



BCEC

Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre

LABOUR MARKET UPDATE

Providing monthly updates and expert insights and analysis around key labour market indicators.

Professor Alan Duncan



National employment could well hit 13 million by Christmas... but what type of jobs?

We asked in an [earlier update](#) whether enough jobs could be created to hit Prime Minister Scott Morrison's target of 1.25 million more jobs over the next five years. It's far too early to say whether this target will be hit, but the latest ABS labour force data at least show we're off to a good start.

There were just over 12.9 million people employed across Australia in August 2019, up by 22,000 in the last month and by nearly 315,000 over the year. If last month's trend employment growth continues at the same rate, we'll hit 13 million by Christmas. At face value, these seem like pretty good figures and a little at variance with the more pessimistic view of the economy put forward by a fair share of commentators. So where's the disconnect?

Employment may be rising, but the faster rate of jobs growth is in part-time work (up 2.8% over the year) and in service sector roles. A greater share of women are securing full-time positions, but the same can't be said of men. Male full-time jobs growth is at best modest, and flat in the two mining states of WA and QLD. And underemployment has fallen for women but risen for men. This adds up to fewer hours per job, with average monthly hours falling 1.4 hours to 137.7 over the year.

We must ensure that new jobs are matched to workers' aspirations for quality, hours and pay.

Twitter: [@Alan_S_Dunc](#)

Email: alan.duncan@curtin.edu.au

Associate Professor Rebecca Cassells



Public sector holding the labour force.....and the economy up

The latest ABS labour force release has shown that 2 out of 3 jobs created over the last 12 months have been in the [public sector](#). The sector has added an extra 210,000 workers, with employment growth five times that of national rates over the last year – 12.7% compared to 2.5%.

The public sector is traditionally viewed as a "non-market" sector, consisting of Public Administration & Safety, Health Care and Social Assistance and Education & Training. Public Admin & Safety is the standout, ranking among the top industry performers in NSW, Vic, Qld and Tassie. And while women make up more than two-thirds of workers in the sector, growth rates have been similar for both genders, and across both full-time and part-time jobs – all around the 13% mark.

Private sector employment growth on the other hand is weak to say the least – averaging just under 1% over the last 12 months. Manufacturing, Construction and Retail Trade are among the weakest sectors, all recording an absolute loss in workers.

We also know that government expenditure has been adding the most to [state final demand](#) in recent times, and while investment in infrastructure and the non-market sector is no doubt needed, how long the public sector can continue to hold the economy up without some support from the market sector is another question.

Twitter: [@BeckCassells](#)

Email: rebecca.cassells@curtin.edu.au

Dr Daniel Kiely



Mining sector jobs on the rise in WA...along with a growing demand for STEM workers

The most recent ABS quarterly labour market statistics are now supporting anecdotal reports coming from the Mining sector that the pick-up of economic activity is translating into renewed employment growth. Using a trend calculation of changes in the number of jobs in each industry sector, Mining in WA added 13,000 new jobs over the year to August 2019. This represents the largest annual employment growth across all industry sectors in the state. Advertised vacancies in WA have risen overall in the last twelve months, with growth of 9.6% and 9.4% respectively in vacancies for Professionals, and Machinery Operators and Drivers. However, the Construction sector continues to struggle in WA, with 9,700 fewer jobs over the year.

Employment in the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services sector is improving for a number of the larger states, but particularly in NSW (up 34,800 since August 2018), VIC (up 28,000) and WA (up 12,200). This provides support for a number of strategies being implemented across the country to promote STEM skills to meet growing industry demands.

Twitter: [@Daniel_F_Kiely](#)

Email: daniel.kiely@curtin.edu.au

Table 1: Employment changes - states and territories

The number of people employed in Australia rose to 12.92 million in August 2019, an increase of 2.5% from the previous year. Over the last month, employment has increased by 22,000 nationally, with NSW and VIC being the two largest contributors with increases of 10,600 and 7,500 respectively. NSW and VIC are also the top performers in relative terms, boasting strong employment growth of 3.3% and 3.2% respectively over the last 12 months, significantly higher than other states. Employment has increased in all states and territories in the last month. Over the year, only TAS and the NT have experienced a fall in employment, 4.6% for the NT and 0.9% for TAS.

Nationally, part-time employment has experienced stronger growth (+14,700) over the past month than full-time employment (+7,200).

