



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

- Labour market conditions in Western Australia continue to strengthen.
- The level of **employment** in Western Australia has remained steady over the two months to August 2017, but increased by 32,800 (or 2.5 per cent) over the year.
 - The level of **full-time employment** in Western Australia increased by 36,600 (or 4.1 per cent) over the year.
 - Part-time employment** in Western Australia has declined by 3,700 (or 0.9 per cent) over the year.
- The State's **youth unemployment** rate has increased by almost 2.0 percentage points over the year, to stand at 13.1 per cent in August 2017. This is the highest rate recorded since February 2004.
- The level of **unemployment** in Western Australia has decreased by 3,900 (or 4.4 per cent) over the year, to 85,100 in August 2017. The State's unemployment rate has also fallen, from 6.3 per cent in August 2016, to 5.9 per cent over the same period.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Employed Persons ('000)			
	Aug-16	Jul-17	Aug-17
WA	1,330.6	1,363.5	1,363.4
Australia	11,943.3	12,214.7	12,269.0

Employed ('000) by Employment Type			
	Aug-16	Jul-17	Aug-17
Full time	899.7	941.9	936.2
Part time (Original data)	430.0	421.6	427.2

Participation Rate (%)			
	Aug-16	Jul-17	Aug-17
WA	67.2	67.7	68.0
Australia	64.6	65.1	65.3

Unemployed Persons ('000)			
	Aug-16	Jul-17	Aug-17
WA	89.1	77.7	85.1
Australia	719.7	728.5	727.5

Unemployment Rate (%)			
	Aug-16	Jul-17	Aug-17
WA	6.3	5.4	5.9
Australia	5.7	5.6	5.6

Youth Unemployment (15-24yrs, %)			
	Aug-16	Jul-17	Aug-17
WA*	11.2	12.9	13.1
Australia [^]	12.5	12.9	12.9

* 12 month moving average of original data

[^] Trend data

TREND

Employed Persons ('000)			
	Aug-16	Jul-17	Aug-17
WA	1,332.3	1,363.7	1,366.6
Australia	11,942.2	12,222.4	12,249.5

WA Employed ('000)			
	Aug-16	Jul-17	Aug-17
Full time	898.1	940.4	941.2
Part time (Original data)	430.0	423.8	426.4

Participation Rate (%)			
	Aug-16	Jul-17	Aug-17
WA	67.3	67.9	68.0
Australia	64.6	65.1	65.2

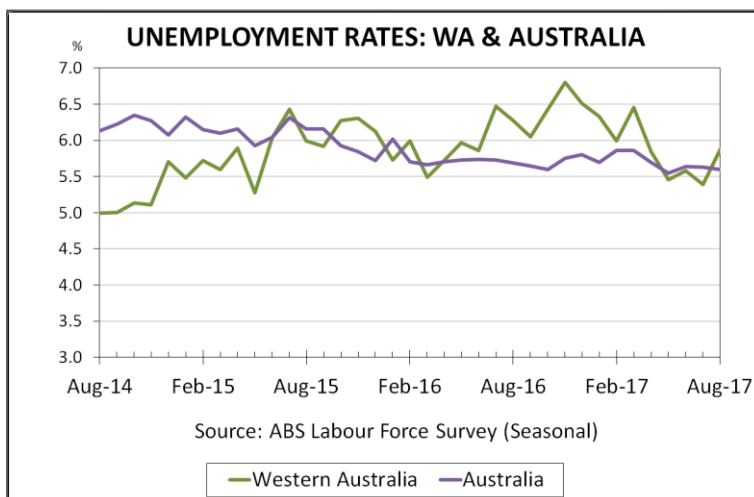
Unemployed Persons ('000)			
	Aug-16	Jul-17	Aug-17
WA	89.2	80.3	80.1
Australia	720.0	725.3	723.2

Unemployment Rate (%)			
	Aug-16	Jul-17	Aug-17
WA	6.3	5.6	5.5
Australia	5.7	5.6	5.6

¹ Seasonally adjusted data

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

- The level of unemployment in Western Australia has decreased by 6.3 per cent over the year.
- WA’s unemployment rate has also fallen, from 6.3 per cent in August 2016 to 5.9 per cent in August 2017.
- WA’s unemployment rate is currently 0.3 percentage points above the national unemployment rate of 5.6%.



