Labour Force, October 2017

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 16 November 2017, 10:30 am AEST.

Note: As noted by the ABS, trend estimates provide the best measure of state level labour market conditions.

Key data (trend)

Employment:	Queensland,	↑	7,900	(0.3%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑	20,000	(0.2%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	↓	1,200	(5.9%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↓	2,900	(5.5%)
Labour force:	Queensland,	↑	6,800	(0.3%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑	17,000	(0.1%)

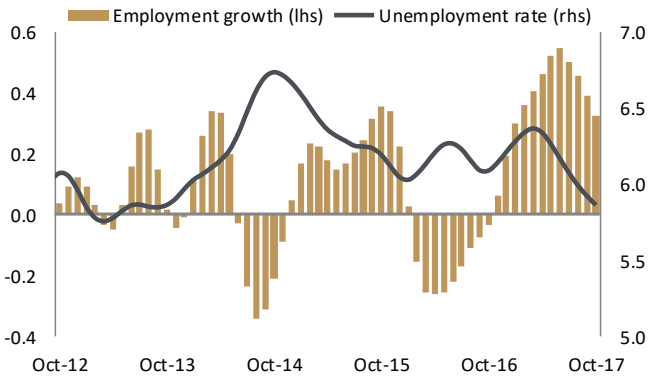
Main findings

Trend employment in Queensland rose 0.3% (or 7,900 persons) in October 2017. Both full-time employment (up 4,800 persons) and part-time employment (up 3,100 persons) rose in October.

Trend employment in Queensland was 4.6% (or 108,100 persons) higher over the year to October 2017. The annual increase in Queensland has been driven largely by part-time employment (up 8.9%), while full-time employment growth was more modest (up 2.7%).

With employment growing at a similar rate to the labour force, Queensland's trend unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.9% in October 2017. The unemployment rate has steadily fallen since March 2017 (Chart 1), consistent with falls in both the male and female unemployment rates.

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



Queensland's trend participation rate was 65.7% in October 2017, up marginally from an upwardly revised 65.6% in September. The participation rate moderated for much of 2016 but has risen 1.7 percentage points since November 2016, consistent with the turnaround in employment.

Nationally, trend employment rose by 20,000 persons (up 0.2%) in October, to be 2.9% higher over the year.

After Queensland, New South Wales (up 90,900 persons) and Victoria (up 87,500 persons) were the largest contributors to the 346,700 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 5.5% in October, unchanged from the rate in September, and 0.2 percentage point lower than a year ago.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes, October 2017

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change			
			Month		Year		Month		Year	
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus
Trend										
Employed	2,448.2	12,301.2	7.9	20.0	108.1	346.7	0.3	0.2	4.6	2.9
Full-time	1,663.8	8,423.0	4.8	16.0	44.3	289.2	0.3	0.2	2.7	3.6
Part-time	784.4	3,878.1	3.1	3.9	63.8	57.4	0.4	0.1	8.9	1.5
Unemployed	152.6	709.4	-1.2	-2.9	0.7	-11.6	-0.8	-0.4	0.5	-1.6
Labour force	2,600.8	13,010.5	6.8	17.0	108.9	335.0	0.3	0.1	4.4	2.6
Seas. Adjusted										
Employed	2,449.5	12,297.1	12.6	3.7	131.1	355.7	0.5	0.0	5.7	3.0
Full-time	1,670.4	8,425.4	9.8	24.3	62.9	297.9	0.6	0.3	3.9	3.7
Part-time	779.1	3,871.7	2.8	-20.6	68.2	57.9	0.4	-0.5	9.6	1.5
Unemployed	155.5	701.5	3.3	-8.1	10.0	-8.8	2.2	-1.1	6.9	-1.2
Labour force	2,605.0	12,998.5	15.9	-4.5	141.0	346.8	0.6	0.0	5.7	2.7

	Current		A month ago		A year ago	
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus
Unemploy. Rate						
Trend	5.9	5.5	5.9	5.5	6.1	5.7
Seas. Adjusted	6.0	5.4	5.9	5.5	5.9	5.6
Participation rate						
Trend	65.7	65.2	65.6	65.2	64.0	64.5
Seas. Adjusted	65.8	65.1	65.5	65.2	63.3	64.4

Table 2: Interstate comparison, October 2017

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (trend)							
% change on a month ago	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	*7,900*	*6,700*	*2,900*	*500*	*400*	*-200*	*20,000*
% change on a year ago	4.6	2.4	2.8	1.5	2.8	3.0	2.9
Change on a year ago (no.)	*108,100*	*90,900*	*87,500*	*12,400*	*37,000*	*7,200*	*346,700*
Unemployment rate (trend)							
October-17	5.9	4.7	5.9	5.6	5.8	6.0	5.5
September-17	5.9	4.7	5.9	5.8	5.7	6.0	5.5
October-16	6.1	5.0	5.8	6.7	6.4	6.5	5.7
Participation rate (trend)							
October-17	65.7	63.7	66.0	61.9	68.1	60.9	65.2
September-17	65.6	63.7	66.1	62.0	68.1	61.0	65.2
October-16	64.0	63.5	65.6	62.0	67.3	59.8	64.5
Employed (sa)							
% change on a month ago	0.5	0.0	-0.5	-0.2	-0.3	-1.4	0.0
Change on a month ago (no.)	*12,600*	*-1,200*	*-14,500*	*-1,800*	*-3,900*	*-3,500*	*3,700*
% change on a year ago	5.7	2.4	2.3	1.1	2.5	2.8	3.0
Change on a year ago (no.)	*131,100*	*91,800*	*72,200*	*8,700*	*33,300*	*6,600*	*355,700*
Unemployment rate (sa)							
October-17	6.0	4.6	5.7	5.8	5.9	6.1	5.4
September-17	5.9	4.6	6.0	5.8	5.7	5.8	5.5
October-16	5.9	4.9	5.8	6.5	6.4	6.4	5.6
Participation rate (sa)							
October-17	65.8	63.6	65.7	61.8	68.1	60.4	65.1
September-17	65.5	63.8	66.3	62.0	68.2	61.1	65.2
October-16	63.3	63.4	65.7	61.9	67.3	59.4	64.4

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