Part-time employment has increased in all states over the month except for QLD and SA who experienced marginal decreases. Over the month, VIC, NSW and WA experienced the largest increases in the number of people employed part time, up 6,100, 4,900, and 5,200 respectively. In percentage terms, WA experienced the largest increase over the month by far (+1.2%). Full-time employment over the month increased in all states and territories but WA (-2,000) and the ACT (-500). In the year to August 2019, part-time employment rose in all states, with the NT seeing the largest percentage increase of 10.7%, and VIC, the ACT, TAS, NSW and WA also seeing strong growth. The NT and TAS were the only two regions to experience a decrease in full-time employment over the year, -8.4% for NT and -3.6% for TAS. Total employment in NT and TAS decreased by a smaller amount due to large increases in part-time employment over the year partly offsetting decreases in full-time employment.

	Employed Persons ('000)	Change from:				Change from July 2019 ('000)		Change (%) from August 2018	
	August 2019	July 2019 ('000)	Rank	August 2018(%)	Rank	Full-Time	Part-time	Full-Time	Part-time
Australia	12,921.1	▲ +22.0	---	▲ +2.5%	---	+7.2	+14.7	▲ +2.4%	▲ +2.8%
NSW	4,159.5	▲ +10.6	1	▲ +3.3%	1	+5.7	+4.9	▲ +3.4%	▲ +3.1%
VIC	3,411.7	▲ +7.5	2	▲ +3.2%	2	+1.4	+6.1	▲ +2.6%	▲ +4.6%
QLD	2,533.4	▲ +4.9	3	▲ +2.0%	3	+5.2	-0.3	▲ +2.9%	▲ +0.1%
SA	855.4	▲ +0.2	8	▲ +1.5%	5	+0.4	-0.2	▲ +1.5%	▲ +1.6%
WA	1,358.8	▲ +3.2	4	▲ +1.3%	6	-2.0	+5.2	▲ +0.1%	▲ +3.7%
TAS	248.6	▲ +0.4	6	▼ -0.5%	7	+0.1	+0.2	▼ -3.6%	▲ +4.6%
NT	129.5	▲ +0.4	6	▼ -4.6%	8	+0.2	+0.2	▼ -8.4%	▲ +10.7%
ACT	232.2	▲ +0.8	5	▲ +1.9%	4	-0.5	+1.3	▲ +0.7%	▲ +5.0%

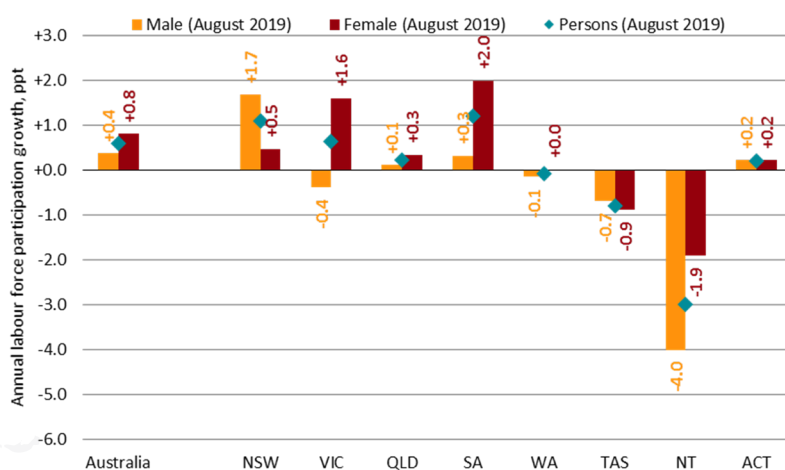
Source: BANKWEST CURTIN ECONOMICS CENTRE | Australian Bureau of Statistics Cat No 6202.0

Notes: Trend values are used. Numbers may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Figure 1: Growth in labour force participation – states and territories

The national labour force participation rate (LFPR) has seen a small positive change in the year to August 2019 (+0.6ppt), with women experiencing an increase two times larger than men (0.8ppt compared to 0.4ppt). NSW, QLD, SA and the ACT all recorded positive changes in the LFPR for both genders, with NSW seeing the largest increase for men (+1.7ppt) and SA seeing the largest increase for women (+2.0ppt). VIC saw a large increase in the female LFPR (+1.6ppt), but a small decrease in the male LFPR (-0.4ppt), being the only state where the LFPR for both genders moved in opposite directions.

