

**Regional realities: where to for
Western Sydney, industrial rust belt
or surging new economy?**

1. The great transformation
2. Jobs slide, jobs gaps
3. Our regional dilemma

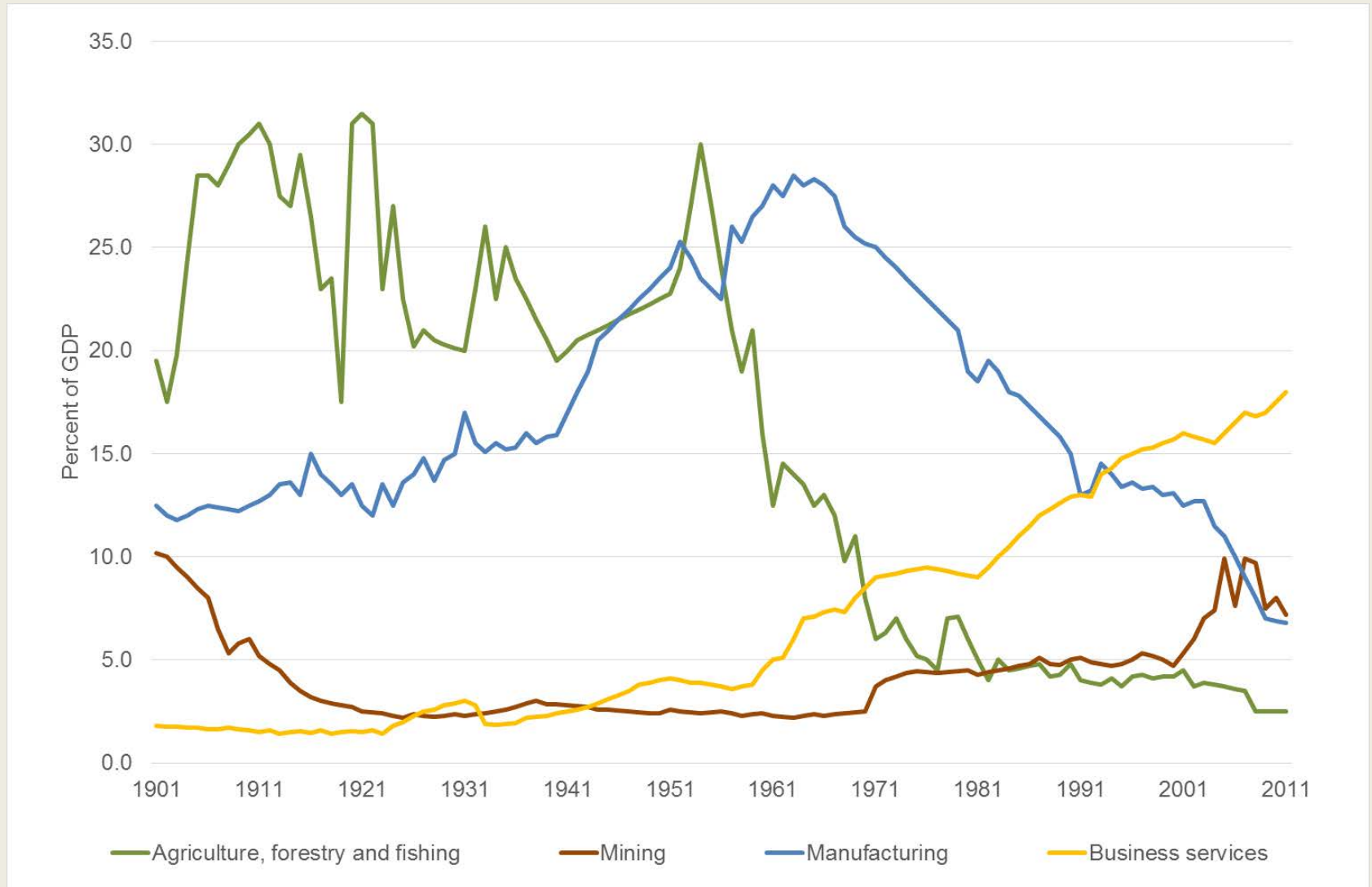
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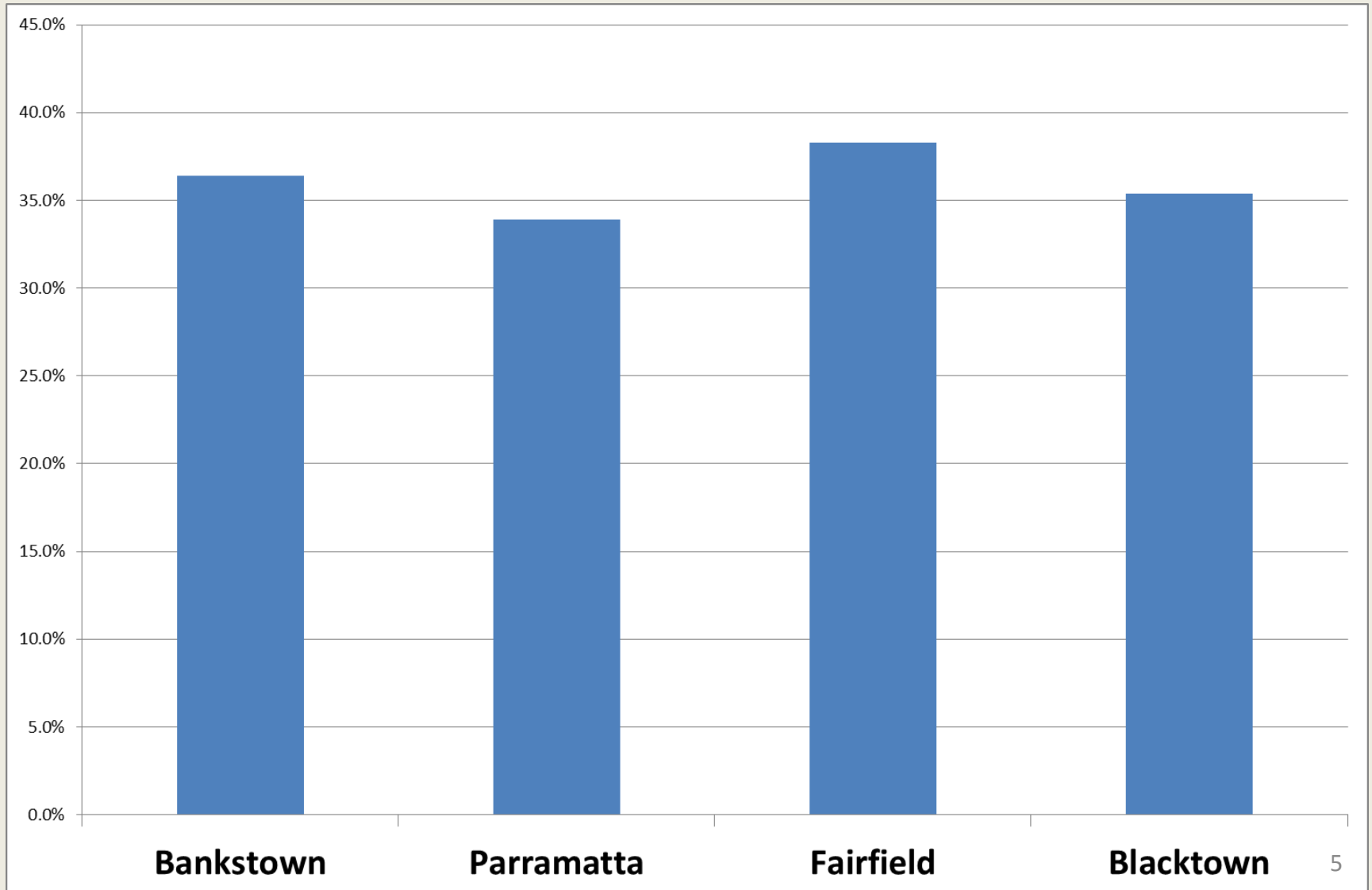
Contribution to GDP by major sector

(source: ABS National Accounts)



