

Changes to the
Australian Standard Geographical
Classification and
Small Area Labour Markets

The March quarter 2009 edition of *Small Area Labour Markets* (SALM) includes a number of changes that will improve the quality and relevance of the data. The most significant of these changes is the move from the geography of the 2001 Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) to the 2006 ASGC. This booklet explains what these changes are, and what they mean for the Statistical Local Area (SLA) estimates. The booklet also covers a small number of breaks that have occurred due to changes in other aspects of the source data.

While these changes have been introduced in the March quarter 2009 SALM publication, the ABS backcast their regional data back to the December quarter 2007 so that, in effect, the breaks take place in the unsmoothed series between the September quarter 2007 and the December quarter 2007 and in the smoothed series between the June quarter 2008 and the September quarter 2008.

Why change?

The changes to the geography are necessary due to changes made by the ABS to the format of the labour force data used to produce the estimates in SALM and will mean that the SLAs in the publication better reflect the current Local Government structure in each State. In addition, the SLA labour force estimates will now be based on benchmarks from the 2006 Census which will enhance the accuracy of the unemployment rates at the SLA level.

What is the impact of the changes?

The move to the 2006 ASGC has no impact on the majority of estimates at the SLA level. However, around 260 SLAs have been affected in some way. For some of these SLAs there is no impact on the data while for others, the impact on the data is significant and has resulted in a break in the series (i.e. it is impossible to compare current data with previous periods). If an SLA of interest to you has changed in some way, please read this booklet carefully as it may contain the information you are looking for. For more information on other changes introduced in this publication, please see the Explanatory Notes on page 52 of the publication.

What changes have occurred?

The SLAs affected by the change in geography can be categorised into the following five groups:

- Name change only;
- Pre-December quarter 2007 SLAs being amalgamated to form a new, larger SLA;
- Pre-December quarter 2007 SLAs being split to form a number of new, smaller SLAs;
- SLAs that have experienced a complete break in the series, either because of significant boundary changes or because they have been abolished and included in other SLAs (but not in a way that enables back-casting of the new SLA or SLAs); and
- SLAs that have experienced a complete break in series due to changes in the source data.

Each of these changes is explained in detail below.

SLAs that have undergone a name change

In the move to the new geography, some SLAs have undergone a change in name only. Accordingly, the time series for these SLAs has not been affected. A list of the affected SLAs with both their old and their new name is presented in Table 3.1 below.

Example: In the March quarter 2009 edition of SALM, there is a new SLA in New South Wales called Mid-Western Regional (A) - Pt A. In previous editions, this SLA was called Mudgee (A). Despite the change in name, the boundaries and composition of this SLA have not changed.

Table 3.1: SLAs that have changed in name only	
Old SLA name	New SLA name
<i>Sydney</i>	
Concord (A)	Canada Bay (A) - Concord
Drummoyne (A)	Canada Bay (A) - Drummoyne
<i>Non-metropolitan New South Wales</i>	
Bathurst (C)	Bathurst Regional (A) - Pt A
Goulburn (C)	Goulburn Mulwaree (A) - Goulburn
Greater Lithgow (C)	Lithgow (C)
Mudgee (A)	Mid-Western Regional (A) - Pt A
Tumut (A)	Tumut Shire (A)
Tweed (A) - Pt A	Tweed (A) - Tweed-Heads
<i>Metropolitan Queensland</i>	
Caboolture (S) Bal in BSD	Caboolture (S) - Midwest
Caboolture (S) - Pt B	Caboolture (S) - Hinterland
The Gap (Incl. Enoggera Res.)	The Gap
<i>Non-metropolitan Queensland</i>	
Hinchinbrook (S) excl. Palm I.	Hinchinbrook (S)
Hinchinbrook (S) - Palm Island	Palm Island (S)
<i>Adelaide</i>	
Gawler (M)	Gawler (T)
<i>Non-metropolitan South Australia</i>	
Franklin Harbor (DC)	Franklin Harbour (DC)
Lacepede (DC)	Kingston (DC)
Light (DC)	Light (RegC)
Victor Harbor (DC)	Victor Harbor (C)
<i>Northern Territory</i>	
Bathurst-Melville	Tiwi Islands (CGC)
Petermann	Petermann-Simpson

SLAs that have been amalgamated to form new SLAs

A number of new SLAs in New South Wales and Queensland are the product of the amalgamation of old SLAs. While it is not possible to produce estimates for the old SLAs, estimates for these new SLAs for the March quarter 2008 onwards are included in this edition. Estimates prior to the March quarter 2008 can be derived by amalgamating the appropriate SLAs - see Table 3.2 for details of the SLAs that have been amalgamated.

