

Labour Force, September 2026

Source: ABS Labour Force, released 15 October 2026, 10:30 am AEST.

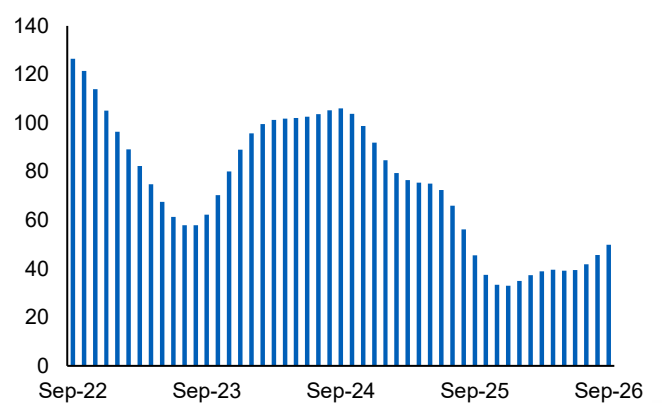
	Queensland		Australia	
Trend - September 2026				
Employment (persons, growth)	2,700	0.1%	15,700	0.1%
Unemployment (persons, rate)	2,100	4.5%	7,100	4.6%
Labour force (persons, growth)	4,800	0.2%	22,800	0.1%
Underemployment (persons, rate)	2,300	6.7%	900	6.3%
Hours worked (thousands, growth)	700	0.2%	900	0.0%
Seasonally adjusted - September 2026				
Employment (persons, growth)	-2,100	-0.1%	-39,300	-0.3%
Unemployment (persons, rate)	600	4.5%	8,900	4.7%

Queensland

In trend terms, employment in Queensland rose by 2,700 persons (0.1%) in September 2026 to be 49,800 persons (1.7%) higher over the year (**Chart 1**). Monthly growth reflected full-time (up 10,000) employment offset by part-time (down 7,200) employment.

In more volatile seasonally adjusted terms, employment fell 2,100 persons (down 0.1%) in the month but was 1.3% higher over the year.

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

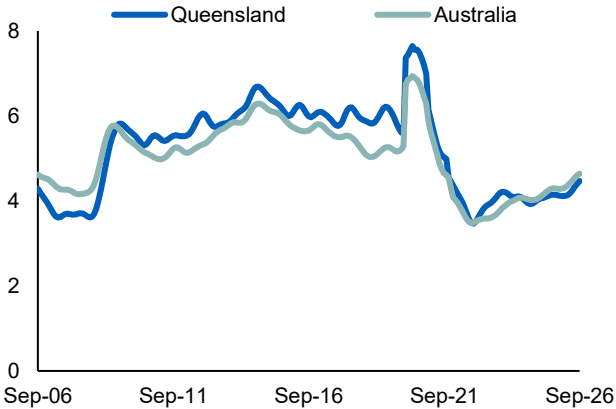


The trend unemployment rate rose to 4.5% in September, up from 4.4% in August and 4.1% a year ago. Queensland's unemployment rate has gradually increased since the start of the year, after remaining stable for around three years (**Chart 2**).

Queensland's participation rate was 67.0% in September, up from 66.9% a year ago and 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 64.0% in September 2026, down from 64.1% a year ago. Hours worked rose 0.2% in September to be up 1.4% annually.

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



Queensland's underemployment rate¹ was 6.7% in September, up 6.0% from a year ago. The underutilisation rate¹ was 11.1% in September, up from 11.0% in August and 10.2% a year earlier.

National

Nationally, trend employment rose 15,700 persons in September (up 0.1%, **Table 1**) to be 210,800 (1.4%) higher over the year. In seasonally adjusted terms, employment nationally fell 39,300 persons in the month, well below market expectations of a 20,000 person increase.

The trend unemployment rate remained at 4.6% in September but was up from 4.3% 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 was 4.7% in September unchanged from an upwardly revised 4.7% in August and up from 4.4% in the previous year.

Trend hours worked were unchanged in September, to be up 1.1% over the year, behind annual employment growth of 1.4%.

Interstate comparison

In September, Queensland (up 49,800 persons) had the second largest employment growth of any state or territory over the year, behind New South Wales (up 65,900, **Table 1**).

In annual percentage terms, Queensland employment grew 1.7% ahead of the national average (up 1.4%, **Chart 3**). This growth outpaced New South Wales (up 1.5%) but was behind Western Australia (up 2.9%). Among the remaining states, Victoria recorded growth (up 0.9%), followed by South Australia (up 0.6%), while Tasmania was the only state to see a decline (down 2.4%).

Compared to a year ago, the unemployment rate was higher across most states bringing up the national average to 4.6%. South Australia was the only state to see a fall with a 0.1%-pt decrease to 4.3%.

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

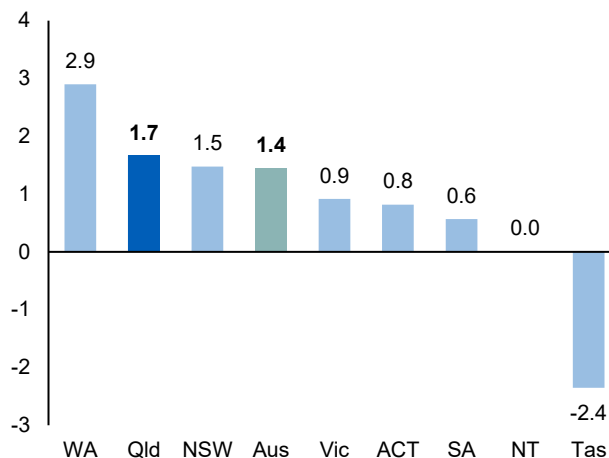


Table 1: Key labour force indicators, September 2026
(trend)

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
Employed (000s)	3,050	4,540	3,830	990	1,700	280	14,830
Monthly change (%)	0.1	-0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	-0.1	0.1
Monthly change (no.)	2,700	-3,500	7,500	1,700	4,400	-200	15,700
Annual change (%)	1.7	1.5	0.9	0.6	2.9	-2.4	1.4
Annual change (no.)	49,800	65,900	34,700	5,600	47,900	-6,700	210,800
Unemployment rate (%)							
September 2026	4.5	4.5	5.1	4.3	4.3	5.2	4.6
August 2026	4.4	4.4	5.1	4.3	4.3	5.1	4.6
September 2025	4.1	4.1	4.7	4.4	4.2	4.1	4.3
Hours worked (millions)	415.1	617.7	507.0	133.3	242.7	36.5	2006.9
Monthly change (%)	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.2	-0.3	0.0
Annual change (%)	1.4	1.7	0.1	2.2	4.2	-2.6	1.1
Participation rate (%)							
September 2026	67.0	66.0	67.6	64.2	68.8	60.2	66.9
August 2026	67.0	66.0	67.6	64.2	68.8	60.2	66.9
September 2025	66.9	65.6	67.9	64.7	68.5	61.5	66.9
Underemployment rate (%)							
September 2026	6.7	5.6	7.0	7.0	5.7	7.0	6.3
August 2026	6.6	5.6	7.0	6.9	5.7	7.0	6.3
September 2025	6.0	5.3	6.4	6.3	5.4	7.2	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.