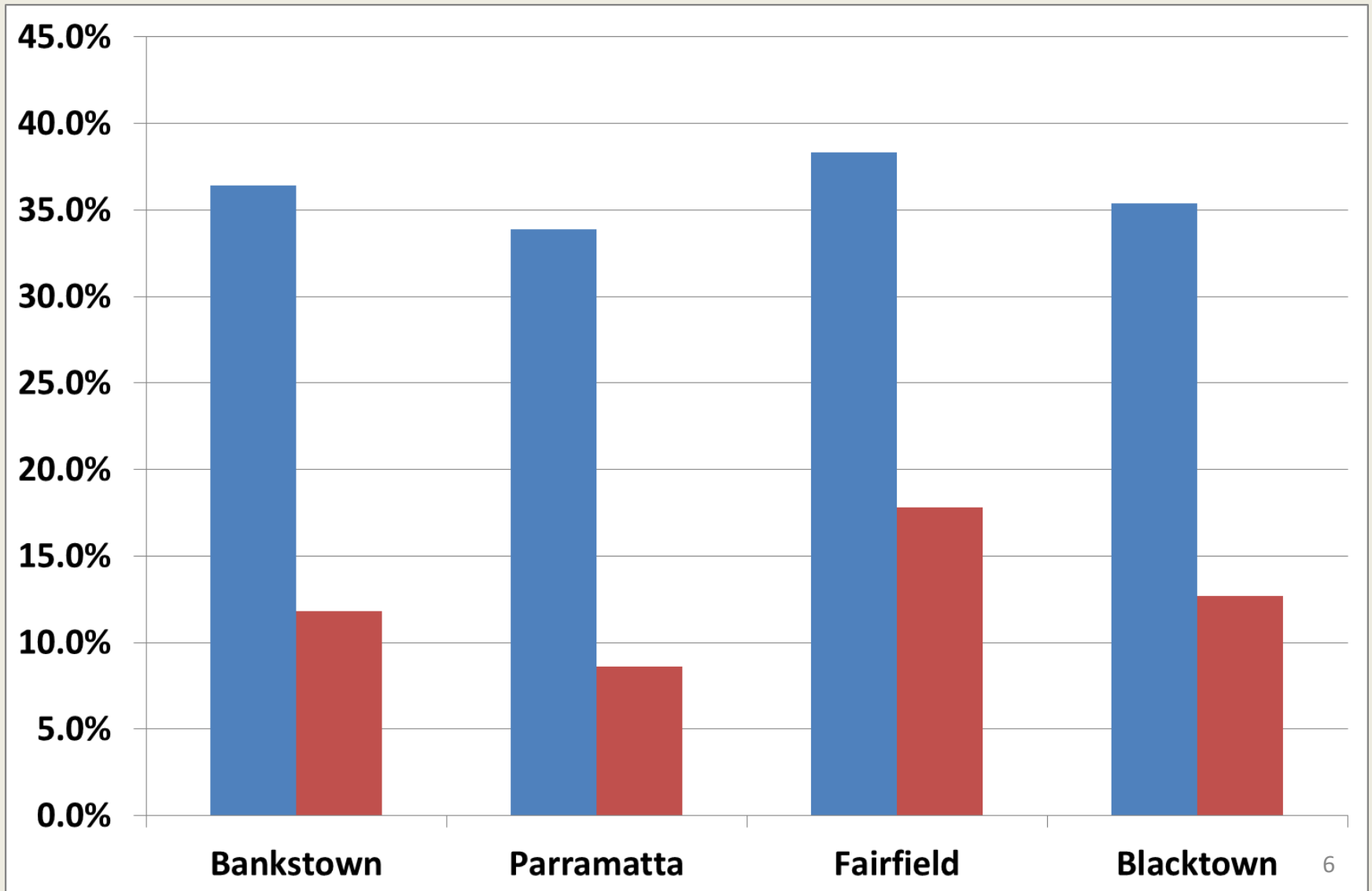
Workforce in Manufacturing LGA 1971

(source: ABS Census)



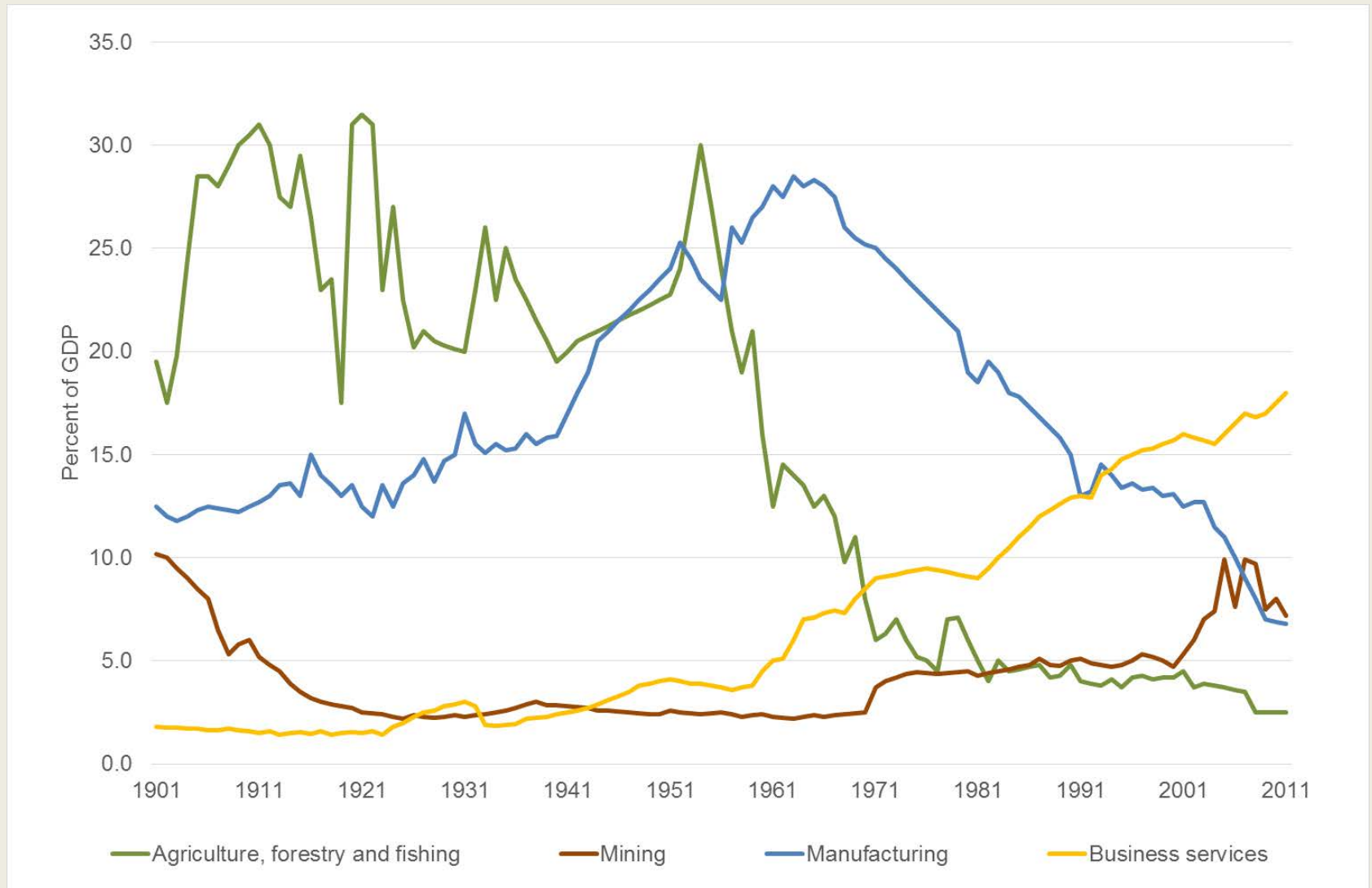
Workforce in Manufacturing LGA 1971 and 2011

(source: ABS Census)



