

NT labour market brief – September 2019

Key message

Labour market conditions in the Territory continue to remain soft. The unemployment rate is rising. On a positive note, employment levels increased slightly in September 2019, with full-time employment increasing more than part-time employment. This is the third consecutive increase in employment levels. The participation rate continues to remain highest of all jurisdictions, and above the national average.

Employment

		Monthly change	Number of persons ('000)
Total employed	NT	Up 0.3%	130 450
	Australia	Up 0.2%	12 942 775
Full-time employed	NT	Up 0.4%	101 006
	Australia	Up 0.1%	8 840 152
Part-time employed	NT	Up 0.1%	29 444
	Australia	Up 0.3%	4 102 623

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In September 2019, there were 130 450 people employed in the Territory, a marginal increase of 428 persons from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment increased by 412 to 101 006 persons and part-time employment increased by 16 to 29 444 persons.
- Nationally, employment increased by 20 244 to 12 942 775 persons.
- National full-time employment increased by 8982 to 8 840 152 persons and part-time employment increased by 11 262 to 4 102 623 persons.
- Territory employment levels increased in August and September after 13 consecutive negative months.

Unemployment rate

		Monthly change	Rate
Unemployment rate	NT	Up 0.2 ppts	5.6%
	Australia	Flat	5.3%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In September 2019, the Territory's unemployment rate increased by 0.2 of a percentage point to 5.6%.
- The Territory's unemployment rate is the fourth lowest of the jurisdictions after Victoria (4.8%), New South Wales (4.5%), and then the Australian Capital Territory (3.5%). Queensland reported the highest unemployment rate of 6.6%.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.3% from the previous month's revised figure.

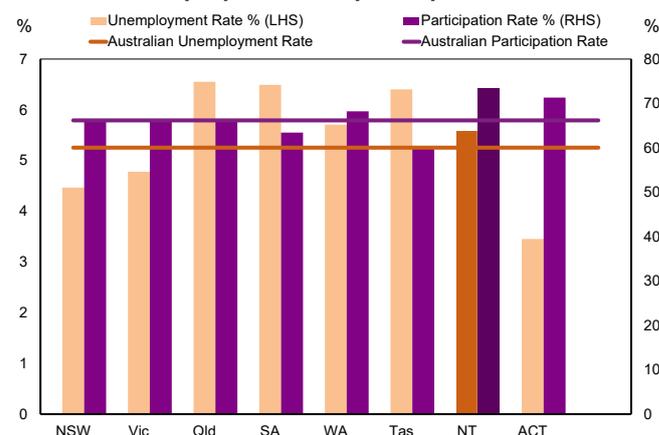
Participation rate

		Monthly change	Rate
Participation rate	NT	Up 0.6 ppts	73.3%
	Australia	Flat	66.2%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In September 2019, the Territory's labour force participation rate increased by 0.6 percentage points to 73.3% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory had the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (71.3%) and then Western Australia (68.2%).
- Nationally, the labour force participation rate remained unchanged at 66.2% 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	Up 0.5%	138 027
	Australia	Up 0.2%	13 660 728
Civilian population ¹	NT	0.0%	188 664
	Australia	Up 0.2%	20 657 222

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In September 2019, the Territory's labour force was 138 027 persons, an increase of 0.5% from last month's revised figure.
- Nationally, the labour force increased by 0.2% to 13 660 728 persons.

Apprentices and trainees (estimates)²

	Year to date change	Year to date to Jul 2018	Year to date to Jul 2019
Commencements	Up 1.6%	1772	1801
Completions	Down 7.0%	574	534

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

- In the year to August 2019, there were 1801 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, an increase of 1.6% (29) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In the year to August 2019, there were 534 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 7.0% (40) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- As at 30 August 2019, there were 3573 apprentices and trainees in training.

Internet job vacancies (August 2019)

Occupation	Monthly change	No. of vacancies
Professionals	Up 2.5%	586
Community and personal service workers	Up 1.2%	199
Technicians and trade workers	Up 0.7%	284
Managers	Down 0.6%	194
Sales workers	Down 1.5%	110
Machinery operators and drivers	Down 2.0%	93
Clerical and administrative workers	Down 2.0%	311
Labourers	Down 3.1%	108
Total	Up 0.6%	1773

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In August 2019, total internet job vacancies increased by 0.6% (trend) to 1773 in the Territory.
- In August 2019, internet job vacancies for Professionals reported the largest monthly increase (2.5%) in the Territory, followed by Community and personal service workers (1.2%), then Technicians and trade workers (0.7%).

Notes

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

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/business/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/

Enquiries

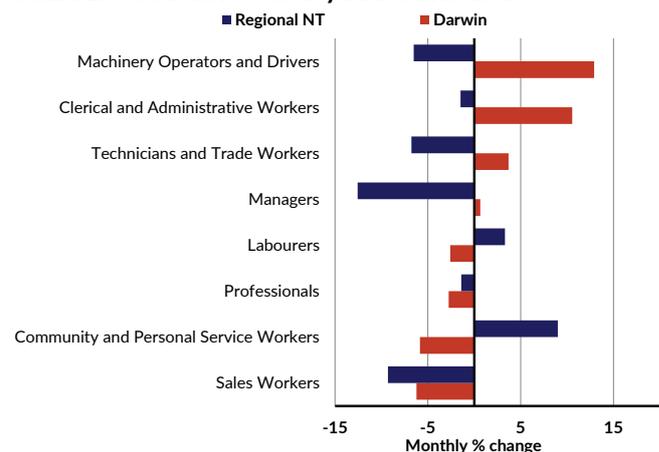
Economic Report, Department of Trade, Business and Innovation, email: spar.dtbi@nt.gov.au

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- In regional NT, all occupation groups recorded decreases in the month, except for Community and personal service workers (9.0%), and Labourers (3.3%) which increased.
- In regional NT, the largest recorded decrease was Managers reporting the largest decrease (12.6%), followed by Sales workers (9.3%), then Technicians and trade workers (6.8%).
- In the Darwin region, half of the occupation groups recorded decreases in the month, except for Machinery operators and drivers, Clerical and administrative workers, Technicians and trade workers, and Managers.
- In the Darwin region, the largest decrease was Sales workers (6.2%), followed by Community and personal service workers (5.9%), then Professionals (2.8%).

Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies⁴



Source: Australian Government Department of Employment