

Labour Market Brief – January 2017

Key Message

In January 2017, the Northern Territory's unemployment rate was 4.0%, the second lowest in Australia. The Territory continues to maintain the highest participation rate, increasing by 0.7 percentage points to 77.4%. The Territory labour market continues to show signs of resilience, with a growing labour force, a low unemployment rate, and high participation rate. However, job vacancies have continued to decline, which may point to employers using other methods to advertise their vacancies, or labour market conditions are softening.

Unemployment Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Unemployment Rate	NT	↑ 0.1 ppt	4.0%
	Australia	- 0.0 ppt	5.7%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In January 2017, the Territory's unemployment rate increased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 4.0%, from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory's unemployment rate is the second lowest of the jurisdictions with the Australian Capital Territory at (3.7%), while South Australia reported the highest unemployment rate of 6.7%.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate was also unchanged at 5.7% from the previous month's revised figure.

Employment

		Monthly Change	Number of Persons ('000)
Total Employed	NT	↑ 0.7%	138.2
	Australia	↑ 0.1%	11,984.3
Full-Time Employed	NT	↑ 0.7%	110.1
	Australia	↑ 0.1%	8,146.1
Part-Time Employed	NT	↑ 0.6%	28.1
	Australia	↑ 0.1%	3,838.2

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In January 2017, there were 138,180 people employed in the Territory, an increase of 900 persons from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment increased by 730 to 110,090 persons, while part-time employment increased by 180 to 28,090 persons.
- Nationally, employment increased by 11,650 to 11,984,270 persons.
- National full-time employment increased by 6,540 to 8,146,090 persons while part-time employment increased by 5,110 to 3,838,180 persons.

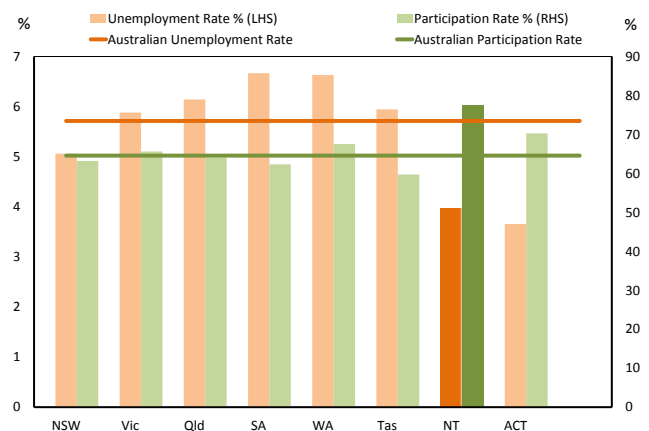
Participation Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Participation Rate	NT	↑ 0.7 ppt	77.4%
	Australia	- 0.0 ppt	64.6%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In January 2017, the Territory's labour force participation rate increased by 0.7 of a percentage point to 77.4% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory has the highest participation rate in Australia (77.4%), followed by the Australian Capital Territory (70.3%) and Western Australia (67.6%).
- Nationally, the labour force participation rate remained unchanged at 64.6% 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	↑ 0.8%	143.9
	Australia	↑ 0.1%	12,710.4
Civilian Population	NT	↑ 0.1%	186.1
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	19,700.2

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In January 2017, the Territory's labour force increased by 1,100 to 143,910 persons.
- Nationally, the labour force increased by 14,440 to 12,710,410 persons.

Apprentices and Trainees (estimate)

	Year to Date Change	Year to Date to Dec 2015	Year to Date to Dec 2016
Commencements	↑ 3.2%	4,354	4,492
Completions	↓ 21.5%	2,214	1,737

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

- In the period 1 January to 31 December 2016, there were 4,492 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, an increase of 3.2% (138) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In the period 1 January to 31 December 2016, there were 2,214 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 21.5% (477) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- As at 31 December 2016, there were 6,484 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.

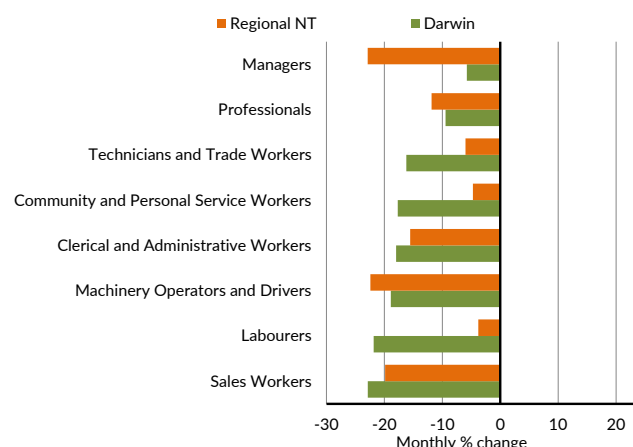
Internet Job Vacancies (December 2016)

Occupation	Monthly Change	Number of Vacancies
Managers	↓ 5.8%	152
Professionals	↓ 9.4%	313
Technicians and Trade Workers	↓ 16.2%	186
Community and Personal Service Workers	↓ 17.7%	104
Clerical and Administrative Workers	↓ 18.0%	164
Machinery Operators and Drivers	↓ 18.9%	69
Labourers	↓ 21.8%	93
Sales Workers	↓ 22.9%	90
Total	↓ 14.9%	1,170

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In December 2016, internet job vacancies decreased by 14.9% in the Territory, with decreases recorded across all occupation groups.
- In December 2016, internet job vacancies for Sales workers reported the largest monthly decrease (22.9%), followed by Labourers (21.8%), then Machinery operators and drivers (18.9%).
- In regional NT, decreases were also recorded across all occupation groups. Managers reported the largest decrease (22.9%), followed by Machinery operators and drivers (22.4%), then Sales workers (19.9%).

Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies



Source: Department of Employment (Australian Government)

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.

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

SEEK and National Australia Bank, SEEK Employment Index

Australian Government Department of Employment, Vacancy Report

Northern Territory Government Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

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