# Key Message

The labour market conditions in the Territory remain soft. The unemployment rate has remained steady this month, but has decreased by 0.4 percentage points over the year. Employment levels have now fallen for twelve consecutive months. The participation rate continues to trend downwards but remains highest of all jurisdictions.

## Employment



*Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0*

* In April 2019, there were 130 800 people employed in the Territory, a decrease of 400 persons from the previous month’s revised figure.
* Territory full-time employment decreased by 400 to 103 200 persons, and part-time employment remained steady at 27600.
* Nationally, employment increased by 20 734 to 12 814 793 persons.
* National full-time employment increased by 14 654 to 8 793 884 persons and part-time employment increased by 6080 to 4 020 908 persons.
* Territory employment levels have fallen twelve consecutive months, down about 7900 jobs since April 2018.

## Unemployment Rate



*Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0*

* In April 2019, the Territory’s unemployment rate remained steady at 4.5%.
* The Territory’s unemployment rate is the third lowest of the jurisdictions after New South Wales (4.3%), and then the Australian Capital Territory (3.9%). Tasmania reported the highest unemployment rate of 6.7%.
* Nationally, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.1% from the previous month’s revised figure.

## Participation Rate



*Source: ABS**Cat No 6202.0*

* In April 2019, the Territory’s labour force participation rate decreased by 0.7 percentage points to 72.1% from the previous month’s revised figure.
* The Territory had the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (69.5%) and then Western Australia (67.9%).
* Nationally, the labour force participation rate remained unchanged at 65.7% from the previous month’s revised figure.

**Chart 1: Unemployment and Participation Rates**



*Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0*

## Labour Force



*Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0*

* In April 2019, the Territory’s labour force was 137100 persons, unchanged from the previous month’s revised figure.
* Nationally, the labour force increased by 26 830 to 13 504 409 persons.

## Apprentices and Trainees (estimate)1



*Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation*

* In the year to date to March 2019, there were 890 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, an increase of 15.4% (119) compared to the same period in the previous year.
* In the year to date to March 2019, there were 195 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 4.9% (10) compared to the same period in 31 March 2019, there were 3558 apprentices and trainees in training.

## Internet Job Vacancies (March 2019)2



*Source: Australian Government Department of Employment*

* In March 2019, internet job vacancies decreased by 2.5% (trend) in the Territory, almost all of the occupation groups decreased, except for Machinery operators and drivers, and Sales workers.
* In March 2019, internet job vacancies for Machinery operators and drivers reported the largest monthly increase (1.1%) in the Territory, followed by Sales workers (0.4%).
* In regional NT, all occupation groups recorded increases in the month. Sales workers reported the largest increase (29.9%), followed by Machinery operators and drivers (16.1%), and then Labourers
(15.6%).3
* In the Darwin region, all the occupation groups also recorded increases in the month. The largest increase was Machinery operators and drivers (14.2%), followed by Technicians and trade workers (12.8%), then Professionals (11.4%). 3

**Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies**



*Source: Department of Employment (Australian Government)*

1. *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.*
2. *It should be noted that this table provides trend data.*
3. *It should be noted that Darwin and regional NT data are original data with a three month rolling average.*