

Labour Force, February 2018

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 22 March 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,	↑ 4,200	(0.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 19,400	(0.2%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	↑ 2,500	(6.1%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↑ 4,400	(5.5%)
Labour force:	Queensland,	↑ 6,700	(0.3%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 23,700	(0.2%)

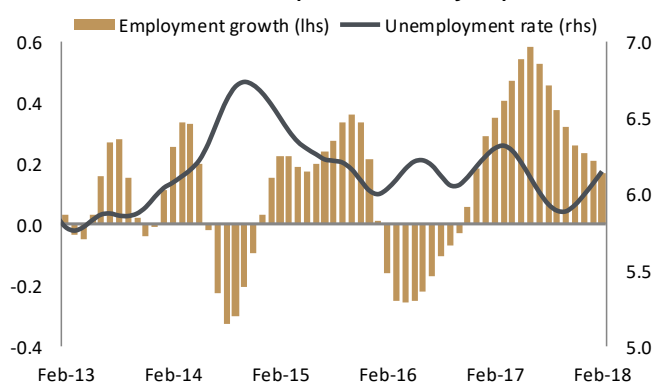
Main findings – Trend estimates

Trend employment in Queensland rose 0.2% (or 4,200 persons) in February 2018 (Chart 1). A rise in full-time employment (up 5,400 persons) more than offset a fall in part-time employment (down 1,200 persons) in the month.

Trend employment in Queensland was 4.6% (or 110,000 persons) higher over the year to February 2018. This increase was driven by full-time (up 82,500 persons) and, to a lesser extent, part-time (up 27,500 persons) employment.

Queensland's trend unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.1% in February 2018, from an upwardly revised rate January.

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



Queensland's trend participation rate was 66.2% in February, up marginally from the rate in January 2018. The participation rate moderated for much of 2016 but has rebounded 2.1 percentage points since November 2016, as strong employment growth encourages more people to enter the labour force.

Nationally, trend employment rose by 19,400 persons (up 0.2%) in February, to be 3.3% higher over the year. After New South Wales (up 147,500 persons), Queensland (110,000 persons) and Victoria (up 77,700 persons) were the largest contributors to the 399,600 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 February, unchanged from the rate in January, but 0.3 percentage point lower than a year ago.

Seasonally adjusted estimates

In more volatile seasonally adjusted (sa) terms, employment in Queensland fell 1,000 persons in February. Over the year, sa employment rose 5.5% (or 128,700 persons), with increases in both full-time and part-time employment (Table 1).

Queensland's sa unemployment rate was up marginally to 6.2% in February, but 0.4 percentage point lower than a year ago. Meanwhile, at 66.3%, Queensland's sa participation rate was unchanged in the month, but 2.1 percentage points higher over the year.

Nationally, sa employment rose 17,500 persons in the month, slightly below market expectations for a 20,000 rise. The national sa unemployment rate rose 0.1 percentage point to 5.6% in February 2018, above market expectations for an unchanged 5.5%.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes, February 2018

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change				
	Qld	Aus	Month		Year		Month		Year		
			Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	
Trend											
Employed	2,476.9	12,480.5	4.2	19.4	110.0	399.6	0.2	0.2	4.6	3.3	
Full-time	1,707.7	8,519.1	5.4	7.8	82.5	293.1	0.3	0.1	5.1	3.6	
Part-time	769.2	3,961.4	-1.2	11.6	27.5	106.5	-0.2	0.3	3.7	2.8	
Unemployed	162.3	729.5	2.5	4.4	3.2	-10.1	1.6	0.6	2.0	-1.4	
Labour force	2,639.2	13,210.0	6.7	23.7	113.2	389.5	0.3	0.2	4.5	3.0	
Seas. Adjusted											
Employed	2,478.8	12,480.5	-1.0	17.5	128.7	420.7	0.0	0.1	5.5	3.5	
Full-time	1,712.3	8,533.6	16.7	65.0	105.5	327.6	1.0	0.8	6.6	4.0	
Part-time	766.5	3,946.9	-17.7	-47.5	23.2	93.1	-2.3	-1.2	3.1	2.4	
Unemployed	164.4	734.1	3.5	8.9	-2.8	-14.0	2.2	1.2	-1.7	-1.9	
Labour force	2,643.1	13,214.6	2.4	26.4	125.8	406.8	0.1	0.2	5.0	3.2	
	Current		A month ago		A year ago						
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus					
Unemploy. Rate											
Trend	6.1	5.5	6.1	5.5	6.3	5.8					
Seas. Adjusted	6.2	5.6	6.1	5.5	6.6	5.8					
Participation rate											
Trend	66.2	65.7	66.1	65.6	64.4	64.8					
Seas. Adjusted	66.3	65.7	66.3	65.6	64.2	64.7					

Table 2: Interstate comparison, February 2018

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (trend)							
% change on a month ago	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	4,200	7,300	300	2,600	200	0	19,400
% change on a year ago	4.6	3.9	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.4	3.3
Change on a year ago (no.)	110,000	147,500	77,700	18,900	30,700	5,700	399,600
Unemployment rate (trend)							
February-18	6.1	4.9	5.7	6.2	6.0	5.8	5.5
January-18	6.1	4.8	5.7	6.1	6.0	5.8	5.5
February-17	6.3	5.0	6.1	6.8	6.3	5.9	5.8
Participation rate (trend)							
February-18	66.2	64.6	65.8	62.9	68.2	60.9	65.7
January-18	66.1	64.5	65.9	62.7	68.3	60.9	65.6
February-17	64.4	63.3	65.9	62.3	67.4	60.0	64.8
Employed (sa)							
% change on a month ago	0.0	0.7	-0.3	0.9	-0.1	-0.2	0.1
Change on a month ago (no.)	-1,000	28,500	-11,300	7,500	-1,200	-400	17,500
% change on a year ago	5.5	4.4	2.1	2.8	2.2	2.7	3.5
Change on a year ago (no.)	128,700	166,200	67,800	22,600	28,300	6,400	420,700
Unemployment rate (sa)							
February-18	6.2	4.8	5.7	6.3	6.0	6.0	5.6
January-18	6.1	5.1	5.6	6.1	5.8	5.3	5.5
February-17	6.6	5.2	6.0	6.5	6.0	5.7	5.8
Participation rate (sa)							
February-18	66.3	64.6	65.6	63.4	68.0	60.9	65.7
January-18	66.3	64.4	65.9	62.7	68.0	60.7	65.6
February-17	64.2	63.2	65.9	62.2	67.1	59.7	64.7