



# Data sources used in the labour market dashboard

For further information on interpreting and analysing labour market data, please refer to the [Labour market data: quick reference guide](#).

## Labour Force, Australia and Detailed, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)

- Data from the [Labour Force, Australia](#) and [Detailed](#) releases are used in the Labour Market dashboards, labour market summary table and employed persons chart.
- Both data sets are released monthly, with the detailed data set released a week after the headline estimates (for Australia and the states/territories).
- Data for all Employment Regions are a *6 month average* of *original* estimates, except for youth unemployment rates which are a *12-month average* of *original* estimates.
- Data for States and Territories are *seasonally adjusted* estimates, except for the youth unemployment rates which are a *12-month average* of *original* estimates.
- National level data uses *seasonally adjusted* estimates.
- Employment Region data are based on SA4 estimates using a best-fit or proxy approach.

## Labour Force, Detailed Quarterly Industry data (ABS)

- The [Labour Force, Detailed, quarterly Industry](#) release is used for the employment by industry chart.
- The share of employment is calculated as a proportion of total employment in the Employment Region.
- Data are four quarter averages of *original* estimates produced by the ABS.
- Estimates are based on SA4 data.

## ABS 2021 Census of Population and Housing

The Census is the best source of detailed data and can provide useful benchmarks at the regional level. However, the information may be dated as it relates to a single point in time (August 2021). Census data are used to derive the largest employing industry estimates for the six '[Additional labour market dashboards](#).'

## Department of Social Services job seeker income support payments data

With the cessation of jobactive and the transition to Workforce Australia, caseload data is temporarily unavailable. Department of Social Services (DSS) job seeker income support payments have been included in the Labour Market Dashboards instead. The main job seeker income support payments are the JobSeeker payment, and the Youth Allowance (other) payment. The data are compiled by DSS using Services Australia administrative data.

This substitution began from September 2022 onwards. As of the August 2023 release, the dashboards now use expanded DSS data with a changed population. The reporting population for income support payments has expanded to include those who are suspended from payment, and those who are current but on zero rate of payment for JobSeeker payments and those who are suspended from payment for Youth Allowance. Data are available from March 2020.

Three indicators derived from the job seeker income support data are included:

- Total number of persons on job seeker income support payments time series since March 2020
- Change over the year for the total number of persons on job seeker income support by ER, state/territory and national.
- Total number of persons on job seeker income support and the proportion of the working age population (15-64 year olds) on job seeker income support.

For more information about the DSS data included in the dashboards refer to the *Data sources and quality* document in the 'About the Data' section of the [Employment Region Dashboards and Profiles](#) page on the JSA website.

## Small Area Labour Markets (Jobs and Skills Australia)

- The Small Area Labour Markets publication is used to highlight Local Government Areas with high rates of unemployment. Further data are available on the [JSA website](#).
- Unemployment rate estimates are *smoothed data*.
- Highly disaggregated estimates at the LGA level can be highly variable and should be viewed with caution. For Local Government Areas with a labour force with fewer than 1,000 persons, extra caution should be exercised when interpreting results due to the small sample and significant variability in the estimates. These are marked with an asterisk in the dashboard.

## Internet Vacancy Index (Jobs and Skills Australia)

- The Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) measures the number of newly lodged online job advertisements on SEEK, CareerOne and Australian JobSearch. More insights are available on the [JSA website](#).
- Data used in the online job advertisements charts are seasonally adjusted for Australia, states and territories and all 51 Employment Regions (ER).
- Online job advertisements by occupation are seasonally adjusted for Australia, states and territories and three month averaged for ERs.
- Online job advertisements by skill level are based on seasonally adjusted data.