

Labour Force, July 2020

Source: ABS 6202.0, released 13 August 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)

Employment:	Queensland,	-3,700	(-0.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	114,700	(0.9%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	31,700	(8.8%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	15,700	(7.5%)
Labour force:	Queensland,	28,000	(1.1%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	130,500	(1.0%)
Underemployment:	Queensland,	-15,100	(10.5%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	-46,300	(11.2%)
Hours worked:	Queensland,	-1,100	(-0.3%)
(thousands, growth)	Australia,	21,700	(1.3%)

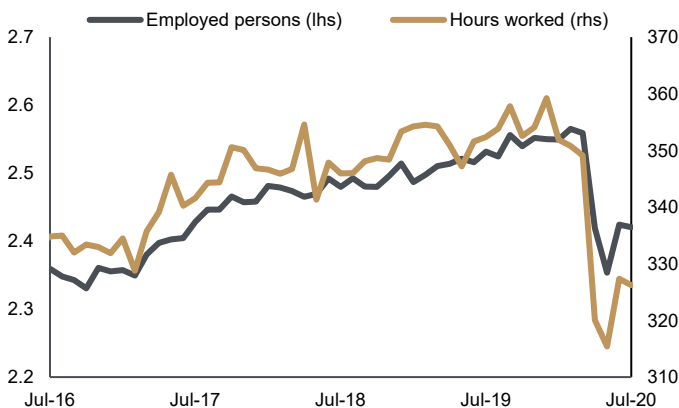
Main findings

Employment in Queensland fell 3,700 persons (or 0.2%) in July 2020, the fourth month of *Labour Force* data following the implementation of social distancing measures designed to limit the spread of COVID-19. However, it should be noted employment in Queensland in June was revised up by 17,600 persons.

The fall in employment in July was driven by a fall in part-time employment (down 14,900 persons) exceeding a rise in full-time employment (up 11,200). Following upward revision to full-time employment in June (up 14,500 persons), full-time employment in Queensland has now risen by 20,400 persons since May 2020.

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 326.2 million hours worked in Queensland in July 2020, down 0.3% from June 2020 and down 6.5% from March 2020 (Chart 1).

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

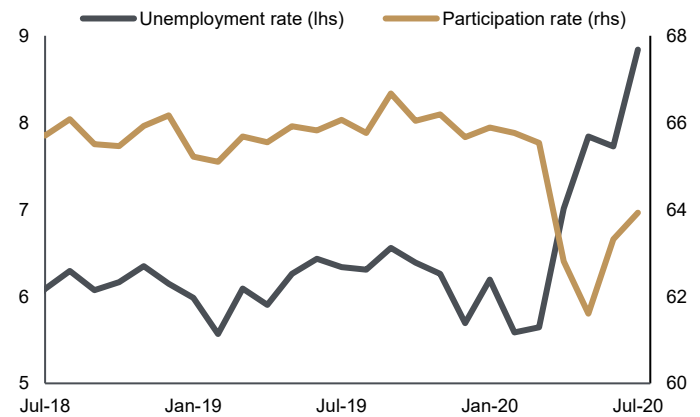


The unemployment rate was 8.8% in July 2020, up from 7.7% in June 2020, up from 5.6% in March 2020 and up from 6.3% in July 2019. This was the highest unemployment rate since May of 2001.

The increase in the unemployment rate was primarily driven by an increase in the participation rate, a sign that people were

encouraged to re-enter the labour market. The participation rate rose 0.6%-pts to 63.9% in July but remained 1.6%-pts lower than March 2020 and 2.1%-pts lower than July 2019 respectively. This equates to 28,000 people entering the labour force in July.

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



Nationally, employment rose by 114,700 persons (or 0.9%) in July but was 414,500 persons (or 3.2%) lower over the year. The national unemployment rate increased from 7.1% in May 2020, to 7.4% in June and then to 7.5% in July. Hours worked nationally increased 1.3% in July 2020 to 1.68 billion hours but were down 5.0% over the year (Table 1).

Table 1: Labour force outcomes¹, July 2020

	Queensland				Australia					
	Jul-20	Monthly change		Yearly change		Jul-20	Monthly change		Yearly change	
	'000	'000	%	'000	%	'000	'000	%	'000	%
Employed	2,420.6	-3.7	-0.2	-111.0	-4.4	12,460.8	114.7	0.9	-414.5	-3.2
Full-time	1,677.4	11.2	0.7	-63.7	-3.7	8,547.1	43.5	0.5	-282.8	-3.2
Part-time	743.2	-14.9	-2.0	-47.3	-6.0	3,913.6	71.2	1.9	-131.7	-3.3
Unemployed	234.8	31.7	15.6	63.4	37.0	1,009.4	15.7	1.6	296.2	41.5
Underemployed	279.0	-15.1	-5.1	48.5	21.0	1,511.8	-46.3	-3.0	368.8	32.3
Labour force	2,655.4	28.0	1.1	-47.5	-1.8	13,470.2	130.5	1.0	-118.3	-0.9
	millions	millions	%	millions	%	millions	millions	%	millions	%
Hours worked	326.2	-1.1	-0.3	-26.2	-7.4	1,681.3	21.7	1.3	-88.6	-5.0
	Jul-20	Jun-20	Jul-19	Jul-20	Jun-20	Jul-19	Jul-20	Jun-20	Jul-19	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Unemployment rate	8.8	7.7	6.3			7.5	7.4	5.2		
Underemployment rate	10.5	11.2	8.5			11.2	11.7	8.4		
Participation rate	63.9	63.3	66.1			64.7	64.1	66.0		

Table 2: Interstate comparison¹, July 2020

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed							
% change on a month ago	-0.2	1.4	0.7	1.0	1.5	2.9	0.9
Change on a month ago (no.)	-3,700	56,800	22,900	8,500	19,100	7,000	114,700
% change on a year ago	-4.4	-3.5	-2.8	-3.2	-3.2	1.3	-3.2
Change on a year ago (no.)	-111,000	-145,100	-94,100	-26,900	-43,600	3,200	-414,500
Unemployment rate (%)							
July-20	8.8	7.2	6.8	7.9	8.3	6.0	7.5
June-20	7.7	6.9	7.5	8.8	8.7	6.9	7.4
July-19	6.3	4.4	4.8	6.8	5.9	5.9	5.2
Hours worked (millions)							
July-20	326.2	544.3	439.6	108.3	180.9	31.7	1,681.3
monthly % change	-0.3	1.4	0.7	2.9	2.9	3.0	1.3
annual % change	-7.4	-5.0	-3.9	-5.1	-5.8	-1.5	-5.0

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