

**Summary** (trend)

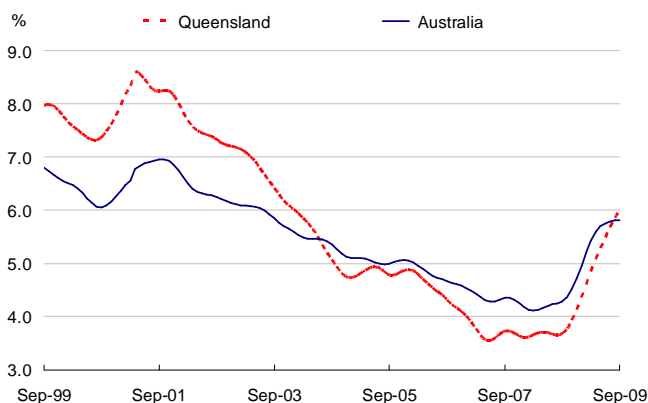
<b>Employment:</b>	Queensland,	↑	600	(0.0%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑	4,700	(0.0%)
<b>Unemployment:</b>	Queensland,	↑	3,800	(6.0%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↑	500	(5.8%)
<b>Labour Force:</b>	Queensland,	↑	4,400	(0.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑	5,200	(0.0%)

- Trend employment in Queensland rose 600 persons in September 2009, but was 5,600 persons lower over the year. Trend employment has fallen 0.6% from the peak reached in February 2009. The trend participation rate in Queensland rose to 67.5% in September 2009, only 0.2 percentage point lower than its historic high.
- Stronger growth in the labour force than employment saw Queensland's trend unemployment rate rise to 6.0% in September 2009, the highest in the nation.
- Importantly, there were sharp revisions made to previous trend estimates of Queensland's unemployment rate in the September release, (the August trend unemployment rate was revised from 5.7% in the previous release to 5.9%) reflecting volatile movements in seasonally adjusted (sa) data in September. In sa terms, the participation rate rose 0.4 percentage point, despite a fall in employment. Queensland was the only state to record a rise in the participation rate in September. This pushed the unemployment rate 0.8 percentage point higher, the fifth largest increase in the history of the series. This volatility may partly reflect changes to the survey size\*.
- National trend employment rose slightly in September (up 4,700 persons) and the trend unemployment rate remained at 5.8%. Nationally, sa employment rose 40,600 persons in September 2009, much better than market expectations of a 10,000 fall. However, a similar rise in the labour force saw the national sa unemployment fall only slightly, to 5.7%. Markets expected a 0.2 percentage point rise, to 6.0%.

**Analysis**

- The latest ANZ *Job Ads Series* data show that the average number of newspaper job ads per week (trend) in Queensland rose 1.2% in September 2009, implying that declines in labour demand may have troughed.

**Chart 1: Unemployment rate, trend**

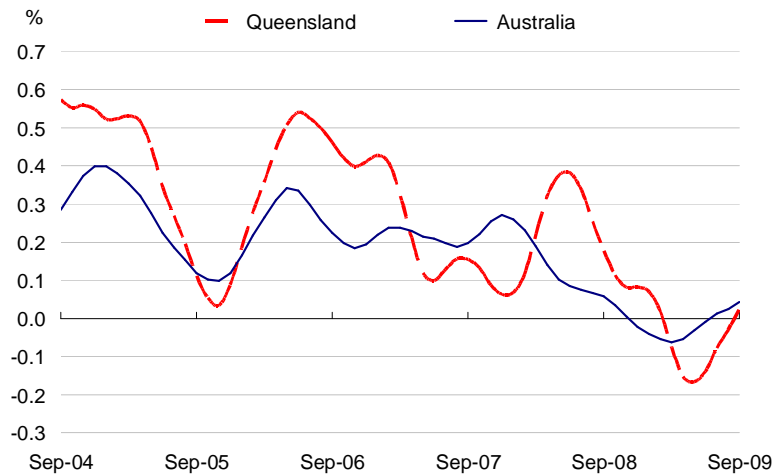


Note: Charts may not be consistent with Tables due to rounding.

