

TENNIS

PROFILE

There are just under 317,000 people over the age of 18 years participating in tennis in Australia. This is the third most popular organised sport and physical activity undertaken by Australian adults.

On average, tennis participants:

- Are female, aged 35 years and over
- Reside in the capital city regions of Victoria or New South Wales
- Were born in Australia
- Are employed full time
- Work as professionals
- Possess a bachelors degree or diploma.

The majority of participants only play tennis. Of those who do participate in other sports and physical activities, the most popular are golf, aerobics and fitness, netball and cricket.

AGE AND GENDER

Tennis with, 317,000 players is the third most popular organised sport and physical activity undertaken by Australian adults. Only aerobics and fitness, with 600,000 people and golf with 440,000 people, have more participants.

More women play tennis than men do. Indeed, 57.1% (181,000 players) of tennis participants are female compared to 136,000 male players. For the 18-24 year age group, there is virtually no difference between the number of males and females participating (22,800 males and 22,600 females). However, as age increases, there is a widening gap between female and male participation. This gap peaks at the 45 years and over age group, where there are almost 50% more women than men participating in tennis (75,700 women and 51,100 men).

Participation rates are similar between males and females, with 2.1% of males participating in tennis and 2.7% of females playing the sport. However, the rate of participation in tennis fluctuates between age groups. It falls from 2.5% for the 18-24 year age group to 2.2% for 25-34 year olds. From this level, it rises to 3.1% for the next age group before dropping back to 2.2% for the oldest age group - persons aged 45 years and over. Overall, 24 in every one thousand Australian adults play tennis; this is a participation rate of 2.4%.

RESIDENCE

Tennis is most popular in Victoria in terms of participation rate – 3.2% of all Victorian adults play tennis. Only one other state, South Australia, which has a rate of 2.5%, has a participation rate higher than the Australian average of 2.4%. Participation rates are lower in the smaller states and territories, the Australian

Capital Territory and Tasmania both have rates of 1.8%, while the Northern Territory has a rate of 1.5%.

For all organised sport and physical activity non-capital city regions have a higher participation rate of 31% compared to capital city regions, where 26.2% of people participate in sport. This difference is also observed in tennis, with non-capital city residents having a participation rate of 3.2% and capital city residents have a rate of 2.0%.

BIRTHPLACE

Of the 317,000 people who play tennis, over 82.2% were born in Australia; this is a rate of 2.8% of all Australian-born persons aged 18 years or more. The proportion of tennis players born in Australia is higher than the percentage of all adults who were born in this country (72.6%). Of the overseas born tennis players, 8.1% were born in the United Kingdom, Ireland or New Zealand - a participation rate of 2% for all adults with this birthplace. The remaining 9.7% of tennis participants were born in "other countries" (1.4% of all adults born in other countries).

MARITAL STATUS

Over 72% of tennis players are married (229,700 participants), higher than both the percentage of married people participating in organised sport and physical activities (61.1%) and the percentage of all Australians who are married (64.5%).

The 64,000 participants who have never been married represent 20.2% of all tennis players. In comparison, 29.5% of all organised sport and physical activity participants and 22.1% of all people aged 18 years or over are in this category. Similarly, participation in tennis by separated, divorced or widowed persons (7.3% of all tennis participants) is less than both the proportion of all sport and physical activity participants and all adults with this marital status – 9.4% and 13.3% respectively.

LABOUR FORCE STATUS

The proportion of tennis players who are employed (74.4%) or not in the labour force (23.5%) are similar to the proportions of all sport and physical activity participants in these categories (73.1% and 22.8% respectively). However, a greater percentage of tennis players work part time (28.6%) than the percentage of all sports and physical activity participants who are part time workers (19.8%). Conversely, the proportion of tennis players who work full time (45.8%) is lower than the proportion of all sports participants who work 35 hours or more each week (53.3%). This may reflect the gender difference, with the high proportion of older women.

