

# AUSTRALIAN REGIONAL LABOUR MARKETS

## JUNE QUARTER 2003

### MAIN FINDINGS

#### State/Territory labour market developments

All States and the ACT recorded a rise in employment over the year to the June quarter 2003. The largest increase (in percentage terms) was recorded in South Australia (up by 3.5 per cent), followed by Queensland (up by 3.4 per cent). Only the Northern Territory failed to record a reduction in its unemployment rate over the year to the June quarter 2003 while Victoria's unemployment rate was unchanged.

#### CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT AND THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, JUNE QUARTER 2002 TO JUNE 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 June quarter 2003 while 59 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:

- The Gippsland region in Victoria recorded a 22.8 per cent increase in employment while the unemployment rate fell by 1.8 percentage points to 6.3 per cent;
- The Hunter in New South Wales recorded a 14.2 per cent increase in employment while the unemployment rate fell by 2.8 percentage points to 7.3 per cent; and
- Far North Queensland recorded a 12.4 per cent increase in employment while the unemployment rate fell by 2.7 percentage points to 5.3 per cent.

**LABOUR FORCE STATUS BY ABS LABOUR FORCE REGIONS**  
**JUNE 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>9513.3</b>	<b>219.1</b>	<b>617.7</b>	<b>-9.3</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>63.9</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<i>Metropolitan Australia*</i>	<i>6053.7</i>	<i>114.6</i>	<i>380.9</i>	<i>13.3</i>	<i>5.9</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>64.5</i>	<i>0.2</i>
<i>Non-metropolitan Australia*</i>	<i>3459.6</i>	<i>104.5</i>	<i>236.8</i>	<i>-22.6</i>	<i>6.4</i>	<i>-0.8</i>	<i>62.8</i>	<i>0.5</i>
<b>New South Wales</b>	<b>3154.1</b>	<b>66.9</b>	<b>199.5</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>63.0</b>	<b>0.6</b>
<i>Sydney</i>	<i>2098.7</i>	<i>28.9</i>	<i>120.5</i>	<i>9.7</i>	<i>5.4</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>65.0</i>	<i>0.2</i>
Inner Sydney and Inner Western Sydney	241.4	-32.1	12.9	0.0	5.1	0.6	65.9	-3.4
Inner Sydney	157.3	-13.4	9.2	-1.2	5.5	-0.2	67.1	-5.2
Eastern Suburbs	113.4	-16.5	5.1	-2.8	4.3	-1.5	65.2	-2.0
St George-Sutherland	234.5	15.4	8.1	-3.7	3.3	-1.8	64.1	-1.8
