



# ABS Labour Force Results – April 2022

The data in this summary are sourced from ABS, Labour Force, Australia, April 2022 and are in seasonally adjusted terms (unless stated otherwise). Note that changes in the tables are calculated from more detailed data and may not match changes calculated manually from the figures presented in the text.

Table 1: Key national labour market statistics

	Apr-22	Mar-22	Change over the month	Mar-20	Change since Mar-20	Apr-21	Change over the year
<b>Total employment ('000)</b>	13,401.7	13,397.7	4.0	13,002.2	399.4 (3.1%)	13,020.2	381.5 (2.9%)
Full-time employment ('000)	9,342.9	9,250.6	92.4	8,869.0	474.0 (5.3%)	8,877.6	465.3 (5.2%)
Part-time employment ('000)	4,058.8	4,147.2	-88.4	4,133.3	-74.5 (-1.8%)	4,142.5	-83.8 (-2.0%)
<b>Total unemployment ('000)</b>	537.1	548.0	-11.0	719.4	-182.3 (-25.3%)	748.1	-211.1 (-28.2%)
<b>Unemployment rate (%)</b>	3.9	3.9	-0.1 pts	5.2	-1.4 pts	5.4	-1.6 pts
<b>Participation rate (%)</b>	66.3	66.4	-0.1 pts	65.9	0.5 pts	65.9	0.4 pts
<b>Total underemployment ('000)</b>	852.5	885.1	-32.6	1,208.4	-355.9 (-29.5%)	1,082.6	-230.2 (-21.3%)
<b>Underemployment rate (%)</b>	6.1	6.3	-0.2 pts	8.8	-2.7 pts	7.9	-1.7 pts
<b>Monthly hours worked in all jobs (million hours)</b>	1,832.5	1,809.6	23.0	1,769.6	63.0 (3.6%)	1,782.8	49.7 (2.8%)
<b>Annual employment growth rate (%)</b>	2.9 (1.7 decade avg)	2.6 (1.7 decade avg)	0.3 pts	1.7 (1.8 decade avg)	1.2 pts	5.0 (1.5 decade avg)	-2.1 pts
Annual full-time employment growth rate (%)	5.2 (1.6 decade avg)	4.5 (1.5 decade avg)	0.7 pts	1.0 (1.5 decade avg)	4.2 pts	2.8 (1.2 decade avg)	2.5 pts
Annual part-time employment growth rate (%)	-2.0 (1.9 decade avg)	-1.5 (2.1 decade avg)	-0.5 pts	3.3 (2.3 decade avg)	-5.3 pts	10.1 (2.3 decade avg)	-12.1 pts
<b>Female employment ('000)</b>	6,407.0	6,416.1	-9.1	6,163.2	243.8 (4.0%)	6,186.3	220.7 (3.6%)
Female full-time employment ('000)	3,613.9	3,578.8	35.1	3,340.2	273.7 (8.2%)	3,381.6	232.4 (6.9%)
Female part-time employment ('000)	2,793.1	2,837.3	-44.2	2,823.0	-29.9 (-1.1%)	2,804.8	-11.7 (-0.4%)
<b>Female unemployment ('000)</b>	245.3	243.2	2.2	334.5	-89.2 (-26.7%)	337.1	-91.8 (-27.2%)
<b>Female unemployment rate (%)</b>	3.7	3.7	0.0 pts	5.1	-1.5 pts	5.2	-1.5 pts
<b>Female participation rate (%)</b>	62.1	62.3	-0.1 pts	61.2	0.9 pts	61.3	0.8 pts
<b>Female underemployment ('000)</b>	490.3	516.1	-25.8	687.6	-197.2 (-28.7%)	608.1	-117.7 (-19.4%)
<b>Female underemployment rate (%)</b>	7.4	7.7	-0.4 pts	10.6	-3.2 pts	9.3	-2.0 pts
<b>Male employment ('000)</b>	6,994.7	6,981.6	13.1	6,839.0	155.7 (2.3%)	6,833.8	160.9 (2.4%)
Male full-time employment ('000)	5,729.0	5,671.7	57.3	5,528.7	200.3 (3.6%)	5,496.1	232.9 (4.2%)
Male part-time employment ('000)	1,265.7	1,309.9	-44.2	1,310.3	-44.6 (-3.4%)	1,337.7	-72.0 (-5.4%)
<b>Male unemployment ('000)</b>	291.7	304.8	-13.1	384.8	-93.1 (-24.2%)	411.0	-119.3 (-29.0%)
<b>Male unemployment rate (%)</b>	4.0	4.2	-0.2 pts	5.3	-1.3 pts	5.7	-1.7 pts
<b>Male participation rate (%)</b>	70.7	70.8	-0.1 pts	70.7	0.0 pts	70.7	0.0 pts
<b>Male underemployment ('000)</b>	362.1	369.0	-6.9	520.8	-158.7 (-30.5%)	474.6	-112.4 (-23.7%)
<b>Male underemployment rate (%)</b>	5.0	5.1	-0.1 pts	7.2	-2.2 pts	6.6	-1.6 pts
<b>Youth employment ('000)</b>	1,971.1	1,974.6	-3.5	1,934.7	36.4 (1.9%)	1,909.3	61.8 (3.2%)
Youth full-time employment ('000)	900.7	887.6	13.1	845.2	55.5 (6.6%)	805.4	95.2 (11.8%)
Youth part-time employment ('000)	1,062.9	1,087.9	-24.9	1,090.2	-27.2 (-2.5%)	1,095.9	-32.9 (-3.0%)
<b>Youth unemployment ('000)</b>	189.7	179.3	10.4	255.0	-65.3 (-25.6%)	227.3	-37.6 (-16.5%)
<b>Youth unemployment rate (%)</b>	8.8	8.3	0.5 pts	11.6	-2.8 pts	10.7	-1.9 pts
<b>Youth participation rate (%)</b>	70.7	70.8	-0.1 pts	68.3	2.4 pts	68.7	2.0 pts
<b>Youth underemployment ('000)</b>	308.6	304.6	4.0	427.1	-118.5 (-27.8%)	367.4	-58.8 (-16.0%)
<b>Youth underemployment rate (%)</b>	14.3	14.1	0.2 pts	19.5	-5.1 pts	17.2	-2.9 pts

