

# NT labour market brief - April 2021



## Key message

In April 2021, the Territory labour market improved, with a fall in the unemployment rate, and an increase in employment, driven by a rise in both full time and part time employment. Continuing increases in job vacancies augur well for employment growth in the near term.

### Employment

		Monthly change	Number of persons ('000)
Total employed	NT	Up 1.4%	130 764
	Australia	Down 0.2%	13 040 392
Full-time employed	NT	Up 1.4%	100 364
	Australia	Up 0.4%	8 889 487
Part-time employed	NT	Up 1.4%	30 400
	Australia	Down 1.5%	4 150 905

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

In April 2021:

- there were 130 764 people employed in the Territory, an increase of 1754 persons (1.4%) from the previous month's revised figure.
- Territory full-time employment increased by 1339 to 100 364 persons, and part-time employment increased by 415 to 30 400 persons.
- national employment decreased by 30 593 (0.2%) to 13 040 392 persons.
- national full-time employment increased by 33 769 to 8 889 487 persons, and part-time employment decreased by 64 362 to 4 150 905 persons.
- the Territory underemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.2%, compared to 7.8% 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 decreased by 1.8 percentage points to 9.0%, compared to 13.3% nationally.
- Territory monthly hours increased 6.1% from April 2020.

### Unemployment rate

		Monthly change	Rate
Unemployment rate	NT	Down 1.8 ppt	3.8%
	Australia	Down 0.2 ppt	5.5%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In April 2021, the Territory's unemployment rate decreased to 3.8% from the previous month's revised figure of 5.6%.
- The Territory had the second lowest unemployment rate in Australia after the Australian Capital Territory

(3.4%), then followed by Western Australia (4.9%), and Victoria (5.5%). The unemployment rate in other jurisdictions were: New South Wales (5.5%), South Australia (5.7%), Queensland (6.1%), and then Tasmania (6.2%).

- Nationally, the unemployment rate decreased to 5.5% from the previous month's revised figure of 5.7%.

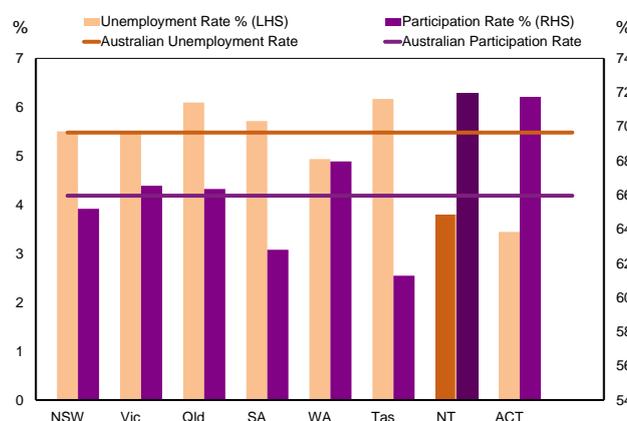
### Participation rate

		Monthly change	Rate
Participation rate	NT	Down 0.4 ppt	72.0%
	Australia	Down 0.3 ppt	66.0%

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In April 2021, the Territory's labour force participation rate decreased by 0.4 percentage points to 72.0% from the previous month's revised figure.
- The Territory had the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (71.7%), and then followed by Western Australia (68.0%).
- Nationally, the labour force participation rate decreased by 0.3 of a percentage point to 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	Down 0.6%	135 905
	Australia	Down 0.5%	13 796 617
Civilian population <sup>1</sup>	NT	Up 0.1%	188 815
	Australia	Flat	20 914 967

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

- In April 2021, the Territory's labour force was 135 905 persons, a decrease of 0.6% from last month's revised figure.
- Nationally, the labour force decreased by 0.5% to 13 796 617 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 (April 2021)<sup>3</sup>

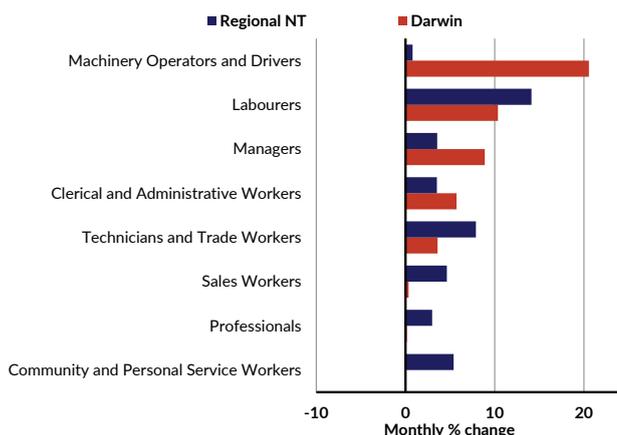
Occupation	Monthly change	No. of vacancies
Machinery operators and drivers	Up 7.4%	216
Managers	Up 5.4%	290
Community and personal service workers	Up 4.8%	274
Technicians and trade workers	Up 4.4%	474
Sales workers	Up 3.5%	163
Labourers	Up 3.3%	206
Clerical and administrative workers	Up 1.8%	246
Professionals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