



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 POINTS<sup>1</sup>

- 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 13,800 in February 2017, the largest monthly increase recorded in the State since July 2014.
- The State's **youth unemployment rate** has increased by 1.5 percentage points over the year, to stand at 12.3 per cent in February 2017, the highest rate recorded since February 2004.<sup>2</sup>

#### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

##### Employed Persons ('000)

	Feb-16	Jan-17	Feb-17
WA	1,338.0	1,347.6	1,342.1
Australia	11,894.2	12,005.3	11,998.8

##### Employed ('000) by Employment Type

	Feb-16	Jan-17	Feb-17
Full time	917.5	904.1	918.0
Part time (Original data)	415.6	443.5	424.1

##### Participation Rate (%)

	Feb-16	Jan-17	Feb-17
WA	67.6	67.8	67.2
Australia	64.9	64.6	64.6

##### Unemployed Persons ('000)

	Feb-16	Jan-17	Feb-17
WA	85.6	92.0	86.3
Australia	721.2	722.2	748.1

##### Unemployment Rate (%)

	Feb-16	Jan-17	Feb-17
WA	6.0	6.4	6.0
Australia	5.7	5.7	5.9

##### Youth Unemployment (15-24yrs, %)

	Feb-16	Jan-17	Feb-17
WA*	10.7	12.0	12.3
Australia^	12.8	12.6	12.7

\* 12 month moving average of original data

^ Trend data

#### TREND

##### Employed Persons ('000)

	Feb-16	Jan-17	Feb-17
WA	1,348.8	1,340.4	1,343.4
Australia	11,904.2	11,993.4	12,005.0

##### WA Employed ('000)

	Feb-16	Jan-17	Feb-17
Full time	923.7	908.9	912.1
Part time (Original data)	415.6	429.9	418.4

##### Participation Rate (%)

	Feb-16	Jan-17	Feb-17
WA	68.1	67.5	67.5
Australia	65.0	64.6	64.6

##### Unemployed Persons ('000)

	Feb-16	Jan-17	Feb-17
WA	83.7	92.0	91.2
Australia	728.3	733.8	738.9

##### Unemployment Rate (%)

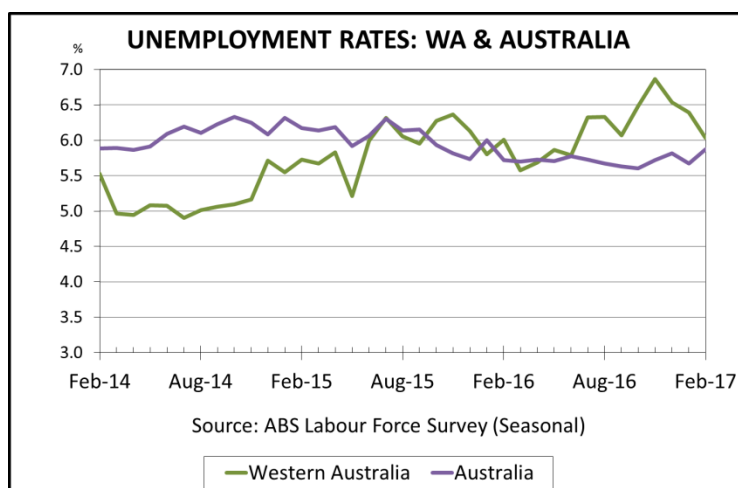
	Feb-16	Jan-17	Feb-17
WA	5.8	6.4	6.4
Australia	5.8	5.8	5.8

<sup>1</sup> Seasonally adjusted data

<sup>2</sup> 12 month moving average of original data

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

- WA’s unemployment rate of 6.0% in February 2017 is 0.4 percentage points lower than the previous month, and is consistent with the unemployment rate at the same time last year.
- WA’s unemployment rate is 0.1 percentage points above the national unemployment rate of 5.9%.



