

QUEENSLAND TREASURY

MACROECONOMICS TEAM

LABOUR FORCE: APRIL 2011

ABS 6202.0

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Summary (trend Employment: (persons, growth)	Queensland,	+	-400 4,900	(0.0%) (0.0%)
Unemployment: (persons, rate)	Queensland, Australia,	+		(5.4%) (4.9%)
Labour Force: (persons, growth)	Queensland, Australia,	+	-2,600 -1,100	(-0.1%) (0.0%)

- Revised trend data indicate that employment in Queensland fell by 400 persons (0.0%) in April 2011, but was 28,000 persons (1.2%) higher over the year. April was the fourth straight month in which employment fell, following 17 months of consecutive rises. However, the fall was driven entirely by part-time employment, with full-time employment now growing for 19 consecutive months.
- Since reaching a peak of 67.8% in December 2010, Queensland's participation rate has fallen 0.6 percentage point, limiting upward pressure on the unemployment rate over the period.
- Queensland's trend unemployment rate fell 0.7 percentage point to 5.4% in April 2011.
- However, seasonally adjusted (sa) employment continued to improve in April 2011, to now be above its December 2010 pre-flood level. This led to a 0.3 percentage point fall in the unemployment rate, to 5.2%.
- National sa employment fell 22,100 persons in April 2011, a significantly weaker result than market expectations of a 18,000 person increase. However, with the sa labour force also falling, the sa unemployment rate remained at 4.9%, as expected by markets.
- National trend employment rose 4,900 persons (0.0%) in April 2011, to be 2.5% (280,000 persons) higher over the year. With a largely unchanged labour force, the trend national unemployment rate remained at 4.9%.

Analysis

 Forward indicators, such as ANZ job advertisements, still point to a recovery in trend employment by the second half of 2011, consistent with Macro Team's view of a return to around average employment growth later in the calendar year.

Chart 1: Unemployment rate, trend

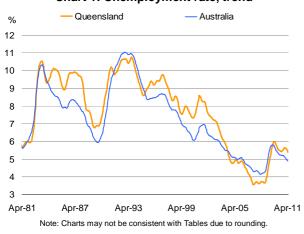


Table 1: Monthly labour force outcomes, April 2011

_	Level (000s)			Difference (000s)			% Change			
_			Month		Year		Month		Year	
_	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust
Trend										
Employment	2,327.9	11,446.1	-0.4	4.9	28.0	280.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	2.5
Full-time	1,667.8	8,080.8	1.9	9.4	28.2	255.0	0.1	0.1	1.7	3.3
Part-time	660.1	3,365.2	-2.3	-4.5	-0.2	24.9	-0.3	-0.1	0.0	0.7
Unemployed	133.0	585.7	-2.2	-6.0	-0.7	-35.2	-1.6	-1.0	-0.5	-5.7
Labour Force	2,460.9	12,031.8	-2.6	-1.1	27.3	244.8	-0.1	0.0	1.1	2.1
Seas. Adjusted										
Employment	2,341.6	11,436.5	18.0	-22.1	43.4	267.3	0.8	-0.2	1.9	2.4
Full-time	1,667.8	8,056.8	-4.3	-49.0	32.1	217.5	-0.3	-0.6	2.0	2.8
Part-time	673.8	3,379.7	22.3	26.9	11.3	49.8	3.4	0.8	1.7	1.5
Unemployed	129.0	583.0	-6.0	-9.9	-7.6	-53.3	-4.4	-1.7	-5.6	-8.4
Labour Force	2,470.6	12,019.5	12.0	-32.0	35.8	214.0	0.5	-0.3	1.5	1.8
_		rent	A month ago		A year ago					
Unemploy. Rate	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust				
Trend	5.4	4.9	5.5	4.9	5.5	5.3				
Seas. Adjusted	5.2	4.9	5.5	4.9	5.6	5.4				
Participation Rate										
Trend	67.2	65.7	67.3	65.7	67.6	65.3				
Seas. Adjusted	67.4	65.6	67.2	65.8	67.7	65.4				

Chart 2: Monthly employment growth, trend

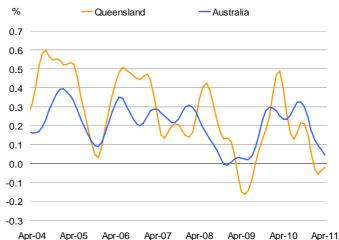


Table 2: Interstate comparison, April 2011

Monthly Trend Data	QLD	NSW	VIC	SA	WA	Tas	Aust
Employment							
% change on a month ago	0.0	-0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0
Change on a month ago (No.)	-400	-4,700	1,500	1,600	1,500	200	4,900
% change on a year ago	1.2	3.1	3.1	1.7	1.9	1.2	2.5
Change on a year ago (No.)	28,000	109,100	87,800	13,900	22,800	2,900	280,000
Labour Force							
% change on a month ago	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Change on a month ago (No.)	-2,600	-3,500	-2,100	1,500	500	100	-1,100
% change on a year ago	1.1	2.6	2.3	1.9	1.4	0.7	2.1
Change on a year ago (No.)	27,300	96,700	67,300	16,200	18,100	1,800	244,800
Unemployment Rate							
April-11	5.4	5.0	4.6	5.5	4.1	5.7	4.9
March-11	5.5	4.9	4.7	5.5	4.2	5.7	4.9
April-10	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.3	4.5	6.1	5.3
Monthly Difference	-0.1	0.1	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.0
Annual Difference	-0.1	-0.4	-0.8	0.2	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4
Participation Rate							
April-11	67.2	63.9	65.7	63.6	68.0	61.4	65.7
March-11	67.3	64.0	65.8	63.6	68.0	61.4	65.7
April-10	67.6	63.1	65.3	63.2	68.2	61.5	65.3
Monthly Difference	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Annual Difference	-0.4	0.8	0.4	0.4	-0.2	-0.1	0.4