



**Local Jobs
Program**

Local Jobs Plan

**Perth South
Western Australia**

October 2020

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The Department of Education, Skills and Employment acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of the Noongar lands where we work and travel through. We pay our respects to their people, cultures and their Elders past, present and emerging.

Introduction

The Local Jobs Program (LJP) brings together expertise, resources and access to funding at the local level to focus on the reskilling, upskilling and employment pathways for job seekers in 25 Employment Regions, as part of supporting Australia's economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

This plan identifies the key priorities for the Perth South employment region, WA, with a focus on **creating employment opportunities**, meeting local **employer demands** and **better skilling** local job seekers. The plan identifies the direction, strategies and actions of the Employment Facilitator.

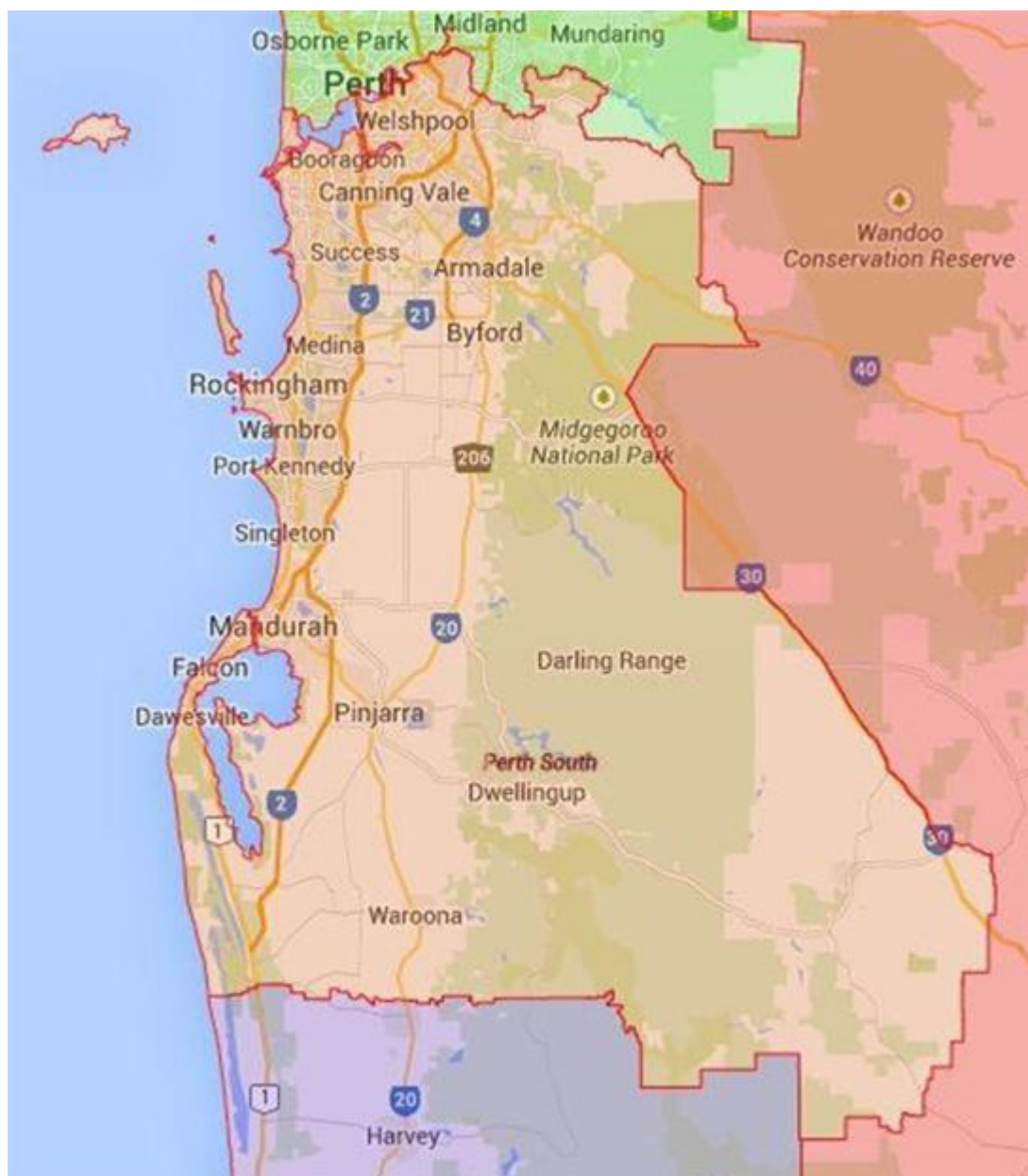
This plan will be reviewed when the Employment Facilitator and the Local Jobs and Skills **Taskforce** is in place, and whenever the priorities change (or every six months).

Local Jobs Program Key Priorities: Perth South Region

1. Maximising the extent to which local positions are filled by local job seekers including ensuring that apprenticeship positions can be filled.
2. Maximising the benefits of existing Australian and WA Government programs, to create pathways into growth industries particularly Health Care, Construction and Mining and that locals are skilled to meet the need of industry.
3. Facilitating and supporting the transition to employment, enterprise, further study or training, for young people not participating in the labour market including a focus on Indigenous young people.

