

# **Mirboo North and Strathbogrie Ranges Socioeconomic Profile**

Prepared for the

**Victorian Environmental Assessment Council**

by



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# 1. Introduction

In November 2019 the Victorian government announced that timber harvesting in Victoria's native forests would end by 2030 following a managed 10-year transition to an entirely plantation-based timber supply. Alongside this announcement the Victorian government announced environmental protections including the immediate protection from commercial timber harvesting of 96,000 hectares of state forest in Immediate Protection Areas (IPAs). This included state forests in the Strathbogie Ranges and Mirboo North.

In November 2021, the Victorian government requested the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) to carry out an assessment of the values of state forests in the areas identified as Immediate Protection Areas (IPAs) in the Strathbogie Ranges and Mirboo North. VEAC's assessment was to inform subsequent community consultation by an Eminent Panel for Community Engagement (EPCE) appointed by the government to recommend on future public land use in the IPAs. The purpose of VEAC's assessments includes to:

- b) identify the cultural heritage, social and economic values of the specified area.
- e) assess the potential economic implications of proposed land use changes recommended by the EPCE and provided to the VEAC.

This report identifies the socioeconomic profile of the regions in which each of the public land areas is located. The Mirboo North IPA is in the Mirboo North State Suburb (SSC21692) within the South Gippsland (S) Local Government Area (LGA). The Strathbogie IPA is located within the LGAs of Benalla (RC), Mansfield (S), and Strathbogie (S).

Demographic data for each region is primarily compared to demographic data for the Rest of Victoria Greater Capital City Statistical Area (GCCSA).

The socioeconomic profiles are based on the 2016 ABS Census of Population and Housing, unless otherwise stated. The demographic profiles of the region are based on Census data for the Usual Residents<sup>1</sup> of the regions while the economic profile is based on the Place of Work Census data for the regions.

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<sup>1</sup> This is the geographic area which a person usually lives. It may or may not be the place where the person was counted on Census Night.

## 2. Mirboo North State Suburb and South Gippsland Shire LGA

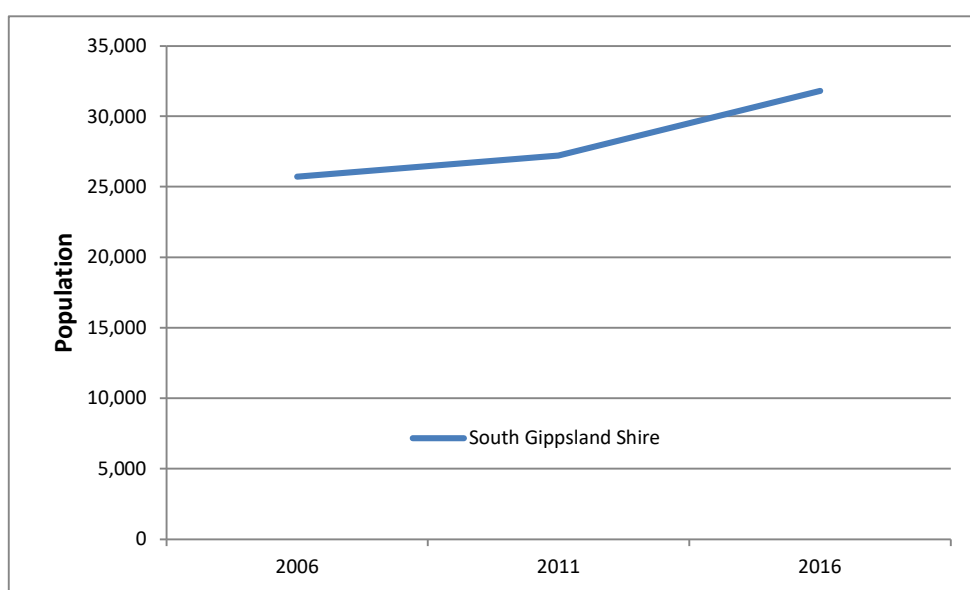
### 2.1. Demographic Profile of Residents

#### Population

##### *Population Levels and Historic Growth*

In 2016 the population of Mirboo North (SS) was 2,197, 6.9% of the population of South Gippsland (S) LGA. From 2011 to 2016 the population of the South Gippsland (S) LGA grew by 16.9%, which was considerably greater than population growth between 2006 and 2011 i.e. 5.7% (refer to Figure 2.1).<sup>2</sup> For comparison the population growth rate for Victoria was higher between 2006 and 2011 i.e. 8.5%, and lower between 2011 and 2016 i.e. 10.7%.

**Figure 2.1 Historical Population of the Region**



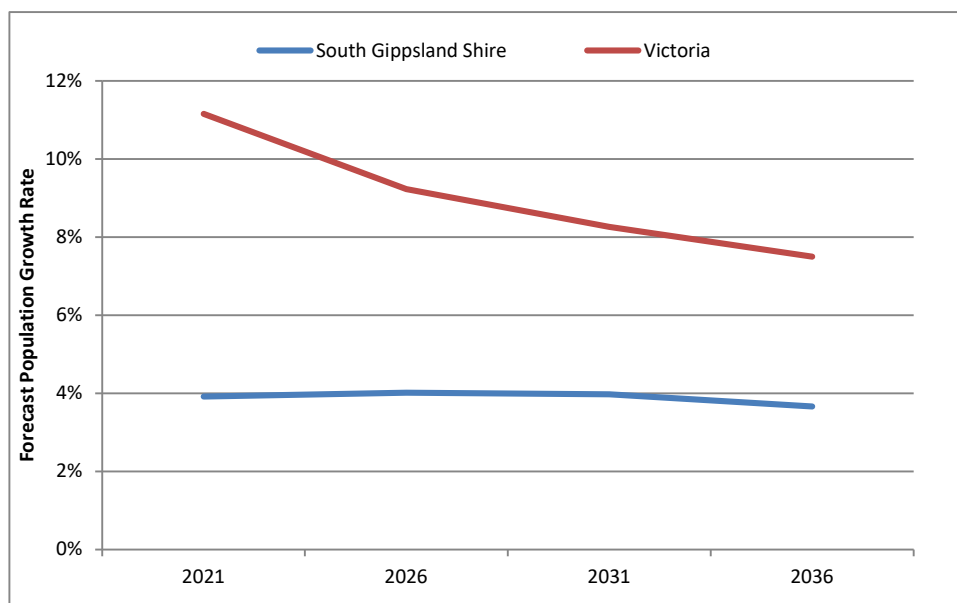
Source: ABS, 2016 Census of Population and Housing (Usual Resident Profile)

##### *Population Growth Projections*

The region is forecast to have future population growth rates less than that for Victoria i.e. 3.7% to 4.0% per intercensal period compared to 7.5% to 11.2% for Victoria - see Figure 2.2.

<sup>2</sup> The geographic boundary used by the ABS for Mirboo North SSC changes between census years, confounding comparison of population levels.

**Figure 2.2 Population Growth Rate Forecasts**



Source: Victorian Department of Environment, Land and Water Planning (2019) Victoria in Future 2019

### *Indigenous Population*

0.7% of the population of Mirboo North (SS) are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Island people, compared to 1.2% of the population of South Gippsland (S), 1.6% of the population of regional Victoria and 0.8% of the population Victoria.

### *Ethnicity and Language*

79.4% of the Mirboo North (SS) population and 83.1% of the South Gippsland (S) population were born in Australia, with the next most common country of birth being England (4.1% for Mirboo North (SS) and 4.0% for South Gippsland (S).

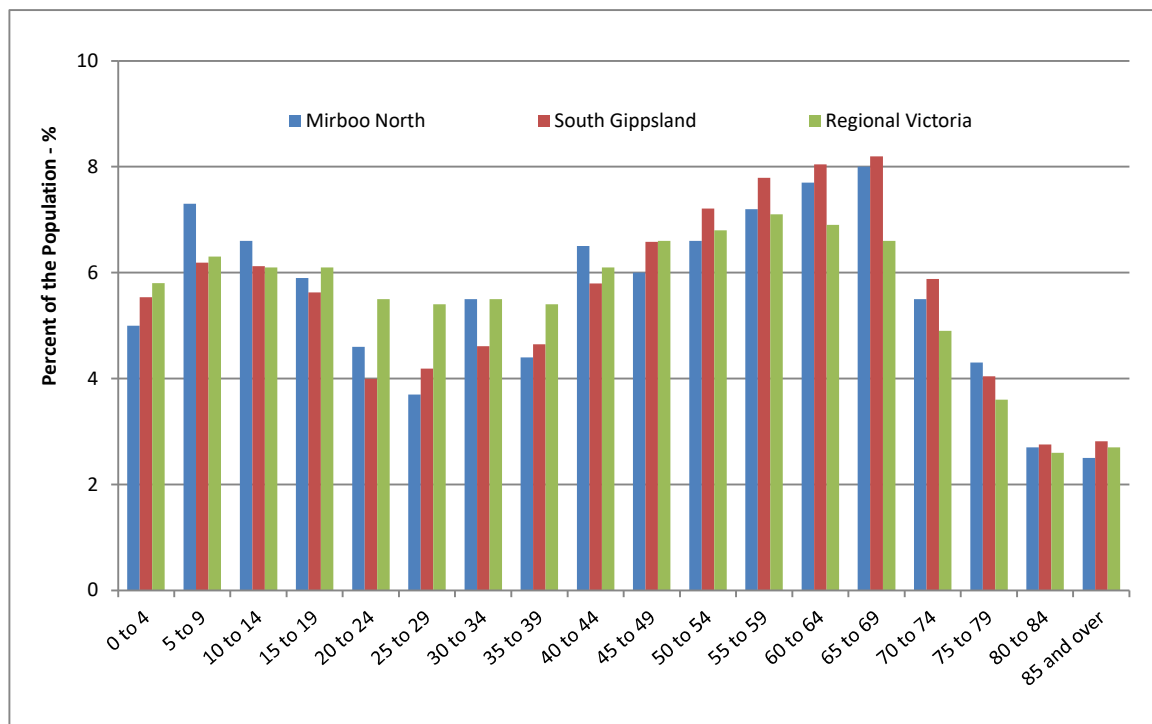
11.9% of households in Mirboo North (SS) spoke a language other than English at home, with the main languages being Italian and German. For the 11.0% of households in South Gippsland (S) which speak a language other than English at home the main languages spoken are Italian, Dutch, and German.

### *Age Profile*

In 2016, the median age of the Mirboo North (SS) and South Gippsland (S) was 45 and 47, respectively, higher than the median age for regional Victoria (43) and Victoria (37).

Mirboo North (SS) and South Gippsland (S) have lower percentage of the population in the 15 to 39 age group and a higher proportion in the 55+ age brackets. The 'hollowing-out' of the work force age groups might reflect the out-movement of these workers and of young adults to Melbourne for work and post-school education, a common phenomenon across regional Australia. Compared to South Gippsland (S), Mirboo North (SS) has a higher proportion of population in the 5 to 24 year age groups, and a lower proportion in the 45+ age groups.

**Figure 2.3 Mirboo North and South Gippsland Population Age Distribution vs Regional Victoria**

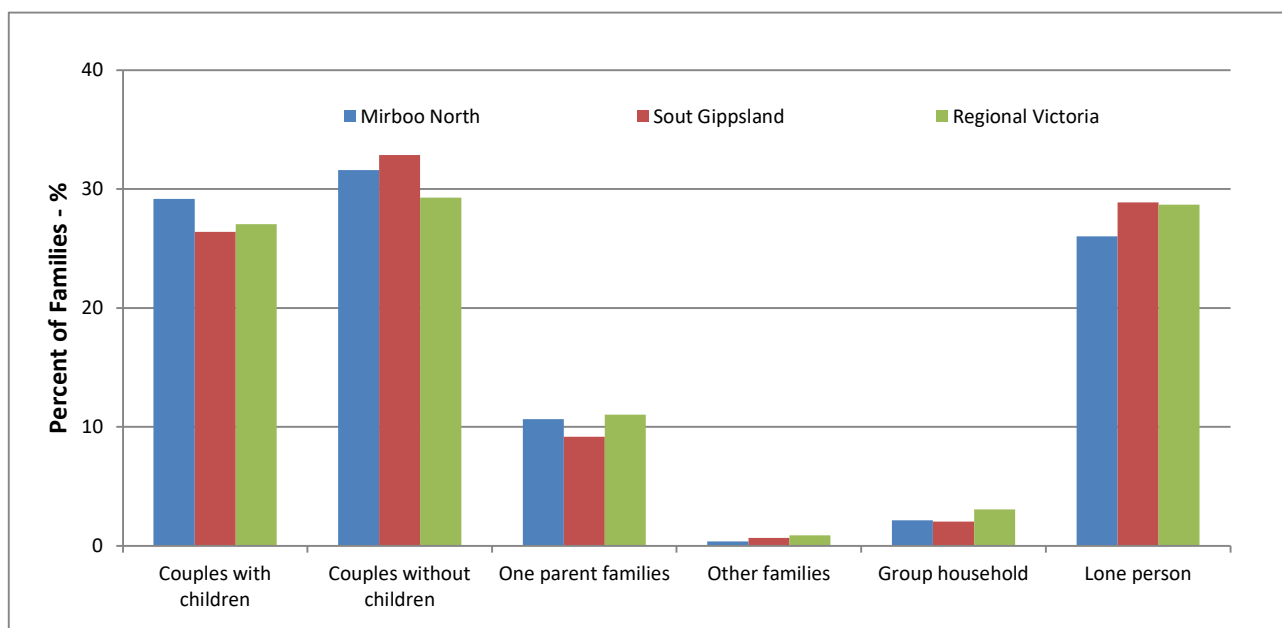


Source: ABS, 2016 Census of Population and Housing (Usual Resident Profile)

#### *Family composition*

Compared with regional Victoria, Mirboo North (SS) and South Gippsland (S) have a higher proportion of couple families without children. Mirboo North (SS) also has a higher proportion of couple families with children and fewer group households or lone person families. Refer to Figure 2.4.

