

Labour market brief – January 2018

Key Message

In January 2018, the Territory had the second lowest unemployment rate (4.6%), and the highest participation rate (76.2%) of the jurisdictions. However, labour market conditions continue to remain soft, with employment marginally increasing by 316 persons.

Employment

		Monthly Change	Number of Persons ('000)
Total Employed	NT	↑ 0.2%	136 078
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	12 446 597
Full-Time Employed	NT	- 0.0%	106 816
	Australia	↑ 0.1%	8 495 169
Part-Time Employed	NT	↑ 0.9%	29 262
	Australia	↑ 0.4%	3 951 428

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In January 2018, there were 136 078 people employed in the Territory, an increase of 316 persons from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment increased by 51 to 106 816 persons, and part-time employment increased by 265 persons to 29 262 persons.
- Nationally, employment increased by 23 007 to 12 446 597 persons.
- National full-time employment increased by 8772 to 8 495 169 persons and part-time employment increased by 14 234 to 3 951 428 persons.

Unemployment Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Unemployment Rate	NT	↓ 0.1 ppt	4.6%
	Australia	- 0.0 ppt	5.5%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In January 2018, the Territory's unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage points to 4.6%, from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory's unemployment rate is the second lowest of the jurisdictions behind the Australian Capital Territory (4.0%). Western Australia, Queensland and South Australia all reported the highest unemployment rate of 6.0%.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.5% from the previous month's revised figure.

Participation Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Participation Rate	NT	↑ 0.2 ppt	76.2%
	Australia	↑ 0.1 ppt	65.6%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In January 2018, the Territory's labour force participation rate increased by 0.2 percentage points to 76.2% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory had the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (72.9%) and Western Australia (68.4%).
- Nationally, the labour force participation rate increased marginally to 65.6% 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	↑ 0.2%	142 676
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	13 166 788
Civilian Population	NT	- 0.0%	187 245
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	20 082 775

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In January 2018, the Territory's labour force increased by 292 to 142 676 persons.
- Nationally, the labour force increased by 25 589 to 13 166 788 persons.

Apprentices and Trainees (estimate)

	Year to Date Change	Year to Date to Dec 2016	Year to Date to Dec 2017
Commencements	↓ 10.4%	2262	2027
Completions	↓ 4.6%	1076	1027

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

- In the year to date to December 2017, there were 2027 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, a decrease of 10.4% (235) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In the year to date to December 2017, there were 1027 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 4.6% (49) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- As at 31 December 2017, there were 3017 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 (December 2017)

Occupation	Monthly Change	Number of Vacancies
Sales Workers	↑ 0.2%	142
Community and Personal Service Workers	↓ 0.4%	185
Clerical and Administrative Workers	↓ 0.6%	416
Managers	↓ 0.7%	225
Professionals	↓ 0.7%	483
Labourers	↓ 2.6%	162
Technicians and Trade Workers	↓ 3.3%	326
Machinery Operators and Drivers	↓ 6.8%	107
Total	↓ 2.3%	1875

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In December 2017, internet job vacancies decreased by 2.3% in the Territory, with all of the occupation groups decreasing except for Sales workers, which increased by 0.2%.
- In December 2017, internet job vacancies for Machinery operators and drivers reported the largest monthly decrease (6.8%), followed by Technicians and trader workers (3.3%), and Labourers (2.6%).
- In regional NT, all occupation groups recorded decreases in the month. Clerical and administrative

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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workers reported the largest decrease (18.6%), followed by Technicians and trade workers (18.0%), and then Managers (16.4%).

- In the Darwin region, all occupation groups recorded decreases. The largest monthly decrease was reported for Machinery operators and drivers (27.5%), followed by Labourers (20.9%), then Technicians and trade workers (19.3%).

Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies



Source: Department of Employment (Australian Government)