Canterbury-Bankstown	139.2	4.2	13.9	4.4	9.1	2.5	56.1	0.6
Fairfield-Liverpool/ Outer South Western Sydney	283.3	19.8	23.7	6.0	7.7	1.4	64.6	0.7
Fairfield-Liverpool	169.5	20.2	14.1	5.0	7.7	2.0	61.9	1.4
Central Western Sydney	136.9	-3.9	8.8	1.7	6.0	1.2	61.7	-0.4
North Western Sydney+	278.2	-7.6	19.1	3.8	6.4	1.3	66.9	0.0
Lower Northern Sydney	168.2	18.4	6.5	-1.0	3.7	-1.1	69.5	8.1
Central Northern Sydney+	237.9	6.1	7.5	-1.1	3.1	-0.5	69.5	-0.8
Northern Beaches	131.3	6.6	4.6	0.0	3.4	-0.2	73.5	3.8
Gosford-Wyong	134.3	18.5	10.2	2.6	7.1	0.9	57.6	2.9
<i>Balance of New South Wales</i>	<i>1055.4</i>	<i>38.0</i>	<i>79.0</i>	<i>-7.4</i>	<i>7.0</i>	<i>-0.9</i>	<i>59.6</i>	<i>1.2</i>
Hunter	260.4	32.4	20.4	-5.0	7.3	-2.8	58.2	2.7
Newcastle	219.4	25.8	17.0	-4.8	7.2	-2.9	59.3	2.9
Illawarra and South Eastern	258.0	-10.2	20.0	0.0	7.2	0.2	59.8	0.1
Illawarra	160.3	-26.0	14.7	0.1	8.4	1.1	55.9	-3.3
Wollongong	103.4	-30.7	9.3	-3.9	8.2	-0.7	54.5	-6.4
Richmond-Tweed/ Mid-North Coast	187.0	10.6	18.1	-1.1	8.8	-1.0	55.6	1.3
Northern/ Far West-North Western/ Central West	215.7	14.4	12.8	-1.3	5.6	-1.0	61.2	2.6
Murray-Murrumbidgee	134.4	-9.2	7.7	0.1	5.4	0.4	65.9	-1.7
<b>Victoria</b>	<b>2390.1</b>	<b>41.8</b>	<b>147.6</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>63.6</b>	<b>0.1</b>
<i>Melbourne</i>	<i>1772.8</i>	<i>24.8</i>	<i>113.1</i>	<i>8.1</i>	<i>6.0</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>64.1</i>	<i>-0.1</i>
Outer Western Melbourne	274.7	8.3	19.9	-2.5	6.8	-1.0	62.9	-0.7
North Western Melbourne	129.8	9.0	9.5	-0.6	6.8	-0.9	59.9	0.8
Inner Melbourne	136.2	-14.8	7.8	2.8	5.4	2.2	68.5	-3.3
North Eastern Melbourne	207.1	1.1	17.2	5.9	7.7	2.5	63.6	-1.2
Inner Eastern Melbourne	301.6	-7.9	15.8	1.0	5.0	0.4	62.3	-1.0
Southern Melbourne	205.1	12.0	9.8	0.3	4.6	-0.1	62.1	-0.9
Outer Eastern Melbourne	219.4	-8.7	12.7	0.3	5.5	0.3	70.4	1.9
South Eastern Melbourne	185.3	12.6	12.4	-1.3	6.3	-1.1	67.4	3.7
Mornington Peninsula	113.6	13.1	8.1	2.1	6.6	1.0	59.9	2.8
<i>Balance of Victoria</i>	<i>617.4</i>	<i>17.0</i>	<i>34.5</i>	<i>-5.9</i>	<i>5.3</i>	<i>-1.0</i>	<i>62.2</i>	<i>0.4</i>
Barwon-Western District	167.2	-5.5	10.4	1.6	5.8	1.0	62.1	0.0
Central Highlands-Wimmera	87.5	-9.3	5.3	-4.0	5.7	-3.1	59.4	-4.8
Loddon-Mallee	135.9	18.7	7.7	1.1	5.4	0.0	66.5	3.0
Goulburn-Ovens-Murray	123.0	-6.1	4.2	-4.2	3.3	-2.8	61.5	-3.0
All Gippsland	103.7	19.3	7.0	-0.4	6.3	-1.8	60.1	6.8