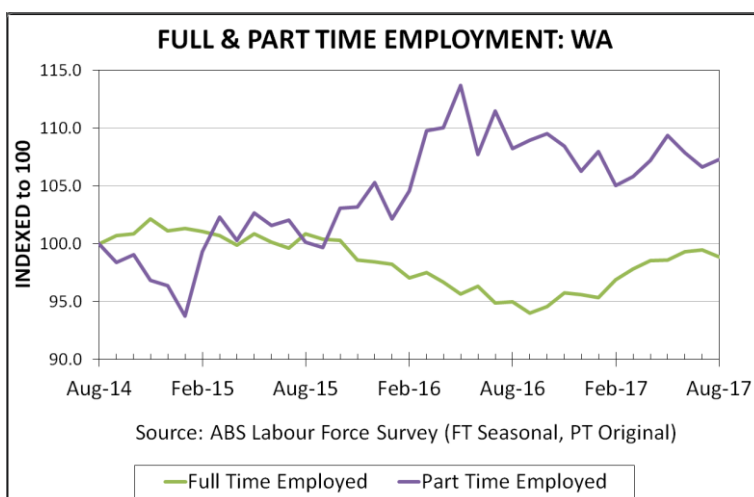
EMPLOYMENT

- Labour market conditions in Western Australia continue to strengthen.
- The level of employment in Western Australia increased by 32,800 (or 2.5 per cent) over the year, to stand at 1,363,400 in August 2017.
- The total number of males employed in WA has increased by 15,700 (or 2.2 per cent) over the year. The number of females employed has increased by 17,100 (or 2.8 per cent) over the same period.
- While male employment is up over the year, over the month it decreased by 3,800. Female employment increased by 3,700 during this same period.



FULL TIME AND PART TIME EMPLOYMENT

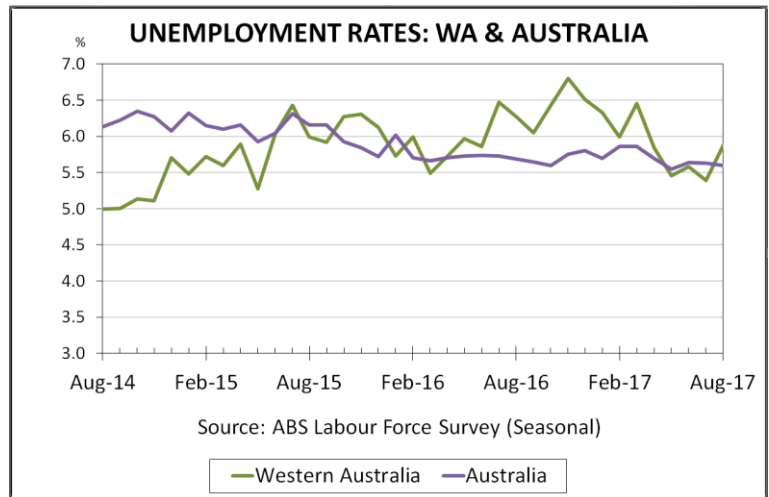
- Over the year, persons in full-time employment increased by 36,600 (or 4.1 per cent), to stand at 936,200.
- Full time employment has increased for both males and females, rising by 13,700 and 22,900 respectively over the past 12 months.
- Persons in part-time employment declined over the year, 3,700 (or 0.9 per cent), to 427,200 in August 2017.²
- The decline in part-time employment over the year has been driven by a 5.6 per cent decrease in female part-time employment.



² Original data.

