

# Labour Force, June 2020

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 16 July 2020, 11:30 am AEST.

**NOTE: The ABS has suspended trend data due to COVID-19. Trend data will be reinstated by the ABS when more certainty emerges in the underlying trend in the labour market. As a result, all numbers in this brief are seasonally adjusted.**

## Key data (monthly)

<b>Employment:</b>	Queensland,	52,900	(2.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	210,800	(1.7%)
<b>Unemployment:</b>	Queensland,	1,400	(7.7%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	69,300	(7.4%)
<b>Labour force:</b>	Queensland,	54,400	(2.1%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	280,100	(2.1%)
<b>Underemployment:</b>	Queensland,	-12,400	(11.2%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	-152,500	(11.7%)
<b>Hours worked:</b>	Queensland,	9,700	(3.0%)
(thousands, growth)	Australia,	64,300	(4.0%)

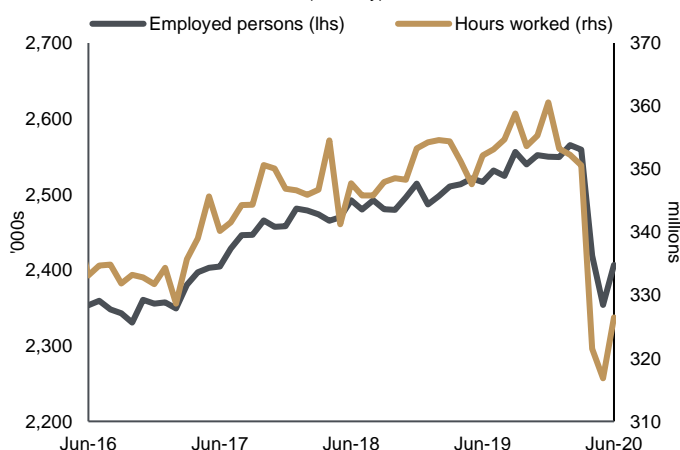
## Main findings

Employment in Queensland rose 52,900 persons (or 2.2%) in June 2020, the third month of *Labour Force* data following the implementation of social distancing measures designed to limit the spread of COVID-19. The rise in June was the first monthly increase following consecutive declines in employment between February and May (down a revised 211,300 persons or 8.2%).

The rise in June reflected an increase in part-time employment (up 58,300), while full-time employment fell during the month (down 5,400 persons). Employment over the year was down 109,400 persons (or 4.3%).

With persons not working but receiving *JobKeeper* payments from their employers classified as 'employed' by the ABS, the reduction in hours worked is probably the clearest example of the full impact of COVID-19 social distancing measures on labour market activity. There were 326.5 million hours worked in Queensland in June 2020, up 3.0% from May but down 7.3% over the year (Chart 1). Hours worked increased in all states. However, both of the territories recorded declines in hours worked during the month.

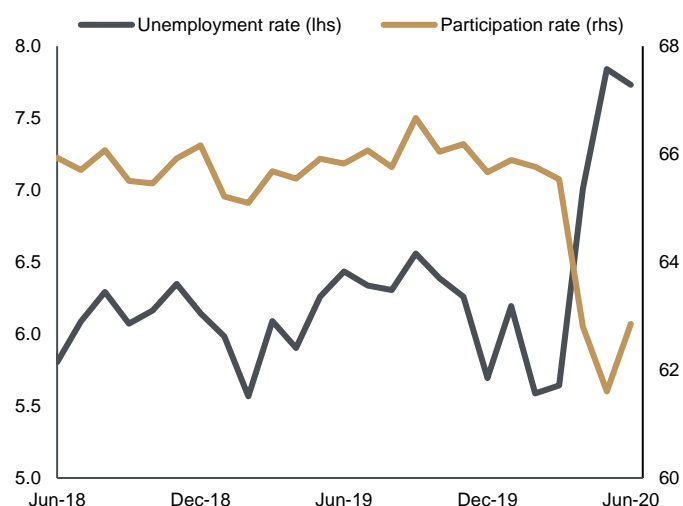
Chart 1: Employment and hours worked, Queensland (monthly)



The unemployment rate in Queensland fell from a revised 7.8% in May 2020, to 7.7% in June, but remained higher than 7.0% recorded in April 2020.

The participation rate increased 1.3%-pts to 62.9% in June, recording its largest monthly increase since October 1982. This equates to 54,400 people entering the labour force in the month.

Chart 2: Unemployment and participation rate, Queensland (monthly, %)



Nationally, employment rose by 210,800 persons (or 1.7%) in June but was 522,300 persons (or 4.1%) lower over the year. The national unemployment rate increased from 6.4% in April 2020, to 7.1% in May and then to 7.4% in June. Hours worked nationally increased 4.0% in June 2020 but were down 5.7% over the year (Table 1).

New South Wales (up 80,800), Queensland (up 52,900) and Victoria (up 29,500) were the largest contributors to the 210,800 persons increase in national employment in the month.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes<sup>1</sup>, June 2020

	Queensland				Australia			
	Jun-20 '000	Monthly change '000	%	Yearly change '000 %	Jun-20 '000	Monthly change '000	%	Yearly change '000 %
Employed	2,406.7	52.9	2.2	-109.4 -4.3	12,328.5	210.8	1.7	-522.3 -4.1
Full-time	1,651.7	-5.4	-0.3	-88.7 -5.1	8,489.1	-38.1	-0.4	-306.8 -3.5
Part-time	755.0	58.3	8.4	-20.7 -2.7	3,839.4	249.0	6.9	-215.5 -5.3
Unemployed	201.7	1.4	0.7	28.7 16.6	992.3	69.3	7.5	280.2 39.3
Underemployed	291.5	-12.4	-4.1	60.4 26.2	1,555.6	-152.5	-8.9	442.6 39.8
Labour force	2,608.4	54.4	2.1	-80.8 -3.0	13,320.8	280.1	2.1	-242.1 -1.8
Hours worked	326.5	9.7	3.0	-25.7 -7.3	1,664.7	64.3	4.0	-99.7 -5.7
	Jun-20	May-20	Jun-19		Jun-20	May-20	Jun-19	
	%	%	%		%	%	%	
Unemployment rate	7.7	7.8	6.4		7.4	7.1	5.3	
Underemployment rate	11.2	11.9	8.6		11.7	13.1	8.2	
Participation rate	62.9	61.6	65.8		64.0	62.7	66.0	

Table 2: Interstate comparison<sup>1</sup>, June 2020

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
<b>Employed</b>							
% change on a month ago	2.2	2.1	0.9	1.4	1.7	2.7	1.7
Change on a month ago (no.)	52,900	80,800	29,500	11,400	22,200	6,400	210,800
% change on a year ago	-4.3	-4.6	-3.4	-4.4	-4.9	-0.8	-4.1
Change on a year ago (no.)	-109,400	-191,500	-113,700	-37,300	-66,700	-2,000	-522,300
<b>Unemployment rate</b>							
June-20	7.7	6.9	7.5	8.8	8.7	6.9	7.4
May-20	7.8	6.4	6.9	7.9	8.1	6.3	7.1
June-19	6.4	4.6	4.8	6.1	5.8	6.7	5.3
<b>Hours worked (millions)</b>							
June-20	326.5	539.1	438.5	105.8	176.6	30.9	1,664.7
monthly % change	3.0	5.7	4.8	2.6	1.7	7.0	4.0
annual % change	-7.3	-4.4	-5.0	-9.0	-5.8	-4.3	-5.7

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