

**LABOUR FORCE (ABS CAT. NO. 6202.0)**

FEBRUARY 2013

14 March 2013

**The unemployment rate remained at 5.4 per cent in February. A significant rise in employment was offset by a rise in the participation rate.**

The seasonally adjusted **unemployment rate** remained at 5.4 per cent in February. This was within market expectations (median: 5.5 per cent; range: 5.4 to 5.6 per cent). By state, Tasmania (6.6 per cent) recorded the highest unemployment rate and Western Australia (4.5 per cent) recorded the lowest unemployment rate (Chart 5).

Seasonally adjusted **employment** rose by 71,500 persons (up 0.6 per cent) in February. This result was well above market expectations (median: 9000; range: flat to 25,000 increase). Employment increased by 1.7 per cent (197,400 persons) over the twelve months to February.

- **Full-time** employment rose by 17,800 persons in February (up 0.2 per cent), while **part-time** employment rose by 53,700 persons (up 1.6 per cent).
- By state, Victoria recorded the largest increase in employment (up 37,900 persons) while Queensland recorded the largest decrease (down 3,900 persons).

In **trend** terms, employment rose by 15,900 persons in February and the trend unemployment rate remained at 5.4 per cent.

The seasonally adjusted **participation rate** rose to 65.3 per cent in February, from 65.0 per cent in January.

The seasonally adjusted **labour force** rose by 71,900 persons in February.

**Table 1: Employment, participation and unemployment rate**

	Month (sa)		Year to (sa)
	Jan	Feb	Feb
Employment growth			
Full-time (persons)	-9,500	17,800	61,800
Part-time (persons)	22,500	53,700	135,700
<b>Total (persons)</b>	<b>13,100</b>	<b>71,500</b>	<b>197,400</b>
- per cent	0.1	0.6	1.7
Participation rate	65.0	65.3	65.2*
Unemployment rate	5.4	5.4	5.2*

\* Rate 12 months earlier.

Source: ABS cat. no. 6202.0; Table 2.

**Table 2: Employment growth – States and Territories (sa)**

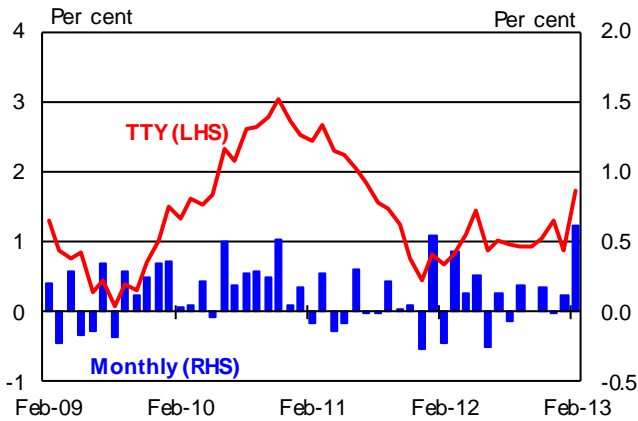
	Month	TTY	TTY
	(persons)	(persons)	(% chg.)
	Feb	Feb	Feb
New South Wales	22,000	78,700	2.2
Victoria	37,900	56,600	2.0
Queensland	-3,900	16,600	0.7
South Australia	1,000	1,800	0.2
Western Australia	200	35,300	2.8
Tasmania	4,700	500	0.2
Northern Territory*	-300	300	0.2
Australian Capital Territory*	100	2,800	1.4
<b>Australia **</b>	<b>71,500</b>	<b>197,400</b>	<b>1.7</b>

\* Trend estimates only. \*\* State and territory data are individually seasonally adjusted, and state and territory data will not sum to national seasonally adjusted employment.

Source: ABS cat. no. 6202.0; Tables 2, 4-11.