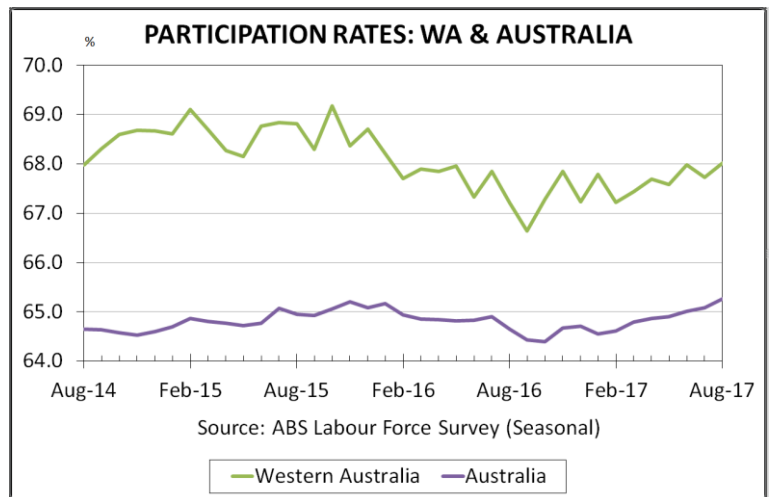
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

- The level of unemployment in Western Australia has decreased by 6.3 per cent over the year.
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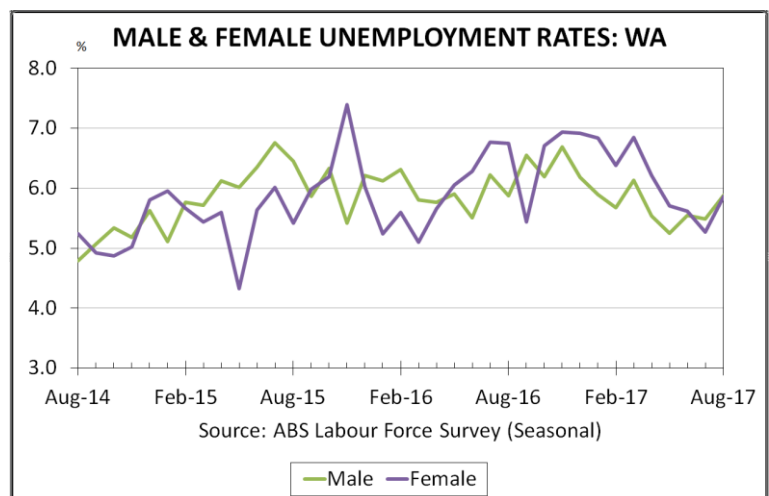
PARTICIPATION RATE

- The participation rate in Western Australia has increased by 1.21 per cent from 67.2 per cent in August 2016, to 68 per cent in August 2017. The national participation rate is 65.3 per cent.
- Participation rates for males and females in WA sit at 74.2 per cent and 61.8 per cent respectively.
- Nationally, participation rates sit at 70.7 per cent for males and 60.0 per cent for females.



