

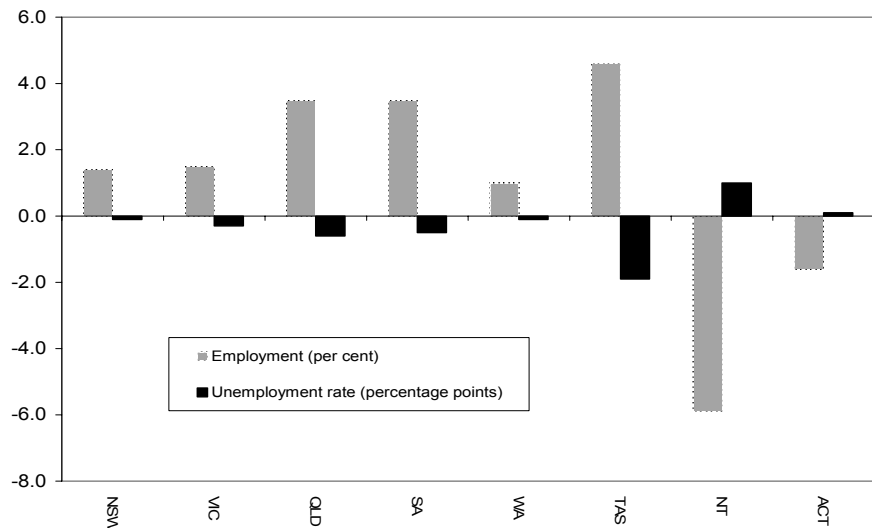


### MAIN FINDINGS

#### State/Territory labour market developments

All States recorded a rise in employment over the year to the September quarter 2003. The largest increase (in percentage terms) was recorded in Tasmania (up by 4.6 per cent), followed by Queensland and South Australia (both up by 3.5 per cent). The unemployment rate fell in all States over the year to the September quarter 2003 although increases were recorded in the two Territories.

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



#### Developments at the ABS Labour Market Region Level

Employment increased in 62 per cent of regions over the year to the September quarter 2003 while in 64 per cent of regions there was a reduction in the 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:

- Far North Queensland recorded a 17.3 per cent increase in employment while the unemployment rate fell by 1.8 percentage points to 5.6 per cent;
- The Gippsland region in Victoria recorded a 16.0 per cent increase in employment while the unemployment rate fell by 0.9 percentage points to 6.7 per cent; and
- The Greater Hobart-Southern region in Tasmania recorded a 7.2 per cent increase in employment while the unemployment rate fell by 3.3 percentage points to 5.7 per cent.

