

# NT labour market brief – August 2020



## Key message

In August 2020, labour market conditions started to look brighter in the Territory despite impacts of the COVID-19 related lockdown and restrictions in other jurisdictions. Employment levels increased, with a rise in both full-time and part-time jobs. The unemployment rate decreased by 3.3 percentage points in the month, and the participation rate slightly increasing by 0.7 of a percentage point.

### Employment

		Monthly change	Number of persons ('000)
Total employed	NT	Up 4.6%	132 461
	Australia	Up 0.9%	12 583 405
Full-time employed	NT	Up 1.1%	98 909
	Australia	Up 0.4%	8 584 478
Part-time employed	NT	Up 16.4%	33 552
	Australia	Up 1.9%	3 998 928

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

In August 2020:

- there were 132 461 people employed in the Territory, an increase of 5784 persons (4.6%) from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment increased by 1046 to 98 909 persons, and part-time employment increased by 4739 to 33 552 persons.
- national employment increased by 111 008 (0.9%) to 12 583 405 persons.
- national full-time employment increased by 36 192 to 8 584 478 persons and part-time employment increased by 74816 to 3 998 928 persons.
- the Territory underemployment rate increased by 1.5 percentage points to 8.4%, compared to 11.2% nationally.  
*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.*
- The Territory's underutilisation rate decreased by 1.7 percentage points to 12.7%, compared to 18.0% nationally.
- Territory monthly hours increased 1.7% from August 2019.

### Unemployment rate

		Monthly change	Rate
Unemployment rate	NT	Down 3.3 ppt	4.2%
	Australia	Down 0.7 ppt	6.8%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In August 2020, the Territory's unemployment rate decreased to 4.2% from the previous month's revised figure of 7.5%.

- The Territory had equal lowest unemployment rate in Australia with the Australian Capital Territory (4.2%), followed by Tasmania (6.3%), and then New South Wales (6.8%), then Western Australia (7.0%). The unemployment rate in other jurisdictions were; Victoria (7.1%), Queensland (7.5%), and South Australia (7.9%).
- Nationally, the unemployment rate decreased to 6.8% from the previous month's revised figure of 7.5%.

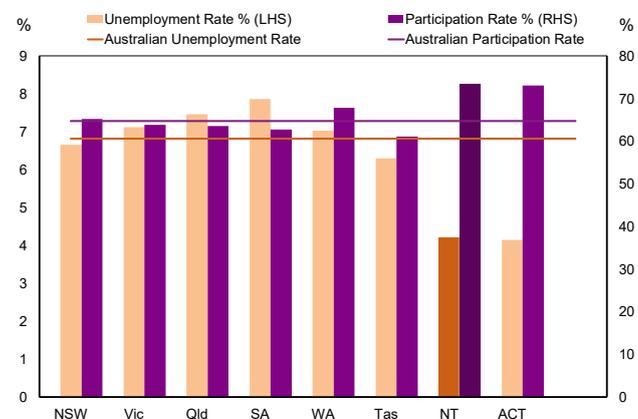
### Participation rate

		Monthly change	Rate
Participation rate	NT	Up 0.7 ppt	73.4%
	Australia	Up 0.1 ppt	64.8%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In August 2020, the Territory's labour force participation rate increased by 0.7 of a percentage point to 73.4% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory had the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (73.1%) and then Western Australia (67.9%).
- Nationally, the labour force participation rate increased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 64.8% 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 1.0%	138 290
	Australia	Up 0.2%	13 505 186
Civilian population <sup>1</sup>	NT	Flat	188 347
	Australia	Flat	20 852 777

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In August 2020, the Territory's labour force was 138 290 persons, an increase of 1.0% from last month's revised figure.
- Nationally, the labour force increased by 0.2% to 13 505 186 persons.

## Apprentices and trainees (estimates)<sup>2</sup>

	Year to date change	Year to date to Aug 2019	Year to date to Aug 2020
Commencements	Down 34.3%	1845	1213
Completions	Down 35.8%	590	379

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

- In 2019-20, there were 1213 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, a decrease of 34.3% (632) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In 2019-20, there were 379 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 35.8% (211) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- As at 31 August 2020, there were 3412 apprentices and trainees in training.

## Internet job vacancies (July 2020)<sup>3</sup>

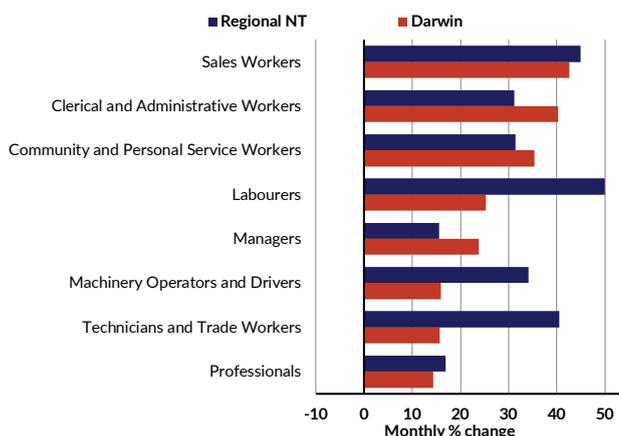
Occupation	Monthly change	No. of vacancies
Labourers	Up 5.8%	115
Technicians and trade workers	Up 1.8%	202
Community and personal service workers	Up 1.2%	126
Machinery operators and drivers	Up 1.1%	81
Professionals	Up 0.4%	421
Clerical and administrative workers	Down 0.2%	316
Sales workers	Down 2.0%	65
Managers	Down 2.5%	155
Total	Up 2.4%	1392

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In July 2020, total internet job vacancies increased by 2.4% (trend) to 1392 in the Territory.
- In July 2020, internet job vacancies reported increases in the Territory, except for Clerical and administrative workers (0.2%), Sales workers (2.0%), and Managers (2.5%).
- Labourers reported the largest increase (5.8%), followed by Technicians and trade workers (1.8%), and then Community and personal service workers (1.2%).
- In regional NT, all occupation groups recorded increases in the month.

- Labourers reported the largest increase (50.0%), followed by Sales workers (45.0%), and then Technicians and trade workers (40.5%).
- In the Darwin region, all occupation groups also recorded increases. Sales workers reported the largest increase (42.6%), followed by Clerical and administrative workers (40.2%), and then Community and personal service workers (35.3%).

## Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies<sup>4</sup>



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 Industry, Tourism and Trade email: [economicinnovation.dtbi@nt.gov.au](mailto:economicinnovation.dtbi@nt.gov.au)

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