

Labour Market Brief – August 2017

Key Message

In August 2017, the Territory retained the lowest unemployment rate and highest participation rate of the jurisdictions. However, labour market conditions continue to soften, with employment declining by over 7600 jobs or 5.5% over the last six months. However, increasing job vacancy data suggest some support in the short term for employment growth.

Unemployment Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Unemployment Rate	NT	↑ 0.1 ppt	3.6%
	Australia	- 0.0 ppt	5.6%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In August 2017, the Territory's unemployment rate increased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 3.6%, from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory's unemployment rate is the lowest of the jurisdictions with the Australian Capital Territory second (4.7%), while Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania all reported the equal highest unemployment rate of 6.1%.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.6% from the previous month's revised figure.

Employment

		Monthly Change	Number of Persons ('000)
Total Employed	NT	↓ 1.0%	132 224
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	12 249 534
Full-Time Employed	NT	↓ 0.7%	103 854
	Australia	↑ 0.3%	8 388 302
Part-Time Employed	NT	↓ 2.1%	28 370
	Australia	↑ 0.1%	3 861 232

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In August 2017, there were 132 224 people employed in the Territory, a decrease of 1282 persons from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment decreased by 683 to 103 854 persons, and part-time employment decreased by 599 to 28 370 persons.
- Nationally, employment increased by 27 119 to 12 249 534 persons.
- National full-time employment increased by 21 504 to 8 388 302 persons and part-time employment increased by 5614 to 3 861 232 persons.

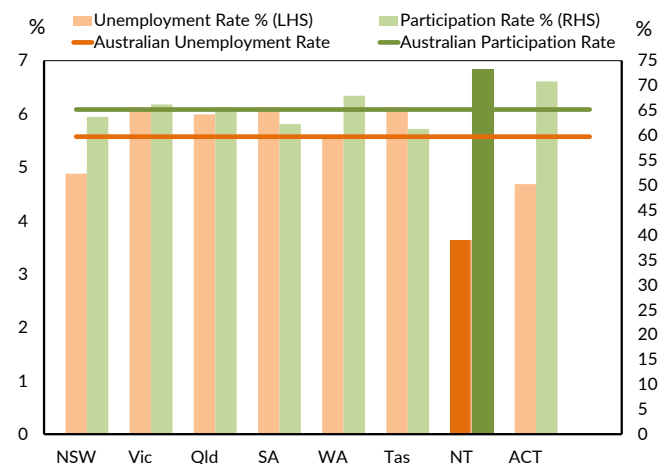
Participation Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Participation Rate	NT	↓ 0.7 ppt	73.3%
	Australia	↑ 0.1 ppt	65.2%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In August 2017, the Territory's labour force participation rate decreased by 0.7 of a percentage point to 73.3% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory has the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (70.8%) and Western Australia (68.0%).
- Nationally, the labour force participation rate increased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 65.2% 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	↓ 0.8%	137 216
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	12 972 727
Civilian Population	NT	↑ 0.1%	187 134
	Australia	↑ 0.1%	19 914 027

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In August 2017, the Territory's labour force decreased by 1078 to 137 216 persons.
- Nationally, the labour force increased by 24 964 to 12 972 727 persons.

Apprentices and Trainees (estimate)

	Year to Date Change	Year to Date to Jul 2016	Year to Date to Jul 2017
Commencements	↓ 15.5%	1565	1323
Completions	↓ 8.7%	564	515

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

- In the year to date to July 2017, there were 1323 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, a decrease of 15.5% (242) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In the year to date to July 2017, there were 515 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 8.7% (49) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- As at 31 July 2017, there were 3235 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 (July 2017)

Occupation	Monthly Change	Number of Vacancies
Machinery Operators and Drivers	↑ 3.6%	96
Labourers	↑ 3.2%	125
Managers	↑ 1.5%	213
Technicians and Trade Workers	↑ 1.2%	289
Sales Workers	↓ 0.1%	120
Professionals	↓ 0.2%	474
Clerical and Administrative Workers	↓ 0.9%	409
Community and Personal Service Workers	↓ 1.0%	180
Total	↑ 1.1%	1797

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In July 2017, internet job vacancies increased by 1.1% in the Territory, with half of the occupation groups increasing and half the occupation groups decreasing.
- In July 2017, internet job vacancies for Machinery operators and drivers reported the largest monthly increase (3.6%), followed by Labourers (3.2%).
- Community and personal service workers reported the largest decrease (1.0%), followed by Clerical and administrative workers (0.9%), and then Professionals (0.2%).

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

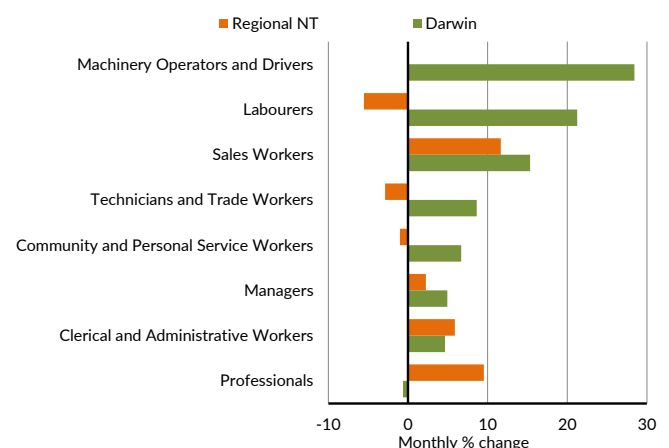
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- In regional NT, almost all occupation groups recorded increases in the month, except for Labourers, Technicians and trade workers, and Community and personal service workers. Sales workers reported the largest increase (11.7%), followed by Professionals (9.5%), and then Clerical and administrative workers (5.9%).
- In the Darwin region, all occupation groups recorded increases, except for Professionals which decreased by 0.6%. The largest monthly increase was reported for Machinery operators and drivers (28.4%), followed by Labourers (21.2%), and then Sales workers (15.3%).

Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies



Source: Department of Employment (Australian Government)