

AUSTRALIAN REGIONAL LABOUR MARKETS

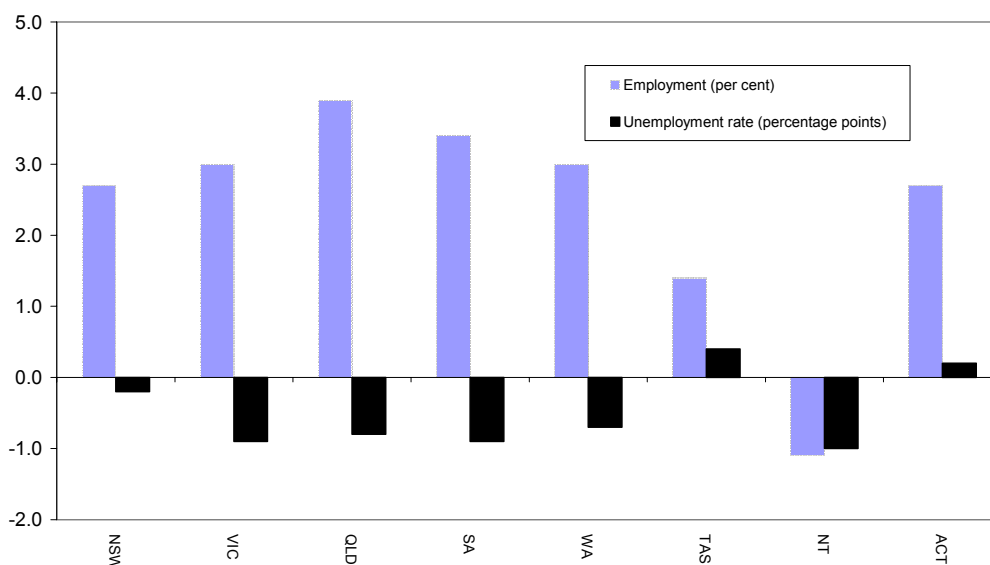
MARCH QUARTER 2003

MAIN FINDINGS

State/Territory labour market developments

All States and the ACT recorded a rise in employment over the year to the March quarter 2003. The largest increase (in percentage terms) was recorded in Queensland (up by 3.9 per cent), followed by South Australia (up by 3.4 per cent). All States (except Tasmania) and the Northern Territory recorded a reduction in their unemployment rate over the year to the March quarter 2003.

CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT AND THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, MARCH QUARTER 2002 TO MARCH QUARTER 2003



Developments at the ABS Labour Market Region Level

In all, 67 per cent of regions recorded an increase in employment over the year to the March quarter 2003 while 73 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:

- Gippsland in Victoria recorded a 22.8 per cent increase in employment while the unemployment rate fell by 3.0 percentage points to 6.0 per cent;
- The Hunter in New South Wales recorded a 16.7 per cent increase in employment while the unemployment rate fell by 2.2 percentage points to 7.9 per cent; and
- Far North Queensland recorded an 11.6 per cent increase in employment while the unemployment rate fell by 0.3 percentage points to 7.1 per cent.

LABOUR FORCE STATUS BY ABS LABOUR FORCE REGIONS
MARCH QUARTER 2003
Not Seasonally Adjusted

