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NSW Regional Labour Force Trends

Statistical Indicators 3/2013

by Daniel Montoya

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NSW Regional Labour Force Trends

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SUMMARY

This statistical indicators publication sets out NSW regional labour force trends on an annual basis for the period January 2008 to January 2013. It uses data from the ABS publication, [Labour Force, Australia, Detailed – Electronic Delivery, Jan 2013](#), which starts in November 2007. Following the methodology adopted by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations in its [Labour Market Information Portal](#), all the data presented are three-month averages. While the commentary pays particular attention to changes between January 2008 and January 2013, it is worth noting that figures may fluctuate substantially across the period.

There are 13 labour force regions (LFRs) in metropolitan NSW and 6 in regional NSW, two of which are split in two by the ABS: the Hunter LFR is split into the Hunter (excl. Newcastle) region and the Newcastle region; and the Illawarra LFR is split into the Illawarra (excl. Wollongong) region and the Wollongong region. A map of the regions precedes the labour force indicators. Data is provided for each of the regions along with State, metropolitan NSW and regional NSW figures for comparative purposes.

Six labour force indicators are included in this publication: total employment; participation rate; full-time employment; part-time employment; unemployment; and the unemployment rate. While these indicators could have been broken down across several demographic variables, only gender has been selected for the purposes of this publication, and then only for selected indicators: the participation rate; part-time employment figures; and the unemployment rate.

It is important to note that the data source – the [ABS Labour Force Survey](#) – is based on a sample of private dwellings (approximately 29,000 houses, flats etc) and non-private dwellings, such as hotels and motels. The sample covers about 0.33% of the Australian civilian population aged 15 years or over. The primary purpose of the survey is to provide labour force estimates for the nation and, secondarily, for each State and Territory. Consequently, regional-level data may be more likely to be subject to errors.

An additional caveat is that, while labour force data is normally subject to seasonal adjustment, this only applies to National and State level data. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from a time series so that the effects of other influences on the series can be more clearly recognised. The regional data presented in this paper is original, non-seasonally adjusted data. Original State level data has therefore been included for comparative purposes. Seasonally adjusted employment figures, participation rates and unemployment rates for NSW can be found in the Research Service publication, [Economic Indicators NSW \(January 2013\)](#).

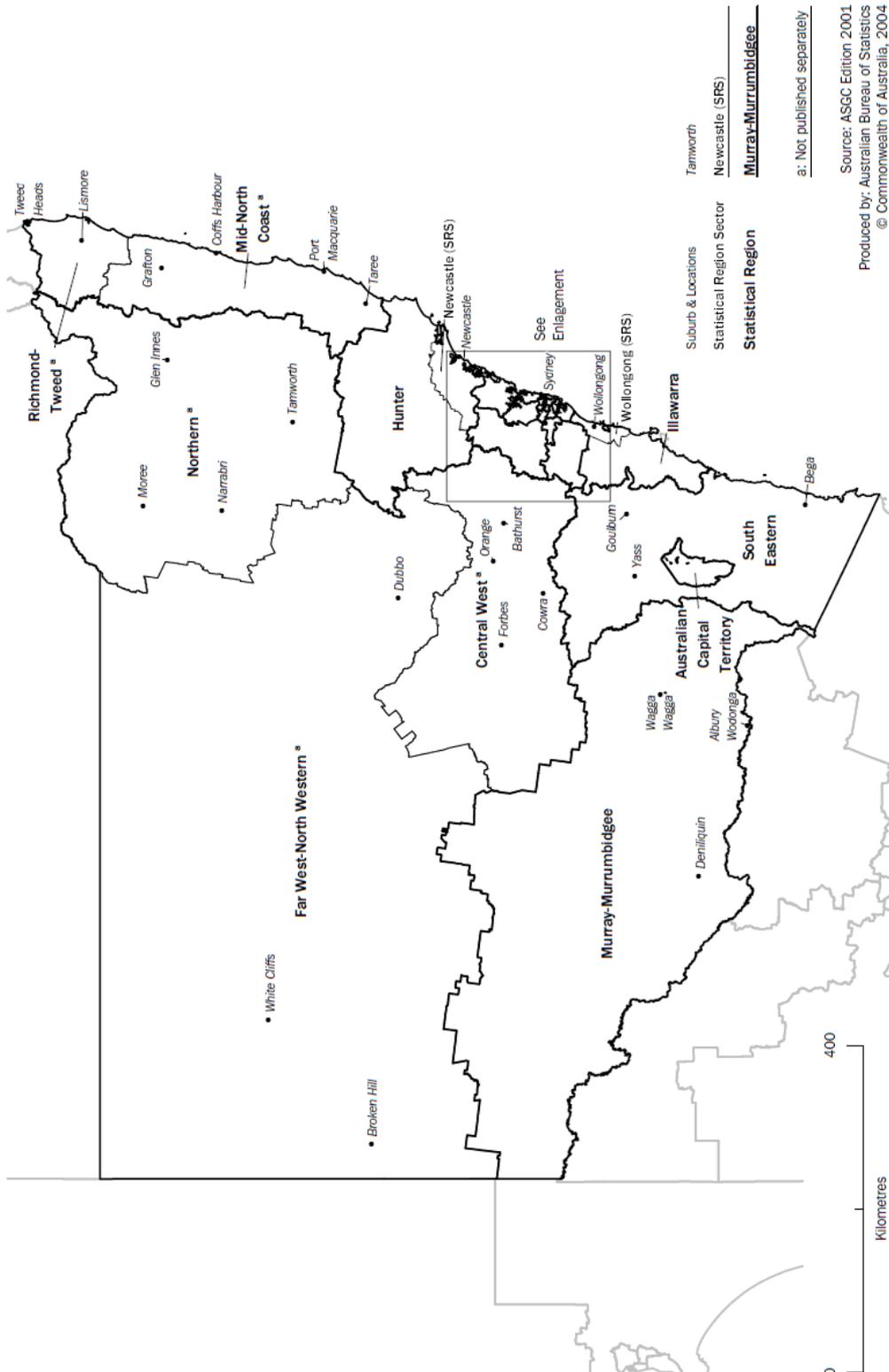
The following table summarises the current key figures for all 21 regions. The publication ends with a rearrangement of key data into tables by region.

Key NSW regional labour force figures: January 2013

Region	Employment ('000)	Part-time employment ('000)	Unemploy. ('000)	Unemploy. rate (%)	Participation rate (%)
Metropolitan	2,366.3	657.6	120.1	4.8%	65.3%
Canterbury-Bankstown	140.0	46.4	13.4	8.7%	56.3%
Central Northern Sydney	238.1	75.1	10.1	4.1%	66.3%
Central Western Sydney	155.6	41.2	14.3	8.4%	60.7%
Eastern Suburbs	150.1	36.5	2.2	1.4%	66.6%
Fairfield-Liverpool	162.0	46.5	12.4	7.1%	57.4%
Gosford-Wyong	151.2	46.8	7.8	4.9%	59.2%
Inner Sydney	237.2	55.3	10.6	4.3%	76.7%
Inner Western Sydney	108.5	33.7	3.8	3.4%	69.0%
Lower Northern Sydney	182.6	43.0	7.0	3.7%	67.5%
North Western Sydney	324.7	86.1	19.2	5.6%	68.1%
Northern Beaches	142.1	46.3	3.9	2.6%	69.4%
Outer South Western Sydney	121.7	31.7	8.0	6.1%	64.5%
St George-Sutherland	252.6	68.9	7.5	2.9%	65.8%
Regional	1,265.9	390.9	73.2	5.5%	60.1%
Hunter (excl. Newcastle)	49.2	15.7	2.9	5.5%	59.2%
Illawarra (excl. Wollongong)	59.8	21.1	5.8	8.9%	54.1%
Murray-Murrumbidgee	148.0	47.8	7.0	4.5%	66.6%
Newcastle	273.3	91.5	12.9	4.5%	62.5%
Northern, Far West-North Western and Central West	246.7	68.4	14.7	5.6%	60.7%
Richmond-Tweed and Mid-North Coast	237.1	79.1	17.3	6.8%	54.2%
South Eastern	116.6	30.4	4.4	3.7%	66.1%
Wollongong	135.1	37.0	8.3	5.7%	58.3%
NSW	3,632.2	1,048.6	193.3	5.1%	63.4%

