

Labour Force, July 2022

Source: ABS Labour Force, released 18 August 2022, 11:30 am AEST.

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

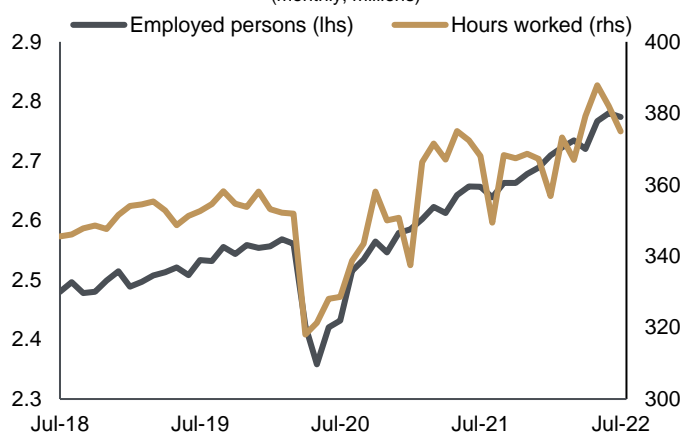
Employment:	Queensland,	-6,200	(-0.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	-40,900	(-0.3%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	-6,200	(3.8%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	-20,200	(3.4%)
Labour force:	Queensland,	-12,300	(-0.4%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	-61,200	(-0.4%)
Underemployment:	Queensland,	11,000	(6.6%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	-17,000	(6.0%)
Hours worked:	Queensland,	-7,100	(-1.9%)
(thousands, growth)	Australia,	-15,600	(-0.8%)

Main findings

Employment in Queensland fell by 6,200 persons (-0.2%) in July 2022 but was 213,300 persons (8.3%) above its pre-COVID level of March 2020. The decline in July was driven by a decrease in full time employment (down 13,800) in the month. The ABS noted 'during the pandemic, it has not been uncommon to see larger-than-usual changes or slowing in employment and hours around school holidays.'

While the employment-to-population ratio decreased from 64.7% to 64.5% in July, it was still well above its pre-COVID ratio of 61.7%. Hours worked fell 1.9% in July 2022 but remains 6.5% above its pre-COVID level of March 2020 (Chart 1).

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

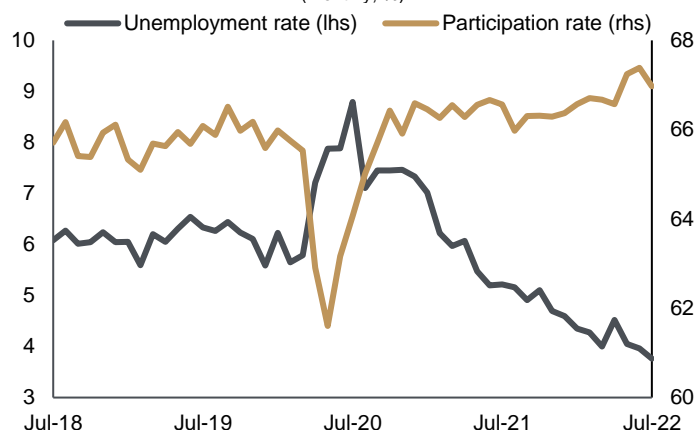


The unemployment rate in Queensland was 3.8% in July 2022, down from 4.0% in June, and well below the pre-COVID rate of 5.8% in March 2020 (Chart 2). The ABS noted 'the fall in unemployment in July reflects an increasingly tight labour market, including high job vacancies and ongoing labour shortages, resulting in the lowest (national) unemployment rate since August 1974.'

Queensland's participation rate was 67.0% in July 2022, down from 67.4% in June but well above its pre-COVID rate of 65.5% in March 2020.

This equates to 12,300 persons leaving the labour force in July 2022, but a total of 164,500 persons having entered the labour force since March 2020.

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



Nationally, employment fell 0.3% in July (down 40,900 persons) but was 4.3% (556,100 persons) above its pre-COVID level of March 2020. The decline in employment in the month was driven by Victoria (down 18,700), New South Wales (down 11,800) and Queensland, while employment rose in Western Australia (up 6,400), Northern Territory (up 3,700), and Tasmania (up 500) (Table 2).

The national unemployment rate fell from 3.5% in June 2022, to 3.4% in July (Table 1). Hours worked declined by 0.8% in July but was 4.0% above its pre-COVID level in March 2020.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes¹, July 2022

	Queensland				Australia					
	Jul-22	Monthly change	Yearly change	Jul-22	Monthly change	Yearly change	Jul-22	Monthly change	Yearly change	
	'000	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	
Employed	2,774.0	-6.2	-0.2	117.3	4.4	13,558.4	-40.9	-0.3	398.5	3.0
Full-time	1,905.0	-13.8	-0.7	99.7	5.5	9,409.4	-86.9	-0.9	392.9	4.4
Part-time	869.0	7.6	0.9	17.6	2.1	4,149.0	46.0	1.1	5.6	0.1
Unemployed	108.5	-6.2	-5.4	-37.8	-25.8	473.6	-20.2	-4.1	-167.6	-26.1
Underemployed	189.3	11.0	6.2	-28.1	-12.9	840.0	-17.0	-2.0	-303.2	-26.5
Labour force	2,882.5	-12.3	-0.4	79.6	2.8	14,032.0	-61.2	-0.4	230.9	1.7
	millions	millions	%	millions	%	millions	millions	%	millions	%
Hours worked	374.9	-7.1	-1.9	6.9	1.9	1,839.9	-15.6	-0.8	61.0	3.4
	Jul-22	Jun-22	Jul-21	Jul-22	Jun-22	Jul-21	Jul-22	Jun-22	Jul-21	Jul-21
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unemployment rate	3.8	4.0	5.2	3.4	3.5	4.6				
Underemployment rate	6.6	6.2	7.8	6.0	6.1	8.3				
Participation rate	67.0	67.4	66.6	66.4	66.8	66.0				

Table 2: Interstate comparison¹, July 2022

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed							
% change on a month ago	-0.2	-0.3	-0.5	-0.4	0.4	0.2	-0.3
Change on a month ago (no.)	-6,200	-11,800	-18,700	-3,400	6,400	500	-40,900
% change on a year ago	4.4	3.5	1.8	1.0	4.2	1.0	3.0
Change on a year ago (no.)	117,300	144,200	63,200	8,300	59,200	2,700	398,500
Unemployment rate							
July-22	3.8	3.3	3.1	4.0	3.2	3.7	3.4
June-22	4.0	3.3	3.2	4.3	3.4	4.3	3.5
July-21	5.2	4.5	4.5	4.7	4.5	4.7	4.6
Hours worked (millions)							
July-22	374.9	583.9	478.1	116.2	202.8	33.9	1,839.9
monthly % change	-1.9	-2.4	1.3	-2.0	1.4	-0.1	-0.8
annual % change	1.9	8.6	0.1	-0.3	3.9	-0.4	3.4

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