

# Labour Force, November 2021

Source: ABS Labour Force, released 16 December 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.**

## Key data (monthly)

<b>Employment:</b>	Queensland,	14,200	(0.5%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	366,100	(2.9%)
<b>Unemployment:</b>	Queensland,	-9,800	(4.8%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	-69,400	(4.6%)
<b>Labour force:</b>	Queensland,	4,400	(0.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	296,800	(2.2%)
<b>Underemployment:</b>	Queensland,	1,000	(7.9%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	-252,100	(7.5%)
<b>Hours worked:</b>	Queensland,	1,300	(0.4%)
(thousands, growth)	Australia,	76,700	(4.5%)

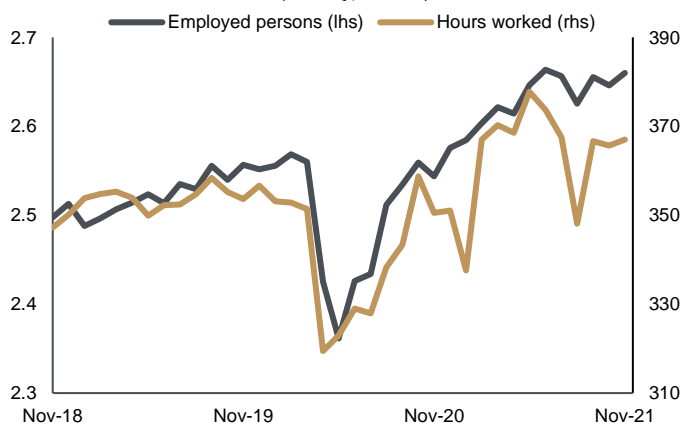
## Main findings

Employment in Queensland rose 14,200 persons (0.5%) in November 2021, with part-time employment up 17,200 persons more than offsetting a fall in full-time employment of 3,000 persons.

In November 2021, employment in Queensland was 100,400 persons above its pre-pandemic level in March 2020, with an 80,800 person increase in full-time employment and a 19,600 person rise in part-time employment.

In November 2021, there were 367.0 million hours worked in Queensland, up 0.4% in the month, and up 4.4% from the level in March 2020 (Chart 1). Hours worked continues to be the best measure of the impact of lockdowns on the labour market.

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

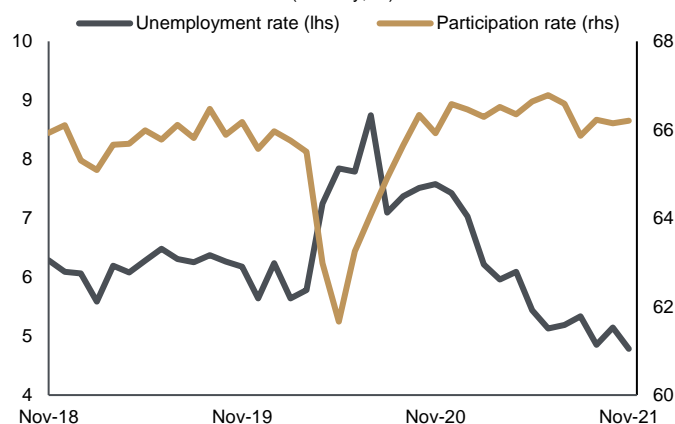


The unemployment rate in Queensland was 4.8% in November, down from 5.1% in October, and below the pre-COVID level of 5.8% in March 2020 (Chart 2).

The number of unemployed persons in Queensland fell 9,800 in November 2021 to 133,700, down from a peak of 233,300 persons in July 2020 and 23,400 persons below the pre-COVID-19 level in March 2020.

Queensland's participation rate was 66.2% in November 2021, up slightly from 66.1% in October. An additional 4,400 persons entered the labour force in the month, with a total of 76,900 persons having entered since March 2020. The participation rate in November remained higher than March 2020 (65.5%).

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



Nationally, employment rose 366,100 persons (2.9%) in November, to be 181,800 persons (1.4%) above its pre-COVID level of March 2020. Reflecting the easing of restrictions in those states, New South Wales (up 179,800) and Victoria (up 141,000) were the largest contributors to national employment growth in the month but have recovered to be only slightly above their pre-COVID employment levels.

The national unemployment rate was 4.6% in November 2021, down from 5.2% in October 2021 and down from 5.3% in March 2020. There were 1,800.6 million hours worked in Australia in November 2021, up 4.5% from October 2021 and up 2.0% from March 2020 (Table 1).

**Table 1: Labour force outcomes<sup>1</sup>, November 2021**

	Queensland					Australia				
	Nov-21	Monthly change	Yearly change	Nov-21	Monthly change	Yearly change	Nov-21	Monthly change	Yearly change	
	'000	'000	%	'000	%	'000	'000	%	'000	%
Employed	2,660.1	14.2	0.5	116.4	4.6	13,177.3	366.1	2.9	348.5	2.7
Full-time	1,821.6	-3.0	-0.2	110.7	6.5	9,052.9	128.3	1.4	339.4	3.9
Part-time	838.5	17.2	2.1	5.7	0.7	4,124.4	237.8	6.1	9.1	0.2
Unemployed	133.7	-9.8	-6.8	-75.0	-35.9	636.7	-69.4	-9.8	-304.2	-32.3
Underemployed	221.5	1.0	0.4	-34.1	-13.3	1,032.9	-252.1	-19.6	-254.5	-19.8
Labour force	2,793.8	4.4	0.2	41.4	1.5	13,813.9	296.8	2.2	44.3	0.3
Hours worked	367.0	1.3	0.4	16.5	4.7	1,800.6	76.7	4.5	46.9	2.7
	Nov-21	Oct-21	Nov-20	Nov-21	Oct-21	Nov-20	Nov-21	Oct-21	Nov-20	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Unemployment rate	4.8	5.1	7.6	4.6	5.2	6.8				
Underemployment rate	7.9	7.9	9.3	7.5	9.5	9.3				
Participation rate	66.2	66.1	65.9	66.1	64.6	66.0				

**Table 2: Interstate comparison<sup>1</sup>, November 2021**

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
<b>Employed</b>							
% change on a month ago	0.5	4.6	4.3	1.2	1.6	0.7	2.9
Change on a month ago (no.)	14,200	179,800	141,000	10,100	22,700	1,800	366,100
% change since May 2020	12.6	6.9	6.2	9.1	12.6	9.0	8.5
Change since May 2020 (no.)	298,700	266,000	202,000	73,600	161,700	21,600	1,037,600
% change since March 2020	3.9	0.0	0.2	3.1	4.8	1.4	1.4
Change since March 2020 (no.)	100,400	300	6,700	26,200	66,200	3,500	181,800
<b>Unemployment rate (%)</b>							
November 2021	4.8	4.6	4.7	4.6	3.8	5.1	4.6
October 2021	5.1	5.4	5.6	5.3	3.9	5.1	5.2
May 2020	7.8	6.4	6.8	7.9	7.9	6.4	7.0
March 2020	5.8	4.9	5.2	6.3	5.6	5.0	5.3
<b>Hours worked (millions)</b>							
November 2021	367.0	567.1	466.5	118.8	197.4	34.1	1,800.6
monthly % change	0.4	5.6	9.7	1.6	0.3	-0.2	4.5
% change since May 2020	13.6	11.1	11.2	15.8	13.6	17.1	12.0
% change since March 2020	4.4	0.0	1.6	5.3	3.8	2.9	2.0

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