

Labour Force, April 2018

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 17 May 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,	↑ 900	(0.0%)
	(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 13,800 (0.1%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	↑ 1,600	(6.3%)
	(persons, rate)	Australia,	↑ 1,400 (5.5%)
Labour force:	Queensland,	↑ 2,500	(0.1%)
	(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 15,100 (0.1%)

Main findings – Trend estimates

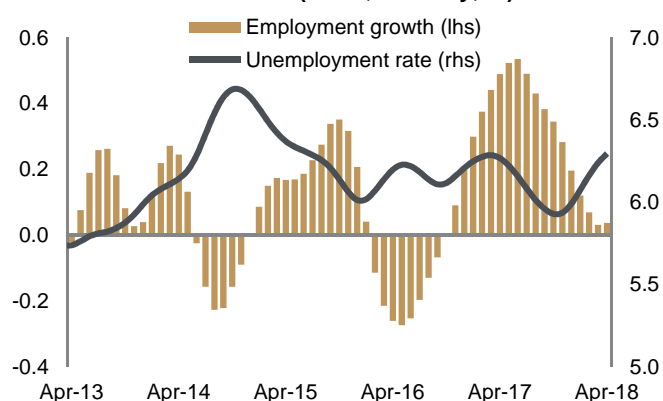
Trend employment in Queensland rose 900 persons in April 2018 (Chart 1), with a rise in part-time employment (up 2,100 persons) more than offsetting a fall in full-time employment (down 1,200 persons).

Over the year to April 2018, trend employment in Queensland was 3.5% (or 83,500 persons) higher. This increase was the result of rises in both full-time (up 70,100 persons) and, to a lesser extent, part-time (up 13,400 persons) employment.

Queensland's trend unemployment rate rose marginally to 6.3% in April 2018, from an upwardly revised rate in March.

Queensland's trend participation rate fell slightly in April (to 66.0%). The participation rate moderated for much of 2016 but has risen 1.9 percentage points since November 2016, consistent with strong employment growth encouraging more people to enter the labour market.

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



Nationally, trend employment rose by 13,800 persons (up 0.1%) in April, to be 2.9% higher over the year. After New South Wales (up 146,400 persons), Queensland (up 83,500 persons) and Victoria (up 65,400 persons) were the largest contributors to the 355,200 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 unchanged at 5.5% in April, and 0.2 percentage point lower than a year ago.

Seasonally adjusted estimates

In more volatile seasonally adjusted (sa) terms, employment in Queensland fell 8,200 persons in April, with declines in both full-time (down 5,600 persons) and part-time employment (down 2,600 persons). Over the year, sa employment in Queensland rose 2.8% (or 66,500 persons) (Table 1).

Queensland's sa unemployment rate rose 0.4 percentage point in the month and also over the year. Meanwhile, at 65.9%, Queensland's sa participation rate was unchanged in the month, but 0.9 percentage points higher over the year.

Nationally, sa employment rose 22,600 persons in the month, above market expectations for a 20,000 rise. The national sa unemployment rate rose to 5.6% in April 2018, slightly above market expectations.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes, April 2018

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change				
	Qld	Aus	Month		Year		Month		Year		
			Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	
Trend											
Employed	2,473.5	12,505.2	0.9	13.8	83.5	355.2	0.0	0.1	3.5	2.9	
Full-time	1,704.1	8,543.8	-1.2	5.8	70.1	256.0	-0.1	0.1	4.3	3.1	
Part-time	769.4	3,961.3	2.1	7.9	13.4	99.1	0.3	0.2	1.8	2.6	
Unemployed	166.2	733.3	1.6	1.4	6.4	-4.8	1.0	0.2	4.0	-0.7	
Labour force	2,639.7	13,238.4	2.5	15.1	89.9	350.4	0.1	0.1	3.5	2.7	
Seas. Adjusted											
Employed	2,464.4	12,501.0	-8.2	22.6	66.5	332.2	-0.3	0.2	2.8	2.7	
Full-time	1,699.5	8,543.4	-5.6	32.7	44.6	265.3	-0.3	0.4	2.7	3.2	
Part-time	764.9	3,957.7	-2.6	-10.0	21.9	67.0	-0.3	-0.3	2.9	1.7	
Unemployed	171.2	741.0	11.4	10.6	14.3	9.7	7.1	1.5	9.1	1.3	
Labour force	2,635.6	13,242.0	3.2	33.2	80.8	341.9	0.1	0.3	3.2	2.7	
	Current		A month ago		A year ago						
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus					
Unemploy. Rate											
Trend	6.3	5.5	6.2	5.5	6.3	5.7					
Seas. Adjusted	6.5	5.6	6.1	5.5	6.1	5.7					
Participation rate											
Trend	66.0	65.7	66.1	65.6	64.8	64.9					
Seas. Adjusted	65.9	65.6	65.9	65.5	65.0	65.0					

Table 2: Interstate comparison, April 2018

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (trend)							
% change on a month ago	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1
Change on a month ago (no.)	900	9,400	2,200	1,300	1,300	-100	13,800
% change on a year ago	3.5	3.8	2.1	2.3	1.9	1.2	2.9
Change on a year ago (no.)	83,500	146,400	65,400	18,900	24,500	2,900	355,200
Unemployment rate (trend)							
April-18	6.3	4.9	5.3	5.9	6.4	6.0	5.5
March-18	6.2	4.9	5.4	5.9	6.3	6.0	5.5
April-17	6.3	4.9	6.1	6.7	5.8	5.8	5.7
Participation rate (trend)							
April-18	66.0	64.7	65.4	62.9	68.5	60.9	65.7
March-18	66.1	64.6	65.6	62.8	68.5	61.0	65.6
April-17	64.8	63.4	66.1	62.3	67.5	60.6	64.9
Employed (sa)							
% change on a month ago	-0.3	0.7	-0.3	0.3	0.6	-0.4	0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	-8,200	27,200	-10,000	2,600	8,300	-1,100	22,600
% change on a year ago	2.8	4.1	1.7	3.2	2.0	1.2	2.7
Change on a year ago (no.)	66,500	156,100	55,400	25,900	26,900	2,900	332,200
Unemployment rate (sa)							
April-18	6.5	5.0	5.3	5.9	6.5	6.0	5.6
March-18	6.1	5.0	5.3	5.6	6.9	6.1	5.5
April-17	6.1	4.6	6.2	7.2	5.9	5.9	5.7
Participation rate (sa)							
April-18	65.9	64.8	65.3	62.8	68.8	60.8	65.6
March-18	65.9	64.5	65.6	62.4	68.7	61.1	65.5
April-17	65.0	63.1	66.3	62.1	67.5	60.5	65.0