A full description of these key priorities, the strategies to address these and a list of key stakeholders can be found at Attachment A.

Perth South Region Overview



The Perth South Employment Region has Swan River as its northern border, coast to the west and encompasses southern metropolitan Perth all the way to the regional towns of Boddington in the east and Wagerup to the south. A full list of suburbs and postcode mappings can be found on the [Department of Education, Skills and Employment website](#).

Key challenges in the Perth South region

The Perth South region has recorded subdued employment growth in recent years, which has impacted negatively on both the number and type of job opportunities available. The unemployment rate in the region has also averaged 6.7 per cent over the last five years, well above the 5.6 per cent recorded for Australia. The Perth South unemployment rate was 7.9 per cent in August 2020, up by 1.6 percentage points since March 2020, and above the 7.0 per cent recorded for Western Australia.

Impacts of COVID-19

ABS Labour Force Survey regional estimates show that labour market conditions have deteriorated in the Perth South region since March 2020, when Australia recorded its 100th case of COVID-19.

Selected ABS Labour Force Survey indicators, August 2020

	Employment			Unemployment			Unemployment rate		Participation rate	
	Aug-20	Change since Mar-20		Aug-20	Change since Mar-20		Aug-20	Change since Mar-20	Aug-20	Change since Mar-20
	('000)	('000)	(%)	('000)	('000)	(%)	(%)	(% pts)	(%)	(% pts)
Perth South	528.4	-5.8	-1.1	45.3	9.2	25.4	7.9	1.6	66.2	0.2
Western Australia	1,350.3	-21.9	-1.6	102.0	23.6	30.1	7.0	1.6	67.9	-0.1
Australia	12,583.4	-413.6	-3.2	921.8	206.0	28.8	6.8	1.6	64.8	-1.1

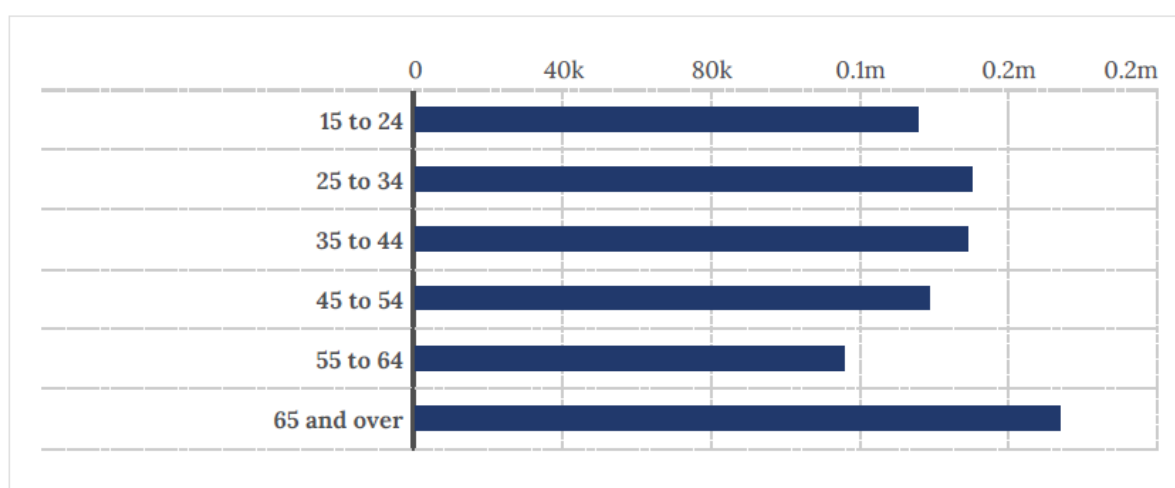
Source: Data for Perth South are from ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed – Electronic Delivery, August 2020 (Cat. no. 6291.0.55.001), original estimates. Data for Western Australia and Australia are from ABS, Labour Force, Australia, August 2020 (Cat. no. 6202.0), seasonally adjusted estimates.

The caseload in the Perth South Employment Region increased from 36,985 people in March 2020 to 69,167 in September 2020, a rise of 87 per cent. This compares with an increase of 89 per cent for Western Australia and 97 per cent for Australia. The caseload profile in the region is very similar to that of the state.

Throughout this labour market update, unless otherwise stated, data are for the SA4s of Mandurah, Perth – South East and Perth – South West. Data are the latest available at the time of writing. Note that regional monthly ABS Labour Force Survey (LFS) estimates are highly volatile and should be viewed with extreme caution.

