

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 0.5 per cent in May 2018. The Territory's trend unemployment rate was 4.0 per cent and the trend participation rate was 76.4 per cent in the month.

Employment

| | NT | AUST |
|-----------------------------|---------|------------|
| Employment numbers (trend) | 139 337 | 12 522 301 |
| Change in the month (trend) | ▲0.5% | ▲0.1% |
| Annual change (trend) | ▲0.5% | ▲2.6% |
| Year on year (original) | ▼1.5% | ▲2.9% |

In May 2018, trend resident employment in the Territory increased by 0.5 per cent to 139 337 persons, compared to the previous month.

The Territory recorded the highest monthly change of the jurisdictions, which ranged from a decline of 0.2 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory to an increase of 0.2 per cent in Victoria, New South Wales and Western Australia. There was no change in Tasmania. Nationally, trend employment growth was 0.1 per cent in the month.

Annually, trend resident employment increased by 0.5 per cent in the Territory compared to May 2017, reporting the lowest annual growth of the jurisdictions. Nationally, trend employment grew by 2.6 per cent over the same period (Chart 1).

In original terms, Territory employment decreased by 1.5 per cent in the year to May 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 4.0 per cent in Queensland. Nationally, year on year employment grew by 2.9 per cent.

Unemployment

| | NT | AUST |
|---------------------------|------|------|
| Unemployment rate (trend) | 4.0% | 5.5% |
| Change in the month (ppt) | flat | flat |
| Annual change (ppt) | ▲0.7 | ▼0.2 |

*ppt = percentage point

The Territory's monthly trend unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.0 per cent (Chart 2). This was the second lowest trend unemployment rate of the jurisdictions, which ranged from 3.7 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.

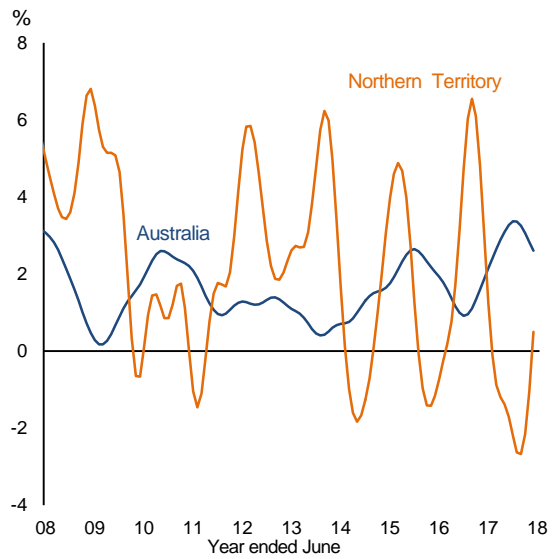
Labour Force Participation

| | NT | AUST |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|
| Participation rate (trend) | 76.4% | 65.5% |
| Change in the month (ppt) | ▲0.1 | flat |
| Annual change (ppt) | ▲0.3 | ▲0.5 |

*ppt = percentage points

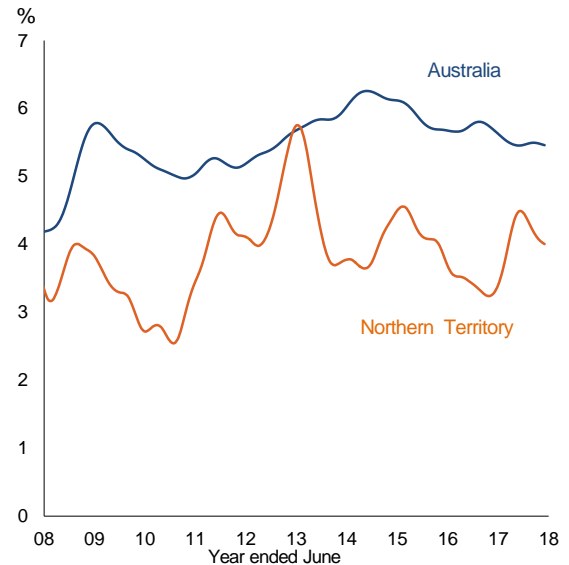
The trend participation rate in the Territory increased by 0.1 percentage point to 76.4 per cent. This remains the highest monthly trend participation rate of the jurisdictions and above the national average of 65.5 per cent (Chart 3).

Chart 1: Trend Employment (annual % ch.)



