

Labour Force, August 2022

Source: ABS Labour Force, released 15 September 2022, 11:30 am AEST.

NOTES: These data reflect conditions during the survey reference weeks (31 July to 13 August 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)

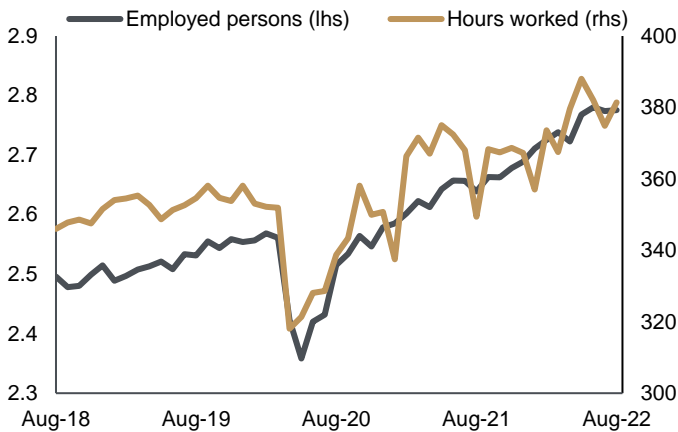
Employment:	Queensland,	1,400	(0.0%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	33,500	(0.2%)
Unemployment:	Queensland,	-15,800	(3.2%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	14,000	(3.5%)
Labour force:	Queensland,	-14,500	(-0.5%)
(persons, growth)	Australia,	47,500	(0.3%)
Underemployment:	Queensland,	-4,900	(6.4%)
(persons, rate)	Australia,	-7,200	(5.9%)
Hours worked:	Queensland,	6,500	(1.7%)
(thousands, growth)	Australia,	14,500	(0.8%)

Main findings

Employment in Queensland rose by 1,400 persons (0.05%) in August 2022, and was 214,700 persons (8.4%) above its pre-COVID level of March 2020. The rise in August was driven by an increase in full-time employment (up 11,900) in the month.

While the employment-to-population ratio decreased from 64.5% in July to 64.4% in August, it was still well above its pre-COVID ratio of 61.7%. Hours worked rose 1.7% in August, to be 8.4% above its pre-COVID level of March 2020 (**Chart 1**).

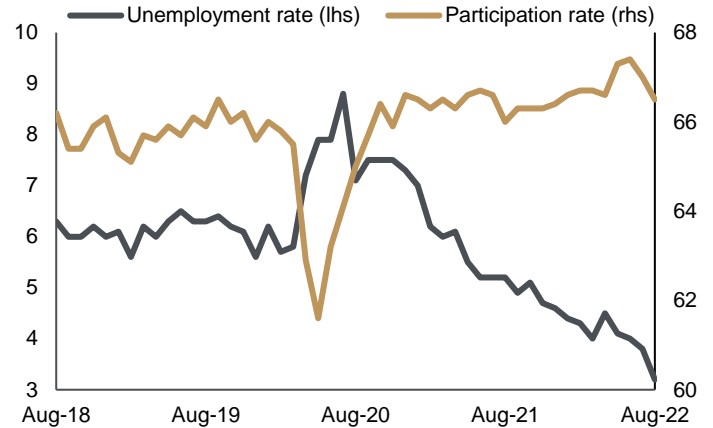
Chart 1: Employment and hours worked, Queensland
(monthly, millions)



The unemployment rate in Queensland was 3.2% in August 2022, down from 3.8% in July, and well below the pre-COVID rate of 5.8% in March 2020 (**Chart 2**). This was Queensland's lowest unemployment rate since the inception of the monthly series (February 1978). While month-to-month movements in labour force estimates can be volatile, a moderation in the participation rate (from 67.0% in July to 66.5% in August) also contributed to this lower jobless rate. However, Queensland's participation rate remains well above its pre-COVID rate of 65.5% in March 2020.

The fall in the monthly participation rate equates to 14,500 persons leaving the labour force in August 2022. A total of 150,100 persons have entered the labour force since March 2020.

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



Nationally, employment rose 0.2% in August (up 33,500 persons) to be 4.5% (589,800 persons) above its pre-COVID level of March 2020. The rise in employment in the month was driven by South Australia (up 10,200), New South Wales (up 4,100) and Australian Capital Territory (up 3,400), while employment fell in Victoria (down 800) and Tasmania (down 200, **Table 2**).

The national unemployment rate rose from 3.4% in July 2022, to 3.5% in August (**Table 1**). Hours worked increased by 0.8% in August to be 4.8% above its pre-COVID level in March 2020. ABS noted that 'Throughout the pandemic, the hours worked series shows larger short-term changes compared to the employed series, given that employees may have been away from paid work for a short period without losing their job'. The ABS also added 'The number of people working reduced hours due to being sick remained elevated in August, at around 760,000 people. This is around double the number we typically see at the end of winter,

Table 1: Labour force outcomes¹, August 2022

	Queensland				Australia					
	Aug-22 '000	Monthly change '000	%	Yearly change '000	%	Aug-22 '000	Monthly change '000	%	Yearly change '000	%
Employed	2,775.4	1.4	0.0	136.7	5.2	13,592.1	33.5	0.2	570.3	4.4
Full-time	1,916.9	11.9	0.6	126.6	7.1	9,468.5	58.8	0.6	515.3	5.8
Part-time	858.4	-10.5	-1.2	10.1	1.2	4,123.6	-25.3	-0.6	55.0	1.4
Unemployed	92.7	-15.8	-14.6	-50.9	-35.5	487.7	14.0	3.0	-132.5	-21.4
Underemployed	184.4	-4.9	-2.6	-58.5	-24.1	832.7	-7.2	-0.9	-432.2	-34.2
Labour force	2,868.0	-14.5	-0.5	85.8	3.1	14,079.8	47.5	0.3	437.8	3.2
Hours worked	381.4	6.5	1.7	32.0	9.2	1,854.4	14.5	0.8	136.3	7.9
	Aug-22	Jul-22	Aug-21	Aug-22	Jul-22	Aug-21	Aug-22	Jul-22	Aug-21	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Unemployment rate	3.2	3.8	5.2	3.5	3.4	4.5				
Underemployment rate	6.4	6.6	8.7	5.9	6.0	9.3				
Participation rate	66.5	67.0	66.0	66.6	66.4	65.2				

Table 2: Interstate comparison¹, August 2022

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed							
% change on a month ago	0.0	0.1	0.0	1.2	0.1	-0.1	0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	1,400	4,100	-800	10,200	900	-200	33,500
% change on a year ago	5.2	8.2	0.8	2.2	3.2	0.9	4.4
Change on a year ago (no.)	136,700	324,200	28,600	19,600	45,200	2,400	570,300
Unemployment rate							
August-22	3.2	3.4	3.7	3.9	3.1	4.9	3.5
July-22	3.8	3.3	3.1	4.0	3.2	3.7	3.4
August-21	5.2	4.7	4.0	4.8	4.4	5.3	4.5
Hours worked (millions)							
August-22	381.4	590.2	477.6	119.5	199.1	35.0	1,854.4
monthly % change	1.7	1.1	-0.1	2.8	-1.8	3.2	0.8
annual % change	9.2	17.0	2.9	0.9	0.7	2.6	7.9

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