



1. Introduction
2. Labour force trends
3. The North Sydney & Hornsby region and NSW electorates
4. Definitions and methodological notes

North Sydney & Hornsby 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 North Sydney & Hornsby 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 North Sydney & Hornsby 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

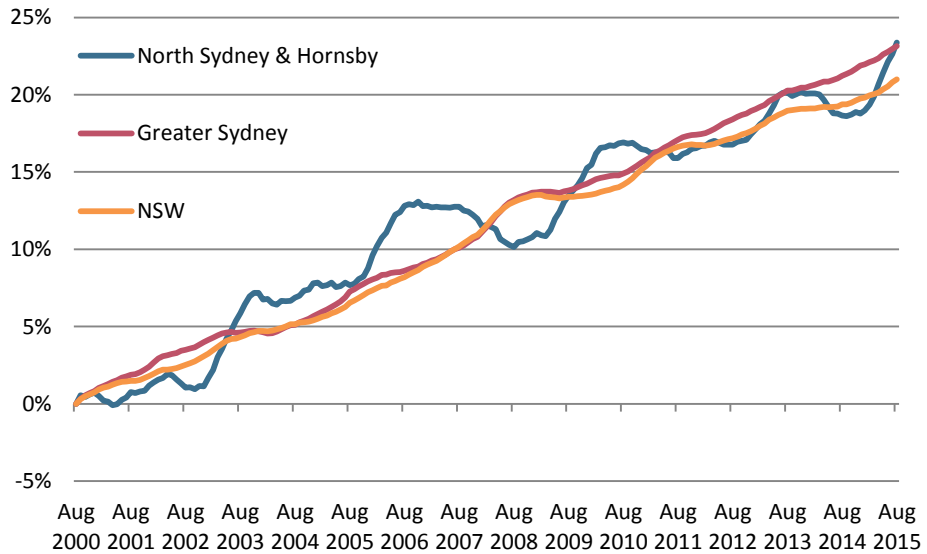
In August 2015, the North Sydney & Hornsby region had better labour force figures than Greater Sydney and NSW: annual employment growth and the participation rate were higher; and the total and youth unemployment rates were lower.

Headline figures (August 2015)

Indicators	North Sydney & Hornsby	Greater Sydney	NSW
Employment	231,300	2,466,900	3,664,200
2014-15 employment growth	4.8%	1.9%	1.6%
Participation rate	70.9%	65.7%	63.3%
Unemployment rate	3.9%	5.2%	5.9%
Youth unemployment rate	10.2%	11.4%	12.8%

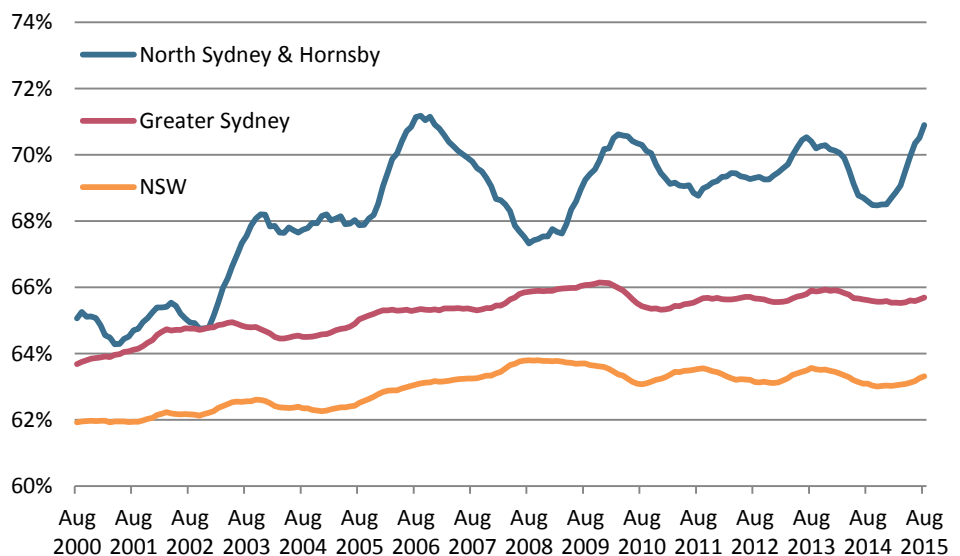
Between August 2000 and August 2015, employment in the North Sydney & Hornsby region increased by 23.4%, from 183,300 to 231,300; Greater Sydney grew by 23.1% and NSW grew by 21.0%. Total employment fell between August 2013 (224,000) and September 2014 (220,600) before rising to 231,300. Over this period, full-time employment fell and rose to reach the same level (158,200 to 158,300) while part-time employment rose from 65,900 to 73,000. Year on year, total employment grew by 4.8% in North Sydney & Hornsby, 1.9% in Greater Sydney and 1.6% in NSW.

Cumulative employment growth (August 2000 to August 2015)



After hovering around 65% between August 2000 and February 2003, the North Sydney & Hornsby participation rate has fluctuated between roughly 68% and 71% since August 2003. In August 2015, the region had the third highest participation rate in NSW (70.9%). The 2-year average participation rates were 69.5% (North Sydney & Hornsby), 65.7% (Greater Sydney) and 63.2% (NSW).