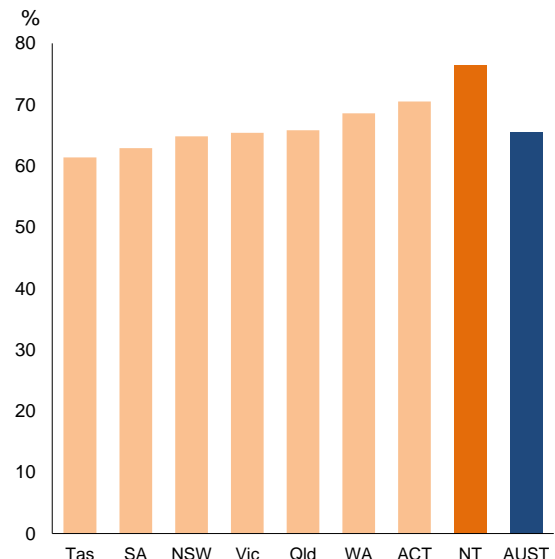
Source: DTF; ABS Cat No . 6202.0

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 | | |
|--|------------|------------|------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| | May 17 | Apr 18 | May 18 | monthly ¹ | annual ² | year on year ³ |
| Northern Territory | | | | | | |
| original | | | | | | |
| employment | 138 359 | 136 976 | 139 397 | 1.8% | 0.8% | -1.5% |
| - full time | 104 658 | 109 499 | 111 272 | 1.6% | 6.3% | -1.9% |
| - part time | 33 700 | 27 477 | 28 125 | 2.4% | -16.5% | -0.2% |
| unemployment rate | 2.9% | 4.8% | 3.6% | - 1.2 ppt | 0.8 ppt | |
| participation rate | 75.6% | 76.1% | 76.3% | 0.2 ppt | 0.7 ppt | |
| labour force | 142 420 | 143 946 | 144 656 | 0.5% | 1.6% | -0.9% |
| seasonally adj | | | | | | |
| not published for the Northern Territory | | | | | | |
| trend ⁵ | | | | | | |
| employment | 138 651 | 138 700 | 139 337 | 0.5% | 0.5% | |
| - full time | 108 581 | 109 662 | 110 527 | 0.8% | 1.8% | |
| - part time | 30 071 | 29 038 | 28 810 | -0.8% | -4.2% | |
| unemployment rate | 3.3% | 4.0% | 4.0% | 0.0 ppt | 0.7 ppt | |
| participation rate | 76.1% | 76.4% | 76.4% | 0.1 ppt | 0.3 ppt | |
| labour force | 143 592 | 144 660 | 145 213 | 0.4% | 1.1% | |
| Australia | | | | | | |
| original | | | | | | |
| employment | 12 268 411 | 12 527 783 | 12 574 376 | 0.4% | 2.5% | 2.9% |
| - full time | 8 340 339 | 8 516 323 | 8 517 220 | 0.0% | 2.1% | 3.3% |
| - part time | 3 928 072 | 4 011 459 | 4 057 156 | 1.1% | 3.3% | 2.2% |
| unemployment rate | 5.4% | 5.6% | 5.3% | - 0.3 ppt | - 0.2 ppt | |
| participation rate | 65.2% | 65.7% | 65.7% | 0.0 ppt | 0.5 ppt | |
| labour force | 12 973 756 | 13 268 442 | 13 276 125 | 0.1% | 2.3% | 2.7% |
| seasonally adj ⁴ | | | | | | |
| employment | 12 214 394 | 12 506 256 | 12 518 295 | 0.1% | 2.5% | |
| - full time | 8 342 590 | 8 542 022 | 8 521 412 | -0.2% | 2.1% | |
| - part time | 3 871 804 | 3 964 234 | 3 996 883 | 0.8% | 3.2% | |
| unemployment rate | 5.5% | 5.6% | 5.4% | - 0.2 ppt | - 0.1 ppt | |
| participation rate | 65.0% | 65.6% | 65.5% | - 0.2 ppt | 0.5 ppt | |
| labour force | 12 931 770 | 13 247 708 | 13 232 909 | -0.1% | 2.3% | |
| trend ⁵ | | | | | | |
| employment | 12 204 648 | 12 506 408 | 12 522 301 | 0.1% | 2.6% | |
| - full time | 8 331 981 | 8 530 204 | 8 534 162 | 0.0% | 2.4% | |
| - part time | 3 872 667 | 3 976 204 | 3 988 139 | 0.3% | 3.0% | |
| unemployment rate | 5.7% | 5.5% | 5.5% | 0.0 ppt | - 0.2 ppt | |
| participation rate | 65.0% | 65.6% | 65.5% | 0.0 ppt | 0.5 ppt | |
| labour force | 12 939 699 | 13 231 550 | 13 245 975 | 0.1% | 2.4% | |

* 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.