

Labour Force, May 2015

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 11 June 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 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,	↑ 3,700	(0.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 15,700	(0.1%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	↑ 600	(6.5%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↓ 3,400	(6.0%)
Labour force:	Queensland,	↑ 4,300	(0.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 12,300	(0.1%)

Main findings

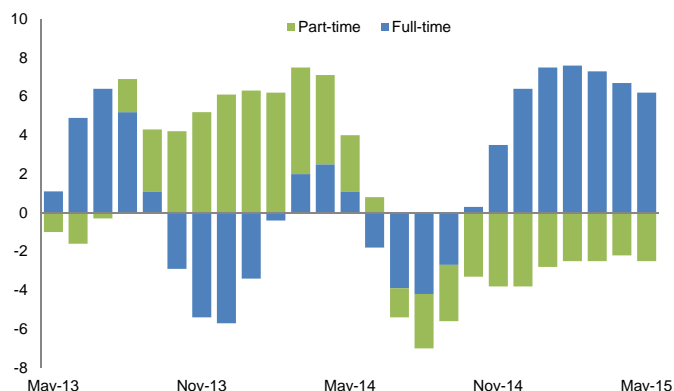
Trend employment in Queensland rose by 3,700 persons (up 0.2%) in May 2015. The monthly gain was entirely due to an increase in full-time workers (up 6,200 persons). Meanwhile, part-time employment fell by 2,500 persons (see Chart 1).

The recent improvement in employment outcomes follows declines in mid-to-late 2014. As a result, trend employment was only slightly higher over the year to May (up 0.1%). Full-time employment rose by 32,900 persons over this period, mostly due to an increase in female full-time workers.

Consistent with growth in full-time employment, trend aggregate hours worked in Queensland has risen since late 2014, to be 1.4% higher over the year to May 2015.

Queensland's trend participation rate was unchanged at 65.4% in the month, but was 0.9 percentage point lower than a year earlier.

Chart 1: Monthly employment change, Queensland
(thousand persons, trend)



With the labour force growing at a similar pace to employment in May 2015, the trend unemployment rate in Queensland was unchanged, from a downwardly revised 6.5% in the previous month. At 6.9% in May, the unemployment rate for Queensland males was 0.9 percentage point higher than that for females.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes, May 2015

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change			
			Month		Year		Month		Year	
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus
Trend										
Employed	2,341.8	11,747.2	3.7	15.7	3.1	202.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	1.8
Full-time	1,663.4	8,131.8	6.2	8.7	32.9	106.0	0.4	0.1	2.0	1.3
Part-time	678.4	3,615.4	-2.5	7.0	-29.8	96.1	-0.4	0.2	-4.2	2.7
Unemployed	162.7	756.3	0.6	-3.4	5.0	22.4	0.4	-0.4	3.2	3.1
Labour force	2,504.5	12,503.5	4.3	12.3	8.1	224.5	0.2	0.1	0.3	1.8
Seas. Adjusted										
Employed	2,351.7	11,759.6	18.7	42.1	15.3	234.0	0.8	0.4	0.7	2.0
Full-time	1,668.4	8,128.6	9.0	14.7	25.8	95.2	0.5	0.2	1.6	1.2
Part-time	683.3	3,630.9	9.7	27.3	-10.5	138.7	1.4	0.8	-1.5	4.0
Unemployed	158.5	745.2	-7.5	-22.0	3.7	17.8	-4.5	-2.9	2.4	2.4
Labour force	2,510.2	12,504.8	11.2	20.1	19.0	251.8	0.4	0.2	0.8	2.1
			Current	A month ago	A year ago					
			Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus		
Unemploy. Rate										
Trend			6.5	6.0	6.5	6.1	6.3	6.0		
Seas. Adjusted			6.3	6.0	6.6	6.1	6.2	5.9		
Participation rate										
Trend			65.4	64.8	65.4	64.8	66.3	64.7		
Seas. Adjusted			65.5	64.7	65.3	64.7	66.1	64.5		

Nationally, trend employment rose by 15,700 persons (0.1%) in May 2015, to be 1.8% higher over the year. The national trend unemployment rate edged lower in the month, down 0.1 percentage point to 6.0%. Consistent with recent trends in job vacancies, New South Wales and Victoria accounted for the majority of national employment growth over the past 12 months.

Table 2: Interstate comparison, May 2015

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (trend)							
% change on a month ago	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.0	-0.3	0.1
Change on a month ago (no.)	3,700	9,200	3,700	1,400	600	-700	15,700
% change on a year ago	0.1	1.7	3.4	0.5	2.3	0.6	1.8
Change on a year ago (no.)	3,100	60,900	97,900	4,200	31,100	1,400	202,100
Unemployment rate (trend)							
May-15	6.5	5.9	6.0	7.2	5.4	7.0	6.0
April-15	6.5	5.9	6.0	7.1	5.5	6.9	6.1
May-14	6.3	5.6	6.5	6.8	5.0	7.4	6.0
Participation rate (trend)							
May-15	65.4	63.1	64.9	62.2	68.5	60.6	64.8
April-15	65.4	63.1	65.0	62.0	68.6	60.8	64.8
May-14	66.3	63.0	64.3	62.2	68.1	60.8	64.7
Employed (sa)							
% change on a month ago	0.8	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.4	-0.2	0.4
Change on a month ago (no.)	18,700	15,400	3,500	2,100	6,000	-400	42,100
% change on a year ago	0.7	2.4	2.9	1.1	2.2	1.4	2.0
Change on a year ago (no.)	15,300	87,600	84,600	9,100	30,100	3,200	234,000
Unemployment rate (sa)							
May-15	6.3	5.7	6.0	7.6	5.1	7.0	6.0
April-15	6.6	5.9	6.1	7.2	5.6	7.3	6.1
May-14	6.2	5.8	6.3	6.7	5.0	7.5	5.9
Participation rate (sa)							
May-15	65.5	63.3	64.8	62.5	68.3	60.6	64.7
April-15	65.3	63.2	65.0	62.1	68.4	60.9	64.7
May-14	66.1	62.8	64.4	61.8	68.2	60.4	64.5