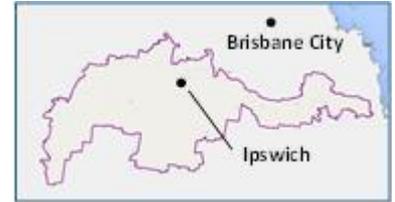




Labour market conditions in the Ipswich-Logan region

Overall, labour market conditions in the Ipswich-Logan region are subdued and have continued to weaken.

- The unemployment rate in Ipswich has increased by 3.7 percentage points to 9.0 per cent in the two years to May 2014.¹
 - Unemployment in Logan fell by 0.8 percentage points to 6.6 per cent.
- Youth unemployment in Ipswich (19.3 per cent) and Logan (16.5 per cent) is far higher than the rate for Queensland as a whole (13.6 per cent).²
- Total employment grew by 3 per cent in Ipswich over the two years to May 2014, however, in Logan it contracted during the same period (down by 10 per cent).³
 - Employment growth in Ipswich was entirely due to an increase in part-time employment. Full-time employment decreased by 1 per cent over the same period.
- A major challenge for the region is the transition to the services sector.⁴
 - Whilst still the largest employer in the region, employment in Manufacturing has decreased by 4 per cent over the last five years.
 - On the other hand, the Health Care and Social Assistance industry has experienced strong employment growth over the same period (8 per cent).
- A large proportion of employed people in Logan (59 per cent) and Ipswich (49 per cent) travel outside the region for work, with the Brisbane LGA being the main destination.⁵

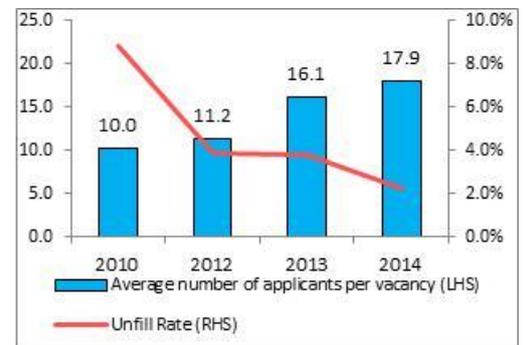


Region (Labour Force, May 2014)	Unemployment Rate (Adult Population)	Youth (15-24 years) Unemployment Rate	2 Year Employment growth (Adult Population)
Ipswich	9.0%	19.3%	3%
Logan	6.6%	16.5%	-10%
Queensland	6.2% ⁶	13.6%	2%

What employers are telling us

The survey results show that recruitment activity remains soft.⁷

- There were few unfilled vacancies (2.2 per cent), low recruitment difficulty (24 per cent) and a very high number of applicants per vacancy (17.9 applicants per vacancy).
- Only 4 per cent of employers reported retention was a problem (9 per cent across all regions), suggesting that labour market mobility is very low.
- Only 30 per cent of employers expected to recruit following the survey, compared with 38 per cent across all regions.



Region	% Recruited	% Who had a retention problem	Applicants per vacancy (Average Number)	Unfill Rate	% Will Recruit
Ipswich-Logan	64%	4%	17.9	2.2%	30%
All regions	60%	9%	10.6	3.7%	38%

12 months to March 2014

Where are the opportunities?

Employers are currently having difficulty filling vacancies for higher-skilled occupations such as, Early Childhood (Pre-Primary School) Teachers, Electricians, Registered Nurses and Secondary School Teachers. Over the next 12 months, employers expect to recruit for a variety of occupations such as Child Carers, Structural Steel and Welding Trade Workers, Metal Fitters and Machinists, General Clerks and Sales Assistants (General). Opportunities exist in industries where recruitment activity was relatively high including Health Care and Social Assistance.

¹ ABS Labour Force Survey, May 2014, 12 month average of original data; data refers to the Ipswich SA4 and Logan – Beaudesert SA4.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ ABS Labour Force Survey, May quarter 2014.

⁵ ABS, Census of Population and Housing, 2011.

⁶ ABS Labour Force, May 2014.

⁷ This report is based on a Survey of Employers' Recruitment Experiences of 416 employers undertaken in March 2014.