In WA the LFPR for women remained the same, but decreased marginally (-0.1ppt) for men. TAS and the NT are the only two states and territories to experience reductions in the LFPR for both genders. TAS saw moderate reductions for both men and women (-0.7ppt and -0.9ppt), while the NT saw significant reductions for men and women (-4.0ppt and -1.9ppt). Although the LFPR for women has been increasing by more than men, the total LFPR for men is still slightly over 10% larger.



Source: BANKWEST CURTIN ECONOMICS CENTRE | Australian Bureau of Statistics Cat No 6202.0

Notes: Trend values are used. Figures show growth from August 2018 to August 2019.

Table 2: Unemployment changes –states and territories

The national trend unemployment rate (u/e rate) has remained unchanged over the month and year at 5.3%. There are just under 715,700 unemployed people across Australia, up by 22,200 compared to a year ago. This represents an increase of less than 0.04%.

ACT continues to hold the lowest u/e rate across states and territories (3.5%), with NSW having the second lowest (4.5%). The highest u/e rate has switched from QLD to SA, the latter experiencing an increase of 1.3ppts over the year, leading to an u/e rate of 6.8% in August 2019. In the last month, QLD and the NT have seen a 0.1ppt increase in their u/e rate, and SA has seen a slightly larger increase of 0.2ppts. WA's u/e rate decreased by 0.1ppt and all other states and territories remained the same.

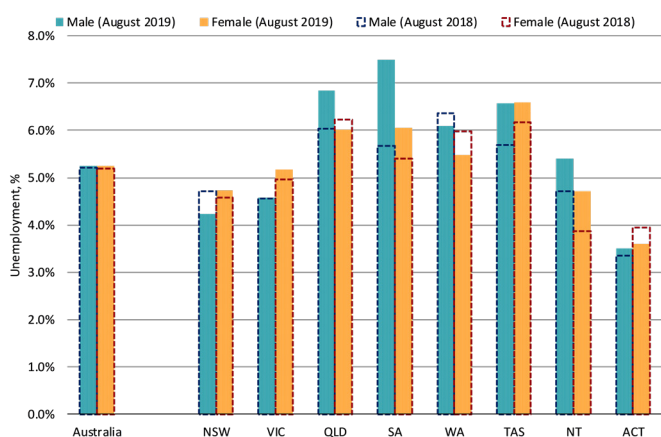
Over the last year, SA has experienced the largest increase in unemployment (+1.3%), with around 13,000 more people unemployed than a year ago. In relative terms the NT and TAS both experienced large u/e rate increases of 0.8ppts and 0.7ppts respectively. In absolute terms, VIC and QLD were two of the largest contributors to the national increase in the number of unemployed over the year, with increases of 9,600 and 12,200 unemployed persons respectively. Only the ACT, WA and NSW have seen reductions in the number of unemployed in the year to August 2019.

	Unemployment Rate		Change (ppt) from:		Unemployed ('000)	Change ('000) from:	
	August 2019	Rank	July 2019	August 2018		July 2019	August 2018
Australia	5.3%	--	0.0	+0.0	715.7	▲ +2.7	▲ +22.2
NSW	4.5%	2	0.0	▼ -0.2	194.8	▼ -0.5	▼ -1.5
VIC	4.9%	3	0.0	▲ +0.1	174.3	▲ +1.6	▲ +9.6
QLD	6.4%	6	▲ +0.1	▲ +0.3	174.4	▲ +2.3	▲ +12.2
SA	6.8%	8	▲ +0.2	▲ +1.3	62.4	▲ +2.0	▲ +13.0
WA	5.8%	5	▼ -0.1	▼ -0.4	83.8	▼ -0.8	▼ -4.7
TAS	6.6%	7	0.0	▲ +0.7	17.7	0.0	▲ +1.9
NT	5.1%	4	▲ +0.1	▲ +0.8	6.8	▲ +0.1	▲ +0.6
ACT	3.5%	1	0.0	▼ -0.1	8.5	0.0	▼ -0.1

Source: BANKWEST CURTIN ECONOMICS CENTRE | Australian Bureau of Statistics Cat No 6202.0

Notes: Trend values are used.

