



T H E M C K E L L I N S T I T U T E

MOUNT ISA TRANSITION FRAMEWORK

**PART TWO: UNDERSTAND THE REGIONAL CONTEXT
LABOUR MARKET ANALYSIS**



Title

Mount Isa Transition Framework

Part Two: Understand the Regional Context - Labour Market Analysis

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About the McKell Institute

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Acknowledgement of Country

This report was written on Kalkadoon and Karuna Land. The McKell Institute acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to both their land and seas.

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Executive Summary

Instances of large-scale job loss pose two central and interrelated problems: what happens to the workers and what happens to the region, in the immediate aftermath and over the medium and long term.

Regions that are highly dependent on a single industry or employer, like Mount Isa, are at greater risk of extended periods of unemployment because it is less likely that the available work will require the same skillsets as the industries shedding labour. Past closures reveal that the loss of a major employer can have individual, regional and national repercussions. And that without sufficient and suitable intervention they can have a devastating and lasting (sometimes inter-generational) psycho-social effect on workers, their families, and their communities.

No two shocks are the same, and so we must be cautious about any attempts to identically replicate success stories. What worked in one instance will not necessarily do so in another. Closure interventions require a clear understanding of the severity of the problem to inform the level of support needed to mitigate both the direct short-term impacts, as well as the longer-term flow-on impacts which result from a regional shock. Effective management of large-scale job losses require a holistic transition response that simultaneously considers people and place, jobs and skills, and goals and strategies - now and into the future.

Managing an industry closure requires an understanding of the regional context in which the closure is occurring. This is important as it can inform the risks to the overall health of the region, and the barriers that individuals will face if they find themselves needing to find a new job.

This section outlines the current and historical status of the labour market in Mount Isa in the context of the closure of the Mount Isa Copper Operations (MICO) and copper concentrator and forms **part two** of the McKell Institute's Mount Isa Transition Response.

Industry and Skills

Overall, employment in Mount Isa is heavily concentrated in the Mining industry. More than one third of people who work in Mount Isa work in this industry (3,370 - 34.6%). Other important industries for Mount Isa include Health Care and Social Assistance (1,258 people - 12.9%), and Education and Training (754 people - 7.7%). These three industries make up half of the employment in this region. The Mining industry in Mount Isa is male dominated. More than 4 in 5 Mining workers in Mount Isa are males. This contrasts strongly with both Health Care and Social Assistance, and Education and Training Industries, which are more heavily skewed towards female employment than Mining is toward male employment. This is an additional barrier which must be considered if seeking to redeploy Mining workers in Mount Isa.

At the occupation level, Technicians and Trades Workers (2,095 - 21.7%) is the biggest employing occupation, followed by Professionals (1,772 - 18.4%) and Machinery Operators and Drivers (1,604 - 16.6%).

Within the mining industry, employment is concentrated among Machine and Stationary Plant Operators (968 - 28.7%), Automotive and Engineering Trades Workers (554 - 16.4%) and Design, Engineering, Science and Transport Professionals (303 - 9.0%). There is negligible cross-over between the occupations of those working in the Mining industry, and the other large industries in Mount Isa. This means it will be difficult to redeploy Mining workers outside the Mining industry, without significant investment into new industries which utilise the skills of Mining workers, or retraining.

Population and Employment

There has been a decline in the total resident population of the Mount Isa region from the peak of 22,000 in 2011 to an estimated 19,047 in 2022 - a decline of about 15%. The most recent population data is summarised in [Table 1](#).

Table 1: Estimated Regional Population, Mount Isa, June 2022

Age Group	Population
Below Working Age (0-14)	4,521
Over Working Age (65+)	1,528
Working Age (15-64)	12,998

The decline in population has been at the expense of working age (15-64 years) and below working age (under 15) residents, whose population has declined by 19% and 16% respectively. Conversely, there has been a relative and absolute increase in the population aged 65 years and older. The median age of Mount Isa residents has increased from 30.8 in 2017 to 31.7 in 2022.

Between the September quarter of 2013 and the December quarter of 2015, the unemployment rate in Mount Isa was well below that of Queensland and Australia. Potentially impacted by the closure of the Xstrata copper smelter in 2016, the unemployment rate increased to around 8%, with a peak of 10.5% in June 2019. Despite a strong rebound in state and national labour markets in the post-pandemic era, the unemployment rate in Mount Isa has remained high - only falling to 5.9% in the September quarter of 2023 - although the most recent labour market data does suggest a slight rebound in the number of employed people in Mount Isa.

As a remote town with limited connections to other regions, Mount Isa has a high proportion of employment relative to its local population. That is, most people who live in Mount Isa work in Mount Isa, and most people who work in Mount Isa live in Mount Isa. There appears to be some level of fly-in-fly-out employment into Mount Isa from Brisbane, Townsville and the Sunshine Coast. Overall, about 90% of people who work in Mount Isa, also live in Mount Isa. From the opposite point of view, there is a much larger proportion of people who live in Mount Isa, who also work in Mount Isa - more than 95%. There is an insignificant fly-in-fly-out employment base **from** Mount Isa to other regions.

Education

Most employees (6,471 - 66%) in Mount Isa have a high school or Certificate III/IV Level education. Of those with non-school qualifications, the most common degree is in Engineering and Related Technologies, with nearly 1 in 3 non-school qualifications in this field. Other highly represented fields of qualification include Management and Commerce (910 - 13.7%), and Health (807 - 12.1%).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

Mount Isa has a large population of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples, representing about 25% of the usual residence population. Labour force outcomes are worse for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples than non Indigenous residents of Mount Isa, with a much higher proportion either not in the labour force, or unemployed and looking for work. Consequently, the proportion of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples employed in full or part-time work is also lower than the non-Indigenous population. The Mining industry is a significant employer of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples in Mount Isa, employing 240 people - about 1 in 4 of the employed population, although its dominance as an employing industry of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is less so than that of non Indigenous peoples. Careful consideration of the needs and cultural differences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples must be undertaken in the context of retrenched Mining workers.

Risk factors

Overall, the risks to Mount Isa from the closure of Glencore include:

- **regional and community resilience.** Regions that are highly dependent on a single industry or employer, like Mount Isa, are at greater risk of extended, even generational, periods of unemployment because it is less likely that the available work will require the same skillsets as the industries shedding labour. A region is more than an economy alone, and one measure of a regions' strength is community resilience – a process (rather than an outcome) in which political, social and cultural factors interact in the face of adverse conditions to form community strength. Resilience is measured by the speed at which homeostasis is achieved, but it needs to account for the variability in community outcomes beyond the 'averaged rate' of individual wellness in a given area. A community cannot be considered well if most of the affected population has returned to a pre-crisis level, while some have been pushed into acute stress. As such, transition success can not, and should not, be measured solely on population averages.
- **high unemployment.** Unemployment has been stubbornly high in Mount Isa. There are limited jobs available and it's possible that retrenched workers from the mine may flood the job market and push some of the existing unemployed workforce in Mount Isa into long-term unemployment.

- **ageing population.** This is a risk for the town in general and will be an additional factor to consider if retrenched workers are near retirement age. Older workers are more likely to struggle to find new employment after closure and are more likely to experience the negative social and health impacts associated with mass unemployment events.
- **mining industry concentration.** The Mining industry is the largest employing industry in the town, and there is very limited cross-over between the occupations utilised in the Mining industry and the other large employing industries. It will be difficult to redeploy Mining workers outside their industry, without significant investment into new industries which utilise the skills of Mining workers, or retraining.
- **availability of mining jobs in other regions.** Due to the high proportion of individuals living and working in Mount Isa, retrenchment can create a flight risk to other regions with high demand for mining workers.
- **population outflow.** The closure risks fueling, or increasing the rate of population outflow and decline.

1. A note on geographies

The basis for analysis is the Mount Isa Local Government Area (LGA). Unless specified otherwise, the geographical region analysed should be assumed to be the Local Government Area. Some data is available at the Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2), and is also presented. The different geographies are shown below in [Figure 1](#).

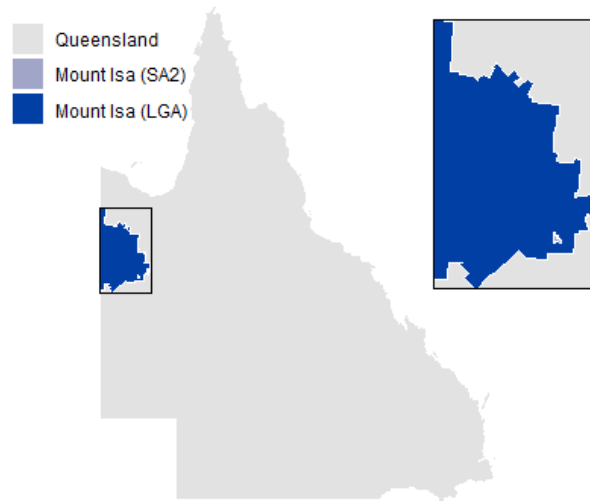


Figure 1: Mount Isa geographies

While there is a significant difference in the size of the two geographies, there is not as significant a difference between the labour market statistics. For example, the labour force in the Mount Isa LGA in the September quarter of 2023 was 10,752. In the Mount Isa SA2, the labour force was 10,488.

2. Population

The estimated resident population for Mount Isa Local Government Area (LGA) has been in decline since 2011 as shown in [Figure 2](#).

The latest estimated population for Mount Isa, as of June 2022 is 19,047, of which 12,998 are of working age.

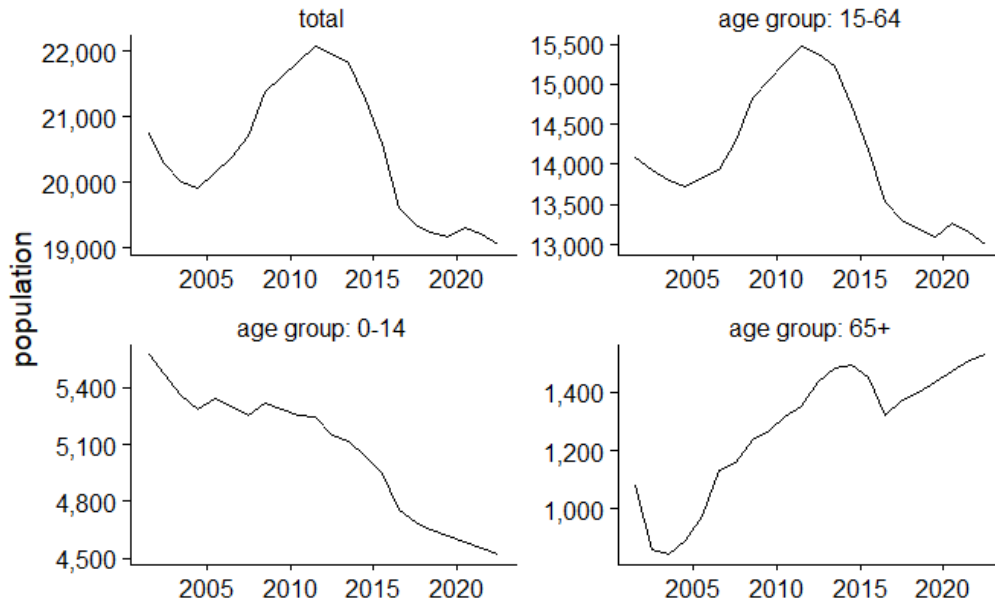


Figure 2: Estimated Resident Population, Mount Isa, by age group.