\* 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**  
**JUNE 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>1803.6</b>	<b>59.8</b>	<b>132.9</b>	<b>-9.6</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>64.8</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
Gold Coast	205.8	0.2	18.0	1.7	8.0	0.7	64.0	1.6
<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>851.0</i>	<i>21.7</i>	<i>58.1</i>	<i>-4.9</i>	<i>6.4</i>	<i>-0.7</i>	<i>65.9</i>	<i>-0.6</i>
Brisbane City Inner Ring	213.7	12.6	13.1	1.0	5.8	0.1	68.0	-0.1
Brisbane City Outer Ring	267.9	12.8	15.2	-3.6	5.4	-1.5	67.5	1.6
South and East Brisbane Balance	170.9	0.9	16.3	-0.7	8.7	-0.4	63.2	-3.8
North and West Brisbane Balance	198.5	-4.6	13.5	-1.6	6.4	-0.5	64.3	-1.2
<i>Balance of Queensland</i>	<i>952.6</i>	<i>38.1</i>	<i>74.8</i>	<i>-4.7</i>	<i>7.3</i>	<i>-0.7</i>	<i>63.9</i>	<i>0.4</i>
South and East Moreton	196.5	-1.7	16.1	-0.5	7.6	-0.2	65.2	3.0
North and West Moreton	143.4	-16.6	12.9	-6.2	8.2	-2.4	60.2	-3.1
Wide Bay-Burnett	90.1	-4.7	10.1	-0.3	10.1	0.2	52.9	-5.5
Darling Downs-South West	126.9	22.6	6.2	1.8	4.6	0.6	66.9	4.9
Mackay-Fitzroy-Central West#	176.4	..	13.5	..	7.1	..	66.1	..
Northern-North West#	109.6	..	9.9	..	8.3	..	67.9	..
Far North	109.7	12.1	6.1	-2.3	5.3	-2.7	68.0	2.2
<b>South Australia</b>	<b>716.2</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>47.0</b>	<b>-2.5</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>62.0</b>	<b>1.2</b>
<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>530.3</i>	<i>17.0</i>	<i>36.9</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>6.5</i>	<i>-0.1</i>	<i>62.0</i>	<i>1.3</i>
Northern Adelaide	162.6	8.3	15.1	2.5	8.5	0.9	63.3	4.0
Western Adelaide	90.7	-6.5	7.1	-1.7	7.3	-1.0	56.6	-0.7
Eastern Adelaide	119.1	5.7	4.2	-2.7	3.4	-2.3	65.5	0.4
Southern Adelaide	157.8	9.5	10.5	2.6	6.3	1.2	61.5	0.2
<i>Balance of South Australia</i>	<i>185.9</i>	<i>7.1</i>	<i>10.1</i>	<i>-3.2</i>	<i>5.2</i>	<i>-1.8</i>	<i>62.2</i>	<i>0.9</i>
Northern and Western SA	63.8	-3.1	5.9	-0.8	8.5	-0.7	59.8	0.3
Southern and Eastern SA	122.1	10.2	4.2	-2.4	3.3	-2.2	63.6	1.1
<b>Western Australia</b>	<b>976.2</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>59.1</b>	<b>-2.5</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>66.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<i>Perth</i>	<i>714.8</i>	<i>17.5</i>	<i>45.5</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>6.0</i>	<i>-0.1</i>	<i>65.4</i>	<i>0.3</i>
Central Metropolitan	62.4	1.2	2.7	-0.4	4.2	-0.6	63.0	-0.2
East Metropolitan	111.6	0.4	7.2	-0.7	6.0	-0.6	64.6	-2.6
North Metropolitan	223.3	9.8	13.5	-2.8	5.7	-1.4	68.2	2.2
South West Metropolitan	150.7	7.9	10.4	1.2	6.4	0.4	63.7	1.7
South East Metropolitan	166.8	-1.8	11.8	2.7	6.6	1.5	64.9	-1.1
<i>Balance of Western Australia</i>	<i>261.4</i>	<i>6.1</i>	<i>13.6</i>	<i>-2.6</i>	<i>4.9</i>	<i>-1.0</i>	<i>69.0</i>	<i>-0.3</i>
Lower Western WA	135.3	1.6	9.0	1.4	6.2	0.8	64.1	-0.6
Remainder-Balance WA	126.1	4.6	4.6	-3.9	3.5	-3.1	75.3	0.2
<b>Tasmania</b>	<b>204.5</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>58.6</b>	<b>0.8</b>
Greater Hobart-Southern	100.1	7.3	7.5	-1.5	7.0	-1.9	58.9	2.2
<i>Greater Hobart</i>	<i>86.2</i>	<i>4.7</i>	<i>6.7</i>	<i>-0.5</i>	<i>7.3</i>	<i>-0.9</i>	<i>59.0</i>	<i>2.1</i>
Northern	61.9	3.5	5.0	0.8	7.5	0.7	62.8	3.6
Mersey-Lyell	42.5	-5.1	4.3	0.3	9.3	1.5	53.0	-5.3
<b>Northern Territory</b>	<b>96.4</b>	<b>-4.4</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>72.9</b>	<b>-1.4</b>
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>	<b>172.2</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>71.8</b>	<b>-0.5</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 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 September quarter 2003, is expected to be distributed in late October 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 Dave Long in the Labour Market Analysis Section on (02) 6121 7895.

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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