Labour Market Brief
Western Australia

Summary

The ABS Labour Force Survey data for Western Australia released in June for May showed that in trend terms:

- Total employment increased by 2,085 (0.1%) to 1.54 million people.
  - Over the past year, employment in Western Australia has increased by 26,307 (1.7%).
- Total unemployment decreased by 298 (-0.5%) to 58,105 people, and the unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage points to 3.6%.
  - Over the past year, unemployment in Western Australia has increased by 7,586 (13.1%), and the unemployment rate has increased by 0.4 percentage points.
- Total underutilisation has increased by 1,177 (0.8%) to 153,278 people, and the underutilisation rate increased by 0.1 percentage points to 9.6%.
  - Over the past year, total underutilisation has increased by 7,310 (4.8%) and the underutilisation rate has increased by 0.3 percentage points.

Nationally in May:

- Total employment increased by 39,779 (0.3%) to 14.00 million people.
  - Over the past year, employment in Australia has increased by 426,578 (3.0%).
- Total unemployment increased by 1,117 (0.2%) to 512,780 people and the unemployment rate remained steady at 3.5%.
  - Over the past year, unemployment in Australia has decreased by 14,514 (-2.8%) and the unemployment rate has decreased by 0.2 percentage points.
- Total underutilisation increased by 8,134 (0.6%) to 1.42 million people, and the underutilisation rate remained steady at 9.8%.
  - Over the past year, total underutilisation has increased by 31,067 (2.2%) and the underutilisation rate has decreased by 0.1 percentage points.
Employment

- In May, trend employment in Western Australia increased by 2,085 (0.1%) to 1.54 million people.
- Compared with May last year, total employment in Western Australia has increased by 26,307 (1.7%).
- Nationally, employment in increased by 39,779 (0.3%) to 14.00 million people.

Full and Part Time Employment

- Full-time employment in Western Australia decreased by 1,641 (-0.2%) to 1.08 million in May, and has increased by 30,918 (2.9%) over the year.
- Part-time employment in Western Australia, in original terms increased by 14,496 (3.0%) to 480,091 in May. Part-time employment has increased by 4,430 (0.9%) over the last year.
Unemployment

- In May, the total number of unemployed people in Western Australia decreased by 298 (-0.5%) to 58,105.
- Compared with May last year, unemployment in Western Australia has increased by 7,586 (13.1%) people.
- Nationally, total unemployment in May increased by 1,117 (0.2%) to 512,780 people.

Unemployment Rate

- In May, the trend unemployment rate in Western Australia decreased by 0.1 percentage points to 3.6%.
- Compared with May last year, the unemployment rate in Western Australia has increased by 0.4 percentage points.
- Nationally, unemployment remained steady at 3.5%
Male and Female Unemployment Rates

- In May, the trend unemployment rate for males in Western Australia increased by 0.1 percentage points to 4.1%.
- Compared with May last year male unemployment in Western Australia has increased by 0.7 percentage points.
- In the same period, the trend unemployment rate for females decreased by 0.1 percentage points to 3.1%.
- Compared with May last year female unemployment in Western Australia has increased by 0.1 percentage points.

Source: 6202.0 – Labour Force, Australia, May 2023 (Table 12, Trend)
Participation Rate

- The participation rate decreased by 0.1 percentage points to 69.0%.
- Over the past year, the participation rate has decreased by 0.6 percentage points.
- Nationally, the participation rate in May remained steady at 66.8%.

Source: ABS Labour Force, Australia, May 2023 (Table 12, Trend)
Underemployment

- The underemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage points to 6.0%. The total number of people underemployed has increased by 1,475 (1.5%) to 95,173 people.
- Over the past year, total underemployment has decreased by 277 (-0.3%).
- Nationally, the underemployment rate in May increased by 0.1 percentage points to 6.3% and the total number of people underemployed increased by 7,017 (0.8%) to 907,542.

Underemployment Rate (Proportion Of Labour Force): Western Australia & Australia

Index (Base: January 2017 = 100)

Source: ABS Labour Force, Australia, May 2023 (Table 12, Trend)

Underemployed Total: Western Australia & Australia

Index (Base: January 2017 = 100)

Source: ABS Labour Force, Australia, May 2023 (Table 23, Trend)
Underutilisation

- The underutilisation rate increased by 0.1 percentage points to 9.6%. Over the past month, the number of underutilised people has increased by 1,177 (0.8%) to 153,278.
- Over the past year, underutilisation in Western Australia has increased by 7,310 (4.8%).
- Nationally the underutilisation rate in May remained steady at 9.8%, and the total number of underutilised people increased by 8,134 (0.6%) to 1.42 million.
**Hours Worked**

- The total number of hours worked in all jobs increased by 313,821 (0.1%) to 217.03 million.
- Over the past year, the number of hours worked in Western Australia has increased by 8.33 million (3.8%).
- Nationally, the total number of hours worked in May increased by 7.22 million (0.4%) to 1,944 million.

![Monthly Hours Worked In All Jobs: Western Australia & Australia](chart.png)

Index (Base: January 2017 = 100)

- **Western Australia**
- **Australia**

Source: ABS Labour Force, Australia, May 2023 (Table 19, Trend)