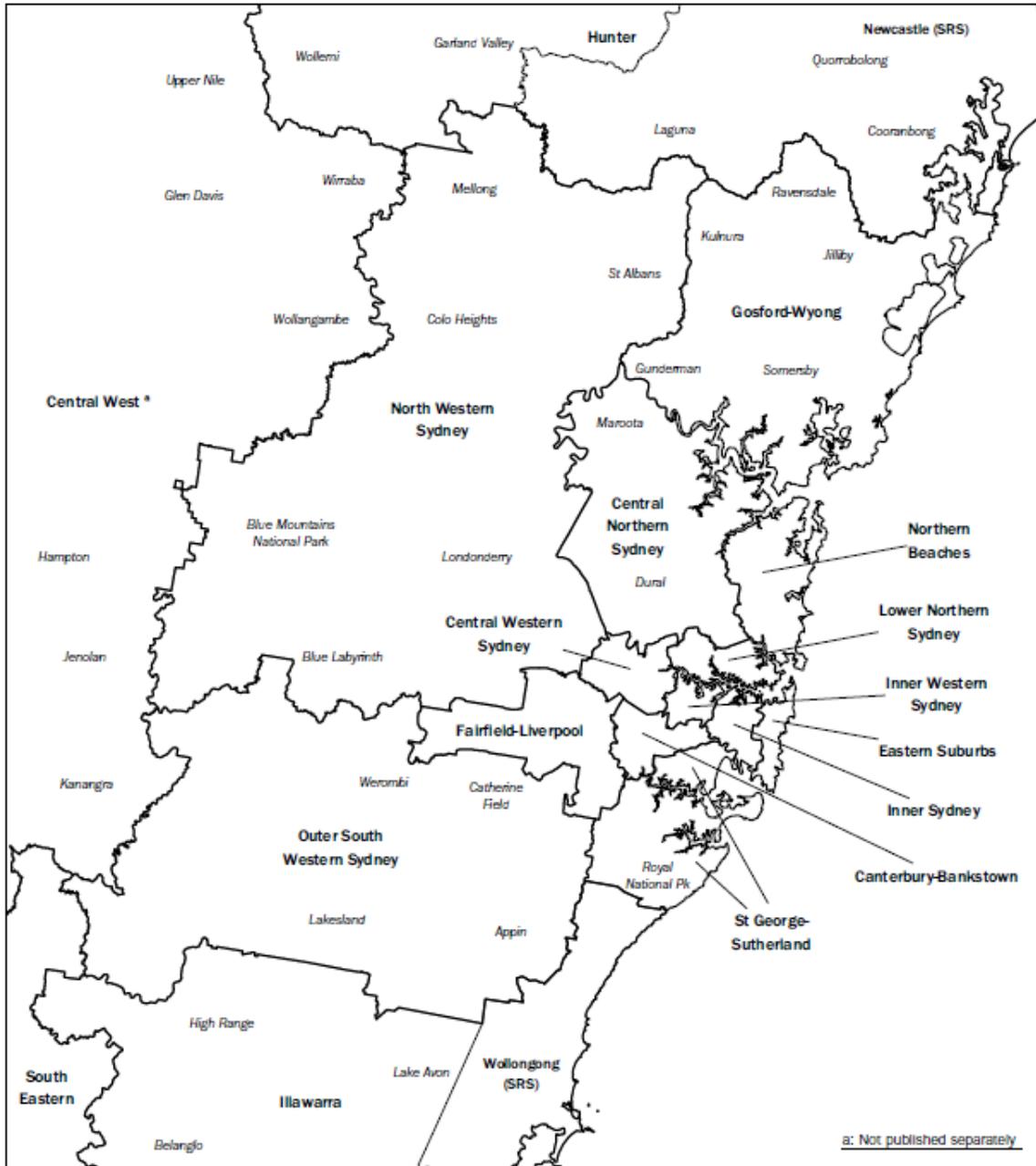
NSW LABOUR FORCE REGIONS

NSW Labour Force Regions

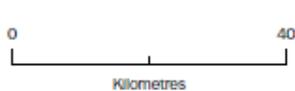


Source: ABS, [Australian Labour Market Statistics, Jul 2004](#), Cat. No. 6105.0, 2004

NSW Labour Force Regions (inset)



a: Not published separately



Suburb & Locations
 Statistical Region Sector Newcastle (SRS)
 Statistical Region Northern Beaches

Source: ASGC Edition 2001
 Produced by: Australian Bureau of Statistics
 © Commonwealth of Australia, 2004

Source: ABS, [Australian Labour Market Statistics, Jul 2004](#), Cat. No. 6105.0, 2004

EMPLOYMENT

Total employment: 2008 to 2013 ('000)

Region	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Metropolitan	2,227.8	2,243.3	2,278.8	2,329.4	2,336.3	2,366.3	6.2%
Canterbury-Bankstown	133.7	138.3	131.3	141.3	141.4	140.0	4.7%
Central Northern Sydney	232.4	229.9	238.6	233.0	239.4	238.1	2.5%
Central Western Sydney	150.3	153.7	141.6	160.1	160.3	155.6	3.5%
Eastern Suburbs	137.9	143.1	143.5	152.1	147.9	150.1	8.8%
Fairfield-Liverpool	162.7	158.1	157.3	159.2	158.0	162.0	-0.5%
Gosford-Wyong	146.5	135.1	142.9	137.3	142.6	151.2	3.2%
Inner Sydney	202.6	220.5	219.6	222.3	215.5	237.2	17.1%
Inner Western Sydney	97.2	95.3	91.3	105.2	104.0	108.5	11.6%
Lower Northern Sydney	167.4	172.7	179.4	186.6	185.6	182.6	9.1%
North Western Sydney	294.6	313.1	319.3	316.1	314.8	324.7	10.2%
Northern Beaches	135.1	135.1	139.8	140.1	140.1	142.1	5.2%
Outer South Western Sydney	128.2	119.7	126.6	131.1	130.0	121.7	-5.1%
St George-Sutherland	239.0	228.8	247.6	244.9	256.7	252.6	5.7%
Regional	1,180.9	1,198.9	1,185.4	1,254.4	1,244.6	1,265.9	7.2%
Hunter (excl. Newcastle)	43.9	49.5	51.1	53.1	45.9	49.2	12.2%
Illawarra (excl. Wollongong)	50.1	59.8	59.4	62.7	56.9	59.8	19.2%
Murray-Murrumbidgee	147.8	135.3	135.3	135.7	138.8	148.0	0.1%
Newcastle	250.8	247.4	248.9	271.2	271.9	273.3	9.0%
Northern, Far West-North Western and Central West	241.2	240.9	251.5	253.1	249.1	246.7	2.3%
Richmond-Tweed and Mid-North Coast	217.5	226.2	216.8	239.0	240.0	237.1	9.0%
South Eastern	104.2	105.6	106.5	114.6	115.9	116.6	12.0%
Wollongong	125.5	134.2	115.8	125.0	126.0	135.1	7.6%
NSW	3,408.7	3,442.2	3,464.2	3,583.7	3,580.9	3,632.2	6.6%

As of January 2013, 3.63 million people in NSW were in employment. This is equivalent to a 6.6% increase since January 2008 in the total number of people employed, or a rise of 224,000. Of these employed persons, 65.1% (2.37 million) were located in metropolitan NSW, with the remaining 34.9% (1.27 million) located in regional NSW. The share of total NSW employed persons located in metropolitan NSW fell by 0.2 percentage points between 2008 and 2013.

The number of employed persons in metropolitan NSW grew by 6.2% (139,000 persons) between 2008 and 2013. The regions which experienced the largest growth were Inner Sydney (34,600 persons), North Western Sydney (30,100 persons) and Lower Northern Sydney (15,200 persons). The regions that experienced the fastest growth were Inner Sydney (17.1%), Inner Western Sydney (11.6%) and North Western Sydney (10.2%).

Two Sydney regions experienced a decline in the number of employed persons between 2008 and 2013. The number of employed persons in Outer South Western Sydney fell by 6,500 (-5.1%). The number of employed persons in Fairfield-Liverpool fell by 700 (-0.5%).

The number of employed persons in regional NSW grew by 7.2% (85,000 persons) between 2008 and 2013. Newcastle experienced the largest growth (22,600 persons) followed closely by the Richmond-Tweed and Mid-North Coast region (19,700 persons). The Illawarra (excl. Wollongong) region experienced the fastest growth of any NSW region, growing by 19.2% (9,600 persons). No region in regional NSW experienced a decline in the number of employed persons between 2008 and 2013. However, the Murray-Murrumbidgee region only added 200 employed persons.

FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

Full-time employment: 2008 to 2013 ('000)

Region	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Metropolitan	1,672.9	1,665.5	1,649.7	1,703.9	1,702.5	1,708.7	2.1%
Canterbury-Bankstown	102.3	100.5	91.4	105.1	97.3	93.6	-8.4%
Central Northern Sydney	168.5	160.8	170.6	158.0	169.3	163.1	-3.2%
Central Western Sydney	109.9	124.7	105.2	113.8	118.9	114.4	4.0%
Eastern Suburbs	107.0	107.3	105.7	111.7	112.7	113.6	6.2%
Fairfield-Liverpool	128.7	116.7	117.0	117.8	113.3	115.4	-10.3%
Gosford-Wyong	98.1	93.9	92.9	97.3	92.2	104.4	6.3%
Inner Sydney	156.9	173.2	171.4	171.9	166.0	181.8	15.9%
Inner Western Sydney	73.7	72.0	65.3	75.6	75.9	74.7	1.5%
Lower Northern Sydney	131.5	127.3	136.4	143.1	140.2	139.5	6.1%
North Western Sydney	219.3	240.4	232.9	238.7	233.8	238.6	8.8%
Northern Beaches	98.0	94.0	97.8	96.4	96.5	95.9	-2.2%
Outer South Western Sydney	93.4	89.0	93.8	96.8	101.4	90.0	-3.6%
St George-Sutherland	185.7	165.6	169.4	177.8	185.2	183.6	-1.1%
Regional	807.1	826.3	804.1	844.2	848.3	875.0	8.4%
Hunter (excl. Newcastle)	30.4	33.7	34.4	34.8	32.1	33.5	10.1%
Illawarra (excl. Wollongong)	30.1	39.3	37.0	44.3	34.8	38.7	28.7%
Murray-Murrumbidgee	103.3	92.0	97.0	95.0	96.8	100.2	-3.0%
Newcastle	173.5	172.3	172.3	183.4	192.0	181.8	4.8%
Northern, Far West-North Western and Central West	170.8	172.6	175.9	176.7	179.0	178.3	4.4%
Richmond-Tweed and Mid-North Coast	138.0	150.9	138.1	142.9	151.7	158.1	14.6%
South Eastern	78.1	78.2	75.7	80.3	76.8	86.2	10.4%
Wollongong	82.9	87.4	73.7	86.8	85.1	98.1	18.3%
NSW	2,480.1	2,491.7	2,453.8	2,548.1	2,550.8	2,583.7	4.2%

In January 2013, there were 2.58 million persons employed in full-time work in NSW. This number increased by 103,600 between 2008 and 2013, or 4.2%. In comparison, the number of persons employed in both full- and part-time work increased by 6.6%. The rise was more pronounced in regional NSW (8.4%) than in metropolitan NSW (2.1%). The Illawarra (excl. Wollongong) region experienced the largest proportional increase, rising by 28.7%. Seven regions, six of which were in metropolitan NSW, recorded a decline in full-time jobs between 2008 and 2013. Fairfield-Liverpool lost the most full-time jobs (-13,200 jobs) followed by Canterbury-Bankstown (-8,600 jobs).

PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

Part-time employment: 2008 to 2013 ('000)

Region	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Metropolitan	554.8	577.9	629.1	625.5	633.8	657.6	18.5%
Canterbury-Bankstown	31.5	37.8	40.0	36.2	44.1	46.4	47.3%
Central Northern Sydney	63.9	69.0	68.0	75.0	70.1	75.1	17.5%
Central Western Sydney	40.4	29.0	36.4	46.3	41.4	41.2	2.1%
Eastern Suburbs	31.0	35.7	37.8	40.4	35.2	36.5	17.9%
Fairfield-Liverpool	34.0	41.4	40.3	41.3	44.7	46.5	36.7%
Gosford-Wyong	48.4	41.2	50.0	40.0	50.4	46.8	-3.3%
Inner Sydney	45.7	47.4	48.2	50.4	49.4	55.3	21.0%
Inner Western Sydney	23.5	23.3	26.0	29.7	28.2	33.7	43.3%
Lower Northern Sydney	35.9	45.4	43.0	43.5	45.4	43.0	20.0%
North Western Sydney	75.3	72.7	86.4	77.5	81.0	86.1	14.4%
Northern Beaches	37.1	41.0	42.0	43.7	43.6	46.3	24.8%
Outer South Western Sydney	34.8	30.7	32.9	34.3	28.6	31.7	-9.0%
St George-Sutherland	53.4	63.2	78.2	67.1	71.5	68.9	29.1%
Regional	373.8	372.6	381.3	410.2	396.3	390.9	4.6%
Hunter (excl. Newcastle)	13.4	15.8	16.7	18.3	13.8	15.7	17.0%
Illawarra (excl. Wollongong)	20.1	20.5	22.4	18.3	22.0	21.1	4.9%
Murray-Murrumbidgee	44.5	43.3	38.3	40.7	42.0	47.8	7.4%
Newcastle	77.3	75.1	76.6	87.8	79.9	91.5	18.5%
Northern, Far West-North Western and Central West	70.4	68.3	75.6	76.4	70.2	68.4	-2.9%
Richmond-Tweed and Mid-North Coast	79.5	75.3	78.8	96.1	88.3	79.1	-0.5%
South Eastern	26.0	27.5	30.8	34.2	39.1	30.4	16.7%
Wollongong	42.6	46.8	42.2	38.2	41.0	37.0	-13.2%
NSW	928.6	950.5	1,010.4	1,035.6	1,030.0	1,048.6	12.9%

As of January 2013, there were 1.05 million persons employed in part-time work in NSW. This number increased by 119,900 persons between 2008 and 2013, or 12.9%. In comparison, the number of persons employed in full-time work increased by 4.2%. The number of part-time workers increased most in metropolitan NSW, rising by 102,800 persons or 18.5%.

In metropolitan NSW, North Western Sydney had the largest number of persons employed in part-time work (86,100 persons) and Outer South Western Sydney had the smallest number (31,700 persons). St-George Sutherland recorded the largest growth in part-time workers, rising by 15,500 persons. Canterbury-

Bankstown experienced the fastest growth, rising by 47.3% to 46,400 persons. The number of part-time employees declined in two metropolitan regions: Outer South Western Sydney (-3,100 persons); and Gosford-Wyong (-1,600 persons).

In January 2013, the region with the largest number of part-time workers was Newcastle (91,500 persons). The Hunter (excl. Newcastle) region had the smallest number of part-time workers (15,700 persons). Newcastle also recorded the largest growth in regional NSW, increasing by 14,300 persons (18.5%). The largest fall in the number of part-time workers took place in Wollongong, which fell by 13.2% (-5,600 persons) to 37,000.

Part-time employment: 2008 to 2013 (% of total employment)

Region	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Metropolitan	24.9%	25.8%	27.6%	26.9%	27.1%	27.8%	2.9%
Canterbury-Bankstown	23.5%	27.3%	30.4%	25.6%	31.2%	33.1%	9.6%
Central Northern Sydney	27.5%	30.0%	28.5%	32.2%	29.3%	31.5%	4.0%
Central Western Sydney	26.9%	18.9%	25.7%	28.9%	25.9%	26.5%	-0.4%
Eastern Suburbs	22.4%	25.0%	26.3%	26.6%	23.8%	24.3%	1.9%
Fairfield-Liverpool	20.9%	26.2%	25.6%	26.0%	28.3%	28.7%	7.8%
Gosford-Wyong	33.0%	30.5%	35.0%	29.1%	35.3%	31.0%	-2.1%
Inner Sydney	22.6%	21.5%	21.9%	22.7%	22.9%	23.3%	0.8%
Inner Western Sydney	24.2%	24.4%	28.5%	28.2%	27.1%	31.1%	6.9%
Lower Northern Sydney	21.4%	26.3%	24.0%	23.3%	24.5%	23.6%	2.2%
North Western Sydney	25.6%	23.2%	27.1%	24.5%	25.7%	26.5%	1.0%
Northern Beaches	27.4%	30.4%	30.1%	31.2%	31.1%	32.6%	5.1%
Outer South Western Sydney	27.1%	25.6%	25.9%	26.2%	22.0%	26.0%	-1.1%
St George-Sutherland	22.3%	27.6%	31.6%	27.4%	27.9%	27.3%	5.0%
Regional	31.7%	31.1%	32.2%	32.7%	31.8%	30.9%	-0.8%
Hunter (excl. Newcastle)	30.6%	31.9%	32.7%	34.4%	30.1%	31.9%	1.3%
Illawarra (excl. Wollongong)	40.1%	34.3%	37.7%	29.3%	38.7%	35.3%	-4.8%
Murray-Murrumbidgee	30.1%	32.0%	28.3%	30.0%	30.2%	32.3%	2.2%
Newcastle	30.8%	30.4%	30.8%	32.4%	29.4%	33.5%	2.7%
Northern, Far West-North Western and Central West	29.2%	28.4%	30.0%	30.2%	28.2%	27.7%	-1.5%
Richmond-Tweed and Mid-North Coast	36.6%	33.3%	36.3%	40.2%	36.8%	33.3%	-3.2%
South Eastern	25.0%	26.0%	28.9%	29.9%	33.7%	26.1%	1.1%
Wollongong	33.9%	34.9%	36.4%	30.6%	32.5%	27.4%	-6.6%
NSW	27.2%	27.6%	29.2%	28.9%	28.8%	28.9%	1.6%

Due to significant differences in the size of each region's labour force, percentages provide a better indication of the distribution of part-time work in NSW. The number of part-time workers now makes up a larger proportion of the total number of employed persons in NSW than it did in 2008, having risen by 1.7 percentage points to 28.9%. This increase was most pronounced in metropolitan NSW, where the proportion rose by 2.9 percentage points to 27.8%. Despite this increase, in 2013 regional NSW still recorded a higher proportion of persons in part-time work (30.9%). In regional NSW, this proportion reached its peak of 32.7% in January 2011.

In metropolitan NSW, Canterbury-Bankstown had the highest proportion of part-time workers (33.1%) and Inner Sydney had the lowest proportion (23.3%). Canterbury-Bankstown also recorded the largest increase in proportion of part-time workers, rising by 9.6 percentage points. The share of part-time workers declined most in Gosford-Wyong, falling by 2.1 percentage points to 31.0%. In Gosford-Wyong, the proportion peaked at 35.3% in January 2012.

In 2013, the Illawarra (excl. Wollongong) region had the largest proportion of part-time workers of any NSW region (35.3%). This was true despite a significant fall of 4.8 percentage points from 40.1% in January 2008. In regional NSW, the South Eastern region had the lowest proportion (26.1%). Between 2008 and 2013, Newcastle recorded the largest increase in proportion (2.7 percentage points) and Wollongong recorded the largest decrease (6.6 percentage points).

PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT BY GENDER

Female part-time employment: 2008 to 2013 ('000)

Region	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Metropolitan	375.0	393.9	427.5	416.5	430.3	443.3	18.2%
Canterbury-Bankstown	19.2	23.2	21.7	22.0	28.4	27.7	44.6%
Central Northern Sydney	45.6	48.7	46.3	52.5	52.1	50.5	10.6%
Central Western Sydney	21.6	15.7	22.6	23.0	25.4	26.4	22.1%
Eastern Suburbs	23.8	23.2	26.3	27.1	25.3	26.6	11.8%
Fairfield-Liverpool	20.6	27.9	26.3	26.2	29.4	30.8	49.5%
Gosford-Wyong	36.4	27.8	35.0	32.0	35.8	36.2	-0.7%
Inner Sydney	27.0	29.7	30.5	30.2	31.7	33.5	24.4%
Inner Western Sydney	14.3	15.0	19.0	19.3	17.9	20.4	41.8%
Lower Northern Sydney	25.6	30.8	30.9	27.9	31.4	30.5	19.3%
North Western Sydney	52.9	52.5	62.9	55.3	55.6	61.1	15.4%
Northern Beaches	25.8	31.1	26.8	29.5	28.6	30.7	19.1%
Outer South Western Sydney	25.8	23.2	25.5	25.3	20.4	20.4	-20.7%
St George-Sutherland	36.3	45.1	53.6	46.2	48.2	48.5	33.4%
Regional	273.2	262.1	277.4	295.7	282.1	286.2	4.7%
Hunter (excl. Newcastle)	10.4	9.1	13.9	12.6	9.8	11.5	11.4%
Illawarra (excl. Wollongong)	11.1	14.3	16.6	14.4	15.5	14.0	25.9%
Murray-Murrumbidgee	34.2	32.4	28.5	31.4	32.5	37.9	10.8%
Newcastle	57.7	52.6	54.6	62.4	55.9	64.3	11.3%
Northern, Far West-North Western and Central West	52.7	48.6	57.0	56.1	55.5	50.5	-4.2%
Richmond-Tweed and Mid-North Coast	53.9	51.3	52.8	65.7	58.0	55.4	2.7%
South Eastern	20.1	19.6	20.4	26.1	26.0	23.5	16.8%
Wollongong	33.1	34.3	33.6	26.9	28.9	29.1	-12.0%
NSW	648.2	656.0	704.9	712.2	712.4	729.5	12.5%

In January 2013, there were 729,500 women in part-time employment in NSW. Between 2008 and 2013, this number increased by 81,300 or 12.5%. Metropolitan NSW recorded a higher rate of growth (18.2%) than regional NSW (4.7%). The largest number of female part-time workers were found in Newcastle (64,300 persons) and the smallest number in the Hunter (11,500 persons). Female part-time employment growth was highest in Fairfield-Liverpool (49.5%) and Canterbury-Bankstown (44.6%). It fell most in Outer South Western Sydney (-20.7%).

