

# Labour Force, March 2015

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 16 April 2015, 11:30 am AEST.

**Note:** This edition of the *Labour Force Survey* incorporates the annual seasonal reanalysis which has resulted in only minimal revisions to Queensland's labour market estimates.

The ABS have now applied, where necessary, specific adjustments for the changed pattern of supplementary surveys to the whole time series (previously December 2013 onwards). There is no change to the methodology for estimating State level adjustments, as the ABS investigation concluded it would 'not yield superior results' to the current methodology of using national level adjustments.

Uncertainty around the estimates is likely to continue until a new seasonal pattern can be established, which is not expected until at least 2017. Consequently, all data should be treated with caution.

## Key data (trend)

<b>Employment:</b>	Queensland,	↑ 3,400	(0.1%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 20,700	(0.2%)
<b>Unemployment:</b>	Queensland,	↑ 300	(6.5%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↓ 1,000	(6.2%)
<b>Labour force:</b>	Queensland,	↑ 3,700	(0.1%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 19,800	(0.2%)

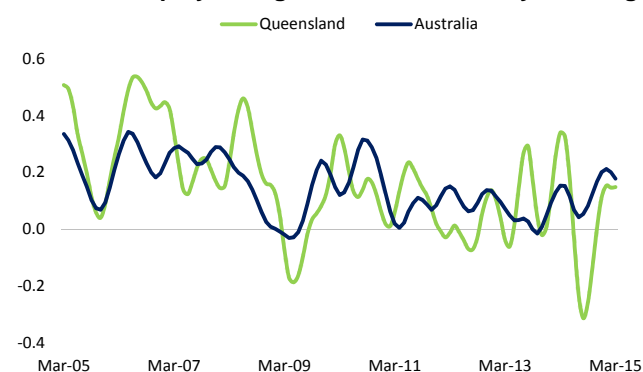
## Main findings

Trend employment in Queensland rose by 3,400 persons (0.1%) in March 2015, the fifth consecutive monthly gain (see Chart 1). Monthly employment growth was entirely driven by an increase in full-time employment (up 4,800 persons), with part-time employment falling in the month (down 1,400 persons). Full-time employment has risen for the past six months, up 26,100 persons over this period, led by a rise in female full-time workers.

Consistent with the shift towards full-time employment growth, trend aggregate hours worked in Queensland continued to rise in March 2015, to be 1.2% higher over the year.

The recent improvement in Queensland's employment follows declines in mid-to-late 2014, with trend employment only modestly higher over the year to March 2015, up 0.1%.

Chart 1: Employment growth, trend, monthly % change



Queensland's trend participation rate rose 0.1 percentage point in March 2015, to 65.3%, but was 0.7 percentage point lower than a year earlier.

With the labour force growing at a similar pace to employment in March 2015, the trend unemployment rate in Queensland was unchanged, at 6.5% for the fourth consecutive month.

Nationally, trend employment rose 20,700 persons (0.2%) in March 2015, to be 1.6% higher over the year. The national trend unemployment rate was unchanged in the month, at 6.2%.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes, March 2015

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change			
			Month		Year		Month		Year	
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus
<b>Trend</b>										
Employed	2,329.8	11,700.6	3.4	20.7	2.4	185.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	1.6
Full-time	1,644.1	8,111.6	4.8	15.2	17.4	119.4	0.3	0.2	1.1	1.5
Part-time	685.7	3,589.0	-1.4	5.5	-15.0	65.6	-0.2	0.2	-2.1	1.9
Unemployed	162.0	768.6	0.3	-1.0	9.2	46.5	0.2	-0.1	6.0	6.4
Labour force	2,491.8	12,469.3	3.7	19.8	11.6	231.6	0.1	0.2	0.5	1.9
<b>Seas. Adjusted</b>										
Employed	2,325.9	11,720.3	-7.9	37.7	-13.3	184.2	-0.3	0.3	-0.6	1.6
Full-time	1,647.1	8,131.4	7.6	31.5	22.0	134.9	0.5	0.4	1.4	1.7
Part-time	678.8	3,588.9	-15.5	6.2	-35.3	49.3	-2.2	0.2	-4.9	1.4
Unemployed	164.0	764.5	-0.6	-1.5	12.4	42.6	-0.4	-0.2	8.2	5.9
Labour force	2,489.9	12,484.8	-8.5	36.1	-0.9	226.8	-0.3	0.3	0.0	1.9
			Current		A month ago		A year ago			
			Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus		
Unemploy. Rate										
Trend			6.5	6.2	6.5	6.2	6.2	5.9		
Seas. Adjusted			6.6	6.1	6.6	6.2	6.1	5.9		
Participation rate										
Trend			65.3	64.8	65.2	64.7	66.0	64.6		
Seas. Adjusted			65.2	64.8	65.5	64.7	66.3	64.7		

Table 2: Interstate comparison, March 2015

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
<b>Employed (trend)</b>							
% change on a month ago	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	-0.1	0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	3,400	3,600	8,900	900	2,700	-300	20,700
% change on a year ago	0.1	1.0	3.4	0.3	2.9	2.4	1.6
Change on a year ago (no.)	2,400	35,600	97,300	2,200	39,200	5,600	185,000
<b>Unemployment rate (trend)</b>							
March-15	6.5	6.1	6.1	6.7	5.7	6.5	6.2
February-15	6.5	6.1	6.2	6.8	5.6	6.5	6.2
March-14	6.2	5.5	6.4	6.8	5.1	7.5	5.9
<b>Participation rate (trend)</b>							
March-15	65.3	63.0	65.1	61.6	69.1	60.9	64.8
February-15	65.2	63.0	65.0	61.6	69.0	61.1	64.7
March-14	66.0	62.9	64.3	62.0	68.2	60.5	64.6
<b>Employed (sa)</b>							
% change on a month ago	-0.3	0.7	0.3	1.0	0.5	-0.1	0.3
Change on a month ago (no.)	-7,900	26,000	10,000	7,900	7,300	-200	37,700
% change on a year ago	-0.6	1.2	3.5	1.1	3.0	2.2	1.6
Change on a year ago (no.)	-13,300	42,900	99,900	9,100	40,300	5,200	184,200
<b>Unemployment rate (sa)</b>							
March-15	6.6	6.0	6.2	6.4	5.5	6.6	6.1
February-15	6.6	6.2	6.0	6.8	5.7	6.5	6.2
March-14	6.1	5.3	6.5	7.3	4.8	7.6	5.9
<b>Participation rate (sa)</b>							
March-15	65.2	63.1	65.1	61.7	69.1	60.8	64.8
February-15	65.5	62.9	64.9	61.4	69.1	60.9	64.7
March-14	66.3	62.9	64.3	62.1	68.1	60.5	64.7