# Key message

In August 2021, the Territory labour market improved, with a rise in employment, and a fall in the unemployment rate. However, the fall in the unemployment rate was due to an increase in part-time employment; an increase in people previously employed but are currently not actively seeking employment; and people leaving the Territory. In addition, decreasing job vacancies suggest some moderation in employment growth.

## Employment

|  |  | Monthly change | Number of persons (‘000) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Total employed | NT | Up 0.4% | 130 483 |
|  | Australia | Down 1.1% | 13 022 597 |
| Full-time employed | NT | Flat | 97 860 |
|  | Australia | Down 0.8% | 8 956 533 |
| Part-time employed | NT | Up 1.9% | 32 623 |
|  | Australia | Down 1.9% | 4 066 063 |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

In August 2021:

* there were 130 483 people employed in the Territory, an increase of 574 persons (0.4%) from the previous month’s revised figure.
* Territory full-time employment was flat at 97 860 persons, and part-time employment increased by 604 to 32 623 persons.
* national employment decreased by 146 274 to   
  13 022 597 persons.
* national full-time employment decreased by 68 048 to 8 956 533 persons, and part-time employment decreased by 78 227 to 4 066 063 persons.
* the Territory underemployment rate increased by 0.9 ppt to 6.7%, compared to 9.3% nationally.
* The Territory’s underutilisation rate decreased by 0.2 ppt to 10.2%, compared to 13.8% nationally.
* Territory monthly hours worked increased 1.5% from August 2020.

## Unemployment rate

|  |  | Monthly change | Rate |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Unemployment rate | NT | Down 1.2 ppt | 3.4% |
|  | Australia | Down 0.3 ppt | 4.6% |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In August 2021, the Territory’s unemployment rate decreased to 3.4% from the previous month’s revised figure of 4.6%.
* The Territory had the lowest unemployment rate in Australia followed by the Australian Capital Territory (3.5%), Victoria (4.1%), Western Australia (4.6%), New South Wales (4.9%), South Australia (5.0%), Queensland (5.3%), and Tasmania (5.5%).
* Nationally, the unemployment rate decreased to 4.5% from the previous month’s revised figure of 4.6%.

## Participation rate

|  |  | Monthly change | Rate |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Participation rate | NT | Down 0.6 ppt | 70.7% |
|  | Australia | Down 0.8 ppt | 65.2% |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In August 2021, the Territory’s labour force participation rate decreased by 0.6 percentage points to 70.7% from the previous month’s revised figure.
* The Territory had the highest participation rate followed by the Australian Capital Territory (70.1%), and then followed by Western Australia (69.0%).
* Nationally, the labour force participation rate decreased by 0.8 ppt to 65.2% 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 5.3 percent 
South Australia is 5.0 percent 
Tasmania is 5.5 percent 
Northern Territory is 3.4 percent 
Western Australia is 4.9 percent 
Victoria is 4.1 percent 
New South Wales is 4.9 percent 
Australian Capital Territory is 3.5 percent 
Australia is 4.5 percent

The following participation rates for each jurisdictions are: 
Northern Territory is 70.7 percent 
Australian Capital Territory is 70.1 percent 
Western Australia is 69.0 percent 
Victoria is 66.9 percent 
Queensland is 65.9 percent 
New South Wales is 62.4 percent 
South Australia is 62.9 percent 
Tasmania is 61.7 percent
Australia is 65.2 percent

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

## Labour force

|  |  | Monthly change | Number of persons (‘000) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Labour force | NT | Down 0.7% | 135 131 |
|  | Australia | Down 1.2% | 13 639 708 |
| Civilian population1 | NT | Up 0.1% | 191 132 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.1% | 20 922 622 |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In August 2021, the Territory’s labour force was 135 131 persons, a decrease of 0.7% from last month’s revised figure.
* Nationally, the labour force decreased by 1.2% to 13 639 708 persons.

## Apprentices and trainees (estimates)2

|  | Year to date change | Year to date to Aug 2020 | Year to date to Aug 2021 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Commencements | Up 31.0% | 1315 | 1723 |
| Completions | Up 34.0% | 423 | 567 |

Source: Northern Territory Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade

* In the year to date to August 2021, there were 1723 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, an increase of 31.0% (408) compared to the same period in the previous year.
* In the year to date to August 2021, there were 567 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, an increase of 34.0% (144) compared to the same period in the previous year.
* As at 31 August 2021, there were 3874 apprentices and trainees in training.

## Internet job vacancies (July 2021)3

| Occupation | Monthly change | No. of vacancies |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Clerical and administrative workers | Up 1.9% | 264 |
| Professionals | Up 0.6% | 679 |
| Sales workers | Down 0.6% | 171 |
| Labourers | Down 1.4% | 207 |
| Technicians and trade workers | Down 1.7% | 458 |
| Managers | Down 2.0% | 293 |
| Machinery operators and drivers | Down 3.6% | 185 |
| Community and personal service workers | Down 4.5% | 257 |
| Total | Down 1.7% | 2594 |

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

* In July 2021, total internet job vacancies decreased by 1.7% (trend) to 2594 in the Territory.
* In July 2021, internet job vacancies reported decreases in all categories, except for Clerical and administrative workers (up by 1.9%) and Professionals (up by 0.6%).
* Community and personal service workers reported the largest decrease (down 4.5%), followed by Machinery operators and drivers (down by 3.6%), and then Managers (down by 2.0%).
* In regional NT, all occupation groups recorded decreases, except for Technicians and trade workers (up by 7.6%), Managers (up by 4.7%), and Professionals (up by 2.2%).
* Machinery operators and drivers reported the largest decrease (down by 6.1%), followed by Labourers (down by 5.8%), and then followed by Sales workers (down by 3.6%).
* In the Darwin region, all occupation groups recorded increases, except for Machinery operators and drivers (down by 3.9%), Technicians and trade workers (down by 2.8%), Community and personal service workers (down by 1.8%), and Managers (no change in the month).
* Sales workers reported the largest increase at 12.1%, followed by Professionals at 6.0%, and then followed by Clerical and administrative workers at 4.2%.

**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 increased to 12.1 per cent. 
Sales workers in regional NT decreased to 3.6 per cent. 
Community and Personal Service Workers in Darwin decreased to 1.8 per cent. 
Community and Personal Service Workers in regional NT decreased to 1.9 per cent. 
Managers in Darwin was unchanged. 
Managers in regional NT increased to 4.7 per cent. 
Professionals in Darwin increased to 6.0 per cent. 
Professionals in regional NT increased to 2.2 per cent. 
Technicians and Trade Workers in Darwin decreased to 2.8 per cent. 
Technicians and Trade Workers in regional NT increased to 7.6 per cent. 
Clerical and Administrative Workers in Darwin increased to 4.2 per cent. 
Clerical and Administrative Workers in regional NT decreased to 1.9 per cent.
Labourers in Darwin increased to 2.7 per cent.  
Labourers in regional NT decreased to 5.8 per cent.  
Machinery operators and drivers in Darwin decreased to 3.9 per cent. 
Machinery operators and drivers in regional NT decreased to 6.1 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 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**

Economic Analysis and Advice, Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade email: economics.ditt@nt.gov.au

**Disclaimer**

The Northern Territory of Australia gives no warranty of assurance, and makes no representation as to the accuracy of any information or advice contained in this publication, or that it is suitable for your intended use. You should not rely upon information in this publication for the purpose of making any serious business or investment decisions without obtaining independent, professional advice in relation to your particular situation.