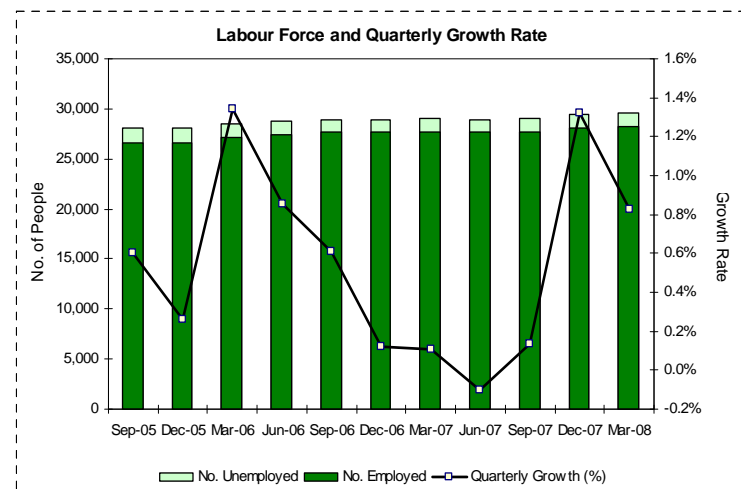




Regional Statistical Summary

Mid West Labour Force – March Quarter 2008



Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

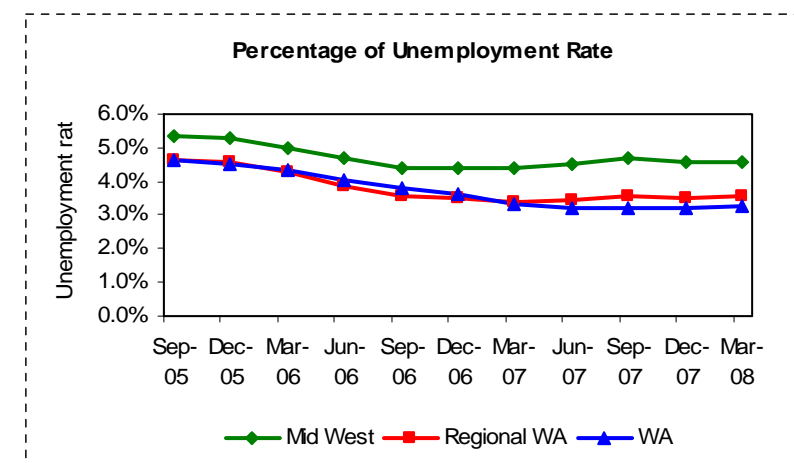
The labour force (total persons employed and unemployed aged 15 and above) in the Mid West Region in the March quarter 2008 amounted to 29,614 people. This represented a 0.8 per cent growth from the previous quarter when there were 29,371 people. Labour force in the Region increased by 1572 people since September 2005.

There were 28,268 persons employed in the Region in the March quarter and 1,346 persons unemployed.

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 (#)	26,545	26,627	27,077	27,388	27,636	27,674	27,703	27,634	27,628	28,035	28,268
No. Unemployed (#)	1,497	1,488	1,416	1,349	1,276	1,273	1,274	1,314	1,360	1,336	1,346
Labour Force (#)	28,042	28,115	28,493	28,737	28,912	28,947	28,977	28,948	28,988	29,371	29,614
Quarterly Growth (%)	0.6%	0.3%	1.3%	0.9%	0.6%	0.1%	0.1%	-0.1%	0.1%	1.3%	0.8%

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

When compared to the same quarter last year, employment increased by 2.0 per cent from 27,703 to 28,268 persons. The number of unemployed increased significantly by 5.7 per cent from 1,274 to 1,346 persons.



Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

The unemployment rate in the Mid West Region was 4.4 per cent in the December 2006, rising to 4.7 per cent in the September 2007 quarter and falling to 4.5 per cent for the March 2008 quarter.

Robust economic growth in the State has led to strong demand for labour. As a result, the State and regional average unemployment rates continue to decline, reaching 3.3 per cent and 3.5 per cent respectively for the March 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
Mid West	5.3%	5.3%	5.0%	4.7%	4.4%	4.4%	4.4%	4.5%	4.7%	4.5%	4.5%
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.