# Key message

The March Labour Force Survey data show that labour market conditions continued to stabilise in the Northern Territory, with employment rising and unemployment levels remaining stable. The March Labour Force Survey includes data describing the labour market in the first two weeks of March (1 – 14 March). The March Labour Force Survey results do not capture the impacts of more significant COVID-19 business restrictions which were progressively introduced across Australia from 23 March.

The information below should be treated with some caution as labour market conditions are expected to deteriorate significantly from April 2020.lease read in outline view for best navigational experience.

## Employment

|  |  | Monthly change | Number of persons (‘000) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Total employed | NT | Up 0.5% | 134 293 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.1% | 13 020 458 |
| Full-time employed | NT | Up 0.2% |  103 854 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.1% | 8 888 904 |
| Part-time employed | NT | Up 1.5% |  30 439 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.2% | 4 131 554 |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In March 2020, there were 134 293 people employed in the Territory, an increase of 628 persons from the previous month’s revised figure.
* Territory full-time employment increased by 165 to 103 854 persons, and part-time employment also increased by 463 to 30 439 persons.
* Nationally, employment increased by 16 785 to
13 020 458 persons.
* National full-time employment increased by 8 831 to 8 888 904 persons and part-time employment increased by 7954 to 4 131 554 persons.
* Territory employment levels have increased for ten consecutive months.

## Unemployment rate

|  |  | Monthly change | Rate |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Unemployment rate | NT | Flat | 5.5% |
|  | Australia | Flat | 5.1% |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In March 2020, the Territory’s unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.5% from the previous month’s revised figure.
* The Territory’s unemployment rate is six lowest of the jurisdictions after Western Australia (5.4%), Victoria (5.2%), Tasmania (5.3%), New South Wales (4.7%), and then the Australian Capital Territory (3.0%). South Australia reported the highest unemployment rate of 6.0%.
* Nationally, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.2% from the previous month’s revised figure.

## Participation rate

|  |  | Monthly change | Rate |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Participation rate | NT | Up 0.4 ppt | 76.0% |
|  | Australia | Flat | 66.0% |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In March 2020, the Territory’s labour force participation rate increased by 0.4 of a percentage point to 76.0% from the previous month’s revised figure.
* The Territory had the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (71.7%) and then Western Australia (68.1%).
* Nationally, the labour force participation rate remained unchanged at 66.0% 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 0.5% | 142 071 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.1% | 13 733 789 |
| Civilian population1 | NT | Flat | 187 212 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.2% | 20 658 149 |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In March 2020, the Territory’s labour force was 142 071 persons, an increase of 0.5% from last month’s revised figure.
* Nationally, the labour force increased by 0.1% to
13 733 789 persons.

## Apprentices and trainees (estimates)2

|  | Year to date change  | Year to date toFeb 2019 | Year to date toFeb 2020 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Commencements | Down 40.6% | 647 | 384 |
| Completions | Down 43.4% | 145 | 82 |

Source: Northern Territory Department of Trade, Business and Innovation

* In the year to February 2020, there were 384 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, a decrease of 40.6% (263) compared to the same period in the previous year.
* In the year to February 2020, there were 82 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 43.4% (63) compared to the same period in the previous year.
* As at 29 February 2020, there were 3385 apprentices and trainees in training.

## Internet job vacancies (February 2020)

| Occupation | Monthly change | No. of vacancies |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Machinery operators and drivers | Up 6.1% | 109 |
| Technicians and trade workers | Up 2.7% | 271 |
| Labourers | Up 0.8% | 99 |
| Sales Workers | Up 0.6% | 98 |
| Managers | Up 0.3% | 221 |
| Professionals | Down 0.2% | 503 |
| Community and personal service workers | Down 0.4% | 172 |
| Clerical and administrative workers | Down 0.5% | 306 |
| Total | Up 0.8% | 1671 |

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

* In February 2020, total internet job vacancies increased by 0.8% (trend) to 1671 in the Territory.
* In February 2020, internet job vacancies for Machinery operators and drivers reported the largest monthly increase (6.1%) in the Territory, followed by Technicians and trade workers (2.7%), and then Labourers (0.8%).
* Clerical and administrative workers reported the largest decrease (0.5%), followed by Community and personal service workers (0.4%), and then Professionals (0.2%).
* In regional NT, almost all occupation groups recorded increases in the month, except for Managers and Professionals, which decreased by 5.8% and 2.9% respectively.
* In regional NT, the largest increase was reported Labourers (13.0%), followed by Technicians and trade workers (10.4%), and then Sales workers (7.7%).
* In the Darwin region, all occupation groups recorded increases except for Managers (10.1%), Labourers (5.5%), and Professionals (0.7%). The largest increase was Technicians and trade workers (10.5%), followed by Machinery operators and drivers (7.1), and then Sales workers (4.7%).

**Chart 2: Northern Territory Job Vacancies4**



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/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**

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