**LABOUR FORCE STATUS BY ABS LABOUR FORCE REGIONS  
SEPTEMBER 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
<b>AUSTRALIA</b>	<b>9542.1</b>	<b>173.6</b>	<b>574.1</b>	<b>-20.0</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>63.5</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
<i>Metropolitan Australia*</i>	<i>6085.6</i>	<i>103.1</i>	<i>358.6</i>	<i>1.1</i>	<i>5.6</i>	<i>-0.1</i>	<i>64.3</i>	<i>-0.1</i>
<i>Non-metropolitan Australia*</i>	<i>3456.5</i>	<i>70.6</i>	<i>215.5</i>	<i>-21.2</i>	<i>5.9</i>	<i>-0.7</i>	<i>62.1</i>	<i>-0.1</i>
<b>New South Wales</b>	<b>3160.3</b>	<b>42.5</b>	<b>183.9</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>62.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<i>Sydney</i>	<i>2097.2</i>	<i>7.0</i>	<i>113.8</i>	<i>6.9</i>	<i>5.1</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>64.5</i>	<i>-0.5</i>
Inner Sydney and Inner Western Sydney	253.9	-13.2	14.1	2.4	5.2	1.1	66.2	-2.4
Inner Sydney	167.6	-1.4	8.0	0.9	4.6	0.5	68.0	-2.7
Eastern Suburbs	103.7	-21.9	3.8	-2.0	3.6	-0.9	60.4	-5.3
St George-Sutherland	235.8	9.3	7.2	-2.6	3.0	-1.2	64.8	-1.9
Canterbury-Bankstown	136.6	-2.7	10.6	1.9	7.2	1.3	55.2	-1.3
Fairfield-Liverpool/ Outer South Western Sydney	280.2	2.4	20.3	0.6	6.8	0.1	64.3	0.9
Fairfield-Liverpool	162.5	3.0	12.4	1.3	7.1	0.6	62.1	2.1
Central Western Sydney	142.9	4.8	8.5	0.9	5.6	0.4	63.9	1.7
North Western Sydney	290.9	0.5	20.9	6.4	6.7	2.0	68.5	1.3
Lower Northern Sydney	157.8	10.7	7.5	0.0	4.5	-0.3	66.3	1.5
Central Northern Sydney	237.4	15.8	5.6	-2.7	2.3	-1.3	68.4	0.5
Northern Beaches	123.9	-4.7	3.1	-1.4	2.4	-0.9	71.7	1.2
Gosford-Wyong	134.0	6.0	12.3	3.3	8.4	1.9	55.9	-2.3
<i>Balance of New South Wales</i>	<i>1063.1</i>	<i>35.5</i>	<i>70.2</i>	<i>-8.3</i>	<i>6.2</i>	<i>-0.9</i>	<i>59.3</i>	<i>0.9</i>
Hunter	267.3	30.3	17.0	-1.0	6.0	-1.1	58.7	3.0
Newcastle	234.8	28.3	14.5	-0.3	5.8	-0.9	60.0	2.8
Illawarra and South Eastern	254.6	-12.7	16.1	-7.5	6.0	-2.2	59.1	-0.5
Illawarra	157.2	-27.0	11.8	-6.1	7.0	-1.9	55.0	-4.2
Wollongong	101.6	-27.8	8.7	-6.7	7.9	-2.7	55.0	-5.1
Richmond-Tweed/ Mid-North Coast	188.0	2.6	15.1	-1.6	7.5	-0.8	54.5	-1.0
Northern/ Far West-North Western/ Central West	217.6	25.3	12.3	1.3	5.4	0.0	61.6	4.6
Murray-Murrumbidgee	135.5	-9.9	9.6	0.5	6.6	0.7	65.7	-2.8
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>2399.0</b>	<b>34.7</b>	<b>136.3</b>	<b>-4.9</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>63.2</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>1786.4</i>	<i>28.2</i>	<i>102.0</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>5.4</i>	<i>-0.1</i>	<i>63.8</i>	<i>-0.2</i>
Outer Western Melbourne	278.6	7.2	22.7	2.5	7.5	0.6	62.9	0.1
North Western Melbourne	122.9	1.2	7.2	-1.9	5.5	-1.4	58.9	-2.2
Inner Melbourne	142.3	-4.5	5.8	-1.3	3.9	-0.7	69.0	-1.4
North Eastern Melbourne	216.3	9.8	13.7	0.8	5.9	0.1	63.9	-0.7
Inner Eastern Melbourne	296.5	-10.2	15.5	4.1	5.0	1.4	62.0	-1.0
Southern Melbourne	212.3	12.1	6.9	-0.7	3.2	-0.5	62.7	-1.3
Outer Eastern Melbourne	219.0	-12.3	10.0	-7.7	4.4	-2.7	71.8	3.6
South Eastern Melbourne	179.9	5.2	13.1	2.9	6.8	1.3	63.9	0.3
Mornington Peninsula	118.6	19.7	7.1	1.3	5.6	0.1	60.0	2.4
<i>Balance of Victoria</i>	<i>612.5</i>	<i>6.5</i>	<i>34.3</i>	<i>-5.0</i>	<i>5.3</i>	<i>-0.8</i>	<i>61.5</i>	<i>-0.6</i>
Barwon-Western District	160.8	-2.3	8.6	-1.5	5.1	-0.7	60.7	-0.6
Central Highlands-Wimmera	91.1	-4.3	6.1	-0.9	6.2	-0.5	60.6	-2.4
Loddon-Mallee	130.1	8.8	6.6	-0.4	4.8	-0.7	63.8	0.6
Goulburn-Ovens-Murray	124.8	-10.2	5.5	-2.2	4.2	-1.2	60.7	-4.4
All Gippsland	105.7	14.6	7.6	0.1	6.7	-0.9	61.6	4.1

