



AUSTRALIAN REGIONAL LABOUR MARKETS

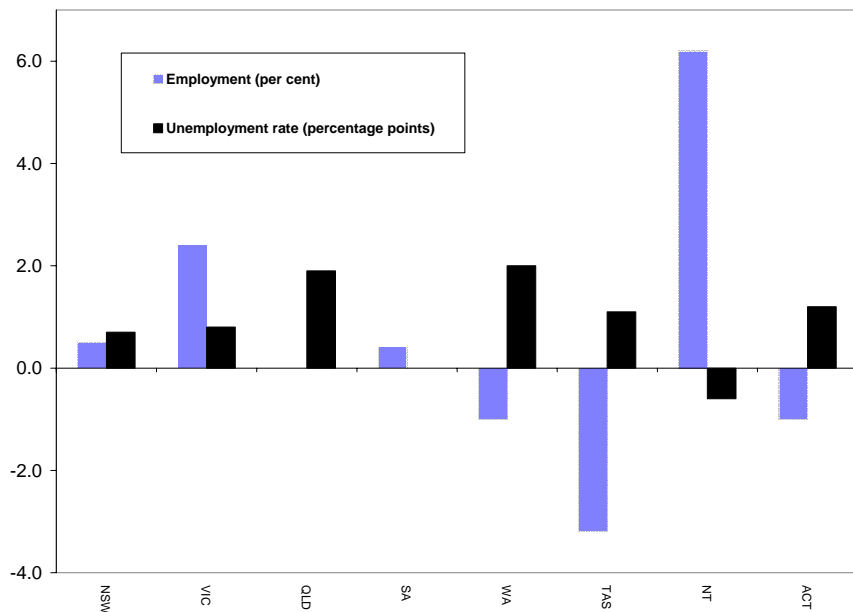
DECEMBER QUARTER 2009

State/Territory labour market developments

MAIN FINDINGS

Employment rose in the majority of States and Territories over the year to the December quarter 2009. The largest increases in employment (in percentage terms) were recorded in the Northern Territory (up by 6.2 per cent), Victoria (up by 2.4 per cent) and New South Wales (up by 0.5 per cent). The largest decline in employment was recorded in Tasmania (down by 3.2 per cent), while Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory both recorded more modest decreases (down by 1.0 per cent respectively). The unemployment rate rose in the majority of States and Territories over the year to the December quarter 2009, with the largest increases recorded in Western Australia (up by 2.0 percentage points to 4.6 per cent) and Queensland (up by 1.9 percentage points to 5.5 per cent).

CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT AND THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECEMBER QUARTER 2008 TO DECEMBER QUARTER 2009



Developments at the ABS Labour Force Region Level

Employment rose in 52.5 per cent of regions over the year to the December quarter 2009. Nevertheless, 75.0 per cent of regions recorded an increase in their unemployment rate over the period. Regions recording a significant increase in their unemployment rate over the year to the December quarter 2009 included:

- Far North Queensland, up by 3.6 percentage points to 9.7 per cent; and
- Wollongong in New South Wales, up by 3.2 percentage points to 8.8 per cent.

On the other hand, the unemployment rate fell in West Moreton in Queensland (down by 1.4 percentage points to 3.1 per cent) and the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria (down by 0.9 percentage points to 2.9 per cent) over the period.

