

UPPER HUNTER ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Presented by Dr Anthea Bill
Hunter Research Foundation Centre
19 September 2018



**HUNTER RESEARCH
FOUNDATION CENTRE**



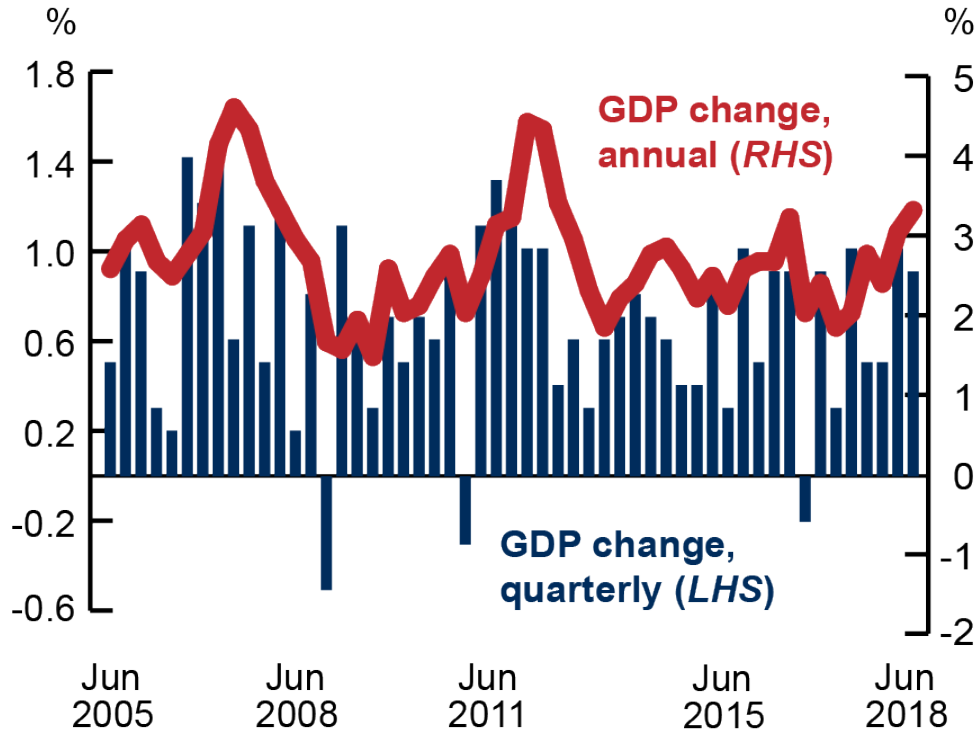
**THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA**

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- **National context:** reasons for optimism, some risks
- **Upper Hunter:** recovery holds steady with some softening, business performance and regional confidence soften