Male part-time employment: 2008 to 2013 ('000)

Region	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Metropolitan	179.9	184.0	201.7	209.0	203.4	214.3	19.1%
Canterbury-Bankstown	12.3	14.6	18.2	14.2	15.7	18.7	51.6%
Central Northern Sydney	18.3	20.3	21.7	22.5	18.0	24.6	34.5%
Central Western Sydney	18.8	13.3	13.8	23.4	16.0	14.9	-20.9%
Eastern Suburbs	7.2	12.5	11.5	13.3	9.9	9.9	38.1%
Fairfield-Liverpool	13.4	13.6	14.0	15.1	15.3	15.7	17.1%
Gosford-Wyong	12.0	13.4	15.0	8.0	14.6	10.6	-11.1%
Inner Sydney	18.8	17.7	17.7	20.2	17.7	21.8	16.0%
Inner Western Sydney	9.2	8.3	7.0	10.4	10.2	13.4	45.6%
Lower Northern Sydney	10.3	14.6	12.1	15.5	14.0	12.5	21.8%
North Western Sydney	22.4	20.3	23.6	22.2	25.4	25.1	11.8%
Northern Beaches	11.3	10.0	15.2	14.2	15.0	15.5	37.8%
Outer South Western Sydney	9.0	7.5	7.4	9.0	8.2	11.2	24.6%
St George-Sutherland	17.0	18.1	24.6	20.9	23.3	20.4	19.9%
Regional	100.6	110.6	103.9	114.5	114.2	104.8	4.2%
Hunter (excl. Newcastle)	3.1	6.7	2.8	5.7	4.0	4.2	35.7%
Illawarra (excl. Wollongong)	9.0	6.2	5.8	3.9	6.6	7.1	-21.0%
Murray-Murrumbidgee	10.3	10.9	9.9	9.4	9.5	9.9	-3.8%
Newcastle	19.5	22.5	22.0	25.4	24.1	27.3	39.7%
Northern, Far West-North Western and Central West	17.7	19.8	18.5	20.3	14.6	17.9	1.2%
Richmond-Tweed and Mid-North Coast	25.6	24.1	25.9	30.4	30.3	23.7	-7.4%
South Eastern	5.9	7.9	10.3	8.2	13.1	6.9	16.3%
Wollongong	9.5	12.5	8.6	11.3	12.0	7.9	-17.4%
NSW	280.5	294.5	305.6	323.4	317.6	319.1	13.8%

In January 2013, there were 319,100 males in part-time employment in NSW. This was roughly half the number of females in part-time employment. The number of males in part-time employment in NSW increased by 38,600, or 13.8%, between 2008 and 2013. There was a much greater increase in metropolitan NSW (19.1%) compared to regional NSW (4.2%). The largest number of male part-time workers was located in Newcastle (27,300 persons). The smallest number was found in the Hunter (excl. Newcastle) region (4,200 persons). Between 2008 and 2013, male part-time employment growth was highest in Canterbury-Bankstown, rising by 51.6% (6,400 persons). It fell most in the Illawarra (excl. Wollongong) region (-21.0%).

Proportion of part-time employees who are women: 2008 to 2013 (%)

Region	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Metropolitan	67.6%	68.2%	67.9%	66.6%	67.9%	67.4%	-0.2%
Canterbury-Bankstown	60.9%	61.5%	54.4%	60.8%	64.3%	59.7%	-1.1%
Central Northern Sydney	71.4%	70.5%	68.1%	70.1%	74.3%	67.2%	-4.1%
Central Western Sydney	53.5%	54.0%	62.1%	49.6%	61.3%	64.0%	10.5%
Eastern Suburbs	76.9%	65.1%	69.6%	67.0%	72.0%	72.9%	-4.0%
Fairfield-Liverpool	60.6%	67.3%	65.2%	63.4%	65.7%	66.2%	5.7%
Gosford-Wyong	75.3%	67.5%	70.1%	80.0%	71.0%	77.3%	2.0%
Inner Sydney	59.0%	62.6%	63.3%	59.9%	64.2%	60.6%	1.7%
Inner Western Sydney	60.9%	64.5%	73.0%	65.0%	63.7%	60.3%	-0.6%
Lower Northern Sydney	71.3%	67.9%	71.9%	64.2%	69.2%	70.9%	-0.4%
North Western Sydney	70.2%	72.1%	72.7%	71.4%	68.6%	70.9%	0.7%
Northern Beaches	69.6%	75.7%	63.7%	67.5%	65.6%	66.4%	-3.2%
Outer South Western Sydney	74.1%	75.7%	77.6%	73.6%	71.4%	64.5%	-9.6%
St George-Sutherland	68.1%	71.4%	68.6%	68.9%	67.5%	70.4%	2.3%
Regional	73.1%	70.3%	72.8%	72.1%	71.2%	73.2%	0.1%
Hunter (excl. Newcastle)	77.0%	57.5%	83.3%	69.1%	71.1%	73.3%	-3.7%
Illawarra (excl. Wollongong)	55.3%	69.6%	74.2%	78.7%	70.2%	66.4%	11.0%
Murray-Murrumbidgee	76.9%	74.9%	74.3%	77.0%	77.4%	79.3%	2.4%
Newcastle	74.7%	70.0%	71.3%	71.1%	69.9%	70.2%	-4.5%
Northern, Far West-North Western and Central West	74.9%	71.1%	75.5%	73.4%	79.1%	73.8%	-1.0%
Richmond-Tweed and Mid-North Coast	67.8%	68.1%	67.1%	68.4%	65.7%	70.0%	2.2%
South Eastern	77.3%	71.3%	66.4%	76.2%	66.5%	77.4%	0.1%
Wollongong	77.6%	73.3%	79.6%	70.5%	70.6%	78.7%	1.1%
NSW	69.8%	69.0%	69.8%	68.8%	69.2%	69.6%	-0.2%

As of January 2013, almost 70% of the part-time workforce in NSW was female. This proportion was higher in regional NSW (73.2%) than in metropolitan NSW (67.4%).

In metropolitan NSW, the region with the largest proportion of females in its part-time workforce was Gosford-Wyong (77.3%). The region with the lowest proportion was Canterbury-Bankstown (59.7%). Between 2008 and 2013, the metropolitan region which recorded the largest increase in this figure was Central Western Sydney, rising by 10.5 percentage points to 64.0%. In contrast, in Outer South Western Sydney the figure fell by 9.6 percentage points to 64.5%.

The Murray-Murrumbidgee had the largest proportion of women in its part-time workforce of any NSW region (79.3%). The Illawarra (excl. Wollongong) region had the lowest proportion in regional NSW (66.4%). This region experienced significant fluctuations between 2008 and 2013, ranging from a low of 55.3% in January 2008 to a high of 78.7% in January 2011. In regional NSW, Newcastle recorded the largest decline for this figure, falling by 4.5 percentage points to 70.2%.

Proportion of employed women in part-time employment: 2008 to 2013 (%)

Region	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Metropolitan	37.3%	38.5%	41.2%	39.7%	40.6%	41.4%	4.1%
Canterbury-Bankstown	34.7%	38.4%	40.4%	37.1%	47.7%	46.4%	11.7%
Central Northern Sydney	42.5%	44.3%	42.4%	50.4%	46.8%	45.9%	3.4%
Central Western Sydney	35.2%	25.0%	36.6%	35.4%	36.4%	41.2%	6.0%
Eastern Suburbs	35.9%	34.4%	37.6%	38.2%	33.8%	37.7%	1.8%
Fairfield-Liverpool	30.5%	39.3%	38.2%	38.0%	44.4%	43.5%	13.0%
Gosford-Wyong	52.0%	44.8%	52.0%	49.7%	54.1%	50.6%	-1.4%
Inner Sydney	28.9%	28.4%	30.8%	29.2%	31.5%	30.3%	1.4%
Inner Western Sydney	32.6%	35.2%	42.6%	37.3%	36.3%	41.8%	9.2%
Lower Northern Sydney	31.7%	37.7%	37.5%	32.1%	36.0%	36.6%	4.8%
North Western Sydney	40.1%	38.2%	43.2%	39.2%	40.5%	41.3%	1.3%
Northern Beaches	42.6%	49.1%	42.3%	48.0%	45.1%	46.3%	3.7%
Outer South Western Sydney	43.4%	43.5%	43.7%	42.8%	36.3%	40.1%	-3.3%
St George-Sutherland	33.7%	42.3%	46.9%	41.2%	40.5%	41.9%	8.2%
Regional	51.1%	48.6%	51.7%	51.8%	50.1%	48.9%	-2.3%
Hunter (excl. Newcastle)	51.8%	48.5%	58.6%	57.4%	50.1%	56.5%	4.7%
Illawarra (excl. Wollongong)	53.1%	51.9%	58.4%	49.7%	56.7%	49.1%	-4.0%
Murray-Murrumbidgee	51.4%	52.2%	49.1%	53.6%	51.3%	55.7%	4.2%
Newcastle	50.1%	47.8%	49.9%	51.2%	46.2%	50.6%	0.5%
Northern, Far West-North Western and Central West	48.5%	45.5%	50.4%	50.0%	48.9%	45.9%	-2.7%
Richmond-Tweed and Mid-North Coast	53.9%	48.7%	52.8%	55.3%	53.4%	48.4%	-5.5%
South Eastern	42.2%	42.3%	42.0%	49.0%	48.0%	42.6%	0.4%
Wollongong	59.6%	54.5%	60.8%	48.7%	51.8%	46.9%	-12.7%
NSW	42.1%	42.0%	44.8%	44.0%	43.9%	44.1%	2.0%

The proportion of employed women in part-time employment in NSW rose between 2008 and 2013 by 2.0 percentage points to 44.1%. Metropolitan and regional NSW trended in opposite directions: in metropolitan NSW, the proportion rose by 4.1 percentage points to 41.4%; and in regional NSW it fell by 2.3 percentage points to 48.9%, having reached a peak of 51.8% in January 2011.

