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Ryde 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 Ryde 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 Ryde 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 Ryde region had better labour force figures than Greater Sydney and NSW for annual employment growth, the participation rate and the youth unemployment rate. While the unemployment rate (5.4%) was lower than the NSW rate (5.9%), it was higher than the Greater Sydney rate (5.2%).

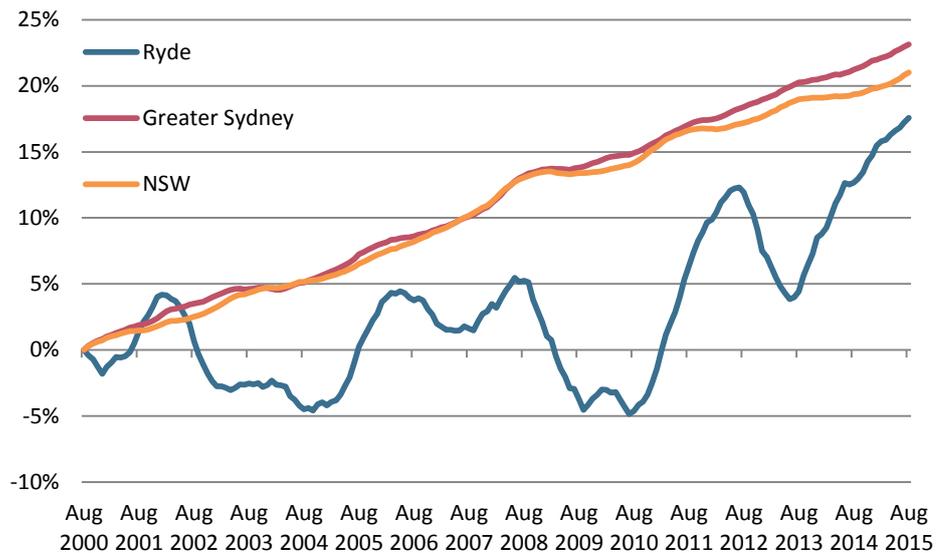
Headline figures (August 2015)

Indicators	Ryde	Greater Sydney	NSW
Employment	97,500	2,466,900	3,664,200
2014-15 employment growth	5.0%	1.9%	1.6%
Participation rate	68.7%	65.7%	63.3%
Unemployment rate	5.4%	5.2%	5.9%
Youth unemployment rate	10.2%	11.4%	12.8%

Between August 2000 and August 2015, employment in the Ryde region increased by 17.6%, from 82,000 to 97,500;

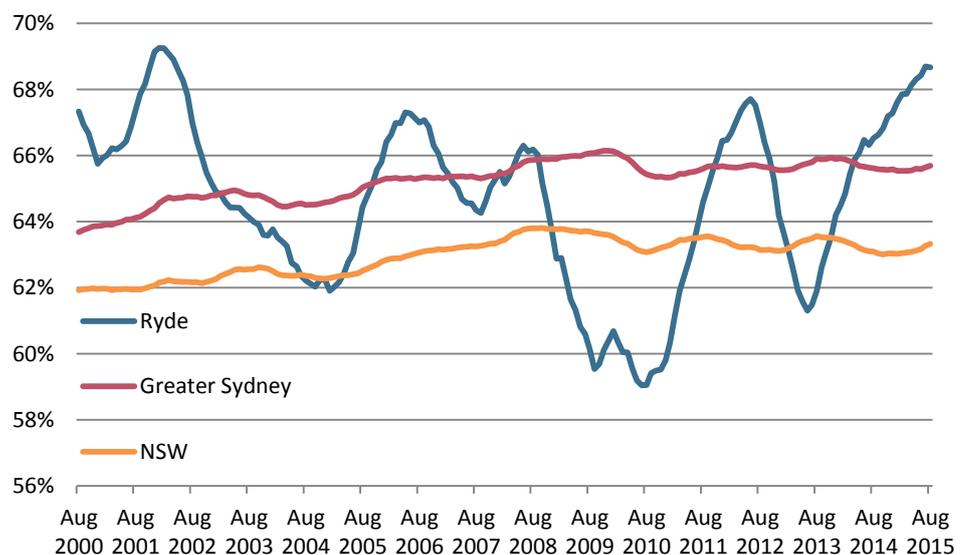
Greater Sydney grew by 23.1% and NSW grew by 21.0%. Total employment declined below August 2000 levels on three occasions, most recently falling to 78,000 in July 2010. Since dipping to a recent total employment low of 85,000 in June 2013, both full-time and part-time jobs have contributed to employment growth, reaching 70,400 and 27,100 respectively in August 2015. However, the proportion of total jobs accounted for by part-time jobs has declined to 27.8% from a high of 33.0% in November 2011. Year on year, total employment grew by 5.0% in the Ryde region, 1.9% in Greater Sydney and 1.6% in NSW.

