

Labour market brief - May 2017

Key Message

In May 2017, the Territory's unemployment rate was the lowest in Australia. The Territory continues to maintain the highest participation rate. The Territory labour market continues to show signs of resilience, with a stable labour force and a low unemployment rate.

Unemployment Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Unemployment Rate	NT	↓ 0.1 ppt	3.2%
	Australia	- 0.0 ppt	5.7%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In May 2017, the Territory's unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 3.2%, from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory's unemployment rate is the lowest of the jurisdictions with the Australian Capital Territory second (3.5%), while South Australia reported the highest unemployment rate of 7.1%.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.7% from the previous month's revised figure.

Employment

		Monthly Change	Number of Persons ('000)
Total Employed	NT	- 0.0%	140,535
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	12,122,124
Full-Time Employed	NT	↓ 0.7%	108,091
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	8,258,531
Part-Time Employed	NT	↑ 2.6%	32,444
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	3,863,593

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In May 2017, there were 140,535 people employed in the Territory, an increase of 19 persons from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment decreased by 798 to 108,091 persons, while part-time employment increased by 817 to 32,444 persons.
- Nationally, employment increased by 25,168 to 12,122,124 persons.
- National full-time employment increased by 19,263 to 8,258,531 persons while part-time employment increased by 5903 to 3,863,593 persons.

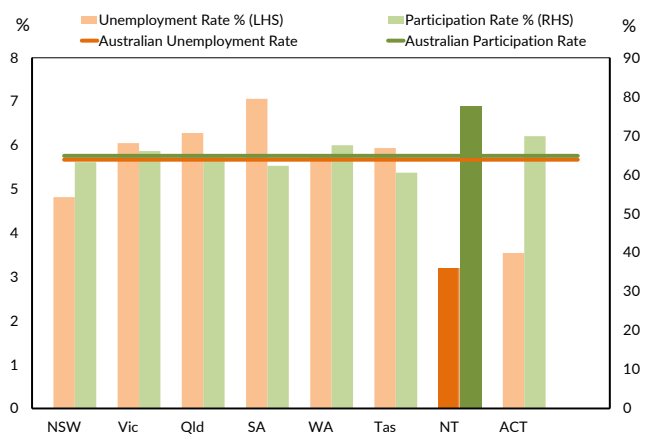
Participation Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Participation Rate	NT	↓ 0.1 ppt	77.7%
	Australia	- 0.0 ppt	64.8%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In May 2017, the Territory's labour force participation rate decreased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 77.7% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory has the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (69.9%) and Western Australia (67.5%).
- Nationally, the labour force participation rate remained unchanged at 64.8% 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%	145,180
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	12,851,307
Civilian Population	NT	↑ 0.1%	187,057
	Australia	↑ 0.1%	19,829,216

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In May 2017, the Territory's labour force decreased by 142 to 145,180 persons.
- Nationally, the labour force increased by 20,388 to 12,851,307 persons.

Apprentices and Trainees (estimate)

	Year to Date Change	Year to Date to Apr 2016	Year to Date to Apr 2017
Commencements	↓ 19.8%	989	793
Completions	↓ 17.0%	311	258

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

- In the year to date to April 2017, there were 793 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, a decrease of 19.8% (196) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In the year to date to April 2017, there were 258 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 17.0% (53) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- As at 30 April 2017, there were 3,282 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 (April 2017)

Occupation	Monthly Change	Number of Vacancies
Labourers	↑ 1.5%	120
Managers	↑ 1.1%	187
Professionals	↑ 0.4%	466
Community and Personal Service Workers	↓ 0.3%	189
Technicians and Trade Workers	↓ 0.4%	280
Machinery Operators and Drivers	↓ 1.5%	84
Sales Workers	↓ 1.8%	120
Clerical and Administrative Workers	↓ 3.7%	437
Total	- 0.0%	1,704

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In April 2017, internet job vacancies remained unchanged in the Territory, but with increases and decreases recorded across occupation groups.
- In April 2017, internet job vacancies for Labourers reported the largest monthly increase (1.5%), followed by Managers (1.1%), then Professionals at (0.4%).
- Clerical and administrative workers reported the largest decrease (3.7%), followed by Sales workers (1.8%), and then Machinery operators and drivers (1.5%).

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, all occupation groups recorded decreases in the month, except for Machinery operators and drivers which increased to 23.1%. Sales workers reported the largest decrease (12.7%), followed by Clerical and administrative workers (9.1%), then Community and personal service workers (8.8%).
- In the Darwin region, all occupation groups recorded increases, except for Sales workers (down by 6.3%). The largest monthly increase was reported for Machinery operators and drivers (8.2%), followed by Managers (7.1%), and then Labourers (6.5%).

Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies



Source: Department of Employment (Australian Government)