



AUSTRALIAN REGIONAL LABOUR MARKETS

MARCH QUARTER 2008

State/Territory labour market developments

MAIN FINDINGS

Employment rose in all States and Territories over the year to the March quarter 2008. The largest increase (in percentage terms) was recorded in the Northern Territory (up by 4.9 per cent), followed by Western Australia (up by 3.8 per cent) and New South Wales (up by 3.4 per cent). The unemployment rate fell in all States and Territories, except for the Northern Territory, where it rose by 1.5 percentage points to 5.1 per cent and Western Australia, where it rose by 0.1 percentage points to 3.4 per cent. The largest falls over the year were recorded in New South Wales (down by 0.7 percentage points to 4.7 per cent), South Australia (down by 0.7 percentage points to 4.9 per cent) and Victoria (down by 0.6 percentage points to 4.6 per cent).

**CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT AND THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
MARCH QUARTER 2007 TO MARCH QUARTER 2008**



Developments at the ABS Labour Force Region Level

Employment increased in 78 per cent of regions over the year to the March quarter 2008, while 62 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:

- Wide Bay-Burnett in Queensland recorded a 16.7 per cent increase in employment while the unemployment rate fell by 1.9 percentage points to 6.1 per cent;
- Eastern Suburbs in Sydney recorded a 9.3 per cent increase in employment while the unemployment rate fell by 1.5 percentage points to 2.4 per cent; and
- employment in Barwon-Western District in Victoria rose by 6.9 per cent while the unemployment rate fell by 3.3 percentage points to 2.6 per cent.

LABOUR FORCE STATUS BY ABS LABOUR FORCE REGIONS
MARCH QUARTER 2008
Not Seasonally Adjusted

State/Region	Employed		Unemployed		Unemployment rate		Employment rate (a)		Participation rate	
	'000	Annual change	'000	Annual change	%	Annual change (% pts)	%	Annual change (% pts)	%	Annual change (% pts)
AUSTRALIA	10 619.1	308.3	492.8	-46.2	4.4	-0.5	73.0	0.8	65.2	0.4
<i>Metropolitan Australia (b)</i>	6680.2	199.4	298.5	-35.7	4.3	-0.6	73.6	0.9	66.1	0.4
<i>Non-metropolitan Australia (b)</i>	3938.9	108.9	194.3	-10.5	4.7	-0.4	72.1	0.6	63.8	0.3
New South Wales	3409.9	110.8	168.9	-21.8	4.7	-0.7	71.6	1.2	63.7	0.8
<i>Sydney</i>	2218.2	60.5	99.4	-19.1	4.3	-0.9	72.5	1.0	65.3	0.3
Inner Sydney and Inner Western Sydney	280.2	18.5	10.0	-4.9	3.4	-1.9	74.1	0.4	69.0	2.4
Inner Sydney	185.2	8.0	6.8	-2.7	3.5	-1.6	73.7	0.3	69.7	1.1