Cumulative employment growth (August 2000 to August 2015)



The Ryde participation rate has fluctuated considerably over the past 15 years, between a low of 59.0% in July 2010 and a high of 69.2% in January 2002. In August 2015 it reached 68.7%, above both the Greater Sydney (65.7%) and NSW (63.3%) rates. The 2-year average participation rates were 69.8% (Ryde), 65.7% (Greater Sydney) and 63.2% (NSW).

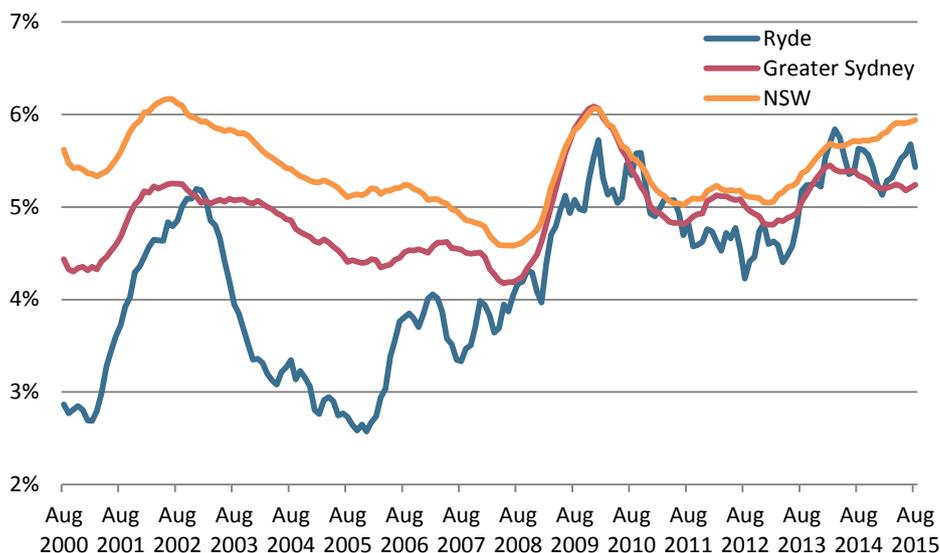
Participation rate (August 2000 to August 2015)



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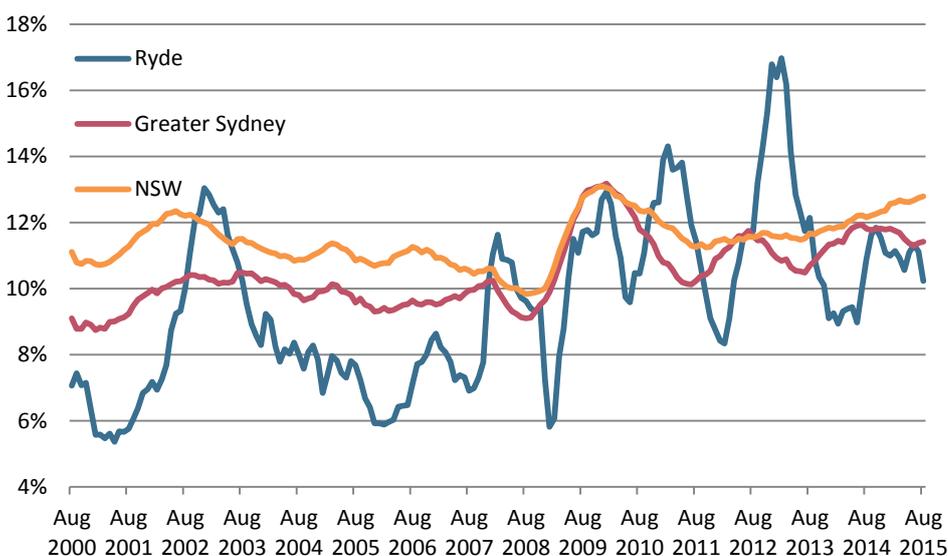
Prior to May 2009, in the last 15 years the Ryde unemployment rate had only briefly been over 5%. This occurred between September 2002 and February 2003. Since May 2009, the unemployment rate has averaged 5.1%, finishing at 5.4% in August 2015. The 2-year average unemployment rate for the Ryde region was 5.5%; it was 5.3% for Greater Sydney and 5.7% for NSW.

