

# Labour market brief - December 2018

## Key Message

In December 2018, the Territory continued to report the highest participation rate of all jurisdictions, although labour market conditions have softened over the past seven months. Unemployment has risen seven consecutive months and employment levels have fallen seven consecutive months. Increased job vacancies would improve employment levels in the short term.

## Employment

		Monthly Change	Number of Persons ('000)
Total Employed	NT	↑ 0.1%	133 852
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	12 711 584
Full-Time Employed	NT	↑ 0.1%	106 727
	Australia	↑ 0.1%	8 697 562
Part-Time Employed	NT	↑ 0.5%	27 125
	Australia	↑ 0.3%	4 014 021

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In December 2018, there were 133 852 people employed in the Territory, an increase of 173 persons from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment increased by 49 to 106 727 persons, and part-time employment increased by 124 persons to 27 125 persons.
- Nationally, employment increased by 23 069 to 12 711 584 persons.
- National full-time employment increased by 11 831 to 8 697 562 persons and part-time employment increased by 11 238 to 4 014 021 persons.
- Territory employment levels have fallen seven consecutive months, down about 3771 jobs since June 2018.

## Unemployment Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Unemployment Rate	NT	↑ 0.1 ppt	5.0%
	Australia	- 0.0 ppt	5.0%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In December 2018, the Territory's unemployment rate increased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 5.0%, from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory's unemployment rate is the fourth lowest of the jurisdictions, after the Australian Capital Territory (3.6%), New South Wales (4.3%), and Victoria (4.4%). Western Australia reported the highest unemployment rate of 6.4%.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.0% from the previous month's revised figure.

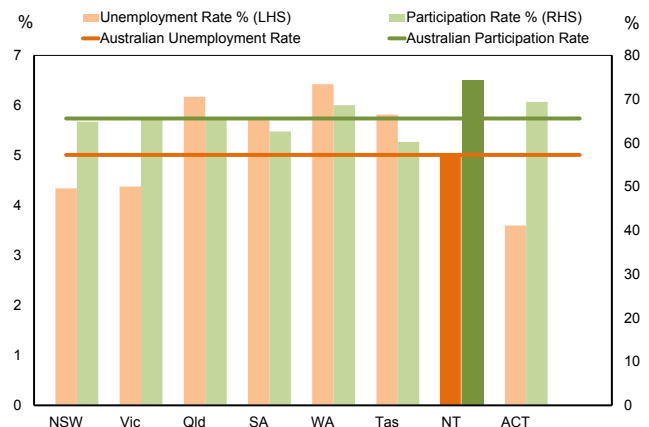
## Participation Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Participation Rate	NT	- 0.0 ppt	74.3%
	Australia	- 0.0 ppt	65.6%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In December 2018, the Territory's labour force participation rate remained unchanged at 74.3% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory had the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (69.4%) and then Western Australia (68.6%).
- Nationally, the labour force participation rate remained unchanged at 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%	140 772
	Australia	↑ 0.1%	13 382 489
Civilian Population	NT	↓ 0.1%	188 851
	Australia	↑ 0.1%	20 389 353

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In December 2018, the Territory's labour force was 140 772 persons, an increase of 348 from the previous month's revised figure.
- Nationally, the labour force increased by 19 895 to 13 382 489 persons.

## Apprentices and Trainees (estimate)<sup>1</sup>

	Year to Date Change	Year to Date to Nov 2017	Year to Date to Nov 2018
Commencements	↑ 14.9%	1933	2221
Completions	↓ 8.4%	940	861

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

- In the year to date to November 2018, there were 2221 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, an increase of 14.9% (288) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In the year to date to November 2018, there were 861 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 8.4% (79) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- As at 30 November 2018, there were 3116 apprentices and trainees in training.

## Internet Job Vacancies (December 2018)<sup>2</sup>

Occupation	Monthly Change	Number of Vacancies
Community and Personal Service Workers	↑ 2.6%	183
Labourers	↑ 2.1%	138
Technicians and Trade Workers	↑ 1.1%	322
Machinery Operators and Drivers	↑ 1.0%	107
Sales Workers	↑ 0.6%	119
Managers	↑ 0.6%	237
Clerical and Administrative Workers	↑ 0.6%	416
Professionals	↑ 0.4%	485
Total	↑ 1.7%	1927

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In December 2018, internet job vacancies increased by 1.7% (trend) in the Territory, with all occupation groups increasing.
- In December 2018, internet job vacancies for Community and personal service workers reported the largest monthly increase (2.6%), followed by Labourers (2.1%), and Technicians and trade workers (1.1%).

### 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/](http://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

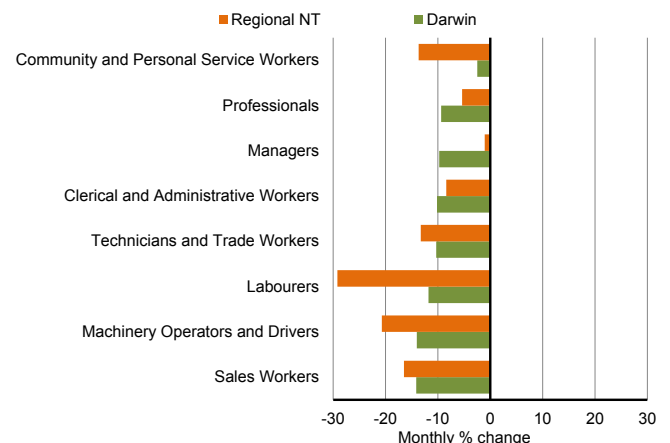
Email: [spar.dtbi@nt.gov.au](mailto:spar.dtbi@nt.gov.au)

### 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, all occupation groups recorded decreases in the month. Labourers reported the largest decrease (-29.2%), followed by Machinery operators and drivers (-20.7%), and then Sales workers (-16.5%).<sup>3</sup>
- In the Darwin region, all occupation groups recorded decreases in the month. Sales workers reported the largest monthly decrease (-14.1%), followed by Machinery operators and drivers (-14.0%), then Labourers (-11.8%).<sup>3</sup>

## Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies



Source: Department of Employment (Australian Government)

1. 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.
2. It should be noted that this table provides trend data.
3. It should be noted that Darwin and regional NT data are original data with a three month rolling average.