

Labour Force, March 2025

Source: ABS Labour Force, released 17 April 2025, 11:30 am AEST.

	Queensland		Australia	
Trend - March 2025				
Employment (persons, growth)	2,100	(0.1%)	13,900	(0.1%)
Unemployment (persons, rate)	100	(3.9%)	1,500	(4.0%)
Labour force (persons, growth)	2,200	(0.1%)	15,400	(0.1%)
Underemployment (persons, rate)	-300	(6.2%)	-900	(5.9%)
Hours worked (thousands, growth)	-1,800	(-0.4%)	0	(0.0%)
Seasonally adjusted - March 2025				
Employment (persons, growth)	10,600	(0.4%)	32,200	(0.2%)
Unemployment (persons, rate)	-2,700	(3.9%)	3,000	(4.1%)

In trend terms, employment rose slightly by 2,100 persons (0.1%) in March 2025 to be 63,700 persons (2.2%) higher over the year. Full-time employment was broadly unchanged in March (down 200) while part-time employment rose 0.3% (up 2,300).

In more volatile seasonally adjusted terms, employment grew 10,600 persons (up 0.4%) in the month, to a level of 2.978 million total employed.

The trend unemployment rate was 3.9% in March, unchanged from February 2025, 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 66.9% in March 2025, remaining around the highest rates in well over a decade and only 1 percentage point below the record 68.0 per cent recorded during the pre-GFC boom.

Chart 1: Unemployment and participation rates, Queensland

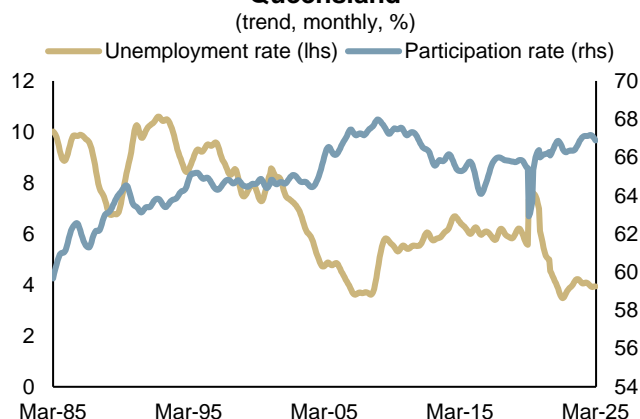
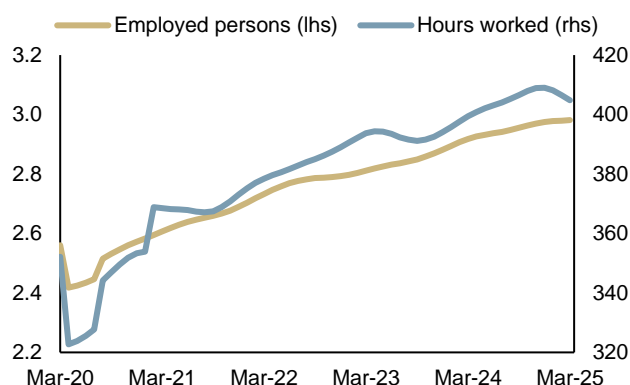


Chart 2: Employment and hours worked, Queensland

(trend, monthly, millions)



The employment-to-population ratio was 64.3% in March 2025, unchanged from February but well above its pre-COVID ratio of 61.8%. Hours worked fell 0.4% in March and was 14.9% above its level in March 2020 (**Chart 2**).

Queensland's underemployment ratio¹ remained at 6.4% in March. The underemployment rate also held steady at 6.2%, reflecting a broadly stable share of underemployed workers in the labour force.

The underutilisation rate also held steady in March remaining at 10.1% since December 2024. This represents an improvement from 10.9% from the same period the year before, signalling a stronger job market with reduced workforce underutilisation.

Nationally, trend employment rose by 13,900 persons in March (up 0.1%, **Table 1**) to be 330,600 persons (2.3%) higher over the year. In seasonally adjusted terms, employment nationally grew by 32,200 persons which was broadly in line with market expectations for an increase of 40,000.

The national unemployment rate was 4.0% in March, unchanged since November 2024.

