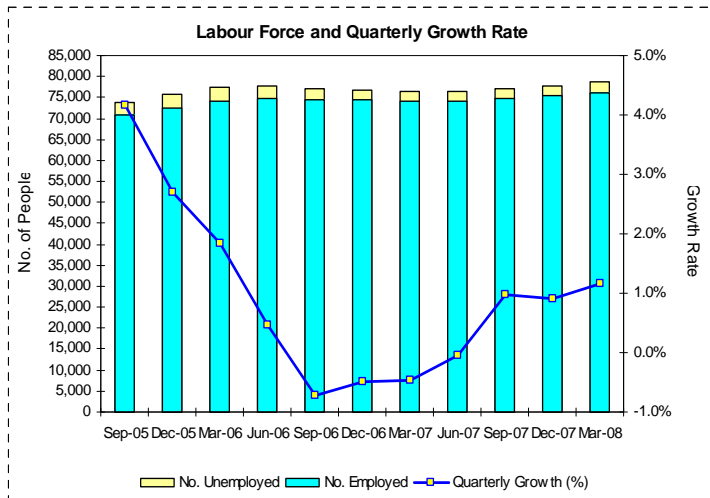




Regional Statistical Summary

South West Labour Force – March Quarter 2008



Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

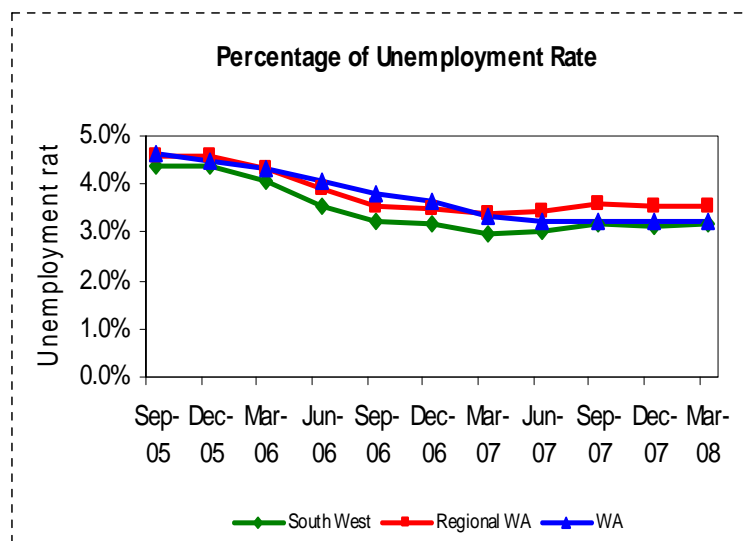
The labour force (total persons employed and unemployed aged 15 and over) in the South West Region in the March quarter 2008, totalled 78,685 people. It is the largest workforce outside the Perth metropolitan area. Quarterly growth rates declined from September 2005 quarter to September 2006. Following this period growth rates slowly improved to 1.2 per cent from December 2007 quarter to March 2008 quarter.

Of the total labour force in the March quarter 2008, 76,195 people were employed and 2,490 people unemployed, looking for work.

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 (#)	70,670	72,595	74,153	74,901	74,609	74,293	74,102	74,040	74,638	75,345	76,195
No. Unemployed (#)	3,238	3,302	3,138	2,757	2,486	2,432	2,267	2,291	2,447	2,440	2,490
Labour Force (#)	73,908	75,897	77,291	77,658	77,095	76,725	76,369	76,331	77,085	77,785	78,685
Quarterly Growth (%)	4.2%	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.

When compared to the same quarter in the previous year, employment increased by 2.8 per cent from 74,102 to 76,195 persons in March 2008. The number of unemployed has increased by 9.8 per cent from 2,267 to 2,490 persons over the same period.



Source: Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

The unemployment rate in the South West followed a similar trend to the State and regional averages. In the September quarter 2005, the South West's unemployment rate was 4.4 per cent, just below 4.6 per cent for regional WA and 4.6 per cent for the State average.

The Region's unemployment rate declined gradually from September quarter 2005 until March quarter 2007 with the South West still below the State and regional WA averages. Unemployment has remained relatively stable from March 2007 till March 2008 with the South West remaining lower than, or equal to, the State and regional rates. The unemployment rate reached 3.2 per cent in the South West in March quarter 2008.

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
South West	4.4%	4.4%	4.1%	3.6%	3.2%	3.2%	3.0%	3.0%	3.2%	3.1%	3.2%
Regional WA	4.6%	4.6%	4.3%	3.9%	3.6%	3.5%	3.4%	3.4%	3.6%	3.5%	3.5%
Western Australia	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.