



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 has declined in seven of the last 12 months.
- The level of **full-time employment** in Western Australia rose by 8,900 in March 2017, following an increase in the previous month of over 13,000 full-time jobs.
- The State's **youth unemployment rate** has increased by 1.6 percentage points over the year, to stand at 12.4 per cent in February 2017, the highest rate recorded since February 2004
- The level of **unemployment** has risen 0.4 percent on the previous month.²

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Employed Persons ('000)			
	Mar-16	Feb-17	Mar-17
WA	1,352.0	1,341.3	1,342.9
Australia	11,913.6	11,998.6	12,059.6

Employed ('000) by Employment Type			
	Mar-16	Feb-17	Mar-17
Full time	923.0	919.4	928.3
Part time (Original data)	436.3	421.9	414.7

Participation Rate (%)			
	Mar-16	Feb-17	Mar-17
WA	67.9	67.2	67.5
Australia	64.9	64.6	64.8

Unemployed Persons ('000)			
	Mar-16	Feb-17	Mar-17
WA	79.2	86.7	93.6
Australia	716.3	749.1	753.1

Unemployment Rate (%)			
	Mar-16	Feb-17	Mar-17
WA	5.5	6.1	6.5
Australia	5.7	5.9	5.9

Youth Unemployment (15-24yrs, %)			
	Mar-16	Feb-17	Mar-17
WA*	10.8	12.3	12.4
Australia [^]	12.7	12.7	12.8

* 12 month moving average of original data

[^] Trend data

TREND

Employed Persons ('000)			
	Mar-16	Feb-17	Mar-17
WA	1,348.3	1,342.8	1,344.6
Australia	11,910.9	12,016.9	12,033.4

WA Employed ('000)			
	Mar-16	Feb-17	Mar-17
Full time	919.7	917.1	922.0
Part time (Original data)	436.3	418.4	421.6

Participation Rate (%)			
	Mar-16	Feb-17	Mar-17
WA	67.9	67.5	67.5
Australia	64.9	64.6	64.7

Unemployed Persons ('000)			
	Mar-16	Feb-17	Mar-17
WA	82.4	92.1	91.7
Australia	725.1	743.7	749.5

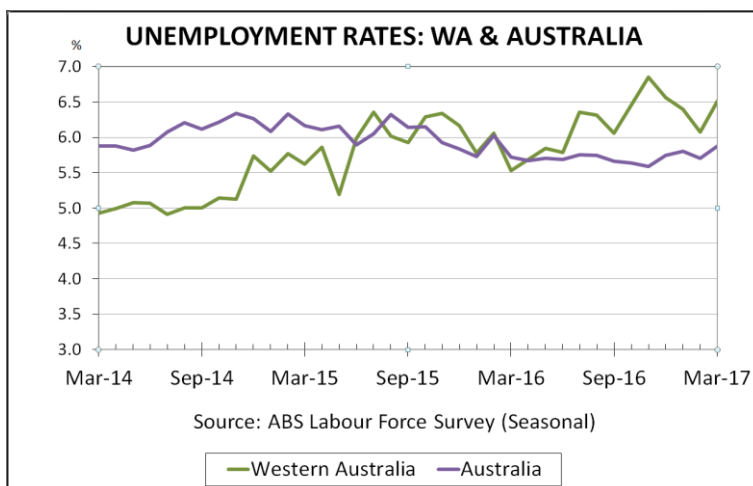
Unemployment Rate (%)			
	Mar-16	Feb-17	Mar-17
WA	5.8	6.4	6.4
Australia	5.7	5.8	5.9