Figure 2: Unemployment rate by gender – states and territories



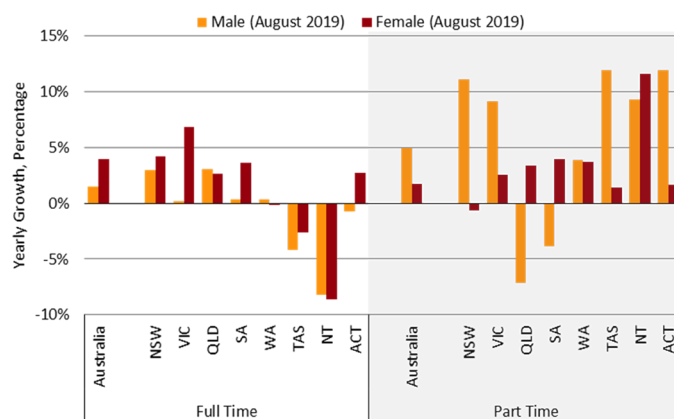
Source: BANKWEST CURTIN ECONOMICS CENTRE | Australian Bureau of Statistics Cat No 6202.0
Notes: Trend values are used.

National u/e rates have remained mostly unchanged for both genders over the year to August 2019, with both men and women having u/e rates slightly over 5%. At the state and territory level however, there are some contrasting patterns between genders. Female u/e rates rose significantly in SA, TAS and the NT over the year to August 2019, up 0.6ppt, 0.4ppt and 0.85ppt respectively. In NSW and VIC female u/e rates experienced a marginal increase. In QLD, WA and the ACT female u/e rates have decreased, with WA experiencing the largest decrease (-0.5ppt).

Men experienced the largest increase in u/e rates in SA (up 1.8ppt), with significant increases in QLD, TAS and the NT (up 0.8ppt, 0.9ppt and 0.7ppt). NSW saw the largest decrease in male u/e rates, down 0.5ppt and WA saw a marginal decrease of 0.3ppt. In VIC and the ACT male u/e rates remained relatively unchanged.

SA, TAS and the NT all saw increases in the u/e rate for both genders. WA was the only state to exhibit a contrasting trend with the u/e rate for both men and women falling over the last 12 months. The other states and territories showed u/e rates between genders moving in different directions.

Figure 3: Yearly growth in full-time and part-time employment by gender



Source: BANKWEST CURTIN ECONOMICS CENTRE | Australian Bureau of Statistics Cat No 6202
Notes: Trend values are used – Figures show growth from August 2018 to August 2019.

Full-time employment over the year to August 2019 increased for both genders in NSW, VIC, QLD, and SA. QLD saw the strongest growth in full-time employment for men (+3.6%), while VIC saw the strongest growth in full-time employment for women (+6.8%). NSW, QLD, and SA also saw strong growth in full-time employment among women (+4.2%, +2.6% and +3.6%), while NSW was the only state apart from QLD to register strong growth in full-time male employment (+3.0%). TAS and the NT were the only two jurisdictions to see full-time employment fall both genders, with TAS seeing reductions of 4.1% and 2.6% respectively for men and women, while NT faced far larger reductions of 8.2% and 8.6%.

The increase in national part-time employment among men has largely been driven by the significant growth in NSW and VIC (up by 11.1% and 9.1% respectively). The three smallest states and territories; TAS, NT and the ACT also experienced increases in part-time employment for men, rising 11.9% over the year for both the ACT and TAS, and by 9.3% for the NT. Noticeably, female part-time employment either increased only marginally, or decreased in these areas, with the exception of the NT which saw the largest increase in female part-time employment (+11.6%).

QLD and SA were the main outliers to this trend, with part-time jobs among men falling by 7.1% and 3.9% respectively. Although part-time employment for women increased by a far lower amount nationally, only NSW actually experienced a decrease in part-time employment among women.

Table 3: Annual percentage growth in Internet Vacancy Index (IVI)