Eastern Suburbs	139.8	11.9	3.5	-1.7	2.4	-1.5	77.6	3.5	65.7	3.9
St George-Sutherland	245.8	7.1	9.4	-0.1	3.7	-0.1	75.9	0.5	67.8	1.0
Canterbury-Bankstown	141.8	3.3	8.8	2.2	5.9	1.3	66.4	2.9	57.4	1.4
Fairfield-Liverpool/ Outer South Western Sydney	288.2	3.7	16.5	-9.6	5.4	-3.0	68.0	0.8	63.9	-2.1
Fairfield-Liverpool	161.6	3.4	10.0	-5.8	5.8	-3.2	64.5	1.6	59.6	-1.6
Central Western Sydney	144.6	1.5	8.0	-1.2	5.2	-0.8	64.2	0.2	60.1	-0.6
North Western Sydney	303.2	12.3	18.3	-0.9	5.7	-0.5	72.2	3.7	67.6	1.5
Lower Northern Sydney	174.5	7.9	4.9	-1.1	2.7	-0.7	78.4	0.5	68.1	1.8
Central Northern Sydney	227.0	-5.3	6.2	-2.2	2.7	-0.8	77.1	0.1	66.9	-3.1
Northern Beaches	130.2	-8.5	6.1	2.8	4.5	2.2	75.8	-5.9	67.3	-3.7
Gosford-Wyong	142.7	8.1	7.7	-2.5	5.1	-1.9	70.1	1.1	59.6	1.4
<i>Balance of New South Wales</i>	1191.7	50.3	69.4	-2.7	5.5	-0.4	69.9	1.6	61.0	1.5
Hunter	298.7	20.5	20.3	4.5	6.4	1.0	71.5	2.8	63.6	4.2
Newcastle	253.8	25.7	17.2	4.4	6.3	1.0	72.2	4.3	64.5	6.4
Illawarra and South Eastern	271.3	-1.3	17.6	1.3	6.1	0.5	67.2	0.1	57.3	-0.8
Illawarra	173.0	-2.4	13.2	0.6	7.1	0.4	63.9	-1.5	54.7	-1.3
Wollongong	125.5	-2.2	9.2	-0.3	6.8	-0.1	65.9	-1.3	58.6	-1.9
Richmond-Tweed/ Mid-North Coast	215.4	-3.7	12.4	-7.2	5.4	-2.8	63.7	-1.0	53.6	-3.3
Northern/ Far West-North Western/ Central West	252.1	15.8	14.0	0.3	5.2	-0.2	71.3	1.7	64.0	3.0
Murray-Murrumbidgee	154.2	19.0	5.2	-1.6	3.3	-1.6	80.6	6.2	72.5	7.0
Victoria	2633.1	74.1	127.8	-13.2	4.6	-0.6	73.1	0.9	65.1	0.3
<i>Melbourne</i>	1942.3	62.0	93.4	-9.5	4.6	-0.6	73.2	0.9	65.9	0.6
Outer Western Melbourne	302.9	7.8	17.5	-6.3	5.5	-2.0	71.5	2.7	64.9	-0.8
North Western Melbourne	142.3	10.6	9.5	1.6	6.2	0.6	69.0	0.8	64.0	4.1
Inner Melbourne	175.1	9.1	5.2	-2.7	2.9	-1.6	77.7	0.7	74.5	1.5
North Eastern Melbourne	232.3	3.2	11.1	-2.1	4.5	-0.9	71.7	1.4	64.8	-0.9
Inner Eastern Melbourne	319.9	2.9	12.2	-3.7	3.7	-1.1	73.4	-1.0	62.8	-1.3
Southern Melbourne	229.8	15.8	10.6	1.6	4.4	0.4	77.5	2.3	68.3	3.9
Outer Eastern Melbourne	222.6	2.7	7.8	-1.3	3.4	-0.6	76.3	-1.5	68.4	-0.8
South Eastern Melbourne	188.9	12.7	12.4	2.4	6.2	0.8	69.2	1.9	66.0	3.9
Mornington Peninsula	128.4	-2.8	7.2	1.0	5.3	0.8	73.7	0.2	62.8	-2.0
<i>Balance of Victoria</i>	690.8	12.2	34.4	-3.8	4.7	-0.6	72.7	0.7	62.9	-0.4
Barwon-Western District	198.5	12.8	5.3	-6.4	2.6	-3.3	76.3	3.0	65.7	0.9
Central Highlands-Wimmera	102.0	8.8	8.2	0.5	7.5	-0.2	71.1	3.7	65.9	4.5
Loddon-Mallee	127.0	-10.6	7.5	1.0	5.6	1.0	72.2	-2.1	60.5	-5.5
Goulburn-Ovens-Murray	141.6	-6.1	6.5	1.3	4.4	1.0	68.8	-4.5	60.3	-3.1
All Gippsland	121.7	7.3	6.9	-0.1	5.3	-0.4	73.6	4.2	61.7	2.4