OCCUPATION AND INDUSTRY

More tennis players are employed as professionals than any other occupation. Indeed, 21.6% of all people who play the tennis work as professionals, a higher

proportion than the percentages of both all sport and physical activity participants and all adults with an occupation classified to the professional group (14.5% and 11.4% respectively). The only other occupation in which a high percentage of tennis players work is that of intermediate clerical, sales and service workers, a job in which 15.2% of participants are employed.

More tennis players work in the education industry (9.9%) than in any other industry. This percentage is more than double the proportion of all adults who work in education (4.6%) and about 50% higher than the proportion of all sport and physical activity participants who work in that industry (6.5%). Other industries in which high proportions of tennis players work are retail trade (9.3%) and health and community services (8.1%).

INCOME

A higher proportion of tennis players have an annual income in the \$0-\$5,000 range (19.5%) than any other income group. By comparison, 10.5% of all sports participants have incomes in this range. The second highest percentage for tennis players (14.8%) is for those who earn between \$30,001-\$38,000 per annum while the third highest (10.1%) occurs for the \$25,001-\$30,000 group.

In each of the two upper groups (\$38,000-\$50,000 and \$50,001 and over) there are proportionally more participants in all sports and physical activities earning this income. For all sport and physical activity participants, 11.5% earn incomes in the \$38,001-\$50,000 range and 11.8% earn \$50,001 and over. In contrast 9.6% of tennis players earn \$38,001-\$50,000 and 7.6% have an income in the highest group.

HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION

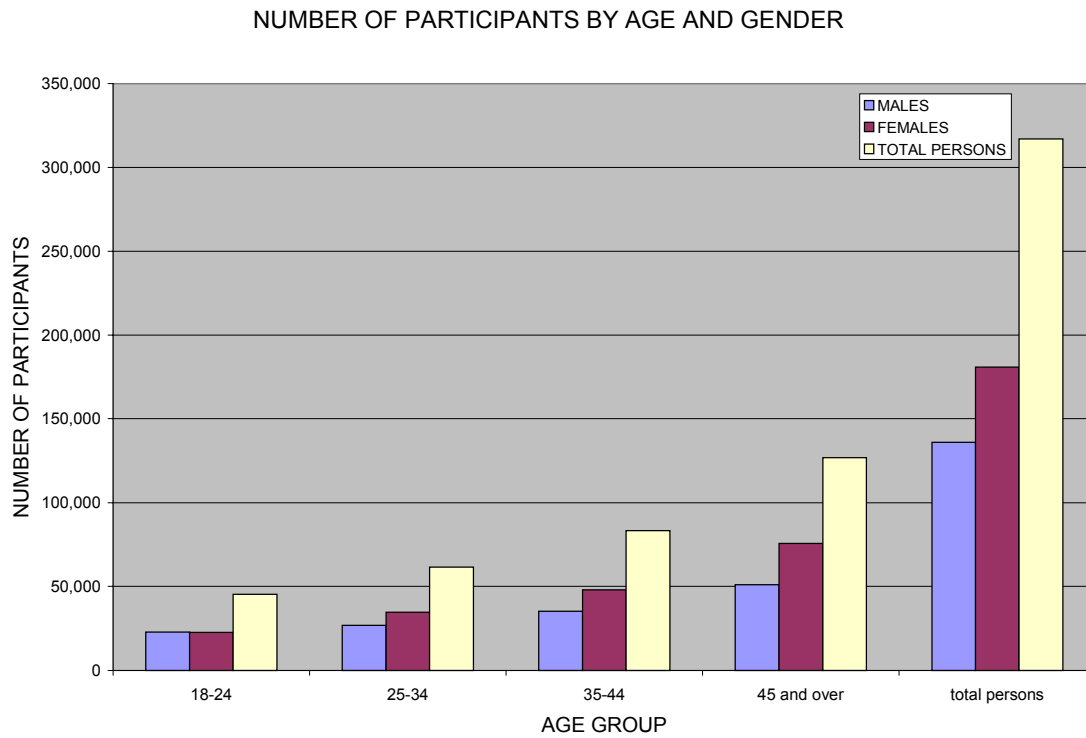
The highest educational qualification attained by more tennis players than any other qualification is a secondary school certificate, held by 38.7% of people involved. This percentage is lower, however than the proportions of all Australians with this qualification (51.6%), and all organised sport and physical activity participants with a secondary school certificate (45.2%).

