



AUSTRALIAN REGIONAL LABOUR MARKETS

DECEMBER QUARTER 2007

State/Territory labour market developments

MAIN FINDINGS

Employment rose in all States and Territories, except for the Australian Capital Territory, over the year to the December quarter 2007. The largest increase (in percentage terms) was recorded in the Northern Territory (up by 5.9 per cent), followed by Western Australia (up by 3.9 per cent) and Queensland and Victoria (up by 3.3 per cent respectively). The unemployment rate fell in all States and Territories except South Australia and Western Australia, where it was unchanged, and the Northern Territory, where it rose by 2.1 percentage points to 4.8 per cent. The largest falls over the year were recorded in Tasmania (down by 0.5 percentage points to 5.6 per cent), the Australian Capital Territory (down by 0.5 percentage points to 2.3 per cent) and Queensland (down by 0.3 percentage points to 3.4 per cent).

**CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT AND THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
DECEMBER QUARTER 2006 TO DECEMBER QUARTER 2007**



Developments at the ABS Labour Force Region Level

Employment increased in 84 per cent of regions over the year to the December quarter 2007, while 59 per cent of regions recorded a reduction in their unemployment rate. A number of regions have recorded strong employment growth as well as a significant reduction in their unemployment rate over the last 12 months. In particular:

- Wide Bay-Burnett in Queensland recorded a 7.9 per cent increase in employment while the unemployment rate fell by 0.5 percentage points to 3.8 per cent;
- Eastern Suburbs in Sydney recorded a 6.0 per cent increase in employment while the unemployment rate fell by 1.5 percentage points to 1.4 per cent; and
- employment in Barwon-Western District in Victoria rose by 6.0 per cent while the unemployment rate fell by 1.9 percentage points to 4.4 per cent.

