Labour Force, May 2018

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 14 June 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,	↑ 1,500	(0.1%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 15,900	(0.1%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	↑ 400	(6.2%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↓ 1,400	(5.5%)
Labour force:	Queensland,	↑ 1,900	(0.1%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 14,400	(0.1%)

Main findings – Trend estimates

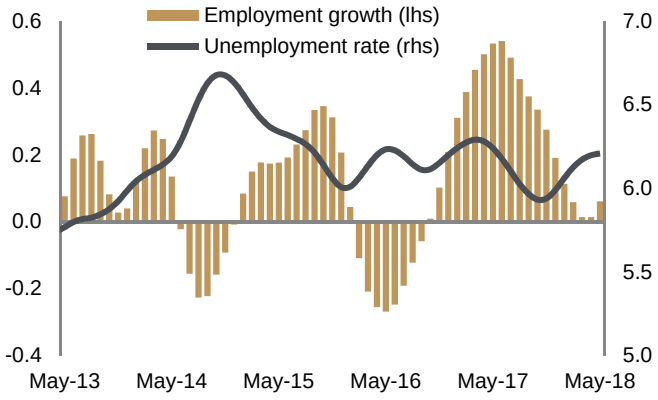
Trend employment in Queensland rose 1,500 persons in May 2018 (Chart 1), with a rise in part-time employment (up 5,000 persons) more than offsetting a fall in full-time employment (down 3,500 persons).

Over the year to May 2018, trend employment in Queensland was 2.9% (or 70,400 persons) higher. This increase was the result of rises in both full-time (up 49,800 persons) and part-time (up 20,600 persons) employment.

Queensland's trend unemployment rate was 6.2% in May 2018, unchanged from a downwardly revised rate in April.

Queensland's trend participation rate fell slightly in May (to 65.8%). The participation rate has eased in recent months following a period of sustained increases (rising 1.9 percentage points between November 2016 and January 2018), where strong employment growth encouraged more people to enter the labour market.

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



Nationally, trend employment rose by 15,900 persons (up 0.1%) in May, to be 2.6% higher over the year. After New South Wales (up 137,200 persons), Queensland (up 70,400 persons) and Victoria (up 70,000 persons) were the largest contributors to the 317,700 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 May, but 0.2 percentage point lower than a year ago.

Seasonally adjusted estimates

In more volatile seasonally adjusted (sa) terms, employment in Queensland rose 4,900 persons in May, with gains in part-time (19,900 persons) employment more than offsetting the fall in full-time employment (down 15,000 persons). Over the year, sa employment in Queensland rose 2.7% (or 64,900 persons, Table 1).

Queensland's sa unemployment rate fell 0.3 percentage point in the month, but was 0.2 percentage point higher over the year. Meanwhile, at 65.7%, Queensland's sa participation rate eased in the month, but was 0.8 percentage point higher over the year.

Nationally, sa employment rose 12,000 persons in the month, below market expectations for a 18,000 rise. The national sa unemployment rate fell to 5.4% in May 2018, slightly below market expectations.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes, May 2018

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change			
			Month		Year		Month		Year	
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus
Trend										
Employed	2,476.1	12,522.3	1.5	15.9	70.4	317.7	0.1	0.1	2.9	2.6
Full-time	1,694.1	8,534.2	-3.5	4.0	49.8	202.2	-0.2	0.0	3.0	2.4
Part-time	782.0	3,988.1	5.0	11.9	20.6	115.4	0.6	0.3	2.7	3.0
Unemployed	163.9	723.7	0.4	-1.4	3.8	-11.4	0.2	-0.2	2.4	-1.6
Labour force	2,640.0	13,246.0	1.9	14.4	74.2	306.3	0.1	0.1	2.9	2.4
Seas. Adjusted										
Employed	2,471.3	12,518.3	4.9	12.0	64.9	303.9	0.2	0.1	2.7	2.5
Full-time	1,682.6	8,521.4	-15.0	-20.6	36.1	178.8	-0.9	-0.2	2.2	2.1
Part-time	788.7	3,996.9	19.9	32.7	28.8	125.1	2.6	0.8	3.8	3.2
Unemployed	163.9	714.6	-8.1	-26.9	10.0	-2.8	-4.7	-3.6	6.5	-0.4
Labour force	2,635.2	13,232.9	-3.2	-14.8	74.9	301.1	-0.1	-0.1	2.9	2.3

	Current		A month ago		A year ago	
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus
Unemploy. Rate						
Trend	6.2	5.5	6.2	5.5	6.2	5.7
Seas. Adjusted	6.2	5.4	6.5	5.6	6.0	5.5
Participation rate						
Trend	65.8	65.5	65.9	65.6	65.1	65.0
Seas. Adjusted	65.7	65.5	65.9	65.6	64.9	65.0

Table 2: Interstate comparison, May 2018

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (trend)							
% change on a month ago	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1
Change on a month ago (no.)	*1,500*	*9,100*	*7,500*	*1,100*	*2,500*	*0*	*15,900*
% change on a year ago	2.9	3.6	2.2	2.4	1.5	1.2	2.6
Change on a year ago (no.)	*70,400*	*137,200*	*70,000*	*19,400*	*20,300*	*2,900*	*317,700*
Unemployment rate (trend)							
May-18	6.2	4.9	5.1	5.7	6.4	6.3	5.5
April-18	6.2	4.9	5.2	5.8	6.3	6.2	5.5
May-17	6.2	4.9	6.1	6.6	5.7	5.8	5.7
Participation rate (trend)							
May-18	65.8	64.8	65.4	62.9	68.6	61.4	65.5
April-18	65.9	64.8	65.5	62.9	68.5	61.3	65.6
May-17	65.1	63.5	66.2	62.3	67.6	60.9	65.0
Employed (sa)							
% change on a month ago	0.2	0.1	0.7	0.3	-0.1	0.2	0.1
Change on a month ago (no.)	*4,900*	*2,800*	*22,100*	*2,600*	*-1,900*	*400*	*12,000*
% change on a year ago	2.7	3.2	2.3	2.9	1.5	0.5	2.5
Change on a year ago (no.)	*64,900*	*122,100*	*72,100*	*23,400*	*19,800*	*1,200*	*303,900*
Unemployment rate (sa)							
May-18	6.2	4.9	5.1	5.6	6.4	6.6	5.4
April-18	6.5	5.0	5.2	5.9	6.5	6.1	5.6
May-17	6.0	4.7	6.1	6.9	5.5	5.9	5.5
Participation rate (sa)							
May-18	65.7	64.8	65.6	62.8	68.6	61.2	65.5
April-18	65.9	64.9	65.3	62.9	68.8	60.9	65.6
May-17	64.9	63.7	66.2	62.3	67.4	61.2	65.0

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