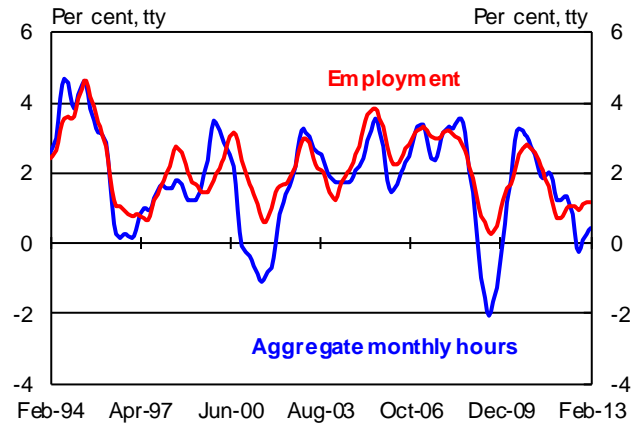
# CHARTS – LABOUR FORCE FEBRUARY 2013

**Chart 1: Employment growth**



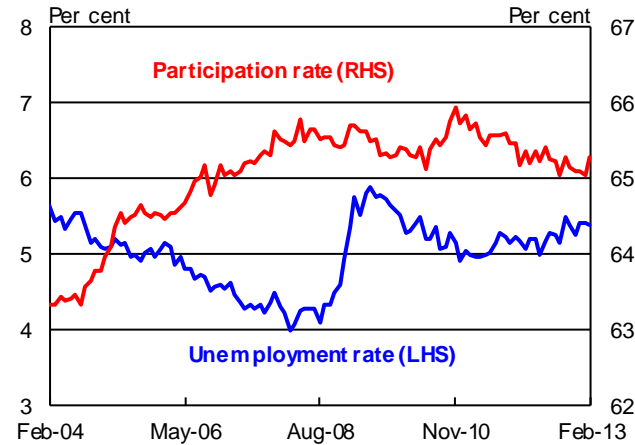
Source: ABS Cat. No. 6202.0 Table 2.

**Chart 2: Monthly hours & employment growth (trend)**



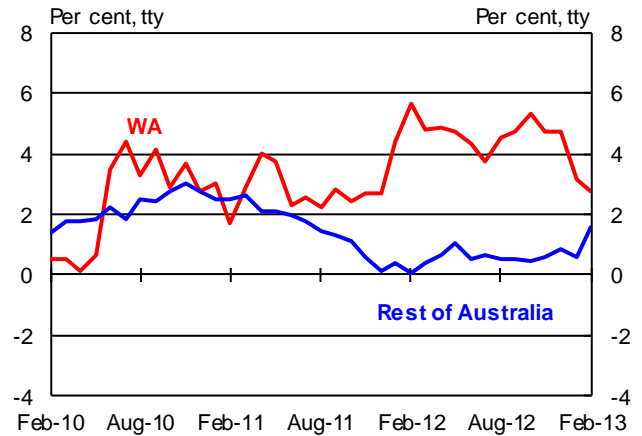
Source: ABS Cat. No. 6202.0 Tables 1, 19.

**Chart 3: Unemployment & participation rate**



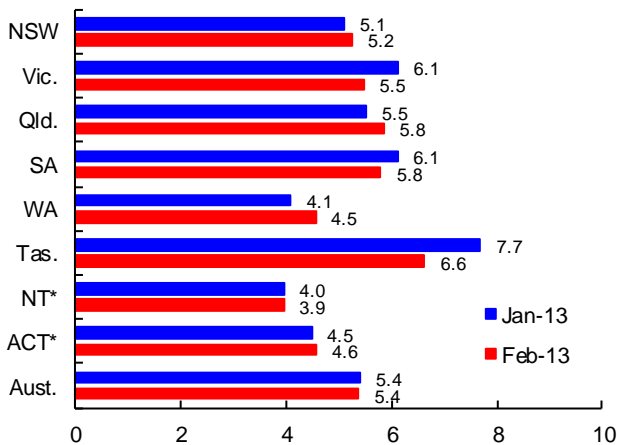
Source: ABS Cat. No. 6202.0 Table 2.

**Chart 4: Employment growth by region**



Source: ABS Cat. No. 6202.0 Tables 4-11.

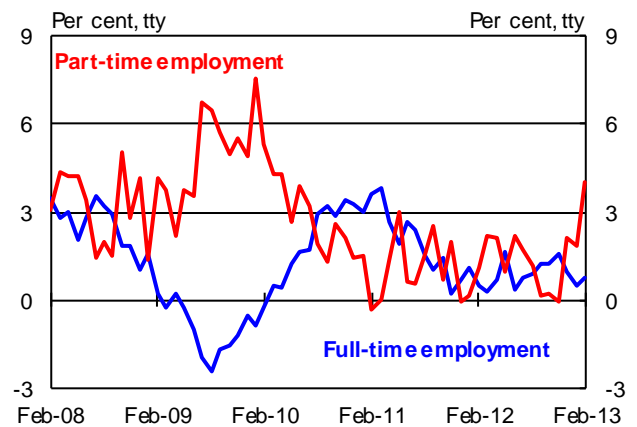
**Chart 5: Unemployment rate – States & Territories (per cent, sa)**



\* Trend estimates only.

Source: ABS Cat. No. 6202.0 Tables 2, 4-11.

**Chart 6: Full-time & part-time employment growth**



Source: ABS Cat. No. 6202.0 Table 2.