



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. ¹

KEY POINTS²

- Labour market conditions in Western Australia (WA) have strengthened over the year. The level of **employment** has increased by 49,900 (or 3.9 per cent) over the year, to stand at a record high of 1,344,500 in December 2017.
 - The level of **full-time employment** has increased by a robust 28,400 (or 3.2 per cent) over the year.
 - Part-time employment** has also risen over the period, by 21,500 (or 5.2 per cent).
- The level of **unemployment** in WA has fallen by 8,800 (or 9.7 per cent) over the year, to 81,800 in December 2017.
- The State's **unemployment rate** has also decreased over the period, from 6.5 per cent in December 2016, to 5.7 per cent in December 2017.
- Despite the improvement in overall labour market conditions, the State's **youth unemployment rate** has increased by 1.8 percentage points over the year, to stand at 13.6 per cent in December 2017, the equal highest rate recorded since January 2002.

The following December 2017 ABS Labour Force Data were released 18/01/18.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED			
Employed Persons ('000)			
	Dec-16	Nov-17	Dec-17
WA	1,294.7	1,338.5	1,344.5
Australia	12,037.7	12,406.1	12,440.8
Employed ('000) by Employment Type			
	Dec-16	Nov-17	Dec-17
Full time	880.1	909.4	908.5
Part time (Original data)	413.7	429.1	436.0
Participation Rate (%)			
	Dec-16	Nov-17	Dec-17
WA	67.1	68.9	68.5
Australia	64.8	65.5	65.7
Unemployed Persons ('000)			
	Dec-16	Nov-17	Dec-17
WA	90.7	94.5	81.8
Australia	738.2	710.1	730.6
Unemployment Rate (%)			
	Dec-16	Nov-17	Dec-17
WA	6.5	6.6	5.7
Australia	5.8	5.4	5.5
Youth Unemployment (15-24yrs, %)			
	Dec-16	Nov-17	Dec-17
WA*	11.8	13.6	13.6
Australia^	12.6	12.7	12.6

* 12 month moving average of original data

^ Trend data

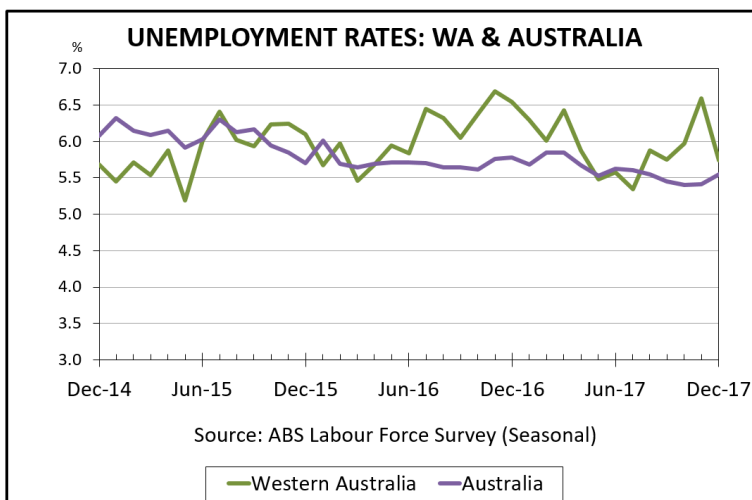
TREND			
Employed Persons ('000)			
	Dec-16	Nov-17	Dec-17
WA	1,300.2	1,337.4	1,339.4
Australia	12,026.4	12,394.8	12,419.8
WA Employed ('000)			
	Dec-16	Nov-17	Dec-17
Full time	879.3	906.9	906.0
Part time (Original data)	413.7	428.4	435.6
Participation Rate (%)			
	Dec-16	Nov-17	Dec-17
WA	67.3	68.4	68.6
Australia	64.7	65.5	65.5
Unemployed Persons ('000)			
	Dec-16	Nov-17	Dec-17
WA	89.6	86.6	87.6
Australia	733.4	714.9	715.0
Unemployment Rate (%)			
	Dec-16	Nov-17	Dec-17
WA	6.4	6.1	6.1
Australia	5.7	5.5	5.4

¹ The Labour Force Survey has been re-benchmarked to reflect both the size and compositional changes to the Australian population evident from the latest 2016 Census