While the total population has declined over this period, there has been a notable increase in the population of individuals past typical retirement age. Overall, the share of population aged over 65 has increased, predominantly at the expense of the working age (15-64) population as shown in Figure 3. There has also been a slight decline in the share of population aged 0-14.

Changes in population in Mount Isa have historically been driven by changes to the working age male population, as shown in Figure 4.

A large proportion of the total resident population in Mount Isa is made up of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples. Based on 2021 Census data, there are an estimated 4,850 people, or about 25% of the total resident population.

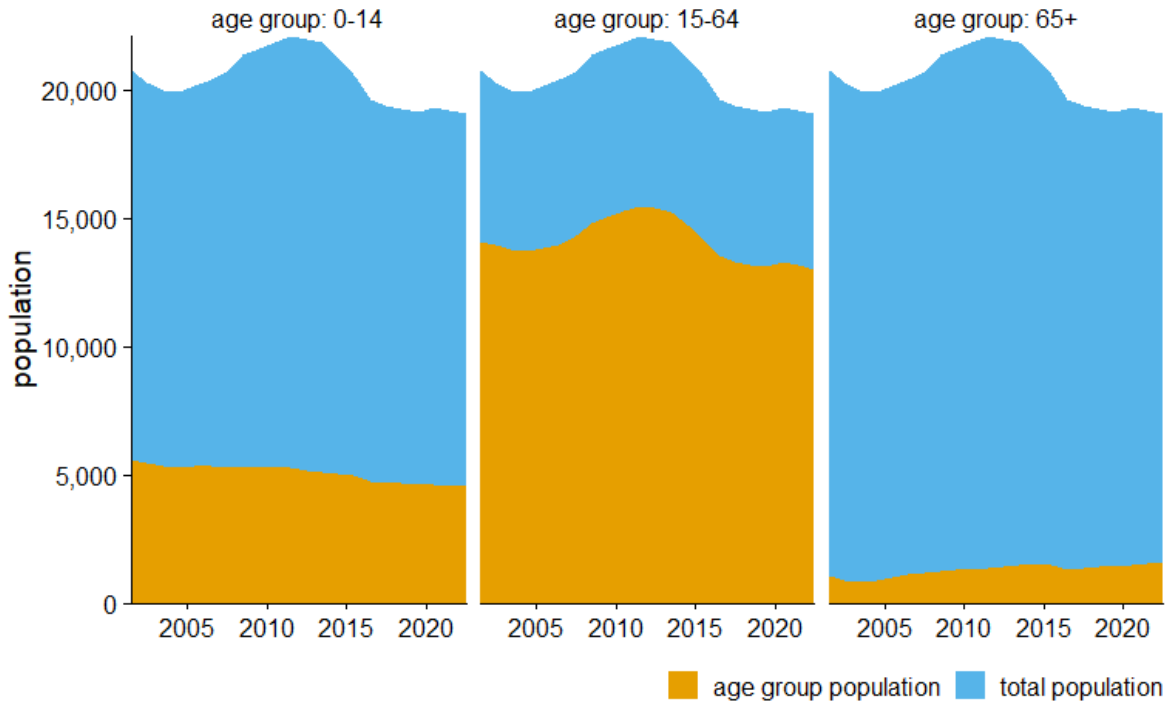


Figure 3: Estimated Resident Population, Mount Isa (LGA), by age group.

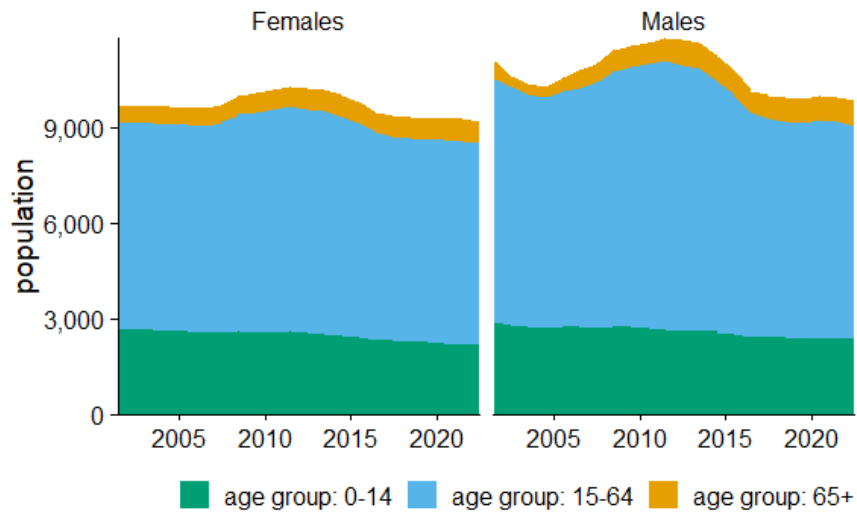


Figure 4: Estimated Resident Population, Mount Isa, by age group and sex.

3. Employment and jobs

3.1 Labour force status

Regional labour force status is available from Census data, however this does not typically align with data from the labour force survey due to inconsistencies in how individuals answer Census questions compared to the guided Labour Force Survey.

In the 2021 Census, Mount Isa residents reported a participation in the labour force of 68.3%, up from 67% in 2011. Relative to the Australian average of 61.1% in 2021, this represents a high level of labour force participation.

3.2 Unemployment rate

The unemployment rate in Mount Isa has remained high since the Covid-19 pandemic, despite record low levels of unemployment across Australia as shown in [Figure 5](#).

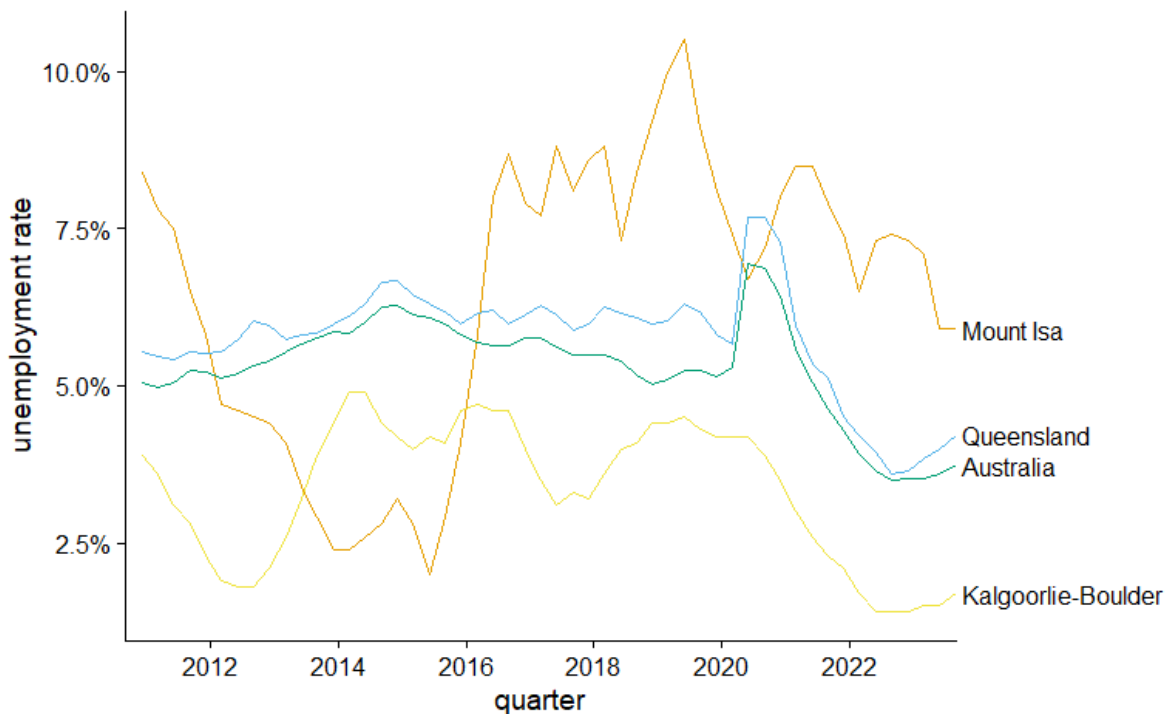


Figure 5: Unemployment rate (%), Mount Isa, Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Queensland, Australia

As of the September quarter in 2023, the unemployment rate in Mount Isa was 5.9%, representing about 635 people. The stubborn unemployment rate indicates some rigidity in the Mount Isa labour market.

3.3 Total employment

Total employment has declined in Mount Isa since the December quarter of 2010 as shown in Figure 6.

