

Labour Force, April 2026

Source: ABS *Labour Force*, released 21 May 2026, 11:30 am AEST.

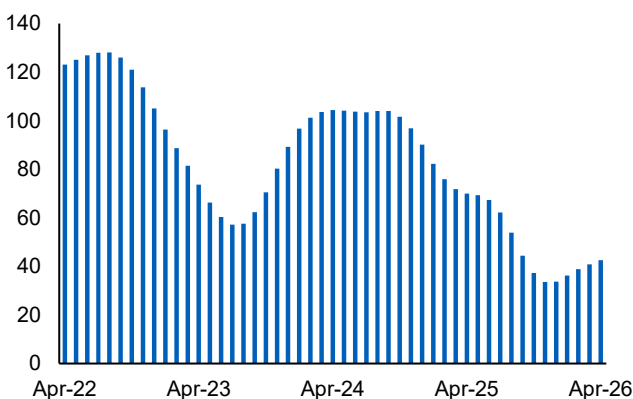
	Queensland		Australia	
Trend - April 2026				
Employment (persons, growth)	6,600	0.2%	22,100	0.2%
Unemployment (persons, rate)	-500	4.2%	4,500	4.3%
Labour force (persons, growth)	6,200	0.2%	26,600	0.2%
Underemployment (persons, rate)	-1,400	5.8%	0	5.9%
Hours worked (thousands, growth)	2,500	0.6%	6,800	0.3%
Seasonally adjusted - April 2026				
Employment (persons, growth)	-5,600	-0.2%	-18,600	-0.1%
Unemployment (persons, rate)	16,300	4.2%	33,000	4.5%

Queensland

In trend terms, employment in Queensland rose by 6,600 persons (0.2%) in April 2026 to be 42,500 persons (1.4%) higher over the year (**Chart 1**). Both full-time (up 5,900) and part-time (up 700) employment rose in April.

In more volatile seasonally adjusted terms, employment fell 5,600 persons (down 0.2%) in the month but was 0.9% higher over the year.

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

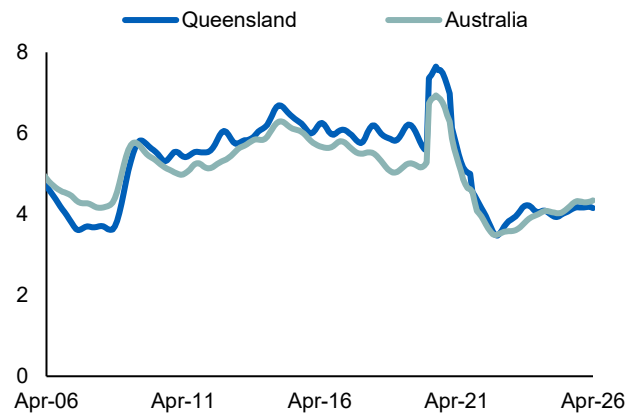


The trend unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.2% in April but higher than the 4.0% recorded a year ago. Queensland's unemployment rate has been relatively stable since mid-2023, oscillating between 3.9% and 4.2% (**Chart 2**).

Queensland's participation rate was 66.8% in April, 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% in early 2009 during the coal mining investment boom.

The employment-to-population ratio was 64.1% in April 2026, down from 64.5% a year ago. Hours worked rose 0.6% in April to be up 2.7% annually.

Chart 2: Unemployment rate
(trend, monthly, %)



Queensland's underemployment rate¹ was 5.8% in April, down from 5.9% in March and 6.1% a year ago. The underutilisation rate¹ was 10.0% in April, down from 10.1% in March and 10.2% a year earlier.

National

Nationally, trend employment rose 22,100 persons in April (up 0.2%, **Table 1**) to be 187,200 (1.3%) higher over the year. In seasonally adjusted terms, employment nationally fell 18,600 persons in the month, well below market expectations of a 15,000 person increase.