In January 2013, the largest proportion of employed women in part-time work in metropolitan NSW was found in Gosford-Wyong (50.6%). This is down from a high of 54.1% in January 2012. The smallest proportion of employed women in part-time work was found in Inner Sydney (30.3%), following a rise of 1.4 percentage points between 2008 and 2013. Fairfield-Liverpool recorded the largest increase in this figure between 2008 and 2013, rising by 13.0 percentage points to 43.5%.

The Hunter (excl. Newcastle) region had the largest proportion of employed women in part-time work of any NSW region (56.5%). This proportion rose by 4.7 percentage points between 2008 and 2013. In regional NSW, the South Eastern region had the lowest figure in 2013 (42.6%). Wollongong experienced a significant decline in the proportion of employed women who were in part-time work: a fall of 12.7 percentage points to 46.9%.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment: 2008 to 2013 ('000)

Region	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Metropolitan	100.4	130.3	138.1	113.6	131.5	120.1	19.7%
Canterbury-Bankstown	9.5	12.0	14.2	12.9	12.8	13.4	41.4%
Central Northern Sydney	8.6	9.5	11.6	7.7	10.3	10.1	17.5%
Central Western Sydney	7.9	10.7	12.7	8.6	11.1	14.3	80.8%
Eastern Suburbs	3.2	2.9	5.2	5.5	7.4	2.2	-33.1%
Fairfield-Liverpool	9.1	16.1	10.8	11.8	16.9	12.4	37.0%
Gosford-Wyong	9.2	10.5	13.4	6.1	8.9	7.8	-14.4%
Inner Sydney	6.7	9.1	8.3	7.3	12.5	10.6	56.9%
Inner Western Sydney	3.1	5.4	7.0	4.4	4.5	3.8	20.1%
Lower Northern Sydney	5.3	6.4	8.6	6.1	8.8	7.0	31.5%
North Western Sydney	21.4	22.0	19.2	21.4	17.0	19.2	-10.4%
Northern Beaches	3.5	4.7	5.4	5.3	3.7	3.9	9.5%
Outer South Western Sydney	6.3	9.0	9.2	5.6	5.4	8.0	25.8%
St George-Sutherland	6.4	12.0	12.4	10.9	12.2	7.5	16.8%
Regional	68.1	67.1	77.7	68.8	68.7	73.2	7.5%
Hunter (excl. Newcastle)	2.6	2.5	3.0	0.8	0.9	2.9	9.5%
Illawarra (excl. Wollongong)	3.5	1.5	3.9	4.4	5.5	5.8	63.1%
Murray-Murrumbidgee	4.0	6.3	7.9	7.2	8.5	7.0	75.0%
Newcastle	18.1	14.2	14.6	12.6	12.2	12.9	-28.4%
Northern, Far West-North Western and Central West	13.3	10.2	17.7	15.8	16.4	14.7	10.6%
Richmond-Tweed and Mid-North Coast	14.6	18.2	15.2	15.7	13.6	17.3	18.4%
South Eastern	2.9	5.4	5.5	2.6	4.1	4.4	52.1%
Wollongong	9.1	8.8	9.8	9.7	7.5	8.3	-9.6%
NSW	168.5	197.4	215.8	182.4	200.3	193.3	14.7%

The ABS defines a person as unemployed when they meet three criteria: they are not employed; they are available to start work; and they are taking active steps to find work. In January 2013, there were 193,300 unemployed persons in NSW, down from a high of 215,800 in January 2010. This number increased by 24,800 persons between 2008 and 2013, or 14.7%. In contrast, the total number of employed persons increased by 6.6%. Of the increase in unemployed persons, 19,800 were located in metropolitan NSW and 5,100 in regional NSW. The number of unemployed people increased significantly in several NSW regions, including: Central Western Sydney (6,400 persons); and Canterbury-Bankstown (3,900 persons). Five regions experienced a decline in the number of unemployed persons, including Newcastle (5,100 persons) and North Western Sydney (2,200 persons).

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Unemployment rate: 2008 to 2013 (%)

Region	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Metropolitan	4.3%	5.5%	5.7%	4.7%	5.3%	4.8%	0.5%
Canterbury-Bankstown	6.6%	8.0%	9.8%	8.4%	8.3%	8.7%	2.1%
Central Northern Sydney	3.6%	4.0%	4.6%	3.2%	4.1%	4.1%	0.5%
Central Western Sydney	5.0%	6.5%	8.2%	5.1%	6.5%	8.4%	3.4%
Eastern Suburbs	2.3%	2.0%	3.5%	3.5%	4.8%	1.4%	-0.9%
Fairfield-Liverpool	5.3%	9.3%	6.4%	6.9%	9.7%	7.1%	1.9%
Gosford-Wyong	5.9%	7.2%	8.6%	4.3%	5.9%	4.9%	-0.9%
Inner Sydney	3.2%	4.0%	3.7%	3.2%	5.5%	4.3%	1.1%
Inner Western Sydney	3.2%	5.3%	7.1%	4.0%	4.1%	3.4%	0.2%
Lower Northern Sydney	3.0%	3.6%	4.6%	3.2%	4.5%	3.7%	0.6%
North Western Sydney	6.8%	6.6%	5.7%	6.3%	5.1%	5.6%	-1.2%
Northern Beaches	2.6%	3.3%	3.7%	3.6%	2.6%	2.6%	0.1%
Outer South Western Sydney	4.7%	7.0%	6.8%	4.1%	4.0%	6.1%	1.4%
St George-Sutherland	2.6%	5.0%	4.8%	4.3%	4.5%	2.9%	0.3%
Regional	5.5%	5.3%	6.2%	5.2%	5.2%	5.5%	0.0%
Hunter (excl. Newcastle)	5.6%	4.8%	5.6%	1.5%	2.0%	5.5%	-0.1%
Illawarra (excl. Wollongong)	6.6%	2.4%	6.2%	6.6%	8.9%	8.9%	2.3%
Murray-Murrumbidgee	2.6%	4.4%	5.5%	5.0%	5.8%	4.5%	1.9%
Newcastle	6.7%	5.5%	5.5%	4.4%	4.3%	4.5%	-2.2%
Northern, Far West-North Western and Central West	5.2%	4.1%	6.6%	5.9%	6.2%	5.6%	0.4%
Richmond-Tweed and Mid-North Coast	6.3%	7.4%	6.6%	6.2%	5.3%	6.8%	0.5%
South Eastern	2.7%	4.9%	4.9%	2.2%	3.4%	3.7%	0.9%
Wollongong	6.8%	6.1%	7.8%	7.2%	5.6%	5.7%	-1.1%
NSW	4.7%	5.4%	5.9%	4.8%	5.3%	5.1%	0.3%

The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force (the total number of employed and unemployed persons). In January 2013, NSW had an unemployment rate of 5.1% (original data). This is 0.4 percentage points higher than it was in January 2008, but lower than the high of 5.9% in January 2010. The NSW metropolitan unemployment rate has generally been lower than the regional unemployment rate. In January 2013, the metropolitan rate was 4.8% and the regional rate was 5.5%.

In January 2013, the metropolitan region with the highest unemployment rate was Canterbury-Bankstown (8.7%). The unemployment rate in Canterbury-

Bankstown reached a high of 9.8% in January 2010. Eastern Suburbs had the lowest unemployment rate of the metropolitan regions (1.4%). Between 2008 and 2013, the unemployment rate of the Central Western Sydney region experienced the largest growth, rising by 3.4 percentage points to 8.4%. North Western Sydney experienced the largest decline, falling 1.2 percentage points to 5.6%. Over the period 2008 to 2013, the region whose unemployment rate fluctuated the most was Fairfield-Liverpool, reaching a high of 9.7% in January 2012 and a low of 5.3% in January 2008. The region with the most stable unemployment rate was the Northern Beaches, as it fluctuated within a range of 1.2 percentage points.

Illawarra (excl. Wollongong) had the highest unemployment rate of any NSW region (8.9%). It also experienced the largest increase in unemployment rate of any region in regional NSW, rising by 2.3 percentage points between 2008 and 2013. The South Eastern region had the lowest unemployment rate in regional NSW (3.7%). The Newcastle region experienced the largest decline in unemployment rate of any NSW region, falling by 2.2 percentage points to 4.5%. Over the period 2008 to 2013, the region whose unemployment rate fluctuated the most was the Illawarra (excl. Wollongong), reaching a high of 8.9% in January 2012 and 2013 and a low of 2.4% in January 2009. The region with the most stable unemployment rate was the Richmond-Tweed and Mid-North Coast region, which fluctuated within a range of 2.1 percentage points.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY GENDER

Female unemployment rate: 2008 to 2013 (%)

