# Key message

The May Labour Force Survey data show that labour market conditions have softened further in the Territory due to the impacts of the COVID-19 related lockdown and restrictions. Employment levels have declined further, mostly in full-time jobs and consequently the unemployment rate has increased sharply. On a positive note, the participation rate has improved marginally, with more Territorians actively seeking employment and the civilian population remaining stable. w for best navigational experience.

## Employment

|  |  | Monthly change | Number of persons (‘000) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Total employed | NT | Down 1.6% | 129 930 |
|  | Australia | Down 1.8% | 12 154 090 |
| Full-time employed | NT | Down 2.1% | 99 357 |
|  | Australia | Down 1.0% | 8 539 995 |
| Part-time employed | NT | Up 0.1% | 30 573 |
|  | Australia | Down 3.7% | 3 614 096 |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In May 2020, there were 129 930 people employed in the Territory, a decrease of 2125 persons from the previous month’s revised figure.
* Territory full-time employment decreased by 2148 to 99 357 persons, and part-time employment increased by 22 to 30 573 persons.
* Nationally, employment decreased by 227 714 to   
  12 154 090 persons.
* National full-time employment decreased by 89 129 to 8 539 995 persons and part-time employment decreased by 138 584 to 3 614 096 persons.

## Unemployment rate

|  |  | Monthly change | Rate |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Unemployment rate | NT | Up 1.8 ppt | 7.4% |
|  | Australia | Up 0.7 ppt | 7.1% |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In May 2020, the Territory’s unemployment rate increased to 7.4% from the previous month’s revised figure of 5.6%.
* The Territory had the fifth lowest unemployment rate in Australia, behind Victoria (6.9%), then New South Wales (6.4%), followed by Tasmania (6.4%) and then the Australian Capital Territory (4.1%). Western Australia reported the highest unemployment rate (8.1%).
* Nationally, the unemployment rate increased to 7.1% from the previous month’s revised figure of 6.4%.

## Participation rate

|  |  | Monthly change | Rate |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Participation rate | NT | Up 1.8 ppt | 74.7% |
|  | Australia | Down 0.7 ppt | 63.6% |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In May 2020, the Territory’s labour force participation rate increased by 0.2 percentage points to 74.7% from the previous month’s revised figure.
* The Territory had the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (69.4%) and then Western Australia (65.0%).
* Nationally, the labour force participation rate decreased by 0.7 percentage points to 63.6% from the previous month’s revised figure.

**Chart 1: Unemployment and participation rates**

This chart indicates the following unemployment rates for each jurisdictions:
Queensland is 7.8 percent 
South Australia is 7.9 percent 
Tasmania is 6.4 percent 
Northern Territory is 7.4 percent 
Western Australia is 8.1 percent 
Victoria is 6.9 percent 
New South Wales is 6.4 percent 
Australian Capital Territory is 4.1 percent 
Australia is 7.1 percent

The following participation rates for each jurisdictions are: 
Northern Territory is 74.7 percent 
Australian Capital Territory is 69.4 percent 
Western Australia is 65.0 percent 
Victoria is 63.7 percent 
Queensland is 62.6 percent 
New South Wales is 62.1 percent 
South Australia is 60.3 percent 
Tasmania is 57.3 percent
Australia is  63.6 percent


Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

## Labour force

|  |  | Monthly change | Number of persons (‘000) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Labour force | NT | Up 0.3% | 140 323 |
|  | Australia | Down 1.1% | 13 081 684 |
| Civilian population1 | NT | Flat | 187 880 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.1% | 20 812 548 |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In May 2020, the Territory’s labour force was 140 323 persons, an increase of 0.3% from last month’s revised figure.
* Nationally, the labour force decreased by 1.1% to   
  13 081 684 persons.

## Apprentices and trainees (estimates)2

|  | Year to date change | Year to date to Apr 2019 | Year to date to Apr 2020 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Commencements | Down 38.3% | 1197 | 739 |
| Completions | Down 40.3% | 295 | 176 |

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

* In the year to Apriil 2020, there were 1197 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, a decrease of 38.3% (458) compared to the same period in the previous year.
* In the year to April 2020, there were 176 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 40.3% (119) compared to the same period in the previous year.
* As at 30 April 2020, there were 3491 apprentices and trainees in training.

## Internet job vacancies (April 2020)

| Occupation | Monthly change | No. of vacancies |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Clerical and administrative workers | Up 0.6% | 317 |
| Machinery operators and drivers | Down 5.8% | 75 |
| Labourers | Down 6.1% | 75 |
| Managers | Down 6.2% | 153 |
| Technicians and trade workers | Down 6.2% | 194 |
| Professionals | Down 7.3% | 385 |
| Community and personal service workers | Down 7.6% | 116 |
| Sales workers | Down 8.9% | 58 |
| Total | Down 9.6% | 1135 |

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

* In April 2020, total internet job vacancies decreased by 9.6% (trend) to 1135 in the Territory.
* In April 2020, internet job vacancies for Clerical and administrative workers reported the only monthly increase (0.6%) in the Territory.
* Sales workers reported the largest decrease (8.9%), followed closely by Community and personal service workers (7.6%), and then Professionals (7.3%).
* In regional NT, all occupation groups recorded decreases in the month. Machinery operators and drivers reported the largest decrease (35.0%), followed by Sales workers (27.5%), then Community and personal service workers (27.1%).
* In the Darwin region, all occupation groups recorded decreases also. Community and personal service workers reported the largest decrease (30.2%), followed by Managers (27.6%), and then Sales workers (25.5%).

**Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies4**

This chart indicates the following increase and decrease of job vacancies in Darwin and regional NT across all occupations:
Sales workers in Darwin decreased to 25.0 per cent. 
Sales workers in regional NT decreased to 27.5 per cent. 
Community and Personal Service Workers in Darwin decreased to 30.2 per cent. 
Community and Personal Service Workers in regional NT decreased 27.1 per cent. 
Managers in Darwin decreased to 27.6 per cent. 
Managers in regional NT decreased to 18.8 per cent. 
Professionals in Darwin decreased to 18.1 per cent. 
Professionals in regional NT decreased to 14.8 per cent. 
Technicians and Trade Workers in Darwin decreased to 19.4 per cent. 
Technicians and Trade Workers in regional NT decreased to 20.1 per cent. 
Clerical and Administrative Workers in Darwin decreased to 24.5 per cent. 
Clerical and Administrative Workers in regional NT decreased to 26.2 per cent.
Labourers in Darwin decreased to 6.9 per cent.  
Labourers in regional NT decreased to 8.8 per cent.  
Machinery operators and drivers in Darwin decreased to 9.9 per cent. 
Machinery operators and drivers in regional NT decreased to 35.0.


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 seasonally adjusted 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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