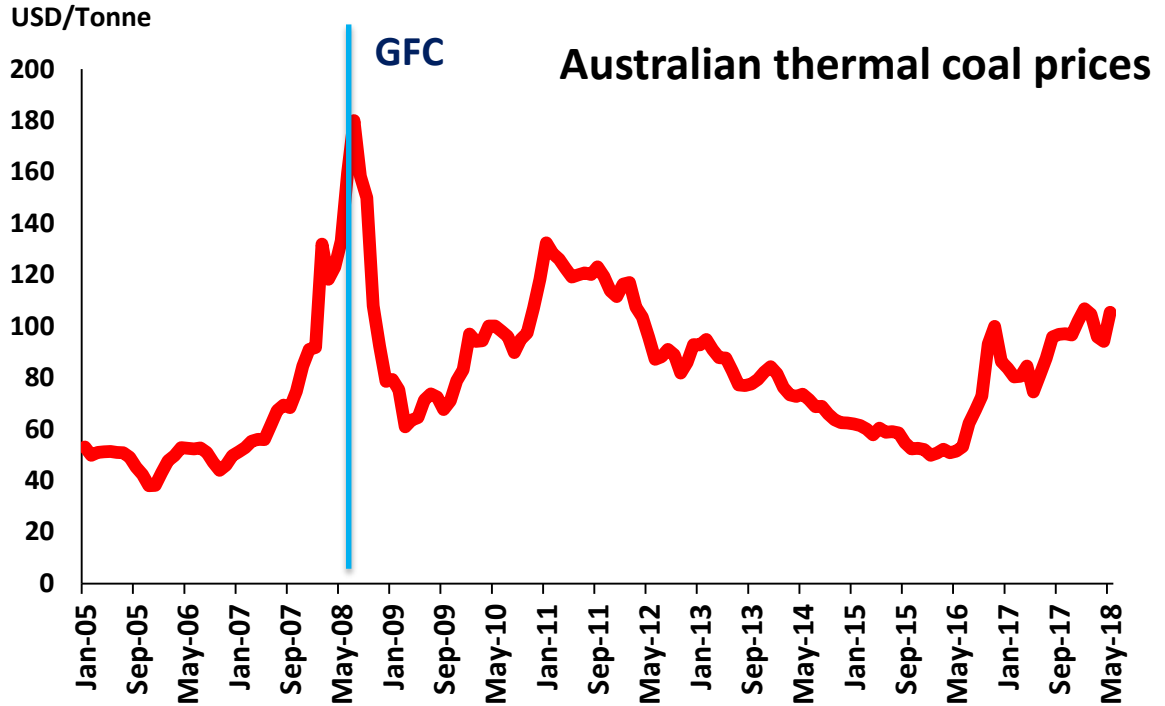


GDP GROWTH: CONSUMPTION LED



Source: *Seasonally Adjusted Chain Volume Measure, ABS*

RESOURCES CYCLE



Source: HRF Centre; Coal Services Australia and Index Mundi

*Average Australian thermal coal price

SUMMARY

MACRO TRENDS



**Labour market
robust –
some slowing**



**Business
confidence –
evidence of wind
back from
decade highs**



**Housing –
dwelling prices
decline**

SUMMARY

MACRO TRENDS



**Household
sector –
spending picks
up but subdued
over longer-
term**



**International –
growth
favourable;
trade-risks**



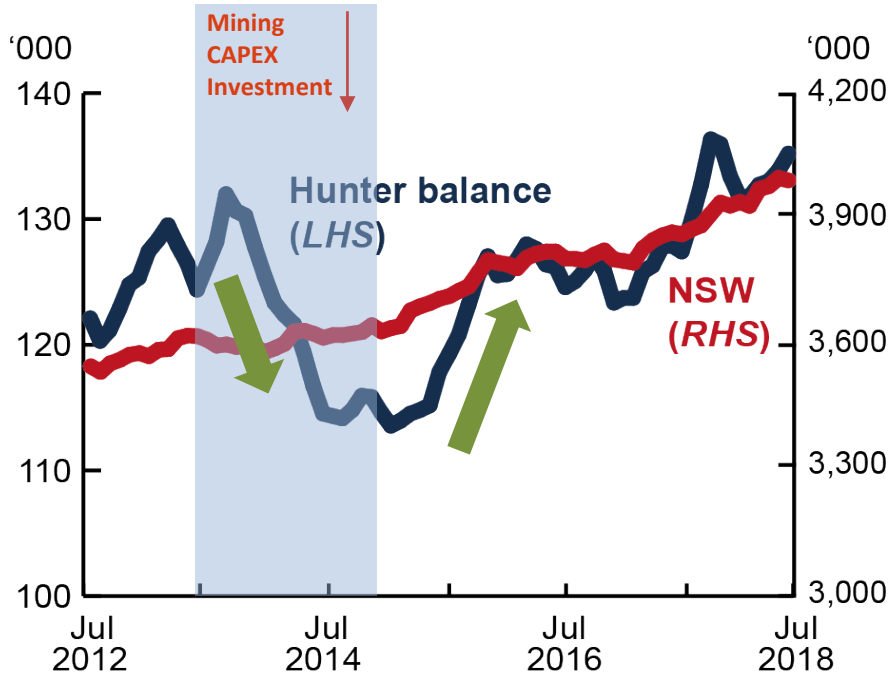
**Coal prices –
recovery
sustained**



UPPER HUNTER ECONOMY

Recovery holds steady

EMPLOYMENT: FULL-TIME JOB GROWTH

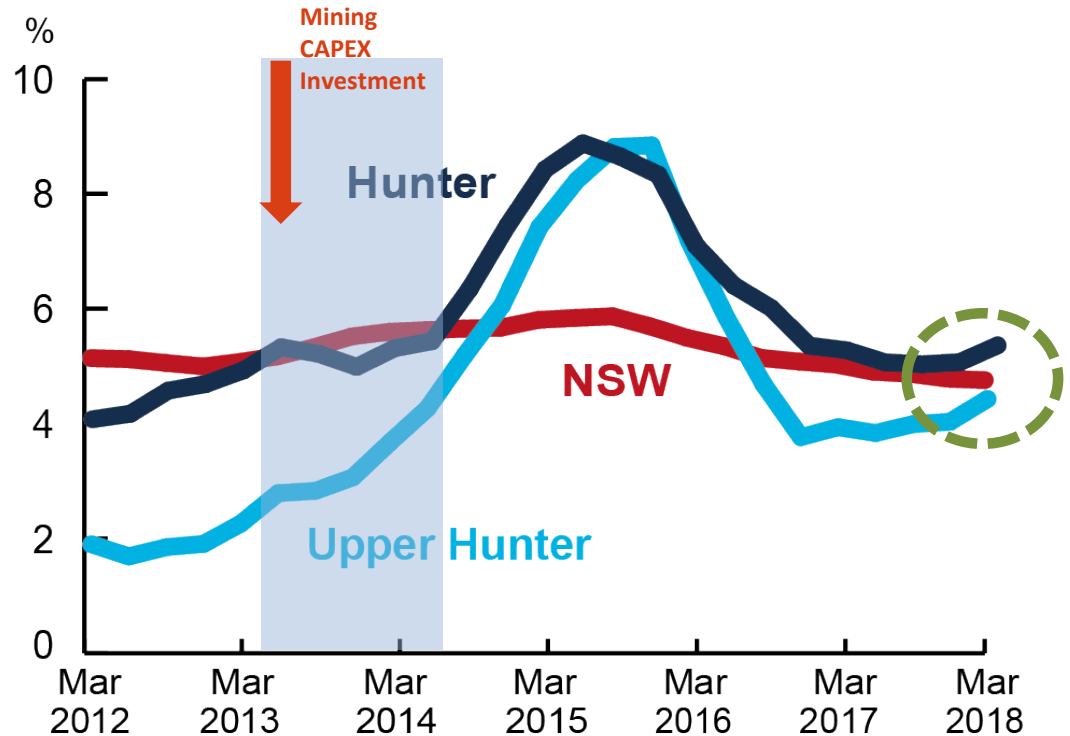


Hunter Balance:

Port Stephens,
Cessnock,
Maitland,
Muswellbrook,
Dungog,
Singleton and
Upper Hunter

