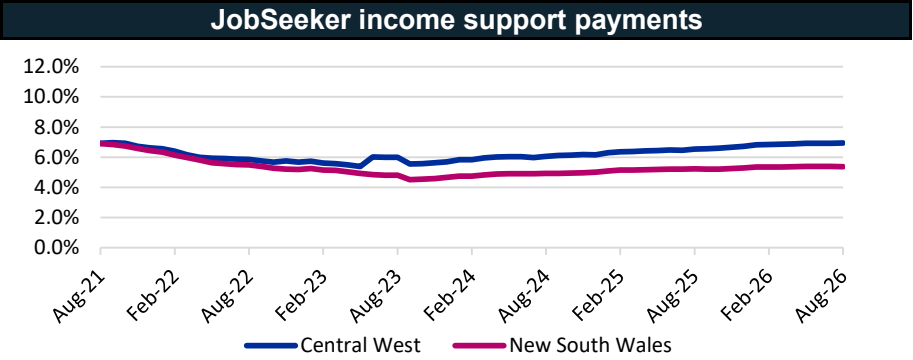
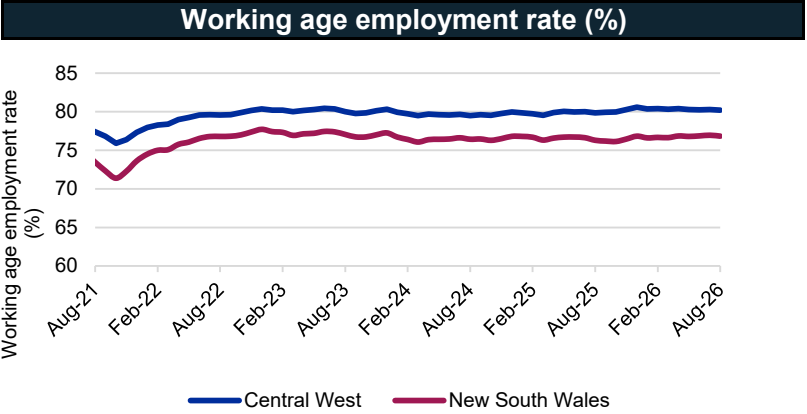


This **Labour Market Dashboard** provides key indicators for the labour market by Employment Region and is updated monthly.

| Labour market summary table |                             |            |               |               |            |                   |            |                                |            |                         |            |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|---------------|---------------|------------|-------------------|------------|--------------------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|
|                             | Working age employment rate |            | Unemployment  |               |            | Unemployment rate |            | Working age participation rate |            | Youth unemployment rate |            |
|                             | Aug-26 (%)                  | Aug-25 (%) | Aug-26 ('000) | Aug-25 ('000) | Change (%) | Aug-26 (%)        | Aug-25 (%) | Aug-26 (%)                     | Aug-25 (%) | Aug-26 (%)              | Aug-25 (%) |
| Central West                | 80.2                        | 79.9       | 4.3           | 4.3           | -0.8       | 3.6               | 3.6        | 83.4                           | 83.1       | 8.2                     | 7.9        |
| New South Wales             | 76.8                        | 76.3       | 205.5         | 193.4         | 6.3        | 4.3               | 4.2        | 80.3                           | 79.7       | 10.0                    | 9.2        |
| Australia                   | 77.1                        | 77.1       | 722.9         | 642.9         | 12.4       | 4.6               | 4.2        | 81.0                           | 80.6       | 10.8                    | 9.7        |

National data are from the ABS Labour Force Survey (seasonally adjusted). State & Territory and Employment Region data are based on ABS Labour Force Survey MLF1 (3-month average) estimates August -26, except youth unemployment rates, which use 12-month average of MLF1 estimates. State and Territory unemployment and unemployment rates are seasonally adjusted.



