# Key Message

The labour market conditions in the Territory remains weak. The unemployment rate has slightly decreased and the employment levels have fallen in annual terms, although there has been a slight pickup in March. The participation rate is lower than a year ago but highest of all jurisdictions.

## Employment



*Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0*

* In March 2019, there were 133 451 people employed in the Territory, an increase of 83 persons from the previous month’s revised figure.
* Territory full-time employment decreased by 386 to 104 250 persons, and part-time employment increased by 469 persons to 29 202 persons.
* Nationally, employment increased by 20 716 to 12 789 992 persons.
* National full-time employment increased by 17 987 to 8 781 829 persons and part-time employment increased by 2729 to 4 008 163 persons.
* Territory employment levels have fallen seven consecutive months, down about 1003 jobs since September 20018.

## Unemployment Rate



*Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0*

* In March 2019, the Territory’s unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 4.4%, from the previous month’s revised figure.
* The Territory’s unemployment rate is the third lowest of the jurisdictions after New South Wales (4.3%), and then the Australian Capital Territory (3.6%). Tasmania reported the highest unemployment rate of 6.5%.
* Nationally, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.0% from the previous month’s revised figure.

## Participation Rate



*Source: ABS**Cat No 6202.0*

* In March 2019, the Territory’s labour force participation rate decreased by 0.2 percentage points to 73.8% from the previous month’s revised figure.
* The Territory had the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (69.2%) and then Western Australia (67.8%).
* Nationally, the labour force participation rate remained unchanged at 65.6% 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 March 2019, the Territory’s labour force was 139 728 persons, unchanged from the previous month’s revised figure.
* Nationally, the labour force increased by 23 715 to 13 465 671 persons.

## Apprentices and Trainees (estimate)1



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

* In the year to date to February 2019, there were 567 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, an increase of 10.5% (54) compared to the same period in the previous year.
* In the year to date to February 2019, there were 121 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, a decrease of 18.2% (27) compared to the same period in the previous year.
* As at 28 February 2019, there were 3454 apprentices and trainees in training.

## Internet Job Vacancies (February 2019)2



*Source: Australian Government Department of Employment*

* In February 2019, internet job vacancies decreased by 1.6% (trend) in the Territory, half of the occupation groups increased, except for Professionals, Managers, Clerical and administrative workers, and Technicians and trade workers.
* In February 2019, internet job vacancies for Machinery operators and drivers reported the largest monthly increase (2.6%) in the Territory, followed by Sales workers (1.0%), and then Community and personal service workers (0.8%).
* In regional NT, half of the occupation groups recorded decreases in the month. Managers reported the largest decrease (-14.2%), followed by Sales workers (-7.8%), then Clerical and administrative workers (-7.1%), and then Labourers (-6.1%).3
* In the Darwin region, almost all occupation groups recorded decreases in the month, except for Community and personal service workers, which increased to 1.9%. Sales workers remained unchanged. Professionals reported the largest monthly decrease (-9.4%), followed by Technicians and trade workers (-9.2%), and then Machinery operators and drivers (-8.2%). 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.*