

Regional labour force – region summary, February 2021

Source: ABS 6291.0.55.001, released 25 March 2021, 10:30 am (AEST)

Table 1 Labour force status by SA4, Feb 21

SA4	Employment			Unemployment		Participation rate ^(a)	
	Level	Annual change		Rate	Annual change	Rate	Annual change
	— persons —	%		%	percentage point	%	percentage point
Brisbane - East	121,300	-8,400	-6.5	7.8	3.7	66.9	-2.7
Brisbane - North	119,000	-3,400	-2.8	6.3	0.9	68.1	-2.2
Brisbane - South	197,000	-6,300	-3.1	6.9	0.5	67.5	-2.7
Brisbane - West	97,600	3,200	3.4	6.1	0.1	66.2	1.6
Brisbane Inner City	186,700	2,800	1.5	5.3	1.6	76.0	0.1
Ipswich	171,900	2,400	1.4	9.3	1.5	66.2	0.3
Logan - Beaudesert	156,400	-3,600	-2.3	8.5	0.5	62.1	-2.3
Moreton Bay - North	101,800	-1,000	-1.0	8.6	0.4	52.5	-1.3
Moreton Bay - South	110,700	-3,200	-2.8	8.4	2.7	69.8	-1.6
Cairns	128,200	-4,300	-3.2	6.5	1.4	66.8	-1.8
Darling Downs - Maranoa	63,500	-3,100	-4.6	5.1	2.0	65.8	-1.6
Central Queensland	117,300	-400	-0.4	6.5	0.2	70.3	-0.4
Gold Coast	329,200	-7,800	-2.3	7.0	1.4	66.3	-2.0
Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday	95,400	6,500	7.3	5.1	-0.7	73.4	4.4
Queensland - Outback	39,000	-2,600	-6.2	12.1	0.9	70.6	-4.0
Sunshine Coast	179,200	-10,600	-5.6	6.9	1.0	59.3	-4.3
Toowoomba	75,000	12,200	19.4	5.4	0.8	61.9	9.8
Townsville	111,500	1,600	1.5	6.2	-1.8	64.1	-0.5
Wide Bay	110,900	-1,700	-1.5	11.5	3.0	50.1	0.4
Queensland	2,511,500	-27,600	-1.1	7.3	1.1	65.0	-1.0

(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.**

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 February 2021 with a growth of 12,200 employed persons (Figure 1).
- Darling Downs - Maranoa SA4 had the lowest unemployment rate of all 19 SA4s during February 2021 with an unemployment rate of 5.1 per cent (Figure 2).
- Townsville SA4 had the largest percentage point decrease in unemployment rate of all 19 SA4s over the year to February 2021 with an unemployment rate decrease of 1.8 percentage points (Table 1).
- Brisbane Inner City SA4 had the highest participation rate of all 19 SA4s during February 2021 with 76.0% and Wide Bay had the lowest participation rate with 50.1%.

Figure 1 Annual change in employment by SA4, Feb 21

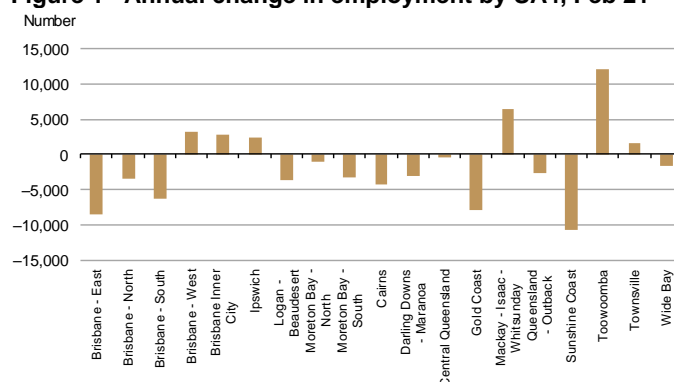
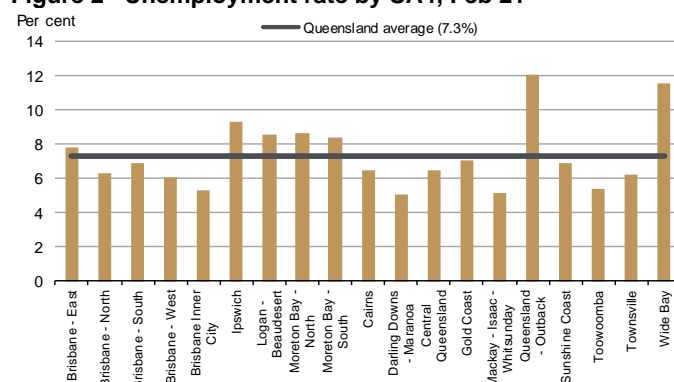


Figure 2 Unemployment rate by SA4, Feb 21



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.