¹ Seasonally adjusted data

² 12 month moving average of original data

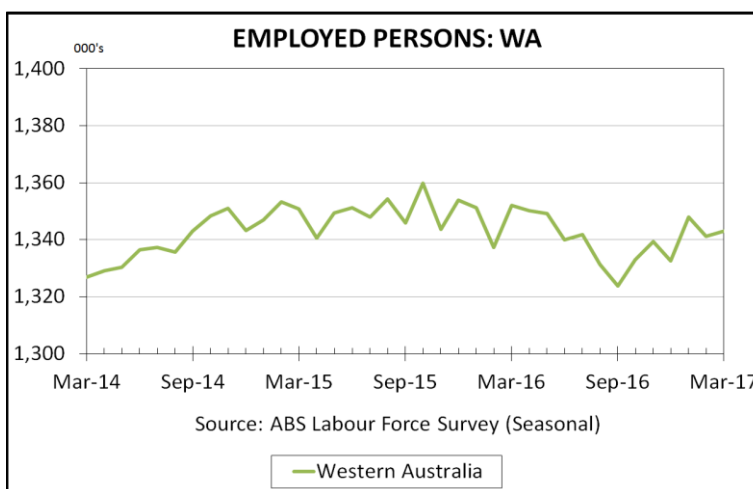
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

- WA’s unemployment rate of 6.5% in March 2017 is 0.4 percentage points higher than the previous month, and is one percent higher than the same time last year.
- WA’s unemployment rate is 0.6 percentage points above the national unemployment rate of 5.9%.



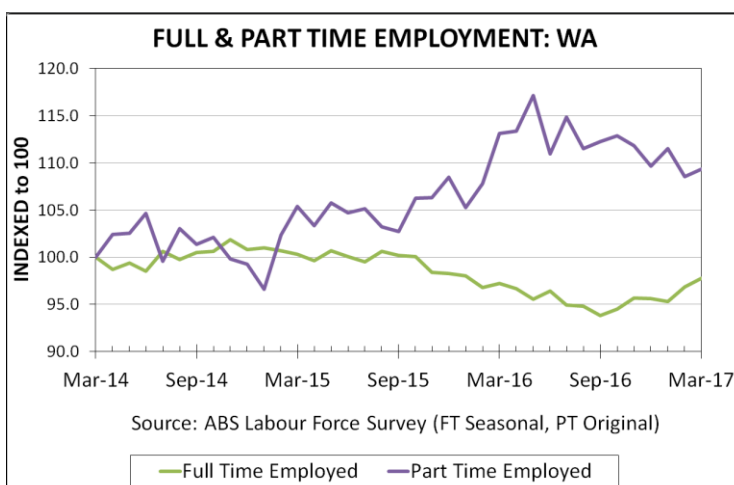
EMPLOYMENT

- The number of persons employed in WA increased by 0.1 percentage points from the previous month to stand at 1,343,000 persons in March 2017.
- The number of persons employed in WA in March 2017 was 0.7 percentage points (9,100 persons) lower than one year ago.
- The total number of males employed in WA increased by 3,500 from the previous month, while the total number of employed females in WA decreased by 1,800 over the same period. This is 1.8% lower than one year ago.



FULL TIME AND PART TIME EMPLOYMENT

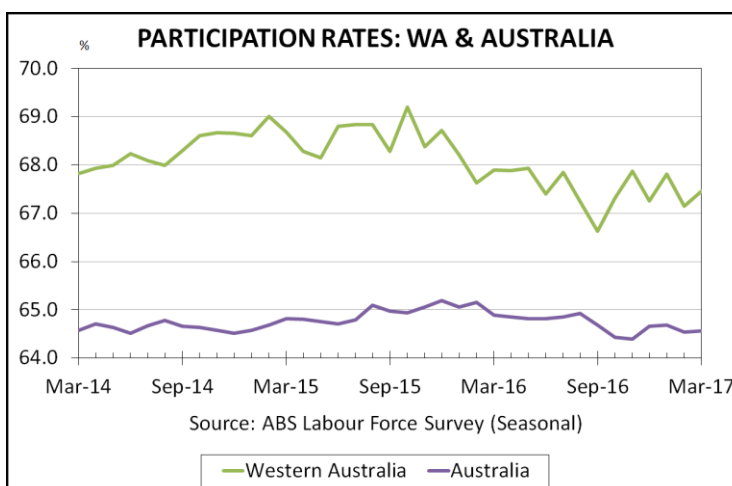
- Persons in full time employment in WA increased by 8,900 over the year to 928, 300 in March 2017.
- While part time employment increased by 3,100 persons in March 2017 from the previous month, part time employment in WA decreased by 14,700 persons over the year to stand at 421,700³.
- In March 2017, the number of males employed full time in WA increased by 3000 from February 2017. The number of females employed full time in WA increased by 5,900 over the same period. Over the last 12 months female full time employment in WA rose 3.7% while male full time employment fell by 1%.
- At a national level full time employment increased over the month by 74,500 persons. Part time employment decreased by 13,600 persons.



