

Labour Force, May 2025

Source: ABS Labour Force, released, 19 June 2025, 11:30 am AEST.

	Queensland		Australia	
Trend - May 2025				
Employment (persons, growth)	10,900	0.4%	28,000	0.2%
Unemployment (persons, rate)	-500	4.0%	1,500	-4.1%
Labour force (persons, growth)	10,400	0.3%	29,500	0.2%
Underemployment (persons, rate)	-400	6.1%	1,200	5.9%
Hours worked (thousands, growth)	1,200	0.3%	2,600	0.1%
Seasonally adjusted - May 2025				
Employment (persons, growth)	14,100	0.5%	-2,500	0.0%
Unemployment (persons, rate)	-16,300	3.7%	-2,600	4.1%

In trend terms, employment in Queensland rose by 10,900 persons (0.4%) in May 2025 to be 83,400 persons (2.8%) higher over the year. Monthly growth reflected a rise in both full-time (up 8,000) and part-time employment (up 2,900).

In more volatile seasonally adjusted terms, employment grew 14,100 persons (up 0.5%) in the month, to be 3.0% higher over the year.

The trend unemployment rate was 4.0% in May, down slightly from 4.1% a year ago, and remaining well below the pre-COVID rate of 5.6% in March 2020 (**Chart 1**).

Queensland's participation rate was 67.4% in May, up from 67.1% a year ago, 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

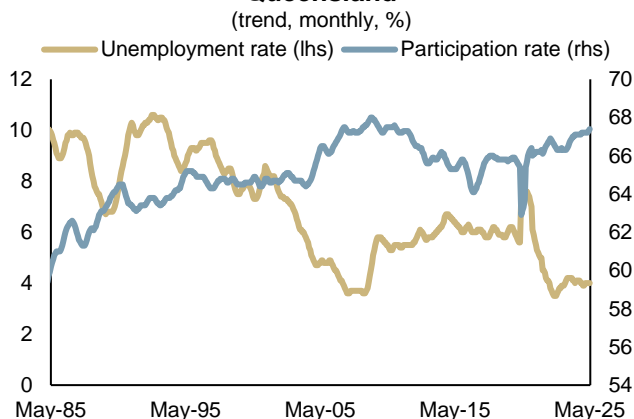
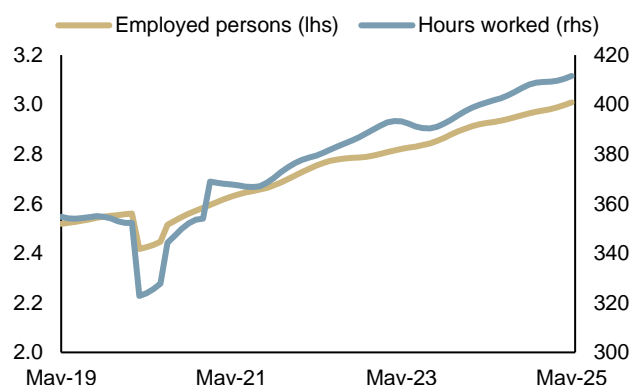


Chart 2: Employment and hours worked, Queensland

(trend, monthly, millions)



The employment-to-population ratio was 64.7% in May 2025, up from 64.3% a year ago and well above its pre-COVID ratio of 61.8%. Hours worked rose 0.3% in May to be 2.7% higher than a year ago (**Chart 2**).

Queensland's underemployment rate fell 0.1%-point to 6.2%, down from 6.8% a year ago. The underutilisation rate fell 0.1%-point to 10.1% in May 2025 remaining around this level since December 2024, an improvement from 10.9% in May 2024.

Queensland's youth unemployment rate was 8.9% (year-average) in May 2025 down from 9.4% a year earlier and well below its pre-COVID rate of 14.4%.

Nationally, trend employment rose by 28,000 persons in May (up 0.2%, **Table 1**) to be 332,000 persons (2.3%) higher over the year. In seasonally adjusted terms, employment nationally fell slightly in the month (down 2,500 persons) which was well below market expectations for an increase of 22,500 but follows a strong result in April 2025 (up 87,600 persons).