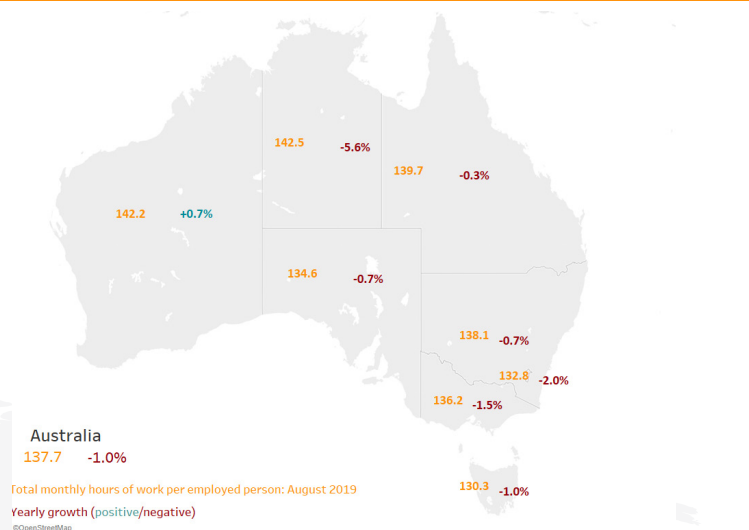
	Australia	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	ACT
Managers	▼ -9.0%	▼ -14.9%	▼ -7.7%	▼ -2.3%	▼ -3.8%	▼ -3.7%	▲ +12.1%
Professionals	▲ +0.4%	▼ -6.6%	▼ -4.0%	▲ +6.0%	▲ +19.9%	▲ +9.5%	▲ +11.6%
Technicians And Trades Workers	▼ -10.7%	▼ -14.5%	▼ -12.4%	▼ -10.6%	▼ -6.3%	▼ -1.4%	▲ +5.3%
Community And Personal Service Workers	▲ +5.2%	▼ -2.8%	▲ +7.1%	▲ +8.7%	▲ +11.8%	▲ +7.7%	▲ +25.5%
Clerical And Administrative Workers	▼ -10.3%	▼ -18.0%	▼ -8.5%	▼ -3.2%	▼ -2.3%	▲ +0.5%	▲ +14.1%
Sales Workers	▼ -12.0%	▼ -15.4%	▼ -11.1%	▼ -8.3%	▼ -0.3%	▼ -11.9%	▲ +0.6%
Machinery Operators And Drivers	▼ -16.0%	▼ -23.7%	▼ -20.4%	▼ -19.5%	▼ -11.1%	▲ +9.4%	▼ -0.1%
Labourers	▼ -10.2%	▼ -14.3%	▼ -13.1%	▼ -6.3%	▼ -5.5%	▼ -7.1%	▲ +10.3%
Total	▼ -6.0%	▼ -12.1%	▼ -7.4%	▼ -2.6%	▲ +3.1%	▲ +1.6%	▲ +11.9%

Source: BANKWEST CURTIN ECONOMICS CENTRE | Australian Government, Department of Jobs and Small Business – Labour Market Information Portal

Notes: Trend indices are used. Percentage changes over the year to August 2019. The IVI is constructed using counts of new online job advertisements posted on SEEK, CareerOne and Australian JobSearch each month.

The Internet Vacancy Index (IVI) looks at trends in newly-advertised online job vacancies for different occupations, and provides some useful insights into changing labour demands across Australia. The IVI data for August 2019 reveal a general pattern of decline in advertised vacancies for operators, drivers, trades and lower skilled roles, particularly for Machinery Operators and Drivers (down 16% nationally over the year to August 2019). WA is the only state to buck this trend, with vacancies for operators and drivers rising 9.4% over the year. There has also been a systematic drop in advertised vacancies for Sales Workers (down 12%), Technicians and Trades Workers (down 10.7%) and Labourers (down 10.2%). On the other hand, demand for Community and Personal Service Workers has risen pretty consistently across states and territories, driven largely by a rise in vacancies for health workers, carers and aides. We see something of a divide between the larger eastern states and the rest of the country, with advertised vacancies falling overall in Vic, QLD and NSW (down 12.1%, 7.4% and 6% respectively) but rising in SA (up 3.1% over the year to August 2019) and WA (up 1.6%). But ACT tops all other jurisdictions, with IVI growth of 11.9% over the year.

