

Labour force

March 2025 | Economic brief

Seasonally adjusted

	NT	Aust
Employed persons	140 245	14 544 102
- Monthly change	↑0.3%	↑0.2%
- Year-ended change	flat	↑2.2%
- Year-average change	↑0.9%	↑2.3%
Unemployment rate	3.6%	4.1%
Participation rate	72.4%	66.8%

Employment in the Territory increased by 0.3% to 140,245 persons in March 2025. Full-time employment increased by 1.2%, partly offset by part-time employment which declined by 3.2%. The Territory reported the third weakest result of the jurisdictions which ranged from no change in Western Australia to an increase of 1.3% in Tasmania. Nationally, employment increased by 0.2%. Employment was flat in the Territory over the year to March 2025 (Chart 1).

The Territory's unemployment rate declined by 0.7 percentage points (ppt) to 3.6% in March 2025 (Chart 2). The Territory reported the third lowest rate of the jurisdictions which ranged from 2.8% in the Australian Capital Territory to 4.4% in Victoria. Nationally, the monthly unemployment increased by 0.1 ppt to 4.1%.

The participation rate in the Territory declined by 0.4 ppt to 72.4%. This is the highest rate of the jurisdictions, and is 5.6 ppt above the national rate (66.8%).

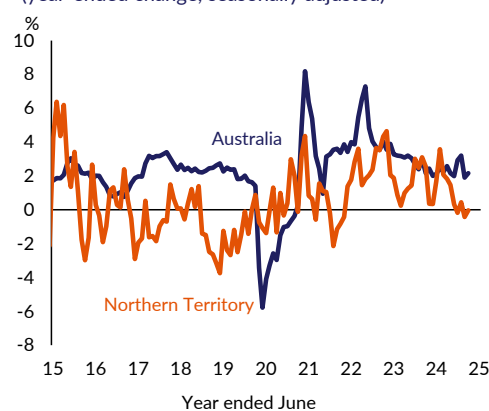
Trend

	NT	Aust
Employed persons	140 443	14 567 236
- Monthly change	↑0.5%	↑0.1%
- Year-ended change	↑0.6%	↑2.3%
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.0%
Participation rate	73.0%	66.9%

Employment in the Territory increased by 0.5% to 140,443 persons in March 2025. Full-time employment increased by 0.7%, partly offset by part-time employment which declined by 0.2%. Employment increased by 0.6% in the Territory over the year to March 2025 (Chart 3).

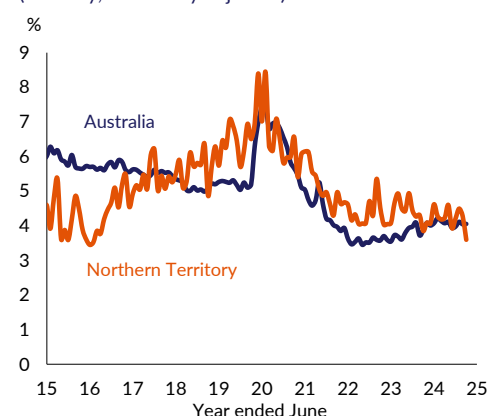
The Territory's unemployment rate declined by 0.1 ppt to 4.1% in March 2025. The participation rate in the Territory increased by 0.3 ppt to 73.0%.

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



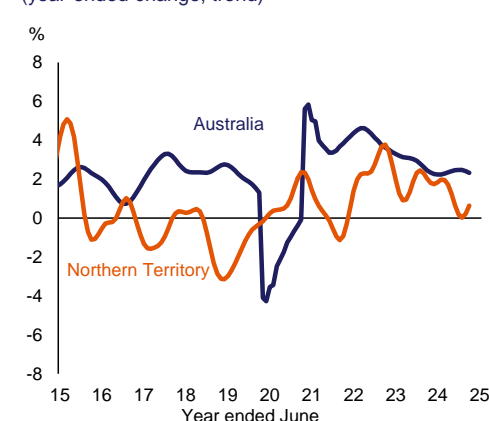
Source: Department of Treasury and Finance; ABS, *Labour force*

Chart 2: Unemployment rate
(monthly, seasonally adjusted)



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

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



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

Table 1: Labour force statistics*

	Period			Monthly change ¹	Year-ended change ²	
	Mar 24	Feb 25	Mar 25	%	%	No.
Northern Territory						
Seasonally adjusted						
Employment	140 293	139 864	140 245	0.3%	0.0%	- 47
– full-time	110 118	110 434	111 743	1.2%	1.5%	1 625
– part-time	30 174	29 430	28 502	-3.2%	-5.5%	- 1 672
Unemployment rate	3.8%	4.3%	3.6%	- 0.7 ppt	- 0.2 ppt	
– Unemployed	5 613	6 245	5 227	-16.3%	-6.9%	- 386
Participation rate	73.4%	72.8%	72.4%	- 0.4 ppt	- 1.0 ppt	
Labour force	145 905	146 109	145 473	-0.4%	-0.3%	- 433
Trend						
Employment	139 549	139 764	140 443	0.5%	0.6%	895
– full-time	110 150	110 428	111 181	0.7%	0.9%	1 031
– part-time	29 398	29 335	29 263	-0.2%	-0.5%	- 136
Unemployment rate	4.2%	4.2%	4.1%	- 0.1 ppt	- 0.1 ppt	
– Unemployed	6 129	6 070	6 048	-0.4%	-1.3%	- 82
Participation rate	73.3%	72.7%	73.0%	0.3 ppt	- 0.3 ppt	
Labour force	145 678	145 834	146 491	0.5%	0.6%	813
Australia						
Seasonally adjusted						
Employment	14 236 065	14 511 876	14 544 102	0.2%	2.2%	308 037
– full-time	9 852 566	9 999 040	10 014 060	0.2%	1.6%	161 494
– part-time	4 383 500	4 512 836	4 530 042	0.4%	3.3%	146 542
Unemployment rate	3.9%	4.0%	4.1%	0.1 ppt	0.2 ppt	
– Unemployed	573 118	610 889	613 919	0.5%	7.1%	40 801
Participation rate	66.5%	66.7%	66.8%	0.1 ppt	0.3 ppt	
Labour force	14 809 184	15 122 765	15 158 021	0.2%	2.4%	348 837
Trend						
Employment	14 236 671	14 553 310	14 567 236	0.1%	2.3%	330 566
– full-time	9 809 956	10 028 925	10 030 846	0.0%	2.3%	220 890
– part-time	4 426 715	4 524 385	4 536 390	0.3%	2.5%	109 676
Unemployment rate	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	0.0 ppt	0.0 ppt	
– Unemployed	587 803	613 155	614 612	0.2%	4.6%	26 809
Participation rate	66.7%	67.0%	66.9%	- 0.1 ppt	0.2 ppt	
Labour force	14 824 474	15 166 465	15 181 849	0.1%	2.4%	357 375

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 (%)

	March 2025		Ranking (highest to lowest)	
	Seasonally adjusted	Trend	Seasonally adjusted	Trend
States				
NSW	4.2	4.1	2	3
Vic	4.4	4.5	1	1
Qld	3.9	3.9	5	4
WA	3.6	3.5	7	7
SA	4.0	3.9	3	6
Tas	3.9	3.9	4	5
ACT	2.8	2.9	8	8
NT	3.6	4.1	6	2
Australia	4.1	4.0		

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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