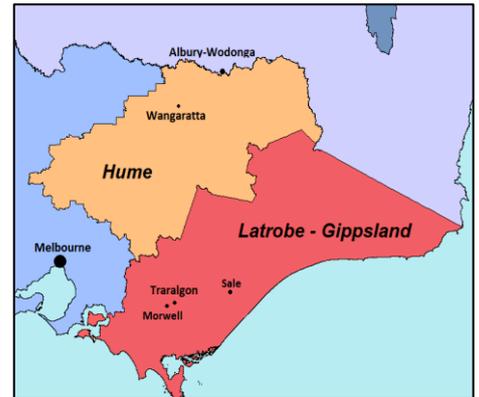




Labour market conditions in the Hume - Latrobe-Gippsland region

Labour market conditions in the Hume – Latrobe-Gippsland region in Victoria are somewhat subdued.

- The unemployment rate has increased by 0.9 percentage points over the last year and now stands at 6.3 per cent.¹
- The participation rate (61.6 per cent) is well below the rate for Victoria (65.1 per cent).²
- Some 21 per cent of the working age population is in receipt of an income support payment, higher than for Victoria (16 per cent).³
- While the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing industry is a large employer in the region (14 per cent of employed persons), employment in the industry has decreased by 8 per cent over the last five years.⁴



	Unemployment Rate	Participation Rate	% WAP on Income support	Year 12 Completion (Census, 25-34 years)
Hume – Latrobe-Gippsland	6.3%	61.6%	21%	61%
Victoria	6.6% ⁵	65.1%	16%	79%

What employers are telling us⁶

Recruitment activity in the broader region is generally high, although the Hume labour market is softer than that of the Latrobe-Gippsland region.

- A large proportion of employers recruited in the year preceding the survey (75 per cent, compared with 59 per cent across all regions surveyed⁷), for a relatively high number of vacancies (20 per 100 staff).
- Many of these vacancies, however, are not advertised with 44 per cent of recruiting employers filling their vacancies using informal methods, including by recruiting through local contacts and networks.
- Employers were able to fill the majority of their vacancies, with only 2.1 per cent of vacancies remaining unfilled (compared with 2.3 per cent across all regions), and only 28 per cent of employers reported recruitment difficulty (31 per cent across all regions).
 - Some 33 per cent of employers in the Latrobe-Gippsland region experienced recruitment difficulty, compared with 24 per cent in Hume.
 - Despite the lower competition for vacancies (8.7 applicants per vacancy on average compared with 10.3 in all regions surveyed), employers encountered little difficulty filling their vacancies.
- Employers' recruitment expectations for the year following the survey are strong, with 50 per cent of employers expecting to recruit compared with 36 per cent across all regions surveyed in the 12 months to June 2014.

Where are the opportunities?

While employers mainly experienced difficulty recruiting for skilled occupations (particularly Early Childhood Teachers, Motor Mechanics and Chefs), vacancies for Truck Drivers and Storepersons were also mentioned as difficult to fill. A high proportion of employers in the Accommodation and Food Services and Health Care and Social Assistance industries expect to recruit, for occupations such as Bar Attendants and Baristas, Waiters, Kitchenhands, Registered Nurses and Receptionists.

¹ ABS Labour Force December 2014, 12 month averages of original data of the Hume, Latrobe-Gippsland and Murray SA4s.

² ABS Labour Force December 2014, 12 month averages of original data; ABS Labour Force January 2015, seasonally adjusted (Victoria).

³ Department of Employment administrative data December 2014.

⁴ ABS Labour Force November 2014.

⁵ ABS Labour Force January 2015 (seasonally adjusted).

⁶ This report is based on a *Survey of Employers' Recruitment Experiences* of 355 employers undertaken in November 2014.

⁷ *Survey of Employers' Recruitment Experiences*, All regions surveyed in the 12 months to December 2014.