Revised trend data show employment in Queensland rose for the second consecutive month in November 2012, up 1,300 persons (0.1%), following eight consecutive monthly falls. Trend employment was 4,800 (0.2%) lower over the year. The recent weakness in trend employment reflects a weakening global outlook that has seen survey measures of business conditions and confidence deteriorate and weigh on hiring intentions.

With growth in the trend labour force (up 2,500 persons) slightly outpacing growth in trend employment, the trend unemployment rate rose 0.1 percentage point to 6.2% in November 2012, from a downwardly revised 6.1% in October.

The trend unemployment rate increased 0.7 percentage point between May 2012 and November 2012. This occurred as the trend participation rate fell to 66.4%, significantly lower than its peak of 67.9% recorded in March 2009.

The more volatile seasonally adjusted (sa) employment series rose 27,700 persons (1.2%) in November 2012, following revised falls of 19,900 persons in September and 4,500 persons in October. With the sa labour force growing at a slightly slower rate than sa employment, the sa unemployment rate fell 0.1 percentage point to 6.0%.

National sa employment rose 13,900 persons (0.1%) in November, a stronger result than market expectations of the level of employment being unchanged. The sa unemployment rate fell 0.2 percentage point to 5.2%, compared with market expectations of a 0.1 percentage point rise to 5.5%.

With the resiliently high A$ and global economic uncertainty continuing to weigh on business sentiment and consumer confidence, employment growth in Queensland will likely remain modest over the near-term.