

Labour Market Brief – October 2016

Key Message

In October 2016, the Northern Territory reported the second lowest unemployment rate in Australia of 3.5%, behind the Australian Capital Territory (3.4%). The Territory continues to maintain the highest participation rate (74.7%) of all jurisdictions. The Territory labour market continues to show signs of resilience, with a growing labour force, low unemployment rate, and 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	3.5%
	Australia	- 0.0 ppt	5.6%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In October 2016, the Territory's unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.5%, from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory's unemployment rate is the second lowest of the jurisdictions behind the Australian Capital Territory (3.4%), while Tasmania reported the highest unemployment rate of 6.7%.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate was also unchanged at 5.6% in the month from the previous month's revised figure.

Employment

		Monthly Change	Number of Persons ('000)
Total Employed	NT	↑ 0.1%	134.9
	Australia	- 0.0%	11,946.6
Full-Time Employed	NT	↓ 0.1%	107.6
	Australia	↓ 0.1%	8,120.1
Part-Time Employed	NT	↑ 0.9%	27.4
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	3,826.5

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In October 2016, there were 134 920 people employed in the Territory, an increase of 140 persons from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment decreased by 100 to 107 570 persons, while part-time employment increased by 240 to 27 350 persons.
- Nationally, employment decreased by 1050 to 11 946 600 persons.
- National full-time employment decreased by 9480 to 8 120 110 persons while part-time employment increased by 8440 to 3 826 490 persons.

Participation Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Participation Rate	NT	- 0.0 ppt	74.7%
	Australia	↓ 0.1 ppt	64.5%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In October 2016, the Territory's labour force participation rate was unchanged at 74.7% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory has the highest participation rate in Australia (74.7%), followed by the Australian Capital Territory (70.0%) and Western Australia (67.0%).
- Nationally, the labour force participation rate decreased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 64.5% 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	↑ 0.1%	139.8
	Australia	- 0.0%	12,655.2
Civilian Population	NT	↓ 0.1%	186.9
	Australia	↑ 0.1%	19,633.8

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In October 2016, the Territory's labour force increased by 170 to 139 810 persons.
- Nationally, the labour force decreased by 5190 to 12 655 150 persons.

ANZ Newspaper Job Advertisements

		Monthly Change	Number of Job Ads
ANZ Job Ads	NT	↓ 20.2%	113
	Australia	↓ 4.7%	1,564

Source: ANZ Job Advertisement Series

- In October 2016, ANZ newspaper job ads decreased by 20.2% to 113 job ads in the Territory.
- Newspaper job ads decreased in all jurisdictions in the month, except for Tasmania, which increased by 1.0%.
- Compared to October 2015, newspaper job ads decreased by 59.9% in the Territory, with all other jurisdictions also recording declines. The decreases ranged from a 61.1% fall in Queensland, to a 7.0% decline in Victoria.

Apprentices and Trainees (estimate)

	Year to Date Change	Year to Date to Sep 2015	Year to Date to Sep 2016
Commencements	↑ 7.2%	1,763	1,890
Completions	↓ 13.5%	792	685

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

- In the period 1 January to 30 September 2016, there were 1,890 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, an increase of 7.2% (127) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In the period 1 January to 30 September 2016, there were 685 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 13.5% (107) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- As at 30 September 2016, there were 3,595 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/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

ANZ Banking Corporation Limited, Job Advertisement Series

Australian Government Department of Employment, Vacancy Report

Northern Territory Government Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

Enquiries

Strategic Policy and Research, Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

Email: SPAR.DTBI@nt.gov.au

Disclaimer

The Northern Territory of Australia gives no warranty of assurance, and makes no representation as to the accuracy of any information or advice contained in this publication, or that it is suitable for your intended use. You should not rely upon information in this publication for the purpose of making any serious business or investment decisions without obtaining independent, professional advice in relation to your particular situation.

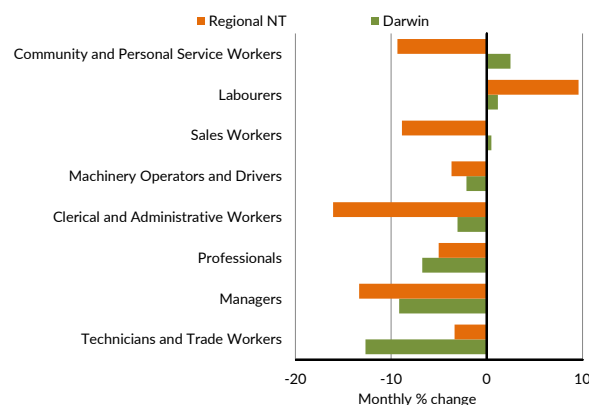
Internet Job Vacancies (September 2016)

Occupation	Monthly Change	Number of Vacancies
Managers	↑ 5.2%	167
Labourers	↑ 3.5%	118
Sales Workers	↑ 1.1%	128
Machinery Operators and Drivers	↓ 3.3%	89
Professionals	↓ 7.0%	355
Community and Personal Service Workers	↓ 8.2%	164
Technicians and Trade Workers	↓ 8.3%	255
Clerical and Administrative Workers	↓ 9.0%	239
Total	↓ 4.9%	1,515

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In September 2016, internet job vacancies decreased by 4.9% in the Territory, with decreases recorded across all occupation groups except Managers, Labourers and Sales workers.
- In September 2016, internet job vacancies for Clerical and administrative workers reported the largest monthly decrease (9.0%), while Managers reported the largest increase (5.2%).
- In regional NT, decreases were recorded across all occupation groups except Machinery operators and drivers which increased by 9.3%, and Community and personal service workers (3.1%). Technicians and trade workers reported the largest decrease (13.2%), followed by Clerical and administrative workers (7.5%).

Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies



Source: Department of Employment (Australian Government)