# Key Message

The Territory’s labour market remains characterised by a low unemployment rate, high participation rate and low underemployment rate. The level of employment has rebound over the past quarter, and the continued increase in job vacancies may further support employment growth in the short-term.

## Introduction

The Northern Territory labour market is characterised by a relatively young and skilled workforce, high participation and low unemployment. However, there are also marked differences between certain cohorts and within different sub-Territory regions.

## Regional Labour Markets1

This table shows unemployment and labour force data for regional Territory labour markets, including Alice Springs, Barkly, Daly/Tiwi/West Arnhem, East Arnhem, Greater Darwin and Katherine for the periods December 2016, September 2017 and December 2017. 

Row one are the headings:  Region, December 2016, September 2017 and December 2017. 

Row two is the heading Alice Springs.  

Row three indicates that in Alice Springs there were 760 unemployed persons in December 2016, 739 in September 2017, and 860 in December 2017. 

Row four indicates that in Alice Springs there were 23,417 persons in the labour force in December 2016, 24,800 in September 2017, and 24,638 in December 2017. 

Row five indicates that the unemployment rate in Alice Springs was 4.8% in December 2016, 4.4% in September 2017, and 5.1% in December 2017.

Row six is the heading Barkly.  

Row seven indicates that in the Barkly there were 185 unemployed persons in December 2016, 172 in September 2017, and 200 in December 2017. 

Row eight indicates that in the Barkly there were 2947 persons in the labour force in December 2016, 3122 in September 2017, and 3100 in December 2017. 

Row nine indicates that the unemployment rate in the Barkly was 8.7.5% in December 2016, 6.5% in September 2017, and 7.5% in December 2017.

Row 10 is the heading Daly, Tiwi and West Arnhem. 

Row 11 indicates that in the Daly, Tiwi and West Arnhem there were 559 unemployed persons in December 2016, 532 in September 2017, and 606 in December 2017. 

Row 12 indicates that in the Daly, Tiwi and West Arnhem there were 8136 persons in the labour force in December 2016, 8616 in September 2017, and 8558 in December 2017. 

Row 13 indicates that the unemployment rate in the Daly, Tiwi and West Arnhem was 8.1% in December 2016, 7.2% in September 2017, and 8.2% in December 2017. 

Row 14 is the heading East Arnhem.  

Row 15 indicates that in East Arnhem there were 344 unemployed persons in December 2016, 335 in September 2017, and 373 in December 2017. 

Row 16 indicates that in East Arnhem there were 6638 persons in the labour force in December 2016, 7031 in September 2017, and 6983 in December 2017. 

Row 17 indicates that the unemployment rate in East Arnhem was 4.8% in December 2016, 4.3% in September 2017, and 4.8% in December 2017. 

Row 18 is the heading Greater Darwin. 

Row 19 indicates that in Greater Darwin there were 2998 unemployed persons in December 2016, 2888 in September 2017, and 2998 in December 2017. 

Row 20 indicates that in Greater Darwin there were 86,675 persons in the labour force in December 2016, 85,694 in September 2017, and 85,849 in December 2017. 

Row 21 indicates that the unemployment rate in Greater Darwin was 3.8% in December 2016, 3.7% in September 2017, and 3.9% in December 2017. 

Row 22 is the heading Katherine.  

Row 23 indicates that in Katherine there were 449 unemployed persons in December 2016, 435 in September 2017, and 500 in December 2017. 

Row 24 indicates that in Katherine there were 11,255 persons in the labour force in December 2016, 11,920 in September 2017, and 11,839 in December 2017. 

Row 25 indicates that the unemployment rate in Katherine was 5.6% in December 2016, 5.1% in September 2017, and 5.8% in December 2017.


*Source: Department of Employment, Australian Government.*

During the December 2017 quarter:

* All regions reported an increase in the unemployment rate compared to the September 2017 quarter.
* Outside the Greater Darwin region, East Arnhem experienced the lowest unemployment rate at 4.8%, an increase of 0.5 percentage points.
* Alice Springs unemployment rate was 5.1% in the quarter.
* The Daly, Tiwi and West Arnhem regions had the highest unemployment rate in the Territory at 8.2%. Generally this region experiences a higher level of unemployment compared to other Territory regions, largely due to the lower levels of economic activity and a less diverse local economy.

