



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 POINTS¹

- The level of **employment** in Western Australia fell by 2,500 (or 0.2 per cent) over the year, to stand at 1,347,000 in January 2017.
- The State's **unemployment rate** has risen by 0.6 percentage points over the year, to 6.5 per cent in January 2017, the highest unemployment rate of all the States and Territories.
- The State's **youth unemployment rate** has increased by 1.3 percentage points over the year, to stand at 12.0 per cent in January 2017, the highest rate recorded since August 2004.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Employed Persons ('000)

| | Jan-16 | Dec-16 | Jan-17 |
|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| WA | 1,349.5 | 1,331.9 | 1,347.0 |
| Australia | 11,894.9 | 11,984.7 | 11,998.2 |

Employed ('000) by Employment Type

| | Jan-16 | Dec-16 | Jan-17 |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Full time | 928.5 | 906.3 | 903.1 |
| Part time (Original data) | 406.0 | 425.6 | 443.9 |

Participation Rate (%)

| | Jan-16 | Dec-16 | Jan-17 |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|
| WA | 68.2 | 67.2 | 67.8 |
| Australia | 65.2 | 64.7 | 64.6 |

Unemployed Persons ('000)

| | Jan-16 | Dec-16 | Jan-17 |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|
| WA | 84.0 | 93.9 | 93.0 |
| Australia | 758.2 | 739.6 | 720.2 |

Unemployment Rate (%)

| | Jan-16 | Dec-16 | Jan-17 |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|
| WA | 5.9 | 6.6 | 6.5 |
| Australia | 6.0 | 5.8 | 5.7 |

Youth Unemployment (15-24yrs, %)

| | Jan-16 | Dec-16 | Jan-17 |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| WA* | 10.7 | 11.8 | 12.0 |
| Australia [^] | 12.2 | 12.9 | 12.8 |

* 12 month moving average of original data

[^] Trend data

TREND

Employed Persons ('000)

| | Jan-16 | Dec-16 | Jan-17 |
|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| WA | 1,348.5 | 1,337.2 | 1,339.5 |
| Australia | 11,894.5 | 11,972.6 | 11,984.3 |

WA Employed ('000)

| | Jan-16 | Dec-16 | Jan-17 |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Full time | 928.2 | 902.6 | 904.7 |
| Part time (Original data) | 406.0 | 423.1 | 430.1 |

Participation Rate (%)

| | Jan-16 | Dec-16 | Jan-17 |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|
| WA | 68.2 | 67.5 | 67.6 |
| Australia | 65.0 | 64.6 | 64.6 |

Unemployed Persons ('000)

| | Jan-16 | Dec-16 | Jan-17 |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|
| WA | 85.7 | 94.8 | 95.1 |
| Australia | 732.4 | 723.4 | 726.1 |

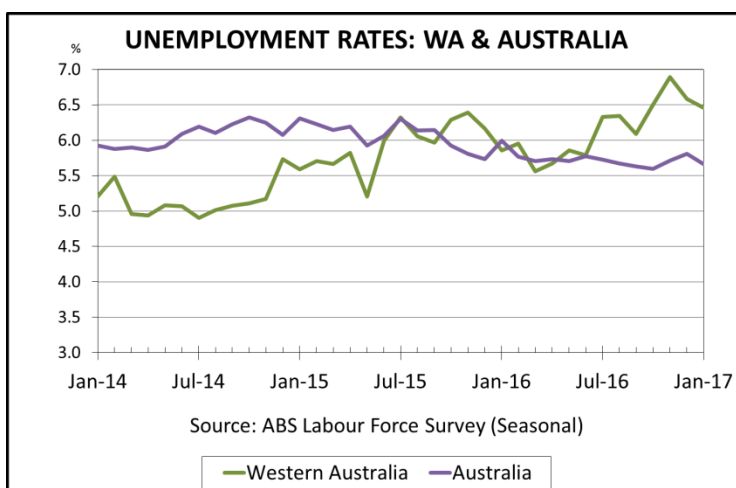
Unemployment Rate (%)

| | Jan-16 | Dec-16 | Jan-17 |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|
| WA | 6.0 | 6.6 | 6.6 |
| Australia | 5.8 | 5.7 | 5.7 |

