



Summary (TREND)

Employment:	Queensland	↑	3,800 jobs (0.2%)
	Australia	↑	9,700 jobs (0.1%)
Unemployment Rate:	Queensland	Unchanged	5.0%
	Australia	Unchanged	5.1%
Labour Force:	Queensland	↑	2,800 persons (0.1%)
	Australia	↑	7,700 persons (0.1%)

Analysis

- Queensland's trend unemployment rate was 5.0% in April 2006, unchanged from a revised 5.0% in March. Similarly, the national unemployment rate remained unchanged in April, although at 5.1% it is slightly higher than that in Queensland. The monthly trend unemployment rate in Queensland has been below that nationally since July 2004.
- The April data also reveals that the downward trend in jobs growth experienced in late 2005 in Queensland has turned around in early 2006 (see Chart 2), with the State recording trend employment growth of 0.2% in each of the three months to April 2006. Similarly, following a short period of stagnation in late 2005, national trend employment growth appears to have recovered somewhat, rising a modest 0.1% for the fifth consecutive month in April 2006.
- In Queensland, trend growth in both full-time employment (up 2,200 jobs) and part-time employment (up 1,600 jobs) drove jobs growth over the month. Over the year, Queensland recorded a similar increase in the number of full-time and part-time jobs (up 13,200 and 15,400 jobs respectively).
- Despite the State recording a modest seasonally adjusted (sa) decline in employment in April (0.1% or 3,000 jobs), trend employment growth in Queensland remains influenced by the substantial (0.8% or 15,200 jobs) rise in sa employment recorded in March. Nationally, sa employment declined by 3,200 in April, below market expectations of a 5,000 job rise.
- The State's trend labour force participation rate remained unchanged at 66.1% in April 2006.
- Looking ahead, indicators of activity in the labour-intensive retail and construction sectors remain supportive of further jobs growth. The trend volume of retail trade in Queensland rose by 1.5% for the second quarter in a row in March quarter 2006. Dwelling approvals and construction 'work yet to be done' data suggest that the level of dwelling construction activity in the State should remain high in the near term.

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, April 2006

Monthly Data	Monthly Change (number)		% change on a month ago		% change on a year ago	
	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust
Trend						
Employment	3,800	9,700	0.2	0.1	1.4	1.2
Full-time	2,200	8,600	0.2	0.1	0.9	1.0
Part-time	1,600	1,100	0.3	0.0	2.8	1.5
Labour Force	2,800	7,700	0.1	0.1	1.7	1.2
Seas. Adjusted						
Employment	-3,000	-3,200	-0.1	0.0	1.3	1.2
Full-time	10,600	22,700	0.7	0.3	1.5	1.0
Part-time	-13,600	-25,900	-2.3	-0.9	1.0	1.6
Labour Force	-12,200	6,500	-0.6	0.1	0.9	1.1
Unemploy. Rate						
Trend	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.1	4.8	5.1
Seas. Adjusted	4.6	5.1	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.1
Participation Rate						
Trend	66.1	64.4	66.1	64.4	66.4	64.5
Seas. Adjusted	65.8	64.3	66.3	64.4	66.7	64.5

Chart 1
Monthly Employment Growth, Trend

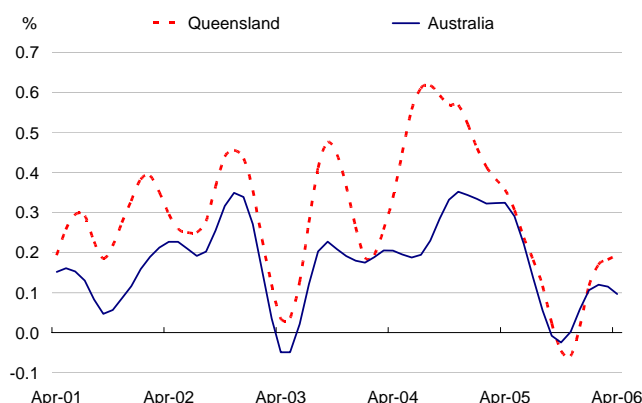
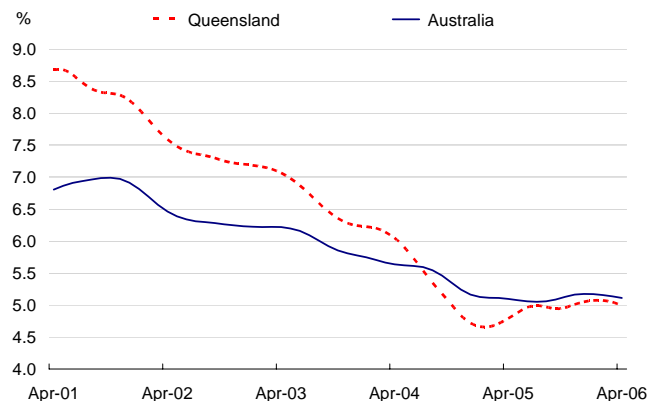


Chart 2
Unemployment Rate, Trend



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