Almost 25% of all people who participate in tennis have a bachelors degree. This is higher than the percentage of all sport and physical activity participants with a bachelors degree (15.5%) and higher also than the proportion of all adults with this qualification (13.4%).

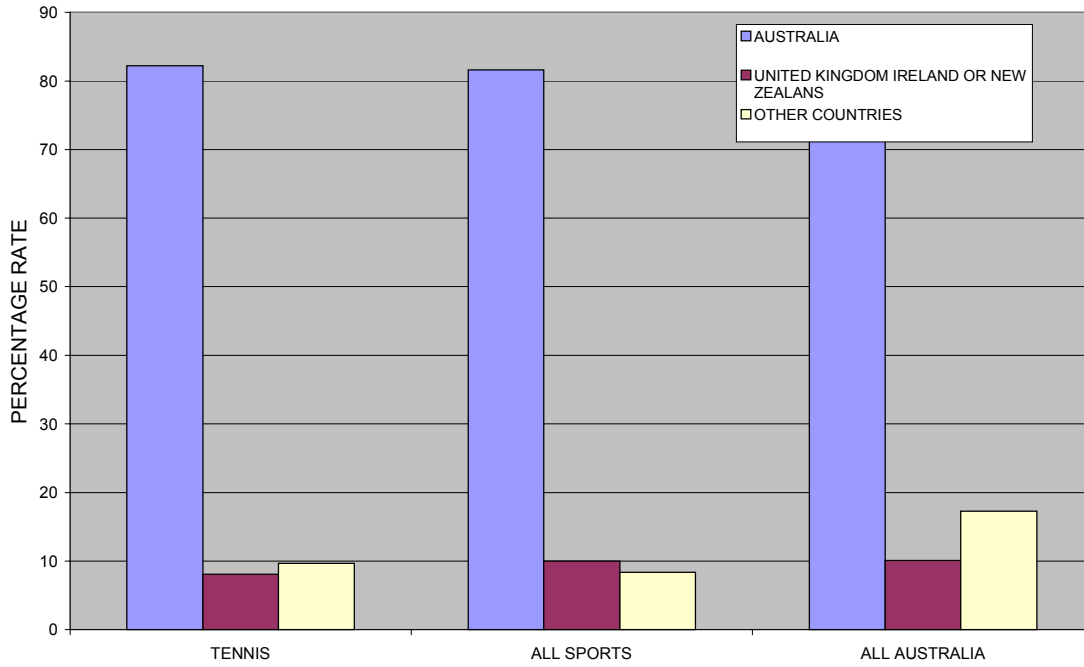
OTHER ORGANISED SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

Tennis is the only organised sport or physical undertaken by 54.7% (173,300 people) of participants in this sport. About 30% of participants (97,300 people) take part in one additional sport or physical activity, while 10.6% (33,600 players) taking part in two others and 4% (12,800 players) participating in three or more other sports or physical activities.

