

AUSTRALIAN REGIONAL LABOUR MARKETS

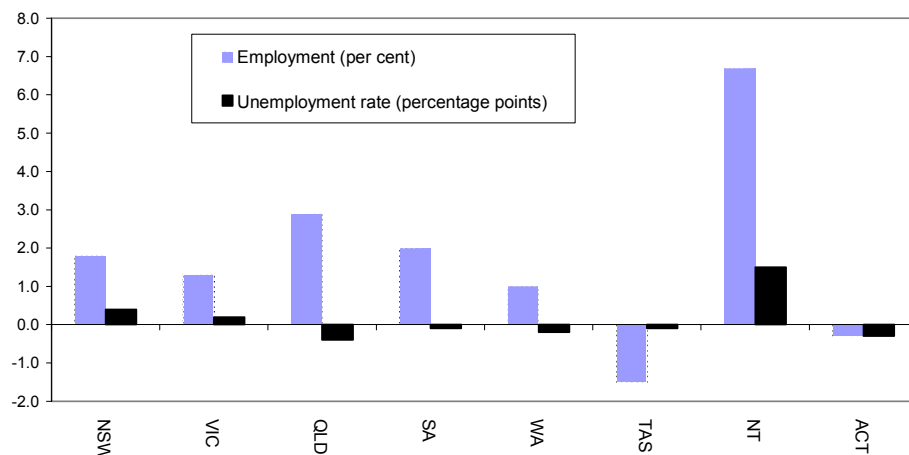
MARCH QUARTER 2002

State/Territory labour market developments

MAIN FINDINGS

Most States and Territories recorded a rise in employment over the year to the March quarter 2002. The largest increase (in percentage terms) was recorded in the Northern Territory (up by 6.7 per cent), followed by Queensland (up by 2.9 per cent) and South Australia (up by 2.0 per cent). Reductions in the unemployment rate were recorded in the majority of States and Territories, including Queensland (down by 0.4 percentage points) and the ACT (down by 0.3 percentage points).

CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT AND THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, MARCH QUARTER 2001 TO MARCH QUARTER 2002



Developments at the ABS Labour Market Region Level

In all, 63 per cent of regions recorded an increase in employment over the year to the March quarter 2002, while 56 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:

- North and West Brisbane recorded a 12.6 per cent increase in employment while the unemployment rate fell by 1.5 percentage points to 8.6 per cent;
- Murray-Murrumbidgee in New South Wales recorded an 11.5 per cent increase in employment while the unemployment rate fell by 0.9 percentage points to 4.8 per cent; and
- Northern and Western South Australia recorded a 6.8 per cent increase in employment while the unemployment rate fell by 0.4 percentage points to 8.8 per cent.

LABOUR FORCE STATUS BY ABS LABOUR FORCE REGIONS
MARCH QUARTER 2002
Not Seasonally Adjusted