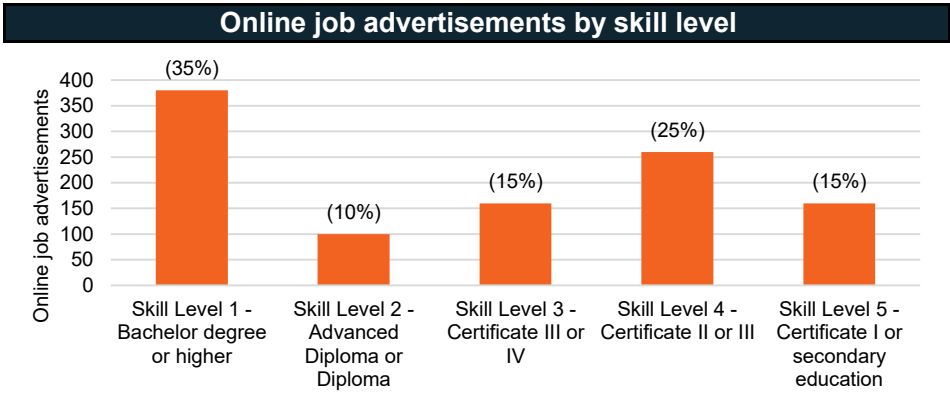
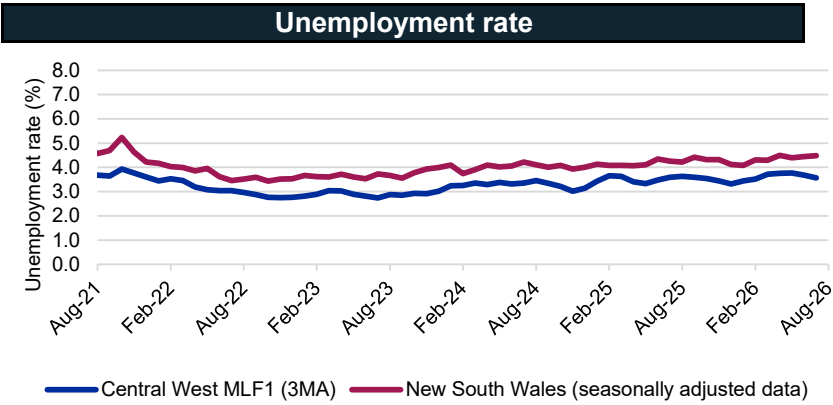
|                                        | Central West | New South Wales |
|----------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Payments - August 2025                 | 8,510        | 281,370         |
| Payments - August 2026                 | 8,975        | 292,305         |
| Change from August 2025 to August 2026 | ↑ 465        | ↑ 10,935        |
|                                        | ↑ 5.5%       | ↑ 3.9%          |

| % of 15-64 year olds on JobSeeker income support payments |                                           |                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
|                                                           | total persons on JobSeeker income support | % of 15-64 year olds on JobSeeker income support |
| Central West                                              | 8,975                                     | 6.9%                                             |
| New South Wales                                           | 292,305                                   | 5.4%                                             |
| Australia                                                 | 1,033,140                                 | 5.7%                                             |

Source: Department of Social Services, JobSeeker income support payment recipients, August 2026; ABS, Labour Force Survey, MLF1 (3MA) August 2026

| LGAs with highest unemployment rates (%) |        |        |
|------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Local Government Area (LGA)              | Mar-26 | Mar-25 |
| Lithgow                                  | 4.9    | 3.4    |
| Cowra                                    | 4.9    | 4.0    |
| Lachlan                                  | 4.7    | 3.6    |
| Parkes                                   | 4.5    | 3.2    |
| Forbes                                   | 3.4    | 2.4    |

Source: Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, Small Area Labour Markets, smoothed data, March-26 quarter



Note: Employment Region data are not directly available. Employment Regions were derived from ABS Labour Force and JobSeeker Income support payments are aggregated and apportioned using a SA4 to ER concordance. Working age population refers to those aged 15-64 years and youth age population refers to those aged 15-24 years. For enquiries related to this dashboard, contact [RegionalWorkforceAssessment@jobsandskills.gov.au](mailto:RegionalWorkforceAssessment@jobsandskills.gov.au).