| State/Region | Employed | | Unemployed | | Unemployment rate | | Participation rate | |
|---|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| | '000 | Annual change | '000 | Annual change | % | Annual change % pts | % | Annual change % pts |
| AUSTRALIA | 9484.8 | 277.3 | 663.1 | -42.1 | 6.5 | -0.6 | 64.3 | 0.5 |
| <i>Metropolitan Australia*</i> | <i>6072.8</i> | <i>178.9</i> | <i>392.9</i> | <i>-31.6</i> | <i>6.1</i> | <i>-0.6</i> | <i>65.1</i> | <i>0.3</i> |
| <i>Non-metropolitan Australia*</i> | <i>3412.0</i> | <i>98.5</i> | <i>270.2</i> | <i>-10.5</i> | <i>7.3</i> | <i>-0.5</i> | <i>62.8</i> | <i>0.8</i> |
| New South Wales | 3146.4 | 81.7 | 215.2 | -1.4 | 6.4 | -0.2 | 63.4 | 0.7 |
| <i>Sydney</i> | <i>2109.9</i> | <i>49.7</i> | <i>122.1</i> | <i>-1.1</i> | <i>5.5</i> | <i>-0.2</i> | <i>65.6</i> | <i>0.4</i> |
| Inner Sydney and Inner Western Sydney | 237.9 | -22.4 | 14.1 | -2.2 | 5.6 | -0.3 | 68.2 | -1.7 |
| Inner Sydney | 155.5 | -11.7 | 10.1 | -1.0 | 6.1 | -0.1 | 70.4 | -1.0 |
| Eastern Suburbs | 125.4 | -10.4 | 5.5 | -2.0 | 4.2 | -1.0 | 66.9 | -3.6 |
| St George-Sutherland | 241.8 | 12.0 | 9.2 | -1.9 | 3.7 | -0.9 | 66.3 | -1.1 |
| Canterbury-Bankstown | 128.7 | 0.4 | 10.8 | 1.2 | 7.7 | 0.8 | 54.9 | 1.0 |
| Fairfield-Liverpool/ Outer South Western Sydney | 291.5 | 32.5 | 25.7 | 1.2 | 8.1 | -0.5 | 64.2 | -0.4 |
| Fairfield-Liverpool | 172.7 | 27.8 | 17.5 | 4.3 | 9.2 | 0.8 | 60.1 | -0.6 |
| Central Western Sydney | 134.7 | -4.8 | 8.2 | 0.1 | 5.7 | 0.2 | 59.8 | -0.9 |
| North Western Sydney+ | 282.3 | -4.1 | 17.5 | 1.9 | 5.8 | 0.7 | 67.9 | 0.2 |
| Lower Northern Sydney | 164.7 | 17.0 | 7.4 | -0.3 | 4.3 | -0.7 | 70.1 | 8.3 |
| Central Northern Sydney+ | 239.9 | 15.2 | 9.1 | 0.4 | 3.6 | -0.1 | 70.4 | 1.0 |
| Northern Beaches | 129.0 | -8.3 | 3.6 | -1.8 | 2.7 | -1.1 | 70.6 | 0.3 |
| Gosford-Wyong | 134.1 | 22.6 | 11.0 | 2.2 | 7.6 | 0.3 | 59.1 | 4.1 |
| <i>Balance of New South Wales</i> | <i>1036.5</i> | <i>31.9</i> | <i>93.2</i> | <i>-0.2</i> | <i>8.2</i> | <i>-0.3</i> | <i>59.4</i> | <i>1.4</i> |
| Hunter | 268.0 | 38.3 | 23.0 | -2.7 | 7.9 | -2.2 | 58.0 | 1.9 |
| Newcastle | 225.2 | 29.9 | 19.3 | -1.9 | 7.9 | -1.9 | 59.7 | 2.7 |
| Illawarra and South Eastern | 249.9 | -16.5 | 21.4 | -2.1 | 7.9 | -0.2 | 59.3 | 0.9 |
| Illawarra | 146.7 | -38.6 | 16.0 | 0.4 | 9.8 | 2.1 | 55.6 | -2.4 |
| Wollongong | 100.0 | -38.1 | 12.0 | 0.4 | 10.7 | 2.9 | 54.9 | -4.7 |
| Richmond-Tweed/ Mid-North Coast | 181.9 | 8.8 | 22.6 | -1.7 | 11.1 | -1.2 | 54.7 | -0.5 |
| Northern/ Far West-North Western/ Central West | 204.4 | 4.3 | 18.0 | 4.9 | 8.1 | 1.9 | 62.0 | 3.8 |
| Murray-Murrumbidgee | 132.3 | -3.1 | 8.2 | 1.3 | 5.8 | 1.0 | 66.9 | 0.9 |
| Victoria | 2400.1 | 70.6 | 147.2 | -19.5 | 5.8 | -0.9 | 64.0 | 0.2 |
| <i>Melbourne</i> | <i>1789.1</i> | <i>54.8</i> | <i>111.4</i> | <i>-12.8</i> | <i>5.9</i> | <i>-0.8</i> | <i>64.8</i> | <i>0.2</i> |
| Outer Western Melbourne | 284.8 | 21.8 | 22.6 | -3.5 | 7.3 | -1.7 | 62.6 | -0.9 |
| North Western Melbourne | 124.0 | 3.0 | 9.6 | -2.8 | 7.2 | -2.1 | 61.5 | -1.3 |
| Inner Melbourne | 139.1 | -2.7 | 9.7 | 0.8 | 6.5 | 0.6 | 72.1 | 1.5 |
| North Eastern Melbourne | 212.3 | 13.6 | 12.2 | -1.6 | 5.5 | -1.0 | 63.8 | -0.1 |
| Inner Eastern Melbourne | 302.1 | -13.7 | 16.3 | -1.4 | 5.1 | -0.2 | 64.2 | 0.9 |
| Southern Melbourne | 203.0 | 12.6 | 10.4 | 0.0 | 4.9 | -0.3 | 62.3 | -0.8 |
| Outer Eastern Melbourne | 226.3 | -3.6 | 13.4 | -1.7 | 5.6 | -0.6 | 69.2 | -1.0 |
| South Eastern Melbourne | 192.4 | 19.4 | 10.5 | -3.1 | 5.2 | -2.1 | 68.4 | 3.9 |
| Mornington Peninsula | 105.2 | 4.4 | 6.8 | 0.5 | 6.1 | 0.2 | 60.6 | 0.6 |
| <i>Balance of Victoria</i> | <i>611.0</i> | <i>15.8</i> | <i>35.8</i> | <i>-6.7</i> | <i>5.5</i> | <i>-1.1</i> | <i>61.8</i> | <i>0.4</i> |
| Barwon-Western District | 167.9 | -8.0 | 11.5 | 1.5 | 6.4 | 1.0 | 63.0 | 0.8 |
| Central Highlands-Wimmera | 85.6 | -3.6 | 6.1 | -1.6 | 6.7 | -1.2 | 58.2 | -2.6 |
| Loddon-Mallee | 119.3 | 0.9 | 5.3 | -3.8 | 4.3 | -2.9 | 64.0 | -1.2 |
| Goulburn-Ovens-Murray | 137.9 | 8.0 | 6.5 | -1.1 | 4.5 | -1.0 | 64.4 | 1.2 |
| All Gippsland | 100.3 | 18.6 | 6.4 | -1.7 | 6.0 | -3.0 | 57.8 | 3.7 |

