



**Summary (TREND)**

<b>Employment:</b>	Queensland	↑	4,900 jobs (0.2%)
	Australia	↑	21,500 jobs (0.2%)
<b>Unemployment Rate:</b>	Queensland	↑	4.9%
	Australia	Unchanged	5.1%
<b>Labour Force:</b>	Queensland	↑	7,200 persons (0.3%)
	Australia	↑	23,600 persons (0.2%)

**Analysis**

- Queensland's trend employment growth returned to its long term average of 0.2% in May 2005. This follows a period of exceptional monthly jobs growth of 0.5% or above, which was recorded from mid 2004 to early 2005. Nationally, employment growth eased 0.1 percentage point over the month to 0.2% in May.
- Queensland recorded strong annual jobs growth of 6.0% in May, compared with national growth of 3.5%. Queensland's annual rise in employment of 112,600 persons was substantially larger than any other state and accounted for more than one-third of national jobs growth over the year.
- The trend labour force participation rate continued its strong upward trend in May, rising by 0.2 percentage point to 66.6%, 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 1.7 percentage points over the twelve months to May 2005. As a result, annual labour force growth, at 4.9%, is the strongest in a decade.
- Queensland's monthly trend unemployment rate increased to 4.9% in May, up 0.1 percentage point from the previous month. However, the State's unemployment rate remained lower than the national rate (5.1% in May) for the tenth consecutive month.

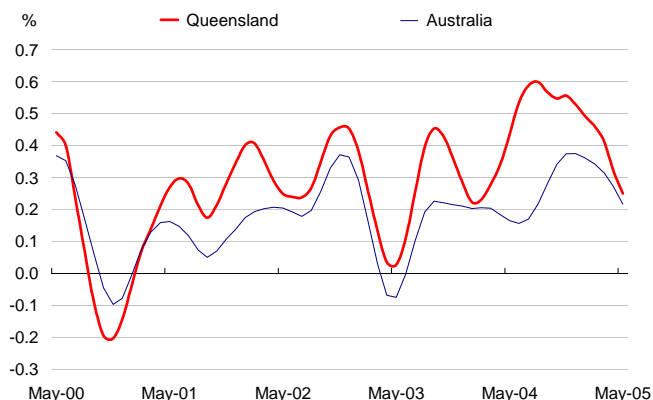
**Implications**

- Solid domestic economic activity in 2004 was reflected in exceptional employment growth in late 2004 and early 2005. Despite a strong increase in labour force participation, the monthly trend unemployment rate of 4.7% in the first three months of 2005 was the lowest in over 27 years.
- However, easing domestic economic activity suggests that labour market conditions in coming months are likely to be more subdued, compared with the very strong labour market conditions experienced in 2004-05.

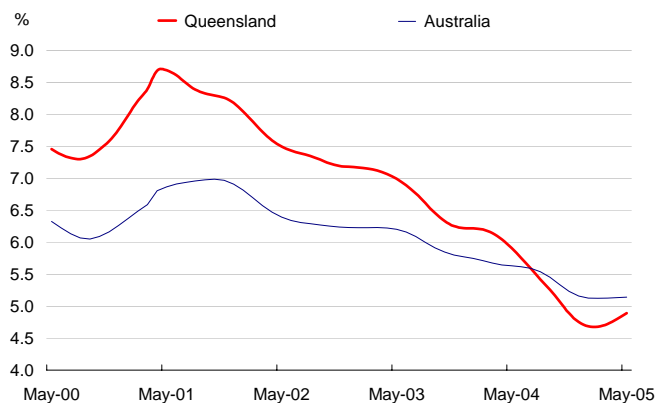
**Table 1  
Labour Force, May 2005**

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	4,900	21,500	0.2	0.2	6.0	3.5
Full-time	2,000	15,600	0.1	0.2	5.5	3.2
Part-time	2,900	5,900	0.5	0.2	7.3	4.2
Unemployment	2,200	1,900	2.2	0.4	-13.3	-6.0
Labour Force	7,200	23,600	0.3	0.2	4.9	2.9
<b>Seas. Adjusted</b>						
Employment	-9,400	14,100	-0.5	0.1	5.2	3.4
Full-time	-2,300	-600	-0.2	0.0	5.3	3.3
Part-time	-7,100	14,600	-1.3	0.5	4.8	3.7
Unemployment	5,400	1,200	5.2	0.2	-2.8	-3.8
Labour Force	-4,000	15,300	-0.2	0.1	4.7	3.0
	<b>Current</b>	<b>A month ago</b>	<b>A year ago</b>			
<b>Unemploy. Rate</b>						
Trend	4.9	5.1	4.8	5.1	5.9	5.6
Seas. Adjusted	5.3	5.1	5.0	5.1	5.7	5.5
<b>Participation Rate</b>						
Trend	66.6	64.6	66.4	64.5	64.9	63.6
Seas. Adjusted	66.4	64.6	66.6	64.5	64.8	63.5

**Chart 1  
Monthly Employment Growth, Trend**



**Chart 2  
Unemployment Rate, Trend**



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