

Labour Force, February 2017

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 16 March 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,	↑ 1,500	(0.1%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 11,600	(0.1%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	↑ 2,800	(6.4%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↑ 5,100	(5.8%)
Labour force:	Queensland,	↑ 4,300	(0.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 16,700	(0.1%)

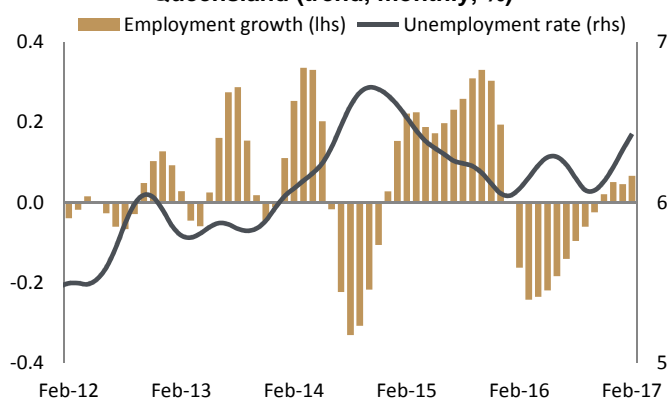
Main findings

Trend employment in Queensland rose marginally in February 2017 (up 1,500 persons). This increase was due to a rise in part-time employment of 5,200 persons, which more than offset a decline in full-time employment (down 3,700 persons).

Over the year to February 2017, trend employment in Queensland fell 1.0% (or 24,200 persons).

Queensland's trend unemployment rate rose to 6.4% in February 2017, from an upwardly revised 6.3% in January. Queensland's unemployment rate has edged higher since October 2016 (see Chart 1).

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



Queensland's trend participation rate was 64.1% in February 2017, unchanged from the rate in January, but well below the 65.5% recorded in February 2016.

Nationally, trend employment rose by 11,600 persons in February, to be 0.8% higher over the year. The gain in national employment of 100,800 persons over the past 12 months was driven by Victoria (up 100,200 persons) and, to a lesser extent, South Australia (up 12,700 persons). The national trend unemployment rate was 5.8% in February, unchanged from an upwardly revised rate in January.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes, February 2017

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change				
	Qld	Aus	Month		Year		Month		Year		
			Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	
Trend											
Employed	2,346.8	12,005.0	1.5	11.6	-24.2	100.8	0.1	0.1	-1.0	0.8	
Full-time	1,608.0	8,159.2	-3.7	4.6	-44.0	-21.2	-0.2	0.1	-2.7	-0.3	
Part-time	738.8	3,845.8	5.2	7.0	19.8	122.0	0.7	0.2	2.8	3.3	
Unemployed	161.2	738.9	2.8	5.1	7.5	10.6	1.8	0.7	4.9	1.5	
Labour force	2,508.0	12,743.9	4.3	16.7	-16.6	111.5	0.2	0.1	-0.7	0.9	
Seas. Adjusted											
Employed	2,340.4	11,998.8	-11.5	-6.5	-38.5	104.6	-0.5	-0.1	-1.6	0.9	
Full-time	1,603.2	8,158.9	5.2	27.1	-66.1	-23.1	0.3	0.3	-4.0	-0.3	
Part-time	737.2	3,840.0	-16.7	-33.5	27.6	127.8	-2.2	-0.9	3.9	3.4	
Unemployed	167.2	748.1	8.7	25.9	28.6	26.9	5.5	3.6	20.6	3.7	
Labour force	2,507.6	12,746.9	-2.8	19.5	-9.9	131.4	-0.1	0.2	-0.4	1.0	
	Current		A month ago		A year ago						
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus					
Unemploy. Rate											
Trend	6.4	5.8	6.3	5.8	6.1	5.8					
Seas. Adjusted	6.7	5.9	6.3	5.7	5.5	5.7					
Participation rate											
Trend	64.1	64.6	64.1	64.6	65.5	65.0					
Seas. Adjusted	64.1	64.6	64.2	64.6	65.3	64.9					

Table 2: Interstate comparison, February 2017

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (trend)							
% change on a month ago	0.1	-0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Change on a month ago (no.)	1,500	-3,000	3,000	1,700	3,000	200	11,600
% change on a year ago	-1.0	-0.1	3.3	1.6	-0.4	0.8	0.8
Change on a year ago (no.)	-24,200	-5,400	100,200	12,700	-5,400	1,800	100,800
Unemployment rate (trend)							
February-17	6.4	5.2	6.0	6.6	6.4	5.8	5.8
January-17	6.3	5.1	6.0	6.6	6.4	5.9	5.8
February-16	6.1	5.2	5.9	7.1	5.8	6.7	5.8
Participation rate (trend)							
February-17	64.1	63.1	65.7	62.4	67.5	59.6	64.6
January-17	64.1	63.1	65.7	62.3	67.5	59.6	64.6
February-16	65.5	64.2	64.8	62.1	68.1	60.1	65.0
Employed (sa)							
% change on a month ago	-0.5	0.0	0.3	0.0	-0.4	-0.3	-0.1
Change on a month ago (no.)	-11,500	-700	10,600	-300	-5,500	-800	-6,500
% change on a year ago	-1.6	0.1	3.2	2.0	0.3	0.9	0.9
Change on a year ago (no.)	-38,500	2,000	97,300	16,100	4,100	2,100	104,600
Unemployment rate (sa)							
February-17	6.7	5.2	6.1	6.6	6.0	5.8	5.9
January-17	6.3	5.1	5.8	6.4	6.4	5.6	5.7
February-16	5.5	5.2	5.9	7.5	6.0	6.9	5.7
Participation rate (sa)							
February-17	64.1	63.0	65.7	62.4	67.2	59.5	64.6
January-17	64.2	63.0	65.4	62.4	67.8	59.6	64.6
February-16	65.3	64.0	64.9	62.1	67.6	60.1	64.9