



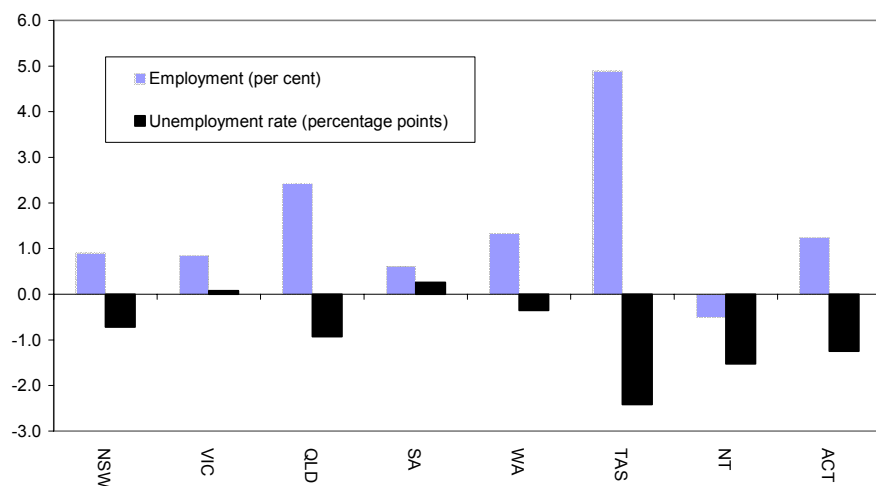
AUSTRALIAN REGIONAL LABOUR MARKETS MARCH QUARTER 2004

State/Territory labour market developments

MAIN FINDINGS

Over the year to the March quarter 2004, employment rose in all States and the ACT. The largest increase (in percentage terms) was recorded in Tasmania (up by 4.9 per cent), followed by Queensland (up by 2.4 per cent) and Western Australia (up by 1.3 per cent). Over the same period, the unemployment rate fell in all States and Territories, except Victoria and South Australia.

CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT AND THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, MARCH QUARTER 2003 TO MARCH QUARTER 2004



Developments at the ABS Labour Market Region Level

Employment increased in 61 per cent of regions over the year to the March quarter 2004 while in 71 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:

- the Mersey-Lyell region in Tasmania recorded a 12.0 per cent increase in employment while the unemployment rate fell by 4.4 percentage points to 6.6 per cent;
- employment in Fairfield-Liverpool in Sydney rose by 11.9 per cent while the unemployment rate fell by 3.0 percentage points to 6.3 per cent; and
- Northern-North West Queensland recorded an 11.2 per cent increase in employment while the unemployment rate fell by 4.5 percentage points to 6.2 per cent.

LABOUR FORCE STATUS BY ABS LABOUR FORCE REGIONS
MARCH QUARTER 2004
Not Seasonally Adjusted

