ABS Labour Force, February 2013

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 14 March 2013, 10:30 am AEST

Key data (trend)

Employment: Queensland, 13,900 (0.2%) (persons, growth) Australia, 15,900 (0.1%)
Unemployment: Queensland, 2,000 (5.8%) (persons, rate) Australia, 1,800 (5.4%)
Labour Force: Queensland, 11,900 (0.1%) (persons, growth) Australia, 17,700 (0.1%)

Main findings

• Trend employment in Queensland rose for the fifth consecutive month, up 3,900 persons (0.2%) in February 2013. Over the year to February 2013, trend employment was 5,900 persons (0.3%) higher, mainly driven by a rise in part-time employment, with full-time employment also rising slightly.

• With the trend labour force (up 1,900 persons) rising at a slower rate than employment growth in February 2013, Queensland’s trend unemployment rate fell 0.1 percentage point to 5.8%.

• Meanwhile, the participation rate has generally been trending downwards, to be 66.1% in February 2013, compared with 67.0% recorded in the same month a year earlier.

• In seasonally adjusted (sa) terms, employment fell 3,900 persons (-0.2%) in February 2013, following a very strong increase of 30,700 persons in January 2013. It should be noted that sa employment data have been particularly volatile recently. The average level of sa employment in the first eight months of 2012-13 was 0.1% higher compared with the same period a year ago.

• With sa employment falling in the month and the sa labour force continuing to grow, the sa unemployment rate rose 0.3 percentage point to 5.8%.

• Nationally, sa employment rose 71,500 persons in February, a significantly stronger result than market expectations of an increase of 9,000 persons. The sa unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.4%, compared with market expectations of a 0.1 percentage point rise to 5.5%.