

# Labour Force, August 2023

Source: ABS Labour Force, released 14 September 2023, 11:30 am AEST.

**NOTE: These data reflect conditions during the survey reference weeks (30 July to 12 August 2023).**

## Key data (trend, monthly)

<b>Employment:</b>	Queensland	<b>6,000</b>	<b>(0.2%)</b>
(persons, growth)	Australia	<b>28,300</b>	<b>(0.2%)</b>
<b>Unemployment:</b>	Queensland	<b>1,500</b>	<b>(4.1%)</b>
(persons, rate)	Australia	<b>6,800</b>	<b>(3.7%)</b>
<b>Labour force:</b>	Queensland	<b>7,600</b>	<b>(0.3%)</b>
(persons, growth)	Australia	<b>35,100</b>	<b>(0.2%)</b>
<b>Underemployment:</b>	Queensland	<b>1,400</b>	<b>(6.8%)</b>
(persons, rate)	Australia	<b>5,900</b>	<b>(6.5%)</b>
<b>Hours worked:</b>	Queensland	<b>0</b>	<b>(0.0%)</b>
(thousands, growth)	Australia	<b>3,300</b>	<b>(0.2%)</b>

## Key data (seasonally adjusted, monthly)

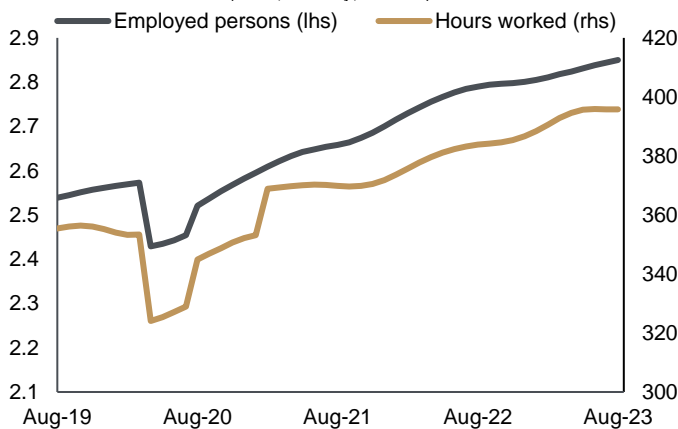
<b>Employment:</b>	Queensland	<b>13,600</b>	<b>(0.5%)</b>
(persons, growth)	Australia	<b>64,900</b>	<b>(0.5%)</b>
<b>Unemployment:</b>	Queensland	<b>-9,900</b>	<b>(4.1%)</b>
(persons, rate)	Australia	<b>-2,600</b>	<b>(3.7%)</b>

## Main findings (trend)

Employment in Queensland rose by 6,000 persons (0.2%) in August 2023 to be 59,300 persons (2.1%) higher over the year. The rise in August was driven by an increase in both full-time and part-time employment (up 5,100 and 1,000 respectively).

The employment-to-population ratio was 63.7% in August 2023, stable over the month and above the pre-COVID ratio of 62.0%. Hours worked remained unchanged in August at 395.7 million hours, to be 3.1% higher over the year (Chart 1).

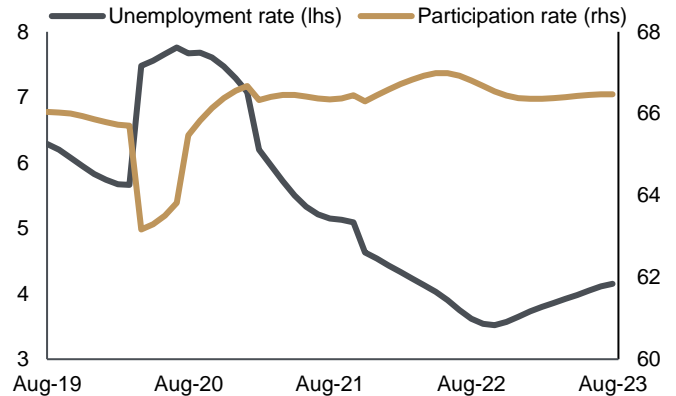
**Chart 1: Employment and hours worked, Queensland**  
(trend, monthly, millions)



The unemployment rate was 4.1% in August 2023, unchanged from 4.1% in July 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 August 2023 unchanged from July 2023, and above its pre-COVID rate of 65.7%.

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



Nationally, trend employment rose by 28,300 persons in August (0.2%, Table 2) to be 1,118,000 (8.6%) above its pre-COVID level in March 2020. In seasonally adjusted terms, employment nationally grew by 64,900 persons which greatly exceeded market expectations for 23,000 persons.

The ABS noted, 'The strength in hours worked over the past year, relative to employment growth, shows the demand for labour is continuing to be met by people working more hours, to some extent'.

The national unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.7% in August (Table 1). Hours worked increased by 0.2% in the month to be 10.8% above its pre-COVID level in March 2020.

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

	QUEENSLAND				AUSTRALIA					
	Aug-23	Monthly change	Yearly change		Aug-23	Monthly change	Yearly change			
	'000s	'000s	%	'000s	%	'000s	%	'000s	%	
Employed	2,849.7	6.0	0.2	59.3	2.1	14,096.1	28.3	0.2	399.7	2.9
Full-time	1,995.1	5.1	0.3	62.0	3.2	9,878.0	14.0	0.1	340.9	3.6
Part-time	854.6	1.0	0.1	-2.7	-0.3	4,218.1	14.3	0.3	58.8	1.4
Unemployed	123.3	1.5	1.3	18.5	17.7	539.7	6.8	1.3	43.5	8.8
Underemployed	203.1	1.4	0.7	18.9	10.2	947.0	5.9	0.6	100.9	11.9
Labour force	2,973.0	7.6	0.3	77.9	2.7	14,635.8	35.1	0.2	443.2	3.1
	millions	millions	%	millions	%	millions	millions	%	millions	%
Hours worked	395.7	0.0	0.0	11.9	3.1	1,953.9	3.3	0.2	85.7	4.6
	Aug-23	Jul-23	Aug-22			Aug-23	Jul-23	Aug-22		
	%			%			%			
Unemployment rate	4.1	4.1	3.6			3.7	3.7	3.5		
Underemployment rate	6.8	6.8	6.4			6.5	6.4	6.0		
Participation rate	66.5	66.5	66.8			67.0	66.9	66.7		

**Table 2: Interstate comparison<sup>1</sup>, August 2023**  
(trend)

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
<b>Employed</b>							
% change on a month ago	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	-0.1	0.2
Change on a month ago (no.)	6,000	10,000	9,600	2,000	4,900	-200	28,300
% change on a year ago	2.1	2.6	4.1	4.3	2.7	1.6	2.9
Change on a year ago (no.)	59,300	111,400	145,400	39,000	40,900	4,500	399,700
<b>Unemployment rate</b>							
August-23	4.1	3.3	3.6	3.9	3.6	4.4	3.7
July-23	4.1	3.3	3.6	3.9	3.6	4.3	3.7
August-22	3.6	3.3	3.6	4.2	3.3	4.0	3.5
<b>Hours worked (millions)</b>							
August 2023	395.7	609.1	500.7	128.2	220.2	38.4	1,953.9
Monthly % change	0.0	0.2	0.0	-0.1	0.0	-0.1	0.2
Annual % change	3.1	3.5	5.6	5.1	5.0	2.9	4.6

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