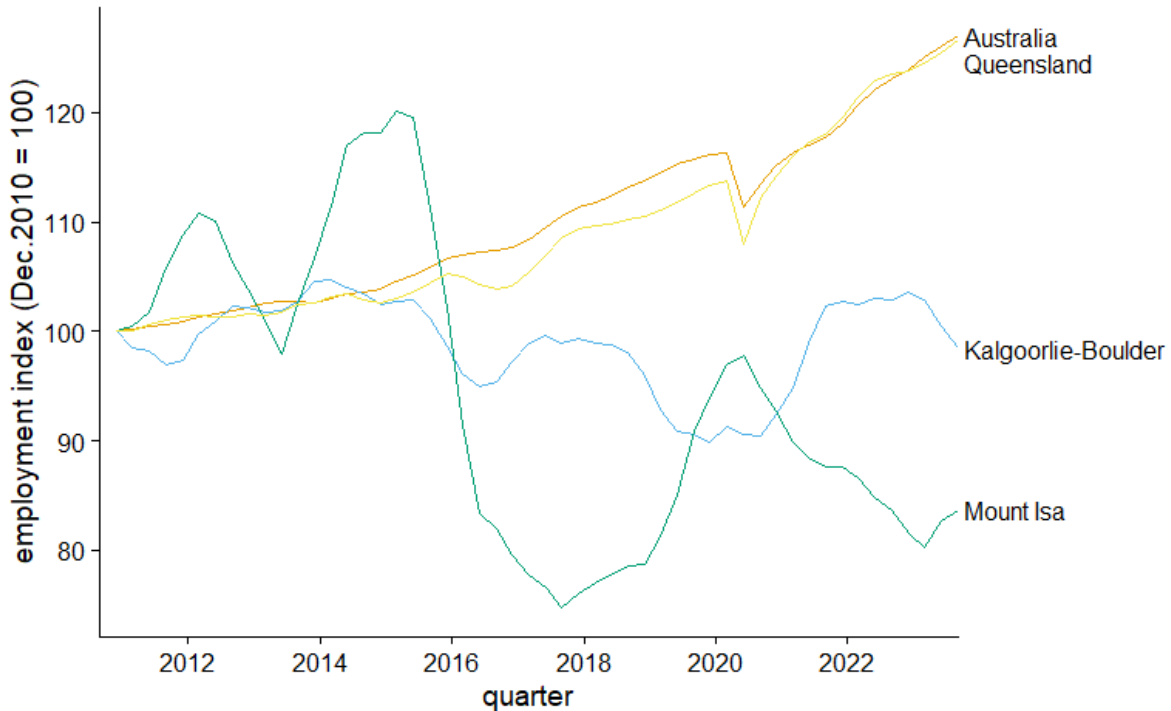


Figure 6: Employment index (December 2010 = 100), Mount Isa, Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Queensland, Australia

Employment as of the September quarter of 2023 stood at an estimated 10,117 people, a decline of 17%. Over the same period, employment broadly has increased in Australia and Queensland - growing by about 26%, and in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, a similarly Mining dominated Local Government Area, employment has been relatively constant over this period.

Employment data is presented in [Table 4](#), [Table 5](#), [Table 6](#) in the Appendix.

3.4 Jobs and income

An employee job is a job for which the occupant receives remuneration - excluding self-employment jobs held by owner managers of unincorporated enterprises. As such the number of jobs can be larger than the number of employed people, as an individual can have several jobs throughout the year. This does not necessarily mean that an individual held multiple jobs at the same time.

The number of employee jobs in the Mount Isa (SA2) region by industry is shown in [Figure 7](#).

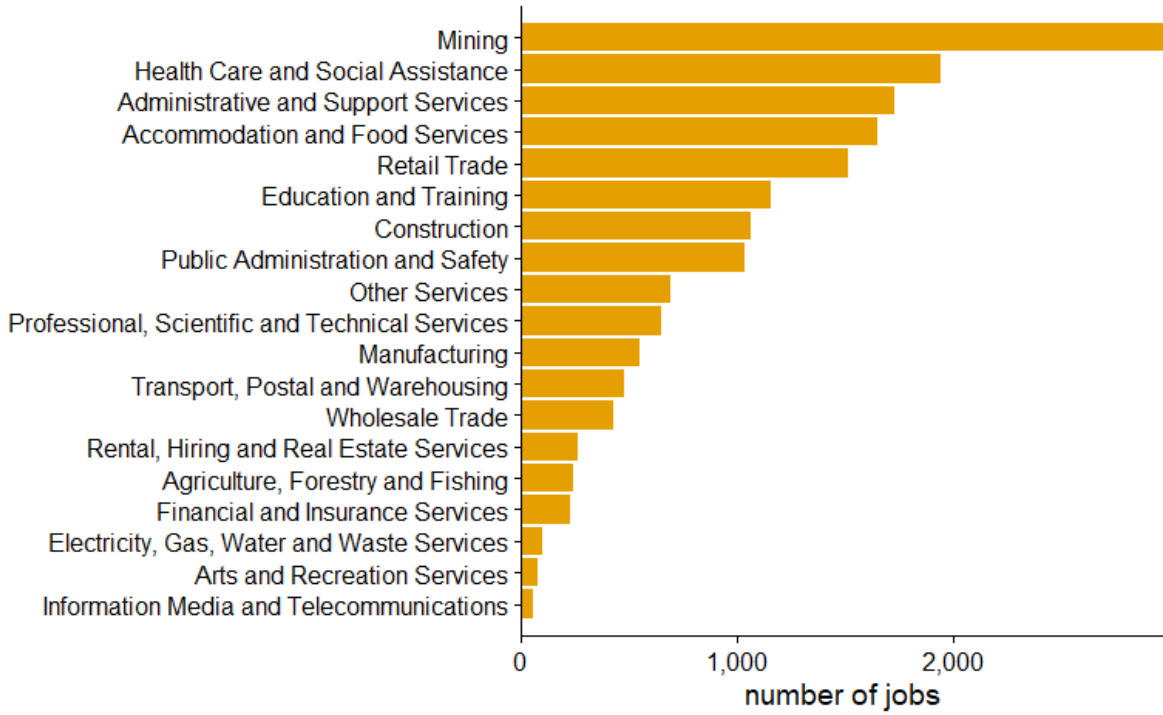


Figure 7: Number of jobs, Mount Isa (SA2), by industry, 2020/21

There are differences in the median income per job in Mount Isa and the median income per job in Australia and Queensland as shown in Figure 8. The median income per Mining job in Australia is about \$115,500, compared to \$120,000 in Queensland and \$130,534 in Mount Isa.

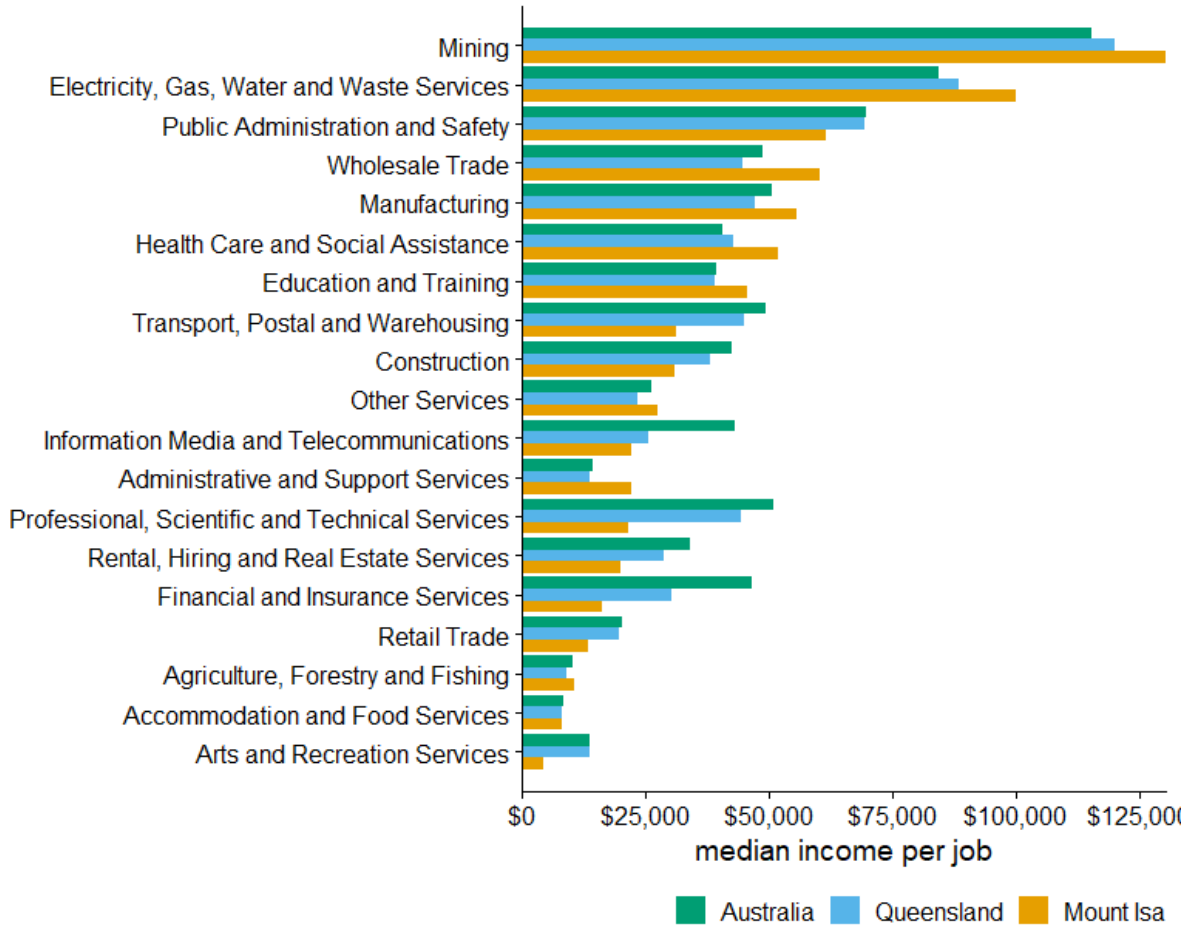


Figure 8: Median income per job, Mount Isa (SA2), by industry, 2020/21

There is also a premium on income per Health Care and Social Assistance job in Mount Isa compared to Australia and Queensland. The median income in Mount Isa is about \$51,808 compared to \$42,670 in Queensland and \$40,650 in Australia. Between the two largest employing industries in Mount Isa, the difference in median job income for Mining and Health Care and Social Assistance is about \$78,726.

Figure 9 shows the differences in median job income in Mount Isa relative to median job income in Australia.