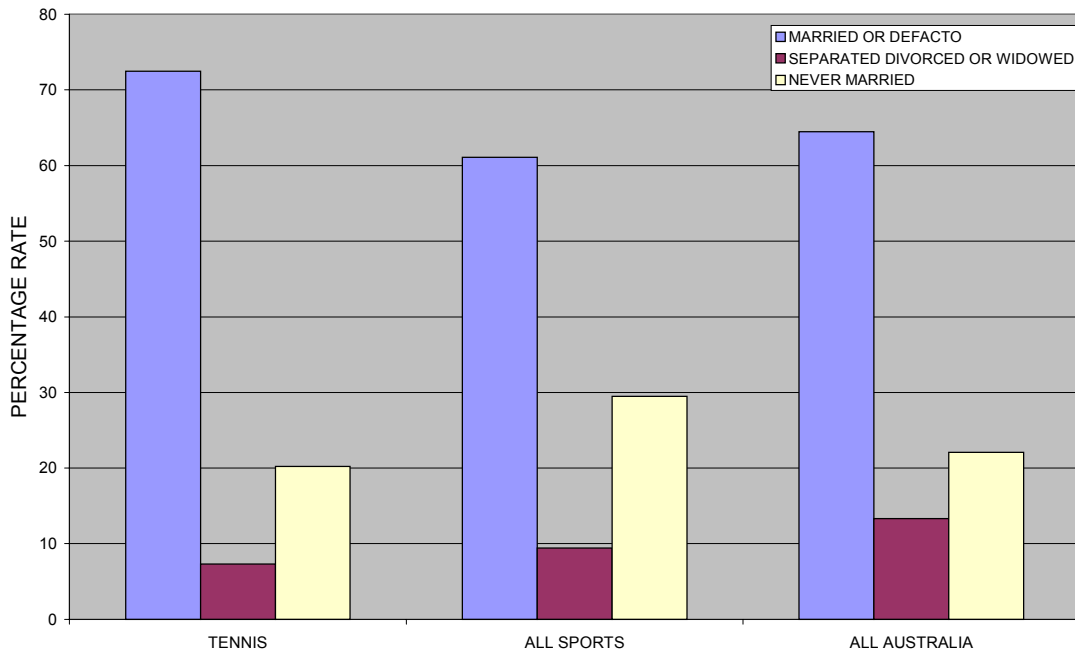
The most popular other organised sports or physical activities in which tennis players take part are golf (30,300 participants), and aerobics and fitness (24,800). Also popular are netball (16,700 participants), cricket (12,000) and basketball (10,100).



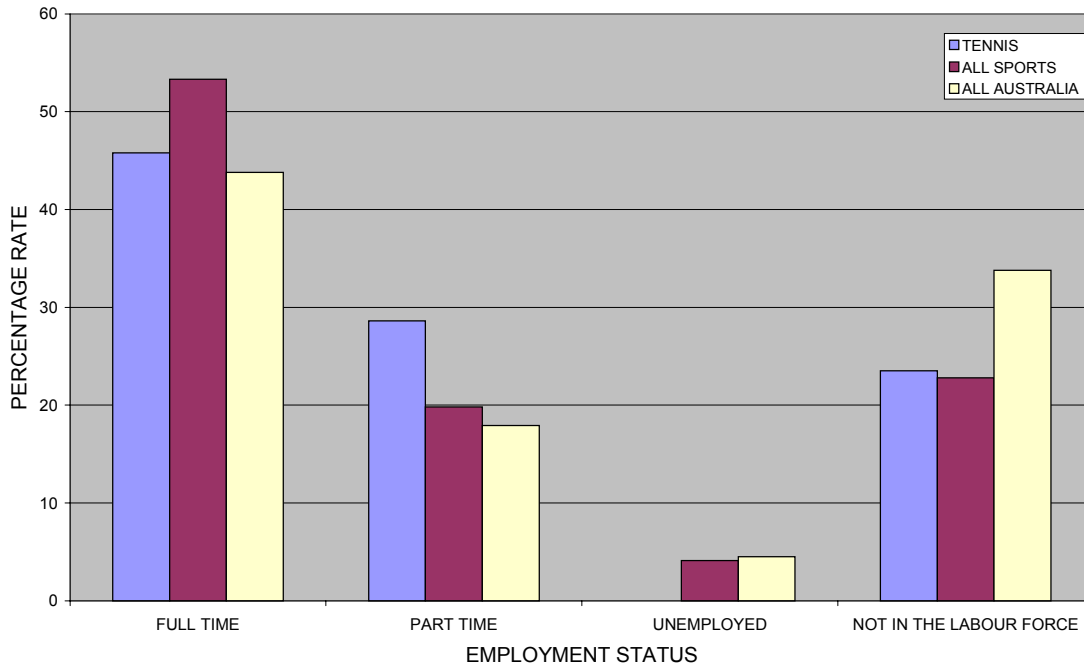
RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH



