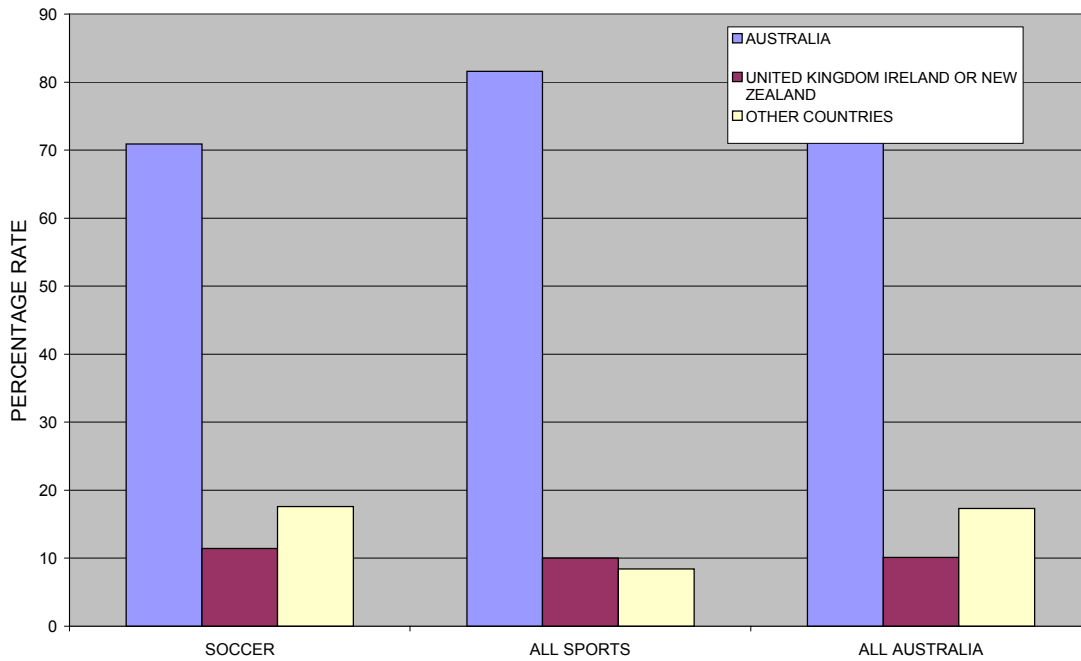
Soccer is the only organised sport or physical activity undertaken by 58.2% (75,000 people) of all participants in this sport. A further 27.6% (35,600 people) participate in one additional sport, while 9.7% (12,500 people) take part in two others, and 4.5% (5,700 people) play in three or more other sports or physical activities.

Of the other organised sports and physical activities undertaken by soccer players, aerobics and fitness (9,000 participants) and golf (7,800 participants) are the most popular. Other pursuits favoured by soccer participants include outdoor cricket (5,900) and touch football (4,600). There are 4,400 participants in outdoor soccer who also play indoor soccer.

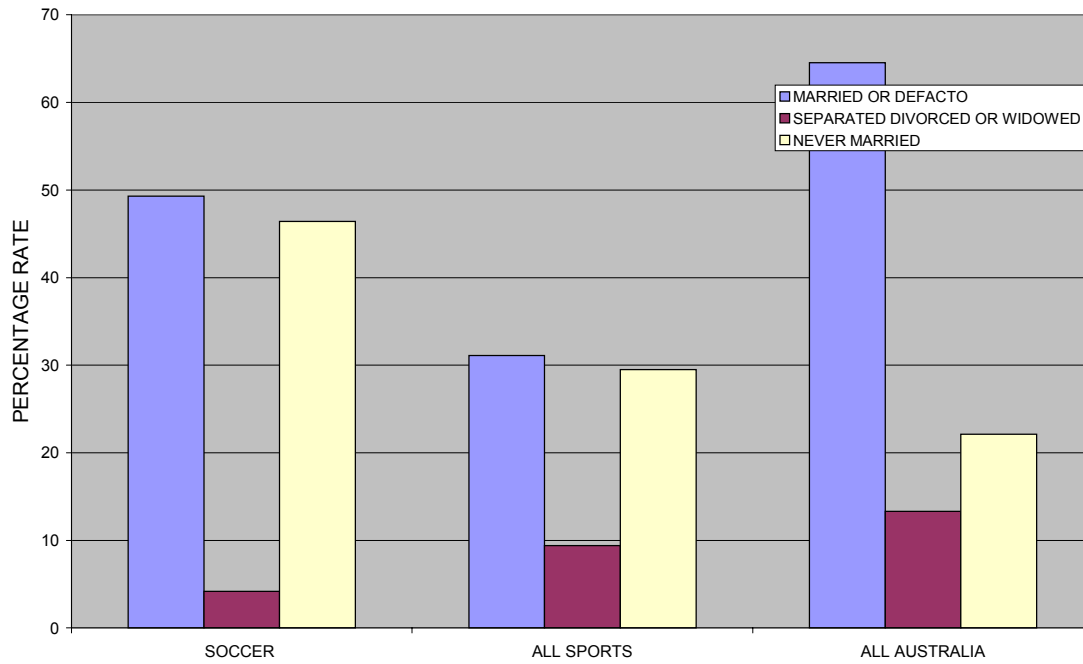
NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS BY AGE AND GENDER