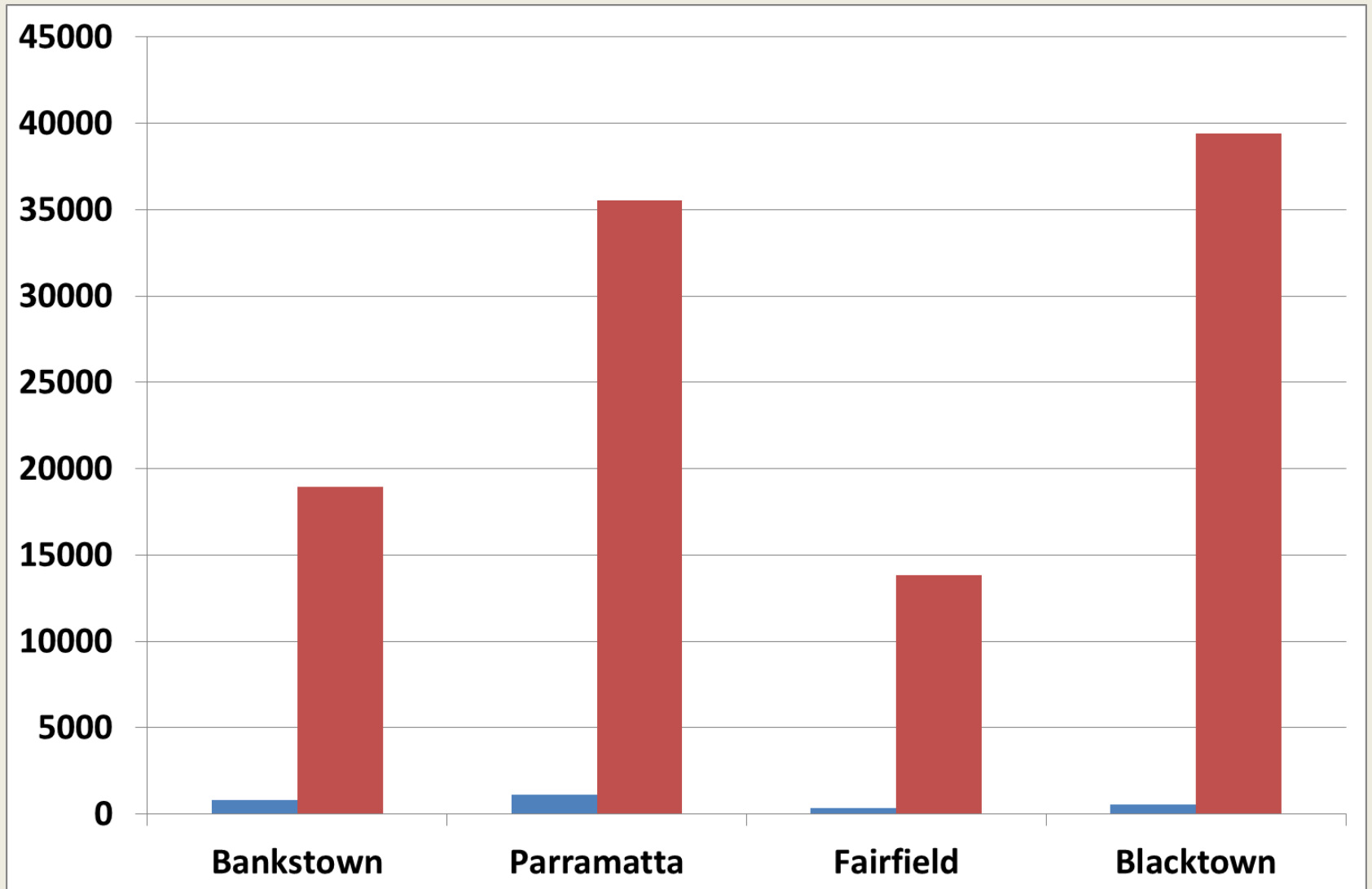
Contribution to GDP by major sector

(source: ABS National Accounts)



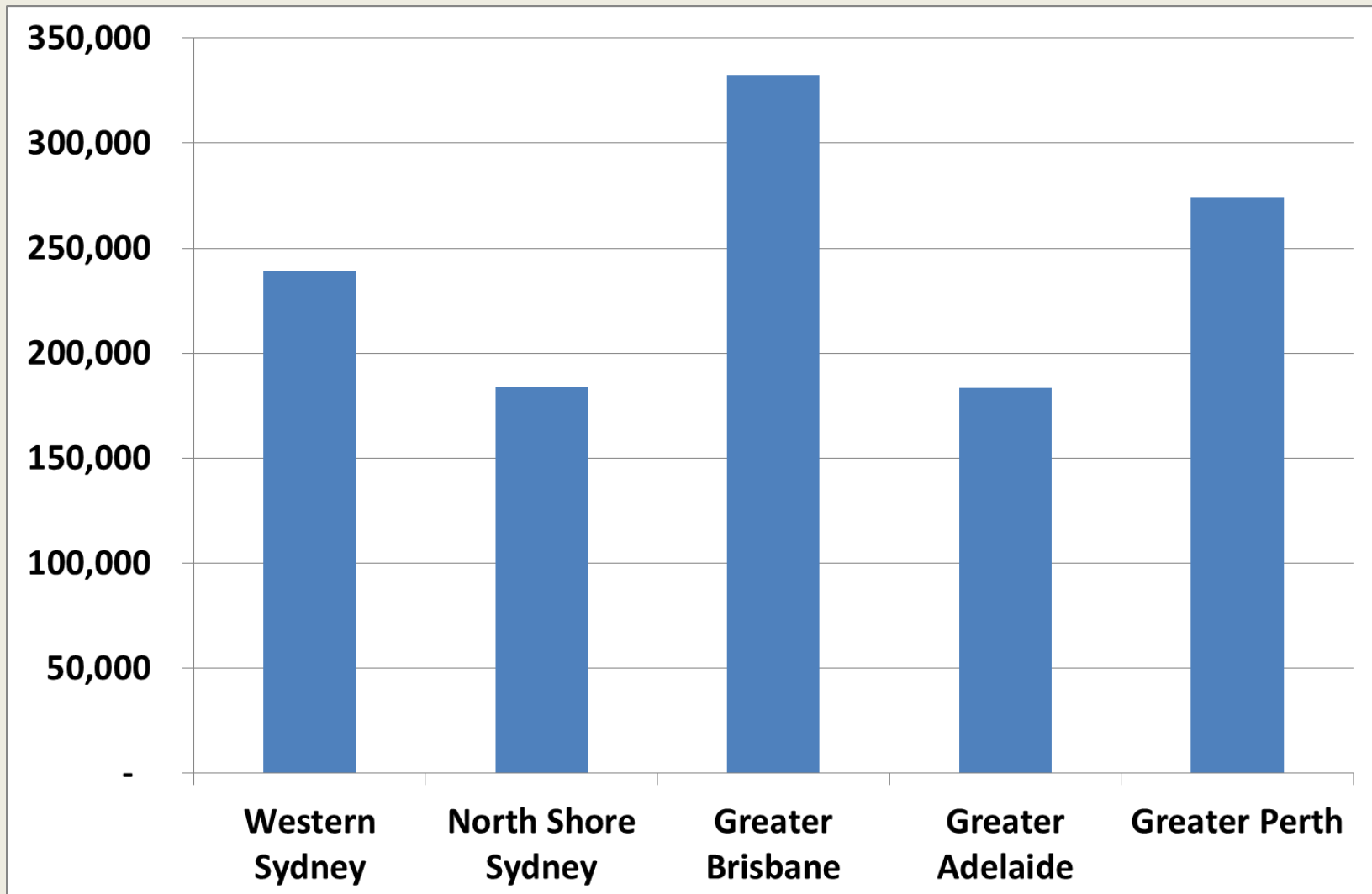
Degree holders LGA 1971 and 2011

(source: ABS Census)