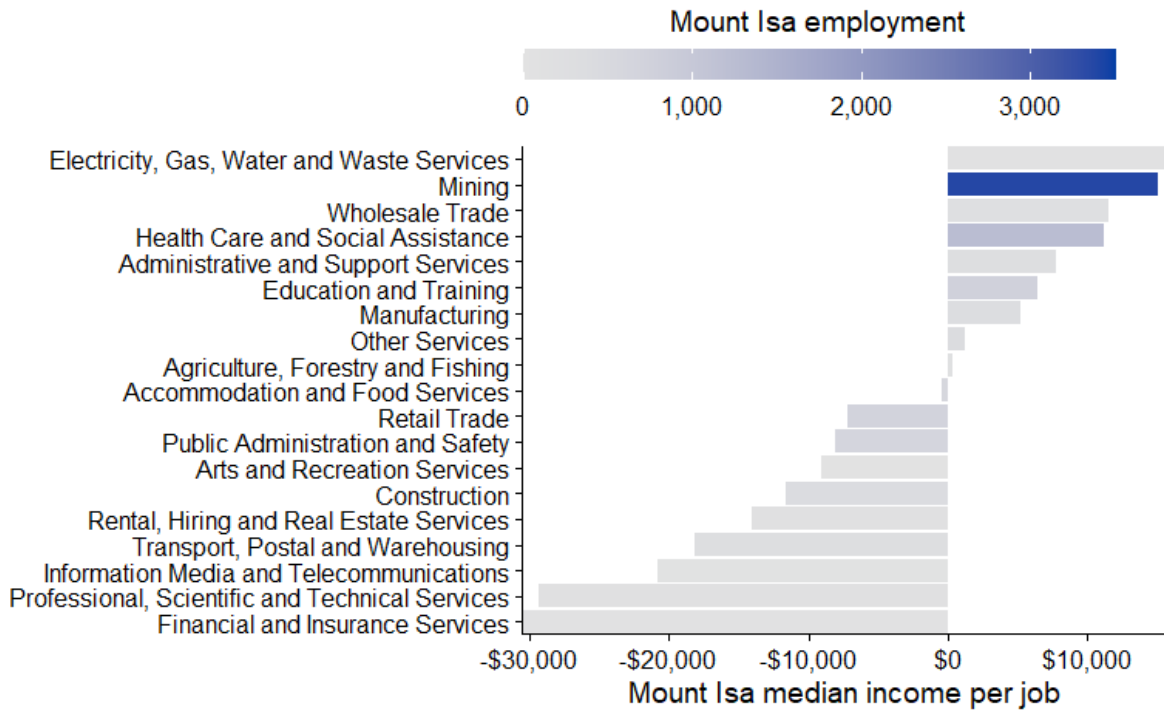


Figure 9: Difference between median job income in Mount Isa relative to Australia, 2020/21

3.5 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

The proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who are not in the labour force (not employed and not looking for work) is significantly higher than for the non-Indigenous population of Mount Isa as shown in Figure 10. There is also a much higher proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders looking for full-time and part-time work in Mount Isa compared to the non-Indigenous population.

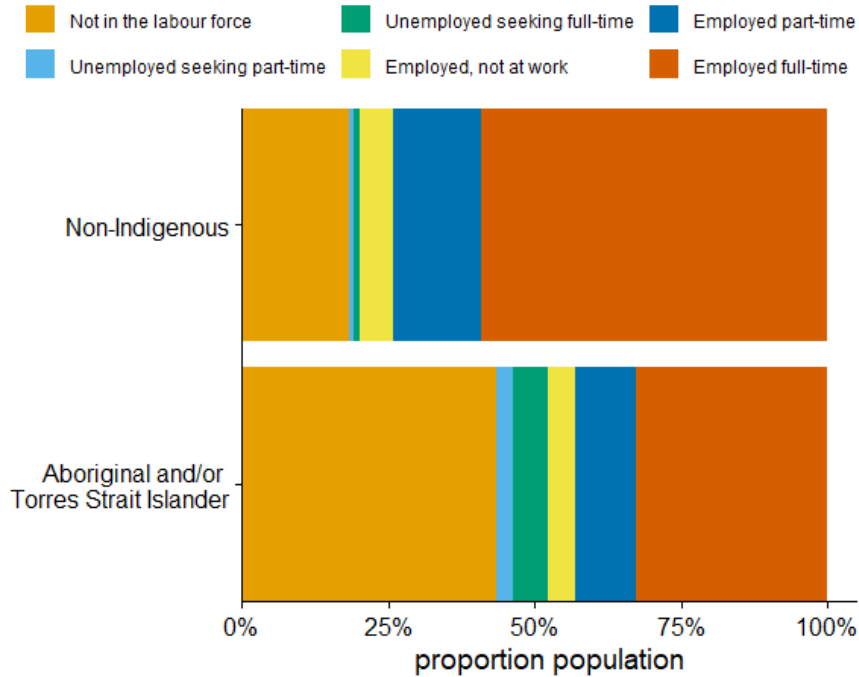


Figure 10: Labour force status, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders, Mount Isa, Census 2021

3.6 Job vacancies

Job vacancies within the Outback Queensland region have increased rapidly from 2020 onwards, though have recently softened as shown in Figure 11. The current level of vacancies in the region stands at 599 as of February 2024.

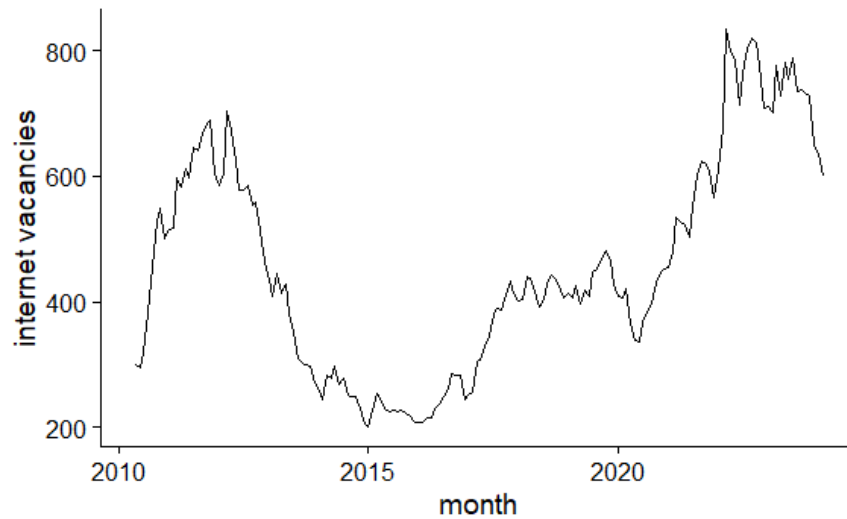


Figure 11: Total internet vacancies, Queensland Outback, three month moving average

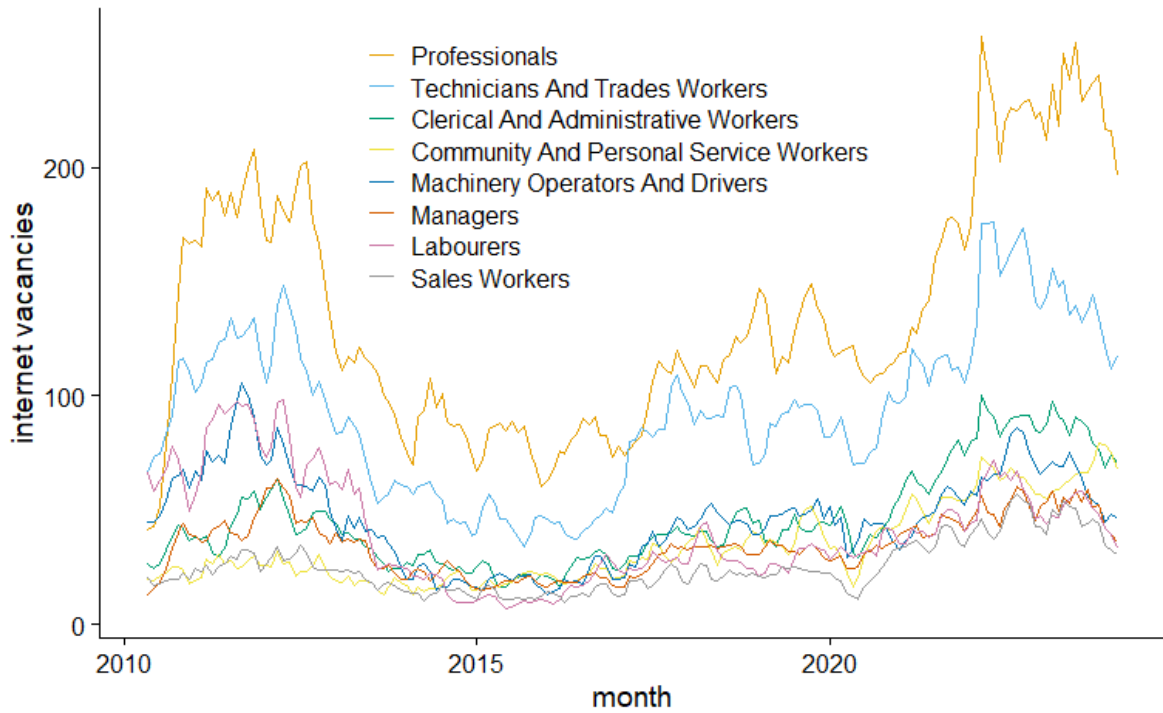


Figure 12: Internet vacancies, by occupation, Queensland Outback, three month moving average.

The occupations with job vacancies in this region are primarily Professional as shown in Figure 12, however there is also a moderate amount of vacancies in Technicians and Trades Workers, and an increasing number of vacancies for Community and Personal Service Workers. Of occupations which are significant employers in Mount Isa, the number of vacancies are much lower, and are declining, as shown in Figure 13, with the exception of Health Diagnostic and Therapy Professionals.

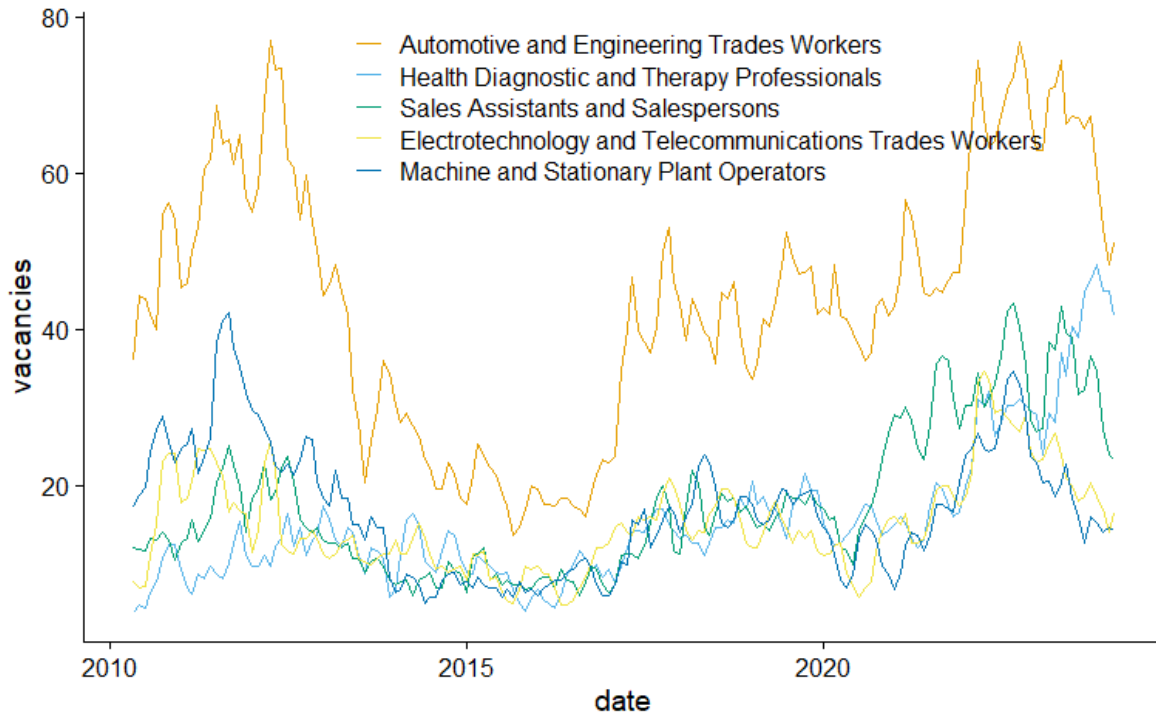


Figure 13: Internet vacancies, Mount Isa occupations, Queensland Outback, three month moving average.

