

ABS Labour Force, April 2014

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 8 May 2014, 11:30 am AEST.

Key data (trend)

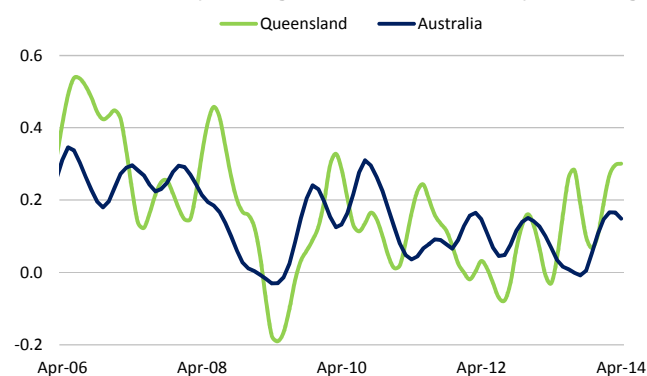
Employment: Queensland, (persons, growth)	↑ 7,000	(0.3%)
Australia, (persons, growth)	↑ 17,200	(0.1%)
Unemployment: Queensland, (persons, rate)	↑ 2,100	(6.3%)
Australia, (persons, rate)	↓ 1,000	(5.9%)
Labour Force: Queensland, (persons, growth)	↑ 9,100	(0.4%)
Australia, (persons, growth)	↑ 16,200	(0.1%)

Main findings

Trend employment in Queensland rose a strong 0.3% in April 2014, the twelfth consecutive month of growth and the fastest monthly gain in four years (see Chart 1). Trend employment growth was driven by part-time employment, up 6,500 persons over the month, while full-time employment rose 500 persons. Over the year to April 2014, Queensland recorded a 52,400 person increase in trend employment (up 2.3%), the strongest gain by any state and more than half of the national employment growth (see Table 2).

Consistent with an improving labour market, the trend participation rate has edged higher over the past five months, to be 66.3% in April 2014. With trend labour force growing at a faster pace than employment in April, Queensland's trend unemployment rate rose to 6.3%, from an upwardly revised 6.2% in the previous month.

Chart 1: Employment growth, trend, monthly % change



In more volatile seasonally adjusted (sa) terms, employment in Queensland rose 4,400 persons (up 0.2%) in April 2014, consolidating strong gains in the previous two months. Over the year to April 2014, Queensland recorded the largest growth in sa employment of any mainland state, up 2.6% (or 60,400 persons). Despite employment growth in April 2014, Queensland's sa unemployment rate rose 0.2 percentage point to 6.3%.

Nationally, sa employment rose 14,200 persons in April 2014, above market expectations of a 6,750 person gain. With employment growing at a similar rate to the national labour force, the sa unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.8% in April, below market expectations of 5.9%.

Table 1: Monthly labour force outcomes, April 2014

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change				
	Qld	Aus	Month		Year		Month		Year		
			Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	
Trend											
Employment	2,347.6	11,561.4	7.0	17.2	52.4	96.9	0.3	0.1	2.3	0.8	
Full-time	1,639.0	8,041.1	0.5	13.1	7.2	19.9	0.0	0.2	0.4	0.2	
Part-time	708.6	3,520.3	6.5	4.1	45.2	77.1	0.9	0.1	6.8	2.2	
Unemployed	156.9	723.8	2.1	-1.0	15.1	46.5	1.4	-0.1	10.6	6.9	
Labour force	2,504.5	12,285.2	9.1	16.2	67.5	143.4	0.4	0.1	2.8	1.2	
Seas. Adjusted											
Employment	2,354.8	11,572.9	4.4	14.2	60.4	101.3	0.2	0.1	2.6	0.9	
Full-time	1,640.0	8,045.1	1.2	14.3	13.6	13.3	0.1	0.2	0.8	0.2	
Part-time	714.8	3,527.8	3.2	0.0	46.8	88.0	0.4	0.0	7.0	2.6	
Unemployed	159.2	713.4	7.0	-0.4	22.4	34.6	4.6	-0.1	16.4	5.1	
Labour force	2,514.0	12,286.3	11.4	13.9	82.8	135.8	0.5	0.1	3.4	1.1	
	Current		A month ago		A year ago						
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus					
Unemploy. Rate											
Trend	6.3	5.9	6.2	5.9	5.8	5.6					
Seas. Adjusted	6.3	5.8	6.1	5.8	5.6	5.6					
Participation rate											
Trend	66.3	64.8	66.1	64.7	65.8	65.1					
Seas. Adjusted	66.5	64.7	66.3	64.8	65.6	65.2					

Table 2: Interstate comparison, April 2014

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employment (trend)							
% change on a month ago	0.3	0.2	-0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.1
Change on a month ago (no.)	7,000	8,400	-2,300	1,000	1,300	1,100	17,200
% change on a year ago	2.3	0.3	-0.1	-1.5	2.1	1.6	0.8
Change on a year ago (no.)	52,400	10,000	-2,000	-12,300	27,400	3,700	96,900
Unemployment rate (trend)							
April-14	6.3	5.4	6.5	6.6	5.2	7.5	5.9
March-14	6.2	5.5	6.5	6.7	5.2	7.5	5.9
April-13	5.8	5.5	5.7	6.0	4.8	7.5	5.6
Participation rate (trend)							
April-14	66.3	63.1	64.2	62.0	68.2	60.9	64.8
March-14	66.1	63.1	64.3	62.0	68.3	60.6	64.7
April-13	65.8	63.8	64.9	63.1	68.7	60.2	65.1
Employment (sa)							
% change on a month ago	0.2	0.2	-0.2	0.8	-0.1	1.3	0.1
Change on a month ago (no.)	4,400	7,800	-5,100	6,600	-1,800	3,100	14,200
% change on a year ago	2.6	0.3	-0.1	-1.2	2.2	3.4	0.9
Change on a year ago (no.)	60,400	9,500	-2,400	-9,800	28,900	7,900	101,300
Unemployment rate (sa)							
April-14	6.3	5.4	6.4	6.3	4.9	7.6	5.8
March-14	6.1	5.2	6.4	7.1	4.9	7.6	5.8
April-13	5.6	5.4	5.9	5.9	5.2	7.4	5.6
Participation rate (sa)							
April-14	66.5	63.2	64.1	62.0	67.9	61.4	64.7
March-14	66.3	63.0	64.3	62.1	68.2	60.5	64.8
April-13	65.6	64.0	65.0	63.1	68.9	59.4	65.2

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