

Summary (trend)

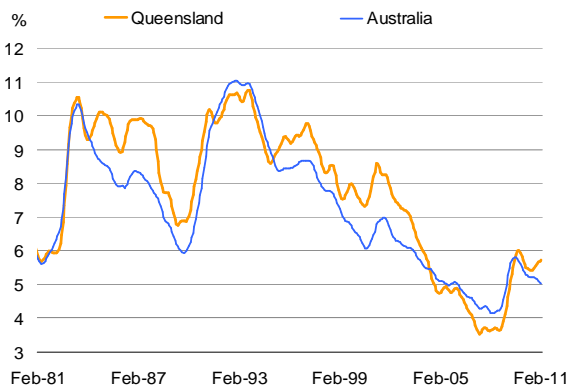
Employment:	Queensland,	↓	-1,400	(-0.1%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑	9,100	(0.1%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	↑	600	(5.7%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	↓	-3,800	(5.0%)
Labour Force:	Queensland,	↓	-800	(0.0%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↑	5,300	(0.0%)

- Revised trend data indicate that employment in Queensland fell by 1,400 persons (-0.1%) in February 2011, but was 50,400 persons (2.2%) higher over the year. February was the second straight month in which employment fell (with January revised to a 200 person fall), following 16 months of consecutive rises.
- While employment fell, the trend unemployment rate remained at 5.7%, reflecting the offsetting impact of a fall in the labour force. Overall, the unemployment rate remained 0.3 percentage point higher than its recent low of 5.4% recorded in August 2010.
- The fall in trend employment in the month coincided with a 22,100 person (0.9%) fall in seasonally adjusted (sa) employment, driven by part-time employment in particular. However, the sa labour force also fell strongly, driven by a fall in the participation rate. As a result, the sa unemployment rate remained at 5.6%.
- National sa employment fell 10,100 persons in February 2011, a significantly poorer result than market expectations of a 20,000 person increase. With a similar fall in the national sa labour force, the sa unemployment rate remained at 5.0%, in line with market expectations of an unchanged rate of 5.0%.
- National trend employment rose 0.1% (9,100 persons) in February 2011, to be 2.9% (323,300 persons) higher over the year. With employment growth outpacing labour force growth, the trend national unemployment rate fell 0.1 percentage point to 5.0%.

Analysis

- Employment outcomes are likely to be weak in coming months reflecting modest domestic activity as well as the impacts of flooding in some regions. However, employment growth is expected to strengthen into late 2011, reflecting improving business investment and the rebuilding process following multiple natural disasters.

Chart 1: Unemployment rate, trend



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

Table 1: Monthly labour force outcomes, February 2011

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change			
	QLD	Aust	Month		Year		Month		Year	
			QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust
Trend										
Employment	2,330.0	11,433.7	-1.4	9.1	50.4	323.3	-0.1	0.1	2.2	2.9
Full-time	1,662.0	8,055.0	0.7	9.5	38.0	278.8	0.0	0.1	2.3	3.6
Part-time	668.0	3,378.7	-2.1	-0.4	12.4	44.6	-0.3	0.0	1.9	1.3
Unemployed	141.3	604.1	0.6	-3.8	6.3	-24.1	0.4	-0.6	4.7	-3.8
Labour Force	2,471.3	12,037.8	-0.8	5.3	56.7	299.2	0.0	0.0	2.3	2.5
Seas. Adjusted										
Employment	2,311.3	11,412.9	-22.1	-10.1	33.1	301.9	-0.9	-0.1	1.5	2.7
Full-time	1,659.5	8,068.5	3.3	47.7	30.6	306.8	0.2	0.6	1.9	4.0
Part-time	651.8	3,344.4	-25.4	-57.8	2.5	-4.9	-3.8	-1.7	0.4	-0.1
Unemployed	137.8	604.8	0.0	-0.5	1.6	-20.8	0.0	-0.1	1.2	-3.3
Labour Force	2,449.1	12,017.7	-22.1	-10.6	34.7	281.1	-0.9	-0.1	1.4	2.4
Unemploy. Rate										
	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust				
Trend	5.7	5.0	5.7	5.1	5.6	5.4				
Seas. Adjusted	5.6	5.0	5.6	5.0	5.6	5.3				
Participation Rate										
Trend	67.7	65.8	67.7	65.8	67.4	65.3				
Seas. Adjusted	67.0	65.7	67.7	65.8	67.4	65.3				

Chart 2: Monthly employment growth, trend

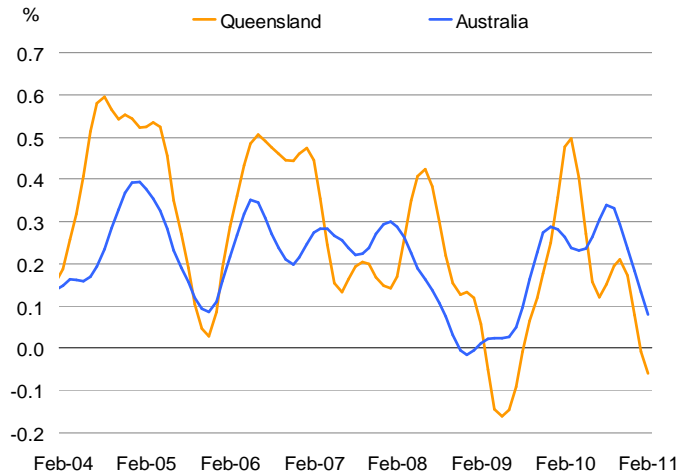


Table 2: Interstate comparison, February 2011

Monthly Trend Data	QLD	NSW	VIC	SA	WA	Tas	Aust
Employment							
% change on a month ago	-0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	-0.1	0.1	0.1
Change on a month ago (No.)	-1,400	7,500	5,100	-300	-1,000	200	9,100
% change on a year ago	2.2	4.0	3.4	0.8	2.3	1.6	2.9
Change on a year ago (No.)	50,400	140,700	94,300	6,400	27,000	3,800	323,300
Labour Force							
% change on a month ago	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.2	0.0
Change on a month ago (No.)	-800	5,900	3,000	-200	-1,800	500	5,300
% change on a year ago	2.3	3.1	3.1	1.3	1.7	1.6	2.5
Change on a year ago (No.)	56,700	115,400	89,800	10,800	21,000	4,000	299,200
Unemployment Rate							
February-11	5.7	4.8	5.0	5.6	4.4	5.8	5.0
January-11	5.7	4.8	5.1	5.6	4.4	5.6	5.1
February-10	5.6	5.6	5.3	5.2	4.9	5.8	5.4
Monthly Difference	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.2	-0.1
Annual Difference	0.1	-0.8	-0.3	0.4	-0.5	0.0	-0.4
Participation Rate							
February-11	67.7	64.2	66.1	63.3	68.0	61.4	65.8
January-11	67.7	64.2	66.1	63.4	68.1	61.3	65.8
February-10	67.4	63.2	65.4	63.4	68.3	61.0	65.3
Monthly Difference	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	0.1	0.0
Annual Difference	0.3	1.0	0.7	-0.1	-0.3	0.4	0.5

***Note:** The ABS this month noted that there were no significant operational difficulties experienced in conducting the Labour Force Survey in February 2011. Thus, unlike in January 2011, there was no need to apply corrections to any of the trend estimates this month.