4. Industry and occupation

4.1 Industry

The five largest employing industries in Mount Isa are Mining, Health Care and Social Assistance, Education and Training, Retail Trade, and Public Administration and Safety as shown in [Figure 14](#). The Mining industry is also the largest employing industry of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders in Mount Isa, employing 240 people, or almost 1 in 4 of the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander working population. Industry employment for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders is shown in [Figure 15](#).

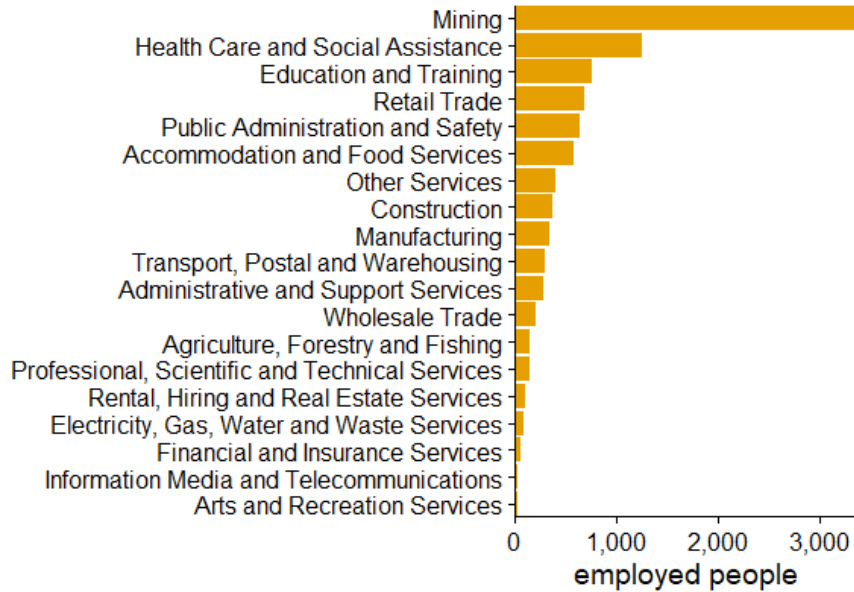


Figure 14: Employment by industry, Mount Isa, Census 2021

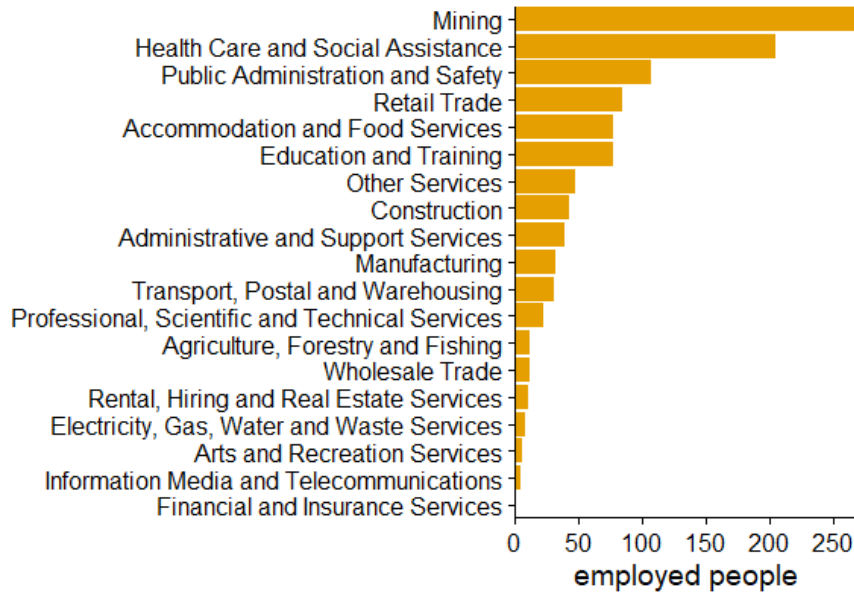


Figure 15: Employment by industry, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders, Mount Isa, Census 2021

The two largest employing industries in Mount Isa, Mining and Health Care and Social Assistance, are dominated heavily by males and females respectively. Figure 16 shows the proportion of employment by industry for males and females in Mount Isa. From an age perspective, Figure 17 shows the proportion of employment by industry for different age groups in Mount Isa. Mining employment in Mount Isa has a relatively high proportion of younger workers.

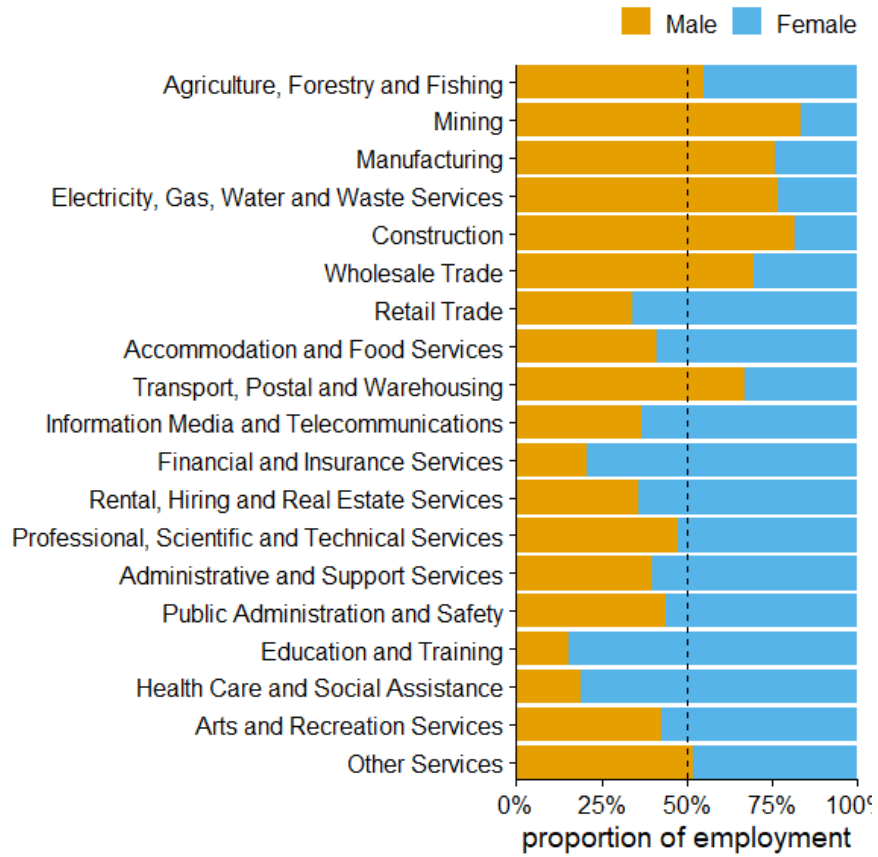


Figure 16: Employment by industry, Mount Isa, by sex, Census 2021

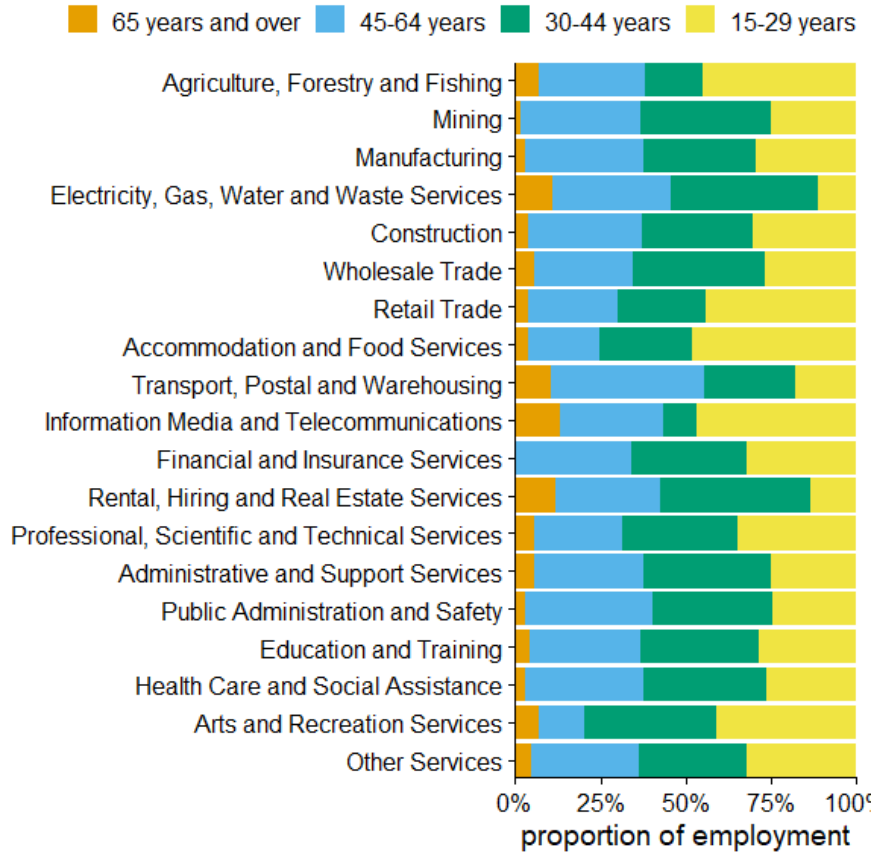


Figure 17: Employment by industry, Mount Isa, by age group, census 2021.