Example: The SLA of Fortitude Valley appears for the first time in the March quarter 2009 SALM. This new SLA is the product of the amalgamation of two old SLAs, Fortitude Valley - Inner and Fortitude Valley - Remainder. To calculate an unemployment rate for Fortitude Valley prior to the March quarter 2008, the following steps need to be undertaken:

1. To calculate the estimated number of unemployed persons in Fortitude Valley, simply add together the number of unemployed persons from Fortitude Valley - Inner and Fortitude Valley - Remainder. The estimate of the labour force in Fortitude Valley is calculated using the same process.
2. The unemployment rate can then be calculated using the following formula
unemployment rate = unemployment/labour force x 100

Table 3.2: 'Old' SLAs that have been amalgamated to form the 'new' SLAs that now appear in SALM	
Old SLAs	New SLA
<i>Non-metropolitan New South Wales</i>	
Blayney (A) - Pt A Blayney (A) - Pt B	Blayney (A)
Cabonne (A) - Pt A Cabonne (A) - Pt B Cabonne (A) - Pt C	Cabonne (A)
Conargo (A) Windouran (A)	Conargo (A)
Coolah (A) Coonabarabran (A)	Warrumbungle Shire (A)
Culcairn (A) Holbrook (A)	Greater Hume Shire (A) - Pt B
Glen Innes (A) Severn (A)	Glen Innes Severn (A)
Parry (A) - Pt A Tamworth (C)	Tamworth Regional (A) - Pt A
<i>Metropolitan Queensland</i>	
Capalaba West Chandler	Chandler - Capalaba West
Fortitude Valley - Inner Fortitude Valley - Remainder	Fortitude Valley

Table 3.2 cont: 'Old' SLAs that have been amalgamated to form the 'new' SLAs that now appear in SALM	
<i>Metropolitan Queensland cont.</i>	
Gumdale Ransome	Gumdale - Ransome
Nudgee Nudgee Beach	Nudgee
<i>Non-metropolitan Queensland</i>	
Biggera Waters Labrador	Biggera Waters - Labrador
Bilinga Tugun	Bilinga - Tugun
Broadbeach Mermaid Beach	Broadbeach - Mermaid Beach

SLAs that have been split to form new SLAs

The third change to SLAs caused by the new geography involves the splitting of an old SLA into two or more new SLAs. Where this has occurred, and there have been no other significant boundary changes, it is still possible for consistent estimates for the old SLA to be produced and for the time series to continue. This can be achieved through the following steps:

1. To calculate the estimated number of unemployed persons in the old SLA simply add together the number of unemployed persons from each of the new SLAs that the old SLA was split into. The estimate of the labour force in the old SLA is calculated using the same process.
2. The unemployment rate can then be calculated using the following formula.

$$\text{unemployment rate} = \text{unemployment} / \text{labour force} \times 100$$

Example: Using these three steps it is possible to produce an unemployment rate for the March quarter 2009 for the 'old' SLA of Penrith (C) by using data from the two 'new' SLAs, Penrith (C) - East and Penrith (C) - West:

- Firstly, total unemployment in Penrith (C) - East and Penrith (C) - West are added together to get 6,116.
- Similarly, the labour force of Penrith (C) - East is added to the labour force of Penrith (C) - West to get 101,201.
- The unemployment rate for the old SLA of Penrith (C) is then calculated by dividing the level of unemployment by the labour force and multiplying it by 100 (6,116/101,201 x 100) which produces an unemployment rate of 6.0 per cent.

A list of those old SLAs that have been split into new SLAs is included in Table 3.3.

Note that it will only be possible to produce smoothed data for the new SLAs from the September quarter 2008. For the March quarter 2008 and the June quarter 2008, estimates can only be calculated using the unsmoothed data in Table 2.