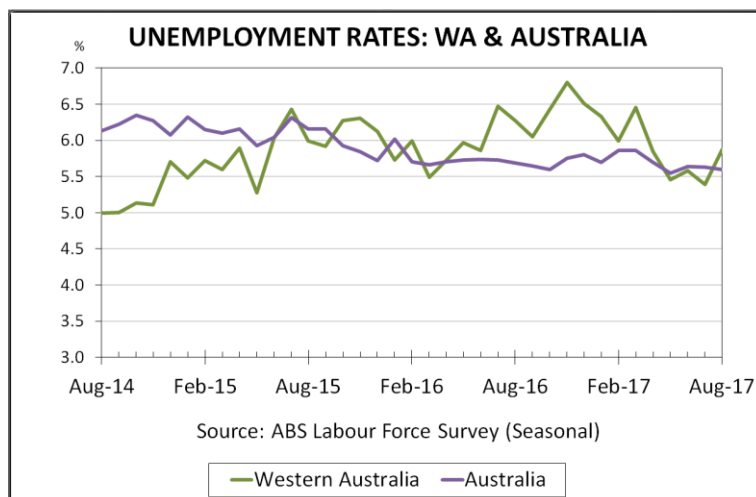
MALE AND FEMALE UNEMPLOYMENT

- The WA unemployment rate for males increased by 0.4 percentage points from the previous month to stand at 5.9 per cent. August 2016 also recorded a male unemployment rate of 5.9 per cent.
- The WA unemployment rate for females decreased by 0.6 percentage points from the previous month to stand at 5.9 per cent. This compares to 6.8 per cent one year ago.
- Nationally, male unemployment sits at 5.5 per cent. Female unemployment sits at 5.7 per cent.



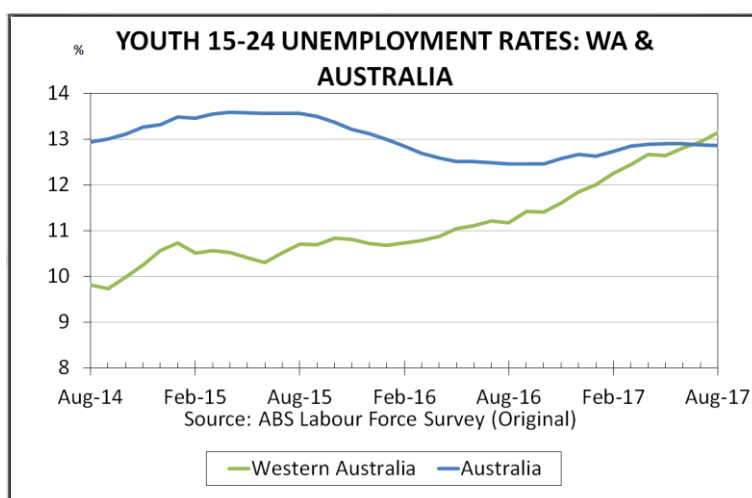
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

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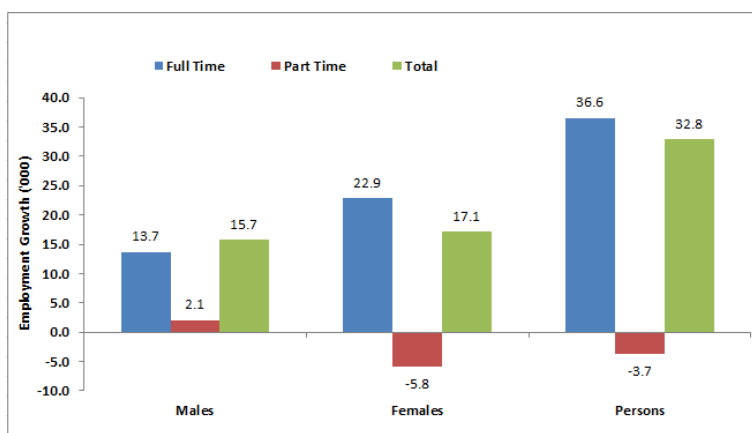
YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT (15-24 YEAR OLDS)³

- WA’s youth unemployment rate increased by nearly 2.0 percentage points over the year to 13.1 per cent in August 2017.
- This is the highest rate recorded in WA since February 2004 and now sits above the national rate.
- Youth unemployment has been trending upwards since late 2014, and last sat around the current level in early 2002.



EMPLOYMENT GROWTH BY GENDER AND TYPE

- Overall employment in WA has increased by 32,800 over the past 12 months. This increase has been driven by an increase in full time employment.
 - Full time employment has grown by 36,600 while part time employment has decreased by 3,700.
 - The growth in full time employment has occurred for both males and females. A greater number of females moved into full time employment compared to males.
 - The overall decline in part time employment can be attributed to a decrease in the level of female part time employment. Male part time employment increased by 2,100 over the year to August 2017.



³ 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.

