# Key message

Labour market conditions in the Territory remain soft. The unemployment rate has remained steady this month, but has increased by 0.8 of a percentage point over the year. Employment levels increased slightly in August 2019, with an increase recorded for both part-time and full-time employment. This is the second consecutive increase in employment levels. The participation rate continues to trend downwards but remains highest of all jurisdictions. Please read in outline view for best navigational experience.

Employment

|  |  | Monthly change | Number of persons (‘000) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Total employed | NT | Up 0.3% | 129 469 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.2% | 12 921 053 |
| Full-time employed | NT | Up 0.2% | 99 971 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.1% | 8 828 358 |
| Part-time employed | NT | Up 0.6% | 29 498 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.4% | 4 092 694 |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In August 2019, there were 129 469 people employed in the Territory, a marginal increase of 374 persons from the previous month’s revised figure.
* Territory full-time employment increased by 207 to 99 971 persons and part-time employment increased by 168 to 29 498 persons.
* Nationally, employment increased by 21 969 to 12 921 053 persons.
* National full-time employment increased by 7240 to 8 828 358 persons and part-time employment increased by 14 729 to 4 092 694 persons.
* Territory employment levels increased in July and August after 13 consecutive negative months.

Unemployment rate

|  |  | Monthly change | Rate |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Unemployment rate | NT | Up 0.1ppt | 5.1% |
|  | Australia | 0.0 ppt | 5.3% |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In August 2019, the Territory’s unemployment rate increased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 5.1%.
* The Territory’s unemployment rate is the fourth lowest of the jurisdictions after Victoria (4.9%), New South Wales (4.5%), and then the Australian Capital Territory (3.5%). South Australia reported the highest unemployment rate of 6.8%.
* 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 0.1ppt | 71.9% |
|  | Australia | Up 0.1 ppt | 66.2% |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In August 2019, the Territory’s labour force participation rate increased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 71.9% from the previous month’s revised figure.
* The Territory had the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (70.6%) and then Western Australia (68.4%).
* Nationally, the labour force participation rate increased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 66.2% from the previous month’s revised figure.

**Chart 1: Unemployment and participation rates**

This chart indicates the following unemployment rates for each jurisdictions:
Tasmania is 6.6 per cent. 
Western Australia is 5.8 per cent. 
Queensland is 6.4 per cent. 
South Australia is 6.8 per cent. 
Victoria is 4.9 per cent. 
Northern Territory is 5.1 per cent.
New South Wales is 4.5 per cent.
Australian Capital Territory is 3.5 per cent. 
Australia is 5.3 per cent. 

The following participation rates for each jurisdictions are: 
Northern Territory is 71.9 per cent.
Australian Capital Territory is 70.6 per cent.
Western Australia is 68.4 per cent. 
Victoria is 66.2 per cent. 
New South Wales is 66.1 per cent.
Queensland is 66.0 per cent. 
South Australia is 63.7 per cent. 
Tasmania is 60.2 per cent. 
Australia is 66.2 per cent.


Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

Labour force

|  |  | Monthly change | Number of persons (‘000) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Labour force | NT | Up 0.4% | 136 281 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.2% | 13 636 732 |
| Civilian population | NT | 0.0% | 188 683 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.2% | 20 625 246 |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In August 2019, the Territory’s labour force was 136 281 persons, and increase of 0.4% from last month’s revised figure.
* Nationally, the labour force increased by 0.2% to 13 636 732 persons.

Apprentices and trainees (estimates)1

|  | Year to date change | Year to date to Jul 2018 | Year to date to Jul 2019 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Commencements | Up 7.7% | 1526 | 1644 |
| Completions | Down 11.9% | 514 | 453 |

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

* In the year to date to July 2019, there were 1644 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, an increase of 7.7% (118) compared to the same period in the previous year.
* In the year to date to July 2019, there were 453 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 11.9% (61) compared to the same period in the previous year.
* As at 31 July 2019, there were 3637 apprentices and trainees in training.

Internal job vacancies (July 2019)

| Occupation | Monthly change | No. of vacancies |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Professionals | Up 3.4% | 579 |
| Community and personal service workers | Up 1.7% | 195 |
| Technicians and trade workers | Up 1.0% | 278 |
| Sales workers | Down 0.7% | 117 |
| Managers | Down 1.2% | 196 |
| Machinery operators and drivers | Down 1.8% | 96 |
| Labourers | Down 2.1% | 115 |
| Clerical and administrative workers | Down 4.2% | 318 |
| Total | Up 1.1% | 1796 |

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

* In July 2019, total internet job vacancies increased by 1.1% (trend) to 1796 in the Territory.
* In July 2019, internet job vacancies for Professionals reported the largest monthly increase (3.4%) in the Territory, followed by Community and Personal Service workers (1.7%), then Technicians and Trade workers (1.0%).
* In regional NT, all occupation groups recorded increases in the month.
* In regional NT, the largest recorded increase was Machinery Operators and Drivers reporting the largest increase (13.6%), followed by Clerical and Administrative workers (12.2%), then Labourers (12.0%).
* In the Darwin region, all occupation groups recorded increases in the month, except for Clerical and administrative workers, which decreased by 0.6%.
* In the Darwin region, the largest increase was Community and Personal Service Workers (12.1%), followed by Professionals (10.9%), then Sales workers (9.0%).

**Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies3**

This chart indicates the following increase and decrease of job vacancies in Darwin and regional NT across all occupations:
Sales workers in Darwin increased by 9.0 per cent. 
Sales workers in regional NT increased by 4.0 per cent. 
Community and Personal Service Workers in Darwin increased by 12.1 per cent.  
Community and Personal Service Workers in regional NT increased by 8.1 per cent. 
Managers in Darwin increased by 7.0 per cent. 
Managers in regional NT increased by 3.6 per cent. 
Professionals in Darwin increased by 10.9 per cent. 
Professionals in regional NT increased by 11.4 per cent. 
Technicians and Trade Workers in Darwin increased by 5.0 per cent. 
Technicians and Trade Workers in regional NT increased by 6.2 per cent. 
Clerical and Administrative Workers in Darwin decreased by 0.6 per cent. 
Clerical and Administrative Workers in regional NT increased by 12.2 per cent.
Labourers in Darwin increased by 1.3 per cent.  
Labourers in regional NT increased by 12.0 per cent.  
Machinery operators and drivers in Darwin increased by 3.0 per cent. 
Machinery operators and drivers in regional NT increased by 13.6 per cent.


Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

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.

**Notes**

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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