



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

- Against the backdrop of weaker mining investment activity, labour market conditions in Western Australia continue to deteriorate.
- Employment in Western Australia decreased by 22,900 (or 1.7 per cent) over the year.
- For the first time since January 1992, Western Australia recorded the highest unemployment rate of all States and Territories. The unemployment rate in WA has risen by 0.2 percentage points over the year to 6.5 per cent.
- The participation rate in WA has declined by 1.9 percentage points over the year to 67.2 per cent in October 2016.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Employed Persons ('000)

	Oct-15	Sep-16	Oct-16
WA	1,357.3	1,327.6	1,334.4
Australia	11,836.7	11,929.1	11,938.9

Employed ('000) by Employment Type

	Oct-15	Sep-16	Oct-16
Full time	946.6	892.8	896.7
Part time (Original data)	409.6	434.8	437.7

Participation Rate (%)

	Oct-15	Sep-16	Oct-16
WA	69.1	66.7	67.2
Australia	65.0	64.4	64.4

Unemployed Persons ('000)

	Oct-15	Sep-16	Oct-16
WA	90.9	86.3	92.5
Australia	744.1	707.1	705.1

Unemployment Rate (%)

	Oct-15	Sep-16	Oct-16
WA	6.3	6.1	6.5
Australia	5.9	5.6	5.6

National Youth Unemployment

	Oct-15	Sep-16	Oct-16
Youth U/E rate 15-19 yrs (%)	17.9	16.7	17.0
Youth U/E 15-19 yrs ('000)	142.8	132.9	131.7
Youth U/E rate 15-24 yrs (%)	12.4	12.7	12.5
Youth U/E 15-24 yrs ('000)	262.5	267.8	261.1

TREND

Employed Persons ('000)

	Oct-15	Sep-16	Oct-16
WA	1,351.2	1,333.7	1,331.0
Australia	11,838.5	11,947.6	11,946.6

WA Employed ('000)

	Oct-15	Sep-16	Oct-16
Full time	943.9	897.8	895.0
Part time (Original data)	409.6	434.0	436.4

Participation Rate (%)

	Oct-15	Sep-16	Oct-16
WA	68.7	67.1	67.0
Australia	65.1	64.6	64.5

Unemployed Persons ('000)

	Oct-15	Sep-16	Oct-16
WA	90.2	90.0	91.0
Australia	753.4	712.7	708.6

Unemployment Rate (%)

	Oct-15	Sep-16	Oct-16
WA	6.3	6.3	6.4
Australia	6.0	5.6	5.6

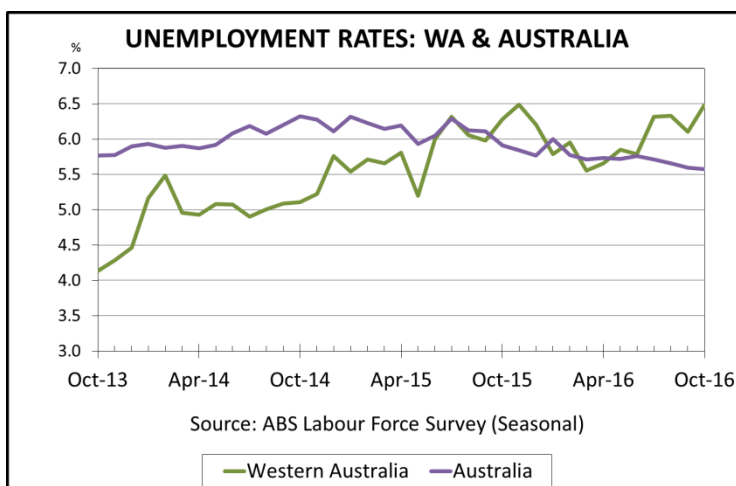
National Youth Unemployment

	Oct-15	Sep-16	Oct-16
Youth U/E rate 15-19 yrs (%)	17.8	17.4	17.3
Youth U/E 15-19 yrs ('000)	141.5	138.5	136.5
Youth U/E rate 15-24 yrs (%)	12.6	12.8	12.8
Youth U/E 15-24 yrs ('000)	266.4	270.3	268.0

¹ Seasonally adjusted data

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

- WA’s unemployment rate of 6.5% in October 2016 is 0.4 percentage points higher than the previous month, and is 0.2 percentage points higher than a year ago.
- WA’s unemployment rate is 0.9 percentage points above the national unemployment rate of 5.6%.