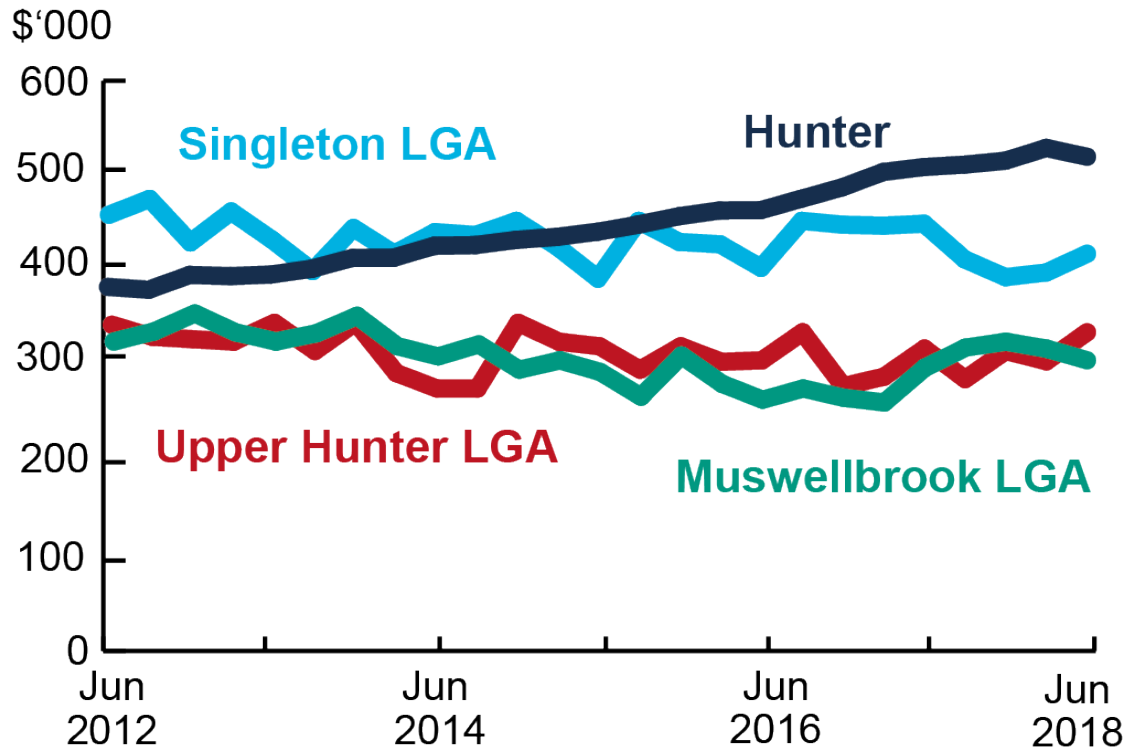
Source: ABS Labour Force Statistics; HRF Centre
3-month Moving Average

UNEMPLOYMENT: BELOW HUNTER



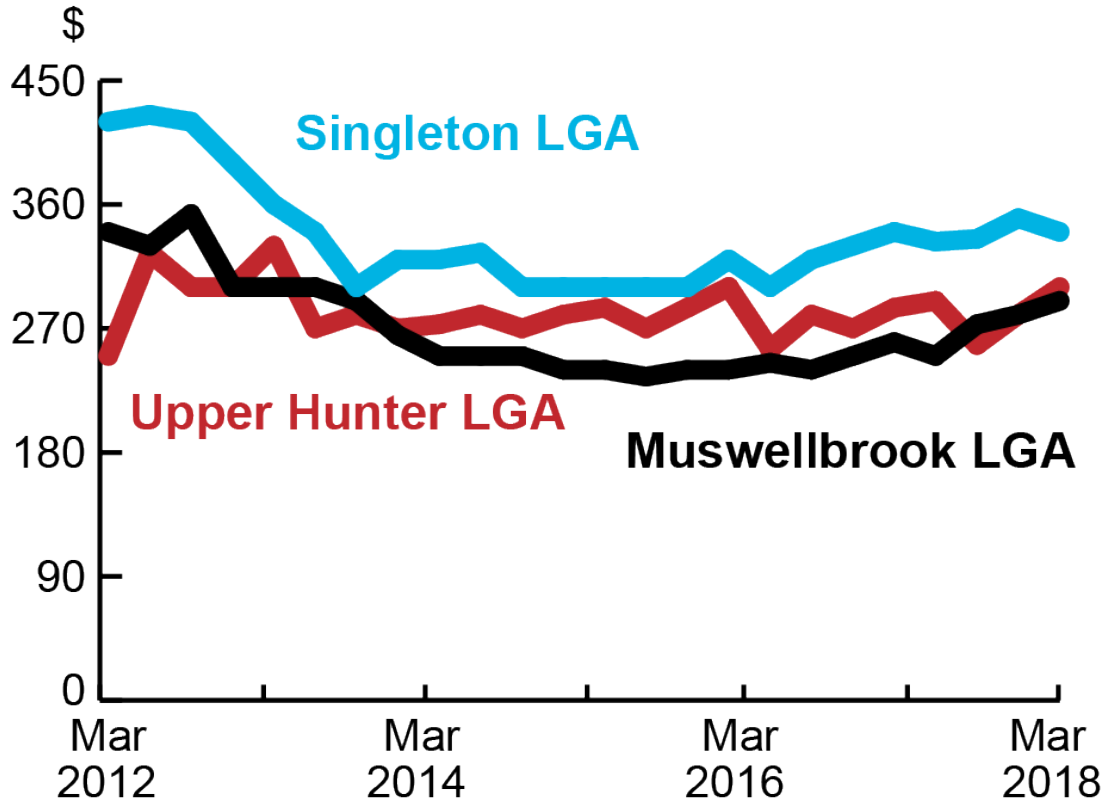
Source: Department of Employment, SALM.
3-Month Moving Average, July