Figure 4: Monthly hours of work - states and territories

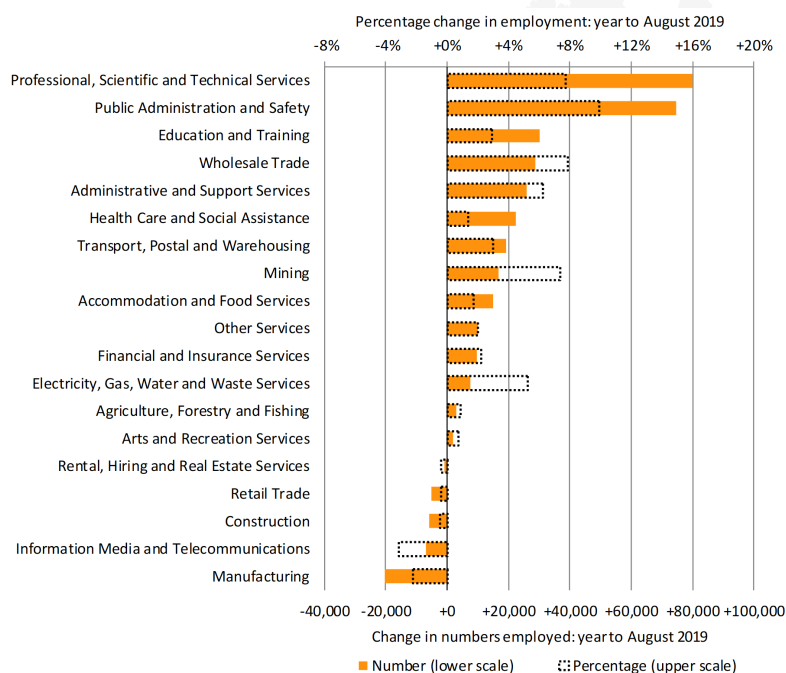


Source: BANKWEST CURTIN ECONOMICS CENTRE | Australian Bureau of Statistics Cat No 6202.0
Notes: Figure shows average monthly hours worked per employee, along with the associated percentage change in monthly hours between August 2018 to August 2019. For states and territories, values are smoothed using a 13-month rolling average. Percentages are rounded.

The average number of hours worked per month fell by just over 1% nationally to 137.7 hours over the year to August 2019. WA was the only state to see an increase in monthly hours, rising by around 1 hour per month since August 2018 (up 0.7%). The NT experienced the largest decrease, with hours per worker falling by over 8 hours per month since August last year (down 5.6%). VIC and the ACT also recorded relatively large decreases in hours worked, falling by 1.5% and 2% respectively. All other states experienced decreases of under 1%. In absolute terms, the NT recorded the highest number of hours worked at 142.5, despite experiencing the largest decrease over the year. The large decrease in hours worked in the NT can be attributed to part-time employment increasing substantially for both genders, and full-time employment falling for both genders. WA was slightly below the NT with an average of 142.2 hours being worked per employee each month. All other states and territories recorded average monthly hours per employee below 140, with TAS and the ACT recording the lowest hours worked (130.3 and 132.8 respectively).

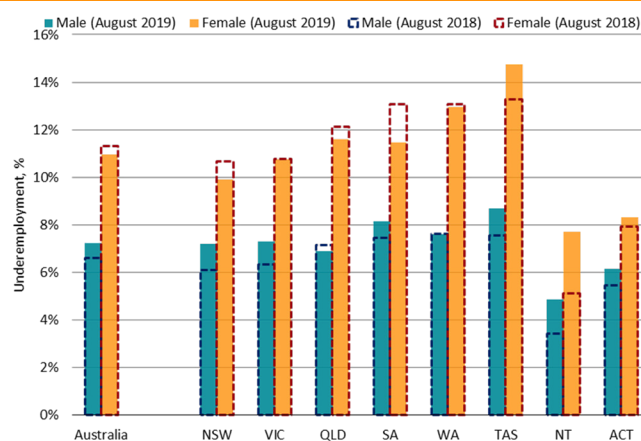
This result is largely driven by two key changes. First is the growing share of men working part-time nationwide. Second is the growing share of women working full-time, who in general, work fewer hours than men.

Figure 6: Growth in total employment by industry



Source: BANKWEST CURTIN ECONOMICS CENTRE | Australian Bureau of Statistics Cat No 6291.0.55.003
Notes: Values are smoothed using a five period moving average.

Figure 5: Underemployment ratio by gender - states and territories



Source: BANKWEST CURTIN ECONOMICS CENTRE | Australian Bureau of Statistics Cat No 6202.0
Notes: Values are smoothed using a 13-month rolling average. Underemployment ratio is the number of persons that worked part-time hours and wanted to work more hours as a proportion of the number of people employed.

Nationally, underemployment increased by 0.6ppt for men and fell by 0.4ppt for women. As of August 2019, slightly over 7% of men, and just under 11% of women in part-time employment were working fewer hours than they would like.

