

NT labour market brief – November 2019

Key message

Labour market conditions in the Territory continue to remain soft. The unemployment rate is rising. On a positive note, employment levels continued to increase in November 2019, with full-time employment increasing slightly. This is the sixth consecutive increase in employment levels. However, on a year on year basis employment fell by 4.5%. The participation rate continues to remain highest of all jurisdictions, and above the national average.

Employment

		Monthly change	Number of persons ('000)
Total employed	NT	Up 0.2%	131 458
	Australia	Up 0.1%	12 962 037
Full-time employed	NT	Up 0.5%	102 469
	Australia	Up 0.1%	8 843 596
Part-time employed	NT	Down 0.7%	28 988
	Australia	Up 0.2%	4 118 441

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In November 2019, there were 131 458 people employed in the Territory, an increase of 256 persons from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment increased by 461 to 102 469 persons, while part-time employment decreased by 205 to 28 988 persons.
- Nationally, employment increased by 17 368 to 12 962 037 persons.
- National full-time employment increased by 8344 to 8 843 596 persons and part-time employment increased by 9024 to 4 118 441 persons.
- Territory employment levels has increased for six consecutive months after 14 consecutive negative months.

Unemployment rate

		Monthly change	Rate
Unemployment rate	NT	Up 0.2 ppts	5.8%
	Australia	Flat	5.2%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In November 2019, the Territory's unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage points to 5.8%.
- The Territory's unemployment rate is the fifth lowest of the jurisdictions after Western Australia (5.8%), Victoria (4.7%), New South Wales (4.7%), and then the Australian Capital Territory (3.2%). Queensland reported the highest unemployment rate of 6.4%.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate remained flat at 5.2% from the previous month's revised figure.

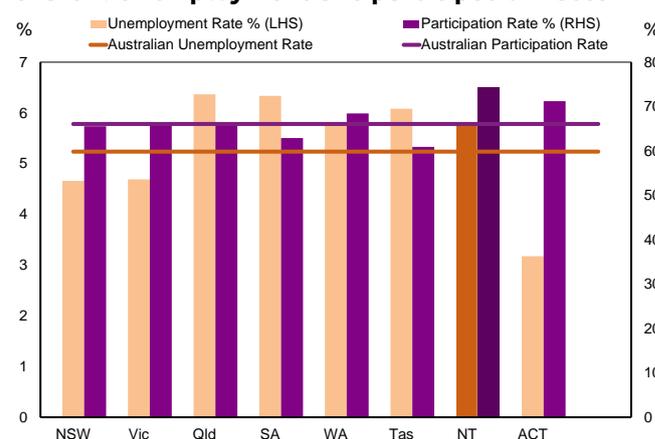
Participation rate

		Monthly change	Rate
Participation rate	NT	Up 0.3 ppts	74.2%
	Australia	Flat	66.1%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In November 2019, the Territory's labour force participation rate increased by 0.3 percentage points to 74.2% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory had the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (71.2%) and then Western Australia (68.4%).
- Nationally, the labour force participation rate remained unchanged at 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	Up 0.4%	139 504
	Australia	Up 0.1%	13 678 310
Civilian population ¹	NT	Down 0.2%	187 816
	Australia	Up 0.1%	20 701 918

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In November 2019, the Territory's labour force was 139 504 persons, an increase of 0.4% from last month's revised figure.
- Nationally, the labour force increased by 0.1% to 13 678 310 persons.

Apprentices and trainees (estimates)²

	Year to date change	Year to date to Sep 2018	Year to date to Sep 2019
Commencements	Down 1.4%	2128	2098
Completions	Up 0.1%	750	751

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

- In the year to October 2019, there were 2098 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, a decrease of 1.4% (30) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In the year to October 2019, there were 751 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, an increase of 0.1% (1) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- As at 31 October 2019, there were 3415 apprentices and trainees in training.

Internet job vacancies (October 2019)

Occupation	Monthly change	No. of vacancies
Professionals	Up 1.5%	492
Managers	Up 0.7%	199
Clerical and administrative workers	Up 0.1%	310
Community and personal service workers	Down 1.2%	173
Labourers	Down 1.7%	100
Sales workers	Down 2.0%	95
Technicians and trade workers	Down 3.4%	254
Machinery operators and drivers	Down 4.5%	80
Total	Down 0.7%	1584

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In October 2019, total internet job vacancies decreased by 0.7% (trend) to 1584 in the Territory.
- In October 2019, internet job vacancies for Professionals reported the largest monthly increase (1.5%) in the Territory. Machinery operators and drivers reported the largest decrease (4.5%), followed by Technicians and trade workers (3.4%), then Sales workers (2.0%).

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: www.abs.gov.au/

Enquiries

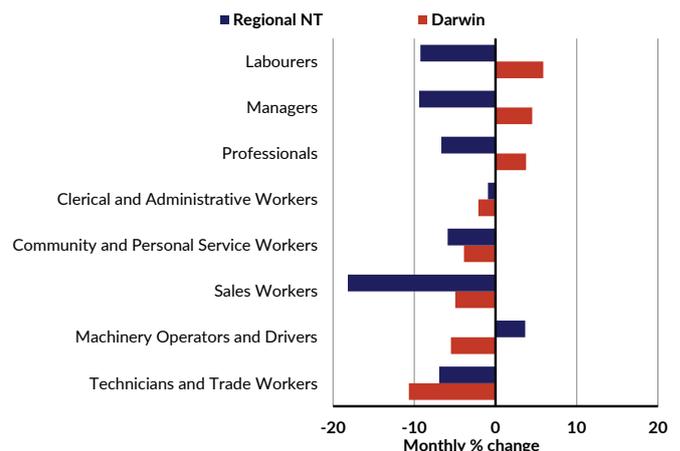
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- In regional NT, all occupation groups recorded decreases in the month, except for Machinery operators and drivers, which increased to 3.7%.
- In regional NT, the largest recorded decrease was Sales workers (18.2%), followed by Managers (9.4%), then Labourers (9.2%).
- In the Darwin region, most of the occupation groups recorded decreases in the month, except for Labourers which increased (5.9%), followed by Managers (4.5%), and then Professionals (3.8%) .
- In the Darwin region, the largest decrease was Technicians and trade workers (10.7%), followed by Machinery operators and drivers (5.5%), then Sales workers (5.0%).

Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies⁴



Source: Australian Government Department of Employment