

Summary (trend)

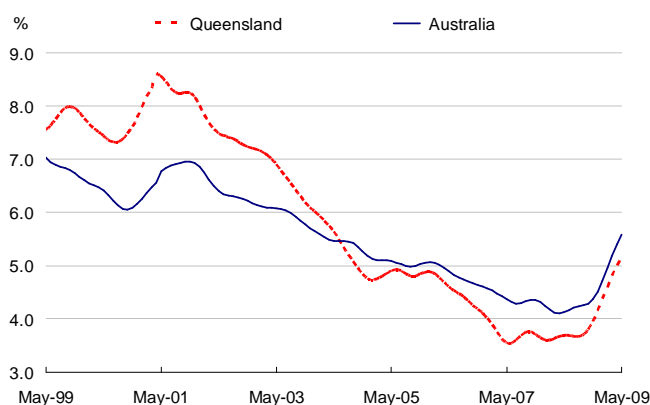
Employment: Queensland, ↓ 700 (0.0%) (persons, growth)	Australia, ↓ 1,200 (0.0%)
Unemployment: Queensland, ↑ 4,100 (5.2%) (persons, rate)	Australia, ↑ 16,900 (5.7%)
Labour Force: Queensland, ↑ 3,400 (0.1%) (persons, growth)	Australia, ↑ 15,800 (0.1%)

- Trend employment in Queensland was slightly lower in May 2009 (down 700 persons), but was 1.5% higher over the year. Annual employment growth comprised 18,500 full time and 13,900 part time persons. Trend monthly employment growth has broadly moderated since reaching a cyclical peak of 0.4% in June 2008.
- The trend participation rate in Queensland remained at an historic high of 67.8% in May 2009, 0.6 percentage point higher than in May 2008. Growth in participation over the year was largely driven by mature age workers.
- With labour force growth exceeding jobs growth, the trend unemployment rate in Queensland rose to 5.2% in May 2009, 0.2 percentage point higher than the April result. This represents the highest trend unemployment rate since August 2004 (see Chart 1).
- National trend employment fell marginally in May (down 1,200 persons) and the trend unemployment rate rose 0.1 percentage point, to 5.7%.
- Nationally, seasonally adjusted (sa) employment fell 1,700 persons in May 2009, better than market expectations of a 30,000 fall. However, rising participation drove the national sa unemployment rate 0.2 percentage point higher (from an upwardly revised April result), to 5.7% in May, in line with market expectations of a 0.3 percentage point rise to 5.7%.

Analysis

- The latest ANZ *Job Advertisement Series* data show that the average number of newspaper job ads per week (trend) in Queensland fell by 5.8% in May 2009. Given the strong leading relationship between *Job Advertisements* and jobs growth, this may imply a further deterioration in employment conditions in coming months. As a result, the unemployment rate is likely to rise further.

Chart 1: Unemployment rate, trend



Note: Charts may not be consistent with Tables due to rounding.

Table 1: Monthly labour force outcomes, May 2009

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change				
	QLD	Aust	Month		Year		Month		Year		
			QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	
Trend											
Employment	2,232.8	10,788.1	-0.7	-1.2	32.4	14.9	0.0	0.0	1.5	0.1	
Full-time	1,609.2	7,640.5	-1.3	-6.7	18.5	-78.1	-0.1	-0.1	1.2	-1.0	
Part-time	623.6	3,147.6	0.6	5.5	13.9	92.9	0.1	0.2	2.3	3.0	
Unemployed	121.7	654.9	4.1	16.9	37.4	186.6	3.5	2.6	44.4	39.8	
Labour Force	2,354.5	11,443.0	3.4	15.8	69.8	201.4	0.1	0.1	3.1	1.8	
Seas. Adjusted											
Employment	2,228.5	10,793.1	-4.0	-1.7	24.9	35.9	-0.2	0.0	1.1	0.3	
Full-time	1,601.7	7,643.1	-18.0	-26.2	19.4	-60.1	-1.1	-0.3	1.2	-0.8	
Part-time	626.8	3,150.0	14.0	24.5	5.5	96.0	2.3	0.8	0.9	3.1	
Unemployed	124.5	651.2	8.6	27.2	38.9	178.4	7.4	4.4	45.4	37.7	
Labour Force	2,353.0	11,444.3	4.5	25.5	63.8	214.3	0.2	0.2	2.8	1.9	
	Current		A month ago		A year ago						
Unemploy. Rate	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust					
Trend	5.2	5.7	5.0	5.6	3.7	4.2					
Seas. Adjusted	5.3	5.7	4.9	5.5	3.7	4.2					
Participation Rate											
Trend	67.8	65.5	67.8	65.5	67.2	65.5					
Seas. Adjusted	67.7	65.5	67.7	65.4	67.4	65.4					

Chart 2: Monthly employment growth, trend

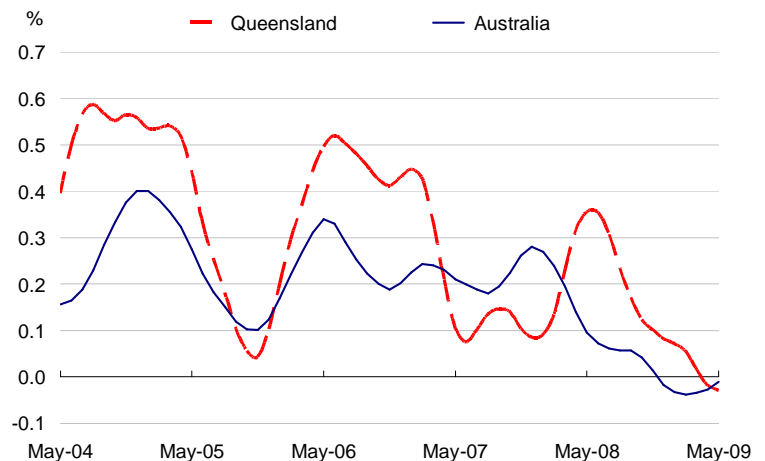


Table 2: Interstate comparison, May 2009

Monthly Trend Data	QLD	NSW	VIC	SA	WA	Tas	Aust
Employment							
% change on a month ago	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.2	0.1	-0.4	0.0
Change on a month ago (No.)	-700	-500	-1,500	1,600	600	-900	-1,200
% change on a year ago	1.5	-1.0	-0.6	0.9	1.9	-0.5	0.1
Change on a year ago (No.)	32,400	-35,500	-16,100	7,300	21,600	-1,100	14,900
Labour Force							
% change on a month ago	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	-0.2	0.1
Change on a month ago (No.)	3,400	4,900	2,900	1,300	3,400	-500	15,800
% change on a year ago	3.1	1.0	1.0	1.8	3.8	0.9	1.8
Change on a year ago (No.)	69,800	35,800	26,700	15,300	45,100	2,100	201,400
Unemployment Rate							
May-09	5.2	6.5	5.9	5.6	5.0	5.5	5.7
April-09	5.0	6.4	5.7	5.6	4.8	5.3	5.6
May-08	3.7	4.6	4.4	4.7	3.2	4.3	4.2
Monthly Difference	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1
Annual Difference	1.5	1.9	1.5	0.9	1.8	1.2	1.5
Participation Rate							
May-09	67.8	63.7	64.5	63.7	69.2	61.5	65.5
April-09	67.8	63.7	64.5	63.6	69.2	61.6	65.5
May-08	67.2	64.0	65.0	63.2	68.5	61.6	65.5
Monthly Difference	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.0
Annual Difference	0.6	-0.3	-0.5	0.5	0.7	-0.1	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.