State/Region	Employed		Unemployed		Unemployment rate		Participation rate	
	'000	Annual change	'000	Annual change	%	Annual change % pts	%	Annual change % pts
AUSTRALIA	9541.6	120.6	633.8	-46.4	6.2	-0.5	63.5	-0.5
<i>Metropolitan Australia*</i>	<i>6030.6</i>	<i>60.2</i>	<i>387.1</i>	<i>-9.9</i>	<i>6.0</i>	<i>-0.2</i>	<i>64.5</i>	<i>-0.5</i>
<i>Non-metropolitan Australia*</i>	<i>3511.0</i>	<i>60.4</i>	<i>246.7</i>	<i>-36.5</i>	<i>6.6</i>	<i>-1.0</i>	<i>62.0</i>	<i>-0.6</i>
New South Wales	3162.4	28.4	197.2	-23.9	5.9	-0.7	62.5	-0.6
<i>Sydney</i>	<i>2079.2</i>	<i>1.7</i>	<i>118.9</i>	<i>-4.6</i>	<i>5.4</i>	<i>-0.2</i>	<i>64.6</i>	<i>-0.8</i>
Inner Sydney and Inner Western Sydney	254.8	-0.8	12.5	-3.2	4.7	-1.1	66.3	-1.7
Inner Sydney	170.5	-0.7	8.3	-3.1	4.6	-1.6	67.9	-2.2
Eastern Suburbs	121.7	-11.6	5.0	-1.1	4.0	-0.4	60.2	-6.4
St George-Sutherland	230.3	2.9	8.1	-1.2	3.4	-0.5	65.9	-0.2
Canterbury-Bankstown	135.8	11.2	12.1	1.4	8.2	0.3	58.9	4.6
Fairfield-Liverpool/ Outer South Western Sydney	269.6	5.2	23.4	-0.2	8.0	-0.2	64.4	0.2
Fairfield-Liverpool	163.7	17.4	11.1	-4.0	6.3	-3.0	63.7	4.1
Central Western Sydney	144.4	9.3	5.4	-2.9	3.6	-2.2	61.5	2.0
North Western Sydney	288.0	2.5	21.7	3.1	7.0	0.9	68.1	0.3
Lower Northern Sydney	161.5	-6.4	6.8	-1.0	4.1	-0.4	66.5	-3.5
Central Northern Sydney	214.7	-7.0	10.7	1.9	4.7	0.9	67.4	-2.3
Northern Beaches	130.8	-1.1	3.8	0.0	2.8	0.0	69.3	-1.1
Gosford-Wyong	127.6	-2.6	9.4	-1.4	6.8	-0.8	56.8	-2.4
<i>Balance of New South Wales</i>	<i>1083.2</i>	<i>26.8</i>	<i>78.4</i>	<i>-19.3</i>	<i>6.7</i>	<i>-1.7</i>	<i>58.8</i>	<i>-0.3</i>
Hunter	262.7	10.3	20.9	-1.1	7.4	-0.7	59.1	1.3
Newcastle	221.7	4.8	18.3	-0.5	7.6	-0.4	59.7	0.4
Illawarra and South Eastern	250.7	-6.9	18.1	-4.6	6.7	-1.4	55.6	-3.1
Illawarra	159.6	-1.2	13.9	-3.5	8.0	-1.7	53.2	-2.1
Wollongong	116.1	9.6	11.1	-1.7	8.7	-2.0	57.8	3.0
Richmond-Tweed/ Mid-North Coast	212.6	18.9	17.4	-7.1	7.6	-3.7	56.7	2.2
Northern/ Far West-North Western/ Central West	220.1	-2.0	16.5	-3.6	7.0	-1.3	59.5	-2.0
Murray-Murrumbidgee	137.0	6.5	5.5	-2.9	3.8	-2.2	67.9	1.0
Victoria	2376.7	20.2	152.7	3.3	6.0	0.1	63.3	-0.4
<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>1758.4</i>	<i>22.1</i>	<i>110.6</i>	<i>-0.2</i>	<i>5.9</i>	<i>-0.1</i>	<i>64.2</i>	<i>-0.2</i>
Outer Western Melbourne	284.1	20.4	22.0	1.0	7.2	-0.2	65.8	3.5
North Western Melbourne	124.6	0.3	9.4	-0.4	7.0	-0.3	59.9	-1.0
Inner Melbourne	160.2	8.8	8.9	-1.6	5.2	-1.2	73.8	2.0
North Eastern Melbourne	207.1	-2.6	14.6	2.2	6.6	1.0	62.6	-1.1
Inner Eastern Melbourne	290.0	-7.1	13.8	-2.5	4.6	-0.7	60.9	-2.7
Southern Melbourne	204.8	11.6	11.0	0.8	5.1	0.1	65.0	2.9
Outer Eastern Melbourne	207.6	4.3	10.9	-1.6	5.0	-0.8	68.9	-0.3
South Eastern Melbourne	169.2	-12.2	12.9	2.4	7.1	1.6	63.3	-4.7
Mornington Peninsula	110.8	-1.4	7.0	-0.4	6.0	-0.2	58.2	-1.9
<i>Balance of Victoria</i>	<i>618.3</i>	<i>-2.0</i>	<i>42.1</i>	<i>3.5</i>	<i>6.4</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>60.9</i>	<i>-0.8</i>
Barwon-Western District	153.7	-14.9	12.0	-0.6	7.2	0.3	56.8	-6.3
Central Highlands-Wimmera	88.6	4.7	6.4	-0.1	6.7	-0.4	60.4	2.1
Loddon-Mallee	115.1	-10.1	8.7	2.8	7.0	2.6	59.2	-4.5
Goulburn-Ovens-Murray	148.1	9.3	6.2	-0.5	4.0	-0.6	66.9	2.8
All Gippsland	112.8	9.0	8.8	1.8	7.2	1.0	62.1	4.6

* 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 2004
Not Seasonally Adjusted