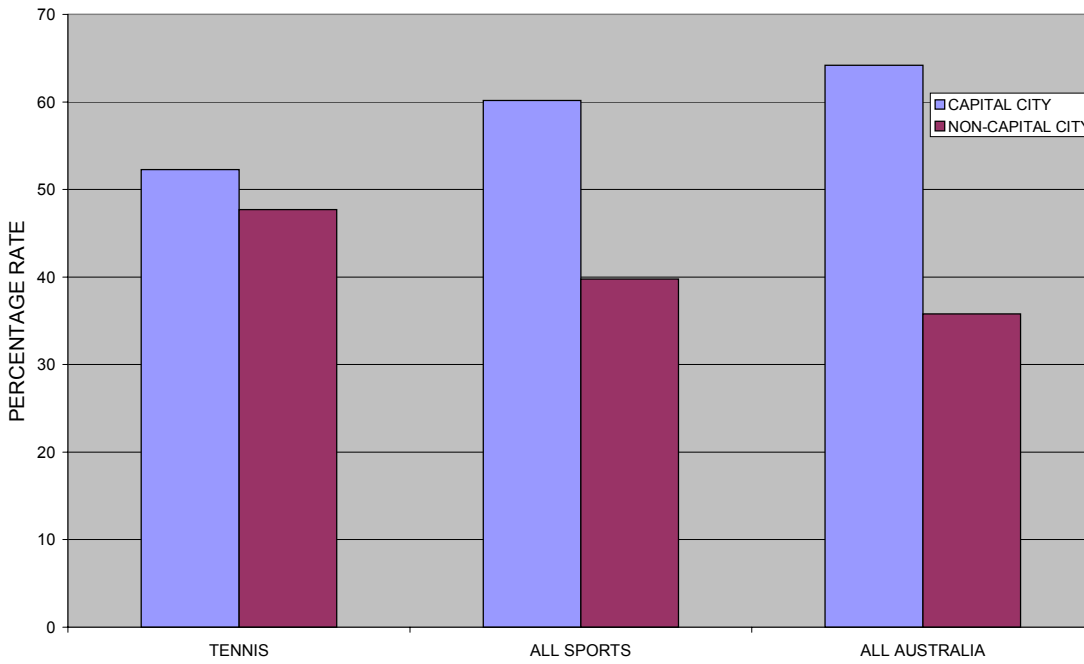
RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY MARITAL STATUS



