



This publication provides summary data and commentary on the latest ABS Labour Force Cat: 6202.0 release for Western Australia. It also includes brief information on other selective WA labour market indicators.

## KEY POINTS<sup>1</sup>

- The level of **employment** in Western Australia has increased by 33,300 (or 2.5 per cent) over the year but declined by 0.3 per cent over the month.
  - The level of **full-time employment** in Western Australia fell by 1.3 per cent over the month but has increased by 29,700 (or 3.3 per cent) over the year.
  - Part-time employment** in Western Australia has increased by 1.8 per cent over the month and by 3,300 (or 0.8 per cent) over the year.
- The State's **youth unemployment** rate has continued to increase and currently sits at 13.5 per cent. This is 2.1 per cent higher than 12 months ago. The rate for Western Australia is now at its highest since February 2002.
- The level of unemployment in Western Australia has decreased by 4,500 (or 5.0 per cent) over the year, to 86,200 in October 2017. Over the month the level of unemployment has risen by 2,900 (or 3.5 per cent).
- The State's unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage points to 5.9 per cent, while the national unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage points to 5.4 per cent.

The following October 2017 ABS Labour Force Data were released 16/11/17.

### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

| Employed Persons ('000) |          |          |          |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
|                         | Oct-16   | Sep-17   | Oct-17   |
| WA                      | 1,332.6  | 1,369.8  | 1,365.9  |
| Australia               | 11,941.4 | 12,293.4 | 12,297.1 |

| Employed ('000) by Employment Type |        |        |        |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
|                                    | Oct-16 | Sep-17 | Oct-17 |
| Full time                          | 896.6  | 938.2  | 926.2  |
| Part time (Original data)          | 435.2  | 431.6  | 439.6  |

| Participation Rate (%) |        |        |        |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
|                        | Oct-16 | Sep-17 | Oct-17 |
| WA                     | 67.3   | 68.2   | 68.1   |
| Australia              | 64.4   | 65.2   | 65.1   |

| Unemployed Persons ('000) |        |        |        |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
|                           | Oct-16 | Sep-17 | Oct-17 |
| WA                        | 90.7   | 83.2   | 86.2   |
| Australia                 | 710.3  | 709.6  | 701.5  |

| Unemployment Rate (%) |        |        |        |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|
|                       | Oct-16 | Sep-17 | Oct-17 |
| WA                    | 6.4    | 5.7    | 5.9    |
| Australia             | 5.6    | 5.5    | 5.4    |

| Youth Unemployment (15-24yrs, %) |        |        |        |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
|                                  | Oct-16 | Sep-17 | Oct-17 |
| WA*                              | 11.4   | 13.3   | 13.5   |
| Australia^                       | 12.5   | 12.8   | 12.8   |

\* 12 month moving average of original data  
^ Trend data

### TREND

| Employed Persons ('000) |          |          |          |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
|                         | Oct-16   | Sep-17   | Oct-17   |
| WA                      | 1,330.6  | 1,367.2  | 1,367.6  |
| Australia               | 11,954.5 | 12,281.2 | 12,301.2 |

| WA Employed ('000)        |        |        |        |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
|                           | Oct-16 | Sep-17 | Oct-17 |
| Full time                 | 897.2  | 935.5  | 933.6  |
| Part time (Original data) | 435.2  | 430.7  | 438.5  |

| Participation Rate (%) |        |        |        |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
|                        | Oct-16 | Sep-17 | Oct-17 |
| WA                     | 67.3   | 68.1   | 68.1   |
| Australia              | 64.5   | 65.2   | 65.2   |

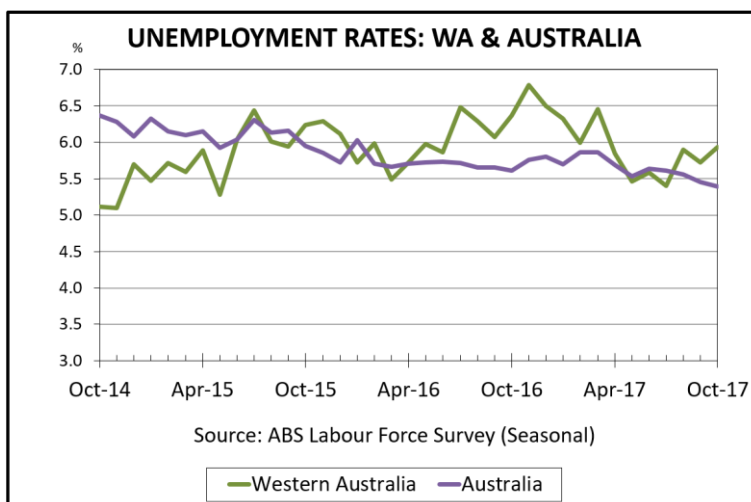
| Unemployed Persons ('000) |        |        |        |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
|                           | Oct-16 | Sep-17 | Oct-17 |
| WA                        | 91.6   | 83.0   | 84.5   |
| Australia                 | 721.0  | 712.3  | 709.4  |

| Unemployment Rate (%) |        |        |        |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|--------|
|                       | Oct-16 | Sep-17 | Oct-17 |
| WA                    | 6.4    | 5.7    | 5.8    |
| Australia             | 5.7    | 5.5    | 5.5    |

