

Key Message

The Northern Territory no longer retains the lowest unemployment rate in Australia, with its unemployment rate increasing by 0.1 of a percentage point to 4.5%, falling behind the Australian Capital Territory (4.3%). Although the NT continues to maintain the highest participation rate (73.7%) of all jurisdictions, the NT labour market continues to show signs of moderation. Employment has decreased nine consecutive months, and lower newspaper job advertisements suggest further slowing in employment activity in the Territory in the short term is likely.

Unemployment Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Unemployment Rate	NT	↑ 0.1 ppt	4.5%
	Australia	- 0.0 ppt	5.8%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In March 2016, the Territory's unemployment rate increased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 4.5%, from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory's unemployment rate is the second lowest of the jurisdictions after Australian Capital Territory (4.3%), and New South Wales reporting the third lowest, with an unemployment rate of 5.3%.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.8% in the month from the previous month's revised figure.

Employment

		Monthly Change	Number of Persons ('000)
Total Employed	NT	↓ 0.3%	130.5
	Australia	↑ 0.1%	11 910.0
Full-Time Employed	NT	↓ 0.3%	105.8
	Australia	- 0.0%	8 193.8
Part-Time Employed	NT	↓ 0.6%	24.7
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	3 716.2

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In March 2016, there were 130 500 people employed in the Territory, a decrease of 420 persons from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment decreased by 280 to 105 800 persons, and part-time employment decreased by 140 to 24 700 persons.
- Nationally, employment increased by 7660 (0.1%) to 11 909 970 persons.
- National full-time employment decreased by 330 to 8 193 760 persons and part-time employment increased by 7990 to 3 716 200 persons.

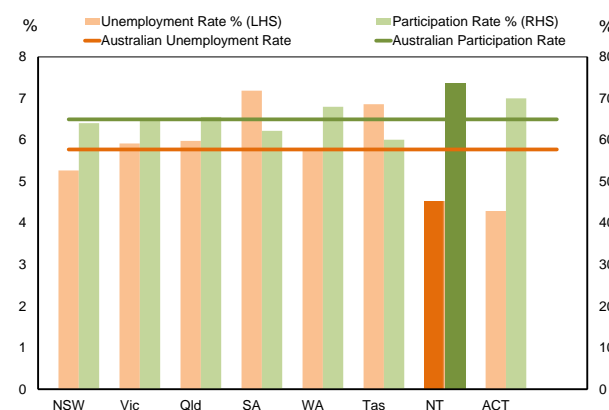
Participation Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Participation Rate	NT	↓ 0.1 ppt	73.7%
	Australia	- 0.0 ppt	65.0%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In March 2016, the Territory's labour force participation rate decreased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 73.7% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory has the highest participation rate in Australia (73.7%), followed by the Australian Capital Territory (70.0%) and Western Australia (68.0%).
- Nationally, the labour force participation rate was unchanged at 65.0% from the previous month's revised figure.

Chart 1: Unemployment and Participation Rates



Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

Labour Force

		Monthly Change	Number of Persons ('000)
Labour Force	NT	↓ 0.2%	136.7
	Australia	- 0.0%	12 639.6
Civilian Population	NT	- 0.0%	185.6
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	19 472.4

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In March 2016, the Territory's labour force decreased by 280 (0.2%) to 136 690 persons.
- Nationally, the labour force increased by 4860 to 12 639 550 persons.

ANZ Newspaper Job Advertisements

		Monthly Change	Number of Job Ads
ANZ Job Ads	NT	↓ 2.4%	233
	Australia	↓ 1.6%	2 681

Source: ANZ Job Advertisement Series

- In March 2016, ANZ newspaper job ads decreased by 2.4% to 233 job ads in the Territory.
- Newspaper job ads decreased in all jurisdictions, except for South Australia (2.5%) and New South Wales (0.4%).
- Compared to March 2015, newspaper job ads decreased by 28.5% in the Territory, with all other jurisdictions also recording declines, except for New South Wales and South Australia, with increases of 8.6% and 4.9% respectively. The decreases ranged from a 56.9% fall in Western Australia to a 5.3% decline in Victoria.

Apprentices and Trainees (estimate)

	Year to Date Change	Year to Date to Feb 2015	Year to Date to Feb 2016
Commencements	↓ 25.8%	650	482
Completions	↑ 12.0%	125	140

Source: Northern Territory Department of Business

- In the period 1 January to 28 February 2016, there were 482 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, a decrease of 25.8% (168) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In the period 1 January to 28 February 2016, there were 140 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, an increase of 12.0% (15) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- As at 28 February 2016, there were 3650 apprentices and trainees in training.

Caution should be exercised in the use of this data as training data has a natural lag (up to 6 months after the commencement date) and are subject to future revisions.

Notes

Employment figures refer to Territory residents that are employed and do not capture persons working in the Territory that normally reside outside the Territory.

All data referred to in the brief are in trend terms, except for the apprentice and trainee data, which are in original terms.

Current labour market briefs are available online at: <http://www.dob.nt.gov.au/Employment/labour-market/Pages/default.aspx>.

For information on the data sources used and a glossary of labour market terms please see Labour Market Terms and Information.

Please note that changes to geographical standards and population re-benchmarking have resulted in revisions to labour market estimates.

For further information please go to: <http://www.abs.gov.au/>

Data Sources

Australian Bureau of Statistics, Catalogue Number 6202.0

ANZ Banking Corporation Limited, Job Advertisement Series

Australian Government Department of Employment, Vacancy Report

Northern Territory Government Department of Business

Enquiries

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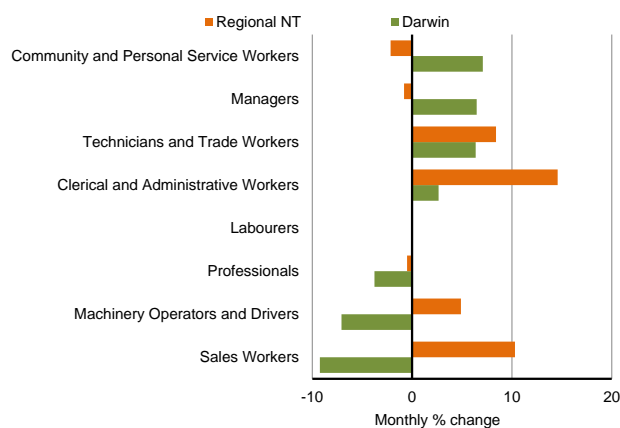
Internet Job Vacancies (February 2016)

Occupation	Monthly Change	Number of Vacancies
Community and Personal Service Workers	↑ 7.1%	147
Managers	↑ 6.5%	160
Technicians and Trade Workers	↑ 6.4%	234
Clerical and Administrative Workers	↑ 2.7%	221
Labourers	- 0.0%	102
Professionals	↓ 3.8%	373
Machinery Operators and Drivers	↓ 7.1%	66
Sales Workers	↓ 9.2%	95
Total	↑ 0.7%	1 396

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In February 2016, internet job vacancies increased by 0.7% in the Territory, with increases recorded across all occupation groups, except for Professionals, Machinery operators and drivers, Sales workers, and Labourers unchanged.
- In February 2016, internet job vacancies for Sales workers reported the largest monthly decrease (9.2%).
- In regional NT, increases were recorded across all occupation groups, except for Community and personal service workers, Managers, and Professionals, with Labourers unchanged.

Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies



Source: Department of Employment (Australian Government)