

Labour Force, April 2025

Source: ABS Labour Force, released 15 May 2025, 11:30 am AEST.

	Queensland		Australia	
Trend - April 2025				
Employment (persons, growth)	7,000	0.2%	26,300	0.2%
Unemployment (persons, rate)	1,300	4.1%	2,100	4.1%
Labour force (persons, growth)	8,300	0.3%	28,400	0.2%
Underemployment (persons, rate)	-1,300	6.0%	5,400	6.0%
Hours worked (thousands, growth)	-1,200	-0.3%	-1,700	-0.1%
Seasonally adjusted - April 2025				
Employment (persons, growth)	26,600	0.9%	89,000	0.6%
Unemployment (persons, rate)	7,900	4.2%	6,300	4.1%

In trend terms, employment rose by 7,000 persons (0.2%) in April 2025 to be 72,700 persons (2.5%) higher over the year. Monthly growth reflected a rise in both full-time (up 2,300) and part-time employment (up 4,700).

In more volatile seasonally adjusted terms, employment grew 26,600 persons (up 0.9%) in the month, surpassing 3 million total employed for the first time in the history of this series.

The trend unemployment rate was 4.1% in April, up from 4.0% in March 2025, but remaining well below the pre-COVID rate of 5.6% in March 2020 (**Chart 1**).

Queensland's participation rate was 67.2% in April, remaining at its highest rate in well over a decade and just below the record 68.0% recorded during the pre-GFC boom.

Chart 1: Unemployment and participation rates, Queensland

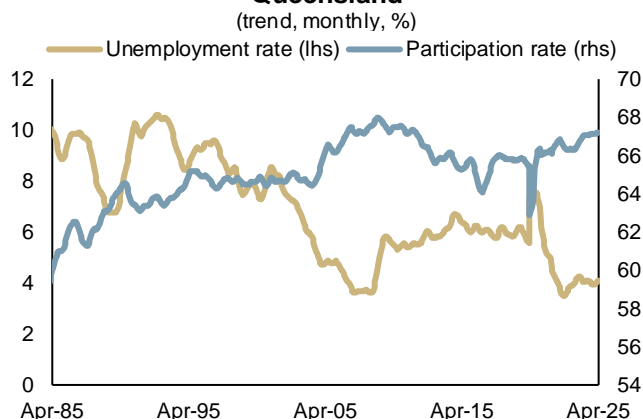
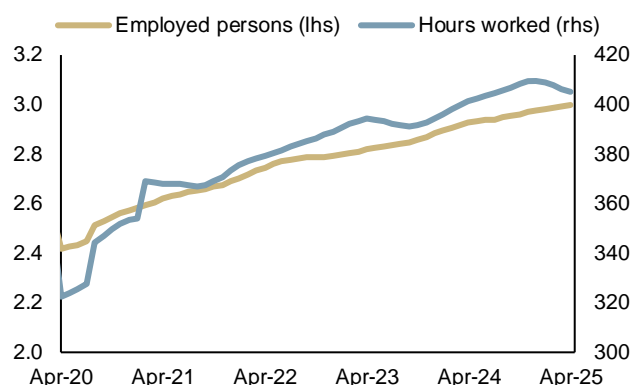


Chart 2: Employment and hours worked, Queensland

(trend, monthly, millions)



The employment-to-population ratio was 64.5% in April 2025, little changed from a year ago but well above its pre-COVID ratio of 61.8%.

Hours worked fell 0.3% in April but were 0.9% higher than a year ago (**Chart 2**). In seasonally adjusted terms, hours worked rose 3.1% in April, recovering from the ex-Tropical Alfred affected March.

Queensland's underemployment ratio¹ remained at 6.3% in April but was down from 7.2% a year ago. The underemployment rate fell 0.1%-point to 6.0%, down from 6.9% a year ago.

The underutilisation rate held steady in April 2025 remaining at 10.1% since December 2024, an improvement from 10.9% in April 2024.

Nationally, trend employment rose by 26,300 persons in April (up 0.2%, **Table 1**) to be 358,500 persons (2.5%) higher over the year. In seasonally adjusted terms, employment nationally grew by 89,000 persons which was well above market expectations for an increase of 20,000.

The national trend unemployment rate was 4.1% in April and has been largely steady (between 4.0% and 4.1%) for over a year.

