

# Modelled regional labour force – region summary, January 2026

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Labour force, Australia, detailed*, released 26 February 2026, 10:30 am (AEST)

**Table 1 Labour force status by SA4, January 2026**

SA4	Employment		Unemployment		Participation <sup>(a)</sup>		
	Level — persons —	Annual change %	Rate %	Annual change percentage point	Rate %	Annual change percentage point	
Brisbane - East	141,300	2,200	1.6	3.6	0.1	68.6	-0.1
Brisbane - North	141,100	2,400	1.7	3.4	0.0	72.4	-0.1
Brisbane - South	231,500	3,600	1.6	4.0	0.2	70.2	-0.5
Brisbane - West	111,400	1,700	1.6	3.3	0.1	68.4	-0.3
Brisbane Inner City	222,300	3,000	1.4	3.3	0.1	76.8	-1.2
Cairns	144,400	1,400	0.9	4.6	0.2	67.6	-0.2
Central Queensland	129,900	1,600	1.2	4.5	0.0	69.7	-0.1
Darling Downs - Maranoa	69,200	400	0.6	3.3	0.2	65.7	-0.1
Gold Coast	394,000	7,200	1.9	3.1	0.1	68.4	-0.2
Ipswich	207,300	6,000	3.0	5.5	-0.0	67.1	0.2
Logan - Beaudesert	207,100	5,500	2.7	5.7	0.3	66.4	-0.3
Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday	110,200	1,000	0.9	2.9	0.1	72.1	-0.2
Moreton Bay - North	134,600	3,800	2.9	5.5	0.1	57.2	0.1
Moreton Bay - South	133,400	2,900	2.2	3.7	0.0	72.8	0.1
Queensland - Outback	40,000	0	-0.0	6.4	0.3	66.5	0.0
Sunshine Coast	223,900	4,400	2.0	3.2	0.0	62.5	-0.1
Toowoomba	86,000	1,100	1.3	3.9	0.2	62.9	0.0
Townsville	126,000	700	0.6	4.9	0.2	66.6	-0.2
Wide Bay	143,800	3,100	2.2	5.5	0.0	53.4	0.2
<b>Queensland</b>	<b>2,997,400</b>	<b>52,000</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>67.0</b>	<b>-0.2</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: All data in this brief are based on 12-month moving averages of modelled estimates due to seasonal variation and noise associated with regional labour force modelled estimates. The modelled regional labour force estimates enhance the direct survey estimates of regional labour market data using administrative data and statistical modelling.

- Gold Coast SA4 had the largest annual growth in employment of all 19 SA4s during January 2026 with a growth of 7,200 employed persons (Figure 1).
- Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday SA4 had the lowest unemployment rate of all 19 SA4s during January 2026 with an unemployment rate of 2.9% (Figure 2).
- Ipswich SA4 had the largest percentage point decrease in unemployment rate of all 19 SA4s over the year to January 2026 with an unemployment rate decrease of 0.0 percentage points (Table 1).
- Brisbane Inner City SA4 had the highest participation rate of all 19 SA4s during January 2026 with 76.8% and Wide Bay had the lowest participation rate with 53.4%.

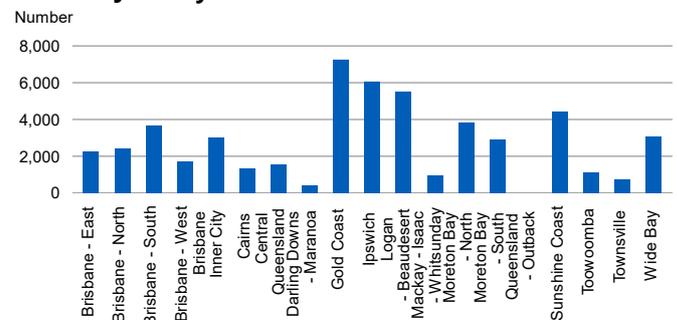
Notes (refer to website for more detailed notes):

SA4 = Statistical Area Level 4 (ASGS 2016 edition)

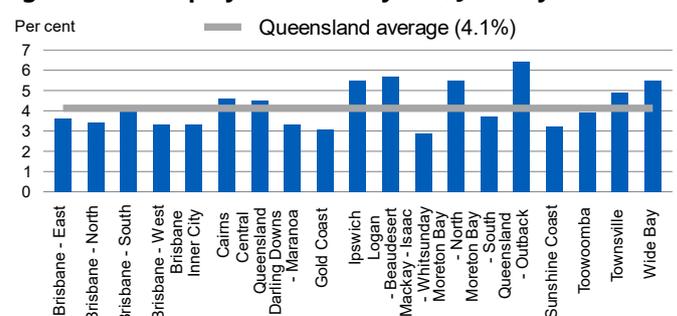
Data for Queensland are provided for reference purposes only.

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

**Figure 1 Annual change in employment by SA4, January 2026**



**Figure 2 Unemployment rate by SA4, January 2026**



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