**Figure 2.4 Family Composition for Mirboo North, South Gippsland, and Regional Victoria**



Source: ABS, 2016 Census of Population and Housing (Usual Resident Profile)

## Housing

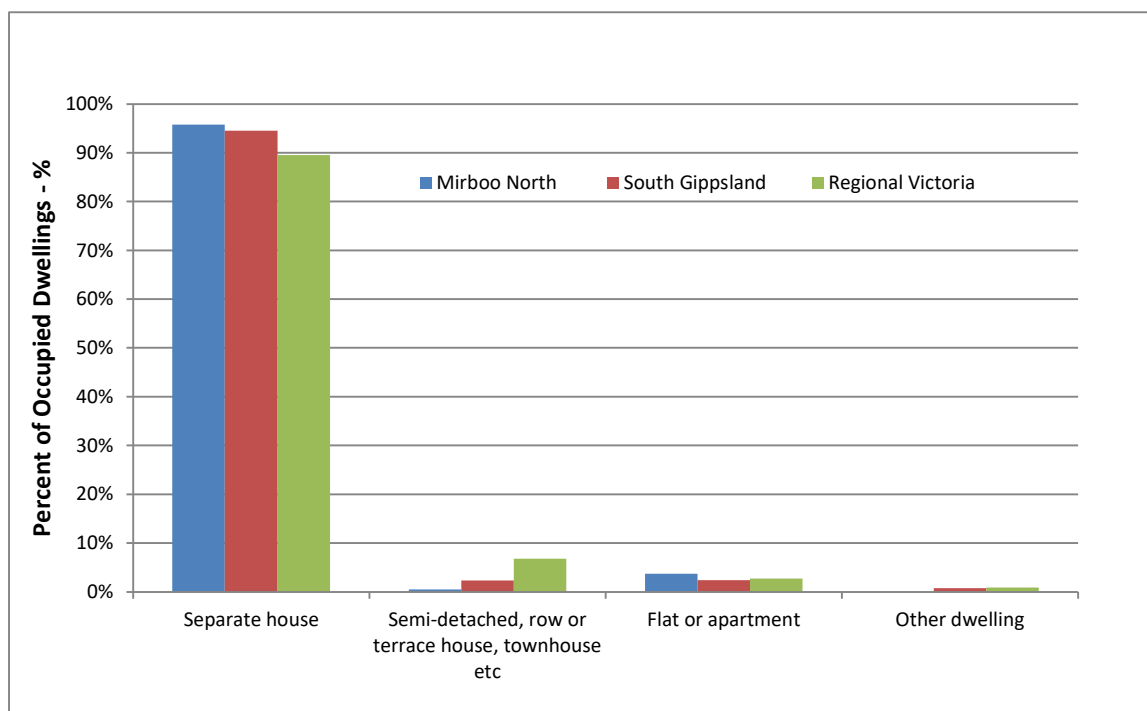
### *Private Dwellings and Occupancy*

In Mirboo North (SS), 89.2% of private dwellings were occupied. This is higher than the proportion across regional Victoria (82.9%) and significantly higher than the proportion in South Gippsland (S) (72.2%).

### *Dwelling Types*

Mirboo North (SS) and South Gippsland (S) have a higher proportion of occupied separate houses than regional Victoria.

**Figure 2.5 Occupied Dwelling Types**



Source: ABS, 2016 Census of Population and Housing (Usual Resident Profile)

### *Rent*

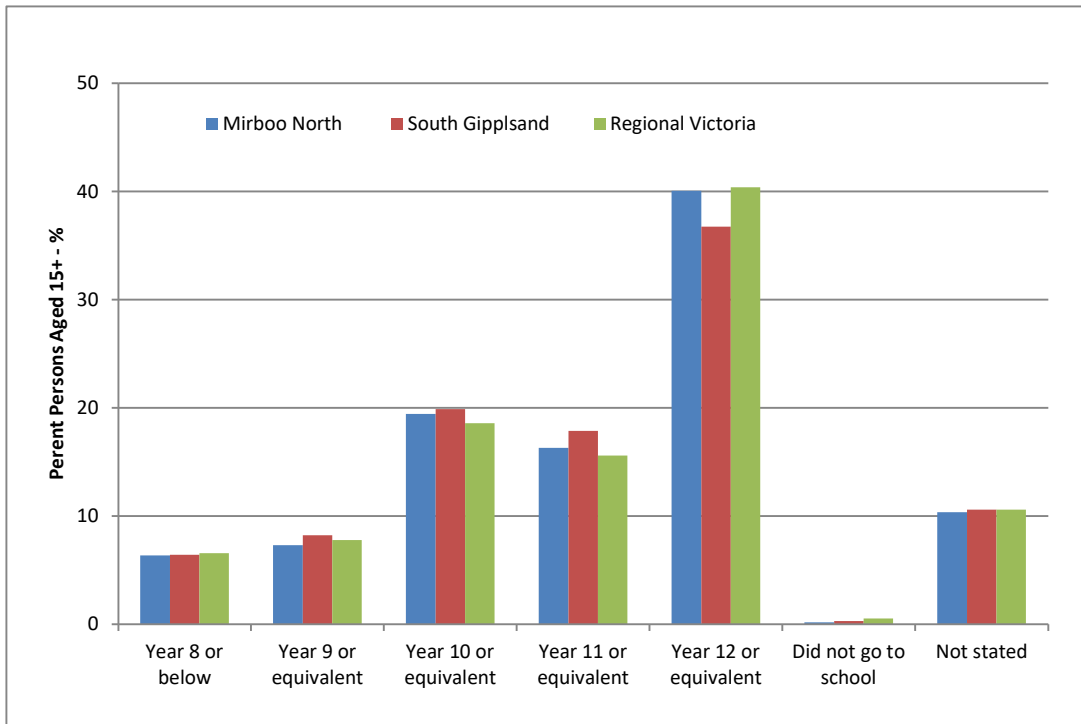
The median weekly rent for Mirboo North (SS) was \$230, higher than for South Gippsland (SS) (\$214) but similar to the median weekly rent for regional Victoria (\$231).

## Education & Employment

### *Education*

Compared with Regional Victoria, Mirboo North (SS) and South Gippsland (S) had a high proportion of people who completed year 10 and year 11. Compared to South Gippsland (S), Mirboo North (SS) had a higher proportion of people who completed year 12 or equivalent but a similar proportion to regional Victoria – see Figure 2.6.

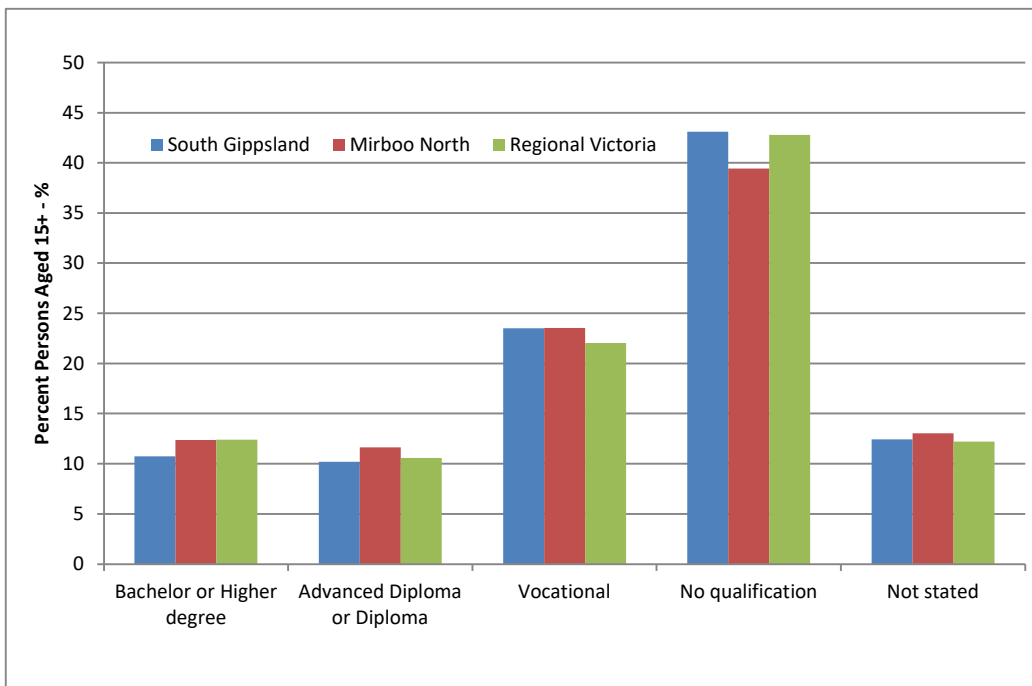
**Figure 2.6 Highest level of schooling**



Source: ABS, 2016 Census of Population and Housing (Usual Resident Profile)

Compared to Regional Victoria, Mirboo North (SS) and South Gippsland (S) had a higher proportion of people with a vocational qualification. Mirboo North (SS) also had a lower proportion of people with a bachelor or higher degree and a higher proportion with no qualification – see Figure 2.7.

**Figure 2.7 Highest qualification**



Source: ABS, 2016 Census of Population and Housing (Usual Resident Profile)



### Employment Growth for Usual Residents

In 2016, 881 of the usual residents of Mirboo North (SS) and 12,190 of the usual residents of the South Gippsland (S) were employed.

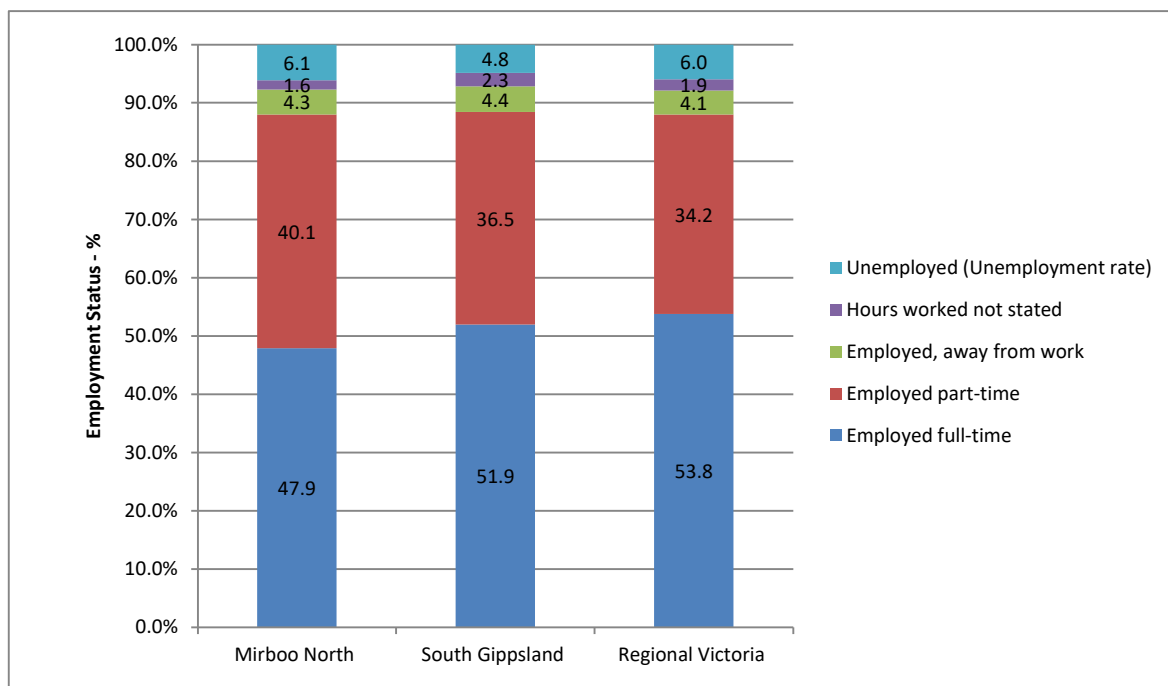
The usual resident labour force of Mirboo North (SS) declined by 15.4% between 2006 and 2011, and then declined by 10.2% between 2011 and 2016. At the same time the usual residents employed declined by 15.8% between 2006 and 2011 and then declined by 11.0% between 2011 and 2016. Hence, there was an increase in unemployed usual residents between 2006 to 2011 from 4.5% to 5.0% and then an increase in unemployed usual residents between 2011 and 2016 to 5.9%.

The usual resident labour force of South Gippsland (S) grew by 8.4% between 2006 and 2011, and then declined by 1.2% between 2011 and 2016. At the same time the usual residents employed grew by 8.8% between 2006 and 2011 and then declined by 2.4% between 2011 and 2016. Hence, there was a decline in unemployed usual residents between 2006 to 2011 from 4.0% to 3.7% and then an increase in unemployed usual residents between 2011 and 2016 to 4.9%.

### Employment Status

In 2016, Mirboo North (SS) and South Gippsland (S) had a higher proportion of the labour force employed in part-time jobs than regional Victoria and a lower proportion in full-time jobs. Mirboo North (SS) had a higher unemployment rate than South Gippsland (S) but a similar unemployment rate to regional Victoria.

