

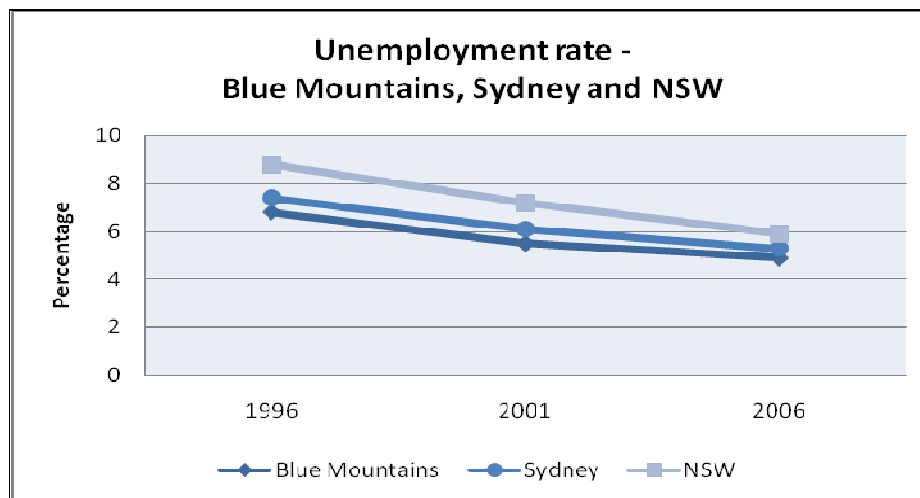
Population – employment status

What are we monitoring?

Unemployment rate 15 years and over

What is the trend?

The unemployment rate in the LGA declined between 1996 and 2006. The Blue Mountains unemployment rates were less than those in the Sydney statistical region and the state of NSW between 1996 and 2006. However this measure does not address the relationship between part time and full time employment.



UNEMPLOYMENT – RATE BY LOCATION			
Location/Year	1996	2001	2006
Blue Mountains	6.8	5.5	4.9
Sydney	7.4	6.1	5.3
NSW	8.8	7.2	5.9

The unemployment rate measures the proportion of the total workforce not employed; it is derived from the Census question, *'Last week did the person have a full time or part time job of any kind?'* and relates only to persons aged 15 years or more.

Why is monitoring this trend important?

The local unemployment rate provides information about numbers of jobless people in the Blue Mountains. Tracking unemployment provides information about how well the Blue Mountains population is faring in terms of employment as compared to Sydney and the rest of NSW. It can also indicate the need for local training and employment programs.

Unemployment creates individual and family poverty and carries with it a range of psychological and health risks. Ensuring unemployment remains low is important for the Blue Mountains community.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Census (1996, 2001, 2006)