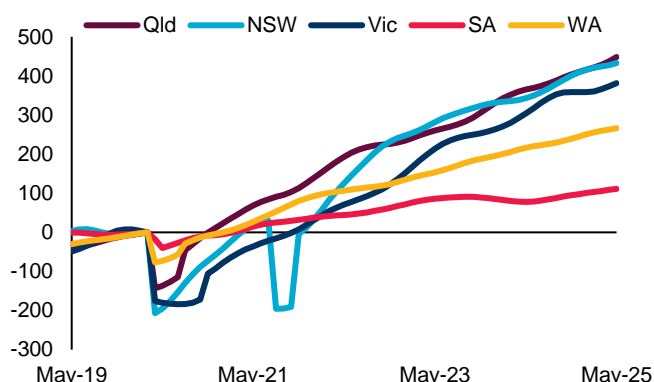
The ABS noted, 'Despite employment falling by 2,000 people this month, it's up 2.3 percent compared to May 2024, which is stronger than the pre-pandemic, 10-year average annual growth of 1.7 per cent.'

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

Hours worked nationally rose 0.1% in May to be up 2.0% over the year. The slower growth in hours worked than employment over the year indicates average hours worked fell by 0.3% over the year, continuing its long-term decline.

Chart 3: Employment growth since March 2020

(trend, monthly, '000 persons)

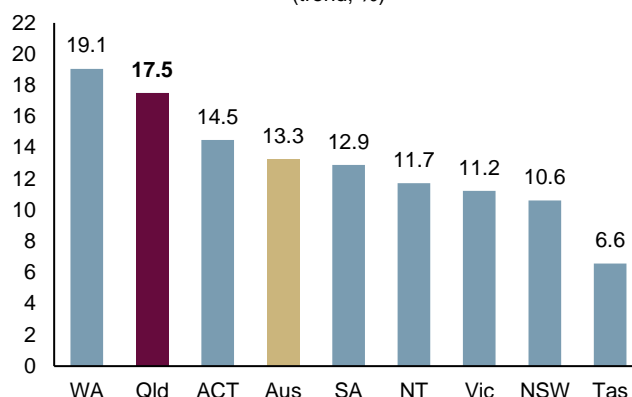


In May, Queensland (up 448,400 persons, **Chart 3**) had the largest employment growth of any state or territory since March 2020, ahead of New South Wales (up 433,000).

In percentage terms, Queensland had the second largest employment growth (up 17.5%) since March 2020, behind Western Australia (up 19.1%, **Chart 4**).

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

(trend, %)



Queensland's annual employment growth (2.8%) was above the national average (2.3%) in May. Queensland was ahead of New South Wales (up 2.1%), Victoria (up 2.0%) and Tasmania (up 0.4%), but behind Western Australia (up 3.1%) and South Australia (up 3.5%).

Unemployment rates across the states were little changed in the month with all states except Victoria (at 4.4%) recording rates at 4.0% or lower (**Table 1**).

Table 1: Key labour force indicators, May 2025

(trend)

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (000s)	3,009	4,507	3,780	973	1,663	283	14,637
Monthly change (%)	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2
Monthly change (no.)	10,900	5,200	8,600	2,500	3,500	700	28,000
Annual change (%)	2.8	2.0	2.1	3.5	3.1	0.4	2.3
Annual change (no.)	83,400	89,600	77,700	33,400	49,900	1100	332,000
Unemployment rate (%)							
May-25	4.0	4.0	4.4	4.0	3.8	3.9	4.1
April-25	4.0	4.0	4.4	4.0	3.7	3.9	4.1
May-24	4.1	3.9	4.4	4.0	3.8	4.1	4.0
Hours worked (millions)	411.6	606.3	504.4	129.3	236.5	36.7	1,979.0
Monthly change (%)	0.3	0.0	0.3	-0.1	0.3	0.0	0.1
Annual change (%)	2.7	1.3	1.6	4.4	5.0	1.4	2.0
Participation rate (%)							
May-25	67.4	66.2	67.6	63.8	69.3	60.7	67.0
April-25	67.3	66.2	67.6	63.7	69.2	60.6	67.0
May-24	67.1	65.9	67.6	62.6	69.1	61.0	66.8
Underemployment rate (%)							
May-25	6.1	5.5	6.3	6.3	5.4	7.5	5.9
April-25	6.2	5.6	6.3	6.3	5.4	7.5	5.9
May-24	6.8	6.2	6.9	7.3	5.5	7.5	6.5

- 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.