



Summary (TREND)

Employment:	Queensland	↑	2,800 jobs (0.1%)
	Australia	↑	12,500 jobs (0.1%)
Unemployment Rate:	Queensland	↑	5.3%
	Australia	↓	5.1%
Labour Force:	Queensland	↑	4,500 persons (0.2%)
	Australia	↑	11,200 persons (0.1%)

Analysis

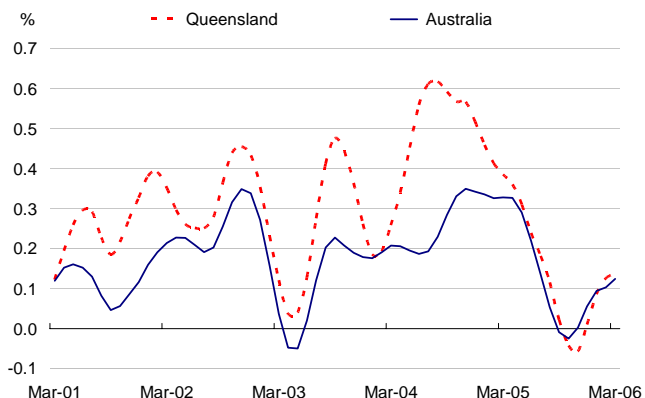
- The downward trend in jobs growth in Queensland appears to have turned around in early 2006 (see Chart 1), with the State recording trend employment growth of 0.1% in each of the first three months of the year. This growth contrasts with the subdued climate in the second half of 2005, when the trend level of employment increased by only 900 jobs between July and December 2005. Similarly, following a period of flat jobs growth in late 2005, national trend employment growth appears to have rebounded, rising 0.1% for the fourth consecutive month in March 2006.
- The turnaround in trend employment in Queensland has been influenced by a substantial seasonally adjusted (sa) rise in employment of 0.7% (14,900 jobs) in March 2006. Nationally, sa employment increased by 27,100 in March, well above market expectations of a 15,000 job rise in the month.
- In Queensland, a trend rise in part-time employment of 2,600 drove jobs growth over the month, while full-time employment rose marginally (up 200 jobs). In annual terms, Queensland recorded growth in full-time and part-time employment of 13,200 and 16,300 jobs respectively.
- The State's trend labour force participation rate was 66.2% in March 2006, up 0.1% point from a revised 66.1% in February. This stronger participation rate has seen labour force growth of 0.2% in March offset jobs growth of 0.1%. As a consequence, the State's trend unemployment rate rose marginally (up 0.1% point) to 5.3% in March. Nationally, the trend unemployment rate edged lower (down 0.1% point) to 5.1%.
- Following near-record jobs growth in 2004-05, employment conditions in Queensland softened in the first half of 2005-06. However, the March 2006 result appears to support the view that the downward trend in jobs growth in Queensland has turned around. Further, recently released March quarter ABS job vacancy data also suggest that monthly employment growth is likely to strengthen in the June quarter.

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.

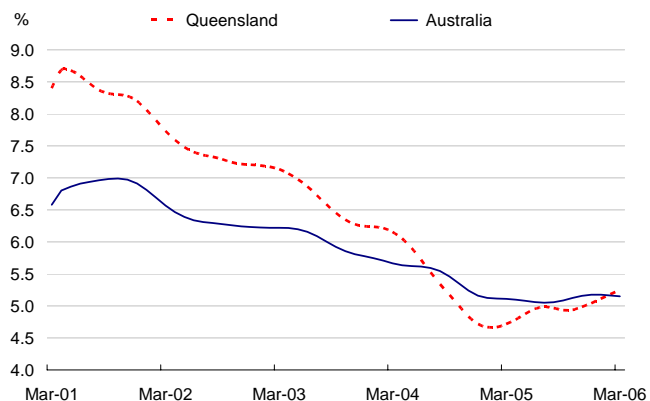
**Table 1
Labour Force, March 2006**

Monthly Data	Monthly Change (number)		% change on a month ago		% change on a year ago	
	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust
Trend						
Employment	2,800	12,500	0.1	0.1	1.5	1.4
Full-time	200	9,400	0.0	0.1	0.9	1.2
Part-time	2,600	3,000	0.5	0.1	2.9	1.8
Labour Force	4,500	11,200	0.2	0.1	2.1	1.4
Seas. Adjusted						
Employment	14,900	27,100	0.7	0.3	1.5	1.5
Full-time	-7,600	-12,400	-0.5	-0.2	0.4	1.2
Part-time	22,500	39,500	4.0	1.4	4.4	2.3
Labour Force	10,900	7,900	0.5	0.1	2.2	1.3
Unemploy. Rate						
Trend	5.3	5.1	5.2	5.2	4.7	5.1
Seas. Adjusted	5.1	5.0	5.4	5.2	4.5	5.2
Participation Rate						
Trend	66.2	64.4	66.1	64.4	66.2	64.3
Seas. Adjusted	66.4	64.4	66.2	64.4	66.4	64.4

**Chart 1
Monthly Employment Growth, Trend**



**Chart 2
Unemployment Rate, Trend**



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