Nationally, seasonally adjusted (sa) employment rose 20,200 (0.2%) in March, above the market expectation of a 10,000 job increase. The national sa rate rose 0.1 percentage point, to 4.0%.

Trend employment in Queensland rose 0.1% (1,900 jobs in March, above the market expectation of a 1,600 job increase. The national sa rate rose 0.1 percentage point, to 4.1%, equal to the market consensus.

Leading indicators suggest that jobs growth in the coming months may be modest. The latest ANZ Job Advertisement Series shows that trend job ads in Queensland fell 4.3% in March 2008, while the Queensland DEWR Skilled Vacancy Index (trend) fell 4.2% in the same month.

As part of the sample rotation process, the ABS changes the sample in remote areas concurrently. This month, the ABS introduced the new sample in remote areas of NSW, WA, NT and the ACT. Next month the new sample will be introduced in remote areas of QLD, VIC, SA and TAS. Care should be used when interpreting data during the sample rotation months.