

Labour market brief – April 2017

Key Message

In April 2017, the Northern Territory's unemployment rate was 3.5%, the lowest in Australia. The Territory continues to maintain the highest participation rate, increasing by 0.3 of a percentage point to 78.8%, again the highest on record for all Australian jurisdictions. The Territory labour market continues to show signs of resilience, with a growing labour force, a low unemployment rate, and a record high participation rate. Internet job vacancies increased in the month, which may point to further employment growth in the short-term.

Unemployment Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Unemployment Rate	NT	▬ 0.0 ppt	3.5%
	Australia	▬ 0.0 ppt	5.8%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In April 2017, the Territory's unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.5%, from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory's unemployment rate is the lowest of the jurisdictions with the Australian Capital Territory second (3.6%), while South Australia reported the highest unemployment rate of 7.0%.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.8% from the previous month's revised figure.

Employment

		Monthly Change	Number of Persons ('000)
Total Employed	NT	⬆ 0.5%	142.1
	Australia	⬆ 0.2%	12,071.3
Full-Time Employed	NT	⬆ 0.1%	111.3
	Australia	⬆ 0.2%	8,216.3
Part-Time Employed	NT	⬆ 1.9%	30.9
	Australia	⬆ 0.2%	3,855.0

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In April 2017, there were 142,125 people employed in the Territory, an increase of 667 persons from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment increased by 79 to 111,261 persons, while part-time employment increased by 588 to 30,865 persons.
- Nationally, employment increased by 19,852 to 12,071,266 persons.
- National full-time employment increased by 12,308 to 8,216,250 persons while part-time employment increased by 7545 to 3,855,016 persons.

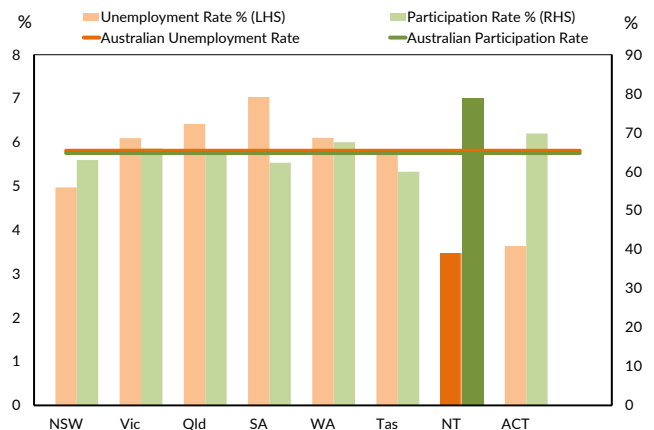
Participation Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Participation Rate	NT	⬆ 0.3 ppt	78.8%
	Australia	⬆ 0.1 ppt	64.8%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In April 2017, the Territory's labour force participation rate increased by 0.3 of a percentage point to 78.8% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory has the highest participation rate on record in Australia (78.8%), followed by the Australian Capital Territory (69.8%) and Western Australia (67.5%).
- 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	⬆ 0.4%	147.3
	Australia	⬆ 0.2%	12,815.7
Civilian Population	NT	⬆ 0.1%	187.1
	Australia	⬆ 0.1%	19,801.7

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In April 2017, the Territory's labour force increased by 629 to 147,259 persons.
- Nationally, the labour force increased by 21,522 to 12,815,691 persons.

Apprentices and Trainees (estimate)

	Year to Date Change	Year to Date to Mar 2016	Year to Date to Mar 2017
Commencements	↓ 16.7%	774	645
Completions	↓ 27.3%	264	192

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

- In the year to date to March 2017, there were 645 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, a decrease of 16.7% (129) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In the year to date to March 2017, there were 192 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 27.3% (72) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- As at 31 March 2017, there were 3,306 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 (March 2017)

Occupation	Monthly Change	Number of Vacancies
Professionals	↑ 1.4%	465
Labourers	↑ 0.9%	118
Community and Personal Service Workers	↑ 0.2%	190
Managers	↓ 0.4%	182
Machinery Operators and Drivers	↓ 0.6%	88
Technicians and Trade Workers	↓ 0.7%	276
Sales Workers	↓ 1.5%	125
Clerical and Administrative Workers	↓ 3.3%	453
Total	↑ 0.3%	1,704

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In March 2017, internet job vacancies increased marginally by 0.3% in the Territory, with decreases recorded across all occupation groups except for Professionals (1.4%), Labourers (0.9%), and Community and personal service workers (0.2%).
- In March 2017, internet job vacancies for Clerical and administrative workers reported the largest monthly decrease (3.3%), followed by Sales workers (1.5%), then Technicians and trade workers (0.7%).

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

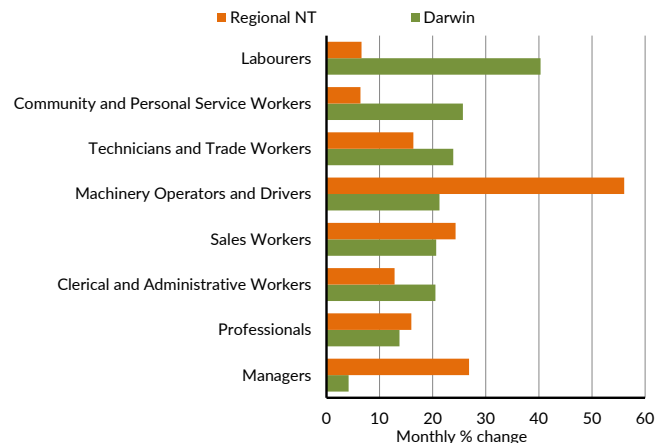
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- In regional NT, all occupation groups recorded increases in the month, with the largest increases reported for Machinery operators and drivers (56.1%), Manager (26.9%), and Sales workers (24.3%).
- In the Darwin region, the largest monthly increase was reported for Labourers (40.3%), followed by Community and personal service workers (25.7%), and then Technicians and trade workers (23.9%).

Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies



Source: Department of Employment (Australian Government)