**Summary (TREND)**

**Employment:** Queensland 1,900 jobs (-0.1%)  
Australia 400 jobs (0.0%)

**Unemployment Rate:** Queensland Unchanged 5.0%  
Australia Unchanged 5.2%

**Labour Force:** Queensland 1,400 persons (-0.1%)  
Australia 3,400 persons (0.0%)

**Analysis**

- Queensland’s trend unemployment rate was 5.0% in January 2006, unchanged from a revised 5.0% in December. Similarly, at 5.2% in January, the national unemployment rate remained unchanged from a revised 5.2% in the previous month. The monthly trend unemployment rate in Queensland has been below or equal to that nationally since July 2004 (see Chart 1).

- Following a sustained period of exceptional growth throughout 2004-05, trend monthly jobs growth in Queensland eased over the second half of 2005. The trend number of employed persons declined slightly in January 2006 (down 0.1% or 1,900 jobs), the third consecutive monthly decline of 0.1%. Nationally, the trend level of employment remained virtually unchanged (0.0%) over the month, the sixth consecutive month in which this has occurred.

- Despite the recent monthly declines, Queensland continued to record trend annual jobs growth in January (up 1.7%, compared with 1.6% nationally). The State’s annual rise in employment of 33,800 accounted for 21.1% of national jobs growth, remaining above the State’s 19.5% population share.

- Over the month, both part-time jobs (down 300) and full-time jobs (down 1,600) declined. In annual terms, Queensland recorded similar growth in both full-time and part-time employment (up 18,500 and 15,300 jobs respectively).

- The State’s trend labour force participation rate declined 0.1% point to 65.9% in January 2006. The participation rate has now fallen 0.8% 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, job advertisements, which are a leading indicator of jobs growth, have recorded solid growth over the last four months. This suggests monthly employment growth should improve going forward.

**Table 1
Labour Force, January 2006**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monthly Data</th>
<th>Monthly Change (number)</th>
<th>% change on a month ago</th>
<th>% change on a year ago</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trend</td>
<td>Queensland</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Queensland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>-1,900</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>-0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time</td>
<td>-1,600</td>
<td>4,900</td>
<td>-0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time</td>
<td>-300</td>
<td>-4,500</td>
<td>-0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>3,300</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour Force</td>
<td>-1,400</td>
<td>3,400</td>
<td>-0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Seas. Adjusted**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monthly Data</th>
<th>Monthly Change (number)</th>
<th>% change on a month ago</th>
<th>% change on a year ago</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trend</td>
<td>Queensland</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Queensland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>-1,200</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>-0.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full-time</td>
<td>3,200</td>
<td>30,500</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time</td>
<td>-4,400</td>
<td>-28,700</td>
<td>-0.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>8,100</td>
<td>10,900</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour Force</td>
<td>6,800</td>
<td>12,800</td>
<td>0.3</td>
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</table>

**Unemploy. Rate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monthly Data</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>A month ago</th>
<th>A year ago</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trend</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seas. Adjusted</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Participation Rate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monthly Data</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>A month ago</th>
<th>A year ago</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trend</td>
<td>65.9</td>
<td>64.3</td>
<td>65.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seas. Adjusted</td>
<td>66.0</td>
<td>64.4</td>
<td>65.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Chart 1
Unemployment Rate, Trend**

**Chart 2
Monthly Employment Growth, Trend**

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