

The Communities Key Industry Profile

Introduction

Gloucester's industry base has historically been made up of beef, dairy and timber production, with the introduction of coal mining and tourism in recent times generating significant employment opportunities and income. Despite the changes to traditional industry through deregulation and resource allocation issues, agriculture and timber production still play a major role in the community's economy, and added to that is a growing economic contribution which now comes from people seeking the lifestyle change or a tourism experience and a strengthening base of commercial and industrial businesses.

Industry Profile	1981 (%)	1986 (%)	1991(%)	2001(%)
Agriculture	28.8	31.5	24.8	22
Mining	0.2	0.3	0.0	4.5
Manufacturing	10.7	9.9	10.9	8
Electricity, Gas Water	1.2	0.6	0.9	0.32
Construction	5.1	3.0	4.8	7
Wholesale, Retail Trade	13.3	14.5	16.1	16.5
Transport, Storage	5.8	7.4	4.5	4.5
Communication	1.9	1.3	0.8	1.3
Finance, Property, Business	3.7	4.9	5.4	7.3
Public Administration, Defence	3.6	5.2	3.7	6
Community Services	12.2	14.1	13.4	14.6
Recreation, Personal, Service	5.4	3.5	6.4	7.2
Not Classed/Not Stated	8.3	3.9	8.4	2.6

Coal

Coal mining is a major industry in Gloucester, and provides employment directly in physical mining, and indirectly through the associated haulage and engineering contractors who provide support. The Stratford and Duralie Mines are open cut mining operations producing coal for export and domestic markets, with recent saleable production levels of approximately 1.66 million tonnes per annum. Coal Mining in the Stratford and Wards River areas has been occurring for approximately ten years. Direct mining activity and service sectors in the Gloucester area account for approximately 100 jobs and is set to continue for at least another decade with an extension at Duralie and plans for future underground mining.

Tourism

The fastest growing industry contributing to the Gloucester economy is the tourism sector, now estimated to contribute over \$21 million into the local economy per annum. The World Heritage rainforests of the Barrington Tops, and the Bucketts Range and river systems provide a unique visitation combination only a few hours north of Sydney, the



Central Coast and Newcastle. Gloucester is considered to have the most reliable river system outside the Sydney basin, making it a perfect destination for canoeing and kayaking. This, along with the increasing popularity of Thunderbolts Way as the fastest route north to Queensland and the Bucketts Way as a Tourist Drive, places Gloucester in a great position to capitalise on the wonderful balance of passive and active recreation which create a positive tourism and lifestyle experience.

Agriculture

Agriculture has historically been the strongest economic influence in the Gloucester area with 700 holdings providing for beef, dairy and now significant volumes of niche agribusiness production items for local and regional markets. Agriculture is still a major income provider with these producers contributing approximately \$21.5 million in income to the local economy on an annual basis (ABS data).

Dairy farms produce around 22.5 million litres (\$7- 8 Million) of milk per annum, with herd sizes rising and dairy producer numbers falling as the pressure of globalization and industry competitiveness continue to bite.

Beef related properties provide annually approximately 19,000 head or approximately \$9.5 million worth of production into the community, with most of the slaughter production going to regional meat process facilities in Singleton, Inverell and Wingham. Store cattle are also sold for feedlot production and for grass fattening in other regions.

There are also a number of boutique agricultural industries, including; Goats, alpaca, silver perch, organics industry herbs and many more. These industries have adopted innovative marketing networks for their products, which increase financial returns. Many of these producers also form part of an agricultural experience tourism network which allows tourists to engage in and feel a part of a working farm system.

Commercial/Industrial Sectors

Over the last decade there has been a considerable growth in the number of Industrial and commercial based businesses operating in Gloucester. The community has a wide range of retail businesses including: two supermarkets, a number of fashion and apparel stores as well as furniture and electrical outlets. There are numerous variety stores and a number of locations catering for the builder and home handy man.

Gloucester now has a number of businesses involved in specialist metal fabrication and manufacture, with product for export and domestic consumption. The products range from underground mining vehicles, through to small unique agricultural operating equipment. There is also a role for local firms in the repair, refit and maintenance of mining equipment and farm related vehicles and tractors. These businesses provide employment opportunities and trades skills for a lot of Gloucester's young people. A number of these businesses form part of a steady growth of new businesses which have relocated into the area from other regions in the State.

