

Labour market brief - October 2017

Key Message

In October 2017, the Territory had the second lowest unemployment rate and the highest participation rate of the jurisdictions. However, labour market conditions continue to soften, with employment declining by over 7500 jobs or 5.4% over the last eight months. Nevertheless, increasing job vacancy data suggest some support in the short term for employment growth.

Unemployment Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Unemployment Rate	NT	↑ 0.1 ppt	4.2%
	Australia	- 0.0 ppt	5.5%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In October 2017, the Territory's unemployment rate increased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 4.2%, from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory's unemployment rate is the second lowest of the jurisdictions behind the Australian Capital Territory (3.8%), while Tasmania 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	↓ 0.1%	132 255
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	12 301 182
Full-Time Employed	NT	↑ 0.1%	104 257
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	8 423 050
Part-Time Employed	NT	↓ 0.7%	27 998
	Australia	↑ 0.1%	3 878 132

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In October 2017, there were 132 255 people employed in the Territory, a decrease of 121 persons from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment increased by 86 to 104 257 persons, and part-time employment decreased by 207 to 27 998 persons.
- Nationally, employment increased by 19 969 to 12 301 182 persons.
- National full-time employment increased by 16 018 to 8 423 050 persons and part-time employment increased by 3951 to 3 878 132 persons.

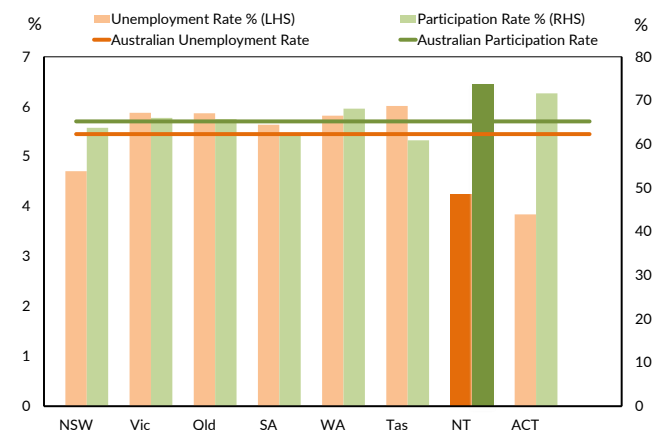
Participation Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Participation Rate	NT	↑ 0.1 ppt	73.8%
	Australia	- 0.0 ppt	65.2%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In October 2017, the Territory's labour force participation rate increased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 73.8% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory has the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (71.6%) 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	↑ 0.1%	138 131
	Australia	↑ 0.1%	13 010 540
Civilian Population	NT	↓ 0.1%	187 043
	Australia	↑ 0.1%	19 962 709

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In October 2017, the Territory's labour force increased by 120 to 138 131 persons.
- Nationally, the labour force increased by 17 002 to 13 010 540 persons.

Apprentices and Trainees (estimate)

	Year to Date Change	Year to Date to Sep 2016	Year to Date to Sep 2017
Commencements	↓ 12.7%	1894	1654
Completions	↓ 9.6%	737	666

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

- In the year to date to September 2017, there were 1654 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, a decrease of 12.7% (240) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In the year to date to September 2017, there were 666 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 9.6% (71) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- As at 30 September 2017, there were 3160 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 (September 2017)

Occupation	Monthly Change	Number of Vacancies
Machinery Operators and Drivers	↑ 6.1%	130
Technicians and Trade Workers	↑ 5.1%	356
Labourers	↑ 3.9%	175
Sales Workers	↑ 1.1%	131
Professionals	↑ 1.0%	503
Clerical and Administrative Workers	↑ 0.8%	414
Managers	↑ 0.2%	225
Community and Personal Service Workers	↑ 0.1%	185
Total	↑ 2.0%	1996

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In September 2017, internet job vacancies increased by 2.0% in the Territory, with all of the occupation groups increasing.
- In September 2017, internet job vacancies for Machinery operators and drivers reported the largest monthly increase (6.1%), followed by Technicians and trader workers (5.1%), and Labourers (3.9%).
- In regional NT, almost all occupation groups recorded decreases in the month, except for Professionals, Sales workers, and Technicians and

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

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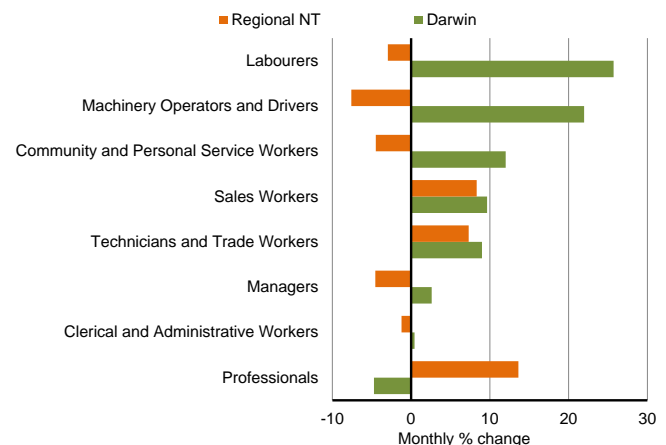
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trade workers. Professionals reported the largest increase (13.6%), followed by Sales workers (8.3%), and then Technicians and trade workers (7.3%).

- In the Darwin region, all occupation groups recorded increases, except for Professionals (decreased by 4.7%). The largest monthly increase was reported for Labourers (25.7%), followed by Machinery operators and drivers (22.0%), and then Community and personal service workers (12.0%).

Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies



Source: Department of Employment (Australian Government)