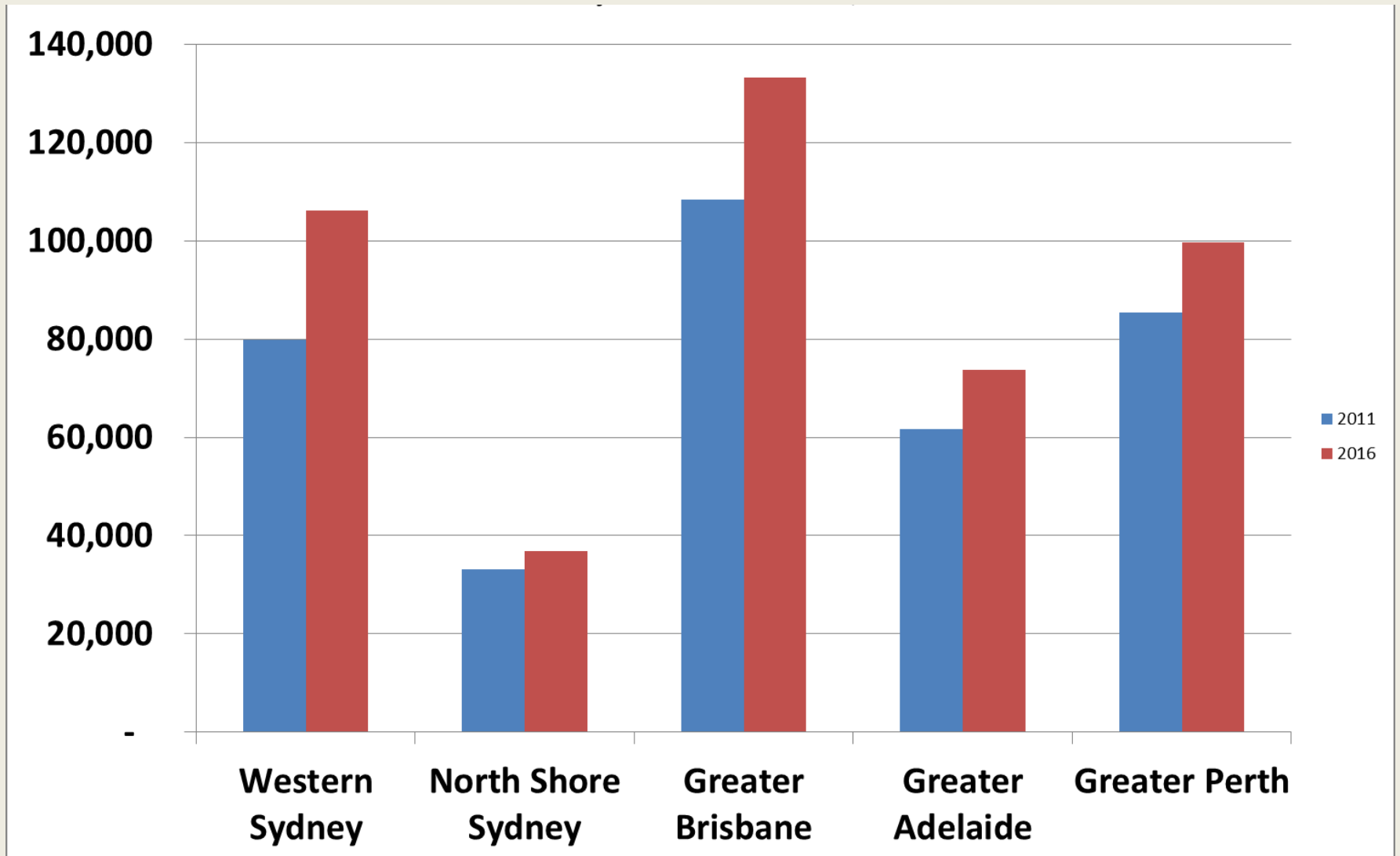
Degree holders 2011

(source: ABS Census)



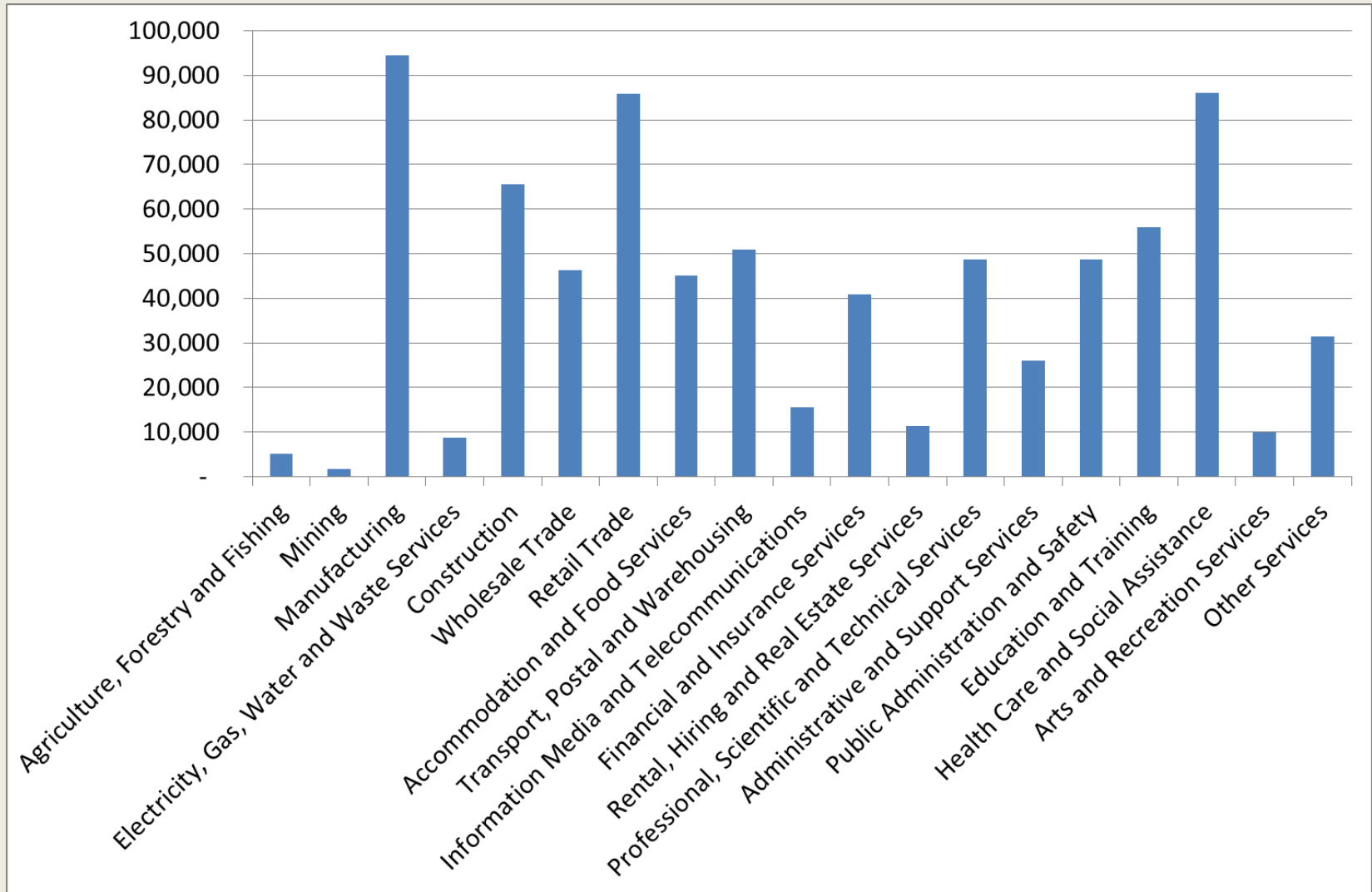
University attendance 2011, 2016

(source: ABS Census)



