

Labour Force, February 2023

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

NOTE: These data reflect conditions during the survey reference weeks (29 January to 11 February 2023).

Key data (trend, monthly)

Employment:	Queensland	2,300	(0.1%)
(persons, growth)	Australia	19,800	(0.1%)
Unemployment:	Queensland	1,000	(3.7%)
(persons, rate)	Australia	600	(3.5%)
Labour force:	Queensland	3,300	(0.1%)
(persons, growth)	Australia	20,400	(0.1%)
Underemployment:	Queensland	-1,700	(6.4%)
(persons, rate)	Australia	-2,400	(5.9%)
Hours worked:	Queensland	600	(0.2%)
(thousands, growth)	Australia	4,700	(0.2%)

Key data (seasonally adjusted, monthly)

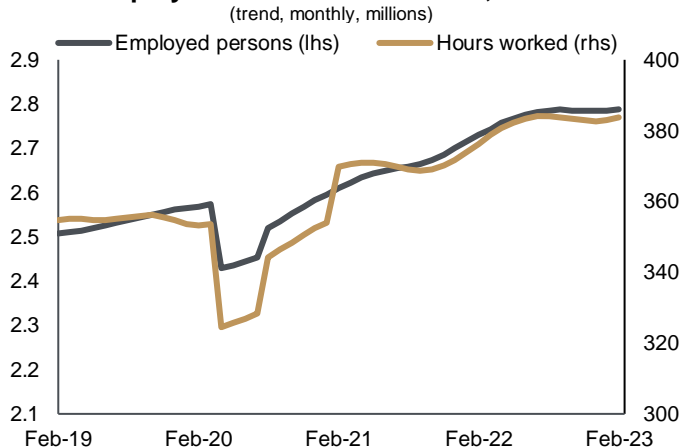
Employment:	Queensland	-23,000	(-0.8%)
(persons, growth)	Australia	64,600	(0.5%)
Unemployment:	Queensland	-700	(3.8%)
(persons, rate)	Australia	-16,500	(3.5%)

Main findings (trend)

Employment in Queensland rose by 2,300 persons (0.1%) in February 2023 to be 58,500 persons (2.1%) higher over the year. The rise in February was driven by an increase in both full-time and part-time employment (up 1,100 and 1,200 respectively).

The employment-to-population ratio was 63.6% in February 2023, down from 63.7% in January 2023 but well above its pre-COVID ratio of 62.0%. Hours worked rose 0.2% in February and was 8.4% above its level in March 2020 (Chart 1).

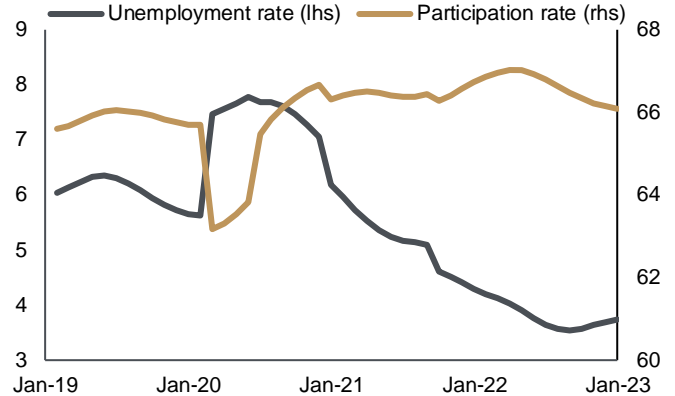
Chart 1: Employment and hours worked, Queensland



The unemployment rate was 3.7% in February, unchanged from January 2023 and still well below the pre-COVID rate of 5.6% in March 2020 (Chart 2).

Meanwhile, Queensland's participation rate was 66.1% in February, slightly lower than January (66.2%), but well above its pre-COVID rate of 65.7%.

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



Nationally, trend employment rose by 19,800 persons in February (0.1%, Table 2) to be 855,700 (6.6%) above its pre-COVID level of March 2020. In seasonally adjusted terms, employment nationally rebounded 64,600 persons in February, following a 27,500 person decline across the previous two months.

The ABS noted the increase in employment (nationally) 'follows consecutive falls in December and January. In January, this reflected a larger than usual number of people waiting to start a new job, the majority of whom returned to or commenced their jobs in February. This was particularly evident in the South-East of Australia, with larger than seasonal numbers of people entering into employment across New South Wales, Victoria and the ACT.'

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at a revised 3.5% in February (Table 1). Hours worked increased by 0.2% in the month to be 7.4% above its pre-COVID level in March 2020.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes, February 2023

	Queensland				Australia			
	Feb-23 '000	Monthly change '000	%	Yearly change '000	Feb-23 '000	Monthly change '000	%	Yearly change '000
Employed	2,788.1	2.3	0.1	58.5	13,831.4	19.8	0.1	419.9
Full-time	1,944.1	1.1	0.1	54.9	9,667.9	17.9	0.2	417.9
Part-time	844.0	1.2	0.1	3.7	4,163.4	1.8	0.0	2.0
Unemployed	108.0	1.0	1.0	-14.8	505.5	0.6	0.1	-51.7
Underemployed	184.5	-1.7	-0.9	-11.5	849.8	-2.4	-0.3	-52.2
Labour force	2,896.0	3.3	0.1	43.8	14,336.9	20.4	0.1	368.2

	Queensland			Australia		
	millions	millions	%	millions	millions	%
Hours worked	383.6	0.6	0.2	1,900.6	4.7	0.2

	Queensland			Australia		
	Feb-23	Jan-23	Feb-22	Feb-23	Jan-23	Feb-22
Unemployment rate	3.7	3.7	4.3	3.5	3.5	4.0
Underemployment rate	6.4	6.4	6.9	5.9	6.0	6.5
Participation rate	66.1	66.2	66.7	66.6	66.7	66.4

Table 2: Interstate comparison, February 2023

	(trend)						
	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed							
% change on a month ago	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1
Change on a month ago (no.)	2,300	5,800	9,400	2,000	2,900	0	19,800
% change on a year ago	2.1	4.8	2.9	3.1	0.7	2.9	3.1
Change on a year ago (no.)	58,500	200,500	100,600	27,700	10,500	8,100	419,900
Unemployment rate							
February-23	3.7	3.1	3.8	4.0	3.8	3.7	3.5
January-23	3.7	3.2	3.8	4.0	3.8	3.8	3.5
February-22	4.3	3.8	4.1	4.7	3.7	4.0	4.0
Hours worked (millions)							
February-23	383.6	598.5	480.8	124.0	216.0	37.5	1,900.6
monthly % change	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.6	-0.2	0.2
annual % change	1.9	5.0	2.9	3.0	4.1	3.1	3.9