Region	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Metropolitan	4.7%	5.4%	5.5%	5.4%	6.0%	4.9%	0.2%
Canterbury-Bankstown	7.4%	5.3%	10.4%	11.5%	8.8%	7.9%	0.5%
Central Northern Sydney	2.6%	5.0%	4.6%	3.8%	4.7%	4.1%	1.5%
Central Western Sydney	6.3%	6.7%	7.2%	7.5%	5.5%	8.5%	2.2%
Eastern Suburbs	2.9%	1.1%	3.7%	4.4%	4.5%	2.0%	-0.9%
Fairfield-Liverpool	6.0%	9.4%	5.7%	6.2%	12.8%	7.8%	1.8%
Gosford-Wyong	6.0%	6.1%	6.7%	3.7%	8.7%	5.0%	-1.0%
Inner Sydney	2.0%	3.8%	3.1%	3.3%	4.4%	3.2%	1.1%
Inner Western Sydney	4.2%	7.2%	5.3%	4.3%	4.5%	3.7%	-0.5%
Lower Northern Sydney	2.8%	3.5%	4.5%	3.2%	3.8%	4.3%	1.5%
North Western Sydney	7.8%	7.9%	6.9%	7.4%	6.9%	5.8%	-2.0%
Northern Beaches	3.6%	2.0%	4.2%	4.8%	3.4%	2.9%	-0.7%
Outer South Western Sydney	5.8%	7.0%	6.5%	4.9%	6.3%	7.2%	1.4%
St George-Sutherland	3.5%	4.2%	4.1%	4.9%	5.0%	3.1%	-0.4%
Regional	5.1%	5.7%	5.3%	5.4%	5.2%	4.9%	-0.1%
Hunter (excl. Newcastle)	3.6%	10.5%	5.1%	2.4%	2.9%	4.4%	0.7%
Illawarra (excl. Wollongong)	8.3%	1.1%	3.8%	7.9%	7.1%	9.6%	1.3%
Murray-Murrumbidgee	2.7%	3.4%	6.4%	6.2%	4.8%	5.4%	2.8%
Newcastle	6.0%	6.0%	4.3%	4.8%	5.3%	3.4%	-2.6%
Northern, Far West-North Western and Central West	4.4%	5.3%	5.7%	6.2%	4.4%	4.3%	0.0%
Richmond-Tweed and Mid-North Coast	4.7%	7.0%	5.8%	4.0%	6.2%	6.7%	2.0%
South Eastern	4.3%	5.1%	5.6%	3.2%	2.9%	4.8%	0.6%
Wollongong	7.9%	6.8%	5.4%	9.4%	7.6%	3.2%	-4.7%
NSW	4.8%	5.5%	5.4%	5.4%	5.7%	4.9%	0.1%

In January 2013, the female unemployment rate in NSW was 4.9%. There was no difference between the metropolitan and regional rates at this time. The largest difference occurred in January 2012, when the metropolitan rate exceeded the regional rate by 0.8 percentage points. The Illawarra (excl. Wollongong) region had the highest unemployment rate (9.6%) and the Eastern Suburbs region had the lowest unemployment rate (2.0%). Between 2008 and 2013, the unemployment rate in the Murray-Murrumbidgee region increased the most (2.8 percentage points) and the unemployment rate in the Wollongong region declined the most (4.7 percentage points).

Male unemployment rate: 2008 to 2013 (%)

Region	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Metropolitan	4.0%	5.6%	5.9%	4.1%	4.8%	4.8%	0.8%
Canterbury-Bankstown	6.0%	10.0%	9.3%	6.0%	7.9%	9.3%	3.3%
Central Northern Sydney	4.4%	3.0%	4.7%	2.8%	3.6%	4.1%	-0.3%
Central Western Sydney	4.0%	6.4%	9.0%	3.4%	7.3%	8.3%	4.2%
Eastern Suburbs	1.7%	2.8%	3.3%	2.6%	5.0%	0.9%	-0.8%
Fairfield-Liverpool	4.7%	9.1%	6.9%	7.4%	7.2%	6.6%	1.9%
Gosford-Wyong	5.7%	8.1%	10.2%	4.7%	3.3%	4.9%	-0.9%
Inner Sydney	4.2%	4.1%	4.1%	3.0%	6.5%	5.2%	1.0%
Inner Western Sydney	2.3%	3.7%	8.6%	3.7%	3.8%	3.1%	0.8%
Lower Northern Sydney	3.3%	3.6%	4.6%	3.2%	5.2%	3.1%	-0.1%
North Western Sydney	5.9%	5.5%	4.6%	5.4%	3.7%	5.4%	-0.5%
Northern Beaches	1.6%	4.4%	3.3%	2.7%	1.9%	2.4%	0.8%
Outer South Western Sydney	3.8%	6.8%	7.0%	3.5%	2.2%	5.3%	1.5%
St George-Sutherland	1.9%	5.6%	5.3%	3.7%	4.2%	2.7%	0.8%
Regional	5.8%	5.0%	6.8%	5.0%	5.2%	5.9%	0.2%
Hunter (excl. Newcastle)	7.2%	1.0%	5.9%	0.9%	1.4%	6.3%	-0.9%
Illawarra (excl. Wollongong)	5.3%	3.5%	8.2%	5.3%	10.4%	8.1%	2.9%
Murray-Murrumbidgee	2.6%	5.2%	4.9%	4.2%	6.6%	3.7%	1.1%
Newcastle	7.3%	5.0%	6.5%	4.2%	3.5%	5.4%	-1.9%
Northern, Far West-North Western and Central West	5.9%	3.1%	7.3%	5.6%	7.6%	6.6%	0.7%
Richmond-Tweed and Mid-North Coast	7.6%	7.7%	7.2%	8.2%	4.7%	6.9%	-0.7%
South Eastern	1.4%	4.7%	4.4%	1.4%	3.8%	2.6%	1.2%
Wollongong	5.9%	5.6%	9.9%	5.4%	4.0%	7.8%	1.9%
NSW	4.6%	5.4%	6.2%	4.4%	4.9%	5.2%	0.6%

In January 2013, the male unemployment rate in NSW (5.2%) exceeded the female unemployment rate by 0.3 percentage points. The largest difference between the two rates occurred in January 2011, when the female rate (5.4%) exceeded the male rate (4.4%) by 1.0 percentage point.

Between 2008 and 2013, the male unemployment rate rose by 0.6 percentage points to 5.2%. In 2013, the regional rate exceeded the metropolitan rate by 1.1 percentage points. Other than in January 2009, the regional rate has always exceeded the metropolitan rate, being at most 1.8 percentage points higher in January 2008. Canterbury-Bankstown had the highest rate (9.3%) and the Eastern Suburbs had the lowest (0.9%). Between 2008 and 2013, the unemployment rate in Central Western Sydney increased the most (4.2 percentage points) and declined the most in Newcastle (1.9 percentage points).

PARTICIPATION RATE

Participation rate: 2008 to 2013 (%)

Region	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Metropolitan	65.8%	65.8%	65.9%	65.8%	65.7%	65.3%	-0.5%
Canterbury-Bankstown	56.6%	58.3%	55.5%	58.0%	57.3%	56.3%	-0.3%
Central Northern Sydney	69.3%	67.5%	69.4%	65.9%	67.5%	66.3%	-3.0%
Central Western Sydney	60.8%	62.0%	57.2%	61.8%	62.0%	60.7%	-0.1%
Eastern Suburbs	66.3%	67.2%	67.4%	70.5%	68.6%	66.6%	0.3%
Fairfield-Liverpool	60.9%	60.6%	57.5%	57.7%	58.3%	57.4%	-3.5%
Gosford-Wyong	62.5%	57.3%	60.5%	54.8%	57.1%	59.2%	-3.3%
Inner Sydney	69.5%	74.8%	73.2%	72.8%	71.5%	76.7%	7.2%
Inner Western Sydney	66.3%	65.3%	62.7%	69.1%	67.6%	69.0%	2.7%
Lower Northern Sydney	66.1%	67.3%	69.5%	70.3%	70.1%	67.5%	1.4%
North Western Sydney	67.5%	70.1%	69.7%	68.5%	66.6%	68.1%	0.7%
Northern Beaches	71.0%	70.1%	71.8%	70.9%	69.2%	69.4%	-1.5%
Outer South Western Sydney	72.1%	67.6%	70.1%	69.7%	68.2%	64.5%	-7.6%
St George-Sutherland	66.8%	64.3%	68.3%	66.3%	68.9%	65.8%	-1.0%
Regional	60.4%	60.0%	58.9%	60.9%	59.7%	60.1%	-0.3%
Hunter (excl. Newcastle)	56.9%	62.5%	64.2%	62.9%	53.8%	59.2%	2.2%
Illawarra (excl. Wollongong)	47.8%	53.5%	54.3%	56.8%	52.2%	54.1%	6.3%
Murray-Murrumbidgee	70.3%	64.3%	64.1%	63.0%	64.1%	66.6%	-3.7%
Newcastle	63.2%	60.3%	59.8%	63.5%	62.9%	62.5%	-0.7%
Northern, Far West-North Western and Central West	63.7%	61.6%	64.9%	64.0%	62.4%	60.7%	-3.0%
Richmond-Tweed and Mid-North Coast	53.3%	55.0%	51.4%	55.6%	54.7%	54.2%	0.9%
South Eastern	63.0%	64.1%	63.6%	65.7%	66.4%	66.1%	3.1%
Wollongong	59.0%	61.4%	53.1%	56.1%	55.0%	58.3%	-0.7%
NSW	63.8%	63.7%	63.3%	64.0%	63.4%	63.4%	-0.4%

The participation rate is defined as the labour force (persons employed and unemployed) expressed as a percentage of the total population aged over 15. Note that the ABS defines a person as unemployed when they meet three criteria: they are not employed; they are available to start work; and they are taking active steps to find work. There are a number of reasons why a person may not be participating in the labour force. Some people have parental or caring responsibilities. Others are studying, have personal health reasons or are retired. Others still may wish to work yet lack affordable or appropriate child care, or access to jobs with flexibility to work around other commitments (such as study or caring), or access to jobs suitable to their skills or qualifications.

In January 2013, the NSW participation rate was 63.4%. This represents a marginal decline from 2008 of 0.4 percentage points. The NSW participation rate was highest in January 2011 (64.0%).

Across the period 2008 to 2013, the metropolitan NSW participation rate exceeded the regional NSW participation rate by between 5 to 7 percentage points. Both the metropolitan and regional NSW participation rates fell between 2008 and 2013. The metropolitan rate peaked at 65.9% in January 2010 and the regional rate peaked at 60.9% in January 2011.

In January 2013, Inner Sydney had the highest participation rate of any NSW region (76.7%). It also experienced the largest growth of any region, rising by 7.2 percentage points between 2008 and 2013. Canterbury-Bankstown had the lowest participation rate of any metropolitan region (56.3%). Outer South Western Sydney experienced the largest decline in participation rate, falling by 7.6 percentage points to 64.5%.

The Murray-Murrumbidgee had the highest participation rate in regional NSW (66.6%). It also experienced the largest fall in participation rate of any region in regional NSW, falling by 3.7 percentage points. The Illawarra (excl. Wollongong) region had the lowest participation rate of any NSW region (54.1%). It also experienced the largest increase in participation rate in regional NSW, rising by 6.3 percentage points.