## OVERVIEW

Seasonally adjusted **employment** increased by 4,000 over the month, to stand at a record high of 13,401,700 in April 2022. Employment is now 399,400 (or 3.1 per cent) above the level recorded in March 2020 (the month that Australia recorded its 100th COVID-19 case).

**Full-time employment** rose by 92,400 (or 1.0 per cent) in April, to stand at a record high of 9,342,900, while **part-time employment** fell by 88,400 (or 2.1 per cent), to 4,058,800.

**Hours worked** increased by 23.0 million hours (or 1.3 per cent) in April, to a record high of 1,832.5 million hours.

The **unemployment rate** declined marginally over the month, to 3.9 per cent in April 2022, after the March 2022 result was revised down to 3.9 per cent. The unemployment rate has not been lower since August 1974.<sup>1</sup>

The **underemployment rate** fell by 0.2 percentage points over the month, to 6.1 per cent in April 2022, the lowest rate recorded since September 2008 and well below the 8.8 per cent recorded in March 2020.

The **participation rate** decreased by 0.1 percentage points in April, to 66.3 per cent, but is well above the 65.9 per cent recorded in March 2020.

<sup>1</sup>In unrounded terms, the unemployment rate fell from 3.930 per cent in March 2022 to 3.853 per cent in April 2022.

## EMPLOYMENT

**Employment** rose by 4,000 over the month, to stand at a record high of 13,401,700 in April 2022, and is now 399,400 (or 3.1 per cent) above the level recorded in March 2020.

