

# Labour Force, July 2026

Source: ABS *Labour Force*, released 20 August 2026, 11:30 am AEST.

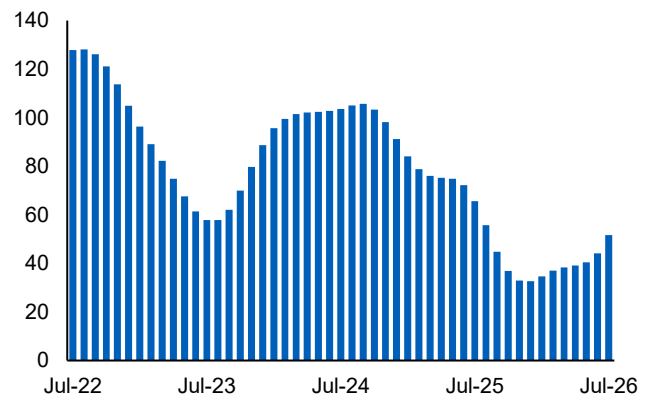
|                                     | Queensland |      | Australia |       |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------|-----------|-------|
| Trend - July 2026                   |            |      |           |       |
| Employment<br>(persons, growth)     | 7,100      | 0.2% | 29,300    | 0.2%  |
| Unemployment<br>(persons, rate)     | 1,100      | 4.2% | 4,400     | 4.5%  |
| Labour force<br>(persons, growth)   | 8,200      | 0.3% | 33,700    | 0.2%  |
| Underemployment<br>(persons, rate)  | 4,400      | 6.5% | 9,500     | 6.4%  |
| Hours worked<br>(thousands, growth) | 0          | 0.0% | -1,500    | -0.1% |
| Seasonally adjusted - July 2026     |            |      |           |       |
| Employment<br>(persons, growth)     | 9,300      | 0.3% | -15,800   | -0.1% |
| Unemployment<br>(persons, rate)     | -2,700     | 4.2% | 4,200     | 4.5%  |

## Queensland

In trend terms, employment in Queensland rose by 7,100 persons (0.2%) in July 2026 to be 51,600 persons (1.7%) higher over the year (**Chart 1**). Both full-time (up 4,700) and part-time (up 2,300) employment rose in July.

In more volatile seasonally adjusted terms, employment rose 9,300 persons (up 0.3%) in the month and was 1.9% higher over the year.

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

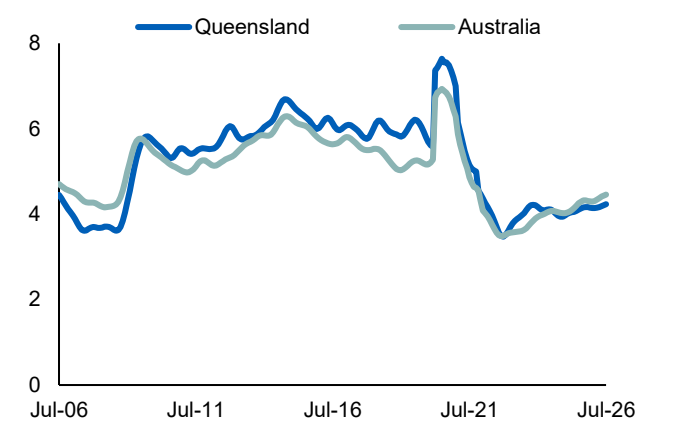


The trend unemployment rate was 4.2% in July, unchanged from the previous month and up from 4.1% a year ago. Queensland's unemployment rate has been relatively stable since mid-2023, oscillating between 3.9% and 4.2% (**Chart 2**).

Queensland's participation rate was 67.1% in July, down slightly 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 64.2% in July 2026, down from 64.4% a year ago. Hours worked were unchanged in July but were up 0.8% annually.

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



Queensland's underemployment rate<sup>1</sup> was 6.5% in July, up from 6.0% a year ago. The underutilisation rate<sup>1</sup> was 10.7% in July, up from 10.5% in June and 10.1% a year earlier.

## National

Nationally, trend employment rose 29,300 persons in July (up 0.2%, **Table 1**) to be 235,000 (1.6%) higher over the year. In seasonally adjusted terms, employment fell 15,800 persons in the month, well below market expectations of a 15,000 person increase.

The trend unemployment rate was 4.5% in July, up from 4.3% a year earlier and has been edging higher from the recent low of 3.5% in September 2022 (**Chart 2**). In seasonally adjusted terms, the unemployment rate rose to 4.5% in July, up from 4.4% in June and up from 4.2% in the previous year.

