

Occasional Paper Series, Issue 6, February 2013
Benchmarking Australian Science Performance
Online supplement 2

The two following graphs demonstrate how Australian research performance compares globally, based on citation rates of journal publications. The analysis breaks the total number of Australian authored and co-authored publications into quantiles of 5%, to demonstrate their distribution relative to those of a selection of North American, European, and Asian nations, and relative to the World and European averages.

The top dot represents the top 5% of all papers based on the number of citations per paper, the next dot below demonstrates the next best 5%, and so on.

- The top graph shows a comparison of Australia with 25 countries. Each dot represents 5% of all papers (based on the citation rate), across a selection of disciplines, in each country. This analysis shows that 30% of all Australian papers in the disciplines analysed are above the European average. For comparison, 50% of US papers, 35% of Europe's papers, 20% of the world's papers, and 10% of Asia's papers are cited above the European average.
- The bottom graph shows how Australia compares against the World and European averages in a selection of science disciplines. In all fields, at least 25% of Australia's papers are cited above the European average for the same discipline.

This analysis shows the highest-cited Australian papers are above European and World averages for citation rate.

The analysis also shows, however, that 55% of the total number of papers published in the disciplines analysed here are below the world average citation rate. This compares with 35% (Switzerland, the US and Denmark).

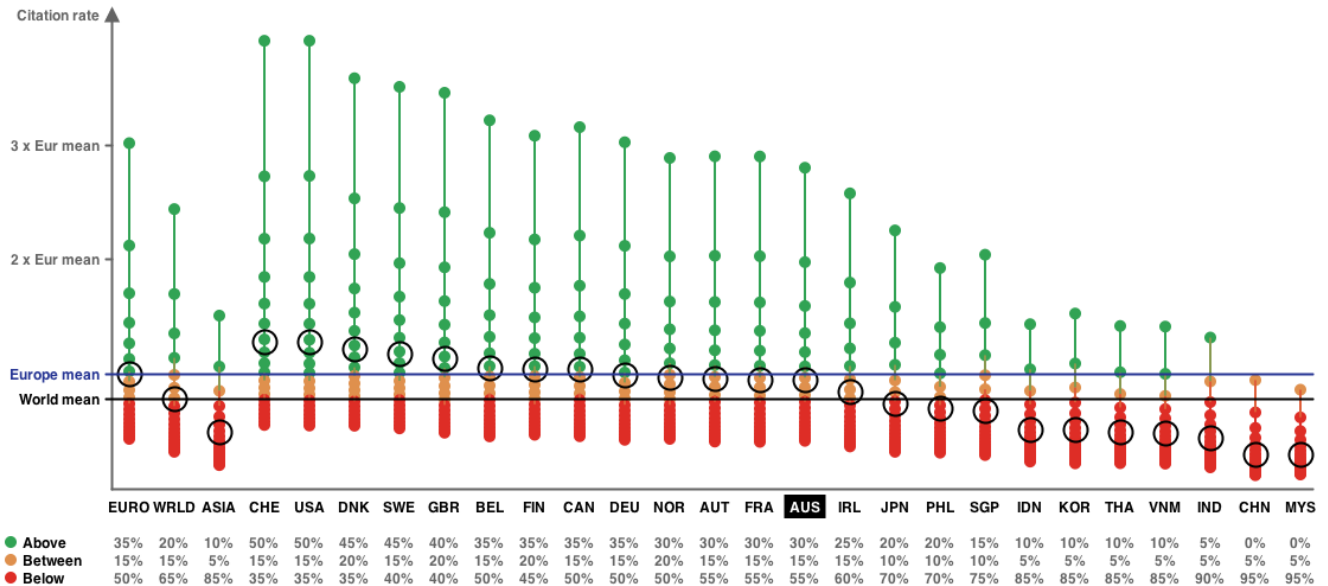
These graphs use the same data source as the analysis presented in the Occasional Paper "Benchmarking Australia's Research Performance." The field and country rankings differ slightly from those presented in the occasional paper, as these graphs use an updated dataset containing more citations. In these analyses "average" and "mean" are used interchangeably.



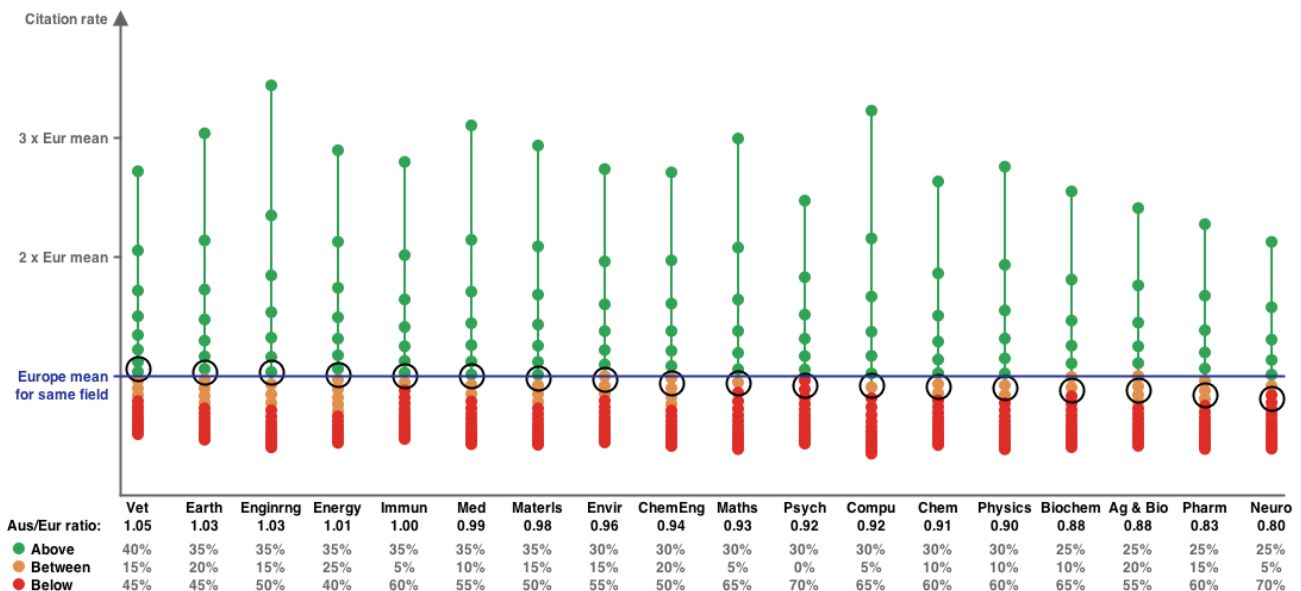
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All countries, all fields, 1996-2010



Australia, all fields, 1996-2010



In each graph the black circles represent average citation rates for each country or region (top graph), or discipline (bottom graph). Green symbols are for publications with citation rates above the European average, amber symbols are for citation rates between European and World averages, and red symbols are for citation rates below world average.