<sup>1</sup> Seasonally adjusted data

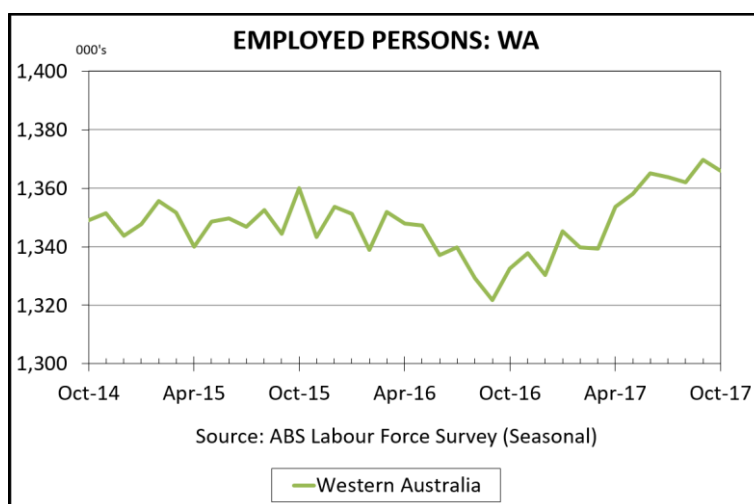
**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

- The level of unemployment in WA has declined by 6.9 per cent over the year.
- WA’s unemployment rate has also fallen, from 6.4 per cent in October 2016 to 5.9 per cent in October 2017.
- WA’s unemployment rate is currently 0.5 per cent above the national unemployment rate of 5.4 per cent.
- Over the month the unemployment rate in WA has increased by 0.2 percentage points, while the national unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage points.



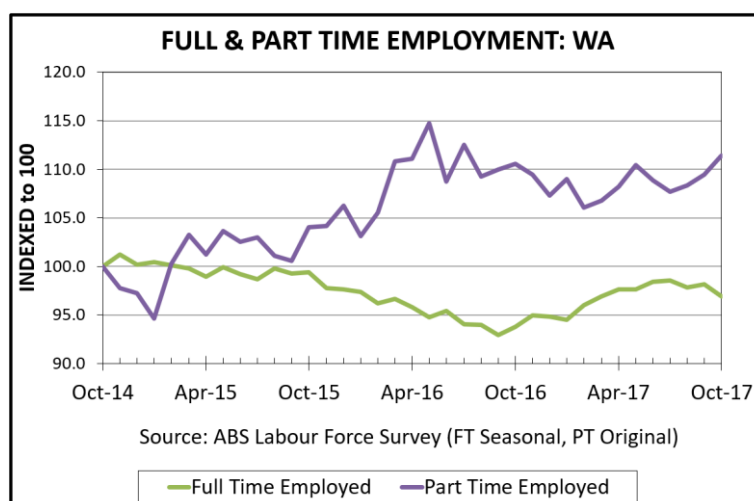
**EMPLOYMENT**

- The level of employment in WA increased by 33,300 (or 2.5 per cent) over the year, to stand at 1,365,00 in October 2017.
- The total number of males employed in WA has increased by 24,100 (or 3.3 per cent) over the year. The number of females employed has increased by 9,200 (or 1.5 per cent) over the same period.
- Male employment decreased marginally over the month by (by 0.02 per cent). Female employment declined by 3,800 (0.6 per cent) over the same period.



**FULL TIME AND PART TIME EMPLOYMENT**

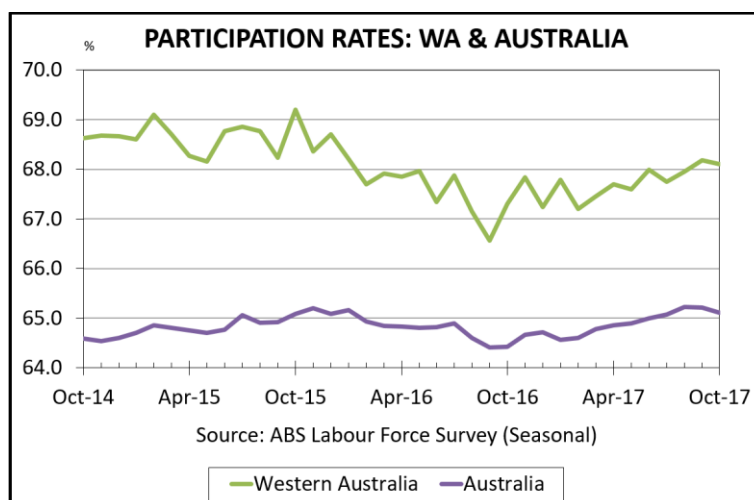
- Over the year, persons in full-time employment increased by 29,700 (or 3.3 per cent), to stand at 926,200.
- Full time employment has increased for both males and females, rising by 3.4 per cent and 3.2 per cent respectively over the past 12 months.
- Persons in part-time employment increased by 3,300 (0.8 per cent) over the year, to sit at 438, 500 at October 2017. <sup>2</sup>



<sup>2</sup> Original data.

