



Centre of Full Employment and Equity

## Employment Vulnerability in Australian Suburbs

## Red alert suburbs: An employment vulnerability index for Australia's major urban regions

# PRESS PACKAGE

Scott Baum, William Mitchell and Michael Flanagan  
November 2013



This is a joint research report by the School of Environment and the Population and Social Health Research Program, Griffith Health, Griffith University and the Centre of Full Employment and Equity (CofFEE), Charles Darwin University and the University of Newcastle.

### About the Authors

**Scott Baum** is a Professor in the Griffith School of Environment and the Population and Social Health Research Program, Griffith Health at Griffith University.

**William Mitchell** is a Professor of Economics and Director of the Centre of Full Employment and Equity (CofFEE), which is a joint research centre at the Charles Darwin University and the University of Newcastle.

**Michael Flanagan** is a Research Officer at the Centre of Full Employment and Equity (CofFEE), the University of Newcastle.

Home Page: <http://e1.newcastle.edu.au/coffee/>

Email: [coffee@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:coffee@newcastle.edu.au)

Telephone:

Professor Mitchell 0419 422 410  
CofFEE Office 02-4921 7283

© Scott Baum, William Mitchell and Michael Flanagan. School of Environment and the Population and Social Health Research Program, Griffith Health, Griffith University and the Centre of Full Employment and Equity (CofFEE), Charles Darwin University and University of Newcastle.

## What is The CofFEE Employment Vulnerability Index

The Employment Vulnerability Index (EVI) is an indicator that identifies those localities that have higher proportions of the types of jobs thought to be at risk in the current economic climate.





Table 1 describes the EVI classifications for the ranked localities according to their index outcome.

It should be noted that the underlying modelling used to compute the EVI takes into account individual characteristics at an aggregate level. As a result, any one person in a Red alert locality may have little risk of job loss, while any one person in a Low risk locality might, in fact, be very vulnerable to job loss. But in aggregate, we expect the job losses to fall predominately in the Red and Amber alert localities.

For the Employment Vulnerability Index (EVI V2.0) that we present in this paper we utilise Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Statistical Area 2 (SA2) as our unit of analysis. Statistical Area 2 is a level of aggregation used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics for census data output.

The purpose of SA2s is to represent a community that interacts together socially and economically and is considered to largely represent residential suburbs (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2010).

**Table 1        EVI Classification**

<b>EVI Classification</b>	<b>Map Colour Code</b>
Red alert localities – those with high potential job loss;	
Amber alert localities — those with Medium-high potential job loss;	
Medium-low potential job loss localities; and	
Low potential job loss localities.	

This report outlines conceptual issues associated with EVI V2.0 including the analysis of job loss potential and different types of disadvantage that we identify.

A complete list of the rankings and different perspectives is available from the EVI Home Page at <http://e1.newcastle.edu.au/coffee/evi/>

The EVI V2.0 is accompanied by a fully searchable and scalable mapping tool and suburb profiles - <http://e1.newcastle.edu.au/coffee/maps/evi/EVI2011.html>.

## **Types of Disadvantage**

In order to further the analysis we divide the localities designated as Red alert localities into two groups on the basis of their existing level of disadvantage. The two types of red alert localities were devised with reference to the Australian Bureau of Statistics SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage.

The first group of red alert localities (the existing disadvantage group) were identified as having an EVI greater than one standard deviation from the mean and a SEIFA index score greater than one standard deviation below the mean.

The second group was identified as sitting outside the first group (that is, having an EVI greater than one standard deviation above the mean but a higher SEIFA score indicating lower disadvantage).

The analysis of data for the 1561 localities located across the 101 urban areas we deal with resulted in just over 14 per cent (223) being identified as red alert localities for potential job loss with a further 41.6 per cent being identified as amber alert (medium to high job loss potential) localities.

To differentiate the red alert localities further we consider the general level of socio-economic disadvantage for each locality and identify two broad types of localities:

- Those that are amongst Australia's most disadvantaged places to live. We term these the **existing disadvantage job loss localities**.
- Suburbs that have not been previously considered to be highly disadvantaged, but which may become so as a result of declining labour market conditions. We term these the **emerging disadvantage job loss localities**.

Tables 2 to 5 show the areas of existing and emerging disadvantage in both metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas.

