

Summary (TREND)

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Employment: | Queensland, ↑ | 6,900 jobs (0.3%) |
| | Australia, ↑ | 15,300 jobs (0.1%) |
| Unemployment Rate: | Queensland, ↓ | 4.3% |
| | Australia, unchanged | 4.7% |
| Labour Force: | Queensland, ↑ | 5,600 persons (0.3%) |
| | Australia, ↑ | 10,500 persons (0.1%) |

- Nationally, seasonally adjusted employment declined by 32,100 jobs (down 0.3%) in October 2006, contrary to market expectations of a 7,500 job rise.

Analysis

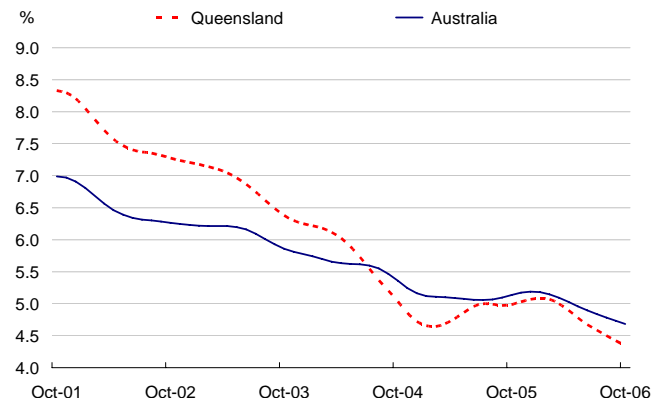
- Queensland's trend unemployment rate reached a 28-year low of 4.3% in October 2006, down 0.1 percentage point from a revised 4.4% in September 2006. The State's trend unemployment rate has continued to decline in each month since March 2006, falling an accumulated 0.8 percentage point to 4.3% in October 2006. This remarkable result has been achieved while the trend labour force participation rate remained at an historic high of 67.2% in October.
- Nationally, the trend unemployment rate remained unchanged at 4.7% in October. While this trend unemployment rate also represents a 28-year low nationally, the national unemployment rate has now been above or equal to the rate in Queensland for more than two years (see Chart 1).
- The State's record low unemployment rate has been driven by a period of strong jobs growth (see Chart 2). In the last six months, trend monthly employment growth has increased at an average rate of 0.5%, double the long-run average growth rate (0.25%). In October, trend employment rose by 0.3% in Queensland, much stronger than the 0.1% growth recorded nationally.
- In Queensland, growth in trend full-time employment (up 4,800 jobs) accounted for most of the jobs growth in October, while part-time employment also increased (up 2,100 jobs). Over the year, full-time employment in Queensland increased by 72,300, which contributed to more than a third (37.7%) of full-time jobs created nationally. Part-time employment in the State increased by 12,300 over the year.
- Despite the Queensland trend unemployment rate already falling to a 28-year low, the outlook for employment growth continues to remain positive. The ANZ Job Ad series, a forward indicator of labour demand, continued to increase in October, after declining in the first half of 2006. In addition, the

number of ABS Job Vacancies reached a record high of 39,800 in September quarter 2006, while the DEWR Skilled Vacancy Index has turned around in recent months. Other indicators of activity in the labour-intensive retail and construction sectors also remain solid.

**Table 1
Labour Force, October 2006**

| Monthly Data | Monthly Change (number) | | % change on a month ago | | % change on a year ago | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------|
| | QLD | Aust | QLD | Aust | QLD | Aust |
| Trend | | | | | | |
| Employment | 6,900 | 15,300 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 4.2 | 2.6 |
| Full-time | 4,800 | 7,900 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 5.0 | 2.7 |
| Part-time | 2,100 | 7,300 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 2.2 | 2.4 |
| Labour Force | 5,600 | 10,500 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 3.5 | 2.1 |
| Seas. Adjusted | | | | | | |
| Employment | -11,500 | -32,100 | -0.6 | -0.3 | 3.8 | 2.5 |
| Full-time | -7,100 | -48,600 | -0.5 | -0.7 | 4.7 | 2.7 |
| Part-time | -4,400 | 16,600 | -0.8 | 0.6 | 1.6 | 1.7 |
| Labour Force | -29,600 | -48,200 | -1.4 | -0.4 | 2.7 | 1.8 |
| | | Current | A month ago | A year ago | | |
| Unemploy. Rate | | | | | | |
| Trend | 4.3 | 4.7 | 4.4 | 4.7 | 5.0 | 5.1 |
| Seas. Adjusted | 4.0 | 4.6 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 5.0 | 5.2 |
| Participation Rate | | | | | | |
| Trend | 67.2 | 65.0 | 67.2 | 64.9 | 66.4 | 64.5 |
| Seas. Adjusted | 66.6 | 64.7 | 67.7 | 65.1 | 66.3 | 64.4 |

**Chart 1
Unemployment Rate, Trend**



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

**Chart 2
Monthly Employment Growth, Trend**

