Analysis

Western Australia’s labour market improved during June, with a rise in employment, an increase in the State’s participation rate, and a fall in the unemployment rate.

Although monthly data can be quite volatile, employment rose by 1.8% during June, mainly driven by a strong increase of around 19,000 part-time workers. Not since March 1993, has the State’s employment growth (or participation rate – see below) risen as quickly in a one month period.

The State’s participation rate rose by 1.0 percentage point to 68.8% during the month, while the State’s unemployment rate decreased 0.1 percentage points to 4.0%, its lowest rate since January 2009.

Key Facts

Employment

Seasonally Adjusted

Seasonally adjusted employment in Western Australia increased by 1.8% to 1,215,269 between May and June. Employment rose by 4.8% over the year and grew by 2.6% over the three months to June 2010.

Australia’s seasonally adjusted employment rose by 0.4% to 11,100,666 between May and June. Employment grew by 3.3% over the 12 months and increased by 1.0% in the three months ending in June. Over the year to June, the largest increase in employment by State was 4.8%, in Western Australia. The smallest increase was 1.4%, in Tasmania.

Trend

Trend employment in Western Australia increased by 0.5% between May and June. Employment rose by 3.6% over the year and grew by 1.4% over the three months to June 2010. Australia’s trend employment rose by 0.2% between May and June. Employment grew by 2.8% over the 12 months and increased by 0.7% in the three months ending in June.

Growth in Employment by State

June 2010

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<tr>
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<th>% Change Over:</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>000s 1 Year 3 Months 1 Month</td>
<td>000s 1 Year 3 Months 1 Month</td>
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<tr>
<td>New South Wales</td>
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<td>3,461 1.8% 0.4% 0.1%</td>
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<td>Queensland</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tasmania</td>
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<td>Australia</td>
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<td>11,078 2.8% 0.7% 0.2%</td>
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The Australian Bureau of Statistics does not produce seasonally adjusted labour force estimates for the two Territories.

Data sourced from Australian Bureau of Statistics Cat. 6202.0 Labour Force, Australia
Department of Treasury and Finance, 197 St Georges Terrace, Perth WA 6000. Tel: (08) 9278 6715; Fax: (08) 9481 0652
Unemployment Rate

Seasonally Adjusted

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Western Australia decreased by 0.1 percentage points to 4.0% between May and June. The unemployment rate fell by 1.3 percentage points over the year and dropped by 0.9 percentage points over the three months to June 2010.

Australia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.1% between May and June. The unemployment rate dropped by 0.7 percentage points over the 12 months and decreased by 0.2 percentage points in the three months ending in June.

The highest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate by State was 6.5%, in Tasmania. The lowest was 4.0%, in Western Australia.

Trend

The trend unemployment rate in Western Australia decreased by 0.2 percentage points to 4.1% between May and June. The unemployment rate fell by 1.2 percentage points over the year and dropped by 0.6 percentage points over the three months to June 2010.

Australia's trend unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.2% between May and June. The unemployment rate dropped by 0.6 percentage points over the 12 months and decreased by 0.1 percentage points in the three months ending in June.

In June, the highest trend unemployment rate by State was 6.3%, in Tasmania. The lowest rate was 2.8%, in the Northern Territory.

Participation Rate

Seasonally Adjusted

The seasonally adjusted participation rate in Western Australia increased by 1.0 percentage points to 68.8% between May and June. The participation rate was unchanged over the year and grew by 0.5 percentage points over the three months to June 2010.

Australia's seasonally adjusted participation rate rose by 0.1 percentage points to 65.2% between May and June. The participation rate was unchanged over the 12 months and was unchanged in the three months ending in June.

The highest seasonally adjusted participation rate by State was 68.8%, in Western Australia. The lowest was 62.0%, in Tasmania.

Trend

The trend participation rate in Western Australia was unchanged at 68.2% between May and June. The participation rate fell by 0.7 percentage points over the year and grew by 0.1 percentage points over the three months to June 2010.

Australia's trend participation rate was unchanged at 65.1% between May and June. The participation rate dropped by 0.2 percentage points over the 12 months and decreased by 0.1 percentage points in the three months ending in June.

In June, the highest trend participation rate by State was 73.1%, in the Australian Capital Territory. The lowest rate was 61.9%, in Tasmania.