- **Full-time employment** increased by 92,400 (or 1.0 per cent) in April, to a record high of 9,342,900, and is 474,000 (or 5.3 per cent) above the level recorded in March 2020.
- **Part-time employment** decreased by 88,400 (or 2.1 per cent) over the month, to 4,058,800 in April 2022, and is now 74,500 (or 1.8 per cent) below the level recorded in March 2020.

**Female employment** fell by 9,100 (or 0.1 per cent) over the month, to 6,407,000 in April 2022, but remains 243,800 (or 4.0 per cent) above the level recorded in March 2020.

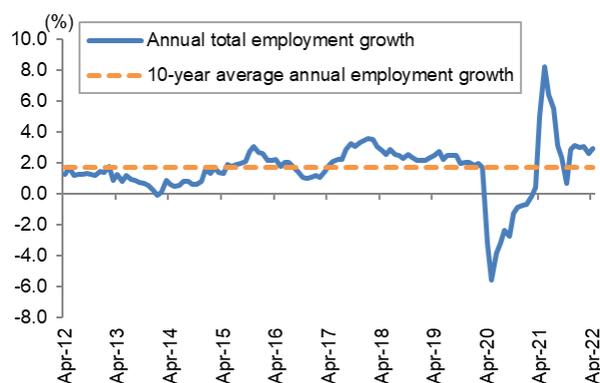
**Male employment** increased by 13,100 (or 0.2 per cent) over the month, to a record high of 6,994,700 in April 2022, and is now 155,700 (or 2.3 per cent) above the level recorded in March 2020.

## HOURS WORKED

The number of **monthly hours worked in all jobs** rose by 23.0 million hours (or 1.3 per cent) over the month, to a record high of 1,832.5 million hours in April 2022. Since March 2020, the number of monthly hours worked in all jobs has risen by 63.0 million hours (or 3.6 per cent). The increase in the number of monthly hours worked was due, in part, to a significant decrease in the number of people working zero or reduced hours over the month (of 434,400 or 86.2 per cent) due to '*bad weather or plant breakdown*' due to the flooding in New South Wales and Queensland.

The **employment to population (15 years and over) ratio** remained steady at 63.8 per cent in April 2022, the equal highest rate on record, and well above the 62.4 per cent recorded in March 2020.

**Chart 1: Annual employment growth (%)**



The number of people who were employed but worked reduced or zero hours due to 'own illness, injury or sick leave' rose by 164,700 (or 28.5 per cent) over the month, to 742,000 in April 2022, just below the 745,800 recorded in January 2022 (during the Omicron outbreak), and is well above the average level recorded in April over the previous seven years (of 342,900).

**Male hours worked** increased by 18.8 million hours (or 1.8 per cent) in April, to a record high of 1,057.2 million hours, and is 24.4 million hours (or 2.4 per cent) above the level recorded in March 2020.

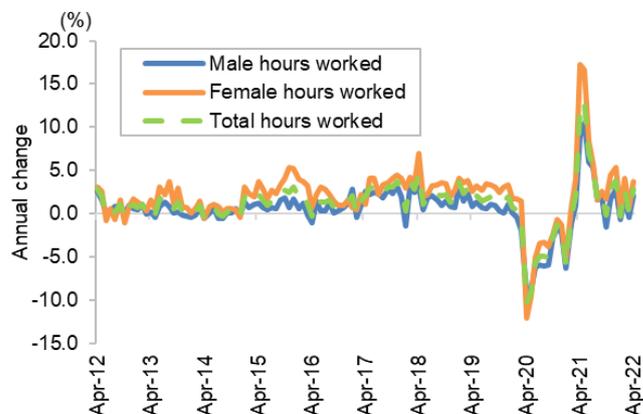
**Female hours worked** rose by 4.1 million hours over the month, to 775.3 million hours in April 2022, and is 38.6 million hours (or 5.2 per cent) above the level recorded in March 2020.

