

Labour Force, May 2016

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 16 June 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,	↓ 5,100	(0.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 3,700	(0.0%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	↑ 2,100	(6.4%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↓ 2,200	(5.7%)
Labour force:	Queensland,	↓ 2,900	(0.1%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑ 1,500	(0.0%)

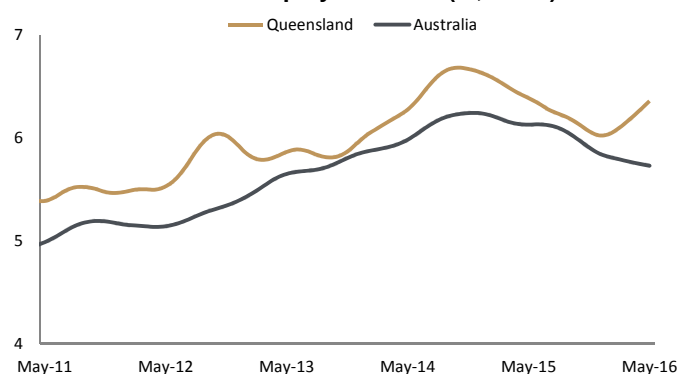
Main findings

Trend employment in Queensland fell by 5,100 persons (down 0.2%) in May 2016, the fourth fall following fourteen consecutive monthly rises. Full-time employment fell by 5,800 persons in May, and more than offset a 700 person increase in part-time employment.

Despite the fall in the month, trend employment in Queensland was 1.0% (or 22,800 persons) higher over the year to May 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 May 2016, Queensland's trend unemployment rate increased to 6.4%, from an upwardly revised 6.3% in April. After a period of moderation for much of 2015, Queensland's unemployment rate has moved higher over the past four 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 May 2016, to 65.1%, from a downwardly revised 65.2% in April. Consistent with trends in employment, Queensland's participation rate has edged lower since the beginning of 2016, following a steady increase throughout 2015.

Nationally, trend employment rose by 3,700 persons in May, to be 1.9% higher over the year. The majority of the 217,000 person gain in national employment over the past 12 months was in New South Wales (up 117,700 persons). Meanwhile, the national trend unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.7% in May 2016.

Table 1 Labour force outcomes, May 2016

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change				
	Qld	Aus	Month		Year		Month		Year		
			Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	
Trend											
Employed	2,356.9	11,919.4	-5.1	3.7	22.8	217.0	-0.2	0.0	1.0	1.9	
Full-time	1,636.5	8,156.9	-5.8	-8.9	-11.9	60.6	-0.4	-0.1	-0.7	0.7	
Part-time	720.4	3,762.6	0.7	12.6	34.7	156.4	0.1	0.3	5.1	4.3	
Unemployed	160.0	724.3	2.1	-2.2	0.8	-39.7	1.3	-0.3	0.5	-5.2	
Labour force	2,516.9	12,643.7	-2.9	1.5	23.6	177.3	-0.1	0.0	0.9	1.4	
Seas. Adjusted											
Employed	2,354.3	11,930.7	-1.7	17.8	8.8	224.7	-0.1	0.1	0.4	1.9	
Full-time	1,630.5	8,156.5	-4.5	0.0	-27.9	64.7	-0.3	0.0	-1.7	0.8	
Part-time	723.8	3,774.2	2.8	17.8	36.7	160.1	0.4	0.5	5.3	4.4	
Unemployed	161.5	726.4	-1.3	1.6	4.6	-13.9	-0.8	0.2	2.9	-1.9	
Labour force	2,515.9	12,657.1	-3.0	19.5	13.5	210.8	-0.1	0.2	0.5	1.7	
	Current		A month ago		A year ago						
	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus	Qld	Aus					
Unemploy. Rate											
Trend	6.4	5.7	6.3	5.7	6.4	6.1					
Seas. Adjusted	6.4	5.7	6.5	5.7	6.3	5.9					
Participation rate											
Trend	65.1	64.8	65.2	64.9	65.3	64.8					
Seas. Adjusted	65.0	64.8	65.2	64.8	65.6	64.7					

Table 2 Interstate comparison, May 2016

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (trend)							
% change on a month ago	-0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Change on a month ago (no.)	-5,100	3,600	5,500	-100	1,900	-100	3,700
% change on a year ago	1.0	3.2	2.3	0.7	0.3	-1.0	1.9
Change on a year ago (no.)	22,800	117,700	67,200	5,800	4,700	-2,300	217,000
Unemployment rate (trend)							
May-16	6.4	5.3	5.7	6.9	5.6	6.5	5.7
April-16	6.3	5.3	5.8	7.0	5.6	6.6	5.7
May-15	6.4	5.9	6.1	7.5	5.7	6.8	6.1
Participation rate (trend)							
May-16	65.1	64.1	64.7	61.9	67.9	59.7	64.8
April-16	65.2	64.1	64.7	62.0	67.9	59.8	64.9
May-15	65.3	63.5	64.8	62.3	68.6	60.9	64.8
Employed (sa)							
% change on a month ago	-0.1	0.8	0.1	-1.4	0.0	-0.3	0.1
Change on a month ago (no.)	-1,700	29,600	3,300	-11,600	-500	-800	17,800
% change on a year ago	0.4	3.9	2.2	-0.4	0.3	-0.8	1.9
Change on a year ago (no.)	8,800	141,800	65,800	-3,000	3,600	-1,900	224,700
Unemployment rate (sa)							
May-16	6.4	5.2	5.8	6.9	5.7	6.5	5.7
April-16	6.5	5.3	5.6	6.8	5.6	6.3	5.7
May-15	6.3	5.8	6.0	7.7	5.1	6.9	5.9
Participation rate (sa)							
May-16	65.0	64.4	64.8	61.5	68.1	59.7	64.8
April-16	65.2	64.1	64.7	62.3	68.1	59.8	64.8
May-15	65.6	63.4	64.7	62.7	68.3	60.8	64.7