

Labour Force, March 2021

Source: ABS Labour Force, released 15 April 2021, 11:30 am AEST.

NOTE: The ABS has suspended trend data due to COVID-19. As a result, all numbers in this brief are seasonally adjusted.

Key data (monthly)

Employment:	Queensland,	23,300	(0.9%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	70,700	(0.5%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	-6,600	(5.9%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	-27,100	(5.6%)
Labour force:	Queensland,	16,600	(0.6%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	43,600	(0.3%)
Underemployment:	Queensland,	7,800	(8.6%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	-84,300	(7.9%)
Hours worked:	Queensland,	4,400	(1.2%)
(thousands, growth)	Australia,	38,300	(2.2%)

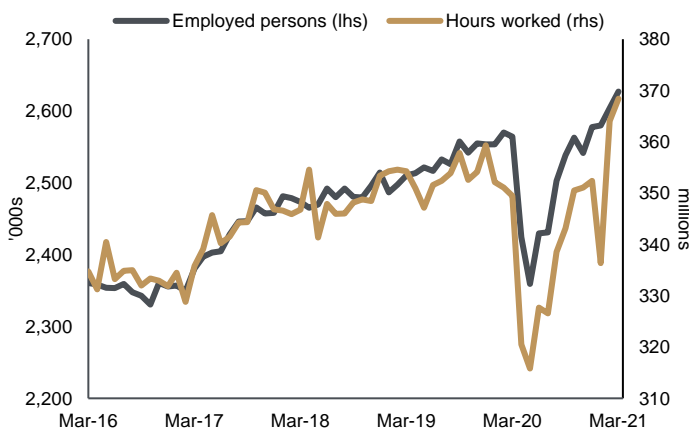
Main findings

Employment in Queensland rose 23,300 persons (0.9%) in March 2021, with a rise in part-time employment (up 39,200 persons) more than offsetting a fall in full-time employment (down 15,900).

Employment in Queensland is 268,000 persons (or 11.4%) above its COVID-impacted low in May 2020 and 62,800 persons (or 2.4%) above the pre-pandemic level of March 2020.

In March 2021, there were 368.4 million hours worked in Queensland, up 1.2% from February and up 5.4% over the year (Chart 1).

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

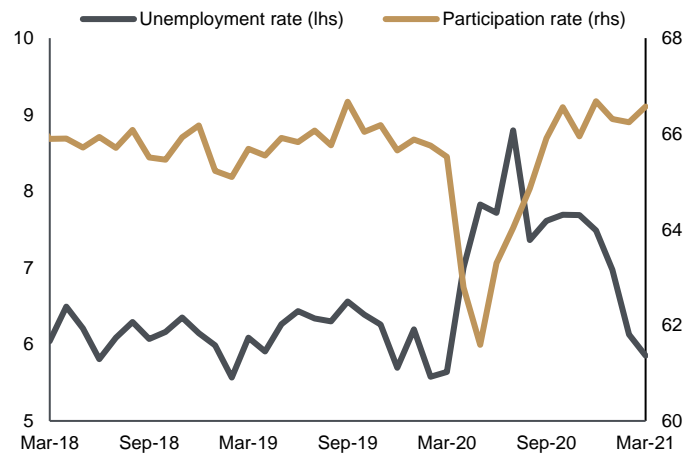


The unemployment rate in Queensland was 5.9% in March 2021, down from 6.1% in February 2021, and only slightly above the pre-pandemic level of 5.6% in March 2020 (Chart 2).

The number of unemployed persons in Queensland fell 6,600 in March to 163,600, down from a peak of 234,400 persons in July 2020 but 10,100 persons higher than the pre-pandemic level in March 2020.

The participation rate in Queensland was 66.6% in March 2021, up from 66.2% in February and up from 65.5% in March 2020. This equates to 16,600 persons entering the labour force in Queensland in March 2021, with a total of 72,900 persons having entered the labour force since March 2020.

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



Nationally, employment rose 70,700 persons (or 0.5%) in March 2021 to be 74,300 persons above its pre-pandemic level in March 2020. The monthly rise in national employment was primarily driven by Western Australia (up 32,600) and Queensland (up 23,300).

Employment in Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania, New South Wales and Victoria has now recovered to be above its pre-pandemic level of March 2020 (Table 2).

There were 1,800.5 million hours worked in Australia in March 2021, up 2.2% from February and up 1.2% from March 2020. The national unemployment rate fell from 5.8% in February to 5.6% in March 2021 but remained higher than its pre-pandemic level of 5.2% in March 2020 (Table 1).

Table 1: Labour force outcomes¹, March 2021

	Queensland			Australia						
	Mar-21	Monthly change	Yearly change	Mar-21	Monthly change	Yearly change				
	'000	'000	%	'000	'000	%				
Employed	2,627.1	23.3	0.9	62.8	2.4	13,077.6	70.7	0.5	74.3	0.6
Full-time	1,778.6	-15.9	-0.9	36.3	2.1	8,874.2	-20.8	-0.2	-2.5	0.0
Part-time	848.5	39.2	4.8	26.5	3.2	4,203.4	91.5	2.2	76.8	1.9
Unemployed	163.3	-6.6	-3.9	10.1	6.6	778.1	-27.1	-3.4	62.1	8.7
Underemployed	238.8	7.8	3.4	-6.0	-2.5	1,094.4	-84.3	-7.1	-112.9	-9.4
Labour force	2,790.4	16.6	0.6	72.9	2.7	13,855.7	43.6	0.3	136.4	1.0
Hours worked	368.4	4.4	1.2	19.0	5.4	1,800.5	38.3	2.2	21.8	1.2
	Mar-21	Feb-21	Mar-20	Mar-21	Feb-21	Mar-20				
	%	%	%	%	%	%				
Unemployment rate	5.9	6.1	5.6		5.6	5.8	5.2			
Underemployment rate	8.6	8.3	9.0		7.9	8.5	8.8			
Participation rate	66.6	66.2	65.5		66.3	66.1	65.9			

Table 2: Interstate comparison¹, March 2021

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed							
% change on a month ago	0.9	0.4	0.2	-0.1	2.4	0.2	0.5
Change on a month ago (no.)	23,300	14,600	6,200	-600	32,600	400	70,700
% change on a year ago	2.4	0.1	0.1	-1.2	2.0	1.1	0.6
Change on a year ago (no.)	62,800	2,700	2,000	-10,500	28,100	2,800	74,300
Unemployment rate (%)							
March-21	5.9	5.4	6.1	6.3	4.8	5.9	5.6
February-21	6.1	5.6	5.6	6.8	6.0	5.7	5.8
March-20	5.6	4.9	5.2	6.3	5.4	4.9	5.2
Hours worked (millions)							
March-21	368.4	567.4	469.3	115.0	195.2	34.3	1,800.5
monthly % change	1.2	0.2	3.2	1.1	9.2	1.2	2.2
annual % change	5.4	0.4	-1.2	0.9	2.5	2.8	1.2

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