# Key message

In May 2021, the Territory labour market showed signs of moderation, with a fall in employment and a rise in the unemployment rate. However, continuing increases in job vacancies may suggest a rise in the short term. Please read in outline view for best navigational experience.

## Employment

|  |  | Monthly change | Number of persons (‘000) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Total employed | NT | Down 0.1% | 131 286 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.9% | 13 125 149 |
| Full-time employed | NT | Down 0.7% | 99 998 |
|  | Australia | Up 1.1% | 8 965 190 |
| Part-time employed | NT | Up 2.2% | 31 288 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.4% | 4 159 958 |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

In May 2021:

* there were 131 286 people employed in the Territory, a decrease of 76 persons (0.1%) from the previous month’s revised figure.
* Territory full-time employment decreased by 745 to 99 998 persons, and part-time employment increased by 669 to 31 288 persons.
* national employment increased by 115 193 (0.9%) to   
  13 125 149 persons.
* national full-time employment increased by 97 473 to 8 965 190 persons, and part-time employment increased by 17 720 to 4 159 958 persons.
* the Territory underemployment rate decreased by 0.7 ppt to 4.5%, compared to 7.4% nationally.

*The Territory underemployment rate is now lower than pre-COVID-19 levels, reflecting more people are working their desired number of hours.*

* The Territory’s underutilisation rate remained unchanged at 9.1%, compared to 12.5% nationally.
* Territory monthly hours increased 3.4% from May 2020.

## Unemployment rate

|  |  | Monthly change | Rate |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Unemployment rate | NT | Up 0.7 ppt | 4.5% |
|  | Australia | Down 0.4 ppt | 5.1% |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In May 2021, the Territory’s unemployment rate increased to 4.5% from the previous month’s revised figure of 3.8%.
* The Territory had the second lowest unemployment rate in Australia after the Australian Capital Territory (3.6%), followed by Western Australia (4.7%), and then Victoria (4.8%). The unemployment rate in other jurisdictions were: New South Wales (5.0%), Queensland (5.4%), Tasmania (5.7%), and then South Australia (5.8%).
* Nationally, the unemployment rate decreased to 5.1% from the previous month’s revised figure of 5.5%.

## Participation rate

|  |  | Monthly change | Rate |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Participation rate | NT | Up 0.4 ppt | 72.4% |
|  | Australia | Up 0.3 ppt | 66.2% |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In May 2021, the Territory’s labour force participation rate increased by 0.4 percentage points to 72.4% from the previous month’s revised figure.
* The Territory had the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (71.8%), and then followed by Western Australia (67.8%).
* Nationally, the labour force participation rate increased by 0.3 percentage points 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:
Queensland is 5.4 percent 
South Australia is 5.8 percent 
Tasmania is 5.7 percent 
Northern Territory is 4.5 percent 
Western Australia is 4.7 percent 
Victoria is 4.8 percent 
New South Wales is 5.0 percent 
Australian Capital Territory is 3.6 percent 
Australia is 5.1 percent

The following participation rates for each jurisdictions are: 
Northern Territory is 72.4 percent 
Australian Capital Territory is 71.8 percent 
Western Australia is 67.8 percent 
Victoria is 66.6 percent 
Queensland is 66.6 percent 
New South Wales is 66.0 percent 
South Australia is 63.3 percent 
Tasmania is 61.4 percent
Australia is 66.2 percent


Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

## Labour force

|  |  | Monthly change | Number of persons (‘000) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Labour force | NT | Up 0.7% | 137 484 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.5% | 13 826 286 |
| Civilian population1 | NT | Up 0.1% | 189 896 |
|  | Australia | Flat | 20 885 681 |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In May 2021, the Territory’s labour force was 137 484 persons, an increase of 0.7% from last month’s revised figure.
* Nationally, the labour force increased by 0.5% to 13 826 286 persons.

## Apprentices and trainees (estimates)2

|  | Year to date change | Year to date to May 2020 | Year to date to May 2021 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Commencements | Up 35.0% | 908 | 1226 |
| Completions | Up 40.3% | 236 | 331 |

Source: Northern Territory Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade

* In May 2021, there were 1226 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, an increase of 35.0% (318) compared to the same period in the previous year.
* In May 2021, there were 331 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, an increase of 40.3% (95) compared to the same period in the previous year.
* As at 31 May 2021, there were 3932 apprentices and trainees in training.

## Internet job vacancies (April 2021)3

| Occupation | Monthly change | No. of vacancies |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Machinery operators and drivers | Up 7.4% | 216 |
| Managers | Up 5.4% | 290 |
| Community and personal service workers | Up 4.8% | 274 |
| Technicians and trade workers | Up 4.4% | 474 |
| Sales workers | Up 3.5% | 163 |
| Labourers | Up 3.3% | 206 |
| Clerical and administrative workers | Up 1.8% | 246 |
| Professionals | Up 1.8% | 646 |
| Total | Up 5.0% | 2688 |

Source: Australian Government Department of Employment

* In April 2021, total internet job vacancies increased by 5.0% (trend) to 2688 in the Territory.
* In April 2021, internet job vacancies reported increases in all categories.
* Machinery operators and drivers reported the largest increase (7.4%), followed by Managers (5.4%), and then Community and personal service workers (4.8%).
* In regional NT, all occupation groups also recorded increases.
* Labourers reported the largest increase at 14.1%, followed by Technicians and trade workers at 7.9%, and then followed by Community and personal service workers at 5.4%.
* In the Darwin region, all occupation groups recorded increases, except for Community and personal service workers, which remained unchanged.
* Machinery operators and drivers reported the largest increase at 20.6%, followed by Labourers at 10.4%, and then followed by Managers at 8.9%.

**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 increased to 0.4 per cent. 
Sales workers in regional NT increased to 4.6 per cent.  
Community and Personal Service Workers in Darwin remained unchanged. 
Community and Personal Service Workers in regional NT increased 5.4 per cent. 
Managers in Darwin increased to 8.9 per cent. 
Managers in regional NT increased to 3.6 per cent. 
Professionals in Darwin increased to 0.2 per cent. 
Professionals in regional NT increased to 3.0 per cent. 
Technicians and Trade Workers in Darwin increased to 3.6 per cent. 
Technicians and Trade Workers in regional NT increased to 7.9 per cent. 
Clerical and Administrative Workers in Darwin increased to 5.7 per cent. 
Clerical and Administrative Workers in regional NT increased to 3.5 per cent.
Labourers in Darwin increased to 10.4 per cent.  
Labourers in regional NT increased to 14.1 per cent.  
Machinery operators and drivers in Darwin increased to 20.6 per cent. 
Machinery operators and drivers in regional NT increased to 0.8 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 seasonally adjusted terms, except for the apprentice and trainee data, which are in original terms and the regional breakdown of job vacancies.

Current labour market briefs are available online at:

<https://industry.nt.gov.au/economic-data-and-statistics/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**

Economic Analysis and Advice, Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade email: economics.ditt@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.