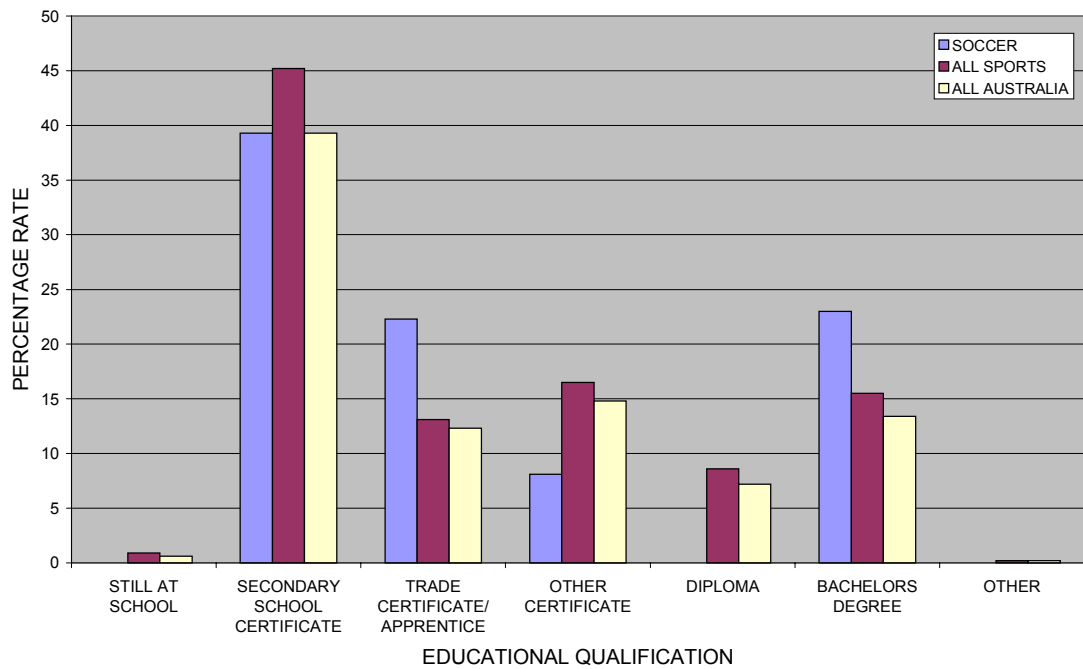
RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH



