# Key message

In April 2021, the Territory labour market improved, with a fall in the unemployment rate, and an increase in employment, driven by a rise in both full time and part time employment. Continuing increases in job vacancies augur well for employment growth in the near term.

## Employment

|  |  | Monthly change | Number of persons (‘000) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Total employed | NT | Up 1.4% | 130 764 |
|  | Australia | Down 0.2% | 13 040 392 |
| Full-time employed | NT | Up 1.4% | 100 364 |
|  | Australia | Up 0.4% |  8 889 487 |
| Part-time employed | NT | Up 1.4% | 30 400 |
|  | Australia | Down 1.5% | 4 150 905 |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

In April 2021:

* there were 130 764 people employed in the Territory, an increase of 1754 persons (1.4%) from the previous month’s revised figure.
* Territory full-time employment increased by 1339 to 100 364 persons, and part-time employment increased by 415 to 30 400 persons.
* national employment decreased by 30 593 (0.2%) to
13 040 392 persons.
* national full-time employment increased by 33 769 to 8 889 487 persons, and part-time employment decreased by 64 362 to 4 150 905 persons.
* the Territory underemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.2%, compared to 7.8% 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 decreased by 1.8 percentage points to 9.0%, compared to 13.3% nationally.
* Territory monthly hours increased 6.1% from April 2020.

## Unemployment rate

|  |  | Monthly change | Rate |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Unemployment rate | NT | Down 1.8 ppt | 3.8% |
|  | Australia | Down 0.2 ppt | 5.5% |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In April 2021, the Territory’s unemployment rate decreased to 3.8% from the previous month’s revised figure of 5.6%.
* The Territory had the second lowest unemployment rate in Australia after the Australian Capital Territory (3.4%), then followed by Western Australia (4.9%), and Victoria (5.5%). The unemployment rate in other jurisdictions were: New South Wales (5.5%), South Australia (5.7%), Queensland (6.1%), and then Tasmania (6.2%).
* Nationally, the unemployment rate decreased to 5.5% from the previous month’s revised figure of 5.7%.

## Participation rate

|  |  | Monthly change | Rate |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Participation rate | NT | Down 0.4 ppt | 72.0% |
|  | Australia | Down 0.3 ppt | 66.0% |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In April 2021, the Territory’s labour force participation rate decreased by 0.4 percentage points to 72.0% from the previous month’s revised figure.
* The Territory had the highest participation rate, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (71.7%), and then followed by Western Australia (68.0%).
* Nationally, the labour force participation rate decreased by 0.3 of a percentage point to 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 | Down 0.6% | 135 905 |
|  | Australia | Down 0.5% | 13 796 617 |
| Civilian population1 | NT | Up 0.1% | 188 815 |
|  | Australia | Flat | 20 914 967 |

Source: ABS Cat No 6202.0

* In April 2021, the Territory’s labour force was 135 905 persons, a decrease of 0.6% from last month’s revised figure.
* Nationally, the labour force decreased by 0.5% to 13 796 617 persons.

## Apprentices and trainees (estimates)2

|  | Year to date change | Year to date toApr 2020 | Year to date toApr 2021 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Commencements | Up 17.2% | 795 | 932 |
| Completions | Up 5.5% | 200 | 211 |

Source: Northern Territory Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade

* In April 2021, there were 932 apprentice and trainee commencements in the Territory, an increase of 17.2% (137) compared to the same period in the previous year.
* In April 2021, there were 211 apprentice and trainee completions in the Territory, an increase of 5.5% (11) compared to the same period in the previous year.
* As at 30 April 2021, there were 3870 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**

 

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**

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