

Labour market brief - February 2019

Key Message

The labour market conditions in the Territory remains weak. The unemployment rate has risen and the employment levels have fallen in annual terms, although there has been a slight pickup in February. The participation rate is lower than a year ago but highest of all jurisdictions.

Employment

		Monthly Change	Number of Persons ('000)
Total Employed	NT	↑ 0.1%	133 662
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	12 762 759
Full-Time Employed	NT	↓ 0.1%	105 735
	Australia	↑ 0.1%	8 743 415
Part-Time Employed	NT	↑ 0.4%	27 927
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	4 019 344

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In February 2019, there were 133 662 people employed in the Territory, an increase of 95 persons from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment decreased by 10 to 105 735 persons, and part-time employment increased by 105 persons to 27 927 persons.
- Nationally, employment increased by 20 573 to 12 762 759 persons.
- National full-time employment increased by 12 339 to 8 743 415 persons and part-time employment increased by 8233 to 4 019 344 persons.
- Territory employment levels have fallen seven consecutive months, down about 1766 jobs since July 2018.

Unemployment Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Unemployment Rate	NT	- 0.0 ppt	4.9%
	Australia	- 0.0 ppt	5.0%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In February 2019, the Territory's unemployment rate remained unchanged at 4.9%, from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory's unemployment rate is the fourth lowest of the jurisdictions after Victoria (4.6%), followed by New South Wales (4.2%), and then the Australian Capital Territory (3.5%). Tasmania reported the highest unemployment rate of 6.3%.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.0% from the previous month's revised figure.

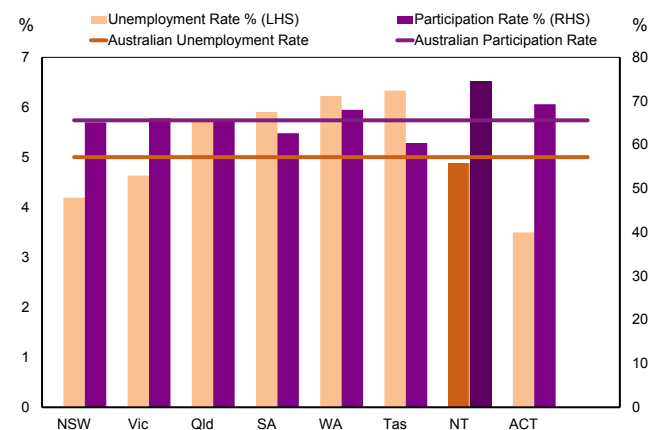
Participation Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Participation Rate	NT	↑ 0.1 ppt	74.5%
	Australia	- 0.0 ppt	65.6%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In February 2019, the Territory's labour force participation rate increased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 74.5% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory had the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (69.3%) and then Western Australia (68.0%).
- Nationally, the labour force participation rate remained unchanged at 65.6% 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	↑ 0.1%	140 571
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	13 435 827
Civilian Population	NT	- 0.0%	188 669
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	20 477 780

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In February 2019, the Territory's labour force was 140 571 persons, an increase of 156 from the previous month's revised figure.
- Nationally, the labour force increased by 22 385 to 13 435 827 persons.

Apprentices and Trainees (estimate)¹

	Year to Date Change	Year to Date to Jan 2018	Year to Date to Jan 2019
Commencements	↓ 3.2%	222	215
Completions	↑ 3.9%	51	53

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

- In the year to date to January 2019, there were 215 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, a decrease of 3.2% (7) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In the year to date to January 2019, there were 51 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, an increase of 3.9% (2) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- As at 31 January 2019, there were 3293 apprentices and trainees in training.

Internet Job Vacancies (February 2019)²

Occupation	Monthly Change	Number of Vacancies
Machinery Operators and Drivers	↑ 2.6%	114
Sales Workers	↑ 1.0%	127
Community and Personal Service Workers	↑ 0.8%	182
Labourers	↑ 0.2%	130
Professionals	↓ 0.9%	473
Managers	↓ 1.0%	220
Clerical and Administrative Workers	↓ 1.8%	406
Technicians and Trade Workers	↓ 2.8%	301
Total	↓ 1.6%	1800

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In February 2019, internet job vacancies decreased by 1.6% (trend) in the Territory, half of the occupation groups increased, except for Professionals, Managers, Clerical and administrative workers, and Technicians and trade workers.
- In February 2019, internet job vacancies for Machinery operators and drivers reported the largest monthly increase (2.6%) in the Territory, followed by Sales workers (1.0%), and then Community and personal service workers (0.8%).

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

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

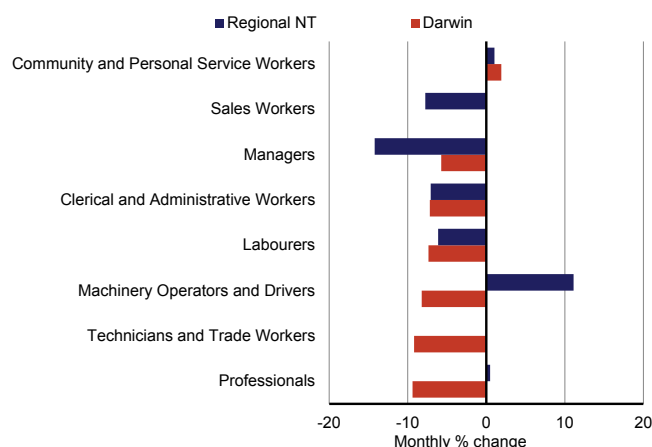
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- In regional NT, half of the occupation groups recorded decreases in the month. Managers reported the largest decrease (-14.2%), followed by Sales workers (-7.8%), then Clerical and administrative workers (-7.1%), and then Labourers (-6.1%).³
- In the Darwin region, almost all occupation groups recorded decreases in the month, except for Community and personal service workers, which increased to 1.9%. Sales workers remained unchanged. Professionals reported the largest monthly decrease (-9.4%), followed by Technicians and trade workers (-9.2%), and then Machinery operators and drivers (-8.2%).³

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.