Revised trend data shows that Queensland’s employment outcomes have weakened in recent months, with employment falling 400 persons (0.0%) in February 2012, though growing 17,400 persons (0.7%) over the year.

With the rate of fall in the trend labour force in Queensland similar to that for employment in the month, Queensland’s trend unemployment rate remained at an upwardly revised 5.5%.

Following strong growth of 20,300 persons last month, seasonally adjusted (sa) employment in Queensland fell 17,900 persons (0.8%) in February 2012. This likely reflected the usual correction following a large rise. With the fall in sa employment larger than the fall in the labour force, the sa unemployment rate rose 0.3 percentage point to 5.7%.

National trend employment rose 1,000 persons (0.0%) in February, with the unemployment rate steady at 5.2%, as expected by markets.

Subdued conditions in the labour intensive dwelling and retail sectors is expected to continue to weigh on Queensland’s employment growth in the short–to–medium term.