

Labour Force, April 2023

Source: ABS Labour Force, released 18 May 2023, 11:30 am AEST.

Survey reference weeks: 2 April to 15 April 2023.

Key data (trend, monthly)

Employment:	Queensland	5,300	(0.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia	24,000	(0.2%)
Unemployment:	Queensland	300	(3.8%)
(persons, rate)	Australia	4,300	(3.6%)
Labour force:	Queensland	5,600	(0.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia	28,300	(0.2%)
Underemployment:	Queensland	-200	(6.4%)
(persons, rate)	Australia	2,800	(6.1%)
Hours worked:	Queensland	1,700	(0.4%)
(thousands, growth)	Australia	7,500	(0.4%)

Key data (seasonally adjusted, monthly)

Employment:	Queensland	-4,300	(-0.2%)
(persons, growth)	Australia	-4,300	(0.0%)
Unemployment:	Queensland	0	(3.9%)
(persons, rate)	Australia	18,400	(3.7%)

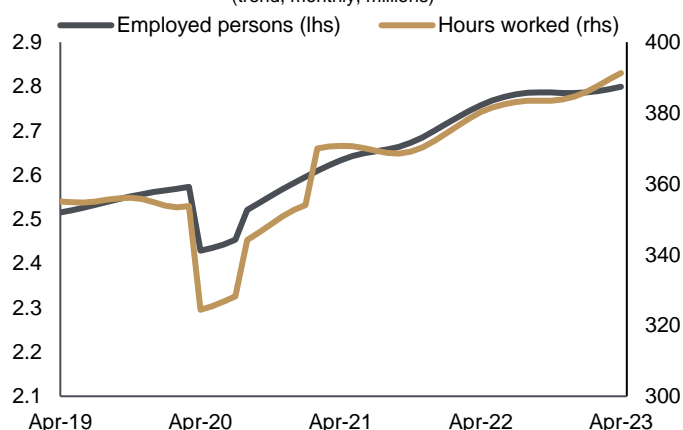
Main findings (trend)

Employment in Queensland rose by 5,300 persons (0.2%) in April 2023 to be 41,900 persons (1.5%) higher over the year. The rise in March was the result of an increase in both full-time and part-time employment (up 3,000 and 2,300 respectively).

The employment-to-population ratio was 63.6% in April 2023, unchanged from March 2023 but well above its pre-COVID ratio of 62.0%. Hours worked rose 0.4% in April and were 10.6% above the level in March 2020 (**Chart 1**).

The ABS noted 'the ongoing strength in hours worked (nationally) over the past six months shows the demand for labour, to some extent, is being met by people working more hours.'

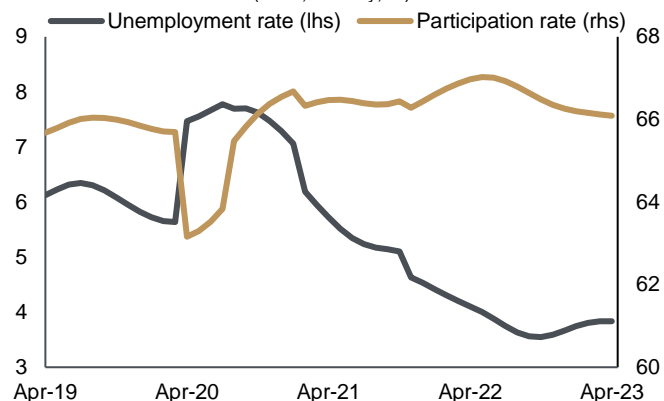
Chart 1: Employment and hours worked, Queensland
(trend, monthly, millions)



The unemployment rate was 3.8% in April, unchanged from March 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 April, unchanged from March, but above the pre-COVID rate of 65.7%.

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



Nationally, trend employment rose by 24,000 persons in April (0.2%, **Table 1**) to be 900,000 (6.9%) above its pre-COVID level of March 2020. In seasonally adjusted terms, employment nationally fell 4,300 persons in April, following a revised 61,100 person rise in March.

The ABS noted, 'in trend terms, the strong growth in hours worked, the high employment-to-population ratio and participation rate, along with the low unemployment and underemployment rates, all still point to a tight labour market.'

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.6% in April (**Table 2**). Hours worked increased by 0.4% in the month to be 9.2% above the pre-COVID level in March 2020.

Table 1: Labour force outcomes, April 2023
(trend)

	QUEENSLAND				AUSTRALIA						
	Apr-23	Monthly change	Yearly change		Apr-23	Monthly change	Yearly change				
	'000s	'000s	%	'000s	%	'000s	'000s	%	'000s	%	
Employed	2,799.2	5.3	0.2	41.9	1.5	13,878.9	24.0	0.2	353.0	2.6	
Full-time	1,950.7	3.0	0.2	33.6	1.8	9,723.6	22.8	0.2	351.2	3.7	
Part-time	848.5	2.3	0.3	8.3	1.0	4,155.3	1.2	0.0	1.8	0.0	
Unemployed	111.7	0.3	0.2	-6.3	-5.3	521.8	4.3	0.8	-16.1	-3.0	
Underemployed	187.5	-0.2	-0.1	2.1	1.1	878.8	2.8	0.3	7.4	0.8	
Labour force	2,910.9	5.6	0.2	35.6	1.2	14,400.8	28.3	0.2	336.9	2.4	
	Millions	Millions	%	Millions	%	Millions	Millions	%	Millions	%	
Hours worked	391.3	1.7	0.4	11.0	2.9	1,932.7	7.5	0.4	91.6	5.0	
	Apr-23	Mar-23	Apr-22				Apr-23	Mar-23	Apr-22		
	%						%				
Unemployment rate	3.8	3.8	4.1				3.6	3.6	3.8		
Underemployment rate	6.4	6.5	6.4				6.1	6.1	6.2		
Participation rate	66.1	66.1	67.0				66.7	66.7	66.6		

Table 2: Interstate comparison¹, April 2023
(trend)

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed							
% change on a month ago	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	5,300	800	11,000	2,600	3,600	700	24,000
% change on a year ago	1.5	3.1	3.1	3.8	1.1	3.9	2.6
Change on a year ago (no.)	41,900	128,500	107,000	34,700	16,000	11,000	353,000
Unemployment rate (%)							
April-23	3.8	3.3	3.8	4.0	3.6	3.8	3.6
March-23	3.8	3.3	3.8	4.0	3.7	3.9	3.6
April-22	4.1	3.6	3.9	4.6	3.2	4.1	3.8
Hours worked (millions)							
April-23	391.3	606.4	500.6	127.6	217.4	38.9	1,932.7
Monthly % change	0.4	0.5	1.0	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.4
Annual % change	2.9	5.3	7.1	6.3	4.3	7.5	5.0

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