Labour Force, February 2015

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 12 March 2015, 10:30 am AEST.

Note: The ABS applied a new seasonal adjustment process to estimates from December 2013 onwards and is currently undertaking a review of the whole time series, along with further analysis to refine state-level series.

Until these issues are resolved, all data should be treated with caution.

This edition of the *Labour Force Survey* incorporates updated population benchmarks which have resulted in substantial revisions to estimates of Queensland employment and other labour market components.

Key data (trend)

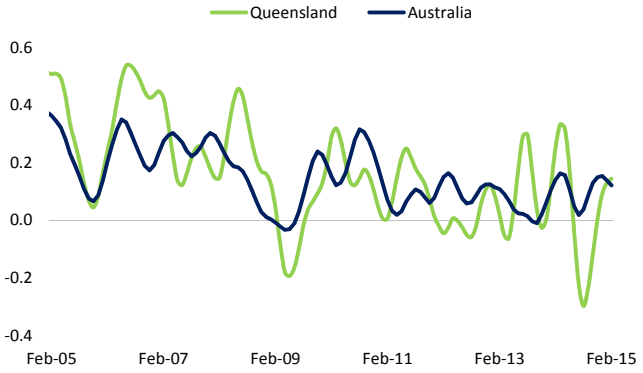
Employment:	Queensland,	↑ 3,400	(0.1%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 14,000	(0.1%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	↓ 100	(6.5%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↑ 2,900	(6.3%)
Labour force:	Queensland,	↑ 3,300	(0.1%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 17,000	(0.1%)

Main findings

Trend employment in Queensland rose by 3,400 persons (0.1%) in February 2015 (see Chart 1). This result was entirely driven by an increase in full-time employment, with part-time employment unchanged in the month. This was the fifth consecutive monthly rise in full-time employment, which has increased by 15,200 over this period, with female full-time employment rising by 17,000 persons. Consistent with this shift towards full-time employment, trend aggregate hours worked in Queensland continued to increase in February 2015, to be 0.5% higher over the year.

Over the year to February 2015, Queensland's trend employment rose by 6,400 persons (0.3%), driven by a 10,800 increase in female employment.

Chart 1: Employment growth, trend, monthly % change



The trend participation rate was unchanged for the third consecutive month in February 2015, at 65.3%, but was 0.6 percentage point lower over the year.

The labour force grew at a similar pace to employment in February 2015, but due to rounding, the trend unemployment rate fell to 6.5%, from an upwardly revised 6.6% in January.

Nationally, trend employment rose 14,000 persons (0.1%) in February 2015, to be 1.3% higher over the year. The national trend unemployment rate was unchanged in the month, at 6.3%.

Impact of population rebenchmarking

Employment in Queensland is now estimated to have grown:

- 0.1% in 2012-13 (downwardly revised from 0.3% previously);
- 1.4% in 2013-14 (from 1.8%)
- 0.6% in the first seven months of 2014-15, compared to the same period a year earlier (from 0.9%).

The year-average unemployment rate and participation rate were largely unaffected by the revisions.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes, February 2015

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change			
			Month		Year		Month		Year	
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus
Trend										
Employed	2,326.2	11,654.0	3.4	14.0	6.4	151.5	0.1	0.1	0.3	1.3
Full-time	1,633.3	8,065.7	3.4	6.7	8.8	89.5	0.2	0.1	0.5	1.1
Part-time	692.9	3,588.3	0.0	7.3	-2.4	62.1	0.0	0.2	-0.3	1.8
Unemployed	163.0	781.6	-0.1	2.9	11.6	59.6	-0.1	0.4	7.7	8.3
Labour force	2,489.2	12,435.7	3.3	17.0	18.0	211.3	0.1	0.1	0.7	1.7
Seas. Adjusted										
Employed	2,331.4	11,652.4	8.1	15.6	7.9	150.9	0.3	0.1	0.3	1.3
Full-time	1,629.7	8,062.0	-0.6	10.3	12.1	84.4	0.0	0.1	0.7	1.1
Part-time	701.7	3,590.4	8.7	5.3	-4.2	66.5	1.3	0.1	-0.6	1.9
Unemployed	166.3	777.3	4.0	-15.8	15.8	52.6	2.5	-2.0	10.5	7.3
Labour force	2,497.7	12,429.7	12.1	-0.2	23.7	203.5	0.5	0.0	1.0	1.7

	Current		A month ago		A year ago	
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus
Unemploy. Rate						
Trend	6.5	6.3	6.6	6.3	6.1	5.9
Seas. Adjusted	6.7	6.3	6.5	6.4	6.1	5.9
Participation rate						
Trend	65.3	64.7	65.3	64.7	65.9	64.6
Seas. Adjusted	65.5	64.6	65.3	64.7	65.9	64.6

Table 2: Interstate comparison, February 2015

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (trend)							
% change on a month ago	0.1	0.0	0.3	-0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1
Change on a month ago (no.)	*3,400*	*-1,200*	*8,900*	*-1,400*	*1,900*	*-100*	*14,000*
% change on a year ago	0.3	0.7	2.8	-0.2	2.5	3.1	1.3
Change on a year ago (no.)	*6,400*	*24,700*	*81,300*	*-1,500*	*33,800*	*7,300*	*151,500*
Unemployment rate (trend)							
February-15	6.5	6.3	6.3	7.0	5.8	6.5	6.3
January-15	6.6	6.2	6.4	6.9	5.7	6.6	6.3
February-14	6.1	5.6	6.4	6.7	5.0	7.5	5.9
Participation rate (trend)							
February-15	65.3	62.9	65.0	61.5	69.0	61.2	64.7
January-15	65.3	62.9	65.0	61.6	69.0	61.3	64.7
February-14	65.9	63.0	64.4	62.0	68.2	60.2	64.6
Employed (sa)							
% change on a month ago	0.3	0.0	0.4	-0.9	0.2	-0.5	0.1
Change on a month ago (no.)	*8,100*	*700*	*12,800*	*-7,300*	*3,300*	*-1,100*	*15,600*
% change on a year ago	0.3	0.6	3.1	-0.4	2.9	2.6	1.3
Change on a year ago (no.)	*7,900*	*22,700*	*88,300*	*-3,200*	*38,400*	*6,000*	*150,900*
Unemployment rate (sa)							
February-15	6.7	6.3	6.0	6.9	5.8	6.6	6.3
January-15	6.5	6.3	6.6	7.2	5.6	6.6	6.4
February-14	6.1	5.6	6.4	6.5	5.5	7.3	5.9
Participation rate (sa)							
February-15	65.5	62.8	64.8	61.2	69.0	60.8	64.6
January-15	65.3	62.9	65.0	62.1	68.8	61.1	64.7
February-14	65.9	62.9	64.3	61.8	68.3	60.0	64.6

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