

Labour Force, August 2025

Source: ABS *Labour Force*, released 18 September 2025, 11:30 am AEST.

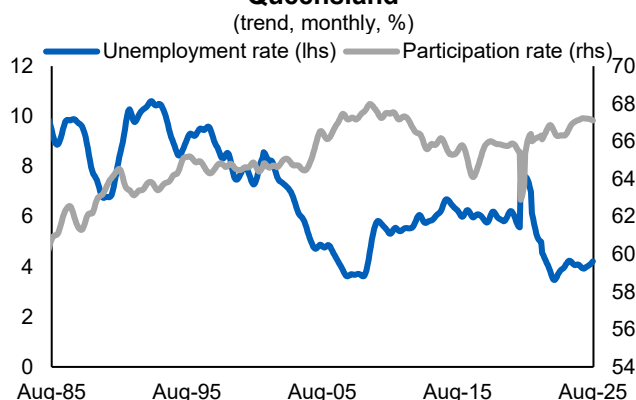
	Queensland		Australia	
Trend - August 2025				
Employment (persons, growth)	2,300	0.1%	18,100	0.1%
Unemployment (persons, rate)	1,800	4.2%	4,100	4.3%
Labour force (persons, growth)	4,100	0.1%	22,200	0.1%
Underemployment (persons, rate)	200	6.0%	-6,800	5.8%
Hours worked (thousands, growth)	800	0.2%	1,200	0.1%
Seasonally adjusted - August 2025				
Employment (persons, growth)	-3,600	-0.1%	-5,400	0.0%
Unemployment (persons, rate)	6,400	4.4%	-900	4.2%

In trend terms, employment in Queensland rose by 2,300 persons (0.1%) in August 2025 to be 59,200 persons (2.0%) higher over the year. Both full-time (up 2,300) and part-time (up 100) employment rose in August.

In more volatile seasonally adjusted terms, employment fell 0.1% (3,600 persons) in the month but was 1.7% higher over the year.

The trend unemployment rate was 4.2% in August, unchanged from July but up from 4.1% in August 2024. However, the jobless rate remained below its pre-COVID rate of 5.6% in March 2020 (**Chart 1**).

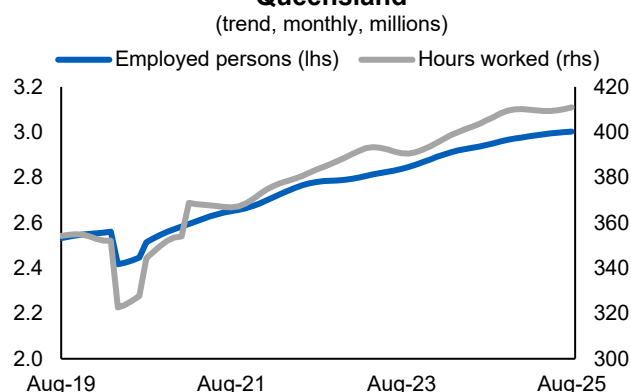
Chart 1: Unemployment and participation rates, Queensland



Queensland's participation rate was 67.1% in August, down from 67.2% a year ago but remaining close to its highest rate in well over a decade and near the record 68.0% registered during the pre-GFC boom.

The employment-to-population ratio was 64.3% in August 2025, down from 64.4% a year ago but well above the pre-COVID ratio of 61.8%. Hours worked rose 0.2% in August to be 1.4% higher than a year ago (**Chart 2**).

Chart 2: Employment and hours worked, Queensland



Queensland's underemployment rate¹ was unchanged at 6.0% in the month and was down from 6.6% from a year ago. The underutilisation rate¹ rose 0.1-point in August, to 10.3%, but is down from 10.6% a year earlier.

Nationally, trend employment rose by 18,100 persons in August (up 0.1%, **Table 1**) to be 241,900 (1.7%) higher over the year. In seasonally adjusted terms, employment fell by 5,400 persons in the month, well below market expectations of a 21,500 increase.

National labour market conditions have eased slightly in recent months, with the unemployment rate rising gradually, though conditions remain relatively tight.

The national trend unemployment rate was up from 4.2% in July to 4.3% in August, after trending higher from the low of 3.5% in late 2022. In seasonally adjusted terms, the national unemployment rate maintained at 4.2% in August, and remains lower than the pre-COVID rate of 5.2% in March 2020.

Hour worked rose 0.1% in August, to be up 1.7% over the year in line with employment growth.

In August, Queensland had the second largest employment growth (up 59,200 persons) of any state or territory over the year, behind Victoria (up 72,400, **Table 1**).

In annual percentage terms, Queensland employment grew 2.0%, ahead of the other eastern seaboard states and the national average of 1.7%, but behind South Australia (up 3.6%) and Tasmania (up 2.2%, **Chart 3**). The unemployment rate remained broadly unchanged across most states except for New South Wales and South Australia ticking up 0.1% pt (to 4.2% and 4.6% respectively), raising the national average to 4.3%.

Chart 3: Annual employment growth, Aug-25
(trend, %)

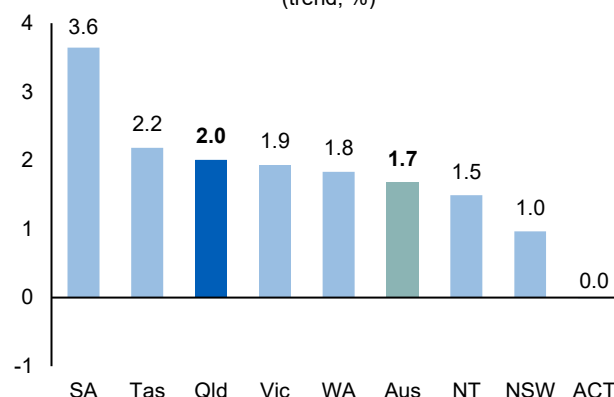


Table 1: Key labour force indicators, August 2025
(trend)

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (000s)	3,000	4,490	3,810	980	1,650	290	14,640
Monthly change (%)	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.1
Monthly change (no.)	2,300	-400	11,400	2,000	400	900	18,100
Annual change (%)	2.0	1.0	1.9	3.6	1.8	2.2	1.7
Annual change (no.)	59,200	42,800	72,400	34,500	29,800	6,100	241,900
Unemployment rate (%)							
August 2025	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.6	4.0	3.7	4.3
July 2025	4.2	4.1	4.4	4.5	4.0	3.7	4.2
August 2024	4.1	3.9	4.5	4.1	3.8	4.1	4.1
Hours worked (millions)	411.0	607.6	505.8	129.5	234.3	37.5	1,985.3
Monthly change (%)	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	-0.3	0.3	0.1
Annual change (%)	1.4	1.2	1.0	3.6	2.8	3.9	1.7
Participation rate (%)							
August 2025	67.1	65.8	67.9	64.6	68.7	61.3	66.9
July 2025	67.1	65.9	67.9	64.5	68.8	61.1	66.9
August 2024	67.2	66.1	68.1	62.8	69.1	60.5	67.0
Underemployment rate (%)							
August 2025	6.0	5.2	6.3	5.9	5.2	7.3	5.8
July 2025	6.0	5.3	6.3	6.0	5.3	7.3	5.8
August 2024	6.6	6.0	6.6	7.4	5.4	7.5	6.3

1. 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.