

Labour market brief – November 2017

Key Message

In November 2017, the Territory had the equal second lowest unemployment rate and the highest participation rate of the jurisdictions. However, labour market conditions continue to remain soft, with employment 6100 jobs or 4.4% lower compared to the peak in February 2017, despite increasing marginally over the past two months. Increasing job vacancy data suggest some ongoing support in the short term for employment growth.

Employment

		Monthly Change	Number of Persons ('000)
Total Employed	NT	↑ 0.3%	134 912
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	12 380 118
Full-Time Employed	NT	↑ 0.4%	106 789
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	8 480 386
Part-Time Employed	NT	▬ 0.0%	28 122
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	3 899 733

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In November 2017, there were 134 912 people employed in the Territory, an increase of 399 persons from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment increased by 401 to 106 789 persons, and part-time employment decreased by 2 persons to 28 122 persons.
- Nationally, employment increased by 22 244 to 12 380 118 persons.
- National full-time employment increased by 15 325 to 8 480 386 persons and part-time employment increased by 6919 to 3 899 733 persons.
- The NT underemployment rate was 4.3% in November 2017, the lowest of the jurisdictions and lower than the national average of 8.4%. The NT underemployment rate has been declining over the past 18 months from the high of 4.9% in May 2016.

Unemployment Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Unemployment Rate	NT	↑ 0.2 ppt	4.6%
	Australia	▬ 0.0 ppt	5.4%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In November 2017, the Territory's unemployment rate increased by 0.2 of a percentage point to 4.6%, from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory's unemployment rate is the equal second lowest of the jurisdictions, equal with New South Wales (4.6%) and behind the Australian Capital Territory (3.8%), while Western Australia reported the highest unemployment rate of 6.2%.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.4% from the previous month's revised figure.

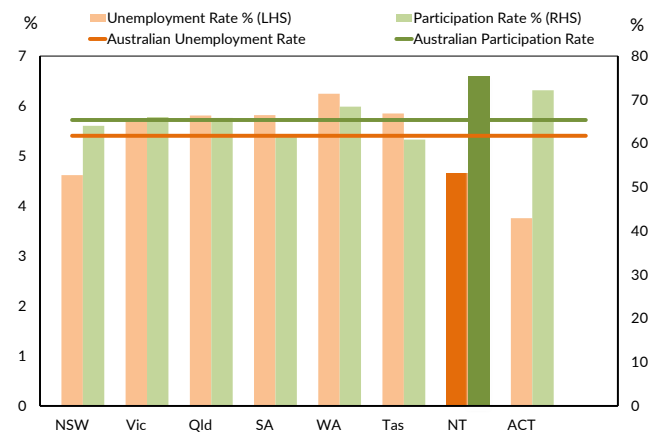
Participation Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Participation Rate	NT	↑ 0.4 ppt	75.3%
	Australia	↑ 0.1 ppt	65.4%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In November 2017, the Territory's labour force participation rate increased by 0.4 of a percentage point to 75.3% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory has the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (72.2%) and Western Australia (68.4%).
- Nationally, the labour force participation rate increased marginally to 65.4% 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	↑ 0.6%	141 485
	Australia	↑ 0.1%	13 087 402
Civilian Population	NT	↓ 0.1%	187 548
	Australia	↑ 0.1%	20 026 707

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In November 2017, the Territory's labour force increased by 775 to 141 485 persons.
- Nationally, the labour force increased by 19 297 to 13 087 402 persons.

Apprentices and Trainees (estimate)

	Year to Date Change	Year to Date to Oct 2016	Year to Date to Oct 2017
Commencements	↓ 12.4%	2035	1783
Completions	↓ 8.8%	819	747

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

- In the year to date to October 2017, there were 1783 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, a decrease of 12.4% (252) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In the year to date to October 2017, there were 747 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 8.8% (72) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- As at 31 October 2017, there were 3100 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 (October 2017)

Occupation	Monthly Change	Number of Vacancies
Machinery Operators and Drivers	↑ 2.6%	131
Technicians and Trade Workers	↑ 2.3%	359
Sales Workers	↑ 1.4%	141
Clerical and Administrative Workers	↑ 0.9%	418
Labourers	↑ 0.7%	173
Managers	↑ 0.6%	229
Community and Personal Service Workers	↓ 0.2%	183
Professionals	↓ 0.4%	491
Total	↑ 0.4%	1972

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In October 2017, internet job vacancies increased by 0.4% in the Territory, with all of the occupation groups increasing except for Community and personal service workers, and Professionals.
- In October 2017, internet job vacancies for Machinery operators and drivers reported the largest monthly increase (2.6%), followed by Technicians and trader workers (2.3%), and Sales workers (1.4%).
- In regional NT, almost all occupation groups recorded increases in the month, except for Clerical

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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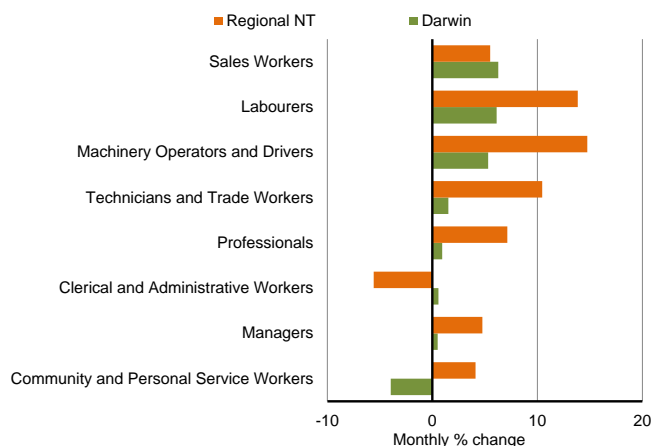
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and administrative workers. Machinery operators and drivers reported the largest increase (14.8%), followed by Labourers (13.8%), and then Technicians and trade workers (10.5%).

- In the Darwin region, all occupation groups recorded increases, except for Community and personal service workers (decreased by 4.0%). The largest monthly increase was reported for Sales workers (6.37%), followed by Labourers (6.1%), and then Machinery operators and drivers (5.3%).

Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies



Source: Department of Employment (Australian Government)