Labour Force, September 2021

Source: ABS Labour Force, released 14 October 2021, 10:30 am AEST.

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

Remained higher than March 2020 (65.5%), equating to a total of 76,300 persons having entered the labour force since March 2020.

Chart 2: Unemployment and participation rates, Queensland

Main findings

Employment in Queensland rose 30,800 persons (1.2%) in September 2021, with a strong recovery in full-time employment (up 56,300) more than offsetting a 25,500 fall in part-time employment. The September results reflect the recovery in the labour market after the snap lockdowns in South East Queensland (31 July to 8 August) and Cairns & Yarrabah (8 to 11 August).

Employment in September was 296,100 persons (or 12.5%) above its COVID-impacted low in May 2020 and 97,700 persons (or 3.8%) above the pre-COVID level of March 2020.

In September 2021, there were 366.9 million hours worked in Queensland, up 5.4% in the month after falling 5.3% in August, to be 4.4% above March 2020 levels (Chart 1). Hours worked continues to be the best measure of the impacts of the lockdowns on the labour market, with nearly all hours lost due to the latest snap lockdown in August being recovered in September.

The unemployment rate was 4.9% in September, down from 5.3% in August, below the pre-pandemic level of 5.8% in March 2020 (Chart 2) and the lowest unemployment rate since March 2009.

The number of unemployed persons in Queensland decreased by 12,400 persons in September from 135,600 persons, down from a peak of 233,300 persons in July 2020 to be 21,500 persons below the pre-pandemic level in March 2020.

Queensland’s participation rate was 66.2% in September 2021, up from 65.9% in August. This equates to 18,400 persons entering the labour force in the month. The participation rate in September remained higher than March 2020 (65.5%), equating to a total of 76,300 persons having entered the labour force since March 2020.

Table: Labour force outcomes, September 2021

Table: Interstate comparison, September 2021

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