

Labour Force, April 2021

Source: ABS Labour Force, released 20 May 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,	-7,400	(-0.3%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	-30,600	(-0.2%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	3,600	(6.1%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	-33,600	(5.5%)
Labour force:	Queensland,	-3,800	(0.1%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	-64,200	(0.5%)
Underemployment:	Queensland,	-1,900	(8.5%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	-30,000	(7.8%)
Hours worked:	Queensland,	-1,800	(-0.5%)
(thousands, growth)	Australia,	-12,800	(-0.7%)

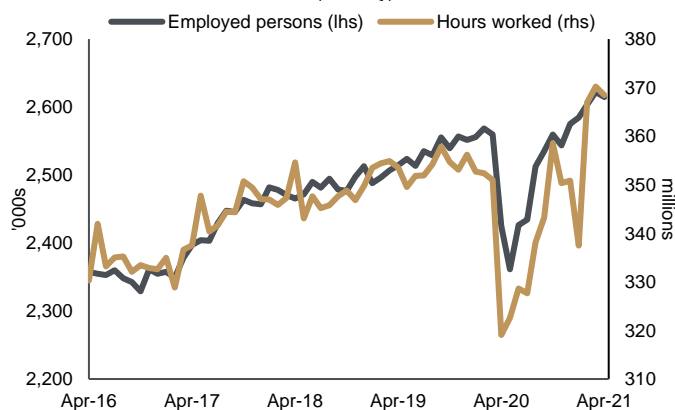
Main findings

Employment in Queensland fell 7,400 persons (0.3%) in April 2021, with a fall in part-time employment (down 15,700 persons) more than offsetting a rise in full-time employment (up 8,300).

Employment in Queensland is 253,200 persons (or 10.7%) above its COVID-impacted low in May 2020 and 54,900 persons (or 2.1%) above the pre-pandemic level of March 2020.

In April 2021, there were 368.5 million hours worked in Queensland, down 0.5% from March but up 5.0% since March 2020 (Chart 1).

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

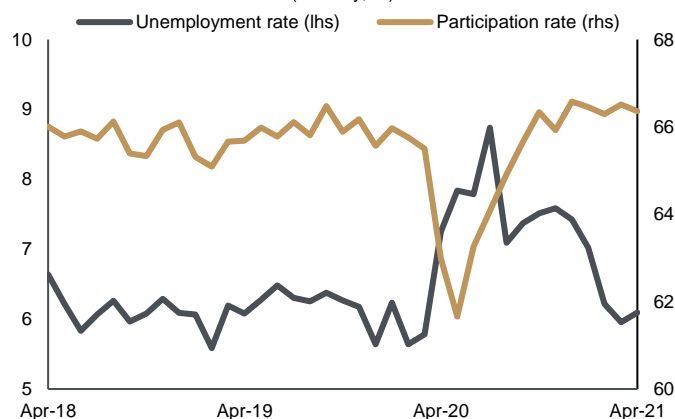


The unemployment rate in Queensland was 6.1% in April 2021, up from a revised 6.0% in March 2021, and slightly above the pre-pandemic level of 5.8% (also revised) in March 2020 (Chart 2).

The number of unemployed persons in Queensland rose 3,600 in April to 169,700, down from a peak of 233,100 persons in July 2020 but 12,700 persons higher than the pre-pandemic level in March 2020.

The participation rate in Queensland was 66.4% in April 2021, down from 66.5% in March 2021. This equates to 3,800 persons leaving the labour force in Queensland in April 2021. However, the participation rate in April was 0.9 percentage point higher than March 2020, equating to a total of 67,600 persons having entered the labour force since March 2020.

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



Nationally, employment fell 30,600 persons (or 0.2%) in April 2021 to be 45,900 persons above its pre-pandemic level in March 2020. The monthly fall in national employment was driven by New South Wales (down 36,700) and Western Australia (down 14,400).

There were 1,793.4 million hours worked in Australia in April 2021, down 0.7% from March 2021 but up 1.8% from March 2020. The national unemployment rate fell from 5.7% in March to 5.5% in April 2021 but remained higher than its pre-pandemic level of 5.3% in March 2020 (Table 1).

Table 1: Labour force outcomes¹, April 2021

	Queensland				Australia					
	Apr-21	Monthly change	Yearly change		Apr-21	Monthly change	Yearly change			
	'000	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	
Employed	2,614.6	-7.4	-0.3	189.6	7.8	13,040.4	-30.6	-0.2	637.9	5.1
Full-time	1,777.6	8.3	0.5	98.0	5.8	8,889.5	33.8	0.4	249.6	2.9
Part-time	837.1	-15.7	-1.8	91.5	12.3	4,150.9	-64.4	-1.5	388.3	10.3
Unemployed	169.7	3.6	2.2	-20.0	-10.5	756.2	-33.6	-4.3	-89.1	-10.5
Underemployed	236.4	-1.9	-0.8	-98.2	-29.4	1,072.1	-30.0	-2.7	-734.7	-40.7
Labour force	2,784.3	-3.8	-0.1	169.6	6.5	13,796.6	-64.2	-0.5	548.8	4.1
	millions	millions	%	millions	%	millions	millions	%	millions	%
Hours worked	368.5	-1.8	-0.5	49.4	15.5	1,793.4	-12.8	-0.7	199.7	12.5
	Apr-21	Mar-21	Apr-20			Apr-21	Mar-21	Apr-20		
Unemployment rate	6.1	6.0	7.3			5.5	5.7	6.4		
Underemployment rate	8.5	8.5	12.8			7.8	8.0	13.6		
Participation rate	66.4	66.5	63.0			66.0	66.3	63.6		

Table 2: Interstate comparison¹, April 2021

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed							
% change on a month ago	-0.3	-0.9	0.1	1.8	-1.0	-0.9	-0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	-7,400	-36,700	3,600	15,300	-14,400	-2,500	-30,600
% change on a year ago	7.8	4.7	4.0	5.2	6.1	3.4	5.1
Change on a year ago (no.)	189,600	184,400	133,300	42,800	79,500	8,600	637,900
Unemployment rate (%)							
April-21	6.1	5.5	5.5	5.7	4.9	6.2	5.5
March-21	6.0	5.5	6.1	6.4	5.0	5.9	5.7
April-20	7.3	6.4	6.0	7.1	6.1	6.2	6.4
Hours worked (millions)							
April-21	368.5	562.8	472.5	115.5	189.9	34.3	1,793.4
monthly % change	-0.5	-0.7	-0.1	0.7	-3.2	0.2	-0.7
annual % change	15.5	10.9	13.1	14.0	12.7	16.7	12.5

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