

Labour Force, September 2025

Source: ABS *Labour Force*, released 16 October 2025, 10:30 am AEST.

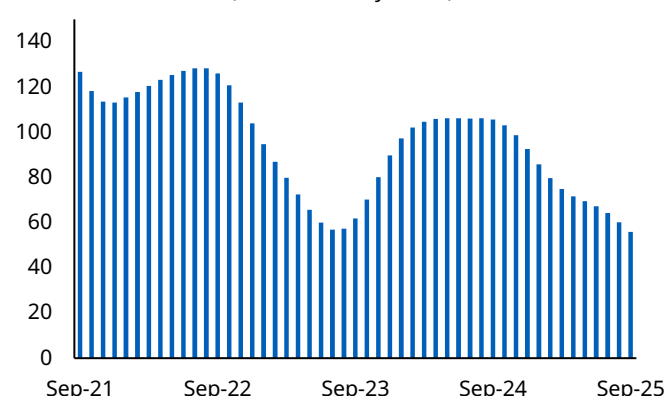
	Queensland		Australia	
Trend - September 2025				
Employment (persons, growth)	3,200	0.1%	19,900	0.1%
Unemployment (persons, rate)	1,200	4.2%	4,000	4.3%
Labour force (persons, growth)	4,400	0.1%	23,800	0.2%
Underemployment (persons, rate)	300	6.0%	-400	5.9%
Hours worked (thousands, growth)	1,100	0.3%	1,000	0.1%
Seasonally adjusted - September 2025				
Employment (persons, growth)	14,500	0.5%	14,900	0.1%
Unemployment (persons, rate)	-4,300	4.2%	33,900	4.5%

Queensland

In trend terms, employment in Queensland rose by 3,200 persons (0.1%) in September 2025 to be 55,900 persons (2.0%) higher over the year (Chart 1). Both full-time (up 1,600) and part-time (up 1,700) employment rose in September.

In more volatile seasonally adjusted terms, employment rose 14,500 persons (up 0.5%) in the month and was 2.2% higher over the year.

Chart 1: Annual change in employment, Queensland
(trend, monthly, '000s)

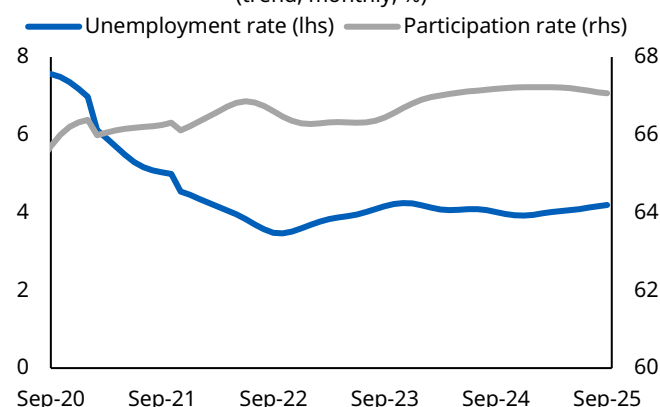


The trend unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.2% in September, but up from 4.0% in the previous year. Queensland's unemployment rate has been relatively stable since late 2023, fluctuating between 3.9% and 4.2% (Chart 2).

Queensland's participation rate was 67.1% in September, down from 67.2% a year ago but remaining close to its highest rate in well over a decade and near the record of 68.0% in early 2009, during the coal mining investment boom.

The employment-to-population ratio was 64.3% in September 2025, down from 64.5% a year ago. Hours worked rose 0.3% in September to be 1.4% higher than a year ago.

Chart 2: Unemployment and participation rates, Queensland
(trend, monthly, %)



Queensland's underemployment rate¹ was unchanged at 6.0% in the month and was down from 6.4% from a year ago. The underutilisation rate¹ was 10.2% in September, unchanged from August, but down from 10.5% a year earlier.

National

Nationally, trend employment rose 19,900 persons in September (up 0.1%, Table 1) to be 213,500 (1.5%) higher over the year. In seasonally adjusted terms, employment rose by 14,900 persons in the month, below market expectations of a 20,000 person increase.

The trend unemployment rate remained at 4.3% in September but was up from 4.1% a year earlier and has been edging higher from the low of 3.5% in late 2022. In seasonally adjusted terms, the unemployment rate rose to 4.5% in September, from 4.3% in August and up from 4.0% in the previous year.

Hours worked rose 0.1% in September, to be up 1.5% over the year, in line with employment growth.

Interstate comparison

In September, Queensland had the second largest annual employment growth (up 55,900 persons) of any state or territory, behind Victoria (up 65,600, Table 1).

In percentage terms, Queensland employment grew 1.9% over the year to September, above the national average of 1.5% (Chart 3), but below South Australia (up 3.7%) and Tasmania (up 2.5%). Compared to a year ago, the unemployment rate increased modestly in every state, except Tasmania where it fell 0.1%-pt to 4.0%.

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

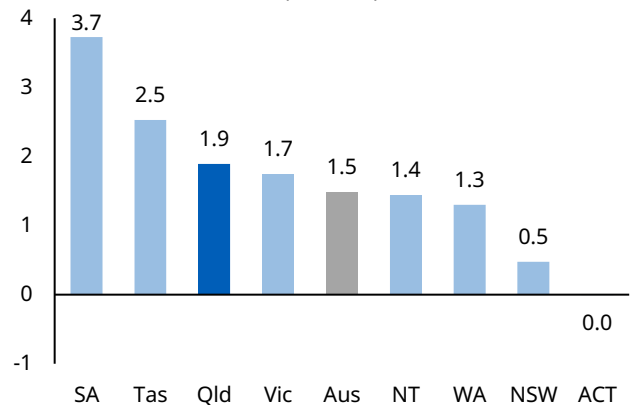


Table 1: Key labour force indicators, September 2025
(trend)

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (000s)	3,010	4,480	3,820	990	1,650	290	14,650
Monthly change (%)	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.1
Monthly change (no.)	3,200	-1,600	10,700	2,700	0	500	19,900
Annual change (%)	1.9	0.5	1.7	3.7	1.3	2.5	1.5
Annual change (no.)	55,900	21,100	65,600	35,400	21,100	7,100	213,500
Unemployment rate (%)							
September 2025	4.2	4.2	4.6	4.6	4.1	4.0	4.3
August 2025	4.2	4.2	4.6	4.5	4.1	4.0	4.3
September 2024	4.0	3.9	4.5	4.0	3.7	4.1	4.1
Hours worked (millions)	412.5	608.6	506.1	129.8	234.0	37.5	1,986.7
Monthly % change	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	-0.2	0.1	0.1
Annual % change	1.4	1.0	0.8	3.4	2.2	3.9	1.5
Participation rate (%)							
September 2025	67.1	65.6	68.0	64.8	68.4	61.5	66.9
August 2025	67.1	65.7	67.9	64.6	68.5	61.4	66.9
September 2024	67.2	66.2	68.2	63.0	69.1	60.4	67.1
Underemployment rate (%)							
September 2025	6.0	5.3	6.5	6.3	5.6	7.1	5.9
August 2025	6.0	5.3	6.5	6.3	5.6	7.2	5.9
September 2024	6.4	6.0	6.5	7.3	5.4	7.5	6.2

1. 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.