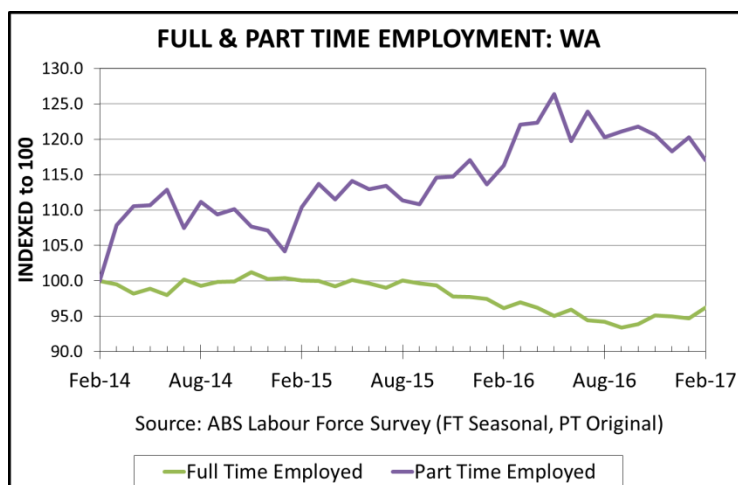
**EMPLOYMENT**

- The number of persons employed in WA decreased by 5,500 from the previous month to stand at 1,342,000 persons in February 2017.
- The number of persons employed in WA in February 2017 was 0.3% (4,100 persons) higher than one year ago.
- The total number of males employed in WA increased by 3,900 from the previous month, while the total number of employed females in WA decreased by 9,400 over the same period.



**FULL TIME AND PART TIME EMPLOYMENT**

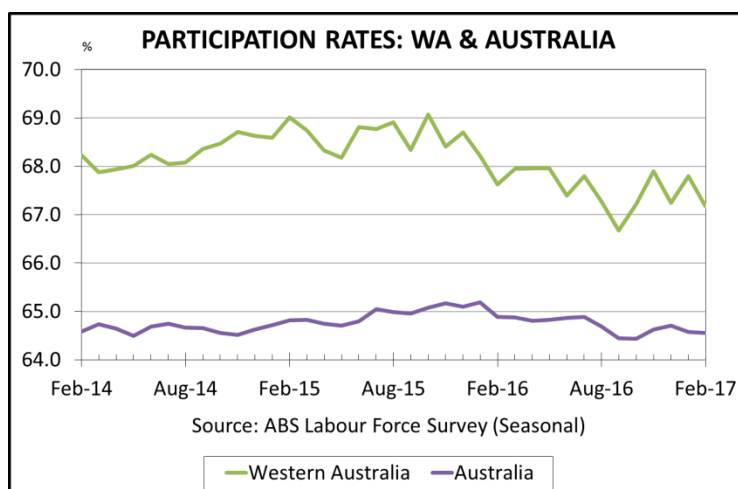
- The number of persons in full time employment in WA increased by 500 over the year to stand at 918,100 in February 2017.
- Part time employment in WA increased by 2,900 persons over the year to stand at 418,400<sup>3</sup>.
- In February 2017, the number of males employed full time in WA increased by 10,300 (or 1.7%) from the previous month (602,800). The number of females employed full time in WA increased by 3,600 over the same period.
- Full time employment nationally increased over the month by 27,100 persons, while part time employment decreased by 33,500 persons from the previous month.



<sup>3</sup> Original Data

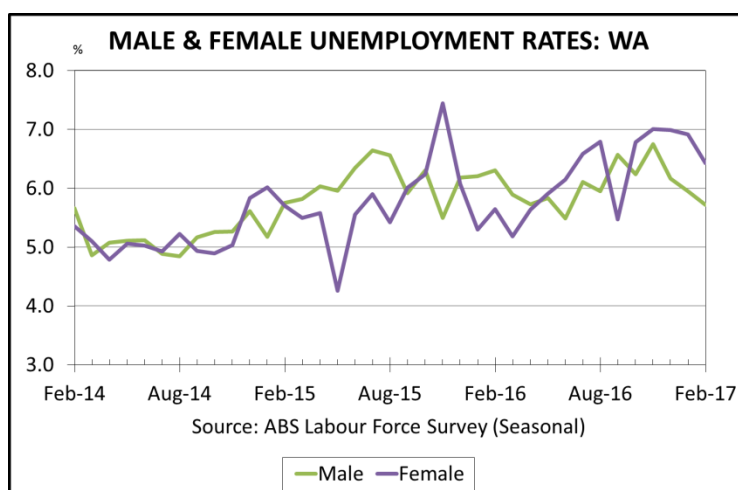
**PARTICIPATION RATE**

- The WA participation rate in February 2017 is 67.2%, a decrease 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 0.8 percentage points over the year, to 73.7 per cent in February 2017.