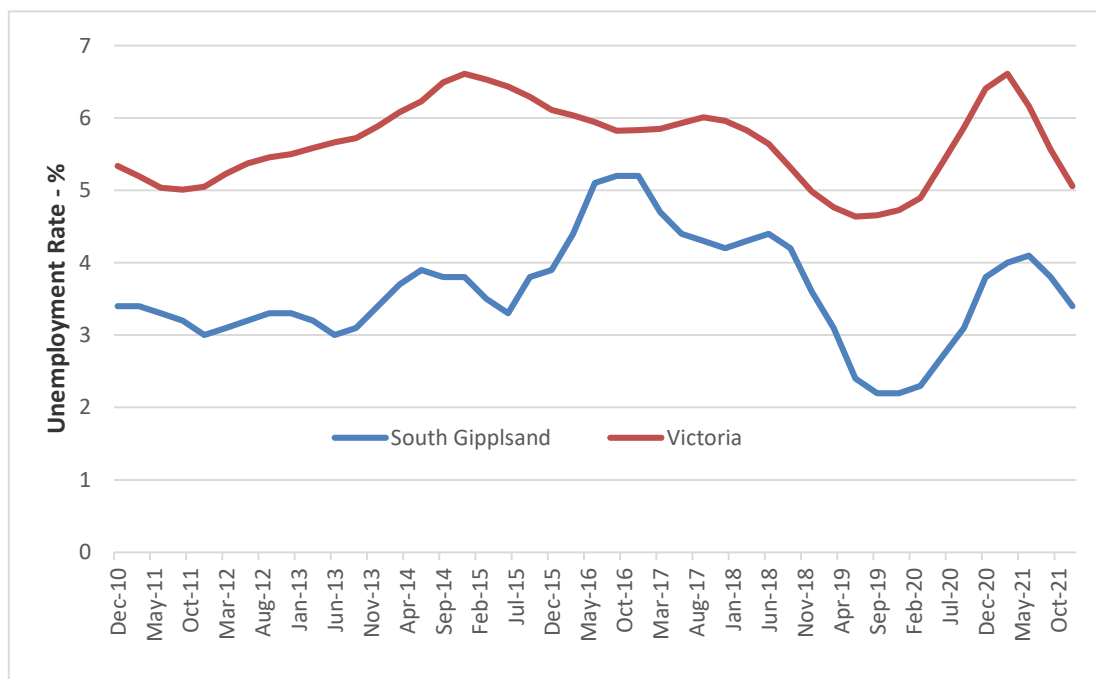
Figure 2.8 Employment Status



Source: ABS, 2016 Census of Population and Housing (Usual Resident Profile)

The Department of Employment's Small Area Labour Markets (2021) (see Figure 2.9) indicates that unemployment in South Gippsland (S) has historically been lower than that for Victoria.

Figure 2.9 Unemployment Rates over Time



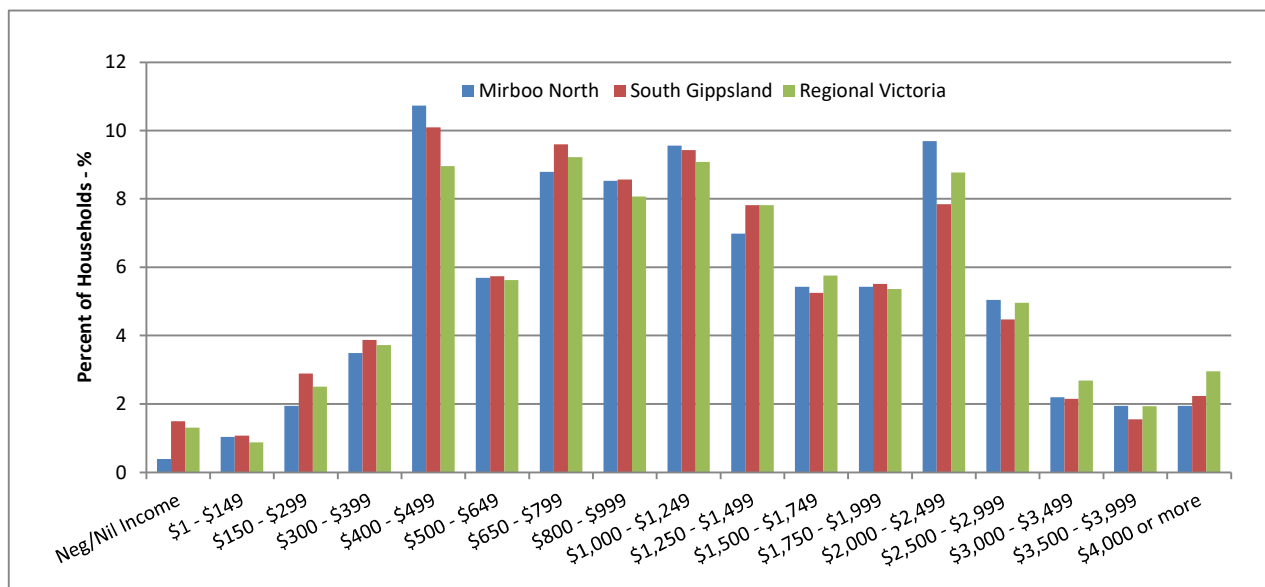
Source: Department of Employment, Small Area Labour Markets (December 2021)

### Income

In 2016, the median weekly household income for Mirboo North (SS) was \$1,092, higher than for South Gippsland (SS) (\$776) but lower than for regional Victoria (\$1,124) and for Victoria (\$1,419).

The distribution of weekly household income relative to regional Victoria is given in Figure 2.10. This indicates that the South Gippsland (S) had a higher proportion of low to middle income households (those earning less than \$1,250 per week) and a lower proportion earning \$1,500 per week or more. The pattern for Mirboo North (SS) is less consistent with higher proportions in some lower income groups e.g. \$400-\$499, some middle income categories e.g. \$800-\$1250, and some higher income groups e.g. \$2,000 to \$2,500.

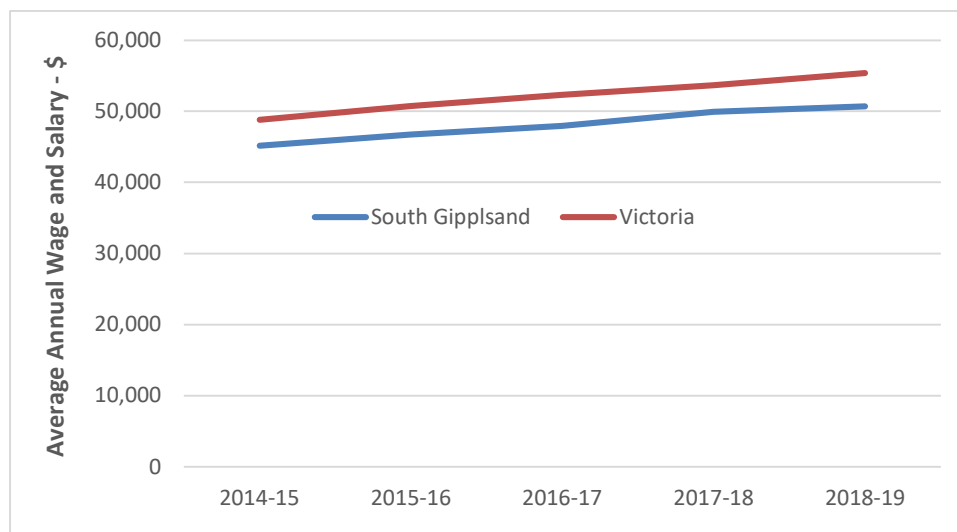
Figure 2.10 Weekly Household Income Distribution



Source: ABS, 2016 Census of Population and Housing (Usual Resident Profile)

Historically, average annual wage and salary income in South Gippsland (S) has been below that for Victoria – see Figure 2.11.

**Figure 2.11 Average Annual Wage and Salary Income**



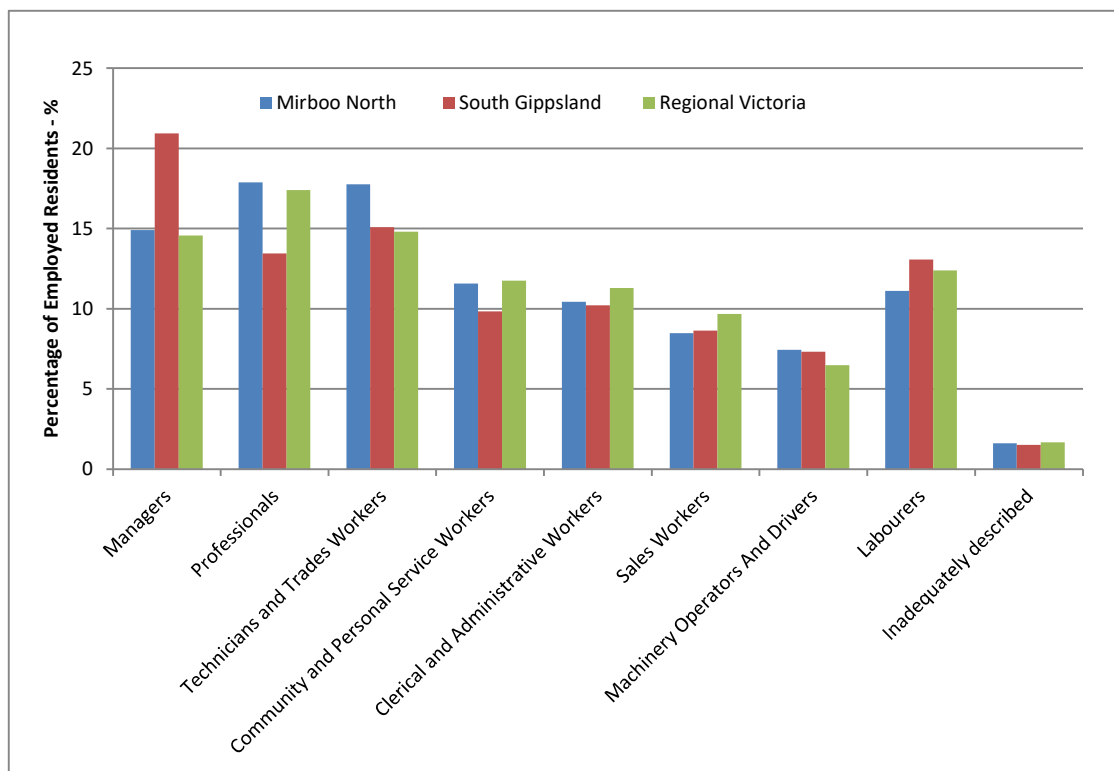
Source: ABS, Catalogue Number: 6524.0.55.002 Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, 2014-15 to 2018-19

### *Occupation*

Compared to regional Victoria, in 2016 South Gippsland (S) had a relatively higher proportion of its resident labour force workers employed as Managers (including farm managers) and Labourers - see Figure 2.12.

Compared to regional Victoria, Mirboo North (SS) had a relatively higher proportion of Technicians and Trades Workers. However, compared to South Gippsland (S), Mirboo North (SS) had a relatively higher proportion of Professionals, Technicians and Trades Workers, and Community and Personal Service Workers.

**Figure 2.12 Occupations**



Source: ABS, 2016 Census of Population and Housing (Usual Resident Profile)

### Workforce Location

44% of the employed usual residents of Mirboo North (SS) commute to work outside the South Gippsland LGA. The main destination is Latrobe LGA. 27% of employed usual residents of South Gippsland (S) commute to work outside the LGA with the main destination being Bass Coast (S).

**Table 2.1 Work Location of Employed Usual Residents of Mirboo North and South Gippsland**

Work Location of Employed Usual Residents of Mirboo North		Work Location of Employed Usual Residents of South Gippsland	
LGA	%	LGA	%
South Gippsland (S)	56%	South Gippsland (S)	73%
Latrobe (C)	28%	Bass Coast (S)	6%
No Fixed Address (Vic.)	5%	No Fixed Address (Vic.)	5%
Baw Baw (S)	5%	Latrobe (C)	4%
Bass Coast (S)	2%	Baw Baw (S)	2%
Melbourne (C)	1%	Cardinia (S)	2%
Frankston (C)	1%	Casey (C)	1%

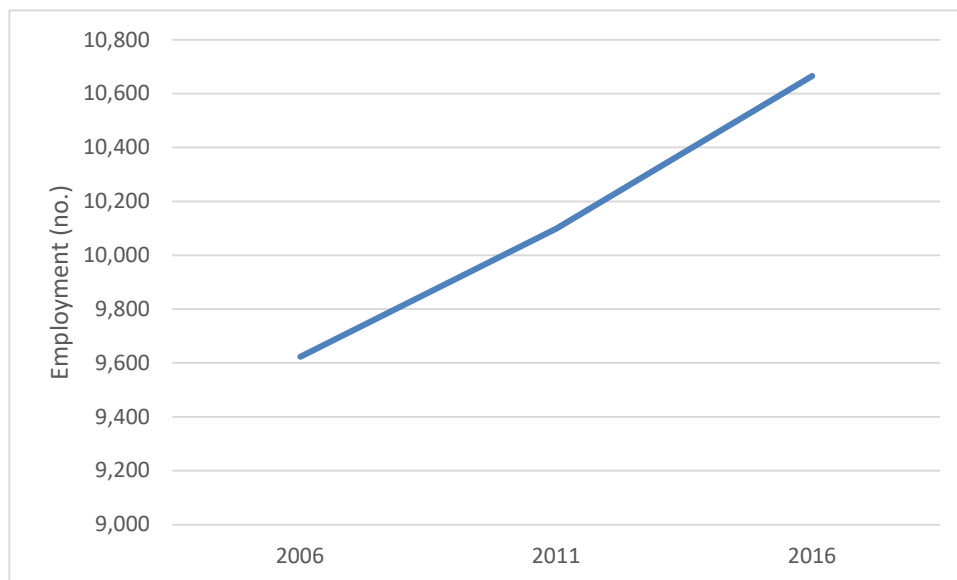
Source: ABS Tablebuilder 2016 Census

## 2.2. Economic Profile

### Employment Growth

In 2016, there were 10,666 jobs located in the South Gippsland (S), less than the labour force residing in the region and less than the employed labour residing in the region. Employment in the region increased between 2006 and 2011 by 4.9% and between 2011 and 2016 by 5.6%.