4.2 Occupation

The five largest employing occupations in Mount Isa are Miners, Fitters, Sales Assistants, Electricians, and Clerks. There is only a limited connection between the occupations of those working in the Mining industry and the other large industries in Mount Isa. This means that it will be difficult to redeploy Mining workers outside of the Mining industry without investment into either developing new industries, or retraining. Based on the occupations worked by individuals within an industry, the Mining industry is most similar to Manufacturing with a correlation of 84%.

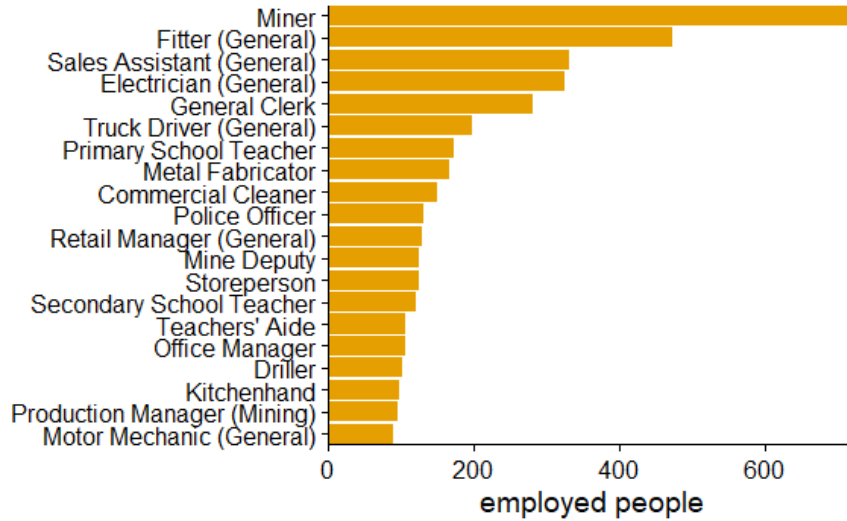


Figure 18: Employment by occupation (top 20), Mount Isa, Census 2021

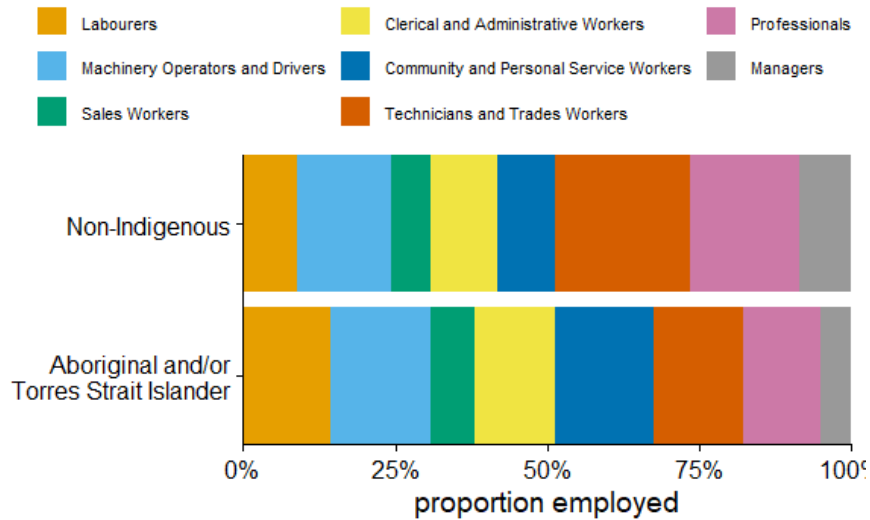


Figure 19: Employment by occupation, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders, Mount Isa, Census 2021

Compared to non-indigenous employees, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders are more likely to be employed in low skilled occupations, such as Labourers, and Clerical and Administrative Workers and less likely to be employed in high skilled occupations, such as Managers and Professionals.

5. Education and qualification

5.1 Highest education attainment

Post school qualifications for Mount Isa workers are most likely to be at the Certificate III and IV level, although there is a reasonable number with Bachelor Degrees as shown in [Figure 20](#).

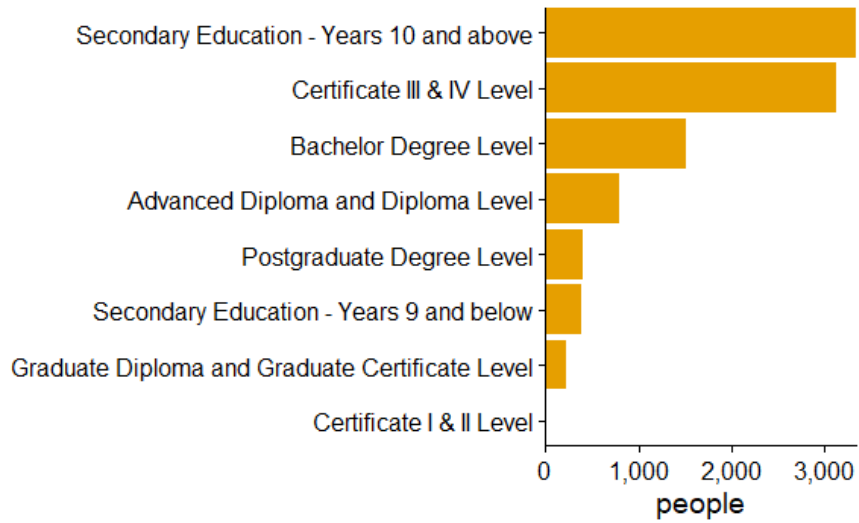


Figure 20: Highest education attainment, Mount Isa, Census 2021

5.2 Non-school qualifications

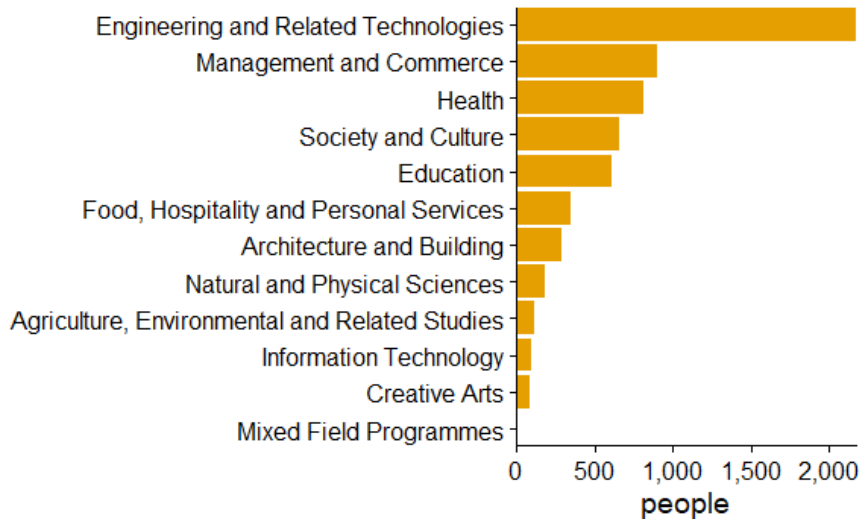


Figure 21: Non-school field of qualification, Mount Isa, Census 2021

For those with non-school qualifications, the field of study is overwhelmingly in Engineering and Related Technologies, with 2,176 people studying in this field.

6. Journey to work

Figure 22 shows the regions of Australia that Mount Isa residents work. The vast majority of Mount Isa residents also work in Mount Isa, with some employment in the surrounding regions. There is a very limited fly-in fly-out community which bases their residence in Mount Isa. The regions are summarised in Table 7.

Place of Work of Mount Isa Residents

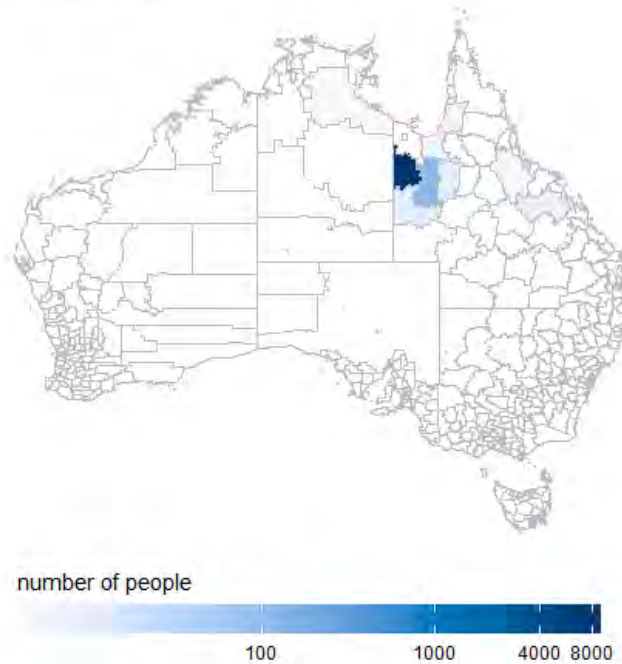


Figure 22: Local government area of employment of Mount Isa residents.

Figure 23 shows the regions of Australia that Mount Isa employees live. There is evidently more of a fly-in fly-out community **into** Mount Isa, with employment in Brisbane and other North Queensland coastal areas. The regions are summarised in Table 8.

Usual Address of Mount Isa Employees

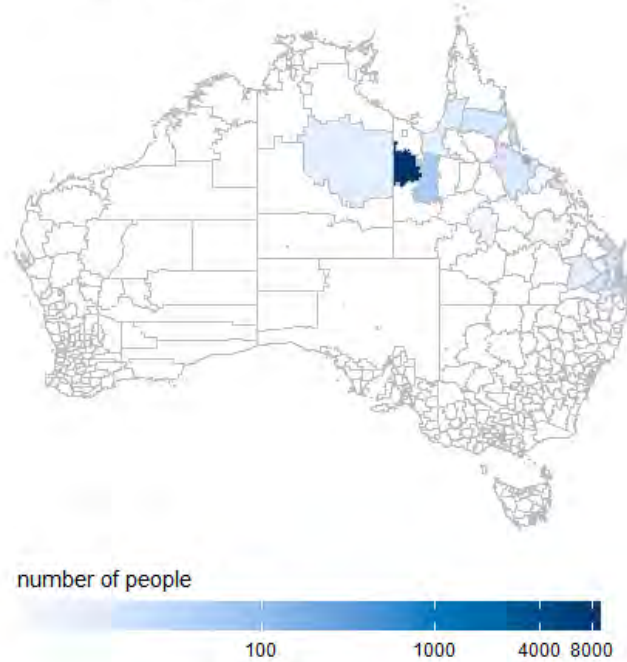


Figure 23: Local government area of residence of Mount Isa employees.