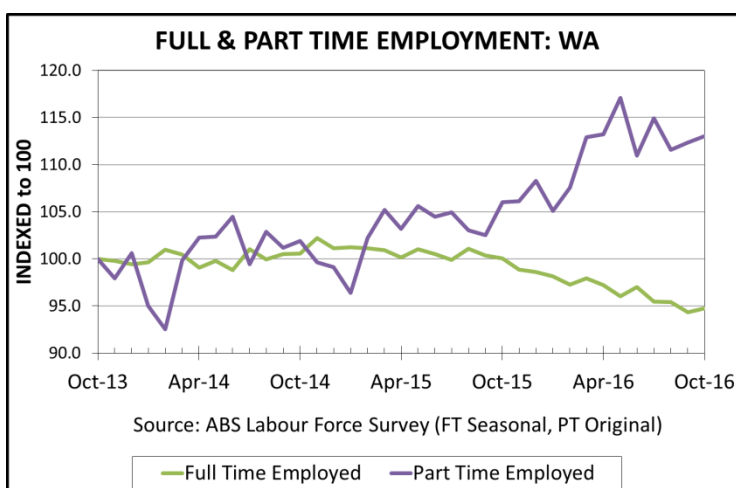
EMPLOYMENT

- The number of persons employed in WA increased by 6,800 from the previous month to stand at 1,334,400 persons in October 2016.
- The number of persons employed in WA in October 2016 was 1.7% (22,900 persons) lower than one year ago.
- The total number of males employed in WA increased by 6,400 from the previous month, while the total number of employed females in WA increased by 400 over the same period.



FULL TIME AND PART TIME EMPLOYMENT

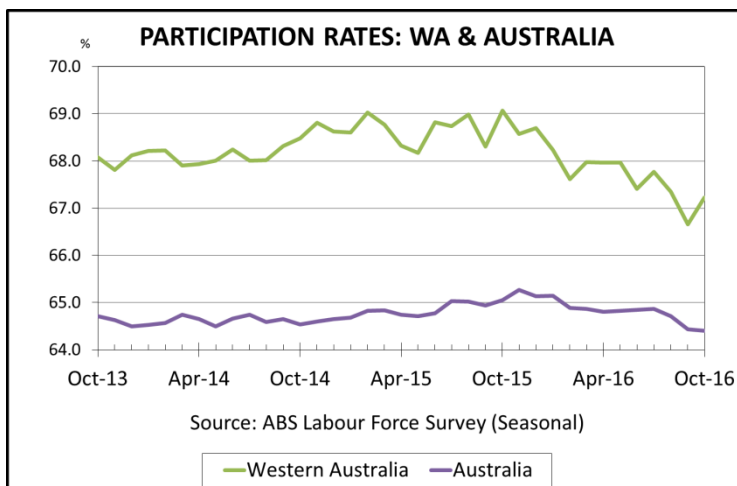
- The number of persons in full time employment in WA declined by 49,900 (or 5.27 %) over the year to stand at 896,700 in October 2016.
- Part time employment in WA increased by 26,900 persons over the year to stand at 436,400².
- In October 2016, the number of males employed full time in WA increased by 1,700 from the previous month. The number of females employed full time in WA increased by 2,200 over the same period.
- Full time employment nationally increased over the month by 41,500 persons, while part time employment decreased by 31,700 persons.



² Original Data

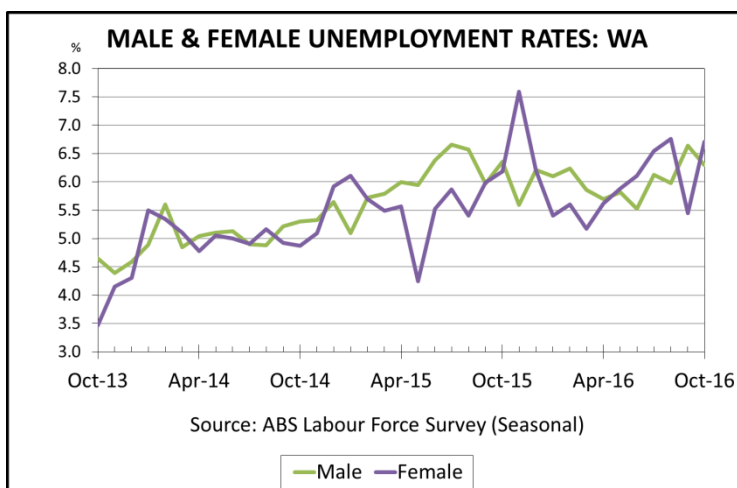
PARTICIPATION RATE

- The WA participation rate in October 2016 is 67.2%, a increase of 0.5 percentage points from the previous month.
- WA’s participation rate is currently 1.9 percentage points lower than that recorded one year ago.
- The male participation rate in Western Australia has decreased by 3.0 percentage points over the year, to 73.3 per cent in October 2016.



