

Labour Force, December 2025

Source: ABS *Labour Force*, released 22 January 2026, 10:30 am AEST.

	Queensland		Australia	
Trend - December 2025				
Employment (persons, growth)	2,400	0.1%	24,800	0.2%
Unemployment (persons, rate)	-1,300	4.1%	-6,400	4.2%
Labour force (persons, growth)	1,200	0.0%	18,300	0.1%
Underemployment (persons, rate)	-100	6.1%	-300	5.9%
Hours worked (thousands, growth)	200	0.0%	3,600	0.2%
Seasonally adjusted - December 2025				
Employment (persons, growth)	13,000	0.4%	65,200	0.4%
Unemployment (persons, rate)	-8,800	3.9%	-29,800	4.1%

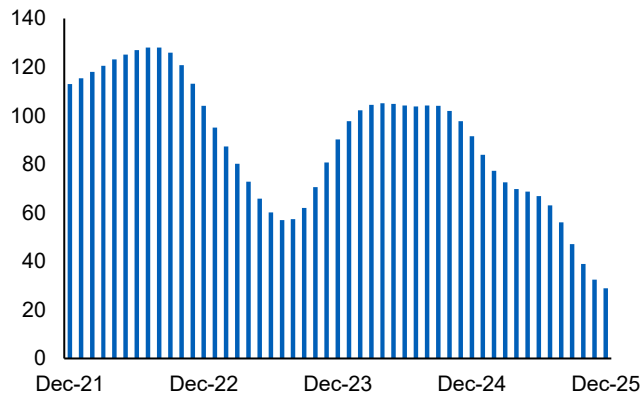
Queensland

In trend terms, employment in Queensland rose by 2,400 persons (0.1%) in December 2025 to be 28,900 persons (1.0%) higher over the year (**Chart 1**). Monthly growth reflected a rise in part-time (up 2,600) employment marginally offset by a small fall in full-time (down 200).

In more volatile seasonally adjusted terms, employment rose 13,000 persons (up 0.4%) in the month and was 0.6% higher over the year.

Chart 1: Annual change in employment, Queensland

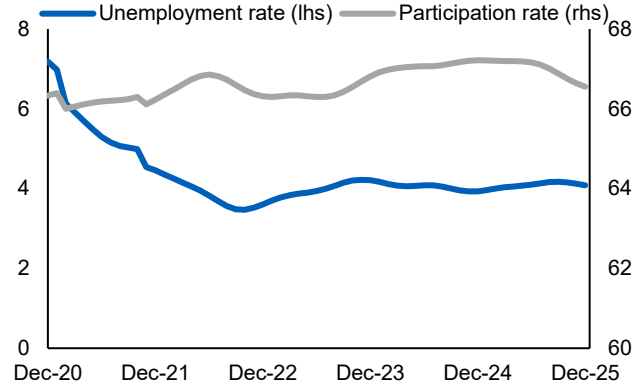
(trend, monthly, '000s)



The trend unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.1% in December up from 3.9% a year ago. Queensland's unemployment rate has been relatively stable since early 2023, fluctuating between 3.9% and 4.2% (**Chart 2**).

Chart 2: Unemployment and participation rates, Queensland

(trend, monthly, %)



Queensland's participation rate was 66.6% in December, down from 67.2% a year ago but remaining above its 10-year average.

The employment-to-population ratio was 63.8% in December 2025, down from 64.6% a year ago. Hours worked remained unchanged in December but was 0.1% lower than a year ago.

Queensland's underemployment rate¹ was unchanged at 6.1% in the month but was down from 6.2% a year ago. The underutilisation rate¹ was 10.2% in December, unchanged from November but up from 10.1% a year earlier.

National

Nationally, trend employment rose 24,800 persons in December (up 0.2%, **Table 1**) to be 180,800 (1.2%) higher over the year. In seasonally adjusted terms, employment nationally rose by 65,200 persons in the month, well above market expectations of a 30,000-person increase.

The trend unemployment rate was 4.2% in December, up from 4.0% a year earlier and has been edging higher from the low of 3.5% in late 2022. In seasonally adjusted terms, the unemployment rate fell to 4.1% in December, from 4.3% in November but up from 4.0% in the previous year.

Hours worked rose 0.2% in December, to be up 1.0% over the year, broadly in line with employment growth.



Interstate comparison

In December, Queensland recorded the third largest annual employment growth (up 28,900 persons) behind Victoria (up 59,900) and South Australia (up 37,900, **Table 1**).

In percentage terms, Queensland employment grew 1.0% over the year to December, slightly below the national average (up 1.2%, **Chart 3**). This growth outpaced New South Wales (up 0.3%) but was behind Western Australia (up 1.4%). Among the other states, South Australia experienced the strongest growth (up 3.9%), followed by Victoria (up 1.6%) and Tasmania (up 1.5%).

Compared to a year ago, the unemployment rate increased slightly in most states, except for South Australia (down 0.1%-pt to 4.0%), seeing the national rate rise 0.2%-pts to 4.2%.

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

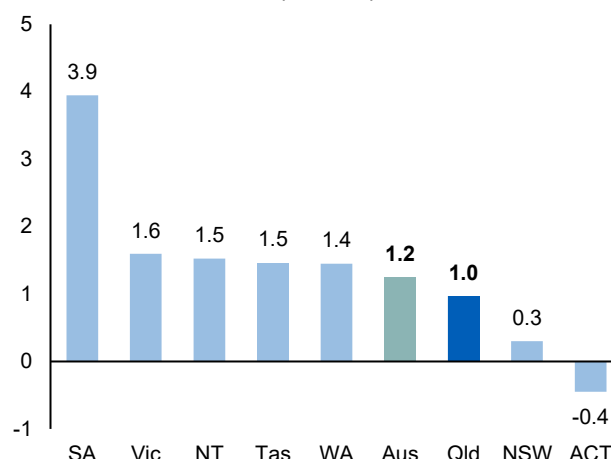


Table 1: Key labour force indicators, December 2025
(trend)

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (000s)	3,000	4,490	3,810	1,000	1,670	280	14,690
Monthly change (%)	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.4	-0.2	0.2
Monthly change (no.)	2,400	9,400	4,500	4,000	6,800	-500	24,800
Annual change (%)	1.0	0.3	1.6	3.9	1.4	1.5	1.2
Annual change (no.)	28,900	13,500	59,900	37,900	23,800	4,100	180,800
Unemployment rate (%)							
December 2025	4.1	4.0	4.7	4.0	4.3	4.2	4.2
November 2025	4.1	4.0	4.7	4.1	4.3	4.2	4.3
December 2024	3.9	3.9	4.5	4.0	3.5	4.0	4.0
Hours worked (millions)	409.9	612.9	512.9	132.7	234.6	36.8	1997.0
Monthly change (%)	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	-0.4	0.2
Annual change (%)	-0.1	0.6	2.2	3.4	0.9	1.1	1.0
Participation rate (%)							
December 2025	66.6	65.5	67.8	65.0	68.8	60.9	66.8
November 2025	66.6	65.5	67.9	64.9	68.7	61.1	66.8
December 2024	67.2	66.3	68.0	63.4	69.0	60.2	67.1
Underemployment rate (%)							
December 2025	6.1	5.3	6.5	6.3	5.3	7.4	5.9
November 2025	6.1	5.3	6.5	6.3	5.4	7.3	5.9
December 2024	6.2	5.9	6.3	6.7	5.5	7.7	6.0

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.