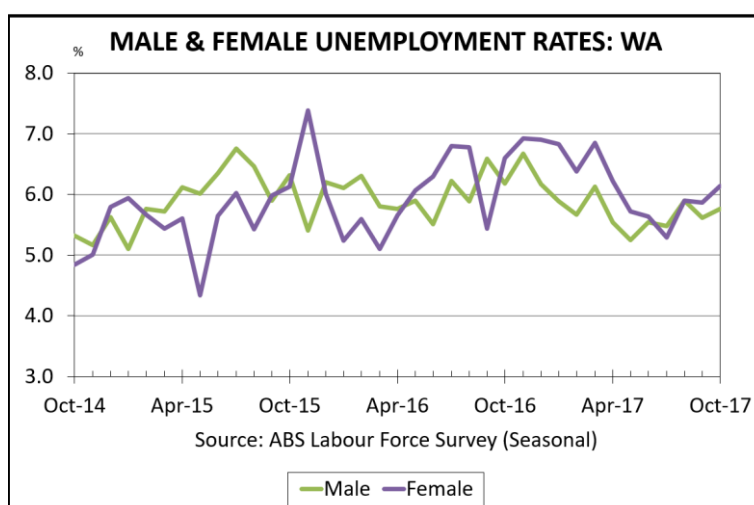
**PARTICIPATION RATE**

- The participation rate in WA has increased by 1.2 per cent over the year to sit at 68.1 percent. The national participation rate is 65.1 per cent.
- Participation rates for males and females in WA have increased over the year to sit at 74.9 per cent and 61.3 per cent respectively.
- Nationally, participation rates sit at 70.5 per cent for males and 59.9 per cent for females.



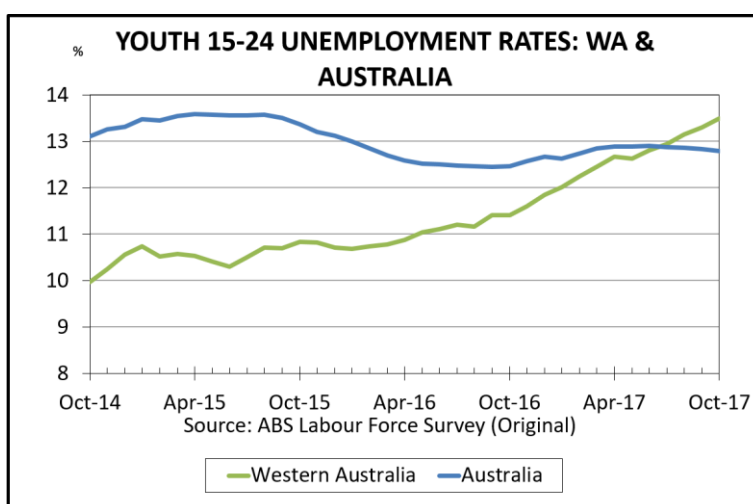
**MALE AND FEMALE UNEMPLOYMENT**

- Over the year the WA unemployment rate for males has 0.4 per cent to 5.8 per cent.
- The WA unemployment rate for females increased by 0.5 per cent over the same period to sit at 6.1 per cent.
- Nationally, male unemployment sits at 5.2 per cent. Female unemployment sits at 5.6 per cent.



**YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT (15-24 YEAR OLDS)<sup>3</sup>**

- WA's youth unemployment rate increased by nearly 2.1 per cent over the year to sit at 13.5 per cent.
- The rate for Western Australia is now at its highest since February 2002 and continues to exceed the national rate.
- Youth unemployment has been trending upwards since late 2014. There are currently an estimated 31,000 unemployed young people in Western Australia.



<sup>3</sup> 12 Month moving average of original data. ABS Labour Force Survey estimates for youth unemployment are subject to high levels of sampling error and, as such, should be used with caution.

**EMPLOYMENT GROWTH BY GENDER AND TYPE**

- Overall employment in WA has increased by 33,300 over the past 12 months. This increase has been overwhelmingly driven by an increase in full time employment.
  - Full time employment has grown by 29,700 while part time employment has increased by 3,600.
  - The growth in full time employment has occurred for both males and females.
  - Part time employment growth has been driven by males and has risen by 4,000 while female part-time employment decreased by 400.

