Western Australia's gross state product (GSP) of $259.4 billion in 2017-18 was 14% of Australia's gross domestic product (GDP).

- GSP per capita of $100,367 in 2017-18 was 35% above Australia's GDP per capita of $74,605.
- Real GSP rose 1.9% in 2017-18, following a fall of 1.8% in 2016-17, but was below annual growth of 3.8% over the past ten years.

- Goods producing industries accounted for 48% ($125.0b) of GSP in 2017-18. Services industries accounted for 42% ($109.0b), with the remaining 10% ($25.5b) from dwelling ownership and other items.
- Mining accounted for 30% of GSP in 2017-18, followed by business and property services (9%) and construction (8%).
- Manufacturing accounted for 5% of GSP in 2017-18.
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing accounted for 2% of GSP in 2017-18.

- An industry’s contribution to real GSP growth depends on real changes to its gross value added and its share of GSP.
- Mining gross value added rose 3% in 2017-18, and with its large share of GSP, contributed 0.8 percentage points to real GSP growth.
- Healthcare and social assistance gross value added rose 9% in 2017-18, contributing 0.5 percentage points to real GSP growth.
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing gross value added fell 12% in 2017-18, detracting 0.3 percentage points from real GSP growth.
Changes in export prices relative to import prices (terms of trade) affects gross state income (GSI) and accounts for the difference between changes in GSI and GSP.

Western Australia’s terms of trade fell 2% in 2017-18. This relatively small change meant that growth in Western Australia’s real GSP and GSI was the same.

Real GSI rose 1.9% in 2017-18, below a rise of 4.5% in 2016-17, and below annual growth of 3.6% over the past ten years.

The RBA’s annual average $A commodity price index for Australia rose 6% in 2017-18.

The RBA’s monthly average $A commodity price index rose 2% in June 2019.


Western Australia’s population of 2.61 million in 2018 was 10% of Australia’s population.

Population growth of 0.9% (23,961) in 2018 was above growth of 0.7% in 2017, but below annual growth of 1.7% over the past ten years.

Natural increase (18,601) and net overseas migration (up 14,863) offset negative net interstate migration (down 9,503) in 2018.

Annual average population growth was 0.8% in 2017-18 and is forecast to rise to 1.0% in 2018-19 and 1.3% in 2019-20.

The WA Tomorrow report forecasts a population of 3.25 million by 2031.
### LABOUR MARKET

#### Employment (monthly)

- Western Australia’s total employment rose by 13,774 to 1.36 million in June 2019, with a fall in full-time employment (down 763 to 924,122) offset by a rise in part-time employment (up 14,537 to 434,758).
- Total employment rose 1.5% (20,502) through the year to June 2019, with a rise in full-time employment (up 3% or 23,747) offsetting a fall in part-time employment (down 1% or 3,245).
- Annual average employment growth was 0.9% in 2018-19 and is forecast to rise to 1.75% in 2019-20 and 2.0% in 2020-21.

#### Industry sector employment (quarterly)

- Services industries accounted for 72% (969,347) of total employment in the June quarter 2019 and goods-producing industries accounted for 28% (385,589).
- Retail and wholesale trade (up 33,144) and business and property services (up 23,390) had the largest increases in employment through the year to the June quarter 2019.
- Healthcare and social assistance (down 28,770) and accommodation, food, arts and recreation (down 20,340) had the largest falls in employment through the year to the June quarter 2019.
- The participation rate measures the proportion of the civilian working age population (aged 15 and older) in the labour force (people who are either employed or unemployed).
- The participation rate of 68.3% in the June quarter 2019 was above the 68.0% in the previous quarter, but below the 68.6% a year ago.
- The annual average participation rate was 68.4% in 2018-19 and is forecast to rise to 68.6% in 2019-20 and 68.7% in 2020-21.
- There were 25,400 job vacancies in the June quarter 2019, 3,900 less than in the previous quarter, but 1,300 more than a year ago.

