



## Victorian jobless rate far greater, CoreData research shows

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**Herald Sun**

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Geraldine Mitchell

April 14, 2009 11:55am

**VICTORIA'S jobless rate is worse than official figures, research showing one-in-12 households have lost jobs in three months.**

[Australian Bureau of Statistics](#) (<http://search.news.com.au/search?q=Australian+Bureau+of+Statistics+jobless&sid=661&us=ndmheraldsun&as=HWT&ac=NEWS.HOME>) figures show the jobless rate has risen to 5.7 per cent – the sharpest rise in unemployment in almost two decades.

But market research by consultancy CoreData shows that 8.2 per cent of the state's households have someone who has been affected by unemployment this year.

It claims the relative robustness of the economy was masking the fact that "significant numbers of the population are being impacted from the slowing economy".

It also found households that were most affected were families and those at the peak of their career earning capacity.

"Also more affected are those just getting into the swing of a career and are perhaps less embedded in a company - 10.7 per cent of those aged between 21 and 30 had direct exposure to unemployment over the past three months," the report states.

The ABS figures show Victorians lost about 3500 jobs in March, but fared much better than other states with almost 16,000 jobs lost in NSW.

Nationally, unemployment rose by 52,900 to almost 613,000 in March – more than twice as much as economists had forecast, and the biggest monthly jobless rise since the 1991 recession.

It comes as the collapse of upmarket appliance retailer [Kleenmaid](#) (<http://search.news.com.au/search?q=Kleenmaid+&sid=661&us=ndmheraldsun&as=HWT&ac=NEWS.HOME>) leaves thousands of Victorians out of pocket and many jobless.

About 150 Kleenmaid staff are expected to lose their jobs after the kitchen and laundry appliance seller was

put into voluntary administration last week.

About \$27 million in deposits has been lost across Australia and warranties will not be honoured as a result of the collapse.

Consumer Affairs Minister Tony Robinson yesterday (mon) said the company's failure happened "very, very quickly."

"This is a collapse that leaves hundreds, if not thousands, of Victorians in the lurch," he said.

Kleenmaid had four outlets in Victoria but Mr Robinson said it was not known at this stage how many jobs may be lost.

He expected more information to become available this week.

Meanwhile, federal treasurer Wayne Swan yesterday (mon) said the Government would be bunkered down over the next four weeks in preparation for the budget on May 12.

"This budget comes at a very difficult time, with the global economy facing its worst conditions in 75 years," he said.

"But we are determined to deliver a responsible budget that gets the balance right between supporting growth and jobs now, while putting in place the building blocks of the future economy we need to prosper after this global recession ends."

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