

# Labour Force, December 2019

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 23 January 2020, 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,	↑ 4,100	(0.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 17,500	(0.1%)
<b>Unemployment:</b>	Queensland,	↓ 2,600	(6.0%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↓ 4,400	(5.1%)
<b>Labour force:</b>	Queensland,	↑ 1,500	(0.1%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 13,200	(0.1%)
<b>Underemployment:</b>	Queensland,	↓ 100	(8.4%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↓ 900	(8.3%)

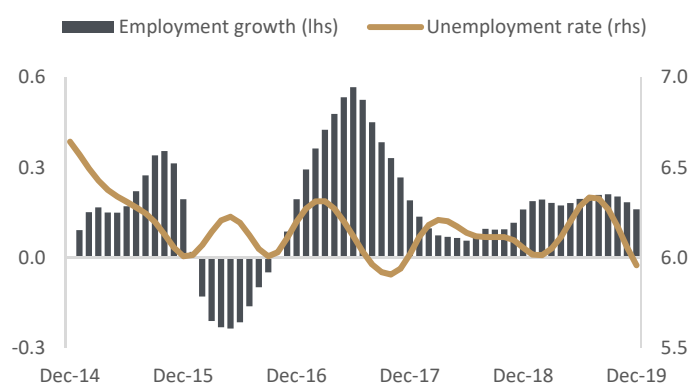
## Main findings – Trend estimates

Trend employment in Queensland rose 0.2% (or 4,100 persons) in December 2019, reflecting a rise in both full-time employment (up 1,700 persons) and part-time employment (up 2,400 persons). Employment growth over the year was 2.3% (or 57,600 persons), again driven by increases in both full-time (up 28,700 persons) and part-time (up 28,900 persons) employment.

Despite solid employment growth in recent months, Queensland's trend participation rate has decreased in recent months, down 0.2%-point since August 2019 to be 65.8% in December 2019.

Queensland's trend unemployment rate has moved lower recently, to 6.0% in December 2019, down from a recent peak of 6.3% in July 2019 (Chart 1), reflecting strong employment growth and a fall in the participation rate over the period. The trend underemployment rate was steady at 8.4% in December, marginally above the national rate (8.3%), but down from 8.8% a year ago.

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



Nationally, trend employment rose 17,500 persons (up 0.1%) in December, to be 2.1% higher over the year. Victoria (up 98,000), New South Wales (up 80,000) and Queensland continued to be the largest contributors to the 260,900 persons rise in employment nationally over the past year (Table 2).

The national trend unemployment rate fell to 5.1% in December 2019, while the national trend participation rate remained unchanged at 66.0%, close to the highest rate recorded since the

ABS monthly Labour Force survey began in 1978 (66.1% in August 2019).

## Seasonally adjusted estimates

In more volatile seasonally adjusted (sa) terms, employment in Queensland fell 3,600 persons in December 2019 after rising by 16,400 persons in the previous month. Over the year, sa employment in Queensland rose 1.6% (or 39,100 persons).

Queensland's sa unemployment rate fell to 5.7% in December, to be down from 6.2% a year earlier. Queensland's sa participation rate fell 0.6%-point to 65.6% in December.

Nationally, sa employment rose 28,900 persons in the month, driven by an increase in part-time employment (up 29,200 persons). The sa unemployment rate fell 0.1%-point to 5.1% in December.