#### Participation rate and job vacancies (quarterly)

- WA Economic Profile – July 2019

---

2. Not adjusted for seasonal factors.

Source: ABS 6202.0 Monthly Labour Force.
LABOUR MARKET continued

Unemployment rate (monthly)

- The unemployment rate measures the proportion of the labour force that is unemployed (people without a job who are actively looking for work).
- Western Australia’s unemployment rate of 5.8% in June 2019 was below the 6.2% in the previous month and 6.2% a year ago.
- Australia’s unemployment rate was 5.2% in June 2019.
- The annual average unemployment rate was 6.1% in 2018-19 and is forecast to fall to 6.0% in 2019-20 and 5.75% in 2020-21.
- Unemployment fell by 6,177 to 82,992 in June 2019.

Source: ABS 6202.0 Monthly Labour Force.

Underutilisation rate (monthly)

- The underutilisation rate measures the proportion of the labour force that is unemployed or underemployed (workers wanting more hours).
- The underutilisation rate of 15.4% in June 2019 was above the 15.0% in the previous month, but below the 15.6% a year ago.
- The underutilisation rate in June 2019 comprised an underemployment rate of 9.6% and an unemployment rate of 5.8%.
- The underemployment rate of 9.6% in June 2019 was above the 8.8% in the previous month and 9.4% a year ago.

Source: ABS 6202.0 Monthly Labour Force.

Average annual earnings and wages growth

- Average annual adult full-time total earnings rose 1.1% to $95,945 in 2018.
- Western Australia’s average annual adult full-time total earnings were 11% ($9,204) above the Australian average of $86,741 in 2018.
- Western Australia’s wage price index rose 1.6% in 2018, below annual growth of 2.7% over the past ten years, and below Australia’s wages growth of 2.3% in 2018.
- Annual average wages growth was 1.5% in 2017-18 and is forecast to rise to 1.75% in 2018-19 and 2.25% in 2019-20.
Real household consumption (% change)

- Western Australia accounted for 10% of Australia’s household consumption in 2018.
- Household consumption accounted for 42% of GSP in 2017-18 and contributed 0.7 percentage points to real GSP growth.
- Real household consumption rose 1.10% in 2018, below a rise of 1.15% in 2017, and below annual growth of 2.7% over the past ten years.
- Real household consumption growth was 1.6% in 2017-18 and is forecast to be 0.75% in 2018-19 and 1.75% in 2019-20.

Household consumption by industry sector (nominal)

- Nominal household consumption rose 1.7% to $108.5 billion in 2018.
- The largest increases in household consumption in 2018 were in insurance, finance and other (up $603m or 4%), transport (up $460m or 4%) and food (up $318m or 3%).
- The largest decreases in household consumption in 2018 were in rent and other dwelling services (down $349m or 2%) and furnishings and household equipment (down $276m or 6%).

Gross household disposable income per capita

- Western Australia’s gross household disposable income per capita of $53,681 in 2017-18 was 11% ($5,255) above Australia’s gross household disposable income per capita of $48,426.
- Gross household disposable income per capita rose 1% in 2017-18, following a fall of 2% in 2016-17, but was below annual growth of 3% over the past ten years.
- Total gross household disposable income rose by $2.1 billion in 2017-18, due to changes in employee wages (up $3.8b), social benefits and other secondary income (up $193m), self-employed and property income (down $241m) and interest and tax paid on secondary income (up $1.7b).
**INVESTMENT**

**Investment (nominal)**

- Western Australia accounted for 17% of Australia’s business investment in 2018.
- Business investment accounted for 15% of GSP in 2017-18 and contributed 0.01 percentage points to real GSP growth.
- Real business investment fell 7% in 2018, following a fall of 9% in 2017.
- Real business investment fell 0.7% in 2017-18 and is forecast to fall 1% in 2018-19 and rise 6.0% in 2019-20.
- Nominal business investment fell 5% to $36.6 billion in 2018.
- Nominal dwelling investment rose 2% to $8.7 billion in 2018.
- Nominal public investment fell 5% to $9.0 billion in 2018.