Population profile Perth South

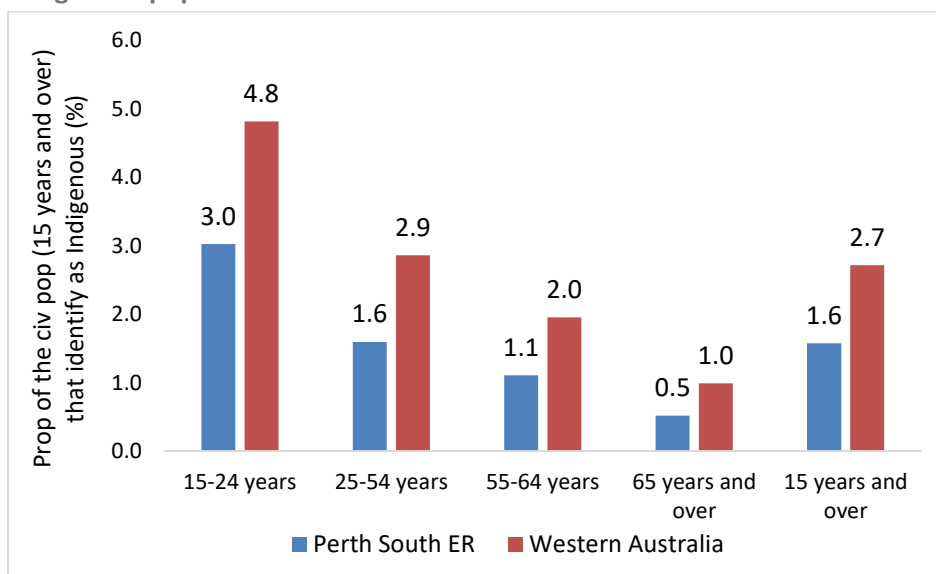
Population by Age Group (15+), August 2020



Age Group	Persons
15 to 24	135,300
25 to 34	150,000
35 to 44	149,100
45 to 54	138,400
55 to 64	115,800
65 and over	173,700

Chart Source: ABS Labour Force Survey, 12-month average of original data.

Indigenous population Perth South



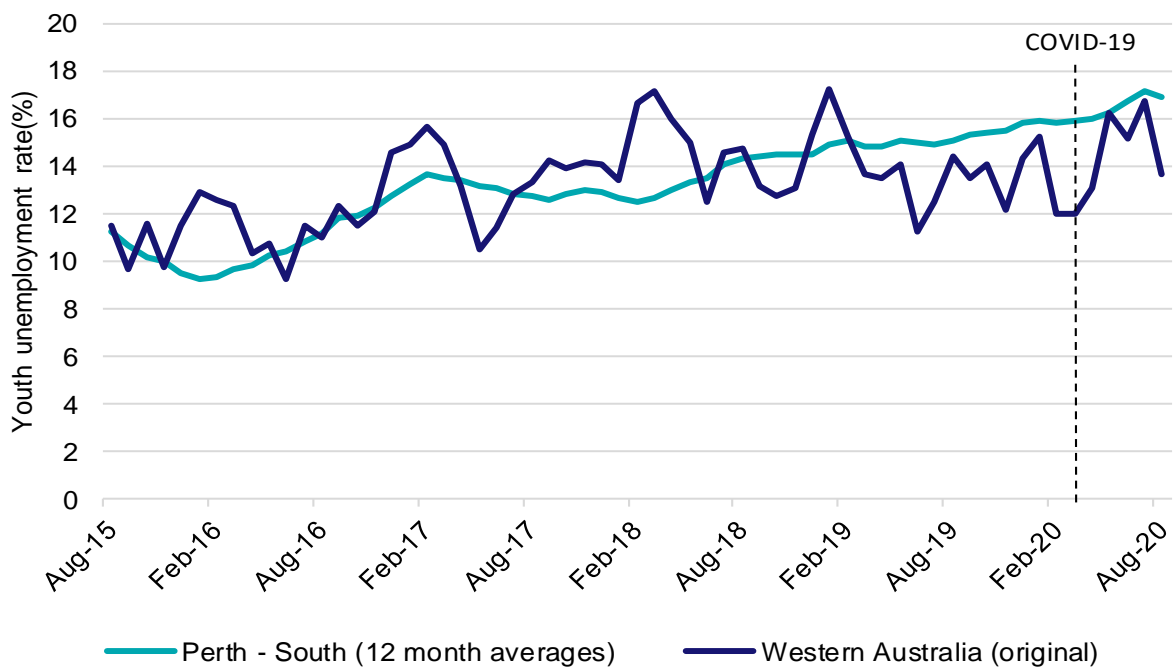
Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing, August 2016

Youth aged 15-24

Youth unemployment

- The youth unemployment rate in Perth South was 16.9 per cent in August 2020, compared with 13.6 per cent for the state.
- The youth unemployment rate has increased by 1.0 percentage point since March 2020.
- Large numbers of young people employed in highly affected sectors such as retail, hospitality and tourism have been impacted by COVID-19 shutdowns.