Table 3.3: 'Old' SLAs that have been split to form two or more 'new' SLAs

Old SLA	New SLAs
<i>Sydney</i>	
Bankstown (C)	Bankstown (C) - North-East Bankstown (C) - North-West Bankstown (C) - South
Baulkham Hills (A)	Baulkham Hills (A) - Central Baulkham Hills (A) - North Baulkham Hills (A) - South
Campbelltown (C)	Campbelltown (C) - North Campbelltown (C) - South
Fairfield (C)	Fairfield (C) - East Fairfield (C) - West
Gosford (C)	Gosford (C) - East Gosford (C) - West
Hornsby (A)	Hornsby (C) - North Hornsby (C) - South
Liverpool (C)	Liverpool (C) - East Liverpool (C) - West
Parramatta (C)	Parramatta (C) - Inner Parramatta (C) - North-East Parramatta (C) - North-West Parramatta (C) - South
Penrith (C)	Penrith (C) - East Penrith (C) - West
Wyong (A)	Wyong (A) - North-East Wyong (A) - South and West
<i>Non-metropolitan New South Wales</i>	
Lake Macquarie (C)	Lake Macquarie (C) - East Lake Macquarie (C) - North Lake Macquarie (C) - West
Tweed (A) - Pt B	Tweed (A) - Pt B Tweed (A) - Tweed Coast
Wollongong (C)	Wollongong (C) - Inner Wollongong (C) Bal
<i>Melbourne</i>	
Knox (C) - North	Knox (C) - North-East Knox (C) - North-West
Whittlesea (C) - South	Whittlesea (C) - South-East Whittlesea (C) - South-West
Yarra Ranges (S) - South-West	Yarra Ranges (S) - Dandenongs Yarra Ranges (S) - Lilydale Yarra Ranges (S) - Seville

Table 3.3 cont: 'Old' SLAs that have been split to form two or more 'new' SLAs

<i>Non-metropolitan Queensland</i>	
Burke (S)	Burke (S) Doomadgee (S)
Cairns (C) - Pt B	Cairns (C) - Pt B Yarrabah (S)
Carpentaria (S)	Kowanyama (S) Pormpuraaw (S) Carpentaria (S)
Coomera-Cedar Creek	Kingsholme-Upper Coomera Pimpama-Coomera
Douglas (S)	Douglas (S) Wujal Wujal (S)
Duaringa (S)	Duaringa (S) Woorabinda (S)
Livingstone (S)	Livingstone (S) Pt A Livingstone (S) Pt B
Murgon (S)	Cherbourg (S) Murgon (S)
Torres (S)	Badu (IC) Bamaga (IC) Boigu (IC) Dauan (IC) Erub (IC) Hammond (IC) Iama (IC) Injinoo (S) Kubin (IC) Mabuiag (IC) Mer (IC) New Mapoon (S) Poruma (IC) Saibai (IC) St Pauls (IC) Seisia (IC) Torres (S) Ugar (IC) Umagico (S) Warraber (IC) Yorke (IC)
<i>Adelaide</i>	
Port Adel. Enfield (C) - Port	Port Adel. Enfield (C) - Park Port Adel. Enfield (C) - Port

Table 3.3 cont: 'Old' SLAs that have been split to form two or more 'new' SLAs	
<i>Non-metropolitan South Australia</i>	
Unincorp. Far North	Anangu Pitjantjatjara (AC) Maralinga Tjarutja (AC) Unincorp. Far North
<i>Perth</i>	
Perth (C)	Perth (C) - Inner Perth (C) - Remainder
<i>Northern Territory</i>	
Daly	Daly Naiyu Nambiyu (CGC) Pine Creek (CGC) Thamarrurr (CGC)
East Arnhem - Bal	East Arnhem - Bal Marn Garr (CGC) Numbulwar Numburindi (CGC)
Groote Eylandt	Angurugu (CGC) Groote Eylandt
Stuart Park	Bayview-Woolner Stuart Park
Tennant Creek - Bal	Alpurrurulam (CGC) Tennant Creek - Bal
Victoria	Daguragu (CGC) Lajamanu (CGC) Timber Creek (CGC) Victoria Walangeri Ngumpinku (CGC)

SLAs with a complete break in the series

While the changes detailed above allow for at least some comparison between the data for the March quarter 2009 and previous editions of SALM, there has been a complete break in series for some SLAs. The SLAs that are displayed in Table 3.3 (i.e. the new SLAs that have been created by splitting an old SLA into two or more new SLAs) fall into this category, as well as a further 108 SLAs. These additional SLAs can be divided into two groups - SLAs that still exist, have undergone significant boundary changes and so are not comparable over the break, and SLAs that have been abolished and included in one or more new SLAs. These SLAs are listed in Tables 3.4 and 3.5 respectively.

