

ABS Labour Force, February 2014

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 13 March 2014, 10:30 am AEST.

Key data (trend)

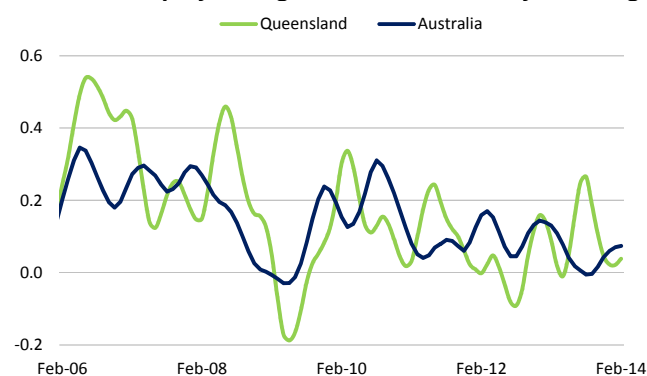
Employment: Queensland,	↑ 900	(0.0%)
(persons, growth) Australia,	↑ 8,500	(0.1%)
Unemployment: Queensland,	↑ 2,100	(6.1%)
(persons, rate) Australia,	↑ 7,200	(6.0%)
Labour Force: Queensland,	↑ 3,000	(0.1%)
(persons, growth) Australia,	↑ 115,700	(0.1%)

Main findings

Trend employment in Queensland increased 900 persons in February 2014, and has now risen in 16 of the last 17 months (see Chart 1). Over the year to February 2014, Queensland recorded a 26,600 person increase in trend employment, the largest contributor to the 58,500 person gain in national employment (see Table 2). In February, trend employment growth in Queensland was driven by part-time employment (up 2,000 persons), while full-time employment fell 1,100.

With trend labour force growing at a faster pace than employment in February, Queensland's trend unemployment rate edged higher, to 6.1%, from an upwardly revised 6.0% in January. The trend participation rate in Queensland was 65.7% in February 2014, unchanged from an upwardly revised January result. Despite being 1.7 percentage points lower than mid-2011 levels, the trend participation rate has stabilised in recent months.

Chart 1: Employment growth, trend, monthly % change



In more volatile seasonally adjusted (sa) terms, employment in Queensland rose a strong 30,800 persons (1.3%) in February 2014, to be 40,100 higher (1.7%) than a year ago. This marked the strongest monthly sa employment gain in more than a year and resulted in Queensland recording the strongest growth of any state in both monthly and annual terms. However, with Queensland's labour force growing more strongly than employment in February 2014, the sa unemployment rate rose 0.1 percentage point, to 6.2%.

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Nationally, sa employment rose 47,200 persons in February, well above market expectations of an 18,000 person gain. With the labour force rising at a similar rate to employment growth in February, the sa unemployment rate was unchanged, at 6.0%, in line with market expectations.

Table 1: Monthly labour force outcomes, February 2014

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change				
	QLD	Aust	Month		Year		Month		Year		
			QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	
Trend											
Employment	2,322.4	11,502.2	0.9	8.5	26.6	58.5	0.0	0.1	1.2	0.5	
Full-time	1,639.4	7,999.6	-1.1	6.1	2.7	-24.2	-0.1	0.1	0.2	-0.3	
Part-time	683.0	3,502.6	2.0	2.4	23.9	82.7	0.3	0.1	3.6	2.4	
Unemployed	151.1	733.7	2.1	7.2	10.5	71.9	1.4	1.0	7.5	10.9	
Labour force	2,473.5	12,235.9	3.0	15.7	37.1	130.5	0.1	0.1	1.5	1.1	
Seas. Adjusted											
Employment	2,335.4	11,530.8	30.8	47.2	40.1	69.8	1.3	0.4	1.7	0.6	
Full-time	1,642.2	8,049.9	2.7	80.5	0.6	42.7	0.2	1.0	0.0	0.5	
Part-time	693.2	3,480.9	28.1	-33.3	39.5	27.1	4.2	-0.9	6.0	0.8	
Unemployed	154.9	742.2	4.3	9.9	14.1	86.5	2.9	1.4	10.0	13.2	
Labour force	2,490.3	12,273.0	35.1	57.1	54.2	156.2	1.4	0.5	2.2	1.3	
	Current		A month ago		A year ago						
	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust					
Unemploy. Rate											
Trend	6.1	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.8	5.5					
Seas. Adjusted	6.2	6.0	6.1	6.0	5.8	5.4					
Participation rate											
Trend	65.7	64.7	65.7	64.7	66.0	65.1					
Seas. Adjusted	66.1	64.8	65.3	64.6	66.0	65.2					

Table 2: Interstate comparison, February 2014

	QLD	NSW	VIC	SA	WA	Tas	Aus.
Employment (trend)							
% change on a month ago	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.1
Change on a month ago (no.)	900	2,000	100	-200	900	700	8,500
% change on a year ago	1.2	-0.2	0.7	-1.9	1.6	-0.3	0.5
Change on a year ago (no.)	26,600	-7,400	19,300	-15,400	20,700	-800	58,500
Unemployment rate (trend)							
February-14	6.1	5.8	6.4	6.7	5.3	7.4	6.0
January-14	6.0	5.8	6.4	6.7	5.0	7.5	5.9
February-13	5.8	5.3	5.7	5.8	4.6	7.2	5.5
Participation rate (trend)							
February-14	65.7	63.0	64.6	61.9	68.5	59.9	64.7
January-14	65.7	63.0	64.6	62.0	68.4	59.8	64.7
February-13	66.0	63.6	64.9	63.1	69.0	60.2	65.1
Employment (sa)							
% change on a month ago	1.3	0.4	-0.2	0.2	0.1	-0.4	0.4
Change on a month ago (no.)	30,800	13,900	-5,300	1,200	1,600	-1,000	47,200
% change on a year ago	1.7	0.1	0.2	-1.4	1.4	-1.1	0.6
Change on a year ago (no.)	40,100	2,400	5,500	-11,400	18,700	-2,600	69,800
Unemployment rate (sa)							
February-14	6.2	5.8	6.4	6.7	5.9	7.3	6.0
January-14	6.1	5.8	6.4	6.6	5.2	7.5	6.0
February-13	5.8	5.3	5.5	5.9	4.6	6.7	5.4
Participation rate (sa)							
February-14	66.1	63.1	64.5	62.0	68.8	60.0	64.8
January-14	65.3	63.0	64.8	61.9	68.3	60.4	64.6
February-13	66.0	63.7	65.0	62.9	69.1	60.5	65.2

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