

Labour Force, January 2018

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 15 February 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:	Queensland,	↑ 3,700	(0.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 23,000	(0.2%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	↑ 1,900	(6.0%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↑ 2,600	(5.5%)
Labour force:	Queensland,	↑ 5,600	(0.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 25,600	(0.2%)

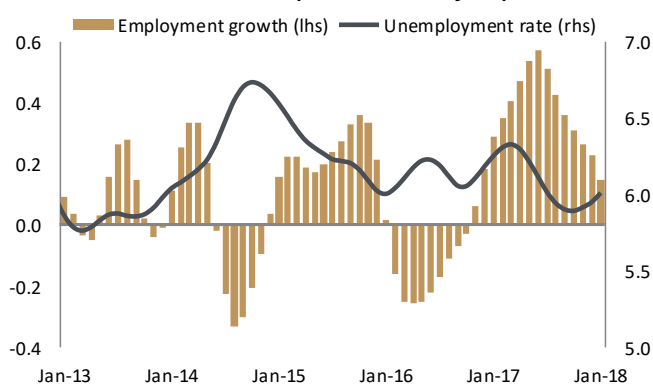
Main findings – Trend estimates

Trend employment in Queensland rose 0.2% (or 3,700 persons) in January 2018. A rise in full-time employment (up 5,600 persons) more than offset the fall in part-time employment (down 1,900 persons) in the month.

Trend employment in Queensland was 4.7% (or 110,400 persons) higher over the year to January 2018. This increase was driven by both full-time (up 75,000 persons) and part-time (up 35,400 persons) employment.

Queensland's trend unemployment rate rose to 6.0% in January 2018, up marginally from the rate in December (5.9%). Strong employment growth saw 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 66.1% in January, up marginally from an upwardly revised rate in December 2017. The participation rate moderated for much of 2016 but has rebounded 2.0 percentage points since November 2016, as strong employment growth encourages more people to enter the labour market.

Nationally, trend employment rose by 23,000 persons (up 0.2%) in January, to be 3.3% higher over the year. After New South Wales (up 136,900 persons), Queensland (110,400 persons) and Victoria (up 90,200 persons) were the largest contributors to the 394,900 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 January, unchanged from the rate in December, but 0.3 percentage point lower than a year ago.

Seasonally adjusted estimates

In more volatile seasonally adjusted (sa) terms, employment in Queensland rose 0.8% (or 19,700 persons) in January. Over the year, sa employment rose 5.0% (or 117,900 persons), with increases in both full-time and part-time employment (Table 1).

Queensland's sa unemployment rate was up marginally to 6.1% in January but 0.1 percentage point lower than a year ago. Meanwhile Queensland's sa participation rate was 66.3% in January, up 0.5 percentage point from December.

Nationally, sa employment rose 16,000 persons in the month, in line with market expectations for a 15,000 rise. The national sa unemployment rate fell 0.1 percentage point to 5.5% in January 2018, also in line with market expectations.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes, January 2018

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change				
	Qld	Aus	Month		Year		Month		Year		
			Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	
Trend											
Employed	2,469.1	12,446.6	3.7	23.0	110.4	394.9	0.2	0.2	4.7	3.3	
Full-time	1,696.3	8,495.2	5.6	8.8	75.0	292.2	0.3	0.1	4.6	3.6	
Part-time	772.8	3,951.4	-1.9	14.2	35.4	102.8	-0.2	0.4	4.8	2.7	
Unemployed	157.9	720.2	1.9	2.6	0.7	-18.0	1.2	0.4	0.4	-2.4	
Labour force	2,627.0	13,166.8	5.6	25.6	111.0	376.9	0.2	0.2	4.4	2.9	
Seas. Adjusted											
Employed	2,477.1	12,453.5	19.7	16.0	117.9	403.3	0.8	0.1	5.0	3.3	
Full-time	1,691.7	8,460.9	-6.7	-49.8	91.6	293.1	-0.4	-0.6	5.7	3.6	
Part-time	785.4	3,992.6	26.4	65.9	26.3	110.1	3.5	1.7	3.5	2.8	
Unemployed	160.9	723.8	3.8	-7.9	4.1	-0.4	2.4	-1.1	2.6	-0.1	
Labour force	2,637.9	13,177.4	23.4	8.2	121.9	403.0	0.9	0.1	4.8	3.2	
			Current	A month ago	A year ago						
			Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus			
Unemploy. Rate											
Trend	6.0	5.5	5.9	5.5	6.2	5.8					
Seas. Adjusted	6.1	5.5	6.0	5.6	6.2	5.7					
Participation rate											
Trend	66.1	65.6	66.0	65.5	64.3	64.7					
Seas. Adjusted	66.3	65.6	65.8	65.7	64.3	64.6					

Table 2: Interstate comparison, January 2018

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (trend)							
% change on a month ago	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	3,700	7,600	4,400	1,000	1,500	200	23,000
% change on a year ago	4.7	3.6	2.9	1.5	2.7	2.7	3.3
Change on a year ago (no.)	110,400	136,900	90,200	12,000	35,700	6,500	394,900
Unemployment rate (trend)							
January-18	6.0	4.8	5.7	6.0	6.0	5.7	5.5
December-17	5.9	4.8	5.7	5.9	6.0	5.8	5.5
January-17	6.2	5.1	6.0	6.7	6.4	6.0	5.8
Participation rate (trend)							
January-18	66.1	64.4	66.1	62.3	68.4	60.9	65.6
December-17	66.0	64.3	66.1	62.2	68.4	60.9	65.5
January-17	64.3	63.3	65.8	62.2	67.3	59.9	64.7
Employed (sa)							
% change on a month ago	0.8	-0.5	0.1	0.7	-0.7	-0.2	0.1
Change on a month ago (no.)	19,700	-21,100	2,200	5,400	-8,900	-500	16,000
% change on a year ago	5.0	3.5	3.2	1.6	1.9	2.4	3.3
Change on a year ago (no.)	117,900	134,200	100,300	13,200	24,300	5,700	403,300
Unemployment rate (sa)							
January-18	6.1	5.1	5.6	6.0	5.7	5.3	5.5
December-17	6.0	4.8	6.1	5.9	5.7	6.1	5.6
January-17	6.2	5.1	5.8	6.4	6.4	5.7	5.7
Participation rate (sa)							
January-18	66.3	64.3	65.9	62.6	68.0	60.6	65.6
December-17	65.8	64.6	66.4	62.2	68.5	61.3	65.7
January-17	64.3	63.1	65.5	62.2	67.7	59.9	64.6