**Private new capital expenditure**

- Western Australia accounted for 51% of Australia’s mining new capital expenditure in 2018.
- Mining accounted for 70% of Western Australia’s private new capital expenditure in 2018.
- Mining new capital expenditure fell 13% to $17.8 billion in 2018.
- New capital expenditure in other selected industries rose 4% to $7.8 billion in 2018.
- In March 2019, Western Australia had $24.5 billion of major resource projects under construction or committed and $88.3 billion under consideration.

**Exploration expenditure**

- Western Australia accounted for 61% of Australia’s minerals exploration expenditure in 2018.
- Western Australia accounted for 58% of Australia’s petroleum exploration expenditure in 2018.
- Minerals exploration expenditure rose 19% to $1.3 billion in 2018, mainly due to increases in gold and copper exploration.
- Petroleum exploration expenditure rose 37% to $672 million in 2018.
PROPERTY MARKET AND CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

Median established house prices and rents (quarterly)

- Perth’s median established house price was unchanged at $490,000 in the March quarter 2019. It fell 4% through the year to the March quarter 2019.
- The rest of Western Australia’s (excluding Perth) median established house price rose 1% to $325,000 in the March quarter 2019. It fell 4% through the year to the March quarter 2019.
- Perth rents fell 1% in the March quarter 2019 and 5% through the year to the March quarter 2019.

Source: ABS 6416.0 Residential Property Price Indexes; and 6401.0 Consumer Price Index (2011-12 = 100.0).

Building and engineering construction activity

- Residential building activity fell 4% to $5.9 billion in 2018.
- Non-residential building activity fell 15% to $4.0 billion in 2018.
- Heavy industry engineering construction activity fell 60% to $11.7 billion in 2018.
- Other engineering construction activity fell 3% to $7.0 billion in 2018, mainly due to a decrease in the construction of telecommunications infrastructure.

Source: ABS 8752.0 Building Activity; and 8762.0 Engineering Construction Activity.

Building construction activity outlook (quarterly)

- Western Australia had $5.6 billion of building activity in the pipeline in the March quarter 2019, below the $6.4 billion in the same quarter of 2018.
- Residential building approvals rose 15% to $1.3 billion in the March quarter 2019. Residential building approvals typically lead building activity by one to two quarters.
- Non-residential building approvals rose 85% to $1.3 billion in the March quarter 2019.
- Dwelling construction finance for owner occupiers fell 18% to $665 million in the March quarter 2019. Dwelling finance typically leads residential building activity by two to three quarters.

Source: ABS 8731.0 Building Approvals; and 5601.0 Lending to Households and Businesses.

(a) Owner Occupiers. Not adjusted for seasonal factors.

Source: ABS 8731.0 Building Approvals; and 5601.0 Lending to Households and Businesses.
Western Australia accounted for 42% of Australia’s merchandise exports in 2018.

Merchandise exports accounted for 51% of GSP in 2017-18 and contributed 2.4 percentage points to real GSP growth.

Real merchandise exports rose 7% in 2018, above a rise of 3% in 2017, and above annual growth\(^1\) of 6% over the past five years.

Real merchandise exports growth was 4.9% in 2017-18 and is forecast\(^2\) to fall to 4.25% in 2018-19 and 4.0% in 2019-20.

Nominal merchandise exports rose 18% to $144.9 billion in 2018.

Western Australia’s largest export market in 2018 was China\(^a\) ($68.4b or 47%), followed by Japan ($23.1b or 16%) and South Korea ($8.6b or 6%).

Western Australia had majority shares of Australia’s exports to Hong Kong\(^b\) (68%), Singapore (63%) and China\(^a\) (58%) in 2018.

Minerals and petroleum accounted for 91% ($131.4b) of merchandise exports in 2018.

Agriculture, food, fibre, fisheries and forestry\(^1\) accounted for 5% ($7.4b) of merchandise exports in 2018.

\(^1\) Excludes confidential items. \(^a\) Excludes Special Administrative Regions and Taiwan. \(^b\) Special Administrative Region of China.

