

# NT labour market brief - May 2021



## Key message

In May 2021, the Territory labour market showed signs of moderation, with a fall in employment and a rise in the unemployment rate. However, continuing increases in job vacancies may suggest a rise in the short term.

### Employment

		Monthly change	Number of persons ('000)
Total employed	NT	Down 0.1%	131 286
	Australia	Up 0.9%	13 125 149
Full-time employed	NT	Down 0.7%	99 998
	Australia	Up 1.1%	8 965 190
Part-time employed	NT	Up 2.2%	31 288
	Australia	Up 0.4%	4 159 958

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

In May 2021:

- there were 131 286 people employed in the Territory, a decrease of 76 persons (0.1%) from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment decreased by 745 to 99 998 persons, and part-time employment increased by 669 to 31 288 persons.
- national employment increased by 115 193 (0.9%) to 13 125 149 persons.
- national full-time employment increased by 97 473 to 8 965 190 persons, and part-time employment increased by 17 720 to 4 159 958 persons.
- the Territory underemployment rate decreased by 0.7 ppt to 4.5%, compared to 7.4% 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 remained unchanged at 9.1%, compared to 12.5% nationally.
- Territory monthly hours increased 3.4% from May 2020.

### Unemployment rate

		Monthly change	Rate
Unemployment rate	NT	Up 0.7 ppt	4.5%
	Australia	Down 0.4 ppt	5.1%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In May 2021, the Territory's unemployment rate increased to 4.5% from the previous month's revised figure of 3.8%.
- The Territory had the second lowest unemployment rate in Australia after the Australian Capital Territory (3.6%), followed by Western Australia (4.7%), and then

Victoria (4.8%). The unemployment rate in other jurisdictions were: New South Wales (5.0%), Queensland (5.4%), Tasmania (5.7%), and then South Australia (5.8%).

- Nationally, the unemployment rate decreased to 5.1% from the previous month's revised figure of 5.5%.

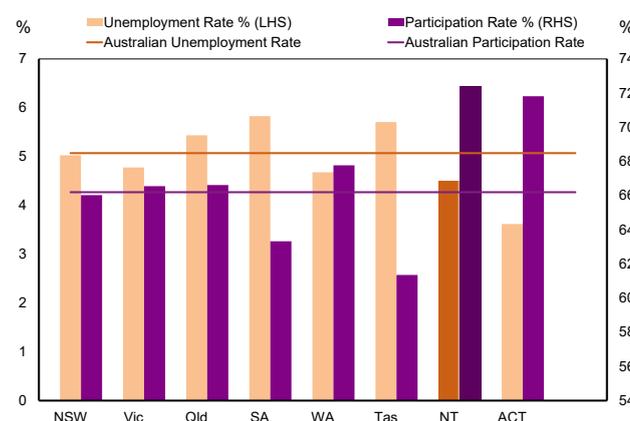
### Participation rate

		Monthly change	Rate
Participation rate	NT	Up 0.4 ppt	72.4%
	Australia	Up 0.3 ppt	66.2%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In May 2021, the Territory's labour force participation rate increased by 0.4 percentage points to 72.4% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory had the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (71.8%), and then followed by Western Australia (67.8%).
- Nationally, the labour force participation rate increased by 0.3 percentage points to 66.2% 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 0.7%	137 484
	Australia	Up 0.5%	13 826 286
Civilian population <sup>1</sup>	NT	Up 0.1%	189 896
	Australia	Flat	20 885 681

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In May 2021, the Territory's labour force was 137 484 persons, an increase of 0.7% from last month's revised figure.
- Nationally, the labour force increased by 0.5% to 13 826 286 persons.

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

	Year to date change	Year to date to May 2020	Year to date to May 2021
Commencements	Up 35.0%	908	1226
Completions	Up 40.3%	236	331

Source: Northern Territory Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade

- In May 2021, there were 1226 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, an increase of 35.0% (318) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- In May 2021, there were 331 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, an increase of 40.3% (95) compared to the same period in the previous year.
- As at 31 May 2021, there were 3932 apprentices and trainees in training.

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

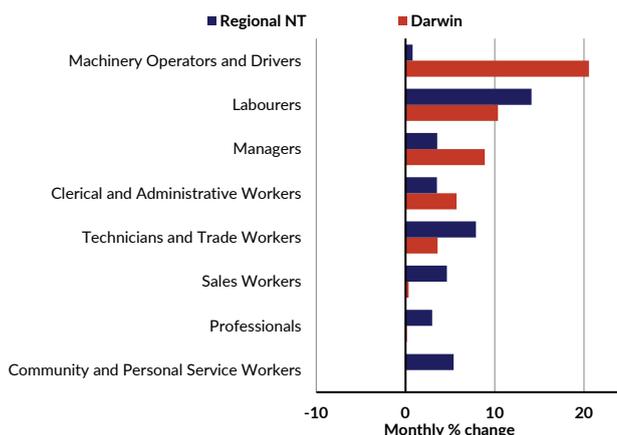
Occupation	Monthly change	No. of vacancies
Machinery operators and drivers	Up 7.4%	216
Managers	Up 5.4%	290
Community and personal service workers	Up 4.8%	274
Technicians and trade workers	Up 4.4%	474
Sales workers	Up 3.5%	163
Labourers	Up 3.3%	206
Clerical and administrative workers	Up 1.8%	246
Professionals	Up 1.8%	646
Total	Up 5.0%	2688

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

- In April 2021, total internet job vacancies increased by 5.0% (trend) to 2688 in the Territory.
- In April 2021, internet job vacancies reported increases in all categories.
- Machinery operators and drivers reported the largest increase (7.4%), followed by Managers (5.4%), and then Community and personal service workers (4.8%).
- In regional NT, all occupation groups also recorded increases.

- Labourers reported the largest increase at 14.1%, followed by Technicians and trade workers at 7.9%, and then followed by Community and personal service workers at 5.4%.
- In the Darwin region, all occupation groups recorded increases, except for Community and personal service workers, which remained unchanged.
- Machinery operators and drivers reported the largest increase at 20.6%, followed by Labourers at 10.4%, and then followed by Managers at 8.9%.

## 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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