LABOUR FORCE STATUS BY ABS LABOUR FORCE REGION
DECEMBER QUARTER 2009
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)
New South Wales	3421.3	0.5	210.4	16.2	5.8	0.7	70.1	-0.9	63.3	-0.2
<i>Sydney</i>	2253.6	1.5	137.2	14.1	5.7	0.6	71.5	-0.4	66.1	0.4
Inner Sydney and Inner Western Sydney	321.9	-0.1	17.9	42.3	5.3	1.5	75.5	-2.0	70.5	-0.9
Inner Sydney	228.4	1.0	10.7	38.9	4.5	1.2	77.8	-0.7	73.8	-0.6
Inner Western Sydney	93.6	-2.8	7.2	47.7	7.2	2.3	70.3	-5.1	63.7	-1.6
Eastern Suburbs	142.2	3.1	4.2	49.1	2.9	0.9	73.9	-3.1	68.6	2.0
St George-Sutherland	241.7	8.8	11.9	7.6	4.7	0.0	75.7	2.7	68.4	4.8
Canterbury-Bankstown	129.7	-3.6	13.5	28.7	9.4	2.2	61.3	-2.0	56.6	-1.2
Fairfield-Liverpool/ Outer South Western Sydney	277.0	0.5	18.9	-16.2	6.4	-1.2	65.0	0.3	62.0	-1.4
Fairfield-Liverpool	152.8	-2.7	10.4	-24.3	6.4	-1.7	59.9	-2.0	56.9	-3.4
Outer South Western Sydney	124.3	4.6	8.6	-3.8	6.4	-0.5	72.8	3.8	69.5	1.6
Central Western Sydney	142.6	-7.0	13.8	25.3	8.8	2.1	62.7	-4.5	57.9	-4.1
North Western Sydney	313.1	1.3	19.7	-4.3	5.9	-0.3	72.3	0.0	69.8	-0.3
Lower Northern Sydney	179.0	4.4	7.3	13.1	3.9	0.3	77.9	1.4	70.2	2.3
Central Northern Sydney	234.9	3.4	12.6	43.3	5.1	1.4	75.1	1.4	69.4	2.2
Northern Beaches	133.9	1.7	4.8	12.3	3.4	0.3	79.9	-0.9	71.0	0.9
Gosford-Wyong	137.6	1.3	12.6	31.3	8.4	1.8	67.1	-0.5	59.0	1.0
<i>Balance of New South Wales</i>	1167.7	-1.4	73.2	20.4	5.9	1.0	67.5	-1.7	58.5	-1.2
Hunter	296.9	0.2	16.4	20.8	5.2	0.9	68.7	-2.7	59.9	-0.4
Newcastle	245.6	-1.2	13.3	21.7	5.1	0.9	67.9	-3.0	59.0	-1.2
Illawarra and South Eastern	281.3	-5.3	18.9	30.6	6.3	1.7	65.9	-3.1	56.9	-3.2
Illawarra	170.7	-10.9	14.3	50.2	7.8	3.0	61.0	-7.2	52.9	-5.5
Wollongong	111.7	-15.5	10.7	38.6	8.8	3.2	58.8	-9.9	52.5	-8.4
South Eastern	110.6	4.8	4.6	-7.2	4.0	-0.5	75.2	4.7	64.8	1.2
Richmond-Tweed/ Mid-North Coast	213.7	-4.8	14.9	-5.2	6.5	0.0	61.4	-1.6	50.3	-3.7
Northern/ Far West-North Western/ Central West	245.1	4.8	16.4	50.5	6.3	1.8	71.4	0.1	65.6	3.7
Murray-Murrumbidgee	130.7	-1.7	6.6	7.3	4.8	0.4	73.3	-0.8	62.8	-1.6
Victoria	2732.2	2.4	146.4	21.9	5.1	0.8	72.4	0.0	65.2	0.8
<i>Melbourne</i>	2044.2	2.0	108.5	24.6	5.0	0.9	72.7	-0.4	66.1	0.5
Outer Western Melbourne	343.5	2.2	27.6	47.2	7.4	2.2	69.6	-2.0	66.6	1.1
North Western Melbourne	144.8	2.3	10.7	97.7	6.9	3.2	67.2	-3.1	61.1	2.0
Inner Melbourne	213.0	4.7	8.2	10.9	3.7	0.2	78.3	0.8	74.8	0.8
North Eastern Melbourne	245.3	4.0	8.9	22.4	3.5	0.5	74.4	-1.5	67.1	1.9
Inner Eastern Melbourne	311.9	3.9	16.7	21.5	5.1	0.7	73.6	1.7	64.3	2.2
Southern Melbourne	224.0	1.6	8.4	5.3	3.6	0.1	75.3	1.3	66.4	0.2
Outer Eastern Melbourne	216.0	-1.0	8.7	-7.6	3.9	-0.3	75.4	-1.5	67.8	-1.9
South Eastern Melbourne	217.2	2.1	15.5	30.7	6.7	1.4	68.3	1.5	65.4	0.1
Mornington Peninsula	128.5	-5.2	3.9	-27.3	2.9	-0.9	73.8	-1.0	59.1	-5.1
<i>Balance of Victoria</i>	688.0	3.6	37.9	14.8	5.2	0.5	71.4	0.9	62.8	1.5
Barwon-Western District	195.6	1.6	9.7	32.5	4.7	1.1	73.7	1.0	65.4	0.6
Central Highlands-Wimmera	102.0	6.3	7.0	0.6	6.4	-0.3	71.4	3.7	65.8	2.8
Loddon-Mallee	127.5	-0.7	6.9	-12.2	5.2	-0.6	69.4	-0.3	60.8	-1.8
Goulburn-Ovens-Murray	141.2	12.4	9.2	69.1	6.1	2.0	69.5	1.4	61.1	6.9
All Gippsland	121.6	0.2	5.1	-6.1	4.0	-0.3	72.4	-0.7	60.6	-1.1