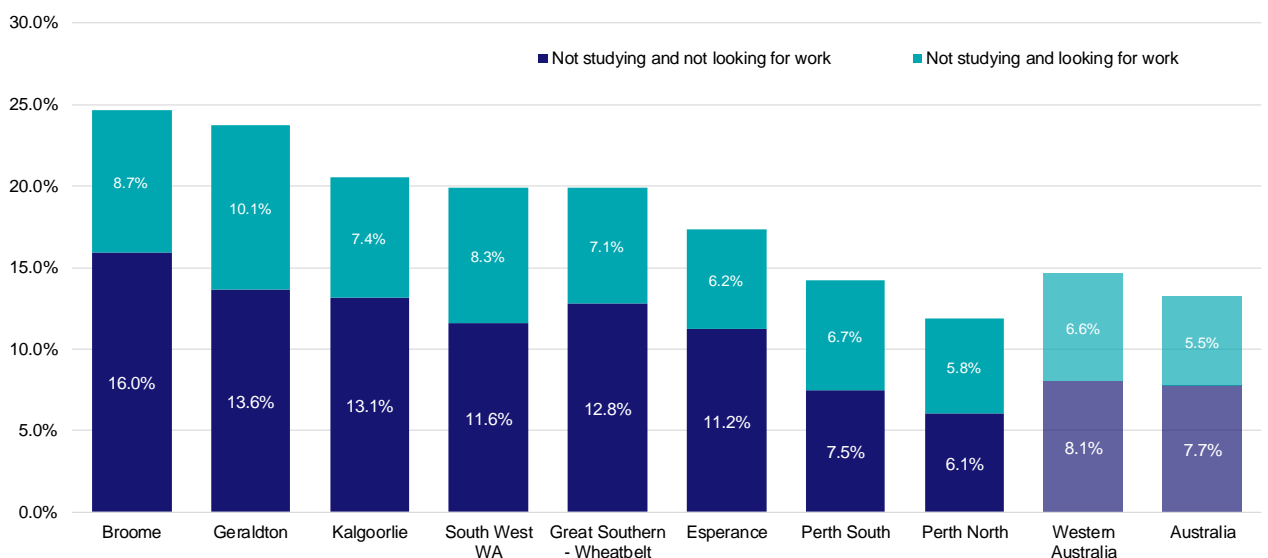
Youth unemployment (five years to August 2020)



Source: ABS, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, August 2020

Youth disengagement

Young people not studying nor working (18-24 years old)



Source: ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2016

At the time of the last census, Perth South had 14.2 per cent of youth neither working nor studying, whilst this is the second lowest proportion of youth disengagement of all Western Australian employment regions, the transition of young people remains a priority of the Local Jobs plan due to the high youth proportion of the current employment services caseload.

Labour market conditions

Unemployment rates

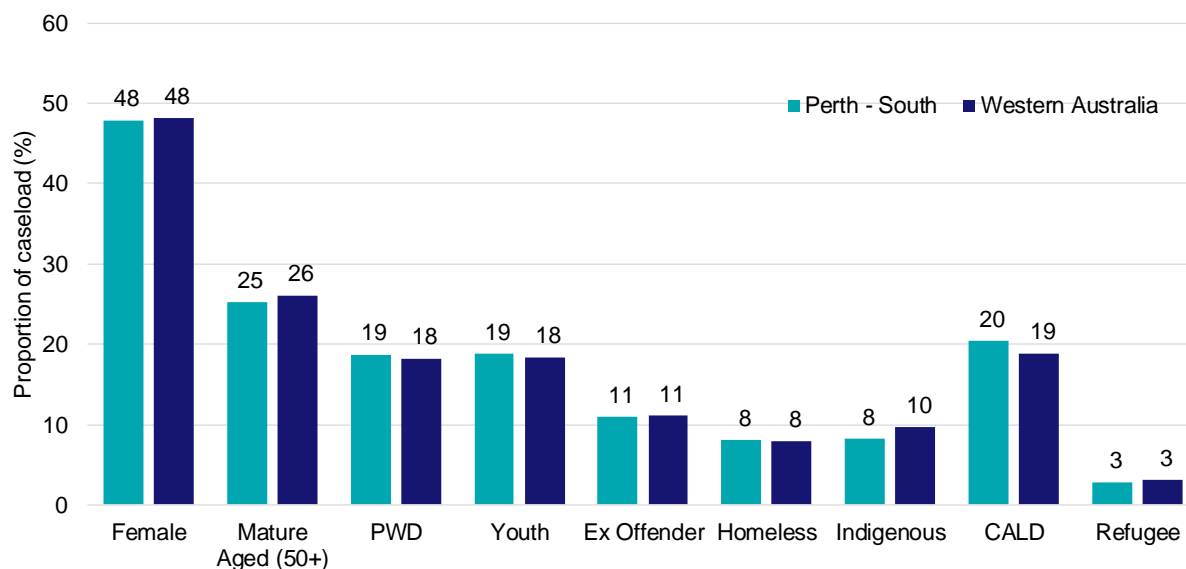
Unemployment rates (%) for Local Government Areas (LGAs) within the Perth South Employment Region			
	Mar -19*	Mar -20*	Five year average rate
Mandurah (C)	6.7	6.9	8.4
Murray (S)	5.6	5.7	7.5
Armadale (C)	9.9	9.5	9.1
Belmont (C)	7.4	6.7	6.7
Canning (C)	5.4	4.8	4.8
Gosnells (C)	8.8	8.0	8.1
Kalamunda (C)	5.0	4.3	4.4
Serpentine-Jarrahdale (S)	4.4	4.4	4.2
South Perth (C)	3.7	3.1	3.4
Victoria Park (T)	5.8	5.1	5.0
Cockburn (C)	5.8	6.2	5.9
East Fremantle (T)	3.0	3.0	3.0
Fremantle (C)	7.2	7.8	7.3
Kwinana (C)	11.3	11.8	11.1
Melville (C)	3.1	3.3	3.2
Rockingham (C)	8.6	9.0	8.2
<i>Perth South ER</i>	<i>7.4</i>	<i>7.9</i>	<i>6.7</i>
<i>Greater Perth</i>	<i>5.8</i>	<i>7.3</i>	<i>6.2</i>
<i>Western Australia</i>	<i>5.7</i>	<i>6.7</i>	<i>6.1</i>
<i>Australia</i>	<i>5.2</i>	<i>6.9</i>	<i>5.6</i>

