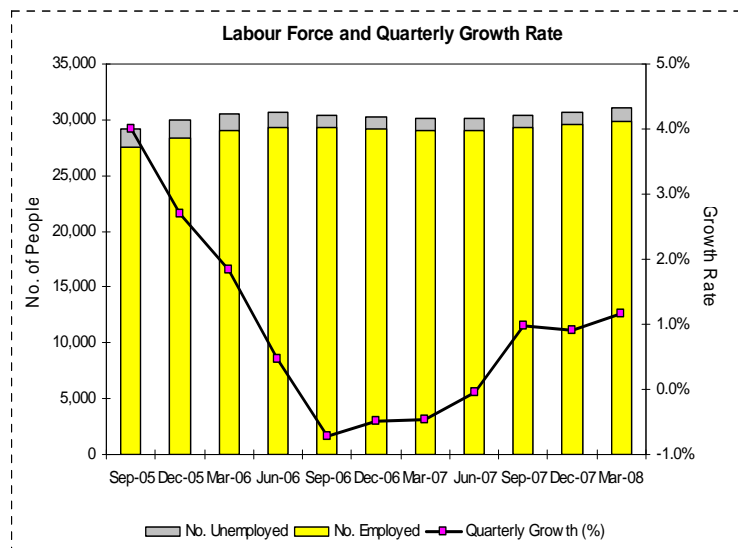




Regional Statistical Summary

Great Southern Labour Force – March Quarter 2008



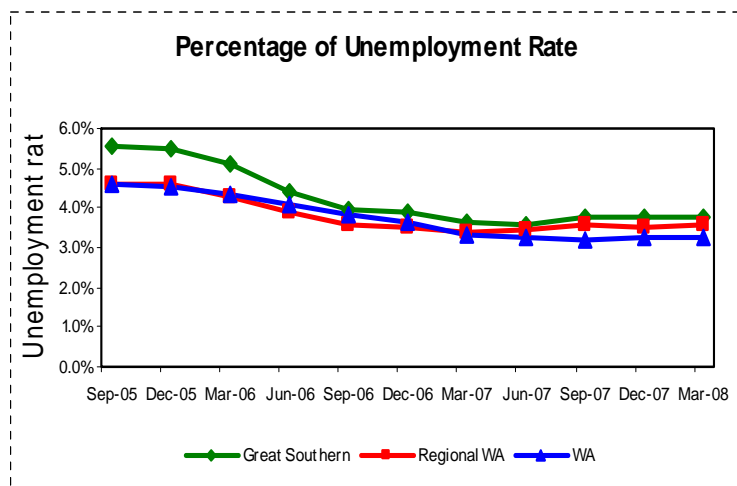
Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

The labour force (total persons employed and unemployed) in the Great Southern Region in the March quarter 2008, amounted to 31,075 people. This represented an increase of 1.2 per cent from the previous quarter when there were 30,719 people. The Region's labour force experienced strong growth from 2005, through to early 2006. The labour force went into decline from late 2006 to early 2007. Subsequently the labour force has been slowly growing across 2007 into 2008.

There were 29,899 people employed in the Region in the March quarter 2008 and 1,176 unemployed in the same quarter.

Quarter	Sep-05	Dec-05	Mar-06	Jun-06	Sep-06	Dec-06	Mar-07	Jun-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Mar-08
No. Employed (#)	27,565	28,326	28,968	29,317	29,246	29,125	29,064	29,070	29,291	29,571	29,899
No. Unemployed (#)	1,621	1,646	1,554	1,350	1,199	1,174	1,095	1,076	1,151	1,148	1,176
Labour Force (#)	29,186	29,972	30,522	30,667	30,445	30,299	30,159	30,146	30,442	30,719	31,075
Quarterly Growth (%)	4.0%	2.7%	1.8%	0.5%	-0.7%	-0.5%	-0.5%	0.0%	1.0%	0.9%	1.2%

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and DLGRD.



Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Robust economic growth has stimulated activity in Western Australia's housing and labour markets. This increased activity, coupled with the resources boom, led to a strong demand for labour. As a result, the State and regional unemployment rate declined rapidly until the June quarter 2007, reaching a low of 3.2 per cent and 3.4 per cent respectively. The Great Southern Region has followed the same trend, with the Region's unemployment rate recorded at 3.6 per cent. The unemployment rate for the Great Southern fluctuated reaching 3.8 per cent in March 2008 quarter.

Unemployment Rate (%)

Quarter	Sep-05	Dec-05	Mar-06	Jun-06	Sep-06	Dec-06	Mar-07	Jun-07	Sep-07	Dec-07	Mar-08
Great Southern	5.6%	5.5%	5.1%	4.4%	3.9%	3.9%	3.6%	3.6%	3.8%	3.7%	3.8%
Regional WA	4.6%	4.6%	4.3%	3.9%	3.6%	3.5%	3.4%	3.4%	3.6%	3.5%	3.5%
WA	4.6%	4.5%	4.3%	4.1%	3.8%	3.6%	3.3%	3.2%	3.2%	3.2%	3.3%

Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.