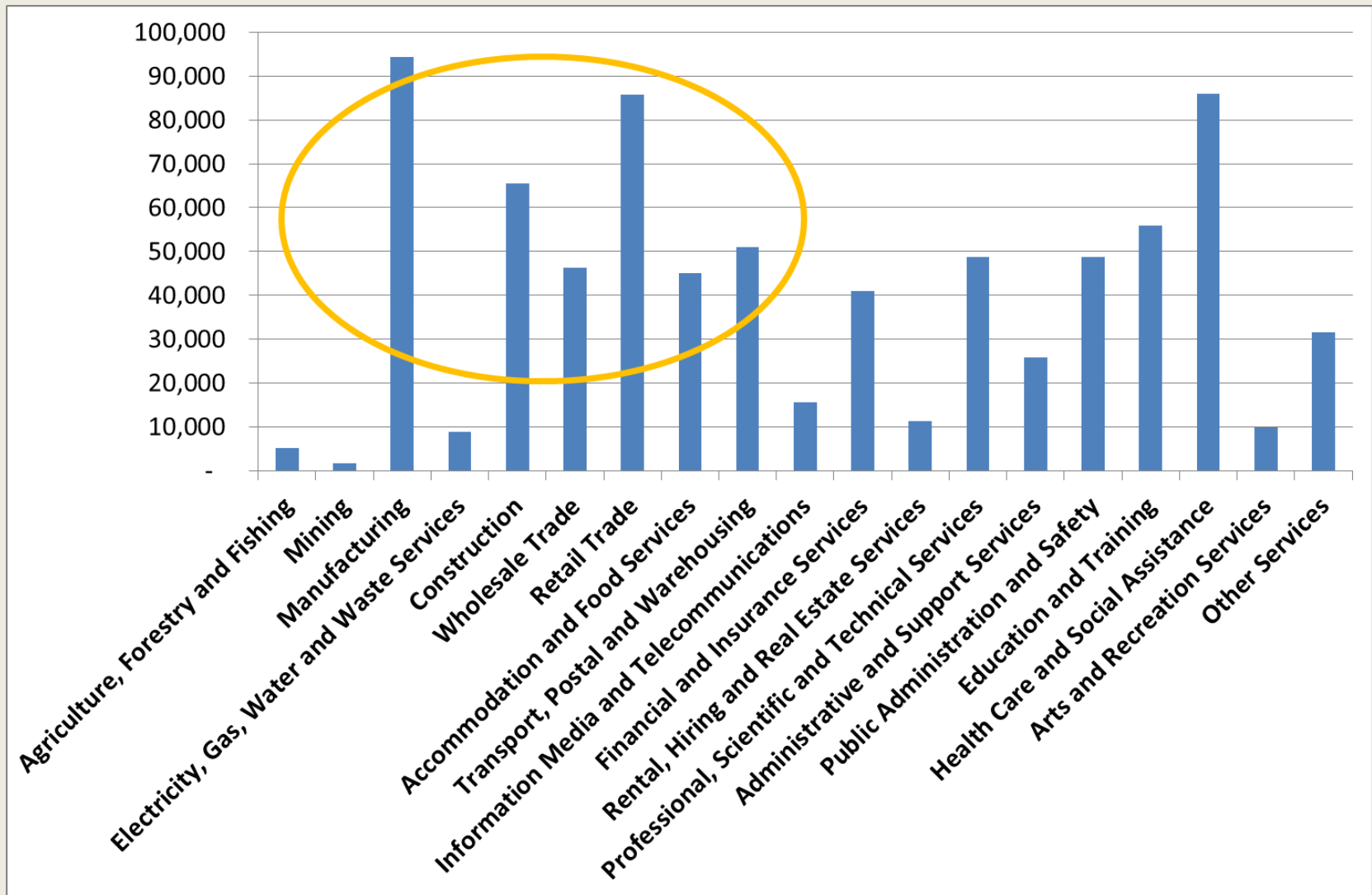
Workforce by industry, Western Sydney, 2011

(source: ABS Census)



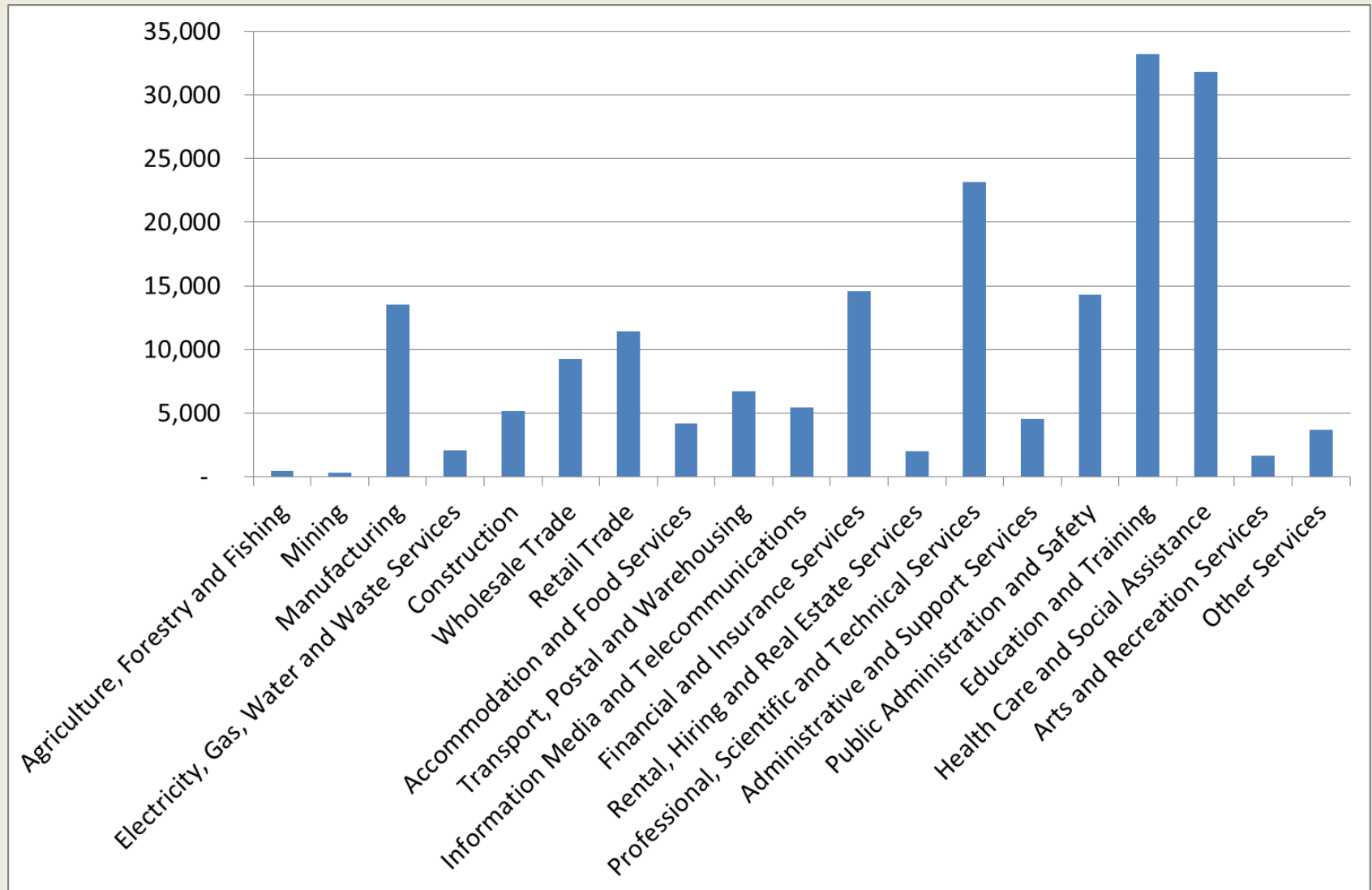
Workforce by industry, Western Sydney, 2011

(source: ABS Census)



