

Labour market brief – October 2018

Key Message

In October 2018, the Territory continued to report the highest participation rate of all jurisdictions, although labour market conditions have softened over the past six months. Unemployment has risen six consecutive months and employment levels have fallen, down about 3100 jobs since May 2018. Declining job vacancies indicate weak employment conditions may persist in the short term.

Employment

		Monthly Change	Number of Persons ('000)
Total Employed	NT	↓ 0.6%	135 880
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	12 665 836
Full-Time Employed	NT	↓ 0.7%	109 101
	Australia	↑ 0.3%	8 681 229
Part-Time Employed	NT	↑ 0.1%	26 779
	Australia	↑ 0.1%	3 984 607

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In October 2018, there were 135 880 people employed in the Territory, a decrease of 752 persons from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment decreased by 766 to 109 101 persons, and part-time employment increased by 14 persons to 26 779 persons.
- Nationally, employment increased by 25 435 to 12 665 836 persons.
- National full-time employment increased by 22 923 to 8 681 229 persons and part-time employment increased by 2512 to 3 984 607 persons.

Unemployment Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Unemployment Rate	NT	↑ 0.3 ppt	4.6%
	Australia	↓ 0.1 ppt	5.1%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In October 2018, the Territory's unemployment rate increased by 0.3 of a percentage point to 4.6%, from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory's unemployment rate is the equal third lowest of the jurisdictions, after the Australian Capital Territory (3.7%), Victoria (4.5%), and equal with New South Wales (4.6%). Queensland reported the highest unemployment rate of 6.2%.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 5.1% from the previous month's revised figure.

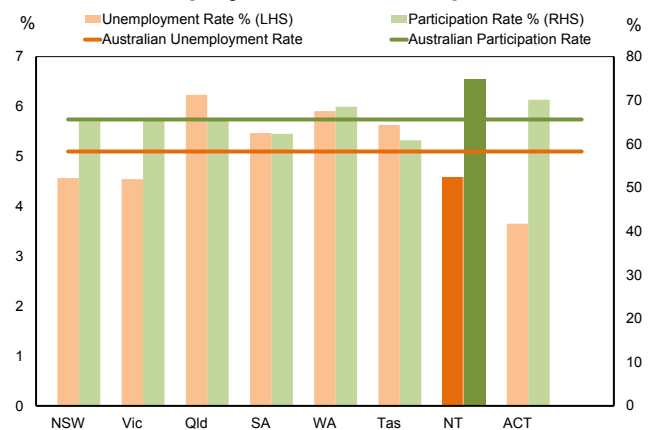
Participation Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Participation Rate	NT	↓ 0.4 ppt	74.7%
	Australia	- 0.0 ppt	65.6%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In October 2018, the Territory's labour force participation rate decreased by 0.4 percentage points to 74.7% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory had the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (70.1%) and then Western Australia (68.5%).
- 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	↓ 0.4%	142 398
	Australia	↑ 0.1%	13 346 146
Civilian Population	NT	↓ 0.1%	190 003
	Australia	↑ 0.1%	20 352 710

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In October 2018, the Territory's labour force was 142 398 persons, a decrease of 571 from the previous month's revised figure.
- Nationally, the labour force increased by 17 815 to 13 346 146 persons.

Apprentices and Trainees (estimate)

	Year to Date Change	Year to Date to Sep 2017	Year to Date to Sep 2018
Commencements	↑ 13.1%	1667	1885
Completions	↓ 12.4%	704	617

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

- In the year to date to September 2018, there were 1885 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, an increase of 13.1% (218) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In the year to date to September 2018, there were 617 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 12.4% (87) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- As at 30 September 2018, there were 3344 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 (September 2018)

Occupation	Monthly Change	Number of Vacancies
Clerical and Administrative Workers	↑ 1.3%	402
Labourers	- 0.0%	140
Managers	↓ 0.9%	219
Sales Workers	↓ 1.1%	115
Technicians and Trade Workers	↓ 1.2%	300
Professionals	↓ 1.3%	483
Community and Personal Service Workers	↓ 1.3%	173
Machinery Operators and Drivers	↓ 2.4%	102
Total	↓ 1.6%	1798

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In September 2018, internet job vacancies decreased by 1.6% in the Territory, with most occupation groups decreasing except for Clerical and administrative workers, and Labourers, which was unchanged.
- In September 2018, internet job vacancies for Machinery operators and drivers reported the largest monthly decrease (2.4%), followed by

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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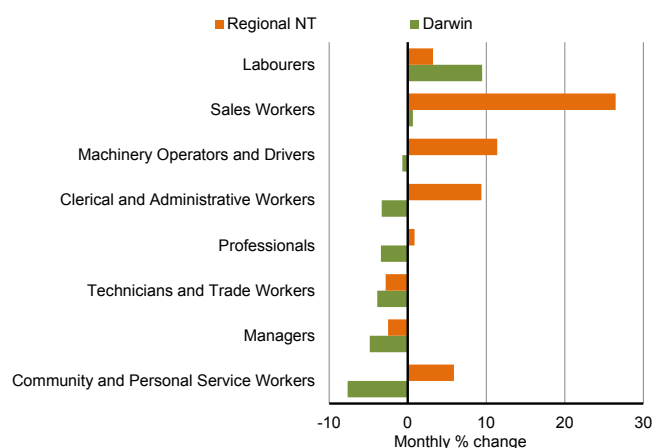
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Community and personal service workers (1.3%), and Professionals (1.3%).

- In regional NT, most occupation groups recorded increases in the month, except for Technicians and trade workers, and Managers. Sales workers reported the largest increase (26.5%), followed by Machinery operators and drivers (11.4%), and then Clerical and administrative workers (9.4%).
- In the Darwin region, most occupation groups recorded decreases in the month, except for Labourers, and Sales workers. Community and personal service workers reported the largest monthly decrease (7.6%), followed by Managers (4.8%), then Technicians and trade workers (3.9%).

Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies



Source: Department of Employment (Australian Government)