Labour Force, August 2015

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 10 September 2015, 11:30 am AEST.

Note: In response to the changed timing and content of the supplementary survey program, the ABS recently altered the way it estimated the seasonality of Labour Force data.

All data should be treated with caution until a new seasonal pattern can be established, which is not expected until at least 2017.

This edition of the survey incorporates updated population benchmarks which have resulted in some downward revisions to estimates of Queensland employment and other labour market components.

Key data (trend)

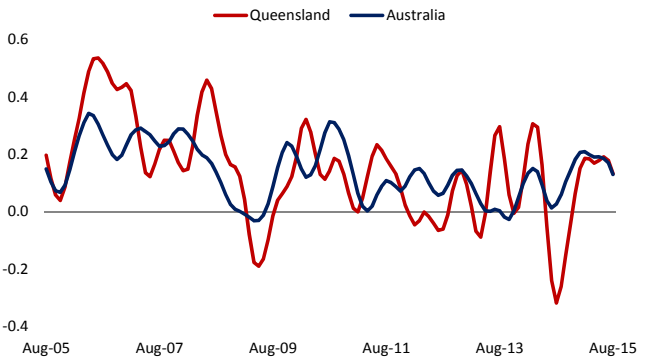
Employment: (persons, growth)	Queensland, Australia,	↑ 3,200 ↑ 15,300	(0.1%) (0.1%)
Unemployment: (persons, rate)	Queensland, Australia,	↓ 100 ↑ 6,500	(6.4%) (6.2%)
Labour force: (persons, growth)	Queensland, Australia,	↑ 3,000 ↑ 21,800	(0.1%) (0.2%)

Main findings

Trend employment in Queensland rose by 3,200 persons (up 0.1%) in August 2015 (see Chart 1). The monthly gain was driven by a rise in part-time employment (up 6,200 persons), which more than offset the decline in full-time employment (down 3,000 persons). Trend employment in Queensland was 1.0% higher over the year to August 2015.

Queensland's trend participation rate in August was unchanged from an upwardly revised 65.4% in July. Following a sharp fall in the second half of 2014, Queensland's trend participation rate has edged higher, coinciding with a 32,000 person gain in trend employment so far in 2015.

Chart 1: Employment growth, trend, monthly % change



With employment growing at a similar pace as the labour force in August 2015, the trend unemployment rate in Queensland was unchanged in the month, from an upwardly revised 6.4% in July. The unemployment rate for females in Queensland declined slightly (down 0.1 percentage point to 5.5%), while the unemployment rate for males was unchanged, at 7.1%.

Nationally, trend employment rose by 15,300 persons (up 0.1%) in August 2015, to be 2.0% higher over the year. The national employment gain of 229,900 persons over the past year has been driven largely by growth in New South Wales and Victoria. Meanwhile, the national trend unemployment rate was unchanged in August 2015, from an upwardly revised 6.2% in July.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes, August 2015

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change			
			Month		Year		Month		Year	
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus
Trend										
Employed	2,345.1	11,765.4	3.2	15.3	23.0	229.9	0.1	0.1	1.0	2.0
Full-time	1,643.6	8,134.0	-3.0	8.2	24.8	123.7	-0.2	0.1	1.5	1.5
Part-time	701.5	3,631.4	6.2	7.1	-1.8	106.2	0.9	0.2	-0.3	3.0
Unemployed	159.4	778.4	-0.1	6.5	-5.6	18.8	-0.1	0.8	-3.4	2.5
Labour force	2,504.5	12,543.8	3.0	21.8	17.4	248.7	0.1	0.2	0.7	2.0
Seas. Adjusted										
Employed	2,348.3	11,775.8	11.2	17.5	20.8	235.0	0.5	0.1	0.9	2.0
Full-time	1,639.9	8,141.0	8.2	11.5	20.9	130.8	0.5	0.1	1.3	1.6
Part-time	708.4	3,634.8	3.0	5.9	-0.1	104.2	0.4	0.2	0.0	3.0
Unemployed	162.1	781.1	-0.5	-14.4	-4.0	30.0	-0.3	-1.8	-2.4	4.0
Labour force	2,510.4	12,556.8	10.7	2.9	16.8	264.9	0.4	0.0	0.7	2.2

	Current		A month ago		A year ago	
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus
Unemploy. Rate						
Trend	6.4	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.6	6.2
Seas. Adjusted	6.5	6.2	6.5	6.3	6.7	6.1
Participation rate						
Trend	65.4	65.0	65.4	64.9	65.8	64.6
Seas. Adjusted	65.5	65.0	65.3	65.1	66.0	64.6

Table 2: Interstate comparison, August 2015

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (trend)							
% change on a month ago	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
Change on a month ago (no.)	*3,200*	*12,400*	*-1,100*	*600*	*800*	*600*	*15,300*
% change on a year ago	1.0	3.2	2.3	0.3	1.1	1.2	2.0
Change on a year ago (no.)	*23,000*	*115,000*	*66,800*	*2,400*	*14,900*	*2,900*	*229,900*
Unemployment rate (trend)							
August-15	6.4	5.9	6.2	8.1	6.1	6.5	6.2
July-15	6.4	5.9	6.1	7.9	6.0	6.6	6.2
August-14	6.6	5.8	6.8	6.6	5.0	7.2	6.2
Participation rate (trend)							
August-15	65.4	64.1	64.6	62.8	68.8	61.1	65.0
July-15	65.4	63.9	64.7	62.6	68.8	61.0	64.9
August-14	65.8	63.0	64.7	62.1	68.2	61.1	64.6
Employed (sa)							
% change on a month ago	0.5	0.2	-0.2	0.5	0.5	1.1	0.1
Change on a month ago (no.)	*11,200*	*9,300*	*-6,600*	*4,200*	*7,000*	*2,600*	*17,500*
% change on a year ago	0.9	3.3	2.2	-0.1	1.7	2.1	2.0
Change on a year ago (no.)	*20,800*	*118,800*	*63,000*	*-700*	*22,100*	*4,900*	*235,000*
Unemployment rate (sa)							
August-15	6.5	6.0	6.1	7.9	6.1	6.4	6.2
July-15	6.5	6.0	6.4	7.9	6.4	6.6	6.3
August-14	6.7	5.8	6.9	5.9	5.0	7.1	6.1
Participation rate (sa)							
August-15	65.5	64.2	64.4	62.7	69.0	61.4	65.0
July-15	65.3	64.1	64.9	62.4	68.9	60.9	65.1
August-14	66.0	62.9	64.7	62.1	68.0	60.9	64.6

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