

**2020 State Minimum Wage Case**  
**Questions for Treasury Witness from CCIWA**

Following the release of the April 2020 Labour Force data by the ABS (6202.0 - Labour Force, Australia, Apr 2020), Premier McGowan is reported as stating that he expected the unemployment rate would get worse in coming months (ABC News online [14 May 2020] Coronavirus crisis sees more than 62,000 WA jobs lost as new unemployment data bites state budget forecasts).

**Question:** Can Mr Christmas please provide any further information on the extent to which the Department of Treasury expects that the unemployment rate will increase.

**Answer:**

As noted in the Attachment to the Minister's submission, the coronavirus outbreak, the impact of efforts to contain it, and policy responses to address its impact continue to evolve. This has created heightened uncertainty about the State's economic outlook. As also noted in the Attachment to the submission, the COVID-19 outbreak means that the risks to the outlook are weighted to the downside.

The April 2020 Labour Force survey contains important information that will inform the preparation of forecasts of economic and labour aggregates to be published in the 2020-21 Budget. The 2020-21 Budget will be published on 8 October 2020.

**Question:** Further to the above question, can Mr Christmas please provide any recent labour force predictions and/or forecasts by the Department of Treasury that take into consideration the impact of COVID-19 in relation to any of the following:

- unemployment rate;
- underemployment rate;
- participation rate;
- job losses.

**Answer:**

Treasury has not released labour force predictions / forecasts since the 2019-20 Mid-year Review.

