

NT labour market brief – October 2020



Key message

There were positive signs in the Territory labour market in October 2020, with stronger part-time employment growth and more Territorians actively pursuing employment, resulting in a higher participation rate. Increased job vacancies suggests further employment growth in the short term. Monthly data remains volatile and should be interpreted with caution.

Employment

		Monthly change	Number of persons ('000)
Total employed	NT	Up 2.4%	129 190
	Australia	Up 1.4%	12 773 890
Full-time employed	NT	Up 0.4%	96 462
	Australia	Up 1.1%	8 643 731
Part-time employed	NT	Up 8.8%	32 729
	Australia	Up 2.0%	4 130 159

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

In October 2020:

- there were 129 190 people employed in the Territory, an increase of 3046 persons (2.4%) from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment increased by 404 to 96 462 persons, and part-time employment increased by 2642 to 32 729 persons.
- national employment increased by 178 824 (1.4%) to 12 773 890 persons.
- national full-time employment increased by 97 044 to 8 643 731 persons and part-time employment increased by 81 780 to 4 130 159 persons.
- the Territory underemployment rate increased by 1.6 percentage points to 8.0%, compared to 10.4% nationally.
- *The Territory underemployment rate has not returned to pre-COVID-19 levels, reflecting more people continue to work less than their desired number of hours.*
- The Territory's underutilisation rate increased by 2.5 percentage points to 13.7%, compared to 17.4% nationally.
- Territory monthly hours decreased 2.4% from October 2019.

Unemployment rate

		Monthly change	Rate
Unemployment rate	NT	Up 1.0 ppt	5.7%
	Australia	Up 0.1 ppt	7.0%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In October 2020, the Territory's unemployment rate increased to 5.7% from the previous month's revised figure of 4.7%.

- The Territory had the second lowest unemployment rate in Australia after the Australian Capital Territory (3.9%), followed by New South Wales (6.5%). The unemployment rate in other jurisdictions were: Western Australia (6.6%), South Australia (7.0%), Victoria (7.7%), Queensland (7.7%), and then Tasmania (8.2%). Nationally, the unemployment rate increased to 7.0% from the previous month's revised figure of 6.9%.

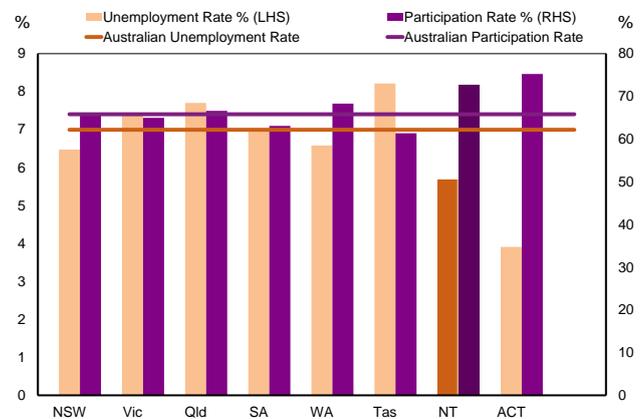
Participation rate

		Monthly change	Rate
Participation rate	NT	Up 2.5 ppt	72.8%
	Australia	Up 0.9 ppt	65.8%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In October 2020, the Territory's labour force participation rate increased by 2.5 percentage points to 72.8% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory had the second highest participation rate, after the Australian Capital Territory (75.2%), then followed by Western Australia (68.3%).
- Nationally, the labour force participation rate increased by 0.9 of a percentage point to 65.8% 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	Up 3.5%	136 964
	Australia	Up 1.5%	13 734 776
Civilian population ¹	NT	Down 0.1%	188 247
	Australia	Flat	20 871 599

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In October 2020, the Territory's labour force was 136 964 persons, an increase of 3.5% from last month's revised figure.
- Nationally, the labour force increased by 1.5% to 13 734 776 persons.

Apprentices and trainees (estimates)²

	Year to date change	Year to date to Oct 2019	Year to date to Oct 2020
Commencements	Down 21.8%	2135	1670
Completions	Down 32.3%	803	544

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

- In the year to October 2020, there were 1670 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, a decrease of 21.8% (465) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In the year to October 2020, there were 544 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 32.3% (259) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- As at 30 September 2020, there were 3528 apprentices and trainees in training.

Internet job vacancies (October 2020)³

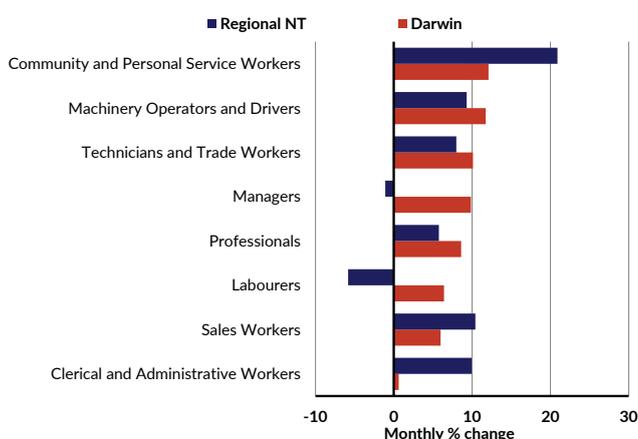
Occupation	Monthly change	No. of vacancies
Community and personal service workers	Up 7.2%	213
Technicians and trade workers	Up 5.4%	302
Sales workers	Up 3.0%	96
Professionals	Up 2.5%	512
Labourers	Up 2.4%	115
Machinery operators and drivers	Up 2.0%	104
Managers	Up 0.6%	187
Clerical and administrative workers	Down 4.4%	286
Total	Up 3.2%	1768

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In October 2020, total internet job vacancies increased by 3.2% (trend) to 1768 in the Territory.
- In October 2020, internet job vacancies reported increases in the Territory, except for Clerical and administrative workers which decreased by 4.4% to 286.
- Community and personal service workers reported the largest increase (7.2%), followed by Technicians and trade workers (5.4%), and then Sales workers (3.0%).

- In regional NT, all occupation groups recorded increases in the month, except for Labourers and Managers, which decreased 5.8% and 1.1% respectively.
- Community and personal service workers reported the largest increase (20.9%), followed by Sales workers (10.4%), and then Clerical and administrative workers (10.0%).
- In the Darwin region, all occupation groups recorded increases also. Community and personal service workers reported the largest increase (12.1%), followed by Machinery operators and drivers (11.7%), and then Technicians and trade workers (10.1%).

Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies⁴



Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

Notes

- Original data.
- 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.
- It should be noted that this table provides trend data.
- 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 seasonally adjusted terms, except for the apprentice and trainee data, which are in original terms and the regional breakdown of job vacancies.

Current labour market briefs are available online at:

<https://business.nt.gov.au/business-and-economic-data/business/labour-market-briefs>

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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