

NT labour market brief – September 2020



Key message

Monthly labour market indicators for the Territory revealed significant volatility in August and September 2020, with highly positive results in August offset by declining conditions in September. Rising internet job vacancies suggests the outlook for employment is positive.

Employment

		Monthly change	Number of persons ('000)
Total employed	NT	Down 5.1%	125 547
	Australia	Down 0.2%	12 571 914
Full-time employed	NT	Down 4.2%	95 635
	Australia	Down 0.2%	8 540 251
Part-time employed	NT	Down 7.9%	29 912
	Australia	Down 0.2%	4 031 663

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

In September 2020:

- there were 125 547 people employed in the Territory, a decrease of 6723 persons (-5.1%) from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment decreased by 4147 to 95 635 persons, and part-time employment decreased by 2576 to 29 912 persons.
- national employment decreased by 29 539 (0.2%) to 12 571 914 persons.
- national full-time employment decreased by 20 140 to 8 540 251 persons and part-time employment decreased by 9400 to 4 031 663 persons.
- the Territory underemployment rate decreased by 2.0 percentage points to 6.4%, compared to 11.4% nationally.

The Territory underemployment rate has not returned to pre-COVID-19 levels, reflecting more people continue to work less than their desired number of hours.

- The Territory's underutilisation rate decreased by 1.4 percentage points to 11.2%, compared to 18.3% nationally.
- Territory monthly hours decreased 7.7% from September 2019.

Unemployment rate

		Monthly change	Rate
Unemployment rate	NT	Up 0.6 ppt	4.8%
	Australia	Up 0.1 ppt	6.9%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In September 2020, the Territory's unemployment rate increased to 4.8% from the previous month's revised figure of 4.2%.

- The Territory had the second lowest unemployment rate in Australia after the Australian Capital Territory (3.8%), followed equally third by Victoria and Western Australia (6.7%). The unemployment rate in other jurisdictions were; South Australia (7.1%), New South Wales (7.1%), Tasmania (7.6%), and then Queensland (7.7%). Nationally, the unemployment rate increased to 6.9% from the previous month's revised figure of 6.8%.

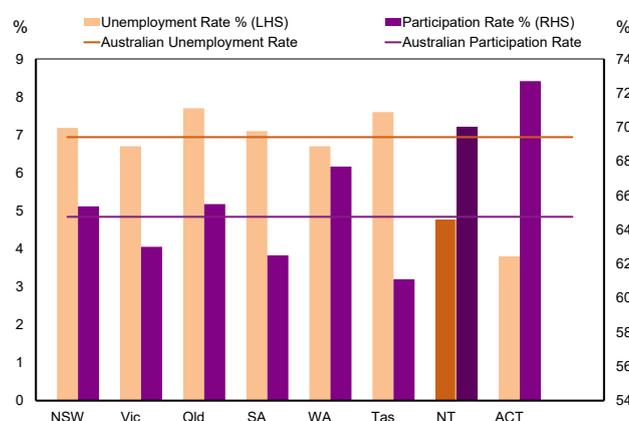
Participation rate

		Monthly change	Rate
Participation rate	NT	Down 3.3 ppt	70.0%
	Australia	Down 0.1 ppt	64.8%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In September 2020, the Territory's labour force participation rate decreased by 3.3 percentage points to 70.0% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory had the second highest participation rate, after the Australian Capital Territory (72.7%), then followed by Western Australia (67.7%).
- Nationally, the labour force participation rate decreased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 64.8% 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 4.5%	131 850
	Australia	Down 0.1%	13 509 359
Civilian population ¹	NT	Up 0.1%	188 400
	Australia	Flat	20 861 579

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In September 2020, the Territory's labour force was 131 850 persons, a decrease of 4.5% from last month's revised figure.
- Nationally, the labour force decreased by 0.1% to 13 509 359 persons.

Apprentices and trainees (estimates)²

	Year to date change	Year to date to Sep 2019	Year to date to Sep 2020
Commencements	Down 31.1%	2016	1389
Completions	Down 32.8%	662	445

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

- In the year to September 2020, there were 1389 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, a decrease of 31.1% (627) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In the year to September 2020, there were 445 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 32.8% (217) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- As at 30 September 2020, there were 3445 apprentices and trainees in training.

Internet job vacancies (August 2020)³

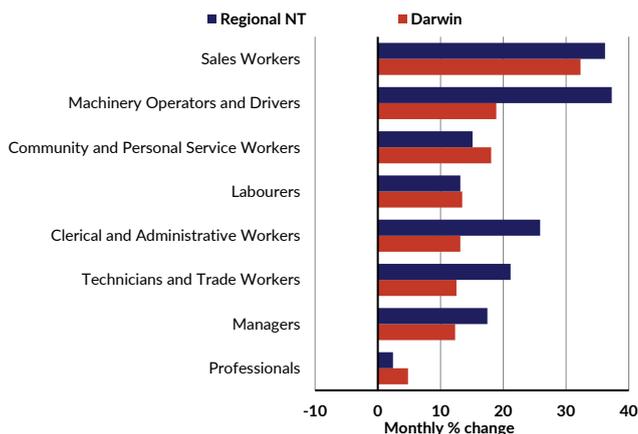
Occupation	Monthly change	No. of vacancies
Technicians and trade workers	Up 4.4%	229
Machinery operators and drivers	Up 4.1%	92
Labourers	Up 3.6%	105
Community and personal service workers	Up 2.5%	143
Professionals	Up 2.3%	457
Sales workers	Up 2.1%	80
Managers	Up 1.1%	167
Clerical and administrative workers	Down 1.7%	311
Total	Up 3.1%	1512

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In August 2020, total internet job vacancies increased by 3.1% (trend) to 1512 in the Territory.
- In August 2020, internet job vacancies reported increases in the Territory, except for Clerical and administrative workers which decreased by 1.7% to 311.
- Technicians and trade workers reported the largest increase (4.4%), followed by Machinery operators and drivers (4.1%), and then Labourers (3.6%).
- In regional NT, all occupation groups recorded increases in the month.

- Machinery operators and drivers reported the largest increase (37.3%), followed by Sales workers (36.2%), and then Clerical and administrative workers (25.9%).
- In the Darwin region, all occupation groups recorded increases also. Sales workers reported the largest increase (32.3%), followed Machinery operators and drivers (18.9%), and then Community and personal service workers (18.1%).

Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies⁴



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 seasonally adjusted terms, except for the apprentice and trainee data, which are in original terms and the regional breakdown of job vacancies.

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

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