

Labour market brief – March 2017

Key Message

In March 2017, the Northern Territory's unemployment rate was 3.5%, the lowest in Australia. The Territory continues to maintain the highest participation rate, increasing by 0.4 percentage points to 78.5%, again the highest on record for all Australian jurisdictions. The Territory labour market continues to show signs of resilience, with a growing labour force, a low unemployment rate, and a record high participation rate. However, internet job vacancies have continued to decline, which may point to employers using other methods to advertise their vacancies, or employment growth is softening in the short-term.

Unemployment Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Unemployment Rate	NT	▬ 0.0 ppt	3.5%
	Australia	⬆ 0.1 ppt	5.9%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In March 2017, the Territory's unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.5%, from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory's unemployment rate is the lowest of the jurisdictions with the Australian Capital Territory second (3.7%), while South Australia reported the highest unemployment rate of 6.7%.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate increased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 5.9% from the previous month's revised figure.

Employment

		Monthly Change	Number of Persons ('000)
Total Employed	NT	⬆ 0.6%	141.5
	Australia	⬆ 0.1%	12,033.4
Full-Time Employed	NT	⬆ 0.3%	111.7
	Australia	⬆ 0.2%	8,198.2
Part-Time Employed	NT	⬆ 1.7%	29.8
	Australia	▬ 0.0%	3,835.2

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In March 2017, there were 141,540 people employed in the Territory, an increase of 860 persons from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment increased by 370 to 111,700 persons, while part-time employment increased by 490 to 29,850 persons.
- Nationally, employment increased by 16,470 to 12,033,390 persons.
- National full-time employment increased by 15,570 to 8,198,200 persons while part-time employment increased by 900 to 3,835,190 persons.

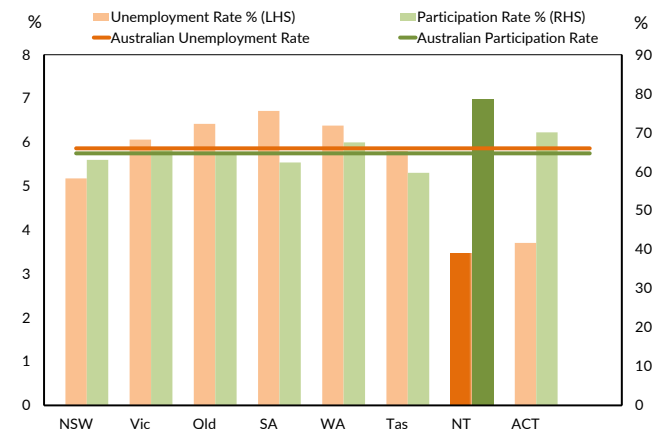
Participation Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Participation Rate	NT	⬆ 0.4 ppt	78.5%
	Australia	⬆ 0.1 ppt	64.7%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In March 2017, the Territory's labour force participation rate increased by 0.4 of a percentage point to 78.5% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory has the highest participation rate on record in Australia (78.5%), followed by the Australian Capital Territory (70.1%) and Western Australia (67.5%).
- Nationally, the labour force participation rate increased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 64.7% 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	⬆ 0.5%	146.6
	Australia	⬆ 0.2%	12,782.9
Civilian Population	NT	⬆ 0.1%	186.9
	Australia	⬆ 0.2%	19,778.7

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In March 2017, the Territory's labour force increased by 790 to 146,640 persons.
- Nationally, the labour force increased by 22,280 to 12,782,890 persons.

Apprentices and Trainees (estimate)

	Year to Date Change	Year to Date to Feb 2016	Year to Date to Feb 2017
Commencements	↓ 13.7%	524	452
Completions	↓ 40.5%	185	110

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

- In February 2017, there were 452 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, a decrease of 13.7% (72) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In February 2017, there were 110 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 40.5% (75) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- As at 28 February 2017, there were 3,342 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 (February 2017)

Occupation	Monthly Change	Number of Vacancies
Technicians and Trade Workers	↑ 7.3%	186
Clerical and Administrative Workers	↑ 0.4%	167
Professionals	- 0.0%	315
Community and Personal Service Workers	↓ 1.4%	96
Managers	↓ 1.7%	136
Sales Workers	↓ 4.8%	79
Machinery Operators and Drivers	↓ 8.4%	47
Labourers	↓ 20.8%	62
Total	↓ 1.4%	1,088

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In February 2017, internet job vacancies decreased by 1.4% in the Territory, with decreases recorded across all occupation groups except for Technicians and trade workers (7.3%), and Clerical and administrative workers (0.4%). Professions remained unchanged.
- In February 2017, internet job vacancies for Labourers reported the largest monthly decrease (20.8%), followed by Machinery operators and drivers (8.4%), then Sales workers (4.8%).

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

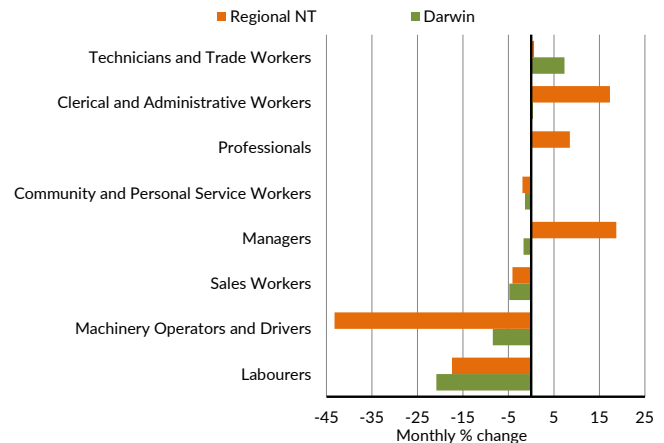
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- In regional NT, half of the occupation groups recorded increases in the month, but decreases reported for Machinery operators and drivers, Labourers, Sales workers, and Community and personal service workers.
- In regional NT, Managers reported the largest increase (18.7%), followed by Clerical and administrative workers (17.3%), followed by Professionals (8.5%), and then Technicians and trade workers (0.6%).

Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies



Source: Department of Employment (Australian Government)