

Labour Force, May 2019

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 13 June 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,	↑ 6,300	(0.3%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 28,400	(0.2%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	↑ 1,500	(6.0%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↑ 5,800	(5.1%)
Labour force:	Queensland,	↑ 7,800	(0.3%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 34,100	(0.3%)
Underemployment:	Queensland,	↑ 2,400	(9.1%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↑ 10,500	(8.5%)

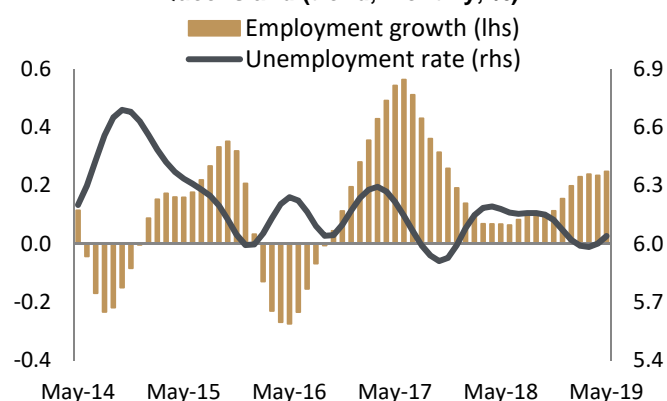
Main findings – Trend estimates

Trend employment in Queensland rose 0.3% (or 6,300 persons) in May 2019, driven by a rise in part-time employment (up 5,400 persons). Employment growth has accelerated since late-2018, to be now 1.9% (or 46,400 persons) higher over the year. This annual increase was driven by a rise in full-time employment (up 42,000 persons).

Despite strengthening employment growth, Queensland's trend participation rate has eased over the past year, down 0.2 percentage point to 65.7% in May 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 the past year has contributed to Queensland's trend unemployment rate moving lower recently, to be 6.0% in May 2019, 0.2 percentage point lower than a year earlier.

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



Nationally, trend employment rose by 28,400 persons (up 0.2%) in May, to be 2.7% higher over the year. New South Wales (up 142,300), Victoria (up 127,600) and Queensland (up 46,400) were the largest contributors to the 332,900 persons gain in national employment over the past year (Table 2). The national trend unemployment rate was 5.1% in May 2019, unchanged from April, but 0.3 percentage point lower over the year. Further, the national trend participation rate rose to 65.9% in May, the highest rate since the ABS monthly labour force series began in 1978.

Seasonally adjusted estimates

In more volatile seasonally adjusted (sa) terms, employment in Queensland rose 7,800 persons in May, driven by full-time employment (up 7,300 persons). Over the year, sa employment in Queensland rose 2.2% (or 55,100 persons).

Queensland's sa unemployment rate rose from 5.9% in April to 6.2% in May, to be the same as a year earlier. Queensland's sa participation rate rose 0.3 percentage point to 65.9% in May.

Nationally, sa employment rose 42,200 persons in the month, driven by a strong increase in part-time employment (39,900 persons). Meanwhile, the sa unemployment rate remained at 5.2%.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes, May 2019

	Queensland						Australia								
	May-19	Monthly change	Yearly change	May-19	Monthly change	Yearly change	May-19	Monthly change	Yearly change	May-19	Monthly change	Yearly change			
	'000	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000			
Trend															
Employed	2,524.2	6.3	0.3	46.4	1.9	12,856.6	28.4	0.2	332.9	2.7					
Full-time	1,739.2	0.9	0.1	42.0	2.5	8,799.8	13.9	0.2	252.1	2.9					
Part-time	785.0	5.4	0.7	4.4	0.6	4,056.8	14.5	0.4	80.9	2.0					
Unemployed	162.3	1.5	0.9	-0.9	-0.6	695.2	5.8	0.8	-25.5	-3.5					
Underemployed	244.4	2.4	1.0	3.3	1.4	1,147.4	10.5	0.9	23.1	2.1					
Labour force	2,686.5	7.8	0.3	45.5	1.7	13,551.7	34.1	0.3	307.4	2.3					
Seas. Adjusted															
Employed	2,526.2	7.8	0.3	55.1	2.2	12,868.2	42.2	0.3	360.2	2.9					
Full-time	1,737.1	7.3	0.4	54.0	3.2	8,792.9	2.4	0.0	266.4	3.1					
Part-time	789.1	0.5	0.1	1.1	0.1	4,075.4	39.9	1.0	94.0	2.4					
Unemployed	168.2	10.5	6.7	5.0	3.1	704.7	-2.3	-0.3	-6.8	-1.0					
Underemployed	243.0	-12.6	-4.9	-11.6	-4.6	1,160.7	10.7	0.9	46.9	4.2					
Labour force	2,694.5	18.3	0.7	60.2	2.3	13,572.9	39.9	0.3	353.4	2.7					
	Current	A month ago		A year ago											
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus									
Unemploy. Rate															
Trend	6.0	5.1	6.0	5.1	6.2	5.4									
Seas. Adjusted	6.2	5.2	5.9	5.2	6.2	5.4									
Participation rate															
Trend	65.7	65.9	65.6	65.8	65.9	65.5									
Seas. Adjusted	65.9	66.0	65.6	65.9	65.7	65.4									

Table 2: Interstate comparison, May 2019

	QLD	NSW	VIC	SA	WA	TAS	AUST
Employed (trend)							
% change on a month ago	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	6,300	16,000	8,300	2,300	2,800	200	28,400
% change on a year ago	1.9	3.6	3.9	1.7	0.6	-0.9	2.7
Change on a year ago (no.)	46,400	142,300	127,600	14,300	8,500	-2,300	332,900
Unemployment rate (trend)							
May-19	6.0	4.4	4.7	5.8	6.2	6.6	5.1
April-19	6.0	4.4	4.7	5.9	6.1	6.6	5.1
May-18	6.2	4.9	5.1	5.7	6.3	6.0	5.4
Participation rate (trend)							
May-19	65.7	65.7	66.2	63.3	68.0	60.4	65.9
April-19	65.6	65.5	66.2	63.2	68.0	60.4	65.8
May-18	65.9	64.8	65.5	62.7	68.5	61.3	65.5
Employed (sa)							
% change on a month ago	0.3	0.9	0.8	0.5	-0.3	-0.2	0.3
Change on a month ago (no.)	7,800	38,500	28,600	4,400	-4,000	-400	42,200
% change on a year ago	2.2	4.2	3.8	1.9	0.4	-0.2	2.9
Change on a year ago (no.)	55,100	167,600	125,200	16,300	5,700	-500	360,200
Unemployment rate (sa)							
May-19	6.2	4.6	4.6	5.7	6.3	6.4	5.2
April-19	5.9	4.6	4.8	6.1	6.1	6.8	5.2
May-18	6.2	4.9	5.0	5.7	6.3	6.6	5.4
Participation rate (sa)							
May-19	65.9	66.2	66.2	63.4	68.1	60.2	66.0
April-19	65.6	65.7	65.9	63.4	68.2	60.6	65.9
May-18	65.7	64.8	65.6	62.8	68.5	61.3	65.4