

Summary (trend)

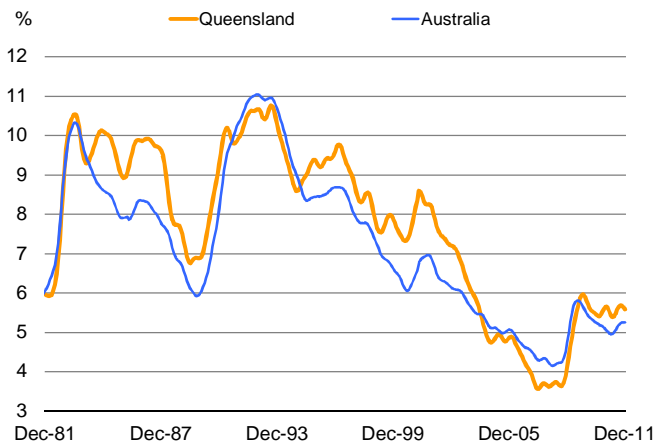
Employment:	Queensland,	↑	1,100	(0.0%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↓	-2,200	(0.0%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	-	-1,200	(5.6%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	-	200	(5.3%)
Labour Force:	Queensland,	↓	-100	(0.0%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	↓	-2,000	(0.0%)

- Trend employment in Queensland rose 1,100 persons (0.0%) in December 2011, to be 16,400 persons (0.7%) higher over the year. Trend employment growth has generally been weak over 2011.
- With a slight decline in the trend labour force, Queensland's trend unemployment rate remained at 5.6% in December 2011.
- Seasonally adjusted (sa) employment fell 3,300 persons in December 2011. The sa labour force fell 11,000 persons, as the sa participation rate fell 0.4 percentage point to 67.0%. With the labour force falling more than employment, the sa unemployment rate fell 0.3 percentage point to 5.4%.
- National trend employment fell 2,200 persons (0.0%) in December, with the unemployment rate flat at 5.3%.
- National sa employment fell 29,300 persons in December, significantly weaker than market expectations of a 10,000 person increase. However, with a similar fall in the sa labour force, the sa unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.2%, compared with expectations of being unchanged at 5.3%.

Analysis

- Events in Europe and continued financial market turmoil have translated into weakened business confidence, seeing employers delay hiring intentions. Further, subdued activity in the labour intensive construction and retail sectors in particular suggests that overall employment growth is likely to remain subdued in the short-term.

Chart 1: Unemployment rate, trend



Note: Charts may not be consistent with tables due to rounding.

Table 1: Monthly labour force outcomes, December 2011

	Level (000s)		Difference (000s)				% Change			
	QLD	Aust	Month		Year		Month		Year	
			QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust
Trend										
Employment	2,348.4	11,440.1	1.1	-2.2	16.4	25.9	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.2
Full-time	1,683.7	8,042.8	1.8	-1.8	22.3	4.6	0.1	0.0	1.3	0.1
Part-time	664.7	3,397.3	-0.7	-0.4	-5.9	21.3	-0.1	0.0	-0.9	0.6
Unemployed	138.8	634.2	-1.2	0.2	-0.8	24.9	-0.9	0.0	-0.6	4.1
Labour Force	2,487.2	12,074.3	-0.1	-2.0	15.6	50.8	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.4
Seas. Adjusted										
Employment	2,341.8	11,421.3	-3.3	-29.3	-1.1	-0.1	-0.1	-0.3	0.0	0.0
Full-time	1,683.4	8,051.0	6.3	24.4	16.9	15.5	0.4	0.3	1.0	0.2
Part-time	658.4	3,370.3	-9.6	-53.7	-18.0	-15.6	-1.4	-1.6	-2.7	-0.5
Unemployed	134.2	629.9	-7.7	-3.8	-16.0	37.6	-5.4	-0.6	-10.7	6.3
Labour Force	2,476.0	12,051.2	-11.0	-33.1	-17.1	37.5	-0.4	-0.3	-0.7	0.3
Unemploy. Rate										
	Current		A month ago		A year ago					
	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust	QLD	Aust				
Trend	5.6	5.3	5.6	5.3	5.6	5.1				
Seas. Adjusted	5.4	5.2	5.7	5.2	6.0	4.9				
Participation Rate										
Trend	67.3	65.4	67.4	65.4	67.8	65.9				
Seas. Adjusted	67.0	65.2	67.4	65.5	68.4	65.8				

Chart 2: Monthly employment growth, trend

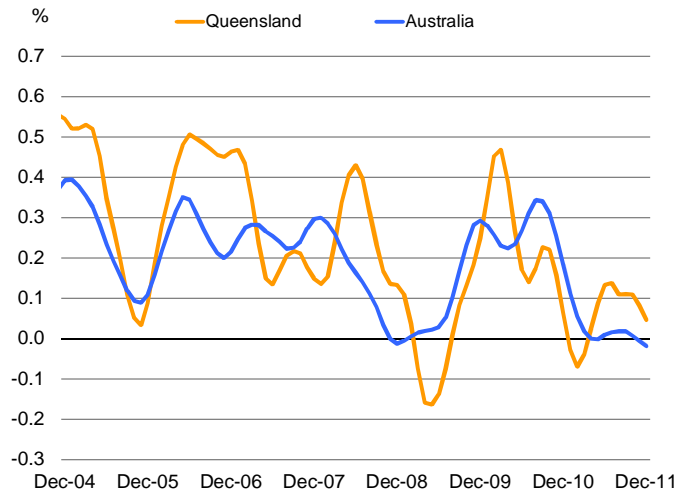


Table 2: Interstate comparison, December 2011

Monthly Trend Data	QLD	NSW	VIC	SA	WA	Tas	Aust
Employment							
% change on a month ago	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Change on a month ago (No.)	1,100	-900	-3,700	-600	700	200	-2,200
% change on a year ago	0.7	-0.3	-0.1	0.7	1.3	-0.1	0.2
Change on a year ago (No.)	16,400	-12,600	-1,600	5,400	16,200	-200	25,900
Labour Force							
% change on a month ago	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.0
Change on a month ago (No.)	-100	-700	-2,900	-400	900	800	-2,000
% change on a year ago	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.4	1.2	0.2	0.4
Change on a year ago (No.)	15,600	6,200	7,300	3,700	15,300	600	50,800
Unemployment Rate							
December-11	5.6	5.4	5.4	5.4	4.3	5.9	5.3
November-11	5.6	5.4	5.3	5.3	4.3	5.6	5.3
December-10	5.6	4.9	5.1	5.6	4.4	5.5	5.1
Monthly Difference	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.0
Annual Difference	0.0	0.5	0.3	-0.2	-0.1	0.4	0.2
Participation Rate							
December-11	67.3	63.6	65.4	63.3	67.9	60.9	65.4
November-11	67.4	63.6	65.5	63.3	68.0	60.7	65.4
December-10	67.8	64.1	66.0	63.5	68.3	61.2	65.9
Monthly Difference	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.2	0.0
Annual Difference	-0.5	-0.5	-0.6	-0.2	-0.4	-0.3	-0.5