Labour Force, April 2019

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 16 May 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: (persons, growth)	Queensland,	↑	5,300	(0.2%)
	Australia,	↑	20,700	(0.2%)
Unemployment: (persons, rate)	Queensland,	↓	300	(5.9%)
	Australia,	↑	6,100	(5.1%)
Labour force: (persons, growth)	Queensland,	↑	5,000	(0.2%)
	Australia,	↑	26,800	(0.2%)
Underemployment: (persons, rate)	Queensland,	↑	3,300	(9.1%)
	Australia,	↑	7,300	(8.3%)

Main findings – Trend estimates

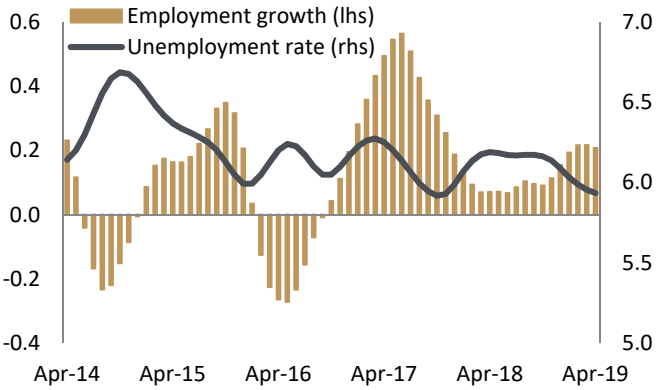
Trend employment in Queensland rose 0.2% (or 5,300 persons) in April 2019, driven by a rise in part-time employment (up 4,100 persons).

Over the year to April 2019, trend employment in Queensland was 1.6% (or 40,400 persons) higher, driven by a rise in full-time employment (up 40,900 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 (Chart 1).

Consistent with modest employment growth, Queensland's trend participation rate has eased over the past year, down 0.5 percentage point to 65.5% in April 2019. This follows a period when the participation rate rose 2.0 percentage points from 64.1% in October 2016 to 66.1% in February 2018.

The moderation in the participation rate over past year has contributed to Queensland's trend unemployment rate moving lower recently, to be 5.9% in April 2019, down from an upwardly revised 6.0% in March, and 0.3 percentage point lower than a year earlier.

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



Nationally, trend employment rose by 20,700 persons (up 0.2%) in April, to be 2.5% higher over the year. New South Wales (up 128,900), Victoria (up 115,800) and Queensland (up 40,400) were the largest contributors to the 310,500 persons gain in national employment over the past year (Table 2). The national trend unemployment rate was 5.1% in April 2019, unchanged from an upwardly revised rate in March, but 0.4 percentage point lower over the year.

Seasonally adjusted estimates

In more volatile seasonally adjusted (sa) terms, employment in Queensland rose 5,400 persons in April, driven by an increase in part-time employment (up 26,300 persons). Over the year, sa employment in Queensland rose 2.1% (or 51,000 persons).

Queensland's sa unemployment rate fell from 6.1% in March to 5.9% in April, to be 0.6 percentage point lower over the year. Queensland's sa participation rate fell 0.2 percentage point to 65.5% in April. Nationally, sa employment rose 28,400 persons in the month, while the sa unemployment rate edged higher to 5.2%.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes, April 2019

	Queensland					Australia				
	Apr-19	Monthly change		Yearly change		Apr-19	Monthly change		Yearly change	
	'000	'000	%	'000	%	'000	'000	%	'000	%
Trend										
Employed	2,516.1	5.3	0.2	40.4	1.6	12,814.8	20.7	0.2	310.5	2.5
Full-time	1,738.6	1.2	0.1	40.9	2.4	8,793.9	14.7	0.2	260.4	3.1
Part-time	777.5	4.1	0.5	-0.5	-0.1	4,020.9	6.1	0.2	50.2	1.3
Unemployed	158.7	-0.3	-0.2	-4.6	-2.8	689.6	6.1	0.9	-35.4	-4.9
Underemployed	244.5	3.3	1.4	3.4	1.4	1,122.2	7.3	0.7	-5.4	-0.5
Labour force	2,674.8	5.0	0.2	35.7	1.4	13,504.4	26.8	0.2	275.1	2.1
Seas. Adjusted										
Employed	2,517.2	5.4	0.2	51.0	2.1	12,822.9	28.4	0.2	322.9	2.6
Full-time	1,729.0	-20.9	-1.2	28.9	1.7	8,792.7	-6.3	-0.1	248.1	2.9
Part-time	788.2	26.3	3.5	22.1	2.9	4,030.2	34.7	0.9	74.8	1.9
Unemployed	156.6	-5.4	-3.3	-13.6	-8.0	703.9	21.3	3.1	-27.1	-3.7
Underemployed	255.0	16.2	6.8	20.1	8.6	1,151.2	44.0	4.0	27.4	2.4
Labour force	2,673.8	0.0	0.0	37.4	1.4	13,526.8	49.7	0.4	295.8	2.2

	Current		A month ago		A year ago	
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus
Unemploy. Rate						
Trend	5.9	5.1	6.0	5.1	6.2	5.5
Seas. Adjusted	5.9	5.2	6.1	5.1	6.5	5.5
Participation rate						
Trend	65.5	65.7	65.6	65.7	66.0	65.6
Seas. Adjusted	65.5	65.8	65.7	65.7	65.9	65.6

Table 2: Interstate comparison, April 2019

	QLD	NSW	VIC	SA	WA	TAS	AUST
Employed (trend)							
% change on a month ago	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	*5,300*	*10,500*	*4,400*	*2,000*	*2,400*	*200*	*20,700*
% change on a year ago	1.6	3.2	3.6	1.4	0.5	-0.8	2.5
Change on a year ago (no.)	*40,400*	*128,900*	*115,800*	*12,000*	*7,200*	*-2,100*	*310,500*
Unemployment rate (trend)							
April-19	5.9	4.3	4.8	6.0	6.1	6.7	5.1
March-19	6.0	4.3	4.7	6.0	6.1	6.6	5.1
April-18	6.2	4.9	5.2	5.7	6.3	6.0	5.5
Participation rate (trend)							
April-19	65.5	65.4	66.0	63.2	67.9	60.5	65.7
March-19	65.6	65.3	66.0	63.1	68.0	60.5	65.7
April-18	66.0	64.8	65.5	62.8	68.5	61.3	65.6
Employed (sa)							
% change on a month ago	0.2	0.6	-0.2	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	*5,400*	*25,100*	*-7,600*	*2,400*	*6,400*	*1,200*	*28,400*
% change on a year ago	2.1	3.3	3.8	1.8	0.6	0.2	2.6
Change on a year ago (no.)	*51,000*	*130,000*	*123,900*	*15,000*	*8,300*	*500*	*322,900*
Unemployment rate (sa)							
April-19	5.9	4.5	4.9	6.1	6.1	6.8	5.2
March-19	6.1	4.3	4.6	5.9	6.0	6.7	5.1
April-18	6.5	4.9	5.2	5.8	6.4	5.9	5.5
Participation rate (sa)							
April-19	65.5	65.6	65.9	63.4	68.2	60.7	65.8
March-19	65.7	65.2	66.0	63.1	67.9	60.3	65.7
April-18	65.9	64.9	65.3	62.7	68.8	60.8	65.6

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