1. *It should be noted that many Territory regions consist of a small population base, which can result in volatility in labour market data1.*

## Regional Apprentices and Trainees2

Regional Apprentices and Trainees
This table demonstrates the apprentice and trainee commencements and completions in regions across the Territory.  
Row one are the headings: Region, YTD February 2017, and YTD February 2018. 
Row two is the heading Alice Springs. 
Row three indicates that in Alice Springs there were 90 commencements in YTD February 2017 and 76 in YTD February 2018. 
Row four indicates that in Alice Springs there were 23 completions in YTD February 2017 and 29 in YTD February 2018. 
Row five is the heading Barkly. 
Row six indicates that in the Barkly there were 17 commencements in YTD February 2017and 28 in YTD February 2018. 
Row seven indicates that in the Barkly there were 0 completions in YTD February 2017and 2 in YTD February 2018. 
Row eight is the heading Daly - Tiwi - West Arnhem. 
Row nine indicates that in Daly - Tiwi - West Arnhem there were 3 commencements in YTD February 2017and 10 in YTD February 2018.
Row 10 indicates that in West Arnhem there were 1 completions in YTD February 2017 and 1 in YTD February 2018. 
Row 11 is the heading East Arnhem. 
Row 12 indicates that in East Arnhem there were 16 commencements in YTD February 2017 and 9 in YTD February 2018. 
Row 13 indicates that in East Arnhem there were 4 completions in YTD February 2017 and 9 in YTD February 2018. 
Row 14 is the heading Darwin. 
Row 15 indicates that in Darwin there were 309 commencements in YTD February 2017 and 299 in YTD February 2018. 
Row 16 indicates that in Darwin there were 84 completions in YTD February 2017 and 82 in YTD February 2018. 
Row 17 is the heading Katherine. 
Row 18 indicates that in Katherine there were 24 commencements in YTD February 2017 and 49 in YTD February 2018. 
Row 19 indicates that in Katherine there were 9 completions in YTD February 2017 and 5 in YTD February 2018.


*Source: Department of Trade, Business and Innovation*

* Comparing the year to date to February 2018 to the same period a year ago, apprentice and trainee commencements decreased in all regions, except for Barkly, West Arnhem and Katherine, which increased by 11, 7 and 25 respectively.
* Completions increased in all regions in the year to date to February 2018, except for Darwin and Katherine, which decreased by 2 and 4 respectively. West Arnhem remains unchanged.

1. *As there can be significant lags in reporting training data, the data may be revised in the future.*

## Apprentice and Trainee Commencements by Training Funding Group (year to date to February 2018)3

This table indicates the apprentice and trainee commencements by training funding group (year to date to February 2018). 

Row one are the headings: Training Funding Group, 2017, year to date 2017, year to date 2018 and year to date change. 

Row two indicates that in arts, entertainment, sports and recreation, there were 47 commencements in 2017, 34 in year to date 2017, 51 in year to date 2018, and a 50.0% increase in year to date change. 

Row three indicates that in automotive, there were 151 commencements in 2017, 47 in year to date 2017, 37 in year to date 2018, and a decrease in year to date change to 21.3%. 

Row four indicates that in building and construction, there were 185 commencements in 2017, 35 in year to date 2017, 47 in year to date 2018 and year to date change increased to 34.3%. 

Row five indicates that in business and clerical, there were 184 commencements in 2017, 54 in year to date 2017, 37 in year to date 2018 and a decrease in year to date change to 31.5%. 

Row six indicates that in communications, there were 9 commencements in 2017, 3 in year to date 2017, 0 in year to date 2018 and year to date changed decreased by 100%. . 

Row seven indicates that in community services, health and education, there were 258 commencements in 2017, 49 in year to date 2017, 37 in year to date 2018 and a decrease in year to date change to 24.5%. 

Row eight indicates that in computing, there were 24 commencements in 2017, 18 in year to date 2017, 13 in year to date 2018 and year to date change decreased to 27.8%. 

Row nine indicates that in engineering and mining, there were 132 commencements in 2017, 33 in year to date 2017, 32 in year to date 2018 and a decrease in year to date change to 3.0%. 

