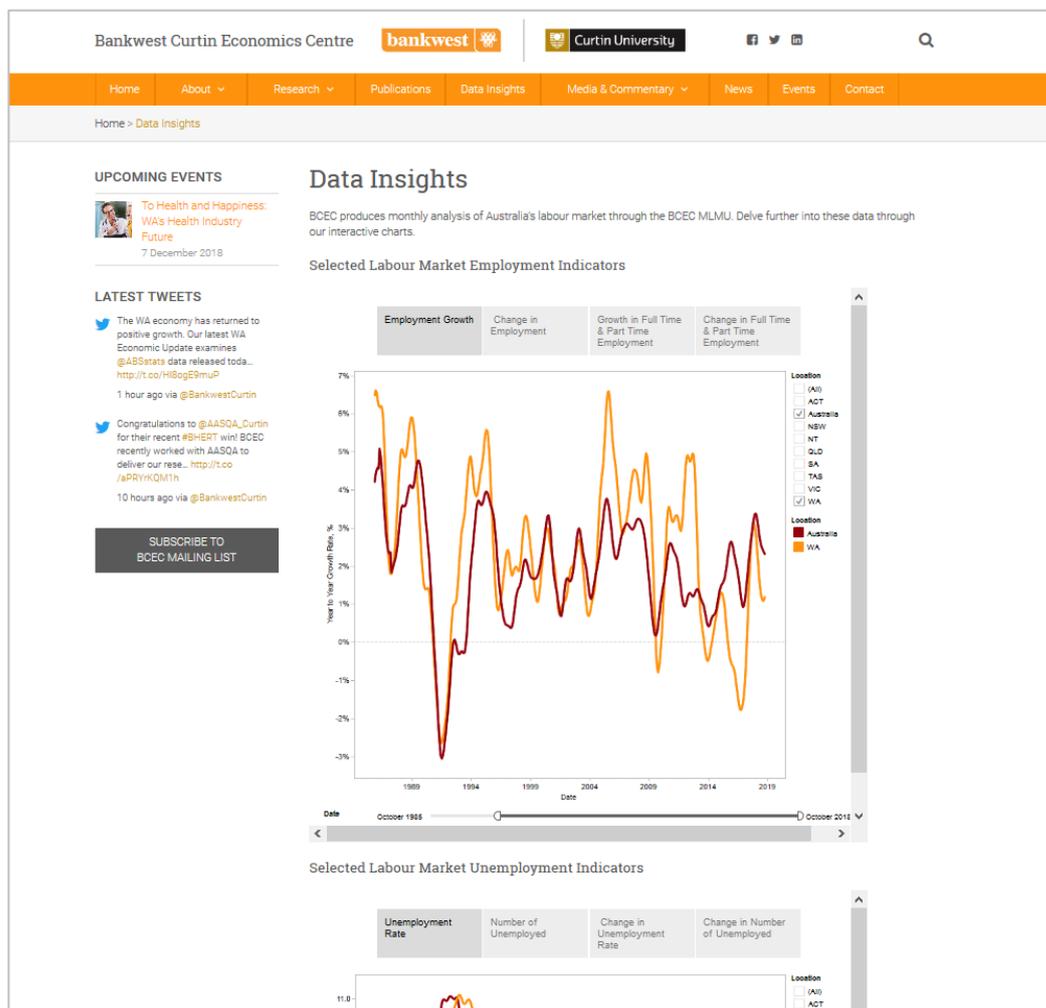




Em and Unem

The level of employment is a key factor in determining the level of unemployment. Employment and unemployment are not the same in all parts of Australia. They also vary over time. Let's investigate the size of these differences and patterns that can be identified.

Use the **Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre's (BCEC) Data Insights** platform to undertake the following task. You will find it at: <http://bcec.edu.au/data-insights/>





Finding out

The **Data Insights** platform on the BCEC website allows you to generate customised graphs by selecting which state/s (and/or territory/s) to include and changing the timeframe (period). Test how it works by moving the ends of the slider below the graph to change the timeframe; and by selecting and de-selecting states/territories.

Task

Select the 'Change in Employment' tab at the top of the **first chart** and select SA (South Australia) and WA (Western Australia) and de-select Australia (which is a default). Then change the timeframe (Date) to January 2000 to January 2018.

- Identify what you consider to be the major difference in employment between WA and SA over this period.

Select the 'Change in the number of Unemployed' tab at the top of the **second chart** and change the timeframe to March 1978 to March 2018.

- Describe how similar (or different) the patterns of the number of people unemployed are in WA and SA are over this period.

Select the 'Unemployment rate' tab at the top of the **second chart** and select Australia and Western Australia (WA). Then change the timeframe (Date) to August 2008 to August 2018.

- From this graph, divide this decade (2008-18) into two parts - one where the unemployment rate trends for WA and Australia are similar and another where they are different.
- If the federal government's target rate for unemployment is 5% comment on what you determine from the graph for Australia for this decade.
- Predict which state had the highest unemployment rate on average over this period.
 - Share your prediction with two classmates.
 - Have each person in the group describe what led them to their prediction.
 - Test the predictions by selecting different states until the state that did have the highest employment rate over the period is identified.





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Select WA and Tasmania (Tas).

- Describe how similar (or different) the unemployment rates are in these two states over this period of time
- Describe how similar (or different) the unemployment rate patterns are in these two states are over this period.

Use data from the graphs to support your choices.





Teacher notes

Purpose

This 'bite' aims to use data to investigate unemployment in various states/territories of Australia.

Prior knowledge

Students need to have been exposed to the following Year 10 syllabus content before undertaking this 'bite':

- Indicators of economic performance [Hint: could be after the introduction to the concept of unemployment and its measurement]

They also need to be familiar with reading line graphs.

Answers

- For almost all of this 18 year period, Western Australia has created more employment than South Australia.
- The change in the number unemployed over this 40 year period has been more consistent in South Australia than in Western Australia. WA has experienced a few unemployment 'spikes' above 10,000 per month for a short period of time.
- From August 2008 to July 2015, the unemployment rate in Western Australia has been below the Australian rate. From August 2015, the rate in Western Australia has exceeded the Australian rate with the exception of a few months where they were equal.
- For almost all of this period, the Australian unemployment rate has been in a band from meeting the target to 1% above the target (i.e. between 5% and 6%).
- Predictions will vary. Some students may predict South Australia or Tasmania from their current affairs knowledge. On average, over the period, Tasmania had the highest unemployment rate (although SA had a higher rate for 3 years between 2015 and 2017).
- For almost all of this period, Western Australia had a substantially lower unemployment rate than Tasmania.





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- The patterns of the unemployment rates for Western Australia and Tasmania are relatively similar for most of this period except for Aug 2013 to Aug 2015 when the rates were heading in opposite directions with Tasmania decreasing as Western Australia continued to increase.

Follow-up

Data can be found to enable students to compare unemployment across countries.

ABS data for inflation can be used to make comparisons between states.

