



1. Introduction
2. Labour force trends
3. The Northern Beaches region and NSW electorates
4. Definitions and methodological notes

Northern Beaches labour force trends

by Daniel Montoya

1. Introduction

This e-brief, which is part of a series relating to all NSW regions, sets out key labour force trends for the residents of the Northern Beaches region. Data has been sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) monthly [Labour Force Survey](#). The ABS divides NSW into 28 regions; 15 in Greater Sydney and 13 in Regional NSW.

Covered are four key labour force indicators:

- Employment (full-time and part-time);
- The participation rate;
- The unemployment rate; and
- The youth unemployment rate.

A map of the Northern Beaches region is included at the end of the e-brief. The map also shows the NSW electorates located wholly or partly within the region. The e-brief finishes with a short section on labour force definitions and methodological notes.

2. Labour force trends

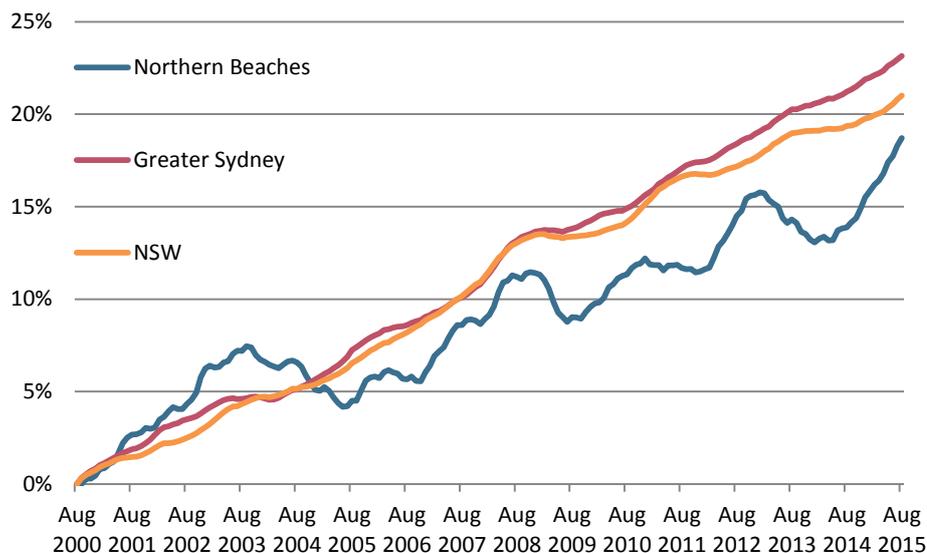
In August 2015, the Northern Beaches region had the highest participation rate in NSW, and the lowest total and youth unemployment rates. 2014-15 employment growth was also much higher than the Greater Sydney and NSW figures.

Headline figures (August 2015)

Indicators	Northern Beaches	Greater Sydney	NSW
Employment	147,100	2,466,900	3,664,200
2014-15 employment growth	4.9%	1.9%	1.6%
Participation rate	71.1%	65.7%	63.3%
Unemployment rate	2.6%	5.2%	5.9%
Youth unemployment rate	5.3%	11.4%	12.8%

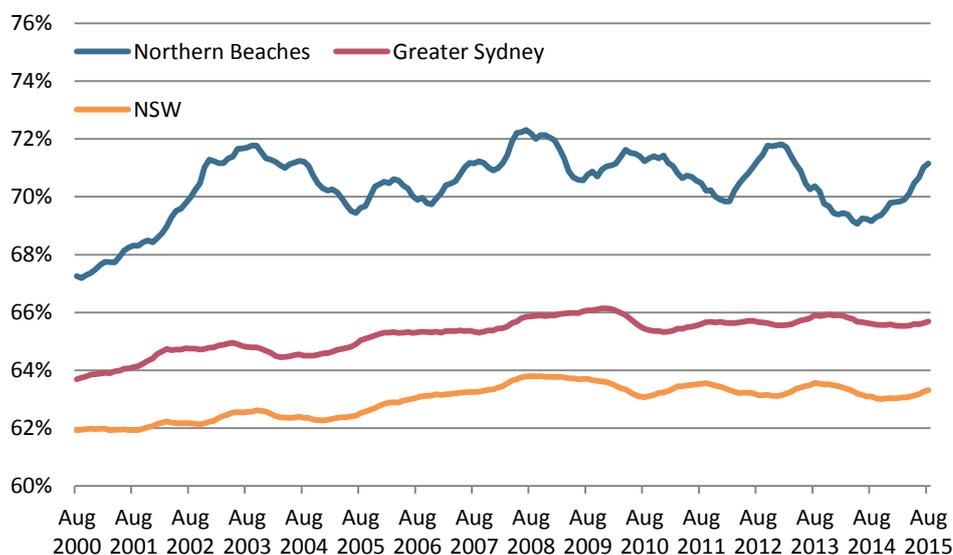
Between August 2000 and August 2015, employment in the Northern Beaches increased by 18.7%, from 122,100 to 147,100; Greater Sydney grew by 23.1% and NSW grew by 21.0%. After reaching 142,900 in January 2013, total employment fell to 139,100 in January 2014 before rising to 147,100 in August 2015. While full-time employment finished higher in August 2015 (103,100) compared to January 2013 (98,700), part-time employment finished marginally lower, from 44,200 in January 2013 to 44,000 in August 2015. Year on year, total employment grew by 4.9% in the Northern Beaches, 1.9% in Greater Sydney and 1.6% in NSW.