³ Original Data

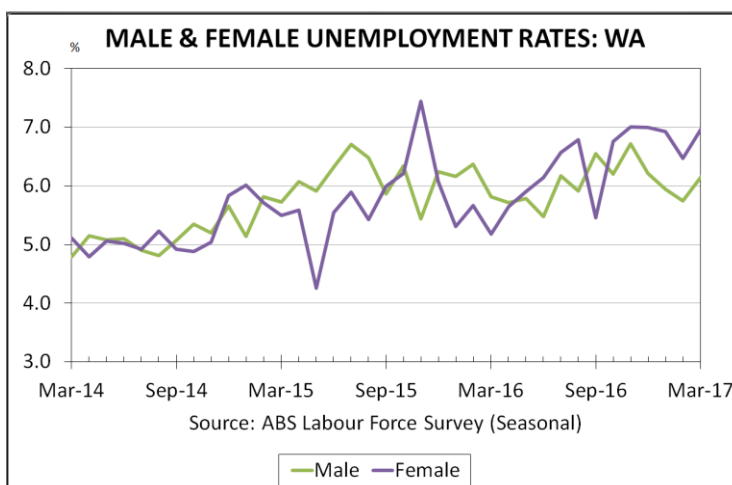
PARTICIPATION RATE

- The WA participation rate in March 2017 is 67.5%, an increase of 0.3 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 0.3 percentage points over the year, to 74.4% in March 2017.
- The female participation rate in Western Australia has decreased by 1 percentage point over the year, to 60.5% in March 2017.



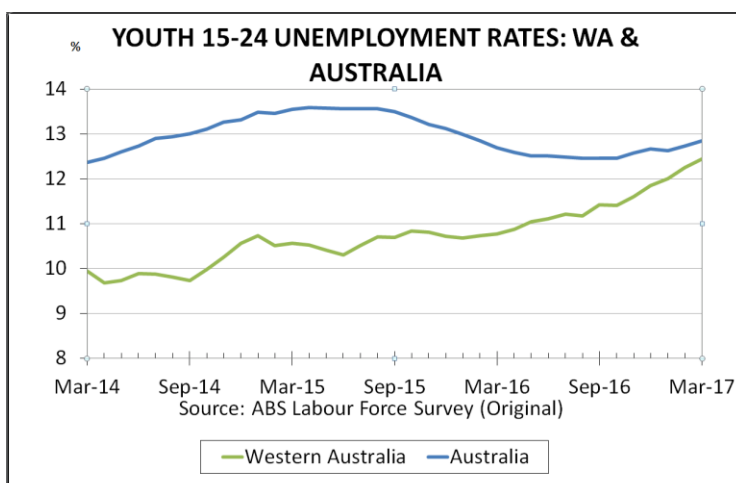
MALE AND FEMALE UNEMPLOYMENT

- The WA unemployment rate for males increased by 0.4 percentage points from the previous month to stand at 6.1%. This compares to 5.8% one year ago.
- The WA unemployment rate for females decreased by 0.5 percentage points from the previous month to stand at 7%. This compares to 5.2% one year ago.
- The WA unemployment rate for males is 0.4 percentage points higher than the national rate of 5.7%. The WA unemployment rate for females is 1 percentage point higher than the national rate of 6.0%.