State/Region	Employed		Unemployed		Unemployment rate		Participation rate	
	'000	Annual change	'000	Annual change	%	Annual change % pts	%	Annual change % pts
Queensland	1834.0	43.4	138.0	-16.2	7.0	-0.9	64.7	-0.8
Gold Coast	217.2	0.5	16.4	0.1	7.0	0.0	63.0	-1.8
<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>859.9</i>	<i>15.6</i>	<i>64.3</i>	<i>-2.4</i>	<i>7.0</i>	<i>-0.4</i>	<i>66.2</i>	<i>-0.7</i>
Brisbane City Inner Ring	225.4	9.1	16.5	2.4	6.8	0.7	70.8	1.8
Brisbane City Outer Ring	268.8	-1.2	18.7	-1.7	6.5	-0.5	65.2	-2.5
South and East Brisbane Balance	180.0	12.6	16.3	0.4	8.3	-0.4	67.3	2.8
North and West Brisbane Balance	185.7	-4.9	12.9	-3.5	6.5	-1.4	61.7	-4.3
<i>Balance of Queensland</i>	<i>974.1</i>	<i>27.8</i>	<i>73.7</i>	<i>-13.8</i>	<i>7.0</i>	<i>-1.4</i>	<i>63.4</i>	<i>-0.8</i>
South and East Moreton	209.7	-0.5	15.2	0.4	6.7	0.2	63.4	-2.0
North and West Moreton	151.9	2.5	14.2	0.3	8.5	0.1	60.7	-0.8
Wide Bay-Burnett	87.8	3.7	11.7	-3.1	11.8	-3.2	50.3	-1.0
Darling Downs-South West	124.7	3.7	5.8	-2.2	4.4	-1.8	67.2	-0.8
Mackay-Fitzroy-Central West	166.9	4.4	12.8	-1.6	7.1	-1.0	66.6	-0.5
Northern-North West	119.6	12.1	7.9	-4.9	6.2	-4.5	70.6	2.0
Far North	113.6	1.8	6.2	-2.7	5.2	-2.2	66.1	-2.1
South Australia	714.1	4.3	53.3	2.5	6.9	0.3	61.7	0.0
<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>524.6</i>	<i>-0.5</i>	<i>41.1</i>	<i>2.6</i>	<i>7.3</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>61.4</i>	<i>-0.3</i>
Northern Adelaide	154.8	-4.7	16.3	2.9	9.5	1.8	61.1	-1.2
Western Adelaide	93.4	-1.8	7.8	-0.4	7.7	-0.3	56.7	-1.6
Eastern Adelaide	114.7	-1.3	5.8	-1.1	4.8	-0.8	63.0	-1.7
Southern Adelaide	161.7	7.3	11.1	1.2	6.4	0.4	63.7	2.6
<i>Balance of South Australia</i>	<i>189.4</i>	<i>4.8</i>	<i>12.2</i>	<i>-0.1</i>	<i>6.0</i>	<i>-0.2</i>	<i>62.4</i>	<i>0.9</i>
Northern and Western SA	69.2	3.1	7.1	0.4	9.3	0.1	60.6	2.4
Southern and Eastern SA	120.2	1.7	5.1	-0.5	4.0	-0.5	63.5	0.0
Western Australia	971.9	12.7	63.3	-3.0	6.1	-0.4	65.8	-0.7
<i>Perth</i>	<i>719.3</i>	<i>18.8</i>	<i>45.4</i>	<i>-3.9</i>	<i>5.9</i>	<i>-0.6</i>	<i>65.6</i>	<i>0.0</i>
Central Metropolitan	66.1	4.2	4.1	0.4	5.8	0.2	66.1	3.3
East Metropolitan	120.1	3.3	8.6	1.3	6.7	0.8	65.1	1.0
North Metropolitan	217.1	-1.9	13.5	-2.0	5.9	-0.8	66.1	-2.5
South West Metropolitan	146.8	6.7	8.6	-3.0	5.5	-2.1	63.8	0.1
South East Metropolitan	169.1	6.5	10.6	-0.5	5.9	-0.5	66.8	1.0
<i>Balance of Western Australia</i>	<i>252.7</i>	<i>-6.1</i>	<i>17.9</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>6.6</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>66.4</i>	<i>-2.8</i>
Lower Western WA	125.0	-2.7	10.5	1.3	7.7	1.0	61.9	-2.1
Remainder-Balance WA	127.7	-3.4	7.4	-0.5	5.5	-0.2	71.7	-3.4
Tasmania	211.2	9.8	16.5	-5.0	7.2	-2.4	59.3	0.4
Greater Hobart-Southern	104.8	2.8	7.9	-1.2	7.0	-1.2	59.3	-0.1
<i>Greater Hobart</i>	<i>89.2</i>	<i>2.5</i>	<i>6.7</i>	<i>-1.4</i>	<i>7.0</i>	<i>-1.6</i>	<i>59.1</i>	<i>-0.2</i>
Northern	60.5	2.1	5.3	-2.0	8.1	-3.0	60.9	-0.8
Mersey-Lyell	45.9	4.9	3.2	-1.8	6.6	-4.4	57.5	2.9
Northern Territory	96.0	-0.5	5.3	-1.7	5.2	-1.5	70.7	-1.5
Australian Capital Territory	175.3	2.2	7.5	-2.3	4.1	-1.2	71.3	-0.8

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.

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 1,350 Statistical Local Areas.

Next issue

The next issue of *Australian Regional Labour Markets*, for the June quarter 2004, is expected to be released on 23 July 2004.

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, contact Peter Bradbury on (02) 6252 6565.