**Table 1: Monthly labour force outcomes, September 2009**

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change				
	QLD	Aust	Month		Year		Month		Year		
			QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	
<b>Trend</b>											
Employment	2,219.6	10,786.0	0.6	4.7	-5.6	-16.6	0.0	0.0	-0.3	-0.2	
Full-time	1,587.0	7,571.2	-3.0	-8.5	-31.1	-175.7	-0.2	-0.1	-1.9	-2.3	
Part-time	632.6	3,214.8	3.6	13.1	25.5	159.2	0.6	0.4	4.2	5.2	
Unemployed	142.0	664.7	3.8	0.5	57.0	181.3	2.7	0.1	67.1	37.5	
Labour Force	2,361.6	11,450.7	4.4	5.2	51.4	164.7	0.2	0.0	2.2	1.5	
<b>Seas. Adjusted</b>											
Employment	2,223.7	10,805.6	-0.7	40.6	5.0	10.9	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.1	
Full-time	1,592.6	7,589.8	10.6	35.4	-19.6	-151.4	0.7	0.5	-1.2	-2.0	
Part-time	631.1	3,215.8	-11.3	5.2	24.6	162.3	-1.8	0.2	4.1	5.3	
Unemployed	149.7	658.6	19.0	-3.8	63.7	168.6	14.5	-0.6	74.1	34.4	
Labour Force	2,373.4	11,464.2	18.3	36.8	68.7	179.5	0.8	0.3	3.0	1.6	
			Current		A month ago		A year ago				
<b>Unemploy. Rate</b>	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust					
Trend	6.0	5.8	5.9	5.8	3.7	4.3					
Seas. Adjusted	6.3	5.7	5.5	5.8	3.7	4.3					
<b>Participation Rate</b>											
Trend	67.5	65.1	67.4	65.2	67.5	65.4					
Seas. Adjusted	67.7	65.2	67.3	65.1	67.3	65.4					

**Chart 2: Monthly employment growth, trend**



**Table 2: Interstate comparison, September 2009**

Monthly Trend Data	QLD	NSW	VIC	SA	WA	Tas	Aust
<b>Employment</b>							
% change on a month ago	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	-0.2	0.1	0.0
Change on a month ago (No.)	600	2,800	5,100	0	-2,300	200	4,700
% change on a year ago	-0.3	0.3	0.3	-0.1	-1.8	-2.8	-0.2
Change on a year ago (No.)	-5,600	11,200	8,100	-1,000	-21,600	-6,800	-16,600
<b>Labour Force</b>							
% change on a month ago	0.2	-0.1	0.2	0.0	-0.1	0.1	0.0
Change on a month ago (No.)	4,400	-2,600	5,000	400	-1,100	200	5,200
% change on a year ago	2.2	1.2	1.9	0.5	1.3	-1.9	1.5
Change on a year ago (No.)	51,400	43,600	54,200	4,100	15,200	-4,800	164,700
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>							
September-09	6.0	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.7	5.0	5.8
August-09	5.9	6.0	6.0	5.7	5.6	5.0	5.8
September-08	3.7	5.0	4.4	5.1	2.7	4.1	4.3
Monthly Difference	0.1	-0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0
Annual Difference	2.3	0.8	1.5	0.6	3.0	0.9	1.5
<b>Participation Rate</b>							
September-09	67.5	63.4	64.7	63.3	68.2	60.6	65.1
August-09	67.4	63.5	64.7	63.3	68.4	60.6	65.2
September-08	67.5	63.5	64.6	63.7	69.3	62.5	65.4
Monthly Difference	0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0	-0.2	0.0	-0.1
Annual Difference	0.0	-0.1	0.1	-0.4	-1.1	-1.9	-0.3

\*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. This will decrease the standard error of the sample by approximately 15%, but may introduce volatility during the transition.