

NT labour market brief – February 2021



Key message

In February 2021, the Territory labour market continued to show signs of improvement, with an increased employment and a fall in the unemployment rate. The rise in employment was driven by strong growth in part-time employment. Ongoing increases in 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 0.3%	131 051
	Australia	Up 0.7%	13 006 886
Full-time employed	NT	Down 2.4%	99 170
	Australia	Up 1.0%	8 895 036
Part-time employed	NT	Up 9.6%	31 881
	Australia	Flat	4 111 850

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

In February 2021:

- there were 131 051 people employed in the Territory, an increase of 394 persons (0.3%) from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment decreased by 2404 to 99 170 persons, and part-time employment increased by 2798 to 31 881 persons.
- national employment increased by 88 671 (0.7%) to 13 006 886 persons.
- national full-time employment increased by 89 149 to 8 895 036 persons, and part-time employment decreased by 478 to 4 111 850 persons.
- the Territory underemployment rate decreased by 2.4 percentage points to 4.5%, compared to 8.5% nationally.
The Territory underemployment rate is now lower than pre-COVID-19 levels, reflecting more people are working their desired number of hours.
- The Territory's underutilisation rate decreased by 3.2 percentage points to 9.4%, compared to 14.4% nationally.
- Territory monthly hours decreased 3.7% from February 2020.

Unemployment rate

		Monthly change	Rate
Unemployment rate	NT	Down 0.7 ppt	4.9%
	Australia	Down 0.5 ppt	5.8%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In February 2021, the Territory's unemployment rate decreased to 4.9% from the previous month's revised figure of 5.6%.

- The Territory had the second lowest unemployment rate in Australia after the Australian Capital Territory (4.1%), followed by New South Wales (5.6%). The unemployment rate in other jurisdictions were: Victoria (5.6%), Tasmania (5.7%), Western Australia (6.0%), Queensland (6.1%), and then South Australia (6.8%).
- Nationally, the unemployment rate decreased to 5.8% from the previous month's revised figure of 6.3%.

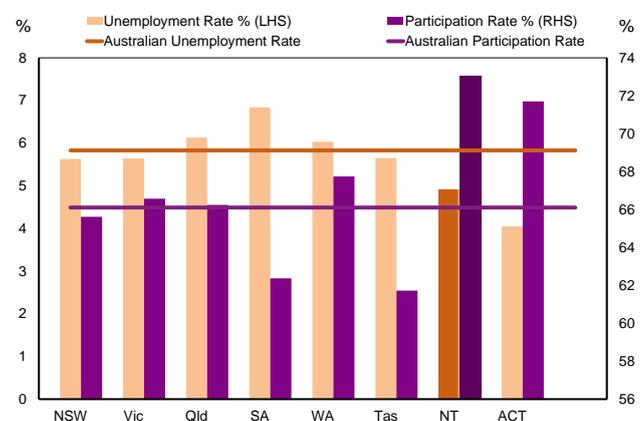
Participation rate

		Monthly change	Rate
Participation rate	NT	Down 0.3 ppt	73.1%
	Australia	Up 0.1 ppt	66.1%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In February 2021, the Territory's labour force participation rate decreased by 0.3 percentage points to 73.1% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory had the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (71.7%), and then followed by Western Australia (67.7%).
- Nationally, the labour force participation rate increased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 66.1% 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	Down 0.5%	137 838
	Australia	Up 0.1%	13 812 081
Civilian population ¹	NT	Flat	188 683
	Australia	Up 0.1%	20 894 225

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In February 2021, the Territory's labour force was 137 838 persons, a decrease of 0.5% from last month's revised figure.
- Nationally, the labour force increased by 0.1% to 13 812 081 persons.

Apprentices and trainees (estimates)²

	Year to date change	Year to date to Feb 2020	Year to date to Feb 2021
Commencements	Down 18.0%	423	347
Completions	Up 22.3%	94	115

Source: Northern Territory Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade

- In February 2021, there were 347 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, a decrease of 18.0% (76) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In February 2021, there were 115 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, an increase of 22.3% (21) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- As at 28 February 2021, there were 3561 apprentices and trainees in training.

Internet job vacancies (January 2021)³

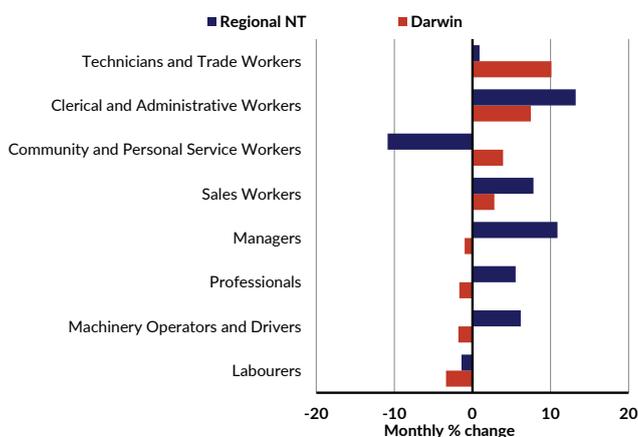
Occupation	Monthly change	No. of vacancies
Machinery operators and drivers	Up 5.5%	148
Labourers	Up 4.9%	154
Technicians and trade workers	Up 3.9%	370
Professionals	Up 2.1%	557
Sales workers	Up 2.0%	126
Managers	Up 1.9%	201
Community and personal service workers	Down 1.2%	225
Clerical and administrative workers	Down 4.4%	245
Total	Up 2.3%	2041

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In January 2021, total internet job vacancies increased by 2.3% (trend) to 2041 in the Territory.
- In January 2021, internet job vacancies reported increases in all categories, except for Community and personal service workers, and Clerical and administrative workers, which decreased by 1.2% and 4.4% respectively.
- Machinery operators and drivers reported the largest increase (5.5%), followed by Labourers (4.9%), and then Technicians and trade workers (3.9%).

- In regional NT, most occupation groups recorded increases, except for Community and personal service workers, and Labourers which reported decreases of 10.9% and 1.4% respectively.
- Clerical and administrative workers reported the largest increase at 13.2%, followed by Managers at 10.9%, and then followed by Sales workers at 7.8%.
- In the Darwin region, half of the occupation groups recorded increases, with Technicians and trade workers reporting the largest increase at 10.1%, followed by Clerical and administrative workers at 7.5%, and then Community and personal service workers at 3.9%.

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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