



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 decreased by 20,200 persons (or 1.5 per cent) over the year, to 1,333,100 in December 2016, the largest decline over a calendar year (to December) on record.
- The level of **full-time employment** in Western Australia has fallen by 25,200 (or 2.7 per cent) over the year, to 906,600 in December 2016, the largest decline recorded over a calendar year (to December) since 2009.
- The level of **employment** in Western Australia has declined in eight of the last 12 months.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Employed Persons ('000)			
	Dec-15	Nov-16	Dec-16
WA	1,353.3	1,341.0	1,333.1
Australia	11,894.4	11,972.5	11,985.9

Employed ('000) by Employment Type			
	Dec-15	Nov-16	Dec-16
Full time	931.8	907.8	906.6
Part time (Original data)	418.3	433.2	426.5

Participation Rate (%)			
	Dec-15	Nov-16	Dec-16
WA	68.7	67.9	67.3
Australia	65.1	64.6	64.7

Unemployed Persons ('000)			
	Dec-15	Nov-16	Dec-16
WA	89.4	98.8	94.4
Australia	724.3	726.4	741.1

Unemployment Rate (%)			
	Dec-15	Nov-16	Dec-16
WA	6.2	6.9	6.6
Australia	5.7	5.7	5.8

National Youth Unemployment			
	Dec-15	Nov-16	Dec-16
Youth U/E rate 15-19 yrs (%)	17.2	18.1	18.2
Youth U/E 15-19 yrs ('000)	137.8	142.4	141.3
Youth U/E rate 15-24 yrs (%)	12.1	13.7	13.3
Youth U/E 15-24 yrs ('000)	257.5	287.1	279.8

TREND

Employed Persons ('000)			
	Dec-15	Nov-16	Dec-16
WA	1,349.3	1,332.3	1,333.2
Australia	11,881.2	11,958.6	11,966.8

WA Employed ('000)			
	Dec-15	Nov-16	Dec-16
Full time	933.1	900.9	902.2
Part time (Original data)	418.3	431.4	423.1

Participation Rate (%)			
	Dec-15	Nov-16	Dec-16
WA	68.4	67.3	67.4
Australia	65.1	64.6	64.6

Unemployed Persons ('000)			
	Dec-15	Nov-16	Dec-16
WA	87.4	94.5	95.9
Australia	737.6	722.5	725.7

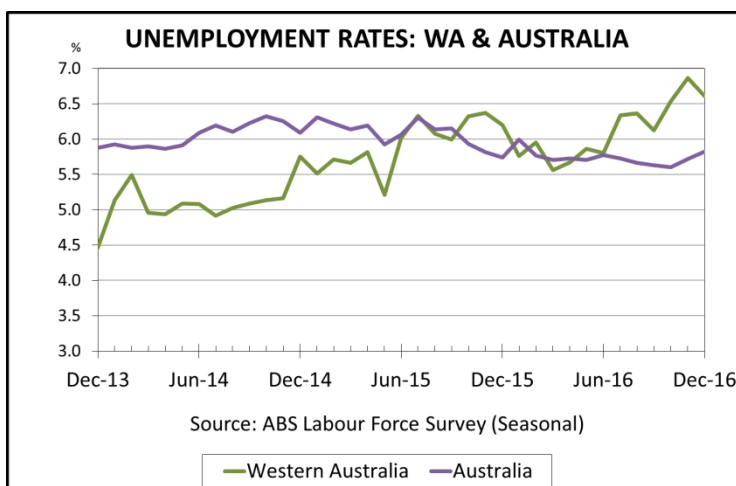
Unemployment Rate (%)			
	Dec-15	Nov-16	Dec-16
WA	6.1	6.6	6.7
Australia	5.8	5.7	5.7

National Youth Unemployment			
	Dec-15	Nov-16	Dec-16
Youth U/E rate 15-19 yrs (%)	17.6	17.7	17.8
Youth U/E 15-19 yrs ('000)	140.5	138.4	138.4
Youth U/E rate 15-24 yrs (%)	12.3	13.1	13.2
Youth U/E 15-24 yrs ('000)	259.2	275.3	276.3

¹ Seasonally adjusted data

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

- WA’s unemployment rate of 6.6% in December 2016 is 0.3 percentage points lower than the previous month, and is 0.4 percentage points higher than a year ago.
- WA’s unemployment rate is 0.8 percentage points above the national unemployment rate of 5.8%.