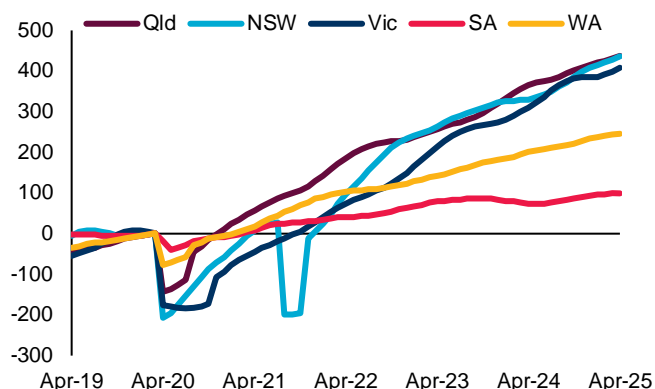
Hours worked nationally were down slightly in April (-0.1%) but were up 1.6% over the year and well above the 0.1% annual growth seen in the same period a year earlier.

The ABS noted, 'employment has grown by 390,000 people (seasonally adjusted), or 2.7 per cent, over the year. This annual growth rate is higher than the population growth rate for people aged 15 years and over, which was 2.1 per cent over the same period.'

Economic Strategy

Chart 3: Employment growth since March 2020

(trend, monthly, '000 persons)

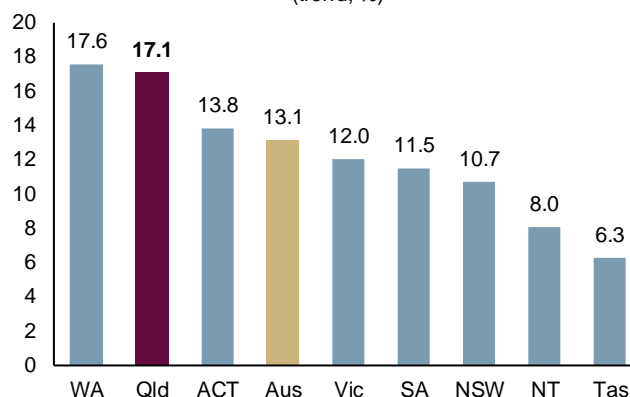


In April, Queensland (up 437,400 persons, **Chart 3**) had the largest employment growth of any state or territory since March 2020, slightly ahead of New South Wales (up 436,400).

In percentage terms, Queensland had the second largest employment growth (up 17.1%) since March 2020, behind Western Australia (up 17.6%, **Chart 4**).

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

(trend, %)



Queensland's employment growth remains broadly in line with that of the other states increasing 2.5% over the year to April. This was behind Western Australia (up 2.8%), South Australia and Victoria (both up 2.6%), and just ahead of New South Wales (up 2.4%).

Unemployment rates across the states were little changed in the month with Western Australia, Tasmania, New South Wales and South Australia all recording rates at 4.0% or lower (**Table 1**).

Table 1: Key labour force indicators, April 2025

(trend)

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (000s)	2,998	4,511	3,807	961	1,643	282	14,622
Monthly change (%)	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Monthly change (no.)	7,000	7,400	10,000	1,100	1,900	300	26,300
Annual change (%)	2.5	2.4	2.6	2.6	2.8	-0.1	2.5
Annual change (no.)	72,700	105,900	97,900	24,400	45,300	-400	358,500
Unemployment rate (%)							
April-25	4.1	3.9	4.4	4.0	3.8	3.8	4.1
March-25	4.0	3.9	4.4	3.9	3.7	3.9	4.1
April-24	4.0	3.9	4.3	4.0	3.8	4.1	4.0
Hours worked (millions)	404.9	605.3	504.6	129.2	233.1	36.7	1,966.7
Monthly change (%)	-0.3	-0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	-0.1
Annual change (%)	0.9	1.4	1.3	4.7	4.6	0.7	1.6
Participation rate (%)							
April-25	67.2	66.3	67.8	63.3	68.9	60.3	67.0
March-25	67.2	66.3	67.8	63.3	68.9	60.4	67.0
April-24	67.1	65.8	67.5	62.6	68.9	61.0	66.7
Underemployment rate (%)							
April-25	6.0	5.9	6.3	6.4	5.4	7.4	6.0
March-25	6.1	5.9	6.3	6.4	5.4	7.5	5.9
April-24	6.9	6.3	7.0	7.3	5.5	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.