



Summary (TREND)

Employment:	Queensland	↑	8,000 jobs (0.4%)
	Australia	↑	24,100 jobs (0.2%)
Unemployment Rate:	Queensland	Unchanged	4.6%
	Australia	Unchanged	5.1%
Labour Force:	Queensland	↑	8,700 persons (0.4%)
	Australia	↑	26,600 persons (0.3%)

Analysis

- Queensland's trend employment growth has eased from a recent peak of 0.6% in August 2004 to be 0.4% in April 2005. Nationally, jobs growth eased 0.1 percentage point over the month to 0.2% in April.
- Queensland recorded annual jobs growth of 6.4% in April, compared with national growth of 3.4%. Queensland's annual rise in employment of 120,200 persons was substantially larger than any other state and accounted for around 37% of national jobs growth over the year.
- Part-time employment growth in the State of 4,900 jobs exceeded full-time jobs growth (3,100) in April. However, total jobs growth over the year was driven by full-time employment growth of 80,600 jobs, double part-time jobs growth of 39,600 persons.
- The trend labour force participation rate continued its strong upward trend in April, rising by 0.2 percentage point to be 66.5%, the highest rate in the current series. Very strong employment growth has encouraged people to enter the labour force, resulting in the State's participation rate rising 1.6 percentage points over the twelve months to April 2005.
- Despite this exceptional increase in labour force participation, the State's unemployment rate has fallen 1.5 percentage points over the past year. Revised trend data show Queensland's unemployment rate was 4.6% for the third consecutive month in April, the lowest of any state. Queensland's unemployment rate has been below the national rate since August 2004.

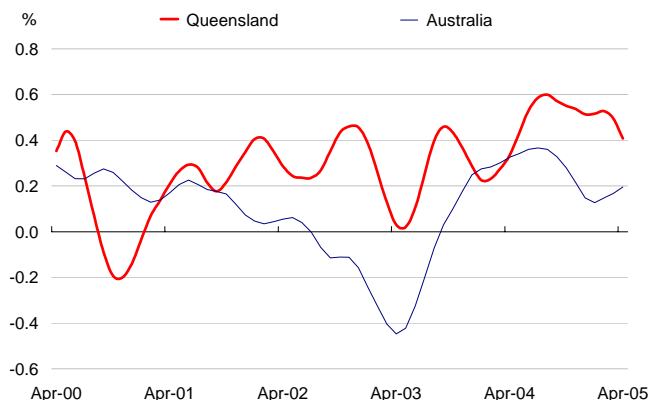
Implications

- Queensland's very strong employment growth reflects solid domestic economic activity in 2004. However, some slowing in the domestic economy suggests that future employment growth may be more moderate, relative to recent strong jobs growth. Further reductions in the trend unemployment rate are unlikely, particularly if current high rates of labour force participation are maintained.

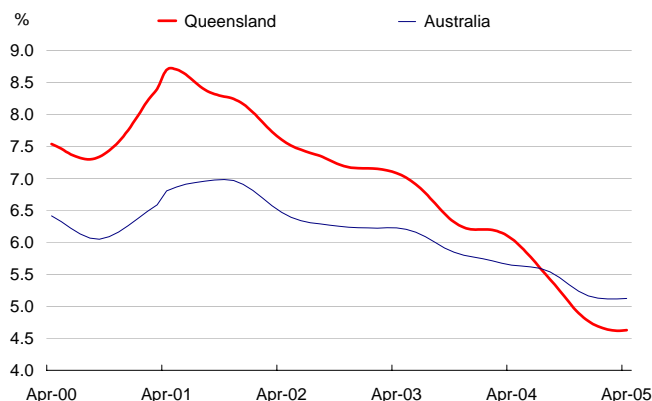
**Table 1
Labour Force, April 2005**

Monthly Data	Monthly Change (number)		% change on a month ago		% change on a year ago	
	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust
Trend						
Employment	8,000	24,100	0.4	0.2	6.4	3.4
Full-time	3,100	18,800	0.2	0.3	6.0	3.2
Part-time	4,900	5,400	0.9	0.2	7.5	4.0
Unemployment	600	2,300	0.6	0.4	-19.9	-6.7
Labour Force	8,700	26,600	0.4	0.3	4.9	2.8
Seas. Adjusted						
Employment	-5,500	7,000	-0.3	0.1	5.9	3.0
Full-time	-2,600	39,200	-0.2	0.6	5.6	3.0
Part-time	-2,900	-32,200	-0.5	-1.1	6.6	2.9
Unemployment	13,700	1,600	15.1	0.3	-11.5	-6.3
Labour Force	8,300	8,600	0.4	0.1	4.9	2.4
Unemp. Rate						
	Current		A month ago		A year ago	
Trend	4.6	5.1	4.6	5.1	6.1	5.6
Seas. Adjusted	5.0	5.1	4.3	5.1	5.9	5.6
Participation Rate						
	Current		A month ago		A year ago	
Trend	66.5	64.5	66.3	64.4	64.9	63.6
Seas. Adjusted	66.7	64.5	66.5	64.5	65.1	63.8

**Chart 1
Monthly Employment Growth, Trend**



**Chart 2
Unemployment Rate, Trend**



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