¹ Seasonally adjusted data

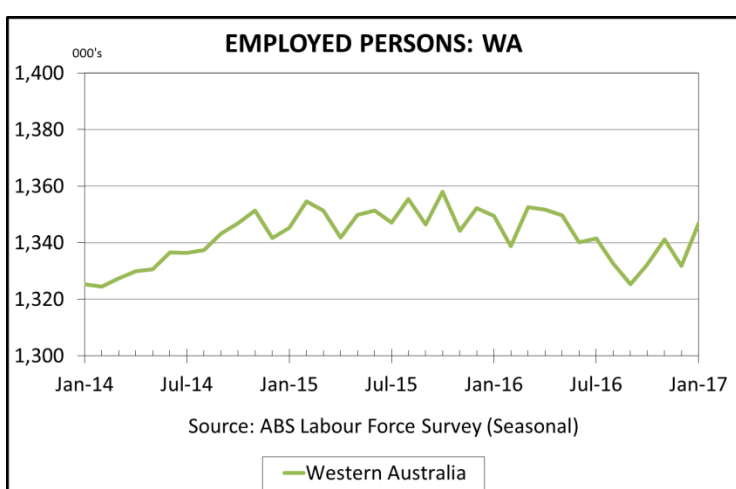
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

- WA’s unemployment rate of 6.5% in January 2017 is 0.1 percentage points lower than the previous month, and is 0.6 percentage points higher than a year ago.
- WA’s unemployment rate is 0.8 percentage points above the national unemployment rate of 5.7%.



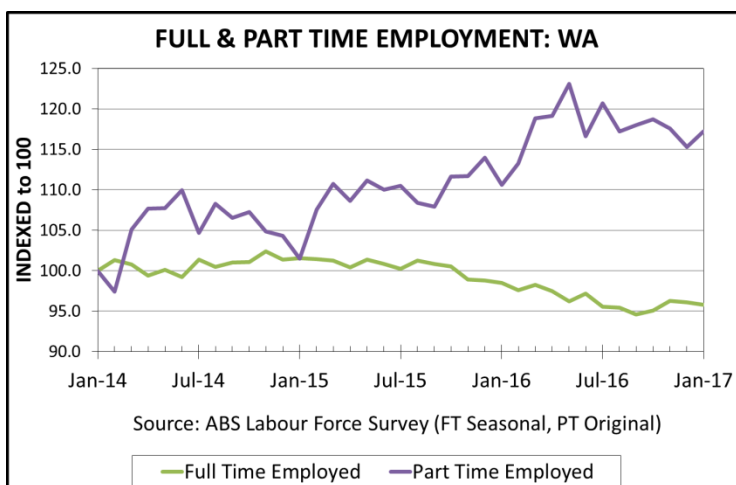
EMPLOYMENT

- The number of persons employed in WA increased by 15,100 from the previous month to stand at 1,347,000 persons in January 2017.
- The number of persons employed in WA in January 2017 was 0.2% (2,500 persons) lower than one year ago.
- The total number of males employed in WA increased by 800 from the previous month, while the total number of employed females in WA increased by 14,300 over the same period.



FULL TIME AND PART TIME EMPLOYMENT

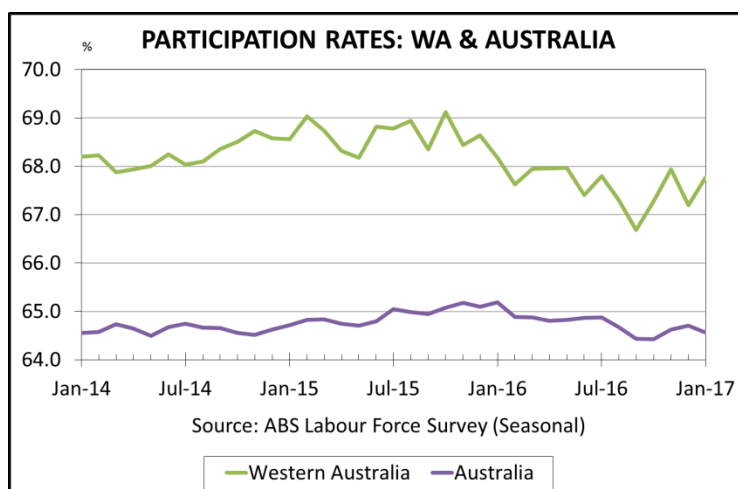
- The number of persons in full time employment in WA declined by 25,500 (or 2.75 %) over the year to stand at 903,100 in January 2017.
- Part time employment in WA increased by 24,200 persons over the year to stand at 430,100².
- In January 2017, the number of males employed full time in WA remained consistent with the previous month (602,000). The number of females employed full time in WA decreased by 2,400 over the same period.
- Full time employment nationally decreased over the month by 44,800 persons, while part time employment increased by 58,300 persons from the previous month.