HOUSING: MIXED RESULTS



Source: REINSW

RENTAL PRICES

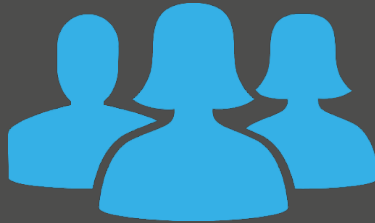


Source: *Building Approvals, Australia.*

PULSE SURVEYS



**Phone
surveys**

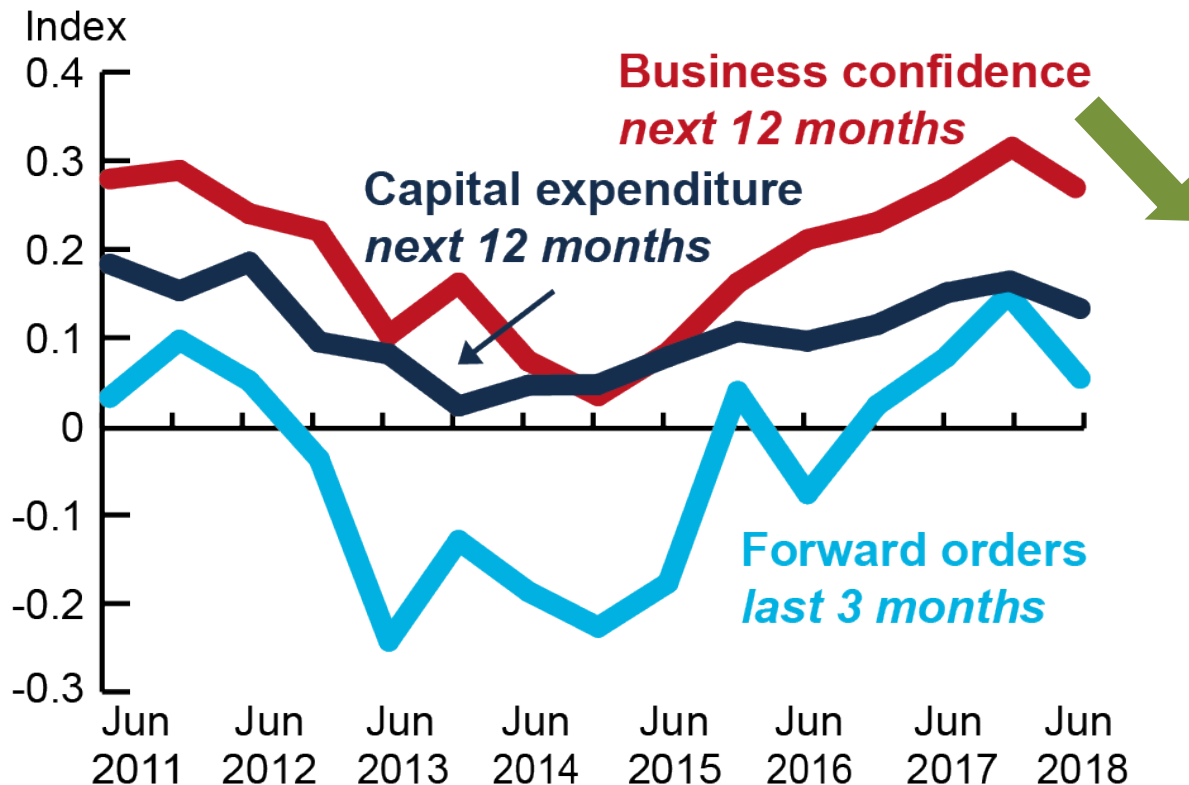


**300
Households**