Cumulative employment growth (August 2000 to August 2015)



Since August 2000, the Northern Beaches participation rate has fluctuated between a low of 67.3% in August 2000 and a high of 72.3% in July 2008. In August 2015, the Northern Beaches had the highest participation rate in NSW (71.1%). The 2-year average participation rates were 69.8% (Northern Beaches), 65.7% (Greater Sydney) and 63.2% (NSW).

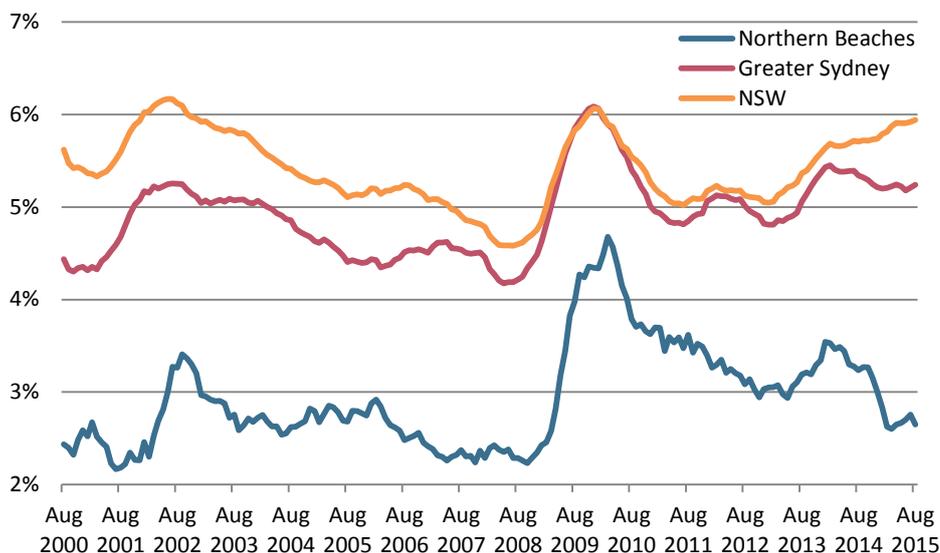
Participation rate (August 2000 to August 2015)



Northern Beaches labour force trends

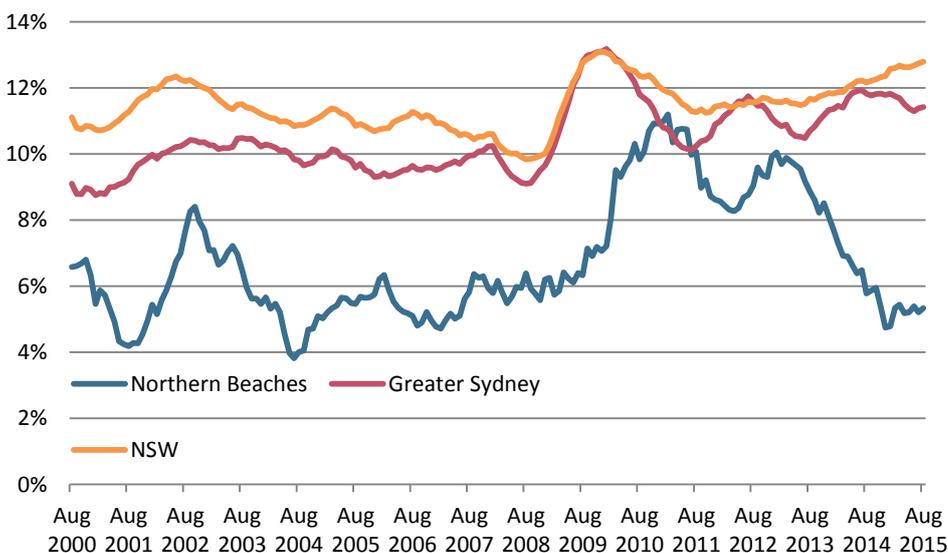
Between August 2000 and March 2009, the Northern Beaches unemployment rate averaged 2.6%. After reaching a high of 4.7% in March 2010, most probably due to the Global Financial Crisis, the unemployment rate has fallen to again reach 2.6% in August 2015, the lowest rate in NSW. The 2-year average unemployment rate for the Northern Beaches was 3.1%; it was 5.3% for Greater Sydney and 5.7% for NSW.

