

Labour market brief – December 2016

Key Message

In December 2016, the Northern Territory's unemployment rate was 3.6%, the lowest in Australia. The Territory continues to maintain the highest participation rate (76.2%) of all jurisdictions. The Territory labour market continues to show signs of resilience with both full-time and part-time employment growing, a low unemployment rate, and a high participation rate. However, job advertisements and vacancies have been declining, which may point to softening labour market conditions over the coming year.

Unemployment Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Unemployment Rate	NT	▬ 0.0 ppt	3.6%
	Australia	▬ 0.0 ppt	5.7%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In December 2016, the Territory's unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.6%, from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory's unemployment rate is the lowest of the jurisdictions followed by the Australian Capital Territory (3.7%), while South Australia reported the highest unemployment rate of 6.8%.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.7% in the month from the previous month's revised figure.

Employment

		Monthly Change	Number of Persons ('000)
Total Employed	NT	⬆ 0.7%	136.7
	Australia	⬆ 0.1%	11,966.8
Full-Time Employed	NT	⬆ 0.6%	109.1
	Australia	⬆ 0.1%	8,150.3
Part-Time Employed	NT	⬆ 0.9%	27.6
	Australia	▬ 0.0%	3,816.5

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In December 2016, there were 136,710 people employed in the Territory, an increase of 900 persons from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment increased by 650 to 109,120 persons, while part-time employment increased by 260 to 27,600 persons.
- Nationally, employment increased by 8,160 to 11,966,770 persons.
- National full-time employment increased by 7,040 to 8,150,290 persons while part-time employment increased by 1,130 to 3,816,480 persons.

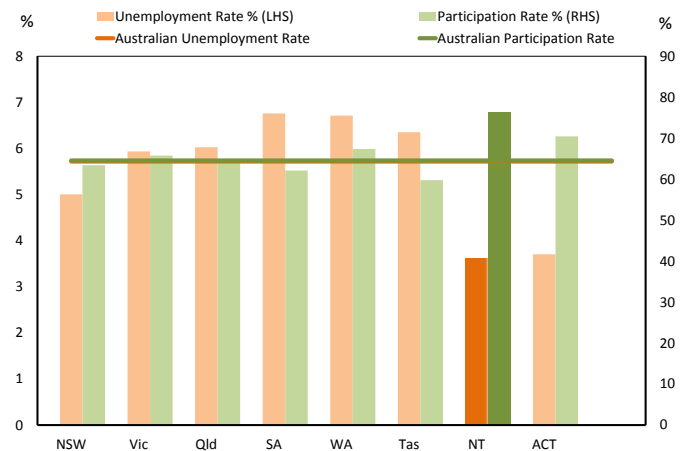
Participation Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Participation Rate	NT	⬆ 0.5 ppt	76.2%
	Australia	▬ 0.0 ppt	64.6%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In December 2016, the Territory's labour force participation rate increased by 0.5 of a percentage point to 76.2% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory has the highest participation rate in Australia (76.2%), followed by the Australian Capital Territory (70.5%) and Western Australia (67.4%).
- Nationally, the labour force participation rate remained unchanged at 64.6% 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	⬆ 0.7%	141.8
	Australia	⬆ 0.1%	12,692.5
Civilian Population	NT	⬆ 0.1%	186.0
	Australia	⬆ 0.1%	19,666.4

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In December 2016, the Territory's labour force increased by 950 to 141,850 persons.
- Nationally, the labour force increased by 11,410 to 12,692,500 persons.

SEEK Internet Job Advertisements

		Monthly Change	Number of Job Ads
SEEK Job Ads	NT	↓ 0.1%	157
	Australia	↑ 0.5%	116

Source: SEEK and National Australia Bank, SEEK Employment Index

- In November 2016, SEEK internet job ads decreased by 0.1% to 157 job ads in the Territory.
- Internet job ads increased in all other jurisdictions in the month except for the Australian Capital Territory, which decreased by 0.5%.
- Compared to November 2015, internet job ads increased by 7.9% in the Territory, with other jurisdictions also recording increases, except for Western Australia. The increases ranged from 3.6% in Queensland to 14.5% in South Australia.

Note: ANZ Newspaper Jobs Ads data no longer available at state/territory level. The Department of Trade, Business and Innovation will now provide monthly internet jobs ads data from SEEK.

Apprentices and Trainees (estimate)

	Year to Date Change	Year to Date to Nov 2015	Year to Date to Nov 2016
Commencements	↑ 3.2%	2,106	2,173
Completions	↓ 14.9%	1,090	928

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

- In the period 1 January to 30 November 2016, there were 2,173 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, an increase of 3.2% (67) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In the period 1 January to 30 November 2016, there were 928 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 14.9% (162) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- As at 30 November 2016, there were 3,421 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: <https://business.nt.gov.au/business-and-economic-data/labour-market-information/nt-labour-market-information>

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: www.abs.gov.au/

Data Sources

Australian Bureau of Statistics, Catalogue Number 6202.0

SEEK and National Australia Bank, SEEK Employment Index

Australian Government Department of Employment, Vacancy Report

Northern Territory Government Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

Enquiries

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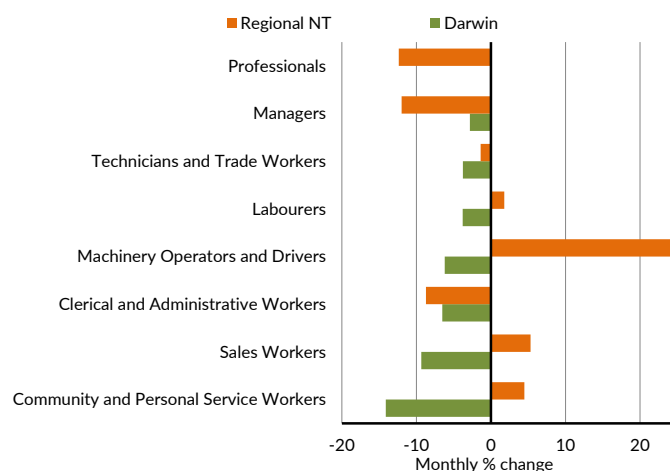
Internet Job Vacancies (November 2016)

Occupation	Monthly Change	Number of Vacancies
Professionals	↑ 0.1%	345
Managers	↓ 2.8%	161
Technicians and Trade Workers	↓ 3.8%	222
Labourers	↓ 3.8%	119
Machinery Operators and Drivers	↓ 6.2%	85
Clerical and Administrative Workers	↓ 6.5%	200
Sales Workers	↓ 9.4%	116
Community and Personal Service Workers	↓ 14.1%	126
Total	↓ 4.8%	1,375

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In November 2016, internet job vacancies decreased by 4.8% in the Territory, with decreases recorded across all occupation groups except Professionals.
- In November 2016, internet job vacancies for Community and personal service workers reported the largest monthly decrease (14.1%), while Professionals reported the only increase (0.1%).
- In regional NT, decreases were recorded across most occupation groups except Machinery operators and drivers which reported the largest increase of 26.0%, followed by Sales workers (5.3%). Professionals reported the largest decrease (12.4%), followed by Managers (12.0%).

Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies



Source: Department of Employment (Australian Government)