

**Note:** Several statistical changes were made by the ABS to the labour force series this month. These changes included an amendment to the definition of unemployment, revision of population benchmarks and a seasonal reanalysis. As a result of these changes, substantial revisions have been made to the labour force data, including unemployment rates, for both Queensland and nationally.

**Summary (TREND)**

<b>Employment:</b>	Queensland	↑	2,400 jobs (0.1%)
	Australia	↑	9,300 jobs (0.1%)
<b>Unemployment Rate:</b>	Queensland	Unchanged	6.2%
	Australia	Unchanged	5.8%
<b>Labour Force:</b>	Queensland	↑	3,300 persons (0.2%)
	Australia	↑	10,700 persons (0.1%)

**Analysis**

- Queensland trend employment growth eased to 0.1% in February, from a revised peak of 0.5% in September 2003, while national jobs growth also eased to 0.1%.
- Queensland continues to drive national jobs growth. The State recorded annual growth (3.0%) at more than double the national rate (1.2%) and accounted for close to half (53,700 persons) the national rise (113,600 persons) in employment over the year.
- Full-time employment growth (up 4,800 persons) in Queensland was partially offset by a fall in part-time employment (down 2,400) in February.
- The participation rate remained at 64.9% as civilian population growth (0.2%) was equal to labour force growth (0.2%). Despite trend labour force growth in Queensland (3,300) exceeding jobs growth (2,400) in February, the trend unemployment rate remained unchanged at 6.2%, the lowest since June 1982.
- The definition of unemployed persons changed in line with International Labour Organisation guidelines, to include 'future starters' i.e. persons who are waiting to start a new job within four weeks. Previously these persons were classified as 'not in the labour force'.
- As a consequence of the definitional change and revised population benchmarks, unemployment rates increased by an average of 0.11% nationally.

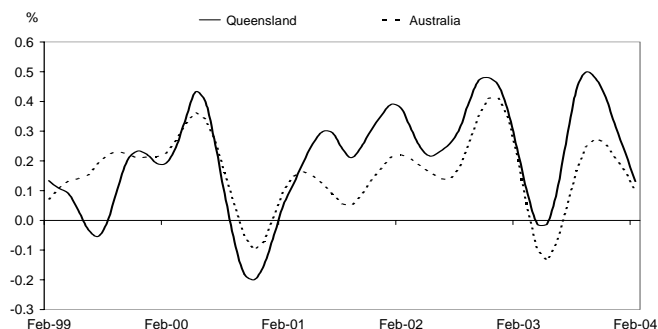
**Implications**

- Leading indicators, such as ANZ job ads and activity in the labour intensive retail trade and construction industries, point to continued modest jobs growth over coming months.

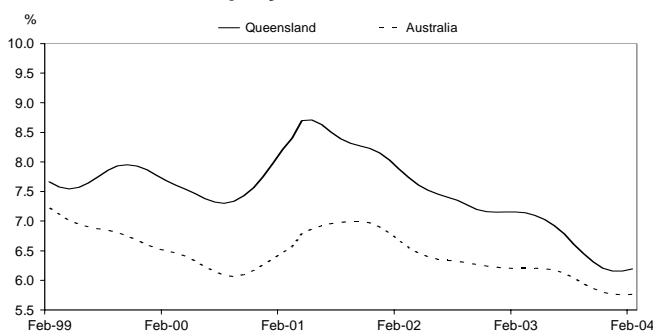
**Table 1  
Labour Force, February 2004**

Monthly Data	Monthly Change (number)		% change on a month ago		% change on a year ago	
	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust
<b>Trend</b>						
Employment	2,400	9,300	0.1	0.1	3.0	1.2
Full-time	4,800	7,800	0.4	0.1	4.8	1.8
Part-time	-2,400	1,500	-0.5	0.1	-1.3	-0.2
Unemployment	900	1,400	0.7	0.2	-11.8	-6.4
Labour Force	3,300	10,700	0.2	0.1	1.9	0.7
<b>Seas. Adjusted</b>						
Employment	-1,100	1,300	-0.1	0.0	2.3	0.9
Full-time	-8,200	-13,100	-0.6	-0.2	4.0	1.1
Part-time	7,100	14,500	1.4	0.5	-1.5	0.4
Unemployment	5,100	11,100	4.2	1.9	-6.3	-3.6
Labour Force	4,100	12,400	0.2	0.1	1.7	0.6
	<b>Current</b>		<b>A month ago</b>		<b>A year ago</b>	
<b>Unemploy. Rate</b>						
Trend	6.2	5.8	6.2	5.8	7.2	6.2
Seas. Adjusted	6.5	5.9	6.2	5.8	7.0	6.1
<b>Participation Rate</b>						
Trend	64.9	63.5	64.9	63.5	65.3	64.0
Seas. Adjusted	64.9	63.5	64.9	63.5	65.5	64.1

**Chart 1  
Monthly Employment Growth, Trend**



**Chart 2  
Unemployment Rate, Trend**



Note: Charts may not be consistent with Table 1 due to rounding.