Modelled regional youth unemployment, October 2026

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

Table 1 Youth unemployment rate by SA4

SA4	Oct 25	Oct 26	Annual change
	— % —		percentage point
Brisbane - East	9.1	9.9	0.7
Brisbane - North	8.5	8.7	0.2
Brisbane - South	9.0	9.6	0.6
Brisbane - West	8.0	8.5	0.5
Brisbane Inner City	6.7	7.1	0.4
Cairns	11.3	11.6	0.2
Central Queensland	9.4	9.9	0.5
Darling Downs - Maranoa	7.5	7.9	0.5
Gold Coast	6.9	7.3	0.4
Ipswich	12.2	13.0	0.8
Logan - Beaudesert	13.1	13.9	0.9
Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday	5.9	6.3	0.5
Moreton Bay - North	12.1	12.7	0.6
Moreton Bay - South	9.3	9.8	0.5
Queensland - Outback	16.4	18.2	1.8
Sunshine Coast	7.3	7.6	0.2
Toowoomba	9.0	9.4	0.5
Townsville	10.6	11.1	0.6
Wide Bay	12.8	13.0	0.3
Queensland (a)	**9.4**	**9.9**	**0.5**
Queensland (b)	**9.2**	**9.4**	**0.2**

(a) 12-month moving average of modelled estimate – data for Queensland are provided for reference purposes only.
(b) 12-month moving average of direct survey estimate – reporting of the Queensland youth unemployment estimate should use direct survey estimates.

Main findings

Note: Unless otherwise specified, 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.

- Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday SA4 had the lowest youth unemployment rate of all 19 SA4s (6.3%) during October 2026 (Figure 1).
- Queensland - Outback SA4 had the highest youth unemployment rate of all 19 SA4s during October 2026 with an unemployment rate of 18.2% (Figure 1).
- Brisbane - North SA4 had the smallest percentage point increase in the youth unemployment rate of all 19 SA4s over the year to October 2026 with an unemployment rate increase of 0.2 of a percentage point (Figure 2).
- Queensland - Outback SA4 had the largest percentage point increase in the youth unemployment rate of all 19 SA4s over the year to October 2026 with an unemployment rate increase of 1.8 percentage points (Figure 2).

Figure 1 Youth unemployment rate by SA4, October 2026

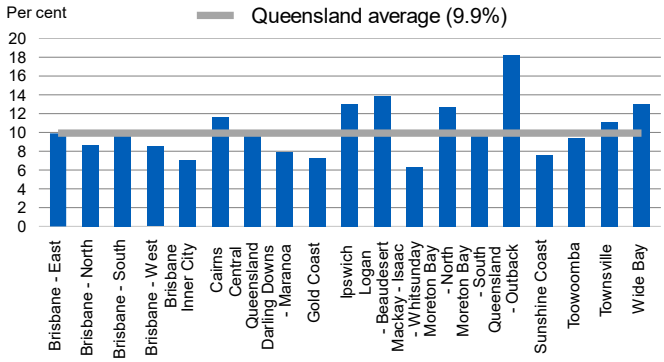
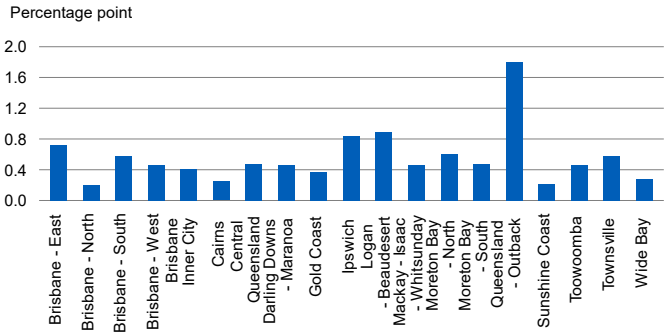


Figure 2 Annual change in youth unemployment rate by SA4, October 2026



Notes (refer to website for more detailed notes):
Youth refers to persons aged 15 to 24 years.
SA4 = Statistical Area Level 4 (ASGS 2016 edition)
Data for Queensland are provided for reference purposes only.

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