**Table 2 Existing Disadvantage Job Loss Localities, Metropolitan areas**

<b>Sydney</b>	<b>Brisbane (continued)</b>
Ashcroft - Busby - Miller	Caboolture - South
Auburn	Deception Bay
Bidwill - Hebersham - Emerton	Eagleby
Bonnyrigg Heights - Bonnyrigg	Goodna
Cabramatta - Lansvale	Inala - Richlands
Cabramatta West - Mount Pritchard	Kingston
Canley Vale - Canley Heights	Leichhardt - One Mile
Chester Hill - Sefton	Logan Central
Fairfield	Marsden
Fairfield - East	Riverview
Fairfield - West	Slacks Creek
Greenacre - Mount Lewis	Woodridge
Guildford - South Granville	<b>Adelaide</b>
Lethbridge Park - Tregear	Christie Downs
Mount Druitt - Whalan	Davoren Park
Punchbowl	Elizabeth
Smithfield - Wetherill Park	Elizabeth East
St Johns Park - Wakeley	Hackham West - Huntfield Heights
Yagoona - Birrong	Parafield Gardens
<b>Melbourne</b>	Salisbury
Broadmeadows	Salisbury North
Campbellfield - Coolaroo	Smithfield - Elizabeth North
Dandenong	The Parks
Doveton	<b>Perth</b>
Fawkner	Armadale - Wungong - Brookdale
Frankston North	Balga - Mirrabooka
Kings Park (Vic.)	Calista
Lalor	Girrawheen
Meadow Heights	Mandurah
Springvale	<b>Hobart</b>
Springvale South	Bridgewater - Gagebrook
St Albans - North	New Norfolk
St Albans - South	Rokeby
Sunshine North	
Sunshine West	
Thomastown	
<b>Brisbane</b>	
Beenleigh	

**Table 3 Existing Disadvantage Job Loss Localities, Non-Metropolitan regions**

State/Suburb	Region
<b>NSW</b>	
Beresfield - Hexham	(Newcastle - Maitland)
Berkeley - Warrawong - Windang	(Wollongong)
Cessnock	(Cessnock)
Kurri Kurri - Abermain	(Kurri Kurri - Weston)
Mount Hutton - Windale	(Newcastle - Maitland)
Raymond Terrace	(Newcastle - Maitland)
Tamworth - West	(Tamworth)
Warilla	(Wollongong)
Wingham	(Taree)
<b>Victoria</b>	
California Gully - Eaglehawk	(Bendigo)
Corio - Norlane	(Geelong)
Mooroopna	(Shepparton - Mooroopna)
Morwell	(Traralgon - Morwell)
Wendouree - Miners Rest	(Ballarat)
<b>Queensland</b>	
Berserker	(Rockhampton)
Granville	(Maryborough)
Gympie - North	(Gympie)
Rockhampton City	(Rockhampton)
Svensson Heights - Norville	(Bundaberg)
Walkervale - Avenell Heights	(Bundaberg)
<b>South Australia</b>	
Murray Bridge	(Murray Bridge)
Port Pirie	(Port Pirie)
Whyalla	(Whyalla)
<b>Tasmania</b>	
Acton - Upper Burnie	(Burnie - Wynyard)
East Devonport	(Devonport)
Invermay	(Launceston)
Mowbray	(Launceston)
Newnham - Mayfield	(Launceston)
Ravenswood	(Launceston)
Waverley - St Leonards	(Launceston)
West Ulverstone	(Ulversone)

**Table 4 Emerging Disadvantage Job Loss Localities, Metropolitan regions**

---

<b>Sydney</b>	Waterford West
Bossley Park - Abbotsbury	
Condell Park	<b>Adelaide</b>
Edensor Park	Aldinga
Green Valley - Cecil Hills	Craigmore - Blakeview
Greenfield Park - Prairiewood	Hackham - Onkaparinga Hills
<b>Melbourne</b>	Morphett Vale - West
Cairnlea	Munno Para West - Angle Vale
Carrum Downs	Paralowie
Craigieburn - Mickleham	Salisbury East
Cranbourne	<b>Perth</b>
Cranbourne North	Alexander Heights - Koondoola
Cranbourne West	Ballajura
Dandenong North	Beechboro
Delahey	Butler - Merriwa - Ridgewood
Greenvale - Bulla	Byford
Hallam	Camillo - Champion Lakes
Hampton Park - Lynbrook	Cooloongup
Keysborough	Dawesville - Bouvard
Langwarrin	Falcon - Wannanup
Narre Warren	Greenfields
Narre Warren South	Halls Head - Erskine
Noble Park North	Mandurah - East
Pakenham - North	Mandurah - North
Pakenham - South	Mandurah - South
Pearcedale - Tooradin	Marangaroo
Roxburgh Park - Somerton	Parmelia - Orelia
Wandin - Seville	Pinjarra
<b>Brisbane</b>	Port Kennedy
Beachmere - Sandstone Point	Seville Grove
Boronia Heights - Park Ridge	Singleton - Golden Bay - Secret Harbour
Chambers Flat - Logan Reserve	Stratton - Jane Brook
Crestmead	Waikiki
Morayfield - East	Warnbro
Mount Warren Park	<b>Hobart</b>
Redbank Plains	Brighton - Pontville
Regents Park - Heritage Park	Claremont (Tas.)