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

**LABOUR FORCE STATUS BY ABS LABOUR FORCE REGION
DECEMBER QUARTER 2009
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)
Queensland	2239.7	0.0	129.3	56.7	5.5	1.9	73.6	-1.8	67.3	-0.2
<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>1027.9</i>	<i>-0.5</i>	<i>55.1</i>	<i>64.8</i>	<i>5.1</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>74.7</i>	<i>-2.2</i>	<i>69.3</i>	<i>-0.5</i>
Brisbane City Inner Ring	279.3	-0.3	12.4	49.9	4.2	1.4	79.3	-2.6	74.9	-0.7
Brisbane City Outer Ring	304.2	-4.1	14.5	97.3	4.6	2.3	73.3	-3.5	66.6	-2.4
South and East Brisbane Balance	195.0	-1.3	14.0	41.2	6.7	1.9	74.6	-1.2	71.5	-1.0
North Brisbane Balance	175.0	7.7	9.7	69.5	5.2	1.8	72.7	0.1	65.0	4.1
Ipswich City	74.5	-2.2	4.6	104.0	5.8	3.0	69.8	-2.5	66.9	-1.1
<i>Balance of Queensland</i>	<i>1211.7</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>74.2</i>	<i>51.1</i>	<i>5.8</i>	<i>1.9</i>	<i>72.6</i>	<i>-1.5</i>	<i>65.7</i>	<i>0.0</i>
Gold Coast	294.8	2.5	16.8	32.2	5.4	1.2	73.2	0.0	65.7	0.3
Sunshine Coast	153.5	4.9	12.0	72.3	7.2	2.7	70.4	-2.9	62.0	2.7
West Moreton	36.4	0.8	1.2	-31.5	3.1	-1.4	73.4	6.9	61.5	-1.8
Wide Bay-Burnett	122.3	5.7	8.1	24.2	6.2	0.9	66.0	3.2	55.8	2.1
Darling Downs-South West	130.5	-1.5	5.3	130.2	3.9	2.2	74.6	-5.4	65.7	-0.5
Mackay-Fitzroy-Central West	203.8	-2.0	10.8	65.8	5.0	2.0	74.9	-1.7	68.5	-1.6
Northern-North West	139.9	-2.9	6.1	66.9	4.2	1.7	79.6	-2.5	74.7	-2.1
Far North	130.6	-3.4	14.0	59.8	9.7	3.6	68.7	-5.2	70.5	-1.2
South Australia	799.6	0.4	43.7	0.3	5.2	0.0	71.8	-0.7	63.3	-0.5
<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>589.8</i>	<i>2.5</i>	<i>32.6</i>	<i>-3.4</i>	<i>5.2</i>	<i>-0.3</i>	<i>71.8</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>63.6</i>	<i>0.7</i>
Northern Adelaide	183.4	1.2	14.2	-3.9	7.2	-0.4	68.6	-0.4	64.8	-0.4
Western Adelaide	103.4	6.1	5.2	-21.4	4.8	-1.6	71.0	1.4	59.5	2.1
Eastern Adelaide	126.7	10.3	5.4	27.7	4.1	0.5	73.5	2.8	64.2	5.6
Southern Adelaide	176.3	-3.0	7.7	-4.1	4.2	0.0	74.8	-0.3	64.5	-2.7
<i>Balance of South Australia</i>	<i>209.7</i>	<i>-5.3</i>	<i>11.1</i>	<i>13.0</i>	<i>5.0</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>71.8</i>	<i>-4.1</i>	<i>62.7</i>	<i>-3.9</i>
Northern and Western SA	73.6	-3.2	3.9	-16.4	5.0	-0.8	71.3	0.7	59.7	-2.9
Southern and Eastern SA	136.1	-6.3	7.1	40.0	5.0	1.6	72.1	-6.9	64.4	-4.4
Western Australia	1173.0	-1.0	56.4	81.1	4.6	2.0	74.6	-3.1	68.2	-1.2