* 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.

+ These regions have recently undergone a name change. North Western Sydney was formerly named Outer Western Sydney and Blacktown while Central Northern Sydney was formerly named Hornsby Ku-ring-gai and Baulkham Hills.

LABOUR FORCE STATUS BY ABS LABOUR FORCE REGIONS
MARCH QUARTER 2003
Not Seasonally Adjusted

| State/Region | Employed | | Unemployed | | Unemployment rate | | Participation rate | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| | '000 | Annual change | '000 | Annual change | % | Annual change % pts | % | Annual change % pts |
| Queensland | 1789.7 | 67.2 | 149.0 | -10.9 | 7.7 | -0.8 | 65.5 | 0.3 |
| Gold Coast | 216.2 | 8.5 | 16.0 | -3.5 | 6.9 | -1.7 | 64.9 | 1.5 |
| <i>Brisbane</i> | 846.2 | 31.7 | 65.4 | -8.5 | 7.2 | -1.1 | 66.7 | 0.1 |
| Brisbane City Inner Ring | 209.9 | 4.0 | 13.1 | -6.0 | 5.9 | -2.6 | 68.7 | -0.7 |
| Brisbane City Outer Ring | 257.9 | 12.2 | 18.7 | -1.0 | 6.8 | -0.7 | 67.5 | 0.9 |
| South and East Brisbane Balance | 170.7 | 11.1 | 16.0 | 0.0 | 8.6 | -0.5 | 64.0 | 0.4 |
| North and West Brisbane Balance | 207.8 | 4.3 | 17.6 | -1.5 | 7.8 | -0.8 | 65.9 | -0.4 |
| <i>Balance of Queensland</i> | 943.5 | 35.5 | 83.6 | -2.4 | 8.1 | -0.5 | 64.4 | 0.5 |
| South and East Moreton | 201.6 | 0.1 | 13.3 | -5.9 | 6.2 | -2.5 | 65.6 | 2.2 |
| North and West Moreton | 143.5 | -13.3 | 12.9 | -5.4 | 8.3 | -2.2 | 61.9 | -1.0 |
| Wide Bay-Burnett | 84.7 | -1.8 | 14.6 | 1.2 | 14.7 | 1.3 | 51.4 | -5.0 |
| Darling Downs-South West | 130.9 | 25.8 | 8.5 | 3.7 | 6.1 | 1.8 | 68.2 | 6.5 |
| Mackay-Fitzroy-Central West# | 172.0 | .. | 14.3 | .. | 7.7 | .. | 67.1 | .. |
| Northern-North West# | 93.7 | .. | 11.0 | .. | 10.5 | .. | 68.1 | .. |
| Far North | 117.0 | 12.2 | 8.9 | 0.5 | 7.1 | -0.3 | 68.2 | -0.9 |
| South Australia | 707.7 | 23.2 | 49.1 | -5.3 | 6.5 | -0.9 | 61.6 | 0.9 |
| <i>Adelaide</i> | 527.2 | 20.3 | 37.3 | -4.5 | 6.6 | -1.0 | 61.8 | 1.1 |
| Northern Adelaide | 165.3 | 13.3 | 13.7 | 0.5 | 7.6 | -0.3 | 62.5 | 2.8 |
| Western Adelaide | 93.1 | -4.6 | 7.7 | -1.5 | 7.6 | -0.9 | 58.4 | 0.9 |
| Eastern Adelaide | 112.7 | 3.6 | 6.1 | -2.3 | 5.1 | -2.0 | 64.7 | 0.1 |
| Southern Adelaide | 156.2 | 8.1 | 9.8 | -1.3 | 5.9 | -1.1 | 61.2 | -0.2 |
| <i>Balance of South Australia</i> | 180.5 | 2.9 | 11.8 | -0.8 | 6.1 | -0.5 | 61.1 | 0.4 |
| Northern and Western SA | 63.1 | 0.0 | 6.3 | 0.2 | 9.1 | 0.3 | 58.0 | 1.0 |
| Southern and Eastern SA | 117.4 | 2.9 | 5.5 | -1.0 | 4.5 | -0.9 | 63.1 | 0.0 |
| Western Australia | 974.0 | 28.5 | 65.8 | -5.8 | 6.3 | -0.7 | 66.9 | 0.3 |
| <i>Perth</i> | 714.8 | 18.5 | 49.1 | -4.5 | 6.4 | -0.7 | 66.0 | 0.0 |
| Central Metropolitan | 58.2 | -3.3 | 3.4 | -0.1 | 5.5 | 0.2 | 63.1 | -0.1 |
| East Metropolitan | 104.7 | -6.8 | 6.2 | -2.9 | 5.6 | -2.0 | 64.3 | -2.2 |
| North Metropolitan | 229.0 | 11.9 | 15.8 | 0.0 | 6.4 | -0.3 | 68.9 | 1.8 |
| South West Metropolitan | 148.1 | 6.9 | 11.9 | -0.7 | 7.4 | -0.8 | 64.2 | 0.7 |
