

Labour Force, March 2022

Source: ABS Labour Force, released 14 April 2022, 11:30 am AEST.

NOTES: These data reflect conditions during the survey reference weeks (27 February to 12 March 2022), which included the severe flooding in South East Queensland.

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

Key data (monthly)

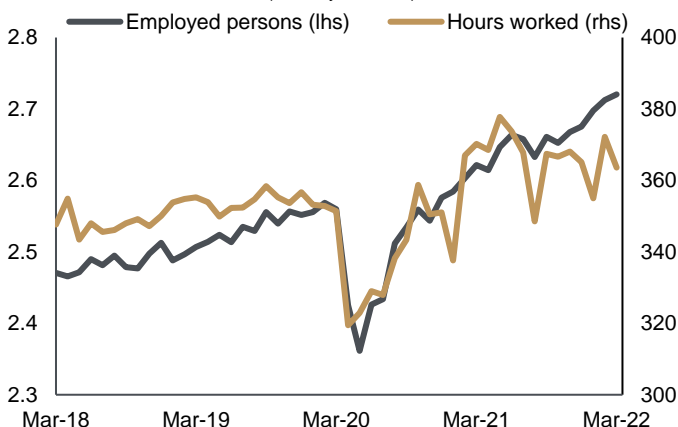
Employment:	Queensland,	8,000	(0.3%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	17,900	(0.1%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	-8,100	(4.0%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	-12,100	(4.0%)
Labour force:	Queensland,	-100	(0.0%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	5,800	(0.0%)
Underemployment:	Queensland,	-7,700	(7.0%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	-32,900	(6.3%)
Hours worked:	Queensland,	-8,600	(-2.3%)
(thousands, growth)	Australia,	-10,200	(-0.6%)

Main findings

Employment in Queensland rose by 8,000 persons (0.3%) in March 2022, to be 160,700 persons (6.3%) above its pre-COVID level of March 2020. Employment growth in the month was driven by a rise in full-time employment (up 19,900), which more than offset a decline in part-time employment (down 11,900). The employment-to-population ratio remained constant in March (63.9%) and is well above its pre-COVID ratio of 61.7%. The employment-to-population ratio was Queensland's highest since November 2011.

Hours worked fell 2.3% in March 2022 but was 3.5% above its pre-COVID level of March 2020 (Chart 1). The ABS noted 'with floods in New South Wales and Queensland, a higher than usual number of people reported working reduced hours due to bad weather in March. This was in addition to the high number of people away from work due to illness, reflecting further disruption from the Omicron variant.'

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

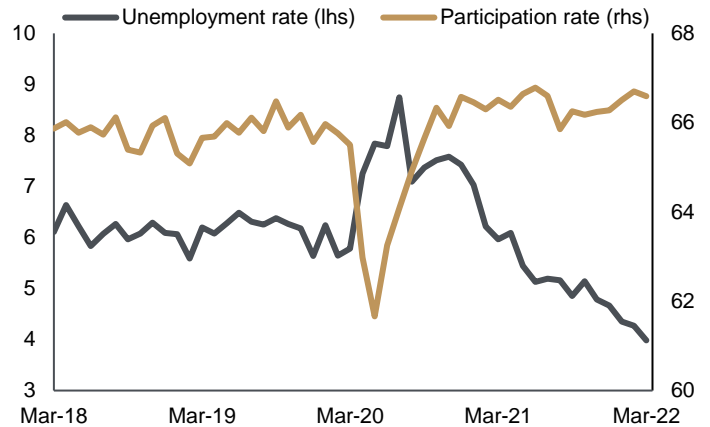


The unemployment rate in Queensland was 4.0% in March 2022, down from 4.3% in February, and below the pre-COVID rate of 5.8% in March 2020 (Chart 2). This was Queensland's lowest unemployment rate since December 2008, when it was 3.9%.

Queensland's participation rate was 66.6% in March 2022, marginally down from 66.7% in February but above its pre-COVID

rate of 65.5% in March 2020. This equates to a total of 116,500 persons having entered the labour force since March 2020.

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



Nationally, employment rose 17,900 persons (0.1%) in March, to be 394,400 persons (3.0%) above its pre-COVID level of March 2020. Employment growth in the month was driven by growth in Queensland and Western Australia (up 7,600), while employment fell in Victoria, Tasmania and New South Wales (Table 2).

The national unemployment rate was 4.0% in March 2022, which was the same as what it was in February (Table 1). Hours worked fell 0.6% in March 2022 but was 2.2% above its pre-COVID level in March 2020.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes¹, March 2022

	Queensland				Australia					
	Mar-22 '000	Monthly change '000	%	Yearly change '000	%	Mar-22 '000	Monthly change '000	%	Yearly change '000	%
Employed	2,720.4	8.0	0.3	99.0	3.8	13,389.9	17.9	0.1	338.3	2.6
Full-time	1,893.7	19.9	1.1	124.4	7.0	9,248.6	20.5	0.2	402.8	4.6
Part-time	826.8	-11.9	-1.4	-25.4	-3.0	4,141.3	-2.7	-0.1	-64.5	-1.5
Unemployed	112.9	-8.1	-6.7	-53.3	-32.1	551.3	-12.1	-2.1	-236.7	-30.0
Underemployed	197.8	-7.7	-3.8	-40.5	-17.0	882.3	-32.9	-3.6	-217.8	-19.8
Labour force	2,833.3	-0.1	0.0	45.7	1.6	13,941.2	5.8	0.0	101.6	0.7

	Queensland			Australia		
	millions	%	Yearly change	millions	%	Yearly change
Hours worked	363.6	-8.6	-2.3	1,803.2	-10.2	-0.6

	Queensland			Australia		
	Mar-22 %	Feb-22 %	Mar-21 %	Mar-22 %	Feb-22 %	Mar-21 %
Unemployment rate	4.0	4.3	6.0	4.0	4.0	5.7
Underemployment rate	7.0	7.3	8.5	6.3	6.6	7.9
Participation rate	66.6	66.7	66.5	66.4	66.4	66.3

Table 2: Interstate comparison¹, March 2022

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed							
% change on a month ago	0.3	0.0	-0.1	0.4	0.5	-1.5	0.1
Change on a month ago (no.)	8,000	-300	-2,700	3,200	7,600	-3,900	17,900
% change on a year ago	3.8	1.9	1.9	4.0	4.0	0.6	2.6
Change on a year ago (no.)	99,000	79,700	64,400	33,900	56,000	1,600	338,300
Unemployment rate							
March-22	4.0	3.9	4.0	4.9	3.4	4.5	4.0
February-22	4.3	3.7	4.2	5.0	4.1	3.9	4.0
March-21	6.0	5.5	6.1	6.4	5.0	6.0	5.7
Hours worked (millions)							
March-22	363.6	565.0	474.7	116.2	199.7	33.4	1,803.2
monthly % change	-2.3	-1.6	2.3	0.7	-0.9	-4.4	-0.6
annual % change	-1.8	-0.5	1.1	1.1	1.7	-2.3	-0.1

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