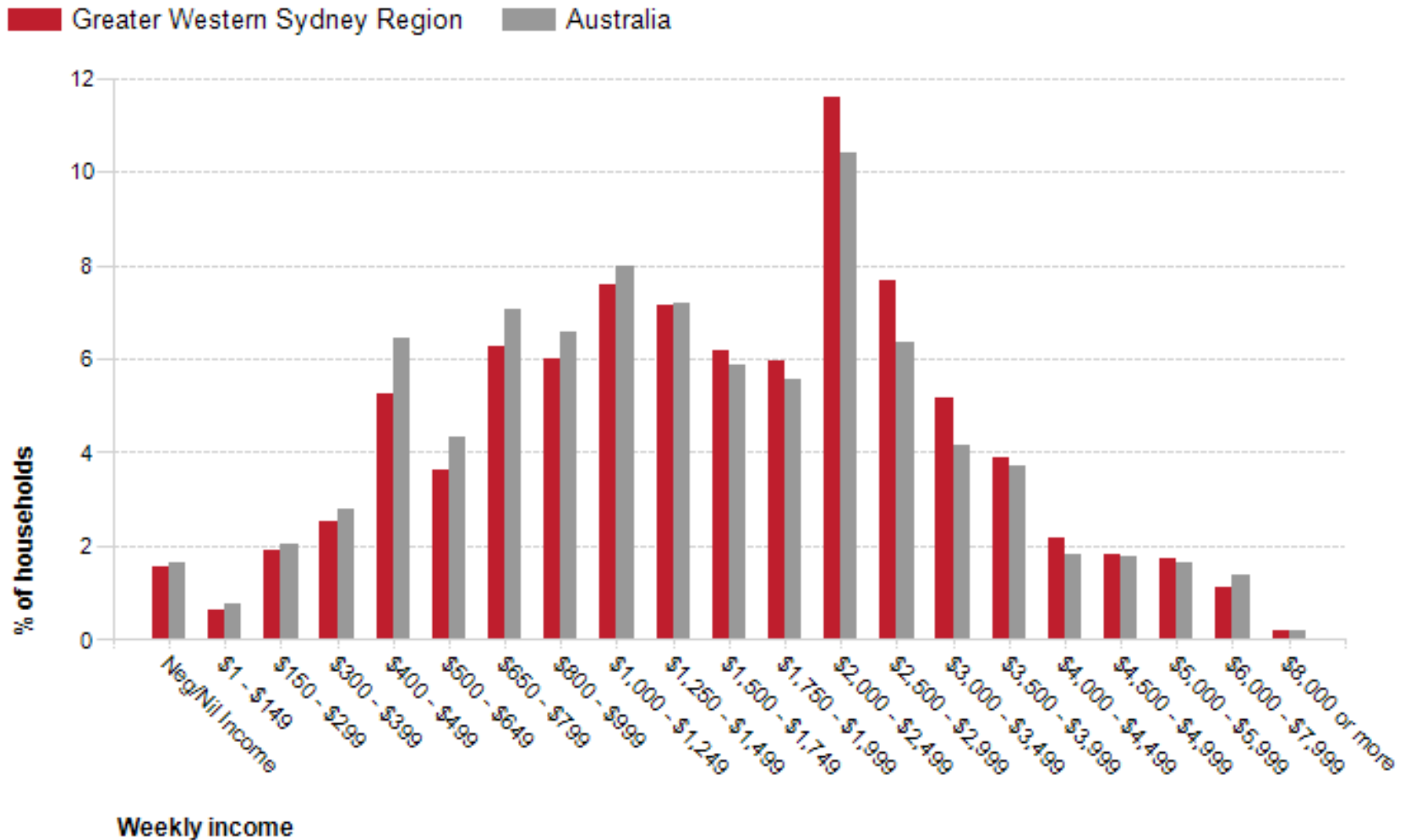
Workforce with degrees by industry, Western Sydney, 2011

(source: ABS Census)



Weekly Household Income 2016

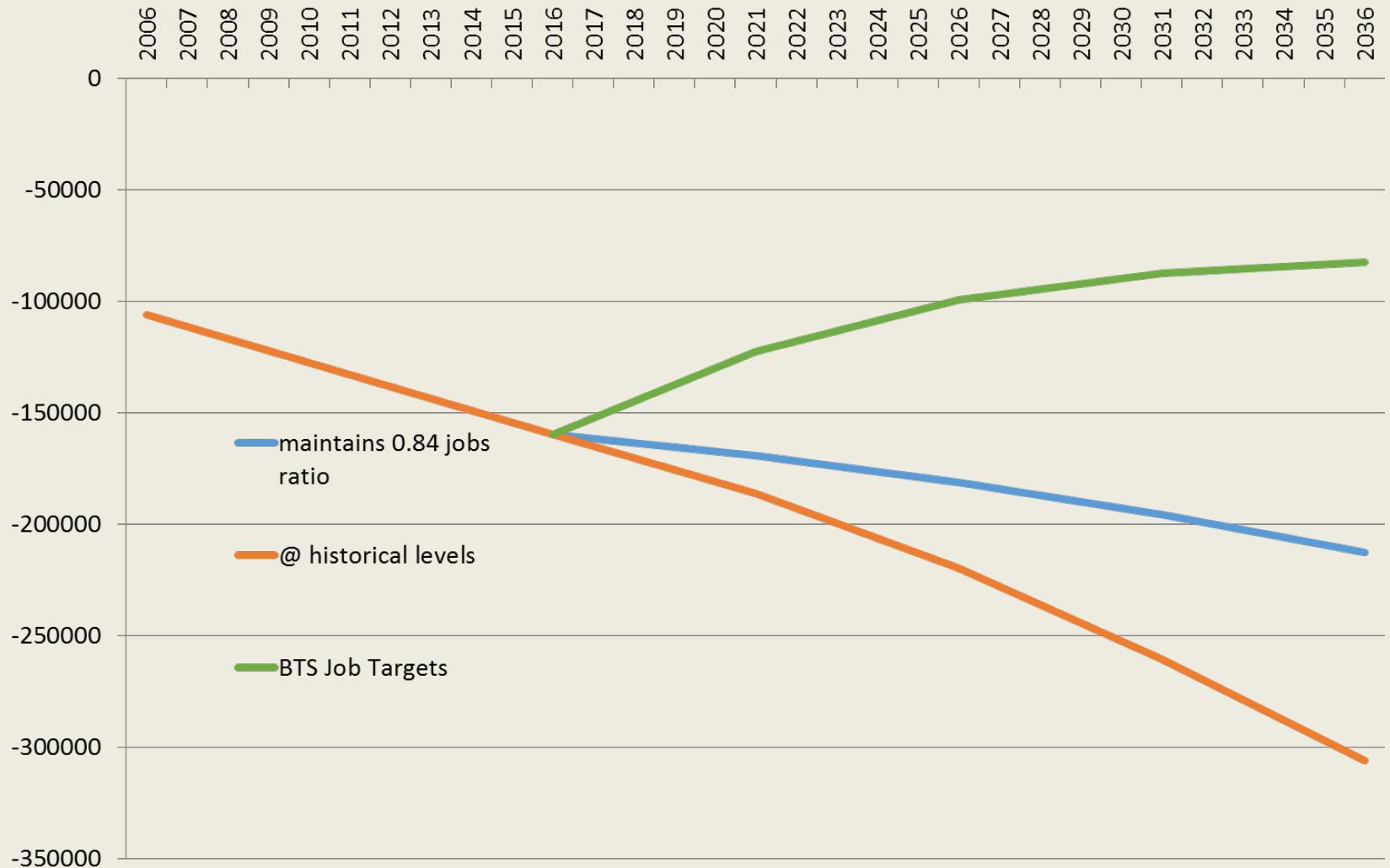
(source: ABS Census via dot id)



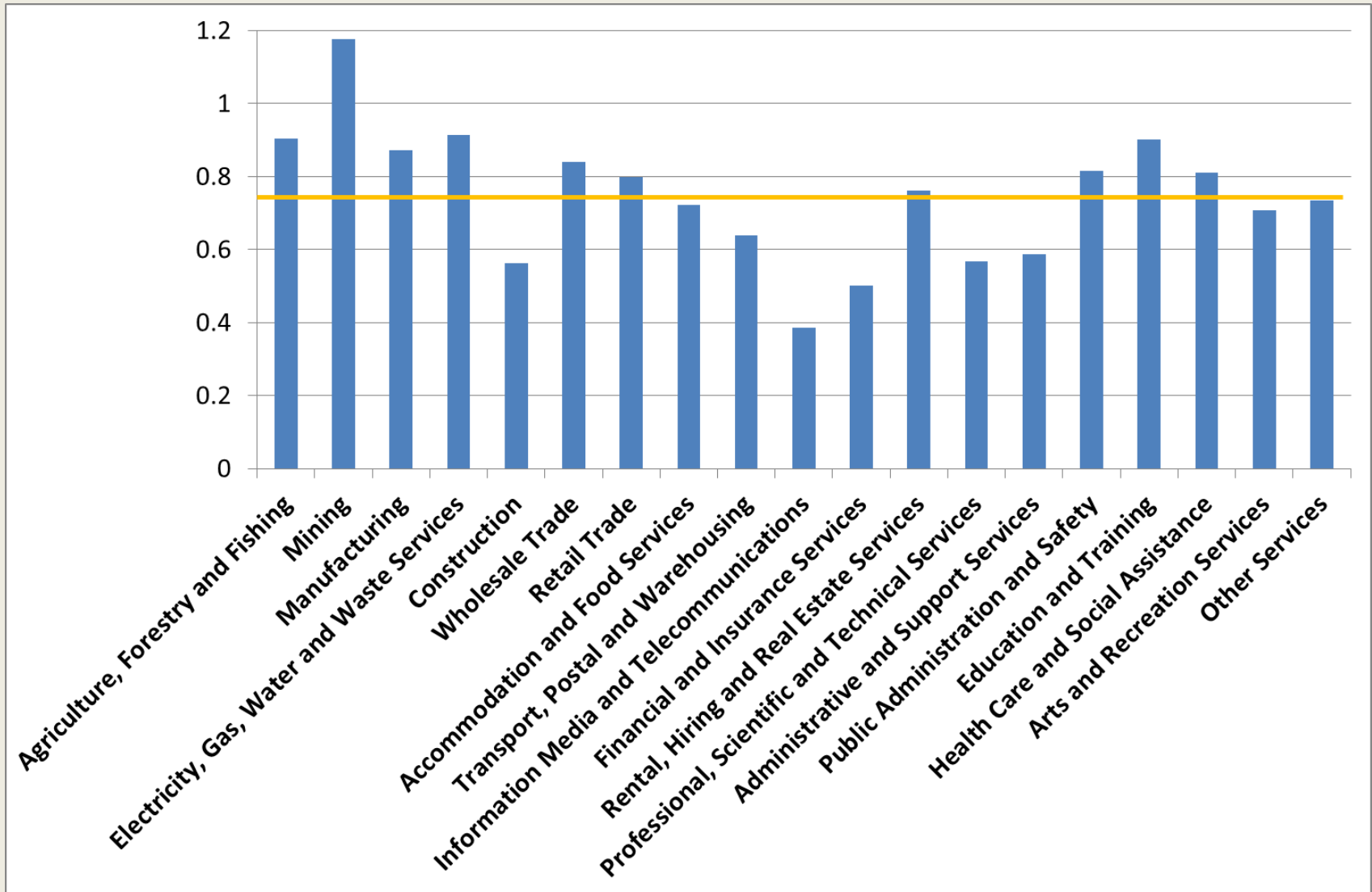
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Western Sydney's Job Slide

