

Regional labour force – region summary, April 2020

Source: ABS 6291.0.55.001, released 21 May 2020, 11:30 am (AEST)

Table 1 Labour force status by SA4, Apr 20

SA4	Employment			Unemployment		Participation rate ^(a)	
	Level	Annual change		Rate	Annual change	Rate	Annual change
	— persons —	%		%	percentage point	%	percentage point
Brisbane - East	127,900	-1,100	-0.9	4.6	-1.0	68.7	-2.3
Brisbane - North	121,400	-6,400	-5.0	5.4	0.3	69.4	-4.7
Brisbane - South	202,300	7,600	3.9	6.1	-0.2	69.7	1.3
Brisbane - West	95,000	7,700	8.8	6.0	0.5	64.8	4.8
Brisbane Inner City	184,900	11,800	6.8	4.3	-0.2	76.2	2.3
Ipswich	169,000	5,200	3.2	8.0	1.5	65.8	1.3
Logan - Beaudesert	160,600	5,500	3.5	7.7	-0.2	64.3	0.9
Moreton Bay - North	103,800	-3,700	-3.4	7.6	-1.7	54.0	-4.1
Moreton Bay - South	113,800	-1,100	-0.9	6.0	0.9	71.1	-2.2
Cairns	133,800	12,800	10.6	5.3	0.5	69.2	6.3
Darling Downs - Maranoa	66,600	2,600	4.0	2.9	-3.2	67.3	0.3
Central Queensland	117,500	2,800	2.5	6.4	0.7	71.0	2.1
Gold Coast	333,200	-8,000	-2.3	5.5	0.7	67.0	-2.9
Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday	90,500	700	0.7	4.9	0.6	69.8	0.9
Queensland - Outback	41,900	7,100	20.5	10.9	-3.1	75.2	10.5
Sunshine Coast	187,200	4,800	2.6	5.8	-0.1	62.3	-0.1
Toowoomba	63,800	-10,400	-14.0	6.0	1.0	53.5	-8.9
Townsville	111,100	4,800	4.5	7.6	-0.3	64.8	2.1
Wide Bay	111,600	-800	-0.7	9.4	1.9	49.8	0.1
Queensland	2,536,000	41,800	1.7	6.2	0.2	65.7	0.0

(a) Participation rate refers to the number of persons in the labour force expressed as a percentage of persons aged 15 years and over.

Main findings

Note: Due to the high standard errors associated with regional labour force survey data, the ABS and QGSO recommend using 12-month averages to reduce the volatility of the underlying original data. This volatility means it can be difficult to detect real world phenomena, such as those caused by the social distancing measures introduced to combat COVID-19, in the data. **As a result, it is not recommended regional labour force data be used to assess the impact of COVID-19.**

- Cairns SA4 had the largest annual growth in employment of all 19 SA4s during April 2020 with a growth of 12,800 employed persons (Figure 1).
- Darling Downs - Maranoa SA4 had the lowest unemployment rate of all 19 SA4s during April 2020 with an unemployment rate of 2.9 per cent (Figure 2).
- Darling Downs - Maranoa SA4 had the largest percentage point decrease in unemployment rate of all 19 SA4s over the year to April 2020 with an unemployment rate decrease of 3.2 percentage points (Table 1).
- Brisbane Inner City SA4 had the highest participation rate of all 19 SA4s during April 2020 with 76.2% and Wide Bay had the lowest participation rate with 49.8%.

Figure 1 Annual change in employment by SA4, Apr 20

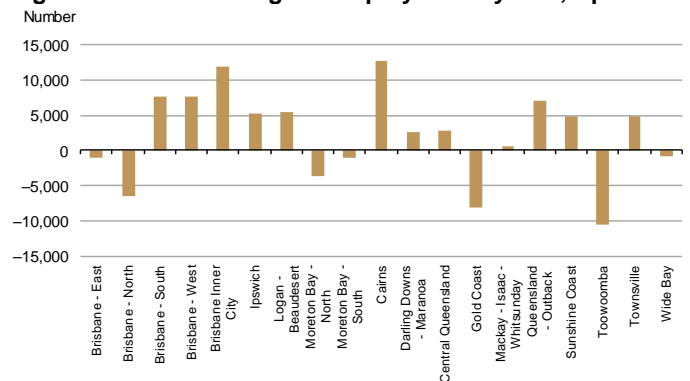
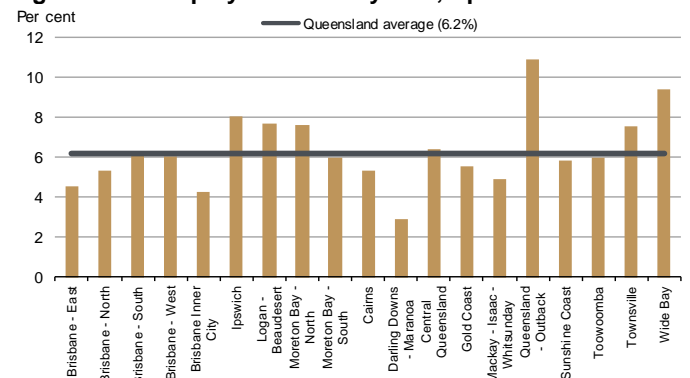


Figure 2 Unemployment rate by SA4, Apr 20



Notes (Refer to website for more detailed notes):

SA4 = Statistical Area, Level 4 (ASGS 2016 edition)

Data for Queensland as a whole are provided for reference purposes only.

The labour force statistics presented in this brief are on a sample basis and will include a sampling error.

Totals may differ due to rounding. Figures are rounded to nearest 100 persons. Calculations are based on pre-rounded figures.