*Latest available data for LGA's. Data for Perth South and Greater Perth are for Aug-19 and Aug-20, while data for Western Australia and Australia are for Sep-19 and Sep-20.

Data for LGA's are sourced from National Skills Commission, Small Area Labour Markets, March quarter 2020 and are four quarter averages of original estimates. Data for Perth South and Greater Perth are sourced from ABS, Labour Force, Detailed - Electronic Delivery, August 2020 and are original estimates. Data for Western Australia and Australia are sourced from ABS, Labour Force, September 2020, seasonally adjusted data.

Employment services caseload characteristics

Employment services caseload for selected cohorts (September 2020)



Source: Department of Education, Skills and Employment, administrative data, September 2020.

PWD = Persons with disability. CALD = Culturally and Linguistically Diverse.

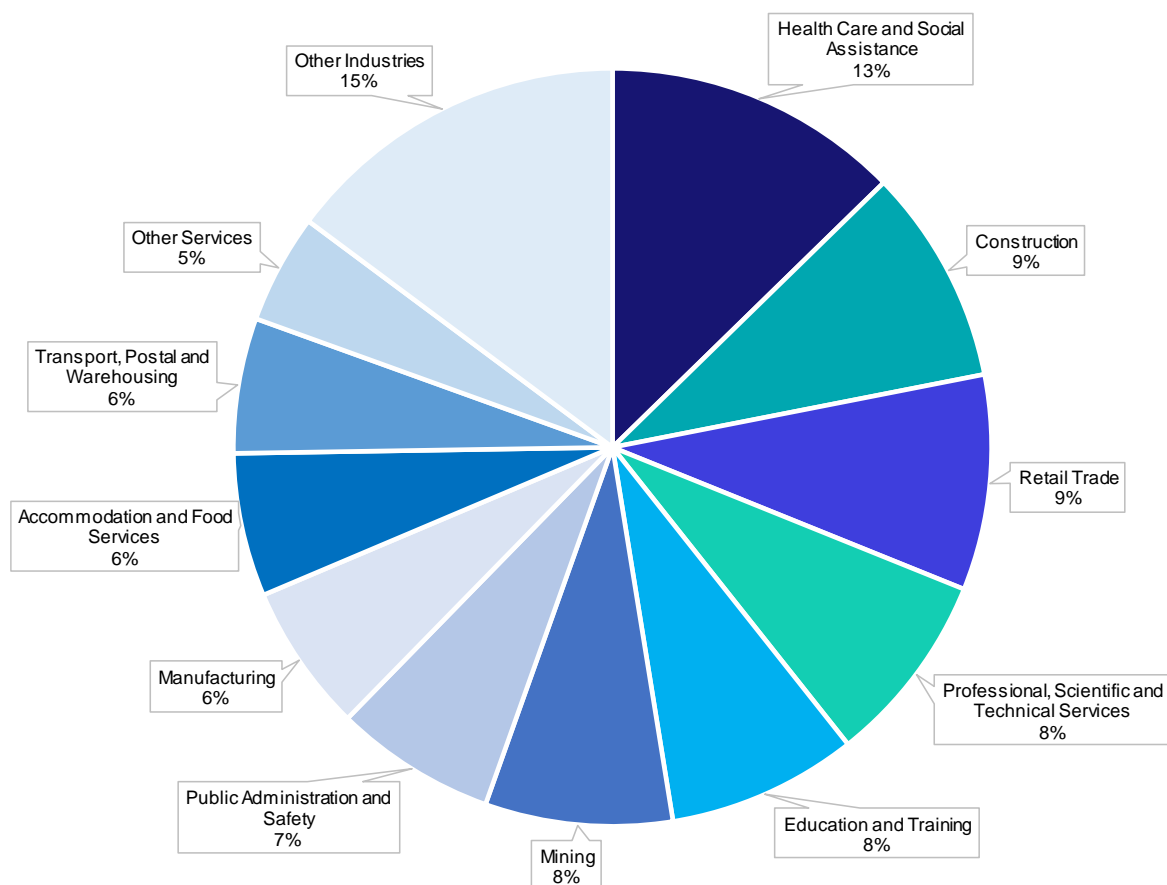
Income Support

In July 2020, the proportion of the working age (15-64 years) population on income support in Perth South stood at 16.2 per cent, below the 17.1 per cent recorded in Western Australia, but almost on par with the 16.3 per cent recorded nationally.