---

**Table 5 Emerging Disadvantage Job Loss Localities, Non-Metropolitan regions**

State/Suburb	Region
<b>NSW</b>	
Albion Park Rail	(Wollongong)
Batemans Bay	(Batemans Bay)
Belmont South - Blacksmiths	(Newcastle - Maitland)
Blue Haven - San Remo	(Central Coast)
Budgewoi - Buff Point - Halekulani	(Central Coast)
Edgeworth - Cameron Park	(Newcastle - Maitland)
Gorokan - Kanwal - Charmhaven	(Central Coast)
Griffith (NSW)	(Griffith)
Lake Munmorah - Mannering Park	(Central Coast)
Lavington	(Albury - Wodonga)
Maitland - West	(Newcastle - Maitland)
Muswellbrook	(Muswellbrook)
Singleton	(Singleton)
Ulladulla	(Ulladulla)
West Wallsend - Barnsley - Killingworth	(Newcastle - Maitland)
<b>Victoria</b>	
Bairnsdale	(Bairnsdale)
Colac	(Colac)
Delacombe	(Ballarat)
Echuca	(Echuca - Moama)
Moama	(Echuca - Moama)
Newcomb - Moolap	(Geelong)
Shepparton - South	(Shepparton - Mooroopna)
<b>Queensland</b>	
Andergrove - Beaconsfield	(Mackay)
Ashfield - Kepnock	(Bundaberg)
Boyne Island - Tannum Sands	(Gladstone - Tannum Sands)
Clinton - New Auckland	(Gladstone - Tannum Sands)
Condon - Rasmussen	(Townsville)
Edmonton	(Cairns)
Emerald	(Emerald)
Gympie - South	(Gympie)
Jacobs Well - Alberton	(Gold Coast - Tweed Heads)
Kelso	(Townsville)
Kin Kora - Sun Valley	(Gladstone - Tannum Sands)
Lakes Creek	(Rockhampton)
Mount Isa	(Mount Isa)
Nerang - Mount Nathan	(Gold Coast - Tweed Heads)



**Table 5 (cont) Emerging Disadvantage Job Loss Localities, Non-Metropolitan regions**

State/Suburb	Region
Sippy Downs	(Sunshine Coast)
Slade Point	(Mackay)
Telina - Toolooa	(Gladstone - Tannum Sands)
Tweed Heads - South	(Gold Coast - Tweed Heads)
Upper Coomera - Willow Vale	(Gold Coast - Tweed Heads)
<b>Queensland (continued)</b>	
Warwick	(Warwick)
Wilsonton	(Toowoomba)
<b>South Australia</b>	
Mount Gambier	(Mount Gambier)
<b>Western Australia</b>	
Australind - Leschenault	(Bunbury)
Boulder	(Kalgoorlie - Boulder)
Busselton	(Busselton)
College Grove - Carey Park	(Bunbury)
Eaton - Pelican Point	(Bunbury)
Ellenbrook	(Ellenbrook)
Geraldton - East	(Geraldton)
Kalgoorlie	(Kalgoorlie - Boulder)
Koombana	(Bunbury)
McKail - Willyung	(Albany)
<b>Tasmania</b>	
Latrobe	(Devonport)
Quoiba - Spreyton	(Devonport)
Romaine - Havenview	(Burnie - Wynyard)
Somerset	(Burnie - Wynyard)



**Centre of Full Employment and Equity**  
Charles Darwin University and  
The University of Newcastle



**Griffith School of Environment and  
Population and Social Health  
Research Program**