Unemployment rate (August 2000 to August 2015)



Over the last 15 years, the Northern Beaches youth unemployment rate has fluctuated between a low of 3.8% in July 2004 and a high of 11.2% in February 2011. In August 2015, the Northern Beaches had the lowest youth unemployment rate in the State (5.3%). At this time, the Greater Sydney rate was 11.4% and the NSW rate was 12.8%. The 2-year average youth unemployment rates were 6.3% (Northern Beaches), 11.5% (Greater Sydney) and 12.2% (NSW).

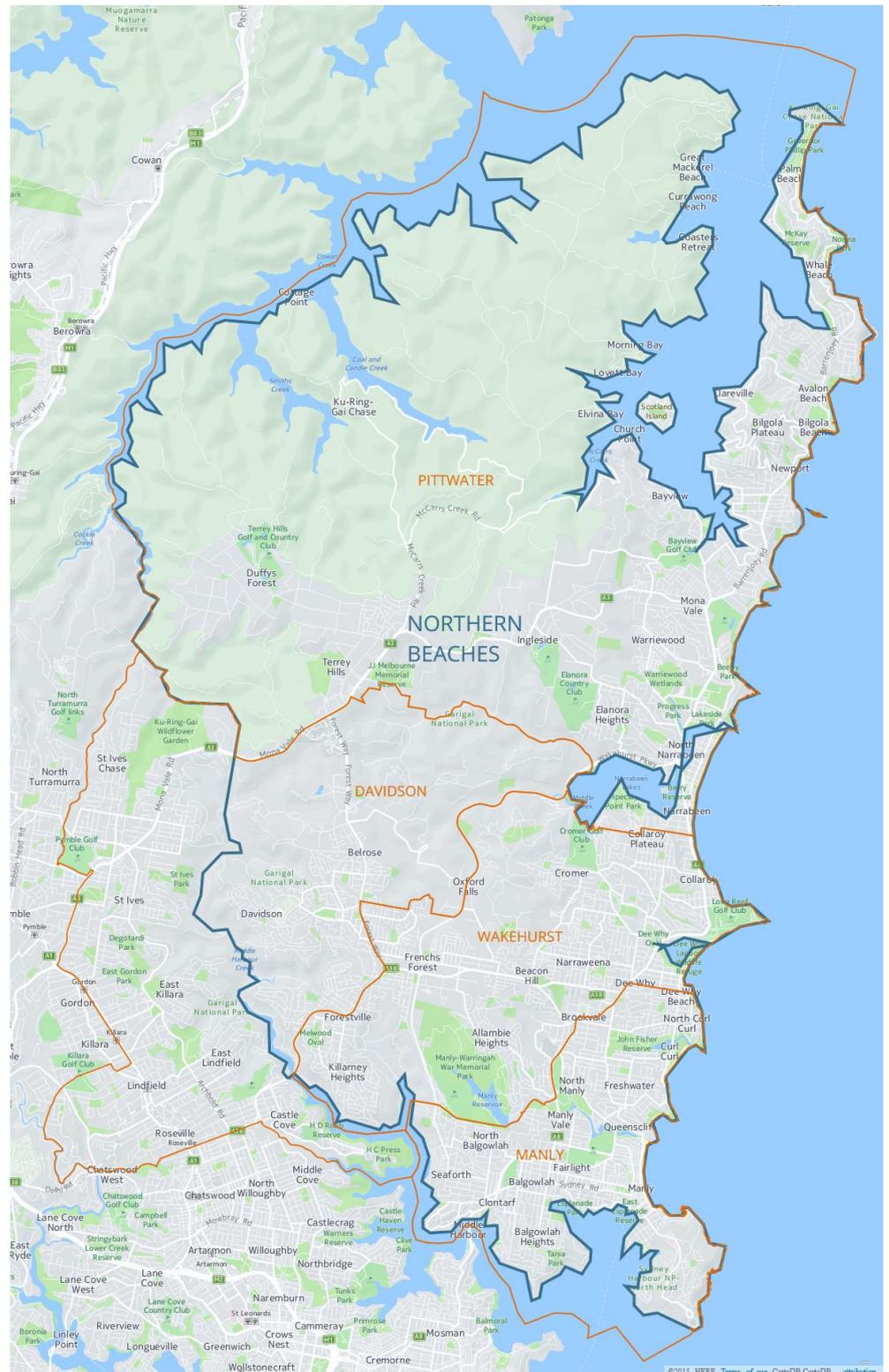
Youth unemployment rate (August 2000 to August 2015)