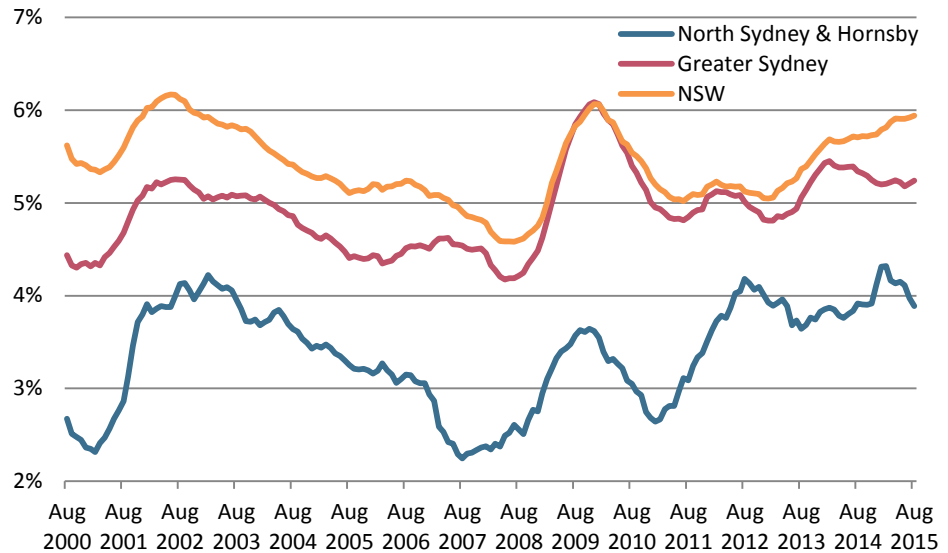
Participation rate (August 2000 to August 2015)



North Sydney & Hornsby labour force trends

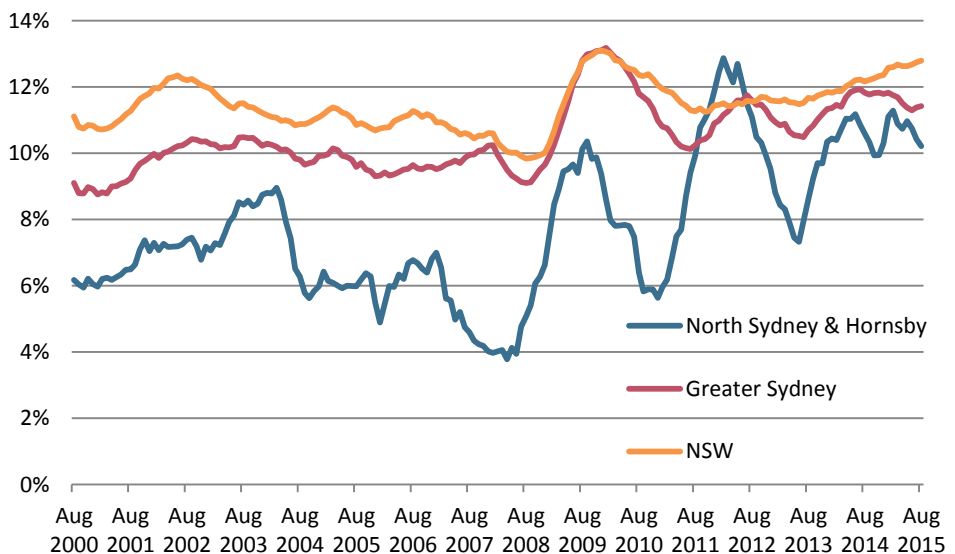
Over the last 15 years, the North Sydney & Hornsby unemployment rate has fluctuated between a low of 2.2% in August 2007 and a high of 4.3% in February 2015. In August 2015, the unemployment rate in the region was 3.9%. The 2-year average unemployment rate for the North Sydney & Hornsby region was 3.9%; it was 5.3% for Greater Sydney and 5.7% for NSW.

Unemployment rate (August 2000 to August 2015)



Prior to the Global Financial Crisis, the youth unemployment rate in North Sydney & Hornsby reached a 15-year low of 3.8% in April 2008. Having risen and fallen sharply several times since then, during which time it reached its 15-year high of 12.9% in February 2012, the youth unemployment rate reached 10.2% in August 2015. The 2-year average youth unemployment rates were 10.5% (North Sydney & Hornsby), 11.5% (Greater Sydney) and 12.2% (NSW).

Youth unemployment rate (August 2000 to August 2015)



3. The North Sydney & Hornsby region and NSW electorates

Six electorates are located either wholly or partly within the North Sydney & Hornsby region, based on their population at the 2011 Census¹: Davidson (72%); Hornsby (81%); Ku-ring-gai (100%); Lane Cove (50%); North Shore (100%); and Willoughby (100%).

North Sydney & Hornsby 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:

- 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