

NT labour market brief – December 2019

Key message

Labour market conditions in the Territory remain soft. The unemployment rate continues to rise. On a positive note, employment levels continue to increase and have now increased for seven consecutive months. However, on a year on year basis employment levels fell. The participation rate still remains the highest of all jurisdictions, and above the national average.

Employment

		Monthly change	Number of persons ('000)
Total employed	NT	Up 0.3%	133 109
	Australia	Up 0.1%	12 976 282
Full-time employed	NT	Up 0.5%	103 841
	Australia	Up 0.1%	8 851 014
Part-time employed	NT	Down 0.4%	29 268
	Australia	Up 0.2%	4 125 268

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In December 2019, there were 133 109 people employed in the Territory, an increase of 444 persons from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment increased by 549 to 103 841 persons, while part-time employment decreased by 105 to 29 268 persons.
- Nationally, employment increased by 17 548 to 12 976 282 persons.
- National full-time employment increased by 8950 to 8 851 014 persons and part-time employment increased by 8598 to 4 125 268 persons.
- Territory employment levels has increased for seven consecutive months after 12 consecutive negative months.

Unemployment rate

		Monthly change	Rate
Unemployment rate	NT	Up 0.1 ppt	5.6%
	Australia	Down 0.1 ppt	5.1%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In December 2019, the Territory's unemployment rate increased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 5.6%.
- The Territory's unemployment rate is the fourth lowest of the jurisdictions after Victoria (4.8%), New South Wales (4.6%), and then the Australian Capital Territory (3.1%). South Australia reported the highest unemployment rate of 6.4%.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 5.1% from the previous month's revised figure.

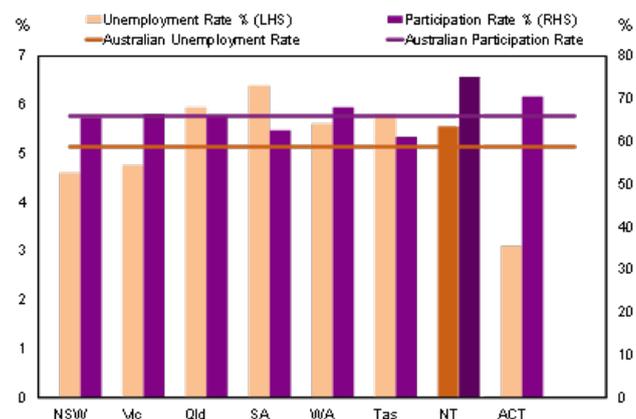
Participation rate

		Monthly change	Rate
Participation rate	NT	Up 0.4 ppts	75.1%
	Australia	Flat	66.0%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In December 2019, the Territory's labour force participation rate increased by 0.4 percentage points to 75.1% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory had the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (70.6%) and then Western Australia (68.0%).
- Nationally, the labour force participation rate remained unchanged at 66.0% 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%	140 951
	Australia	Up 0.1%	13 679 851
Civilian population ¹	NT	Down 0.2%	187 488
	Australia	Up 0.1%	20 725 350

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In December 2019, the Territory's labour force was 140 951 persons, an increase of 0.4% from last month's revised figure.
- Nationally, the labour force increased by 0.1% to 13 679 851 persons.

Apprentices and trainees (estimates)²

	Year to date change	Year to date to Nov 2018	Year to date to Nov 2019
Commencements	Flat	2272	2273
Completions	Up 1.0%	904	913

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

- In the year to November 2019, there were 2273 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, an increase of 1 compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In the year to November 2019, there were 913 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, an increase of 1.0% (9) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- As at 30 November 2019, there were 3287 apprentices and trainees in training.

Internet job vacancies (December 2019)

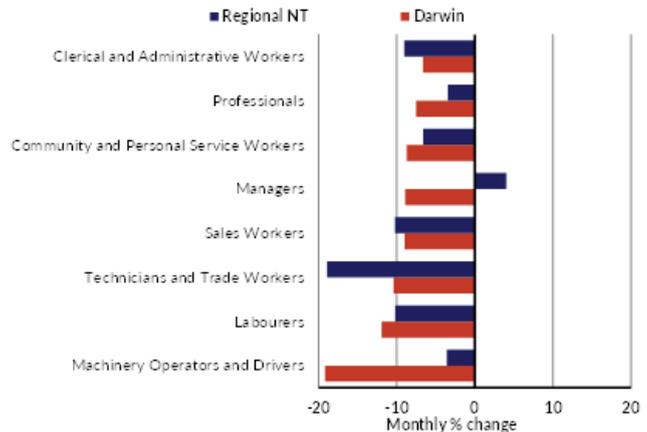
Occupation	Monthly change	No. of vacancies
Managers	Up 2.9%	227
Professionals	Up 1.5%	514
Machinery operators and drivers	Up 0.9%	85
Labourers	Up 0.3%	97
Sales workers	Up 0.2%	98
Community and personal service workers	Down 0.1%	171
Clerical and administrative workers	Down 0.2%	309
Technicians and trade workers	Down 0.7%	245
Total	Up 1.6%	1675

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In December 2019, total internet job vacancies increased by 1.6% (trend) to 1675 in the Territory.
- In December 2019, internet job vacancies for Managers reported the largest monthly increase (2.9%) in the Territory. Technicians and trade workers reported the largest decrease (0.7%), followed by Clerical and administrative workers (0.2%), then Community and personal service workers (0.1%).

- In regional NT, all occupation groups recorded decreases in the month, except for Managers which increased (4.0%).
- In regional NT, the largest recorded decrease was Technicians and trade workers (18.9%), followed by Sales workers and Labourers (both 10.2%).
- In the Darwin region, all occupation groups recorded decreases. The largest decrease was Machinery operators and drivers (19.2%), followed by Labourers (11.9), then Technicians and trade workers (10.4%).

Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies⁴



Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

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:

Enquiries

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