



Summary (TREND)

Employment:	Queensland, ↓	2,200 jobs (-0.1%)
	Australia, ↓	3,000 jobs (0.0%)
Unemployment Rate:	Queensland, Unchanged	4.9%
	Australia, Unchanged	5.1%
Labour Force:	Queensland, ↓	2,400 persons (-0.1%)
	Australia, ↓	800 persons (0.0%)

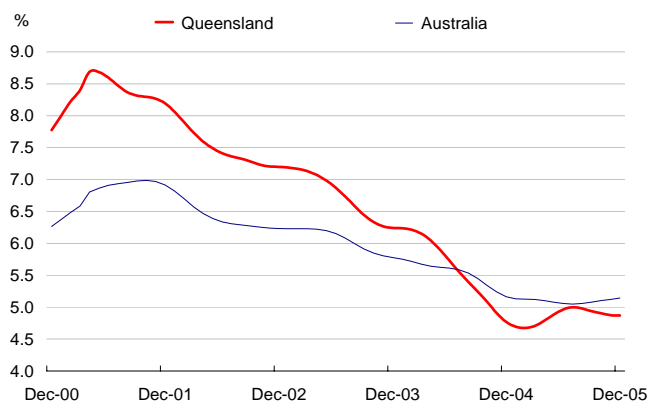
Analysis

- Queensland's trend unemployment rate was 4.9% in December 2005, unchanged from a revised 4.9% in November. Similarly, the national unemployment rate remained unchanged in December, although at 5.1% is slightly higher than in Queensland. The monthly trend unemployment rate in Queensland has been below or equal to that nationally since July 2004.
- Trend monthly employment growth in Queensland has eased substantially over 2005, with the number of employed persons declining slightly (down 0.1% or 2,200 jobs) in December. Nationally, the level of employment also declined marginally (down 3,000 jobs) over the month, the third consecutive monthly decline.
- Despite the decline in December, Queensland continued to record trend annual jobs growth (2.4% in December compared with 2.0% nationally). The State's annual rise in employment of 46,000 persons was the largest increase of any state and accounted for around 24% of national jobs growth.
- Part-time jobs growth of 1,400 jobs over the month partially offset a decline in full-time jobs of 3,600. In annual terms, Queensland recorded similar growth in both full-time and part-time employment (up 22,500 and 23,500 jobs respectively).
- The State's trend labour force participation rate declined 0.2% point to 66.0% in December 2005. The participation rate has now fallen 0.7% point from the record high of 66.7% recorded in both June and July 2005.
- Employment in Queensland has eased over recent months. However, this follows an extended period of exceptional jobs growth throughout 2004-05. Further, labour market conditions in the State remain solid, characterised by a sustained low unemployment rate (at or below 5.0% for over a year), as well as continued high labour force participation.

Table 1
Labour Force, December 2005

Monthly Data	Monthly Change (number)		% change on a month ago		% change on a year ago	
	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust
Trend						
Employment	-2,200	-3,000	-0.1	0.0	2.4	2.0
Full-time	-3,600	-7,100	-0.3	-0.1	1.6	1.5
Part-time	1,400	4,100	0.2	0.1	4.3	3.1
Unemployment	-200	2,200	-0.2	0.4	4.6	1.5
Labour Force	-2,400	-800	-0.1	0.0	2.5	1.9
Seas. Adjusted						
Employment	-3,000	2,100	-0.2	0.0	2.7	2.1
Full-time	-7,000	-4,800	-0.5	-0.1	2.4	1.9
Part-time	4,000	6,900	0.7	0.2	3.5	2.7
Unemployment	1,200	7,000	1.2	1.3	4.6	2.7
Labour Force	-1,900	9,100	-0.1	0.1	2.8	2.2
Unemp. Rate						
	Current		A month ago		A year ago	
Trend	4.9	5.1	4.9	5.1	4.8	5.2
Seas. Adjusted	4.9	5.1	4.8	5.1	4.8	5.1
Participation Rate						
Trend	66.0	64.3	66.2	64.4	65.7	63.9
Seas. Adjusted	65.9	64.4	66.1	64.4	65.4	63.8

Chart 1
Unemployment Rate, Trend



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

Chart 2
Monthly Employment Growth, Trend