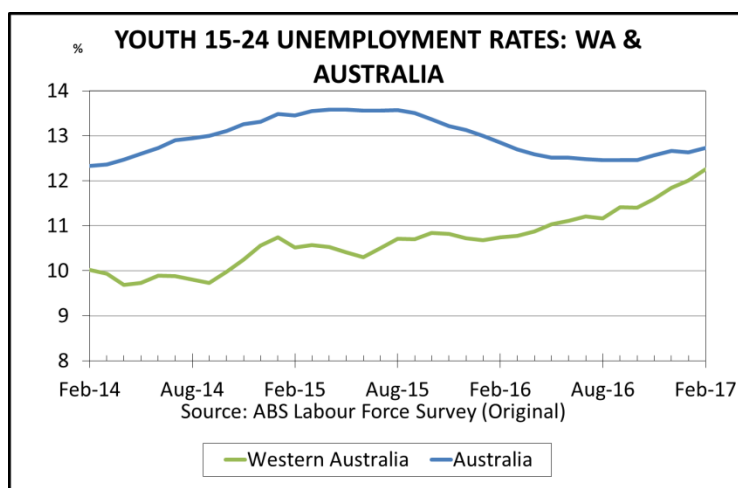
**MALE AND FEMALE UNEMPLOYMENT**

- The WA unemployment rate for males decreased by 0.2 percentage points from the previous month to stand at 5.7%.
- The WA unemployment rate for females decreased by 0.5 percentage points from the previous month to stand at 6.4%. This compares to 5.6% one year ago.
- The WA unemployment rate for males is 0.1 percentage points lower than the national rate of 5.8%, while the WA unemployment rate for females is 0.4 percentage points higher than the national rate of 6.0%.



**YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT (15-24 YEAR OLDS)<sup>4</sup>**

- WA’s youth unemployment rate increased from 12.0% in January 2017 to 12.25% in February 2017.<sup>5</sup>
- The WA participation rate for 15-24 year olds decreased by 0.2 percentage points from the previous month to sit at 69.5% in January 2017.<sup>6</sup>
- The number of youth employed in WA decreased by around 2,600 persons over the last 12 months. In January 2017, there were 206,900 15-24 year olds employed in WA compared to 209,500 in January 2016.<sup>7</sup>



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

<sup>5</sup> 12 Month average of Original data, ABS Cat: 6202.0, February 2017 release

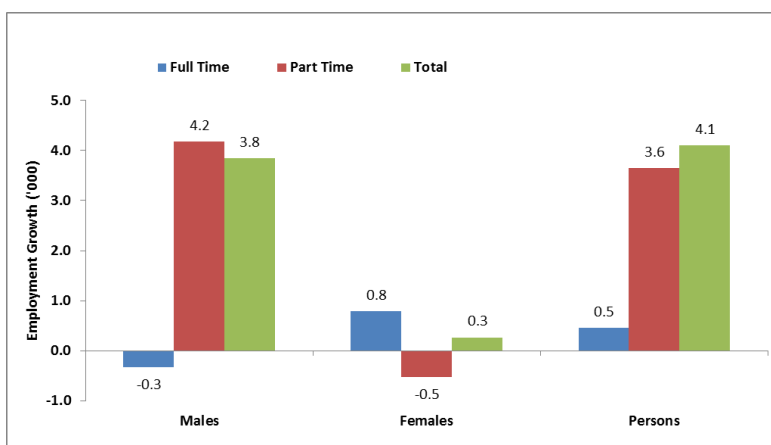
<sup>6</sup> ABS 6291.0.55.001, 12 month moving average, January 2017.

<sup>7</sup> ABS 6291.0.55.001, 12 month moving average, January 2017.

<sup>8</sup> 12 Month average of Original data, ABS Cat: 6202.0, February 2017 release.

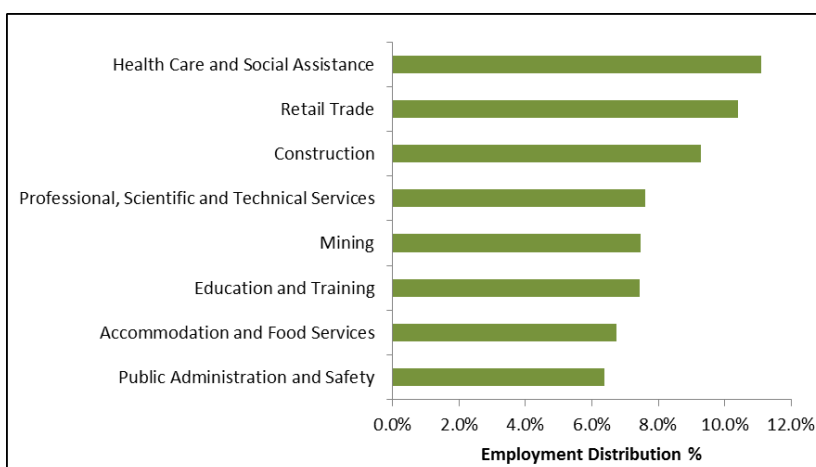
**EMPLOYMENT GROWTH BY GENDER AND TYPE**

- Over the year to February 2017, part time employment in WA increased by 3,600 persons.
  - Part time employment for females decreased by 500 and increased by 4,200 for males.
- Over the same period, full time employment for males declined by 300 and full time employment for females increased by 800 persons.



**EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY<sup>9</sup>**

- 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.



<sup>9</sup> Source: ABS Labour Force Survey, November 2016, Department of Employment trend.