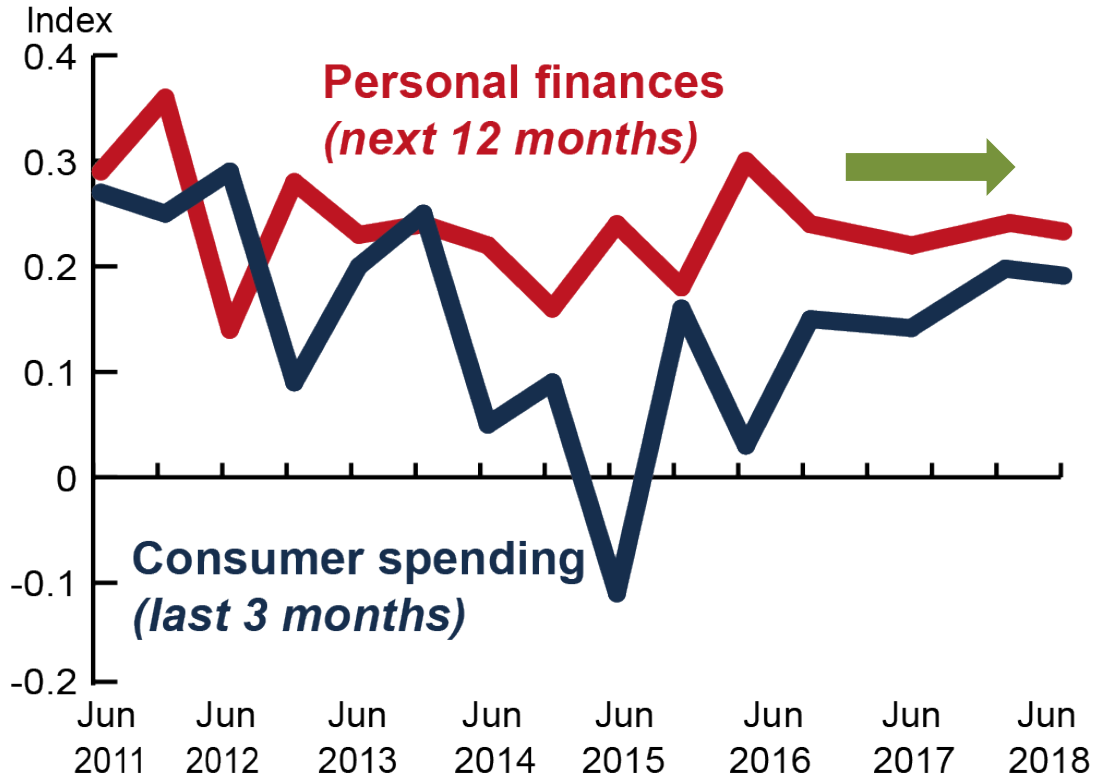
**300
Businesses**

BUSINESS: MODERATES



Source: HRF Centre, Upper Hunter Business Pulse

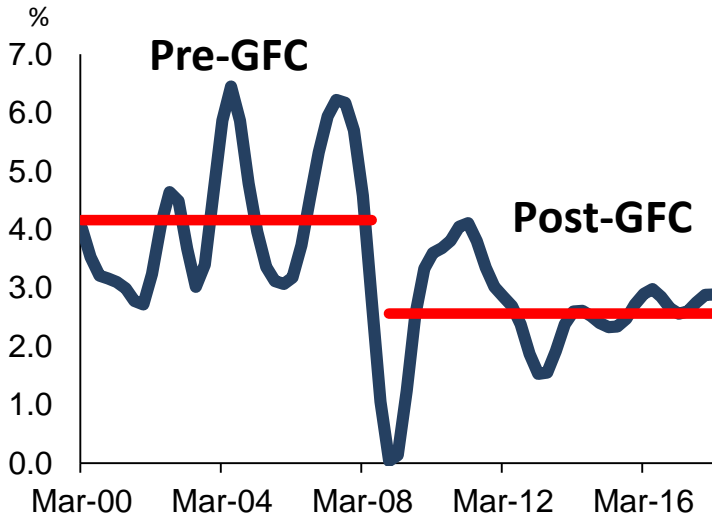
HOUSEHOLDS: STEADY



Source: HRF Centre, Upper Hunter Household Pulse Surveys