² Seasonally adjusted data

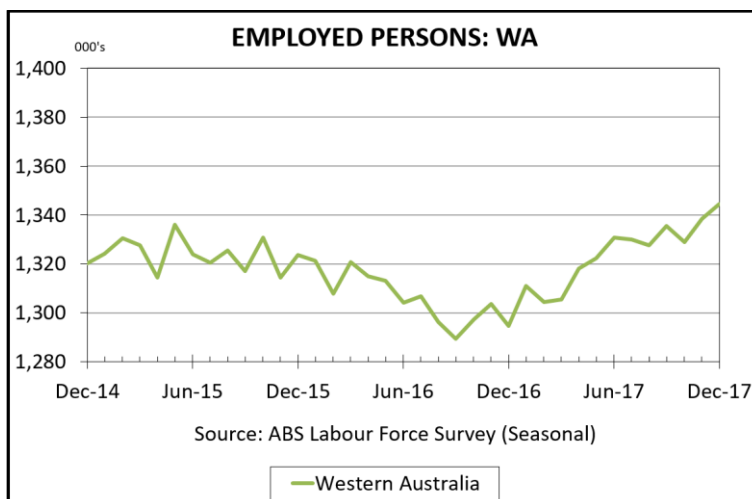
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

- The level of unemployment has fallen by 8,800 persons (9.7 per cent) over the year and by 12,700 persons (12.7 per cent) over the month.
- The State’s unemployment rate has also decreased over the period, from 6.5 per cent in December 2016, to 5.7 per cent in December 2017.
- Over the month the unemployment rate in the state has increased by 0.9 percentage points.
- The national unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage points over the month to 5.5 per cent.



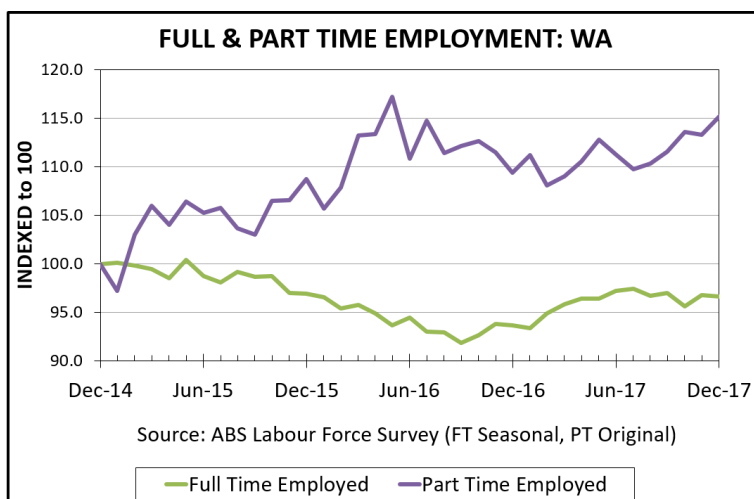
EMPLOYMENT

- Over the year, employment has increased by 49,900 (or 3.9 per cent) over the year, to stand at a record high of 1,344,500 in December 2017.
- The total number of males employed has increased by 18,400 (or 2.6 per cent) over the year. Female employment increased by 31,500 (or 5.4 per cent) over the same period.
- Over the month, employment rose by 6,100.



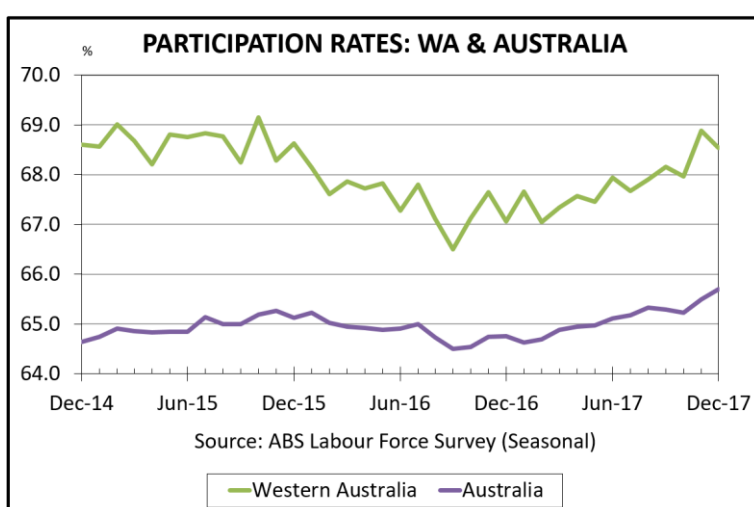
FULL TIME AND PART TIME EMPLOYMENT

- Over the year full-time employment has increased by a robust 28,400 (or 3.2 per cent) over the year, to stand at 908,500 in December 2017.
- Full time employment increased for males by 2.7 per cent and by 4.3 per cent for females.
- Persons in part-time employment has also risen over the period, by 21,500 (or 5.2 per cent), to 436,000.³



