

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2012-2013**

**Outcome 3 - Employment**

**DEEWR Question No.** EW0926\_13

**Senator Sinodinos asked on 13 February 2013 , Hansard page 86**

**Question**

**State unemployment rates**

Senator SINODINOS: Just one final question to do with state unemployment rates. There has been a lot of debate around a spike in the unemployment rate caused by developments in Queensland. Maybe this is one you could take on notice, but how quickly would cutting the public service in Queensland actually show up in the state unemployment? Ms Paul: In terms of unemployment rates, it is hard to say. Probably we would have to take it on notice. Senator SINODINOS: In terms of job reduction full time or part time, is it showing up in that sense? Ms Paul: It is showing up in various metrics, but I think it is probably best to take it on notice, particularly from the point of view of the unemployment rate. Senator SINODINOS: Because there are other states like South Australia and Tasmania, which have above average unemployment rates as well. Ms Paul: Sure. Senator SINODINOS: It might be useful to look at all of those where there has been some rise in the unemployment rate. Ms Paul: If you would like, we can do that. Senator SINODINOS: Thank you.

**Answer**

***What impact have the Queensland public service cuts had on the State's unemployment rate?***

The cuts to the Queensland public service will show up in the monthly Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Force survey as people leave employment and become unemployed. To illustrate, the ABS asks survey respondents if they were employed (i.e. worked for one hour or more in the survey reference week) or unemployed (i.e. were not employed and had actively looked for work in the survey reference week). Accordingly, a person made redundant from the Queensland public service who met the ABS criteria for being unemployed would subsequently show up in the ABS Labour Force survey results. However, the unemployment rate is influenced by a wide range of factors, so it is not possible for the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations to determine the direct impact the Queensland public service cuts have had on the State's unemployment rate.

***What impact have the Queensland public service cuts had on the State's full-time and part-time employment numbers?***

Similarly, employment (be it full-time or part-time) is also influenced by a wide range of factors. Accordingly, it is not possible for the Department to determine the exact impact that the Queensland public service cuts have had on full-time and part-time employment in the State.

**Selected labour market indicators by State and Territory**

Below is a table containing selected Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) labour market indicators by State and Territory.

Selected Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) labour market indicators by State and Territory, February 2012 and February 2013								
	Employment ('000)		Full-time employment ('000)		Part-time employment ('000)		Unemployment rate (%)	
	Feb-12	Feb-13	Feb-12	Feb-13	Feb-12	Feb-13	Feb-12	Feb-13
New South Wales	3580.8	3659.6	2539.9	2577.6	1041.0	1082.0	5.1	5.2
Victoria	2840.0	2896.6	1967.9	1967.8	872.1	928.8	5.5	5.5
Queensland	2335.4	2352.0	1671.0	1681.2	664.4	670.8	5.8	5.8
South Australia	816.4	818.2	538.3	538.4	278.1	279.8	5.3	5.8
Western Australia	1280.0	1315.2	925.4	940.3	354.5	374.9	3.8	4.5
Tasmania	234.8	235.3	151.3	148.1	83.6	87.2	7.1	6.6
Aust Capital Territory	206.7	209.5	153.1	156.0	53.6	53.5	3.5	4.6
Northern Territory	124.2	124.5	100.6	101.0	23.6	23.5	4.1	3.9
<i>Australia</i>	<i>11,430.9</i>	<i>11,628.3</i>	<i>8055.7</i>	<i>8117.4</i>	<i>3375.2</i>	<i>3510.8</i>	<i>5.2</i>	<i>5.4</i>

Source: ABS Labour Force, Australia, February 2013 (Cat. No. 6202.0), data for the States and Australia are in *seasonally adjusted* terms, while data for the Territories are in *trend* terms.