

Labour Force, March 2018

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 19 April 2018, 11:30 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, | ↑ 3,200 | (0.1%) |
| (persons, growth) | Australia, | ↑ 14,000 | (0.1%) |
| Unemployment: | Queensland, | ↑ 200 | (6.0%) |
| (persons, rate) | Australia, | ↑ 3,500 | (5.6%) |
| Labour force: | Queensland, | ↑ 3,400 | (0.1%) |
| (persons, growth) | Australia, | ↑ 17,600 | (0.1%) |

Main findings – Trend estimates

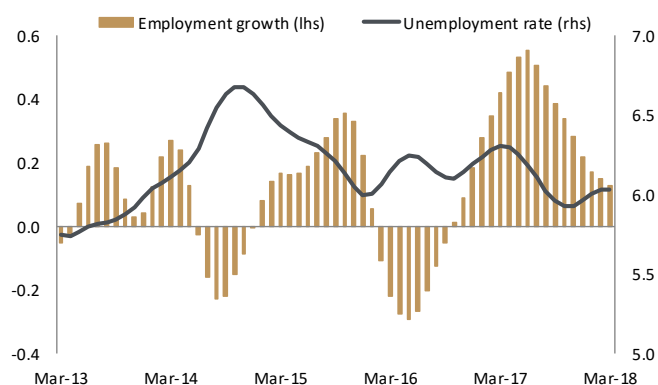
Trend employment in Queensland rose 0.1% (or 3,200 persons) in March 2018 (Chart 1), with rises in both full-time (up 800 persons) and part-time (up 2,400 persons) employment.

Over the year to March 2018, trend employment in Queensland was 4.3% (or 101,600 persons) higher. This increase was the result of rises in both full-time (up 80,500 persons) and, to a lesser extent, part-time (up 21,100 persons) employment.

Queensland's trend unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.0% in March 2018, from a downwardly revised rate in February.

Queensland's trend participation rate continued to rise in March (to 66.2%). The participation rate has rebounded 2.1 percentage points since November 2016, as strong employment growth encourages more people to enter the labour force.

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



Nationally, trend employment rose by 14,000 persons (up 0.1%) in March, to be 3.1% higher over the year. After New South Wales (up 138,900 persons), Queensland (up 101,600 persons) and Victoria (up 79,700 persons) were the largest contributors to the 376,100 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 March, up 0.1 percentage point from the rate in February, but 0.2 percentage point lower than a year ago.

Seasonally adjusted estimates

In more volatile seasonally adjusted (sa) terms, employment in Queensland fell 1,600 persons in March, with the decline in full-time employment (down 7,200 persons) more than offsetting the rise in part-time employment (up 5,600 persons). Over the year, sa employment rose 3.8% (or 91,800 persons) (Table 1).

Queensland's sa unemployment rate declined 0.2 percentage point in the month and also over the year. Meanwhile, at 66.0%, Queensland's sa participation rate was marginally lower in the month, but 1.3 percentage points higher over the year.

Nationally, sa employment rose 4,900 persons in the month, below market expectations for a 21,000 rise. The national sa unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.5% in March 2018, in line with expectations.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes, March 2018