Row ten indicates that in exceptions - cookery, there were 47 commencements in 2017, 11 in year to date 2017, 7 in year to date 2018 and year to date change decreased to 36.4%. 

Row 11 indicates that in finance banking and insurance, there were 28 commencements in 2017, 11 in year to date 2017, 1 in year to date 2018 and a decrease in year to date change to 90.9%.

Row 12 indicates that in food processing, there were 60 commencements in 2017, 7 in year to date 2017, 2 in year to date 2018 and year to date change decreased to 71.4%. 

Row 13 indicates that in primary industry, there were 208 commencements in 2017, 28 in year to date 2017, 45 in year to date 2018 and an increase in year to date change to 60.7%. 

Row 14 indicates that in process manufacturing, there was 2 commencement in 2017, 0 in year to date 2017, 0 in year to date 2018 and year to date change remained unchanged.

Row 15 indicates that in sales and personal service, there were 220 commencements in 2017, 28 in year to date 2017, 40 in year to date 2018 and an increase in year to date change to 42.9%.

Row 16 indicates that in science, technical and other, there were 17 commencements in 2017, 2 in year to date 2017, 2 in year to date 2018 and year to date change remained unchanged. 

Row 17 indicates that textiles, clothing, footwear and furnishings, there were 5 commencements in 2017, 2 in year to date 2017, 2 in year to date 2018 and year to date change remained unchanged. 

Row 18 indicates that in tourism and hospitality, there were 168 commencements in 2017, 26 in year to date 2017, 26 in year to date 2018 and year to date change remained unchanged. 

Row 19 indicates that transport and storage, there were 73 commencements in 2017, 11 in year to date 2017, 11 in year to date 2018 and year to date change remained unchanged. 

Row 20 indicates that for utilities, there were 217 commencements in 2017, 60 in year to date 2017, 79 in year to date 2018 and an increase in year to date change to 31.7%. 

Row 21 indicates the total commencements for 2017 is 2035, year to date 2017 is 459, and year to date 2018 is 469 and an increase in year to date change to 2.2%.
 *Source: Department of Trade, Business and Innovation*

## Apprentice and Trainee Completions by Training Funding Group (year to date to February 2018)4

This table indicates the apprentice and trainee completions by training funding group (year to date to February 2018).

Row one are the headings: Training Funding Group, 2017, year to date 2017, year to date 2018 and year to date change. 

Row two indicates that in arts, entertainment, sports and recreation, there were 35 completions in 2017, 1 in year to date 2017, 1 in year to date 2018, and year to date change remained unchanged. 

Row three indicates that in automotive, there were 82 completions in 2017, 17 in year to date 2017, 10 in year to date 2018, and a decrease in year to date change to 41.2%. 

Row four indicates that in building and construction, there were 105 completions in 2017, 17 in year to date 2017, 15 in year to date 2018 and year to date change decreased to 11.8%. 

Row five indicates that in business and clerical, there were 71 completions in 2017, 15 in year to date 2017, 21 in year to date 2018 and an increase in year to date change to 40.0%. 

Row six indicates that in communications, there were 8 completions in 2017, 2 in year to date 2017, 0 in year to date 2018 and year to date decreased by 100%. 

Row seven indicates that in community services, health and education, there were 84 completions in 2017, 14 in year to date 2017, 11 in year to date 2018 and a decrease in year to date change to 21.4%. 

Row eight indicates that in computing, there were 15 completions in 2017, 2 in year to date 2017, 5 in year to date 2018 and year to date change increased by 150%. 

Row nine indicates that in engineering and mining, there were 61 completions in 2017, 8 in year to date 2017, 9 in year to date 2018 and an increase in year to date change to 12.5%. 

Row ten indicates that in exceptions - cookery, there were 11 completions in 2017, 1 in year to date 2017, 2 in year to date 2018 and year to date change increased to 100%. 

Row 11 indicates that in finance banking and insurance, there were 15 completions in 2017, 4 in year to date 2017, 0 in year to date 2018 and a decrease in year to date change to 100%.

Row 12 indicates that in food processing, there were 22 completions in 2017, 1 in year to date 2017, 3 in year to date 2018 and year to date change increased by 200%. 

