

Note: In June 2007, the ABS introduced a new methodology which provides roughly the same standard error with a smaller sample size. Between November 2007 and June 2008, the sample will be reduced by about 11% (or 6,800 persons nationally). Also, the ABS will reduce the sample size by a further 24% (13,300 persons) in the survey month of July 2008, citing "a tight budget situation in 2008-09, which has led to a range in reductions in the ABS work program". This will raise the sample standard error, and "result in a less common sample between June and July 2008".

Summary (trend)

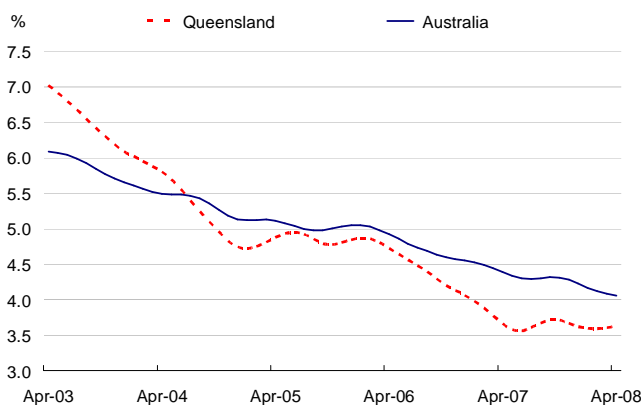
Employment: (jobs)	Queensland,	↑	3,000	(0.1%)
	Australia,	↑	19,600	(0.2%)
Unemployment Rate:	Queensland,	unchanged		3.6%
	Australia,	unchanged		4.1%
Labour Force: (persons)	Queensland,	↑	3,700	(0.2%)
	Australia,	↑	17,400	(0.2%)

- The trend unemployment rate in Queensland remained at 3.6% in April, the lowest rate in the history of the monthly labour force series.
- Trend employment in Queensland rose 0.1% (3,000 persons) in April 2008, to be 2.0% higher over the year. Annual employment growth was comprised of 6,200 full time and 35,800 part time jobs.
- The trend participation rate in Queensland remained at 66.9% in April 2008, 0.4 percentage point lower than in the same month last year.
- Nationally, trend employment rose 0.2% in April, while the trend unemployment rate remained at 4.1%.
- Nationally, seasonally adjusted (sa) employment rose 25,300 jobs in April 2008, above the market expectation of a 10,000 job increase. The national sa unemployment rate rose 0.1 percentage point, to 4.2%, above the market consensus of 4.1%.

Outlook

- 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 2.5% in April 2008, while the Queensland DEWR Skilled Vacancy Index (trend) fell 2.6% in the same month.

Unemployment rate, trend



Note: Charts for April may not be consistent with table 1 due to rounding.

Table 1

Labour force, April 2008

Monthly Data	Monthly Change (number)		% change on a month ago		% change on a year ago	
	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust
Trend						
Employment	3,000	19,600	0.1	0.2	2.0	2.8
Full-time	200	9,500	0.0	0.1	0.4	2.3
Part-time	2,800	10,000	0.5	0.3	6.3	3.9
Labour Force	3,700	17,400	0.2	0.2	1.9	2.4
Seas. Adjusted						
Employment	6,300	25,300	0.3	0.2	2.0	2.9
Full-time	12,400	19,000	0.8	0.2	0.7	2.6
Part-time	-6,100	6,300	-1.0	0.2	5.8	3.6
Labour Force	8,600	42,200	0.4	0.4	2.4	2.7
Unemp. Rate						
	Current		A month ago		A year ago	
Trend	3.6	4.1	3.6	4.1	3.7	4.4
Seas. Adjusted	3.7	4.2	3.6	4.1	3.4	4.4
Participation Rate						
Trend	66.9	65.3	66.9	65.3	67.3	64.9
Seas. Adjusted	67.1	65.4	66.9	65.3	67.2	64.9

Chart 2

Monthly employment growth, trend

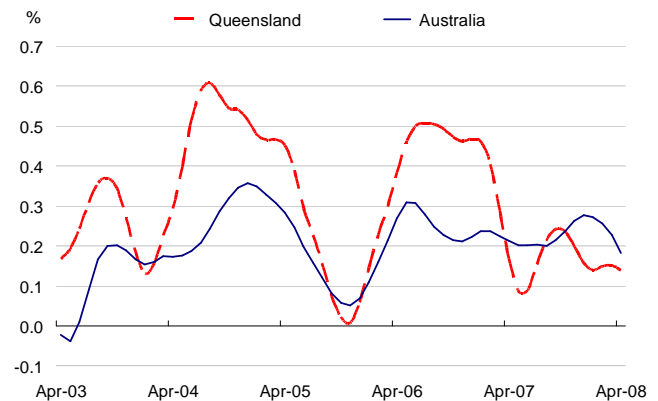


Table 2

Interstate comparison, April 2008

Monthly Trend Data	QLD	NSW	VIC	SA	WA	Tas	Aust
Employment							
% change on a month ago	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Change on a month ago (No.)	3,000	11,500	-400	800	900	500	19,600
% change on a year ago							
Change on a year ago (No.)	42,000	115,600	53,000	24,000	34,800	5,800	288,900
Labour Force							
% change on a month ago	0.2	0.3	-0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2
Change on a month ago (No.)	3,700	10,200	-1,400	600	1,000	100	17,400
% change on a year ago							
Change on a year ago (No.)	42,900	96,500	45,400	22,000	37,000	4,400	263,200
Unemployment Rate							
April-08	3.6	4.3	4.4	4.6	3.2	4.5	4.1
March-08	3.6	4.3	4.4	4.6	3.2	4.7	4.1
April-07	3.7	5.0	4.7	5.0	3.1	5.2	4.4
Monthly Difference	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.2	0.0
Annual Difference	-0.1	-0.7	-0.3	-0.4	0.1	-0.7	-0.3
Participation Rate							
April-08	66.9	64.0	64.9	62.9	68.2	60.8	65.3
March-08	66.9	63.8	65.0	62.9	68.2	60.8	65.3
April-07	67.3	63.1	64.9	62.0	67.7	60.1	64.9
Monthly Difference	0.0	0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Annual Difference	-0.4	0.9	0.0	0.9	0.5	0.7	0.4

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