# Key message

Labour market conditions in the Territory continue to remain soft. The unemployment rate is rising. On a positive note, employment levels continued to increase in November 2019, with full-time employment increasing sightly. This is the sixth consecutive increase in employment levels. However, on a year on year basis employment fell by 4.5%. The participation rate continues to remain highest of all jurisdictions, and above the national average.lease read in outline view for es

Employment

|  |  | Monthly change | Number of persons (‘000) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Total employed | NT | Up 0.2% | 131 458 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.1% | 12 962 037 |
| Full-time employed | NT | Up 0.5% | 102 469 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.1% | 8 843 596 |
| Part-time employed | NT | Down 0.7% | 28 988 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.2% | 4 118 441 |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In November 2019, there were 131 458 people employed in the Territory, an increase of 256 persons from the previous month’s revised figure.
* Territory full-time employment increased by 461 to 102 469 persons, while part-time employment decreased by 205 to 28 988 persons.
* Nationally, employment increased by 17 368 to 12 962 037 persons.
* National full-time employment increased by 8344 to 8 843 596 persons and part-time employment increased by 9024 to 4 118 441 persons.
* Territory employment levels has increased for six consecutive months after 14 consecutive negative months.

Unemployment rate

|  |  | Monthly change | Rate |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Unemployment rate | NT | Up 0.2 ppts | 5.8% |
|  | Australia | Flat | 5.2% |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In November 2019, the Territory’s unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage points to 5.8%.
* The Territory’s unemployment rate is the fifth lowest of the jurisdictions after Western Australia (5.8%), Victoria (4.7%), New South Wales (4.7%), and then the Australian Capital Territory (3.2%). Queensland reported the highest unemployment rate of 6.4%.
* Nationally, the unemployment rate remained flat at 5.2% from the previous month’s revised figure.

Participation rate

|  |  | Monthly change | Rate |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Participation rate | NT | Up 0.3 ppts | 74.2% |
|  | Australia | Flat | 66.1% |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In November 2019, the Territory’s labour force participation rate increased by 0.3 percentage points to 74.2% from the previous month’s revised figure.
* The Territory had the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (71.2%) and then Western Australia (68.4%).
* Nationally, the labour force participation rate remained unchanged at 66.1% 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 0.4% | 139 504 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.1% | 13 678 310 |
| Civilian population1 | NT | Down 0.2% | 187 816 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.1% | 20 701 918 |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In November 2019, the Territory’s labour force was 139 504 persons, an increase of 0.4% from last month’s revised figure.
* Nationally, the labour force increased by 0.1% to 13 678 310 persons.

Apprentices and trainees (estimates)**2**

|  | Year to date change | Year to date toSep 2018 | Year to date toSep 2019 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Commencements | Down 1.4% | 2128 | 2098 |
| Completions | Up 0.1% | 750 | 751 |

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

* In the year to October 2019, there were 2098 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, a decrease of 1.4% (30) compared to the same period in the previous year.
* In the year to October 2019, there were 751 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, an increase of 0.1% (1) compared to the same period in the previous year.
* As at 31 October 2019, there were 3415 apprentices and trainees in training.

Internet job vacancies (October 2019)

| Occupation | Monthly change | No. of vacancies |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Professionals | Up 1.5% | 492 |
| Managers | Up 0.7% | 199 |
| Clerical and administrative workers | Up 0.1% | 310 |
| Community and personal service workers | Down 1.2% | 173 |
| Labourers | Down 1.7% | 100 |
| Sales workers | Down 2.0% | 95 |
| Technicians and trade workers | Down 3.4% | 254 |
| Machinery operators and drivers | Down 4.5% | 80 |
| Total | Down 0.7% | 1584 |

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

* In October 2019, total internet job vacancies decreased by 0.7% (trend) to 1584 in the Territory.
* In October 2019, internet job vacancies for Professionals reported the largest monthly increase (1.5%) in the Territory. Machinery operators and drivers reported the largest decrease (4.5%), followed by Technicians and trade workers (3.4%), then Sales workers (2.0%).
* In regional NT, all occupation groups recorded decreases in the month, except for Machinery operators and drivers, which increased to 3.7%.
* In regional NT, the largest recorded decrease was Sales workers (18.2%), followed by Managers (9.4%), then Labourers (9.2%).
* In the Darwin region, most of the occupation groups recorded decreases in the month, except for Labourers which increased (5.9%), followed by Managers (4.5%), and then Professionals (3.8%) .
* In the Darwin region, the largest decrease was Technicians and trade workers (10.7%), followed by Machinery operators and drivers (5.5%), then Sales workers (5.0%).

**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/nt-labour-market-information

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: [www.abs.gov.au/](http://www.abs.gov.au/)

**Enquiries**

Economic Reform, Department of Trade, Business and Innovation, email: economicinnovation.dtbi@nt.gov.au

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