Row 13 indicates that in primary industry, there were 148 completions in 2017, 3 in year to date 2017, 3 in year to date 2018 and year to date change remained unchanged. 

Row 14 indicates that in process manufacturing, there was 1 commencement in 2017, 1 in year to date 2017, 0 in year to date 2018, and year to date change decreased by 100%.

Row 15 indicates that in sales and personal service, there were 118 completions in 2017, 4 in year to date 2017, 10 in year to date 2018 and an increase in year to date change to 150%.

Row 16 indicates that in science, technical and other, there were 13 completions in 2017, 2 in year to date 2017, 1 in year to date 2018 and year to date change decreased to 50%. 

Row 17 indicates that textiles, clothing, footwear and furnishings, there were 9 completions in 2017, 1 in year to date 2017, 1 in year to date 2018 and year to date change remained unchanged. 

Row 18 indicates that in tourism and hospitality, there were 80 completions in 2017, 12 in year to date 2017, 15 in year to date 2018 and year to date change increased to 25.0%. 

Row 19 indicates that transport and storage, there were 48 completions in 2017, 4 in year to date 2017, 4 in year to date 2018 and year to date change remained unchanged. 

Row 20 indicates that for utilities, there were 119 completions in 2017, 12 in year to date 2017, 17 in year to date 2018 and an increase in year to date change to 41.7%. 

Row 21 indicates the total completions for 2017 is 21045, year to date 2017 is 121, and year to date 2018 is 128 and an increase in year to date change to 5.8%.


*Source: Department of Trade, Business and Innovation*

**Commencements**

* In the year to date to February 2018, there were 469 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory.
* The training funding groups with the largest number of commencements were Utilities (79), followed by Arts, entertainment, sports and recreation (51).
* Compared to the same period last year, there has been a 2.2% increase (10) in the number of commencements, with the largest increase in Primary industry (28 to 45), followed by Arts, entertainment, sports and recreation (34 to 51).
* Outside Darwin, Alice Springs had the largest number of apprentice and trainee commencements (74), of which 16 being in Tourism and hospitality. Katherine had 48 apprentice and trainee commencements, followed by Barkly with 28, and West Arnhem had 10.
* Over the same period, East Arnhem had the lowest commencements, with 7 in the year to date to February 2018.

1. *Due to the natural lag in contracts being registered (up to six months after the commencement date) it is expected there was a considerably higher number of actual commencements than at the time of publishing.*

*Apprentice and trainee commencements are an indicator of employment demand and employer sentiment.*

**Completions**

* In the year to date to February 2018, there were 128 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a 5.8% increase (7) compared to the same period last year.
* The increase in apprentice and trainee completions was experienced by a number of training funding groups, with Business and clerical (15 to 21), sales and personal service (4 to 10), and Utilities (12 to 17).
* Outside Darwin, Alice Springs had the largest number of apprentice and trainee completions (27), of which 13 was in Tourism and hospitality. East Arnhem had a total of 9 completions, followed by Katherine with 4, and Barkly with 2. West Arnhem had 1 completions.

1. *As with commencements, there are also lags in completions, as such the magnitude of the decline in completions is likely significantly less than at the time of publishing.*

## Unemployment Rate

**Chart 1: Unemployment Rate (quarterly average)**

In the March quarter 2018, the Territory unemployment rate decreased by 0.4 percentage points to 3.9%, from the previous quarter’s revised figure.

*Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0*

* In the March quarter 2018, the Territory unemployment rate decreased by 0.3 percentage points to 4.0%, from the previous quarter’s revised figure.
* There were 5821 unemployed persons in the Territory in the March quarter 2018, a decrease of 122 persons in the previous quarter.
* In the March quarter 2018, the male unemployment rate in the Territory decreased by 0.4 percentage points to 3.9%, while the female unemployment rate also decreased by 0.2 percentage points to 4.2%. Nationally, the male unemployment rate increased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 5.5%, while the female unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.6%.

