

HIGHLIGHTS

- The employment rate continued to increase to 80.7% for residents aged 25 to 64 and 25.8% for residents aged 65 and over in June 2017. The employment rate for those aged 15 and over declined, reflecting population ageing and the higher propensity of youths to postpone entry into the labour force.
- Year-on-year, the gross monthly income of full-time employed residents in the middle of the income distribution (i.e. median) rose by 4.3% (or 3.7% after adjusting for inflation), from \$4,056 in June 2016 to \$4,232 in June 2017. This was higher than the increase from June 2015 to June 2016 (nominal: 2.7%, real: 3.3%), and could reflect the pick-up in economic growth, changing composition of the workforce and continued restructuring of the economy.
- Over the last five years from June 2012 to June 2017, real income growth at the 20th percentile of full-time employed residents (4.2% p.a.) was faster than at the median (3.4% p.a.), supported by Government initiatives to raise the income of low-wage workers. Real income growth for both groups were significantly faster than in the preceding five years.
- The unemployment and long-term unemployment rates for PMETs showed signs of improvement in June 2017, after trending up in recent years. For non-PMETs, the unemployment rate rose but they are unlikely to be unemployed for long, as their long-term unemployment rate was unchanged.
- The labour force participation rate (LFPR) for residents aged 15 and over declined slightly to 67.7% in June 2017, following sustained increases over the decade. There is no evidence that more unemployed gave up looking for work, as the number of discouraged workers fell slightly to 9,500 in June 2017, and stayed low at 0.4% of the resident labour force¹ since June 2013.
- The number of residents outside the labour force who intended to look for jobs in the next two years has declined steadily since June 2015 to a new low in June 2017 (134,500 or 12% of residents outside the labour force).
- After a broad downtrend over the decade, the share of self-employed among employed residents increased to 15% in June 2017, due to the increase in own account workers.
- Driven by the increase in casual/on-call workers (from 3.0% to 3.5%), the proportion of resident employees on fixed-term contracts and casual/on-call employment rose slightly to 9.9% in June 2017, after a sharp decline in June 2016 when industries with higher reliance on short-term workers cut back on manpower due to less optimistic business conditions. The proportion for those on fixed-term contracts remained unchanged at a low of 6.4%.
- The average (mean) usual hours worked among employed residents continued its downtrend to 43.2 hours per week in June 2017, with decreases for both full-timers and part-timers.

¹ Inclusive of discouraged workers.