Sufficient original estimates are only available for smoothed data to be produced, in Table 1, from the September quarter 2008 onwards for these SLAs.

Table 3.4: Old SLAs that have been abolished and included in new SLAs*	
SLA Abolished:	Included in:
<i>Sydney</i>	
South Sydney (C)	Sydney (C) - South, Sydney (C) - East, Sydney (C) - West
Sydney (C) - Remainder	Sydney (C) - Inner, Sydney (C) - East, Sydney (C) - West
<i>Non-metropolitan New South Wales</i>	
Barraba (A)	Gwydir (A), Tamworth Regional (A) - Pt B
Bingara (A)	Gwydir (A)
Copmanhurst (A)	Clarence Valley (A) - Grafton, Clarence Valley (A) Bal, Richmond Valley (A) Bal
Corowa (A)	Corowa Shire (A)
Crookwell (A)	Upper Lachlan (A)
Evans (A) - Pt A	Bathurst Regional (A) - Pt B
Evans (A) - Pt B	Bathurst Regional (A) - Pt B, Oberon (A)
Grafton (C)	Clarence Valley (A) - Grafton
Gunning (A)	Upper Lachlan (A), Yass Valley (A)
Hume (A)	Albury (C), Corowa Shire (A), Greater Hume Shire (A) - Pt A
Maclean (A)	Clarence Valley (A) - Coast
Manilla (A)	Tamworth Regional (A) - Pt B
Merriwa (A)	Mid-Western Regional (A) - Pt A, Upper Hunter Shire (A)
Mulwaree (A)	Palerang (A) - Pt B, Upper Lachlan (A), Goulburn Mulwaree (A) Bal
Murrurundi (A)	Upper Hunter Shire (A), Liverpool Plains (A)
Newcastle (C) - Inner	Newcastle (C) - Inner City
Newcastle (C) - Remainder	Newcastle (C) - Inner City, Newcastle (C) - Outer West, Newcastle (C) - Throsby
Nundle (A)	Tamworth Regional (A) - Pt B
Parry (A) - Pt B	Liverpool Plains (A), Tamworth Regional (A) - Pt B
Pristine Waters (A) - Nymboida	Clarence Valley (A) - Grafton, Clarence Valley (A) Bal
Pristine Waters (A) - Ulmarra	Clarence Valley (A) - Coast, Clarence Valley (A) - Grafton, Clarence Valley (A) Bal, Coffs Harbour (C) - Pt B
Quirindi (A)	Liverpool Plains (A)
Rylstone (A)	Mid-Western Regional (A) - Pt B, Lithgow (C)
Scone (A)	Upper Hunter Shire (A)
Tallaganda (A)	Palerang (A) - Pt B
Yallaroi (A)	Gwydir (A)

Table 3.4 cont: Old SLAs that have been abolished and included in new SLAs*

<i>Non-metropolitan New South Wales cont.</i>	
Yarrowlumla (A) - Pt A	Palerang (A) - Pt A, Queanbeyan (C), Yass Valley (A), Cooma-Monaro (A)
Yarrowlumla (A) - Pt B	Yass Valley (A)
Yass (A)	Yass Valley (A)
<i>Non-metropolitan Victoria</i>	
Delatite (S) - Benalla	Benalla (RC) - Benalla
Delatite (S) - North	Benalla (RC) - Benalla, Benalla (RC) Bal
Delatite (S) - South	Mansfield (S), Mount Buller Alpine Resort
<i>Metropolitan Queensland</i>	
Brookfield (incl. Mt C'tha)	Brookfield (incl. Brisbane Forest Park)
Upper Brookfield	Brookfield (incl. Brisbane Forest Park)
Windaroo-Bannockburn	Wolffdene-Bahrs Scrub
Gold Coast (C) Bal in BSD	Jacobs Well-Alberton, Ormeau-Yatala and Wolffdene-Bahrs Scrub
<i>Non-metropolitan Queensland</i>	
Arundel	Parkwood-Arundle and Biggera Waters-Labrador
Ashmore	Ashmore-Benowa
Benowa	Ashmore-Benowa
Cook (S) - Weipa only	Weipa (T)
Cook (S) (excl. Weipa)	Cook (S), Hope Vale (S), Lockhart River (S), Mapoon (S), Napranum (S), Weipa (T)
Coomera-Cedar Creek	Pimpama-Coomera
Ernest-Molendinar	Molendinar
Guanaba-Currumbin Valley	Guanaba-Springbrook, Currumbin Valley-Tallebudgera, Mudgeeraba-Reedy Creek, Nerang, Oxenford-Maudsland, Pacific Pines-Gaven
Hollywell	Paradise Point-Runaway Bay
Main Beach-Broadwater	Main Beach-South Stradbroke, Paradise Point-Runaway Bay
Maroochy (S) Bal in S C'st SSD	Maroochy (S) - Paynter-Petrie Creek and Maroochy (S) - Nambour
Mudgeeraba	Mudgeeraba-Reedy Creek
Oxenford	Oxenford-Maudsland, Helensvale
Paradise Point	Paradise Point-Runaway Bay
Parkwood	Parkwood-Arundle
Runaway Bay	Paradise Point-Runaway Bay
Stephens	Varsity Lakes

