

# Labour Force, January 2019

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 21 February 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)

<b>Employment:</b>	Queensland,	↑ 3,500	(0.1%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 24,900	(0.2%)
<b>Unemployment:</b>	Queensland,	↓ 1,300	(6.1%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↑ 1,900	(5.1%)
<b>Labour force:</b>	Queensland,	↑ 2,200	(0.1%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 26,800	(0.2%)
<b>Underemployment:</b>	Queensland,	↓ 100	(8.8%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↑ 2,400	(8.3%)

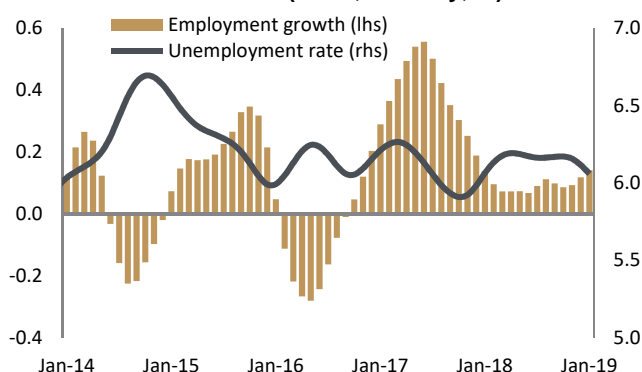
## Main findings – Trend estimates

Trend employment in Queensland rose marginally in January 2019, up 0.1% (or 3,500 persons). This growth was the result of a rise in full-time employment (up 5,000 persons) more than offsetting the fall in part-time employment (down 1,500 persons) in the month.

Over the year to January 2019, trend employment in Queensland was 1.1% (or 27,700 persons) higher, with a rise in both full-time employment (up 25,700 persons) and part-time employment (up 2,000 persons). This recent moderate employment growth follows a period of very strong growth in 2017 (Chart 1).

Queensland's trend unemployment rate was 6.1% in January 2019, unchanged from a downwardly revised rate in December, as well as unchanged 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 edged slightly lower over the past year, to be 65.6% in January. This follows a period when the participation rate rose 1.9 percentage points from a low of 64.1% in October 2016 to 66.0% in December 2017.

Nationally, trend employment rose by 24,900 persons (up 0.2%) in January, to be 2.4% higher over the year. New South Wales (up 133,900), Victoria (up 118,800) and Queensland (up 27,700) were the largest contributors to the 295,500 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 5.1% in January 2019, unchanged from an upwardly revised rate in December, but 0.4 percentage point lower over the year.

## Seasonally adjusted estimates

In more volatile seasonally adjusted (sa) terms, employment in Queensland fell 20,000 persons in January, driven mainly by a fall in part-time employment (down 19,300 persons). Over the year, sa employment in Queensland rose 0.2% (or 5,500 persons).

Queensland's sa unemployment rate fell slightly to 6.0% in January, to be 0.1 percentage point lower over the year. The State's sa participation rate fell 0.6 percentage point to 65.4% in January.

Nationally, sa employment rose 0.3% (or 39,100 persons) in the month. The national sa unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.0% in January 2019.

**Table 1: Labour force outcomes, January 2019**

	QUEENSLAND					AUSTRALIA				
	Jan-19 000s	Monthly change 000s	Yearly change %	Jan-19 000s	%	Jan-19 000s	Monthly change 000s	Yearly change %	Jan-19 000s	%
<b>Trend</b>										
Employed	2,497.7	3.5	0.1	27.7	1.1	12,747.7	24.9	0.2	295.5	2.4
Full-time	1,728.1	5.0	0.3	25.7	1.5	8,737.4	16.8	0.2	218.6	2.6
Part-time	769.6	-1.5	-0.2	2.0	0.3	4,010.3	8.1	0.2	76.8	2.0
Unemployed	161.1	-1.3	-0.8	1.6	1.0	680.1	1.9	0.3	-41.6	-5.8
Underemployed	235.1	-0.1	0.0	3.1	1.3	1,109.3	2.4	0.2	-12.1	-1.1
Labour force	2,658.8	2.2	0.1	29.4	1.1	13,427.8	26.8	0.2	253.9	1.9
<b>Seas. Adjusted</b>										
Employed	2,490.5	-20.0	-0.8	5.5	0.2	12,751.8	39.1	0.3	271.3	2.2
Full-time	1,732.2	-0.7	0.0	31.9	1.9	8,743.1	65.4	0.8	236.1	2.8
Part-time	758.3	-19.3	-2.5	-26.4	-3.4	4,008.7	-26.3	-0.7	35.2	0.9
Unemployed	160.4	-1.8	-1.1	-0.8	-0.5	673.5	6.6	1.0	-49.9	-6.9
Underemployed	226.4	-13.1	-5.5	-14.6	-6.1	1,093.8	-18.4	-1.7	-62.5	-5.4
Labour force	2,650.9	-21.8	-0.8	4.7	0.2	13,425.3	45.7	0.3	221.4	1.7
<b>Trend</b>	Jan-19	Dec-18	Jan-18			Jan-19	Dec-18	Jan-18		
Unemployment rate	6.1	6.1	6.1			5.1	5.1	5.5		
Underemployment rate	8.8	8.9	8.8			8.3	8.3	8.5		
Participation rate	65.6	65.6	66.0			65.7	65.7	65.6		
<b>Seas. Adjusted</b>										
Unemployment rate	6.0	6.1	6.1			5.0	5.0	5.5		
Underemployment rate	8.5	9.0	9.1			8.1	8.3	8.8		
Participation rate	65.4	66.0	66.5			65.7	65.6	65.7		

**Table 2: Interstate comparison, January 2019**

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
<b>Employed (trend)</b>							
% change on a month ago	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	3,500	11,200	10,400	-200	-1,700	-300	24,900
% change on a year ago	1.1	3.4	3.7	0.8	0.4	-0.6	2.4
Change on a year ago (no.)	27,700	133,900	118,800	7,000	5,600	-1,400	295,500
<b>Unemployment rate (trend)</b>							
January-19	6.1	4.1	4.5	6.0	6.6	6.2	5.1
December-18	6.1	4.2	4.5	5.9	6.5	6.0	5.1
January-18	6.1	4.8	5.6	5.9	6.1	5.9	5.5
<b>Participation rate (trend)</b>							
January-19	65.6	65.1	65.9	62.8	68.5	60.1	65.7
December-18	65.6	65.1	65.9	62.7	68.5	60.3	65.7
January-18	66.0	64.5	65.8	62.6	68.3	61.2	65.6
<b>Employed (sa)</b>							
% change on a month ago	-0.8	1.2	0.1	-0.5	0.1	0.1	0.3
Change on a month ago (no.)	-20,000	47,100	2,200	-4,500	700	200	39,100
% change on a year ago	0.2	4.1	3.5	0.2	0.1	-1.0	2.2
Change on a year ago (no.)	5,500	161,500	114,300	1,500	800	-2,600	271,300
<b>Unemployment rate (sa)</b>							
January-19	6.0	3.9	4.5	6.3	6.8	7.0	5.0
December-18	6.1	4.3	4.2	5.9	6.4	6.0	5.0
January-18	6.1	5.1	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.2	5.5
<b>Participation rate (sa)</b>							
January-19	65.4	65.2	66.0	62.6	68.4	60.7	65.7
December-18	66.0	64.8	65.9	62.7	68.1	60.0	65.6
January-18	66.5	64.4	65.9	62.7	68.1	60.9	65.7