

Labour market brief – April 2019

Key Message

The labour market conditions in the Territory remain soft. The unemployment rate has remained steady this month, but has decreased by 0.4 percentage points over the year. Employment levels have now fallen for twelve consecutive months. The participation rate continues to trend downwards but remains highest of all jurisdictions.

Employment

		Monthly Change	Number of Persons ('000)
Total Employed	NT	↓ 0.3%	130 800
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	12 814 793
Full-Time Employed	NT	↓ 0.4%	103 200
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	8 793 884
Part-Time Employed	NT	- 0.0%	27 600
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	4 020 908

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In April 2019, there were 130 800 people employed in the Territory, a decrease of 400 persons from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment decreased by 400 to 103 200 persons, and part-time employment remained steady at 27600.
- Nationally, employment increased by 20 734 to 12 814 793 persons.
- National full-time employment increased by 14 654 to 8 793 884 persons and part-time employment increased by 6080 to 4 020 908 persons.
- Territory employment levels have fallen twelve consecutive months, down about 7900 jobs since April 2018.

Unemployment Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Unemployment Rate	NT	- 0.0 ppt	4.5%
	Australia	- 0.0 ppt	5.1%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In April 2019, the Territory's unemployment rate remained steady at 4.5%.
- The Territory's unemployment rate is the third lowest of the jurisdictions after New South Wales (4.3%), and then the Australian Capital Territory (3.9%). Tasmania reported the highest unemployment rate of 6.7%.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.1% from the previous month's revised figure.

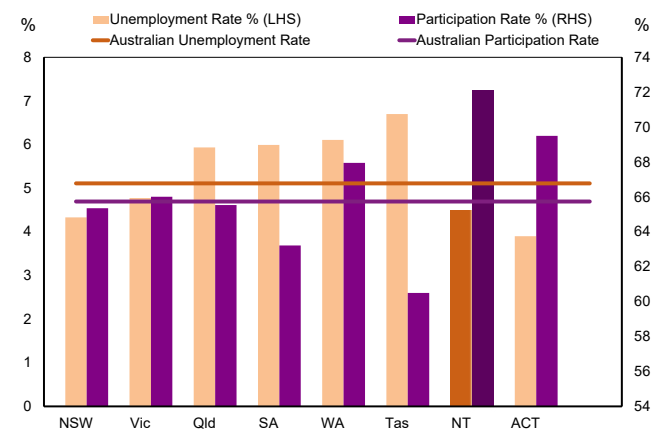
Participation Rate

		Monthly Change	Rate
Participation Rate	NT	↓ 0.7 ppt	72.1%
	Australia	- 0.0 ppt	65.7%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In April 2019, the Territory's labour force participation rate decreased by 0.7 percentage points to 72.1% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory had the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (69.5%) and then Western Australia (67.9%).
- Nationally, the labour force participation rate remained unchanged at 65.7% 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	- 0.0%	137 100
	Australia	↑ 0.2%	13 504 409
Civilian Population	NT	↑ 0.2%	188 900
	Australia	↑ 0.1%	20 542 691

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In April 2019, the Territory's labour force was 137100 persons, unchanged from the previous month's revised figure.
- Nationally, the labour force increased by 26 830 to 13 504 409 persons.

Apprentices and Trainees (estimate)¹

	Year to Date Change	Year to Date to Mar 2018	Year to Date to Mar 2019
Commencements	↑ 15.4%	771	890
Completions	↓ 4.9%	205	195

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

- In the year to date to March 2019, there were 890 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, an increase of 15.4% (119) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In the year to date to March 2019, there were 195 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 4.9% (10) compared to the same period in 31 March 2019, there were 3558 apprentices and trainees in training.

Internet Job Vacancies (March 2019)²

Occupation	Monthly Change	Number of Vacancies
Machinery Operators and Drivers	↑ 1.1%	113
Sales Workers	↑ 0.4%	123
Community and Personal Service Workers	↓ 0.9%	177
Labourers	↓ 1.0%	126
Managers	↓ 1.3%	219
Professionals	↓ 1.9%	469
Technicians and Trade Workers	↓ 3.3%	279
Clerical and Administrative Workers	↓ 3.6%	391
Total	↓ 2.5%	1752

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In March 2019, internet job vacancies decreased by 2.5% (trend) in the Territory, almost all of the occupation groups decreased, except for Machinery operators and drivers, and Sales workers.
- In March 2019, internet job vacancies for Machinery operators and drivers reported the largest monthly increase (1.1%) in the Territory, followed by Sales workers (0.4%).
- In regional NT, all occupation groups recorded increases in the month. Sales workers reported the largest increase (29.9%), followed by Machinery operators and drivers (16.1%), and then Labourers (15.6%).³
- In the Darwin region, all the occupation groups also recorded increases in the month. The largest

Notes

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/labour-market-information/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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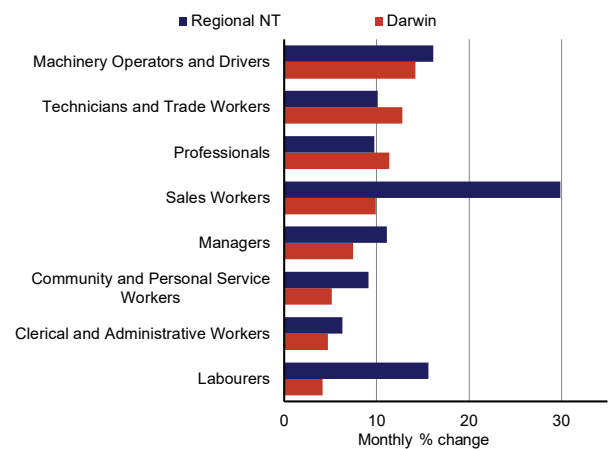
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increase was Machinery operators and drivers (14.2%), followed by Technicians and trade workers (12.8%), then Professionals (11.4%).³

Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies



Source: Department of Employment (Australian Government)

- 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.