Table 3.4 cont: Old SLAs that have been abolished and included in new SLAs*	
<i>Northern Territory</i>	
East Arm-Palmerston (C) Bal	East Arm, Palmerston (C) Bal, Gunn-Palmerston City
Elsey - Bal	Elsey, Jilkminggan (CGC), Katherine (T), Mataranka (CGC), Nyirranggulung Mardrulk Ngadberre (CGC) and Binjari (CGC)
Lee Point-Leanyer Swamp-Leanyer	Lee Point-Leanyer Swamp, Leanyer, Karama
Sandover - Bal	Anmatjere (CGC), Arltarlpilta (CGC), Ltyentye Purte (CGC), Sandover, Tapatjatjaka (CGC)

* Includes SLAs that were renamed and also experienced boundary changes.

Table 3.5: Old SLAs that have experienced boundary changes but no name change
<i>Sydney</i>
Leichhardt (A)
Sydney (C) - Inner
<i>Balance of New South Wales</i>
Albury (C)
Coffs Harbour (C) - Pt B
Cooma-Monaro (A)
Oberon (A)
Queanbeyan (C)
<i>Non-metropolitan Victoria</i>
Alpine (S) - East
Baw Baw (S) - Pt A
Baw Baw (S) - Pt B East
Campaspe (S) - Echuca
Campaspe (S) - Kyabram
Campaspe (S) - Rochester
Colac-Otway (S) - Colac
Colac-Otway (S) - North
Gr. Bendigo (C) - Inner East
Gr. Bendigo (C) - S'saye
<i>Metropolitan Queensland</i>
Beaudesert (S) - Pt A
Pinkenba-Eagle Farm
Pullenvale
Willawong

Table 3.5 cont: Old SLAs that have experienced boundary changes but no name change
<i>Non-metropolitan Queensland</i>
Beaudesert (S) - Pt B
Burleigh Heads
Carrara-Merrimac
Currumbin
Fitzroy (S) - Pt A
Fitzroy (S) - Pt B
Helensvale
Maroochy (S) - Nambour
Maroochy (S) Bal
Mermaid Wtrs-Clear Is. Wtrs
Nerang
Noosa (S) - Tewantin
Robina
Worongary-Tallai
<i>Perth</i>
Fremantle (C) - Inner
<i>Non-metropolitan Western Australia</i>
Murchison (S)
<i>Northern Territory</i>
Cox-Finiss
Driver
Durack
Gulf
Ludmilla
Parap
Tableland
Tanami
West Arnhem
<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>
Amaroo
Belconnen - SSD Bal
Gungahlin-Hall - SSD Bal

Breaks which are not related to the changes in the geographical structure

Five SLAs have experienced a break in the series that is not related to changes in the geographical structure. These breaks have occurred as a result of changes to the source data (either postcode to SLA concordances or the Census population benchmarks). The affected SLAs are shown in Table 3.6 below.

Table 3.6: Other SLAs that have experienced a break in the series
<i>Non-metropolitan Queensland</i>
Cairns (C) - City
Herberton (S)
<i>Non-metropolitan Western Australia</i>
Ngaanyatjarraku (S)
Sandstone (S)
<i>Northern Territory</i>
Alice Springs (T) - Heavitree

Further information

If you cannot find a previously published SLA in either the March quarter 2009 publication or this booklet, or if you require any further information on changes to the *Small Area Labour Markets* publication, please contact Rodney Trower on (02) 6121 7901 or Kellie Gavin on (02) 6121 3538.