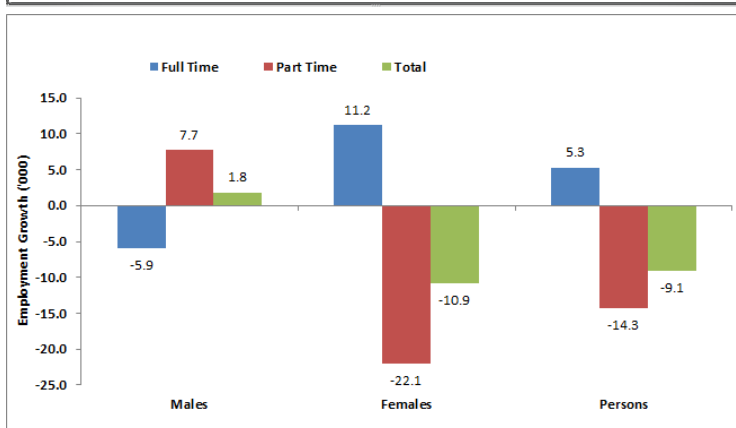
YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT (15-24 YEAR OLDS)⁴

- WA’s youth unemployment rate increased from 12.25% in February 2017 to 12.45% in March 2017.⁵
- The WA participation rate for 15-24 year olds decreased by 0.5 percentage points from the previous month to sit at 70.1% in March 2017.⁶
- In March 2017, there were 202, 500 15-24 year olds employed in WA compared to 209,500 in March 2016.⁷



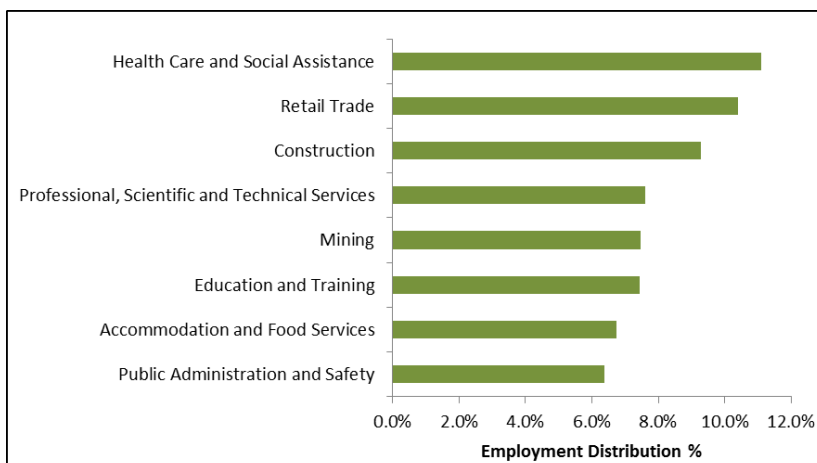
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH BY GENDER AND TYPE

- Over the year to March 2017, part time employment in WA decreased by 14,300 persons.
 - Part time employment for females decreased by 22,100 and increased by 7,700 for males.
- Over the same period, full time employment for males declined by 5,900 and full time employment for females increased by 11,200 persons.



EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY⁹

- 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.



⁴ ABS Labour Force Survey estimates for youth unemployment are subject to high levels of sampling error and, as such, should be used with caution.

⁵ 12 Month average of Original data, ABS Cat: 6202.0, March 2017 release

⁶ ABS 6202.0 March 2017.

⁷ ABS 6202.0 March 2017.

⁸ 12 Month average of Original data, ABS Cat: 6202.0, March 2017 release.

⁹ Source: ABS Labour Force Survey, November 2016, Department of Employment trend.