Male underemployment increased in all states and territories except for QLD and WA where marginal decreases were experienced. The NT saw the largest increase in male underemployment (up by 1.45ppts) with TAS, NSW and VIC also showing significant increases (+1.1ppts, +1.1ppts, and +0.95ppts). Among women, underemployment fell in half of the states and territories, with NSW and SA showing the largest decreases (down 0.8ppts and 1.6ppts respectively), and TAS and the NT showing the largest increases (+1.5ppts and +2.6ppts).

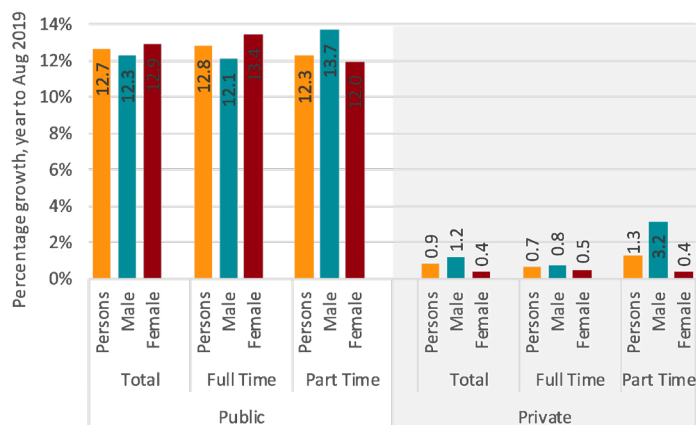
The large increases in part-time employment amongst men in NSW, VIC, TAS, NT and the ACT is likely partly responsible for the increases in male underemployment in these states. The overall increase in part-time male employment nationwide can also be considered as one of the contributing factors to the increase in national male underemployment. Similarly, the increase in full-time employment among females nationwide has likely had an impact on the reduction in underemployment rates for women.

The latest ABS data show a significant growth in the number of people employed in Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, and Public Administration and Safety, employing an additional 79,800 (up 7.7%), and 74,700 (up 9.9%) workers respectively over the last year. The Wholesale Trade and Administrative and Support Services industries have also grown significantly over the year, by 7.9% and 6.3%. Employment in Education and Training continue to rise, increasing by nearly 30,000 people working in the sector over the year to August 2019 (up 2.9%). The Mining sector continues to grow strongly, employing an additional 16,700 people since August last year- an increase of 7.4%.

On the other side, the Manufacturing sector has experienced a large decrease in employment, employing 20,000 fewer people than in August last year, a 2.2% decrease. This is characterised by fairly equal decreases in both full-time and part-time employment, down 2.2% and 2.7% respectively. In percentage terms, information media and telecommunications have experienced the largest decrease in employment, down 3.2% over the year to August 2019. The retail trade and construction sectors have experienced marginal decreases in the number of employed people over the year, falling by 5,200 and 5,900 respectively. Most other industries have experienced a moderate to large increase in employment since August 2018.

Figure 7: Full-time and part-time employment by public/private sector

The public sector has experienced a large increase in employment from August 2018 to August 2019, with nearly 210,000 more people employed. Of this increase, 133,700 were women (+12.9%) and slightly over 76,000 were men (+12.3%), showing similar percentage increases. Of the 76,000 men, around 65,600 were employed full-time (+12.1%) and 10,600 were employed part-time (+13.7%). For women, slightly over 89,000 of the increase in employment was made up of full-time employment (+13.5%) and around 44,400 of the increase was made up of part-time employment (+12%). Over the year to August 2019, men and women have experienced a similar percentage growth in employment for both part-time and full-time in the public sector. In absolute terms, female employment grew by twice that of male employment (133,000 women compared to 76,000 men). The reason for this difference, despite having similar percentage increases, is that there are more women employed in the public sector than men (slightly over 1.169 million women, compared to around 700,000 men.)



Source: BANKWEST CURTIN ECONOMICS CENTRE | Australian Bureau Of Statistics Cat No 6291.0.55.003
Notes: Values are smoothed using a five period moving average.

Employment growth in the private sector was much weaker than in the public sector (+0.9% compared to +12.7%). Employment growth between genders was also far less equal, with male employment growing by around 3 times more than female employment (+1.2% compared to +0.4%). Increases in full-time employment were relatively similar with men experiencing a growth of 0.8% and women 0.5%. The difference in employment growth was primarily due to changes in part-time employment, with part-time employment for males increasing by 3.2% compared to 0.4% for females.