Five of the states and territories recorded an increase in hours worked in April 2022, with New South Wales recording the largest increase (of 14.2 million hours or 2.5 per cent), followed by Queensland (up by 12.0 million hours or 3.3 per cent). The number of hours worked stood at a record high in Queensland (of 377.2 million hours) and Western Australia (of 204.3 million hours) in April 2022. Victoria recorded the largest decrease in hours worked (of 6.9 million hours or 1.4 per cent), followed by South Australia (down by 1.0 million hours or 0.8 per cent).

Since March 2020, all of the states and territories except for the Northern Territory have recorded an increase in hours worked, with Queensland recording the largest increase (of 25.3 million hours or 7.2 per cent), followed by New South Wales (up by

13.7 million hours or 2.4 per cent) and Western Australia (up by 11.8 million hours or 6.1 per cent). On the other hand, the number of hours worked in the Northern Territory has fallen by 0.1 million hours (or 0.4 per cent) since March 2020.

**Chart 2: Annual change in hours worked by gender (%)**



## UNDEREMPLOYMENT

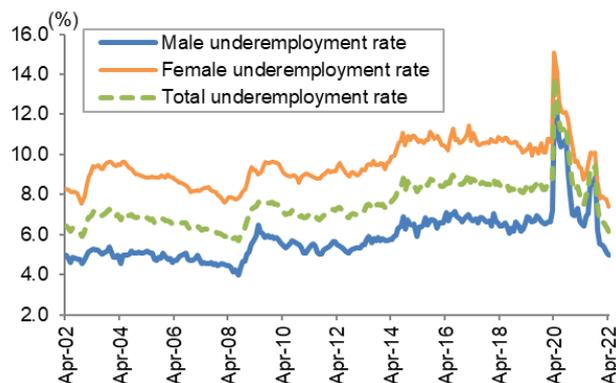
The level of **underemployment** decreased by 32,600 (or 3.7 per cent) over the month, to 852,500 in April 2022, and is now 355,900 (or 29.5 per cent) below the level recorded in March 2020.

The **underemployment rate** fell by 0.2 percentage points over the month, to 6.1 per cent in April 2022, the lowest rate recorded since September 2008 and well below the 8.8 per cent recorded in March 2020.

The **male underemployment rate** decreased by 0.1 percentage points over the month, to 5.0 per cent in April 2022, the lowest rate recorded since September 2011 and well below the 7.2 per cent recorded in March 2020. The **female underemployment rate** decreased from 7.7 per cent in March 2022, to 7.4 in April 2022, the lowest rate

recorded since May 1991, and is well below the 10.6 per cent recorded in March 2020.

**Chart 3: Underemployment rate by gender (%)**



## UNEMPLOYMENT

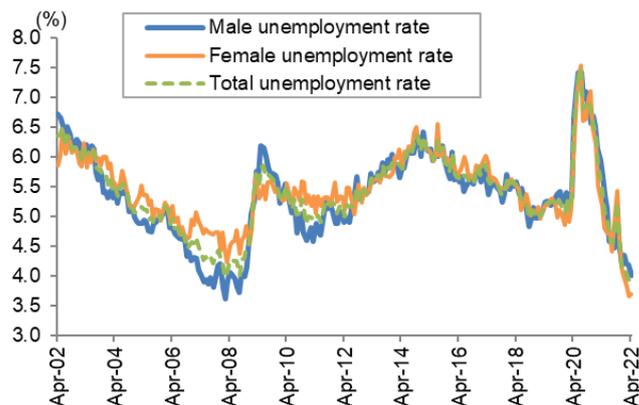
**Unemployment** decreased by 11,000 (or 2.0 per cent) over the month, to 537,100 in April 2022, and is 182,300 (or 25.3 per cent) below the level recorded in March 2020.