Figure 2.13 Employment Growth in the Region



Source: ABS, 2006, 2011 2016 Census of Population and Housing (Place of Work Profile)

### Source of Workers

In 2016, 85% of jobs in the region were filled by those residing in the region. Those who work in the region, but live outside it, are predominantly from Bass Coast (S) LGA (8%).

Table 2.2 Residential Location of Workers Employed in the Region

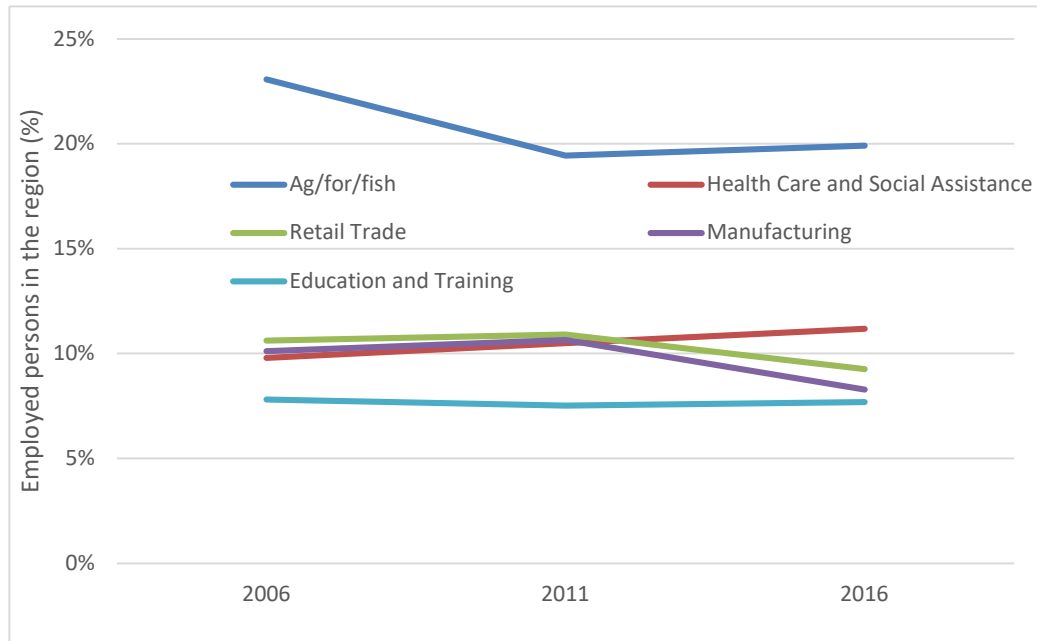
LGA	%
South Gippsland (S)	85%
Bass Coast (S)	8%
Latrobe (C)	2%
Baw Baw (S)	2%
Cardinia (S)	1%
Wellington (S)	1%
Mornington Peninsula (S)	1%

Source: ABS Tablebuilder 2016 Census

### Industry Employment Share

As shown in Figure 2.14, historically, by far the largest employing industry in the region has been Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing. The relative significance of employment in this sector declined between 2006 and 2011 and then increased slightly. Retail Trade has historically been the second largest employer but its relative significance to employment in the region has declined since 2011 to be the third most significant employing sector. The significance of Health Care and Social Assistance has grown to become the second largest employment sector in the region. Manufacturing's share of employment has declined since 2011 to be the fourth most significant employment sector while Education and Training remains the fifth largest employer.

**Figure 2.14 Historical Employment of the five largest ANZSIC Level 1 industries in South Gippsland LGA**



Source: ABS, 2006, 2011 2016 Census of Population and Housing (Place of Work Profile)

In 2016 employment in South Gippsland (S) in forestry and logging and wood manufacturing represented 0.3% of the total employment.

**Table 2.3 2016 Forestry, Logging and Wood Manufacturing Employment in South Gippsland (S) (4-digit ANZSIC)**

<b>Forestry and Logging</b>	<b>No.</b>
Forestry and Logging, nfd	0
Forestry	0
Logging	4
Forestry Support Services	4
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Wood Manufacturing</b>	
Wood Product Manufacturing, nfd	0
Log Sawmilling and Timber Dressing, nfd	0
Log Sawmilling	0
Wood Chipping	0
Timber Resawing and Dressing	0
Other Wood Product Manufacturing, nfd	0
Prefabricated Wooden Building Manufacturing	0
Wooden Structural Fitting and Component Manufacturing	15
Veneer and Plywood Manufacturing	0
Reconstituted Wood Product Manufacturing	0
Other Wood Product Manufacturing nec	5
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Percentage of total employment</b>	<b>0.3%</b>

nfd is not further defined; nec is not elsewhere classified

There is no tourism sector per se. It is an amalgam of normal "population serving" sectors in which tourists spend their money e.g. accommodation, restaurants, food and beverages. For South Gippsland LGA, Tourism Research Australia identified that in 2019 there were 333 tourism businesses, 1,039,000 visitors and \$162M of tourism expenditure. This level of expenditure represents 4.1% of the output of the regional economy.

### **Employment by Industry, Growth and Specialisations**

Figure 2.15 to Figure 2.16 summarise:

- employment by industry sector for the 1 digit and 2 digit ANZSIC Industry Classification;
- growth in percentage employment from 2011 to 2016; and
- level of industry specialisation;

for sectors that represent more than 1% of employment in the South Gippsland LGA.

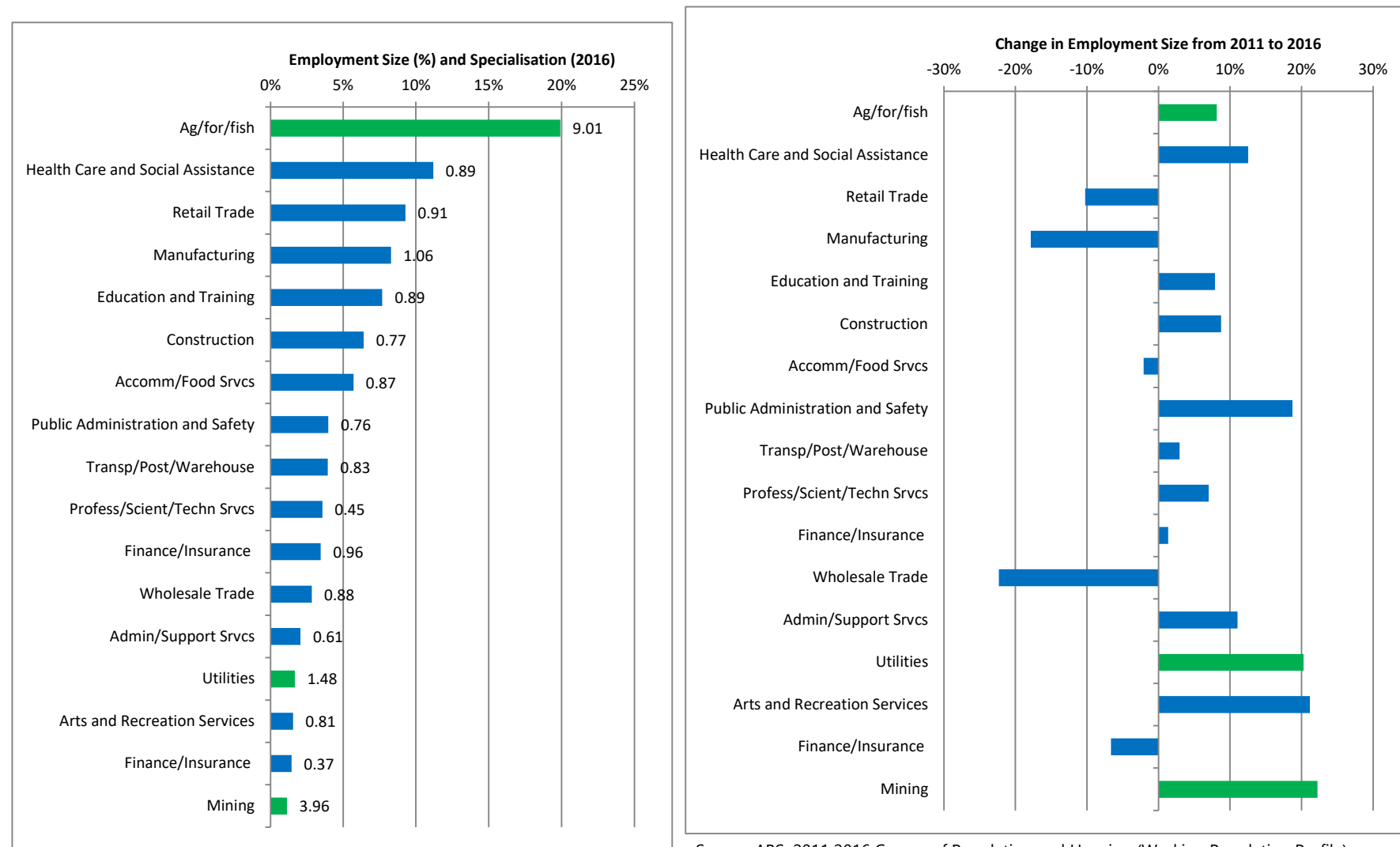
Level of industry specialisation was determined using Location Quotients (LQs) which measure the employment concentration in industry sectors within a regional economy, compared with the same sectors across the State, in this case Victoria. Generally, a LQ greater than 1.25 is taken as initial evidence of regional specialisation and that the industry has potential to be classified as an exporter (i.e. servicing more than just the regional population). The higher the LQ, the more specialised a region is in that industry relative to Victoria.

It is the sufficiently large (greater than 1% of employment) specialisation sectors that produce goods and services that are traded outside the region (i.e. exported and so are generally non-population serving industries), and have a reliance on local endowments, that are the key 'engines of growth' of regional economies. 'Enabling industries' e.g. repairs and maintenance, transport etc., provide specialised inputs to engine industries, while 'population serving' industries generally service the retail and personal services needs of the population. 'Engines of growth' can also include population serving industries where they are servicing more than just the local population e.g. Hospital Sector, Accommodation and Food Service where it is partly catering to tourists.

Based on Figure 2.15 to Figure 2.16 it is evident that the key engines of growth in the South Gippsland LGA economy are:

- Agriculture – predominantly Dairy Cattle Farming and Beef Cattle Farming (Specialised), but also Vegetable Growing (Outdoors)
- Food Manufacturing – predominantly Cheese and Other Dairy Product Manufacturing, and Meat Processing.
- Food Retailing – predominantly Supermarket and Grocery Stores.
- Preschool and School Education – predominantly Primary Education and Secondary Education.

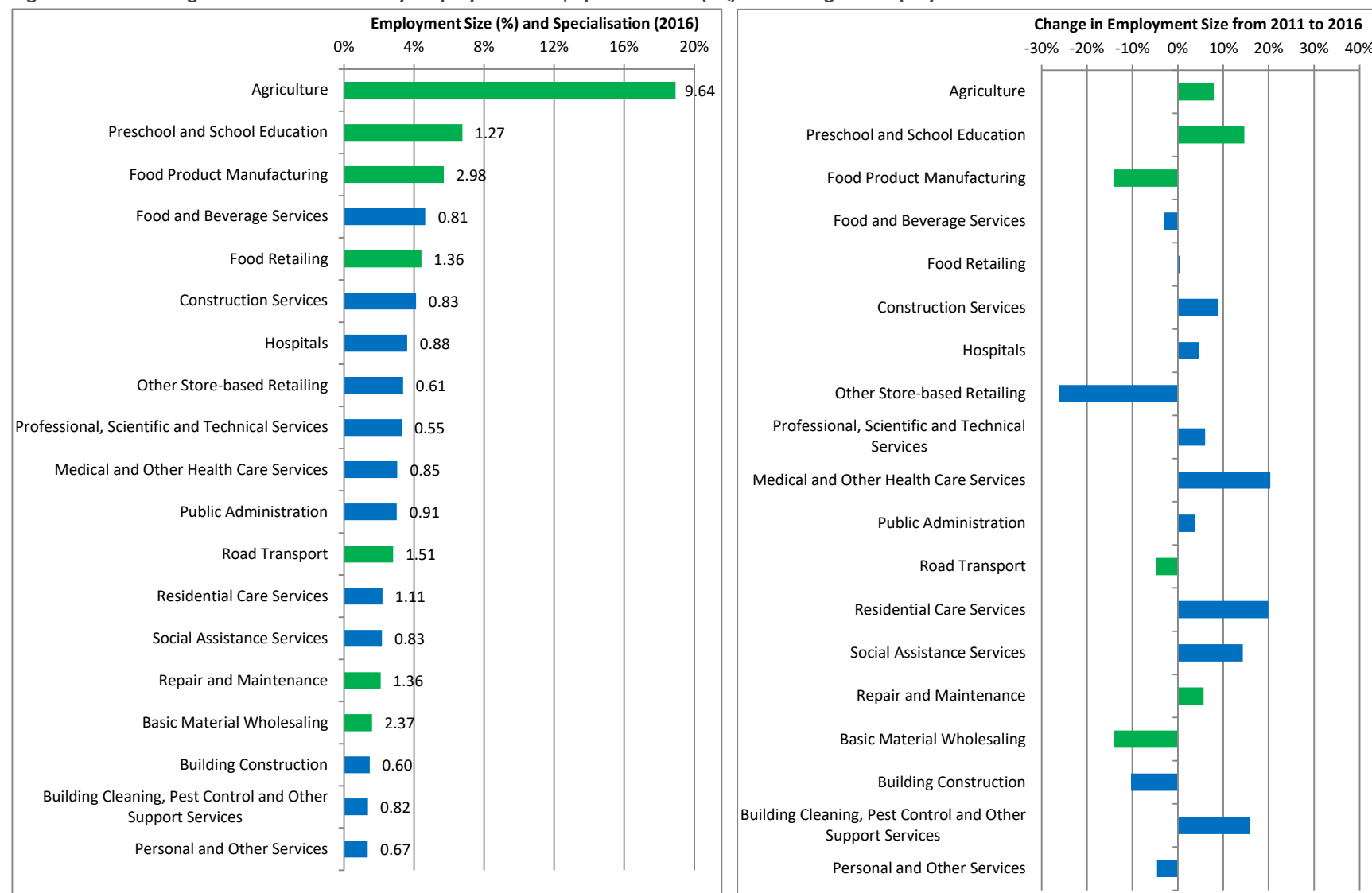
Figure 2.15 ABS 1 Digit ANZSIC Level Industry Employment Size, Specialisation (LQ) and Change in Employment Size



**Note:** Green represents a sector with a specialisation. All other sectors are in blue. The LQ for each sector is provided at the end of each bar.