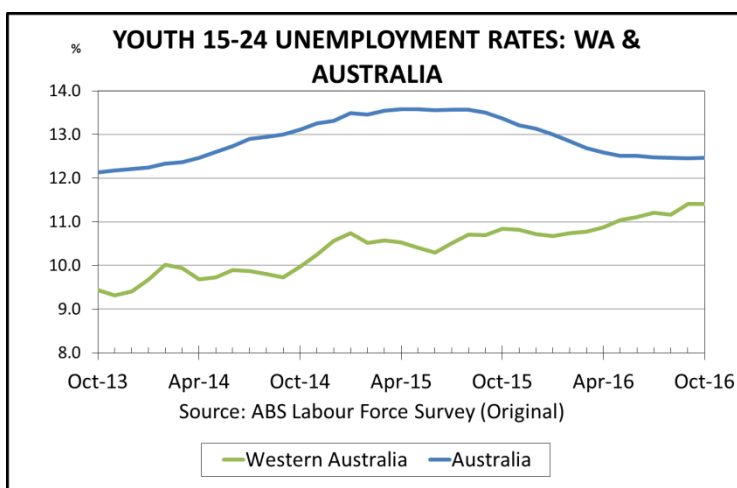
MALE AND FEMALE UNEMPLOYMENT

- The WA unemployment rate for males decreased by 0.3 percentage points from the previous month to stand at 6.3%. This compares to 6.4% one year ago.
- The WA unemployment rate for females increased by 1.3 percentage points from the previous month to stand at 6.7%. This compares to 6.2% one year ago.
- The WA unemployment rate for males is 0.8 percentage points higher than the national rate of 5.5%, while the WA unemployment rate for females is 1.1 percentage points higher than the national rate of 5.6%.



YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT (15-24 YEAR OLDS)³

- WA’s youth unemployment rate decreased from 11.41% in September 2016 to 11.40% in October 2016.⁴
- The WA participation rate for 15-24 year olds increased by 0.11 percentage points from the previous month to sit at 70.05 in September 2016.⁵
- The number of youth employed in WA has remained stable over the last 12 months. In September 2016, there were 210,333 15-24 year olds employed in WA compared to 208,183 in September 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, September 2016

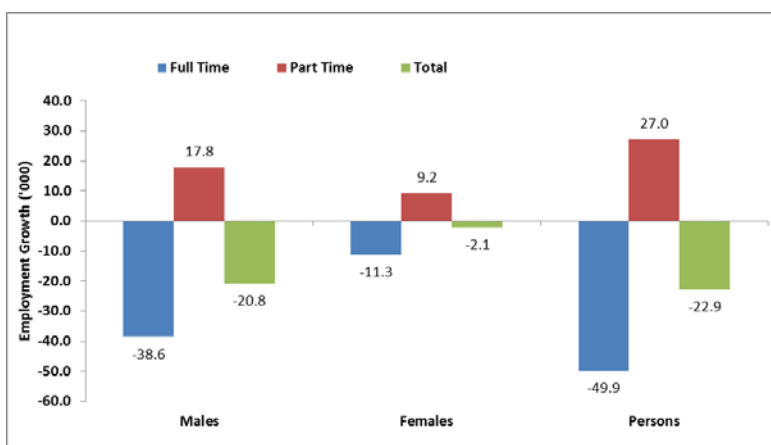
⁵ ABS 6291.0.55.001, 12 month moving average, August 2016

⁶ ABS 6291.0.55.001, 12 month moving average, August 2016

⁷ 12 Month average of Original data, ABS Cat: 6202.0, September 2016.

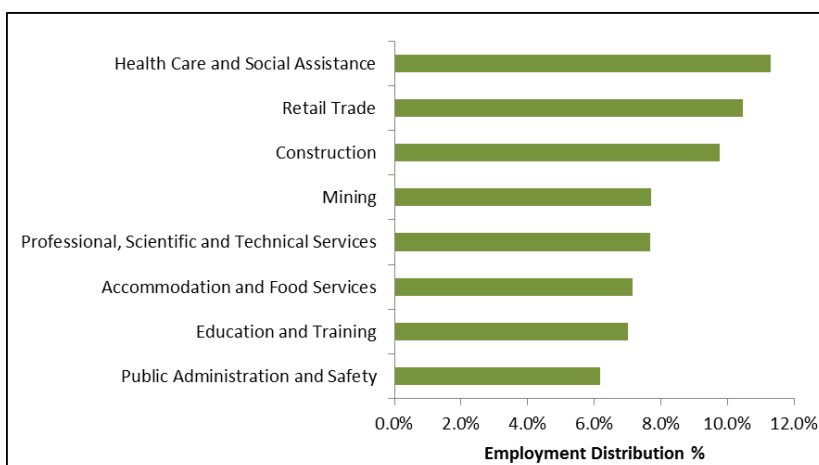
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH BY GENDER AND TYPE

- Over the year to October 2016, part time employment in WA increased by 27,000 persons.
 - Part time employment for females increased by 9,200 and by 17,800 for males.
- Over the same period, full time employment for males declined by 43,400 and full time employment for females declined by 13,500.



EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY⁸

- The three largest employing industries in WA are:
 - Health Care and Social Assistance (11.3%, ↓0.4 percentage points from May 2016).
 - Retail Trade (10.5% ↑ 0.3 percentage points from May 2016).
 - Construction (9.8%, ↓ 4.4 percentage points from May 2016).
- The Mining industry accounts for 7.7% of total employment in WA, ↓ 1.6 percentage points from May 2016.



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