State/Region	Employed		Unemployed		Unemployment rate		Participation rate	
	'000	Annual change	'000	Annual change	%	Annual change % pts	%	Annual change % pts
AUSTRALIA	9207.4	159.1	705.2	23.4	7.1	0.1	63.8	0.3
<i>Metropolitan Australia*</i>	<i>5893.9</i>	<i>166.5</i>	<i>424.5</i>	<i>5.0</i>	<i>6.7</i>	<i>-0.1</i>	<i>64.8</i>	<i>0.7</i>
<i>Non-metropolitan Australia*</i>	<i>3313.5</i>	<i>21.0</i>	<i>280.7</i>	<i>-13.6</i>	<i>7.8</i>	<i>-0.4</i>	<i>62.0</i>	<i>-0.4</i>
New South Wales	3064.7	55.1	216.6	18.5	6.6	0.4	62.6	0.7
<i>Sydney</i>	<i>2060.2</i>	<i>73.8</i>	<i>123.2</i>	<i>5.2</i>	<i>5.6</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>65.2</i>	<i>1.3</i>
Inner Sydney and Inner Western Sydney	260.3	-10.1	16.4	6.1	5.9	2.2	69.8	1.1
Inner Sydney	167.2	-8.7	11.1	3.0	6.2	1.8	71.4	-0.1
Eastern Suburbs	135.8	18.4	7.5	1.3	5.2	0.2	70.5	6.7
St George-Sutherland	229.8	14.7	11.1	2.9	4.6	0.9	67.4	3.2
Canterbury-Bankstown	128.2	3.7	9.6	0.5	7.0	0.1	53.9	0.4
Fairfield-Liverpool/ Outer South Western Sydney	259.1	9.0	24.6	-4.9	8.7	-1.9	64.5	1.9
Fairfield-Liverpool	145.0	4.2	13.2	-4.4	8.4	-2.7	60.8	2.4
Central Western Sydney	139.5	9.9	8.1	3.3	5.5	1.9	60.6	4.2
Outer Western Sydney and Blacktown	286.4	2.7	15.6	-4.4	5.2	-1.4	67.7	0.0
Lower Northern Sydney	147.7	8.7	7.7	1.5	4.9	0.7	61.8	-5.5
Hornsby-Ku-ring-gai and Baulkham Hills	224.7	9.1	8.6	-0.6	3.7	-0.4	69.5	1.7
Northern Beaches	137.3	11.9	5.4	1.5	3.8	0.8	70.4	0.7
Gosford-Wyong	111.5	-4.3	8.8	-1.8	7.3	-1.1	55.0	0.2
<i>Balance of New South Wales</i>	<i>1004.5</i>	<i>-8.9</i>	<i>93.4</i>	<i>3.1</i>	<i>8.5</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>58.1</i>	<i>-0.5</i>
Hunter	229.6	-29.3	25.7	-5.1	10.1	-0.6	56.1	-2.3
Newcastle	195.3	-24.9	21.2	-7.4	9.8	-1.7	57.0	-1.5
Illawarra and South Eastern	266.4	18.2	23.5	6.5	8.1	1.7	58.4	0.9
Illawarra	185.3	4.9	15.5	3.2	7.7	1.4	58.0	-0.8
Wollongong	138.0	4.5	11.6	2.4	7.8	1.3	59.6	0.9
Richmond-Tweed/ Mid-North Coast	173.0	-3.5	24.3	-0.1	12.3	0.2	55.2	0.2
Northern/ Far West-North Western/ Central West	200.1	-8.3	13.1	2.3	6.1	1.2	58.2	-2.1
Murray-Murrumbidgee	135.4	14.0	6.8	-0.6	4.8	-0.9	66.0	1.5
Victoria	2329.6	30.1	166.8	7.9	6.7	0.2	63.8	0.0
<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>1734.4</i>	<i>39.7</i>	<i>124.3</i>	<i>5.0</i>	<i>6.7</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>64.7</i>	<i>0.3</i>
Outer Western Melbourne	263.0	12.9	26.1	4.4	9.0	1.0	63.5	0.8
North Western Melbourne	121.0	-3.5	12.4	0.5	9.3	0.6	62.9	0.2
Inner Melbourne	141.9	-4.3	8.9	-2.2	5.9	-1.2	70.7	-4.2
North Eastern Melbourne	198.7	0.2	13.8	1.5	6.5	0.7	63.9	1.6
Inner Eastern Melbourne	315.8	31.7	17.7	2.9	5.3	0.3	63.3	2.6
Southern Melbourne	190.4	8.7	10.4	-0.5	5.2	-0.5	63.1	0.7
Outer Eastern Melbourne	229.9	3.6	15.1	1.4	6.2	0.4	70.2	0.8
South Eastern Melbourne	173.0	-2.3	13.6	-0.5	7.3	-0.1	64.5	-0.7
Mornington Peninsula	100.8	-7.1	6.4	-2.5	5.9	-1.7	60.0	-4.1
<i>Balance of Victoria</i>	<i>595.2</i>	<i>-0.8</i>	<i>42.5</i>	<i>-6.7</i>	<i>6.7</i>	<i>-1.0</i>	<i>61.4</i>	<i>-0.9</i>
Barwon-Western District	176.0	11.2	10.0	-0.9	5.4	-0.9	62.2	0.8
Central Highlands-Wimmera	89.2	-7.8	7.7	-0.1	7.9	0.5	60.7	-3.4
Loddon-Mallee	118.4	4.5	9.1	-1.3	7.2	-1.3	65.1	2.4
Goulburn-Ovens-Murray	129.9	-2.7	7.6	-1.9	5.5	-1.2	63.2	-2.4
All Gippsland	81.7	-6.1	8.1	-2.4	9.0	-1.6	54.0	-3.5

* 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
MARCH QUARTER 2002
Not Seasonally Adjusted

