

Labour Force, April 2016

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 19 May 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.

Key data (trend)

Employment: Queensland, ↓ 4,100 (0.2%)
 (persons, growth) Australia, ↑ 4,100 (0.0%)

Unemployment: Queensland, ↑ 1,500 (6.2%)
 (persons, rate) Australia, ↓ 1,900 (5.7%)

Labour force: Queensland, ↓ 2,600 (0.1%)
 (persons, growth) Australia, ↑ 2,200 (0.0%)

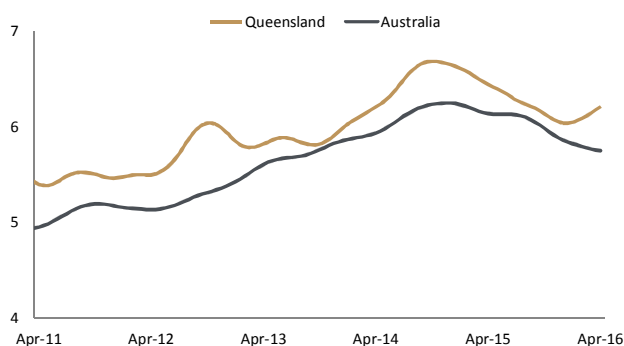
Main findings

Trend employment in Queensland fell by 4,100 persons (down 0.2%) in April 2016, the third fall following fourteen consecutive monthly rises. Both full-time and part-time employment fell in April, declining by 3,400 and 700 persons, respectively.

Despite the fall in the month, trend employment in Queensland was still 1.5% (or 35,400 persons) higher over the year to April 2016, the third strongest annual growth in the nation following New South Wales and Victoria.

With employment falling at a greater pace than the labour force in April 2016, Queensland's trend unemployment rate increased to 6.2%, from an upwardly revised 6.1% in March. After a period of moderation for much of 2015, Queensland's unemployment rate has edged slightly higher over the past three months (see Chart 1), with an increase in both the male and female unemployment rates.

Chart 1: Unemployment rate (%), trend



Queensland's trend participation rate fell slightly in April 2016, to 65.3%. Queensland's participation rate has generally edged lower since the beginning of 2016, following a steady increase throughout 2015.

Nationally, trend employment rose by 4,100 persons in April, to be 2.0% higher over the year. The majority of the 229,000 person gain in national employment over the past 12 months was in New South Wales (up 120,200 persons). Meanwhile, the national trend unemployment rate fell slightly to 5.7% in April 2016, from 5.8% a month earlier.

Table 1 Labour force outcomes, April 2016

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change				
	Qld	Aus	Month		Year		Month		Year		
			Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	
Trend											
Employed	2,364.7	11,910.8	-4.1	4.1	35.4	229.0	-0.2	0.0	1.5	2.0	
Full-time	1,647.0	8,174.4	-3.4	-6.4	-0.1	89.1	-0.2	-0.1	0.0	1.1	
Part-time	717.7	3,736.4	-0.7	10.6	35.5	139.9	-0.1	0.3	5.2	3.9	
Unemployed	156.6	726.6	1.5	-1.9	-3.7	-37.2	1.0	-0.3	-2.3	-4.9	
Labour force	2,521.3	12,637.4	-2.6	2.2	31.7	191.7	-0.1	0.0	1.3	1.5	
Seas. Adjusted											
Employed	2,354.9	11,917.2	-5.6	10.8	32.5	244.7	-0.2	0.1	1.4	2.1	
Full-time	1,634.5	8,165.6	-6.8	-9.3	-16.4	83.8	-0.4	-0.1	-1.0	1.0	
Part-time	720.4	3,751.6	1.2	20.2	48.9	160.9	0.2	0.5	7.3	4.5	
Unemployed	162.7	723.3	7.4	0.4	0.0	-46.3	4.8	0.1	0.0	-6.0	
Labour force	2,517.6	12,640.4	1.8	11.2	32.5	198.4	0.1	0.1	1.3	1.6	
	Current		A month ago		A year ago						
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus					
Unemploy. Rate											
Trend	6.2	5.7	6.1	5.8	6.4	6.1					
Seas. Adjusted	6.5	5.7	6.2	5.7	6.5	6.2					
Participation rate											
Trend	65.3	64.9	65.4	64.9	65.3	64.8					
Seas. Adjusted	65.2	64.8	65.2	64.9	65.2	64.8					

Table 2 Interstate comparison, April 2016

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (trend)							
% change on a month ago	-0.2	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	-0.1	0.0
Change on a month ago (no.)	-4,100	-1,200	5,200	1,100	1,000	-200	4,100
% change on a year ago	1.5	3.3	2.0	1.3	0.3	-0.8	2.0
Change on a year ago (no.)	35,400	120,200	57,500	10,300	3,400	-2,000	229,000
Unemployment rate (trend)							
April-16	6.2	5.3	5.8	7.0	5.5	6.6	5.7
March-16	6.1	5.3	5.8	7.0	5.7	6.7	5.8
April-15	6.4	6.0	6.1	7.3	5.6	6.8	6.1
Participation rate (trend)							
April-16	65.3	63.9	64.7	62.2	67.9	59.9	64.9
March-16	65.4	64.0	64.7	62.2	68.0	60.0	64.9
April-15	65.3	63.3	64.9	62.2	68.6	60.9	64.8
Employed (sa)							
% change on a month ago	-0.2	0.2	0.0	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.1
Change on a month ago (no.)	-5,600	8,400	100	5,400	700	0	10,800
% change on a year ago	1.4	3.4	2.1	1.9	1.0	-0.3	2.1
Change on a year ago (no.)	32,500	124,700	62,700	15,200	13,700	-700	244,700
Unemployment rate (sa)							
April-16	6.5	5.3	5.6	6.8	5.6	6.3	5.7
March-16	6.2	5.3	5.7	7.1	5.5	6.8	5.7
April-15	6.5	6.0	6.2	7.4	5.7	7.4	6.2
Participation rate (sa)							
April-16	65.2	64.0	64.6	62.4	68.1	59.8	64.8
March-16	65.2	63.9	64.7	62.2	68.0	60.1	64.9
April-15	65.2	63.3	64.9	62.1	68.4	61.1	64.8