

Labour market brief – September 2017

Key Message

In September 2017, the Territory retained the lowest unemployment rate and highest participation rate of the jurisdictions. However, labour market conditions continue to soften, with employment declining by over 8400 jobs or 6.0% over the last seven months. Nevertheless, increasing job vacancy data suggest some support in the short term for employment growth.

Unemployment Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Unemployment Rate	NT	↑ 0.2 ppt	4.1%
	Australia	▪ 0.0 ppt	5.5%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In September 2017, the Territory's unemployment rate increased by 0.2 of a percentage point to 4.1%, from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory's unemployment rate is the lowest of the jurisdictions with the Australian Capital Territory second (4.4%), while Victoria reported the highest unemployment rate of 6.0%.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.5% from the previous month's revised figure.

Employment

		Monthly Change	Number of Persons ('000)
Total Employed	NT	↓ 0.6%	131 438
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	12 281 244
Full-Time Employed	NT	↓ 0.3%	103 779
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	8 403 132
Part-Time Employed	NT	↓ 1.7%	27 659
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	3 878 112

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In September 2017, there were 131 438 people employed in the Territory, a decrease of 797 persons from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment decreased by 312 to 103 779 persons, and part-time employment decreased by 485 to 27 659 persons.
- Nationally, employment increased by 23 756 to 12 281 244 persons.
- National full-time employment increased by 16 012 to 8 403 132 persons and part-time employment increased by 7744 to 3 878 112 persons.

Participation Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Participation Rate	NT	↓ 0.3 ppt	73.2%
	Australia	▪ 0.0 ppt	65.2%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In September 2017, the Territory's labour force participation rate decreased by 0.3 of a percentage point to 73.2% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory has the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (71.3%) and Western Australia (68.1%).
- Nationally, the labour force participation rate was unchanged at 65.2% 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	↓ 0.4%	137 063
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	12 997 836
Civilian Population	NT	↑ 0.1%	187 267
	Australia	↑ 0.1%	19 939 373

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In September 2017, the Territory's labour force decreased by 546 to 137 063 persons.
- Nationally, the labour force increased by 21 529 to 12 997 836 persons.

Apprentices and Trainees (estimate)

	Year to Date Change	Year to Date to Aug 2016	Year to Date to Aug 2017
Commencements	↓ 14.3%	1734	1486
Completions	↓ 12.6%	666	582

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

- In the year to date to August 2017, there were 1486 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, a decrease of 14.3% (248) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In the year to date to August 2017, there were 582 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 12.6% (84) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- As at 31 August 2017, there were 3217 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.

Internet Job Vacancies (August 2017)

Occupation	Monthly Change	Number of Vacancies
Machinery Operators and Drivers	↑ 8.6%	125
Labourers	↑ 4.8%	159
Technicians and Trade Workers	↑ 4.1%	320
Managers	↑ 1.5%	221
Professionals	↑ 1.4%	498
Sales Workers	↑ 1.2%	129
Clerical and Administrative Workers	↑ 0.4%	411
Community and Personal Service Workers	↓ 0.9%	179
Total	↑ 2.8%	1947

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In August 2017, internet job vacancies increased by 2.8% in the Territory, with all of the occupation groups increasing except Community and personal services workers (decreasing 0.9% in the month).
- In August 2017, internet job vacancies for Machinery operators and drivers reported the largest monthly increase (8.6%), followed by Labourers (4.8%), and Technicians and trade workers (4.1%).
- In regional NT, almost all occupation groups recorded increases in the month, except for

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 at the above link. 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

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

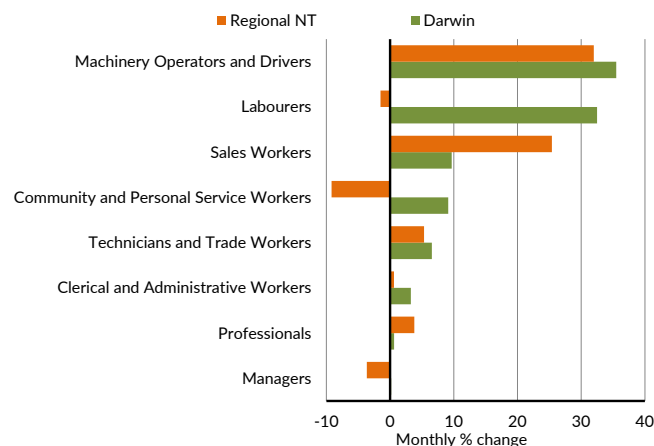
Disclaimer

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.

Labourers, Managers, and Community and personal service workers. Machinery operators and drivers reported the largest increase (32.0%), followed by Sales workers (25.4%), and then Technicians and trade workers (5.3%).

- In the Darwin region, all occupation groups recorded increases. The largest monthly increase was reported for Machinery operators and drivers (35.5%), followed by Labourers (32.5%), and then Sales workers (9.7%).

Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies



Source: Department of Employment (Australian Government)