The **unemployment rate** declined marginally over the month, to 3.9 per cent in April 2022, after the March 2022 result was revised down to 3.9 per cent. The unemployment rate has not been lower since August 1974.

The **female unemployment rate** remained at 3.7 per cent for a second month, the lowest rate recorded since May 1974 and well below the 5.1 per cent recorded in March 2020. The **male unemployment rate** fell by 0.2 percentage points over the month, to 4.0 per cent in April 2022, the

lowest rate recorded since October 2008, and is well below the 5.3 per cent recorded in March 2020.

**Chart 4: Unemployment rate by gender (%)**



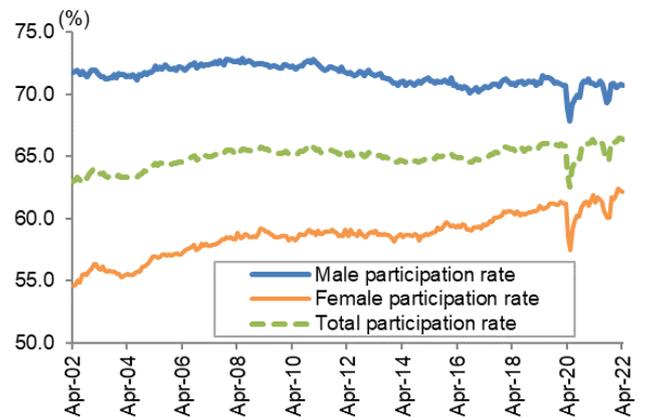
## PARTICIPATION

The **labour force participation rate** decreased from 66.4 per cent in March 2022 to 66.3 per cent in April 2022, but remains above the 65.9 per cent recorded in March 2020.

The **female participation rate** fell from 62.3 per cent in March 2022 to 62.1 per cent in April 2022, but remains above the 61.2 per cent recorded in March 2020.

The **male participation rate** also fell over the month, by 0.1 percentage points, to 70.7 per cent in April 2022, and is equal to the rate recorded in March 2020.

Chart 5: Participation rate by gender (%)



## YOUTH (15-24 YEARS)

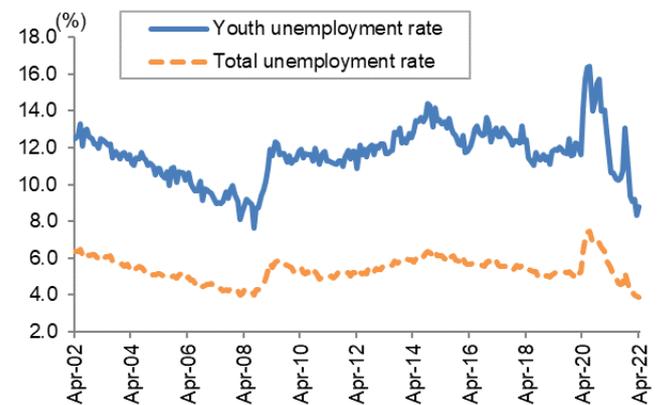
The level of **youth employment** decreased by 3,500 (or 0.2 per cent) over the month, to 1,971,100 in April 2022, but remains 36,400 (or 1.9 per cent) above the level recorded in March 2020.

The **youth unemployment rate** increased, from 8.3 per cent in March 2022, to 8.8 per cent in April 2022, but remains 2.8 percentage points below the 11.6 per cent recorded in March 2020.

The **youth participation rate** fell by 0.1 percentage points over the month, to 70.7 per cent in April 2022, but remains 2.4 percentage points above the rate recorded in March 2020.

The **youth underemployment rate** increased by 0.2 percentage points over the month, to 14.3 per cent in April 2022, but remains well below the 19.5 per cent recorded in March 2020.

