

Summary (trend)

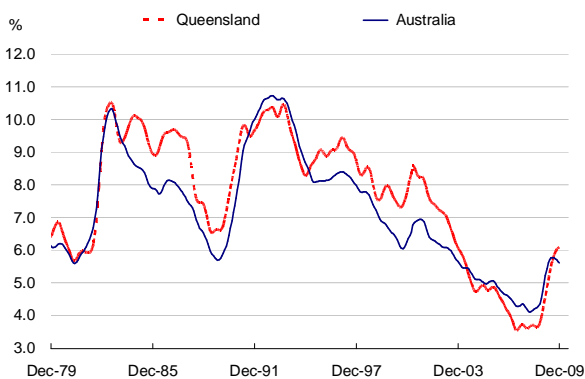
Employment: (persons, growth)	Queensland, Australia,	↑ ↑	3,700 22,300	(0.2%) (0.2%)
Unemployment: (persons, rate)	Queensland, Australia,	↑ ↓	800 3,800	(6.1%) (5.6%)
Labour Force: (persons, growth)	Queensland, Australia,	↑ ↑	4,500 18,500	(0.2%) (0.2%)

- Trend employment in Queensland rose 0.2% (3,700 persons) in December 2009, to be 0.1% (1,200 persons) higher over the year.
- The trend participation rate in Queensland remained at 67.5% in December 2009, only 0.2 percentage point lower than its historic high.
- With the rate of employment growth in line with growth in the labour force, Queensland's trend unemployment rate remained at 6.1% in December 2009 (following a 0.1 percentage point downward revision for November), still the highest in the nation. Queensland's trend unemployment rate has now risen 2.6 percentage points from the generational low reached in mid-2007. However, by historical standards, an unemployment rate of around 6% is still quite low (See Chart 1).
- National trend employment rose 0.2% (22,300 persons) in December 2009 and the trend unemployment rate fell 0.1 percentage point to 5.6%.
- Nationally, sa employment rose 35,200 persons in December 2009, well above market expectations of a 10,000 person increase. Further, the sa unemployment rate for November 2009 was revised 0.1 percentage point lower, to 5.6%, while in December it fell further, to 5.5%. This was better than market expectations for it to be unchanged at the unrevised level of 5.7%.

Analysis

- While trend employment growth was solid in December 2009, leading indicators such as the ANZ *Job Advertisements Series*, appear to be stabilising at a low level, implying subdued jobs growth in coming months. While falls in trend employment both nationally and in Queensland appear to have troughed in June quarter 2009, employment growth in Queensland is expected to be largely matched by population growth in the short term, which could restrict any fall in the trend unemployment rate in coming months.

Chart 1: Unemployment rate, trend



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

Table 1: Monthly labour force outcomes, December 2009

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change				
	QLD	Aust	Month		Year		Month		Year		
			QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	
Trend											
Employment	2,233.0	10,884.3	3.7	22.3	1.2	82.4	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.8	
Full-time	1,586.5	7,622.9	-0.5	12.1	-25.2	-72.9	0.0	0.2	-1.6	-0.9	
Part-time	646.5	3,261.4	4.2	10.2	26.4	155.3	0.7	0.3	4.3	5.0	
Unemployed	144.9	648.2	0.8	-3.8	48.6	111.9	0.6	-0.6	50.5	20.9	
Labour Force	2,377.9	11,532.5	4.5	18.5	49.8	194.3	0.2	0.2	2.1	1.7	
Seas. Adjusted											
Employment	2,241.7	10,905.9	20.8	35.2	15.6	112.1	0.9	0.3	0.7	1.0	
Full-time	1,586.9	7,635.1	1.4	7.3	-10.4	-37.5	0.1	0.1	-0.7	-0.5	
Part-time	654.8	3,270.8	19.4	27.9	26.0	149.6	3.1	0.9	4.1	4.8	
Unemployed	141.7	639.4	-1.8	-10.6	47.9	118.3	-1.3	-1.6	51.1	22.7	
Labour Force	2,383.4	11,545.3	19.0	24.6	63.5	230.4	0.8	0.2	2.7	2.0	
Unemploy. Rate											
Trend	6.1	5.6	6.1	5.7	4.1	4.7					
Seas. Adjusted	5.9	5.5	6.1	5.6	4.0	4.6					
Participation Rate											
Trend	67.5	65.2	67.5	65.2	67.6	65.3					
Seas. Adjusted	67.6	65.2	67.2	65.2	67.4	65.2					

Chart 2: Monthly employment growth, trend

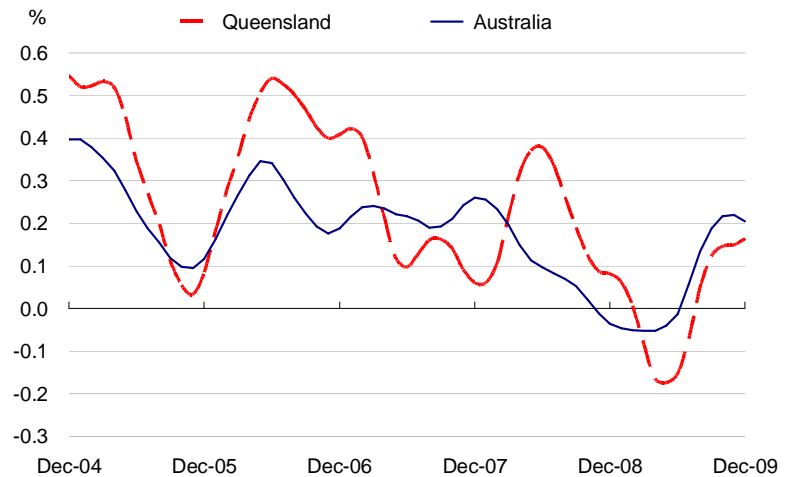


Table 2: Interstate comparison, December 2009

Monthly Trend Data	QLD	NSW	VIC	SA	WA	Tas	Aust
Employment							
% change on a month ago	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.3	-0.2	0.2
Change on a month ago (No.)	3,700	1,800	11,300	700	3,800	-400	22,300
% change on a year ago	0.1	0.6	2.6	0.5	-0.5	-3.4	0.8
Change on a year ago (No.)	1,200	19,400	70,400	3,900	-5,500	-8,100	82,400
Labour Force							
% change on a month ago	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.2	-0.1	0.2
Change on a month ago (No.)	4,500	1,600	8,100	200	3,000	-200	18,500
% change on a year ago	2.1	1.0	3.2	0.3	1.5	-2.3	1.7
Change on a year ago (No.)	49,800	36,200	89,900	2,600	18,300	-5,700	194,300
Unemployment Rate							
December-09	6.1	5.9	5.3	5.4	5.2	5.5	5.6
November-09	6.1	5.9	5.5	5.5	5.2	5.4	5.7
December-08	4.1	5.5	4.8	5.6	3.3	4.4	4.7
Monthly Difference	0.0	0.0	-0.2	-0.1	0.0	0.1	-0.1
Annual Difference	2.0	0.4	0.5	-0.2	1.9	1.1	0.9
Participation Rate							
December-09	67.5	63.2	65.2	63.1	68.2	60.1	65.2
November-09	67.5	63.2	65.1	63.1	68.1	60.2	65.2
December-08	67.6	63.5	64.4	63.6	69.1	62.2	65.3
Monthly Difference	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	-0.1	0.0
Annual Difference	-0.1	-0.3	0.8	-0.5	-0.9	-2.1	-0.1

***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.