

Labour Force, January 2020

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 20 February 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)

Employment:	Queensland,	↑ 4,700	(0.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 20,000	(0.2%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	↓ 1,100	(6.1%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↑ 600	(5.2%)
Labour force:	Queensland,	↑ 3,600	(0.1%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 20,500	(0.2%)
Underemployment:	Queensland,	↑ 1,600	(8.6%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↑ 5,900	(8.5%)

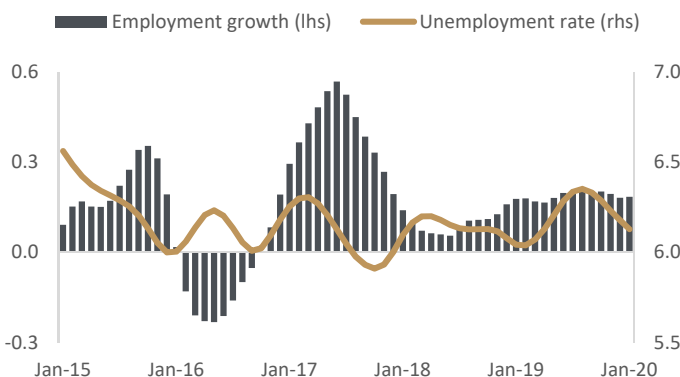
Main findings – Trend estimates

Trend employment in Queensland rose 0.2% (or 4,700 persons) in January 2020, reflecting a rise in both full-time (up 2,400 persons) and part-time (up 2,300 persons) employment. Growth over the year was 2.3% (or 57,100 persons), again driven by increases in both full-time (up 27,500 persons) and part-time (up 29,700 persons) employment.

Consistent with solid employment growth in recent months, Queensland's trend participation rate has increased, up 0.4%-point since January 2019 to be 66.0% in January 2020.

Queensland's trend unemployment rate has moved lower recently, to 6.1% in January 2020, down from a recent peak of 6.4% in August 2019 (Chart 1), reflecting solid employment growth over the period. Over the last five years, the unemployment rate has remained in a narrow range between 5.9% and 6.4%. The trend underemployment rate was steady at 8.6% in January, slightly above the national rate (8.5%), but down from 8.8% a year ago.

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



Nationally, trend employment rose 20,000 persons (up 0.2%) in January, to be 2.0% higher over the year. Victoria (up 94,600), New South Wales (up 65,300) and Queensland continued to be the largest contributors to the 257,400 persons rise in employment nationally over the past year (Table 2).

The national trend unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.2% in January 2020, and the national trend participation rate was steady

at 66.0%, close to the highest rate recorded since the ABS monthly Labour Force survey began in 1978 (66.2% in August 2019).

Seasonally adjusted estimates

In more volatile seasonally adjusted (sa) terms, employment in Queensland rose 2,800 persons in January 2020. Over the year, sa employment in Queensland rose 2.7% (or 67,300 persons).

Queensland's sa unemployment rate rose to 6.3% in January, up from 6.1% a year earlier. Queensland's sa participation rate rose 0.4%-point in the month to 66.0% in January.

Nationally, sa employment rose 13,500 persons in January, driven by growth in full-time employment (up 46,200). The sa unemployment rate rose 0.2%-point in the month to 5.3% in January.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes, January 2020

	Queensland				Australia						
	Jan-20 '000	Monthly change '000	%	Yearly change '000	%	Jan-20 '000	Monthly change '000	%	Yearly change '000	%	
Trend											
Employed	2,558.0	4.7	0.2	57.1	2.3	12,996.7	20.0	0.2	257.4	2.0	
Full-time	1,757.9	2.4	0.1	27.5	1.6	8,879.3	14.6	0.2	146.1	1.7	
Part-time	800.1	2.3	0.3	29.7	3.8	4,117.3	5.4	0.1	111.2	2.8	
Unemployed	167.0	-1.1	-0.7	6.2	3.8	709.6	0.6	0.1	34.4	5.1	
Underemployed	235.4	1.6	0.7	-0.1	0.0	1,165.5	5.9	0.5	55.4	5.0	
Labour force	2,724.9	3.6	0.1	63.3	2.4	13,706.3	20.5	0.2	291.8	2.2	
Seas. Adjusted											
Employed	2,555.2	2.8	0.1	67.3	2.7	12,995.4	13.5	0.1	247.4	1.9	
Full-time	1,760.2	7.5	0.4	28.3	1.6	8,882.2	46.2	0.5	143.9	1.6	
Part-time	795.0	-4.7	-0.6	39.0	5.2	4,113.3	-32.7	-0.8	103.5	2.6	
Unemployed	171.5	17.3	11.2	11.0	6.9	725.9	31.0	4.5	48.0	7.1	
Underemployed	240.2	9.9	4.3	14.8	6.6	1,179.2	45.2	4.0	90.0	8.3	
Labour force	2,726.7	20.2	0.7	78.3	3.0	13,721.4	44.6	0.3	295.4	2.2	
Trend	Jan-20	Dec-19	Jan-19			Jan-20	Dec-19	Jan-19			
Employment rate	6.1	6.2	6.0			5.2	5.2	5.0			
Underemployment rate	8.6	8.6	8.8			8.5	8.5	8.3			
Participation rate	66.0	66.0	65.6			66.0	66.0	65.7			
Seas. Adjusted											
Unemployment rate	6.3	5.7	6.1			5.3	5.1	5.0			
Underemployment rate	8.8	8.5	8.5			8.6	8.3	8.1			
Participation rate	66.0	65.6	65.3			66.1	66.0	65.7			

Table 2: Interstate comparison, January 2020

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (trend)							
% change on a month ago	0.2	0.1	0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.4	0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	4,700	4,600	7,300	-900	400	1,000	20,000
% change on a year ago	2.3	1.6	2.8	0.0	1.5	3.5	2.0
Change on a year ago (no.)	57,100	65,300	94,600	300	20,100	8,700	257,400
Unemployment rate (trend)							
January-20	6.1	4.5	5.0	5.9	5.7	5.8	5.2
December-19	6.2	4.6	4.9	6.0	5.7	5.8	5.2
January-19	6.0	4.3	4.6	5.9	6.2	6.3	5.0
Participation rate (trend)							
January-20	66.0	65.4	66.7	62.4	68.1	61.2	66.0
December-19	66.0	65.4	66.6	62.5	68.1	61.1	66.0
January-19	65.6	65.1	65.9	62.9	68.2	60.3	65.7
Employed (sa)							
% change on a month ago	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.1
Change on a month ago (no.)	2,800	-1,500	2,900	1,000	6,700	300	13,500
% change on a year ago	2.7	1.0	2.7	0.6	2.0	3.8	1.9
Change on a year ago (no.)	67,300	42,800	90,700	5,400	27,000	9,300	247,400
Unemployment rate (sa)							
January-20	6.3	4.5	5.4	5.7	5.8	5.9	5.3
December-19	5.7	4.5	4.9	6.2	5.4	5.5	5.1
January-19	6.1	4.0	4.6	6.4	6.8	7.0	5.0
Participation rate (sa)							
January-20	66.0	65.4	66.9	62.1	68.2	61.3	66.1
December-19	65.6	65.5	66.7	62.4	67.7	61.1	66.0
January-19	65.3	65.3	66.0	62.7	68.3	60.6	65.7