

Labour Force, May 2017

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 15 June 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, (persons, growth)	↑ 5,900 (0.2%)
Australia, (persons, growth)	↑ 25,100 (0.2%)
Unemployment: Queensland, (persons, rate)	↓ 600 (6.3%)
Australia, (persons, rate)	↓ 4,800 (5.7%)
Labour force: Queensland, (persons, growth)	↑ 5,300 (0.2%)
Australia, (persons, growth)	↑ 20,400 (0.2%)

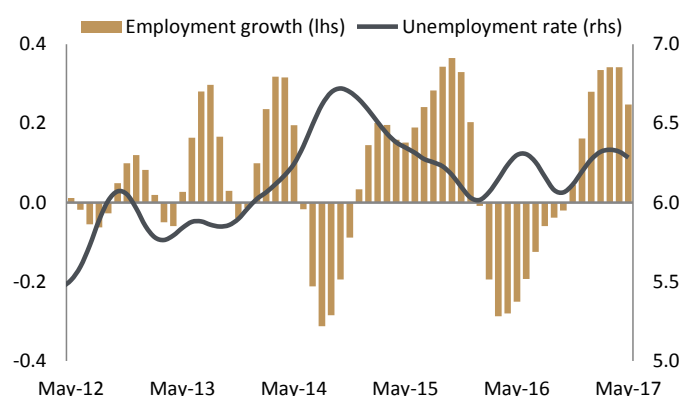
Main findings

Trend employment in Queensland rose 0.2% (or 5,900 persons), in May 2017, the seventh consecutive monthly increase in employment. Both full-time (up 3,600 persons) and part-time employment (up 2,300 persons) rose in May.

Trend employment in Queensland was 1.3% (or 31,100 persons) higher over the year to May 2017. The annual increase in employment has been driven largely by part-time employment (up 4.1%), while full-time employment rose marginally (up 0.1%). Consequently, part-time employment's share of total employment is at its highest level on record.

Queensland's trend unemployment rate was unchanged in May 2017, from a downwardly revised 6.3% in April. After picking up marginally in late-2016, Queensland's trend unemployment rate has been largely steady so far in 2017 (see Chart 1).

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



Queensland's trend participation rate was 64.7% in May 2017, unchanged from an upwardly revised rate in March. Queensland's participation rate moderated for much of 2016 but has risen since December 2016, consistent with the turnaround in employment.

Nationally, trend employment rose by 25,100 persons (up 0.2%) in May, to be 1.6% higher over the year.

While Victoria (up 103,900 persons) was the largest contributor to the 194,100 persons gain in national employment over the past year, all States recorded growth over the period (see Table 2). The national trend unemployment rate was 5.7% in May, unchanged from a downwardly revised rate in April.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes, May 2017

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change				
	Qld	Aus	Month		Year		Month		Year		
			Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	
Trend											
Employed	2,383.6	12,122.1	5.9	25.1	31.1	194.1	0.2	0.2	1.3	1.6	
Full-time	1,636.0	8,258.5	3.6	19.2	1.8	98.8	0.2	0.2	0.1	1.2	
Part-time	747.6	3,863.6	2.3	5.9	29.3	95.3	0.3	0.2	4.1	2.5	
Unemployed	159.8	729.2	-0.6	-4.8	1.7	5.6	-0.4	-0.7	1.1	0.8	
Labour force	2,543.4	12,851.3	5.3	20.4	32.8	199.7	0.2	0.2	1.3	1.6	
Seas. Adjusted											
Employed	2,390.2	12,152.6	5.5	41.9	42.8	232.8	0.2	0.3	1.8	2.0	
Full-time	1,634.8	8,287.4	-11.2	52.0	6.7	148.0	-0.7	0.6	0.4	1.8	
Part-time	755.4	3,865.2	16.7	-10.1	36.1	84.8	2.3	-0.3	5.0	2.2	
Unemployed	156.1	711.9	-3.9	-18.6	-4.1	-11.0	-2.4	-2.5	-2.6	-1.5	
Labour force	2,546.3	12,864.5	1.6	23.4	38.6	221.8	0.1	0.2	1.5	1.8	
	Current	A month ago	A year ago								
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus					
Unemploy. Rate											
Trend	6.3	5.7	6.3	5.7	6.3	5.7					
Seas. Adjusted	6.1	5.5	6.3	5.7	6.4	5.7					
Participation rate											
Trend	64.7	64.8	64.7	64.8	64.9	64.8					
Seas. Adjusted	64.8	64.9	64.8	64.8	64.8	64.8					

Table 2: Interstate comparison, May 2017

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (trend)							
% change on a month ago	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	5,900	9,900	8,300	-300	3,500	800	25,100
% change on a year ago	1.3	0.6	3.4	0.9	0.8	2.8	1.6
Change on a year ago (no.)	31,100	23,600	103,900	6,900	10,600	6,700	194,100
Unemployment rate (trend)							
May-17	6.3	4.8	6.1	7.1	5.8	5.9	5.7
April-17	6.3	4.9	6.1	7.0	5.9	5.9	5.7
May-16	6.3	5.2	5.7	6.9	5.9	6.5	5.7
Participation rate (trend)							
May-17	64.7	63.2	66.1	62.3	67.5	60.5	64.8
April-17	64.7	63.2	66.0	62.3	67.5	60.3	64.8
May-16	64.9	64.1	65.0	62.0	67.7	59.6	64.8
Employed (sa)							
% change on a month ago	0.2	0.9	0.2	0.6	0.3	1.2	0.3
Change on a month ago (no.)	5,500	32,700	6,900	5,200	4,300	2,800	41,900
% change on a year ago	1.8	0.8	3.9	1.7	0.9	3.8	2.0
Change on a year ago (no.)	42,800	30,200	118,800	13,900	12,200	9,000	232,800
Unemployment rate (sa)							
May-17	6.1	4.8	6.0	6.9	5.5	6.1	5.5
April-17	6.3	4.7	6.1	7.3	5.9	5.9	5.7
May-16	6.4	5.1	5.8	6.9	6.0	6.4	5.7
Participation rate (sa)							
May-17	64.8	63.5	66.1	62.3	67.6	61.0	64.9
April-17	64.8	63.0	66.1	62.2	67.7	60.3	64.8
May-16	64.8	64.4	64.9	61.6	68.0	59.4	64.8