Source: ABS 5368.0 International Trade in Goods and Services; 5220.0 State Accounts; and 5206.0 Quarterly National Accounts.
• Western Australia accounted for 7% of Australia’s services exports in 2018.
• Services exports accounted for 3% of GSP in 2017-18 and detracted 0.1 percentage points from real GSP growth.
• Real services exports fell 4% in 2018 compared with annual decline\(^1\) of 0.1% over the past five years.
• Nominal services exports fell 1% to $6.7 billion in 2018.

• Services exports mainly comprised personal travel (34%) and education-related travel (29%) and transport (14%) in 2018.
• The largest increase in 2018 was in education-related travel (up 3%), while the largest decline was in telecommunications, computer and information services (down 33%).
• International student enrolments fell 3% to 51,897 in 2018, compared with annual growth\(^1\) of 2% over the past ten years.
• Western Australia accounted for 5.9% of Australia’s international student enrolments in 2018, below the 6.7% share in 2017.

• Tourism\(^1\) accounted for 2.5% ($6.1 billion) of GSP and 5% (71,100) of total employment in 2016-17.
• Total overnight visitors\(^1\) rose 13% to 11.9 million in 2018, above annual growth\(^2\) of 6% over the past ten years.
• Total visitor spending\(^2\) rose 9% to $10.4 billion in 2018.
• In 2018, international overnight visitors rose 2% to 963,800, while their spending fell 0.5% to $2.2 billion.
• In 2018, domestic overnight visitors rose 14% to 11.0 million and their spending rose 13% to $6.0 billion.
• Day trip spending by local residents rose 9% to $2.2 billion in 2018.

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1 Compound annual growth rate.
2 Source: ABS 5368.0 State Accounts; and 5369.0.55.004 International Trade in Services by State.
Western Australia’s share of Australian and world mining production: 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>World % share</th>
<th>WA % share</th>
<th>World production</th>
<th>WA production</th>
<th>World share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iron ore</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>811</td>
<td>899</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rare earths</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LNG</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diamonds</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumina</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ilimenite</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>624</td>
<td>950</td>
<td>6,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nickel</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>2,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>315</td>
<td>3,347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zircon</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobalt</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rutile</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>940</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WA Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Resource Data Files.

- Western Australia is the main minerals and petroleum exporting region of Australia and produces a significant proportion of the world’s minerals and petroleum commodities.
- Western Australia accounted for 52% of Australia’s mining gross value added in 2017-18, below its 56% share in the previous year and 67% share in 2013-14.
- Mining accounted for 30% of GSP in 2017-18, in line with its 30% share in the previous year, but below its 37% share in 2010-11.
- Nominal mining gross value added rose 6% to $79.0 billion in 2017-18, in line with annual growth1 of 6% over the past ten years.
- Iron ore accounted for 50% of minerals and petroleum sales in 2018, followed by:
  - LNG (21%)
  - Gold (9%)
  - Alumina and bauxite (6%)
  - Condensate (4%)
  - Nickel (2%)
  - Crude oil (2%)
  - Lithium, tin and tantalum (1%)
  - Base metals (1%)
  - Natural gas (1%)
  - Cobalt (0.4%)
  - Manganese (0.4%)
  - Mineral sands (0.3%)
- Minerals and petroleum sales rose 16% to $127.4 billion in 2018, mainly due to increased sales of LNG.
Iron ore sales

- Iron ore sales rose 1% to $64.0 billion in 2018, due to rising sales volumes offsetting falling average prices.
- The volume of iron ore sales rose 1% to 811 million tonnes in 2018, below annual growth¹ of 10% over the past ten years.
- The annual average $A unit price (free on board) of iron ore sales fell 1% in 2018.
- The WA Government’s 2019-20 State Budget forecasts iron ore sales to rise to 858 million tonnes by 2022-23.

LNG sales

- LNG sales rose 81% to $27.0 billion in 2018, due to rising sales volumes and average prices.
- The volume of LNG sales rose 34% to 44 million tonnes in 2018, above annual growth¹ of 13% over the past ten years.
- The annual average $A unit price (free on board) of LNG sales rose 35% in 2018.

