Labour Force, December 2017

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 18 January 2018, 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: (persons, growth)	Queensland,	↑	3,600	(0.1%)
	Australia,	↑	25,000	(0.2%)
Unemployment: (persons, rate)	Queensland,	↑	200	(5.9%)
	Australia,	↑	100	(5.4%)
Labour force: (persons, growth)	Queensland,	↑	3,700	(0.1%)
	Australia,	↑	25,100	(0.2%)

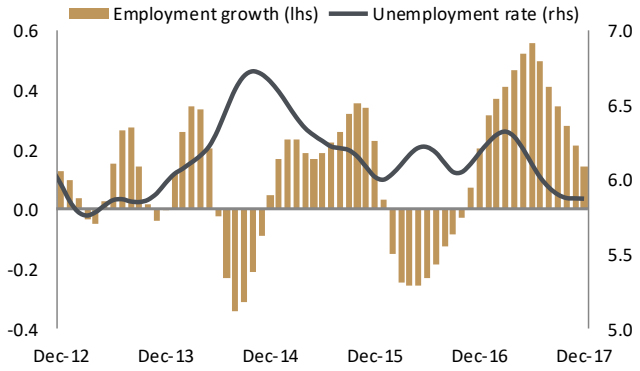
Main findings – Trend estimates

Trend employment in Queensland rose 0.1% (or 3,600 persons) in December 2017. A rise in full-time employment (up 7,400 persons) more than offset the fall in part-time employment (down 3,800 persons) in the month.

Trend employment in Queensland was 4.6% (or 108,800 persons) higher over the year to December 2017. This increase was driven by both full-time (up 73,500 persons) and part-time (up 35,300 persons) employment.

With employment growing at a similar rate to the labour force, Queensland's trend unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.9% in December 2017, from an upwardly revised rate in November. Strong employment growth has seen the unemployment rate fall steadily for much of 2017 (Chart 1).

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



Queensland's trend participation rate was 65.8% in December, unchanged from a downwardly revised rate in November. The participation rate moderated for much of 2016 but has rebounded 1.8 percentage points since November 2016, consistent with strong employment growth.

Nationally, trend employment rose by 25,000 persons (up 0.2%) in December, to be 3.3% higher over the year. After New South Wales (up 134,100 persons), Queensland (108,800 persons) and Victoria (up 95,000 persons) were the largest contributors to the 393,400 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 5.4% in December, down marginally from November, but 0.3 percentage point lower than a year ago.

Seasonally adjusted estimates

In more volatile seasonally adjusted (sa) terms, employment in Queensland fell 0.1% (or 3,600 persons) in December. Over the year, sa employment rose 4.3% (or 100,600 persons), with increase in both full-time and part-time employment (Table 1).

Queensland's sa unemployment rate was up marginally to 6.0% in December but 0.2 percentage point lower than a year ago. Meanwhile Queensland's sa participation rate was unchanged in December, from a downwardly revised 65.8% in November.

Nationally, sa employment rose 34,700 persons in the month, much stronger than market expectations for a 9,000 rise. The national sa unemployment rate rose 0.1 percentage point to 5.5% in December 2017, above market expectations.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes, December 2017

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change			
			Month		Year		Month		Year	
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus
Trend										
Employed	2,460.6	12,419.8	3.6	25.0	108.8	393.4	0.1	0.2	4.6	3.3
Full-time	1,692.4	8,505.4	7.4	16.6	73.5	321.6	0.4	0.2	4.5	3.9
Part-time	768.2	3,914.4	-3.8	8.4	35.3	71.7	-0.5	0.2	4.8	1.9
Unemployed	153.6	715.0	0.2	0.1	-1.4	-18.4	0.1	0.0	-0.9	-2.5
Labour force	2,614.2	13,134.8	3.7	25.1	107.4	375.0	0.1	0.2	4.3	2.9
Seas. Adjusted										
Employed	2,455.4	12,440.8	-3.6	34.7	100.6	403.1	-0.1	0.3	4.3	3.3
Full-time	1,699.5	8,518.9	12.5	15.1	68.2	303.3	0.7	0.2	4.2	3.7
Part-time	755.9	3,921.8	-16.1	19.5	32.4	99.7	-2.1	0.5	4.5	2.6
Unemployed	157.0	730.6	3.6	20.5	2.5	-7.6	2.3	2.9	1.6	-1.0
Labour force	2,612.4	13,171.3	0.0	55.2	103.1	395.4	0.0	0.4	4.1	3.1

	Current		A month ago		A year ago	
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus
Unemploy. Rate						
Trend	5.9	5.4	5.9	5.5	6.2	5.7
Seas. Adjusted	6.0	5.5	5.9	5.4	6.2	5.8
Participation rate						
Trend	65.8	65.5	65.8	65.5	64.1	64.7
Seas. Adjusted	65.8	65.7	65.8	65.5	64.2	64.8

Table 2: Interstate comparison, December 2017

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (trend)							
% change on a month ago	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	*3,600*	*11,500*	*5,600*	*-200*	*2,000*	*0*	*25,000*
% change on a year ago	4.6	3.5	3.0	1.2	3.0	2.8	3.3
Change on a year ago (no.)	*108,800*	*134,100*	*95,000*	*9,500*	*39,200*	*6,800*	*393,400*
Unemployment rate (trend)							
December-17	5.9	4.7	5.8	5.9	6.1	6.0	5.4
November-17	5.9	4.7	5.8	5.9	6.1	5.9	5.5
December-16	6.2	5.1	6.0	6.6	6.4	6.1	5.7
Participation rate (trend)							
December-17	65.8	64.3	66.2	62.0	68.6	61.0	65.5
November-17	65.8	64.2	66.2	62.0	68.4	61.0	65.5
December-16	64.1	63.4	65.8	62.2	67.3	59.9	64.7
Employed (sa)							
% change on a month ago	-0.1	0.4	-0.1	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.3
Change on a month ago (no.)	*-3,600*	*14,400*	*-3,800*	*1,300*	*6,000*	*600*	*34,700*
% change on a year ago	4.3	3.7	2.8	1.6	3.8	3.2	3.3
Change on a year ago (no.)	*100,600*	*139,700*	*87,700*	*12,900*	*49,800*	*7,700*	*403,100*
Unemployment rate (sa)							
December-17	6.0	4.8	6.1	5.9	5.7	6.1	5.5
November-17	5.9	4.6	5.5	6.1	6.6	5.7	5.4
December-16	6.2	5.2	6.1	6.6	6.5	6.3	5.8
Participation rate (sa)							
December-17	65.8	64.6	66.4	62.1	68.5	61.3	65.7
November-17	65.8	64.3	66.1	62.2	68.9	60.9	65.5
December-16	64.2	63.6	66.0	62.0	67.1	59.9	64.8

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