

Labour Force, December 2016

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 19 January 2017, 10:30 am AEST.

Note: All data should be treated with caution until the ABS evaluates 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,	↑ 400	(0.0%)
(persons, growth) Australia,	↑ 8,200	(0.1%)
Unemployment: Queensland,	-	(6.0%)
(persons, rate) Australia,	↑ 3,200	(5.7%)
Labour force: Queensland,	↑ 400	(0.0%)
(persons, growth) Australia,	↑ 11,400	(0.1%)

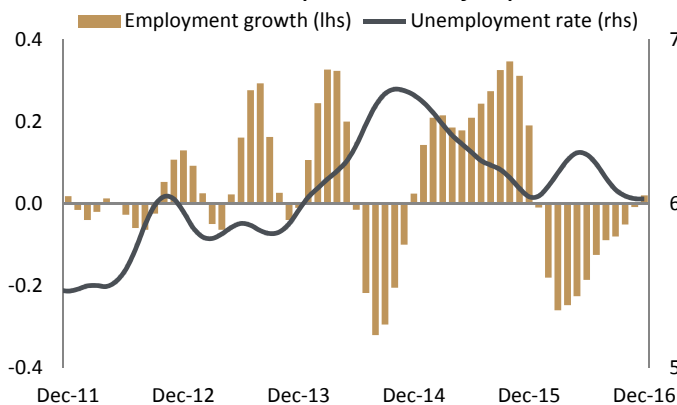
Main findings

Trend employment in Queensland rose marginally in December 2016 (up 400 persons). This increase in December was due to a rise in full-time employment of 500 persons, which more than offset the marginal decline (down 100 persons) in part-time employment.

Over the year to December 2016, trend employment in Queensland fell 1.4% (or 34,400 persons).

With employment rising at a similar pace to the labour force, Queensland's trend unemployment rate was unchanged in December 2016, from an upwardly revised 6.0% in November. After increasing through the first half of 2016, Queensland's unemployment rate has edged lower over the past few months (see Chart 1).

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



Queensland's trend participation rate was 63.9% in December 2016, down from an upwardly revised 64.0% in November. Consistent with trends in employment, Queensland's participation rate has edged lower since December 2015. The decline in the participation rate throughout 2016 has kept downward pressure on the State's unemployment rate.

Nationally, trend employment rose by 8,200 persons in December, to be 0.7% higher over the year. The 85,600 person gain in national employment over the past 12 months was driven by Victoria (up 108,400 persons) and, to a lesser extent, New South Wales (up 13,500 persons) and South Australia (up 8,300 persons). The national trend unemployment rate was unchanged in December 2016, from an upwardly revised 5.7% in November.

Table 1 Labour force outcomes, December 2016

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change				
	Qld	Aus	Month		Year		Month		Year		
			Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	
Trend											
Employed	2,341.8	11,966.8	0.4	8.2	-34.4	85.6	0.0	0.1	-1.4	0.7	
Full-time	1,624.7	8,150.3	0.5	7.0	-30.0	-35.3	0.0	0.1	-1.8	-0.4	
Part-time	717.1	3,816.5	-0.1	1.1	-4.4	120.9	0.0	0.0	-0.6	3.3	
Unemployed	150.2	725.7	0.0	3.2	-2.6	-11.9	0.0	0.4	-1.7	-1.6	
Labour force	2,492.0	12,692.5	0.4	11.4	-37.0	73.7	0.0	0.1	-1.5	0.6	
Seas. Adjusted											
Employed	2,345.0	11,985.9	-13.7	13.4	-30.9	91.5	-0.6	0.1	-1.3	0.8	
Full-time	1,630.0	8,176.5	-7.2	9.3	-23.6	-34.0	-0.4	0.1	-1.4	-0.4	
Part-time	715.0	3,809.5	-6.5	4.2	-7.3	125.5	-0.9	0.1	-1.0	3.4	
Unemployed	155.0	741.1	4.5	14.7	5.9	16.8	3.0	2.0	4.0	2.3	
Labour force	2,499.9	12,727.0	-9.3	28.2	-25.1	108.2	-0.4	0.2	-1.0	0.9	
	Current	A month ago	A year ago								
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus					
Unemploy. Rate											
Trend	6.0	5.7	6.0	5.7	6.0	5.8					
Seas. Adjusted	6.2	5.8	6.0	5.7	5.9	5.7					
Participation rate											
Trend	63.9	64.6	64.0	64.6	65.8	65.1					
Seas. Adjusted	64.1	64.7	64.4	64.6	65.7	65.1					

Table 2 Interstate comparison, December 2016

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (trend)							
% change on a month ago	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Change on a month ago (no.)	400	0	5,200	500	900	200	8,200
% change on a year ago	-1.4	0.4	3.6	1.0	-1.2	-0.2	0.7
Change on a year ago (no.)	-34,400	13,500	108,400	8,300	-16,100	-500	85,600
Unemployment rate (trend)							
December-16	6.0	5.0	5.9	6.8	6.7	6.4	5.7
November-16	6.0	5.0	5.9	6.7	6.6	6.4	5.7
December-15	6.0	5.3	6.0	7.2	6.1	6.6	5.8
Participation rate (trend)							
December-16	63.9	63.4	65.8	62.1	67.4	59.8	64.6
November-16	64.0	63.5	65.7	62.1	67.3	59.8	64.6
December-15	65.8	64.3	64.7	62.1	68.4	60.4	65.1
Employed (sa)							
% change on a month ago	-0.6	0.0	0.4	0.1	-0.6	0.0	0.1
Change on a month ago (no.)	-13,700	600	13,600	500	-7,900	0	13,400
% change on a year ago	-1.3	0.0	4.0	0.9	-1.5	0.6	0.8
Change on a year ago (no.)	-30,900	1,100	118,500	7,400	-20,200	1,400	91,500
Unemployment rate (sa)							
December-16	6.2	5.2	6.0	6.8	6.6	6.4	5.8
November-16	6.0	4.9	6.0	7.0	6.9	6.3	5.7
December-15	5.9	5.1	5.9	7.2	6.2	6.8	5.7
Participation rate (sa)							
December-16	64.1	63.5	65.9	62.1	67.3	59.8	64.7
November-16	64.4	63.4	65.7	62.3	67.9	59.8	64.6
December-15	65.7	64.4	64.6	62.2	68.7	60.1	65.1