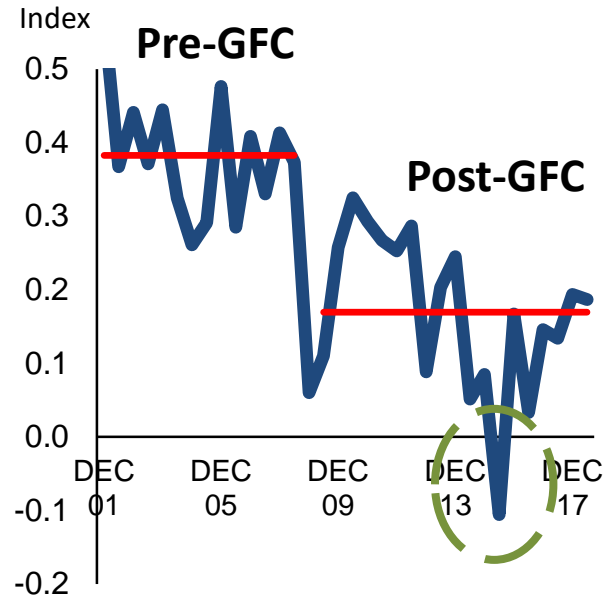
CONSUMER SPENDING: HAND-BRAKE

Australia



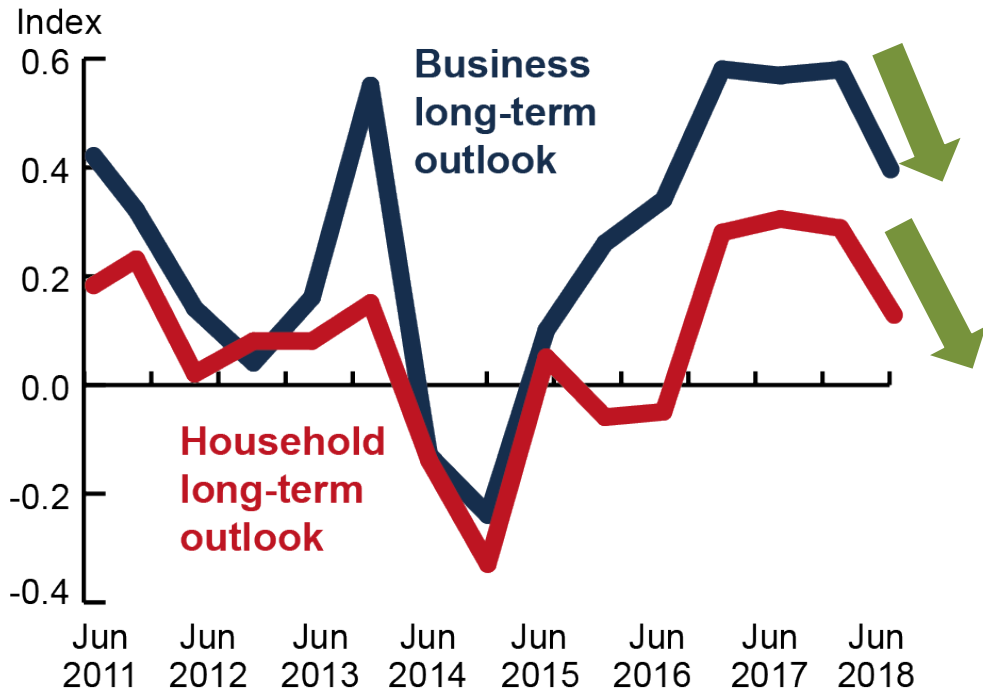
Source: ABS, National Accounts

Upper Hunter



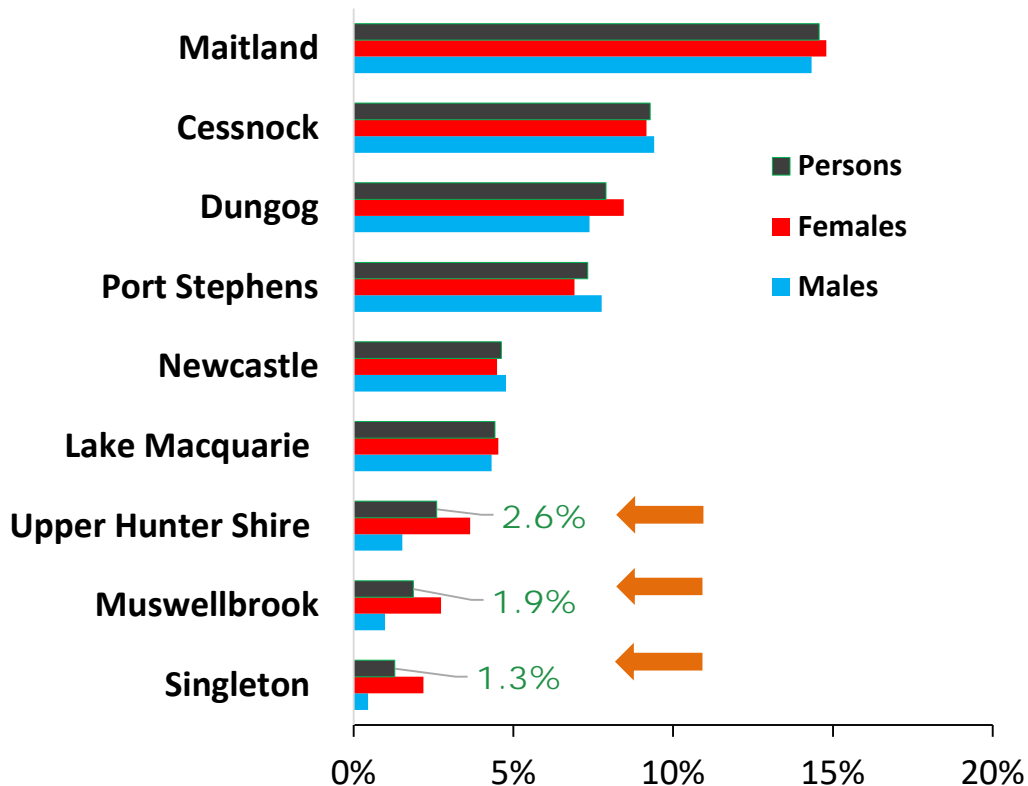
Source: HRF Centre, Household Pulse.

