The latest ANZ

The trend participation rate in Queensland fell to 67.4% in July 2009 (down 3,900 persons), to be largely unchanged over the year. Trend employment has fallen 0.7% from the peak reached in March 2009. As a result, the trend unemployment rate since May 2004 (see Chart 1).

National trend employment fell marginally in July (down 3,900 persons), to be largely unchanged over the year. Trend employment has fallen 0.7% from the peak reached in March 2009. As a result, the trend unemployment rate since May 2004 (see Chart 1).

The trend participation rate in Queensland fell to 67.4% in July 2009, 0.3 percentage point lower than the historic high reached in March 2009. The fall in participation likely reflects a withdrawal from the labour force by marginally attached workers.

However, with employment falling by more than the labour force, the trend unemployment rate in Queensland rose to 5.6% in July 2009, 0.1 percentage point higher than the June result. This is the highest trend unemployment rate since May 2004 (see Chart 1).

Nationally, seasonally adjusted (sa) employment rose 32,200 persons in July 2009, much better than market expectations of a 20,000 fall. Similar labour force growth saw the national sa unemployment rate remain unchanged in July, at 5.8%. Markets expected a 0.2 percentage point rise, to 6.0%.

Ongoing comparatively weak labour market outcomes in Queensland saw the sa unemployment rate match the national rate of 5.8% in July 2009.

The trend participation rate in Queensland fell 0.2% in July 2009 (down 3,900 persons), to be largely unchanged over the year. Trend employment has fallen 0.7% from the peak reached in March 2009. As a result, the trend unemployment rate since May 2004 (see Chart 1).

The latest ANZ Job Advertisement Series data show that the average number of newspaper job ads per week (trend) in Queensland in July 2009 was 43.4% lower than the previous low reached in the 1980s recession. This implies weak employment outcomes in the coming months in Queensland. As a result, the unemployment rate is likely to rise further.

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. In May 2009, the ABS announced that the 24% reduction in the sample size will be reversed between September and December 2009, which will decrease the standard error of the sample by approximately 15%.

Note: The ABS trend data are seasonally adjusted for the purpose of seasonal adjustment, the standard error of the sample by approximately 15%.