State/Region	Employed		Unemployed		Unemployment rate		Participation rate	
	'000	Annual change	'000	Annual change	%	Annual change % pts	%	Annual change % pts
Queensland	1722.5	48.6	159.8	-3.1	8.5	-0.4	65.1	0.4
Gold Coast	207.7	-3.4	19.5	-3.6	8.6	-1.3	63.4	-1.3
<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>814.5</i>	<i>33.8</i>	<i>73.9</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>8.3</i>	<i>-0.3</i>	<i>66.6</i>	<i>1.4</i>
Brisbane City Inner Ring	205.9	9.7	19.1	2.4	8.5	0.6	69.4	1.5
Brisbane City Outer Ring	245.7	3.0	19.8	1.5	7.5	0.4	66.6	2.5
South and East Brisbane Balance	159.5	-1.7	15.9	-2.2	9.1	-1.0	63.6	-3.4
North and West Brisbane Balance	203.4	22.8	19.1	-1.2	8.6	-1.5	66.4	3.9
<i>Balance of Queensland</i>	<i>908.0</i>	<i>19.8</i>	<i>85.9</i>	<i>-10.0</i>	<i>8.6</i>	<i>-1.1</i>	<i>63.9</i>	<i>-0.5</i>
South and East Moreton	201.5	-6.5	19.3	-3.0	8.7	-0.9	63.4	-1.4
North and West Moreton	156.8	14.4	18.3	3.0	10.4	0.8	62.8	1.0
Wide Bay-Burnett	86.5	10.0	13.4	0.1	13.4	-1.4	56.4	4.4
Darling Downs-South West	105.1	-10.1	4.8	-0.1	4.3	0.3	61.7	-7.2
Mackay-Fitzroy-Central West	154.9	8.5	11.9	-7.3	7.1	-4.4	68.2	-0.5
Northern-North West	98.3	9.7	9.9	-0.8	9.2	-1.6	65.4	0.6
Far North	104.8	-6.1	8.4	-2.0	7.4	-1.2	69.1	0.3
South Australia	684.5	13.3	54.4	0.5	7.4	-0.1	60.7	0.8
<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>506.9</i>	<i>13.5</i>	<i>41.8</i>	<i>-1.7</i>	<i>7.6</i>	<i>-0.5</i>	<i>60.7</i>	<i>0.8</i>
Northern Adelaide	152.0	-0.1	13.2	-2.6	8.0	-1.4	59.7	-0.6
Western Adelaide	97.7	5.2	9.2	0.5	8.6	0.0	57.5	-0.7
Eastern Adelaide	109.1	2.8	8.4	-0.6	7.1	-0.7	64.6	1.0
Southern Adelaide	148.1	5.6	11.1	1.0	7.0	0.3	61.5	3.2
<i>Balance of South Australia</i>	<i>177.6</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>12.6</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>6.6</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>60.7</i>	<i>0.5</i>
Northern and Western SA	63.1	4.0	6.1	0.1	8.8	-0.4	57.0	0.6
Southern and Eastern SA	114.5	-2.6	6.5	-0.1	5.4	0.1	63.0	0.7
Western Australia	945.5	9.4	71.6	-1.3	7.0	-0.2	66.6	-0.5
<i>Perth</i>	<i>696.3</i>	<i>7.2</i>	<i>53.6</i>	<i>-2.5</i>	<i>7.2</i>	<i>-0.4</i>	<i>66.0</i>	<i>-0.7</i>
Central Metropolitan	61.5	0.6	3.4	-1.5	5.3	-2.2	63.3	-3.6
East Metropolitan	111.5	0.6	9.1	-0.2	7.6	-0.2	66.5	-1.5
North Metropolitan	217.1	0.8	15.7	-2.9	6.8	-1.2	67.1	-1.0
South West Metropolitan	141.2	-0.1	12.6	2.1	8.2	1.3	63.5	-1.6
South East Metropolitan	165.0	5.4	12.7	0.0	7.2	-0.2	67.6	2.3
<i>Balance of Western Australia</i>	<i>249.2</i>	<i>4.3</i>	<i>17.9</i>	<i>-1.3</i>	<i>6.7</i>	<i>-0.6</i>	<i>68.5</i>	<i>-0.3</i>
Lower Western WA	133.2	4.7	8.8	-2.7	6.2	-2.0	64.4	0.2
Remainder-Balance WA	116.0	-0.4	9.1	1.3	7.3	1.0	73.9	-0.9
Tasmania	197.5	-2.9	19.4	-0.5	9.0	-0.1	58.1	-1.1
Greater Hobart-Southern	94.3	-1.5	9.2	-1.2	8.9	-0.9	57.5	-1.4
<i>Greater Hobart</i>	<i>81.7</i>	<i>-1.5</i>	<i>7.7</i>	<i>-1.4</i>	<i>8.6</i>	<i>-1.2</i>	<i>57.4</i>	<i>-2.0</i>
Northern	58.5	-4.0	6.0	0.6	9.3	1.3	60.2	-1.7
Mersey-Lyell	44.7	3.6	4.3	-0.9	8.8	-2.5	56.9	0.4
Northern Territory	97.1	6.1	8.0	2.1	7.6	1.5	73.6	5.1
Australian Capital Territory	165.9	-0.5	8.6	-0.7	4.9	-0.3	70.8	-1.4

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.

Breaks in series

In April 2001, the ABS introduced minor revisions to the definition of employment and unemployment used in the Monthly Labour Force Survey. Estimates at the State/Territory level have been backcast by the ABS to April 1986. However, estimates at the regional level have not been backcast. Accordingly, the annual changes in this brochure at the National, State and Territory level are not directly comparable with those at the regional level.

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 2002, is expected to be distributed in late July 2002.

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 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, contact Peter Bradbury on (02) 6252 6565.
