

Labour force

September 2024 | Economic brief

Seasonally adjusted

	NT	Aust
Employed persons	138 500	14 521 879
- Monthly change	↓0.5%	↑0.4%
- Year-ended change	↑2.0%	↑3.1%
- Year-average change	↑1.9%	↑2.7%
Unemployment rate	4.2%	4.1%
Participation rate	72.3%	67.2%

Employment in the Territory declined by 0.5% to 138,500 persons in September 2024. Full-time employment declined by 2.9% partly offset by part-time employment which rose by 9.2%. Nationally, employment rose by 0.4%, with full-time employment increasing by 0.5% and part-time employment increasing by 0.3%. Employment rose by 2.0% in the Territory over the year to September 2024 (Chart 1).

The Territory's unemployment rate was flat at 4.2% in September 2024 (Chart 2). Nationally, the monthly unemployment rate was flat at 4.1%. The participation rate in the Territory declined by 0.4 percentage points (ppt) to 72.3%. This is the second highest rate of the jurisdictions, and well above the national rate of 67.2%.

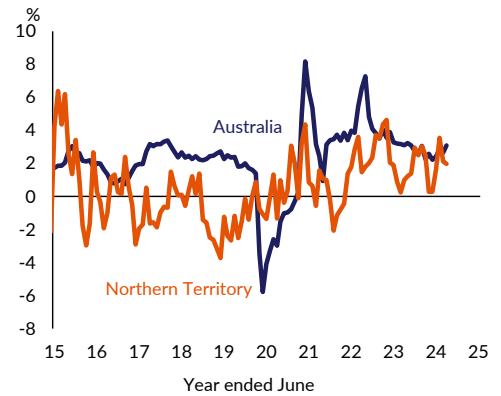
Trend

	NT	Aust
Employed persons	139 105	14 514 279
- Monthly change	flat	↑0.3%
- Year-ended change	↑2.2%	↑2.9%
Unemployment rate	4.3%	4.1%
Participation rate	72.7%	67.2%

Employment in the Territory was flat at 139,105 persons in September 2024. Part-time employment rose by 0.6% offset by full-time employment which declined by 0.1%. Employment rose by 2.2% in the Territory over the year to September 2024 (Chart 3).

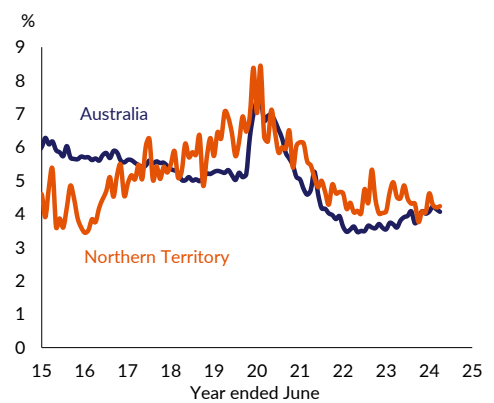
The Territory's unemployment rate rose by 0.1 ppt to 4.3% in September 2024. The participation rate in the Territory was flat at 72.7%.

Chart 1: Employment change (year-ended change, seasonally adjusted)



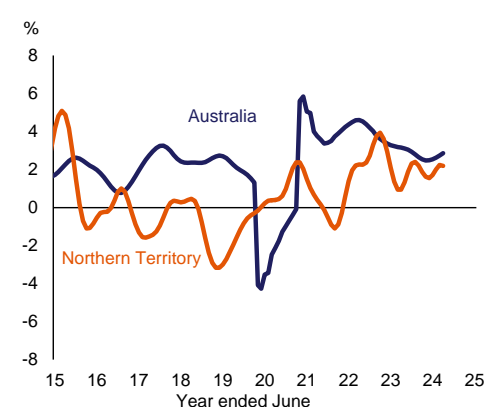
Source: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS Cat No. 6202.0

Chart 2: Unemployment rate (monthly, seasonally adjusted)



Source: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS Cat No. 6202.0

Chart 3: Employment change (year-ended change, trend)



