

Labour Force, March 2017

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 13 April 2017, 11:30 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,	↑ 4,400	(0.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 16,500	(0.1%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	↑ 2,200	(6.4%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↑ 5,800	(5.9%)
Labour force:	Queensland,	↑ 6,500	(0.3%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 22,300	(0.2%)

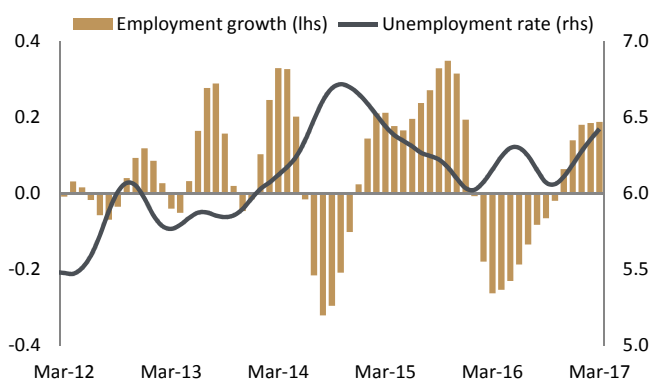
Main findings

Trend employment in Queensland rose 0.2% in March 2017 (or 4,400 persons). This was the third consecutive monthly increase of 0.2% and reflected rises in both full-time (up 2,400 persons) and part-time employment (up 2,000 persons) in the month.

Despite these recent improvements, trend employment in Queensland was 0.2% (or 5,200 persons) lower over the year to March 2017.

Queensland's trend unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.4% in March 2017. After moderating in mid-2016, 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 64.4% in March 2017, slightly higher than in February, but below the 65.3% recorded a year earlier. Consistent with broader trends in the labour market, Queensland's participation rate declined for much of 2016 but has shown some improvement since November 2016, as employment strengthened.

Nationally, trend employment rose by 16,500 persons (up 0.1%) in March, to be 1.0% higher over the year. The gain in national employment of 122,500 persons over the past 12 months was driven by Victoria (up 98,100 persons) and, to

a lesser extent, South Australia (up 11,100 persons). Trend employment was slightly lower over the year in Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia (Table 2). The national trend unemployment rate was 5.9% in March, up from 5.8% in February.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes, March 2017

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change				
	Qld	Aus	Month		Year		Month		Year		
			Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	
Trend											
Employed	2,359.8	12,033.4	4.4	16.5	-5.2	122.5	0.2	0.1	-0.2	1.0	
Full-time	1,619.6	8,198.2	2.4	15.6	-27.2	25.2	0.1	0.2	-1.7	0.3	
Part-time	740.2	3,835.2	2.0	0.9	22.0	97.2	0.3	0.0	3.1	2.6	
Unemployed	162.0	749.5	2.2	5.8	6.9	24.4	1.4	0.8	4.4	3.4	
Labour force	2,521.7	12,782.9	6.5	22.3	1.6	146.9	0.3	0.2	0.1	1.2	
Seas. Adjusted											
Employed	2,371.5	12,059.6	28.8	61.0	14.1	146.0	1.2	0.5	0.6	1.2	
Full-time	1,637.6	8,238.6	33.1	74.5	-0.9	67.8	2.1	0.9	-0.1	0.8	
Part-time	733.9	3,821.0	-4.3	-13.5	15.0	78.2	-0.6	-0.4	2.1	2.1	
Unemployed	159.0	753.1	-7.3	4.0	4.1	36.8	-4.4	0.5	2.6	5.1	
Labour force	2,530.5	12,812.7	21.5	64.9	18.3	182.7	0.9	0.5	0.7	1.4	
	Current	A month ago	A year ago								
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus					
Unemploy. Rate											
Trend	6.4	5.9	6.4	5.8	6.2	5.7					
Seas. Adjusted	6.3	5.9	6.6	5.9	6.2	5.7					
Participation rate											
Trend	64.4	64.7	64.3	64.6	65.3	64.9					
Seas. Adjusted	64.6	64.8	64.1	64.6	65.1	64.9					

Table 2: Interstate comparison, March 2017

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (trend)							
% change on a month ago	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Change on a month ago (no.)	4,400	-1,000	5,100	800	1,800	300	16,500
% change on a year ago	-0.2	-0.1	3.3	1.4	-0.3	1.2	1.0
Change on a year ago (no.)	-5,200	-4,300	98,100	11,100	-3,700	2,900	122,500
Unemployment rate (trend)							
March-17	6.4	5.2	6.1	6.7	6.4	5.8	5.9
February-17	6.4	5.1	6.0	6.7	6.4	5.9	5.8
March-16	6.2	5.2	5.8	7.0	5.8	6.6	5.7
Participation rate (trend)							
March-17	64.4	63.0	65.7	62.3	67.5	59.7	64.7
February-17	64.3	63.1	65.7	62.3	67.5	59.7	64.6
March-16	65.3	64.1	64.8	62.0	67.9	59.9	64.9
Employed (sa)							
% change on a month ago	1.2	0.6	0.3	-0.2	0.1	0.7	0.5
Change on a month ago (no.)	28,800	23,200	9,800	-1,900	1,600	1,600	61,000
% change on a year ago	0.6	0.5	3.2	1.1	-0.7	1.2	1.2
Change on a year ago (no.)	14,100	19,900	95,300	9,100	-9,100	2,900	146,000
Unemployment rate (sa)							
March-17	6.3	5.1	6.1	7.0	6.5	6.0	5.9
February-17	6.6	5.2	6.0	6.6	6.1	5.8	5.9
March-16	6.2	5.2	5.6	6.9	5.5	6.7	5.7
Participation rate (sa)							
March-17	64.6	63.1	65.9	62.4	67.5	59.9	64.8
February-17	64.1	62.9	65.7	62.3	67.2	59.5	64.6
March-16	65.1	63.9	64.8	62.0	67.9	60.0	64.9