Chart 6: Youth and total unemployment rate (%)



## STATES AND TERRITORIES

Table 2: Key labour market indicators by state and territory (%)

	Employment ('000)					Unemployment rate (%)			Participation rate (%)		
	Apr-22	Monthly change	Change since Mar-20	Mar-20	Mar-22	Apr-22	Mar-20	Mar-22	Apr-22		
New South Wales	4,221.0	6.6	0.2%	94.1	2.3%	4.9	3.9	3.5	65.4	65.5	65.2
Victoria	3,497.1	11.6	0.3%	53.7	1.6%	5.2	4.0	4.2	66.4	67.0	67.4
Queensland	2,706.2	-14.8	-0.5%	145.5	5.7%	5.8	4.0	4.5	65.5	66.6	66.5
South Australia	878.8	-5.0	-0.6%	20.2	2.4%	6.3	4.9	4.5	63.0	63.5	62.8
Western Australia	1,463.9	-1.9	-0.1%	84.8	6.1%	5.6	3.4	2.9	68.3	69.8	69.3
Tasmania	260.7	-1.2	-0.5%	2.5	1.0%	5.0	4.4	3.8	61.0	61.0	60.2
Northern Territory	134.0	2.9	2.2%	-1.8	-1.3%	5.1	4.0	4.1	75.7	72.0	73.7
Australian Capital Territory	234.5	-0.3	-0.1%	-4.5	-1.9%	3.2	3.4	3.1	72.2	71.1	70.7
<b>Australia</b>	<b>13,401.7</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>399.4</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>65.9</b>	<b>66.4</b>	<b>66.3</b>

Data are in *seasonally adjusted* terms.

Three of the states and territories recorded an increase in **employment** in April 2022, with Victoria recording the largest increase (of 11,600 or 0.3 per cent), followed by New South Wales (up by 6,600 or 0.2 per cent). Employment was at a record high in Victoria and New South Wales in April 2022. Queensland recorded the largest decrease in employment over the month (of 14,800 or 0.5 per cent).

Since March 2020, Queensland has recorded the largest increase in employment (up by 145,500 or 5.7 per cent), followed by New South Wales (up by 94,100 or 2.3 per cent) and Western Australia (up by 84,800 or 6.1 per cent). Employment remains below pre-pandemic levels in the Australian Capital Territory (down by 4,500 or 1.9 per cent) and the Northern Territory (down by 1,800 or 1.3 per cent).

Queensland and South Australia recorded the highest **unemployment rate** of all the states and

territories in April 2022 (both at 4.5 per cent), while Western Australia recorded the lowest rate, at 2.9 per cent, the lowest rate recorded since October 2008. The unemployment rate in Tasmania, at 3.8 per cent in April 2022, is the equal lowest rate recorded since inception of the monthly series in February 1978. The unemployment rate in New South Wales (of 3.5 per cent) was the lowest rate recorded since the inception of the monthly series in February 1978.

The Northern Territory recorded the highest **participation rate**, of 73.7 per cent in April 2022, while Tasmania recorded the lowest participation rate, of 60.2 per cent. The participation rate in Victoria stood at a record high, of 67.4 per cent, in April 2022.

**Table 3: Youth unemployment rate by state and territory (%)**

Youth unemployment rate (%)					
	Mar-20	Mar-22	Apr-22	Monthly change (% pts)	Change since March 2020 (% pts)
New South Wales	10.5	9.9	9.7	-0.2	-0.7
Victoria	10.7	10.5	10.4	-0.1	-0.3
Queensland	14.5	10.2	10.2	0.0	-4.4
South Australia	13.8	10.3	9.8	-0.5	-4.0
Western Australia	13.2	9.9	9.7	-0.2	-3.6
Tasmania	12.5	11.0	10.6	-0.4	-1.8
Northern Territory	12.6	9.2	9.2	0.1	-3.3
Australian Capital Territory	8.2	8.4	8.4	0.0	0.2
<b>Australia</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>-2.8</b>

Data for the states and territories are 12-month averages of *original* estimates, while the data for Australia are in *seasonally adjusted* terms.