PARTICIPATION RATE BY GENDER

Female participation rate: 2008 to 2013 (%)

Region	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Metropolitan	58.3%	58.7%	58.6%	58.3%	58.7%	57.8%	-0.5%
Canterbury-Bankstown	46.4%	48.7%	44.9%	49.6%	47.6%	46.8%	0.4%
Central Northern Sydney	61.0%	62.8%	61.2%	57.1%	60.9%	59.0%	-2.0%
Central Western Sydney	50.7%	51.0%	49.6%	51.7%	53.7%	50.4%	-0.3%
Eastern Suburbs	62.0%	61.1%	63.9%	64.4%	67.3%	61.0%	-1.0%
Fairfield-Liverpool	49.9%	53.3%	48.8%	48.5%	49.5%	49.5%	-0.4%
Gosford-Wyong	57.3%	49.8%	53.5%	48.9%	52.3%	53.7%	-3.6%
Inner Sydney	64.8%	72.5%	67.3%	69.5%	67.6%	72.5%	7.8%
Inner Western Sydney	59.0%	58.0%	58.4%	66.1%	62.6%	60.4%	1.4%
Lower Northern Sydney	60.4%	60.6%	60.7%	62.3%	62.4%	59.1%	-1.3%
North Western Sydney	59.9%	61.2%	63.1%	60.6%	57.9%	60.9%	1.0%
Northern Beaches	62.6%	63.2%	63.6%	61.3%	61.5%	63.3%	0.7%
Outer South Western Sydney	66.1%	59.0%	63.0%	61.8%	59.0%	53.5%	-12.6%
St George-Sutherland	59.1%	57.8%	61.0%	59.5%	62.4%	58.7%	-0.4%
Regional	53.8%	53.6%	52.2%	54.9%	53.4%	54.6%	0.8%
Hunter (excl. Newcastle)	51.4%	50.9%	59.7%	53.2%	46.9%	49.0%	-2.4%
Illawarra (excl. Wollongong)	39.6%	47.4%	49.5%	52.0%	47.8%	50.7%	11.0%
Murray-Murrumbidgee	63.1%	58.3%	55.2%	54.8%	57.7%	61.7%	-1.4%
Newcastle	56.3%	52.8%	50.7%	56.1%	55.3%	56.2%	-0.2%
Northern, Far West-North Western and Central West	56.6%	55.1%	57.7%	56.8%	55.6%	53.2%	-3.4%
Richmond-Tweed and Mid-North Coast	47.2%	49.9%	46.0%	53.0%	48.9%	51.1%	3.9%
South Eastern	58.8%	56.5%	58.7%	61.8%	61.9%	63.6%	4.8%
Wollongong	52.1%	57.4%	48.8%	50.4%	49.3%	51.6%	-0.6%
NSW	56.6%	56.8%	56.3%	57.1%	56.8%	56.6%	0.0%

Participation rates vary significantly by gender. The gap has closed somewhat over the past few decades due to a large increase in the participation of women. Nevertheless, the NSW male participation rate currently exceeds the female participation rate by 13.7 percentage points. This gap is more pronounced for metropolitan NSW, where in January 2013 it was 15.4 percentage points. The gap in regional NSW was 11.0 percentage points.

At the regional level, the difference between male and female participation rates was largest in Outer South Western Sydney, where the male participation rate exceeded the female participation rate by 22.6 percentage points in 2013. The

South Eastern region recorded the smallest difference in 2013 of 5.1 percentage points.

Between 2008 and 2013, the female participation rate in NSW remained relatively steady (56.6%) whilst reaching a high of 57.1% in January 2011. In January 2013, the metropolitan rate exceeded the regional rate by 3.2 percentage points. The metropolitan rate fell slightly between 2008 and 2013, by 0.5 percentage points to 57.8%. The regional rate increased slightly, by 0.8 percentage points to 54.6%.

Male participation rate: 2008 to 2013 (%)

Region	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Metropolitan	73.7%	73.3%	73.6%	73.6%	72.9%	73.2%	-0.5%
Canterbury-Bankstown	67.3%	68.2%	66.5%	66.8%	67.4%	66.2%	-1.0%
Central Northern Sydney	78.3%	72.5%	78.2%	75.4%	74.7%	74.1%	-4.2%
Central Western Sydney	70.9%	72.9%	64.7%	71.7%	70.2%	70.9%	0.1%
Eastern Suburbs	70.9%	73.8%	71.1%	77.0%	70.1%	72.5%	1.6%
Fairfield-Liverpool	72.4%	68.2%	66.6%	67.3%	67.4%	65.6%	-6.8%
Gosford-Wyong	68.2%	65.5%	68.1%	61.1%	62.3%	65.2%	-2.9%
Inner Sydney	74.0%	77.1%	78.7%	76.0%	75.3%	80.7%	6.7%
Inner Western Sydney	74.0%	73.0%	67.3%	72.3%	73.0%	78.1%	4.0%
Lower Northern Sydney	72.4%	74.8%	79.2%	79.2%	78.6%	76.8%	4.3%
North Western Sydney	75.4%	79.4%	76.5%	76.8%	75.5%	75.7%	0.3%
Northern Beaches	79.9%	77.5%	80.4%	81.1%	77.5%	76.0%	-3.9%
Outer South Western Sydney	78.4%	76.5%	77.5%	77.9%	77.8%	76.1%	-2.3%
St George-Sutherland	75.0%	71.1%	76.0%	73.6%	75.7%	73.2%	-1.8%
Regional	67.2%	66.6%	65.7%	66.9%	66.1%	65.6%	-1.5%
Hunter (excl. Newcastle)	62.4%	73.8%	68.6%	72.4%	60.6%	69.1%	6.7%
Illawarra (excl. Wollongong)	56.4%	60.0%	59.5%	61.9%	56.7%	57.7%	1.3%
Murray-Murrumbidgee	77.6%	70.3%	73.0%	71.2%	70.6%	71.5%	-6.1%
Newcastle	70.4%	68.3%	69.2%	71.3%	70.8%	69.1%	-1.3%
Northern, Far West-North Western and Central West	70.8%	68.2%	72.3%	71.3%	69.3%	68.2%	-2.6%
Richmond-Tweed and Mid-North Coast	59.6%	60.3%	56.9%	58.3%	60.7%	57.3%	-2.2%
South Eastern	67.3%	71.6%	68.5%	69.5%	70.9%	68.7%	1.4%
Wollongong	66.0%	65.5%	57.5%	62.0%	60.8%	65.2%	-0.8%
NSW	71.3%	70.8%	70.7%	71.1%	70.4%	70.4%	-0.9%

In January 2013, Inner Sydney had the highest female participation rate (72.5%). It had also experienced the largest increase in female participation rate of any metropolitan region, rising by 7.8 percentage points. Canterbury-

Bankstown had the lowest participation rate (46.8%). The female participation rate fell most between 2008 and 2013 in Outer South Western Sydney, falling by 12.6 percentage points.

The South Eastern region had the highest female participation rate in regional NSW (63.6%). The Illawarra (excl. Wollongong) region recorded the highest increase in female participation rate, rising by 11 percentage points to 50.7%. The Hunter (excl. Newcastle) region had the lowest female participation rate in regional NSW (49.0%). The largest decline in regional NSW, of 3.4 percentage points, occurred in the Northern, Far West-North Western and Central West region.

In January 2013, the NSW male participation rate was 70.4%, having fallen 0.9 percentage points since January 2008. The metropolitan rate (73.2%) was significantly higher than the regional rate (65.6%). This remained true across the 2008 to 2013 period, reaching a maximum gap of 7.8 percentage points in January 2010.

Inner Sydney recorded the highest male participation rate of 80.7% and, together with the Hunter (excl. Newcastle) region, the largest growth in participation rates of 6.7 percentage points since 2008. Gosford-Wyong was the metropolitan region with the lowest participation rate in 2013 (65.2%). Fairfield-Liverpool recorded the largest decline in participation rate, falling by 6.8 percentage points to 65.6%.

The Richmond-Tweed and Mid-North Coast region recorded the lowest male participation rate of regional NSW (57.3%). The Murray-Murrumbidgee had the highest rate in January 2013 (71.5%). However, it also experienced the largest decline in participation rate in regional NSW, falling by 6.1 percentage points.

SUMMARY TABLES BY REGION

Metropolitan NSW

Canterbury-Bankstown

Labour force indicator	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Employment ('000)	133.7	138.3	131.3	141.3	141.4	140.0	4.7%
Part-time employ. ('000)	31.5	37.8	40.0	36.2	44.1	46.4	47.3%
Unemployment ('000)	9.5	12.0	14.2	12.9	12.8	13.4	41.4%
Unemployment rate (%)	6.6%	8.0%	9.8%	8.4%	8.3%	8.7%	2.1%
Participation rate (%)	56.6%	58.3%	55.5%	58.0%	57.3%	56.3%	-0.3%

Central Northern Sydney

Labour force indicator	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Employment ('000)	232.4	229.9	238.6	233.0	239.4	238.1	2.5%
Part-time employ. ('000)	63.9	69.0	68.0	75.0	70.1	75.1	17.5%
Unemployment ('000)	8.6	9.5	11.6	7.7	10.3	10.1	17.5%
Unemployment rate (%)	3.6%	4.0%	4.6%	3.2%	4.1%	4.1%	0.5%
Participation rate (%)	69.3%	67.5%	69.4%	65.9%	67.5%	66.3%	-3.0%

Central Western Sydney

Labour force indicator	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Employment ('000)	150.3	153.7	141.6	160.1	160.3	155.6	3.5%
Part-time employ. ('000)	40.4	29.0	36.4	46.3	41.4	41.2	2.1%
Unemployment ('000)	7.9	10.7	12.7	8.6	11.1	14.3	80.8%
Unemployment rate (%)	5.0%	6.5%	8.2%	5.1%	6.5%	8.4%	3.4%
Participation rate (%)	60.8%	62.0%	57.2%	61.8%	62.0%	60.7%	-0.1%

