

NT labour market brief – April 2020



Key message

The April Labour Force Survey data show that labour market conditions have declined in the Northern Territory. Employment is decreasing and unemployment levels are increasing. April Labour Force Survey results are beginning to capture the impacts of more significant COVID-19 business restrictions which were progressively introduced across Australia from 23 March.

Employment

		Monthly change	Number of persons ('000)
Total employed	NT	Down 2.8%	131 398
	Australia	Down 4.6%	12 418 713
Full-time employed	NT	Down 2.4%	101 259
	Australia	Down 2.5%	8 656 923
Part-time employed	NT	Down 4.0%	30 139
	Australia	Down 9.0%	3 761 790

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In April 2020, there were 131 398 people employed in the Territory, an decrease of 3725 persons from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment decreased by 2479 to 101 259 persons, and part-time employment also decreased by 1246 to 30 139 persons.
- Nationally, employment decreased by 594 280 to 12 418 713 persons.
- National full-time employment decreased by 220 514 to 8 656 923 persons and part-time employment decreased by 373 766 to 3 761 790 persons.

Unemployment rate

		Monthly change	Rate
Unemployment rate	NT	Up 0.5%	6.0%
	Australia	Up 1.0%	6.2%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In April 2020, the Territory's unemployment rate increased to 6.0% from the previous month's revised figure of 5.5%.
- The Territory's unemployment rate is equal second lowest of the jurisdictions behind the Australian Capital Territory (4.2%), and alongside Western Australia (6.0%), Victoria (5.2%), and New South Wales (6.0%). South Australia reported the highest unemployment rate (7.2%).
- Nationally, the unemployment rate increased to 6.2% from the previous month's revised figure of 5.2%.

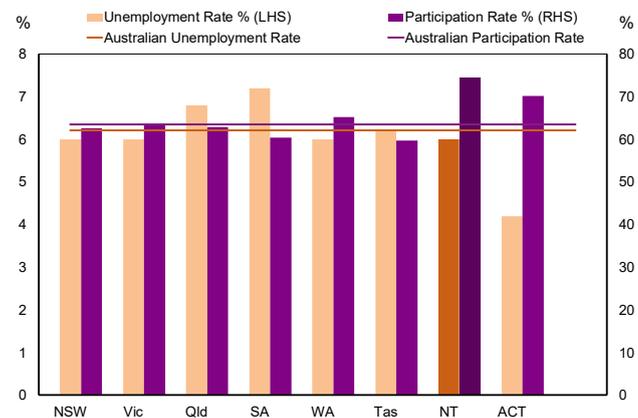
Participation rate

		Monthly change	Rate
Participation rate	NT	Down 1.7 ppt	74.6%
	Australia	Down 2.4 ppt	63.5%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In April 2020, the Territory's labour force participation rate decreased by 1.7 percentage points to 74.6% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory had the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (71.7%) and then Western Australia (68.1%).
- Nationally, the labour force participation rate decreased by 2.4 percentage points to 63.5% 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 2.2%	139 792
	Australia	Down 3.6%	13 241 992
Civilian population ¹	NT	Up 0.1%	187 348
	Australia	Up 0.1%	20 840 441

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In April 2020, the Territory’s labour force was 139 792 persons, a decrease of 2.2% from last month’s revised figure.
- Nationally, the labour force also decreased by 3.6% to 13 241 992 persons.

Apprentices and trainees (estimates)²

	Year to date change	Year to date to Feb 2019	Year to date to Feb 2020
Commencements	Down 40.6%	647	384
Completions	Down 43.4%	145	82

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

- In the year to February 2020, there were 384 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, a decrease of 40.6% (263) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In the year to February 2020, there were 82 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 43.4% (63) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- As at 29 February 2020, there were 3385 apprentices and trainees in training.

Internet job vacancies (March 2020)

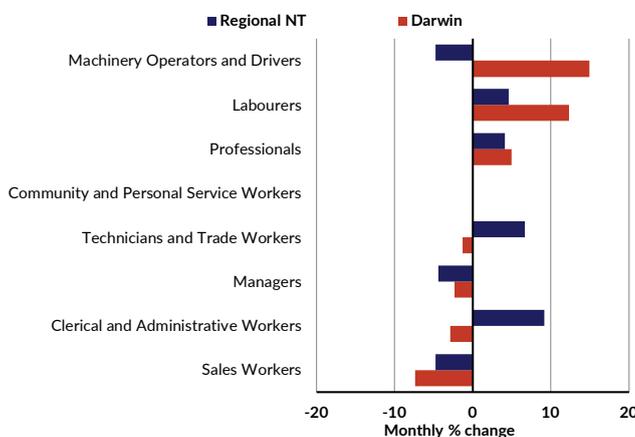
Occupation	Monthly change	No. of vacancies
Machinery operators and drivers	Up 0.3%	94
Clerical and administrative workers	Up 0.3%	307
Sales workers	Down 1.6%	86
Technicians and trade workers	Down 1.6%	247
Managers	Down 1.9%	195
Professionals	Down 2.1%	463
Labourers	Down 2.4%	92
Community and personal service workers	Down 2.9%	153
Total	Down 3.0%	1499

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In March 2020, total internet job vacancies decreased by 3.0% (trend) to 1499 in the Territory.
- In March 2020, internet job vacancies for Machinery operators and drivers reported the largest monthly increase (0.32%) in the Territory, slightly ahead of Clerical and administrative workers (0.28%).
- Sales workers reported the largest decrease (1.59%), followed closely by Technicians and trade workers (1.64%), and then Managers (1.9%).
- In regional NT, almost all occupation groups recorded increases in the month, except for Machinery operators and drivers, and Sales workers, with both decreasing by 4.7%.
- In regional NT, the largest increase reported was Clerical and administrative workers (9.2%), followed by Technicians and trade workers (6.7%), and then Labourers (4.6%). Community and personal service workers remained unchanged.

- In the Darwin region, most occupation groups recorded decreases except for Machinery operators and drivers (15.0%), Labourers (12.3%), and then Professionals (5.0%). The largest decrease was Sales workers (7.3%), followed by Clerical and administrative workers (2.9), and then Managers (2.3%).

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 seasonally adjusted 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/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

Economic Reform, Department of Trade, Business and Innovation, email: economicinnovation.dtb@nt.gov.au

Disclaimer

The Northern Territory of Australia gives no warranty of assurance, and makes no representation as to the accuracy of any information or advice contained in this publication, or that it is suitable for your intended use. You should not rely upon information in this publication for the purpose of making any serious business or investment decisions without obtaining independent, professional advice in relation to your particular situation.