(a) The employment rate refers to the proportion of the working age (15-64) population who are employed.

(b) 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.

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State/Region	Employed		Unemployed		Unemployment rate		Employment Rate (a)		Participation rate	
	'000	Annual change	'000	Annual change	%	Annual change (% pts)	%	Annual change (% pts)	%	Annual change (% pts)
Queensland	2146.7	45.3	91.5	-9.5	4.1	-0.5	74.3	-0.2	66.8	-0.6
Gold Coast	258.4	-5.7	8.0	-3.1	3.0	-1.0	75.2	-1.5	65.4	-3.9
<i>Brisbane</i>	<i>1012.0</i>	<i>27.4</i>	<i>40.9</i>	<i>-4.4</i>	<i>3.9</i>	<i>-0.5</i>	<i>75.7</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>68.6</i>	<i>-0.2</i>
Brisbane City Inner Ring	274.5	9.9	8.6	0.2	3.0	0.0	81.1	0.1	75.2	0.9
Brisbane City Outer Ring	304.0	3.7	12.7	0.6	4.0	0.1	73.9	-0.8	65.5	-0.8
South and East Brisbane Balance	204.8	5.3	10.0	-3.7	4.7	-1.8	72.8	-0.2	67.0	-1.2
North and West Brisbane Balance	228.7	8.5	9.6	-1.5	4.0	-0.8	75.1	2.4	67.3	0.3
<i>Balance of Queensland</i>	<i>1134.6</i>	<i>18.0</i>	<i>50.7</i>	<i>-5.1</i>	<i>4.3</i>	<i>-0.5</i>	<i>73.0</i>	<i>-0.6</i>	<i>65.2</i>	<i>-1.0</i>
South and East Moreton	250.1	-3.0	7.5	-2.5	2.9	-0.9	75.4	-1.5	66.0	-3.2
North and West Moreton	178.0	-4.8	7.6	-3.6	4.1	-1.7	72.2	-1.6	61.6	-4.5
Wide Bay-Burnett	119.6	17.1	7.8	-1.1	6.1	-1.9	64.8	4.0	58.4	6.0
Darling Downs-South West	133.9	-2.0	5.4	0.1	3.9	0.1	72.8	-2.8	65.1	-2.7
Mackay-Fitzroy-Central West	199.3	12.3	8.7	1.8	4.2	0.6	78.0	2.8	70.0	3.0
Northern-North West	127.7	-2.9	6.1	-1.3	4.5	-0.8	74.2	-1.2	67.3	-4.0
Far North	126.2	1.1	7.6	1.6	5.7	1.1	70.3	-3.5	67.1	-0.3
South Australia	774.4	23.5	40.2	-4.7	4.9	-0.7	71.8	1.1	63.0	0.7
<i>Adelaide</i>	<i>571.2</i>	<i>16.9</i>	<i>30.7</i>	<i>-4.4</i>	<i>5.1</i>	<i>-0.8</i>	<i>71.8</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>62.9</i>	<i>0.5</i>
Northern Adelaide	179.0	14.2	10.9	-3.0	5.7	-2.1	70.6	4.3	65.1	3.0
Western Adelaide	99.2	-1.7	6.1	-0.3	5.8	-0.2	67.8	-3.4	56.8	-1.8
Eastern Adelaide	120.9	1.8	4.3	-1.5	3.5	-1.2	75.0	1.8	63.1	-0.7
Southern Adelaide	172.2	2.7	9.4	0.5	5.2	0.2	73.5	0.6	64.5	0.3
<i>Balance of South Australia</i>	<i>203.1</i>	<i>6.6</i>	<i>9.5</i>	<i>-0.3</i>	<i>4.5</i>	<i>-0.3</i>	<i>71.7</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>63.1</i>	<i>1.0</i>
Northern and Western SA	72.1	-5.4	4.4	0.1	5.8	0.5	66.7	-2.7	58.3	-4.8
Southern and Eastern SA	131.0	12.0	5.1	-0.5	3.7	-0.7	74.8	2.9	66.2	4.8
Western Australia	1130.0	41.7	40.2	2.7	3.4	0.1	76.0	0.8	68.5	0.9
<i>Perth</i>	<i>835.7</i>	<i>30.6</i>	<i>29.3</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>3.4</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>76.2</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>68.3</i>	<i>0.9</i>
Central Metropolitan	75.8	-0.5	2.6	0.8	3.3	1.1	76.5	-0.7	67.9	-1.5
East Metropolitan	141.2	10.6	3.6	-1.9	2.5	-1.6	75.6	1.5	67.4	2.4
North Metropolitan	253.6	7.7	9.0	0.8	3.4	0.2	77.2	0.5	69.4	0.5
South West Metropolitan	172.6	2.2	7.4	1.8	4.1	0.9	75.4	-0.5	67.9	-0.2
South East Metropolitan	192.5	10.7	6.7	0.5	3.3	0.0	75.9	2.6	68.2	2.2
<i>Balance of Western Australia</i>	<i>294.3</i>	<i>11.1</i>	<i>10.9</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>3.6</i>	<i>0.1</i>	<i>75.4</i>	<i>0.7</i>	<i>68.9</i>	<i>1.0</i>
Lower Western WA	151.5	6.7	5.7	0.4	3.6	0.1	75.4	1.4	66.0	1.3
Remainder-Balance WA	142.8	4.4	5.2	0.3	3.5	0.1	75.4	-0.1	72.2	0.6
Tasmania	229.2	5.0	12.4	-1.1	5.1	-0.6	69.3	0.9	60.7	0.5
Greater Hobart-Southern	116.5	3.8	5.3	-0.4	4.3	-0.4	70.8	1.3	61.8	1.3
<i>Greater Hobart</i>	<i>100.7</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>4.7</i>	<i>-0.3</i>	<i>4.5</i>	<i>-0.4</i>	<i>72.2</i>	<i>1.2</i>	<i>62.6</i>	<i>0.5</i>
Northern	63.6	1.1	3.7	0.3	5.5	0.3	68.5	0.4	60.0	0.7
Mersey-Lyell	49.0	0.1	3.4	-1.0	6.6	-1.8	66.9	0.6	59.1	-1.5
Northern Territory	107.1	5.0	5.8	1.9	5.1	1.5	71.9	1.1	71.9	2.6
Australian Capital Territory	188.7	2.7	6.0	-0.5	3.1	-0.3	78.9	-0.1	72.2	-0.7

(a) The employment rate refers to the proportion of the working age (15-64) population who are employed.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

The regional labour market estimates presented in this brochure are three-month 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 DEEWR *Small Area Labour Markets, Australia* publication, which is available, free of charge, at <http://www.workplace.gov.au> (in PDF format), or as a printed booklet upon request. This publication contains quarterly estimates of unemployment rates and levels for approximately 1350 Statistical Local Areas.

Next issue

The next issue of *Australian Regional Labour Markets*, for the June quarter 2008, is expected to be released in late July 2008.

Contact details

This brochure was prepared by the Economic and Labour Market Analysis Branch, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Canberra. For further information on this brochure or related statistics, contact Kellie in the Labour Market Analysis Section on (02) 6121 3538 or email Kellie.Gavin@deewr.gov.au.

More detailed monthly national, State and regional labour force statistics are available from the ABS. For further information on ABS labour force statistics, go to the 'Labour' theme page at the ABS website (www.abs.gov.au), or contact Craig Blair on (02) 6252 6565.