Figure 2.16 ABS 2 Digit ANZSIC Level Industry Employment Size, Specialisation (LQ) and Change in Employment Size



Source: ABS, 2011 2016 Census of Population and Housing (Working Population Profile)

**Note:** Green represents a sector with a specialisation. All other sectors are in blue. The LQ for each sector is provided at the end of each bar.

## 3. Benalla, Mansfield, and Strathbogie LGAs

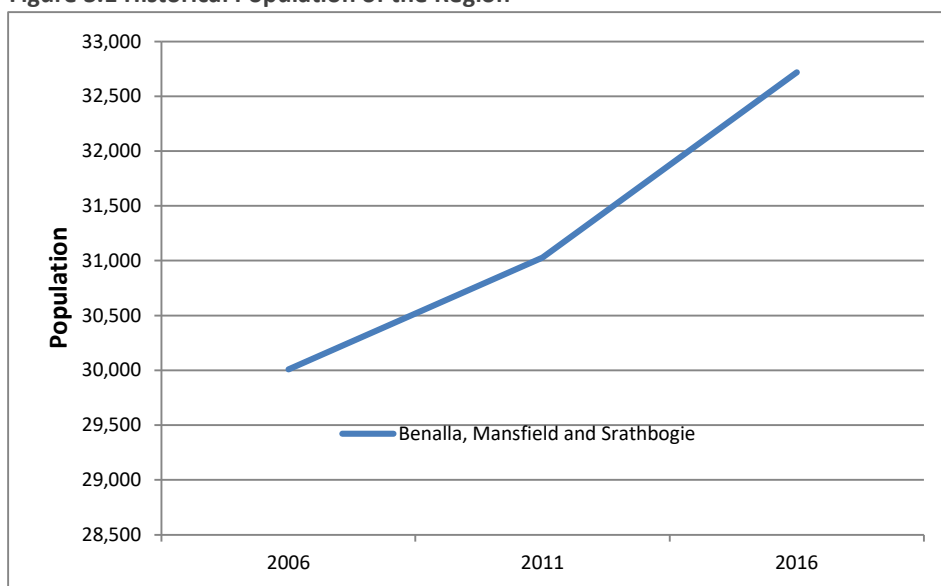
### 3.1. Demographic Profile of Residents

#### Population

##### *Population Levels and Historic Growth*

In 2016 the population of Benalla (RC), Mansfield (S) and Strathbogie (S) LGAs was 32,719. The population grew by 3.4% between 2006 and 2011 and 5.5% between 2011 and 2016 (refer to Figure 3.1). This was less than the population growth rates for Victoria (8.5% between 2006 and 2011 and 10.7% between 2011 and 2016).

**Figure 3.1 Historical Population of the Region**

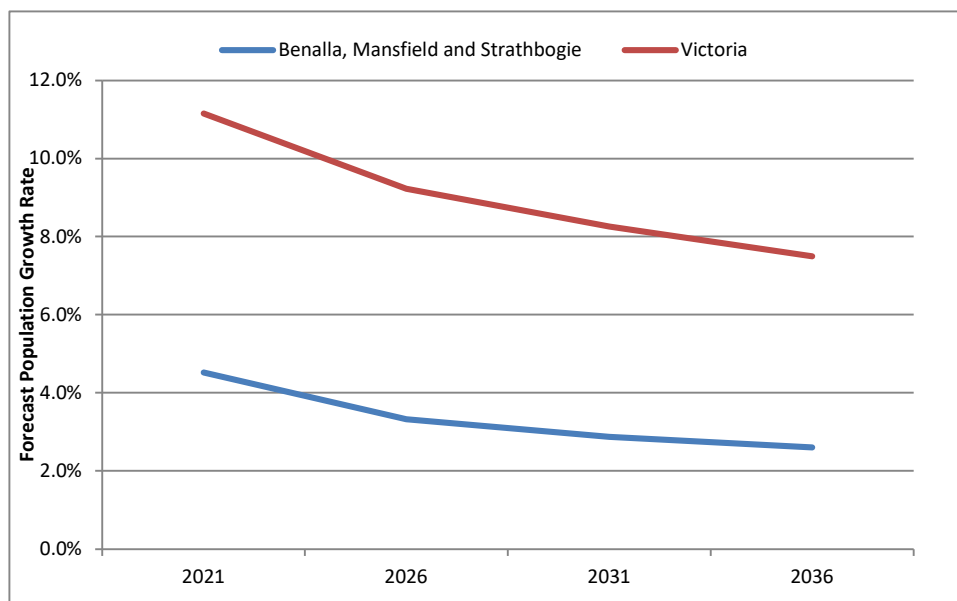


Source: ABS, 2016 Census of Population and Housing (Usual Resident Profile)

##### *Population Growth Projections*

The region is forecast to have population growth rates less than those for Victoria i.e. 2.6% to 4.5% per intercensal period compared to 7.5% to 11.2% for Victoria - see Figure 3.2.

**Figure 3.2 Population Growth Rate Forecasts**



Source: Victorian Department of Environment, Land and Water Planning (2019) Victoria in Future 2019

### *Indigenous Population*

1.2% of the population of the region are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Island people, compared to 1.6% of the population of regional Victoria and 0.8% of the population Victoria.

### *Ethnicity and Language*

81.3% of the regional population were born in Australia, with the next most common countries of birth being England (2.8%) and New Zealand (0.8%).

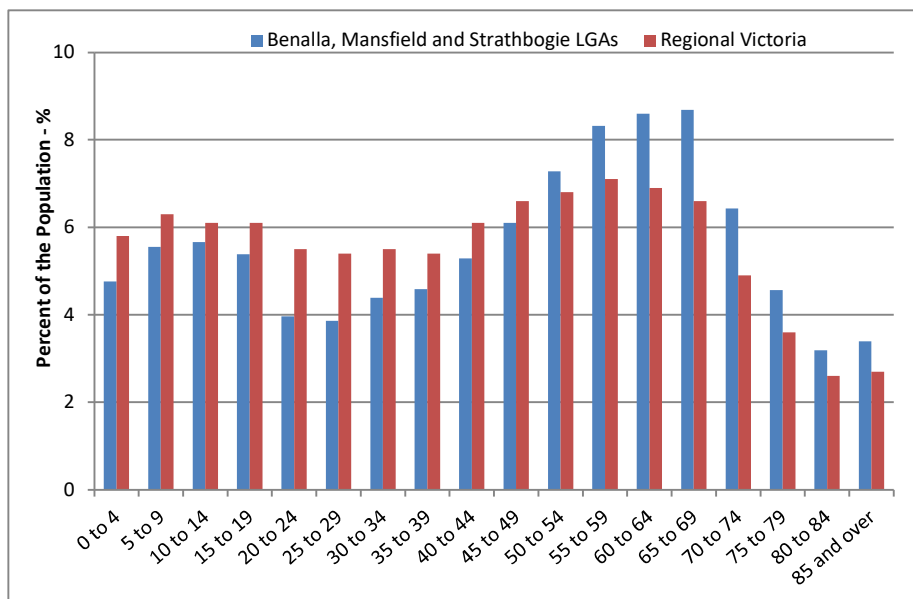
4.3% of households spoke a language other than English at home, with the main languages being German, Mandarin and Italian.

### *Age Profile*

In 2016, the weighted average median age of the Benalla (RC), Mansfield (S) and Strathbogie (S) was 50, higher than the median age for both regional Victoria (43) and Victoria (37).

Compared to regional Victoria (Figure 3.3), the Benalla (RC), Mansfield (S) and Strathbogie (S) region has a lower proportion of people in 0 to 49 years age groups, and a higher proportion in the 50+ age groups.

**Figure 3.3 Benalla, Mansfield and Strathbogie Region Population Age Distribution vs Regional Victoria**

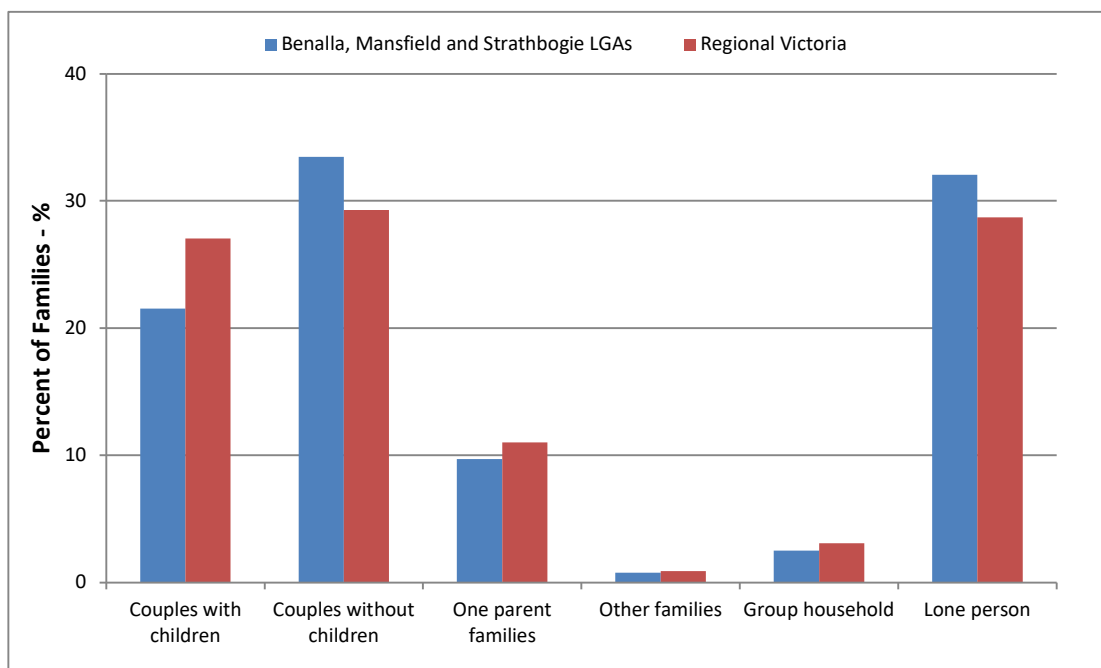


Source: ABS, 2016 Census of Population and Housing (Usual Resident Profile)

#### *Family composition*

Compared with Regional Victoria, the Benalla (RC), Mansfield (S) and Strathbogie (S) region has a higher proportion of couple families without children and lone person households, and a lower proportion of other family and household categories. Refer to Figure 3.4.

**Figure 3.4 Family Composition for the Benalla, Mansfield, and Strathbogie LGAs and Regional Victoria**



Source: ABS, 2016 Census of Population and Housing (Usual Resident Profile)

## Housing

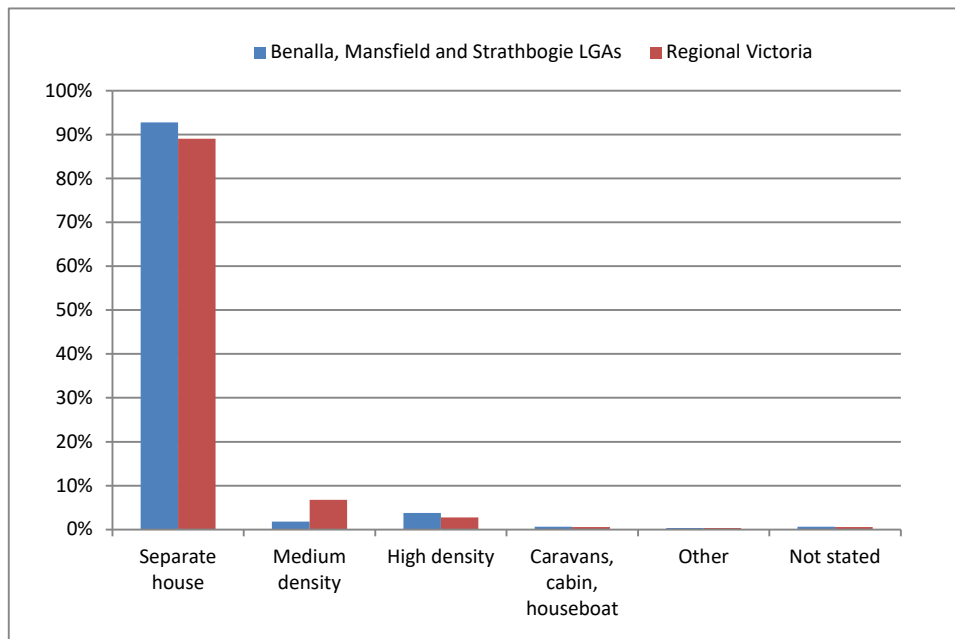
### *Private Dwellings and Occupancy*

In the Benalla (RC), Mansfield (S) and Strathbogie (S) region there were 17,262 private dwellings in 2016 with 75.1% of these occupied, less than the proportion occupied across regional Victoria (82.9%).