| | Level (000s) | | Difference (000s) | | | | % Change | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|----------|------|------|------|--|
| | Qld | Aus | Month | | Year | | Month | | Year | | |
| | | | Qld | Aus | Qld | Aus | Qld | Aus | Qld | Aus | |
| Trend | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Employed | 2,478.5 | 12,485.8 | 3.2 | 14.0 | 101.6 | 376.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 4.3 | 3.1 | |
| Full-time | 1,707.4 | 8,524.4 | 0.8 | 1.2 | 80.5 | 270.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 4.9 | 3.3 | |
| Part-time | 771.1 | 3,961.4 | 2.4 | 12.8 | 21.1 | 106.0 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 2.8 | 2.7 | |
| Unemployed | 159.0 | 735.0 | 0.2 | 3.5 | -0.9 | -6.6 | 0.1 | 0.5 | -0.6 | -0.9 | |
| Labour force | 2,637.4 | 13,220.8 | 3.4 | 17.6 | 100.6 | 369.5 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 4.0 | 2.9 | |
| Seas. Adjusted | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Employed | 2,476.6 | 12,484.1 | -1.6 | 4.9 | 91.8 | 367.0 | -0.1 | 0.0 | 3.8 | 3.0 | |
| Full-time | 1,706.0 | 8,514.1 | -7.2 | -19.9 | 63.4 | 226.9 | -0.4 | -0.2 | 3.9 | 2.7 | |
| Part-time | 770.6 | 3,970.0 | 5.6 | 24.7 | 28.4 | 140.1 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 3.8 | 3.7 | |
| Unemployed | 158.6 | 730.2 | -4.0 | -2.4 | 0.7 | -23.1 | -2.5 | -0.3 | 0.4 | -3.1 | |
| Labour force | 2,635.2 | 13,214.4 | -5.6 | 2.6 | 92.4 | 344.0 | -0.2 | 0.0 | 3.6 | 2.7 | |
| | Current | A month ago | A year ago | | | | | | | | |
| | Qld | Aus | Qld | Aus | Qld | Aus | | | | | |
| Unemploy. Rate | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trend | 6.0 | 5.6 | 6.0 | 5.5 | 6.3 | 5.8 | | | | | |
| Seas. Adjusted | 6.0 | 5.5 | 6.2 | 5.5 | 6.2 | 5.9 | | | | | |
| Participation rate | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trend | 66.2 | 65.7 | 66.1 | 65.6 | 64.6 | 64.8 | | | | | |
| Seas. Adjusted | 66.0 | 65.5 | 66.2 | 65.6 | 64.7 | 64.9 | | | | | |

Table 2: Interstate comparison, March 2018

| | QLD | NSW | VIC | SA | WA | TAS | AUST |
|-----------------------------------|---------|---------|--------|--------|--------|-------|---------|
| Employed (trend) | | | | | | | |
| % change on a month ago | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 | -0.1 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Change on a month ago (no.) | 3,200 | 4,700 | 4,200 | 1,600 | -800 | 100 | 14,000 |
| % change on a year ago | 4.3 | 3.6 | 2.5 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 3.1 |
| Change on a year ago (no.) | 101,600 | 138,900 | 79,700 | 17,500 | 25,600 | 5,000 | 376,100 |
| Unemployment rate (trend) | | | | | | | |
| March-18 | 6.0 | 4.9 | 5.5 | 5.9 | 6.4 | 6.0 | 5.6 |
| February-18 | 6.0 | 4.9 | 5.5 | 6.0 | 6.2 | 6.0 | 5.5 |
| March-17 | 6.3 | 5.0 | 6.1 | 6.7 | 6.0 | 5.8 | 5.8 |
| Participation rate (trend) | | | | | | | |
| March-18 | 66.2 | 64.6 | 65.8 | 62.8 | 68.4 | 61.1 | 65.7 |
| February-18 | 66.1 | 64.5 | 65.8 | 62.7 | 68.3 | 61.1 | 65.6 |
| March-17 | 64.6 | 63.3 | 66.0 | 62.3 | 67.4 | 60.2 | 64.8 |
| Employed (sa) | | | | | | | |
| % change on a month ago | -0.1 | -0.2 | 0.8 | -0.7 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.0 |
| Change on a month ago (no.) | -1,600 | -6,400 | 26,400 | -6,000 | 800 | 800 | 4,900 |
| % change on a year ago | 3.8 | 3.5 | 2.8 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 3.0 |
| Change on a year ago (no.) | 91,800 | 133,200 | 87,700 | 17,700 | 29,000 | 5,600 | 367,000 |
| Unemployment rate (sa) | | | | | | | |
| March-18 | 6.0 | 5.0 | 5.2 | 5.6 | 6.9 | 6.1 | 5.5 |
| February-18 | 6.2 | 4.8 | 5.7 | 6.2 | 6.1 | 6.0 | 5.5 |
| March-17 | 6.2 | 5.0 | 6.2 | 7.1 | 6.3 | 6.0 | 5.9 |
| Participation rate (sa) | | | | | | | |
| March-18 | 66.0 | 64.4 | 65.6 | 62.4 | 68.7 | 61.2 | 65.5 |
| February-18 | 66.2 | 64.5 | 65.5 | 63.3 | 68.1 | 60.9 | 65.6 |
| March-17 | 64.7 | 63.3 | 66.0 | 62.5 | 67.3 | 60.2 | 64.9 |