Table 4: Industry performers in employment, yearly growth across states

Rank	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	TAS
Top Performers						
1	Professional, Scientific and Technical Services ▲ +34,800 [+9.0%]	Professional, Scientific and Technical Services ▲ +28,000 [+9.5%]	Public Administration and Safety ▲ +10,100 [+6.6%]	Education and Training ▲ +8,300 [+13.2%]	Mining ▲ +13,000 [+13.7%]	Education and Training ▲ +2,000 [+10.2%]
2	Public Administration and Safety ▲ +32,100 [+15.9%]	Public Administration and Safety ▲ +24,600 [+15.5%]	Accommodation and Food Services ▲ +9,900 [+5.4%]	Construction ▲ +6,800 [+10.0%]	Professional, Scientific and Technical Services ▲ +12,200 [+13.4%]	Public Administration and Safety ▲ +2,000 [+11.9%]
3	Accommodation and Food Services ▲ +30,600 [+11.2%]	Education and Training ▲ +18,600 [+7.0%]	Education and Training ▲ +9,300 [+4.5%]	Accommodation and Food Services ▲ +4,500 [+7.9%]	Retail Trade ▲ +8,000 [+6.6%]	Professional, Scientific and Technical Services ▲ +1,600 [+13.1%]
Bottom Performers						
17	Mining ▼ -4,100 [-9.8%]	Manufacturing ▼ -8,200 [-2.9%]	Manufacturing ▼ -4,300 [-2.5%]	Public Administration and Safety ▼ -2,900 [-5.0%]	Health Care and Social Assistance ▼ -7,200 [-4.2%]	Mining ▼ -1,300 [-33.0%]
18	Information Media and Telecommunications ▼ -11,400 [-12.1%]	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing ▼ -12,400 [-12.8%]	Transport, Postal and Warehousing ▼ -5,100 [-3.6%]	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing ▼ -4,100 [-10.5%]	Accommodation and Food Services ▼ -7,400 [-7.7%]	Retail Trade ▼ -1,900 [-6.9%]
19	Manufacturing ▼ -19,200 [-6.8%]	Accommodation and Food Services ▼ -20,200 [-8.7%]	Retail Trade ▼ -10,000 [-3.9%]	Health Care and Social Assistance ▼ -5,100 [-3.8%]	Construction ▼ -9,700 [-7.3%]	Construction ▼ -2,100 [-9.0%]

Source: BANKWEST CURTIN ECONOMICS CENTRE | Australian Bureau Of Statistics Cat No 6291.0.55.003
Notes: Values are smoothed using a five period moving average. Values show yearly growth between August 2018 and August 2019. Values in [#] represent percentage changes.

Professional scientific and technical services, and Public administration and safety have shown to be the best performing industries in terms of employment growth in the year to August 2019. Professional scientific and technical services were ranked 1st for employment growth in NSW and VIC, 2nd in WA, and 3rd in TAS. Altogether the professional scientific and technical services sector has added around 76,600 jobs between these four states over the year to August 2019. Public administration and safety have been the second largest contributor to employment growth over the year to August 2019, ranked 1st in QLD, and 2nd in NSW, VIC and TAS. Between these four states, around 68,800 jobs have been provided by this sector over the past year. In WA the mining sector continues to be the strongest performer in terms of employment growth, with an additional 13,000 workers compared to a year earlier (+13.7%). The education and training sector has also experienced strong growth, making its way out of the bottom 3 in NSW and WA, and being ranked 1st in SA and TAS, and 3rd in VIC and QLD.

In absolute terms, the Manufacturing sector has been the worst performer in terms of employment over the year, having made the bottom 3 in the three largest states; NSW, VIC and QLD. Between these three states a total of around 31,700 jobs have been lost since August 2018. In VIC, the accommodation and food service industry suffered the largest decrease in the number employed within a single sector across the states (down 20,200). Retail trade is still facing problems nationwide, being a bottom performer in both QLD and TAS. The Construction industry is experiencing similar problems, especially in WA and TAS where it is at the bottom in terms of performance, losing around 11,800 employees between the two states. Although the information media and telecommunications industry has experienced the largest percentage decrease in employment nationwide, it only appears in the bottom 3 performers in NSW with a significant decrease in employment of 11,400 (-12.1%) over the year to August 2019.

Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre

GPO Box U1987, Perth WA 6845, Australia

ph. +61 8 9266 1744
e. bcec@curtin.edu.au
w. bcec.edu.au

For media enquiries contact the Centre at:

bcec@curtin.edu.au