Industry profile¹

As at August 2020, the largest employing industries in Perth South were Health Care and Social Assistance, Construction and Retail Trade. Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, Education and Training and Mining were also large industries, each with an employment share of 8 per cent.

Share of employment by industry in Perth South, August quarter 2020



Source: ABS Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, August 2020. "Other industries" includes: Wholesale Trade; Financial and Insurance Services; Administrative and Support Services; Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services; Arts and Recreation Services; Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services; Information Media and Telecommunications; and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing.

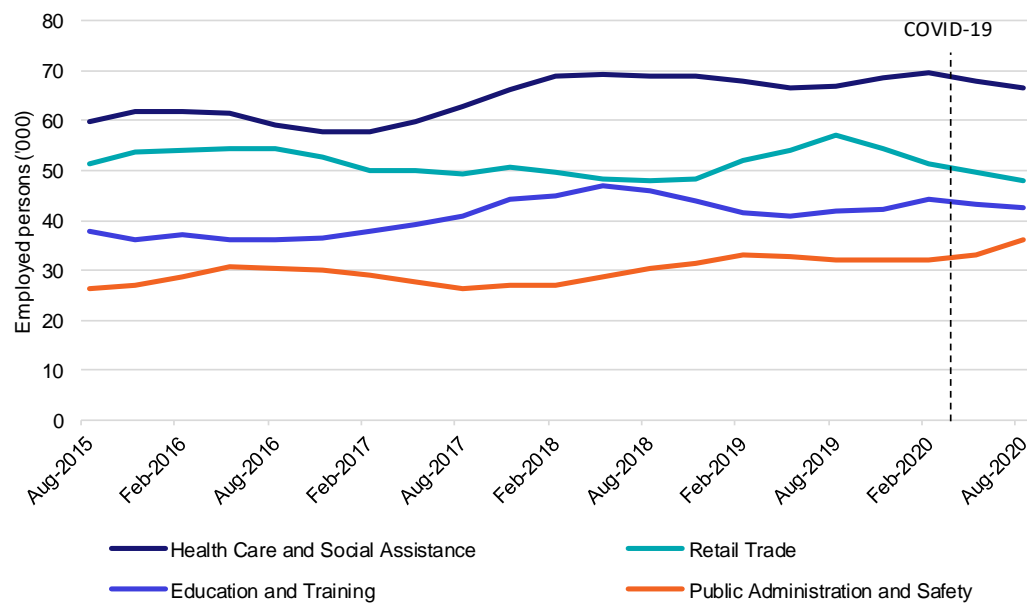
Employment trends (for selected industries)

Over the last five years, employment in Perth South has

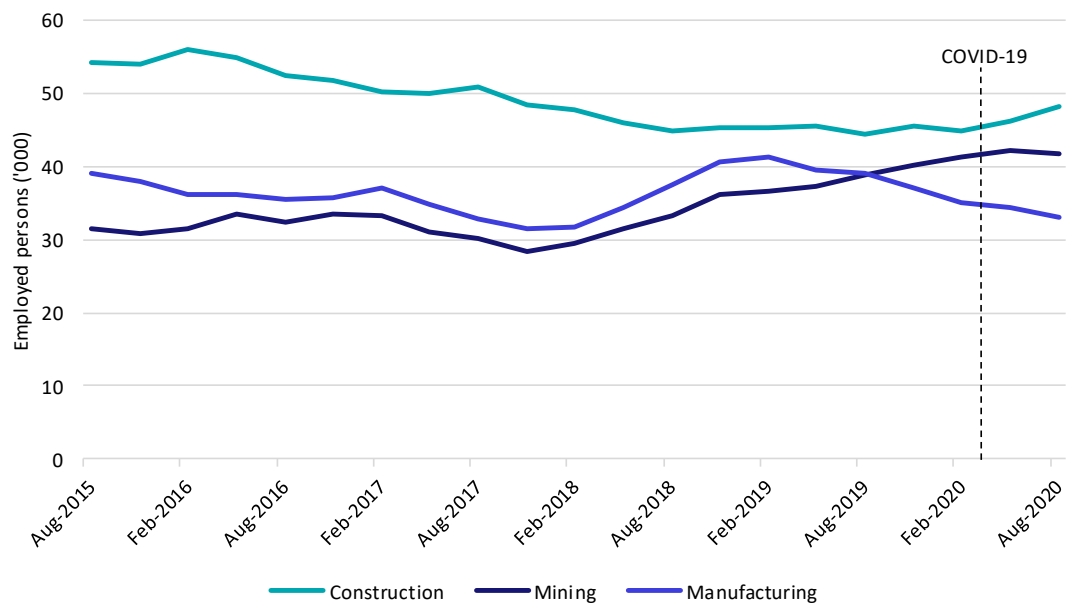
- Increased in Health Care and Social Assistance, Education and Training, Public Administration and Safety and Mining.
- Decreased in Retail Trade, Construction and Manufacturing.