Hours worked fell 0.1% in July but were up 1.1% over the year, behind annual employment growth (1.6%).

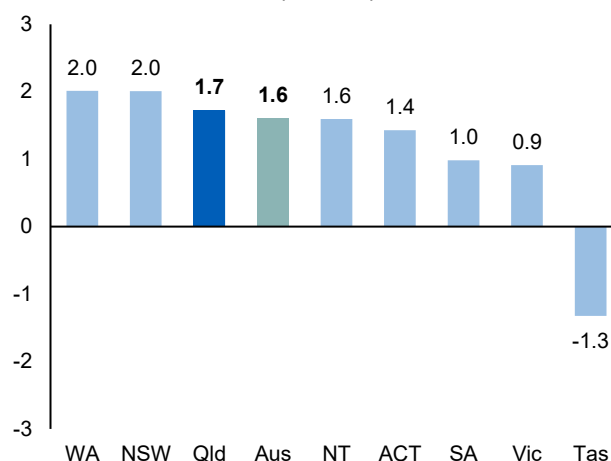
## Interstate comparison

In July, Queensland recorded the second largest annual employment growth (up 51,600 persons) behind New South Wales (up 89,800) and ahead of Victoria (up 34,400, **Table 1**).

In percentage terms, Queensland employment grew 1.7% over the year to July, slightly ahead of the national average (up 1.6%, **Chart 3**). This growth was outpaced by New South Wales (up 2.0%) and Western Australia (up 2.0%) but was above all other jurisdictions.

Compared to a year ago, Queensland's unemployment rate rose marginally (up 0.1%-pt), while New South Wales was unchanged and Victoria and Tasmania saw large increases (up 0.5%-pt and 1.2%-pts, respectively), driving the national average higher (up 0.2%-pt).

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



**Table 1: Key labour force indicators, July 2026**  
(trend)

|                                 | Qld    | NSW    | Vic    | SA    | WA     | Tas    | Aus     |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|---------|
| <b>Employed (000s)</b>          | 3,050  | 4,560  | 3,820  | 990   | 1,680  | 280    | 14,820  |
| Monthly change (%)              | 0.2    | 0.2    | 0.2    | 0.1   | 0.0    | 0.3    | 0.2     |
| Monthly change (no.)            | 7,100  | 8,800  | 7,600  | 800   | 200    | 800    | 29,300  |
| Annual change (%)               | 1.7    | 2.0    | 0.9    | 1.0   | 2.0    | -1.3   | 1.6     |
| Annual change (no.)             | 51,600 | 89,800 | 34,400 | 9,600 | 33,200 | -3,800 | 235,000 |
| <b>Unemployment rate (%)</b>    |        |        |        |       |        |        |         |
| July 2026                       | 4.2    | 4.2    | 5.1    | 4.2   | 4.3    | 5.1    | 4.5     |
| June 2026                       | 4.2    | 4.2    | 5.0    | 4.2   | 4.3    | 5.0    | 4.4     |
| July 2025                       | 4.1    | 4.2    | 4.6    | 4.5   | 4.1    | 3.9    | 4.3     |
| <b>Hours worked (millions)</b>  | 413.4  | 620.6  | 506.2  | 132.1 | 240.1  | 37.0   | 2004.0  |
| Monthly change (%)              | 0.0    | 0.0    | 0.0    | 0.0   | -0.2   | 0.3    | -0.1    |
| Annual change (%)               | 0.8    | 2.5    | 0.3    | 2.1   | 2.5    | -1.9   | 1.1     |
| <b>Participation rate (%)</b>   |        |        |        |       |        |        |         |
| July 2026                       | 67.1   | 66.2   | 67.5   | 64.1  | 68.5   | 60.8   | 66.9    |
| June 2026                       | 67.0   | 66.2   | 67.5   | 64.1  | 68.7   | 60.6   | 66.9    |
| July 2025                       | 67.2   | 65.8   | 67.8   | 64.5  | 68.7   | 61.3   | 66.9    |
| <b>Underemployment rate (%)</b> |        |        |        |       |        |        |         |
| July 2026                       | 6.5    | 5.7    | 7.0    | 6.7   | 5.7    | 7.0    | 6.4     |
| June 2026                       | 6.3    | 5.8    | 7.0    | 6.6   | 5.6    | 7.0    | 6.3     |
| July 2025                       | 6.0    | 5.3    | 6.4    | 6.2   | 5.5    | 7.3    | 5.8     |

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.