REGIONAL OUTLOOK: OPTIMISM SOFTENS

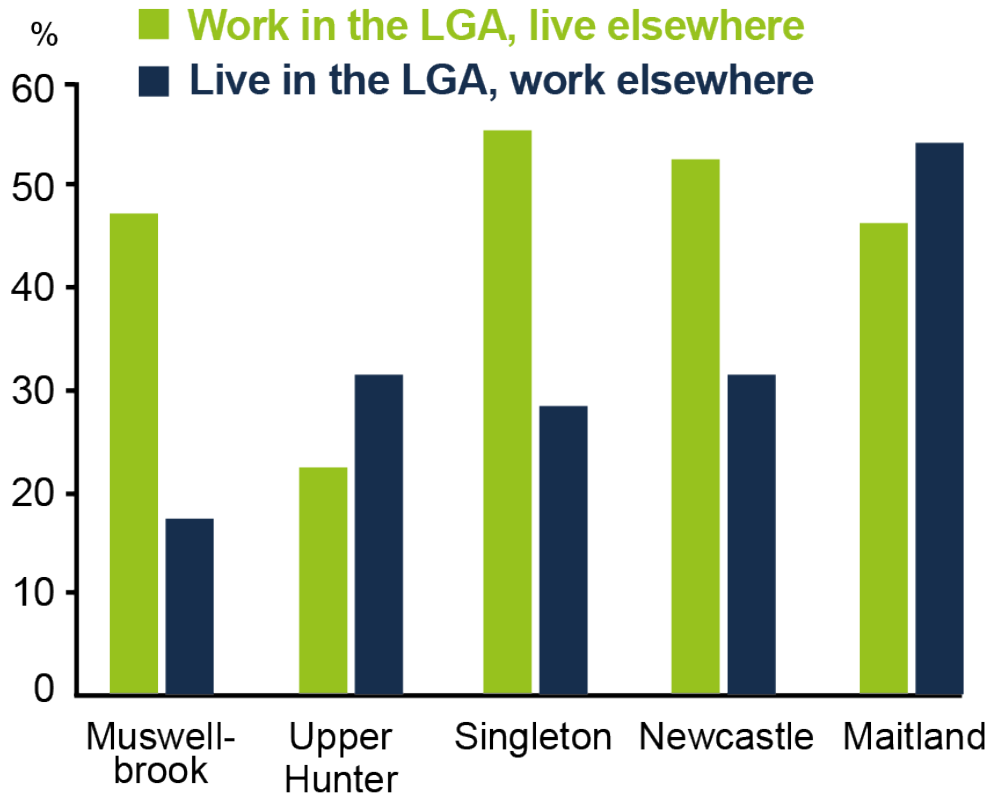


Source: HRF Centre, Upper Hunter Business and Household Pulse Surveys

POPULATION GROWTH: 2011-16

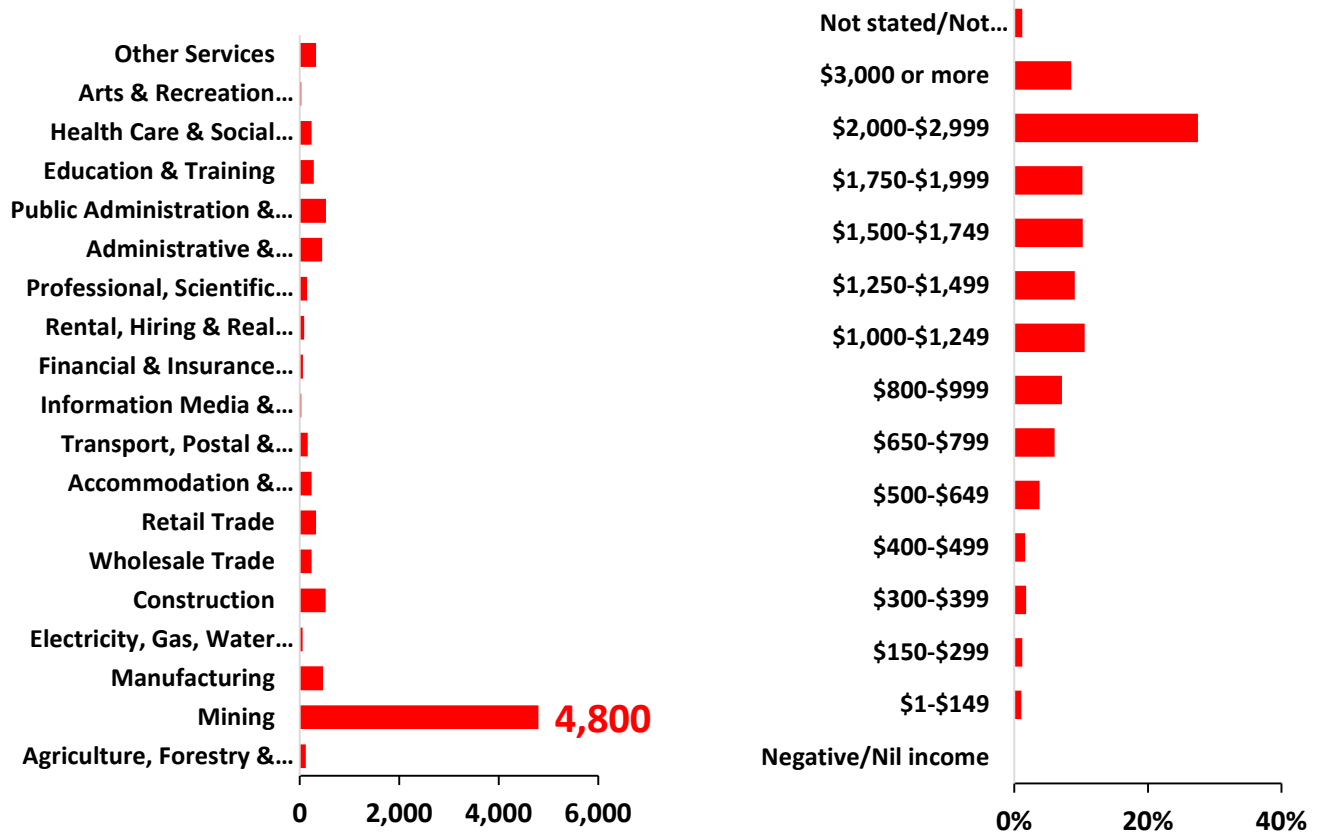


JOURNEY TO WORK



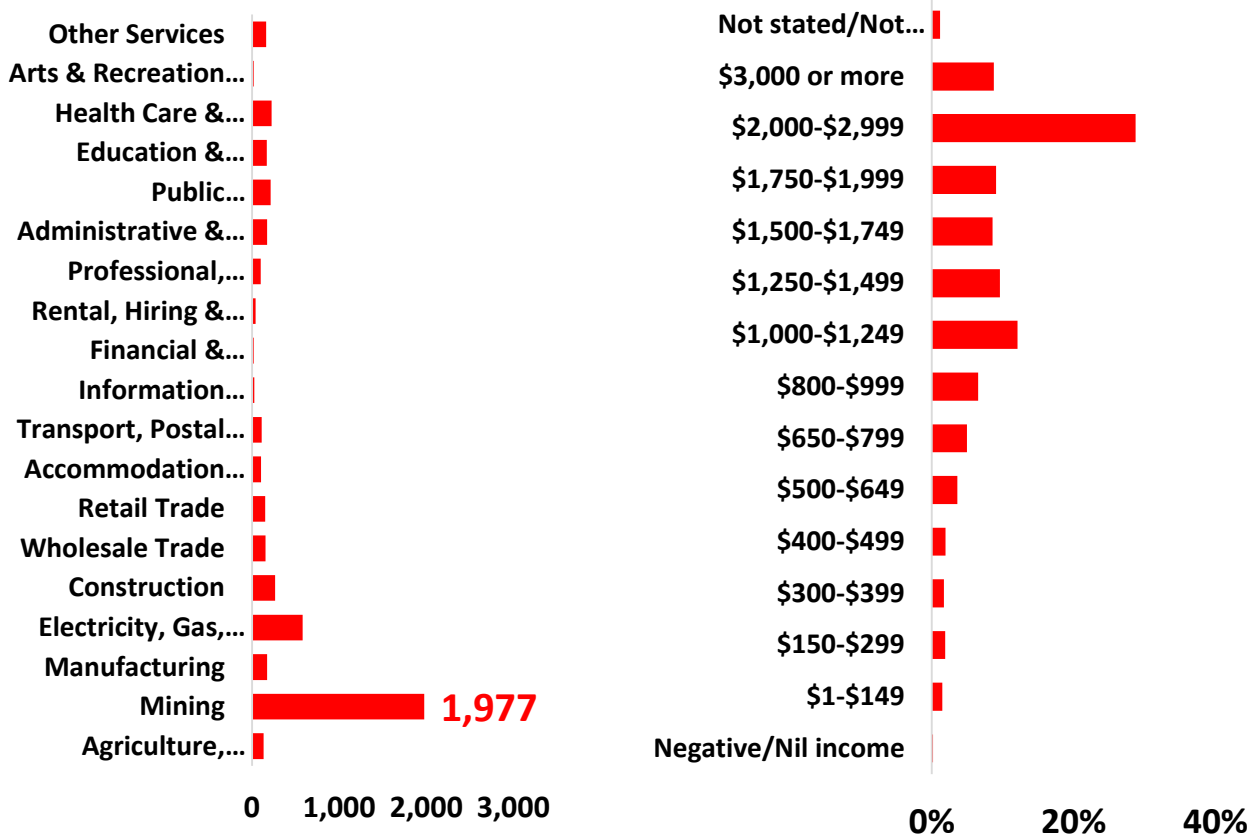
Source: Remplan Economy, 2017

JOURNEY TO WORK: SINGLETON

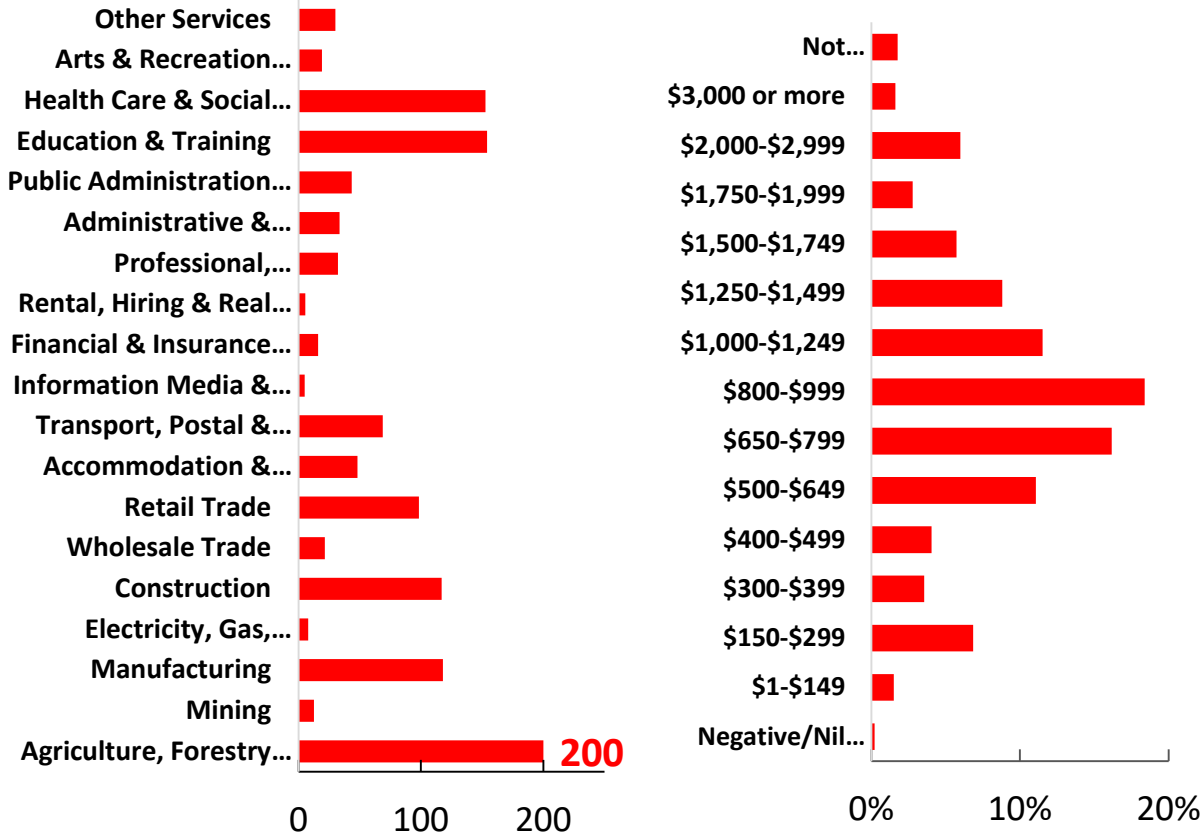


Source: Remplan Economy, 2017.

JOURNEY TO WORK: MUSWELLBROOK



JOURNEY TO WORK: UPPER HUNTER SHIRE



SUMMARY



- **Labour market**
- **Housing (Singleton & Upper Hunter) and rental market**



- **Unemployment rate and consumer spending**
- **Business confidence and performance**
- **Long-term confidence in the regional economy?**

THANK YOU

HRF Centre's latest

Upper Hunter Economic Indicators

available as you leave