ABS Labour Force, December 2013

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 16 January 2014, 10:30 am AEST.

Key data (trend)

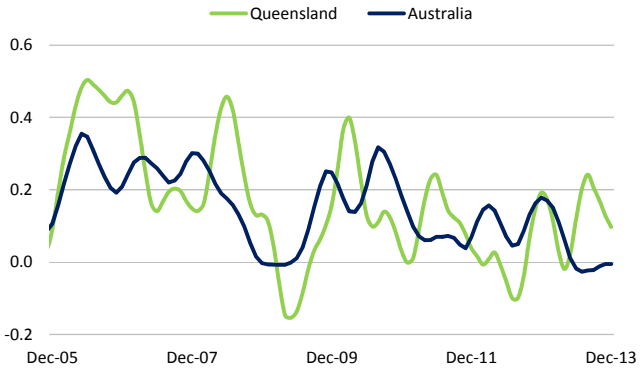
Employment: (persons, growth)	Queensland,	↑ 2,300	(0.1%)
	Australia,	↓ 600	(0.0%)
Unemployment: (persons, rate)	Queensland,	↓ 1,100	(5.7%)
	Australia,	↑ 1,500	(5.8%)
Labour Force: (persons, growth)	Queensland,	↑ 1,200	(0.0%)
	Australia,	↑ 900	(0.0%)

Main findings

Trend employment in Queensland rose 0.1% in December 2013. Employment in trend terms has now risen in 14 of the last 15 months (see Chart 1). Over the year to December, trend employment grew 35,200 persons, accounting for around three quarters of national jobs growth. This was driven by a 38,800 increase in part-time employment, while full-time employment fell 3,600. Today's results show that Queensland recorded the strongest trend employment growth of any State over the year to December 2013 (Table 2).

With trend employment growing stronger than the labour force, Queensland's trend unemployment rate fell to 5.7% in December, from an upwardly revised 5.8% in November. This was below the national trend rate of 5.8% in December. The trend participation rate in Queensland was unchanged at 65.8% in December 2013 but remains well below the peak of 67.4% recorded in October 2011.

Chart 1: Employment growth, trend, monthly % change



In more volatile seasonally adjusted (sa) terms, employment in Queensland fell 6,600 persons in December 2013, although it was 1.9% higher than a year ago. Queensland's sa unemployment rate rose to 5.9% in December 2013, up 0.2 percentage point from the previous month.

Nationally, sa employment fell 22,600 persons in December, well below market expectations of a 7,500 gain and more than reversing the 15,400 gain in November. However, with the number of persons in the labour force falling at a similar rate in December, the sa unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.8%, in line with market expectations.

Table 1: Monthly labour force outcomes, December 2013

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change			
			Month		Year		Month		Year	
	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust
Trend										
Employment	2,381.8	11,636.6	2.3	-0.6	35.2	45.5	0.1	0.0	1.5	0.4
Full-time	1,680.8	8,080.9	-2.1	-8.7	-3.6	-62.7	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.8
Part-time	701.0	3,555.6	4.4	8.0	38.8	108.1	0.6	0.2	5.9	3.1
Unemployed	145.3	716.0	-1.1	1.5	-3.6	56.4	-0.8	0.2	-2.4	8.6
Labour force	2,527.1	12,352.6	1.2	0.9	31.6	101.9	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.8
Seas. Adjusted										
Employment	2,375.8	11,629.5	-6.6	-22.6	44.4	54.6	-0.3	-0.2	1.9	0.5
Full-time	1,677.2	8,067.7	-0.9	-31.6	0.7	-67.5	-0.1	-0.4	0.0	-0.8
Part-time	698.6	3,561.8	-5.7	9.0	43.7	122.1	-0.8	0.3	6.7	3.5
Unemployed	148.1	722.0	5.1	8.0	-3.6	62.6	3.6	1.1	-2.4	9.5
Labour force	2,523.9	12,351.5	-1.5	-14.6	40.8	117.2	-0.1	-0.1	1.6	1.0

	Current		A month ago		A year ago	
	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust
Unemploy. Rate						
Trend	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.8	6.0	5.4
Seas. Adjusted	5.9	5.8	5.7	5.8	6.1	5.4
Participation rate						
Trend	65.8	64.7	65.8	64.7	66.2	65.2
Seas. Adjusted	65.6	64.6	65.8	64.8	65.9	65.2

Table 2: Interstate comparison, December 2013

	QLD	NSW	VIC	SA	WA	Tas	Aus.
Employment (trend)							
% change on a month ago	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.2	-0.1	0.0
Change on a month ago (no.)	*2,300*	*-4,100*	*-1,700*	*-200*	*3,200*	*-300*	*-600*
% change on a year ago	1.5	-0.2	0.6	-1.8	1.1	-2.2	0.4
Change on a year ago (no.)	*35,200*	*-5,700*	*15,900*	*-14,800*	*15,200*	*-5,100*	*45,500*
Unemployment rate (trend)							
December-13	5.7	5.9	6.2	6.7	4.5	7.7	5.8
November-13	5.8	5.9	6.1	6.7	4.5	7.8	5.8
December-12	6.0	5.1	5.6	5.7	4.4	7.1	5.4
Participation rate (trend)							
December-13	65.8	63.2	64.7	61.9	68.0	59.3	64.7
November-13	65.8	63.3	64.8	61.9	67.9	59.5	64.7
December-12	66.2	63.6	65.1	62.9	69.4	60.4	65.2
Employment (sa)							
% change on a month ago	-0.3	-0.3	-0.4	-0.1	0.3	-0.7	-0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	*-6,600*	*-10,100*	*-12,500*	*-1,200*	*3,800*	*-1,600*	*-22,600*
% change on a year ago	1.9	0.1	0.0	-2.1	1.3	-2.2	0.5
Change on a year ago (no.)	*44,400*	*2,100*	*1,000*	*-17,400*	*16,600*	*-5,100*	*54,600*
Unemployment rate (sa)							
December-13	5.9	5.8	6.2	6.7	4.7	7.7	5.8
November-13	5.7	5.9	6.2	6.8	4.3	7.7	5.8
December-12	6.1	5.1	5.5	5.8	4.3	7.4	5.4
Participation rate (sa)							
December-13	65.6	63.1	64.5	61.9	68.0	59.1	64.6
November-13	65.8	63.4	65.0	62.1	67.8	59.5	64.8
December-12	65.9	63.5	65.3	63.2	69.3	60.4	65.2

Macroeconomics Team
Contact: Ryan Faulkner (Ph: (07) 3035 1406); ryan.faulkner@treasury.qld.gov.au
www.oesr.qld.gov.au

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