

Labour market brief – December 2017

Key Message

In December 2017, the Territory had the third lowest unemployment rate and the highest participation rate of the jurisdictions. However, labour market conditions continue to remain soft, with employment falling 5700 jobs, or 4.1% since the peak in February 2017, despite increasing marginally over the past four months.

Employment

		Monthly Change	Number of Persons ('000)
Total Employed	NT	↑ 0.3%	135 340
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	12 419 831
Full-Time Employed	NT	↑ 0.2%	107 077
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	8 505 418
Part-Time Employed	NT	↑ 0.6%	28 263
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	3 914 413

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In December 2017, there were 135 340 people employed in the Territory, an increase of 366 persons from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment increased by 206 to 107 077 persons, and part-time employment increased by 160 persons to 28 263 persons.
- Nationally, employment increased by 25 008 to 12 419 831 persons.
- National full-time employment increased by 16 625 to 8 505 418 persons and part-time employment increased by 8383 to 3 914 413 persons.
- The NT underemployment rate was 4.3% in November 2017, the lowest of the jurisdictions and lower than the national average of 8.4%. The NT underemployment rate has been declining over the past 18 months from the high of 4.9% in May 2016.

Unemployment Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Unemployment Rate	NT	↑ 0.2 ppt	5.2%
	Australia	▬ 0.0 ppt	5.4%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In December 2017, the Territory's unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage points to 5.2%, from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory's unemployment rate is the third lowest of the jurisdictions behind New South Wales (4.7%), with the Australian Capital Territory reporting the lowest (3.7%). Western Australia reported the highest unemployment rate of 6.1%.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.4% from the previous month's revised figure.

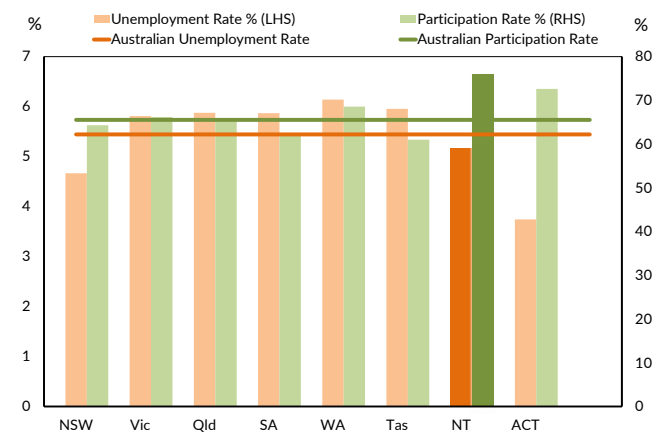
Participation Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Participation Rate	NT	↑ 0.5 ppt	76.1%
	Australia	▬ 0.1 ppt	65.5%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In December 2017, the Territory's labour force participation rate increased by 0.5 percentage points to 76.1% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory had the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (72.6%) and Western Australia (68.6%).
- Nationally, the labour force participation rate increased marginally to 65.5% 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%	142 701
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	13 134 804
Civilian Population	NT	↓ 0.1%	187 310
	Australia	↑ 0.1%	20 049 824

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In December 2017, the Territory's labour force increased by 774 to 142 701 persons.
- Nationally, the labour force increased by 25 122 to 13 134 804 persons.

Apprentices and Trainees (estimate)

	Year to Date Change	Year to Date to Nov 2016	Year to Date to Nov 2017
Commencements	↓ 11.8%	2181	1923
Completions	↓ 11.4%	984	872

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

- In the year to date to November 2017, there were 1923 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, a decrease of 11.8% (258) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In the year to date to November 2017, there were 872 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 11.4% (112) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- As at 30 November 2017, there were 3029 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 (November 2017)

Occupation	Monthly Change	Number of Vacancies
Managers	↑ 1.6%	240
Technicians and Trade Workers	↑ 0.1%	358
Clerical and Administrative Workers	↑ 0.1%	418
Community and Personal Service Workers	- 0.0%	187
Professionals	↓ 0.2%	493
Labourers	↓ 0.3%	174
Sales Workers	↓ 0.4%	133
Machinery Operators and Drivers	↓ 0.9%	126
Total	↓ 0.5%	1963

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In November 2017, internet job vacancies decreased by 0.5% in the Territory, with most of the occupation groups decreasing except for Managers, Technicians and trade workers, and Clerical and administrative workers.
- In November 2017, internet job vacancies for Managers reported the largest monthly increase (1.6%), followed by Technicians and trader workers (0.1%), and Clerical and administrative workers 0.1%).

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

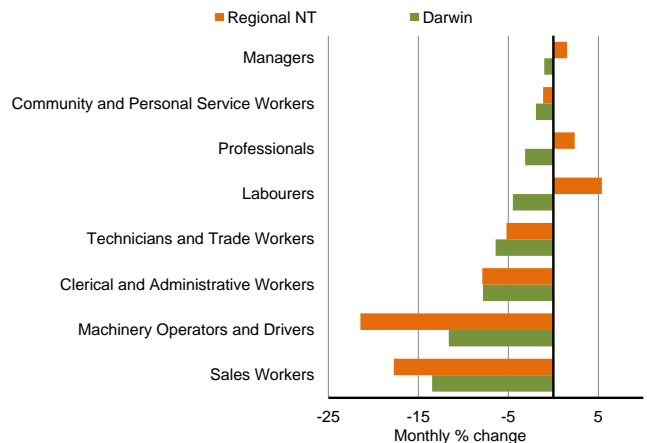
Strategic Policy and Research, Department of Trade, Business and Innovation
 Email: SPAR.DTBI@nt.gov.au

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.

- In regional NT, almost all occupation groups recorded decreases in the month, except for Labourers, Professionals and Managers. Machinery operators and drivers reported the largest decrease (21.4%), followed by Sales workers (17.7%), and then Clerical and administrative workers (7.9%).
- In the Darwin region, all occupation groups recorded decreases. The largest monthly decrease was reported for Sales workers (13.5%), followed by Machinery operators and drivers (11.6%), then Clerical and administrative workers (7.8%).

Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies



Source: Department of Employment (Australian Government)