

# Labour Force, March 2023

Source: ABS Labour Force, released 13 April 2023, 11:30 am AEST.

**NOTE: These data reflect conditions during the survey reference weeks (26 February to 11 March 2023).**

## Key data (trend, monthly)

<b>Employment:</b>	Queensland	6,400	(0.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia	31,700	(0.2%)
<b>Unemployment:</b>	Queensland	600	(3.8%)
(persons, rate)	Australia	600	(3.5%)
<b>Labour force:</b>	Queensland	7,000	(0.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia	32,300	(0.2%)
<b>Underemployment:</b>	Queensland	-400	(6.4%)
(persons, rate)	Australia	3,300	(6.1%)
<b>Hours worked:</b>	Queensland	1,300	(0.3%)
(thousands, growth)	Australia	4,800	(0.2%)

## Key data (seasonally adjusted, monthly)

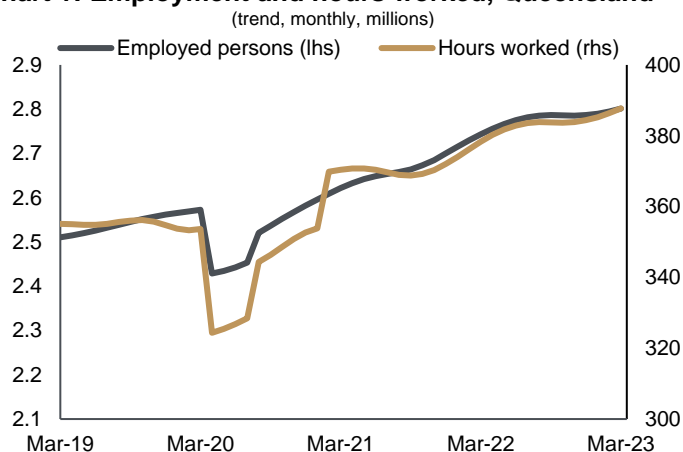
<b>Employment:</b>	Queensland	25,300	(0.9%)
(persons, growth)	Australia	53,000	(0.4%)
<b>Unemployment:</b>	Queensland	3,700	(3.9%)
(persons, rate)	Australia	-1,600	(3.5%)

## Main findings (trend)

Employment in Queensland rose by 6,400 persons (0.2%) in March 2023 to be 58,200 persons (2.1%) higher over the year. The rise in March was driven by an increase in both full-time and part-time employment (up 3,200 and 3,100 respectively).

The employment-to-population ratio was 63.8% in March 2023, unchanged from February 2023 but well above its pre-COVID ratio of 62.0%. Hours worked rose 0.3% in March and was 9.6% above its level in March 2020 (Chart 1).

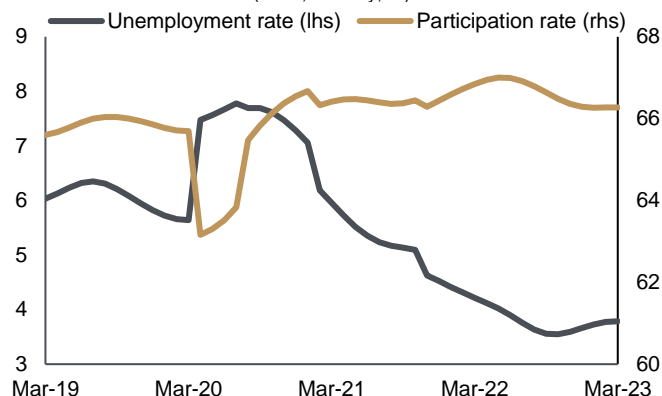
## Chart 1: Employment and hours worked, Queensland



The unemployment rate was 3.8% in March, unchanged from February 2023 and still well below the pre-COVID rate of 5.6% in March 2020 (Chart 2).

Meanwhile, Queensland's participation rate was 66.3% in March, unchanged from February, but well above its pre-COVID rate of 65.7%.

## Chart 2: Unemployment and participation rates, Queensland



Nationally, trend employment rose by 31,700 persons in March (0.2%, Table 2) to be 907,800 (7.0%) above its pre-COVID level of March 2020. In seasonally adjusted terms, employment nationally rebounded 53,000 persons in March, following a 63,600 person rise in February.

The ABS noted the increase in hours worked (nationally) indicates 'the strength in hours worked relative to employment shows the high level of demand for labour, to some extent, is being absorbed by people working more hours.'

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.5% in March (Table 1). Hours worked increased by 0.2% in the month to be 8.0% above its pre-COVID level in March 2020.

**Table 1: Labour force outcomes, March 2023**  
(trend)

	Queensland			Australia		
	Mar-23	Monthly change	Yearly change	Mar-23	Monthly change	Yearly change
	'000	'000	%	'000	'000	%
Employed	2,801.4	6.4	0.2	58.2	2.1	3.1
Full-time	1,951.5	3.2	0.2	46.8	2.5	4.5
Part-time	849.9	3.1	0.4	11.4	1.4	0.0
Unemployed	110.2	0.6	0.5	-10.5	-8.7	-7.5
Underemployed	187.6	-0.4	-0.2	-2.7	-1.4	-1.9
Labour force	2,911.6	7.0	0.2	47.7	1.7	2.7
	millions	millions	%	millions	millions	%
Hours worked	387.7	1.3	0.3	9.4	2.5	4.1
	Mar-23	Feb-23	Mar-22	Mar-23	Feb-23	Mar-22
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Unemployment rate	3.8	3.8	4.2	3.5	3.5	3.9
Underemployment rate	6.4	6.5	6.6	6.1	6.0	6.3
Participation rate	66.3	66.3	66.8	66.8	66.7	66.5

**Table 2: Interstate comparison, March 2023**  
(trend)

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
<b>Employed</b>							
% change on a month ago	0.2	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	6,400	-900	15,900	3,900	4,000	1,100	31,700
% change on a year ago	2.1	3.6	3.5	3.8	0.8	4.1	3.1
Change on a year ago (no.)	58,200	151,900	120,300	34,500	12,800	11,600	415,600
<b>Unemployment rate</b>							
March-23	3.8	3.2	3.7	3.9	3.6	3.8	3.5
February-23	3.8	3.2	3.7	3.9	3.6	3.8	3.5
March-22	4.2	3.7	3.9	4.7	3.2	4.1	3.9
<b>Hours worked (millions)</b>							
March-23	387.7	599.1	486.9	125.4	214.7	38.0	1,909.8
monthly % change	0.3	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2
annual % change	2.5	4.5	4.3	4.4	3.1	5.0	4.1