Modelled regional labour force – region summary, October 2026

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Regional Labour Force,* released 26 November 2026, 10:30 am (AEST)

Table 1 Labour force status by SA4, October 2026

SA4	Employment			Unemployment		Participation[(a)]	
	Level	Annual change		Rate	Annual change	Rate	Annual change
	— persons —		%	%	percentage point	%	percentage point
Brisbane - East	143,500	1,800	1.2	3.7	0.2	68.7	–0.2
Brisbane - North	143,000	2,000	1.5	3.4	0.0	72.3	–0.2
Brisbane - South	232,900	2,100	0.9	4.1	0.2	69.8	–0.7
Brisbane - West	112,100	1,000	0.9	3.5	0.2	68.2	–0.4
Brisbane Inner City	221,800	1,100	0.5	3.4	0.2	76.2	–1.1
Cairns	144,300	1,100	0.8	4.8	0.1	67.0	–0.3
Central Queensland	130,400	1,000	0.8	4.7	0.2	69.2	–0.3
Darling Downs - Maranoa	69,600	0	–0.0	3.4	0.2	65.7	–0.4
Gold Coast	398,400	4,900	1.2	3.2	0.1	68.3	–0.4
Ipswich	211,200	5,600	2.7	5.8	0.3	66.8	0.1
Logan - Beaudesert	211,100	5,000	2.4	6.0	0.4	66.4	–0.2
Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday	110,700	300	0.3	3.1	0.2	71.6	–0.6
Moreton Bay - North	137,600	3,400	2.5	5.5	0.2	57.2	–0.0
Moreton Bay - South	134,700	1,900	1.4	3.8	0.2	72.9	–0.1
Queensland - Outback	39,900	–300	–0.7	6.9	0.8	66.7	–0.0
Sunshine Coast	227,800	3,800	1.7	3.2	0.1	62.7	–0.1
Toowoomba	88,100	900	1.0	3.9	0.2	63.7	–0.1
Townsville	126,200	600	0.5	5.2	0.2	66.3	–0.2
Wide Bay	146,200	2,400	1.7	5.5	0.1	53.6	0.0
Queensland	**3,029,700**	**38,600**	**1.3**	**4.2**	**0.2**	**66.9**	**–0.3**

(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.

- Ipswich SA4 had the largest annual growth in employment of all 19 SA4s during October 2026 with a growth of 5,600 employed persons (Figure 1).
- Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday SA4 had the lowest unemployment rate of all 19 SA4s during October 2026 with an unemployment rate of 3.1% (Figure 2).
- All SA4s experienced an increase in their unemployment rate over the year to October 2026 with Brisbane - North SA4 having the smallest increase 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 October 2026 with 76.2% and Wide Bay had the lowest participation rate with 53.6%.

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, October 2026

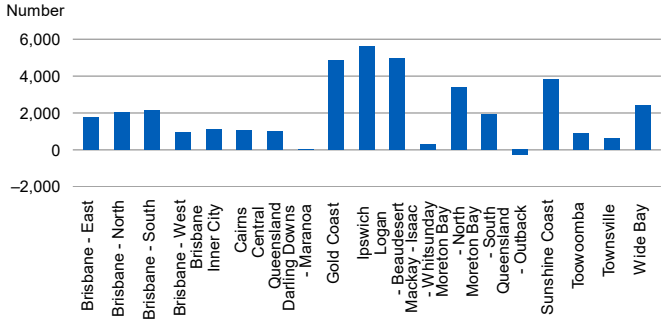
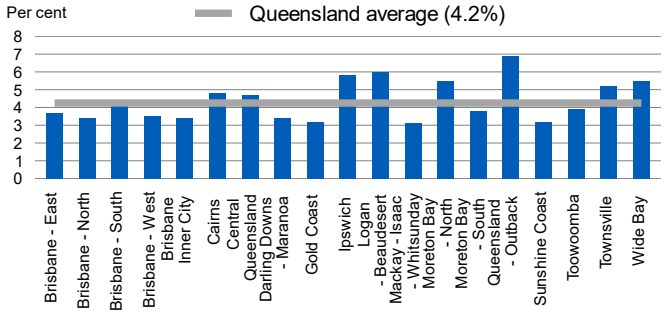


Figure 2 Unemployment rate by SA4, October 2026



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