Labour Force, December 2015

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 14 January 2016, 10:30 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.

Key data (trend)

Employment: (persons, growth)		↑ 6,200 ↑ 27,400	(0.3%) (0.2%)
Unemployment: (persons, rate)		↓ 2,100 ↓ 9,900	(5.9%) (5.8%)
Labour force: (persons, growth)	Queensland, Australia,	† 4,200 † 17,600	(0.2%) (0.1%)

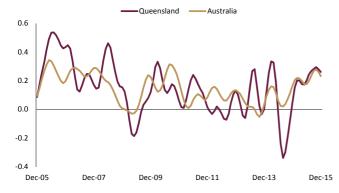
Main findings

Trend employment in Queensland rose by 6,200 persons (up 0.3%) in December 2015 (see Chart 1). This was the thirteenth consecutive monthly rise in employment. Part-time employment increased by 2,400 persons in December and full-time employment increased by 3,800 persons.

Trend employment in Queensland was 2.8% higher over the year to December 2015, the second strongest annual growth in the nation following New South Wales.

Queensland's trend participation rate increased slightly in December 2015, to be 65.7%. Queensland's participation rate has edged higher over 2015 following a sharp fall in the second half of 2014.

Chart 1: Employment growth, trend, monthly % change



With employment growing at a slightly faster pace than the labour force in December 2015, Queensland's trend unemployment rate fell to 5.9%, from a downwardly revised 6.0% in the previous month. Queensland's unemployment rate declined 0.7 percentage point over the past 12 months, with similar falls in both males and females.

Nationally, trend employment rose by 27,400 persons (up 0.2%) in December, to be 2.7% higher over the year. The majority of the 312,100 person gain in national employment over the past 12 months was in New South Wales (up 173,600 persons). Meanwhile, the national trend unemployment rate declined slightly in the month to 5.8%, from a downwardly revised 5.9% in November.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes, December 2015

	Level (000s)			Difference (000s)			% Change				
				Month		Year		Month		Year	
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	
Trend											
Employed	2,375.0	11,893.8	6.2	27.4	64.0	312.1	0.3	0.2	2.8	2.7	
Full-time	1,652.2	8,210.6	3.8	18.0	28.8	186.7	0.2	0.2	1.8	2.3	
Part-time	722.8	3,683.3	2.4	9.5	35.2	125.6	0.3	0.3	5.1	3.5	
Unemployed	149.3	734.3	-2.1	-9.9	-14.0	-37.4	-1.4	-1.3	-8.6	-4.8	
Labour force	2,524.4	12,628.2	4.2	17.6	50.1	274.8	0.2	0.1	2.0	2.2	
Seas. Adjusted											
Employed	2,378.2	11,902.3	6.7	-1.0	56.6	301.3	0.3	0.0	2.4	2.6	
Full-time	1,656.3	8,228.7	2.2	17.5	15.9	187.2	0.1	0.2	1.0	2.3	
Part-time	721.9	3,673.6	4.5	-18.5	40.7	114.1	0.6	-0.5	6.0	3.2	
Unemployed	147.0	727.5	-1.6	-10.9	-6.6	-27.3	-1.1	-1.5	-4.3	-3.6	
Labour force	2,525.2	12,629.8	5.1	-11.9	50.0	274.1	0.2	-0.1	2.0	2.2	
	Current		A month ago A year a		r ago						
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus					
Unemploy. Rate											
Trend	5.9	5.8	6.0	5.9	6.6	6.2					
Seas. Adjusted	5.8	5.8	5.9	5.8	6.2	6.1					
Participation rate											
Trend	65.7	65.2	65.6	65.1	65.2	64.6					
Seas. Adjusted	65.7	65.1	65.6	65.3	65.3	64.7					

Table 2: Interstate comparison, December 2015

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (trend)							
% change on a month ago	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.0	-0.2	0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	6,200	13,400	6,400	1,600	600	-600	27,400
% change on a year ago	2.8	4.8	2.1	1.1	0.3	-0.5	2.7
Change on a year ago (no.)	64,000	173,600	60,700	8,600	4,600	-1,200	312,100
Unemployment rate (trend)							
December-15	5.9	5.2	5.9	7.3	6.4	6.6	5.8
November-15	6.0	5.4	6.0	7.4	6.4	6.5	5.9
December-14	6.6	6.1	6.5	6.8	5.5	6.7	6.2
Participation rate (trend)							
December-15	65.7	64.5	64.7	62.2	68.8	60.7	65.2
November-15	65.6	64.4	64.7	62.2	68.8	60.8	65.1
December-14	65.2	63.0	64.9	61.7	68.7	61.3	64.6
Employed (sa)							
% change on a month ago	0.3	-0.1	-0.4	-0.1	0.6	-1.6	0.0
Change on a month ago (no.)	6,700	-5,300	-12,900	-1,000	8,000	-3,800	-1,000
% change on a year ago Change on a year ago (no.)	2.4 56,600	4.6 168,800	1.5 44,600	1.6 12,600	1.0 13,100	-1.7 -4,100	2.6 301,300
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Unemployment rate (sa) December-15	5.8	5.2	5.9	7.2	6.3	6.8	5.8
November-15	5.8 5.9	5.2 5.2	5.9 6.1	7.2	6.6	6.6	5.8 5.8
December-14	6.2	6.0	6.4	6.7	5.9	6.6	6.1
Participation rate (sa)							
December-15	65.7	64.4	64.6	62.2	68.8	60.2	65.1
November-15	65.6	64.6	65.1	62.4	68.6	61.1	65.3
December-14	65.3	63.0	65.1	61.5	68.7	61.5	64.7



