

Nationally, media analysis of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Labour Force Survey (LFS) is concentrated on seasonally adjusted data. Due to the high standard errors and volatile nature of seasonally adjusted data for the Northern Territory LFS, the ABS only publishes data in original and trend terms. The following analysis is based on trend series data unless stated otherwise.

Summary

Trend resident employment in the Territory increased by 0.2 per cent in April 2018. The Territory's trend unemployment rate was 4.3 per cent and the trend participation rate was 76.2 per cent in the month.

Employment

	NT	AUST
Employment numbers (trend)	136 711	12 505 151
Change in the month (trend)	▲0.2%	▲0.1%
Annual change (trend)	▼2.0%	▲2.9%
Year on year (original)	▼2.1%	▲2.9%

In April 2018, trend resident employment in the Territory increased by 0.2 per cent to 136 711 persons, compared to the previous month.

The Territory recorded the highest monthly change of the jurisdictions, equal with New South Wales and South Australia. The monthly change in trend resident employment in other jurisdictions ranged from a decline of 0.4 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory to an increase of 0.1 per cent in Western Australia and Victoria. There was no change in Queensland. Nationally, trend employment growth was 0.1 per cent in the month.

Annually, trend resident employment decreased by 2.0 per cent in the Territory compared to April 2017, which was the only annual decline of the jurisdictions. Nationally, trend employment grew by 2.9 per cent over the same period (Chart 1).

In original terms, Territory employment decreased by 2.1 per cent in the year to April 2018, which was the only year on year decline of the jurisdictions. Year on year employment growth ranged from 2.0 per cent in South Australia to 3.9 per cent in Queensland. Nationally, year on year employment grew by 2.9 per cent.

Unemployment

	NT	AUST
Unemployment rate (trend)	4.3%	5.5%
Change in the month (ppt)	flat	flat
Annual change (ppt)	▲1.0	▼0.2

*ppt = percentage point

The Territory's monthly trend unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.3 per cent (Chart 2). This was the second lowest trend unemployment rate of the jurisdictions, which ranged from 4.0 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory to 6.4 per cent in Western Australia. Nationally, the monthly trend unemployment rate remained at 5.5 per cent.

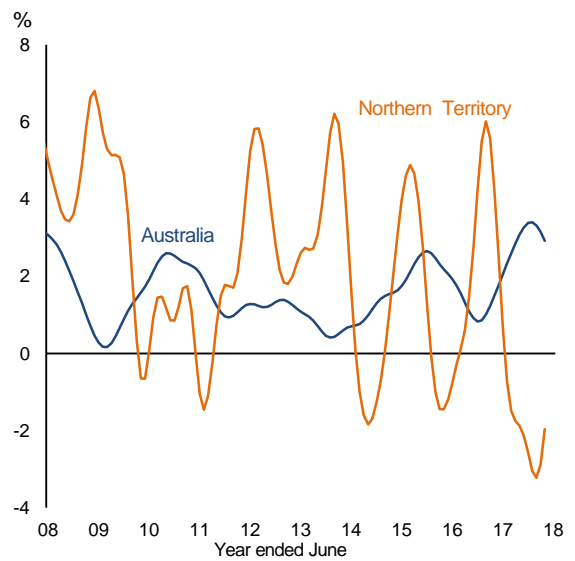
Labour Force Participation

	NT	AUST
Participation rate (trend)	76.2%	65.7%
Change in the month (ppt)	flat	flat
Annual change (ppt)	▼0.9	▲0.7

*ppt = percentage points

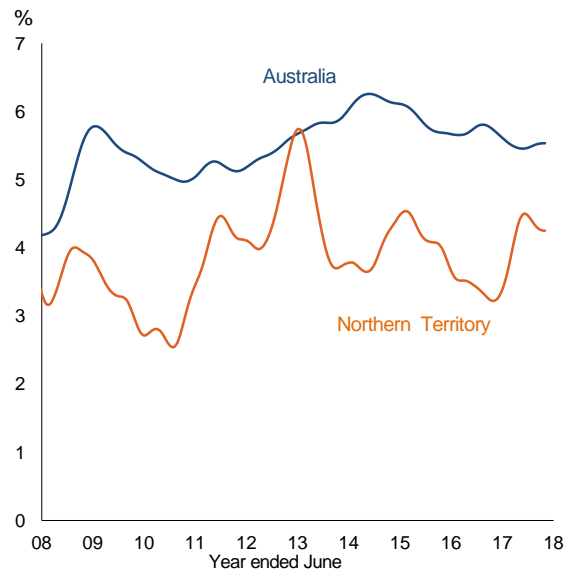
The trend participation rate in the Territory was unchanged at 76.2 per cent. This remains the highest monthly trend participation rate of the jurisdictions and above the national average of 65.7 per cent (Chart 3).

