Labour Force, September 2023

Source: ABS *Labour Force*, released 19 October 2023, 10:30 am AEST.

NOTE: These data reflect conditions during the survey reference weeks (3 September to 16 September 2023).

Key data (trend, monthly)

Employment:	Queensland	**5,400**	**(0.2%)**
(persons, growth)	Australia	**23,000**	**(0.2%)**
Unemployment:	Queensland	**-500**	**(4.0%)**
(persons, rate)	Australia	**-400**	**(3.6%)**
Labour force:	Queensland	**4,900**	**(0.2%)**
(persons, growth)	Australia	**22,600**	**(0.2%)**
Underemployment:	Queensland	**1,500**	**(6.9%)**
(persons, rate)	Australia	**700**	**(6.4%)**
Hours worked:	Queensland	**-200**	**-(0.1%)**
(thousands, growth)	Australia	**-2,200**	**-(0.1%)**

Key data (seasonally adjusted, monthly)

Employment:	Queensland	**5,700**	**(0.2%)**
(persons, growth)	Australia	**6,700**	**(0.0%)**
Unemployment:	Queensland	**-5,100**	**(3.9%)**
(persons, rate)	Australia	**-19,800**	**(3.6%)**

Main findings (trend)

Employment in Queensland rose by 5,400 persons (0.2%) in September 2023 to be 61,900 persons (2.2%) higher over the year. The rise in September was driven by an increase in both full-time and part-time employment (up 500 and 4,900 respectively).

The employment-to-population ratio was 63.7% in September 2023, unchanged from August but above its pre-COVID ratio of 62.0%. Hours worked fell 0.1% in September but was 11.5% above its level in March 2020 (**Chart 1**).

Chart 1: Employment and hours worked, Queensland
(trend, monthly, millions)
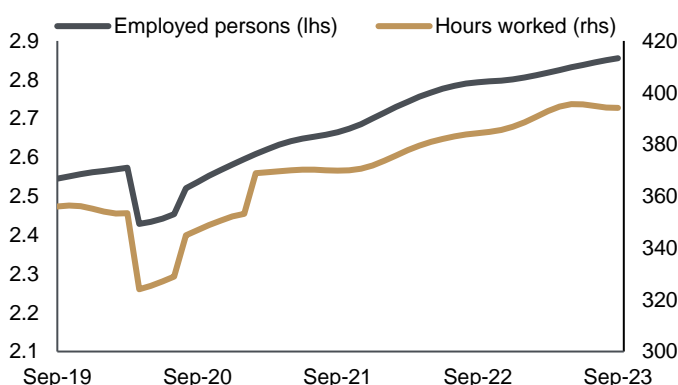
The unemployment rate was 4.0% in September, unchanged from a revised 4.0% in August 2023 and still well below the pre-COVID rate of 5.7% in March 2020 (**Chart 2**).

Meanwhile, Queensland's participation rate was 66.3% in September 2023, down from 66.4% in August 2023, and well above its pre-COVID rate of 65.7%.

Chart 2: Unemployment and participation rates, Queensland
(trend, monthly, %)
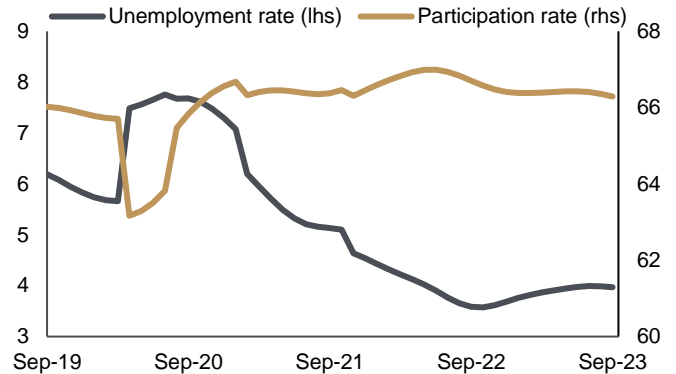
Nationally, trend employment rose by 23,000 persons in September (0.2%, **Table 2**) to be 1,136,500 (8.8%) above its pre-COVID level of March 2020. In seasonally adjusted terms, employment nationally grew by 6,700 persons which was well below market expectations for 20,000 persons.

The ABS noted, "*The fall in the unemployment rate in September mainly reflected a higher proportion of people moving from being unemployed to not in the labour force.*"

The national trend unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.6% in September 2023 (**Table 1**). Hours worked decreased by 0.1% in the month but was 10% above its pre-COVID level in March 2020.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes, September 2023
(trend)

	QUEENSLAND					AUSTRALIA				
	Sep-23	Monthly change		Yearly change		Sep-23	Monthly change		Yearly change	
	'000s	'000s	%	'000s	%	'000s	'000s	%	'000s	%
Employed	2,855.4	5.4	0.2	61.9	2.2	14,115.1	23.0	0.2	385.9	2.8
Full-time	1,989.1	0.5	0.0	52.0	2.7	9,845.5	-0.6	0.0	274.5	2.9
Part-time	866.3	4.9	0.6	9.8	1.1	4,269.6	23.6	0.6	111.5	2.7
Unemployed	118.0	-0.5	-0.4	14.2	13.7	521.7	-0.4	-0.1	27.0	5.5
Underemployed	206.1	1.5	0.7	19.4	10.4	940.6	0.7	0.1	93.1	11.0
Labour force	2,973.4	4.9	0.2	76.1	2.6	14,636.8	22.6	0.2	412.9	2.9
	millions	millions	%	millions	%	millions	millions	%	millions	%
Hours worked	394.1	-0.2	-0.1	9.8	2.5	1,939.6	-2.2	-0.1	61.9	3.3
	Sep-23	Aug-23	Sep-22			Sep-23	Aug-23	Sep-22		
		%					%			
Unemployment rate	4.0	4.0	3.6			3.6	3.6	3.5		
Underemployment rate	6.9	6.9	6.4			6.4	6.4	6.0		
Participation rate	66.3	66.4	66.7			66.8	66.8	66.7		

Table 2: Interstate comparison[1], September 2023
(trend)

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed							
% change on a month ago	**0.2**	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.1	**0.2**
Change on a month ago (no.)	**5,400**	6,600	6,400	2,400	4,800	300	**23,000**
% change on a year ago	**2.2**	2.1	4.0	4.1	2.8	1.5	**2.8**
Change on a year ago (no.)	**61,900**	91,000	141,100	37,300	42,100	4,200	**385,900**
Unemployment rate							
September-23	**4.0**	3.3	3.5	3.7	3.4	4.4	**3.6**
August-23	**4.0**	3.3	3.5	3.8	3.5	4.3	**3.6**
September-22	**3.6**	3.3	3.6	4.2	3.4	4.0	**3.5**
Hours worked (millions)							
September 2023	**394.1**	605.1	498.1	128.0	219.4	38.5	**1,939.6**
Monthly % change	**-0.1**	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.1	**-0.1**
Annual % change	**2.5**	2.3	4.5	4.3	4.1	2.6	**3.3**

1. Note – numbers may not add due to rounding.