

Labour Force, January 2025

Source: ABS Labour Force, released 21 February 2025, 10:30 am AEST

	Queensland		Australia	
Trend - January 2025				
Employment (persons, growth)	6,600	(0.2%)	33,700	(0.2%)
Unemployment (persons, rate)	-200	(3.9%)	500	(4.0%)
Labour force (persons, growth)	6,500	(0.2%)	34,200	(0.2%)
Underemployment (persons, rate)	200	(6.2%)	-4,000	(6.0%)
Hours worked (thousands, growth)	700	(0.2%)	1,900	(0.1%)
Seasonally adjusted - January 2025				
Employment (persons, growth)	-4,000	(-0.1%)	44,000	(0.3%)
Unemployment (persons, rate)	1,900	(3.9%)	23,400	(4.1%)

In trend terms, employment rose by 6,600 persons (0.2%) in January 2025 to be 101,500 persons (3.5%) higher over the year. Both full-time (up 3,600) and part-time (up 3,000) employment rose in January.

In more volatile seasonally adjusted (s.a.) terms, employment fell 0.1% (4,000 persons) in the month. However, this followed a solid 0.5% rise in the previous month, which resulted in the level of employment hitting a record s.a. high of above 3 million.

The unemployment rate was 3.9% in January, unchanged from December 2024, remaining at its lowest level since mid-2023 and still well below the pre-COVID rate of 5.6% in March 2020 (**Chart 1**).

Queensland's participation rate was 67.2% in January for the fifth consecutive month, the highest rate in well over a decade and near the record 68.0% recorded during the pre-GFC boom.

Chart 1: Unemployment and participation rates, Queensland

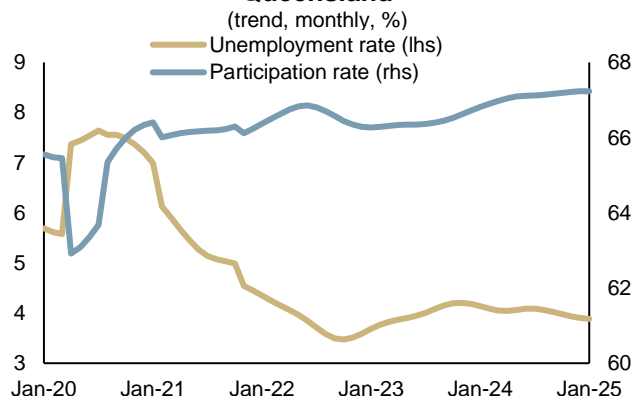
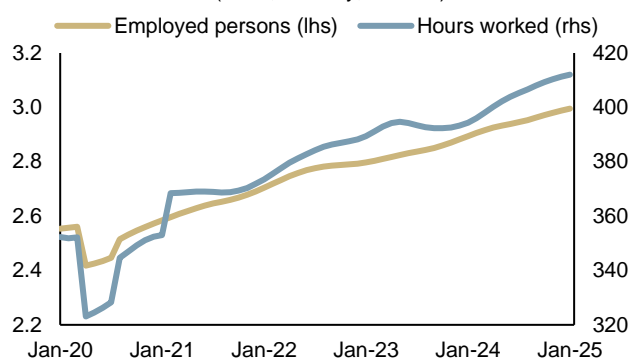


Chart 2: Employment and hours worked, Queensland

(trend, monthly, millions)



The employment-to-population ratio was 64.6% in January 2025, remaining at its highest level since March 2009 for the third consecutive month. Hours worked rose 0.2% in January to be 17.0% above its level in March 2020 (**Chart 2**).

Queensland's underemployment ratio¹ remained at 6.5% in January while the underemployment rate also held steady at 6.2%, reflecting a slowly easing trend in the share of underemployed workers in the labour force since late 2023.

The underutilisation rate remained at 10.1% in January, an improvement of 11.1% from the same period the year before, signalling a stronger job market with reduced workforce underutilisation.

Nationally, trend employment rose by 33,700 persons in January (up 0.2%, **Table 1**) to be 424,100 (up 3.0%) higher over the year. In s.a. terms, employment nationally grew by 44,000 persons which was well above market expectations for a 20,000 increase.

