Labour Force, August 2014

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

Key data (trend)

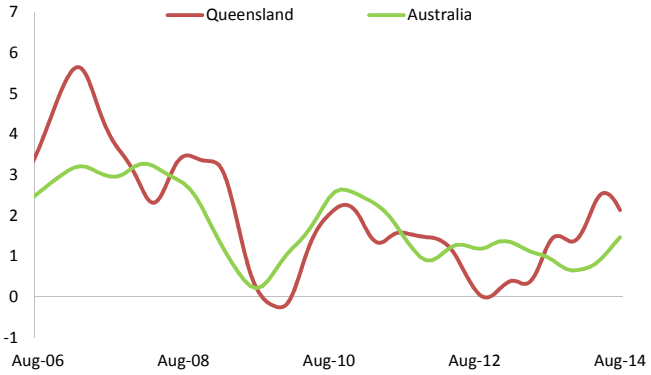
Employment: (persons, growth)	Queensland,	↑ 800	(0.0%)
	Australia,	↑ 18,600	(0.2%)
Unemployment: (persons, rate)	Queensland,	↑ 2,700	(6.7%)
	Australia,	↑ 8,000	(6.2%)
Labour force: (persons, growth)	Queensland,	↑ 3,500	(0.1%)
	Australia,	↑ 26,700	(0.2%)

Main findings

Trend employment in Queensland rose by 800 persons (0.0%) in August 2014, the sixteenth consecutive month of employment growth. The monthly gain was driven by a rise in part-time employment, up 2,200 persons, while full-time employment fell 1,400 persons. Over the year to August 2014, Queensland recorded a 49,300 person increase in trend employment (up 2.1%, see Chart 1), a larger employment gain than any other state.

The trend participation rate was unchanged at 66.5% in August 2014. However, Queensland's participation rate has risen 0.7 percentage point over the year to August 2014. With the number of persons entering the labour force outpacing employment growth in the month, Queensland's trend unemployment rate was marginally higher in August 2014, at 6.7% (from an upwardly revised 6.6% in July).

Chart 1: Employment growth, trend, yearly % change



In more volatile seasonally adjusted (sa) terms, employment in Queensland rose 26,500 persons (up 1.1%) in August, recovering all of the 13,300 fall in July. Over the year to August 2014, Queensland sa employment rose 64,400, led by a 48,100 rise in the number of employed females. With the sharp rise in sa employment in August, the sa unemployment rate fell 0.1 percentage point to 6.7%.

Nationally, sa employment growth was well above market expectations, rising 121,000 persons in August 2014. The 1.0% monthly employment growth was the fourth strongest percentage gain in the history of the national employment series. With employment growing at a faster rate than the labour force in the month, the sa unemployment rate fell 0.3 percentage point, to 6.1%.

Looking ahead, the recent moderation in Queensland household consumption and income growth suggest that trend employment growth is likely to remain below its long-run average in the near term.

Table 1: Monthly labour force outcomes, August 2014

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change			
			Month		Year		Month		Year	
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus
Trend										
Employed	2,361.8	11,638.4	0.8	18.6	49.3	167.6	0.0	0.2	2.1	1.5
Full-time	1,643.6	8,085.6	-1.4	5.0	-5.3	75.6	-0.1	0.1	-0.3	0.9
Part-time	718.2	3,552.9	2.2	13.7	54.6	92.1	0.3	0.4	8.2	2.7
Unemployed	168.7	764.1	2.7	8.0	24.8	70.7	1.6	1.1	17.2	10.2
Labour force	2,530.5	12,402.5	3.5	26.7	74.1	238.4	0.1	0.2	3.0	2.0
Seas. Adjusted										
Employed	2,372.1	11,703.5	26.5	121.0	64.4	250.0	1.1	1.0	2.8	2.2
Full-time	1,640.2	8,094.3	3.0	14.3	-8.0	80.6	0.2	0.2	-0.5	1.0
Part-time	731.9	3,609.2	23.5	106.7	72.4	169.4	3.3	3.0	11.0	4.9
Unemployed	169.7	755.1	-2.3	-33.4	27.4	55.0	-1.3	-4.2	19.3	7.9
Labour force	2,541.8	12,458.6	24.2	87.6	91.8	305.0	1.0	0.7	3.7	2.5

	Current		A month ago		A year ago	
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus
Unemploy. Rate						
Trend	6.7	6.2	6.6	6.1	5.9	5.7
Seas. Adjusted	6.7	6.1	6.8	6.4	5.8	5.8
Participation rate						
Trend	66.5	65.0	66.5	64.9	65.8	64.9
Seas. Adjusted	66.8	65.2	66.3	64.9	65.7	64.8

Table 2: Interstate comparison, August 2014

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (trend)							
% change on a month ago	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	*800*	*4,200*	*7,400*	*2,700*	*3,500*	*600*	*18,600*
% change on a year ago	2.1	0.9	0.8	1.2	3.2	3.2	1.5
Change on a year ago (no.)	*49,300*	*32,800*	*24,300*	*9,900*	*42,300*	*7,300*	*167,600*
Unemployment rate (trend)							
August-14	6.7	5.8	6.8	6.7	5.0	7.3	6.2
July-14	6.6	5.8	6.7	6.8	5.0	7.4	6.1
August-13	5.9	5.7	5.8	6.6	4.6	8.2	5.7
Participation rate (trend)							
August-14	66.5	63.3	64.8	62.7	68.4	61.2	65.0
July-14	66.5	63.2	64.7	62.6	68.4	61.1	64.9
August-13	65.8	63.5	64.8	62.5	68.1	60.1	64.9
Employed (sa)							
% change on a month ago	1.1	1.3	0.9	2.1	0.7	1.6	1.0
Change on a month ago (no.)	*26,500*	*45,300*	*26,100*	*16,800*	*9,600*	*3,800*	*121,000*
% change on a year ago	2.8	1.5	1.7	2.8	4.0	4.1	2.2
Change on a year ago (no.)	*64,400*	*53,200*	*47,400*	*22,000*	*52,700*	*9,500*	*250,000*
Unemployment rate (sa)							
August-14	6.7	5.7	6.8	5.9	5.0	7.1	6.1
July-14	6.8	5.9	7.0	7.2	5.2	7.6	6.4
August-13	5.8	5.9	5.8	6.9	5.0	8.2	5.8
Participation rate (sa)							
August-14	66.8	63.6	65.2	62.8	68.5	61.6	65.2
July-14	66.3	63.0	64.8	62.4	68.3	60.9	64.9
August-13	65.7	63.7	64.6	62.4	68.1	60.1	64.8

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