

Notes on methodology

1. As a first point of inspection, flood maps of Qld from the Bureau of Meteorology were used to get an idea of where flooding was taking place.

These were located at a page titled Queensland Rainfall and River Conditions:
<http://www.bom.gov.au/qld/flood/index.shtml> and were updated daily.

2. It was decided that the best way to apportion the impacts of the floods on economic activity would be to first apportion Qld economic activity to the various regions affected by flooding.

Queensland employment levels, disaggregated by industry and statistical division were available in datacube format in 6291.0.55.003 (rq1_nov07.srd)

3. For a visual idea of the geographic location/dimensions of the ABS' statistical districts, ABS publication 1216.0 was consulted. (1216.0 - 2010 ASGC - Australia maps)

4. As an example, one could calculate the share of QLD retail employment that was to be found in West Moreton and then apportion retail activity to that statistical district using the same share.

5. It was understood that the intensity of flooding varied across statistical districts. The Bureau of Meteorology informed us that the best way to get an idea of varying flooding intensity was to inspect flood maps provided by the Qld Department of Main Roads - that showed the extent of road closures/warnings on major roads.

These maps are updated twice a day and list roads as: open with caution; load restrictions; 4WD vehicles only; closed to all vehicles.

Rules of thumb derived from visual inspection of these maps were used to significantly moderate the estimated flood impacts in some statistical districts to below 100% of lost activity.

6. Where anecdotal or other evidence suggested that certain key statistical districts were not seriously affected by floods, calls were made to the respective local area councils to confirm.

Councils were keen to pass us on to their designated 'disaster relief coordinators' who were able to discuss their knowledge of the extent of the flooding and damage.

Based on such phone calls, both the Sunshine Coast statistical district and the Gold Coast statistical district were easily eliminated from calculations.

7. ABS publication 1312.3 indicated the sectors affected that were most likely to have an economic impact - ex ag and mining, these were construction, manufacturing and retail. Note that from the outset, certain industries such as Electricity, Gas and Water; Public Administration; Arts and Recreation; Other Services were ignored (or treated as essentially unaffected).

8. Retail turnover was used as a proxy for retail GVA and its inputs such as wholesale trade and transport.

9. A separation was made between Brisbane and Qld-excluding-Brisbane to enable the convenient exclusion of some industries thought to have negligible weight outside of Brisbane, (eg financial services) as well as to allow for easier approximation of the sole flood impacts on Brisbane.

10. The Accommodation and Food Services industry was excluded from calculations as it was presumed that independent calculations being undertaken to assess the impacts of the floods on Tourism activity would include this.

11. It was also assumed that Engineering Construction activity would be approximately accounted for (or within the margin of error) in the mining activity calculations being done independently.