

Labour Force, July 2023

Source: ABS Labour Force, released 17 August 2023, 11:30 am AEST.

NOTE: These data reflect conditions during the survey reference weeks (2 July to 15 July 2023).

Key data (trend, monthly)

Employment:	Queensland	7,900	(0.3%)
(persons, growth)	Australia	27,300	(0.2%)
Unemployment:	Queensland	2,400	(4.1%)
(persons, rate)	Australia	5,400	(3.6%)
Labour force:	Queensland	10,300	(0.3%)
(persons, growth)	Australia	32,600	(0.2%)
Underemployment:	Queensland	1,000	(6.7%)
(persons, rate)	Australia	4,300	(6.4%)
Hours worked:	Queensland	200	(0.1%)
(thousands, growth)	Australia	5,700	(0.3%)

Key data (seasonally adjusted, monthly)

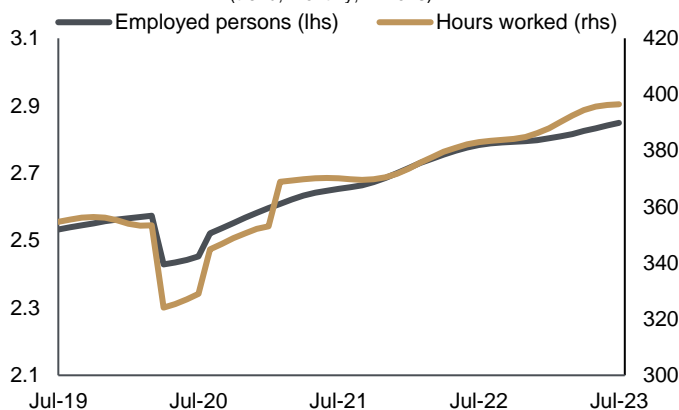
Employment:	Queensland	-22,800	-(0.8%)
(persons, growth)	Australia	-14,600	-(0.1%)
Unemployment:	Queensland	25,000	(4.5%)
(persons, rate)	Australia	35,600	(3.7%)

Main findings (trend)

Employment in Queensland rose by 7,900 persons (0.3%) in July 2023 to be 66,300 persons (2.4%) higher over the year. The rise in July was driven by an increase in full-time employment, up 9,500.

The employment-to-population ratio was 63.8% in July 2023, unchanged from June and well above its pre-COVID ratio of 62.0%. Hours worked rose 0.1% in the month and was 12.2% above its level in March 2020 (Chart 1).

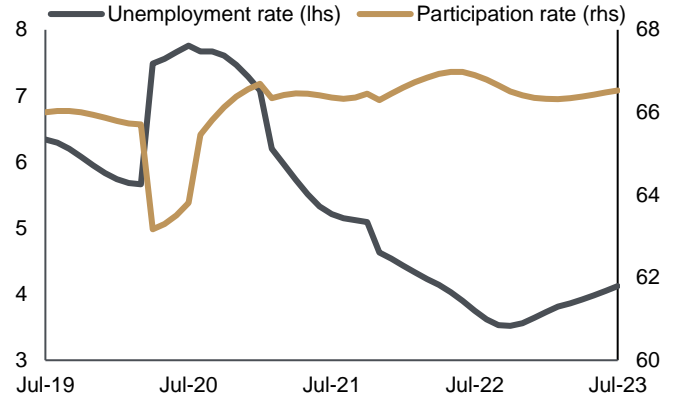
Chart 1: Employment and hours worked, Queensland
(trend, monthly, millions)



The unemployment rate was 4.1% in July, unchanged from a revised June 2023 and still well below the pre-COVID rate of 5.7% in March 2020 (Chart 2).

Meanwhile, Queensland's participation rate was 66.5% in July, unchanged from June, and well above its pre-COVID rate of 65.7%. This equates to 10,300 persons entering the labour force in Queensland in July 2023. A total of 244,100 persons have entered the labour force since March 2020.

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



Nationally, trend employment rose by 27,300 persons in July (0.2%, Table 2) to be 1,077,500 (8.3%) above its pre-COVID level of March 2020. In seasonally adjusted terms, employment fell by 14,600 persons, which was well below market expectations for a 15,000 person increase.

The national unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.6% in July (Table 1). Hours worked increased by 0.3% in the month to be 10.9% above its pre-COVID level in March 2020.

The ABS noted 'July includes the school holidays, and we continue to see some changes around when people take their leave and start or leave a job. It's important to consider this when looking at month-to-month changes, compared with the usual seasonal pattern.'

Table 1: Labour force outcomes¹, July 2023
(trend)

	QUEENSLAND				AUSTRALIA					
	Jul-23	Monthly change	Yearly change	Jul-23	Monthly change	Yearly change	Jul-23	Monthly change	Yearly change	
	'000s	'000s	%	'000s	%	'000s	%	'000s	%	
Employed	2,849.3	7.9	0.3	66.3	2.4	14,056.1	27.3	0.2	398.9	2.9
Full-time	1,995.4	9.5	0.5	65.7	3.4	9,869.1	23.0	0.2	368.6	3.9
Part-time	853.9	-1.7	-0.2	0.6	0.1	4,187.0	4.3	0.1	30.4	0.7
Unemployed	122.4	2.4	2.0	13.9	12.8	528.8	5.4	1.0	24.5	4.9
Underemployed	199.8	1.0	0.5	18.1	10.0	930.5	4.3	0.5	83.0	9.8
Labour force	2,971.7	10.3	0.3	80.2	2.8	14,585.0	32.6	0.2	423.5	3.0
	millions	millions	%	millions	%	millions	%	millions	%	millions
Hours worked	396.5	0.2	0.1	13.5	3.5	1,955.7	5.7	0.3	100.0	5.4
	Jul-23	Jun-23	Jul-22	Jul-23	Jun-23	Jul-22	Jul-23	Jun-23	Jul-22	Jul-23
	%			%			%			
Unemployment rate	4.1	4.1	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6				
Underemployment rate	6.7	6.7	6.3	6.4	6.4	6.0				
Participation rate	66.5	66.5	66.9	66.8	66.8	66.7				

Table 2: Interstate comparison¹, July 2023
(trend)

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed							
% change on a month ago	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1	-0.2	0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	7,900	7,800	13,000	1,100	1,200	-500	27,300
% change on a year ago	2.4	2.7	4.2	4.5	1.4	2.1	2.9
Change on a year ago (no.)	66,300	116,200	146,500	41,300	21,800	6,000	398,900
Unemployment rate							
July-23	4.1	3.2	3.6	4.1	3.5	4.2	3.6
June-23	4.1	3.2	3.7	4.0	3.5	4.2	3.6
July-22	3.8	3.4	3.6	4.3	3.3	4.1	3.6
Hours worked (millions)							
July 2023	396.5	610.4	502.5	128.9	219.3	38.7	1,955.7
Monthly % change	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	-0.1	0.3
Annual % change	3.5	4.6	6.6	6.3	5.0	5.1	5.4

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