

NT labour market brief – July 2020



Key message

In July 2020, labour market conditions remained soft in the Territory due to the impacts of the COVID-19 related lockdown and restrictions. Employment levels decreased slightly, with a rise in full-time jobs more than offset by a large fall in part-time jobs. The unemployment rate increased in the month, reflecting a rise in the participation rate as more people were actively seeking work. Weak job markets have led to multi-decade high national and Territory youth unemployment rates. The underemployment rate has fallen from its peak in April 2020, but remains higher than pre-COVID-19 levels.

Employment

		Monthly change	Number of persons ('000)
Total employed	NT	Down 0.4%	126 396
	Australia	Up 0.9%	12 460 761
Full-time employed	NT	Up 2.4%	97 684
	Australia	Up 0.5%	8 547 127
Part-time employed	NT	Down 8.8%	28 713
	Australia	Up 1.9%	3 913 635

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In July 2020, the Territory's unemployment rate increased to 7.5% from the previous month's revised figure of 5.7%.
- The Territory had the fifth lowest unemployment rate in Australia, behind the Australian Capital Territory (4.6%), Tasmania (6.0%), Victoria (6.8%), and New South Wales (7.2%). The unemployment rate in other jurisdictions were; South Australia (7.9%), Western Australia (8.3%), and Queensland (8.8%).
- Nationally, the unemployment rate increased to 7.5% from the previous month's revised figure of 7.4%.

In July 2020:

- there were 126 396 people employed in the Territory, a decrease of 479 persons (-0.4%) from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment increased by 2293 to 97 684 persons, and part-time employment decreased by 2772 to 28 713 persons.
- national employment increased by 114 717 (0.9%) to 12 460 761 persons.
- national full-time employment increased by 43 496 to 8 547 127 persons and part-time employment increased by 71 220 to 3 913 635 persons.
- the Territory underemployment rate fell to 6.9% after a 10.4% peak in April 2020 at the height of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.
The Territory underemployment rate has not returned to pre-COVID-19 levels, reflecting more people continue to work less than their desired number of hours.
- Territory monthly hours worked continued to fall, down 9.7% from late-2019 – the largest fall of the jurisdictions.
- the Territory youth unemployment rate has increased to 19.2% - the highest rate since January 2002. The national youth unemployment rate was 15.9% - the highest rate since February 1998.

Unemployment rate

		Monthly change	Rate
Unemployment rate	NT	Up 1.8 ppt	7.5%
	Australia	Up 0.1 ppt	7.5%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

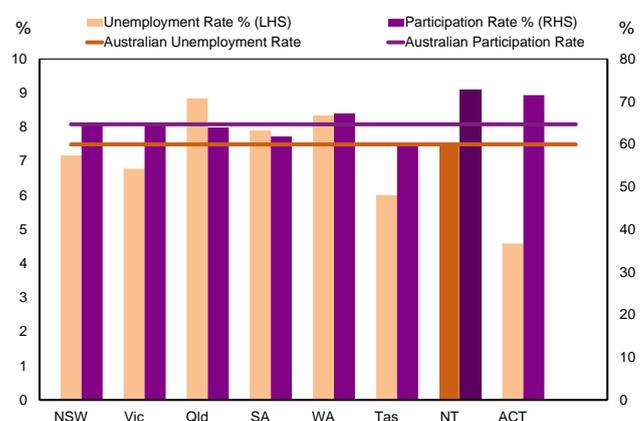
Participation rate

		Monthly change	Rate
Participation rate	NT	Up 1.1 ppt	72.7%
	Australia	Up 0.6 ppt	64.7%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In July 2020, the Territory's labour force participation rate increased by 1.1 percentage points to 72.7% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory had the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (71.5%) and then Western Australia (67.2%).
- Nationally, the labour force participation rate increased by 0.6 of a percentage point to 64.7% 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 1.6%	136 619
	Australia	Up 1.0%	13 470 163
Civilian population ¹	NT	Flat	187 843
	Australia	Flat	20 832 117

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In July 2020, the Territory's labour force was 136 619 persons, an increase of 1.6% from last month's revised figure.
- Nationally, the labour force increased by 1.0% to 13 470 163 persons.

Apprentices and trainees (estimates)²

	Year to date change	Year to date to June 2019	Year to date to June 2020
Commencements	Down 33.3%	1533	1023
Completions	Down 37.9%	443	275

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

- In 2019-20, there were 1023 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, a decrease of 33.3% (510) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In 2019-20, there were 275 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 37.9% (168) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- As at 30 June 2020, there were 3480 apprentices and trainees in training.

Internet job vacancies (June 2020)³

Occupation	Monthly change	No. of vacancies
Labourers	Up 1.4%	86
Clerical and administrative workers	Up 0.9%	316
Professionals	Down 0.4%	426
Machinery operators and drivers	Down 0.6%	78
Technicians and trade workers	Down 2.3%	187
Community and personal service workers	Down 2.8%	113
Managers	Down 4.3%	149
Sales workers	Down 4.6%	58
Total	Up 0.2%	1310

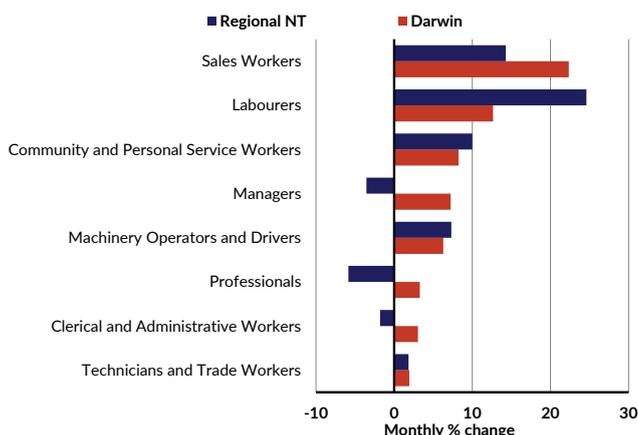
Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In June 2020, total internet job vacancies increased by 0.2% (trend) to 1310 in the Territory.
- In June 2020, internet job vacancies for Labourers, and Clerical and administrative workers reported the only monthly increases (up 1.4% and 0.9% respectively) in the Territory.
- Sales workers reported the largest decrease (4.6%), followed closely by Managers (4.3%), and then Community and personal service workers (2.8%).
- In regional NT, occupation groups that recorded a decrease in the month were; Professionals (-5.9%), Managers (-3.5%), and Clerical and administrative

workers (-1.8%). Labourers reported the largest increase (24.6%), followed by Sales workers (14.3%), Community and personal service workers (10.0%), and then Machinery operators and drivers (7.3%).

- In the Darwin region, all occupation groups recorded increases. Sales workers reported the largest increase (22.3%), followed by Labourers (12.7%), and then Community and personal service workers (8.2%).

Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies⁴



Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

Notes

- Original data.
- 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.
- It should be noted that this table provides trend data.
- 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 seasonally adjusted terms, except for the apprentice and trainee data, which are in original terms and the regional breakdown of job vacancies.

Current labour market briefs are available online at:

<https://business.nt.gov.au/business-and-economic-data/business/labour-market-briefs>

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:

Enquiries

Economic Reform, Department of Trade, Business and Innovation, email: economicinnovation.dtb@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.