# 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 September 2019, with full-time employment increasing more than part-time employment. This is the third 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 | Up 0.3% | 130 450 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.2% | 12 942 775 |
| Full-time employed | NT | Up 0.4% | 101 006 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.1% | 8 840 152 |
| Part-time employed | NT | Up 0.1% | 29 444 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.3% | 4 102 623 |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In September 2019, there were 130 450 people employed in the Territory, a marginal increase of 428 persons from the previous month’s revised figure.
* Territory full-time employment increased by 412 to 101 006 persons and part-time employment increased by 16 to 29 444 persons.
* Nationally, employment increased by 20 244 to 12 942 775 persons.
* National full-time employment increased by 8982 to 8 840 152 persons and part-time employment increased by 11 262 to 4 102 623 persons.
* Territory employment levels increased in August and September after 13 consecutive negative months.

Unemployment rate

|  |  | Monthly change | Rate |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Unemployment rate | NT | Up 0.2 ppts | 5.6% |
|  | Australia | Flat | 5.3% |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In September 2019, the Territory’s unemployment rate increased by 0.2 of a percentage point to 5.6%.
* The Territory’s unemployment rate is the fourth lowest of the jurisdictions after Victoria (4.8%), New South Wales (4.5%), and then the Australian Capital Territory (3.5%). Queensland reported the highest unemployment rate of 6.6%.
* 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 0.6 ppts | 73.3% |
|  | Australia | Flat | 66.2% |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In September 2019, the Territory’s labour force participation rate increased by 0.6 percentage points to 73.3% from the previous month’s revised figure.
* The Territory had the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (71.3%) and then Western Australia (68.2%).
* Nationally, the labour force participation rate remained unchanged at 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 6.4 per cent. 
Western Australia is 5.7 per cent. 
Queensland is 6.6 per cent. 
South Australia is 6.5 per cent. 
Victoria is 4.8 per cent. 
Northern Territory is 5.6 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 73.3 per cent.
Australian Capital Territory is 71.3 per cent.
Western Australia is 68.2 per cent. 
Victoria is 66.3 per cent. 
New South Wales is 65.9 per cent.
Queensland is 66.3 per cent. 
South Australia is 63.4 per cent. 
Tasmania is 60.4 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 0.5% | 138 027 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.2% | 13 660 728 |
| Civilian population1 | NT | 0.0% | 188 664 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.2% | 20 657 222 |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In September 2019, the Territory’s labour force was 138 027 persons, an increase of 0.5% from last month’s revised figure.
* Nationally, the labour force increased by 0.2% to 13 660 728 persons.

Apprentices and trainees (estimates)**2**

|  | Year to date change | Year to date to Jul 2018 | Year to date to Jul 2019 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Commencements | Up 1.6% | 1772 | 1801 |
| Completions | Down 7.0% | 574 | 534 |

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

* In the year to August 2019, there were 1801 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, an increase of 1.6% (29) compared to the same period in the previous year.
* In the year to August 2019, there were 534 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 7.0% (40) compared to the same period in the previous year.
* As at 30 August 2019, there were 3573 apprentices and trainees in training.

Internet job vacancies (August 2019)

| Occupation | Monthly change | No. of vacancies |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Professionals | Up 2.5% | 586 |
| Community and personal service workers | Up 1.2% | 199 |
| Technicians and trade workers | Up 0.7% | 284 |
| Managers | Down 0.6% | 194 |
| Sales workers | Down 1.5% | 110 |
| Machinery operators and drivers | Down 2.0% | 93 |
| Clerical and administrative workers | Down 2.0% | 311 |
| Labourers | Down 3.1% | 108 |
| Total | Up 0.6% | 1773 |

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

* In August 2019, total internet job vacancies increased by 0.6% (trend) to 1773 in the Territory.
* In August 2019, internet job vacancies for Professionals reported the largest monthly increase (2.5%) in the Territory, followed by Community and personal service workers (1.2%), then Technicians and trade workers (0.7%).
* In regional NT, all occupation groups recorded decreases in the month, except for Community and personal service workers (9.0%), and Labourers (3.3%) which increased.
* In regional NT, the largest recorded decrease was Managers reporting the largest decrease (12.6%), followed by Sales workers (9.3%), then Technicians and trade workers (6.8%).
* In the Darwin region, half of the occupation groups recorded decreases in the month, except for Machinery operators and drivers, Clerical and administrative workers, Technicians and trade workers, and Managers.
* In the Darwin region, the largest decrease was Sales workers (6.2%), followed by Community and personal service workers (5.9%), then Professionals (2.8%).

**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 6.2 per cent. 
Sales workers in regional NT decreased by 9.3 per cent. 
Community and Personal Service Workers in Darwin decreased by 5.9 per cent. 
Community and Personal Service Workers in regional NT increased by 9.0 per cent. 
Managers in Darwin increased by 0.7 per cent. 
Managers in regional NT decreased by 12.6 per cent. 
Professionals in Darwin decreased by 2.8 per cent. 
Professionals in regional NT decreased by 1.4 per cent. 
Technicians and Trade Workers in Darwin increased by 3.7 per cent. 
Technicians and Trade Workers in regional NT decreased by 6.8 per cent. 
Clerical and Administrative Workers in Darwin increased by 10.5 per cent. 
Clerical and Administrative Workers in regional NT decreased by 1.5 per cent.
Labourers in Darwin decreased by 2.6 per cent.  
Labourers in regional NT increased by 3.3 per cent.  
Machinery operators and drivers in Darwin increased by 12.9 per cent. 
Machinery operators and drivers in regional NT decreased by 6.5 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**

Economic Report, Department of Trade, Business and Innovation, email: [spar.dtbi@nt.gov.au](mailto:spar.dtbi@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.