### *Dwelling Types*

The Benalla (RC), Mansfield (S) and Strathbogie (S) region has a higher proportion of occupied separate houses and high-density dwellings than regional Victoria.

**Figure 3.5 Occupied Dwelling Types**



Source: ABS, 2016 Census of Population and Housing (Usual Resident Profile)

### *Rent*

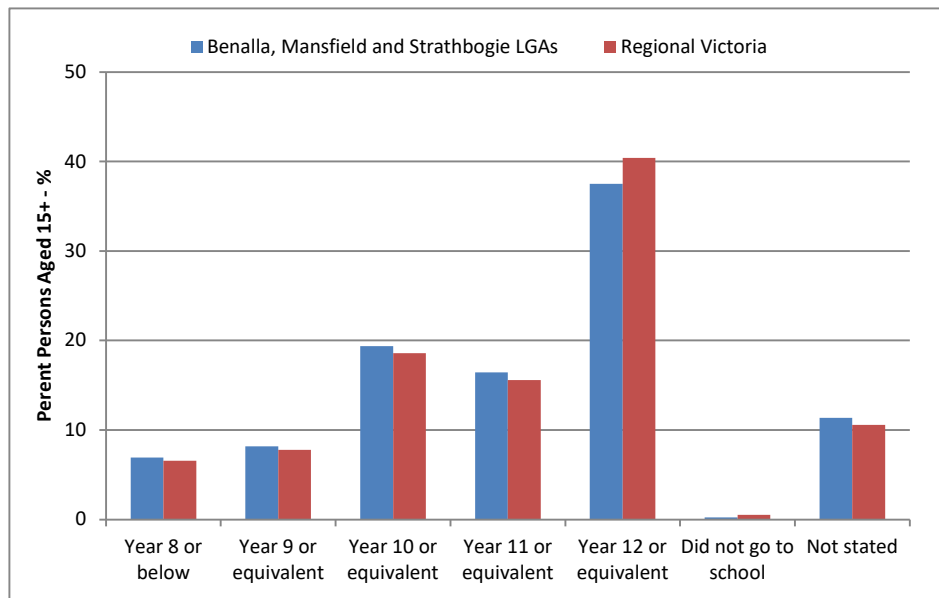
The weighted average median weekly rent for Benalla (RC), Mansfield (S) and Strathbogie (S) region (\$204), was lower than the median weekly rent for regional Victoria (\$231) and Victoria (\$325).

## Education & Employment

### *Education*

Compared with Regional Victoria, the Benalla (RC), Mansfield (S) and Strathbogie (S) region had a lower proportion of people who completed Year 12 or equivalent - see Figure 3.6.

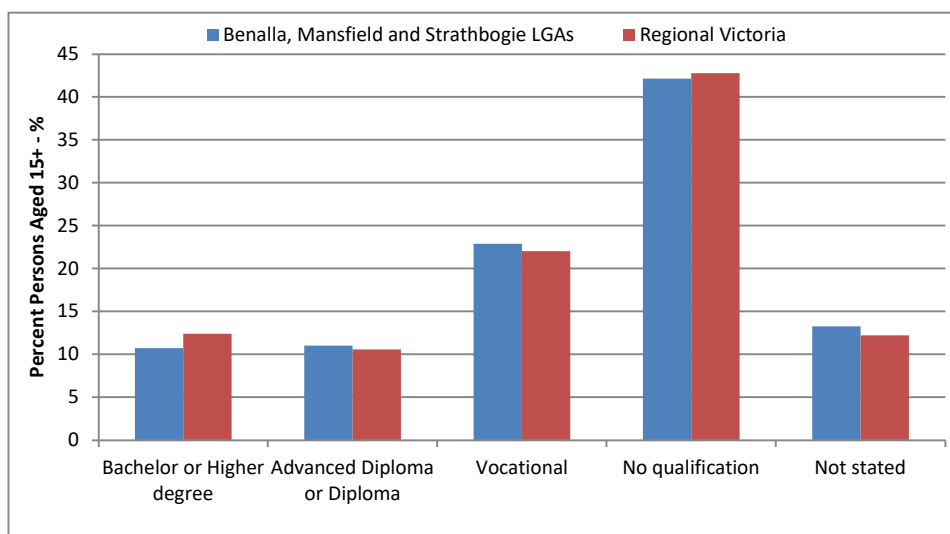
**Figure 3.6 Highest level of schooling**



Source: ABS, 2016 Census of Population and Housing (Usual Resident Profile)

Compared to regional Victoria, in 2016 the Benalla (RC), Mansfield (S) and Strathbogie (S) region had a lower proportion of people with Bachelor or Higher degree qualifications – see Figure 3.7.

**Figure 3.7 Highest qualification**



Source: ABS, 2016 Census of Population and Housing (Usual Resident Profile)

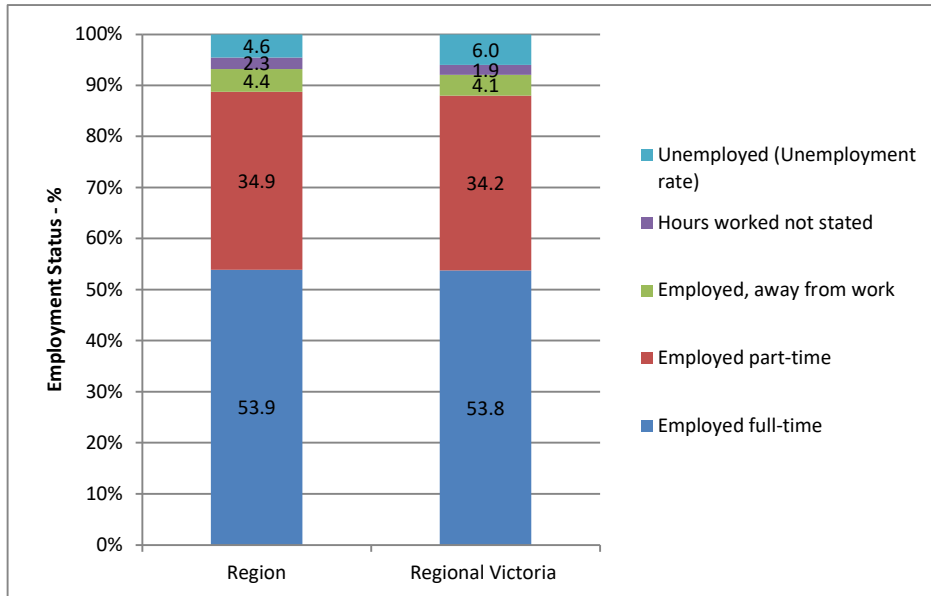
### *Employment Growth for Usual Residents*

In 2016, 13,812 of the usual residents of Benalla (RC), Mansfield (S) and Strathbogie (S) region were employed. The usual resident labour force grew by 3.6% between 2006 and 2011, and -0.1% between 2011 and 2016. At the same time the usual residents employed grew by 4.6% and -0.6% respectively.

## Employment Status

In 2016, the Benalla (RC), Mansfield (S) and Strathbogie (S) region had a slightly higher proportion of the labour force employed in full-time and part-time employment and a lower unemployment rate than regional Victoria.

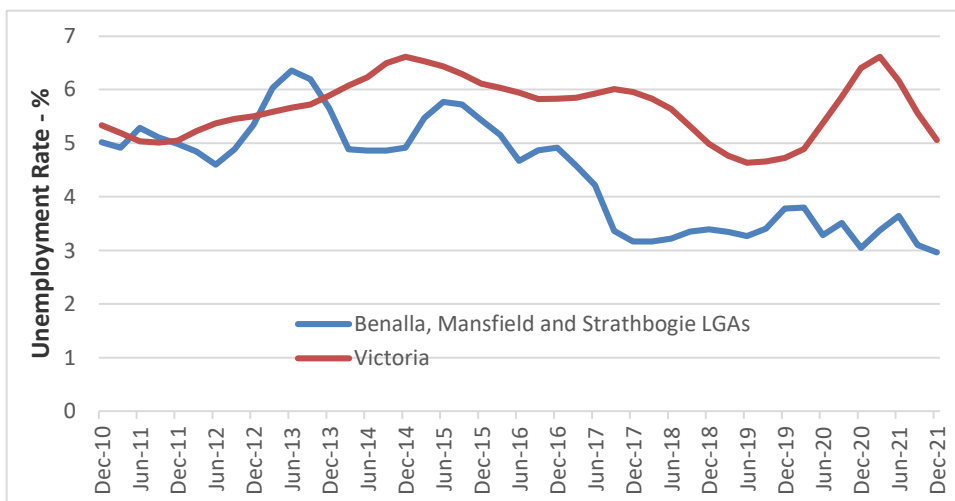
**Figure 3.8 Employment Status**



Source: ABS, 2016 Census of Population and Housing (Usual Resident Profile)

The Department of Employment's Small Area Labour Markets (2021) (see Figure 3.9) indicates that unemployment in the region has generally been lower than that for Victoria.

**Figure 3.9 Unemployment Rates over Time**



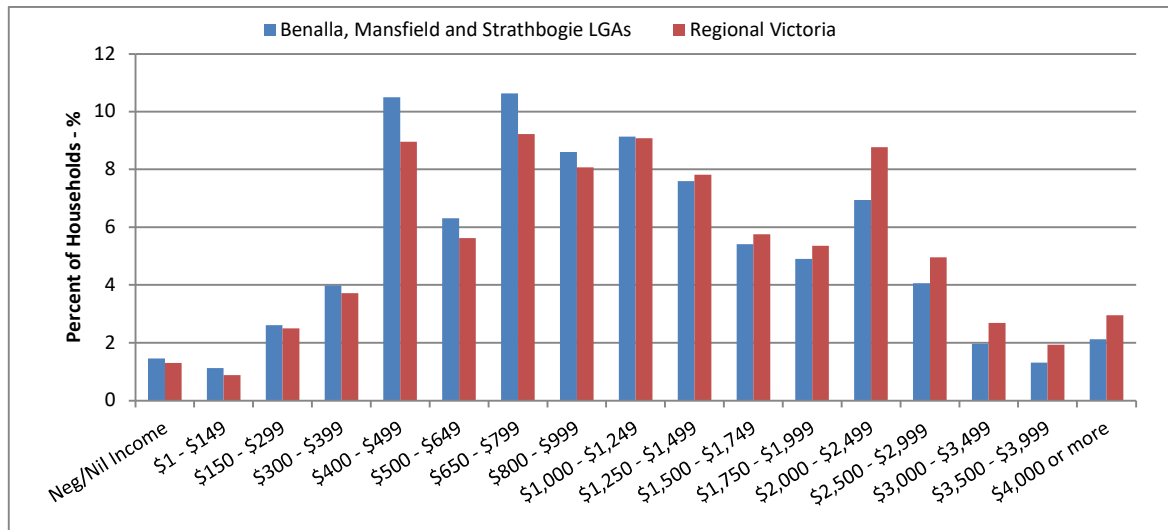
Source: Department of Employment, Small Area Labour Markets (December 2021)

## Income

In 2016, the weighted average median weekly household income for the three LGAs was \$873 compared to \$1,124 for regional Victoria and \$1,419 for Victoria.

The distribution of weekly household income relative to regional Victoria is given in Figure 3.10. This indicates that the Benalla (RC), Mansfield (S) and Strathbogie (S) region had a higher proportion of low-income households (those earning less than \$1,000 per week) and a lower proportion earning \$1,250 per week or more.

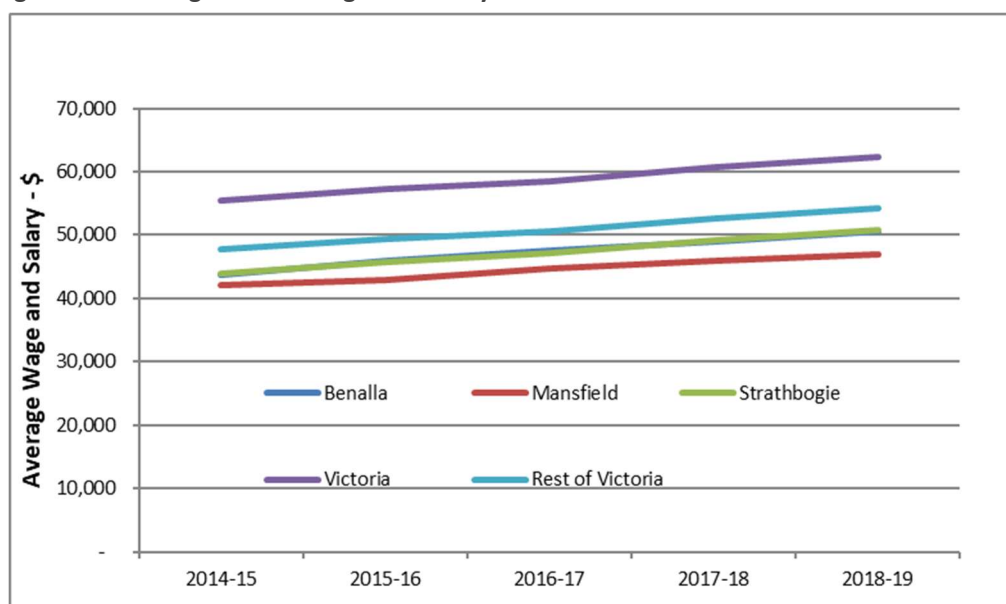
**Figure 3.10 Weekly Household Income Distribution**



Source: ABS, 2016 Census of Population and Housing (Usual Resident Profile)

Historically, average wage and salary income in the Benalla, Mansfield and Strathbogie LGAs has varied between LGAs, with mean wage and salary for Benalla and Strathbogie LGAs being similar and higher than that for Mansfield LGA while the mean wage and salary for Benalla, Mansfield and Strathbogie LGAs have all been below that for Victoria and Regional Victoria – see Figure 3.11.