The trend unemployment rate remained at 4.3% in April but was up from 4.1% a year earlier and has been edging higher from the recent low of 3.5% in June 2023 (**Chart 2**). In seasonally adjusted terms, the unemployment rate rose to 4.5% in April, up from 4.3% in March and up from 4.1% in the previous year.

Hour worked rose 0.3% in April, to be up 2.7% over the year, ahead of annual employment growth (1.3%).



Interstate comparison

In April, Queensland recorded the second largest annual employment growth (up 42,500 persons) behind New South Wales (up 55,000) and ahead of Western Australia (up 39,000, **Table 1**).

In percentage terms, Queensland employment grew 1.4% over the year to April, slightly above the national average (up 1.3%, **Chart 3**). This growth outpaced New South Wales (up 1.2%) but was behind South Australia (up 2.1%). Among the other states, Western Australia experienced the strongest growth (up 2.4%) while Tasmania saw the only decline (down 1.2%).

Compared to a year ago, the unemployment rate rose across most states with South Australia the only state to remain unchanged at 4.3%. The largest increase was seen in Tasmania with a 0.9%-pts increase followed by 0.4%-pts increase in Victoria,

0.3%-pts in Western Australia, and 0.2%-pts in both Queensland and New South Wales, bringing up the national average to 4.3% in April.

Chart 3: Annual employment growth, Apr-26
(trend, %)

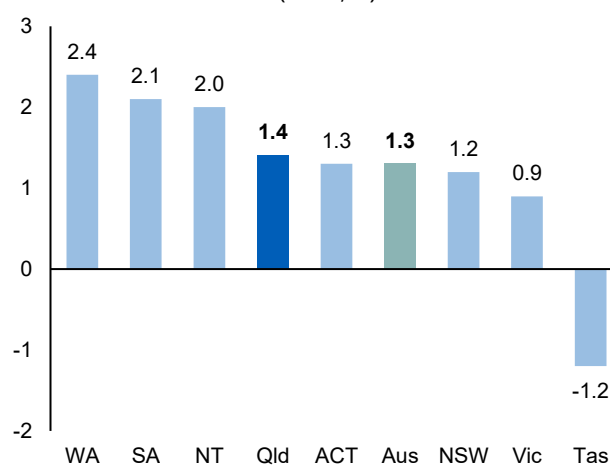


Table 1: Key labour force indicators, April 2026

(trend)

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (000s)	3,030	4,540	3,800	990	1,690	280	14,750
Monthly change (%)	0.2	0.2	-0.1	-0.1	0.4	-0.2	0.2
Monthly change (no.)	6,600	8,200	-1,900	-1,400	7,000	-500	22,100
Annual change (%)	1.4	1.2	0.9	2.1	2.4	-1.2	1.3
Annual change (no.)	42,500	55,000	33,100	20,800	39,000	-3,300	187,200
Unemployment rate (%)							
April 2026	4.2	4.3	4.8	4.1	4.2	4.8	4.3
March 2026	4.2	4.3	4.7	4.0	4.2	4.7	4.3
April 2025	4.0	4.1	4.4	4.1	3.9	3.9	4.1
Hours worked (millions)	420.3	624.7	511.2	134.5	243.1	36.7	2028.4
Monthly change (%)	0.6	0.3	-0.1	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.3
Annual change (%)	2.7	3.0	1.7	3.9	3.3	-1.1	2.7
Participation rate (%)							
April 2026	66.8	66.0	67.1	64.2	69.1	60.1	66.7
March 2026	66.8	66.0	67.3	64.3	69.0	60.3	66.7
April 2025	67.2	66.1	67.6	63.8	69.1	60.7	66.9
Underemployment rate (%)							
April 2026	5.8	5.6	6.4	6.2	5.4	7.0	5.9
March 2026	5.9	5.6	6.4	6.2	5.3	7.1	5.9
April 2025	6.1	5.5	6.3	6.2	5.5	7.4	5.9

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.