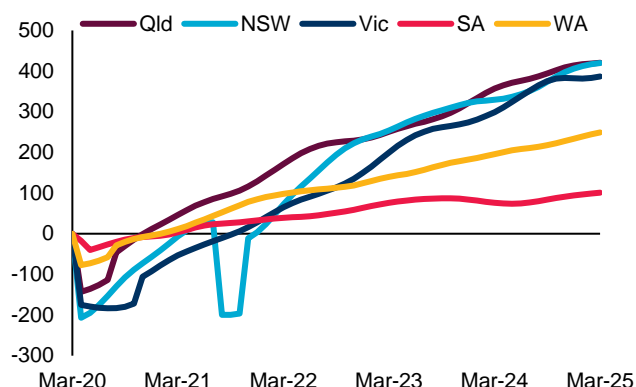
Hours worked nationally were broadly unchanged in March but were up 2.2% over the year and well above the 0.1% annual growth seen in the same period a year earlier.

The ABS noted, 'A higher than usual number of people reported working reduced hours this month due to bad weather, coinciding with ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred and other major weather events in New South Wales and Queensland.'

Economic Strategy

Chart 3: Employment growth since March 2020

(trend, monthly, '000 persons)

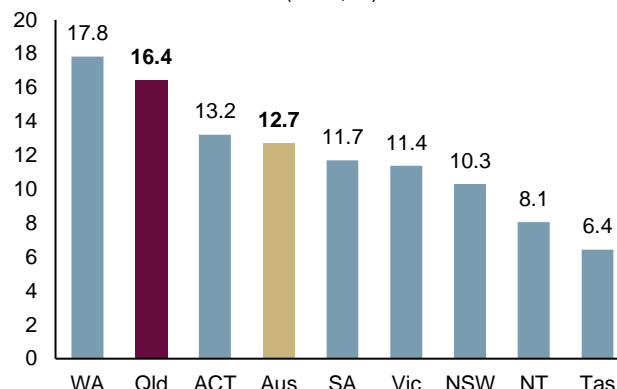


In March, Queensland (up 420,500 persons, **Chart 3**) had the largest employment growth of any state or territory since March 2020, ahead of New South Wales (up 419,900, **Table 1**).

In percentage terms, Queensland had the second largest employment growth (up 16.4%) since March 2020, behind Western Australia (up 17.8%, **Chart 4**).

Chart 4: Employment growth Mar-20 to Mar-25

(trend, %)



Queensland's employment growth remains broadly in line with that of the other states increasing 2.2% over the year to March. This was behind Western Australia (up 3.4%), South Australia (up 2.7%), and Victoria (up 2.4%) and just ahead of New South Wales (up 2.1%).

The unemployment rate held steady across the states with Queensland recording the second lowest rate at 3.9% along with South Australia and Tasmania, behind Western Australia at 3.5% and below the national average of 4.0% (**Table 1**).

Table 1: Key labour force indicators, March 2025

(trend)

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (000s)	2,980	4,490	3,790	960	1,650	280	14,570
Monthly change (%)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1
Monthly change (no.)	2,100	3,200	3,800	2,000	4,600	700	13,900
Annual change (%)	2.2	2.1	2.4	2.7	3.4	0.0	2.3
Annual change (no.)	63,700	90,400	87,600	24,900	53,400	100	330,600
Unemployment rate (%)							
Mar-25	3.9	4.1	4.5	3.9	3.5	3.9	4.0
Feb-25	3.9	4.0	4.5	3.9	3.5	4.0	4.0
Mar-24	4.1	3.8	4.1	4.0	3.7	4.1	4.0
Hours worked (millions)	404.8	607.8	504.4	129.3	233.3	36.8	1972.3
Monthly change (%)	-0.4	0.0	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.0
Annual change (%)	1.4	2.0	1.7	4.5	5.0	1.0	2.2
Participation rate (%)							
Mar-25	66.9	66.3	67.6	63.5	69.1	60.5	66.9
Feb-25	67.0	66.3	67.7	63.4	69.1	60.5	67.0
Mar-24	67.0	65.9	67.3	62.8	68.9	61.0	66.7
Underemployment rate (%)							
Mar-25	6.2	5.7	6.1	6.1	5.7	7.5	5.9
Feb-25	6.2	5.8	6.2	6.2	5.7	7.6	5.9
Mar-24	6.9	6.4	7.0	7.3	5.7	7.5	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.