

Labour Force, April 2022

Source: ABS Labour Force, released 19 May 2022, 11:30 am AEST.

NOTES: These data reflect conditions during the survey reference weeks (3 to 16 April 2022).

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,	-14,800	(-0.5%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	4,000	(0.0%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	14,900	(4.5%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	-11,000	(3.9%)
Labour force:	Queensland,	100	(0.0%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	-7,000	(-0.1%)
Underemployment:	Queensland,	-24,300	(6.1%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	-32,600	(6.1%)
Hours worked:	Queensland,	12,000	(3.3%)
(thousands, growth)	Australia,	23,000	(1.3%)

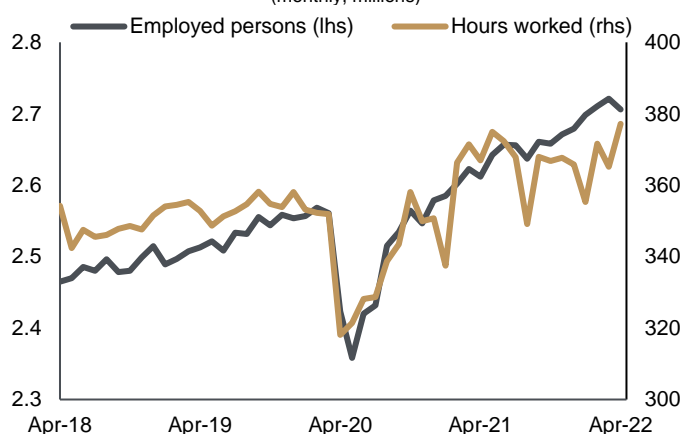
Main findings

Employment in Queensland fell by 14,800 persons (0.5%) in April 2022 but was 145,500 persons (5.7%) above its pre-COVID level of March 2020. The decline in employment in April was driven by a fall in part-time employment (up 27,000), which more than offset an increase in full-time employment (up 12,100). The employment-to-population ratio decreased slightly in April (to 63.5%) but remained well above its pre-COVID ratio of 61.7%.

Hours worked rose 3.3% in April 2022 and was 7.2% above its pre-COVID level of March 2020 (Chart 1). The ABS noted 'hours in New South Wales and Queensland increased in April following the impacts of the floods in March. The number of people working fewer hours than usual due to bad weather dropped from its March peak of over 500,000 to around 70,000 people in April'.

Chart 1: Employment and hours worked, Queensland

(monthly, millions)

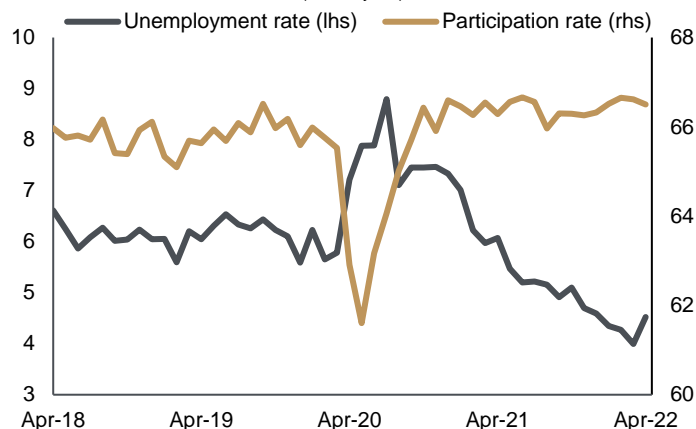


The unemployment rate in Queensland was 4.5% in April 2022, up from 4.0% in March, but below the pre-COVID rate of 5.8% in March 2020 (Chart 2).

Queensland's participation rate was 66.5% in April 2022, marginally down from 66.6% in March but above its pre-COVID rate of 65.5% in March 2020. This equates to a total of 116,400 persons having entered the labour force since March 2020.

Chart 2: Unemployment and participation rates, Queensland

(monthly, %)



Nationally, employment rose slightly in April (up 4,000 persons), to be 399,400 persons (3.1%) above its pre-COVID level of March 2020. Employment growth in the month was driven by growth in Victoria (up 11,600) and New South Wales (up 6,500), while employment fell in Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania (Table 2).

The national unemployment rate was 3.9% in April 2022, unchanged from the revised rate in March (Table 1). Hours worked rose 1.3% in March 2022, reflecting a recovery from the floods in New South Wales and Queensland, and was 3.6% above its pre-COVID level in March 2020.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes¹, April 2022

	Queensland				Australia					
	Apr-22	Monthly change	Yearly change	%	Apr-22	Monthly change	Yearly change	%		
Employed	2,706.2	-14.8	-0.5	94.1	3.6	13,401.7	4.0	0.0	381.5	2.9
Full-time	1,902.1	12.1	0.6	123.9	7.0	9,342.9	92.4	1.0	465.3	5.2
Part-time	804.1	-27.0	-3.2	-29.8	-3.6	4,058.8	-88.4	-2.1	-83.8	-2.0
Unemployed	128.1	14.9	13.2	-40.7	-24.1	537.1	-11.0	-2.0	-211.1	-28.2
Underemployed	172.8	-24.3	-12.3	-61.4	-26.2	852.5	-32.6	-3.7	-230.2	-21.3
Labour force	2,834.4	0.1	0.0	53.4	1.9	13,938.7	-7.0	-0.1	170.5	1.2
	millions	millions	%	millions	%	millions	millions	%	millions	%
Hours worked	377.2	12.0	3.3	10.2	2.8	1,832.5	23.0	1.3	49.7	2.8
	Apr-22	Mar-22	Apr-21		Apr-22	Mar-22	Apr-21			
Unemployment rate	4.5	4.0	6.1		3.9	3.9	5.4			
Underemployment rate	6.1	7.0	8.4		6.1	6.3	7.9			
Participation rate	66.5	66.6	66.3		66.3	66.4	65.9			

Table 2: Interstate comparison¹, April 2022

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed							
% change on a month ago	-0.5	0.2	0.3	-0.6	-0.1	-0.5	0.0
Change on a month ago (no.)	-14,800	6,600	11,600	-5,000	-1,900	-1,200	4,000
% change on a year ago	3.6	3.0	2.1	1.8	5.1	1.2	2.9
Change on a year ago (no.)	94,100	122,100	71,500	15,300	71,400	3,000	381,500
Unemployment rate							
April-22	4.5	3.5	4.2	4.5	2.9	3.8	3.9
March-22	4.0	3.9	4.0	4.9	3.4	4.4	3.9
April-21	6.1	5.5	5.4	5.7	5.0	6.0	5.4
Hours worked (millions)							
April-22	377.2	581.4	468.6	115.9	204.3	33.4	1,832.5
monthly % change	3.3	2.5	-1.4	-0.8	1.8	-0.3	1.3
annual % change	2.8	3.3	1.2	0.6	7.1	-1.6	2.8

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