

# Labour Force, May 2024

Source: ABS Labour Force, released 13 June 2024, 11:30 am AEST.

**NOTE: These data reflect conditions during the survey reference weeks (28 April – 11 May 2024).**

## Key data (trend, monthly)

<b>Employment:</b>	<b>Queensland</b>	<b>10,300</b>	<b>(0.4%)</b>
(persons, growth)	Australia	38,700	(0.3%)
<b>Unemployment:</b>	<b>Queensland</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>(4.1%)</b>
(persons, rate)	Australia	2,800	(4.0%)
<b>Labour force:</b>	<b>Queensland</b>	<b>10,800</b>	<b>(0.4%)</b>
(persons, growth)	Australia	41,400	(0.3%)
<b>Underemployment:</b>	<b>Queensland</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>(6.9%)</b>
(persons, rate)	Australia	2,600	(6.7%)
<b>Hours worked:</b>	<b>Queensland</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>(0.3%)</b>
(thousands, growth)	Australia	5,600	(0.3%)

## Key data (seasonally adjusted, monthly)

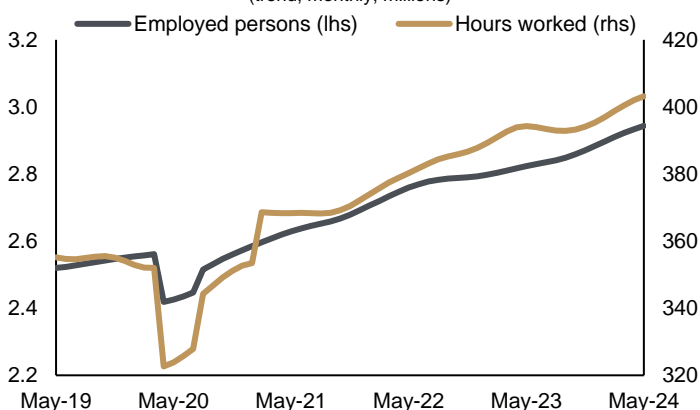
<b>Employment:</b>	<b>Queensland</b>	<b>-6,300</b>	<b>(-0.2%)</b>
(persons, growth)	Australia	39,700	(0.3%)
<b>Unemployment:</b>	<b>Queensland</b>	<b>-1,400</b>	<b>(4.0%)</b>
(persons, rate)	Australia	-9,200	(4.0%)

## Main findings (trend)

Employment in Queensland rose by 10,300 persons (0.4%) in May 2024 to be 120,200 persons (4.3%) higher over the year. The rise in May reflected increases in both full-time employment (up 7,800) and part-time employment (up 2,500).

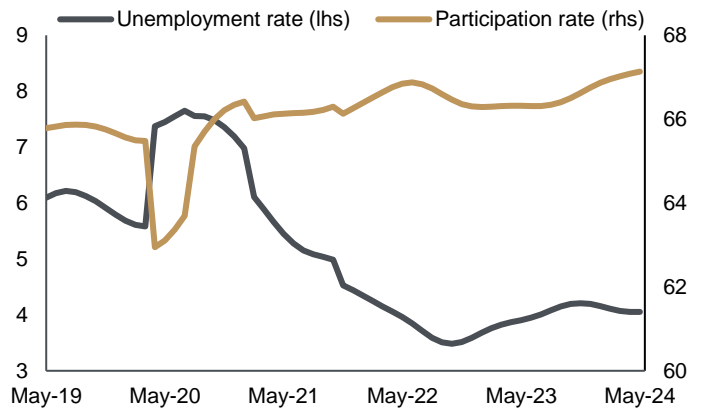
The employment-to-population ratio was 64.4% in May 2024, unchanged from April, but well above its pre-COVID ratio of 61.8%. Hours worked rose 0.3% in May and were 14.5% above its level in March 2020 (Chart 1).

**Chart 1: Employment and hours worked, Queensland**  
(trend, monthly, millions)



The unemployment rate was 4.1% in May, unchanged from April 2024 and still well below the pre-COVID rate of 5.6% in March 2020 (Chart 2). Queensland's participation rate was 67.1% in May 2024, unchanged from April 2024, but remaining above its pre-COVID rate of 65.5%.

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



Nationally, trend employment rose by 38,700 persons in May (0.3%, Table 1) to be 1,434,200 (11.1%) above its pre-COVID level of March 2020. In seasonally adjusted terms, employment nationally rose by 39,700 persons in the month which was well above market expectations for a 30,000 increase.

The ABS noted, 'In April we saw more unemployed people than usual waiting to start work. Some of the fall in unemployment and rise in employment in May reflects these people starting or returning to their jobs.'

The national trend unemployment rate rose to 4.0% in May 2024 up from 3.9% in April (Table 1). Hours worked rose 0.3% in the month to be 11.1% above its pre-COVID level in March 2020.

**Table 1: Interstate comparison<sup>1</sup>, May 2024**  
(trend)

	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	WA	Tas	Aus
<b>Employed</b>							
Monthly % change	0.4	0.2	0.4	-0.1	0.4	0.3	0.3
Monthly change (no.)	10,300	7,900	13,300	-700	6,000	700	38,700
Annual % change	4.3	2.2	3.0	-0.7	4.4	-1.0	2.7
Annual change (no.)	120,200	95,700	108,500	-6,700	67,200	-2,800	377,200
Since March-20 (%)	14.9	9.1	9.9	8.8	15.4	7.0	11.1
Since March-20 (no.)	382,000	371,400	337,100	75,700	215,000	18,600	1,434,200
<b>Unemployment rate</b>							
May 2024	4.1	3.8	4.3	3.9	3.6	4.0	4.0
April 2024	4.1	3.8	4.2	4.0	3.7	4.0	3.9
May 2023	3.9	3.3	3.7	4.0	3.6	4.1	3.6
<b>Hours worked (millions)</b>							
May 2024	403.2	605.5	504.5	124.3	224.4	37.0	1958.3
Monthly % change	0.3	0.2	0.2	-0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3
Annual % change	2.3	0.3	1.2	-2.5	1.2	-3.8	0.9
<b>Participation rate</b>							
May 2024	67.1	66.0	67.6	62.4	69.0	61.3	66.7
April 2024	67.1	66.0	67.5	62.6	69.0	61.1	66.7
May 2023	66.3	65.9	67.3	64.1	68.6	62.4	66.6
<b>Emp. to pop ratio</b>							
May 2024	64.4	63.4	64.7	59.9	66.5	58.8	64.1
April 2024	64.4	63.5	64.6	60.1	66.5	58.7	64.1
May 2023	63.7	63.8	64.8	61.6	66.1	59.8	64.2
<b>Underemployment rate</b>							
May 2024	6.9	6.3	7.1	7.4	5.7	7.7	6.7
April 2024	6.9	6.4	7.2	7.3	5.7	7.6	6.7
May 2023	6.8	6.2	6.2	7.3	6.0	7.2	6.4

1. Note – numbers may not add due to rounding.