# Key Message

In December 2018, 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



*Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0*

* In December 2018, there were 133 852 people employed in the Territory, an increase of 173 persons from the previous month’s revised figure.
* Territory full-time employment increased by 49 to 106 727 persons, and part-time employment increased by 124 persons to 27 125 persons.
* Nationally, employment increased by 23 069 to 12 711 584 persons.
* National full-time employment increased by 11 831 to 8 697 562 persons and part-time employment increased by 11 238 to 4 014 021 persons.
* Territory employment levels have fallen seven consecutive months, down about 3771 jobs since June 2018.

## Unemployment Rate



*Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0*

* In December 2018, 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 the Australian Capital Territory (3.6%), New South Wales (4.3%), and Victoria (4.4%). Western Australia reported the highest unemployment rate of 6.4%.
* Nationally, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.0% from the previous month’s revised figure.

## Participation Rate



*Source: ABS**Cat No 6202.0*

* In December 2018, the Territory’s labour force participation rate remained unchanged at 74.3% from the previous month’s revised figure.
* The Territory had the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (69.4%) and then Western Australia (68.6%).
* 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



*Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0*

* In December 2018, the Territory’s labour force was 140 772 persons, an increase of 348 from the previous month’s revised figure.
* Nationally, the labour force increased by 19 895 to 13 382 489 persons.

## Apprentices and Trainees (estimate)1



*Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation*

* In the year to date to November 2018, there were 2221 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, an increase of 14.9% (288) compared to the same period in the previous year.
* In the year to date to November 2018, there were 861 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 8.4% (79) compared to the same period in the previous year.
* As at 30 November 2018, there were 3116 apprentices and trainees in training.

## Internet Job Vacancies (December 2018)2



*Source: Australian Government Department of Employment*

* In December 2018, internet job vacancies increased by 1.7% (trend) in the Territory, with all occupation groups increasing.
* In December 2018, internet job vacancies for Community and personal service workers reported the largest monthly increase (2.6%), followed by Labourers (2.1%), and Technicians and trade workers (1.1%).
* In regional NT, all occupation groups recorded decreases in the month. Labourers reported the largest decrease (-29.2%), followed by Machinery operators and drivers (-20.7%), and then Sales workers (-16.5%).3
* In the Darwin region, all occupation groups recorded decreases in the month. Sales workers reported the largest monthly decrease (-14.1%), followed by Machinery operators and
drivers (-14.0%), then Labourers (-11.8%). 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.*