

Labour Force, October 2016

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 17 November 2016, 10:30 am AEST.

Note: All data should be treated with caution until the ABS can evaluate a new seasonal pattern from late 2017. Trend estimates provide the best measure of labour market conditions across the states.

Key data (trend)

Employment: Queensland, ↓ 5,500 (0.2%)	
(persons, growth) Australia, ↓ 1,000 (0.0%)	
Unemployment: Queensland, ↓ 2,800 (6.0%)	
(persons, rate) Australia, ↓ 4,100 (5.6%)	
Labour force: Queensland, ↓ 8,100 (0.3%)	
(persons, growth) Australia, ↓ 5,100 (0.0%)	

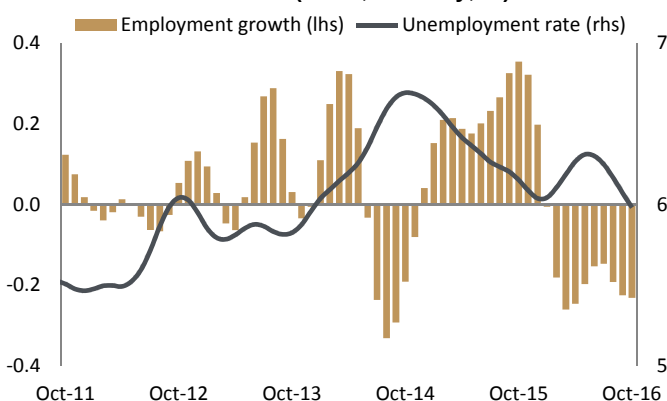
Main findings

Trend employment in Queensland fell by 0.2% (or 5,500 persons) in October 2016, the tenth consecutive fall following thirteen consecutive monthly increases (see Chart 1). This fall in October was due to a 0.2% fall in both full-time and part-time employment.

Trend employment in Queensland was 1.3% (or 31,200 persons) lower over the year to October 2016.

With employment falling at a slightly lesser pace to the labour force in October 2016, Queensland's trend unemployment rate fell to 6.0% in the month, down from 6.1% in September. After increasing through the first half of 2016, Queensland's unemployment rate has edged lower over the past few months (see Chart 1), with a moderation in both the male and female unemployment rates.

Chart 1: Employment growth and unemployment rate, Queensland (trend, monthly, %)



Queensland's trend participation rate was 63.8% in October 2016, down from a downwardly revised rate in September. Consistent with trends in employment, Queensland's participation rate has edged lower since the beginning of 2016, following a steady increase throughout 2015. The decline in the participation rate throughout 2016 has kept downward pressure on the State's unemployment rate.

Nationally, trend employment fell by 1,000 persons in October, but was 0.9% higher over the year. The 108,100 person gain in national employment over the past 12 months was driven by Victoria (up 108,700 persons) and New South Wales (up 39,000 persons). Employment outcomes in Western Australia continue to be weak while South Australia recorded marginal growth in employment in October. Meanwhile, the national trend unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.6% in October 2016.

Table 1 Labour force outcomes, October 2016

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change			
			Month		Year		Month		Year	
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus
Trend										
Employed	2,333.3	11,946.6	-5.5	-1.0	-31.2	108.1	-0.2	0.0	-1.3	0.9
Full-time	1,618.6	8,120.1	-3.9	-9.5	-28.7	-49.6	-0.2	-0.1	-1.7	-0.6
Part-time	714.7	3,826.5	-1.6	8.5	-2.5	157.7	-0.2	0.2	-0.3	4.3
Unemployed	148.4	708.6	-2.8	-4.1	-6.6	-44.8	-1.9	-0.6	-4.3	-5.9
Labour force	2,481.8	12,655.2	-8.1	-5.1	-37.7	63.3	-0.3	0.0	-1.5	0.5
Seas. Adjusted										
Employed	2,319.7	11,938.9	-16.9	9.8	-46.1	102.2	-0.7	0.1	-1.9	0.9
Full-time	1,611.4	8,126.9	2.9	41.6	-34.3	-34.7	0.2	0.5	-2.1	-0.4
Part-time	708.3	3,812.0	-19.8	-31.8	-11.8	136.8	-2.7	-0.8	-1.6	3.7
Unemployed	143.0	705.1	-11.3	-2.0	-12.8	-39.0	-7.3	-0.3	-8.2	-5.2
Labour force	2,462.7	12,644.0	-28.2	7.8	-58.9	63.2	-1.1	0.1	-2.3	0.5
Unemploy. Rate										
Trend	6.0	5.6	6.1	5.6	6.2	6.0				
Seas. Adjusted	5.8	5.6	6.2	5.6	6.2	5.9				
Participation rate										
Trend	63.8	64.5	64.0	64.6	65.7	65.1				
Seas. Adjusted	63.3	64.4	64.1	64.4	65.7	65.0				

Table 2 Interstate comparison, October 2016

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (trend)							
% change on a month ago	-0.2	0.0	0.2	0.1	-0.2	0.0	0.0
Change on a month ago (no.)	-5,500	-1,900	6,800	600	-2,700	100	-1,000
% change on a year ago	-1.3	1.0	3.7	1.2	-1.5	-1.4	0.9
Change on a year ago (no.)	-31,200	39,000	108,700	9,800	-20,200	-3,300	108,100
Unemployment rate (trend)							
October-16	6.0	4.9	5.7	6.6	6.4	6.7	5.6
September-16	6.1	4.9	5.7	6.6	6.3	6.7	5.6
October-15	6.2	5.5	6.0	7.5	6.3	6.4	6.0
Participation rate (trend)							
October-16	63.8	63.6	65.5	61.9	67.0	59.7	64.5
September-16	64.0	63.7	65.4	61.9	67.1	59.7	64.6
October-15	65.7	64.3	64.6	62.1	68.7	60.8	65.1
Employed (sa)							
% change on a month ago	-0.7	-0.1	0.7	0.4	0.5	-1.4	0.1
Change on a month ago (no.)	-16,900	-5,600	20,400	3,200	6,800	-3,400	9,800
% change on a year ago	-1.9	1.2	3.6	1.6	-1.7	-1.8	0.9
Change on a year ago (no.)	-46,100	46,100	107,300	12,800	-22,900	-4,300	102,200
Unemployment rate (sa)							
October-16	5.8	4.9	5.7	6.4	6.5	6.4	5.6
September-16	6.2	4.9	5.8	6.7	6.1	6.6	5.6
October-15	6.2	5.5	5.6	7.6	6.3	6.5	5.9
Participation rate (sa)							
October-16	63.3	63.5	65.5	61.9	67.2	59.2	64.4
September-16	64.1	63.7	65.2	61.8	66.7	60.3	64.4
October-15	65.7	64.1	64.4	62.1	69.1	60.8	65.0