Revised data show that Queensland’s trend employment fell for the fourth consecutive month, down 600 persons in April 2012. Trend employment in Queensland grew 15,200 persons (0.7%) over the year.

Queensland’s trend labour force fell 2,200 persons in April 2012, the fifth consecutive monthly fall. With the labour force falling 0.1%, unemployment fell 0.3 percentage point, to 5.1% in April, compared with market expectations of a 5,500 person decrease. With the labour force falling 0.1%, the unemployment rate fell 0.4 percentage point to 5.1%

National trend employment rose 10,600 persons (0.1%) in April 2012, compared with market expectations of a 5,500 person decrease. With the March 2012 unemployment rate also being downwardly revised 0.1 percentage point).

This outcome has occurred as the trend participation rate has also fallen from a recent peak of 67.4% in September 2011 to 66.8% in April 2012.

Following a period of high volatility, seasonally adjusted (sa) employment in Queensland rose only 200 persons (0.0%) in April 2012. However, with the labour force falling 7,900 persons (0.3%), the sa unemployment rate fell 0.4 percentage point to 5.1%.

National trend employment rose 10,600 persons (0.1%) in April, with the unemployment rate steady at 5.1% (with the March 2012 unemployment rate also being downwardly revised 0.1 percentage point).

With global economic conditions continuing to weigh on business sentiment and recent declines in indicators, such as ANZ Job Ads, any employment growth in Queensland will likely be subdued over the near-term.