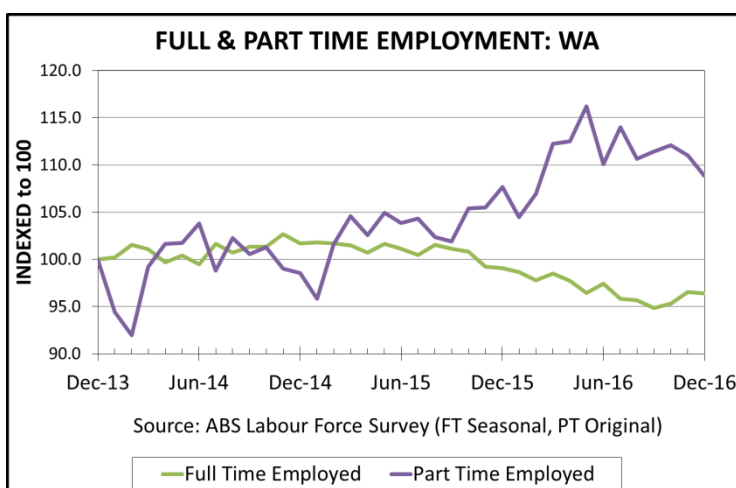
EMPLOYMENT

- The number of persons employed in WA decreased by 7,900 from the previous month to stand at 1,333,100 persons in December 2016.
- The number of persons employed in WA in December 2016 was 1.5% (20,200 persons) lower than one year ago.
- The total number of males employed in WA increased by 2,600 from the previous month, while the total number of employed females in WA decreased by 5,300 over the same period.



FULL TIME AND PART TIME EMPLOYMENT

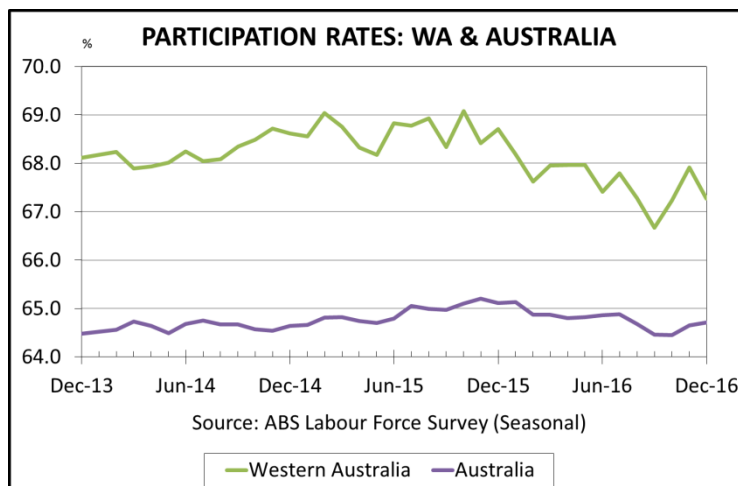
- The number of persons in full time employment in WA declined by 25,200 (or 2.7 %) over the year to stand at 906,600 in December 2016.
- Part time employment in WA increased by 4,800 persons over the year to stand at 423,100².
- In December 2016, the number of males employed full time in WA remained consistent with the previous month (602,900). The number of females employed full time in WA decreased by 1,200 over the same period.
- Full time employment nationally increased over the month by 9,300 persons, while part time employment increased by 4,200 persons.



² Original Data

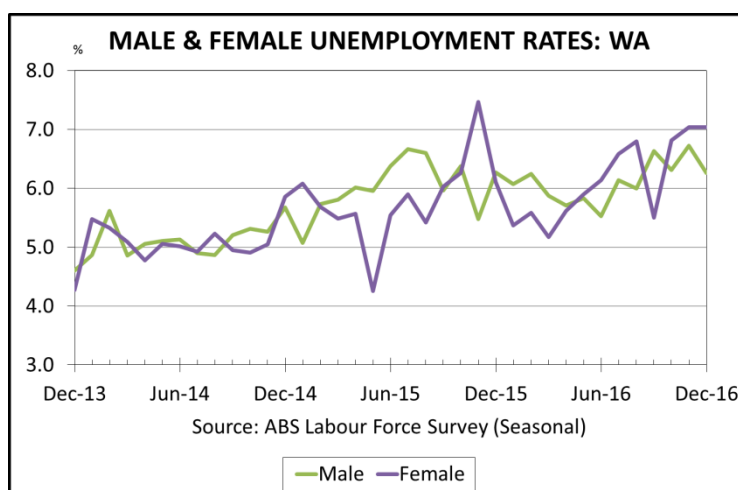
PARTICIPATION RATE

- The WA participation rate in December 2016 is 67.3%, a decrease of 0.6 percentage points from the previous month.
- WA’s participation rate is currently 1.4 percentage points lower than that recorded one year ago.
- The male participation rate in Western Australia has decreased by 2.64 percentage points over the year, to 73.7 per cent in December 2016.