3. The Northern Beaches region and NSW electorates

Four electorates are located either wholly or partly within the Northern Beaches region, based on their population at the 2011 Census¹: Davidson (28%); Manly (100%); Pittwater (100%); and Wakehurst (100%).

Northern Beaches region and NSW electorates



4. Definitions and methodological notes

A number of methodological notes merit mention. These notes are set out in more detail at the beginning of the 2014 Research Service publication, [NSW regional labour force trends by labour force indicator](#).

- The data presented in this e-brief applies to an area's *resident labour force* (i.e. those persons who reside in an area) as opposed to its *workforce* i.e. those persons who work in an area.
- The ABS [Labour Force Survey](#) covers about 0.32% of the Australian population aged 15 years or over. Its primary purpose is to provide labour force estimates for the nation and, secondarily, for each State and Territory. Due to the small sample size involved, regional data should therefore be interpreted with caution.
- While labour force data is normally subject to seasonal adjustment, this only applies to National and State level data. The regional data in this publication is original, non-seasonally adjusted data; for comparative purposes, the State level data in this publication is also original, non-seasonally adjusted data.²
- Using the [recommended](#) ABS methodology for regional labour force indicators, all the data presented are 12-month averages.
- Youth unemployment is a complex issue. It is worth noting therefore that the youth unemployment rate only paints part of the picture, generally being held to represent an overestimate of youth unemployment.

Definitions

Full-time employed	Employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and those who, although usually working fewer than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the Labour Force Survey week.
---------------------------	--

Labour force	The total number of employed and unemployed persons.
---------------------	--

Participation rate	The labour force expressed as a percentage of the civilian population in the same age group.
---------------------------	--

Part-time employed	Employed persons who usually worked fewer than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the Labour Force Survey week or were not at work during the reference week.
---------------------------	---

Unemployed	Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the week of the Labour Force Survey, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• had actively looked for full time or part time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or• were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.
-------------------	---

Unemployment rate The number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

Youth population Persons aged 15 to 24

Related Research Service publications:

- [Western Sydney: an economic profile](#) (2015)
- [NSW Economic Update Winter 2015](#) (2015)
- [Labour force trends in Greater Sydney](#) (2014)
- [NSW regional labour force trends by labour force indicator](#) (2014)

¹ The electoral boundaries as included in this map are the official boundaries from the [Electoral Commission NSW](#). The only way to calculate what proportion of an electorate's population is contained within an ABS region is to use an approximation of the electoral boundary based on the ABS statistical geography. This is the only methodology by which Census data can be generated for a NSW electorate.

² Seasonally adjusted employment figures, participation rates and unemployment rates for NSW can be found in the Research Service publication, [NSW Economic Update Winter 2015](#)

Information about Research Publications can be found on the Internet at the:
[NSW Parliament's Website](#)

Advice on legislation or legal policy issues contained in this paper is provided for use in parliamentary debate and for related parliamentary purposes. This paper is not professional legal opinion.

© 2015

Except to the extent of the uses permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part of this document may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means including information storage and retrieval systems, without the prior consent from the Manager, NSW Parliamentary Research Service, other than by Members of the New South Wales Parliament in the course of their official duties.

ISSN 1838-0204