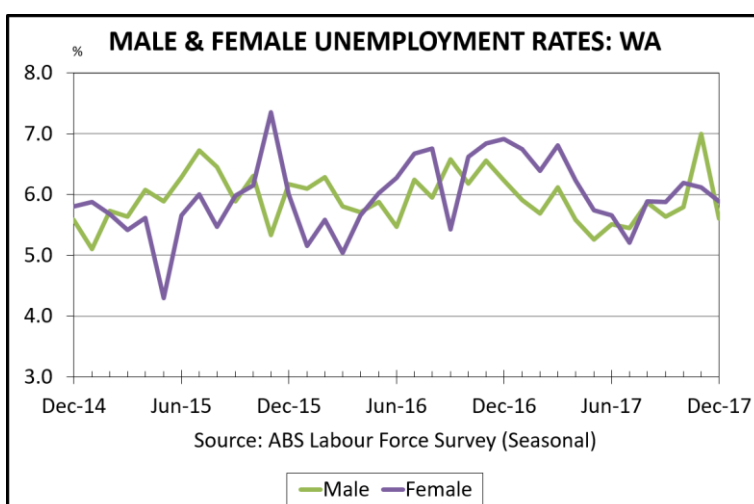
PARTICIPATION RATE

- The participation rate in Western Australia has increased from 67.1 per cent in December 2016, to 68.5 per cent in December 2017, well above the national rate of 65.7 per cent.
- The male participation rate has increased by 0.9 percentage points over the year, to 74.4 per cent in December 2017.
- The female participation rate has also risen over the period to 62.7 per cent in December 2017, a record high.
- Nationally, participation rates sit at 71.0 per cent for males and 60.6 per cent for females.



MALE AND FEMALE UNEMPLOYMENT

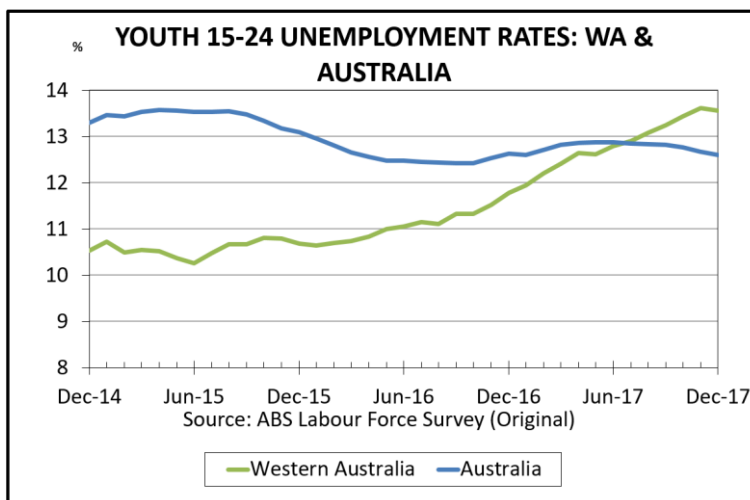
- The male unemployment rate has fallen by 0.6 percentage points over the year, to 5.6 per cent in December 2017.
- Over the same period the female unemployment rate has also declined, falling by 1.0 per cent to 5.9 per cent in December 2017.
- Nationally, male and female unemployment sits at 5.7 and 5.4 per cent respectively.



³ Original data.

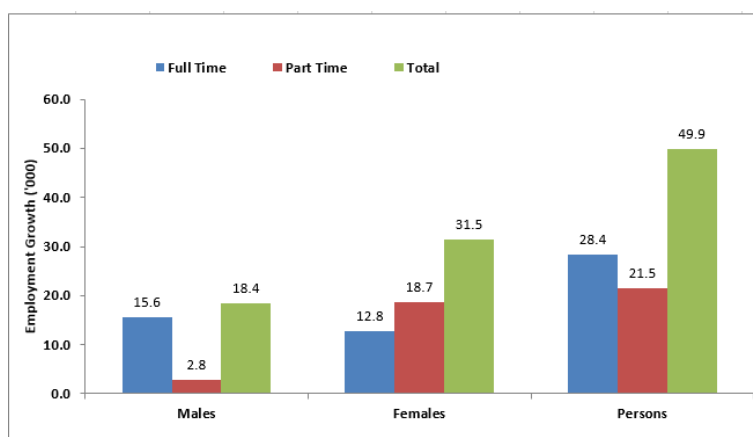
YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT (15-24 YEAR OLDS)⁴

- The State’s youth unemployment rate has increased by 1.8 per cent over the year, to stand at 13.6 per cent in December 2017.
- The rate for WA is now the equal highest rate recorded since January 2002.



EMPLOYMENT GROWTH BY GENDER AND TYPE

- Overall employment in the state has increased by 49,900 (or 3.9 per cent) over the year. This increase has been driven by an increase in full-time employment.
 - Full-time employment has grown by 28,400 while part-time employment has increased by 21,500.
 - Growth in full-time employment has been recorded for both males and females.
 - Part-time employment growth has been driven largely by females, rising by 18,700 over the year.



⁴ 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.