# Key message

Labour market conditions in the Territory continue to remain soft. The unemployment rate is rising. On a positive note, employment levels increased slightly in October 2019, with full-time employment increasing. This is the fourth consecutive increase in employment levels. 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 | Flat | 130 388 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.1% | 12 935 694 |
| Full-time employed | NT | Up 0.1% | 100 290 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.1% | 8 835 647 |
| Part-time employed | NT | Flat | 30 099 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.2% | 4 100 047 |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In October 2019, there were 130 388 people employed in the Territory, a marginal increase of 56 persons from the previous month’s revised figure.
* Territory full-time employment increased to 100 290 persons, while part-time employment remained unchanged at 30 099 persons.
* Nationally, employment increased by 12 313 to 12 935 694 persons.
* National full-time employment increased by 5828 to 8 835 647 persons and part-time employment increased by 6485 to 4 100 047 persons.
* Territory employment levels has increased for four consecutive months after 13 consecutive negative months.

Unemployment rate

|  |  | Monthly change | Rate |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Unemployment rate | NT | Up 0.2 ppts | 5.9% |
|  | Australia | Flat | 5.3% |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In October 2019, the Territory’s unemployment rate increased by 0.2 of a percentage point to 5.9%.
* The Territory’s unemployment rate is the fifth lowest of the jurisdictions after Western Australia (5.7%), Victoria (4.8%), New South Wales (4.7%), and then the Australian Capital Territory (3.3%). Queensland reported the highest unemployment rate of 6.5%.
* Nationally, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.3% from the previous month’s revised figure.

Participation rate

|  |  | Monthly change | Rate |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Participation rate | NT | Up 0.5 ppts | 73.9% |
|  | Australia | Flat | 66.1% |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In October 2019, the Territory’s labour force participation rate increased by 0.5 percentage points to 73.9% 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 0.3% | 138 377 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.1% | 13 658 084 |
| Civilian population1 | NT | Down 0.2% | 188 335 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.1% | 20 680 657 |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In October 2019, the Territory’s labour force was 138 377 persons, an increase of 0.3% from last month’s revised figure.
* Nationally, the labour force increased by 0.1% to 13 658 084 persons.

Apprentices and trainees (estimates)**2**

|  | Year to date change | Year to date to Sep 2018 | Year to date to Sep 2019 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Commencements | Up 2.9% | 1909 | 1964 |
| Completions | Down 4.5% | 640 | 611 |

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

* In the year to September 2019, there were 1964 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, an increase of 2.9% (55) compared to the same period in the previous year.
* In the year to September 2019, there were 611 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 4.5% (29) compared to the same period in the previous year.
* As at 30 September 2019, there were 3486 apprentices and trainees in training.

Internet job vacancies (September 2019)

| Occupation | Monthly change | No. of vacancies |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Managers | Up 0.3% | 199 |
| Technicians and trade workers | Down 0.4% | 284 |
| Clerical and administrative workers | Down 0.5% | 310 |
| Professionals | Down 0.8% | 535 |
| Community and personal service workers | Down 1.4% | 191 |
| Sales workers | Down 2.2% | 101 |
| Machinery operators and drivers | Down 3.3% | 87 |
| Labourers | Down 4.1% | 98 |
| Total | Down 1.0% | 1678 |

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

* In September 2019, total internet job vacancies decreased by 1.0% (trend) to 1678 in the Territory.
* In September 2019, internet job vacancies for Managers reported the only monthly increase (0.3%) in the Territory. Labourers reported the largest decrease (4.1%), followed by Machinery operators and drivers (3.3%), then Sales workers (2.2%).
* In regional NT, half of the occupation groups recorded increases in the month, with Professionals reporting the largest (9.7%), followed by Clerical and administrative workers (8.0%), then Technicians and trade workers (4.7%).
* In regional NT, the largest recorded decrease was Sales workers (12.6%), followed by Labourers (4.8%), then Machinery operators and drivers (4.7%).
* In the Darwin region, most of the occupation groups recorded decreases in the month, except for Technicians and trade workers (6.5%), followed by Managers (6.2%), and then Machinery operators and drivers (0.4%) .
* In the Darwin region, the largest decrease was Community and personal service workers (9.1%), followed by Professionals (4.9%), then Clerical and administrative workers (3.7%).

**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 by 1.8 per cent. 
Sales workers in regional NT decreased by 6.0 per cent. 
Community and Personal Service Workers in Darwin decreased by 9.1 per cent. 
Community and Personal Service Workers in regional NT increased by 1.4 per cent. 
Managers in Darwin increased by 6.2 per cent. 
Managers in regional NT decreased by 2.6 per cent. 
Professionals in Darwin decreased by 4.9 per cent. 
Professionals in regional NT increased by 9.7 per cent. 
Technicians and Trade Workers in Darwin increased by 6.5 per cent. 
Technicians and Trade Workers in regional NT increased by 4.7 per cent. 
Clerical and Administrative Workers in Darwin decreased by 3.7 per cent. 
Clerical and Administrative Workers in regional NT increased by 8.0 per cent.
Labourers in Darwin decreased by 1.3 per cent.  
Labourers in regional NT decreased by 4.8 per cent.  
Machinery operators and drivers in Darwin increased by 0.4 per cent. 
Machinery operators and drivers in regional NT decreased by 4.7 per cent.


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**

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