Gold sales

- Western Australia’s gold sales rose 3% to $11.5 billion in 2018, due to rising sales volumes and average prices.
- The volume of gold sales rose 1% to 212 tonnes in 2018, below annual growth¹ of 5% over the past ten years.
- The annual average $A unit price (free on board) of gold sales rose 3% in 2018.

¹ Compound annual growth rate.
Source: WA Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, Resource Data Files (2008 = 100.0).
### Western Australia Economic Profile

#### Employment and Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Employed Mar-17</th>
<th>Employment Rate Mar-17</th>
<th>Unemployed Mar-17</th>
<th>Unemployment Rate Mar-17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2,581,599</td>
<td>59.7%</td>
<td>960,786</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2,581,599</td>
<td>59.7%</td>
<td>960,786</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Non-residential building

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value 2017</th>
<th>% Change 2016-17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$23m</td>
<td>+0.6%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Gross Regional Product

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value 2017</th>
<th>% Change 2016-17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$456m</td>
<td>+3.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Agriculture Production

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value 2017</th>
<th>% Change 2016-17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>$313m</td>
<td>-3.8%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### OverNight Visitors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value 2017</th>
<th>% Change 2016-18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>421,700p</td>
<td>+2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>337,400p</td>
<td>+2.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Regions

#### Albany

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population 2017</th>
<th>Unemployed Mar-17</th>
<th>Employment Rate Mar-17</th>
<th>Unemployment Rate Mar-17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>38,014</td>
<td>1,446</td>
<td>+0.8%</td>
<td>-3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>38,014</td>
<td>1,446</td>
<td>+0.8%</td>
<td>-3.6%</td>
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</table>

#### Pilbara

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population 2017</th>
<th>Unemployed Mar-17</th>
<th>Employment Rate Mar-17</th>
<th>Unemployment Rate Mar-17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>61,688</td>
<td>4,267</td>
<td>+0.4%</td>
<td>-3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>61,688</td>
<td>4,267</td>
<td>+0.4%</td>
<td>-3.9%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Goldfields-Esperance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population 2017</th>
<th>Unemployed Mar-17</th>
<th>Employment Rate Mar-17</th>
<th>Unemployment Rate Mar-17</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>20,835</td>
<td>1,908</td>
<td>-1.6%</td>
<td>-3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>20,835</td>
<td>1,908</td>
<td>-1.6%</td>
<td>-3.4%</td>
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#### Wheatbelt

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population 2017</th>
<th>Unemployed Mar-17</th>
<th>Employment Rate Mar-17</th>
<th>Unemployment Rate Mar-17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>55,121</td>
<td>5,908</td>
<td>+0.4%</td>
<td>-3.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>55,121</td>
<td>5,908</td>
<td>+0.4%</td>
<td>-3.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Great Southern

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<th>Unemployed Mar-17</th>
<th>Employment Rate Mar-17</th>
<th>Unemployment Rate Mar-17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>60,833</td>
<td>6,934</td>
<td>+0.1%</td>
<td>-3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>60,833</td>
<td>6,934</td>
<td>+0.1%</td>
<td>-3.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Natural Resources

#### Minerals & Petroleum Sales

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value 2017</th>
<th>% Change 2016-17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$313m</td>
<td>-3.8%</td>
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#### Agriculture Production

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value 2017</th>
<th>% Change 2016-16</th>
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<tbody>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Other

#### Gross Regional Product

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value 2017</th>
<th>% Change 2016-17</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
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#### Agriculture Production

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Value 2017</th>
<th>% Change 2016-16</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>$313m</td>
<td>-3.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Footnotes

1. Change from the previous financial or calendar year for annual series and change from the same quarter of the previous year for the quarterly labour force series.
2. Quarterly change. '1' of Western Australia. Source: ABS 3218.0 Regional Population Growth; 7953.0 Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced; and 8731.0-Building Approvals; Department of Jobs and Small Business, Small Area Labour Markets; WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development; WA Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety; Resource Data Files; and Tourism Western Australia, Regional Development Commission Fact Sheets (annual average overnight visits).