

NT labour market brief – February 2020



Key message

Labour market conditions in the Territory are stabilising. The unemployment rate remained unchanged over the past three months, and employment levels have now risen over ten consecutive months, with full-time employment rising more than part-time employment. The participation rate continues to increase, and remains the highest of all jurisdictions and above the national average.

Employment

| | | Monthly change | Number of persons ('000) |
|--------------------|-----------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Total employed | NT | Up 0.2% | 133 204 |
| | Australia | Up 0.2% | 13 010 163 |
| Full-time employed | NT | Up 0.2% | 103 903 |
| | Australia | Up 0.2% | 8 885 633 |
| Part-time employed | NT | Up 0.3% | 29 301 |
| | Australia | Up 0.2% | 4 124 530 |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In February 2020, there were 133 204 people employed in the Territory, an increase of 265 persons from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment increased by 176 to 103 903 persons, and part-time employment also increased by 89 to 29 301 persons.
- Nationally, employment increased by 21 122 to 13 010 163 persons.
- National full-time employment increased by 13 315 to 8 885 633 persons and part-time employment increased by 7808 to 4 124 530 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 February 2020, the Territory's unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.5% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory's unemployment rate is equal six lowest of the jurisdictions after Western Australia (5.4%), Victoria (5.2%), Victoria (5.2%), New South Wales (4.5%), and then the Australian Capital Territory (2.9%). South Australia reported the highest unemployment rate of 5.8%.

- Nationally, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.1% from the previous month's revised figure.

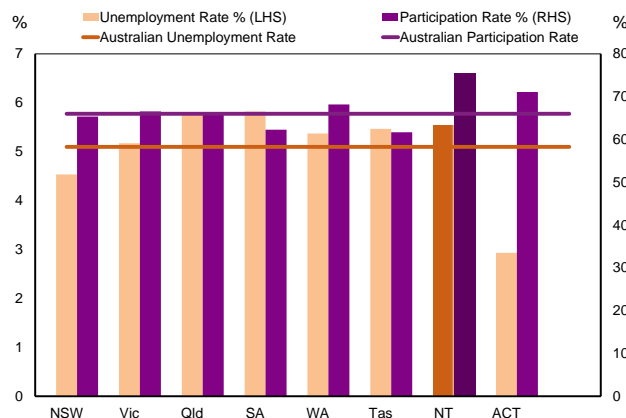
Participation rate

| | | Monthly change | Rate |
|--------------------|-----------|----------------|-------|
| Participation rate | NT | Up 0.3 ppt | 75.4% |
| | Australia | Flat | 66.0% |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In February 2020, the Territory's labour force participation rate increased by 0.3 of a percentage point to 75.4% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory had the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (71.1%) and then Western Australia (68.2%).
- 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 0.2% | 141 010 |
| | Australia | Up 0.1% | 13 709 081 |
| Civilian population ¹ | NT | Flat | 187 228 |
| | Australia | Up 0.2% | 20 783 001 |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In February 2020, the Territory's labour force was 141 010 persons, an increase of 0.2% from last month's revised figure.
- Nationally, the labour force increased by 0.1% to 13 709 081 persons.

Apprentices and trainees (estimates)²

| | Year to date change | Year to date to Jan 2019 | Year to date to Jan 2020 |
|---------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Commencements | Down 52.6% | 249 | 118 |
| Completions | Down 41.2% | 68 | 40 |

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

- In the year to January 2020, there were 118 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, a decrease of 131 compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In the year to January 2020, there were 40 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 41.2% (28) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- As at 31 January 2020, there were 3179 apprentices and trainees in training.

Internet job vacancies (December 2019)

| Occupation | Monthly change | No. of vacancies |
|--|----------------|------------------|
| Machinery operators and drivers | Up 6.6% | 101 |
| Technicians and trade workers | Up 2.1% | 262 |
| Managers | Up 2.1% | 231 |
| Professionals | Up 0.7% | 511 |
| Community and personal service workers | Up 0.3% | 178 |
| Sales workers | flat | 94 |
| Labourers | Down 0.1% | 95 |
| Clerical and administrative workers | Down 0.7% | 307 |
| Total | Up 1.7% | 1712 |

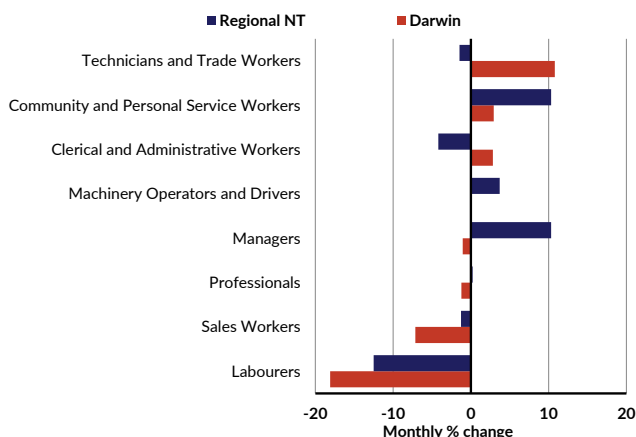
Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In January 2020, total internet job vacancies increased by 1.7% (trend) to 1712 in the Territory.
- In January 2020, internet job vacancies for Machinery operators and drivers reported the largest monthly increase (6.6%) in the Territory, followed by both Technicians and trade workers, and Managers (2.1%).
- Clerical and administrative workers reported the largest decrease (0.7%), followed by Labourers (0.1%).
- In regional NT, half of the occupation groups recorded decreases in the month, with Labourers reporting the

largest decrease (12.5%), followed by Clerical and administrative workers (4.2%), then Technicians and trade workers (1.5%).

- In regional NT, the largest increase was reported by both Community and personal service workers, and Managers (10.3%), followed by Machinery operators and drivers (3.7%).
- In the Darwin region, all occupation groups recorded decreases. The largest decrease was Machinery operators and drivers (19.2%), followed by Labourers (11.9), then Technicians and trade workers (10.4%).

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 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

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