\* 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  
SEPTEMBER 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
<b>Queensland</b>	<b>1823.2</b>	<b>61.9</b>	<b>120.8</b>	<b>-7.6</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>64.6</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
Gold Coast	207.2	-5.7	15.8	-0.3	7.1	0.1	62.9	-0.7
<i>Brisbane</i>	870.4	34.7	53.9	-5.8	5.8	-0.8	66.5	0.2
Brisbane City Inner Ring	218.1	22.1	12.8	1.1	5.5	-0.1	68.3	0.9
Brisbane City Outer Ring	263.8	-4.8	13.7	-5.0	4.9	-1.6	66.5	-0.3
South and East Brisbane Balance	185.3	21.1	14.7	-0.7	7.4	-1.2	67.2	0.5
North and West Brisbane Balance	203.2	-3.7	12.7	-1.2	5.9	-0.4	64.3	-0.5
<i>Balance of Queensland</i>	952.7	27.2	66.9	-1.8	6.6	-0.3	63.0	-0.2
South and East Moreton	199.2	-4.2	13.8	-1.1	6.5	-0.3	63.9	0.7
North and West Moreton	147.3	-16.3	11.7	-0.4	7.3	0.5	58.5	-2.6
Wide Bay-Burnett	84.2	-11.1	9.4	-1.9	10.0	-0.6	50.0	-7.2
Darling Downs-South West	126.3	25.1	6.5	1.6	4.9	0.2	68.5	7.7
Mackay-Fitzroy-Central West#	170.1	..	11.0	..	6.1	..	65.0	..
Northern-North West#	111.1	..	7.8	..	6.5	..	67.1	..
Far North	114.5	16.9	6.8	-1.0	5.6	-1.8	68.3	3.5
<b>South Australia</b>	<b>716.9</b>	<b>24.3</b>	<b>44.6</b>	<b>-2.6</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>61.8</b>	<b>1.2</b>
<i>Adelaide</i>	527.7	13.8	36.1	0.3	6.4	-0.1	61.5	1.0
Northern Adelaide	159.6	3.8	14.7	3.3	8.5	1.6	61.8	2.9
Western Adelaide	92.0	-4.7	6.8	-2.2	6.8	-1.6	55.0	-3.7
Eastern Adelaide	111.7	0.3	5.1	-1.4	4.4	-1.2	63.4	0.2
Southern Adelaide	164.5	14.4	9.5	0.6	5.4	-0.1	64.1	2.5
<i>Balance of South Australia</i>	189.2	10.5	8.5	-2.9	4.3	-1.7	62.7	2.0
Northern and Western SA	64.8	-2.7	5.5	0.6	7.8	1.0	58.6	0.6
Southern and Eastern SA	124.4	13.2	3.1	-3.5	2.4	-3.1	65.1	2.8
<b>Western Australia</b>	<b>970.5</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>60.5</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>65.7</b>	<b>-0.6</b>
<i>Perth</i>	716.4	13.7	47.3	1.9	6.2	0.1	65.4	0.1
Central Metropolitan	64.8	2.3	2.9	-0.5	4.3	-0.9	65.1	0.7
East Metropolitan	117.3	5.7	6.5	-0.4	5.2	-0.6	64.7	-1.2
North Metropolitan	221.2	3.3	13.2	-2.0	5.7	-0.9	67.1	0.6
South West Metropolitan	150.3	6.8	12.0	3.7	7.4	1.9	63.2	1.4
South East Metropolitan	162.7	-4.4	12.6	1.2	7.2	0.8	65.8	-0.8
<i>Balance of Western Australia</i>	254.2	-3.9	13.2	-2.6	4.9	-0.8	66.7	-2.9
Lower Western WA	137.1	8.8	7.8	-1.1	5.4	-1.1	62.7	-3.0
Remainder-Balance WA	117.1	-12.7	5.4	-1.6	4.4	-0.7	72.1	-1.9
<b>Tasmania</b>	<b>205.9</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>-3.8</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>-1.9</b>	<b>58.4</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Greater Hobart-Southern	100.3	6.8	6.0	-3.2	5.7	-3.3	58.6	1.7
<i>Greater Hobart</i>	87.5	5.6	5.6	-2.3	6.0	-2.8	58.7	1.3
Northern	60.0	2.4	5.4	0.5	8.3	0.4	60.7	2.3
Mersey-Lyell	45.6	-0.2	4.1	-1.1	8.3	-1.9	55.2	-3.5
<b>Northern Territory</b>	<b>94.5</b>	<b>-5.9</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>70.0</b>	<b>-3.5</b>
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>	<b>171.8</b>	<b>-2.7</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>71.4</b>	<b>-1.9</b>

# 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.

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## 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.

### **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 levels for approximately 1,300 Statistical Local Areas.

### **Next issue**

The next issue of *Australian Regional Labour Markets*, for the December quarter 2003, is expected to be distributed in late January 2004.

### **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 Julianne Best in the Labour Market Analysis Section on (02) 6121 5861.

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.

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