

Modelled regional labour force – region summary, February 2026

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed*, released 26 March 2026, 10:30 am (AEST)

Table 1 Labour force status by SA4, February 2026

SA4	Employment		Unemployment		Participation ^(a)		
	Level	Annual change	Rate	Annual change	Rate	Annual change	
	— persons —	%	%	percentage point	%	percentage point	
Brisbane - East	141,500	2,100	1.5	3.7	0.1	68.7	-0.1
Brisbane - North	141,100	2,400	1.7	3.5	0.1	72.3	-0.1
Brisbane - South	231,500	3,800	1.6	4.1	0.2	70.1	-0.4
Brisbane - West	111,400	1,600	1.5	3.4	0.2	68.4	-0.2
Brisbane Inner City	222,800	3,100	1.4	3.3	0.1	76.9	-1.1
Cairns	144,800	1,400	1.0	4.6	0.1	67.7	-0.2
Central Queensland	129,800	1,500	1.1	4.6	0.1	69.7	-0.1
Darling Downs - Maranoa	69,100	300	0.5	3.3	0.2	65.6	-0.1
Gold Coast	395,000	7,100	1.8	3.1	0.1	68.5	-0.2
Ipswich	208,300	6,000	3.0	5.5	0.1	67.3	0.3
Logan - Beaudesert	206,500	5,300	2.6	5.8	0.4	66.2	-0.3
Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday	110,100	1,000	0.9	3.0	0.1	72.0	-0.1
Moreton Bay - North	135,500	3,800	2.9	5.5	0.1	57.5	0.2
Moreton Bay - South	133,700	2,800	2.1	3.7	0.0	72.9	0.1
Queensland - Outback	39,800	-100	-0.2	6.5	0.4	66.4	0.0
Sunshine Coast	224,000	4,200	1.9	3.2	0.1	62.5	-0.1
Toowoomba	86,000	1,100	1.3	3.9	0.2	62.9	0.0
Townsville	125,800	700	0.6	5.0	0.2	66.5	-0.1
Wide Bay	144,100	3,100	2.2	5.5	-0.0	53.5	0.2
Queensland	3,000,700	51,100	1.7	4.2	0.1	67.0	-0.1

(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 February 2026 with a growth of 7,100 employed persons (Figure 1).
- Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday SA4 had the lowest unemployment rate of all 19 SA4s during February 2026 with an unemployment rate of 3.0% (Figure 2).
- Wide Bay SA4 had the largest percentage point decrease in unemployment rate of all 19 SA4s over the year to February 2026 with an unemployment rate decrease of less than 0.1 of a percentage point (Table 1).
- Brisbane Inner City SA4 had the highest participation rate of all 19 SA4s during February 2026 with 76.9% and Wide Bay had the lowest participation rate with 53.5%.

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, February 2026

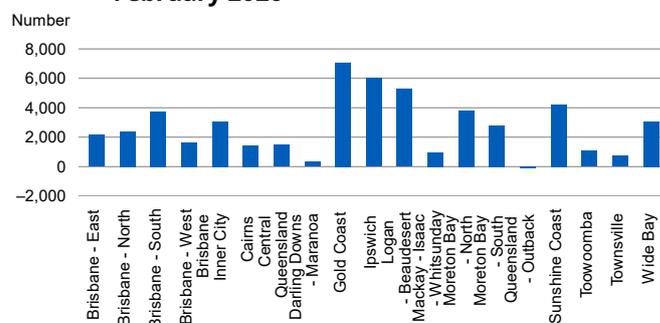
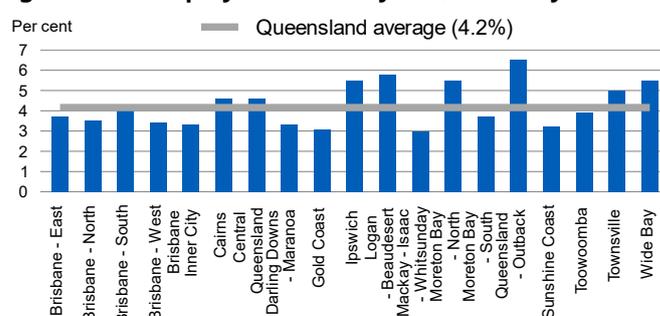


Figure 2 Unemployment rate by SA4, February 2026



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