

# Regional labour force – region summary, March 2021

Source: ABS 6291.0.55.001, released 22 April 2021, 11:30 am (AEST)

**Table 1 Labour force status by SA4, Mar 21**

SA4	Employment			Unemployment		Participation rate <sup>(a)</sup>	
	Level	Annual change		Rate	Annual change	Rate	Annual change
	— persons —	%		%	percentage point	%	percentage point
Brisbane - East	122,200	-6,800	-5.3	7.7	3.6	67.3	-1.8
Brisbane - North	119,700	-2,300	-1.9	6.3	1.0	68.5	-1.5
Brisbane - South	196,600	-6,600	-3.3	6.9	0.5	67.4	-2.8
Brisbane - West	98,200	3,100	3.2	6.0	0.1	66.5	1.6
Brisbane Inner City	187,700	2,800	1.5	5.4	1.6	76.3	0.2
Ipswich	172,600	2,700	1.6	9.5	1.7	66.5	0.6
Logan - Beaudesert	155,700	-5,000	-3.1	8.8	1.0	61.9	-2.5
Moreton Bay - North	101,100	-2,600	-2.5	8.6	0.6	52.1	-2.0
Moreton Bay - South	111,100	-2,800	-2.5	8.3	2.6	69.9	-1.5
Cairns	127,700	-5,600	-4.2	6.5	1.3	66.5	-2.5
Darling Downs - Maranoa	63,500	-3,200	-4.9	5.4	2.6	66.1	-1.4
Central Queensland	118,000	0	0.0	6.1	-0.3	70.5	-0.4
Gold Coast	331,300	-4,000	-1.2	7.2	1.7	66.8	-0.9
Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday	95,400	5,400	6.0	5.2	-0.0	73.5	4.1
Queensland - Outback	38,800	-3,200	-7.6	11.7	0.8	70.0	-5.1
Sunshine Coast	179,100	-10,000	-5.3	6.9	1.2	59.2	-3.9
Toowoomba	75,000	11,800	18.7	5.0	-0.0	61.6	9.1
Townsville	111,300	300	0.3	6.4	-1.3	64.1	-0.8
Wide Bay	111,600	-800	-0.7	11.0	1.8	50.1	0.2
<b>Queensland</b>	<b>2,516,700</b>	<b>-26,800</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>65.1</b>	<b>-0.9</b>

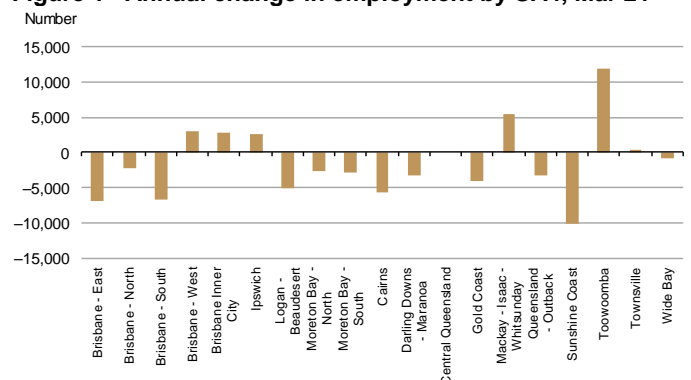
(a) Participation rate refers to the number of persons in the labour force expressed as a percentage of persons aged 15 years and over.

## Main findings

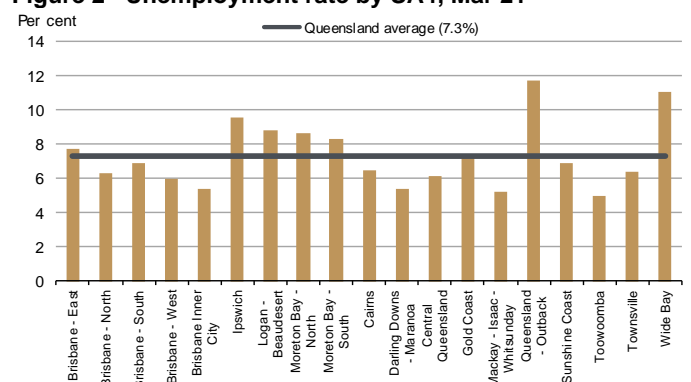
Note: Due to the high standard errors associated with regional labour force survey data, the ABS and QGSO recommend using 12-month averages to reduce the volatility of the underlying original data. This volatility means it can be difficult to detect real world phenomena, such as those caused by the social 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 March 2021 with a growth of 11,800 employed persons (Figure 1).
- Toowoomba SA4 had the lowest unemployment rate of all 19 SA4s during March 2021 with an unemployment rate of 5.0 per cent (Figure 2).
- Townsville SA4 had the largest percentage point decrease in unemployment rate of all 19 SA4s over the year to March 2021 with an unemployment rate decrease of 1.3 percentage points (Table 1).
- Brisbane Inner City SA4 had the highest participation rate of all 19 SA4s during March 2021 with 76.3% and Wide Bay had the lowest participation rate with 50.1%.

**Figure 1 Annual change in employment by SA4, Mar 21**



**Figure 2 Unemployment rate by SA4, Mar 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.