Revised trend data indicate that employment in Queensland rose by 2,900 persons (0.1%) in October 2010, to be 69,300 persons (3.1%) higher over the year. Jobs growth in October was the weakest since September 2009, and the fifth straight month that jobs growth was well below the long-run average rate.

Queensland’s trend labour force rose by 3,300 persons in October. Stronger labour force growth than employment growth saw the trend unemployment rate increase 0.1 percentage point, to 5.5%, the first rise in the trend unemployment rate since September 2009 (see Chart 1).

In seasonally adjusted (sa) terms, employment in Queensland grew strongly (15,800 persons), however was again countered by stronger labour force growth, resulting in an increase in the sa unemployment rate.

In sa terms, national employment rose 29,700 persons in October, significantly higher than market expectations of a 20,000 person increase. However, with significantly stronger labour force growth, the national sa unemployment rate in October increased 0.3 percentage point, to 5.4%. In comparison, markets expected a 0.1 percentage point fall, from 5.1% to 5.0%.

National trend employment rose 0.2% (25,700 persons) in October, to be 32,000 persons (0.3%) higher over the year. The trend national unemployment rate was unchanged at an upwardly revised rate of 5.2%.

**Analysis**

Leading indicators, such as ANZ job ads, suggest Queensland’s monthly employment growth is expected to return towards its long-run average (0.25%) by early 2011. This rate of employment growth is expected to be matched by labour force growth, meaning that any fall in the State’s unemployment rate into early 2011 should be modest.