Labour Force, August 2018

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 13 September 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,	↑	7,100	(0.3%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑	28,900	(0.2%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	↑	2,100	(6.3%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↓	2,700	(5.3%)
Labour force:	Queensland,	↑	9,200	(0.3%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑	26,300	(0.2%)

Main findings – Trend estimates

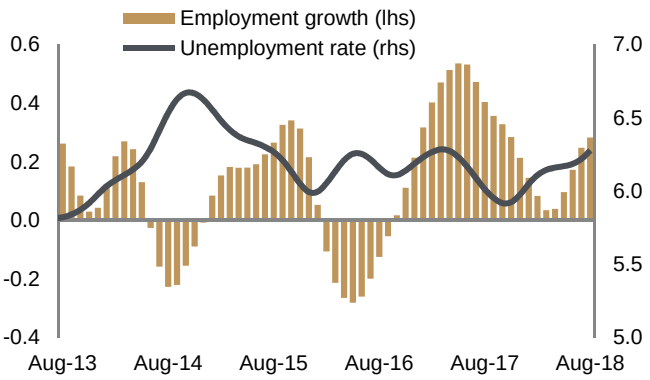
Trend employment in Queensland rose 0.3% (or 7,100 persons) in August 2018 (Chart 1), driven by a solid rise in full-time (up 6,200 persons) employment, and a modest increase in part-time (up 900 persons) employment.

Over the year to August 2018, trend employment in Queensland was 2.3% (or 56,300 persons) higher. This increase was also the result of rises in both full-time (up 45,800 persons) and part-time (up 10,500 persons) employment.

Queensland's trend unemployment rate was 6.3% in August 2018, up from an upwardly revised rate of 6.2% July.

Queensland's trend participation rate was 66.0% in August, up from an upwardly revised 65.9% in July. Consistent with a sustained period of employment growth, the State's trend participation rate has risen 1.9 percentage points from a recent low of 64.1% in October 2016.

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



Nationally, trend employment rose by 28,900 persons (up 0.2%) in August, to be 2.5% higher over the year. New South Wales (up 138,800 persons), Victoria (up 80,200 persons) and Queensland (up 56,300 persons) were the largest contributors to the 303,000 persons gain in national employment over the past year, with all states recording growth over the period (Table 2).

The national trend unemployment rate fell slightly to 5.3% in August, and was 0.2 percentage point lower than a year ago.

Seasonally adjusted estimates

In more volatile seasonally adjusted (sa) terms, employment in Queensland rose 11,900 persons in August, driven by a 11,700 person rise in full-time employment. Over the year, sa employment in Queensland rose 1.9% (or 47,700 persons).

Queensland's sa unemployment rate rose 0.2 percentage point to 6.4% in August, to be 0.7 percentage point higher over the year. Meanwhile, the State's participation rate rose 0.3 percentage point to 66.2% in August, to be 0.6 percentage point higher over the year.

Nationally, sa employment rose 44,000 persons in the month, substantially above market expectations for a rise of 15,000 persons. The national sa unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.3% in August 2018, in line with market expectations.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes, August 2018

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change			
			Month		Year		Month		Year	
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus
Trend										
Employed	2,497.4	12,620.7	7.1	28.9	56.3	303.0	0.3	0.2	2.3	2.5
Full-time	1,708.3	8,616.2	6.2	20.9	45.8	183.5	0.4	0.2	2.8	2.2
Part-time	789.1	4,004.5	0.9	8.1	10.5	119.5	0.1	0.2	1.3	3.1
Unemployed	167.3	711.9	2.1	-2.7	11.2	-9.2	1.3	-0.4	7.2	-1.3
Labour force	2,664.7	13,332.6	9.2	26.3	67.5	293.9	0.3	0.2	2.6	2.3
Seas. Adjusted										
Employed	2,498.9	12,631.3	11.9	44.0	47.7	306.4	0.5	0.3	1.9	2.5
Full-time	1,713.3	8,630.7	11.7	33.7	51.1	202.1	0.7	0.4	3.1	2.4
Part-time	785.6	4,000.6	0.2	10.3	-3.4	104.3	0.0	0.3	-0.4	2.7
Unemployed	170.1	708.8	6.9	5.8	22.5	-17.2	4.2	0.8	15.2	-2.4
Labour force	2,669.1	13,340.1	18.9	49.8	70.4	289.2	0.7	0.4	2.7	2.2

	Current		A month ago		A year ago	
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus
Unemploy. Rate						
Trend	6.3	5.3	6.2	5.4	6.0	5.5
Seas. Adjusted	6.4	5.3	6.2	5.3	5.7	5.6
Participation rate						
Trend	66.0	65.6	65.9	65.6	65.6	65.3
Seas. Adjusted	66.2	65.7	65.9	65.6	65.6	65.3

Table 2: Interstate comparison, August 2018

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (trend)							
% change on a month ago	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	*7,100*	*9,600*	*7,700*	*-300*	*1,500*	*100*	*28,900*
% change on a year ago	2.3	3.6	2.5	1.8	1.0	1.1	2.5
Change on a year ago (no.)	*56,300*	*138,800*	*80,200*	*14,600*	*13,600*	*2,700*	*303,000*
Unemployment rate (trend)							
August-18	6.3	4.8	4.9	5.7	6.2	6.0	5.3
July-18	6.2	4.8	5.0	5.6	6.2	6.0	5.4
August-17	6.0	4.8	6.0	6.0	5.7	5.9	5.5
Participation rate (trend)							
August-18	66.0	65.2	65.6	62.5	68.5	61.3	65.6
July-18	65.9	65.1	65.6	62.6	68.5	61.3	65.6
August-17	65.6	63.9	66.2	62.2	68.0	61.3	65.3
Employed (sa)							
% change on a month ago	0.5	1.1	0.0	-1.0	0.3	-0.1	0.3
Change on a month ago (no.)	*11,900*	*43,100*	*-1,600*	*-8,500*	*4,200*	*-300*	*44,000*
% change on a year ago	1.9	3.9	2.3	0.7	1.5	1.0	2.5
Change on a year ago (no.)	*47,700*	*150,700*	*72,900*	*5,600*	*20,000*	*2,500*	*306,400*
Unemployment rate (sa)							
August-18	6.4	4.7	4.8	5.7	6.4	5.8	5.3
July-18	6.2	4.9	5.0	5.7	6.0	6.3	5.3
August-17	5.7	5.0	6.2	5.7	5.8	6.0	5.6
Participation rate (sa)							
August-18	66.2	65.2	65.4	62.2	68.8	61.1	65.7
July-18	65.9	64.7	65.7	62.8	68.3	61.6	65.6
August-17	65.6	63.9	66.4	62.2	67.8	61.3	65.3

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