# Key message

Labour market conditions in the Territory remain soft. The unemployment rate continues to rise. On a positive note, employment levels continue to increase and have now increased for seven consecutive months. However, on a year on year basis employment levels fell. The participation rate still remains the highest of all jurisdictions, and above the national average. Please read in outline view for best navigational experience.

## Employment

|  |  | Monthly change | Number of persons (‘000) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Total employed | NT | Up 0.3% | 133 109 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.1% | 12 976 282 |
| Full-time employed | NT | Up 0.5% | 103 841 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.1% | 8 851 014 |
| Part-time employed | NT | Down 0.4% | 29 268 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.2% | 4 125 268 |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In December 2019, there were 133 109 people employed in the Territory, an increase of 444 persons from the previous month’s revised figure.
* Territory full-time employment increased by 549 to 103 841 persons, while part-time employment decreased by 105 to 29 268 persons.
* Nationally, employment increased by 17 548 to 12 976 282 persons.
* National full-time employment increased by 8950 to 8 851 014 persons and part-time employment increased by 8598 to 4 125 268 persons.
* Territory employment levels has increased for seven consecutive months after 12 consecutive negative months.

## Unemployment rate

|  |  | Monthly change | Rate |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Unemployment rate | NT | Up 0.1 ppt | 5.6% |
|  | Australia | Down 0.1 ppt | 5.1% |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In December 2019, the Territory’s unemployment rate increased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 5.6%.
* The Territory’s unemployment rate is the fourth lowest of the jurisdictions after Victoria (4.8%), New South Wales (4.6%), and then the Australian Capital Territory (3.1%). South Australia reported the highest unemployment rate of 6.4%.
* Nationally, the unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 5.1% from the previous month’s revised figure.

## Participation rate

|  |  | Monthly change | Rate |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Participation rate | NT | Up 0.4 ppts | 75.1% |
|  | Australia | Flat | 66.0% |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In December 2019, the Territory’s labour force participation rate increased by 0.4 percentage points to 75.1% from the previous month’s revised figure.
* The Territory had the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (70.6%) and then Western Australia (68.0%).
* Nationally, the labour force participation rate remained unchanged at 66.0% from the previous month’s revised figure.

**Chart 1: Unemployment and participation rates**

This chart indicates the following unemployment rates for each jurisdictions:
Queensland is 6.0 percent 
South Australia is 6.4 percent 
Tasmania is 5.8 percent 
Northern Territory is 5.6 percent 
Western Australia is 5.6 percent 
Victoria is 4.8 percent 
New South Wales is 4.6 percent 
Australian Capital Territory is 3.1 percent 
Australia is 5.1 percent
The following participation rates for each jurisdictions are: 
Northern Territory is 75.1 percent 
Australian Capital Territory is 70.6 percent 
Western Australia is 68.0 percent 
Victoria is 66.5 percent 
Queensland is 65.8 percent 
New South Wales is 65.6 percent 
South Australia is 62.7 percent 
Tasmania is 61.1 percent
Australia unchanged at  66.0 percent


Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

## Labour force

|  |  | Monthly change | Number of persons (‘000) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Labour force | NT | Up 0.4% | 140 951 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.1% | 13 679 851 |
| Civilian population1 | NT | Down 0.2% | 187 488 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.1% | 20 725 350 |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In December 2019, the Territory’s labour force was 140 951 persons, an increase of 0.4% from last month’s revised figure.
* Nationally, the labour force increased by 0.1% to 13 679 851 persons.

## Apprentices and trainees (estimates)2

|  | Year to date change | Year to date to Nov 2018 | Year to date to Nov 2019 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Commencements | Flat | 2272 | 2273 |
| Completions | Up 1.0% | 904 | 913 |

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

* In the year to November 2019, there were 2273 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, an increase of 1 compared to the same period in the previous year.
* In the year to November 2019, there were 913 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, an increase of 1.0% (9) compared to the same period in the previous year.
* As at 30 November 2019, there were 3287 apprentices and trainees in training.

## Internet job vacancies (December 2019)

| Occupation | Monthly change | No. of vacancies |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Managers | Up 2.9% | 227 |
| Professionals | Up 1.5% | 514 |
| Machinery operators and drivers | Up 0.9% | 85 |
| Labourers | Up 0.3% | 97 |
| Sales workers | Up 0.2% | 98 |
| Community and personal service workers | Down 0.1% | 171 |
| Clerical and administrative workers | Down 0.2% | 309 |
| Technicians and trade workers | Down 0.7% | 245 |
| Total | Up 1.6% | 1675 |

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

* In December 2019, total internet job vacancies increased by 1.6% (trend) to 1675 in the Territory.
* In December 2019, internet job vacancies for Managers reported the largest monthly increase (2.9%) in the Territory. Technicians and trade workers reported the largest decrease (0.7%), followed by Clerical and administrative workers (0.2%), then Community and personal service workers (0.1%).
* In regional NT, all occupation groups recorded decreases in the month, except for Managers which increased (4.0%).
* In regional NT, the largest recorded decrease was Technicians and trade workers (18.9%), followed by Sales workers and Labourers (both 10.2%).
* In the Darwin region, all occupation groups recorded decreases. The largest decrease was Machinery operators and drivers (19.2%), followed by Labourers (11.9), then Technicians and trade workers (10.4%).

**Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies4**

This chart indicates the following increase and decrease of job vacancies in Darwin and regional NT across all occupations:
Sales workers in Darwin decreased to 9.0 per cent. 
Sales workers in regional NT decreased to 10.2 per cent. 
Community and Personal Service Workers in Darwin decreased to 8.7 per cent. 
Community and Personal Service Workers in regional NT decreased to 6.6 per cent. 
Managers in Darwin decreased to 8.9 per cent. 
Managers in regional NT increased to 4.0 per cent. 
Professionals in Darwin decreased to 7.5 per cent. 
Professionals in regional NT decreased to 3.4 per cent. 
Technicians and Trade Workers in Darwin decreased to 10.4 per cent. 
Technicians and Trade Workers in regional NT decreased to 18.9 per cent. 
Clerical and Administrative Workers in Darwin decreased to 6.6 per cent. 
Clerical and Administrative Workers in regional NT decreased to 9.0 per cent.
Labourers in Darwin decreased to 11.9 per cent.  
Labourers in regional NT decreased to 10.2 per cent.  
Machinery operators and drivers in Darwin decreased to 19.2 per cent. 
Machinery operators and drivers in regional NT decreased to 3.6 per cent.


Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

**Notes**

1. Original data.
2. 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.
3. It should be noted that this table provides trend data.
4. 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 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/business/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:

**Enquiries**

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