<i>Perth</i>	<i>881.1</i>	<i>-1.5</i>	<i>41.5</i>	<i>74.7</i>	<i>4.5</i>	<i>1.9</i>	<i>74.9</i>	<i>-3.9</i>	<i>68.6</i>	<i>-1.7</i>
Central Metropolitan	76.8	0.5	3.1	75.1	3.9	1.6	73.7	-2.4	64.6	-0.6
East Metropolitan	147.0	-6.2	6.2	88.5	4.0	2.0	74.2	-5.3	68.1	-5.1
North Metropolitan	273.2	-0.4	13.5	68.0	4.7	1.9	76.5	-2.2	70.3	-1.1
South West Metropolitan	185.5	2.1	8.4	67.0	4.3	1.6	75.3	-2.7	69.0	0.6
South East Metropolitan	198.5	-3.4	10.3	83.2	4.9	2.3	73.2	-6.7	67.9	-2.7
<i>Balance of Western Australia</i>	<i>292.0</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>14.9</i>	<i>101.5</i>	<i>4.8</i>	<i>2.4</i>	<i>73.8</i>	<i>-0.8</i>	<i>67.0</i>	<i>0.2</i>
Lower Western WA	161.7	-4.6	7.8	92.9	4.6	2.3	74.1	-1.8	65.4	-3.8
Remainder-Balance WA	130.3	8.0	7.1	111.9	5.1	2.5	73.5	0.6	69.2	5.5
Tasmania	232.1	-3.2	13.9	21.6	5.7	1.1	69.0	-2.2	60.4	-2.0
Greater Hobart-Southern	116.9	-3.2	6.0	22.1	4.9	1.0	69.1	-2.2	60.7	-2.1
<i>Greater Hobart</i>	<i>100.5</i>	<i>-3.4</i>	<i>4.9</i>	<i>30.3</i>	<i>4.6</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>70.1</i>	<i>-2.4</i>	<i>61.2</i>	<i>-2.1</i>
Northern	66.7	-3.3	4.3	75.8	6.0	2.6	70.8	-1.9	61.7	-1.1
Mersey-Lyell	48.6	-3.0	3.7	-10.9	7.0	-0.6	66.2	-2.5	58.1	-2.8
Northern Territory	122.5	6.2	3.7	-12.7	3.0	-0.6	76.7	2.3	75.2	2.2
Australian Capital Territory	196.0	-1.0	7.0	50.6	3.4	1.2	78.1	-2.3	72.4	-0.8
AUSTRALIA	10 916.3	0.6	610.8	27.6	5.3	1.1	72.1	-1.1	65.3	-0.1
<i>Metropolitan Australia (b)</i>	<i>6897.1</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>379.9</i>	<i>25.7</i>	<i>5.2</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>72.7</i>	<i>-1.0</i>	<i>66.6</i>	<i>0.0</i>
<i>Non-metropolitan Australia (b)</i>	<i>4019.2</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>231.0</i>	<i>30.7</i>	<i>5.4</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>71.1</i>	<i>-1.2</i>	<i>63.2</i>	<i>-0.3</i>

(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.

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 2010, is expected to be released in late April 2010.

Contact details

This brochure was prepared by the Economic, Labour Market and Education Analysis Branch, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Canberra. For further information on this brochure or related statistics, contact Kellie Gavin in the Labour Market Analysis Section on (02) 6121 3538 or email Kellie.Gavin@deewr.gov.au.

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 the ABS Labour Force Survey area on (02) 6252 6525.