Unemployment rate (August 2000 to August 2015)



Since August 2000, the Ryde youth unemployment rate has fluctuated between a low of 5.4% in May 2001 and a high of 17.0% in February 2013. In August 2015, the youth unemployment rate was 10.2%, below the Greater Sydney (11.4%) and NSW (12.8%) rates. The 2-year average youth unemployment rates were 10.4% (Ryde), 11.5% (Greater Sydney) and 12.2% (NSW).

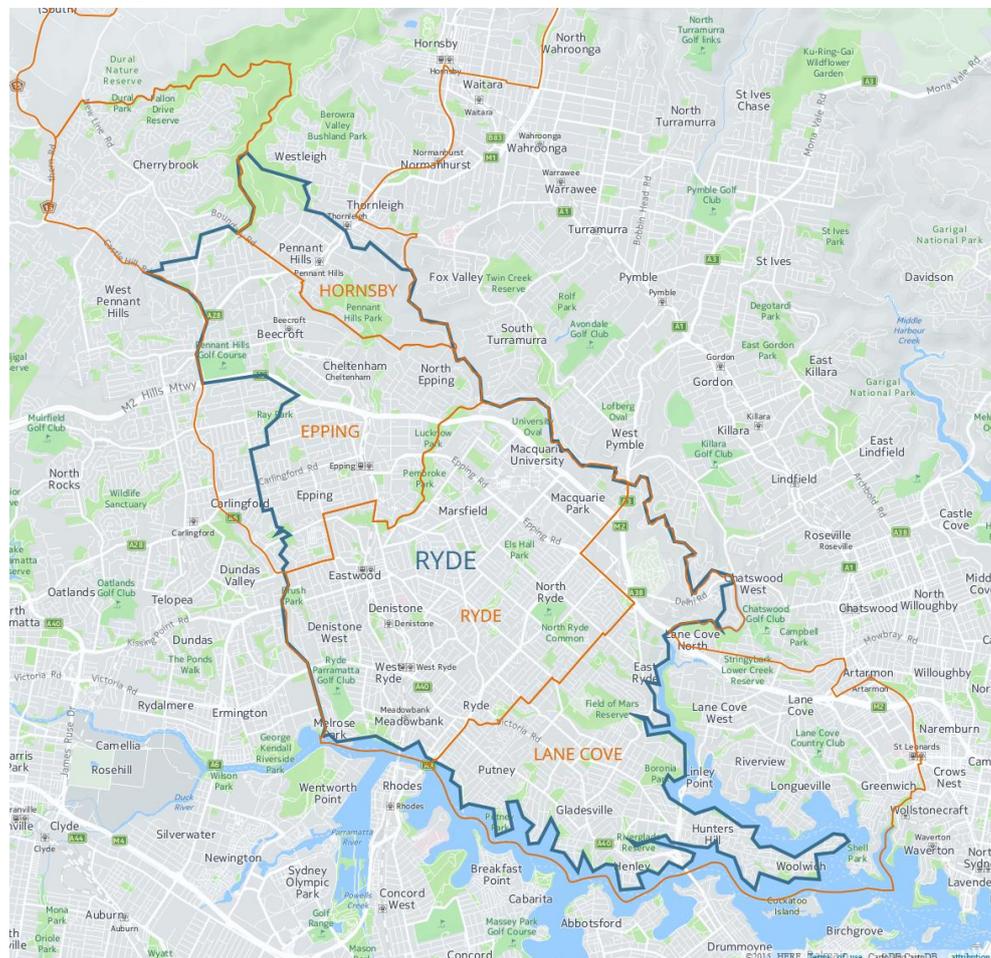
Youth unemployment rate (August 2000 to August 2015)



3. The Ryde region and NSW electorates

Four electorates are located either wholly or partly within the Ryde region, based on their population at the 2011 Census¹: Epping (52%); Hornsby (8%); Lane Cove (50%); and Ryde (100%).

Ryde 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

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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:

- 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)

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- 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](#)

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