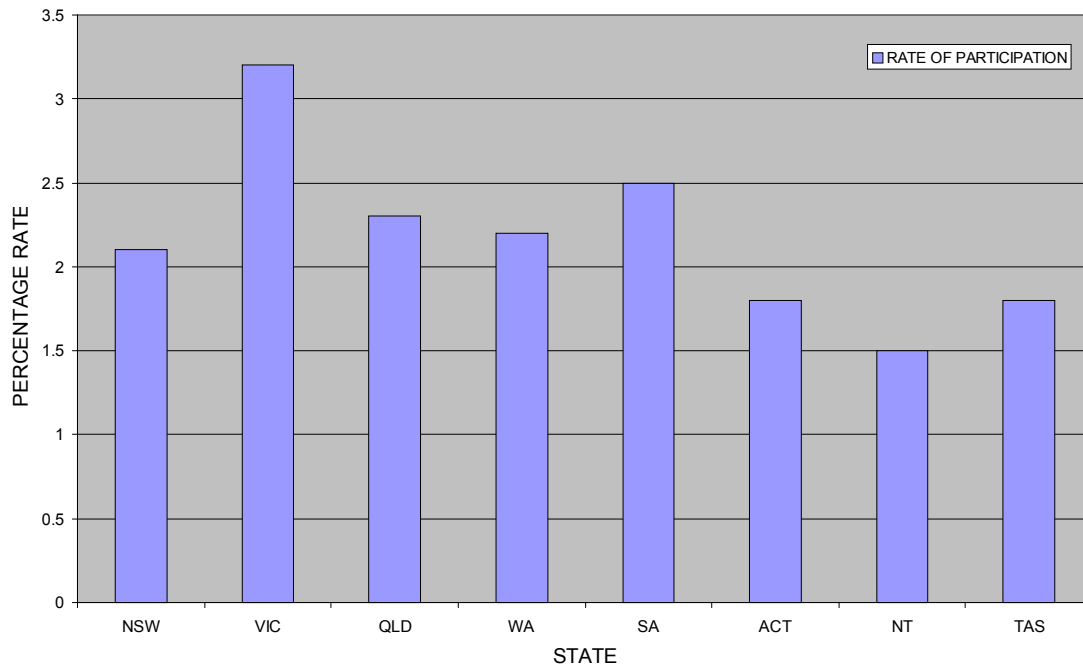
RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS



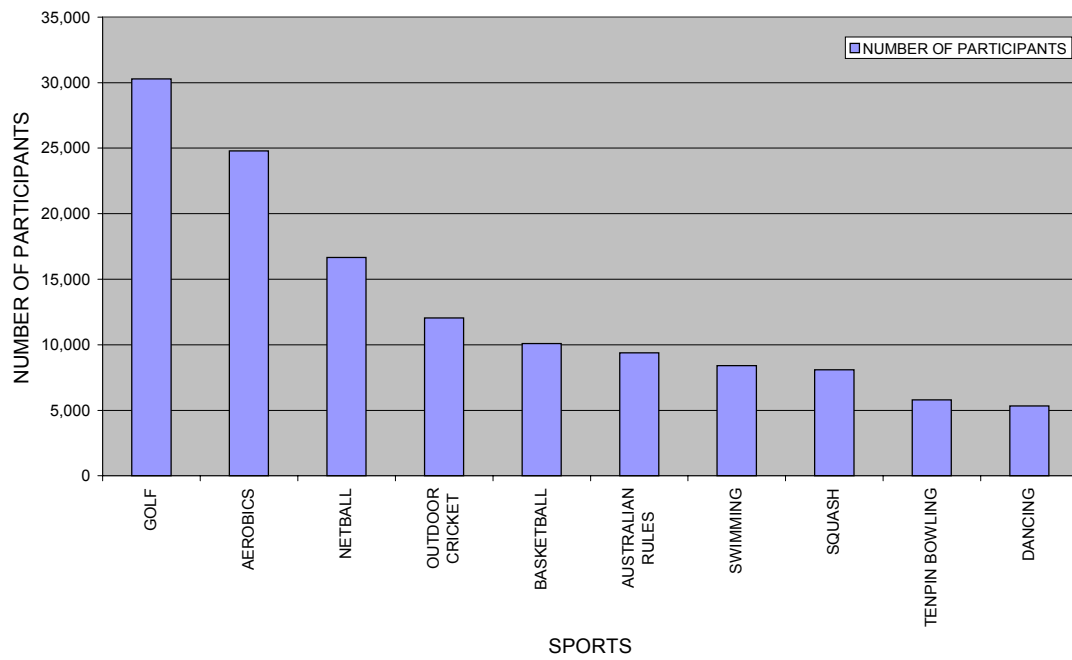
RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY CAPITAL CITY VS NON-CAPITAL CITY



RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY STATE



OTHER SPORTS PLAYED BY TENNIS PARTICIPANTS



NUMBER OF OTHER SPORTS PLAYED BY TENNIS PARTICIPANTS AND ALL PARTICIPANTS

