

# NT labour market brief - March 2021



## Key message

In March 2021, the Territory labour market softened, with a decrease in employment, a rise in the unemployment rate, and a fall in the participation rate. A rise in full time employment was more than offset by a decrease in part time employment. However, an increase in job vacancies suggests employment may rise in the short term. Monthly data remains volatile and should be interpreted with caution.

### Employment

|                    |           | Monthly change | Number of persons ('000) |
|--------------------|-----------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Total employed     | NT        | Down 1.2%      | 129 500                  |
|                    | Australia | Up 0.5%        | 13 077 592               |
| Full-time employed | NT        | Up 0.5%        | 99 638                   |
|                    | Australia | Down 0.2%      | 8 874 237                |
| Part-time employed | NT        | Down 6.3%      | 29 862                   |
|                    | Australia | Up 2.2%        | 4 203 355                |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

In April 2021:

- there were 129 500 people employed in the Territory, a decrease of 1551 persons (1.2%) from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment increased by 468 to 99 638 persons, and part-time employment decreased by 2018 to 29 862 persons.
- national employment increased by 70 706 (0.5%) to 13 077 592 persons.
- national full-time employment decreased by 20 799 to 8 874 237 persons, and part-time employment increased by 91 505 to 4 203 355 persons.
- the Territory underemployment rate increased by 0.6 percentage points to 5.1%, compared to 7.9% nationally.  
*The Territory underemployment rate is now lower than pre-COVID-19 levels, reflecting more people are working their desired number of hours.*
- The Territory's underutilisation rate increased by 1.3 percentage points to 10.7%, compared to 13.5% nationally.
- Territory monthly hours decreased 4.3% from March 2020.

### Unemployment rate

|                   |           | Monthly change | Rate |
|-------------------|-----------|----------------|------|
| Unemployment rate | NT        | Up 0.7 ppt     | 5.6% |
|                   | Australia | Down 0.2 ppt   | 5.6% |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In April 2021, the Territory's unemployment rate increased to 5.6% from the previous month's revised figure of 4.9%.

- The Territory had the fourth lowest unemployment rate in Australia after the Australian Capital Territory (3.4%), Western Australia (4.8%), and New South Wales (5.4%). The unemployment rate in other jurisdictions were: Tasmania (5.9%), Queensland (5.9%), Victoria (6.1%), and then South Australia (6.3%).
- Nationally, the unemployment rate decreased to 5.6% from the previous month's revised figure of 5.8%.

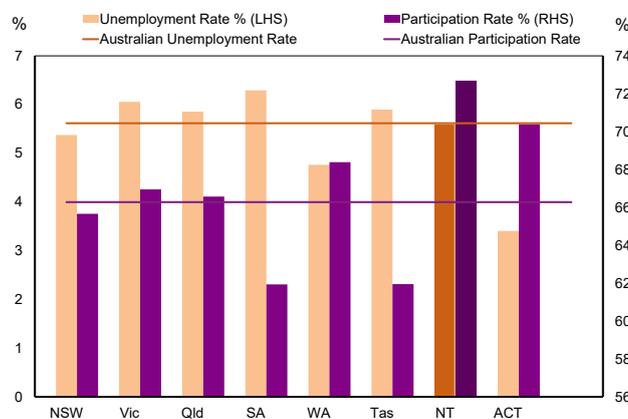
### Participation rate

|                    |           | Monthly change | Rate  |
|--------------------|-----------|----------------|-------|
| Participation rate | NT        | Down 0.4 ppt   | 72.7% |
|                    | Australia | Up 0.2 ppt     | 66.3% |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In April 2021, the Territory's labour force participation rate decreased by 0.4 percentage points to 72.7% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory had the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (70.4%), and then followed by Western Australia (68.4%).
- Nationally, the labour force participation rate increased by 0.2 of a percentage point to 66.3% 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 0.5%      | 137 141                  |
|                                  | Australia | Up 0.3%        | 13 855 683               |
| Civilian population <sup>1</sup> | NT        | Flat           | 188 685                  |
|                                  | Australia | Up 0.1%        | 20 905 822               |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In April 2021, the Territory's labour force was 137 141 persons, a decrease of 0.5% from last month's revised figure.
- Nationally, the labour force increased by 0.3% to 13 855 683 persons.

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

|               | Year to date change | Year to date to Apr 2020 | Year to date to Apr 2021 |
|---------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Commencements | Up 17.2%            | 795                      | 932                      |
| Completions   | Up 5.5%             | 200                      | 211                      |

Source: Northern Territory Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade

- In April 2021, there were 932 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, an increase of 17.2% (137) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In April 2021, there were 211 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, an increase of 5.5% (11) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- As at 30 April 2021, there were 3870 apprentices and trainees in training.

## Internet job vacancies (February 2021)<sup>3</sup>

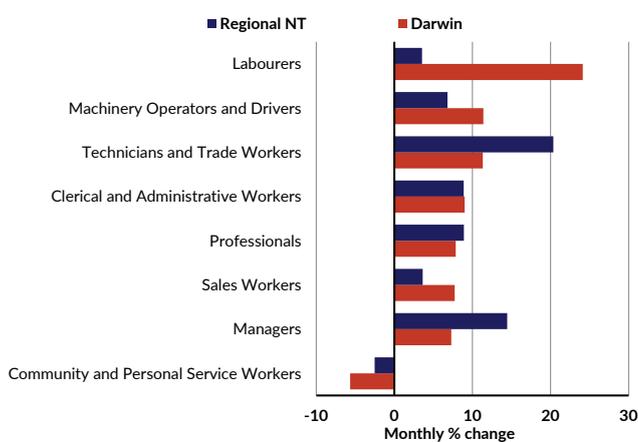
| Occupation                             | Monthly change | No. of vacancies |
|--|----------------|------------------|
| Machinery operators and drivers        | Up 7.6%        | 173              |
| Labourers                              | Up 6.8%        | 184              |
| Managers                               | Up 5.2%        | 226              |
| Technicians and trade workers          | Up 4.0%        | 396              |
| Professionals                          | Up 3.6%        | 619              |
| Sales workers                          | Up 2.7%        | 136              |
| Clerical and administrative workers    | Down 2.5%      | 239              |
| Community and personal service workers | Down 2.5%      | 216              |
| Total                                  | Up 3.8%        | 2241             |

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In February 2021, total internet job vacancies increased by 3.8% (trend) to 2241 in the Territory.
- In February 2021, internet job vacancies reported increases in all categories, except for Clerical and administrative workers, and Community and personal service workers, with both decreasing by 2.5%.
- Machinery operators and drivers reported the largest increase (7.6%), followed by Labourers (6.8%), and then Managers (5.2%).

- In regional NT, all occupation groups recorded increases, except for Community and personal service workers, which reported a decrease of 2.5%.
- Technicians and trade workers reported the largest increase at 20.4%, followed by Managers at 14.5%, and then followed by Professionals at 8.9%.
- In the Darwin region, all occupation groups recorded increases, except for Community and personal service workers, which decreased 5.7%.
- Labourers reported the largest increase at 24.1%, followed by Machinery operators and drivers at 11.4%, and then followed by Technicians and trade workers at 11.3%.

## 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 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://industry.nt.gov.au/economic-data-and-statistics/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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