

NT labour market brief – October 2019

Key message

Labour market conditions in the Territory continue to remain soft. The unemployment rate is rising. On a positive note, employment levels increased slightly in October 2019, with full-time employment increasing. This is the fourth consecutive increase in employment levels. The participation rate continues to remain highest of all jurisdictions, and above the national average.

Employment

		Monthly change	Number of persons ('000)
Total employed	NT	Flat	130 388
	Australia	Up 0.1%	12 935 694
Full-time employed	NT	Up 0.1%	100 290
	Australia	Up 0.1%	8 835 647
Part-time employed	NT	Flat	30 099
	Australia	Up 0.2%	4 100 047

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In October 2019, there were 130 388 people employed in the Territory, a marginal increase of 56 persons from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment increased to 100 290 persons, while part-time employment remained unchanged at 30 099 persons.
- Nationally, employment increased by 12 313 to 12 935 694 persons.
- National full-time employment increased by 5828 to 8 835 647 persons and part-time employment increased by 6485 to 4 100 047 persons.
- Territory employment levels has increased for four consecutive months after 13 consecutive negative months.

Unemployment rate

		Monthly change	Rate
Unemployment rate	NT	Up 0.2 ppts	5.9%
	Australia	Flat	5.3%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In October 2019, the Territory's unemployment rate increased by 0.2 of a percentage point to 5.9%.
- The Territory's unemployment rate is the fifth lowest of the jurisdictions after Western Australia (5.7%), Victoria (4.8%), New South Wales (4.7%), and then the Australian Capital Territory (3.3%). Queensland reported the highest unemployment rate of 6.5%.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.3% from the previous month's revised figure.

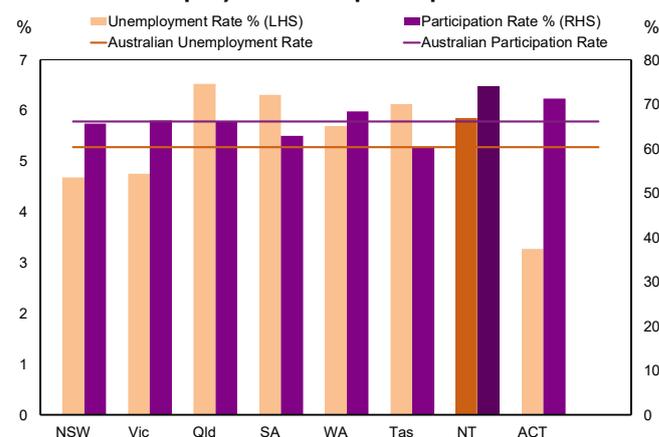
Participation rate

		Monthly change	Rate
Participation rate	NT	Up 0.5 ppts	73.9%
	Australia	Flat	66.1%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In October 2019, the Territory's labour force participation rate increased by 0.5 percentage points to 73.9% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory had the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (71.2%) and then Western Australia (68.4%).
- Nationally, the labour force participation rate remained unchanged at 66.1% 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	Up 0.3%	138 377
	Australia	Up 0.1%	13 658 084
Civilian population ¹	NT	Down 0.2%	188 335
	Australia	Up 0.1%	20 680 657

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In October 2019, the Territory's labour force was 138 377 persons, an increase of 0.3% from last month's revised figure.
- Nationally, the labour force increased by 0.1% to 13 658 084 persons.

Apprentices and trainees (estimates)²

	Year to date change	Year to date to Sep 2018	Year to date to Sep 2019
Commencements	Up 2.9%	1909	1964
Completions	Down 4.5%	640	611

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

- In the year to September 2019, there were 1964 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, an increase of 2.9% (55) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In the year to September 2019, there were 611 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 4.5% (29) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- As at 30 September 2019, there were 3486 apprentices and trainees in training.

Internet job vacancies (September 2019)

Occupation	Monthly change	No. of vacancies
Managers	Up 0.3%	199
Technicians and trade workers	Down 0.4%	284
Clerical and administrative workers	Down 0.5%	310
Professionals	Down 0.8%	535
Community and personal service workers	Down 1.4%	191
Sales workers	Down 2.2%	101
Machinery operators and drivers	Down 3.3%	87
Labourers	Down 4.1%	98
Total	Down 1.0%	1678

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In September 2019, total internet job vacancies decreased by 1.0% (trend) to 1678 in the Territory.
- In September 2019, internet job vacancies for Managers reported the only monthly increase (0.3%) in the Territory. Labourers reported the largest decrease (4.1%), followed by Machinery operators and drivers (3.3%), then Sales workers (2.2%).

Notes

1. Original data.
2. Caution should be exercised in the use of this data as training data has a natural lag (up to six months after the commencement date) and are subject to future revisions.
3. It should be noted that this table provides trend data.
4. It should be noted that Darwin and regional NT data are original data with a three month rolling average.

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/business/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/

Enquiries

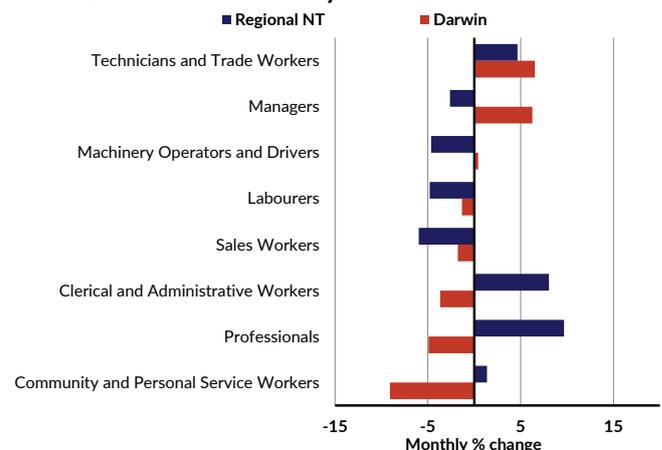
Economic Report, Department of Trade, Business and Innovation, email: spar.dtbi@nt.gov.au

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- In regional NT, half of the occupation groups recorded increases in the month, with Professionals reporting the largest (9.7%), followed by Clerical and administrative workers (8.0%), then Technicians and trade workers (4.7%).
- In regional NT, the largest recorded decrease was Sales workers (12.6%), followed by Labourers (4.8%), then Machinery operators and drivers (4.7%).
- In the Darwin region, most of the occupation groups recorded decreases in the month, except for Technicians and trade workers (6.5%), followed by Managers (6.2%), and then Machinery operators and drivers (0.4%).
- In the Darwin region, the largest decrease was Community and personal service workers (9.1%), followed by Professionals (4.9%), then Clerical and administrative workers (3.7%).

Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies⁴



Source: Australian Government Department of Employment