**Figure 3.11 Average Annual Wage and Salary Income**



Source: ABS, Catalogue Number: 6524.0.55.002 Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, 2014-2015 to 2018-19

Note: Benalla and Strathbogie are the same line on this Figure.



### Occupation

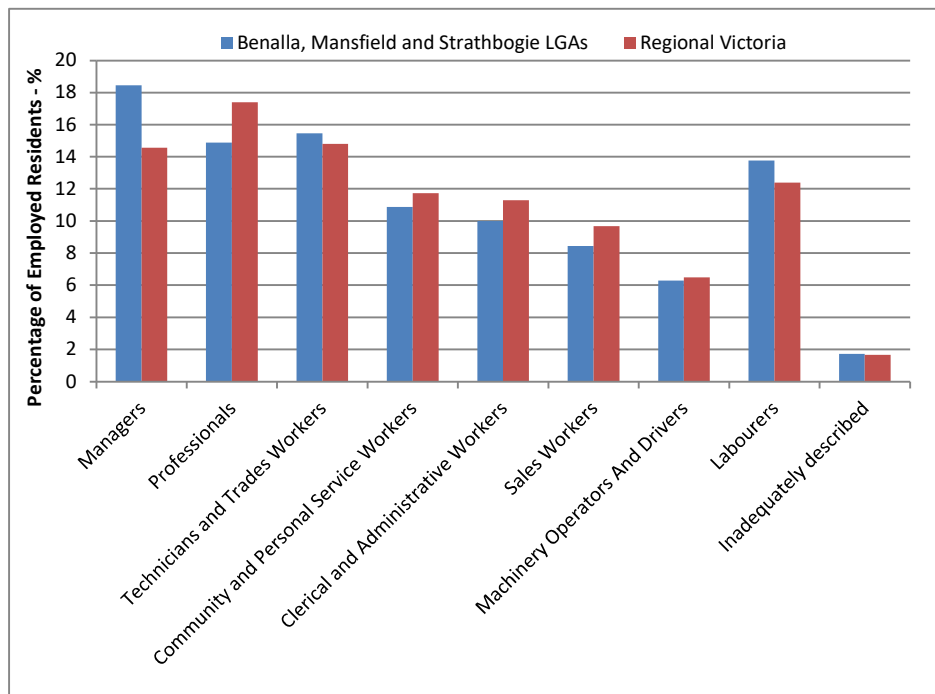
Compared to regional Victoria, in 2016 the Benalla (RC), Mansfield (S) and Strathbogie (S) region had a relatively higher proportion of its resident labour force workers employed as:

- Managers;
- Technicians and Trade Workers; and
- Labourers - see Figure 3.12.

Comparatively, the region had a lower proportion of its workers employed as:

- Professionals;
- Community and Personal Service Workers;
- Clerical and Administrative Workers;
- Sales Workers.

**Figure 3.12 Occupations**



Source: ABS, 2016 Census of Population and Housing (Usual Resident Profile)

### Workforce Location

22% of the employed usual residents of the region commute to work outside the region. The main LGA destinations are Greater Shepparton (C) (6%), No Fixed Address (Vic.) (5%), Wangaratta (RC) (4%) and Mitchell (S).

**Table 3.1 Work Location of Employed Usual Residents of the Benalla (RC), Mansfield (S) and Strathbogie (S) Region**

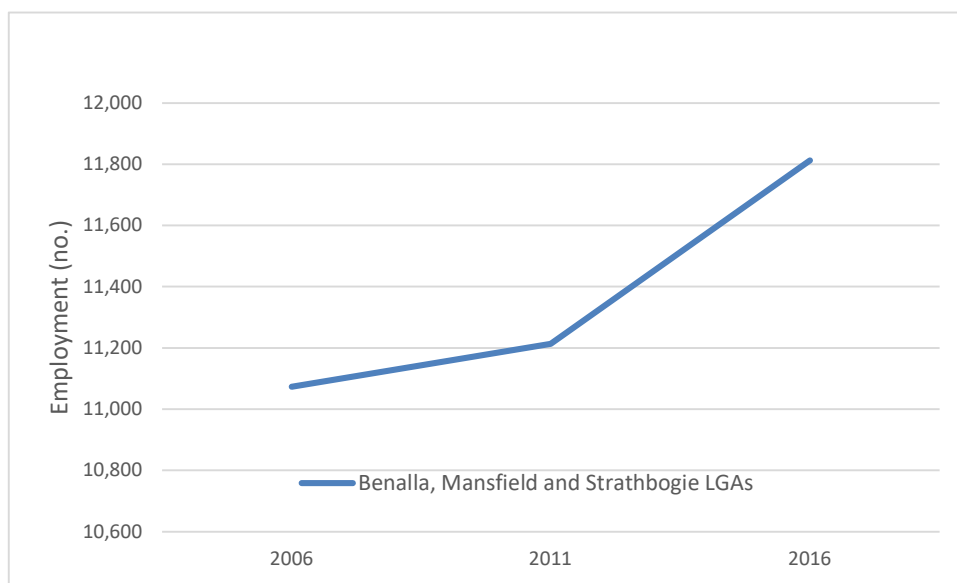
LGA	%
Benalla, Mansfield and Strathbogie	78%
Greater Shepparton (C)	6%
No Fixed Address (Vic.)	5%
Wangaratta (RC)	4%
Mitchell (S)	3%
Unincorporated Vic	2%

Source: ABS Tablebuilder 2016 Census

## 3.2. Economic Profile

### Employment Growth

In 2016, there were 11,813 jobs located in the Benalla (RC), Mansfield (S) and Strathbogie (S) region, less than the labour force residing in the region and less than the employed labour residing in the region. Employment located in the Benalla (RC), Mansfield (S) and Strathbogie (S) region grew between 2006 and 2011 by 1.3% and then grew by 5.4% between 2011 and 2016.

**Figure 3.13 Employment Growth in the Region**

Source: ABS, 2006, 2011 2016 Census of Population and Housing (Place of Work Profile)

### Source of Workers

In 2016, 89% of jobs in the region were filled by those residing in the region. Those who work in the region, but live outside it, were predominantly from Wangaratta (RC) (4%), Mitchell (S) (2%), Greater Shepparton (C) (2%) and Moira (1%).

**Table 3.2 Residential Location of Workers Employed in the Benalla (RC), Mansfield (S) and Strathbogie (S) Region**

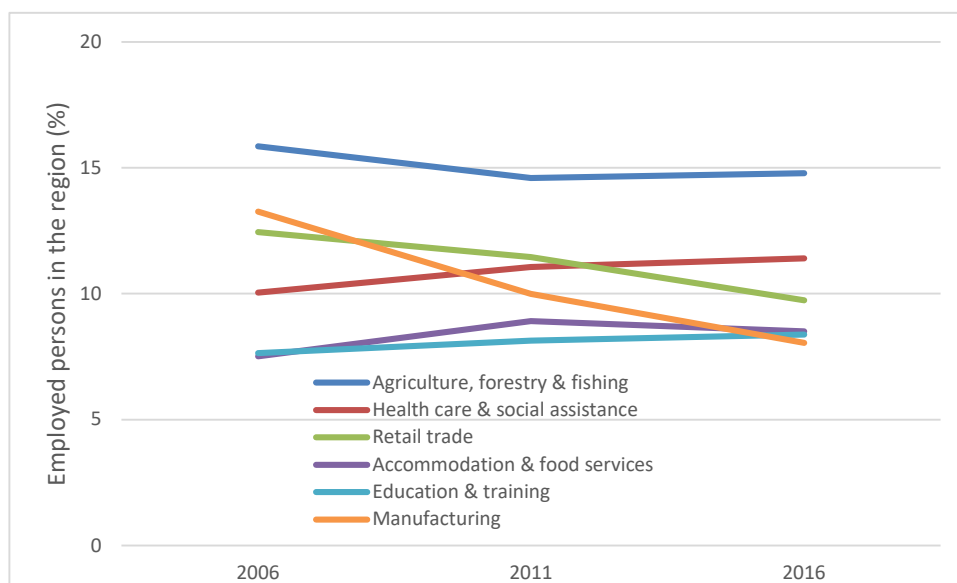
LGA	%
Benalla, Mansfield and Strathbogie LGAs	89%
Wangaratta (RC)	4%
Mitchell (S)	2%
Greater Shepparton (C)	2%
Moirra (S)	1%

Source: ABS Tablebuilder 2016 Census

### Industry Employment Share

As shown in Figure 3.14, historically, by far the largest employing industry in the region has been Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, and Manufacturing. The relative significance of Manufacturing to employment in the region declined between 2006 and 2016, as did the relative significance of Retail Trade. The relative significance to employment in the region of Health Care and Social Assistance grew between 2006 and 2016 to become the second most significant employment sector in the region. In 2016, Accommodation and Foods Services and Education and Training were the fourth and fifth most significant employment sectors in the region.

**Figure 3.14 Historical Employment of the six largest ANZSIC Level 1 industries in Benalla (RC), Mansfield (S) and Strathbogie (S) Region**



Source: ABS, 2006, 2011 2016 Census of Population and Housing (Place of Work Profile)

In 2016 employment in Benalla (RC), Mansfield (S) and Strathbogie (S) in forestry and logging and wood manufacturing represented 1.8% of the total employment.

**Table 3.3 2016 Forestry, Logging and Wood Manufacturing Employment in Benalla, Mansfield, and Strathbogie (4-digit ANZSIC)**

<b>Forestry and Logging</b>	<b>No.</b>
Forestry and Logging, nfd	3
Forestry	5
Logging	3
Forestry Support Services	15
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Wood Manufacturing</b>	
Wood Product Manufacturing, nfd	11
Log Sawmilling and Timber Dressing, nfd	18
Log Sawmilling	57
Wood Chipping	0
Timber Resawing and Dressing	0
Other Wood Product Manufacturing, nfd	0
Prefabricated Wooden Building Manufacturing	0
Wooden Structural Fitting and Component Manufacturing	6
Veneer and Plywood Manufacturing	0
Reconstituted Wood Product Manufacturing	82
Other Wood Product Manufacturing nec	0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>174</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Percentage of total employment</b>	<b>1.8%</b>

There is no tourism sector per se. It is an amalgam of normal "population serving" sectors in which tourists spend their money e.g. accommodation, restaurants, food and beverages. For the Benalla, Mansfield and Strathbogie region, Tourism Research Australia identified that in 2019 there were 465 tourism businesses, 1,681,000 visitors and \$236M of tourism expenditure. This level of expenditure represents 7.0% of the output of the regional economy.

### Employment by Industry, Growth and Specialisations

Figure 3.15 to Figure 3.16 summarise:

- employment by industry sector at the 1 digit and 2 digit level of the ANZSIC Industry Classification;
- growth in percentage employment from 2011 to 2016; and
- level of industry specialisation;

for sectors that represent more than 1% of employment in the Benalla, Mansfield and Strathbogie LGAs.

