

# NT labour market brief – March 2020



## Key message

The March Labour Force Survey data show that labour market conditions continued to stabilise in the Northern Territory, with employment rising and unemployment levels remaining stable. The March Labour Force Survey includes data describing the labour market in the first two weeks of March (1 – 14 March). The March Labour Force Survey results do not capture the impacts of more significant COVID-19 business restrictions which were progressively introduced across Australia from 23 March.

The information below should be treated with some caution as labour market conditions are expected to deteriorate significantly from April 2020.

### Employment

		Monthly change	Number of persons ('000)
Total employed	NT	Up 0.5%	134 293
	Australia	Up 0.1%	13 020 458
Full-time employed	NT	Up 0.2%	103 854
	Australia	Up 0.1%	8 888 904
Part-time employed	NT	Up 1.5%	30 439
	Australia	Up 0.2%	4 131 554

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In March 2020, there were 134 293 people employed in the Territory, an increase of 628 persons from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment increased by 165 to 103 854 persons, and part-time employment also increased by 463 to 30 439 persons.
- Nationally, employment increased by 16 785 to 13 020 458 persons.
- National full-time employment increased by 8 831 to 8 888 904 persons and part-time employment increased by 7954 to 4 131 554 persons.
- Territory employment levels have increased for ten consecutive months.

### Unemployment rate

		Monthly change	Rate
Unemployment rate	NT	Flat	5.5%
	Australia	Flat	5.1%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In March 2020, the Territory's unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.5% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory's unemployment rate is six lowest of the jurisdictions after Western Australia (5.4%), Victoria (5.2%), Tasmania (5.3%), New South Wales (4.7%), and

then the Australian Capital Territory (3.0%). South Australia reported the highest unemployment rate of 6.0%.

- Nationally, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.2% from the previous month's revised figure.

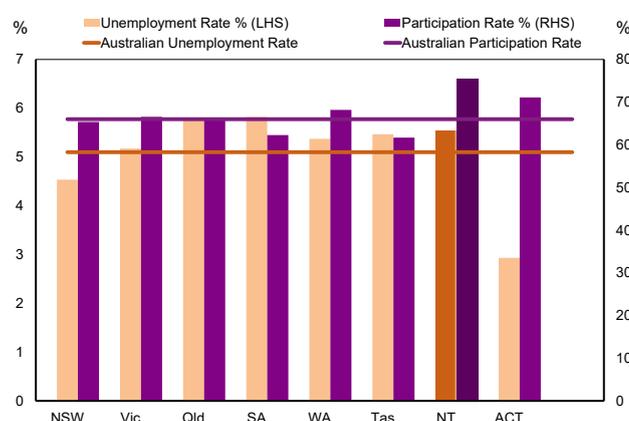
### Participation rate

		Monthly change	Rate
Participation rate	NT	Up 0.4 ppt	76.0%
	Australia	Flat	66.0%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In March 2020, the Territory's labour force participation rate increased by 0.4 of a percentage point to 76.0% 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 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 0.5%	142 071
	Australia	Up 0.1%	13 733 789
Civilian population <sup>1</sup>	NT	Flat	187 212
	Australia	Up 0.2%	20 658 149

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In March 2020, the Territory's labour force was 142 071 persons, an increase of 0.5% from last month's revised figure.
- Nationally, the labour force increased by 0.1% to 13 733 789 persons.

## Apprentices and trainees (estimates)<sup>2</sup>

	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 (February 2020)

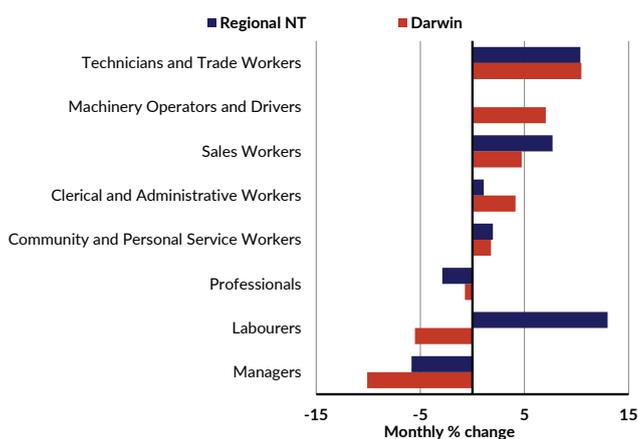
Occupation	Monthly change	No. of vacancies
Machinery operators and drivers	Up 6.1%	109
Technicians and trade workers	Up 2.7%	271
Labourers	Up 0.8%	99
Sales Workers	Up 0.6%	98
Managers	Up 0.3%	221
Professionals	Down 0.2%	503
Community and personal service workers	Down 0.4%	172
Clerical and administrative workers	Down 0.5%	306
Total	Up 0.8%	1671

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In February 2020, total internet job vacancies increased by 0.8% (trend) to 1671 in the Territory.
- In February 2020, internet job vacancies for Machinery operators and drivers reported the largest monthly increase (6.1%) in the Territory, followed by Technicians and trade workers (2.7%), and then Labourers (0.8%).
- Clerical and administrative workers reported the largest decrease (0.5%), followed by Community and personal service workers (0.4%), and then Professionals (0.2%).

- In regional NT, almost all occupation groups recorded increases in the month, except for Managers and Professionals, which decreased by 5.8% and 2.9% respectively.
- In regional NT, the largest increase was reported Labourers (13.0%), followed by Technicians and trade workers (10.4%), and then Sales workers (7.7%).
- In the Darwin region, all occupation groups recorded increases except for Managers (10.1%), Labourers (5.5%), and Professionals (0.7%). The largest increase was Technicians and trade workers (10.5%), followed by Machinery operators and drivers (7.1%), and then Sales workers (4.7%).

Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies<sup>4</sup>



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 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/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.dtbi@nt.gov.au](mailto:economicinnovation.dtbi@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.