² Original Data

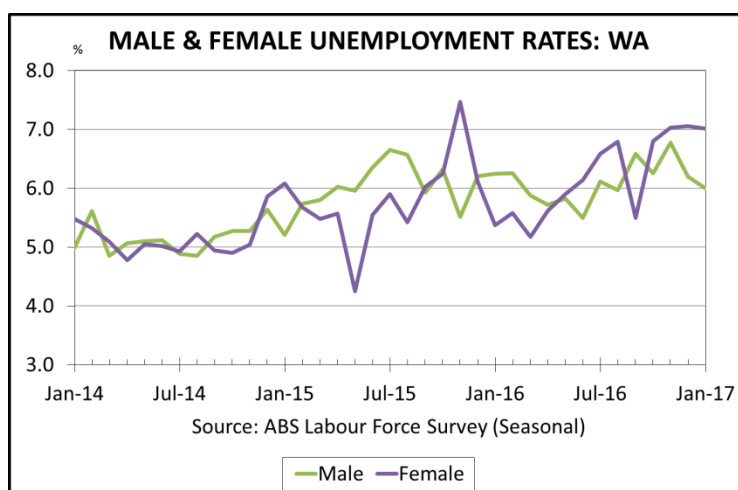
PARTICIPATION RATE

- The WA participation rate in January 2017 is 67.8%, a increase of 0.6 percentage points from the previous month.
- WA’s participation rate is currently 0.4 percentage points lower than that recorded one year ago.
- The male participation rate in Western Australia has decreased by 2.36 percentage points over the year, to 73.5 per cent in January 2017.



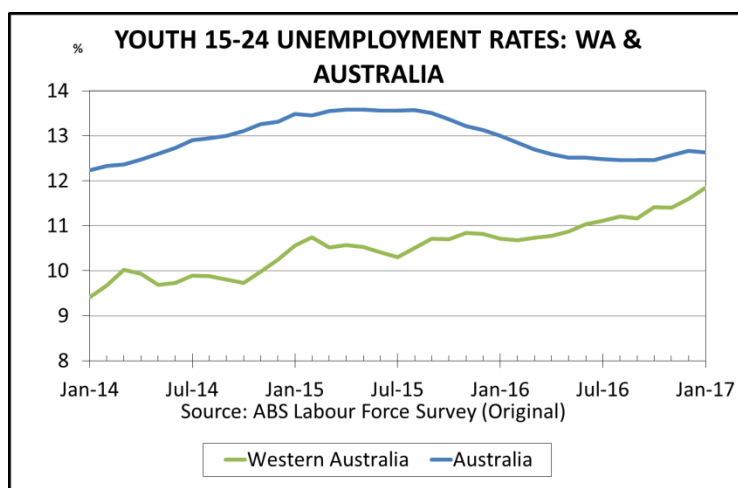
MALE AND FEMALE UNEMPLOYMENT

- The WA unemployment rate for males decreased by 0.2 percentage points from the previous month to stand at 6.0%.
- The WA unemployment rate for females decreased by 0.1 percentage points from the previous month to stand at 7.0%. This compares to 5.4% one year ago.
- The WA unemployment rate for males is 0.5 percentage points higher than the national rate of 5.5%, while the WA unemployment rate for females is 1.2 percentage points higher than the national rate of 5.8%.



YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT (15-24 YEAR OLDS)³

- WA’s youth unemployment rate increased from 11.84% in December 2016 to 12.01% in January 2017.⁴
- The WA participation rate for 15-24 year olds decreased by 0.15 percentage points from the previous month to sit at 69.68% in December 2016.⁵
- The number of youth employed in WA decreased by around 1,100 persons over the last 12 months. In December 2016, there were 207,867 15-24 year olds employed in WA compared to 209,025 in December 2015.⁶



³ ABS Labour Force Survey estimates for youth unemployment are subject to high levels of sampling error and, as such, should be used with caution.

⁴ 12 Month average of Original data, ABS Cat: 6202.0, January 2017 release

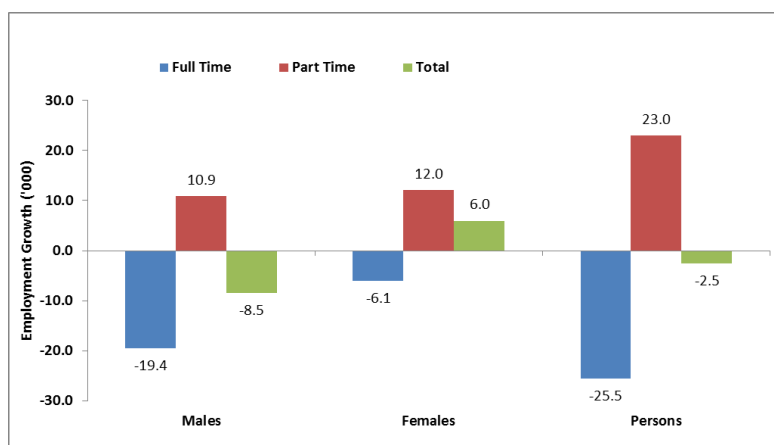
⁵ ABS 6291.0.55.001, 12 month moving average, December 2016.

⁶ ABS 6291.0.55.001, 12 month moving average, December 2016.

⁷ 12 Month average of Original data, ABS Cat: 6202.0, January 2017 release.

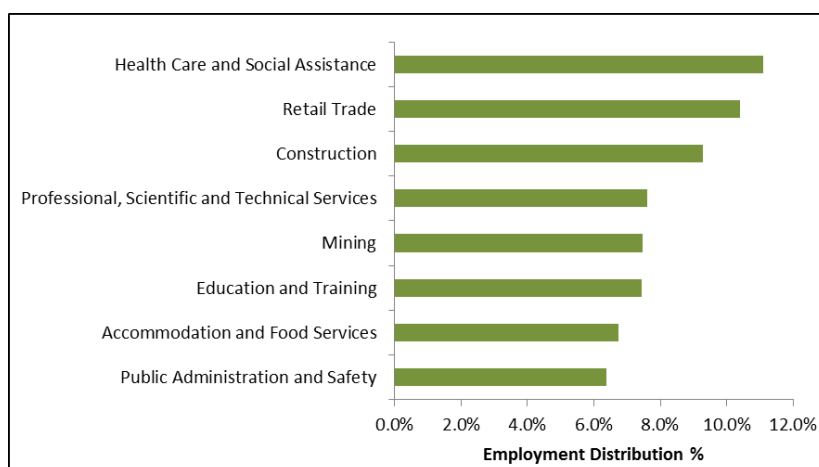
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH BY GENDER AND TYPE

- Over the year to January 2017, part time employment in WA increased by 23,000 persons.
 - Part time employment for females increased by 12,000 and increased by 10,900 for males.
- Over the same period, full time employment for males declined by 19,400 and full time employment for females declined by 6,100 persons.



EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY⁸

- Data is available on a quarterly basis; the most recent data is for November 2016.
- The three largest employing industries in WA are:
 - Health Care and Social Assistance at 11.1%, ↓0.1 percentage points from the previous quarter (August 2016).
 - Retail Trade was steady at 10.4%.
 - Construction at 9.3%, ↓ 0.3 percentage points from points from the previous quarter (August 2016).
- The Mining industry accounts for 7.5% of total employment in WA.
 - Mining employment accounted for 7.7% of all employment in WA in the previous quarter (August 2016) and in November 2015.



⁸ Source: ABS Labour Force Survey, November 2016, Department of Employment trend.