**LABOUR FORCE STATUS BY ABS LABOUR FORCE REGIONS
DECEMBER QUARTER 2007
Not Seasonally Adjusted**

State/Region	Employed		Unemployed		Unemployment rate		Employment rate (a)		Participation rate	
	'000	Annual change	'000	Annual change	%	Annual change (% pts)	%	Annual change (% pts)	%	Annual change (% pts)
AUSTRALIA	10 614.1	280.7	457.3	-7.7	4.1	-0.2	73.3	0.6	65.3	0.5
<i>Metropolitan Australia (b)</i>	<i>6669.1</i>	<i>162.4</i>	<i>278.3</i>	<i>1.1</i>	<i>4.0</i>	<i>-0.1</i>	<i>73.7</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>66.1</i>	<i>0.4</i>
<i>Non-metropolitan Australia (b)</i>	<i>3945.0</i>	<i>118.3</i>	<i>178.9</i>	<i>-8.8</i>	<i>4.3</i>	<i>-0.3</i>	<i>72.7</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>64.0</i>	<i>0.5</i>
New South Wales	3388.1	58.7	159.3	-4.1	4.5	-0.2	71.4	0.2	63.4	0.1
<i>Sydney</i>	<i>2211.0</i>	<i>31.8</i>	<i>97.2</i>	<i>3.1</i>	<i>4.2</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>72.3</i>	<i>-0.2</i>	<i>65.2</i>	<i>0.1</i>
Inner Sydney and Inner Western Sydney	274.4	7.7	9.7	0.9	3.4	0.2	74.3	-0.1	67.7	1.3
Inner Sydney	183.7	2.3	5.6	-0.4	2.9	-0.2	75.1	1.0	68.9	-0.1
Eastern Suburbs	139.7	7.9	2.0	-2.0	1.4	-1.5	78.6	2.8	65.2	2.0
St George-Sutherland	242.2	2.6	6.3	-1.8	2.5	-0.7	75.4	-0.2	66.2	-0.6
Canterbury-Bankstown	138.5	0.1	8.0	0.1	5.5	0.1	64.9	1.2	56.1	-0.7
Fairfield-Liverpool/ Outer South Western Sydney	297.0	15.1	15.5	-4.5	5.0	-1.7	69.2	1.7	65.8	1.4
Fairfield-Liverpool	165.2	8.0	9.0	-2.7	5.2	-1.8	65.5	2.1	60.7	1.0
Central Western Sydney	146.3	4.2	6.6	-1.3	4.3	-1.0	65.4	0.2	60.4	0.4
North Western Sydney	296.2	0.8	21.0	4.9	6.6	1.5	70.4	0.6	66.9	0.3
Lower Northern Sydney	169.9	0.6	5.0	2.1	2.9	1.1	75.3	-2.9	66.6	0.2
Central Northern Sydney	230.5	-6.2	6.9	0.1	2.9	0.1	77.3	-2.3	68.3	-2.7
Northern Beaches	133.9	-3.7	5.5	1.9	3.9	1.4	77.6	-4.4	69.0	-1.8
Gosford-Wyong	142.5	2.7	10.7	2.7	7.0	1.5	69.7	-0.8	60.9	1.3
<i>Balance of New South Wales</i>	<i>1177.0</i>	<i>26.9</i>	<i>62.1</i>	<i>-7.2</i>	<i>5.0</i>	<i>-0.7</i>	<i>69.7</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>60.2</i>	<i>0.2</i>
