

Labour Force, April 2015

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 7 May 2015, 11:30 am AEST.

Note: In the March 2015 Labour Force release, the ABS fully implemented an approach to re-estimate the seasonality of the Labour Force data with specific adjustments for the changed timing and content of the supplementary survey program.

Despite these adjustments, the ABS note that the impact of the new program on the core Labour Force Survey will not be known with any degree of certainty until a new seasonal pattern can be established. This is not expected until at least 2017.

Consequently, all data should be treated with caution.

Key data (trend)

Employment:	Queensland,	↑ 2,500	(0.1%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 19,100	(0.2%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	↑ 400	(6.6%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↓ 500	(6.1%)
Labour force:	Queensland,	↑ 2,900	(0.1%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 18,500	(0.1%)

Main findings

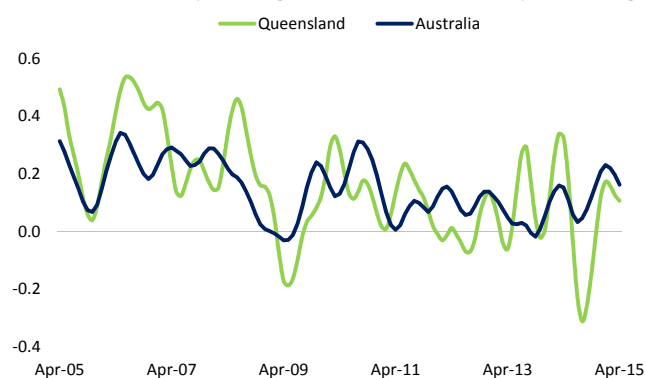
Trend employment in Queensland rose by 2,500 persons (0.1%) in April 2015, the fifth consecutive monthly gain (see Chart 1). The shift towards full-time employment continued in April, with monthly employment growth entirely driven by an increase in full-time workers (up 5,300 persons). This was the sixth consecutive monthly gain in full-time employment, up 36,000 persons over this period, led by a rise in female full-time workers. Meanwhile, part-time employment fell in April 2015 (down 2,800 persons).

Consistent with the shift towards full-time employment growth, trend aggregate hours worked in Queensland continued to rise in April 2015, to be 1.5% higher over the year.

The recent growth in Queensland's employment follows declines in mid-to-late 2014. As a result, trend employment was slightly lower over the year to April (down 0.1%).

Queensland's trend participation rate was unchanged at 65.3% in April 2015, but was 0.9 percentage point lower than a year earlier.

Chart 1: Employment growth, trend, monthly % change



With the labour force growing at a similar pace to employment in April 2015, the trend unemployment rate in Queensland was unchanged, from an upwardly revised 6.6% in the previous month.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes, April 2015

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change			
	Qld	Aus	Month		Year		Month		Year	
			Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus
Trend										
Employed	2,332.4	11,725.0	2.5	19.1	-2.5	189.9	0.1	0.2	-0.1	1.6
Full-time	1,653.8	8,123.5	5.3	11.6	23.9	111.3	0.3	0.1	1.5	1.4
Part-time	678.6	3,601.5	-2.8	7.5	-26.4	78.5	-0.4	0.2	-3.7	2.2
Unemployed	163.9	767.5	0.4	-0.5	8.7	41.3	0.2	-0.1	5.6	5.7
Labour force	2,496.3	12,492.5	2.9	18.5	6.2	231.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.9
Seas. Adjusted										
Employed	2,330.9	11,724.6	5.2	-2.9	-7.8	177.6	0.2	0.0	-0.3	1.5
Full-time	1,659.5	8,115.9	9.9	-21.9	34.5	100.6	0.6	-0.3	2.1	1.3
Part-time	671.4	3,608.6	-4.7	19.0	-42.3	77.0	-0.7	0.5	-5.9	2.2
Unemployed	167.1	769.5	3.0	7.0	9.1	53.3	1.8	0.9	5.8	7.4
Labour force	2,498.0	12,494.1	8.2	4.2	1.3	230.9	0.3	0.0	0.1	1.9
Unemploy. Rate										
Trend			6.6	6.1	6.6	6.2	6.2	5.9		
Seas. Adjusted			6.7	6.2	6.6	6.1	6.3	5.8		
Participation rate										
Trend			65.3	64.8	65.3	64.8	66.2	64.7		
Seas. Adjusted			65.3	64.8	65.2	64.8	66.4	64.7		

Nationally, trend employment rose by 19,100 persons (0.2%) in April 2015, to be 1.6% higher over the year. The national trend unemployment rate edged lower in the month, down 0.1 percentage point to 6.1%.

Consistent with recent trends in job vacancies, national employment growth over the past 12 months has been driven by gains in Victoria, and to a lesser extent, New South Wales.

Table 2: Interstate comparison, April 2015

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (trend)							
% change on a month ago	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	-0.3	0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	2,500	6,000	7,100	1,200	600	-700	19,100
% change on a year ago	-0.1	1.2	3.5	0.4	2.5	1.3	1.6
Change on a year ago (no.)	-2,500	44,700	101,100	3,100	33,200	3,100	189,900
Unemployment rate (trend)							
April-15	6.6	6.0	6.1	6.8	5.7	6.9	6.1
March-15	6.6	6.1	6.1	6.8	5.7	6.8	6.2
April-14	6.2	5.5	6.4	6.8	5.0	7.4	5.9
Participation rate (trend)							
April-15	65.3	63.0	65.1	61.8	68.8	60.8	64.8
March-15	65.3	63.0	65.1	61.7	68.8	60.9	64.8
April-14	66.2	62.9	64.3	62.1	68.1	60.7	64.7
Employed (sa)							
% change on a month ago	0.2	0.3	-0.2	-0.1	-0.8	-0.4	0.0
Change on a month ago (no.)	5,200	9,800	-4,900	-500	-10,400	-1,000	-2,900
% change on a year ago	-0.3	1.4	3.6	0.3	2.1	-0.1	1.5
Change on a year ago (no.)	-7,800	50,500	102,100	2,200	27,900	-300	177,600
Unemployment rate (sa)							
April-15	6.7	6.0	6.2	7.1	5.7	7.3	6.2
March-15	6.6	5.9	6.2	6.4	5.5	6.6	6.1
April-14	6.3	5.4	6.5	6.3	4.8	7.4	5.8
Participation rate (sa)							
April-15	65.3	63.2	65.0	62.0	68.5	61.0	64.8
March-15	65.2	63.1	65.2	61.6	69.0	60.8	64.8
April-14	66.4	63.0	64.2	62.0	68.0	61.4	64.7