Chart 1: Trend Employment (annual % ch.)



Source: DTF; ABS Cat No . 6202.0

Chart 2: Trend Unemployment Rate



Source: DTF; ABS Cat. No. 6202.0

Chart 3: Trend Participation Rate



Source: DTF; ABS Cat. No. 6202.0

Labour Force Statistics*

				change		
	Apr 17	Mar 18	Apr 18	monthly ¹	annual ²	year on year ³
Northern Territory						
original						
employment	142 076	137 295	135 416	-1.4%	-4.7%	-2.1%
- full time	110 101	107 140	108 233	1.0%	-1.7%	-3.2%
- part time	31 975	30 155	27 183	-9.9%	-15.0%	2.5%
unemployment rate	3.9%	3.9%	4.8%	0.9 ppt	0.9 ppt	
participation rate	79.0%	76.5%	76.0%	-0.4 ppt	-3.0 ppt	
labour force	147 838	142 811	142 249	-0.4%	-3.8%	-1.6%
seasonally adj						
not published for the Northern Territory						
trend ⁵						
employment	139 453	136 400	136 711	0.2%	-2.0%	
- full time	109 171	107 579	108 169	0.5%	-0.9%	
- part time	30 281	28 821	28 542	-1.0%	-5.7%	
unemployment rate	3.2%	4.3%	4.3%	0.0 ppt	1.0 ppt	
participation rate	77.0%	76.2%	76.2%	0.0 ppt	-0.9 ppt	
labour force	144 238	142 600	142 861	0.2%	-1.0%	
Australia						
original						
employment	12 190 382	12 491 653	12 522 290	0.2%	2.7%	2.9%
- full time	8 249 819	8 482 962	8 513 851	0.4%	3.2%	3.3%
- part time	3 940 563	4 008 692	4 008 439	0.0%	1.7%	2.1%
unemployment rate	5.7%	5.9%	5.6%	-0.3 ppt	-0.1 ppt	
participation rate	65.1%	65.8%	65.7%	-0.1 ppt	0.6 ppt	
labour force	12 921 632	13 269 980	13 262 312	-0.1%	2.6%	2.7%
seasonally adj ⁴						
employment	12 168 848	12 478 388	12 501 035	0.2%	2.7%	
- full time	8 278 133	8 510 712	8 543 376	0.4%	3.2%	
- part time	3 890 715	3 967 676	3 957 659	-0.3%	1.7%	
unemployment rate	5.7%	5.5%	5.6%	0.1 ppt	-0.1 ppt	
participation rate	65.0%	65.5%	65.6%	0.1 ppt	0.6 ppt	
labour force	12 900 119	13 208 787	13 242 018	0.3%	2.7%	
trend ⁵						
employment	12 149 951	12 491 401	12 505 151	0.1%	2.9%	
- full time	8 287 764	8 537 964	8 543 841	0.1%	3.1%	
- part time	3 862 187	3 953 436	3 961 310	0.2%	2.6%	
unemployment rate	5.7%	5.5%	5.5%	0.0 ppt	-0.2 ppt	
participation rate	64.9%	65.6%	65.7%	0.0 ppt	0.7 ppt	
labour force	12 888 049	13 223 297	13 238 438	0.1%	2.7%	

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

ppt = percentage point

1 compares the latest month with the previous month.

2 compares the latest month with the same month last year.

3 compares the 12 months up to and including the latest month with the previous 12 month period.

4 seasonal adjustment removes from a series influences that are systemic and calendar related.

5 trend series represents the underlying series remaining after removing seasonal effects from the original data and smoothing out the irregularities. Caution is advised when using monthly data for the Territory, which is often derived from small samples and is highly volatile.

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

Although all due care has been exercised in the preparation of this material, no responsibility is accepted for any errors or omission.