Labour Market Brief
Western Australia

Summary

The ABS Labour Force Survey data for Western Australia released in May for April showed that in seasonally adjusted terms:

- Total employment decreased by 1,864 (-0.1%) to 1.46 million people.
  - Over the past year, employment in Western Australia has increased by 71,404 (4.9%).

- Total unemployment decreased by 7,619 (-17.6%) to 43,304 people, and the unemployment rate decreased by 0.5 percentage points to 2.9%.
  - Over the past year, unemployment in Western Australia has decreased by 29,297 (-67.7%), and the unemployment rate has decreased by 2.1 percentage points.

- Total underutilisation has decreased by 14,048 (-10.3%) to 136,688 people, and the underutilisation rate decreased by 0.8 percentage points to 9.1%.
  - Over the past year, total underutilisation has decreased by 38,964 (-28.5%) and the underutilisation rate has decreased by 2.9 percentage points.

Nationally in April:

- Total employment increased by 3,974 (0.0%) to 13.40 million people.
  - Over the past year, employment in Australia has increased by 381,532 (2.8%).

- Total unemployment decreased by 10,960 (-2.0%) to 537,066 people and the unemployment rate remained steady at 3.9%
  - Over the past year, unemployment in Australia has decreased by 211,068 (-39.3%) and the unemployment rate has decreased by 1.5 percentage points.

- Total underutilisation decreased by 43,575 (-3.1%) to 1.39 million people, and the underutilisation rate decreased by 0.3 percentage points to 10.0%.
  - Over the past year, total underutilisation has decreased by 441,226 (-31.8%) and the underutilisation rate has decreased by 3.3 percentage points.
Employment

• In April, seasonally adjusted employment in Western Australia decreased by 1,864 (-0.1%) to 1.46 million people.
• Compared with April last year, total employment in Western Australia has increased by 71,404 (4.9%).
• Nationally, employment in increased by 3,974 (0.0%) to 13.40 million people.

Full and Part Time Employment

• Full-time employment in Western Australia increased by 19,004 (1.9%) to 1.01 million in April, and has increased by 81,470 (8.1%) over the year.
• Part-time employment in Western Australia, in original terms decreased by 13,264 (-2.9%) to 464,011 in April. Part-time employment has decreased by 9,010 (-1.9%) over the last year.
Unemployment

- In April, the total number of unemployed people in Western Australia decreased by 7,619 (-17.6%) to 43,304.
- Compared with April last year, unemployment in Western Australia has decreased by 29,297 (-67.7%) people.
- Nationally, total unemployment in April decreased by 10,960 (-2.0%) to 537,066 people.

Unemployment Rate

- In April, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Western Australia decreased by 0.5 percentage points to 2.9%.
- Compared with April last year, the unemployment rate in Western Australia has decreased by 2.1 percentage points.
- Nationally, unemployment remained steady at 3.9%
Male and Female Unemployment Rates

- In April, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for males in Western Australia decreased by 0.7 percentage points to 3.0%.
- Compared with April last year male unemployment in Western Australia has decreased by 2.1 percentage points.
- In the same period, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for females in Western Australia decreased by 0.2 percentage points to 2.7%.
- Compared with April last year female unemployment in Western Australia has decreased by 2.1 percentage points.
Participation Rate

- The participation rate decreased by 0.5 percentage points to 69.3%.
- Over the past year, the participation rate has increased by 1.3 percentage points.
- Nationally, the participation rate in April decreased by 0.1 percentage points to 66.3%.

Source: ABS Labour Force, Australia, April 2022 (Table 12, Seasonally Adjusted)
Underemployment

- The underemployment rate decreased by 0.4 percentage points to 6.2%. The total number of people underemployed has decreased by 6,429 (-6.9%) to 93,384 people.
- Over the past year, total underemployment has decreased by 9,667 (-10.4%).
- Nationally, the underemployment rate in April decreased by 0.2 percentage points to 6.1% and the total number of people underemployed decreased by 32,615 (-3.8%) to 852,474.
Underutilisation

• The underutilisation rate decreased by 0.8 percentage points to 9.1%. Over the past month, the number of underutilised people has decreased by 14,048 (-10.3%) to 136,688.
• Over the past year, underutilisation in Western Australia has decreased by 38,964 (-28.5%).
• Nationally the underutilisation rate in April decreased by 0.3 percentage points to 10.0%, and the total number of underutilised people decreased by 43,575 (-3.1%) to 1.39 million.

Source: ABS Labour Force, Australia, April 2022 (Table 23, Seasonally Adjusted)
**Hours Worked**

- The total number of hours worked in all jobs increased by 3.52 million (1.7%) to 204.32 million.
- Over the past year, the number of hours worked in Western Australia has increased by 13.56 million (6.6%).
- Nationally, the total number of hours worked in April increased by 22.96 million (1.3%) to 1,833 million.

![MONTHLY HOURS WORKED IN ALL JOBS: WA & AUS](chart)

Source: ABS Labour Force, Australia, April 2022 (Table 19, Seasonally Adjusted)