Source: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS Cat No. 6202.0

Table 1: Labour force statistics*

	Period			Monthly change ¹	Year-ended change ²	
	Sep 23	Aug 24	Sep 24	%	%	No.
Northern Territory						
Seasonally adjusted						
Employment	135 825	139 203	138 500	-0.5%	2.0%	2 675
– full-time	109 744	111 810	108 583	-2.9%	-1.1%	- 1 160
– part-time	26 082	27 394	29 917	9.2%	14.7%	3 835
Unemployment rate	4.5%	4.2%	4.2%	0.0 ppt	- 0.3 ppt	
– Unemployed	6 414	6 103	6 131	0.4%	-4.4%	- 283
Participation rate	71.9%	72.7%	72.3%	- 0.4 ppt	0.4 ppt	
Labour force	142 240	145 307	144 631	-0.5%	1.7%	2 391
Trend						
Employment	136 116	139 062	139 105	0.0%	2.2%	2 989
– full-time	109 295	110 520	110 387	-0.1%	1.0%	1 092
– part-time	26 821	28 542	28 718	0.6%	7.1%	1 897
Unemployment rate	4.5%	4.2%	4.3%	0.1 ppt	- 0.2 ppt	
– Unemployed	6 476	6 115	6 205	1.5%	-4.2%	- 271
Participation rate	72.1%	72.7%	72.7%	0.0 ppt	0.6 ppt	
Labour force	142 592	145 177	145 310	0.1%	1.9%	2 717
Australia						
Seasonally adjusted						
Employment	14 086 993	14 457 802	14 521 879	0.4%	3.1%	434 886
– full-time	9 775 770	9 976 803	10 028 367	0.5%	2.6%	252 597
– part-time	4 311 224	4 481 000	4 493 512	0.3%	4.2%	182 288
Unemployment rate	3.6%	4.1%	4.1%	0.0 ppt	0.5 ppt	
– Unemployed	525 553	624 916	615 700	-1.5%	17.2%	90 147
Participation rate	66.5%	67.1%	67.2%	0.1 ppt	0.7 ppt	
Labour force	14 612 547	15 082 719	15 137 579	0.4%	3.6%	525 033
Trend						
Employment	14 110 904	14 469 911	14 514 279	0.3%	2.9%	403 375
– full-time	9 810 271	9 999 320	10 029 149	0.3%	2.2%	218 879
– part-time	4 300 633	4 470 591	4 485 130	0.3%	4.3%	184 496
Unemployment rate	3.7%	4.1%	4.1%	0.0 ppt	0.4 ppt	
– Unemployed	549 548	620 075	621 140	0.2%	13.0%	71 592
Participation rate	66.7%	67.1%	67.2%	0.1 ppt	0.5 ppt	
Labour force	14 660 452	15 089 986	15 135 420	0.3%	3.2%	474 968

ppt.: percentage point

1 Compares the latest month with the previous month.

2 Compares the latest month with the same month in the previous year.

* Due to rounding, changes in the table may not reflect the actual change.

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance; ABS Cat. No. 6202.0

Term	Definition
Employment	Work for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind, in a job or business or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers)
Employed full-time	Employed people who usually work 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and those who usually work less but worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.
Employed part-time	Employed people who usually worked less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) or were not at work in the reference week.
Unemployed	People aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week and had actively looked for full time or part time work.
Unemployment rate	For any group, the number of unemployed people expressed as a percentage of the labour force in the same group.
Participation rate	For any group, the labour force expressed as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over in the same group.
Labour force	For any group, people who were employed or unemployed, as defined.
Year-ended change	Compares the latest quarter with the same quarter last year
Year-average change	Compares the 12 months up to and including the latest quarter with the previous 12 month period
Seasonally adjusted	A seasonally adjusted series involves estimating and removing the cyclical and seasonal effects from the original data. Seasonally adjusting a time series is useful if you wish to understand the underlying patterns of change or movement in a population, without the impact of the seasonal or cyclical effects.
Trend	A trend series is a seasonally adjusted series that has been further adjusted to remove irregular effects and 'smooth' out the series to show the overall 'trend' of the data over time.

Caution is advised when using monthly data for the Territory, as it is often derived from small samples and can be highly volatile. Although due care has been exercised in preparing this material, no responsibility is accepted for any errors or omission.

[Labour force, Australia | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://abs.gov.au)

More information

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