

Labour Force, March 2019

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 18 April 2019, 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,	↑ 4,800	(0.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 20,700	(0.2%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	↓ 900	(5.9%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↑ 3,000	(5.0%)
Labour force:	Queensland,	↑ 4,000	(0.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 23,700	(0.2%)
Underemployment:	Queensland,	↓ 1,000	(8.6%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↓ 100	(8.2%)

Main findings – Trend estimates

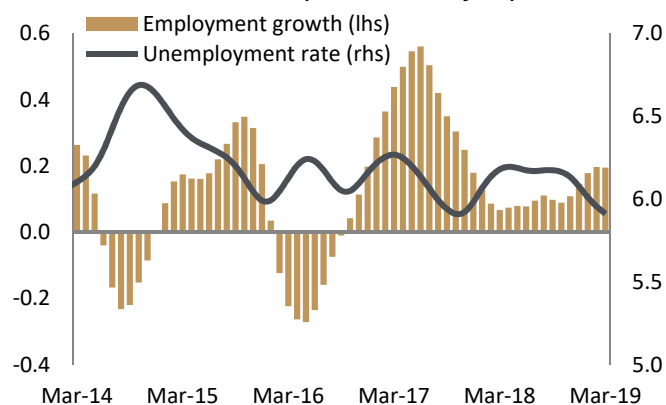
Trend employment in Queensland rose 0.2% (or 4,800 persons) in March 2019, driven by a rise in full-time employment (up 5,500 persons).

Over the year to March 2019, trend employment in Queensland was 1.5% (or 36,100 persons) higher, driven by a rise in full-time employment (up 42,800 persons) which more than offset a fall in part-time employment (down 6,700 persons). This recent moderate employment growth rate is below the growth rate in civilian population (aged 15+) of 1.9% over the year, although it follows a period of very strong growth in 2017.

Consistent with modest employment growth, Queensland's trend participation rate has eased over the past year, down 0.5 percentage point to be 65.5% in March 2019. 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 January 2018.

The moderation in the participation rate over past year has contributed to Queensland's trend unemployment rate trending lower recently, to be 5.9% in March 2019, down from an upwardly revised 6.0% in February, and 0.3 percentage point lower than a year ago (Chart 1).

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



Nationally, trend employment rose by 20,700 persons (up 0.2%) in March, to be 2.4% higher over the year. Victoria (up 127,500), New South Wales (up 118,600) and Queensland (up 36,100) were the largest contributors to the

299,100 persons gain in national employment over the past year (Table 2). The national trend unemployment rate was 5.0% in March 2019, unchanged from the rate in February, but 0.5 percentage point lower over the year.

Seasonally adjusted estimates

In more volatile seasonally adjusted (sa) terms, employment in Queensland rose 10,400 persons in March, driven by an increase in full-time employment (up 20,200 persons). Over the year, sa employment in Queensland rose 1.5% (or 38,200 persons).

Queensland's sa unemployment rate rose from 5.4% in February to 6.1% in March, to be 0.1 percentage point higher over the year. Queensland's sa participation rate rose 0.6 percentage point to 65.6% in March. Nationally, sa employment rose 25,600 persons in the month, while the sa unemployment rate edged slightly higher to 5.0%.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes, March 2019

	QUEENSLAND			AUSTRALIA		
	Mar-19 000s	Monthly change 000s	Yearly change 000s %	Mar-19 000s	Monthly change 000s	Yearly change 000s %
Trend						
Employed	2,509.2	4.8	0.2	12,790.0	20.7	0.2
Full-time	1,743.4	5.5	0.3	8,781.8	18.0	0.2
Part-time	765.8	-0.7	-0.1	4,008.2	2.8	0.1
Unemployed	157.7	-0.9	-0.6	675.7	3.0	0.4
Underemployed	229.9	-1.0	-0.4	1,097.9	-0.1	0.0
Labour force	2,666.9	4.0	0.2	13,465.7	23.7	0.2
Seas. Adjusted						
Employed	2,510.9	10.4	0.4	12,791.5	25.6	0.2
Full-time	1,751.0	20.2	1.2	8,798.3	48.3	0.6
Part-time	759.9	-9.8	-1.3	3,993.2	-22.6	-0.6
Unemployed	162.0	19.5	13.7	680.0	17.1	2.6
Underemployed	236.7	25.4	12.0	1,102.8	18.6	1.7
Labour force	2,672.9	29.9	1.1	13,471.5	42.7	0.3
Trend	Mar-19	Feb-19	Mar-18	Mar-19	Feb-19	Mar-18
Unemployment rate	5.9	6.0	6.2	5.0	5.0	5.5
Underemployment rate	8.6	8.7	9.1	8.2	8.2	8.5
Participation rate	65.5	65.5	66.0	65.6	65.6	65.6
Seas. Adjusted						
Unemployment rate	6.1	5.4	6.0	5.0	4.9	5.5
Underemployment rate	8.9	8.0	9.1	8.2	8.1	8.5
Participation rate	65.6	65.0	65.9	65.7	65.6	65.5

Table 2: Interstate comparison, March 2019

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (trend)							
% change on a month ago	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	4,800	6,900	7,600	1,100	-200	-100	20,700
% change on a year ago	1.5	3.0	3.9	0.8	0.2	-0.9	2.4
Change on a year ago (no.)	36,100	118,600	127,500	7,100	2,200	-2,300	299,100
Unemployment rate (trend)							
March-19	5.9	4.3	4.6	5.9	6.1	6.5	5.0
February-19	6.0	4.3	4.6	5.9	6.2	6.4	5.0
March-18	6.2	4.9	5.4	5.8	6.2	6.0	5.5
Participation rate (trend)							
March-19	65.5	65.2	66.1	62.8	67.8	60.3	65.6
February-19	65.5	65.1	66.0	62.8	68.0	60.3	65.6
March-18	66.0	64.7	65.6	62.8	68.5	61.3	65.6
Employed (sa)							
% change on a month ago	0.4	-0.1	0.3	1.0	0.1	-0.7	0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	10,400	-2,700	10,000	8,500	1,500	-1,800	25,600
% change on a year ago	1.5	3.3	3.8	1.8	0.6	-1.1	2.4
Change on a year ago (no.)	38,200	129,700	122,700	14,800	8,400	-2,700	304,700
Unemployment rate (sa)							
March-19	6.1	4.3	4.6	5.9	6.0	6.7	5.0
February-19	5.4	4.3	4.7	5.7	5.9	6.5	4.9
March-18	6.0	5.0	5.2	5.6	6.9	6.0	5.5
Participation rate (sa)							
March-19	65.6	65.1	66.0	63.2	67.8	60.3	65.7
February-19	65.0	65.2	66.1	62.5	67.8	60.7	65.6
March-18	65.9	64.6	65.6	62.4	68.7	61.3	65.5