ABS Labour Force, March 2014

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 10 April 2014, 11:30 am AEST.

Key data (trend)

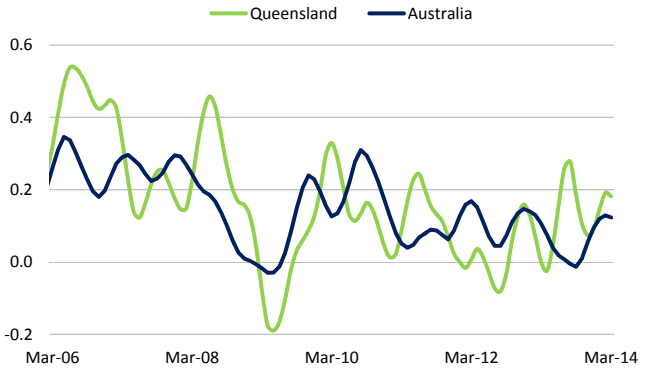
Employment: (persons, growth)	Queensland,	↑ 4,200	(0.2%)
	Australia,	↑14,200	(0.1%)
Unemployment: (persons, rate)	Queensland,	↑ 1,900	(6.1%)
	Australia,	↑ 3,300	(6.0%)
Labour Force: (persons, growth)	Queensland,	↑ 6,100	(0.2%)
	Australia,	↑17,400	(0.1%)

Main findings

Trend employment in Queensland rose 0.2% in March 2014, the eleventh consecutive month of growth (see Chart 1). Trend employment growth in Queensland was driven by part-time employment, up 5,300 persons, while full-time employment fell 1,100 over the month. Over the year to March 2014, Queensland recorded a 39,100 person increase in trend employment (up 1.7%), and was the largest contributor to the 75,200 person gain in national employment (see Table 2).

With trend labour force growing at a similar pace to employment in March, Queensland's trend unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.1%. The trend participation rate in Queensland was 66.0% in March 2014, 0.1 percentage point higher than the upwardly revised February result. While the participation rate edged higher over the past two months, it remains 1.4 percentage points lower than mid-2011 levels.

Chart 1: Employment growth, trend, monthly % change



In more volatile seasonally adjusted (sa) terms, employment in Queensland rose 12,000 persons (up 0.5%) in March 2014, consolidating the upwardly revised 32,500 increase in February. Over the year to March 2014, Queensland recorded the strongest sa employment growth of any state, up 2.7% (61,000 persons). Queensland's sa unemployment rate fell 0.1 percentage point to 6.1% in March 2014.

Nationally, sa employment rose 18,200 persons in March 2014, well above market expectations of a 5,000 person gain. With employment growing at a faster rate than the national labour force, the sa unemployment rate fell to 5.8% in March, below market expectations of 6.0%.

Table 1: Monthly labour force outcomes, March 2014

	Level ('000s)		Difference ('000s)				% Change			
			Month		Year		Month		Year	
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus
Trend										
Employment	2,335.0	11,531.6	4.2	14.2	39.1	75.2	0.2	0.1	1.7	0.7
Full-time	1,637.5	8,019.3	-1.1	10.9	4.3	-2.5	-0.1	0.1	0.3	0.0
Part-time	697.5	3,512.2	5.3	3.2	34.8	77.6	0.8	0.1	5.3	2.3
Unemployed	152.9	730.4	1.9	3.3	12.1	61.7	1.3	0.5	8.6	9.2
Labour force	2,487.9	12,261.9	6.1	17.4	51.2	136.8	0.2	0.1	2.1	1.1
Seas. Adjusted										
Employment	2,349.7	11,553.2	12.0	18.2	61.0	122.0	0.5	0.2	2.7	1.1
Full-time	1,639.1	8,029.1	-1.9	-22.1	17.4	23.4	-0.1	-0.3	1.1	0.3
Part-time	710.6	3,524.0	13.9	40.2	43.6	98.5	2.0	1.2	6.5	2.9
Unemployed	151.8	713.2	-3.0	-29.9	8.9	36.1	-1.9	-4.0	6.2	5.3
Labour force	2,501.5	12,266.3	9.0	-11.8	69.9	158.1	0.4	-0.1	2.9	1.3

	Current		A month ago		A year ago	
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus
Unemploy. Rate						
Trend	6.1	6.0	6.1	5.9	5.8	5.5
Seas. Adjusted	6.1	5.8	6.2	6.1	5.9	5.6
Participation rate						
Trend	66.0	64.7	65.9	64.7	65.9	65.1
Seas. Adjusted	66.3	64.7	66.1	64.9	65.7	65.0

Table 2: Interstate comparison, March 2014

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employment (trend)							
% change on a month ago	0.2	0.2	0.0	-0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1
Change on a month ago (no.)	*4,200*	*7,300*	*-700*	*-400*	*900*	*800*	*14,200*
% change on a year ago	1.7	0.0	0.4	-2.1	1.8	0.4	0.7
Change on a year ago (no.)	*39,100*	*700*	*10,200*	*-16,700*	*24,300*	*900*	*75,200*
Unemployment rate (trend)							
March-14	6.1	5.5	6.5	6.9	5.3	7.4	6.0
February-14	6.1	5.6	6.4	6.8	5.1	7.5	5.9
March-13	5.8	5.4	5.7	5.9	4.7	7.3	5.5
Participation rate (trend)							
March-14	66.0	63.0	64.5	62.0	68.4	60.3	64.7
February-14	65.9	63.0	64.5	62.0	68.4	60.1	64.7
March-13	65.9	63.7	64.9	63.1	68.9	60.2	65.1
Employment (sa)							
% change on a month ago	0.5	0.5	0.0	-0.2	0.5	0.5	0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	*12,000*	*16,300*	*-1,300*	*-1,800*	*6,900*	*1,100*	*18,200*
% change on a year ago	2.7	0.6	0.5	-1.7	2.3	0.9	1.1
Change on a year ago (no.)	*61,000*	*21,700*	*13,200*	*-13,400*	*30,300*	*2,000*	*122,000*
Unemployment rate (sa)							
March-14	6.1	5.3	6.4	7.1	4.9	7.5	5.8
February-14	6.2	5.7	6.4	6.7	5.9	7.3	6.1
March-13	5.9	5.5	5.7	5.8	4.7	7.2	5.6
Participation rate (sa)							
March-14	66.3	63.0	64.4	62.1	68.2	60.5	64.7
February-14	66.1	63.1	64.5	61.9	68.7	60.1	64.9
March-13	65.7	63.7	64.7	62.8	68.7	60.0	65.0

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