



Summary (TREND)

Employment:	Queensland, ↓	500 jobs (0.0%)
	Australia, ↑	4,500 jobs (0.0%)
Unemployment Rate:	Queensland, Unchanged	5.2%
	Australia, Unchanged	5.2%
Labour Force:	Queensland, ↑	1,300 persons (0.1%)
	Australia, ↑	6,800 persons (0.1%)

Analysis

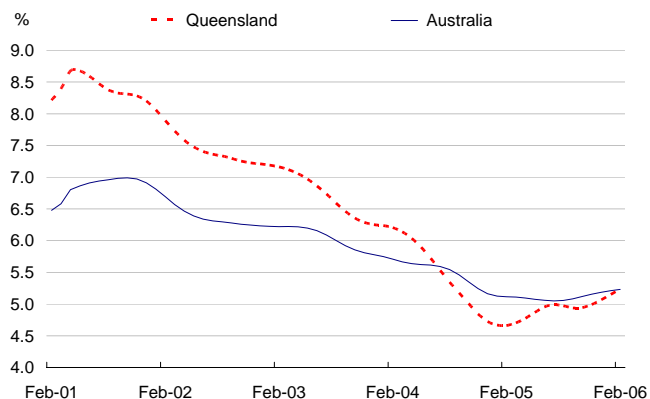
- Queensland's trend unemployment rate was 5.2% in February 2006, unchanged from a revised 5.2% in January. Similarly, at 5.2%, the national unemployment rate remained unchanged in February. The monthly trend unemployment rate in Queensland has been below or equal to that nationally since July 2004 (see Chart 1).
- Trend monthly jobs growth in Queensland eased considerably over the second half of 2005, with monthly declines of 0.1% recorded in the last two months of 2005. However, the downward trend in jobs growth appears to have turned around (see Chart 2), with the number of employed persons virtually unchanged (0.0%) for the second consecutive month in February 2006. Similarly, national trend employment growth (up 4,500 jobs) rounded to 0.0% over the month, the seventh consecutive month in which this has occurred.
- Despite the recent soft monthly employment data, Queensland continued to record trend annual jobs growth in February (up 1.3%, compared with 1.4% nationally).
- Over the month, a rise in full-time jobs (up 700) was more than offset by a decline in part-time jobs (down 1,200). In annual terms, Queensland recorded growth in full-time and part-time employment of 18,600 and 7,500 jobs respectively.
- The State's trend labour force participation rate declined 0.1% point to 65.9% in February 2006. The participation rate has now fallen 0.8% point from the record high of 66.7% recorded in both June and July 2005.
- Following exceptional jobs growth of 5.6% in 2004-05, employment conditions in Queensland have softened over recent months. While the downward trend in jobs growth appears to have turned around, recent job vacancy data, which has also eased over recent months, suggest that modest monthly employment growth is likely over coming months.

Note: This brief uses data provided by the ABS which is more detailed than that published in the ABS *Labour Force* (6202.0) publication. Consequently, some data in the brief may differ slightly to that published in 6202.0, due to rounding.

**Table 1
Labour Force, February 2006**

Monthly Data	Monthly Change (number)		% change on a month ago		% change on a year ago	
	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust
Trend						
Employment	-500	4,500	0.0	0.0	1.3	1.4
Full-time	700	9,200	0.0	0.1	1.3	1.4
Part-time	-1,200	-4,900	-0.2	-0.2	1.4	1.4
Labour Force	1,300	6,800	0.1	0.1	1.9	1.6
Seas. Adjusted						
Employment	1,400	25,800	0.1	0.3	1.7	1.7
Full-time	8,400	6,100	0.6	0.1	1.5	1.5
Part-time	-7,000	19,700	-1.2	0.7	2.4	2.2
Labour Force	3,700	22,100	0.2	0.2	2.8	1.9
Current A month ago A year ago						
Unemploy. Rate						
Trend	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	4.7	5.1
Seas. Adjusted	5.4	5.2	5.3	5.3	4.4	5.1
Participation Rate						
Trend	65.9	64.4	66.0	64.4	66.0	64.2
Seas. Adjusted	66.1	64.4	66.1	64.4	65.7	64.1

**Chart 1
Unemployment Rate, Trend**



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

**Chart 2
Monthly Employment Growth, Trend**

