

Labour Force, July 2021

Source: ABS Labour Force, released 19 August 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,	-6,600	(-0.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	2,200	(0.0%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	1,500	(5.2%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	-39,900	(4.6%)
Labour force:	Queensland,	-5,100	(-0.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	-37,700	(-0.3%)
Underemployment:	Queensland,	19,600	(7.7%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	53,200	(8.3%)
Hours worked:	Queensland,	-6,200	(-1.6%)
(thousands, growth)	Australia,	-3,100	(-0.2%)

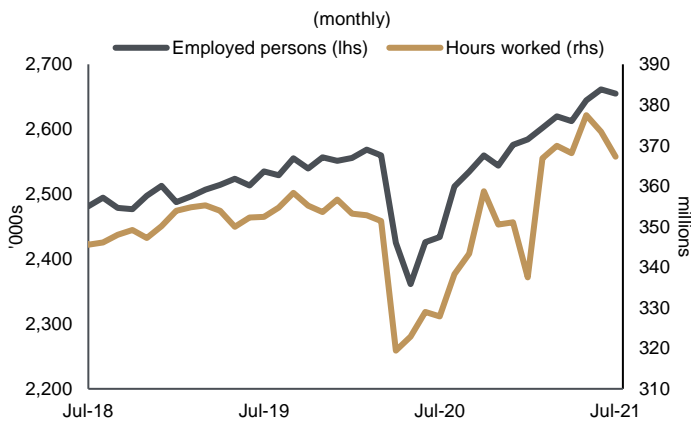
Main findings

Employment in Queensland fell 6,600 persons (-0.2%) in July 2021, with a fall in full-time employment (down 32,200 persons) partially offset by a rise in part-time employment (up 25,600 persons).

Employment in Queensland is 293,400 persons (or 12.4%) above its COVID-impacted low in May 2020 and 95,000 persons (or 3.7%) above the pre-pandemic level of March 2020.

The ABS noted "hours worked data continues to provide the best indicator of the extent of labour market impacts from lockdowns." In July 2021, there were 367.2 million hours worked in Queensland, down 1.6% over the month but up 4.5% from March 2020 (Chart 1).

Chart 1: Employment and hours worked, Queensland

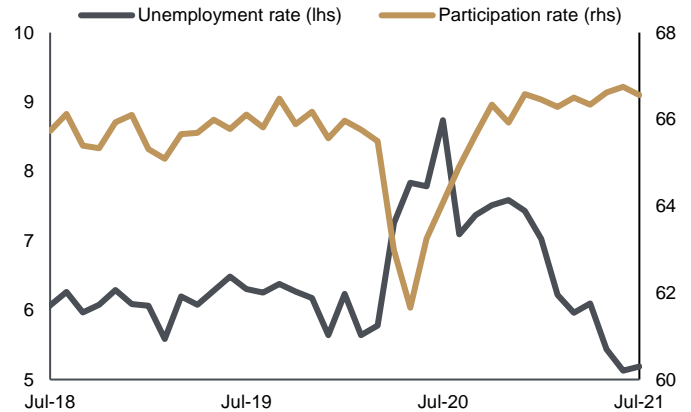


The unemployment rate in Queensland was 5.2% in July 2021, up from 5.1% in June 2021, but below the pre-pandemic level of 5.8% in March 2020 (Chart 2).

The number of unemployed persons in Queensland increased by 1,500 persons in July to 145,300 persons, but was down from a peak of 233,000 persons in July 2020 to be 11,700 persons below the pre-pandemic level in March 2020.

Queensland's participation rate was 66.6% in July 2021, down slightly from 66.7% in June 2021. This equates to 5,100 persons leaving the labour force in the month. The participation rate in July was 1.1 percentage point higher than March 2020, equating to a total of 83,300 persons having entered the labour force since March 2020.

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



Nationally, employment increased 2,200 persons (or 0.0%) in July 2021 to be 161,600 persons (or 1.2%) above its pre-pandemic level in March 2020. The monthly increase in national employment was driven by Victoria (up 16,000) and South Australia (up 10,700) which more than offset decreases in New South Wales (down 36,400) and Queensland (down 6,600).

There were 1,777.8 million hours worked in Australia in July 2021, down 0.2% from June 2021 but 0.7% above the pre-pandemic level of March 2020. The national unemployment rate fell to 4.6% in July 2021, however the ABS noted this 'should not necessarily be viewed as a sign of strengthening in the labour market – it's another indication of the extent of reduced capacity for people to be active in the labour market' (Table 1).

Table 1: Labour force outcomes¹, July 2021

	Queensland				Australia					
	Jul-21	Monthly Change	Yearly Change	Jul-21	Monthly Change	Yearly Change	Jul-21	Monthly Change	Yearly Change	
	'000	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	
Employed	2,654.7	-6.6	-0.2	220.7	9.1	13,156.4	2.2	0.0	676.6	5.4
Full-time	1,801.3	-32.2	-1.8	122.2	7.3	9,012.6	-4.2	0.0	455.7	5.3
Part-time	853.5	25.6	3.1	98.4	13.0	4,143.8	6.4	0.2	220.9	5.6
Unemployed	145.3	1.5	1.0	-87.7	-37.7	639.2	-39.9	-5.9	-364.9	-36.3
Underemployed	215.5	19.6	10.0	-63.2	-22.7	1,147.2	53.2	4.9	-372.5	-24.5
Labour Force	2,800.0	-5.1	-0.2	133.0	5.0	13,795.6	-37.7	-0.3	311.7	2.3
	Millions	Millions	%	Millions	%	Millions	Millions	%	Millions	%
Hours Worked	367.2	-6.2	-1.6	39.3	12.0	1,777.8	-3.1	-0.2	95.1	5.7
	Jul-21	Jun-21	Jul-20	Jul-21	Jun-21	Jul-20	Jul-21	Jun-21	Jul-20	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Unemployment Rate	5.2	5.1	8.7				4.6	4.9	7.4	
Underemployed	7.7	7.0	10.5				8.3	7.9	11.3	
Participation Rate	66.6	66.7	64.1				66.0	66.2	64.7	

Table 2: Interstate comparison¹, July 2021

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed							
% change on a month ago	-0.2	-0.9	0.5	1.2	0.5	0.3	0.0
Change on a month ago (no.)	-6,600	-36,400	16,000	10,700	6,500	800	2,200
% change since May 2020	12.4	6.7	6.7	8.2	10.0	9.7	8.4
Change since May 2020 (no.)	293,400	257,800	216,300	66,400	128,700	23,200	1,018,500
% change since March 2020	3.7	-0.2	0.6	2.2	2.4	2.0	1.2
Change since March 2020 (no.)	95,000	-8,700	20,700	19,000	33,200	5,100	161,600
Unemployment rate							
July-21	5.2	4.5	4.5	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.6
June-21	5.1	5.1	4.4	5.3	5.1	4.5	4.9
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	367.2	537.2	477.5	116.8	194.3	34.3	1,777.8
monthly % change	-1.6	-7.0	9.7	1.1	0.0	0.5	-0.2
% change since May 2020	13.7	5.3	13.8	13.9	11.8	17.7	10.6
% change since March 2020	4.5	-5.2	4.0	3.6	2.2	3.4	0.7

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