

Labour Force, April 2024

Source: ABS Labour Force, released 16 May 2024, 11:30 am AEST.

NOTE: These data reflect conditions during the survey reference weeks (31 March – 13 April 2024).

Key data (trend, monthly)

Employment:	Queensland	10,600	(0.4%)
(persons, growth)	Australia	30,900	(0.2%)
Unemployment:	Queensland	-100	(4.1%)
(persons, rate)	Australia	3,900	(4.0%)
Labour force:	Queensland	10,500	(0.3%)
(persons, growth)	Australia	34,700	(0.2%)
Underemployment:	Queensland	-200	(6.8%)
(persons, rate)	Australia	1,900	(6.6%)
Hours worked:	Queensland	2,300	(0.6%)
(thousands, growth)	Australia	7,600	(0.4%)

Key data (seasonally adjusted, monthly)

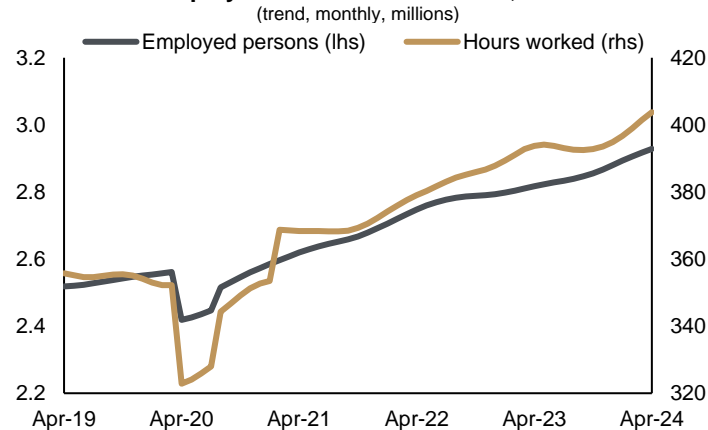
Employment:	Queensland	46,100	(1.6%)
(persons, growth)	Australia	38,500	(0.3%)
Unemployment:	Queensland	500	(4.1%)
(persons, rate)	Australia	30,300	(4.1%)

Main findings (trend)

Employment in Queensland rose by 10,600 persons (0.4%) in April 2024 to be 111,600 persons (4.0%) higher over the year. The rise in April reflected increases in both full-time employment (up 8,400) and part-time employment (up 2,200).

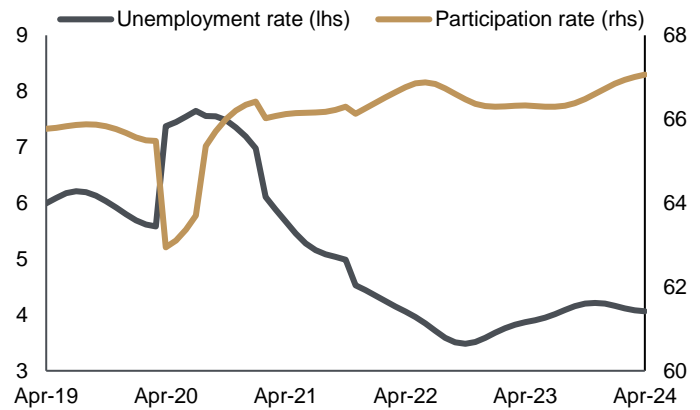
The employment-to-population ratio was 64.3% in April 2024, unchanged from March and above its pre-COVID ratio of 61.8%. Hours worked rose 0.6% in April and were 14.6% above its level in March 2020 (Chart 1).

Chart 1: Employment and hours worked, Queensland



The unemployment rate was 4.1% in April, unchanged from March 2024 and still well below the pre-COVID rate of 5.6% in March 2020 (Chart 2). Queensland's participation rate was 67.1% in April 2024, up from 67.0% in March 2024 and above its pre-COVID rate of 65.5%.

Chart 2: Unemployment and participation rates, Queensland



Nationally, trend employment rose by 30,900 persons in April (0.2%, Table 1) to be 1,369,600 (10.6%) above its pre-COVID level of March 2020. In seasonally adjusted terms, employment nationally rose by 38,500 persons which was well above market expectations for a 23,700 increase.

The ABS noted, 'the 30,000 people increase in unemployment reflected more people without jobs available and looking for work, and also more people than usual indicating that they had a job that they were waiting to start in.'

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.0% in April 2024 (Table 1). Hours worked was up 0.4% in the month remaining 10.9% above its pre-COVID level in March 2020.

Table 1: Interstate comparison¹, April 2024

	(trend)						
	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed							
Monthly % change	0.4	0.1	0.3	-0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
Monthly change (no.)	10,600	3,700	10,600	-600	3,400	200	30,900
Annual % change	4.0	2.1	2.8	-0.2	3.3	-1.8	2.5
Annual change (no.)	111,600	89,300	102,600	-1,900	51,600	-5,200	355,200
Since March-20 (%)	14.3	8.7	9.2	9.1	14.0	6.2	10.6
Since March-20 (no.)	366,900	353,600	314,200	78,100	196,000	16,500	1,369,600
Unemployment rate							
April 2024	4.1	3.9	4.2	4.0	3.8	4.0	4.0
March 2024	4.1	3.8	4.1	4.0	3.8	4.1	4.0
April 2023	3.9	3.3	3.8	4.0	3.6	4.1	3.6
Hours worked (millions)							
April 2024	403.8	606.1	503.8	124.7	223.7	37.4	1954.8
Monthly % change	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.5	0.4
Annual % change	2.5	0.7	1.5	-1.8	1.1	-2.4	1.0
Participation rate							
April 2024	67.1	65.9	67.3	62.7	68.6	61.0	66.7
March 2024	67.0	66.0	67.3	62.9	68.7	61.0	66.7
April 2023	66.3	65.9	67.3	64.1	68.7	62.5	66.6
Emp. to pop ratio							
April 2024	64.3	63.4	64.5	60.2	66.0	58.5	64.0
March 2024	64.3	63.5	64.5	60.4	66.1	58.5	64.0
April 2023	63.8	63.8	64.7	61.5	66.2	60.0	64.2
Underemployment rate							
April 2024	6.8	6.4	7.1	7.3	5.6	7.6	6.6
March 2024	6.8	6.4	7.1	7.2	5.7	7.5	6.6
April 2023	6.7	6.1	6.1	7.2	5.9	7.4	6.3