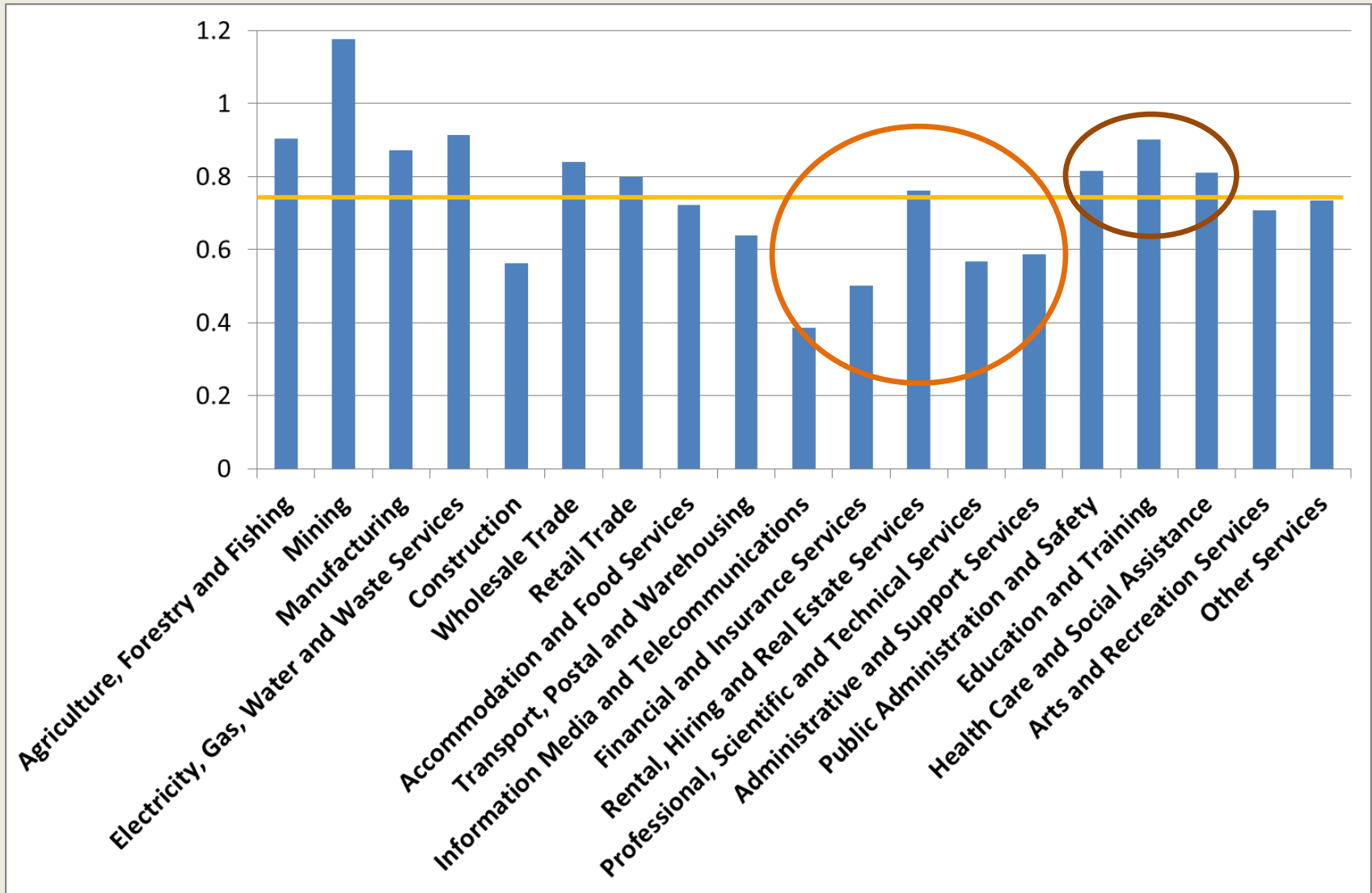
(source: Centre for Western Sydney)



Jobs intensity (crude) by industry, Western Sydney, 2011 (source: ABS Census)



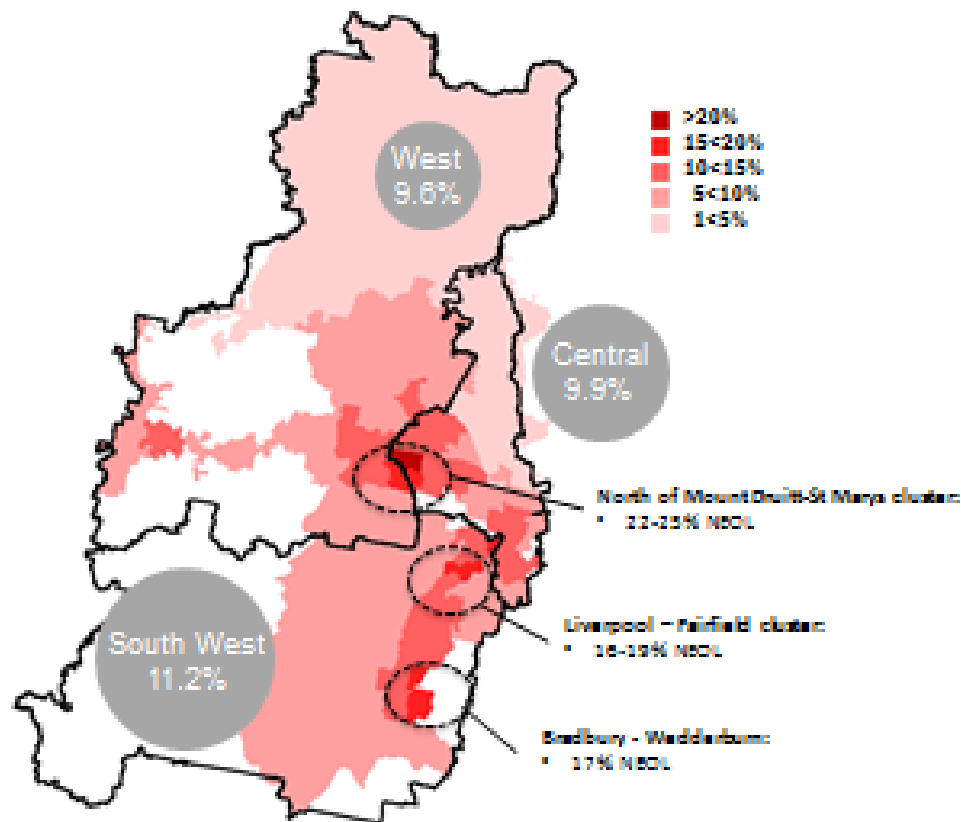
Jobs intensity (crude) by industry, Western Sydney, 2011 (source: ABS Census)



Not Earning or Learning

(source: Centre for Western Sydney)

Concentrations of youth not 'earning or learning' – unemployed or not in the labour force and not studying



In 2011, the proportion of youth not earning or learning was 10.3%.