Eastern Suburbs

Labour force indicator	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Employment ('000)	137.9	143.1	143.5	152.1	147.9	150.1	8.8%
Part-time employ. ('000)	31.0	35.7	37.8	40.4	35.2	36.5	17.9%
Unemployment ('000)	3.2	2.9	5.2	5.5	7.4	2.2	-33.1%
Unemployment rate (%)	2.3%	2.0%	3.5%	3.5%	4.8%	1.4%	-0.9%
Participation rate (%)	66.3%	67.2%	67.4%	70.5%	68.6%	66.6%	0.3%

Fairfield-Liverpool

Labour force indicator	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Employment ('000)	162.7	158.1	157.3	159.2	158.0	162.0	-0.5%
Part-time employ. ('000)	34.0	41.4	40.3	41.3	44.7	46.5	36.7%
Unemployment ('000)	9.1	16.1	10.8	11.8	16.9	12.4	37.0%
Unemployment rate (%)	5.3%	9.3%	6.4%	6.9%	9.7%	7.1%	1.9%
Participation rate (%)	60.9%	60.6%	57.5%	57.7%	58.3%	57.4%	-3.5%

Gosford-Wyong

Labour force indicator	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Employment ('000)	146.5	135.1	142.9	137.3	142.6	151.2	3.2%
Part-time employ. ('000)	48.4	41.2	50.0	40.0	50.4	46.8	-3.3%
Unemployment ('000)	9.2	10.5	13.4	6.1	8.9	7.8	-14.4%
Unemployment rate (%)	5.9%	7.2%	8.6%	4.3%	5.9%	4.9%	-0.9%
Participation rate (%)	62.5%	57.3%	60.5%	54.8%	57.1%	59.2%	-3.3%

Inner Sydney

Labour force indicator	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Employment ('000)	202.6	220.5	219.6	222.3	215.5	237.2	17.1%
Part-time employ. ('000)	45.7	47.4	48.2	50.4	49.4	55.3	21.0%
Unemployment ('000)	6.7	9.1	8.3	7.3	12.5	10.6	56.9%
Unemployment rate (%)	3.2%	4.0%	3.7%	3.2%	5.5%	4.3%	1.1%
Participation rate (%)	69.5%	74.8%	73.2%	72.8%	71.5%	76.7%	7.2%

Inner Western Sydney

Labour force indicator	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Employment ('000)	97.2	95.3	91.3	105.2	104.0	108.5	11.6%
Part-time employ. ('000)	23.5	23.3	26.0	29.7	28.2	33.7	43.3%
Unemployment ('000)	3.1	5.4	7.0	4.4	4.5	3.8	20.1%
Unemployment rate (%)	3.2%	5.3%	7.1%	4.0%	4.1%	3.4%	0.2%
Participation rate (%)	66.3%	65.3%	62.7%	69.1%	67.6%	69.0%	2.7%

Lower Northern Sydney

Labour force indicator	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Employment ('000)	167.4	172.7	179.4	186.6	185.6	182.6	9.1%
Part-time employ. ('000)	35.9	45.4	43.0	43.5	45.4	43.0	20.0%
Unemployment ('000)	5.3	6.4	8.6	6.1	8.8	7.0	31.5%
Unemployment rate (%)	3.0%	3.6%	4.6%	3.2%	4.5%	3.7%	0.6%
Participation rate (%)	66.1%	67.3%	69.5%	70.3%	70.1%	67.5%	1.4%

North Western Sydney

Labour force indicator	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Employment ('000)	294.6	313.1	319.3	316.1	314.8	324.7	10.2%
Part-time employ. ('000)	75.3	72.7	86.4	77.5	81.0	86.1	14.4%
Unemployment ('000)	21.4	22.0	19.2	21.4	17.0	19.2	-10.4%
Unemployment rate (%)	6.8%	6.6%	5.7%	6.3%	5.1%	5.6%	-1.2%
Participation rate (%)	67.5%	70.1%	69.7%	68.5%	66.6%	68.1%	0.7%

Northern Beaches

Labour force indicator	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Employment ('000)	135.1	135.1	139.8	140.1	140.1	142.1	5.2%
Part-time employ. ('000)	37.1	41.0	42.0	43.7	43.6	46.3	24.8%
Unemployment ('000)	3.5	4.7	5.4	5.3	3.7	3.9	9.5%
Unemployment rate (%)	2.6%	3.3%	3.7%	3.6%	2.6%	2.6%	0.1%
Participation rate (%)	71.0%	70.1%	71.8%	70.9%	69.2%	69.4%	-1.5%

Outer South Western Sydney

Labour force indicator	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Employment ('000)	128.2	119.7	126.6	131.1	130.0	121.7	-5.1%
Part-time employ. ('000)	34.8	30.7	32.9	34.3	28.6	31.7	-9.0%
Unemployment ('000)	6.3	9.0	9.2	5.6	5.4	8.0	25.8%
Unemployment rate (%)	4.7%	7.0%	6.8%	4.1%	4.0%	6.1%	1.4%
Participation rate (%)	72.1%	67.6%	70.1%	69.7%	68.2%	64.5%	-7.6%

St George-Sutherland

Labour force indicator	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Employment ('000)	239.0	228.8	247.6	244.9	256.7	252.6	5.7%
Part-time employ. ('000)	53.4	63.2	78.2	67.1	71.5	68.9	29.1%
Unemployment ('000)	6.4	12.0	12.4	10.9	12.2	7.5	16.8%
Unemployment rate (%)	2.6%	5.0%	4.8%	4.3%	4.5%	2.9%	0.3%
Participation rate (%)	66.8%	64.3%	68.3%	66.3%	68.9%	65.8%	-1.0%

Regional NSW

Hunter (excl. Newcastle)

Labour force indicator	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Employment ('000)	43.9	49.5	51.1	53.1	45.9	49.2	12.2%
Part-time employ. ('000)	13.4	15.8	16.7	18.3	13.8	15.7	17.0%
Unemployment ('000)	2.6	2.5	3.0	0.8	0.9	2.9	9.5%
Unemployment rate (%)	5.6%	4.8%	5.6%	1.5%	2.0%	5.5%	-0.1%
Participation rate (%)	56.9%	62.5%	64.2%	62.9%	53.8%	59.2%	2.2%

Illawarra (excl. Wollongong)

Labour force indicator	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Employment ('000)	50.1	59.8	59.4	62.7	56.9	59.8	19.2%
Part-time employ. ('000)	20.1	20.5	22.4	18.3	22.0	21.1	4.9%
Unemployment ('000)	3.5	1.5	3.9	4.4	5.5	5.8	63.1%
Unemployment rate (%)	6.6%	2.4%	6.2%	6.6%	8.9%	8.9%	2.3%
Participation rate (%)	47.8%	53.5%	54.3%	56.8%	52.2%	54.1%	6.3%

Murray-Murrumbidgee

Labour force indicator	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Employment ('000)	147.8	135.3	135.3	135.7	138.8	148.0	0.1%
Part-time employ. ('000)	44.5	43.3	38.3	40.7	42.0	47.8	7.4%
Unemployment ('000)	4.0	6.3	7.9	7.2	8.5	7.0	75.0%
Unemployment rate (%)	2.6%	4.4%	5.5%	5.0%	5.8%	4.5%	1.9%
Participation rate (%)	70.3%	64.3%	64.1%	63.0%	64.1%	66.6%	-3.7%

Newcastle

Labour force indicator	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Employment ('000)	250.8	247.4	248.9	271.2	271.9	273.3	9.0%
Part-time employ. ('000)	77.3	75.1	76.6	87.8	79.9	91.5	18.5%
Unemployment ('000)	18.1	14.2	14.6	12.6	12.2	12.9	-28.4%
Unemployment rate (%)	6.7%	5.5%	5.5%	4.4%	4.3%	4.5%	-2.2%
Participation rate (%)	63.2%	60.3%	59.8%	63.5%	62.9%	62.5%	-0.7%

Northern, Far West-North Western and Central West

Labour force indicator	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Employment ('000)	241.2	240.9	251.5	253.1	249.1	246.7	2.3%
Part-time employ. ('000)	70.4	68.3	75.6	76.4	70.2	68.4	-2.9%
Unemployment ('000)	13.3	10.2	17.7	15.8	16.4	14.7	10.6%
Unemployment rate (%)	5.2%	4.1%	6.6%	5.9%	6.2%	5.6%	0.4%
Participation rate (%)	63.7%	61.6%	64.9%	64.0%	62.4%	60.7%	-3.0%

Richmond-Tweed and Mid-North Coast

Labour force indicator	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Employment ('000)	217.5	226.2	216.8	239.0	240.0	237.1	9.0%
Part-time employ. ('000)	79.5	75.3	78.8	96.1	88.3	79.1	-0.5%
Unemployment ('000)	14.6	18.2	15.2	15.7	13.6	17.3	18.4%
Unemployment rate (%)	6.3%	7.4%	6.6%	6.2%	5.3%	6.8%	0.5%
Participation rate (%)	53.3%	55.0%	51.4%	55.6%	54.7%	54.2%	0.9%

South Eastern

Labour force indicator	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Employment ('000)	104.2	105.6	106.5	114.6	115.9	116.6	12.0%
Part-time employ. ('000)	26.0	27.5	30.8	34.2	39.1	30.4	16.7%
Unemployment ('000)	2.9	5.4	5.5	2.6	4.1	4.4	52.1%
Unemployment rate (%)	2.7%	4.9%	4.9%	2.2%	3.4%	3.7%	0.9%
Participation rate (%)	63.0%	64.1%	63.6%	65.7%	66.4%	66.1%	3.1%

Wollongong

Labour force indicator	Jan 2008	Jan 2009	Jan 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2012	Jan 2013	2008-2013
Employment ('000)	125.5	134.2	115.8	125.0	126.0	135.1	7.6%
Part-time employ. ('000)	42.6	46.8	42.2	38.2	41.0	37.0	-13.2%
Unemployment ('000)	9.1	8.8	9.8	9.7	7.5	8.3	-9.6%
Unemployment rate (%)	6.8%	6.1%	7.8%	7.2%	5.6%	5.7%	-1.1%
Participation rate (%)	59.0%	61.4%	53.1%	56.1%	55.0%	58.3%	-0.7%