

Regional labour force – region summary, December 2020

Source: ABS 6291.0.55.001, released 28 January 2021, 10:30 am (AEST)

Table 1 Labour force status by SA4, Dec 20

SA4	Employment			Unemployment		Participation rate ^(a)	
	Level	Annual change		Rate	Annual change	Rate	Annual change
	— persons —		%	%	percentage point	%	percentage point
Brisbane - East	120,100	-10,800	-8.2	7.6	3.3	66.2	-4.3
Brisbane - North	117,800	-6,000	-4.8	6.6	1.5	67.7	-3.3
Brisbane - South	198,000	-4,800	-2.3	6.4	0.0	67.7	-2.7
Brisbane - West	95,700	2,900	3.1	6.4	0.4	65.2	1.6
Brisbane Inner City	186,000	5,000	2.8	5.0	1.1	75.8	0.6
Ipswich	170,400	1,600	1.0	9.0	1.6	65.6	-0.0
Logan - Beaudesert	157,400	-700	-0.4	8.3	0.3	62.5	-1.3
Moreton Bay - North	104,000	2,200	2.1	8.7	0.6	53.8	0.4
Moreton Bay - South	109,900	-4,800	-4.2	8.5	3.2	69.6	-2.4
Cairns	130,400	-200	-0.1	6.1	1.3	67.8	0.3
Darling Downs - Maranoa	64,400	-1,300	-2.0	4.6	1.2	66.3	-0.5
Central Queensland	116,800	500	0.4	6.2	-0.7	69.9	-0.6
Gold Coast	326,300	-13,000	-3.8	6.9	1.2	65.9	-3.2
Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday	95,300	8,700	10.0	5.5	-0.4	73.5	6.2
Queensland - Outback	40,100	-500	-1.1	11.0	-0.8	71.6	-1.7
Sunshine Coast	179,500	-9,800	-5.2	6.8	0.7	59.5	-4.3
Toowoomba	73,000	9,400	14.8	6.2	1.8	60.9	8.2
Townsville	111,300	3,000	2.8	6.3	-1.7	64.0	0.4
Wide Bay	109,900	-2,700	-2.4	11.7	3.7	49.9	0.3
Queensland	2,506,200	-21,100	-0.8	7.1	1.0	64.9	-0.9

(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.** All data in this brief are based on 12-month moving averages.

- Toowoomba SA4 had the largest annual growth in employment of all 19 SA4s during December 2020 with a growth of 9,400 employed persons (Figure 1).
- Darling Downs - Maranoa SA4 had the lowest unemployment rate of all 19 SA4s during December 2020 with an unemployment rate of 4.6 per cent (Figure 2).
- Townsville SA4 had the largest percentage point decrease in unemployment rate of all 19 SA4s over the year to December 2020 with an unemployment rate decrease of 1.7 percentage points (Table 1).
- Brisbane Inner City SA4 had the highest participation rate of all 19 SA4s during December 2020 with 75.8% and Wide Bay had the lowest participation rate with 49.9%.

Figure 1 Annual change in employment by SA4, Dec 20

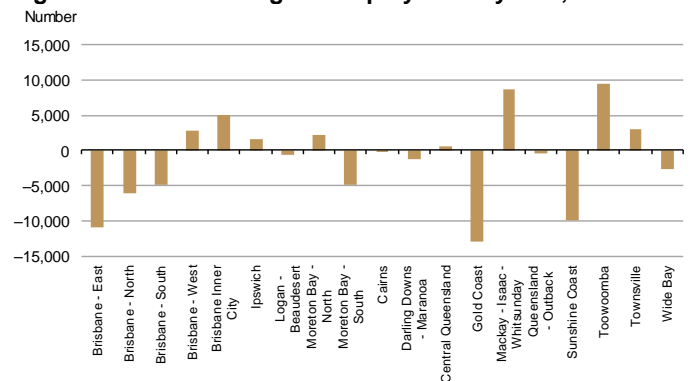
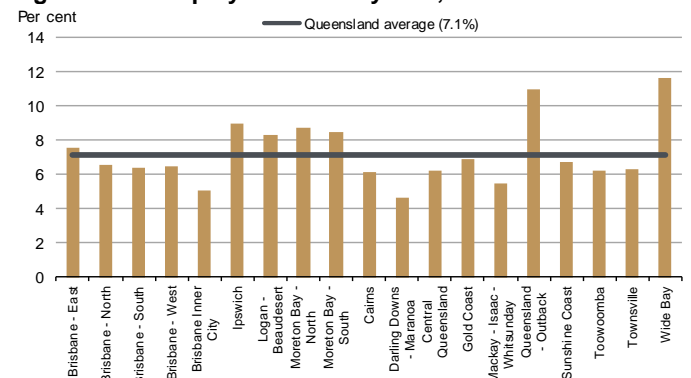


Figure 2 Unemployment rate by SA4, Dec 20



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.