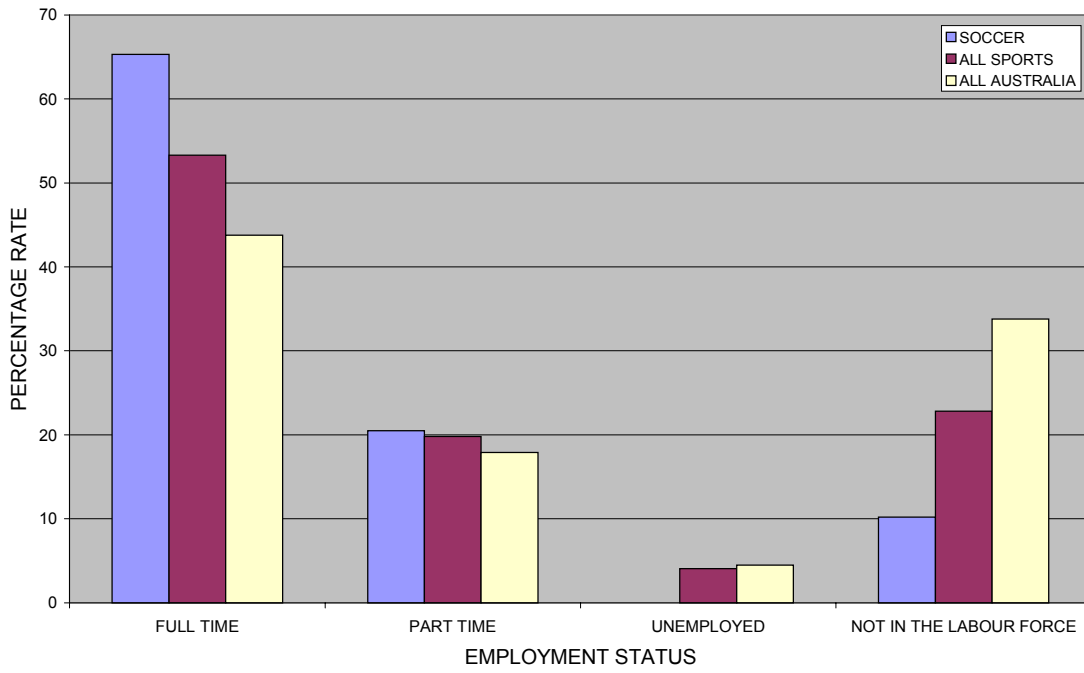
RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY MARITAL STATUS



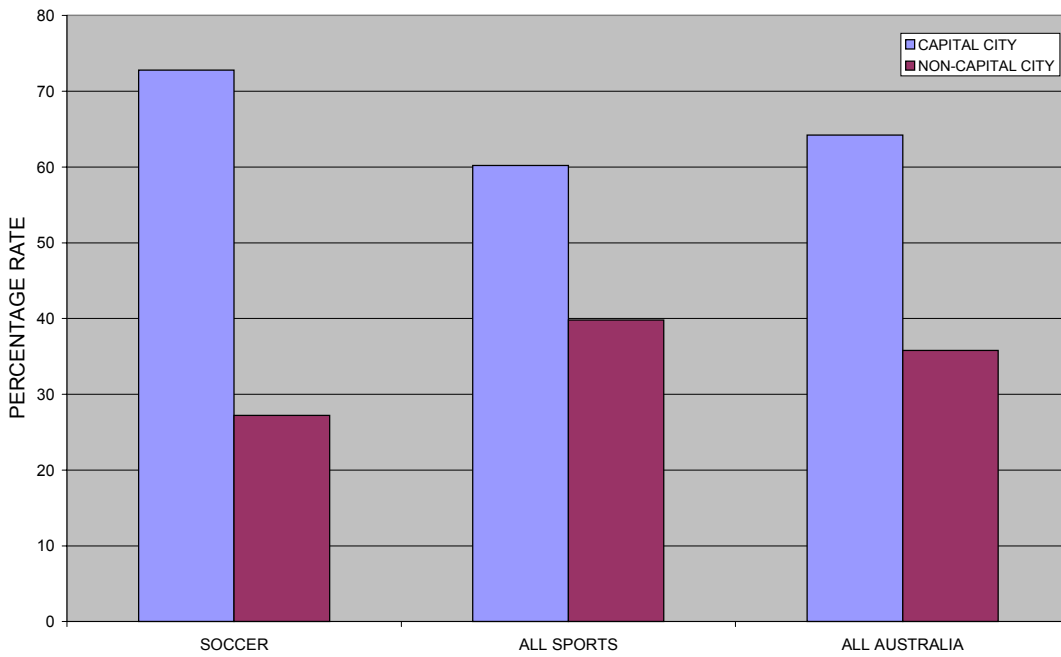
RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION



