

Labour market brief – February 2018

Key Message

In February 2018, the Territory had the second lowest unemployment rate (4.4%), and the highest participation rate (76.1%) of the jurisdictions. However, labour market conditions continue to remain soft. Employment levels increased marginally with part-time employment offsetting a fall in full-time employment.

Employment

		Monthly Change	Number of Persons ('000)
Total Employed	NT	↑ 0.2%	136 035
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	12 480 477
Full-Time Employed	NT	↓ 0.2%	106 061
	Australia	↑ 0.1%	8 519 074
Part-Time Employed	NT	↑ 1.3%	29 974
	Australia	↑ 0.3%	3 961 404

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In February 2018, there were 136 035 people employed in the Territory, an increase of 222 persons from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment decreased by 171 to 106 061 persons, and part-time employment increased by 393 persons to 29 974 persons.
- Nationally, employment increased by 19 330 to 12 480 477 persons.
- National full-time employment increased by 7730 to 8 519 074 persons and part-time employment increased by 11 600 to 3 961 404 persons.

Unemployment Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Unemployment Rate	NT	↓ 0.1 ppt	4.4%
	Australia	- 0.0 ppt	5.5%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In February 2018, the Territory's unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage points to 4.4%, from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory's unemployment rate is the second lowest of the jurisdictions behind the Australian Capital Territory (4.1%). South Australia reported the highest unemployment rate of 6.2%.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.5% from the previous month's revised figure.

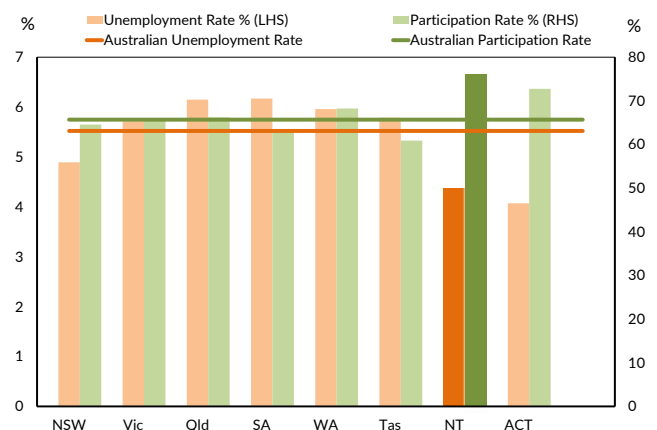
Participation Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Participation Rate	NT	- 0.0 ppt	76.1%
	Australia	↑ 0.1 ppt	65.7%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In February 2018, the Territory's labour force participation rate remained unchanged at 76.1% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory had the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (72.8%) and Western Australia (68.2%).
- Nationally, the labour force participation rate increased marginally to 65.7% 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%	142 277
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	13 209 970
Civilian Population	NT	- 0.0%	186 864
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	20 127 687

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In February 2018, the Territory's labour force increased by 74 to 142 277 persons.
- Nationally, the labour force increased by 23 677 to 13 209 970 persons.

Apprentices and Trainees (estimate)

	Year to Date Change	Year to Date to Jan 2017	Year to Date to Jan 2018
Commencements	↑ 20.3%	172	207
Completions	↓ 31.1%	61	42

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

- In the year to date to January 2018, there were 207 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, an increase of 20.3% (25) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In the year to date to January 2018, there were 42 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 31.1% (19) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- As at 31 January 2018, there were 3087 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 (January 2018)

Occupation	Monthly Change	Number of Vacancies
Professionals	↑ 1.7%	526
Community and Personal Service Workers	↑ 1.2%	202
Managers	↓ 0.1%	235
Sales Workers	↓ 0.7%	135
Technicians and Trade Workers	↓ 0.8%	368
Machinery Operators and Drivers	↓ 0.8%	126
Labourers	↓ 1.1%	163
Clerical and Administrative Workers	↓ 1.4%	409
Total	↑ 0.7%	2064

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In January 2018, internet job vacancies increased by 0.7% in the Territory, with all of the occupation groups decreasing except for the Professionals and Community and personal service workers, which increased by 1.7% and 1.2 respectively%.

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

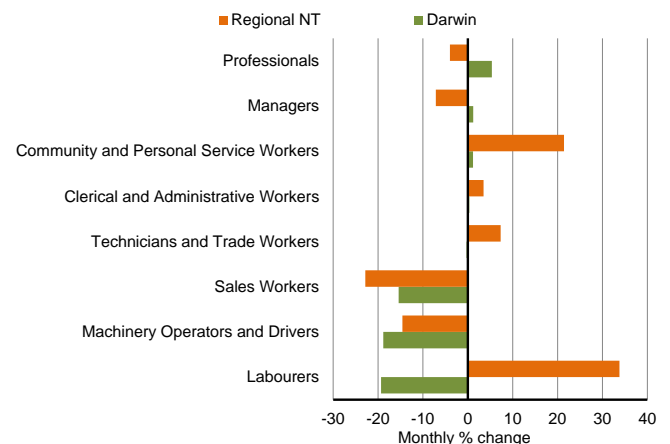
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- In January 2018, internet job vacancies for Clerical and administrative workers reported the largest monthly decrease (1.4%), followed by Labourers (1.1%), and Machinery operators and drivers (0.8%).
- In regional NT, half of the occupation groups recorded decreases in the month. Sales workers reported the largest decrease (22.8%), followed by Machinery operators and drivers (14.6%), and then Managers (7.1%).
- In the Darwin region, half of the occupation groups recorded decreases. The largest monthly decrease was reported for Labourers (19.3%), followed by Machinery operators and drivers (18.8%), then Sales workers (15.4%).

Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies



Source: Department of Employment (Australian Government)