

Summary (trend)

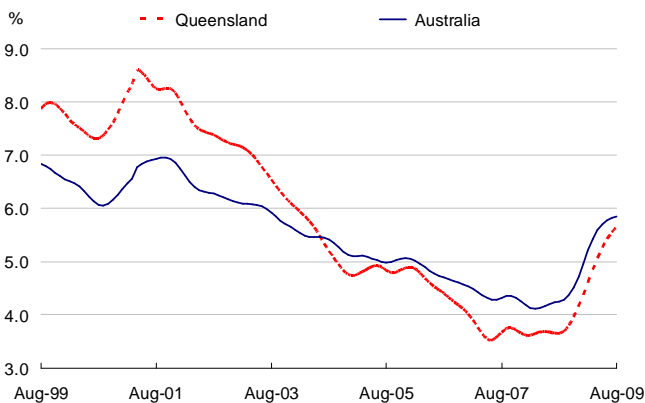
Employment:	Queensland,	↓	1,700	(-0.1%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↓	2,000	(-0.0%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	↑	2,300	(5.7%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↑	2,400	(5.8%)
Labour Force:	Queensland,	↑	600	(0.0%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑	400	(0.0%)

- Trend employment in Queensland fell 0.1% in August 2009 (down 1,700 persons), to be 0.2% lower over the year. Trend employment has fallen 0.7% from the peak reached in February 2009. While falls in employment have been relatively modest in recent months, there has been considerable movement from full-time to part-time employment, which suggests a fall in average hours worked. This shift is likely a result of labour hoarding.
- The trend participation rate in Queensland fell to 67.3% in August 2009, 0.4 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.
- With employment falling and civilian population growth causing the labour force to rise, the trend unemployment rate in Queensland rose to 5.7% in August 2009, 0.1 percentage point higher than the July result, and the highest rate since April 2004 (Chart 1).
- National trend employment fell marginally in August (down 2,000 persons) and the trend unemployment rate was unchanged, at 5.8%.
- Nationally, seasonally adjusted (sa) employment fell 27,100 persons in August 2009, much worse than market expectations of a 12,500 fall. A similar decline in the labour force saw the national sa unemployment rate remain unchanged in August, at 5.8%. Markets expected a 0.1 percentage point rise, to 5.9%.

Analysis

- The latest ANZ *Job Advertisement Series* data show that the average number of newspaper job ads per week (trend) in Queensland in August 2009 was 39.9% lower than the previous low reached in the 1980s recession. This implies weak employment outcomes in the coming months in Queensland.

Chart 1: Unemployment rate, trend



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

Table 1: Monthly labour force outcomes, August 2009

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change			
	QLD	Aust	Month		Year		Month		Year	
			QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust
Trend										
Employment	2,217.7	10,770.2	-1.7	-2.0	-3.6	-25.7	-0.1	0.0	-0.2	-0.2
Full-time	1,588.7	7,573.4	-4.7	-12.7	-27.6	-176.3	-0.3	-0.2	-1.7	-2.3
Part-time	629.0	3,196.8	3.0	10.6	24.0	150.6	0.5	0.3	4.0	4.9
Unemployed	132.9	668.7	2.3	2.4	48.7	189.6	1.8	0.4	57.8	39.6
Labour Force	2,350.6	11,438.9	0.6	0.4	45.1	163.9	0.0	0.0	2.0	1.5
Seas. Adjusted										
Employment	2,225.6	10,763.6	6.8	-27.1	-6.8	-35.6	0.3	-0.3	-0.3	-0.3
Full-time	1,582.4	7,553.8	-10.7	-30.8	-38.3	-217.4	-0.7	-0.4	-2.4	-2.8
Part-time	643.2	3,209.8	17.5	3.7	31.5	181.8	2.8	0.1	5.1	6.0
Unemployed	129.0	663.6	-6.1	-2.1	51.9	203.3	-4.5	-0.3	67.3	44.2
Labour Force	2,354.6	11,427.2	0.7	-29.2	45.1	167.7	0.0	-0.3	2.0	1.5
Unemploy. Rate										
	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust				
Trend	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.8	3.7	4.2				
Seas. Adjusted	5.5	5.8	5.7	5.8	3.3	4.1				
Participation Rate										
Trend	67.3	65.2	67.4	65.2	67.5	65.4				
Seas. Adjusted	67.3	65.1	67.5	65.3	67.6	65.3				

Chart 2: Monthly employment growth, trend

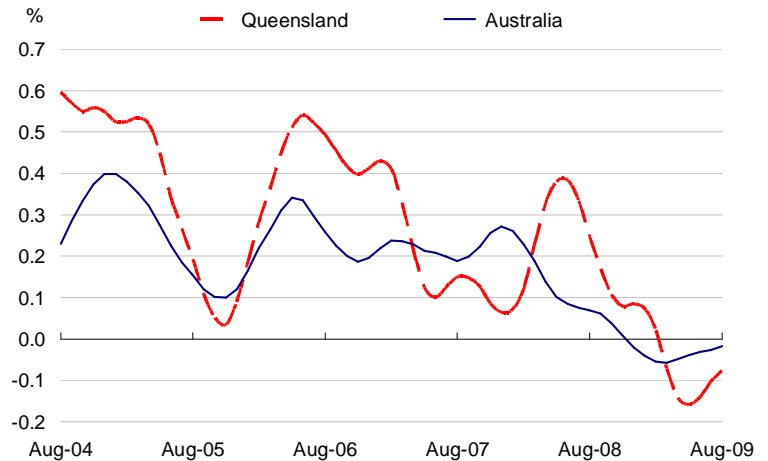


Table 2: Interstate comparison, August 2009

Monthly Trend Data	QLD	NSW	VIC	SA	WA	Tas	Aust
Employment							
% change on a month ago	-0.1	0.1	0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	0.0
Change on a month ago (No.)	-1,700	4,000	4,600	-1,600	-2,200	-600	-2,000
% change on a year ago	-0.2	0.2	0.0	-0.4	-1.0	-3.2	-0.2
Change on a year ago (No.)	-3,600	5,800	-900	-3,500	-11,700	-7,700	-25,700
Labour Force							
% change on a month ago	0.0	0.0	0.2	-0.2	-0.1	-0.4	0.0
Change on a month ago (No.)	600	1,300	6,300	-1,400	-1,200	-900	400
% change on a year ago	2.0	1.5	1.8	0.2	1.8	-2.5	1.5
Change on a year ago (No.)	45,100	55,200	49,500	1,900	21,700	-6,200	163,900
Unemployment Rate							
August-09	5.7	6.2	6.1	5.6	5.5	4.8	5.8
July-09	5.6	6.3	6.1	5.6	5.4	4.9	5.8
August-08	3.7	4.9	4.4	5.0	2.8	4.0	4.2
Monthly Difference	0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	-0.1	0.0
Annual Difference	2.0	1.3	1.7	0.6	2.7	0.8	1.6
Participation Rate							
August-09	67.3	63.7	64.7	63.0	68.5	60.2	65.2
July-09	67.4	63.7	64.7	63.2	68.7	60.5	65.2
August-08	67.5	63.6	64.8	63.6	69.1	62.5	65.4
Monthly Difference	-0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	0.0
Annual Difference	-0.2	0.1	-0.1	-0.6	-0.6	-2.3	-0.2

***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. 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%.