

Labour Force, May 2023

Source: ABS Labour Force, released 15 June 2023, 11:30 am AEST.

NOTE: These data reflect conditions during the survey reference weeks (30 April to 13 May 2023).

Key data (trend, monthly)

Employment:	Queensland	11,300	(0.4%)
(persons, growth)	Australia	39,800	(0.3%)
Unemployment:	Queensland	700	(3.9%)
(persons, rate)	Australia	1,100	(3.5%)
Labour force:	Queensland	12,000	(0.4%)
(persons, growth)	Australia	40,900	(0.3%)
Underemployment:	Queensland	1,700	(6.6%)
(persons, rate)	Australia	7,000	(6.3%)
Hours worked:	Queensland	2,000	(0.5%)
(thousands, growth)	Australia	7,200	(0.4%)

Key data (seasonally adjusted, monthly)

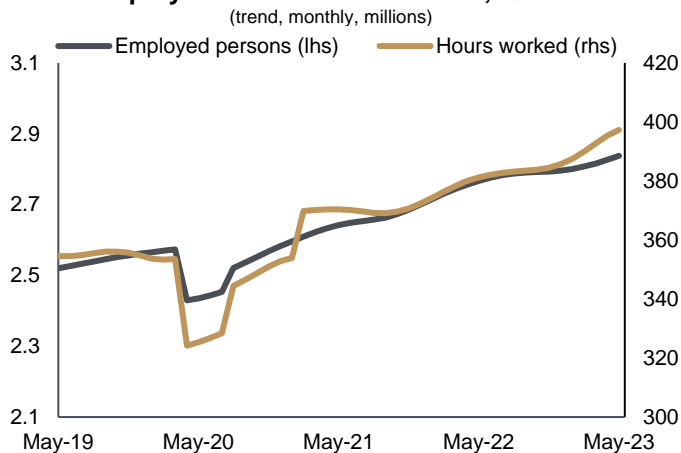
Employment:	Queensland	27,000	(1.0%)
(persons, growth)	Australia	75,900	(0.5%)
Unemployment:	Queensland	3,100	(3.9%)
(persons, rate)	Australia	-16,500	(3.6%)

Main findings (trend)

Employment in Queensland rose by 11,300 persons (0.4%) in May 2023 to be 70,800 persons (2.6%) higher over the year. The rise in May was driven by an increase in both full-time and part-time employment (up 8,500 and 2,900 respectively).

The employment-to-population ratio was 63.9% in May 2023, up from 63.8% in April and well above its pre-COVID ratio of 62.0%. Hours worked rose 0.5% in May and was 12.4% above its level in March 2020 (Chart 1).

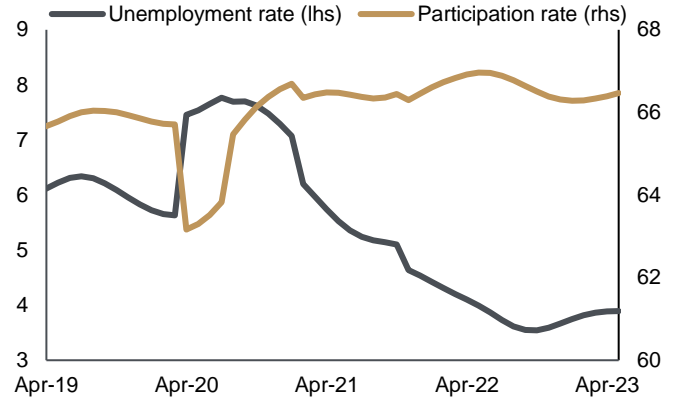
Chart 1: Employment and hours worked, Queensland



The unemployment rate was 3.9% in May, unchanged from April 2023 and still well below the pre-COVID rate of 5.6% in March 2020 (Chart 2).

Meanwhile, Queensland's participation rate was 66.5% in May, up from 66.4% in April, and well above its pre-COVID rate of 65.7%.

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



Nationally, trend employment rose by 39,800 persons in May (0.3%, Table 2) to be 1,024,500 (7.9%) above its pre-COVID level of March 2020. In seasonally adjusted terms, employment grew by 75,900 persons which greatly exceeded market expectations.

The national unemployment rate fell to 3.5% in May (Table 1). Hours worked increased by 0.4% in the month to be 9.9% above its pre-COVID level in March 2020.

The ABS noted the strength in hours worked relative to employment growth since late 2022 'shows the demand for labour in a tight market is being met, to some extent, by people working more hours.'

Table 1: Labour force outcomes, May 2023

	Queensland						Australia					
	May-23		Monthly change	Yearly change		May-23	Monthly change		Yearly change			
	'000	'000	%	'000	%	'000	'000	%	'000	%		
Employed	2,837.7	11.3	0.4	70.8	2.6	14,003.4	39.8	0.3	426.6	3.1		
Full-time	1,978.0	8.5	0.4	52.6	2.7	9,818.1	33.1	0.3	393.4	4.2		
Part-time	859.7	2.9	0.3	18.3	2.2	4,185.3	6.7	0.2	33.1	0.8		
Unemployed	114.9	0.7	0.6	-0.1	-0.1	512.8	1.1	0.2	-14.5	-2.8		
Underemployed	195.0	1.7	0.9	13.2	7.3	907.5	7.0	0.8	45.6	5.3		
Labour force	2,952.6	12.0	0.4	70.7	2.5	14,516.1	40.9	0.3	412.1	2.9		

	Queensland		Australia		
	millions	millions	millions	millions	
	May-23	Apr-23	May-23	Apr-23	
Hours worked	397.3	2.0	0.5	16.2	4.2
Unemployment rate	3.9	3.9	4.0	3.5	3.5
Underemployment rate	6.6	6.6	6.3	6.3	6.1
Participation rate	66.5	66.4	67.0	66.8	66.7

Table 2: Interstate comparison¹, May 2023

	(trend)						
	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed							
% change on a month ago	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.3
Change on a month ago (no.)	11,300	10,600	14,600	3,900	2,100	500	39,800
% change on a year ago	2.6	3.3	3.7	5.1	1.7	3.5	3.1
Change on a year ago (no.)	70,800	140,700	128,500	46,200	26,300	9,900	426,600
Unemployment rate							
May-23	3.9	3.1	3.7	3.9	3.6	4.0	3.5
April-23	3.9	3.2	3.7	3.9	3.7	4.0	3.5
May-22	4.0	3.5	3.7	4.5	3.2	4.1	3.7
Hours worked (millions)							
May 2023	397.3	607.3	499.3	128.6	217.0	38.9	1,943.8
Monthly % change	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.4
Annual % change	4.2	4.7	6.7	6.9	4.0	7.1	5.4

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