

Regional labour force – region summary, Feb 25

Source: ABS, *Labour force, Australia, detailed*, released 27 March 2025, 10:30 am (AEST)

Table 1 Labour force status by SA4, Feb 25

SA4	Employment			Unemployment		Participation ^(a)	
	Level	Annual change		Rate	Annual change	Rate	Annual change
	— persons —		%	%	percentage point	%	percentage point
Brisbane - East	140,500	3,000	2.2	3.0	-0.5	69.3	-0.1
Brisbane - North	137,600	11,500	9.2	4.3	0.3	72.7	5.1
Brisbane - South	228,400	8,600	3.9	3.7	-0.1	70.4	0.4
Brisbane - West	111,400	600	0.5	3.6	1.0	69.5	-0.9
Brisbane Inner City	221,500	10,200	4.8	3.5	-0.5	77.9	-0.1
Ipswich	193,200	-3,000	-1.5	5.3	0.8	63.8	-2.4
Logan - Beaudesert	209,400	10,100	5.1	5.1	0.5	68.9	1.2
Moreton Bay - North	133,400	14,300	12.1	4.4	-2.5	57.7	3.4
Moreton Bay - South	135,300	8,100	6.4	5.2	1.2	76.2	3.6
Cairns ^(b)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Darling Downs - Maranoa	66,100	-100	-0.2	2.4	0.1	62.7	-0.7
Central Queensland	131,400	8,400	6.8	5.3	0.3	71.9	3.7
Gold Coast	381,000	16,600	4.6	3.5	-0.0	67.4	1.1
Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday ^(b)	365,200	-10,000	-2.7	3.5	-0.1	65.9	-3.0
Queensland - Outback	40,200	-1,000	-2.3	6.2	2.3	67.1	0.0
Sunshine Coast	225,000	1,300	0.6	3.0	-0.4	63.9	-1.5
Toowoomba	94,100	16,700	21.5	2.4	-2.2	68.5	9.6
Townsville ^(b)	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Wide Bay	140,700	3,600	2.6	6.0	0.8	53.5	0.7
Queensland	2,954,400	98,900	3.5	4.0	0.0	67.2	0.6

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

(b) The ABS has collapsed survey estimates for Townsville and Cairns SA4 regions into Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday, due to collection issues following flooding in these regions. All data in Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday SA4 represents these three regions combined.
n.p. = not provided

Main findings

Note: Due to the high standard errors associated with regional labour force direct survey estimates, the ABS and QGSO recommend using 12-month averages to reduce the volatility of the underlying original data.

All data in this brief are based on 12-month moving averages of direct survey estimates.

Townsville and Cairns SA4s have no data due to collection issues following flooding in these regions. Data in Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday SA4 represents combined estimates for 3 regions: Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday, Townsville and Cairns SA4s. As such, the comparisons are made across 17 SA4s instead of the usual 19 SA4s.

- Toowoomba SA4 had the largest annual growth in employment of all 17 SA4s during February 2025 with a growth of 16,700 employed persons (Figure 1).
- Toowoomba SA4 had the lowest unemployment rate of all 17 SA4s during February 2025 with an unemployment rate of 2.4 per cent (Figure 2).
- Moreton Bay - North SA4 had the largest percentage point decrease in unemployment rate of all 17 SA4s over the year to February 2025 with an unemployment rate decrease of 2.5 percentage points (Table 1).
- Brisbane Inner City SA4 had the highest participation rate of all 17 SA4s during February 2025 with 77.9 per cent and Wide Bay had the lowest participation rate with 53.5 per cent.

Figure 1 Annual change in employment by SA4, Feb 25

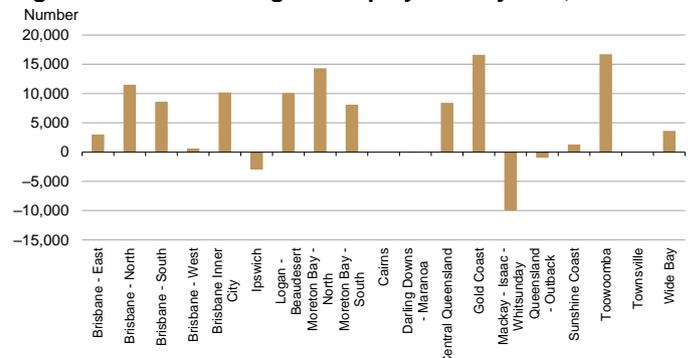
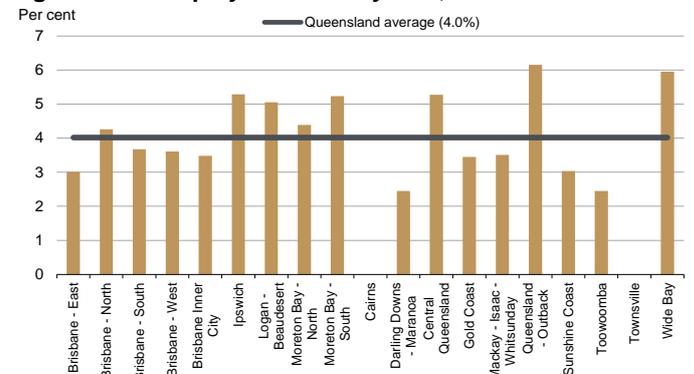


Figure 2 Unemployment rate by SA4, Feb 25



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.