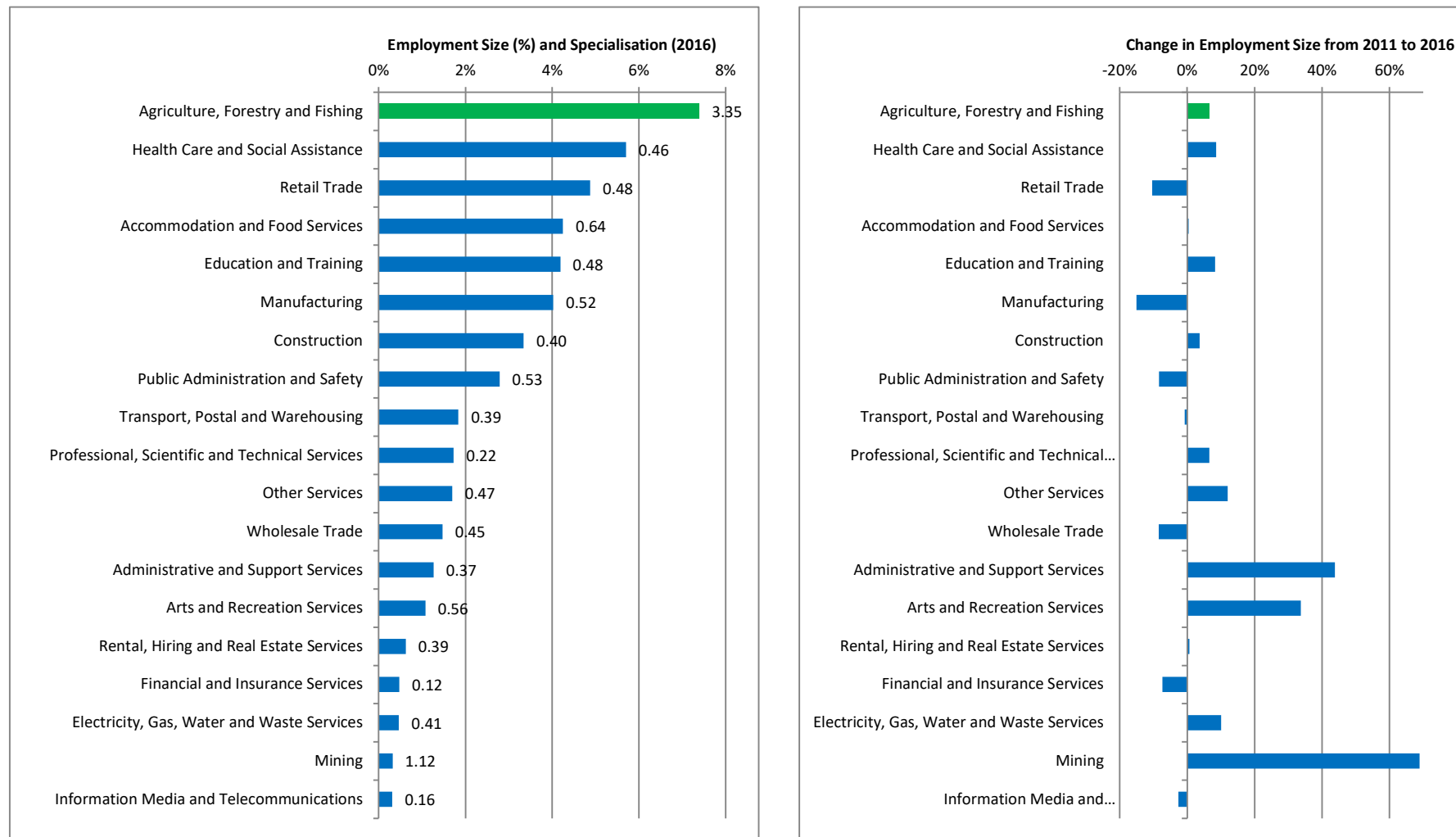
Level of industry specialisation was determined using Location Quotients (LQs) which measure the employment concentration in industry sectors within a regional economy, compared with the same sectors across the State, in this case Victoria. Generally, a LQ greater than 1.25 is taken as initial evidence of regional specialisation and that the industry has potential to be classified as an exporter (i.e. servicing more than just the regional population). The higher the LQ, the more specialised a region is in that industry relative to Victoria.

It is the sufficiently large (greater than 1% of employment) specialisation sectors that produce goods and services that are traded outside the region (i.e. exported and so are generally non-population serving industries), and have a reliance on local endowments, that are the key 'engines of growth' of regional economies. 'Enabling industries' e.g. repairs and maintenance, transport etc., provide specialised inputs to engine industries while 'population serving' industries generally service the retail and personal services needs of the population. 'Engines of growth' can also include population serving industries where they are servicing more than just the local population e.g. Hospital Sector, Accommodation and Food Service where it is partly catering to tourists.

Based on Figure 3.15 to Figure 3.16 it is evident that the key engines of growth in the Benalla, Mansfield and Strathbogie LGAs economy are:

- Agriculture - predominantly Beef Cattle Farming (Specialised), Sheep Farming (Specialised) and Sheep-Beef Cattle Farming, but also Mushroom Growing, Vegetable Growing (Outdoors), Other Grain Growing, Poultry Farming (Eggs), and Horse Farming,
- Preschool and School Education.
- Residential Care Services predominantly Aged Care Residential Services.
- Food Retailing predominantly Supermarket and Grocery Stores.
- Accommodation
- Sports and Recreation Activities predominantly Other Horse and Dog Racing Activities.

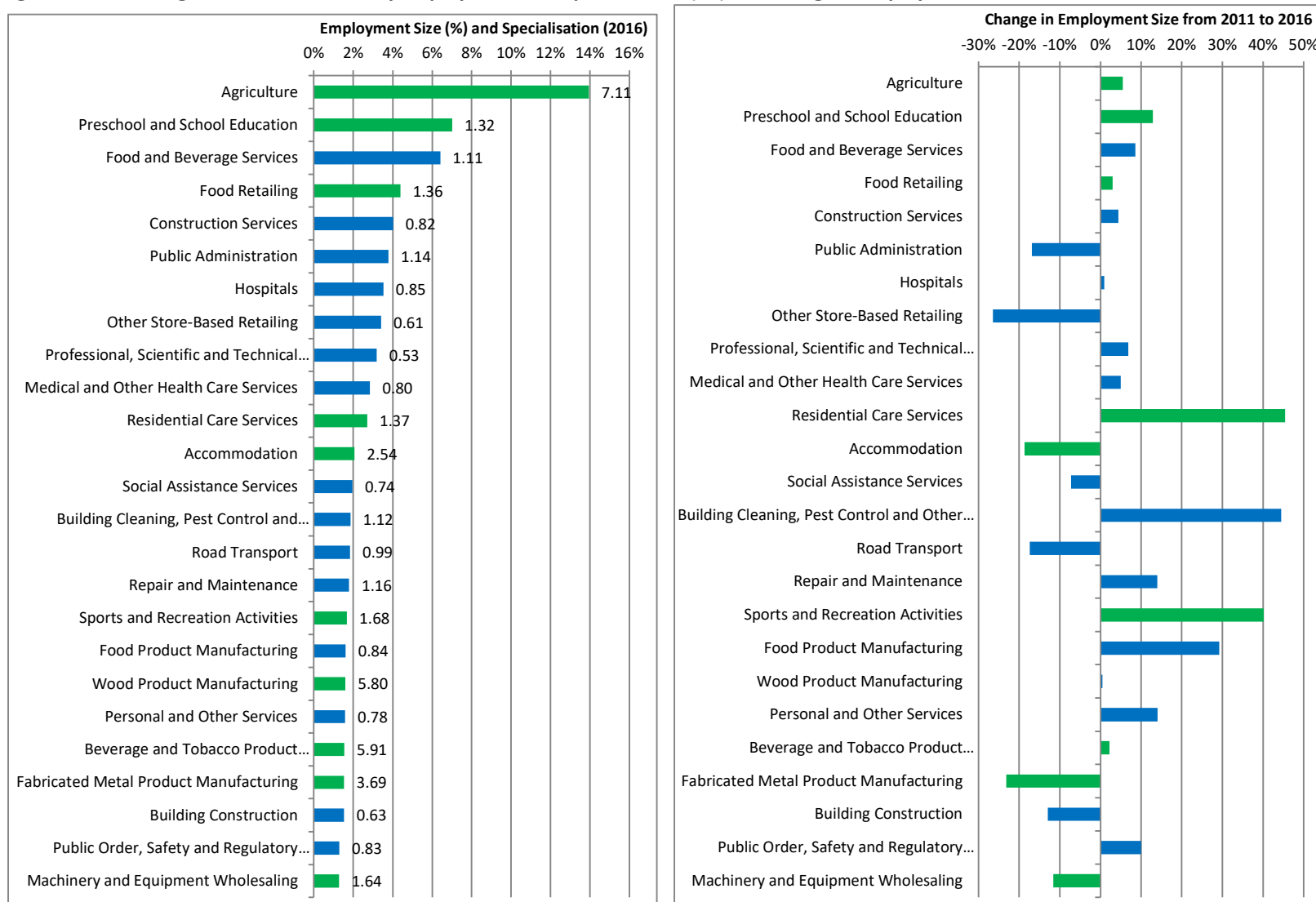
Figure 3.15 ABS 1 Digit ANZSIC Level Industry Employment Size, Specialisation (LQ) and Change in Employment Size



Source: ABS Tablebuilder 2011, 2016 Census

**Note:** Green represents a sector with a specialisation. All other sectors are in blue. The LQ for each sector is provided at the end of each bar.

Figure 3.16 ABS 2 Digit ANZSIC Level Industry Employment Size, Specialisation (LQ) and Change in Employment Size



Source: ABS Tablebuilder 2011, 2016 Census

**Note:** Green represents a sector with a specialisation. All other sectors are in blue. The LQ for each sector is provided at the end of each bar.

## 4. Regional Comparison

A comparison between regions of the main socioeconomic statistics is provided in Table 4.1.

**Table 4.1- Comparison of Socioeconomic Statistics**

STATISTICS	Mirboo North	South Gippsland	Benalla, Mansfield and Strathbogie
<b>DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF USUAL RESIDENTS</b>			
<b>Population</b>			
Population 2016	2,197	31,818	32,719
Population Growth 2011-2016	-4.3%	16.9%	5.5%
Population Growth Rate Projections		3.7% to 4.0%	2.6% to 4.5%
Indigenous and/or Torres Strait Island Population	0.7%	1.2%	1.2%
% Born in Australia	79.4%	83.1%	81.3%
% households where a non-English language is spoken	5.6%	5.0%	4.3%
Main non-English Language	Italian, German	Italian, Dutch and German	German, Mandarin, Italian
Median age	45	47	50
Family composition compared to Regional Victoria	More couples with and without children.	More couples without children	More couples without children and lone person households
<b>Dwellings</b>			
No of private dwellings	881	14,948	17,262
% private dwellings occupied	89%	72%	75%
% separate houses	96%	95%	93%
Median weekly rent	\$230	\$214	\$204
<b>Education and Employment</b>			
% year 12 or equivalent	40%	37%	37%
% with university qualifications	24%	21%	22%
% with vocational qualification	24%	24%	
No. of residents employed	881	12,190	13,812
% growth in employed usual residents 2011 - 2016	-11.0%	-2.4%	5.4%
% full-time jobs	50.7%	54.6%	53.9%
% part time jobs	42.5%	38.3%	34.9%
Unemployment rate	5.9%	4.9%	4.6%
Median weekly household income	\$1,092	\$776	\$873
Average wage and salary 2018-19	NA	\$50,716	\$49,650
Main occupations compared to Regional Victoria	More Technicians and Trade Workers	More Managers and Labourers	More Managers, Technicians and Trade Workers and Labourers
% of employed usual residents working in the region	56%	73%	78%
Main other location of usual resident employment	Latrobe, No fixed address (Vic.)	Bass Coast, No fixed address (Vic.)	Greater Shepparton, No fixed address (Vic.)
<b>ECONOMIC PROFILE OF REGION</b>			
Employment in region		10,666	11,813
Growth in employment in the region 2011 to 2016		5.6%	5.4%
% of jobs in the region filled by usual residents		85%	89%
Main location of workers not living in the region		Bass Coast	Wangaratta
Largest employing sectors 2016		Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing
% contribution of forestry, logging and wood manufacturing		0.3%	1.8%
Key engines of growth		Agriculture	Agriculture
		Food Manufacturing	Preschool and School Education
		Food Retailing	Residential Care Services
		Preschool and School Education	Food Retailing
			Sport and Recreation Activities



## **Mirboo North IPA**

Mirboo North IPA is in the South Gippsland Shire LGA. Compared to regional Victoria, the population of South Gippsland Shire LGA is characterized by a lower proportion of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Island people, a higher proportion in the 55+ age bracket, a higher proportion of couple families without children, lower levels of schooling and higher education, and lower levels of household income. Compared to regional Victoria, South Gippsland Shire LGA has a relatively higher proportion of its resident labour force workers employed as Managers (including farm managers) and Labourers. The most significant employment sectors in the region are Agriculture/Forestry and Fishing, and Health Care and Social Assistance. Key exporting sectors and drivers of the economy are:

- Agriculture – predominantly Dairy Cattle Farming and Beef Cattle Farming (Specialised), but also Vegetable Growing (Outdoors)
- Food Product Manufacturing – predominantly Cheese and Other Dairy Product Manufacturing, and Meat Processing.

For South Gippsland LGA, Tourism Research Australia identified that in 2019 there were 333 tourism businesses, 1,039,000 visitors and \$162M of tourism expenditure. This level of expenditure represents 4.1% of the output of the regional economy.

In 2016 employment in South Gippsland Shire LGA in Forestry and Logging, and Wood Manufacturing represented 0.3% of the total employment in the region.

## **Strathbogie Ranges IPA**

Strathbogie Ranges IPA is in the LGAs of Benalla (RC), Mansfield (S) and Strathbogie (S). Compared to regional Victoria, the population of this region is characterized by a lower proportion of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Island people, a higher proportion in the 50+ age bracket, a higher proportion of couple families without children, lower levels of schooling and higher education, and lower levels of household income. Compared to regional Victoria, Strathbogie region has a relatively higher proportion of its resident labour force workers employed as Managers (including farm managers), Technician and Trade Workers and Labourers. The most significant employment sectors in the region are Agriculture/Forestry and Fishing, and Health Care and Social Assistance. Key exporting sectors and drivers of the economy are:

- Agriculture - predominantly Beef Cattle Farming (Specialised), Sheep Farming (Specialised) and Sheep-Beef Cattle Farming, but also Mushroom Growing, Vegetable Growing (Outdoors), Other Grain Growing, Poultry Farming (Eggs), and Horse Farming
- Preschool and School Education.
- Residential Care Services, predominantly Aged Care Residential Services

For the Benalla, Mansfield and Strathbogie region, Tourism Research Australia identified that in 2019 there were 465 tourism businesses, 1,681,000 visitors and \$236M of tourism expenditure. This level of expenditure represents 7.0% of the output of the regional economy.

In 2016 employment in the Strathbogie IPA region in Forestry and Logging and Wood Manufacturing represented 1.8% of the total employment in the region.