

Labour Force, June 2021

Source: ABS Labour Force, released 15 July 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,	16,700	(0.6%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	29,100	(0.2%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	-8,200	(5.1%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	-22,000	(4.9%)
Labour force:	Queensland,	8,500	(0.3%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	7,100	(0.1%)
Underemployment:	Queensland,	-18,100	(7.0%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	66,000	(7.9%)
Hours worked:	Queensland,	-4,100	(-1.1%)
(thousands, growth)	Australia,	-33,400	(-1.8%)

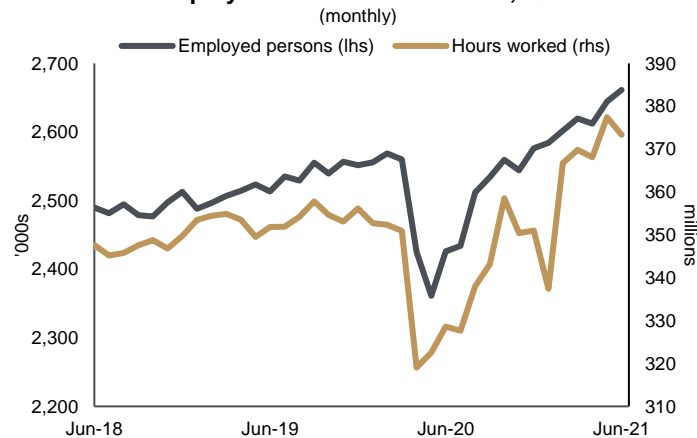
Main findings

Employment in Queensland rose 16,700 persons (0.6%) in June 2021, with a rise in full-time employment (up 18,800 persons) more than offsetting a fall in part-time employment (down 2,100 persons).

Employment in Queensland is 300,000 persons (or 12.7%) above its COVID-impacted low in May 2020 and 101,600 persons (or 4.0%) above the pre-pandemic level of March 2020.

In June 2021, there were 373.3 million hours worked in Queensland, down 1.1% over the month but up 6.4% from March 2020 (Chart 1).

Chart 1: Employment and hours worked, Queensland

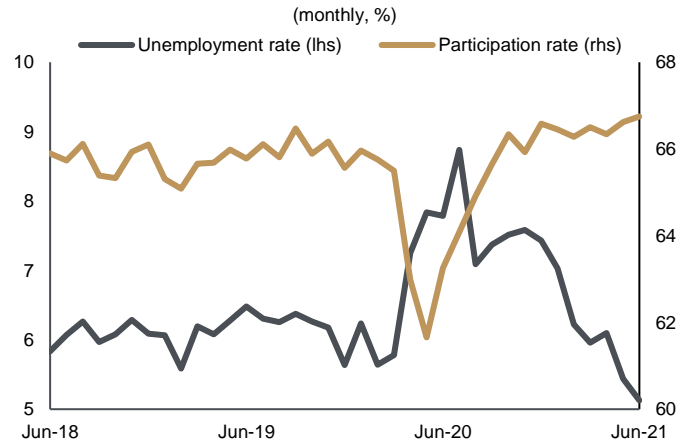


The unemployment rate in Queensland was 5.1% in June 2021, down from 5.4% in May 2021, and below the pre-pandemic level of 5.8% in March 2020 (Chart 2). This was the lowest unemployment rate since April 2009.

The number of unemployed persons in Queensland decreased 8,200 persons in June to 143,800 persons, down from a peak of 233,000 persons in July 2020 to be 13,200 persons below the pre-pandemic level in March 2020.

Queensland's participation rate was 66.7% in June 2021, up slightly from 66.6% in May 2021. This equates to 8,500 persons entering the labour force in the month. The participation rate in June was 1.3 percentage point higher than March 2020, equating to a total of 88,400 persons having entered the labour force since March 2020.

Chart 2: Unemployment and participation rates, Queensland



Nationally, employment increased 29,100 persons (or 0.2%) in June 2021 to be 159,400 persons (or 1.2%) above its pre-pandemic level in March 2020. The monthly increase in national employment was driven by Queensland (up 16,700) and Western Australia (up 12,600) which more than offset decreases in New South Wales and Victoria (both down 9,200).

There were 1,781 million hours worked in Australia in June 2021, down 1.8% from May 2021 but 1.0% above the pre-pandemic level of March 2020. The national unemployment rate fell to 4.9% in June 2021, the lowest level since December 2010, and below its pre-pandemic level of 5.3% in March 2020 (Table 1).

Table 1: Labour force outcomes¹, June 2021

	Queensland				Australia					
	Jun-21	Monthly Change	Yearly Change		Jun-21	Monthly Change	Yearly Change			
	'000	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000		
Employed	2,661.3	16.7	0.6	235.2	9.7	13,154.2	29.1	0.2	777.9	6.3
Full-time	1,833.4	18.8	1.0	159.1	9.5	9,016.8	51.6	0.6	487.2	5.7
Part-time	827.9	-2.1	-0.3	76.1	10.1	4,137.4	-22.5	-0.5	290.7	7.6
Unemployed	143.8	-8.2	-5.4	-61.0	-29.8	679.1	-22.0	-3.1	-303.7	-30.9
Underemployed	195.9	-18.1	-8.5	-94.6	-32.6	1,094.0	66.0	6.4	-461.8	-29.7
Labour Force	2,805.2	8.5	0.3	174.2	6.6	13,833.4	7.1	0.1	474.2	3.5
	Millions	Millions	%	Millions	%	Millions	Millions	%	Millions	%
Hours Worked	373.3	-4.1	-1.1	44.7	13.6	1,780.8	-33.4	-1.8	113.5	6.8
	Jun-21	May-21	Jun-20	Jun-21	May-21	Jun-20				
	%	%	%	%	%	%				
Unemployment Rate	5.1	5.4	7.8		4.9	5.1	7.4			
Underemployed	7.0	7.7	11.0		7.9	7.4	11.6			
Participation Rate	66.7	66.6	63.3		66.2	66.2	64.1			

Table 2: Interstate comparison¹, June 2021

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed							
% change on a month ago	0.6	-0.2	-0.3	-0.5	0.9	1.0	0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	16,700	-9,200	-9,200	-4,500	12,600	2,600	29,100
% change since May 2020	12.7	7.6	6.2	6.9	9.5	9.3	8.4
Change since May 2020 (no.)	300,000	294,100	200,200	55,800	122,300	22,400	1,016,300
% change since March 2020	4.0	0.7	0.1	1.0	1.9	1.7	1.2
Change since March 2020 (no.)	101,600	27,700	4,700	8,300	26,700	4,300	159,400
Unemployment rate							
June-21	5.1	5.1	4.4	5.3	5.1	4.5	4.9
May-21	5.4	5.0	4.8	5.8	4.7	5.7	5.1
May-20	7.8	6.4	6.8	7.9	8.0	6.4	7.0
March-20	5.8	5.0	5.2	6.3	5.7	5.0	5.3
Hours worked (millions)							
June-21	373.3	577.7	435.1	115.5	194.3	34.1	1,780.8
monthly % change	-1.1	1.5	-8.4	0.1	0.8	0.6	-1.8
% change since May 2020	15.7	13.3	3.8	12.7	11.9	17.3	10.9
% change since March 2020	6.4	2.0	-5.1	2.5	2.3	3.1	1.0

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