

# Labour force

October 2025 | Economic brief

## Seasonally adjusted

	NT	Aust
Employed persons	143 793	14 683 174
- Monthly change	↓0.1%	↑0.3%
- Year-ended change	↑1.0%	↑1.6%
- Year-average change	↑0.7%	↑2.0%
Unemployment rate	5.2%	4.3%
Participation rate	72.9%	67.0%

Employment in the Territory declined by 0.1% to 143,793 persons in October 2025. Part-time employment declined by 6.2%, partly offset by full-time employment which increased by 1.6%. The Territory reported the second weakest result of the jurisdictions, which ranged from a decline of 0.2% in Victoria to an increase of 1.9% in the Australian Capital Territory. Nationally, employment increased by 0.3%. Employment in the Territory increased by 1.0% over the year to October 2025 (Chart 1). This was the second weakest result of the jurisdictions.

The Territory's unemployment rate increased by 1.0 percentage points (ppt) to 5.2% in October 2025 (Chart 2). The Territory reported the highest rate of the jurisdictions, which otherwise ranged from 3.9% in Tasmania to 4.7% in Victoria. Nationally, the monthly unemployment declined by 0.1 ppt to 4.3%. The Territory's unemployment rate increased by 0.6 ppt over the year to October 2025.

The participation rate in the Territory increased by 0.5 ppt to 72.9%. This is the second highest rate of the jurisdictions and is 6.0 ppt above the national rate (67.0%). The Territory's participation rate declined by 0.1 ppt over the year to October 2025.

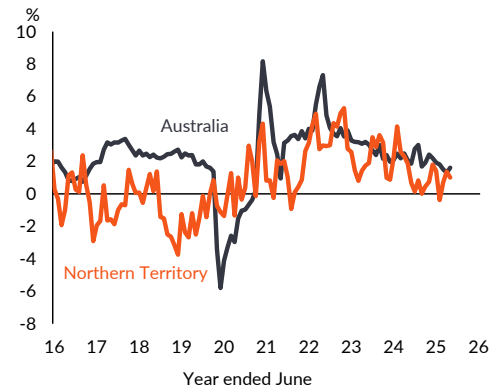
## Trend

	NT	Aust
Employed persons	143 914	14 678 420
- Monthly change	flat	↑0.2%
- Year-ended change	↑1.2%	↑1.5%
Unemployment rate	4.6%	4.4%
Participation rate	72.6%	67.0%

Employment in the Territory was flat at 143,914 persons in October 2025. Part-time employment increased by 0.1% while full-time employment was flat. Employment increased by 1.2% in the Territory over the year to October 2025 (Chart 3).

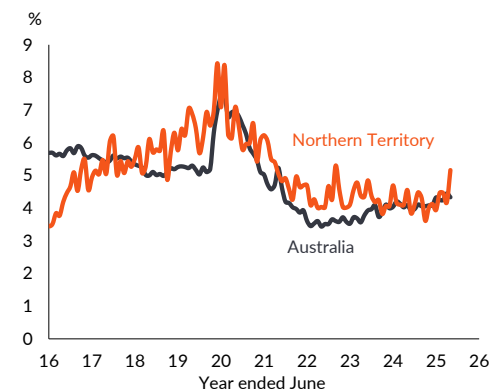
The Territory's unemployment rate increased by 0.1 ppt to 4.6% in October 2025 and by 0.5 ppt over the year. The participation rate in the Territory was flat at 72.6% in the month and over the year.

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



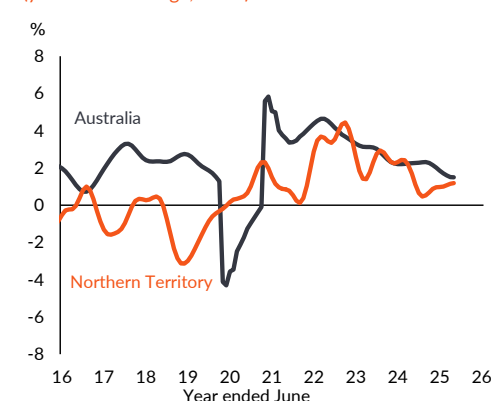
Source: DTF; ABS, Labour Force

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 <sup>1</sup>		Year-ended change <sup>2</sup>	
	Oct 24	Sep 25	Oct 25	%	%	No.	
<b>Northern Territory</b>							
<b>Seasonally adjusted</b>							
Employment	142 359	144 004	143 793	-0.1%	1.0%	1 433	
– full-time	111 593	111 400	113 219	1.6%	1.5%	1 626	
– part-time	30 766	32 604	30 574	-6.2%	-0.6%	- 193	
Unemployment rate	4.6%	4.2%	5.2%	1.0 ppt	0.6 ppt		
– Unemployed	6 794	6 275	7 830	24.8%	15.2%	1 036	
Participation rate	73.0%	72.4%	72.9%	0.5 ppt	-0.1 ppt		
Labour force	149 153	150 279	151 622	0.9%	1.7%	2 469	
<b>Trend</b>							
Employment	142 219	143 919	143 914	0.0%	1.2%	1 694	
– full-time	112 170	112 466	112 417	0.0%	0.2%	248	
– part-time	30 049	31 453	31 496	0.1%	4.8%	1 447	
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.5%	4.6%	0.1 ppt	0.5 ppt		
– Unemployed	6 077	6 791	6 967	2.6%	14.7%	890	
Participation rate	72.6%	72.6%	72.6%	0.0 ppt	0.0 ppt		
Labour force	148 296	150 709	150 881	0.1%	1.7%	2 585	
<b>Australia</b>							
<b>Seasonally adjusted</b>							
Employment	14 450 454	14 641 003	14 683 174	0.3%	1.6%	232 720	
– full-time	9 973 515	10 086 314	10 141 570	0.5%	1.7%	168 055	
– part-time	4 476 939	4 554 690	4 541 604	-0.3%	1.4%	64 665	
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.5%	4.3%	-0.1 ppt	0.2 ppt		
– Unemployed	617 114	682 357	665 392	-2.5%	7.8%	48 278	
Participation rate	67.0%	67.0%	67.0%	0.0 ppt	-0.1 ppt		
Labour force	15 067 568	15 323 361	15 348 566	0.2%	1.9%	280 998	
<b>Trend</b>							
Employment	14 461 812	14 651 340	14 678 420	0.2%	1.5%	216 608	
– full-time	9 987 830	10 105 865	10 124 915	0.2%	1.4%	137 085	
– part-time	4 473 982	4 545 475	4 553 505	0.2%	1.8%	79 523	
Unemployment rate	4.0%	4.4%	4.4%	0.0 ppt	0.3 ppt		
– Unemployed	608 870	666 487	669 605	0.5%	10.0%	60 735	
Participation rate	67.1%	66.9%	67.0%	0.0 ppt	-0.1 ppt		
Labour force	15 070 682	15 317 827	15 348 025	0.2%	1.8%	277 343	

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 (%)

	October 2025		Ranking (highest to lowest)	
	Seasonally adjusted	Trend	Seasonally adjusted	Trend
<b>States</b>				
NSW	4.3	4.3	5	5
Vic	4.7	4.7	2	1
Qld	4.2	4.2	6	7
WA	4.1	4.2	7	6
SA	4.3	4.5	4	3
Tas	3.9	4.0	8	8
ACT	4.5	4.3	3	4
NT	5.2	4.6	1	2
<b>Australia</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.4</b>		

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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