

# Labour market brief - January 2019

## Key Message

In January 2019, the Territory continued to report the highest participation rate of all jurisdictions, although labour market conditions have softened over the past seven months. Unemployment has risen seven consecutive months and employment levels have fallen seven consecutive months. Increased job vacancies would improve employment levels in the short term.

## Employment

		Monthly Change	Number of Persons ('000)
Total Employed	NT	↑ 0.4%	134 889
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	12 747 717
Full-Time Employed	NT	↑ 0.1%	106 707
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	8 737 397
Part-Time Employed	NT	↑ 1.4%	28 183
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	4 010 320

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In January 2019, there were 134 889 people employed in the Territory, an increase of 594 persons from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment increased by 193 to 106 707 persons, and part-time employment increased by 400 persons to 28 183 persons.
- Nationally, employment increased by 24 928 to 12 747 717 persons.
- National full-time employment increased by 16 789 to 8 737 397 persons and part-time employment increased by 8140 to 4 010 320 persons.
- Territory employment levels have fallen seven consecutive months, down about 1766 jobs since July 2018.

## Unemployment Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Unemployment Rate	NT	↑ 0.1 ppt	5.0%
	Australia	- 0.0 ppt	5.1%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In January 2019, the Territory's unemployment rate increased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 5.0%, from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory's unemployment rate is the fourth lowest of the jurisdictions after Victoria (4.5%), followed by New South Wales (4.1%), and then the Australian Capital Territory (3.5%). Western Australia reported the highest unemployment rate of 6.6%.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.1% from the previous month's revised figure.

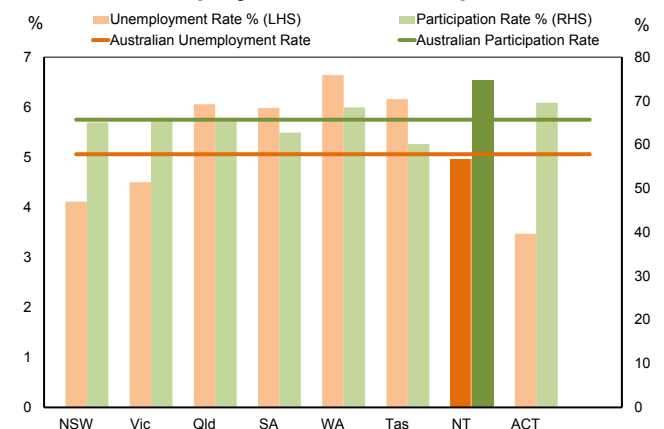
## Participation Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Participation Rate	NT	↑ 0.2 ppt	74.8%
	Australia	- 0.0 ppt	65.7%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In January 2019, the Territory's labour force participation rate increased by 0.2 percentage points to 74.8% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory had the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (69.6%) and then Western Australia (68.5%).
- Nationally, the labour force participation rate remained unchanged at 65.7% 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	↑ 0.5%	141 833
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	13 427 769
Civilian Population	NT	- 0.0%	188 816
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	20 427 743

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In January 2019, the Territory's labour force was 141 833 persons, an increase of 723 from the previous month's revised figure.
- Nationally, the labour force increased by 26 769 to 13 427 769 persons.

## Apprentices and Trainees (estimate)<sup>1</sup>

	Year to Date Change	Year to Date to Dec 2017	Year to Date to Dec 2018
Commencements	↑ 16.7%	2039	2380
Completions	↓ 6.2%	1067	1001

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

- In the year to date to December 2018, there were 2380 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, an increase of 16.7% (341) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In the year to date to December 2018, there were 1001 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 6.2% (66) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- As at 31 December 2018, there were 3239 apprentices and trainees in training.

## Internet Job Vacancies (January 2019)<sup>2</sup>

Occupation	Monthly Change	Number of Vacancies
Machinery Operators and Drivers	↑ 2.4%	112
Community and Personal Service Workers	↑ 2.2%	185
Professionals	↑ 2.1%	514
Sales Workers	↑ 0.6%	120
Technicians and Trade Workers	↑ 0.5%	328
Labourers	↑ 0.5%	130
Managers	↓ 0.1%	231
Clerical and Administrative Workers	↓ 0.5%	414
Total	↑ 0.9%	1924

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In January 2019, internet job vacancies increased by 0.9% (trend) in the Territory, with all occupation groups increasing, except for Managers and Clerical and administrative workers.
- In January 2019, internet job vacancies for Machinery operators and drivers reported the largest monthly increase (2.4%) in the Territory, followed by Community and personal service workers (2.2%), and then Professionals (2.1%).

### 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/](http://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

Strategic Policy and Research, Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

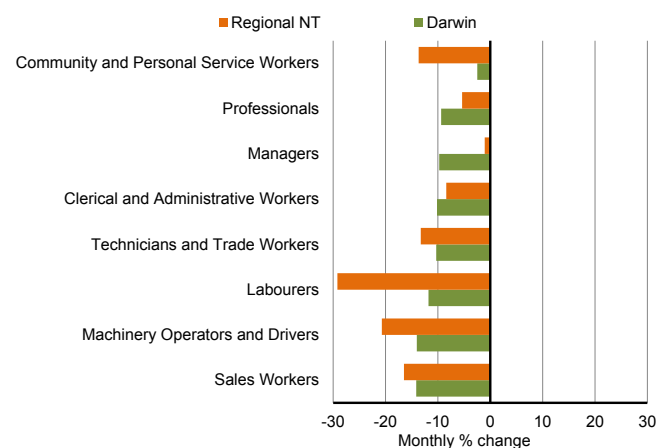
Email: [spar.dtbi@nt.gov.au](mailto:spar.dtbi@nt.gov.au)

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- In regional NT, almost half of the occupation groups recorded decreases in the month. Machinery operators and drivers reported the largest decrease (-16.9%), followed by Managers (-13.4%), and then Clerical and administrative workers (-16.9%).<sup>3</sup> Labourers and Professionals remained unchanged.
- In the Darwin region, all occupation groups recorded decreases in the month, except for Community and personal service workers, which remained unchanged. Machinery operators and drivers reported the largest monthly decrease (-13.4%), followed by Labourers (-9.1%), then Sales workers (-4.1%).<sup>3</sup>

Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies



Source: Department of Employment (Australian Government)

1. 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.
2. It should be noted that this table provides trend data.
3. It should be noted that Darwin and regional NT data are original data with a three month rolling average.