7. Vulnerable populations

7.1 Homelessness

486 people in the Mount Isa LGA are estimated to be homeless, with only 118 in supported accommodation for the homeless. This represents about 2.5% of the population, and places Mount Isa above the 90th percentile for homelessness population as a proportion of total population. The type of accommodation that homeless people in Mount Isa find themselves, as a proportion of total population is shown in [Figure 24](#). In terms of absolute homeless population, Mount Isa is above the 87th percentile across all Local Government Areas.

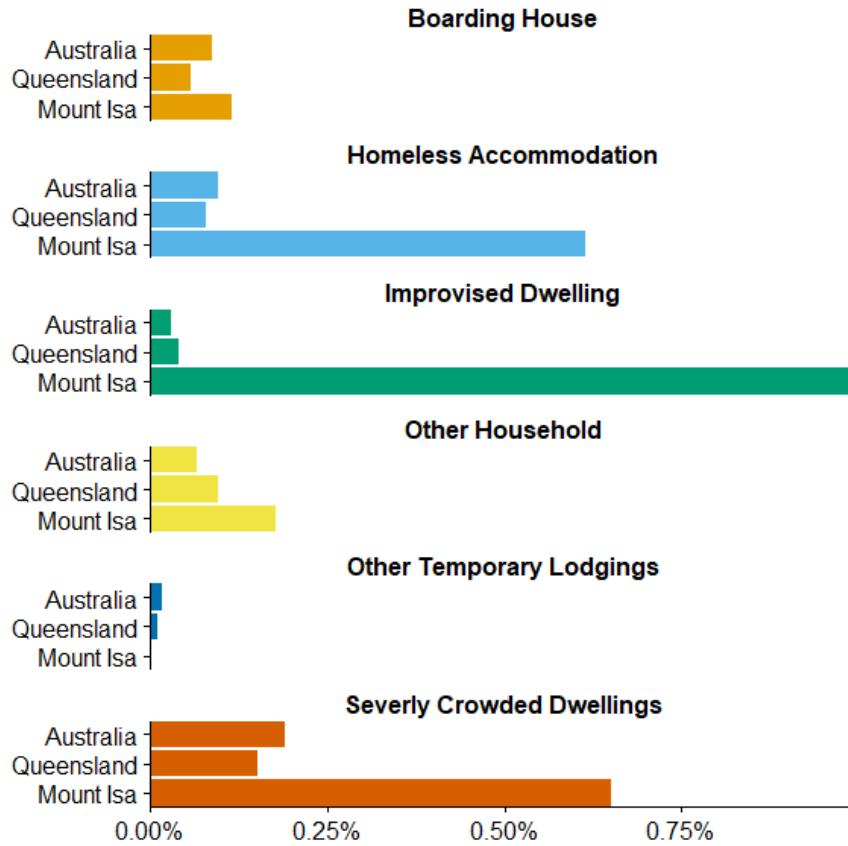
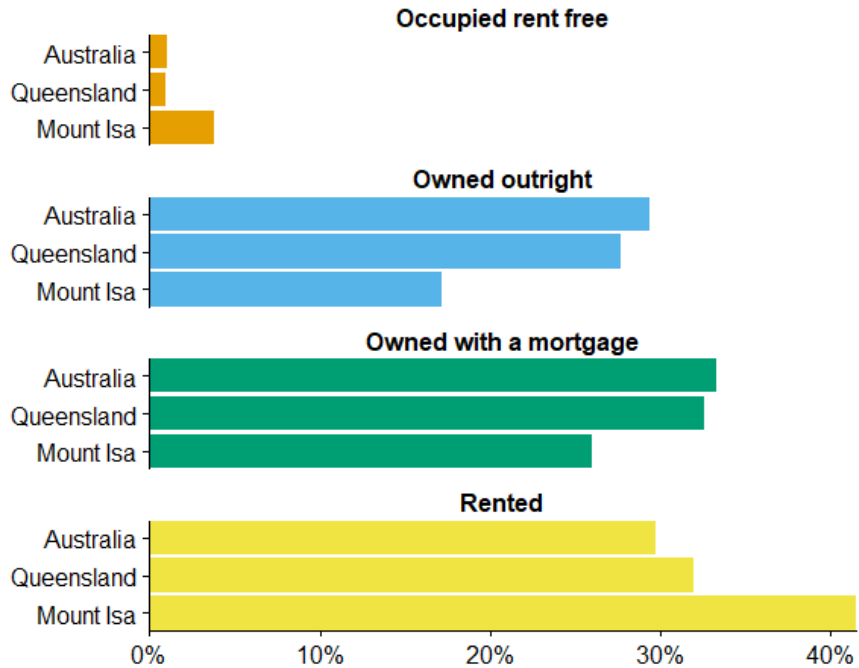


Figure 24: Proportion of homeless people relative to population, by accommodation type, Mount Isa, Queensland, Australia

7.2 Housing

As a region, residents in Mount Isa are more likely to be renting their accommodation compared to the Queensland or Australian average, with over 40% of dwellings in Mount Isa occupied by renters. Figure 25 shows the differences between Mount Isa, Queensland, and Australia by the proportion of households by household tenure type. A higher proportion of rented houses mitigates the impact of job loss on individuals, but may exacerbate the impact on the town through population outflow.

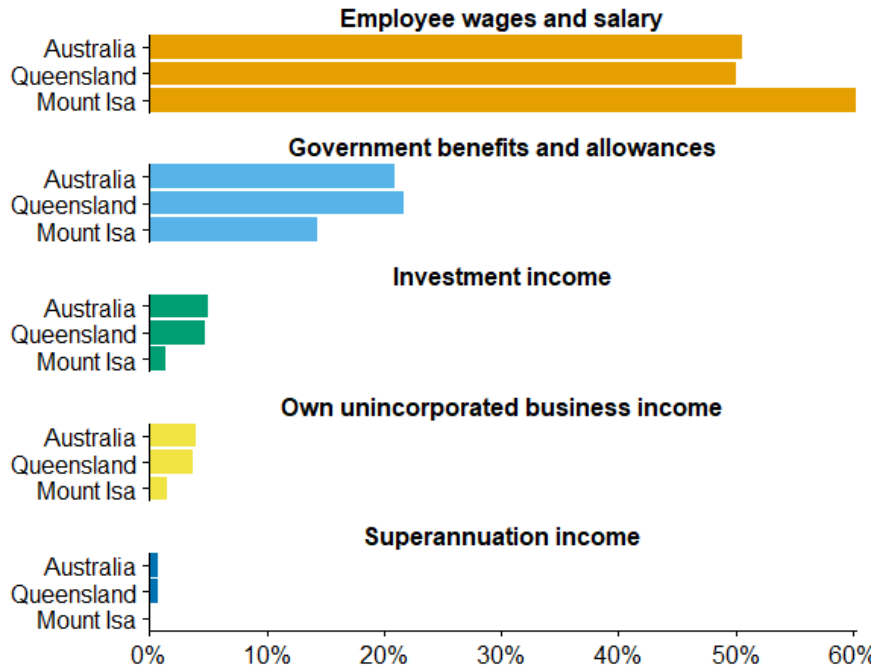


(a) Note: data does not sum to 100% as not all tenure types shown.

Figure 25: Proportion of households by household tenure type, Mount Isa, Queensland, and Australia

7.3 Income source

The main income source for individuals in Mount Isa, Queensland, and Australia is shown below in Figure 26 as a proportion of total population. Compared to Queensland and Australia, Mount Isa has a higher proportion of individuals whose main source of income is employment, and fewer people who rely on welfare, investment income, business income, or superannuation income.



(a) Note: data does not sum to 100% as not all income sources are included.

Figure 26: Main income source, Mount Isa, Queensland, Australia

8. Conclusion

No two closures are alike. It is imperative that policymakers have an accurate picture of the health of the economy in the lead-up to a closure, to identify potential barriers or conditions that may affect transition. A community cannot be considered well even if most of the affected population has returned to a pre-crisis level while some have been pushed into acute stress. Transition success cannot, and should not, be measured solely on population averages alone.

This document, **Part two: Understand the Regional Context** of the Mckell Institute’s Mount Isa Transition Response has outlined the key labour market figures for Mount Isa and identified several risks to the region from the closure of Glencore. Overall, we find that:

The Mining industry is the **largest employing industry in the town**. It will be difficult to redeploy Mining workers outside their industry, without significant investment into new industries which utilise the skills of Mining workers, or retraining. Given there is high demand for mining workers in other parts of Australia there is a risk that mass retrenchment might create a flight risk for these workers and their families. This might then feed into population outflow as workers leaving the region increases the rate of population outflow and decline across the community.

Unemployment has been stubbornly high in Mount Isa. Past closures tell us that the likelihood of long-term unemployment and regional degeneration is much higher when closures happen

during periods of low growth and high unemployment. There are limited jobs available, and there is also a risk that retrenched workers from the mine may flood the job market and push some of the existing unemployed workforce in Mount Isa into long-term unemployment. As such the creation of *suitable and good quality work* should be a central priority for the transition response.

Mount Isa's ageing population is a risk for the town in general and will be an additional factor to consider if retrenched workers are near retirement age. Older workers are more likely to struggle to find new employment after closure and are more likely to experience the negative social and health impacts associated with mass unemployment events.

This document is part two of the Mckell Institute's Mount Isa Transition Response, a four-part report that devises a holistic transition framework for Mount Isa's response strategy, informed by best practice from past industry closures. *Part One: Closure Framework* employs best practice findings from past closures to devise an overarching holistic framework for Mount Isa's transition response which is then deployed over the following three reports. *Part Three: Map the Threat – Impact Analysis* summarises both the direct and indirect impacts on employment and gross regional product impacts from the closure. Finally, *Part Four: Identify the Opportunity - Diversification Analysis* introduces a method of diversification analysis and applies it for Mount Isa to reveal industrial opportunities based on occupation and industry employment.