Hunter	288.4	5.3	15.3	-0.3	5.0	-0.2	70.4	1.2	60.7	0.2
Newcastle	244.0	10.2	12.2	-1.0	4.8	-0.6	70.6	2.3	61.2	1.4
Illawarra and South Eastern	272.3	6.8	17.3	-3.3	6.0	-1.2	66.5	1.1	57.6	-0.1
Illawarra	173.4	3.2	14.0	-2.9	7.5	-1.5	63.2	-0.1	55.3	-0.6
Wollongong	123.7	-2.9	10.6	-1.4	7.9	-0.8	64.9	-1.1	58.6	-2.7
Richmond-Tweed/ Mid-North Coast	210.2	-13.1	14.2	1.2	6.3	0.8	64.4	-2.0	53.0	-3.6
Northern/ Far West-North Western/ Central West	255.2	17.2	12.3	-2.4	4.6	-1.2	72.6	2.5	64.5	2.7
Murray-Murrumbidgee	151.0	10.7	3.1	-2.3	2.0	-1.7	78.7	1.5	70.3	2.9
Victoria	2631.5	84.0	122.7	-1.2	4.5	-0.2	73.2	0.9	65.2	0.9
<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>1933.5</i>	<i>55.3</i>	<i>84.9</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>4.2</i>	<i>-0.1</i>	<i>73.2</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>65.7</i>	<i>0.7</i>
Outer Western Melbourne	302.7	3.5	18.4	-1.6	5.7	-0.5	70.9	0.1	65.3	-0.7
North Western Melbourne	139.3	7.7	7.1	-0.5	4.9	-0.6	69.3	1.4	62.0	2.0
Inner Melbourne	168.7	3.4	4.0	-1.9	2.3	-1.1	76.0	-1.2	71.6	-0.5
North Eastern Melbourne	236.5	8.0	10.1	0.7	4.1	0.2	72.6	2.2	66.0	1.2
Inner Eastern Melbourne	325.2	7.3	11.9	-1.4	3.5	-0.5	73.9	-0.4	64.0	0.0
Southern Melbourne	221.1	8.6	7.0	-0.4	3.0	-0.3	75.5	0.1	65.1	1.2
Outer Eastern Melbourne	220.4	3.5	8.5	0.7	3.7	0.2	76.3	-0.7	68.3	0.1
South Eastern Melbourne	186.3	12.5	13.1	4.0	6.6	1.6	69.2	2.9	65.6	4.4
Mornington Peninsula	133.4	0.8	4.8	0.6	3.5	0.4	76.3	2.7	64.4	-0.4
<i>Balance of Victoria</i>	<i>698.0</i>	<i>28.7</i>	<i>37.9</i>	<i>-1.5</i>	<i>5.1</i>	<i>-0.4</i>	<i>73.3</i>	<i>1.8</i>	<i>64.1</i>	<i>1.3</i>
Barwon-Western District	193.3	10.9	9.0	-3.3	4.4	-1.9	77.6	4.9	65.5	1.3
Central Highlands-Wimmera	102.6	9.9	7.5	0.7	6.8	0.0	72.3	2.7	66.2	5.3
Loddon-Mallee	129.7	-8.0	8.5	0.1	6.1	0.4	71.6	-2.4	62.5	-4.8
Goulburn-Ovens-Murray	147.6	4.6	4.9	-1.2	3.2	-0.9	71.4	1.9	62.4	0.3
All Gippsland	124.7	11.3	8.0	2.3	6.0	1.2	72.1	1.5	64.0	5.5

