

Labour force

September 2025 | Economic brief

Seasonally adjusted

	NT	Aust
Employed persons	144 006	14 640 184
- Monthly change	▲0.1%	▲0.1%
- Year-ended change	▲1.4%	▲1.3%
- Year-average change	▲0.8%	▲2.0%
Unemployment rate	4.2%	4.5%
Participation rate	72.4%	67.0%

Employment in the Territory increased by 0.1% to 144,006 persons in September 2025. Part-time employment increased by 2.2%, partly offset by full-time employment which declined by 0.6%. The Territory reported the third weakest result of the jurisdictions, which ranged from a decline of 0.4% in Tasmania to an increase of 1.1% in the Australian Capital Territory. Nationally, employment increased by 0.1%. Employment in the Territory increased by 1.4% over the year to September 2025 (Chart 1). This was the fourth weakest result of the jurisdictions.

The Territory's unemployment rate declined by 0.3 percentage points (ppt) to 4.2% in September 2025 (Chart 2). The Territory reported the lowest rate of the jurisdictions, which otherwise ranged from 4.2% in Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory to 4.7% in Victoria. Nationally, the monthly unemployment increased by 0.2 ppt to 4.5%. The Territory's unemployment rate increased by 0.1 ppt over the year to September 2025.

The participation rate in the Territory declined by 0.2 ppt to 72.4%. This is the highest rate of the jurisdictions, and is 5.4 ppt above the national rate (67.0%). The Territory's participation rate declined by 0.2 ppt over the year to September 2025.

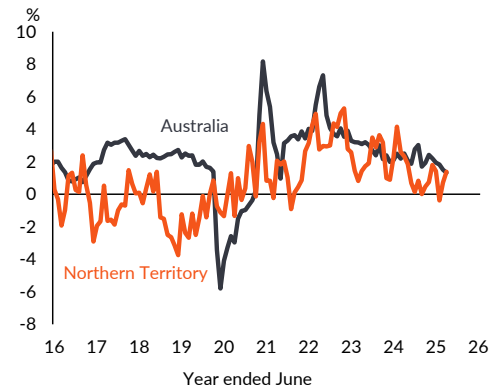
Trend

	NT	Aust
Employed persons	144 296	14 647 017
- Monthly change	▲0.1%	▲0.1%
- Annual change	▲1.4%	▲1.5%
Unemployment rate	4.2%	4.3%
Participation rate	72.6%	66.9%

Employment in the Territory increased by 0.1% to 144,296 persons in September 2025. Part-time employment increased by 1.3%, partly offset by full-time employment which declined by 0.3%. Employment increased by 1.4% in the Territory over the year to September 2025 (Chart 3).

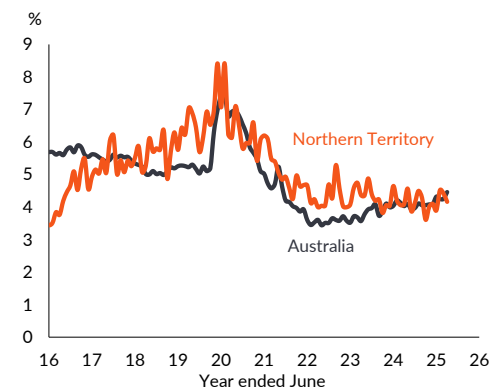
The Territory's unemployment rate increased by 0.1 ppt to 4.2% in September 2025 and by 0.1 ppt over the year. The participation rate in the Territory was flat at 72.6%, however declined by 0.1 ppt over the year.

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



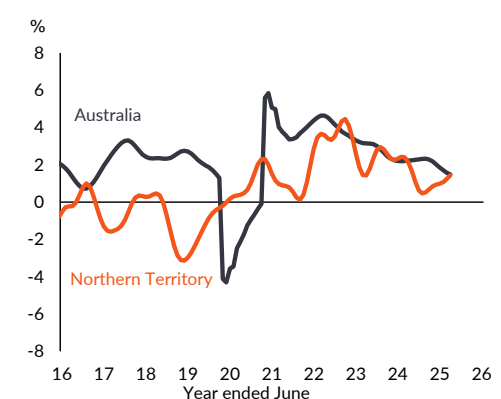
Source: DTF; ABS, Labour Force

Chart 2: Unemployment rate (monthly, seasonally adjusted)



Source: DTF; ABS, Labour Force

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



Source: DTF; ABS, Labour Force

Table 1: Labour force statistics*

	Period			Monthly change ¹	Year-ended change ²	
	Sep 24	Aug 25	Sep 25	%	%	No.
Northern Territory						
Seasonally adjusted						
Employment	142 049	143 928	144 006	0.1%	1.4%	1 957
– full-time	112 027	111 979	111 345	-0.6%	-0.6%	- 681
– part-time	30 023	31 949	32 661	2.2%	8.8%	2 639
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.4%	4.2%	- 0.3 ppt	0.1 ppt	
– Unemployed	6 054	6 655	6 258	-6.0%	3.4%	204
Participation rate	72.6%	72.6%	72.4%	- 0.2 ppt	- 0.2 ppt	
Labour force	148 104	150 583	150 264	-0.2%	1.5%	2 161
Trend						
Employment	142 254	144 164	144 296	0.1%	1.4%	2 042
– full-time	112 549	112 548	112 254	-0.3%	-0.3%	- 295
– part-time	29 704	31 616	32 042	1.3%	7.9%	2 337
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.2%	4.2%	0.1 ppt	0.1 ppt	
– Unemployed	6 119	6 308	6 398	1.4%	4.6%	279
Participation rate	72.7%	72.6%	72.6%	0.0 ppt	- 0.1 ppt	
Labour force	148 373	150 472	150 694	0.1%	1.6%	2 321
Australia						
Seasonally adjusted						
Employment	14 449 695	14 625 258	14 640 184	0.1%	1.3%	190 489
– full-time	9 980 520	10 074 126	10 082 795	0.1%	1.0%	102 275
– part-time	4 469 175	4 551 132	4 557 389	0.1%	2.0%	88 214
Unemployment rate	4.0%	4.3%	4.5%	0.2 ppt	0.4 ppt	
– Unemployed	607 181	650 023	683 965	5.2%	12.6%	76 784
Participation rate	67.1%	66.9%	67.0%	0.1 ppt	- 0.1 ppt	
Labour force	15 056 876	15 275 281	15 324 149	0.3%	1.8%	267 273
Trend						
Employment	14 433 497	14 627 153	14 647 017	0.1%	1.5%	213 520
– full-time	9 971 226	10 082 513	10 092 092	0.1%	1.2%	120 866
– part-time	4 462 271	4 544 640	4 554 925	0.2%	2.1%	92 654
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.3%	4.3%	0.0 ppt	0.3 ppt	
– Unemployed	611 473	657 506	661 478	0.6%	8.2%	50 005
Participation rate	67.1%	66.9%	66.9%	0.0 ppt	- 0.2 ppt	
Labour force	15 044 971	15 284 660	15 308 496	0.2%	1.8%	263 525

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, *Labour force*

Table 2: Unemployment rates by jurisdiction (%)

	September 2025		Ranking (highest to lowest)	
	Seasonally adjusted	Trend	Seasonally adjusted	Trend
States				
NSW	4.3	4.2	5	4
Vic	4.7	4.6	1	1
Qld	4.2	4.2	7	5
WA	4.3	4.1	4	6
SA	4.5	4.6	2	2
Tas	4.3	4.0	3	8
ACT	4.2	4.1	6	7
NT	4.2	4.2	8	3
Australia	4.5	4.3		

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance; ABS, *Labour force*

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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