| South East Metropolitan | 174.7 | 9.8 | 11.9 | -0.9 | 6.4 | -0.8 | 66.2 | -1.5 |
| <i>Balance of Western Australia</i> | 259.2 | 9.9 | 16.7 | -1.3 | 6.0 | -0.7 | 69.5 | 1.0 |
| Lower Western WA | 130.3 | -2.9 | 9.0 | 0.2 | 6.5 | 0.3 | 64.9 | 0.5 |
| Remainder-Balance WA | 128.8 | 12.8 | 7.6 | -1.5 | 5.6 | -1.7 | 75.0 | 1.1 |
| Tasmania | 200.3 | 2.8 | 20.8 | 1.4 | 9.4 | 0.4 | 58.8 | 0.7 |
| Greater Hobart-Southern | 96.9 | 2.6 | 8.3 | -0.9 | 7.9 | -1.0 | 59.4 | 1.9 |
| <i>Greater Hobart</i> | 85.5 | 3.8 | 7.6 | -0.1 | 8.2 | -0.4 | 59.3 | 1.9 |
| Northern | 61.0 | 2.4 | 7.4 | 1.4 | 10.9 | 1.6 | 61.6 | 1.4 |
| Mersey-Lyell | 42.5 | -2.2 | 5.1 | 0.8 | 10.6 | 1.9 | 54.2 | -2.7 |
| Northern Territory | 96.0 | -1.1 | 6.8 | -1.2 | 6.6 | -1.0 | 72.4 | -1.2 |
| Australian Capital Territory | 170.4 | 4.5 | 9.2 | 0.6 | 5.1 | 0.2 | 72.0 | 1.2 |

Changes to ABS Labour Force Region boundaries have impacted on the data presented here to the extent that a series break exists for these regions.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

The regional labour market estimates presented in this brochure are three monthly 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.

Changes in geography

In November 2002, the boundaries for two regions in Queensland (Mackay-Fitzroy-Central West and Northern-North West) were changed by the ABS in order to maintain consistency with the Australian Standard Geographical Classification and in response to user requirements. These changes have resulted in a series break for these regions. For this reason, annual change estimates have not been presented for these regions. At the same time, the ABS also introduced a name change for two of the regions in Sydney. The North Western Sydney region was formerly named Outer Western Sydney and Blacktown while Central Northern Sydney was formerly named Hornsby Ku-ring-gai and Baulkham Hills. These name changes have had no impact on the data.

Related information

Users may wish to refer to the DEWR *Small Area Labour Markets, Australia* publication which is available at <http://www.workplace.gov.au> or free of charge upon request. This publication contains quarterly estimates of unemployment rates and numbers for approximately 1,300 Statistical Local Areas.

Next issue

The next issue of *Australian Regional Labour Markets*, for the June quarter 2003, is expected to be distributed in late July 2003.

Contact details

This brochure was prepared by the Economic and Labour Market Analysis Branch, Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, Canberra. For further information on this brochure or related statistics, contact Mark Roddam in the Labour Market Analysis Section on (02) 6121 7506.

More detailed monthly National, State and regional labour force statistics are available from the ABS. For further information on ABS labour force statistics, contact Peter Bradbury on (02) 6252 6565.