## Resident Employment

**Chart 2: Northern Territory Resident Employment**

This chart indicates that male employment in the Northern Territory has grown at a faster pace than female employment since 2008. *Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0*

* In the March quarter 2018, there were 136 691 Territorians that were employed, an increase of 1677 from the previous quarter’s revised figure.
* Full-time employment increased by 607 to 106 994 persons. Part-time employment also increased by 1070 persons over the period to 29 698 persons.
* In the same quarter in the Territory, male full‑time employment increased by 0.8% (63 176), and female full-time employment also increased by 0.3% (43 818).
* At the national level, male employment increased by 0.4% in the quarter (6 617 447), with part-time employment increasing 1.2%, and full-time increasing by 0.2%. Female employment increased by 0.7% (5 853 168) over the same period, with part-time employment increasing by 1.0%, and full-time increasing by 0.5%.

### Underemployment5

This table demonstrates the underemployed in the Northern Territory and Australia.  

Row one are the headings Quarterly Change and Level (per cent).  

Row two indicates the underemployment rate in the Northern Territory remained unchanged at 4.4  per cent.   

Row three indicates the underemployment rate in Australia decreased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 8.3 per cent.

*Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0*

* In the March quarter 2018, the Territory underemployment rate is the lowest of the jurisdictions at 4.4% of total employed persons, signifying that compared to the rest of Australia (8.3%), there are more employed people in the Territory working their desired number of hours.
* The number of underemployed persons in the Territory increased to 6200 in the March quarter 2018, and has been generally falling over the past 18 months.

1. *An underemployed person is an employed person whose hours of work were less than 35 hours in a particular week, and they were willing and available to work additional hours if offered.*

### Hours Worked6

This table demonstrates the average weekly hours worked per capita in the Northern Territory and Australia. 
Row one are the headings Quarterly Change and Level (Hours).
Row two indicates the average weekly hours worked per capita in the Northern Territory increased by 0.1 per cent at 37.1 hours.   
Row three indicates the average weekly hours worked per capita in Australia decreased by 0.4 per cent to 34.8 hours.
*Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0*

* In the March quarter 2018, average weekly hours worked per capita in the NT increased by 0.1% to 37.1 hours per week on average.
* Nationally, average weekly hours worked per capita decreased by 0.4% to 34.8 hours per week.
* On average, Territory workers work longer hours than nationally, which may also be a reason the Territory has the lowest underemployment rate in the nation.

1. *Average weekly hours worked per capita refers to the number of hours each employed person works each week on average.*

### Employment by Industry7

This table demonstrates the top five employment industries by percentage change in the Northern Territory. 
Row one are the headings Top 5 Industries by Percentage Change and Year on Year Change. 
Row two indicates that Manufacturing year on year change was 25.0 per cent. 
Row three indicates that Administrative and support services year on year change was 20.7 per cent. 
Row four indicates that Health care and social assistance year on year change was 18.7 per cent. 
Row five indicates that Arts and recreation services year on year change was 12.3 per cent. 
Row six indicates that Education and training’s year on year change was 12.1 per cent.


*Source: ABS Cat No 6291.0.55.003*

* In the year to February 2018, Manufacturing had the highest percentage increase in employment of all industries (25.0%), followed by Administrative and support services (20.7%), then Health care and social assistance (18.7%).
* Public administration and safety, the largest employing industry, which includes activities involving government legislation, emergency services and border control, had a year on year decrease of 21.1%.
* Construction is the largest industry in the Territory by value of production, and is also a significant employer (10.5% of total employment). In the year to February 2018, Construction employment increased by 1.9% to 14 200 persons.
* Mining is the second largest industry in the Territory by value of production. However, Mining only employs approximately 3.5% of the NT workforce as the industry is capital intensive, utilising machines instead of people to perform many tasks. In the year, Mining employment decreased by 23.0% to 4800 persons.

1. *Caution should be exercised when interpreting employment changes by industry due to data volatility in small jurisdictions such as the Northern Territory.*

**Chart 3: Northern Territory Employment by Industry (year average to February 2018)**

This chart indicates the number of people employed by industry in the following order from largest to smallest: 

1. Health care and social assistance
2. Public administration and safety
3. Construction
4. Education and training
5. Retail trade
6. Accommodation and food services
7. Transport, postal and warehousing
8. Professional, scientific and technical services
9. Other services
10. Mining
11. Administrative and support services
12. Manufacturing
13. Arts and recreation services
14. Rental, hiring and real estate services
15. Electricity, gas, water and waste services
16. Wholesale trade
17. Financial and insurance services
18. Agriculture, forestry and fishing
19. Information Media and Telecommunications


*Source: ABS Cat No 6291.0.55.003*

## Resident Population

This table demonstrates the resident population in the Northern Territory and Australia.  
Row one are the headings Quarterly Change and Number of Persons.  
Row two indicates the resident population in the Northern Territory remained unchanged at 246,065 persons.  
Row three indicates the resident population in Australia increased by 0.4 per cent to 24,702,851 persons.  