ABS Census of Population and Housing 2011

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Giving university the third degree

TAFE chief claims all students get is debt

EXCLUSIVE
KYLAR LOUSSIKIAN

STUDY at university and end up with a useless degree and big debts, TAFE boss Jon Black will tell career advisers as he declares war on his tertiary rivals.

"Why is it that every Uber driver I speak to has a communications, business or law degree," he will ask the Careers Advisers Association annual conference tomorrow.

It will be the opening salvo in a bid to tip the scales back toward TAFEs, fighting what Mr Black says is "some sort of mass preconception that everyone must go to university".

His speech will come just days after the Productivity Commission took a swipe at universities, recommending

they get "skin in the game", with financial incentives matched to educational outcomes for students.

It also pointed to the declining job rate for university graduates, which is below 70 per cent, the lowest level in more than three decades.

"While there is obviously an important role for universities in our nation's future, a (vocational education) pathway to a job and a career

should be regarded as a valid and inspiring first choice," Mr Black will say. "Often earning a degree is just where the trouble starts for uni leavers ... and would you rather finish with a \$4000 debt or a \$30,000 debt?"

But TAFEs did not escape criticism from the Productivity Commission, which found some of the courses offered by training providers and private colleges was out of date before it was even taught to students.

"As a result, employers complain of qualifications that do not meet their needs and individuals find it hard to know where to obtain a quality training program," the report read.

Universities Australia slammed the Productivity Commission report, saying it

neglected to mention that most graduates ended up in jobs within three years.

"Not every graduate will walk straight into a job on the Monday after graduation — but 90 per cent will be in a full-time job within a few years of finishing their studies," UA chief executive Belinda Robinson said.

Mr Black said a third of students at TAFE's Ultimo campus already had a university degree but came back to study "because they know that it's us who can get them into work".

Research published earlier this week by the National Centre for Vocational Education showed that although students were interested in vocational or technical careers, such pathways were often a second choice.



TAFE managing director Jon Black is pulling no punches in his fight for students. Picture: John Feder

The Daily Telegraph

Time to trade in that degree

Scarcity of resources drives up the value of those resources. Australians of a certain age will recall the novelty of colour television's introduction during the mid-1970s, when the first home on the block to shell out for one of the (very expensive) new colour sets witnessed a sudden, increase in household visitors.

As time went by and colour television became the norm rather than the exception, visits once again normalised. That pattern was repeated during the 1980s as the first mobile phones hit the market. Some status-anxious types actually resorted to fitting their cars with dummy antennas in a bid to convince onlookers they were part of the mobile revolution.

Again, the rapid ubiquity of mobile phones ended that trend.

Tertiary education, too, was once the preserve of a few. But now, like colour television and mobile phones, university degrees are far more common.

In one sense, this is all for the good. Education in most cases is valuable in and of itself and Australians should be pleased that a much greater percentage of our population has obtained higher qualifications.

At the same time, however,

what are those higher qualifications worth if they no longer confer advantages in the employment field? What if degree-holders had instead pursued trade-based qualifications?

This is an issue to be addressed today by TAFE boss Jon Black during his speech to the Careers Advisers Association annual conference.

"Why is it," he will ask, "that every Uber driver I speak to has a communications, business or law degree?"

It's a great question. Black's additional thoughts are also worthy of deep consideration.

"While there is obviously an important role for universities in our nation's future, a (vocational education) pathway to a job and a career should be regarded as a valid and inspiring first choice," Black will continue, according to a draft copy of his planned speech. "Often earning a degree is just where the trouble starts for uni leavers."

Additionally, Black will point to a compelling financial consideration: "Would you rather finish with a \$4000 debt or a \$30,000 debt?"

Those with an accounting degree might be able to answer that question quickly. Those with an arts degree might take rather longer.

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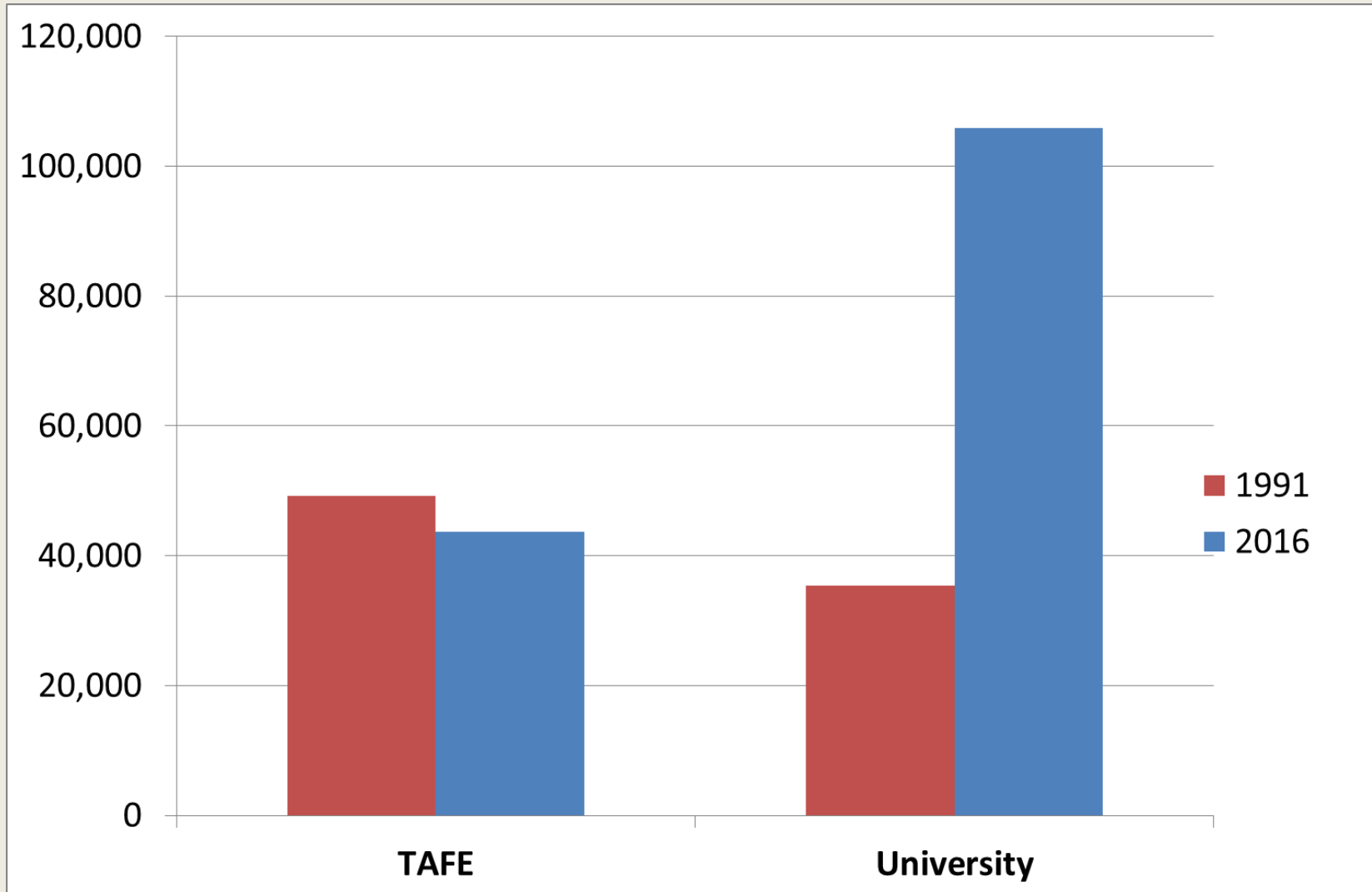
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University, TAFE enrolments, Western Sydney, 1991, 2016

(source: ABS Census)





Thank you.

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