ABS Labour Force, May 2014

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 12 June 2014, 11:30 am AEST.

Key data (trend)

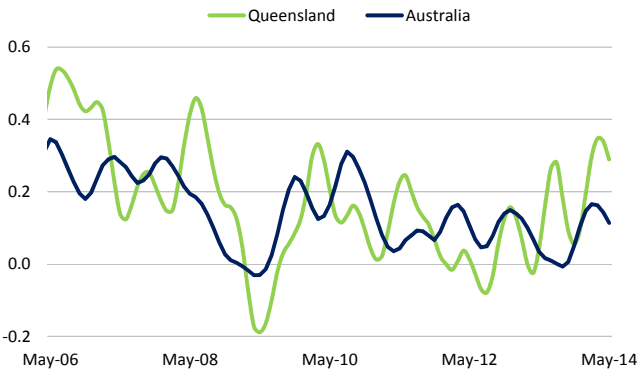
Employment:	Queensland,	↑ 6,800	(0.3%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 13,100	(0.1%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	↑ 1,400	(6.3%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↓ 2,200	(5.9%)
Labour Force:	Queensland,	↑ 8,200	(0.3%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 10,900	(0.1%)

Main findings

Trend employment in Queensland rose 0.3% in May 2014, the fourth consecutive month of strong 0.3% growth (see Chart 1). Both part-time and full-time employment rose in May, up 3,600 persons and 3,200 persons respectively. Trend employment in Queensland has now risen for 13 consecutive months. Over the year to May 2014, Queensland recorded a 60,400 person increase in trend employment (up 2.6%), the strongest gain by any state and more than half of national employment growth over the period (see Table 2).

The trend participation rate continued to edge higher to 66.4% in May 2014. Consistent with improved labour market conditions, the participation rate has risen 0.7 percentage point so far in 2014. With trend labour force increasing by more than employment in the month, Queensland's trend unemployment rate rose slightly, to 6.3%, from a downwardly 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 2,400 persons (up 0.1%) in May 2014, driven by a solid gain in full-time employment. Over the year to May 2014, Queensland accounted for the majority of the national gain in sa employment, rising 60,800 persons. With the sa labour force falling slightly in May, the sa unemployment rate fell 0.1 percentage point to 6.2%.

Nationally, sa employment fell 4,800 persons in May 2014, well below market expectations of a 10,000 person gain. With both employment and labour force falling slightly in the month, the sa unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.8%, compared with market expectations of 5.9%.

Table 1: Monthly labour force outcomes, May 2014

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change			
			Month		Year		Month		Year	
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus
Trend										
Employment	2,356.7	11,573.1	6.8	13.1	60.4	105.0	0.3	0.1	2.6	0.9
Full-time	1,649.3	8,061.3	3.2	12.3	15.8	41.3	0.2	0.2	1.0	0.5
Part-time	707.4	3,511.8	3.6	0.9	44.6	63.7	0.5	0.0	6.7	1.8
Unemployed	157.2	719.7	1.4	-2.2	13.8	35.5	0.9	-0.3	9.6	5.2
Labour force	2,513.9	12,292.8	8.2	10.9	74.2	140.5	0.3	0.1	3.0	1.2
Seas. Adjusted										
Employment	2,357.2	11,564.6	2.4	-4.8	60.8	98.8	0.1	0.0	2.6	0.9
Full-time	1,660.0	8,068.3	18.2	22.2	33.0	49.7	1.1	0.3	2.0	0.6
Part-time	697.2	3,496.2	-15.8	-27.0	27.8	49.0	-2.2	-0.8	4.2	1.4
Unemployed	155.0	717.1	-3.2	3.2	13.1	44.0	-2.0	0.4	9.2	6.5
Labour force	2,512.2	12,281.7	-0.8	-1.6	73.9	142.8	0.0	0.0	3.0	1.2

	Current		A month ago		A year ago	
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus
Unemploy. Rate						
Trend	6.3	5.9	6.2	5.9	5.9	5.6
Seas. Adjusted	6.2	5.8	6.3	5.8	5.8	5.5
Participation rate						
Trend	66.4	64.7	66.3	64.7	65.7	65.1
Seas. Adjusted	66.3	64.6	66.5	64.7	65.7	65.0

Table 2: Interstate comparison, May 2014

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employment (trend)							
% change on a month ago	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1
Change on a month ago (no.)	*6,800*	*3,800*	*1,500*	*700*	*2,600*	*600*	*13,100*
% change on a year ago	2.6	0.1	0.1	-1.2	2.5	1.7	0.9
Change on a year ago (no.)	*60,400*	*4,700*	*2,700*	*-10,100*	*33,500*	*3,900*	*105,000*
Unemployment rate (trend)							
May-14	6.3	5.5	6.3	6.7	5.1	7.5	5.9
April-14	6.2	5.5	6.4	6.7	5.1	7.5	5.9
May-13	5.9	5.5	5.7	6.1	4.9	7.8	5.6
Participation rate (trend)							
May-14	66.4	63.0	64.2	62.0	68.2	60.9	64.7
April-14	66.3	63.0	64.3	62.0	68.3	60.7	64.7
May-13	65.7	63.9	64.9	63.0	68.5	60.2	65.1
Employment (sa)							
% change on a month ago	0.1	-0.6	0.7	-0.6	0.5	-1.6	0.0
Change on a month ago (no.)	*2,400*	*-22,300*	*19,500*	*-4,500*	*6,800*	*-3,800*	*-4,800*
% change on a year ago	2.6	-0.4	0.6	-2.4	3.0	0.3	0.9
Change on a year ago (no.)	*60,800*	*-13,100*	*18,000*	*-19,600*	*39,100*	*600*	*98,800*
Unemployment rate (sa)							
May-14	6.2	5.7	6.2	6.8	5.0	7.5	5.8
April-14	6.3	5.4	6.4	6.2	4.9	7.6	5.8
May-13	5.8	5.7	5.6	6.0	4.9	7.5	5.5
Participation rate (sa)							
May-14	66.3	62.9	64.4	62.0	68.2	60.3	64.6
April-14	66.5	63.2	64.1	62.1	68.0	61.4	64.7
May-13	65.7	64.0	64.7	63.6	68.4	60.4	65.0

Macroeconomics Team
Queensland Treasury and Trade
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