*Source: ABS Cat No 3101.0*

* In the September quarter 2017, the Territory’s estimated resident population (ERP) remained unchanged at 246 065 persons, while the national population increased by 0.4% to 24 702 851 persons.
* In annual terms the Territory’s ERP was unchanged, the lowest of all jurisdictions. The national annual growth rate was 1.6%.

**Chart 4: Annual Population Growth Rate**

Annual population growth in the NT has decreased over the past 12 months.

Australia population growth has also moderated over the same period.


*Source: ABS Cat No 3101.0*

* Territory annual ERP growth has moderated over the past two years and continues to be below the Territory 10‑year average growth rate.
* Net interstate migration has further deteriorated from a net outflow of 2804 persons in the year to September 2016, to a net outflow of 3710 persons in the year to September 2017.

## Labour Force

* In the March quarter 2018, there were 186 863 persons in the civilian population (persons aged 15 years and over) and 142 513 persons in the labour force (employed persons and those actively pursuing employment). This is 1676 persons more than in the December quarter 2017.
* Since 2006, the Territory labour force has increased at a faster pace than the civilian population, implying the number of people employed or actively looking for a job has increased at a faster pace than the civilian population, leading to tighter labour market conditions.

**Chart 5: Northern Territory Labour Force and Civilian Population**

Since 2007, the Territory labour force has increased at a faster pace than the civilian population.

*Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0*

## Labour Force Participation Rate

* In the March quarter 2018, the Territory labour force participation rate increased by 0.8 percentage points to 76.2% from the previous quarter’s revised figure.
* The Territory continues to report the highest labour force participation rate for all jurisdictions and was 10.6 percentage points above the national rate of 65.6% in the March quarter 2018.

**Chart 6: Participation Rate (quarterly average)**

In the March quarter 2018, the Territory labour force participation rate increased by 0.8 percentage points to 76.2% from the previous quarter’s revised figure. 

*Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0*

* The Territory male workforce participation rate increased by 1.0 percentage points to 80.7% in the March quarter 2018.
* The Territory female workforce participation rate increased by 0.5 percentage points to 71.6% in the same quarter.
* Historically, male participation in the workforce has been higher than female participation, in large part due to a relatively higher proportion of females leaving the workforce to care for family.
* At the national level, the male workforce participation rate increased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 70.9% in the March quarter 2018, with the female workforce participation rate increased by 0.2 percentage points to 60.6%.
* Territory workforce participation rates for both males and females are significantly higher than nationally, reflecting greater confidence in the Territory economy and job prospects.

## Youth Labour Market (15-24 years old)8

This table demonstrates the youth labour market in the Northern Territory and Australia for ages 15-24 years old, using indictors: civilian population; total employed; total unemployed; labour force; not in labour force; unemployment rate; participation rate; civilian population - attending full time education; labour force - attending full time education; and not in labour force - attending full time education. 

Row one are the headings Year on Year Change and Annual Average Level. 

Row two indicates the total youth civilian population in the Northern Territory decreased by 2.2 per cent to 30,800 youths.  

Row three indicates the total youth civilian population in Australia increased by 0.9 per cent to 3,199,800 youths.  

Row four indicates the total employed youths in the Northern Territory decreased by 7.4 per cent to 18,600 youths.  

Row five indicates the total youths in Australia increased by 1.9 per cent to 1,880,000 youths.  

Row six indicates the total unemployed youths in the Northern Territory increased by 18.0 per cent to 1,900 youths.  

Row seven indicates the total unemployed youths in Australia decreased by 0.5 per cent to 270,100 youths.  

Row eight indicates the total youth labour force in the Northern Territory decreased by 5.6 per cent to 20,500 youths.  

