

***Note:** In this release, the ABS undertook the five-yearly population re-benchmarking of the labour force to account for the 2006 Census. The re-benchmarking led to revised historical estimates for all labour force data, including unemployment rates. Hence this month's labour force data will not be directly comparable to the January 2009 data in last month's release.

Summary (trend)

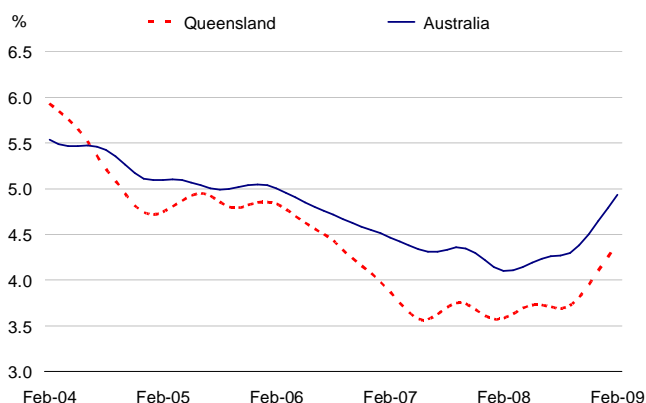
Employment: (persons)	Queensland, ↑	2,600	(0.1%)
	Australia, ↑	400	(0.0%)
Unemployment Rate:	Queensland, ↑	4.4%	
	Australia, ↑	4.9%	
Labour Force: (persons)	Queensland, ↑	6,300	(0.3%)
	Australia, ↑	17,600	(0.2%)

- Trend employment in Queensland rose 0.1% in February 2009, to be 2.6% higher over the year. Annual employment growth comprised 39,800 full time and 16,500 part time jobs.
- The trend participation rate in Queensland was unchanged at its historic high of 67.7% in February 2009, 0.7 percentage point higher than that in February 2008.
- With labour force growth exceeding jobs growth, the trend unemployment rate in Queensland rose to 4.4% in February 2009, 0.1 percentage point higher than the upwardly revised January result.
- Trend employment nationally was marginally higher in February (up 400 persons) and the trend unemployment rate rose to 4.9%.
- Nationally, seasonally adjusted (sa) employment rose 1,700 persons in February 2009, better than the market consensus of a 20,000 fall. However, partly reflecting a rise in the participation rate, the national sa unemployment rate rose 0.4 percentage point, to 5.2% in February. Market expectations were for a 0.2 percentage point rise to 5.0%.

Analysis

- In coming months, employment is likely to fall, reflecting moderating domestic economic conditions.
- Indeed, the February ANZ *Job Advertisement Series* data show that the average number of newspaper job ads per week (trend) in Queensland fell by 9.8% in February 2009.

**Chart 1
Unemployment rate, trend**

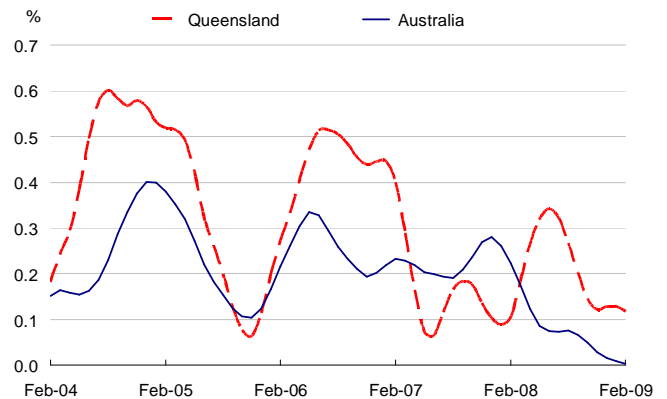


Note: Charts for February may not be consistent with table 1 due to rounding.

**Table 1
Labour force, February 2009**

Monthly Data	Monthly Change (number)		% change on a month ago		% change on a year ago	
	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust
Trend						
Employment	2,600	400	0.1	0.0	2.6	0.8
Full-time	500	-9,600	0.0	-0.1	2.5	0.1
Part-time	2,100	10,000	0.3	0.3	2.7	2.6
Labour Force	6,300	17,600	0.3	0.2	3.4	1.7
Seas. Adjusted						
Employment	11,300	1,700	0.5	0.0	2.8	0.7
Full-time	4,400	-53,800	0.3	-0.7	2.5	-0.5
Part-time	6,900	55,600	1.1	1.8	3.5	3.6
Labour Force	15,000	48,900	0.6	0.4	3.8	2.1
Unemploy. Rate						
	Current		A month ago		A year ago	
Trend	4.4	4.9	4.3	4.8	3.6	4.1
Seas. Adjusted	4.5	5.2	4.4	4.8	3.6	3.9
Participation Rate						
Trend	67.7	65.4	67.7	65.3	67.0	65.4
Seas. Adjusted	68.0	65.5	67.7	65.3	67.0	65.3

**Chart 2
Monthly employment growth, trend**



**Table 2
Interstate comparison, February 2009**

Monthly Trend Data	QLD	NSW	VIC	SA	WA	Tas	Aust
Employment							
% change on a month ago	0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.2	0.0	0.0
Change on a month ago (No.)	2,600	500	-1,100	-500	-2,600	-100	400
% change on a year ago	2.6	-0.5	-0.1	0.6	2.7	3.4	0.8
Change on a year ago (No.)	56,200	-16,600	-3,800	4,700	31,200	7,800	84,100
Labour Force							
% change on a month ago	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2
Change on a month ago (No.)	6,300	5,100	4,800	200	700	300	17,600
% change on a year ago	3.4	0.8	0.6	1.7	3.2	3.2	1.7
Change on a year ago (No.)	77,900	27,500	17,200	14,000	38,100	7,900	186,000
Unemployment Rate							
February-09	4.4	5.6	5.1	5.7	3.6	4.6	4.9
January-09	4.3	5.5	4.9	5.6	3.4	4.5	4.8
February-08	3.6	4.4	4.4	4.7	3.2	4.8	4.1
Monthly Difference	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
Annual Difference	0.8	1.2	0.7	1.0	0.4	-0.2	0.8
Participation Rate							
February-09	67.7	63.6	64.5	63.5	68.9	62.3	65.4
January-09	67.7	63.5	64.5	63.5	69.0	62.3	65.3
February-08	67.0	63.9	65.3	63.2	68.5	61.0	65.4
Monthly Difference	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.1
Annual Difference	0.7	-0.3	-0.8	0.3	0.4	1.3	0.0

***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.