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

	Queensland				Australia					
	Dec-19 '000	Monthly change '000	Yearly change %	Dec-19 '000	Monthly change '000	Yearly change %	Dec-19 '000	Monthly change '000	Yearly change %	
<b>Trend</b>										
Employed	2,552.8	4.1	0.2	57.6	2.3	12,976.3	17.5	0.1	260.9	2.1
Full-time	1,754.6	1.7	0.1	28.7	1.7	8,851.0	8.9	0.1	132.6	1.5
Part-time	798.1	2.4	0.3	28.9	3.8	4,125.3	8.6	0.2	128.3	3.2
Unemployed	161.7	-2.6	-1.6	0.9	0.6	703.6	-4.4	-0.6	31.4	4.7
Underemployed	227.4	-0.1	-0.1	-7.3	-3.1	1,137.7	-0.9	-0.1	30.1	2.7
Labour force	2,714.5	1.5	0.1	58.5	2.2	13,679.9	13.2	0.1	292.3	2.2
<b>Seas. Adjusted</b>										
Employed	2,552.2	-3.6	-0.1	39.1	1.6	12,981.6	28.9	0.2	262.5	2.1
Full-time	1,752.5	-2.3	-0.1	18.3	1.1	8,834.7	-0.3	0.0	152.7	1.8
Part-time	799.7	-1.3	-0.2	20.8	2.7	4,146.9	29.2	0.7	109.9	2.7
Unemployed	154.8	-16.8	-9.8	-10.0	-6.1	693.1	-12.9	-1.8	21.6	3.2
Underemployed	229.6	6.0	2.7	-10.3	-4.3	1,134.2	-0.1	0.0	17.0	1.5
Labour force	2,707.0	-20.3	-0.7	29.1	1.1	13,674.8	16.0	0.1	284.1	2.1
<b>Trend</b>	Dec-19	Nov-19	Dec-18	Dec-19	Nov-19	Dec-18	Dec-19	Nov-19	Dec-18	Dec-18
Unemployment rate	6.0	6.1	6.1	5.1	5.2	5.0	6.0	6.1	6.1	6.0
Underemployment rate	8.4	8.4	8.8	8.3	8.3	8.3	66.0	66.0	65.6	65.6
Participation rate	65.8	65.9	65.6	66.0	66.0	65.6				
<b>Seas. Adjusted</b>										
Unemployment rate	5.7	6.3	6.2	5.1	5.2	5.0				
Underemployment rate	8.5	8.2	9.0	8.3	8.3	8.3				
Participation rate	65.6	66.2	66.1	66.0	66.0	65.7				

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

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
<b>Employed (trend)</b>							
% change on a month ago	0.2	0.1	0.2	-0.2	0.0	0.5	0.1
Change on a month ago (no.)	4,100	5,000	8,500	-1,400	-200	1,300	17,500
% change on a year ago	2.3	2.0	2.9	0.2	1.4	2.9	2.1
Change on a year ago (no.)	57,600	80,000	98,000	1,300	18,300	7,100	260,900
<b>Unemployment rate (trend)</b>							
December-19	6.0	4.6	4.8	6.4	5.6	5.8	5.1
November-19	6.1	4.6	4.8	6.4	5.6	5.9	5.2
December-18	6.1	4.3	4.6	5.9	6.3	6.2	5.0
<b>Participation rate (trend)</b>							
December-19	65.8	65.6	66.5	62.7	68.0	61.1	66.0
November-19	65.9	65.6	66.4	62.8	68.1	60.9	66.0
December-18	65.6	65.0	65.9	62.8	68.3	60.4	65.6
<b>Employed (sa)</b>							
% change on a month ago	-0.1	0.5	0.3	-0.4	-0.4	0.6	0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	-3,600	20,600	10,300	-3,000	-5,300	1,500	28,900
% change on a year ago	1.6	2.3	2.7	0.1	1.4	3.7	2.1
Change on a year ago (no.)	39,100	95,000	90,300	900	18,500	9,100	262,500
<b>Unemployment rate (sa)</b>							
December-19	5.7	4.5	4.9	6.2	5.4	5.5	5.1
November-19	6.3	4.6	4.6	6.3	5.7	6.0	5.2
December-18	6.2	4.4	4.2	5.9	6.4	6.2	5.0
<b>Participation rate (sa)</b>							
December-19	65.6	65.5	66.6	62.5	67.7	61.0	66.0
November-19	66.2	65.3	66.4	62.8	68.2	61.1	66.0
December-18	66.1	64.9	65.8	62.8	68.2	60.0	65.7