Row nine indicates the total youth labour force in Australia increased by 1.6 per cent to 2,150,000 youths.  

Row 10 indicates the total youth population that's not in the labour force in the Northern Territory increased by 5.3 per cent to 4000 youths.  

Row 11 indicates the total youth population that not in the labour force in Australia decreased by 3.3 per cent 205,200 youths.  

Row 12 indicates the total youth unemployment rate in the Northern Territory increased by 1.8 percentage points to 9.1 per cent.  

Row 13 indicates the total youth unemployment rate in Australia decreased by 0.3 percentage points to 12.5 per cent.  

Row 14 indicates the total youth participation rate in the Northern Territory decreased by 2.4 percentage points to 66.5 per cent.  

Row 15 indicates the total youth participation rate in Australia increased by 0.5 percentage points to 67.2 per cent.  

Row 16 indicates the total civilian population attending full time education in the Northern Territory increased by 1.0 per cent to 12,200 youths.  

Row 17 indicates the total civilian population attending full time education in Australia increased by 0.2 per cent to 1,697,800 youths.   

Row 18 indicates the total youth labour force attending full time education in the Northern Territory increased by 0.7 per cent to 5,900 youths.  

Row 19 indicates the total youth labour force attending full time education in Australia increased by 0.4 per cent to 853,200 youths.  

Row 20 indicates the total youth population not in the labour and attending full time education in the Northern Territory increased by 5.4 per cent to 6,300.  

Row 21 indicates the total youth population not in the labour force and attending full time education in Australia increased by 0.1 per cent to 844,600 youths.  


*Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0*

* In the year to March 2018 the number of youth (persons aged 15 to 24 years) employed in the Territory decreased by 7.4% to 18 600 persons.
* Over the same period, national youth employment increased by 1.9% to 1 880 000 persons.
* In the year to March 2018, 12 200 out of the 30 800 youths (39.6%) were undertaking full-time education in the Territory, an increase of 1.0 of a percentage point from the previous quarter. In comparison, 53.0% of the national youth population were undertaking full-time education.

1. *Youth labour market data is reported on by averaging monthly data over a year. This is done to lessen the variability and volatility of monthly movements.*

**Chart 7: Youth Unemployment Rate (annual average)**

This chart indicates that in the year to March 2018 the average youth unemployment rate in the Territory was 9.1%. This is below the corresponding national rate of 12.5%.



*Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0*

* In the year to March 2018 the average youth unemployment rate in the Territory was 9.1%. This is below the corresponding national rate of 12.5%.
* The Territory youth unemployment rate has generally been stable over the past year.

**Chart 8: Youth Participation Rate (annual average)**

In the year to March 2018, the average youth participation rate in the Territory was 66.5% and nationally was 67.2%.

*Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0*

* In the year to March 2018, the average youth participation rate in the Territory was 66.5% and nationally was 67.2%.

## Wage Price Index9

This table demonstrates the wage price index in the Northern Territory and Australia.  
Row one are the headings Quarterly Change and Level.  
Row two indicates the wage price index in the Northern Territory increased by 0.2 to 128.0   
Row three indicates the wage price index in Australia increased by 0.5 to 127.7


*Source: ABS Cat No 6345.0*

* In the December quarter 2017, the WPI increased by 0.2% in the Territory and increased by 0.5% nationally.
* In annual terms, the Territory WPI increased by 1.1% in the year, with the national growth rate increasing by 2.1% over the same period.

1. *The Wage Price Index (WPI) measures changes in the price of wages and salaries and excludes changes in overtime and bonus payments.*

**Chart 9: Wage Price Index (annual percentage change)**

The chart indicates annual growth in the Wage Price Index since 2007 continues to slow down.
Wage price index growth in the Northern Territory is slightly above the national growth rate.
*Source: ABS Cat No 6345.0*

## Average Weekly Earnings10

This table demonstrates the average weekly full time adult total earnings in the Northern Territory and Australia. 
Row one are the headings 6 Monthly Change and Level in dollar amounts.  
Row two indicates the average weekly full time adult ordinary time earnings in the Northern Territory increased by 1.0 percent to $1642.70   
Row three indicates the average weekly full time adult ordinary time earnings in Australia increased by 1.4 percent to $1567.90   
Row four indicates the average weekly full time adult total earnings in the Northern Territory increased by 1.6 percent to $1807.20.   
Row five indicates the average weekly full time adult total earnings in Australia increased by 1.2 to $1628.10.  


