

# Labour Force, March 2016

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 14 April 2016, 11:30 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.

Additionally, the ABS has conducted an annual re-analysis of the Labour Force series on estimates up to February 2016. The seasonally adjusted and trend estimates in this month's issue reflect adjustments made as a result of this re-analysis.

## Key data (trend)

<b>Employment:</b>	Queensland,	↓ 500	(0.0%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 7,700	(0.1%)
<b>Unemployment:</b>	Queensland,	↓ 200	(6.0%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↓ 2,800	(5.8%)
<b>Labour force:</b>	Queensland,	↓ 700	(0.0%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 4,900	(0.0%)

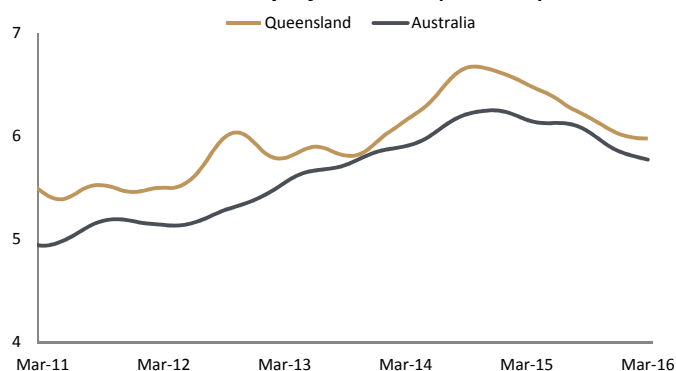
## Main findings

Trend employment in Queensland fell slightly by 500 persons in March 2016, the first fall following fifteen consecutive monthly rises in employment. Part-time employment fell by 600 persons in March and more than offset a marginal increase in full-time employment.

Despite the slight fall in the month, trend employment in Queensland was still 2.2% higher over the year to March 2016, the second strongest annual growth in the nation following New South Wales.

With employment falling at a similar pace to the labour force in March 2016, Queensland's trend unemployment rate was unchanged from an upwardly revised 6.0% in February. Queensland's unemployment rate has edged lower over the past 12 months (see Chart 1), comprising a fall in both the male and female unemployment rates.

Chart 1: Unemployment rate (%), trend



Queensland's trend participation rate fell slightly in March 2016 to 65.5%. Despite this slight fall in March, Queensland's participation rate has generally edged higher since early 2015 following a sharp fall in the second half of 2014.

Nationally, trend employment rose by 7,700 persons (up 0.1%) in March, to be 2.2% higher over the year. The majority of the 251,200 person gain in national employment over the past 12 months was in New South Wales (up 137,200 persons). Meanwhile, the national trend unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.8% in March 2016.

Table 1 Labour force outcomes, March 2016

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change				
	Qld	Aus	Month		Year		Month		Year		
			Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	
<b>Trend</b>											
Employed	2,375.6	11,910.0	-0.5	7.7	50.5	251.2	0.0	0.1	2.2	2.2	
Full-time	1,656.5	8,193.8	0.1	-0.3	13.6	122.9	0.0	0.0	0.8	1.5	
Part-time	719.1	3,716.2	-0.6	8.0	36.9	128.3	-0.1	0.2	5.4	3.6	
Unemployed	151.0	729.6	-0.2	-2.8	-10.8	-35.5	-0.1	-0.4	-6.7	-4.6	
Labour force	2,526.7	12,639.6	-0.7	4.9	39.8	215.7	0.0	0.0	1.6	1.7	
<b>Seas. Adjusted</b>											
Employed	2,361.5	11,909.6	-15.4	26.1	40.6	235.3	-0.6	0.2	1.7	2.0	
Full-time	1,641.7	8,180.4	-27.8	-8.8	-0.5	82.9	-1.7	-0.1	0.0	1.0	
Part-time	719.8	3,729.2	12.4	34.9	41.1	152.4	1.8	0.9	6.1	4.3	
Unemployed	154.2	723.1	13.0	-7.3	-8.3	-42.9	9.2	-1.0	-5.1	-5.6	
Labour force	2,515.6	12,632.7	-2.5	18.8	32.2	192.4	-0.1	0.1	1.3	1.5	
	Current		A month ago		A year ago						
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus					
Unemploy. Rate											
Trend	6.0	5.8	6.0	5.8	6.5	6.2					
Seas. Adjusted	6.1	5.7	5.6	5.8	6.5	6.2					
Participation rate											
Trend	65.5	65.0	65.6	65.0	65.3	64.8					
Seas. Adjusted	65.2	64.9	65.4	64.9	65.2	64.8					

Table 2 Interstate comparison, March 2016

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
<b>Employed (trend)</b>							
% change on a month ago	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	-0.2	0.1
Change on a month ago (no.)	-500	-400	5,400	1,100	800	-400	7,700
% change on a year ago	2.2	3.8	1.8	1.0	0.0	-1.0	2.2
Change on a year ago (no.)	50,500	137,200	52,700	8,400	-600	-2,400	251,200
<b>Unemployment rate (trend)</b>							
March-16	6.0	5.3	5.9	7.2	5.7	6.9	5.8
February-16	6.0	5.3	6.0	7.2	5.9	6.8	5.8
March-15	6.5	6.0	6.2	7.1	5.6	6.8	6.2
<b>Participation rate (trend)</b>							
March-16	65.5	64.0	64.7	62.2	68.0	60.1	65.0
February-16	65.6	64.1	64.7	62.2	68.1	60.2	65.0
March-15	65.3	63.2	65.0	62.0	68.8	61.0	64.8
<b>Employed (sa)</b>							
% change on a month ago	-0.6	0.1	0.4	0.6	1.2	0.3	0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	-15,400	4,800	10,600	4,600	16,600	800	26,100
% change on a year ago	1.7	3.5	2.0	0.9	0.3	-0.7	2.0
Change on a year ago (no.)	40,600	126,400	60,300	7,600	3,800	-1,600	235,300
<b>Unemployment rate (sa)</b>							
March-16	6.1	5.3	5.7	7.2	5.5	6.8	5.7
February-16	5.6	5.3	6.0	7.6	6.0	6.9	5.8
March-15	6.5	6.0	6.2	6.5	5.6	6.6	6.2
<b>Participation rate (sa)</b>							
March-16	65.2	63.9	64.7	62.2	68.1	60.2	64.9
February-16	65.4	63.9	64.9	62.2	67.7	60.1	64.9
March-15	65.2	63.2	65.1	61.7	68.9	60.8	64.8