¹ Regional industry employment data is in four quarter averaged terms, which means it is not responsive enough to pick up the impact of COVID-19. This section is intended to present the more medium-term trends in industry employment for the region.

Employed persons in 'services' industries, five years to August 2020 ('000)



Employed persons in 'producing' industries, five years to August 2020 ('000)

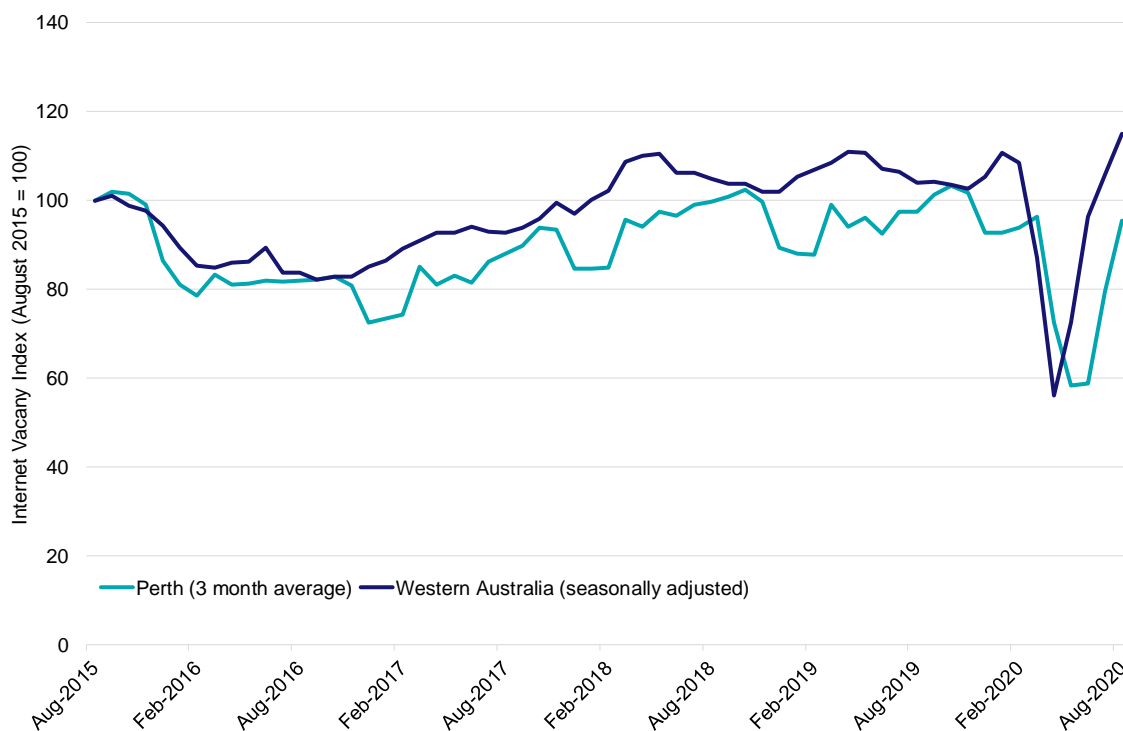


Source: ABS Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, August 2020

Vacancies and job advertisements

The level of vacancies in the Internet Vacancy Index Perth region declined by nearly 40 per cent over the two months to May 2020, before increasing again to August 2020 (up by 64 per cent from the lowest point). With this recent increase, vacancies in the region are up 1.6 per cent from pre-COVID levels.

Online job advertisement time series (five years to August 2020)



Source: National Skills Commission, Internet Vacancy Index, August 2020. Data for Perth is a three -month moving average, and data for Western Australia is seasonally adjusted; both have been indexed to August 2015

Top 10 advertised occupations (August 2020)

ANZSCO Occupation
General Clerks
Sales Assistants (General)
Motor Mechanics
Other Miscellaneous Labourers
Software and Applications Programmers
Metal Fitters and Machinists
Registered Nurses
Structural Steel and Welding Trades Workers
Electricians
Truck Drivers

Source: National Skills Commission, Internet Vacancy Index, August 2020. Raw data are used for analysis. Note: the Perth region is the best fit from the regions available from the contributing job boards and does not precisely correspond to the Perth South Employment Region.

Schools in the region

Completing Year 12 is often an important first step to further education or gaining employment. Engaging with schools and students about post-school education options and employment options could be very beneficial to the future labour market of the region.

There are many options for Government and Non-Government schools in the South Metropolitan (Education Region) that provide secondary education to 73,935 students. Many of these schools offer vocational education and training (VET) in Schools as part of the school program.

University

Perth South has campuses for a number of universities; [The University of Western Australia](#), [Curtin University](#), [Murdoch University](#) and [The University of Notre Dame](#).

Transport

The region is serviced by an extensive public transport network of train lines and buses. With current investment being made by State Government [Metronet](#) projects.

Selected Major Projects

There is potential for local job seekers to access employment opportunities associated with a number of major projects from State and Federal Governments and the private sector.

