



Summary (TREND)

Employment:	Queensland	↑	7,600 jobs (0.4%)
	Australia	↑	5,000 jobs (0.1%)
Unemployment Rate:	Queensland	↓	5.4%
	Australia	Unchanged	5.6%
Labour Force:	Queensland	↑	6,100 persons (0.3%)
	Australia	↑	6,600 persons (0.1%)

Analysis

- Trend employment growth in Queensland remained strong in September 2004, with growth of 0.4% or above recorded for the fifth consecutive month. In contrast, trend jobs growth nationally has remained subdued at 0.1% for the fifth consecutive month. Queensland has recorded the strongest jobs growth of any state in each month since April 2004.
- Queensland recorded annual jobs growth of 4.5% in September, more than double the national rate of growth (2.0%), and recorded the largest annual rise in employment (82,700) of any state, accounting for more than 40% of national jobs growth over the year.
- Full-time employment growth (7,000 jobs) in the State in September continued to drive total jobs growth (7,600 jobs), and represented the largest increase in full-time jobs of any state. Over the year, strong full-time employment growth of 85,500 jobs was partially offset by part-time employment falling by 2,800 jobs. Over the year, Queensland contributed more than half of national full-time jobs growth.
- Queensland's trend unemployment rate fell to 5.4% in September, which is 0.2% point lower than the national rate of 5.6% and is the lowest in 26 years. This represents the first time that the State's unemployment rate has been lower than the national rate since February 1995. Over the year to September, the number of unemployed people in the State has fallen by 16,400, to be the lowest number of unemployed persons since June 1990. This fall has occurred despite a steep increase in the participation rate over the year.
- Queensland's unemployment rate (5.4%) equalled that in New South Wales and was the equal second lowest of any state behind Western Australia (4.9%).

Implications

- Leading indicators of employment suggest that jobs growth in coming months is likely to remain solid.

Table 1
Labour Force, September 2004

Monthly Data	Monthly Change (number)		% change on a month ago		% change on a year ago	
	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust
Trend						
Employment	7,600	5,000	0.4	0.1	4.5	2.0
Full-time	7,000	5,400	0.5	0.1	6.6	2.5
Part-time	600	-400	0.1	0.0	-0.5	0.8
Unemployment	-1,400	1,600	-1.3	0.3	-13.0	-3.4
Labour Force	6,100	6,600	0.3	0.1	3.4	1.7
Seas. Adjusted						
Employment	20,900	63,500	1.1	0.7	5.2	2.5
Full-time	15,400	19,200	1.1	0.3	6.5	2.6
Part-time	5,500	44,300	1.0	1.6	2.0	2.3
Unemployment	-2,300	-6,600	-2.1	-1.1	-15.1	-4.5
Labour Force	18,800	57,000	0.9	0.6	3.9	2.1
Unemploy. Rate						
Trend	5.4	5.6	5.5	5.6	6.5	5.9
Seas. Adjusted	5.3	5.6	5.5	5.7	6.5	5.9
Participation Rate						
Trend	65.3	63.5	65.2	63.5	64.7	63.4
Seas. Adjusted	65.5	63.6	65.1	63.4	64.7	63.4

Chart 1
Monthly Employment Growth, Trend

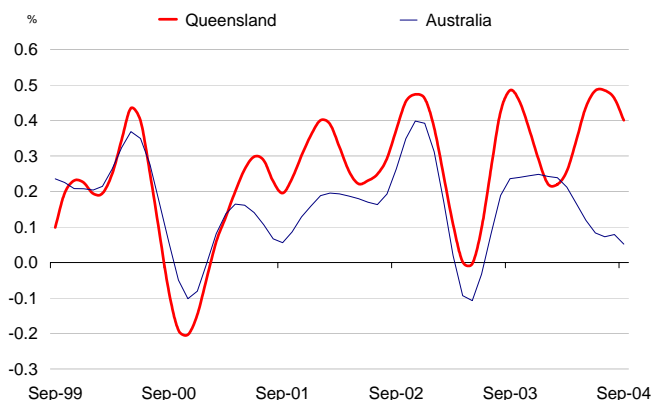
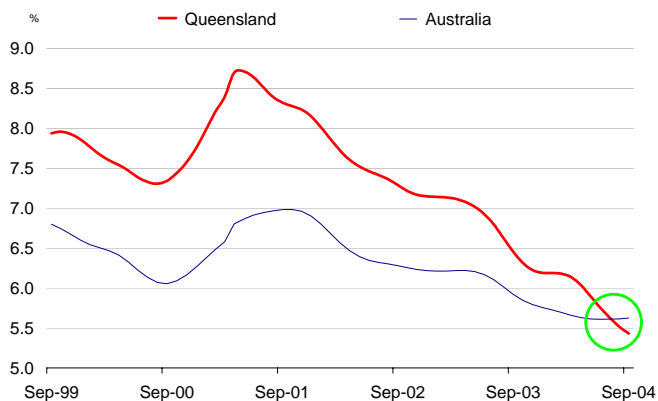


Chart 2
Unemployment Rate, Trend



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