(a) The employment rate refers to the proportion of the working age (15-64) population who are employed.

(b) The ABS defines metropolitan as those regions located within the State capital cities. Non-metropolitan is defined as those regions located outside the State capital cities as well as the two Territories.

**LABOUR FORCE STATUS BY ABS LABOUR FORCE REGIONS
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State/Region	Employed		Unemployed		Unemployment rate		Employment Rate (a)		Participation rate	
	'000	Annual change	'000	Annual change	%	Annual change (% pts)	%	Annual change (% pts)	%	Annual change (% pts)
Queensland	2165.6	70.1	75.5	-4.5	3.4	-0.3	75.5	0.6	67.3	0.3
Gold Coast	257.3	6.5	7.3	-3.0	2.8	-1.2	75.7	1.4	65.4	-0.8
<i>Brisbane</i>	1020.8	34.5	33.9	-2.9	3.2	-0.4	76.9	0.8	69.2	0.4
Brisbane City Inner Ring	276.5	11.5	8.3	2.1	2.9	0.6	82.0	-0.4	76.1	1.8
Brisbane City Outer Ring	311.7	13.8	9.7	1.1	3.0	0.2	76.2	1.5	66.9	1.5
South and East Brisbane Balance	204.7	2.2	9.2	-2.8	4.3	-1.3	73.3	-0.7	67.1	-1.9
North and West Brisbane Balance	227.9	7.0	6.7	-3.3	2.9	-1.5	75.4	2.1	66.7	-0.6
<i>Balance of Queensland</i>	1144.8	35.7	41.6	-1.6	3.5	-0.2	74.2	0.5	65.7	0.2
South and East Moreton	249.0	10.1	7.3	-1.9	2.8	-0.9	75.9	1.8	66.1	0.5
North and West Moreton	188.8	11.5	7.0	0.4	3.6	0.0	75.9	2.1	65.5	2.4
Wide Bay-Burnett	116.6	8.6	4.6	-0.3	3.8	-0.5	65.3	1.5	55.9	2.4
Darling Downs-South West	131.0	-3.3	4.7	0.9	3.5	0.7	70.5	-4.7	63.8	-2.9
Mackay-Fitzroy-Central West	199.0	7.6	6.8	0.5	3.3	0.1	79.4	2.9	69.8	1.0
Northern-North West	129.8	-3.6	5.2	-1.0	3.9	-0.6	73.5	-4.0	68.4	-4.2
Far North	130.6	4.8	5.9	-0.2	4.4	-0.3	75.1	1.8	68.9	0.6
South Australia	776.2	13.6	39.7	0.3	4.9	0.0	72.4	0.3	63.3	0.3
<i>Adelaide</i>	571.8	9.0	29.9	-0.8	5.0	-0.2	72.3	0.3	63.1	0.1
Northern Adelaide	175.7	4.5	11.5	-0.9	6.1	-0.6	70.5	1.0	64.4	0.4
Western Adelaide	101.5	-1.9	4.7	-1.8	4.5	-1.4	70.4	-1.1	57.5	-2.7
Eastern Adelaide	120.5	-1.1	4.8	1.1	3.8	0.8	75.0	0.1	63.3	-0.9
Southern Adelaide	174.2	7.6	8.9	0.9	4.9	0.3	73.6	0.7	65.2	2.2
<i>Balance of South Australia</i>	204.4	4.5	9.8	1.1	4.6	0.4	72.5	0.3	63.8	0.9
Northern and Western SA	76.4	-2.0	4.5	0.5	5.5	0.7	70.3	0.7	61.8	-2.0
Southern and Eastern SA	128.0	6.5	5.3	0.6	4.0	0.3	73.9	-0.1	65.1	2.7
Western Australia	1124.0	42.4	36.6	1.2	3.2	0.0	76.2	1.0	68.4	0.9
<i>Perth</i>	830.9	30.0	26.9	1.5	3.1	0.1	76.3	0.9	68.2	0.9
Central Metropolitan	76.4	4.5	1.3	-0.2	1.6	-0.4	77.9	2.8	67.7	2.1
East Metropolitan	135.9	4.6	4.5	0.3	3.2	0.1	75.3	0.1	65.8	0.8
North Metropolitan	253.8	7.1	7.2	-1.2	2.8	-0.5	78.0	1.5	69.5	-0.1
South West Metropolitan	173.4	2.3	7.0	1.6	3.9	0.8	75.9	-0.5	68.5	-0.2
South East Metropolitan	191.3	11.5	7.0	0.9	3.5	0.2	74.4	1.1	68.4	2.7
<i>Balance of Western Australia</i>	293.2	12.4	9.7	-0.3	3.2	-0.2	75.9	1.3	68.8	1.1
Lower Western WA	149.6	5.5	5.4	-0.2	3.5	-0.2	76.0	2.2	65.5	0.7
Remainder-Balance WA	143.6	6.9	4.2	-0.1	2.9	-0.2	75.9	0.3	72.6	1.6
Tasmania	230.1	6.0	13.5	-1.0	5.6	-0.5	69.6	1.4	61.3	0.8
Greater Hobart-Southern	117.0	5.1	6.4	0.0	5.2	-0.2	71.0	2.3	62.7	2.1
<i>Greater Hobart</i>	101.1	1.8	5.5	0.0	5.2	-0.1	72.3	1.2	63.5	0.6
Northern	63.7	1.2	3.4	-0.2	5.1	-0.4	69.5	1.7	59.9	0.4
Mersey-Lyell	49.4	-0.3	3.7	-0.8	7.0	-1.3	66.5	-1.0	59.9	-1.7
Northern Territory	109.5	6.1	5.6	2.6	4.8	2.1	74.1	2.2	73.9	4.0
Australian Capital Territory	189.1	-0.3	4.4	-1.0	2.3	-0.5	79.6	-1.3	72.2	-1.9

(a) The employment rate refers to the proportion of the working age (15-64) population who are employed.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

The regional labour market estimates presented in this brochure are three-month averages derived from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Monthly Labour Force Survey. These estimates are not adjusted to take account of seasonal and other variations and can exhibit irregular movements. They should therefore be used with caution.

Related information

Users may wish to refer to the DEEWR *Small Area Labour Markets, Australia* publication, which is available, free of charge, at <http://www.workplace.gov.au> (in PDF format), or as a printed booklet upon request. This publication contains quarterly estimates of unemployment rates and levels for approximately 1350 Statistical Local Areas.

Next issue

The next issue of *Australian Regional Labour Markets*, for the March quarter 2008, is expected to be released in late April 2008.

Contact details

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More detailed monthly national, State and regional labour force statistics are available from the ABS. For further information on ABS labour force statistics, go to the 'Labour' theme page at the ABS website (www.abs.gov.au), or contact Craig Blair on (02) 6252 6565.