Major Projects in Perth South include:

- Incentives to boost residential construction industry; Homebuilder scheme, new homebuyers grant
- Mining and Resources sector projects with local procurement target for vendors large and small
- New domestic manufacturing
- Metronet -Byford rail extension and Thornlie-Cockburn line
- Joint Commonwealth and State infrastructure spending
- Western Trade Coast –Outer harbour in Cockburn Sound
- Defence Industry workforce strategy
- Main Roads civil construction projects including Roe Highway Interchange.

Key construction projects include:

- Maintenance blitz on State Government Assets
- High Street Fremantle upgrade
- Renewable energy projects; Big Battery in Kwinana
- TAFE campus expansion
- New high school in Piara Waters

Local Stakeholders

There are 16 local councils in the Perth South area. Leveraging on the existing work undertaken in economic development and networks in each local government area will be a priority.

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry is a strong stakeholder in the region with standalone chambers in operation over the Perth South Area as well as the WA Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIWA).

Australian Government **employment programs** are delivered by five employment service providers in the region. Other employment services in the region include ParentsNext (PNX), Transition to Work (TtW), New Enterprise Incentive Scheme (NEIS), Career Transition Assistance (CTA), Employment Preparation Activity (EPA), Australian Apprenticeship Support Network (AASN), Employability Skills Training (EST), Skills for Education and Employment (SEE), Harvest Trail Services, PaTH Industry Pilots and the Entrepreneurship Facilitator.

Other Australian Government programs include Vocational Training and Employment Centre (VTEC), DES - Disability Management Service (DES DMS), DES - Employment Support Service (DES ESS), National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), and more.

The [West Australian Indigenous Business and Employment Hub](#) is operated by Wirrpanda Foundation.

WA Jobs and Skills Centres and South Metro TAFE deliver skills and training in Perth South including WA Government Defence Industry Workforce Strategy.

Key Priorities for the Perth South Employment Region

Priority One: Maximising the extent to which local positions are filled by local job seekers including ensuring that apprenticeship positions can be filled.

Maximising the employment opportunities created in the Perth South employment region from major infrastructure and capital projects, delivered over the term of the Local Jobs Plan.

Strategies	Stakeholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote apprenticeship programs and incentives to local industry through local chamber, government newsletters, peak bodies, and business support groups. • In partnership with State Government contractors appointed to infrastructure projects to identify opportunities for engaging trainees, apprentices and local job seekers. • Promote local supply chain opportunities to small and medium enterprises in the Perth South region that may generate business and employment growth. • Monitor pending and awarded local projects and advise employment service providers of upcoming vacancies and skills in demand. Support Indigenous jobseekers to access vacancies and training including through diversity employment programs in private and public sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment Facilitator • State and Federal Government Departments and Agencies • Local employers and Chambers of Commerce • Employment Service Providers • Registered Training Organisations • Australian Apprenticeship Support Network providers

Priority Two: Maximising the benefits of existing Australian and State Government programs, to create **pathways into growth** industries, particularly Health Care, Construction and Mining and that locals are **skilled to meet the need of industry.**

Strategies - short and long term	Stakeholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise the benefits of the State and Federal Government’s investment in JobTrainer by promoting the availability of • Training places to support sectors with high demand. • Identify opportunities using Local Recovery Fund and existing programs to develop projects that will train and prepare job seekers to meet labour requirements of local employers and industries. • Establish partnerships with Industry Training Hubs engaged with the region’s young people to promote pathways to employment and training for jobs in demand in the region. • Support the re-employment of apprentices and trainees on the out of trade register by promoting government incentives available to employers and industry. Promote the benefits of the Australian Government Investment in language, literacy and numeracy skills for workers, with local employers and industry groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment Facilitator • Local Jobs Recovery Fund project proponents • Employment Service Providers • Industry Training Hubs • WA Department of Education • Local job seekers • Registered Training Organisations • Australian Apprenticeship Support Network • Local Employers and Industry

Priority Three: Facilitating and supporting the transition to employment, enterprise, further study or training, for young people not participating in the labour market, including a focus on Indigenous young people.

The youth employment services caseload for Perth South is substantially higher at 18% compared with Western Australia 10%. A focus on Indigenous Youth who form a relatively high proportion of the Indigenous population in Western Australia.

Strategies - short and long term	Stakeholders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximise employment and training opportunities created by the Local Jobs Recovery Fund. • Employment Facilitator to promote Local Recovery Fund projects to Employment Service providers to ensure that local jobs seekers are referred to projects. • Develop partnerships with youth service providers, Industry Training Hubs and local employers to support career development and transitions for young people. • Promote the use and value of school-based traineeships and pre-apprenticeship to employers and industry. Participate in regular meetings and forums addressing youth engagement and transitions with WA Department of Education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment Facilitator • Local Jobs Recovery Fund project proponents • Employment Service Providers • New Enterprise Incentive Scheme (NEIS) • Industry Training Hubs • WA Department of Education • Local High Schools • Local young people • Registered Training Organisations • Australian Apprenticeship Support Network • Local Employers and Industry