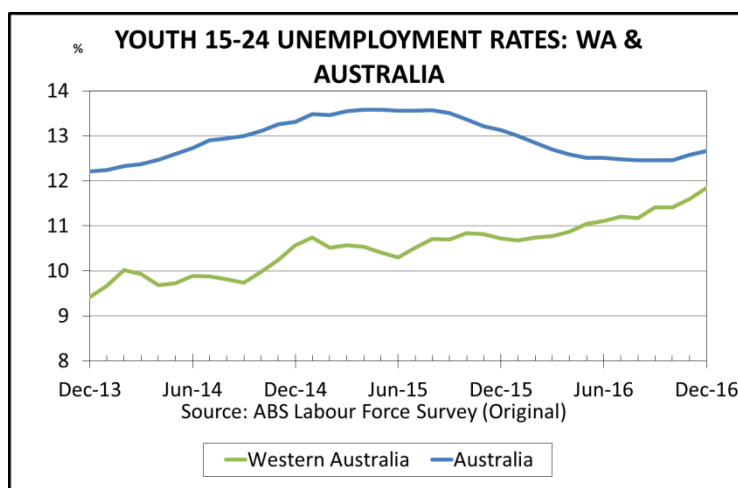
MALE AND FEMALE UNEMPLOYMENT

- The WA unemployment rate for males decreased by 0.4 percentage points from the previous month to stand at 6.3%.
- The WA unemployment rate for females was consistent with the previous month at 7.0%. This compares to 6.1% one year ago.
- The WA unemployment rate for males is 0.4 percentage points higher than the national rate of 5.9%, 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 11.6% in November 2016 to 11.8% in December 2016.⁴
- The WA participation rate for 15-24 year olds increased by 0.1 percentage points from the previous month to sit at 69.83% in November 2016.⁵
- The number of youth employed in WA has remained stable over the last 12 months. In November 2016, there were 208,958 15-24 year olds employed in WA compared to 208,525 in November 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, December 2016

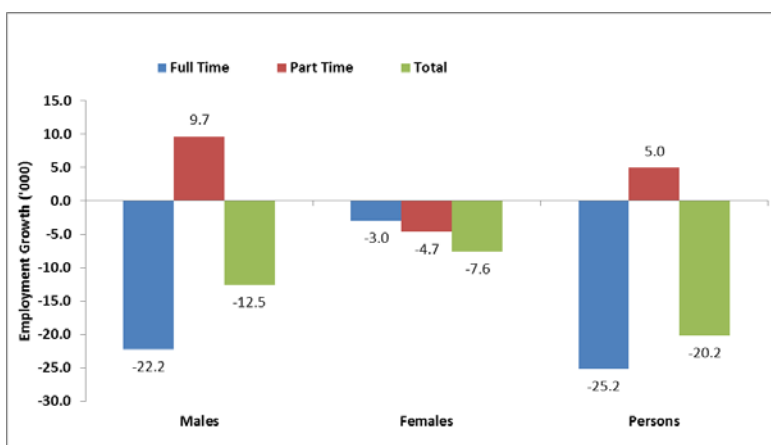
⁵ ABS 6291.0.55.001, 12 month moving average, November 2016

⁶ ABS 6291.0.55.001, 12 month moving average, November 2016

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

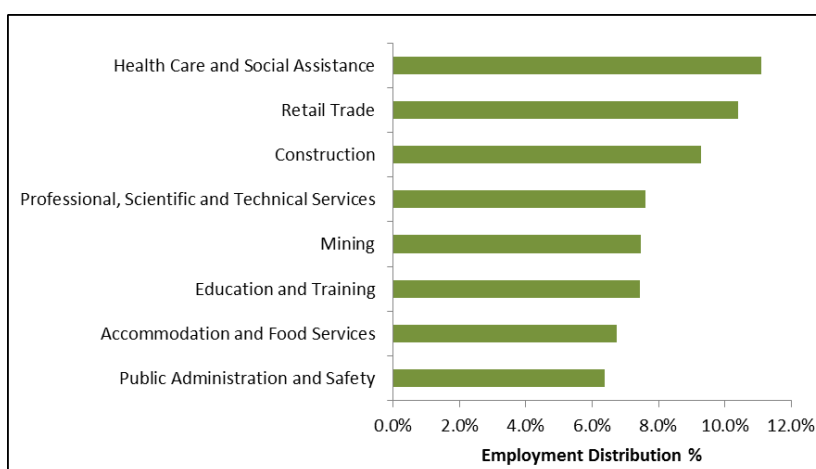
EMPLOYMENT GROWTH BY GENDER AND TYPE

- Over the year to December 2016, part time employment in WA increased by 5,000 persons.
 - Part time employment for females decreased by 4,700, and increased by 9,700 for males.
- Over the same period, full time employment for males declined by 22,200 and full time employment for females declined by 3,000 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.