



Note: In June 2007, the ABS introduced a new methodology which provides roughly the same standard error with a smaller sample size. Beginning in November, and continuing for eight months, the sample will be gradually reduced by about 11% (or 6,800 persons). Hence, caution should be used when interpreting this data over this transition period.

Summary (TREND)

Employment: Queensland, ↑ 4,400 jobs (0.2%)
Australia, ↑ 18,100 jobs (0.2%)

Unemployment Rate: Queensland, unchanged 3.7%
Australia, unchanged 4.4%

Labour Force: Queensland, ↑ 4,100 persons (0.2%)
Australia, ↑ 20,300 persons (0.2%)

- Nationally, seasonally adjusted (sa) employment rose 20,100 jobs in December 2007, marginally above the market expectation of a 20,000 job increase. The national sa unemployment rate fell 0.2 percentage point, to 4.3%, below the market consensus of 4.4%.

Analysis

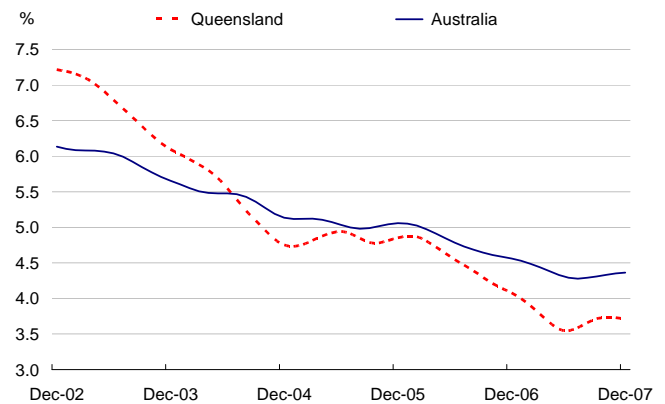
- Revised trend data show that the unemployment rate in Queensland remained unchanged at 3.7% for the fifth consecutive month in December 2007. This represents a slight increase on the generational low rate reached in June 2007 of 3.5%. Nationally, the trend unemployment rate remained unchanged at 4.4% in December 2007. Queensland's unemployment rate has now been below the national rate since July 2004, a period of 42 consecutive months (see chart 1).
- Trend jobs growth in Queensland was 0.2% in December, the fifth consecutive month of around long-run average growth. This follows a period (May to July 2007) of relatively weak growth. Recent jobs growth may reflect a return to normal activity following a surge, and then moderation, in employment growth (see chart 2). Nationally, trend jobs growth remained steady at 0.2% in December 2007.
- Over the year, jobs growth in the State remained solid, with total employment rising by 59,900 persons, comprised of 43,700 full-time and 16,200 part-time jobs. At 2.9% in December, Queensland recorded higher annual jobs growth than Australia (2.6%).
- Following a gradual easing over mid 2007, the State's trend participation rate has again begun to rise, reaching 67.3% in December 2007, slightly lower than the previous record high in early 2007. In the present climate of very low unemployment, jobs growth is largely being facilitated by higher participation.
- Leading indicators suggest that jobs growth in Queensland should continue to be supported in the short-term. The latest ABS *Job Vacancies* in Queensland rose 3.3% in December quarter 2007. Further, economic

activity in Queensland remains very supportive of jobs growth and the maintenance of a low unemployment rate over the medium term, with state final demand rising 7.9% (trend) over the year to September quarter 2007. Also, labour intensive sectors of the economy remain solid, with strong annual growth in retail trade (12.1%) and building approvals (13.1%) in November 2007.

**Table 1
Labour Force, December 2007**

Monthly Data	Monthly change (number)		% change on a month ago		% change on a year ago	
	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust
Trend						
Employment	4,400	18,100	0.2	0.2	2.9	2.6
Full-time	2,500	15,800	0.2	0.2	2.9	3.0
Part-time	1,900	2,300	0.3	0.1	2.8	1.5
Labour Force	4,100	20,300	0.2	0.2	2.5	2.4
Seas. Adjusted						
Employment	400	20,100	0.0	0.2	2.8	2.5
Full-time	-3,000	6,200	-0.2	0.1	2.2	2.9
Part-time	3,400	13,800	0.6	0.5	4.5	1.7
Labour Force	-6,300	-4,700	-0.3	0.0	2.3	2.2
Unemploy. Rate						
Trend	3.7	4.4	3.7	4.4	4.1	4.6
Seas. Adjusted	3.5	4.3	3.8	4.5	4.1	4.6
Participation Rate						
Trend	67.3	65.2	67.2	65.2	67.3	64.8
Seas. Adjusted	67.1	65.2	67.4	65.3	67.3	64.9

**Chart 1
Unemployment Rate, Trend**



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

**Chart 2
Monthly Employment Growth, Trend**