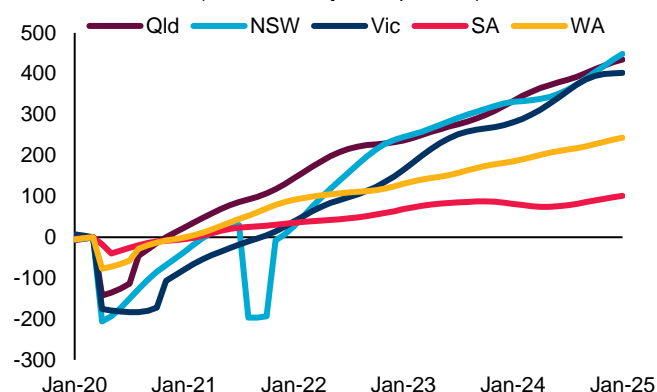
The ABS noted, 'The number of employed people grew by 0.3 per cent in January 2025, the same pace as the average monthly rise in 2024, but higher than the average monthly population growth of 0.2 per cent during 2024.'

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.0% in January 2025. Hours worked rose 0.1% in the month, to be 2.8% higher over the year. The ABS noted that, 'As in the past three Januarys, in January 2025 we again saw more people than usual who had a job but were waiting to start or return to work.'

Economic Strategy

Chart 3: Employment growth since March 2020

(trend, monthly, '000 persons)



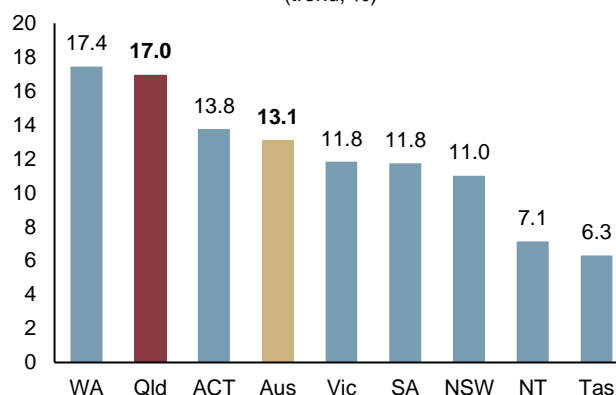
Queensland's employment growth continues to outpace that of most other states, increasing 3.5% over the year to January, just behind the 3.6% growth recorded in Western Australia. The next strongest was Victoria (up 3.3%), followed by New South Wales (up 2.7%) and South Australia (up 2.1%). Tasmania was the only state that recorded a decline over the year (down 0.3%).

Since pre-COVID, Queensland has had the second highest growth in the number of employed persons (up 434,700) and the second fastest growth rate (up 17.0%) behind New South Wales (up 448,500) and Western Australia (17.4%) respectively. The result remains well

above the national average growth of 13.1% (Charts 3 & 4).

Chart 4: Employment growth Mar-20 to Oct-24

(trend, %)



The unemployment rate held steady or declined across the states with Queensland and New South Wales jointly with the second lowest at 3.9%, behind Western Australia at 3.5% and below the national average of 4.0% (Table 1).

Table 1: Key labour force indicators, January 2025

(trend)

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (000s)	3,000	4,520	3,800	960	1,640	280	14,620
Monthly change (%)	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2
Monthly change (no.)	6,630	13,970	1,240	3,320	4,890	1,040	33,720
Annual change (%)	3.5	2.7	3.3	2.1	3.6	-0.3	3.0
Annual change (no.)	101,500	117,400	121,300	19,600	57,700	-900	424,100
Unemployment rate (%)							
January 2025	3.9	3.9	4.6	4.1	3.5	4.0	4.0
December 2024	3.9	3.9	4.6	4.1	3.5	4.1	4.0
January 2024	4.1	3.7	4.0	3.9	3.8	4.1	3.9
Hours worked (millions)	412.0	606.9	504.5	126.6	231.2	36.3	1976.4
Monthly change (%)	0.2	0.1	-0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.1
Annual change (%)	4.5	1.6	2.1	1.8	4.8	-1.1	2.8
Participation rate (%)							
January 2025	67.2	66.6	68.1	63.7	69.0	60.7	67.2
December 2024	67.2	66.5	68.2	63.5	68.9	60.5	67.2
January 2024	66.8	66.0	67.2	63.3	68.8	61.3	66.7
Underemployment rate (%)							
January 2025	6.2	5.9	6.1	6.8	5.5	7.8	6.0
December 2024	6.2	5.9	6.3	6.9	5.5	7.8	6.0
January 2024	6.9	6.5	7.0	7.3	5.9	7.2	6.6

- The underemployment ratio measures the proportion of underemployed workers out of all employed persons, the underemployment rate measures underemployed persons as a proportion of the total labour force, and the underutilisation rate combines both unemployment and underemployment to indicate spare capacity in the labour market.