QUEENSLAND TREASURY
MACROECONOMICS TEAM, OESR
LABOUR FORCE: APRIL 2009*

ABS 6202.0

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Summary (trend)

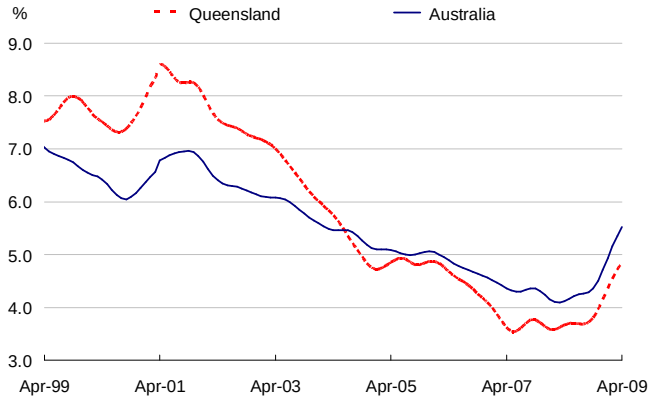
Employment:	Queensland,	↑	400	(0.0%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↓	4,300	(0.0%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	↑	3,600	(4.9%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↑	19,700	(5.5%)
Labour Force:	Queensland,	↑	4,000	(0.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑	15,500	(0.1%)

- Trend employment in Queensland was slightly higher in April 2009 (up 400 persons), to be 2.0% higher over the year. Annual employment growth comprised 35,200 full time and 9,200 part time persons. Trend monthly employment growth has broadly moderated since reaching a cyclical peak of 0.3% in July 2008.
- The trend participation rate in Queensland remained at an historic high of 67.8% in April 2009, 0.7 percentage point higher than that in April 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 4.9% in April 2009, 0.2 percentage point higher than the March result. This represents the highest trend unemployment rate since January 2006 (see Chart 1).
- Trend employment nationally fell marginally in April (down 4,300 persons) and the trend unemployment rate rose to 5.5%.
- Nationally, seasonally adjusted (sa) employment rose 27,300 persons in April 2009, in contrast to market expectations of a 25,000 fall. This drove the national sa unemployment rate 0.3 percentage point lower, to 5.4% in April, at odds with market expectations of a 0.2 percentage point increase to of 5.9%.

Analysis

- The April ANZ *Job Advertisement Series* data show that the average number of newspaper job ads per week (trend) in Queensland fell by 7.5% in April 2009. Given the strong leading relationship between *Job Advertisements* and jobs growth, this implies a fall in trend employment in coming months. As a result, the unemployment rate is likely to rise in the near term.

Chart 1
Unemployment rate, trend



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

Table 1
Labour force, April 2009

Monthly Data	Monthly Change (number) QLD	Monthly Change (number) Aust	% change on a month ago QLD	% change on a month ago Aust	% change on a year ago QLD	% change on a year ago Aust
Trend						
Employment	400	-4,300	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.3
Full-time	1,600	-8,400	0.1	-0.1	2.2	-0.7
Part-time	-1,200	4,200	-0.2	0.1	1.5	2.6
Unemployed	3,600	19,700	3.3	3.2	36.9	36.4
Labour Force	4,000	15,500	0.2	0.1	3.3	1.7
Seas. Adjusted						
Employment	-1,300	27,300	-0.1	0.3	1.8	0.1
Full-time	10,200	49,100	0.6	0.6	2.6	-0.4
Part-time	-11,500	-21,800	-1.8	-0.7	-0.1	1.6
Unemployed	1,100	-35,300	1.0	-5.4	35.6	30.9
Labour Force	-200	-8,000	0.0	-0.1	3.1	1.4
	Current		**A month ago**		**A year ago**	
Unemploy. Rate						
Trend	4.9	5.5	4.7	5.4	3.7	4.1
Seas. Adjusted	4.9	5.4	4.8	5.7	3.7	4.2
Participation Rate						
Trend	67.8	65.5	67.8	65.4	67.1	65.5
Seas. Adjusted	67.7	65.4	67.8	65.5	67.2	65.6

Chart 2
Monthly employment growth, trend

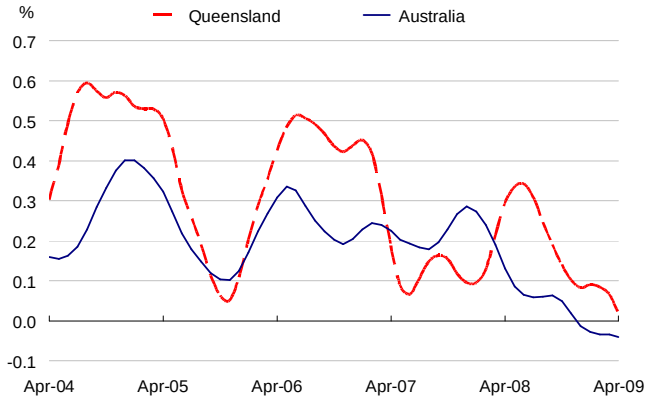


Table 2
Interstate comparison, April 2009

Monthly Trend Data	QLD	NSW	VIC	SA	WA	Tas	Aust
Employment							
% change on a month ago	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	0.1	-0.2	-0.3	0.0
Change on a month ago (No.)	*400*	*-2,100*	*-3,700*	*1,000*	*-2,300*	*-800*	*-4,300*
% change on a year ago	2.0	-1.1	-0.6	0.6	1.9	1.0	0.3
Change on a year ago (No.)	*44,400*	*-39,200*	*-16,800*	*5,100*	*21,500*	*2,300*	*27,800*
Labour Force							
% change on a month ago	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	-0.1	0.1
Change on a month ago (No.)	*4,000*	*4,500*	*1,300*	*1,600*	*1,700*	*-300*	*15,500*
% change on a year ago	3.3	0.8	0.7	1.8	3.5	1.8	1.7
Change on a year ago (No.)	*75,200*	*29,600*	*20,500*	*14,800*	*41,100*	*4,500*	*196,200*
Unemployment Rate							
April-09	4.9	6.3	5.7	5.8	4.7	5.3	5.5
March-09	4.7	6.2	5.5	5.7	4.4	5.0	5.4
April-08	3.7	4.5	4.4	4.7	3.2	4.4	4.1
Monthly Difference	*0.2*	*0.1*	*0.2*	*0.1*	*0.3*	*0.3*	*0.1*
Annual Difference	*1.2*	*1.8*	*1.3*	*1.1*	*1.5*	*0.9*	*1.4*
Participation Rate							
April-09	67.8	63.7	64.4	63.6	69.0	61.8	65.5
March-09	67.8	63.7	64.4	63.5	69.0	61.9	65.4
April-08	67.1	64.0	65.0	63.2	68.4	61.3	65.5
Monthly Difference	*0.0*	*0.0*	*0.0*	*0.1*	*0.0*	*-0.1*	*0.1*
Annual Difference	*0.7*	*-0.3*	*-0.6*	*0.4*	*0.6*	*0.5*	*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.

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