

Labour Force, December 2018

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 24 January 2019, 10:30 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,	↑ 6,000	(0.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 23,100	(0.2%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	↓ 400	(6.2%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↓ 3,200	(5.0%)
Labour force:	Queensland,	↑ 5,600	(0.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 19,900	(0.1%)
Underemployment:	Queensland,	↑ 1,900	(9.0%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↑ 5,100	(8.4%)

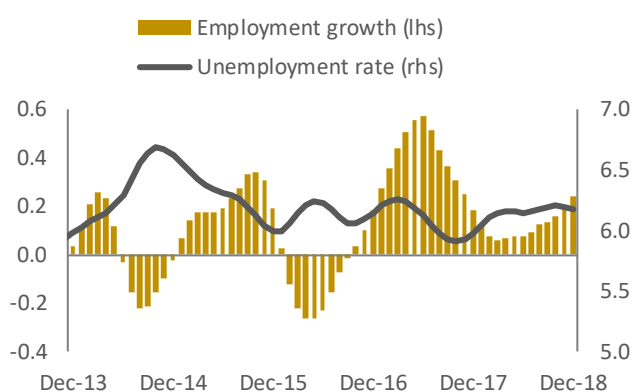
Main findings – Trend estimates

Trend employment in Queensland rose 0.2% (or 6,000 persons) in December 2018. This growth was the result of both a rise in full-time employment (up 4,600 persons) and part-time employment (up 1,400 persons) in the month.

Over the year to December 2018, trend employment in Queensland was 1.4% (or 35,300 persons) higher, with a rise in both full-time employment (up 24,000 persons) and part-time employment (up 11,300 persons). This recent moderate employment growth follows a period of very strong growth (Chart 1). Consequently, in December 2018, trend employment was 6.4% above that two years earlier.

Queensland's trend unemployment rate was 6.2% in December 2018, unchanged from a downwardly revised rate in November, but 0.2 percentage point higher over the year.

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



Consistent with moderate employment growth, the State's trend participation rate has been relatively steady in 2018, to be 65.9% in December. This follows a period when the participation rate rose 1.9 percentage points from a low of 64.1% in November 2016 to late 2017.

Nationally, trend employment rose by 23,100 persons (up 0.2%) in December, to be 2.3% higher over the year. New South Wales (up 114,800), Victoria (up 114,300) and Queensland (up 35,300) were the largest contributors to the 284,100 persons gain in national employment over the past

year, with all states except Tasmania recording growth over the period (Table 2). The national trend unemployment rate was 5.0% in December 2018, unchanged from a downwardly revised rate in November, but 0.5 percentage point lower over the year

Seasonally adjusted estimates

In more volatile seasonally adjusted (sa) terms, employment in Queensland rose 11,500 persons in December, with a fall in part-time employment (down 30,400 persons) more than offset by a rise in full-time employment (up 41,900 person). Over the year, sa employment in Queensland rose 2.2% (or 54,700 persons).

Queensland's sa unemployment rate fell 0.2 percentage point to 6.1% in December, but was 0.1 percentage point higher over the year. Meanwhile, the State's sa participation rate rose 0.1 percentage point to 66.1% in December.

Nationally, sa employment rose 0.2% (or 21,600 persons) in the month. The national sa unemployment rate fell 0.1 percentage point to 5.0% in December 2018.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes, December 2018

	Queensland				Australia					
	Dec-18 '000	Monthly change '000	%	Yearly change '000	%	Dec-18 '000	Monthly change '000	%	Yearly change '000	%
Trend										
Employed	2,502.8	6.0	0.2	35.3	1.4	12,711.6	23.1	0.2	284.1	2.3
Full-time	1,721.6	4.6	0.3	24.0	1.4	8,697.6	11.9	0.1	189.9	2.2
Part-time	781.2	1.4	0.2	11.3	1.5	4,014.0	11.2	0.3	94.2	2.4
Unemployed	164.6	-0.4	-0.2	7.6	4.8	670.9	-3.2	-0.5	-46.9	-6.5
Underemployed	239.3	1.9	0.8	10.8	4.7	1,119.9	5.1	0.5	1.4	0.1
Labour force	2,667.4	5.6	0.2	42.9	1.6	13,382.5	19.9	0.1	237.2	1.8
Seas. Adjusted										
Employed	2,511.6	11.5	0.5	54.7	2.2	12,714.1	21.6	0.2	268.6	2.2
Full-time	1,732.3	41.9	2.5	35.3	2.1	8,678.8	-3.0	0.0	162.0	1.9
Part-time	779.3	-30.4	-3.8	19.4	2.6	4,035.3	24.7	0.6	106.6	2.7
Unemployed	162.8	-5.8	-3.4	5.3	3.4	666.7	-14.1	-2.1	-70.9	-9.5
Underemployed	240.6	-5.2	-2.1	19.1	8.6	1,117.5	-13.6	-1.2	-2.9	-0.3
Labour force	2,674.5	5.8	0.2	60.0	2.3	13,380.8	7.5	0.1	198.3	1.5
Trend										
Unemployment rate	6.2	6.2	6.0			5.0	5.0	5.5		
Underemployment rate	9.0	8.9	8.7			8.4	8.3	8.5		
Participation rate	65.9	65.9	66.0			65.6	65.6	65.5		
Seas. Adjusted										
Unemployment rate	6.1	6.3	6.0			5.0	5.1	5.6		
Underemployment rate	9.0	9.2	8.5			8.4	8.5	8.5		
Participation rate	66.1	66.0	65.8			65.6	65.7	65.7		

Table 2: Interstate comparison, December 2018

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (trend)							
% change on a month ago	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	6,000	6,400	12,000	200	-500	-300	23,100
% change on a year ago	1.4	2.9	3.5	1.2	0.8	-0.1	2.3
Change on a year ago (no.)	35,300	114,800	114,300	10,300	10,800	-300	284,100
Unemployment rate (trend)							
December-18	6.2	4.3	4.4	5.8	6.4	5.8	5.0
November-18	6.2	4.4	4.4	5.7	6.3	5.8	5.0
December-17	6.0	4.8	5.7	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.5
Participation rate (trend)							
December-18	65.9	64.8	65.8	62.6	68.6	60.2	65.6
November-18	65.9	64.9	65.8	62.6	68.6	60.4	65.6
December-17	66.0	64.4	66.0	62.4	68.3	61.2	65.5
Employed (sa)							
% change on a month ago	0.5	0.1	0.3	0.1	-1.1	-0.7	0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	11,500	3,900	10,500	1,100	-15,300	-1,800	21,600
% change on a year ago	2.2	2.4	3.7	1.6	-0.4	-1.0	2.2
Change on a year ago (no.)	54,700	94,400	120,200	13,200	-5,500	-2,500	268,600
Unemployment rate (sa)							
December-18	6.1	4.3	4.2	5.9	6.3	5.9	5.0
November-18	6.3	4.3	4.5	5.3	6.5	5.8	5.1
December-17	6.0	4.8	6.1	5.9	5.7	6.0	5.6
Participation rate (sa)							
December-18	66.1	64.9	65.8	62.7	68.0	60.0	65.6
November-18	66.0	64.9	66.0	62.3	69.0	60.4	65.7
December-17	65.8	64.7	66.3	62.3	68.5	61.4	65.7