

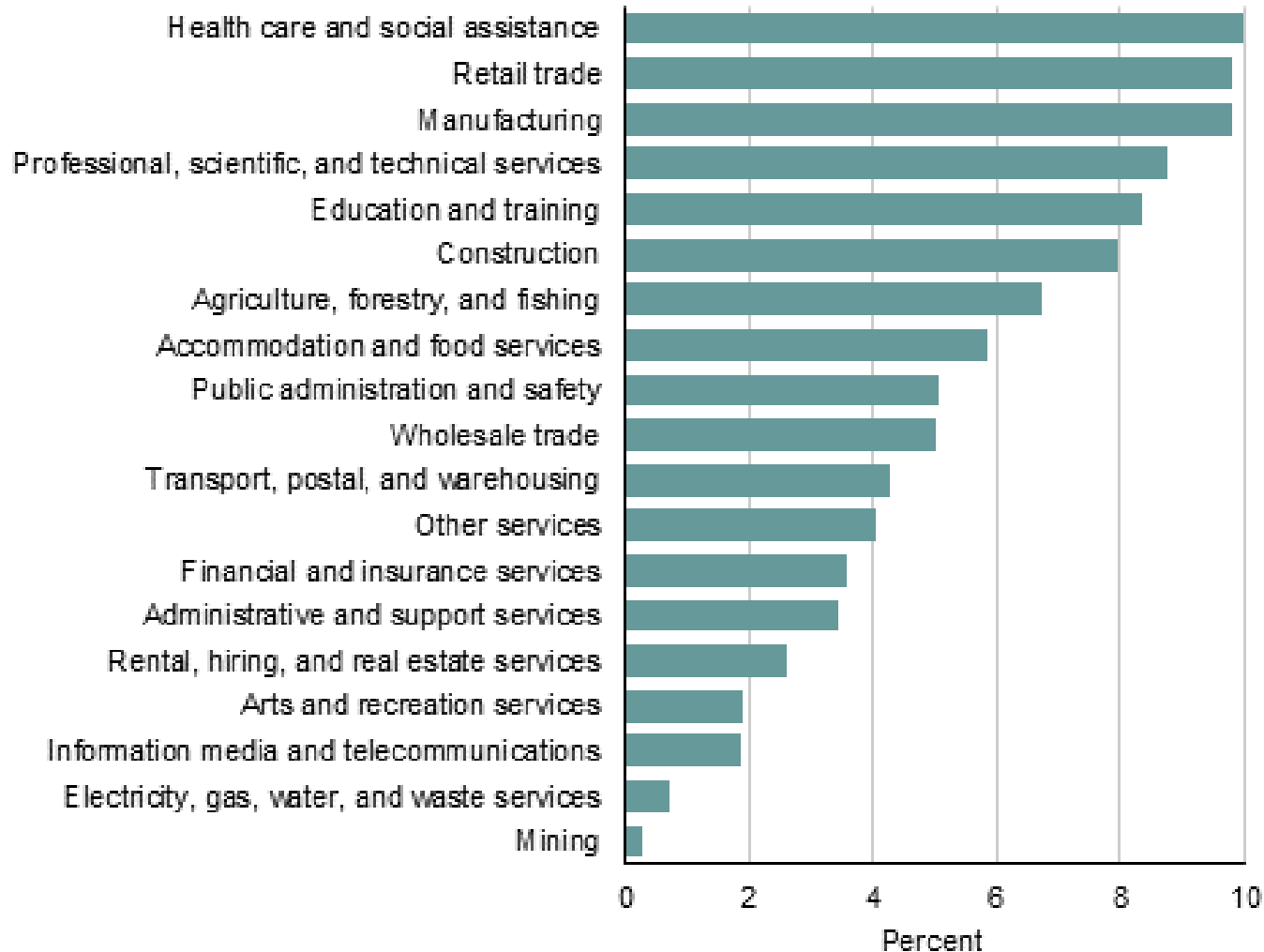
The Economics of Caring

**NZ Dementia Summit
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Te Papa, Wellington**

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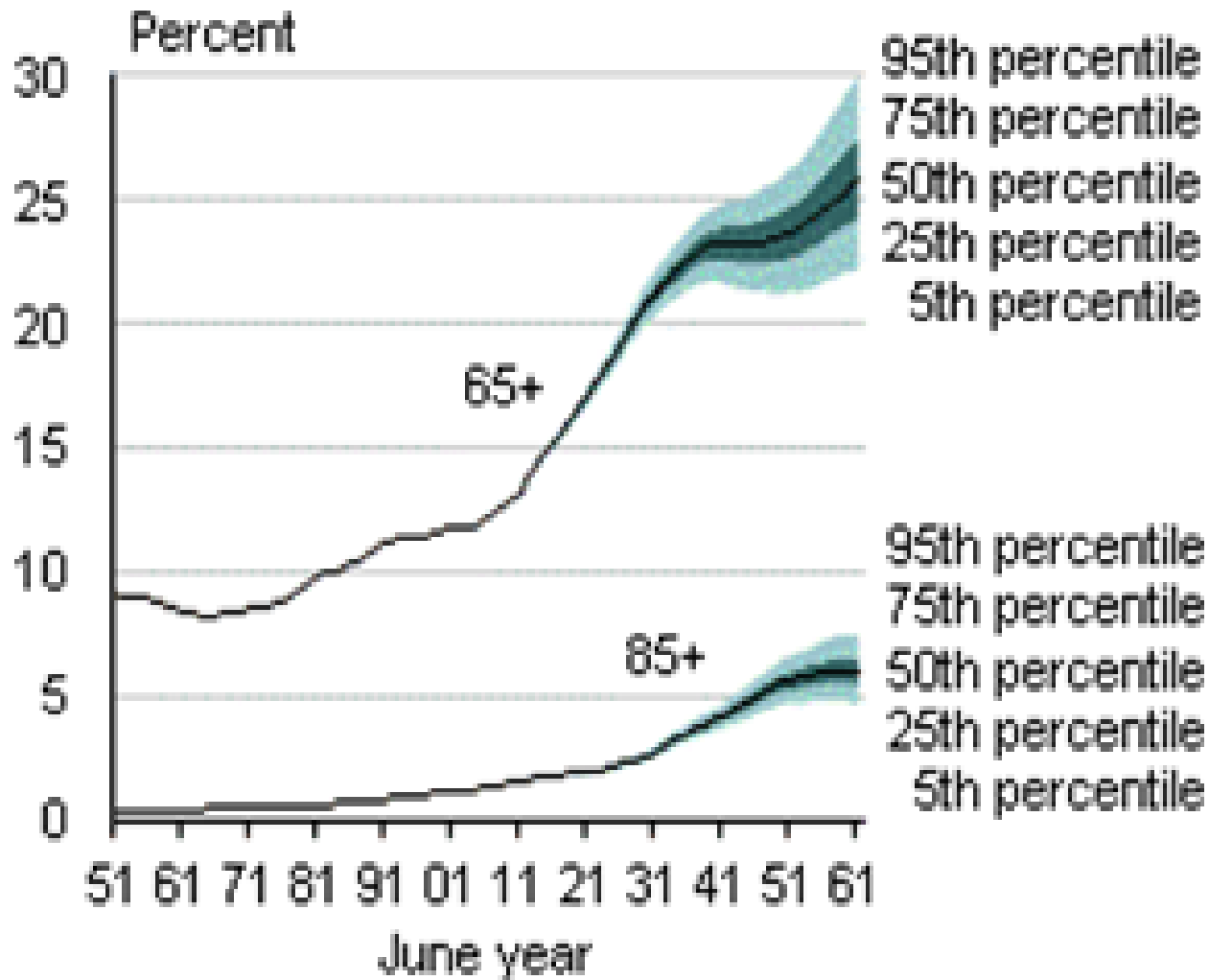
Health care and social assistance most common industry

Industry⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾
2013 Census



Percentage of population aged 65+ and 85+, 1951 – 2061

(Source: [Statistics New Zealand 2013, p. 6, Figure 2](#))



Ageing in place....

- age-adjusted population proportion in rest home care has decreased
- proportion in hospital level care has stayed steady
- dependency levels have increased
- use of home support services has increased

- In 2013, 81.7% of workers in the health care and social assistance industry were women.
- Nearly 75% were aged over 40 years.
- Productivity Commission (2015) reports: quite often, government agencies pay less than full cost when contracting providers to deliver the Government's goals and commitments. *"Such underpayment is unreasonable."*
- Such underpayment impacts on careworkers.



- Department of Labour: “the current pathway is not sustainable”
- To meet the needs of the projected number of disabled older people requiring a high level of support, **the number of paid careworkers needs to almost treble from just under 18,000 in 2006 to 48,200 in 2036**
- It ain't gonna happen unless conditions improve:

Some of the changes required to attract careworkers:

- Improve base wages
- Recognition of skills and service
- Compensation for private costs eg car, petrol
- Security of hours of work
- Access to training
- Access to support
- Career path
- **Acknowledge, respect, and officially include careworkers' economic and social contribution**