

Labour Force, May 2022

Source: ABS Labour Force, released 16 June 2022, 11:30 am AEST.

NOTES: These data reflect conditions during the survey reference weeks (1 to 14 May 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,	46,600	(1.7%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	60,600	(0.5%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	-12,100	(4.0%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	7,800	(3.9%)
Labour force:	Queensland,	34,500	(1.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	68,400	(0.5%)
Underemployment:	Queensland,	1,200	(6.1%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	-50,100	(5.7%)
Hours worked:	Queensland,	8,600	(2.3%)
(thousands, growth)	Australia,	16,800	(0.9%)

Main findings

Employment in Queensland rose by 46,600 persons (1.7%) in May 2022 to be 206,000 persons (8.0%) above its pre-COVID level of March 2020. The rise in May was driven by a rise in both full-time employment (up 19,900) and part time employment (up 26,700).

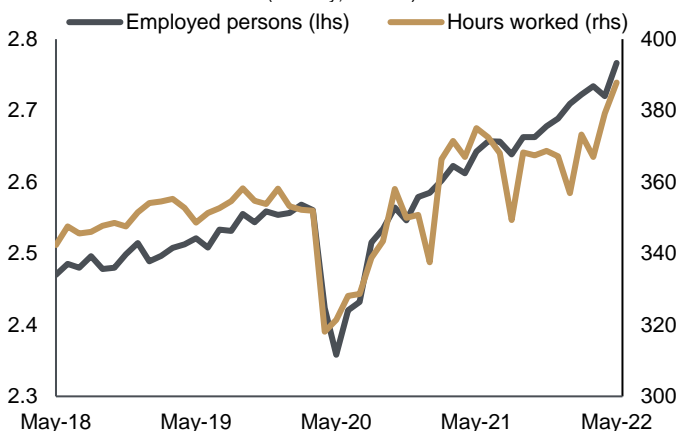
The employment-to-population ratio increased strongly in May, from 63.6% to 64.5%. This was well above its pre-COVID ratio of 61.7% and Queensland's highest since March 2009.

In addition to the strong employment growth in May, the ABS revised up Queensland's employment and civilian population estimates throughout 2021-22, to be 13,900 and 17,800 persons higher respectively in April 2022 than previously estimated.

Hours worked rose 2.3% in May 2022 and was 10.2% above its pre-COVID level of March 2020 (Chart 1). The ABS noted 'the number of people working reduced hours due to illness continued to be high. This reflected ongoing disruption associated with the Omicron variant and also an increasing number of cases of influenza'.

Chart 1: Employment and hours worked, Queensland

(monthly, millions)

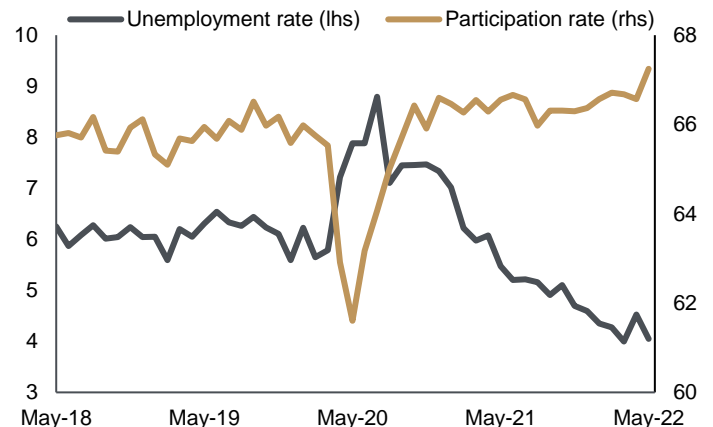


The unemployment rate in Queensland was 4.0% in May 2022, down from 4.5% in April, and well below the pre-COVID rate of 5.8% in March 2020 (Chart 2).

Queensland's participation rate was 67.2% in May 2022, up from 66.6% in April and well above its pre-COVID rate of 65.5% in March 2020. The participation rate was Queensland's highest since January 2012. This equates to a total of 165,500 persons having entered the labour force since March 2020.

Chart 2: Unemployment and participation rates, Queensland

(monthly, %)



Nationally, employment rose 0.5% in May (up 60,600 persons), to be 3.9% (508,600 persons) above its pre-COVID level of March 2020. Employment growth in the month was driven by growth in New South Wales (up 49,000) and Queensland, while employment fell in Victoria (Table 2).

The national unemployment rate was 3.9% in May 2022, unchanged from April (Table 1). Hours worked rose 0.9% in May 2022 to be 4.9% above its pre-COVID level in March 2020.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes¹, May 2022

	Queensland				Australia					
	May-22 '000	Monthly change '000	%	Yearly change '000	%	May-22 '000	Monthly change '000	%	Yearly change '000	%
Employed	2,766.7	46.6	1.7	124.2	4.7	13,510.9	60.6	0.5	386.1	2.9
Full-time	1,931.9	19.9	1.0	118.0	6.5	9,443.4	69.4	0.7	474.1	5.3
Part-time	834.8	26.7	3.3	6.2	0.7	4,067.5	-8.7	-0.2	-87.9	-2.1
Unemployed	116.7	-12.1	-9.4	-36.2	-23.7	548.1	7.8	1.4	-155.8	-22.1
Underemployed	175.0	1.2	0.7	-43.4	-19.9	807.3	-50.1	-5.8	-235.0	-22.5
Labour force	2,883.4	34.5	1.2	88.0	3.1	14,059.0	68.4	0.5	230.3	1.7

	millions	millions	%	millions	%	millions	millions	%	millions	%
Hours worked	387.8	8.6	2.3	12.8	3.4	1,855.9	16.8	0.9	38.8	2.1

	May-22	Apr-22	May-21	May-22	Apr-22	May-21
Unemployment rate	4.0	4.5	5.5	3.9	3.9	5.1
Underemployment rate	6.1	6.1	7.8	5.7	6.1	7.5
Participation rate	67.2	66.6	66.6	66.7	66.4	66.2

Table 2: Interstate comparison¹, May 2022

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed							
% change on a month ago	1.7	1.2	-0.4	0.5	0.3	1.0	0.5
Change on a month ago (no.)	46,600	49,000	-14,100	4,000	4,800	2,700	60,600
% change on a year ago	4.7	2.1	1.9	1.9	5.6	2.2	2.9
Change on a year ago (no.)	124,200	88,800	66,900	17,000	77,700	5,800	386,100
Unemployment rate							
May-22	4.0	4.0	3.7	4.6	3.1	4.5	3.9
April-22	4.5	3.5	4.2	4.5	2.9	3.8	3.9
May-21	5.5	5.0	4.8	5.9	4.7	5.8	5.1
Hours worked (millions)							
May-22	387.8	592.5	472.1	117.0	201.6	34.4	1,855.9
monthly % change	2.3	2.2	-0.2	0.5	-1.6	2.6	0.9
annual % change	3.4	3.4	-0.4	1.0	3.8	1.4	2.1

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