

Media Release

The Hon Tim Pallas MP

Treasurer

Minister for Economic Development

Minister for Industrial Relations



**DELIVERING
FOR ALL VICTORIANS**

Thursday, 31 January 2019

REGIONAL VICTORIA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HITS RECORD LOW

Regional Victoria is boasting its lowest unemployment rate since records began at just 4.3 per cent, new ABS data shows.

The data reveals regional Victoria's unemployment rate is also lower than all other states in the nation – dropping 0.3 percentage points in the December quarter.

The national average regional unemployment rate is sitting at 5 per cent, supported by Victoria's outstanding results – with other states such as New South Wales at 4.9 per cent and South Australia at 5.1 per cent.

During the first term of the Andrews Labor Government, Victoria's regional unemployment rate fell by 2.1 percentage points, with nearly 58,000 people finding work – more than 80 per cent of these jobs were full-time.

In the December quarter alone, an additional 5,500 people found employment in regional Victoria, with Hume and Shepparton experiencing the greatest employment gains.

Under the previous Liberal government, the unemployment rate in regional Victoria blew out to 6.6 per cent.

Quotes attributable to Treasurer Tim Pallas

"This is the lowest unemployment rate in regional Victoria since records began – and the results are clear, it means better lives for Victorians, families and for all rural and regional communities."

"This is because we've made it easier for regional small businesses to hire and expand, ensuring that every corner of the state reaps the benefits of our sustained growth."

Quotes attributable to Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade Martin Pakula

"Once again, Victoria is leading the way in job creation – and showing other states how it's done."

"We're focused on creating not just jobs, but great jobs in growing industries, giving all Victorians the opportunity to use their skills and creativity."