Australian Government | Jobs and Skills Australia

Hunter
Employment Region
New South Wales

Labour Market Dashboard

Data current as at 15 October 2026

Refer to source notes for data reference periods

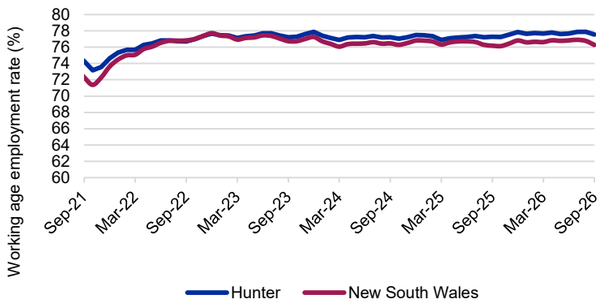
This **Labour Market Dashboard** provides key indicators for the labour market by Employment Region and is updated monthly.

Labour market summary table

	Working age employment rate		Unemployment			Unemployment rate		Working age participation rate		Youth unemployment rate	
	Sep-26 (%)	Sep-25 (%)	Sep-26 ('000)	Sep-25 ('000)	Change (%)	Sep-26 (%)	Sep-25 (%)	Sep-26 (%)	Sep-25 (%)	Sep-26 (%)	Sep-25 (%)
Hunter	77.5	77.3	18.0	16.4	9.5	4.6	4.3	81.4	80.9	10.2	10.1
New South Wales	76.3	76.2	223.0	196.6	13.4	4.7	4.2	79.9	79.6	10.0	9.3
Australia	76.6	77.1	732.0	676.8	8.2	4.7	4.4	80.5	80.7	11.1	10.5

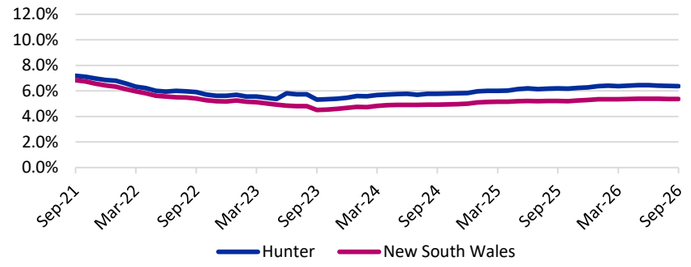
National data are from the ABS Labour Force Survey (seasonally adjusted). State & Territory and Employment Region data are based on ABS Labour Force Survey MLF1 (3-month average) estimates September -26, except youth unemployment rates, which use 12-month average of MLF1 estimates. State and Territory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

Working age employment rate (%)



Source: ABS, Labour Force Survey, MLF1, (3MA), September 2026

JobSeeker income support payments



Change in JobSeeker income support payments

	Hunter	New South Wales
Payments - September 2025	27,945	281,255
Payments - September 2026	29,130	292,090
Change from September 2025 to September 2026	↑ 1,185	↑ 10,835
	↑ 4.2%	↑ 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
Hunter	29,130	6.4%
New South Wales	292,090	5.4%
Australia	1,032,535	5.7%

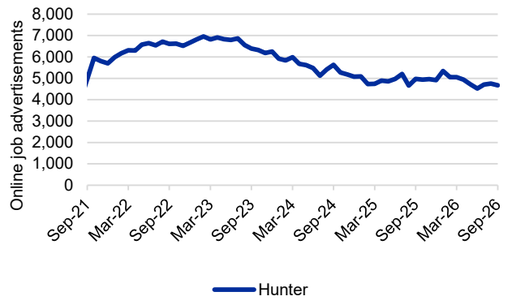
Source: Department of Social Services, JobSeeker income support payment recipients, September 2026; ABS, Labour Force Survey, MLF1 (3MA) September 2026

LGAs with highest unemployment rates (%)

Local Government Area (LGA)	Jun-26	Jun-25
Muswellbrook	5.9	6.2
Cessnock	5.2	5.4
Newcastle	4.8	3.5
Lake Macquarie	4.6	3.2
Port Stephens	4.3	4.6

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

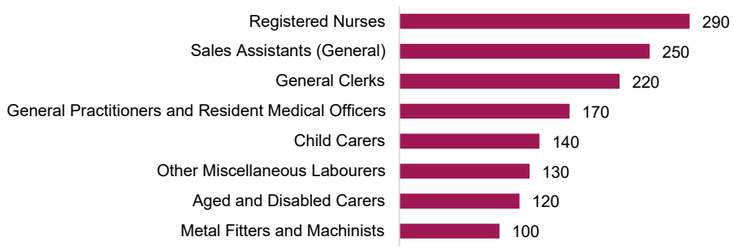
Online job advertisements



Number of job ads
4,700
Change over the month
-1.9%
(-300 job advertisements)
Annual change
-6.1%
(-100 job advertisements)

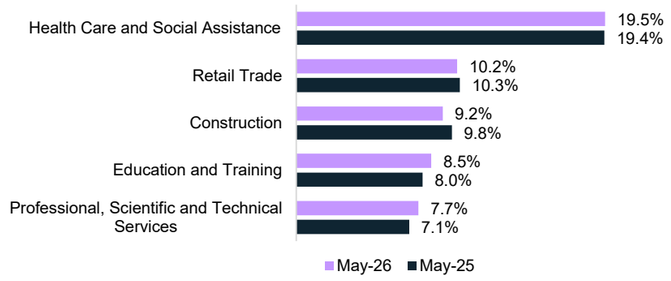
Source: Jobs and Skills Australia, Internet Vacancy Index, seasonally adjusted data, September 2026

Online job advertisements by occupation



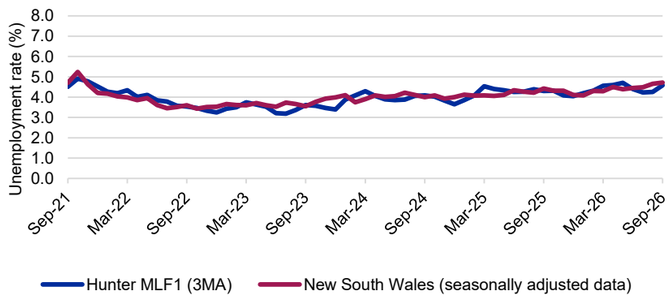
Source: Jobs and Skills Australia, Internet Vacancy Index, original data (3MA), September 2026

Largest employing industries



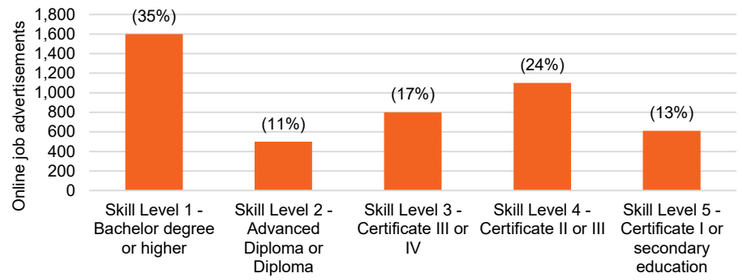
Source: ABS, Labour Force Survey, 4 quarter averages, May-26 quarter

Unemployment rate



Source: ABS, Labour Force Survey, seasonally adjusted data, MLF1, (3MA), September 2026

Online job advertisements by skill level



Source: Jobs and Skills Australia, Internet Vacancy Index, seasonally adjusted data, September 2026

Note: Employment Region data are not directly available. Employment Regions were derived from ABS Labour Force and JobSeeker Income support payments are aggreagated 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.