9. Appendix

Population

Table 2: Estimated resident population, Mount Isa, by age group

Year	Below Working Age (0-14)	Working Age (15-64)	Over Working Age (65+)	Total
June 2001	5,573	14,092	1,078	20,743
June 2002	5,475	13,939	862	20,276
June 2003	5,360	13,793	844	19,997
June 2004	5,289	13,729	890	19,908
June 2005	5,341	13,835	977	20,153
June 2006	5,304	13,938	1,132	20,374
June 2007	5,251	14,301	1,159	20,711
June 2008	5,323	14,823	1,235	21,381
June 2009	5,283	15,053	1,271	21,607
June 2010	5,252	15,262	1,316	21,830
June 2011	5,248	15,480	1,351	22,079
June 2012	5,149	15,371	1,438	21,958
June 2013	5,116	15,222	1,484	21,822
June 2014	5,037	14,730	1,494	21,261
June 2015	4,947	14,186	1,453	20,586
June 2016	4,753	13,534	1,319	19,606
June 2017	4,688	13,302	1,373	19,363
June 2018	4,652	13,190	1,399	19,241
June 2019	4,619	13,106	1,434	19,159
June 2020	4,584	13,259	1,472	19,315
June 2021	4,555	13,154	1,508	19,217
June 2022	4,521	12,998	1,528	19,047

Table 3: Estimated resident population, Mount Isa, by age group and sex

Year	Sex	Below Working Age (0-14)	Working Age (15-64)	Over Working Age (65+)	Total
June 2001	Females	2,685	6,442	525	9,652
June 2001	Males	2,888	7,650	553	11,091
June 2002	Females	2,665	6,461	533	9,659
June 2002	Males	2,810	7,478	329	10,617
June 2003	Females	2,637	6,480	530	9,647
June 2003	Males	2,723	7,313	314	10,350
June 2004	Females	2,617	6,476	543	9,636
June 2004	Males	2,672	7,253	347	10,272
June 2005	Females	2,602	6,462	543	9,607
June 2005	Males	2,739	7,373	434	10,546
June 2006	Females	2,557	6,480	546	9,583
June 2006	Males	2,747	7,458	586	10,791
June 2007	Females	2,545	6,604	552	9,701
June 2007	Males	2,706	7,697	607	11,010
June 2008	Females	2,580	6,811	579	9,970
June 2008	Males	2,743	8,012	656	11,411
June 2009	Females	2,556	6,908	595	10,059
June 2009	Males	2,727	8,145	676	11,548
June 2010	Females	2,545	7,003	614	10,162
June 2010	Males	2,707	8,259	702	11,668
June 2011	Females	2,580	7,082	625	10,287
June 2011	Males	2,668	8,398	726	11,792
June 2012	Females	2,530	7,033	654	10,217
June 2012	Males	2,619	8,338	784	11,741

June 2013	Females	2,508	6,996	678	10,182
June 2013	Males	2,608	8,226	806	11,640
June 2014	Females	2,462	6,865	683	10,010
June 2014	Males	2,575	7,865	811	11,251
June 2015	Females	2,424	6,692	669	9,785
June 2015	Males	2,523	7,494	784	10,801
June 2016	Females	2,333	6,510	614	9,457
June 2016	Males	2,420	7,024	705	10,149
June 2017	Females	2,298	6,417	640	9,355
June 2017	Males	2,390	6,885	733	10,008
June 2018	Females	2,266	6,381	654	9,301
June 2018	Males	2,386	6,809	745	9,940
June 2019	Females	2,252	6,340	680	9,272
June 2019	Males	2,367	6,766	754	9,887
June 2020	Females	2,217	6,410	698	9,325
June 2020	Males	2,367	6,849	774	9,990
June 2021	Females	2,179	6,373	722	9,274
June 2021	Males	2,376	6,781	786	9,943
June 2022	Females	2,171	6,313	712	9,196
June 2022	Males	2,350	6,685	816	9,851

Unemployment rate

Table 4: Unemployment rate (%), Mount Isa, Queensland, Australia

Date	Mount Isa	Queensland	Australia
December 2010	8.4%	5.5%	5.0%
March 2011	7.8%	5.5%	5.0%
June 2011	7.5%	5.4%	5.1%
September 2011	6.5%	5.5%	5.2%

December 2011	5.8%	5.5%	5.2%
March 2012	4.7%	5.5%	5.1%
June 2012	4.6%	5.7%	5.2%
September 2012	4.5%	6.0%	5.3%
December 2012	4.4%	6.0%	5.4%
March 2013	4.1%	5.7%	5.6%
June 2013	3.4%	5.8%	5.7%
September 2013	2.9%	5.8%	5.8%
December 2013	2.4%	6.0%	5.9%
March 2014	2.4%	6.1%	5.8%
June 2014	2.6%	6.3%	6.0%
September 2014	2.8%	6.7%	6.3%
December 2014	3.2%	6.7%	6.3%
March 2015	2.8%	6.5%	6.1%
June 2015	2.0%	6.3%	6.1%
September 2015	2.9%	6.2%	6.0%
December 2015	4.1%	6.0%	5.8%
March 2016	5.8%	6.2%	5.7%
June 2016	8.0%	6.2%	5.6%
September 2016	8.7%	6.0%	5.6%
December 2016	7.9%	6.1%	5.8%
March 2017	7.7%	6.3%	5.8%
June 2017	8.8%	6.1%	5.6%
September 2017	8.1%	5.9%	5.5%
December 2017	8.6%	6.0%	5.5%
March 2018	8.8%	6.3%	5.5%
June 2018	7.3%	6.2%	5.4%

September 2018	8.4%	6.1%	5.2%
December 2018	9.2%	6.0%	5.0%
March 2019	10.0%	6.0%	5.1%
June 2019	10.5%	6.3%	5.2%
September 2019	9.1%	6.2%	5.2%
December 2019	8.1%	5.8%	5.2%
March 2020	7.4%	5.7%	5.3%
June 2020	6.7%	7.7%	6.9%
September 2020	7.2%	7.7%	6.9%
December 2020	8.0%	7.3%	6.4%
March 2021	8.5%	5.9%	5.6%
June 2021	8.5%	5.3%	5.0%
September 2021	7.9%	5.1%	4.6%
December 2021	7.4%	4.5%	4.3%
March 2022	6.5%	4.2%	3.9%
June 2022	7.3%	3.9%	3.6%
September 2022	7.4%	3.6%	3.5%
December 2022	7.3%	3.6%	3.5%
March 2023	7.1%	3.8%	3.5%
June 2023	5.9%	4.0%	3.6%
September 2023	5.9%	4.2%	3.7%

Employment

Table 5: Total employment, Mount Isa, Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Queensland, Australia

Date	Mount Isa	Queensland	Australia
December 2010	12,085	2,256,058	11,160,308
March 2011	12,151	2,257,334	11,186,883
June 2011	12,293	2,269,293	11,207,037

September 2011	12,798	2,279,666	11,237,482
December 2011	13,145	2,286,944	11,263,260
March 2012	13,395	2,288,214	11,301,482
June 2012	13,307	2,285,147	11,347,149
September 2012	12,846	2,285,417	11,370,747
December 2012	12,549	2,291,640	11,408,428
March 2013	12,217	2,290,038	11,447,076
June 2013	11,842	2,294,349	11,464,789
September 2013	12,376	2,310,608	11,462,682
December 2013	12,895	2,313,979	11,455,202
March 2014	13,479	2,327,648	11,497,298
June 2014	14,150	2,335,016	11,539,732
September 2014	14,275	2,321,144	11,554,616
December 2014	14,280	2,314,912	11,597,732
March 2015	14,521	2,324,001	11,671,680
June 2015	14,445	2,335,861	11,736,611
September 2015	13,440	2,355,711	11,819,482
December 2015	12,341	2,376,216	11,905,267
March 2016	11,055	2,368,504	11,944,504
June 2016	10,069	2,351,744	11,972,790
September 2016	9,903	2,344,632	11,991,921
December 2016	9,617	2,351,387	12,019,793
March 2017	9,397	2,377,152	12,102,835
June 2017	9,261	2,414,750	12,229,452
September 2017	9,028	2,447,959	12,334,493
December 2017	9,186	2,467,916	12,424,912
March 2018	9,300	2,473,074	12,479,595

June 2018	9,394	2,478,015	12,537,940
September 2018	9,488	2,486,524	12,628,524
December 2018	9,521	2,494,510	12,693,843
March 2019	9,818	2,506,515	12,773,645
June 2019	10,275	2,521,484	12,868,471
September 2019	10,976	2,540,415	12,918,754
December 2019	11,366	2,556,379	12,958,998
March 2020	11,709	2,566,884	12,973,783
June 2020	11,827	2,436,106	12,434,164
September 2020	11,465	2,530,518	12,667,605
December 2020	11,196	2,577,016	12,848,776
March 2021	10,859	2,618,179	12,973,333
June 2021	10,689	2,646,676	13,065,448
September 2021	10,593	2,662,064	13,136,066
December 2021	10,593	2,696,253	13,277,216
March 2022	10,478	2,739,134	13,476,617
June 2022	10,256	2,772,738	13,632,903
September 2022	10,106	2,788,179	13,732,529
December 2022	9,860	2,791,664	13,827,499
March 2023	9,700	2,808,319	13,953,733
June 2023	10,000	2,831,635	14,070,251
September 2023	10,117	2,855,576	14,174,608

Employment by industry

Table 6: Employment by industry, Mount Isa, Census 2021

Industry	Employment
Mining	3,370
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,258

Education and Training	754
Retail Trade	688
Public Administration and Safety	635
Accommodation and Food Services	572
Other Services	395
Construction	371
Manufacturing	338
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	300
Administrative and Support Services	272
Wholesale Trade	206
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	146
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	140
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	105
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	81
Financial and Insurance Services	46
Information Media and Telecommunications	30
Arts and Recreation Services	26

Live and work

Table 7: Local government area of employment of Mount Isa residents (data)

Place of Work	Employment
Mount Isa	8,888
No Fixed Address (Qld)	177
Cloncurry	116
Brisbane	34
Townsville	27
Boulia	9
Cairns	9

McKinlay	9
Isaac	7
Carpentaria	5
Charters Towers	4
Gold Coast	4
Loddon	3
Roper Gulf	3
Toowoomba	3
Unincorporated ACT	3

Work and live

Table 8: Local government area of residence of Mount Isa employees

Place of Usual Residence	Employment
Mount Isa	8,888
Townsville	213
Brisbane	144
Sunshine Coast	88
Cairns	83
Gold Coast	80
Moreton Bay	79
Cloncurry	55
Ipswich	40
Logan	30
Fraser Coast	24
Bundaberg	21
Mackay	16
Redland	16
Toowoomba	15

Cassowary Coast	13
Charters Towers	13
Gympie	13
Mareeba	13
Tweed	13
No usual address (Qld)	12
Noosa	11
Scenic Rim	11
Burdekin	10
Douglas	10
Carpentaria	9
Somerset	9
Western Downs	9
Barkly	8
Lockyer Valley	5
Southern Downs	5
Hinchinbrook	4
Longreach	4
Mansfield	4
South Burnett	4
Tablelands	4
Tenterfield	4
Central Highlands (Qld)	3
Dubbo	3
Lake Macquarie	3
Whitsunday	3
