Labour Force, March 2018

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 19 April 2018, 11:30 am AEST.

Economic Strategy Division

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 5.5% in March 2018, in line with expectations.

Nationally, trend employment rose 14,000 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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level (000s)</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employed (trend)</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed (seasonally adjusted)</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Interstate comparison, March 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qld</th>
<th>NSW</th>
<th>Vic</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>WA</th>
<th>Tas</th>
<th>Aust</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>101,600</td>
<td>138,900</td>
<td>79,700</td>
<td>17,500</td>
<td>25,600</td>
<td>5,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% change on a month ago</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
<td>140.1%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% change on a year ago</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

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