

**Summary** (trend)

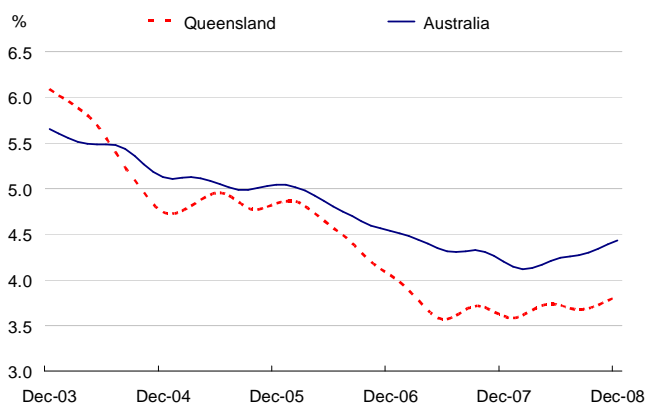
<b>Employment:</b> (persons)	Queensland, ↑ 1,400 (0.1%) Australia, ↑ 2,000 (0.0%)
<b>Unemployment Rate:</b>	Queensland, unchanged 3.8% Australia, unchanged 4.4%
<b>Labour Force:</b> (persons)	Queensland, ↑ 2,700 (0.1%) Australia, ↑ 7,200 (0.1%)

- Trend employment in Queensland rose 0.1% (1,400 persons) in December 2008, to be 2.7% higher over the year. Annual employment growth comprised 40,800 full time and 17,900 part time jobs.
- The trend participation rate in Queensland was unchanged at 67.4% in December 2008, 0.4 percentage point higher than that in December 2007.
- The trend unemployment rate in Queensland was 3.8% in December 2008, unchanged from an upwardly revised November result, and slightly above the generational low rate of 3.6% recorded in early 2008.
- Trend employment nationally was marginally higher in December (up 2,000 persons), and the trend unemployment rate remained at 4.4%.  
Nationally, seasonally adjusted (sa) employment fell 1,200 persons in December 2008, better than the market expectation of a 20,000 fall in persons employed. The national sa unemployment rate rose 0.1 percentage point, to 4.5% in December, in line with the market consensus.

**Analysis**

- In the coming months, employment growth is likely to weaken, reflecting moderating domestic economic conditions, evidenced by weakness in partial indicators of economic activity such as building approvals and retail trade.
- Further, the December ANZ *Job Advertisement Series* data show that the average number of newspaper job ads per week (trend) in Queensland fell by 9.3% in December 2008. Newspaper job advertisements in Queensland have reached the lowest level recorded in the history of the series (beginning July 1975).

**Chart 1  
Unemployment rate, trend**

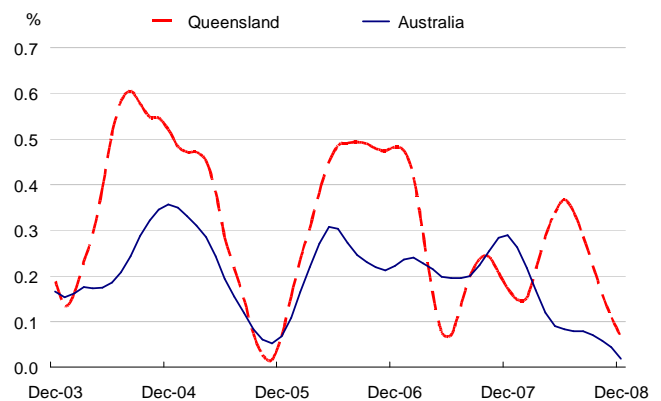


Note: Charts for December may not be consistent with table 1 due to rounding.

**Table 1  
Labour force, December 2008**

Monthly Data	Monthly Change (number)		% change on a month ago		% change on a year ago	
	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust
<b>Trend</b>						
Employment	1,400	2,000	0.1	0.0	2.7	1.3
Full-time	-2,800	-11,200	-0.2	-0.1	2.6	0.8
Part-time	4,200	13,200	0.7	0.4	3.0	2.6
Labour Force	2,700	7,200	0.1	0.1	3.0	1.5
<b>Seas. Adjusted</b>						
Employment	-6,300	-1,200	-0.3	0.0	2.4	1.3
Full-time	-35,900	-43,900	-2.2	-0.6	1.5	0.4
Part-time	29,600	42,800	5.0	1.4	4.9	3.4
Labour Force	-4,400	1,400	-0.2	0.0	2.8	1.5
<b>Unemploy. Rate</b>						
Trend	3.8	4.4	3.8	4.4	3.6	4.2
Seas. Adjusted	3.9	4.5	3.8	4.4	3.5	4.2
<b>Participation Rate</b>						
Trend	67.4	65.0	67.4	65.1	67.0	65.2
Seas. Adjusted	67.2	65.0	67.5	65.1	67.0	65.2

**Chart 2  
Monthly employment growth, trend**



**Table 2  
Interstate comparison, December 2008**

Monthly Trend Data	QLD	NSW	VIC	SA	WA	Tas	Aust
<b>Employment</b>							
% change on a month ago	0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.2	-0.3	0.0
Change on a month ago (No.)	1,400	100	-300	-800	2,000	-600	2,000
% change on a year ago	2.7	0.1	0.2	1.1	4.5	3.7	1.3
Change on a year ago (No.)	58,700	3,300	4,200	8,600	50,300	8,500	138,100
<b>Labour Force</b>							
% change on a month ago	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	-0.1	0.1
Change on a month ago (No.)	2,700	2,600	200	0	2,300	-300	7,200
% change on a year ago	3.0	0.8	0.1	1.9	3.9	2.8	1.5
Change on a year ago (No.)	66,200	29,400	2,800	15,100	45,700	6,800	171,000
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>							
December-08	3.8	5.2	4.5	5.4	2.7	4.3	4.4
November-08	3.8	5.1	4.4	5.4	2.7	4.2	4.4
December-07	3.6	4.5	4.5	4.8	3.2	5.1	4.2
Monthly Difference	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
Annual Difference	0.2	0.7	0.0	0.6	-0.5	-0.8	0.2
<b>Participation Rate</b>							
December-08	67.4	63.1	64.2	63.3	69.1	61.9	65.0
November-08	67.4	63.2	64.2	63.4	69.1	62.1	65.1
December-07	67.0	63.5	65.2	62.9	68.3	60.9	65.2
Monthly Difference	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.1
Annual Difference	0.4	-0.4	-1.0	0.4	0.8	1.0	-0.2

**\*Note:** The ABS reduced the sample size of this survey by 24% (or 13,300 persons nationally) in the July 2008 survey month, citing "a tight budget situation in 2008-09, which has led to a range in reductions in the ABS work program". This raised the sample standard error, and the volatility of the series. Hence, particular caution should be used when interpreting labour force data from July 2008. This follows an 11% reduction (6,800 persons) between November 2007 and June 2008.