

Brighter outlook for unemployed

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JOBS are finally coming back to Queensland with about 7000 people off the jobless queue last month.

The state's official unemployment figure fell to 6 per cent from 6.3 per cent as the national figure climbed to 5.8 per cent, representing a loss of about 11,000 jobs Australia-wide.

Adding to the pain was the collapse this week of Brisbane builder Civdec Constructions and the loss of about 200 jobs.

However, economists and some industry sectors have seen a light at the end of the tunnel with the number of employed people rising by 24,500 in the month and a study by recruitment firm IPA showing national job vacancies had increased 6.2 per cent in October, the highest volume of vacancies since March this year.

In Queensland, job vacancies grew 12.6 per cent.

However, part-time roles still make up the bulk of new work with full-time

jobs rising by only 2900 and the data shows about 884,000 people are underemployed Australia-wide.

The number of Queensland men losing their jobs continues to creep up, with 80,000 now on the jobless queue compared with a fall of about 7000 in unemployed women in the state.

About 54,000 people have lost their job in Queensland in the past year, with the total now sitting on 143,000. Acting Prime Minister Julia Gillard said the rise in unemployment was proof of the need for the continuation of government stimulus.

"This is a slight increase. It's basically a steady-as-she-goes result," Ms Gillard said.

"We expect unemployment to continue to rise and we expect it to peak at 6.75 (per cent) in the middle of next year," she said.

IPA chief executive Rabieh Krayem said next month would show whether the job market had turned the corner because that would include school and university leavers.

He said the one area in Queensland that was a standout for jobs was the Roma region where skilled jobs are being created for the emerging gas industry.

Justin Morris, 19, of Tennyson, is among the young unemployed struggling to get into the job market.

He was yesterday working the phones at Fortitude Valley's Sarina Russo job centre in the hope of getting a call centre job that paid an hourly rate after bad experiences in commission-only jobs.

"A lot of jobs are already filled, they're just saying they don't need any more people," he said.

"I've trained people. I know how it works. I should be able to get a job quickly. I can't afford to not work."

However, the former street kid was "barely" surviving and relying on the job centre for rent assistance.

CommSec said the job creation numbers were "a phenomenal result" and said full-time employment should rebound in coming months.