

Labour Force, February 2016

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 17 March 2016, 10:30 am AEST.

Note: In response to the changed timing and content of the supplementary survey program, the ABS 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:	Queensland,	↑ 3,900	(0.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 11,300	(0.1%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	↓ 900	(5.9%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↓ 700	(5.8%)
Labour force:	Queensland,	↑ 3,000	(0.1%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 10,700	(0.1%)

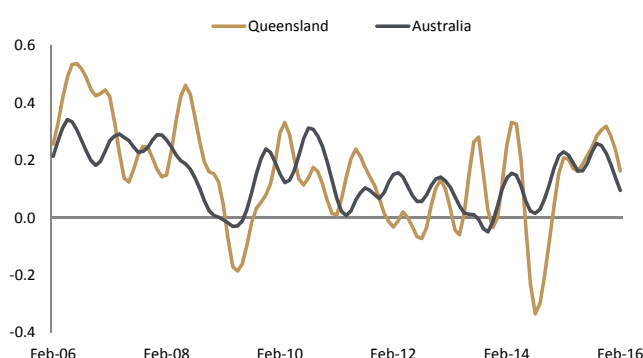
Main findings

Trend employment in Queensland rose by 3,900 persons (up 0.2%) in February 2016 (see Chart 1). This was the fifteenth consecutive monthly rise in employment. Full-time employment increased by 4,100 persons in February and more than offset a minor fall in part-time employment.

Trend employment in Queensland was 2.8% higher over the year to February 2016, the second strongest annual growth in the nation following New South Wales.

Queensland's trend participation rate was unchanged at 65.8% in February 2016. Queensland's participation rate has edged higher since early 2015 following a sharp fall in the second half of 2014.

Chart 1: Employment growth, trend, monthly % change



With employment growing at a similar pace to the labour force in February 2016, Queensland's trend unemployment rate was unchanged from a downwardly revised 5.9% in January. Queensland's unemployment rate has declined 0.7 percentage point over the past 12 months, comprising a fall in both the male and female unemployment rates.

Nationally, trend employment rose by 11,300 persons (up 0.1%) in February, to be 2.3% higher over the year. The majority of the 271,500 person gain in national employment over the past 12 months was in New South Wales (up 154,200 persons). Meanwhile, the national trend unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.8% in February 2016.

Table 1 Labour force outcomes, February 2016

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change				
	Qld	Aus	Month		Year		Month		Year		
			Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	
Trend											
Employed	2,384.5	11,903.1	3.9	11.3	65.2	271.5	0.2	0.1	2.8	2.3	
Full-time	1,664.0	8,203.7	4.1	5.9	27.7	149.8	0.2	0.1	1.7	1.9	
Part-time	720.5	3,699.4	-0.2	5.5	37.5	121.7	0.0	0.1	5.5	3.4	
Unemployed	149.5	736.6	-0.9	-0.7	-13.4	-31.8	-0.6	-0.1	-8.2	-4.1	
Labour force	2,534.0	12,639.7	3.0	10.7	51.8	239.7	0.1	0.1	2.1	1.9	
Seas. Adjusted											
Employed	2,380.1	11,884.0	-5.8	0.2	51.5	239.3	-0.2	0.0	2.2	2.1	
Full-time	1,671.7	8,192.6	16.6	15.9	39.4	133.4	1.0	0.2	2.4	1.7	
Part-time	708.4	3,691.5	-22.4	-15.6	12.1	106.0	-3.1	-0.4	1.7	3.0	
Unemployed	141.3	732.6	-22.7	-27.3	-25.3	-45.9	-13.8	-3.6	-15.2	-5.9	
Labour force	2,521.5	12,616.6	-28.4	-27.0	26.2	193.4	-1.1	-0.2	1.0	1.6	
	Current	A month ago	A year ago								
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus					
Unemploy. Rate											
Trend	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.8	6.6	6.2					
Seas. Adjusted	5.6	5.8	6.4	6.0	6.7	6.3					
Participation rate											
Trend	65.8	65.1	65.8	65.1	65.3	64.7					
Seas. Adjusted	65.4	64.9	66.3	65.1	65.6	64.8					

Table 2 Interstate comparison, February 2016

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (trend)							
% change on a month ago	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	-0.1	-0.3	0.1
Change on a month ago (no.)	3,900	2,700	4,000	800	-1,000	-800	11,300
% change on a year ago	2.8	4.2	1.6	1.0	-0.2	-1.2	2.3
Change on a year ago (no.)	65,200	154,200	47,200	8,000	-3,000	-2,800	271,500
Unemployment rate (trend)							
February-16	5.9	5.3	6.1	7.2	6.1	6.9	5.8
January-16	5.9	5.3	6.1	7.2	6.1	6.8	5.8
February-15	6.6	6.1	6.2	7.0	5.6	6.7	6.2
Participation rate (trend)							
February-16	65.8	64.2	64.8	62.1	68.1	60.1	65.1
January-16	65.8	64.3	64.7	62.1	68.3	60.3	65.1
February-15	65.3	63.1	65.0	61.9	68.7	61.1	64.7
Employed (sa)							
% change on a month ago	-0.2	-0.1	1.0	-0.3	-0.7	-0.5	0.0
Change on a month ago (no.)	-5,800	-3,800	30,300	-2,400	-10,100	-1,300	200
% change on a year ago	2.2	3.9	1.9	1.1	-1.0	-1.4	2.1
Change on a year ago (no.)	51,500	143,000	55,300	8,500	-13,700	-3,300	239,300
Unemployment rate (sa)							
February-16	5.6	5.3	6.0	7.7	6.0	7.0	5.8
January-16	6.4	5.5	6.3	6.8	5.9	6.6	6.0
February-15	6.7	6.3	6.1	7.0	5.8	6.6	6.3
Participation rate (sa)							
February-16	65.4	63.9	64.8	62.2	67.7	60.1	64.9
January-16	66.3	64.3	64.5	61.9	68.2	60.2	65.1
February-15	65.6	63.1	64.9	61.6	69.1	61.1	64.8