

Labour Force, January 2023

Source: ABS Labour Force, released 16 February 2023, 10:30 am AEST.

NOTES: These data reflect conditions during the survey reference weeks (1 to 14 January 2023).

Key data (trend, monthly)

Employment:	Queensland	4,900	(0.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia	11,300	(0.1%)
Unemployment:	Queensland	2,000	(3.7%)
(persons, rate)	Australia	3,900	(3.5%)
Labour force:	Queensland	6,800	(0.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia	15,200	(0.1%)
Underemployment:	Queensland	-1,100	(6.5%)
(persons, rate)	Australia	4,300	(6.1%)
Hours worked:	Queensland	-400	(-0.1%)
(thousands, growth)	Australia	3,300	(0.2%)

Key data (seasonally adjusted, monthly)

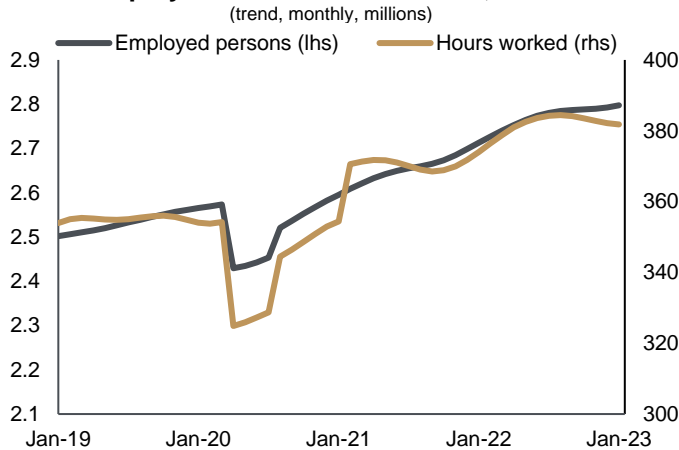
Employment:	Queensland	17,900	(0.6%)
(persons, growth)	Australia	-11,500	(-0.1%)
Unemployment:	Queensland	-700	(3.8%)
(persons, rate)	Australia	21,900	(3.7%)

Main findings (trend)

Employment in Queensland rose by 4,900 persons (0.2%) in January 2023 to be 84,700 persons (3.1%) higher over the year. The rise in January was driven by an increase in both full-time and part-time employment (up 1,700 and 3,200 respectively).

The employment-to-population ratio was 63.9% in January 2023, unchanged from December 2022 but above its pre-COVID ratio of 62.0%. Hours worked fell 0.1% in January but was 7.8% above its level in March 2020 (**Chart 1**).

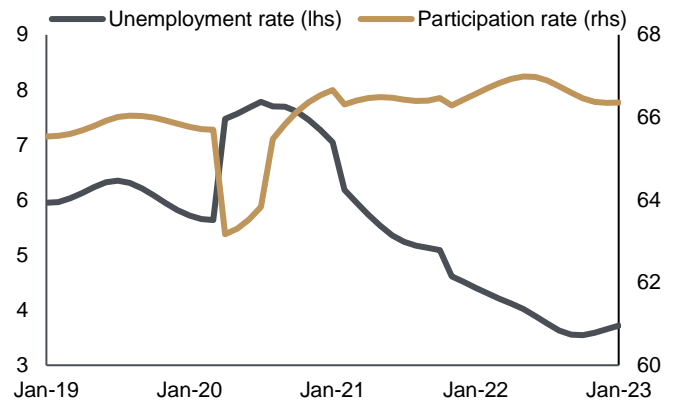
Chart 1: Employment and hours worked, Queensland



The unemployment rate was 3.7% in January, unchanged from December 2022 and still well below the pre-COVID rate of 5.6% in March 2020 (**Chart 2**).

Meanwhile, Queensland's participation rate was 66.4% in January, unchanged from December, and well above its pre-COVID rate of 65.7%.

Chart 2: Unemployment and participation rates, Queensland



Nationally, employment rose by 11,300 persons in January (0.1%, **Table 2**) to be 775,100 (6.0%) above its pre-COVID level of March 2020.

The ABS noted 'early January is the seasonal peak in people taking annual leave. As in 2021 and 2022, January 2023 again saw more people than usual taking annual leave (nationally).' The ABS also noted 'in January 2023, the proportion of people away from work on sick leave (nationally) was back around the average, pre-pandemic level, unlike January 2022, when more people than usual were away from work on sick leave' due to the Omicron wave occurring at the time.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at a revised 3.5% in January (**Table 1**). Hours worked increased by 0.2% in the month to be 6.4% above its pre-COVID level in March 2020.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes, January 2023

	Queensland						Australia					
	Jan-23		Monthly change		Yearly change		Jan-23		Monthly change		Yearly change	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Employed	2,797.4	4.9	0.2	84.7	3.1	13,753.2	11.3	0.1	415.3	3.1		
Full-time	1,945.4	1.7	0.1	73.8	3.9	9,602.4	9.2	0.1	428.2	4.7		
Part-time	852.1	3.2	0.4	10.9	1.3	4,150.8	2.2	0.1	-12.9	-0.3		
Unemployed	107.9	2.0	1.9	-17.1	-13.6	505.0	3.9	0.8	-59.2	-10.5		
Underemployed	187.5	-1.1	-0.6	-15.7	-7.7	866.2	4.3	0.5	-43.7	-4.8		
Labour force	2,905.4	6.8	0.2	67.7	2.4	14,258.3	15.2	0.1	356.0	2.6		
Hours worked	381.8	-0.4	-0.1	7.8	2.1	1,884.2	3.3	0.2	64.2	3.5		
Unemployment rate	3.7	3.7	4.4	3.5	3.5	4.1						
Underemployment rate	6.5	6.5	7.2	6.1	6.1	6.5						
Participation rate	66.4	66.4	66.6	66.5	66.6	66.2						

Table 2: Interstate comparison, January 2023

	(trend)						
	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed							
% change on a month ago	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Change on a month ago (no.)	4,900	8,400	1,200	1,700	1,900	200	11,300
% change on a year ago	3.1	4.7	1.9	2.5	0.7	3.4	3.1
Change on a year ago (no.)	84,700	194,900	65,600	22,800	10,700	9,500	415,300
Unemployment rate (%)							
January 2023	3.7	3.2	3.8	4.0	3.7	4.0	3.5
December 2022	3.7	3.2	3.7	4.0	3.6	4.0	3.5
January 2022	4.4	3.9	4.2	4.8	3.8	4.0	4.1
Hours worked (millions)							
January 2023	381.8	590.3	469.6	122.7	212.3	37.8	1,884.2
monthly % change	-0.1	-0.2	-0.5	0.0	0.2	-0.3	0.2
annual % change	2.1	4.0	0.7	1.7	2.4	3.5	3.5