*Source: ABS Cat No 6302.0*

* In the six months to November 2017, ordinary earnings in the Territory increased by 1.0% to $1642.70. Over the same period, average weekly total earnings (which includes overtime payments) increased by 1.6% to $1807.20. At the national level, ordinary earnings increased by 1.4% to $1567.90, and average weekly total earnings increased by 1.2% over the period to $1628.10.
* Territory weekly total earnings are now about $179.10 higher than nationally, compared to being $168.70 higher in May 2017.

1. *Average weekly full‑time adult ordinary time earnings (ordinary earnings) and average weekly full-time adult total earnings (total earnings) includes earnings for all wage and salary earners, except some groups such as overseas consulates and Australian Defence personnel. For a full list see Labour Force Terms and Information.*

**Chart 10: Northern Territory Average Weekly Earnings**

In the six months to November 2017, ordinary earnings in the Territory increased by 1.0% to $1642.70. Over the same period, average weekly total earnings (which includes overtime payments) increased by 1.6% to $1807.20. At the national level, ordinary earnings increased by 1.4% to $1567.90, and average weekly total earnings increased by 1.2% over the period to $1628.10.



*Source: ABS Cat No 6302.0*

## Newstart and Youth Allowance

This table demonstrates the Newstart and Youth Allowance recipients in the Northern Territory and Australia.  
Row one are the headings Quarterly Change and Persons.  
Row two indicates the Newstart and Youth Allowance recipients in the Northern Territory increased by 2.9 per cent to 14,328 persons.   
Row three indicates the Newstart and Youth Allowance recipients in Australia increased by 3.8 per cent to 506,103 persons.  


*Source: Department of Social Services, Australian Government.*

* In the March quarter 2018, the number of Newstart and Youth Allowance recipients that are ready and available to work in the Territory increased by 2.9% to 14 328.
* In the March quarter 2018, all jurisdictions recorded an increase in the number of Newstart and Youth Allowance recipients. The Australian Capital Territory had the highest increase (6.7%), followed equally by Queensland and Western Australia (4.2%).
* At the national level the number of recipients increased by 3.8% to 500 103.

**Chart 11: Newstart and Youth Allowance Recipients**

This chart indicates that in the March quarter 2018, the number of Newstart and Youth Allowance recipients that are ready and available to work in the Territory increased by 2.9% to 14 328. At the national level the number of recipients decreased by 0.8% to 500 364.



*Source: Department of Social Services, Australian Government*

## Job Vacancies11

This table demonstrates the job vacancy numbers in the Northern Territory and Australia. 

Row one are the headings Year on Year Change and Vacancies. 

Row two indicates job vacancies in the Northern Territory increased by 35.0 per cent to 3475 vacancies. 

Row three indicates job vacancies in Australia increased by 15.9 per cent to 207,650.


*Source: ABS Cat No 6354.0*

* Territory job vacancies increased by 35.0% to 3475 vacancies in the year to February 2018.
* Private sector job vacancies in the Territory increased in the year by 44.0% with 3000 vacancies.
* At the national level, job vacancies increased by 15.9% to 207 700 vacancies in the year to February 2018.
* The increase nationally was mainly the result of both private and public sector vacancies rising by 16.5% and 10.7% respectively in the year.
* The rise in job vacancies in the Territory may indicate that employment growth will increase in the short term.

1. *Job vacancies are a leading indicator for future jobs growth, with an increase indicating increased demand for workers.*

**Chart 12: Northern Territory Job Vacancies**

The chart indicates total job vacancies have been slightly increasing in the last quarter, driven by increasing public sector job vacancies.*Source: ABS Cat No 6354.0*

## Other Economic Indicators

No single indicator can give a comprehensive view of the labour market. There are a number of economic indicators that can impact on or explain changes in the Northern Territory labour market that are not considered in this publication. These may include gross state product, inflation, retail sales, international trade, business and consumer sentiment and housing affordability.

For consideration of broader economic indicators please see NT key business statistics: <https://business.nt.gov.au/business/business-and-economic-data>