

Labour Force, August 2017

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 14 September 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)	↑ 10,500	(0.4%)
Australia, (persons, growth)	↑ 27,100	(0.2%)
Unemployment: Queensland, (persons, rate)	↓ 2,000	(6.0%)
Australia, (persons, rate)	↓ 2,100	(5.6%)
Labour force: Queensland, (persons, growth)	↑ 8,600	(0.3%)
Australia, (persons, growth)	↑ 24,900	(0.2%)

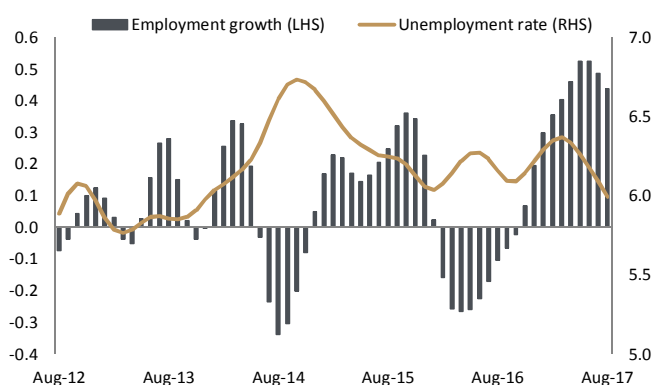
Main findings

Trend employment in Queensland rose 0.4% in August 2017 (or 10,500 persons), the tenth consecutive monthly increase. Both full-time employment (up 1,700 persons) and part-time employment (up 8,800 persons) rose in August.

Trend employment in Queensland was 3.7% (or 87,200 persons) higher over the year to August 2017. The annual increase in Queensland has been driven largely by part-time employment (up 8.6%), while full-time employment growth was more subdued (up 1.6%).

With employment growth outpacing growth in the labour force, Queensland's trend unemployment rate fell to 6.0% in August 2017, down from a downwardly revised 6.1% in July. The unemployment rate has steadily fallen since March 2017 (Chart 1).

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



Queensland's trend participation rate was 65.5% in August 2017, up from an upwardly revised 65.3% in July. The participation rate moderated for much of 2016 but has risen 1.5 percentage points since November 2016, consistent with the turnaround in employment.

Nationally, trend employment rose by 27,100 persons (up 0.2%) in August, to be 2.6% higher over the year.

After Victoria (up 96,800 persons), Queensland (up 87,200 persons) was the second largest contributor to the 307,300 persons gain in national employment over the past year, with all states recording growth over the period (Table 2).

The national trend unemployment rate was 5.6% in August, unchanged from the rate in July.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes, August 2017

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change				
	Qld	Aus	Month		Year		Month		Year		
			Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	
Trend											
Employed	2,429.7	12,249.5	10.5	27.1	87.2	307.3	0.4	0.2	3.7	2.6	
Full-time	1,650.5	8,388.3	1.7	21.5	25.6	253.3	0.1	0.3	1.6	3.1	
Part-time	779.2	3,861.2	8.8	5.6	61.6	54.0	1.1	0.1	8.6	1.4	
Unemployed	154.9	723.2	-2.0	-2.1	1.2	3.2	-1.3	-0.3	0.8	0.4	
Labour force	2,584.6	12,972.7	8.6	24.9	88.4	310.5	0.3	0.2	3.5	2.5	
Seas. Adjusted											
Employed	2,440.4	12,269.0	16.7	54.3	95.4	325.7	0.7	0.4	4.1	2.7	
Full-time	1,655.4	8,392.3	14.7	40.1	18.6	251.2	0.9	0.5	1.1	3.1	
Part-time	785.0	3,876.7	2.0	14.1	76.8	74.5	0.3	0.4	10.8	2.0	
Unemployed	147.9	727.5	-11.4	-1.0	-7.1	7.8	-7.2	-0.1	-4.6	1.1	
Labour force	2,588.4	12,996.4	5.4	53.1	88.4	333.4	0.2	0.4	3.5	2.6	
	Current		A month ago		A year ago						
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus					
Unemploy. Rate											
Trend	6.0	5.6	6.1	5.6	6.2	5.7					
Seas. Adjusted	5.7	5.6	6.2	5.6	6.2	5.7					
Participation rate											
Trend	65.5	65.2	65.3	65.1	64.3	64.6					
Seas. Adjusted	65.5	65.3	65.5	65.1	64.4	64.6					

Table 2: Interstate comparison, August 2017

	QLD	NSW	VIC	SA	WA	TAS	AUST
Employed (trend)							
% change on a month ago	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	10,500	8,000	4,600	2,100	2,900	600	27,100
% change on a year ago	3.7	1.6	3.2	1.8	2.6	4.1	2.6
Change on a year ago (no.)	87,200	62,800	96,800	14,800	34,300	9,600	307,300
Unemployment rate (trend)							
August-17	6.0	4.9	6.1	6.1	5.5	6.1	5.6
July-17	6.1	4.9	6.1	6.3	5.6	6.0	5.6
August-16	6.2	5.0	5.7	6.8	6.3	6.6	5.7
Participation rate (trend)							
August-17	65.5	63.7	66.2	62.3	68.0	61.3	65.2
July-17	65.3	63.6	66.2	62.3	67.9	61.2	65.1
August-16	64.3	63.8	65.4	62.0	67.3	59.7	64.6
Employed (sa)							
% change on a month ago	0.7	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.4
Change on a month ago (no.)	16,700	12,800	18,600	2,200	-100	900	54,300
% change on a year ago	4.1	1.9	3.1	2.0	2.5	3.8	2.7
Change on a year ago (no.)	95,400	71,600	95,500	16,500	32,800	9,000	325,700
Unemployment rate (sa)							
August-17	5.7	5.0	6.1	5.7	5.9	6.0	5.6
July-17	6.2	5.0	6.1	6.2	5.4	6.3	5.6
August-16	6.2	5.0	5.5	7.0	6.3	7.2	5.7
Participation rate (sa)							
August-17	65.5	63.7	66.3	62.1	68.0	61.1	65.3
July-17	65.5	63.6	66.0	62.3	67.7	61.1	65.1
August-16	64.4	63.6	65.4	62.1	67.2	60.0	64.6