

# Labour Market Brief – February 2017

## Key Message

In February 2017, the Northern Territory's unemployment rate was 3.5%, the lowest in Australia. The Territory continues to maintain the highest participation rate, increasing by 0.6 percentage points to 78.1%, the highest on record for all Australian jurisdictions. The Territory labour market continues to show signs of resilience, with a growing labour force, a low unemployment rate, and a record high participation rate. However, job vacancies have continued to decline, which may point to employers using other methods to advertise their vacancies, or labour market conditions softening in the short-term.

## Unemployment Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Unemployment Rate	NT	↓ 0.1 ppt	3.5%
	Australia	- 0.0 ppt	5.8%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In February 2017, the Territory's unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 3.5%, from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory's unemployment rate is the lowest of the jurisdictions with the Australian Capital Territory second (3.8%), while South Australia reported the highest unemployment rate of 6.6%.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.8% from the previous month's revised figure.

## Employment

		Monthly Change	Number of Persons ('000)
Total Employed	NT	↑ 0.8%	140.6
	Australia	↑ 0.1%	12,005.0
Full-Time Employed	NT	↑ 0.5%	111.2
	Australia	↑ 0.1%	8,159.2
Part-Time Employed	NT	↑ 1.8%	29.4
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	3,845.8

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In February 2017, there were 140,600 people employed in the Territory, an increase of 1,110 persons from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment increased by 590 to 111,240 persons, while part-time employment increased by 520 to 29,370 persons.
- Nationally, employment increased by 11,560 to 12,005,010 persons.
- National full-time employment increased by 4,610 to 8,159,230 persons while part-time employment increased by 6,950 to 3,845,780 persons.

## Participation Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Participation Rate	NT	↑ 0.6 ppt	78.1%
	Australia	- 0.0 ppt	64.6%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In February 2017, the Territory's labour force participation rate increased by 0.6 of a percentage point to 78.1% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory has the highest participation rate on record in Australia (78.1%), followed by the Australian Capital Territory (70.4%) and Western Australia (67.5%).
- Nationally, the labour force participation rate remained unchanged at 64.6% 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	↑ 0.7%	145.8
	Australia	↑ 0.1%	12,743.9
Civilian Population	NT	↑ 0.1%	186.8
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	19,745.0

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In February 2017, the Territory's labour force increased by 1,060 to 145,770 persons.
- Nationally, the labour force increased by 16,750 to 12,743,950 persons.

## SEEK Internet Job Advertisements

		Monthly Change	Job Ads Index Number
SEEK Job Ads Index	NT	↓ 1.4%	33
	Australia	↓ 0.4%	72

Source: SEEK and National Australia Bank, SEEK Employment Index

- In January 2017, the SEEK internet job ads index decreased by 1.4% in the Territory.
- The Internet job ads index decreased in all jurisdictions in the month except for South Australia and Western Australia, which increased by 1.7% and 1.4% respectively.
- Compared to January 2016, the internet job ads index decreased by 7.5% in the Territory. Annual changes in other jurisdictions ranged from a 20.6% all in Tasmania to an 18.2% increase in South Australia.

Note: ANZ Newspaper Jobs Ads data no longer available at state/territory level. The Department of Trade, Business and Innovation will now provide monthly internet jobs ads data from SEEK.

## Apprentices and Trainees (estimate)

	Year to Date Change	Year to Date to Jan 2016	Year to Date to Jan 2017
Commencements	↓ 23.5%	213	163
Completions	↓ 31.6%	76	52

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

- In January 2017, there were 163 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, a decrease of 23.5% (50) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In January 2017, there were 52 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 31.6% (24) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- As at 31 January 2017, there were 3,306 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.

### 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.

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

SEEK and National Australia Bank, SEEK Employment Index

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)

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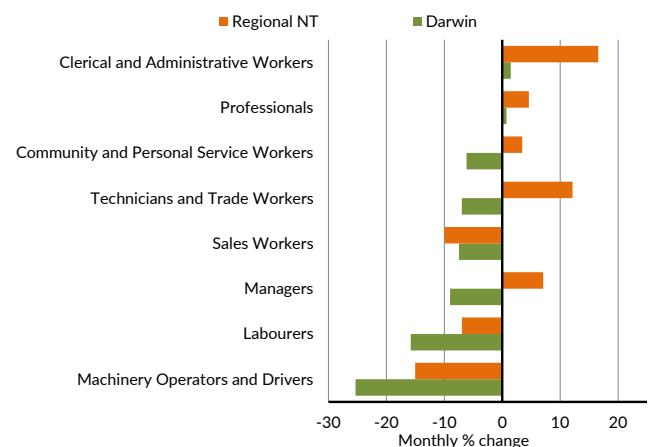
## Internet Job Vacancies (January 2017)

Occupation	Monthly Change	Number of Vacancies
Clerical and Administrative Workers	↑ 1.5%	167
Professionals	↑ 0.7%	315
Community and Personal Service Workers	↓ 6.2%	97
Technicians and Trade Workers	↓ 7.0%	173
Sales Workers	↓ 7.5%	83
Managers	↓ 9.0%	138
Labourers	↓ 15.8%	78
Machinery Operators and Drivers	↓ 25.3%	51
Total	↓ 5.7%	1,103

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In January 2017, internet job vacancies decreased by 5.7% in the Territory, with decreases recorded across all occupation groups except for Clerical and administrative workers, and Professionals.
- In January 2017, internet job vacancies for Machinery operators and drivers reported the largest monthly decrease (25.3%), followed by Labourers (15.8%), then Managers (9.0%).
- In regional NT, most occupation groups recorded an increase in the month except Machinery operators and drivers, Sales workers, and Labourers. Clerical and administrative workers reported the largest increase (16.6%), followed by Technicians and trade workers (12.1%), then Managers (7.1%).

### Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies



Source: Department of Employment (Australian Government)