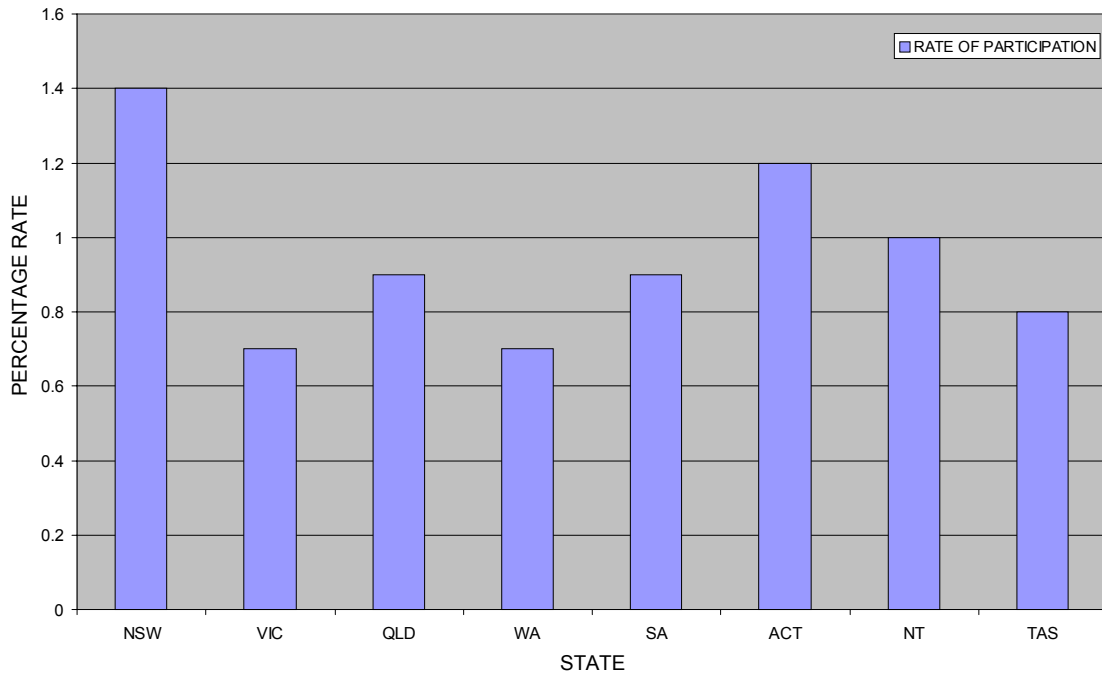
RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS



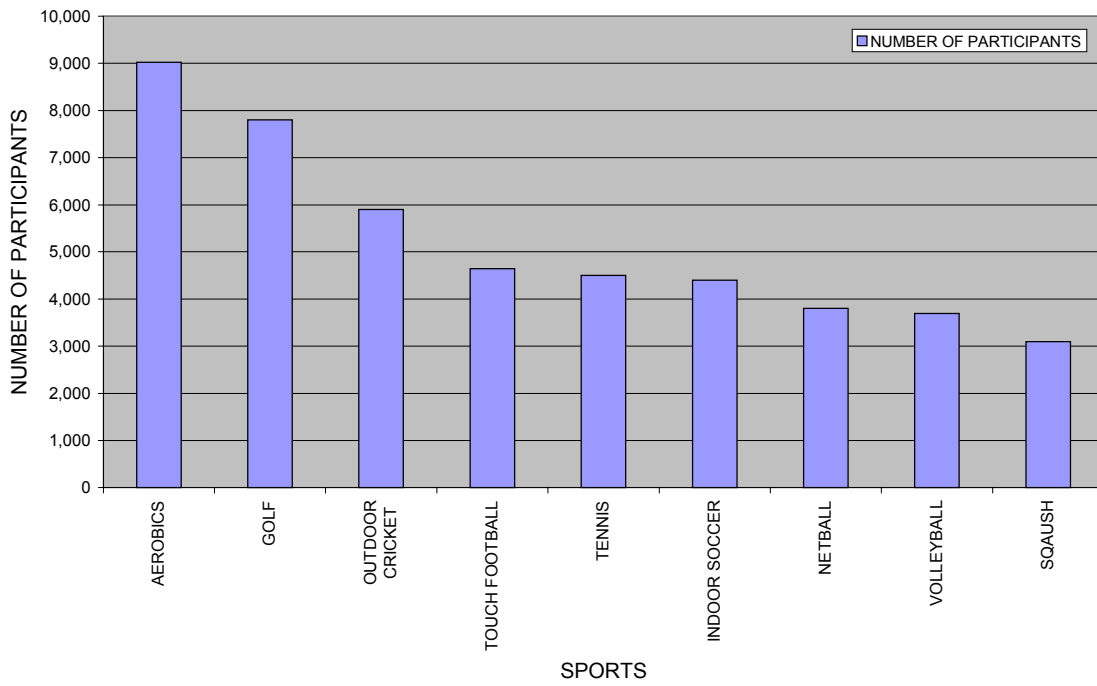
RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY CAPITAL CITY VS NON-CAPITAL CITY



RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY STATE



OTHER SPORTS PLAYED BY SOCCER PARTICIPANTS



NUMBER OF OTHER SPORTS PLAYED BY SOCCER PARTICIPANTS AND ALL PARTICIPANTS

