

For the week ending Friday, 15 September 2017

Quote of the week ¹

“The real problem is not whether machines think but whether men do”: B. F. Skinner (1904 - 1990).

Market summary ²

- The **S&P/ASX200 index** gained **1.17%** over the week, closing at **5738**.
- The **Aussie Dollar** gave back some of the gains in recent weeks, slipping **0.67%** to **\$US0.7997**.

Key data ^{3, 4}

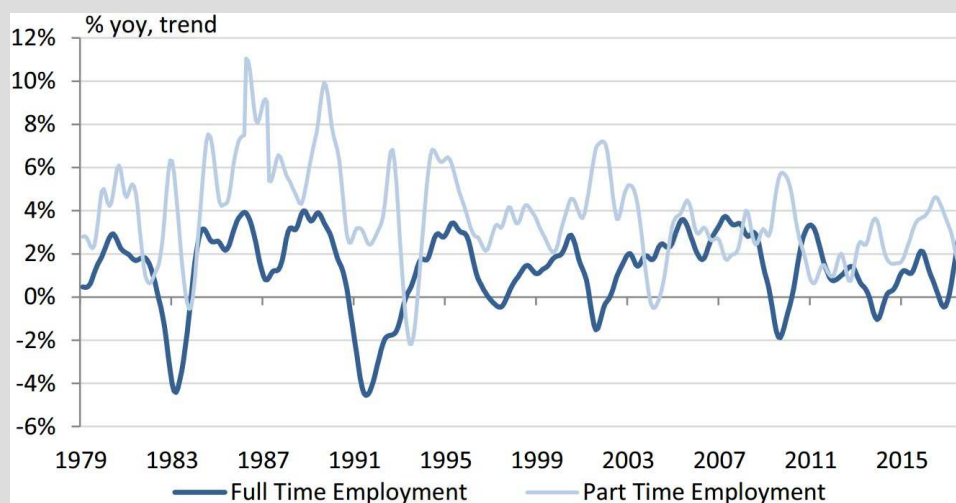
- The total outstanding balance on **local credit cards** dropped slightly to **\$51.3 billion** in July.
- **Australia's unemployment rate** has held steady at **5.6%** in August, despite the creation of over **54,000 jobs**.
- US new claims for **unemployment** dropped unexpectedly to **284,000** in the most recent data, but is believed to be under-reported due to the recent hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

In the News ^{3, 4}

- The Turnbull government has introduced new **anti-dumping legislation** into parliament in an effort to protect the **local aluminium and steel sectors**.
- **Steel production in China** hit a new monthly record in August, as total output climbed to **75.59 million tonnes** in August, up from 68 million tonnes in July.
- **Beijing Enterprises Water** has purchased **water infrastructure** owner and operator **Trility Group** for around **\$250 million**.

'Eye-opener of the week ⁵

2017 has seen strong employment growth in Australia, as another 40,100 full-time positions propped up weaker part-time growth in August. Due to the relative strength of full-time positions compared to part-time (annual trend seen below), total hours worked within the economy has lifted 2.7% over the last year. The participation rate climbed another 0.2% to 65.3% which kept the unemployment rate from falling. In part the growing labour force is due to a surge in employment amongst the over age 65 cohort.



Sources

1. brainyquote.com 2. Commsec. 3. Business Spectator 4. Australian Financial Review 5. ABS, Morgan Stanley Research

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