Trend employment in Queensland rose 0.1% in March 2009, to be 2.4% higher over the year. Annual employment growth comprised 36,600 full time and 16,200 part time persons. Trend monthly employment growth has broadly moderated since reaching a cyclical peak of 0.3% in August 2008.

The trend participation rate in Queensland rose to an historic high of 67.8% in March 2009, 0.8 percentage point higher than that in March 2008. Growth in participation in recent months has been primarily driven by mature age workers.

With labour force growth exceeding jobs growth, the trend unemployment rate in Queensland rose to 4.7% in March 2009, 0.2 percentage point higher than the upwardly revised February result. This represents the highest trend unemployment rate since April 2006.

Trend employment nationally fell marginally in March 2009, to be 2.4% higher over the year. Annual unemployment growth comprised 36,600 full time and 2,400 part time persons in March 2009, worse than the market consensus of a 25,000 fall. This drove the national sa unemployment rate 0.5 percentage point higher, to 5.7% in March, above market expectations.

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 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.