

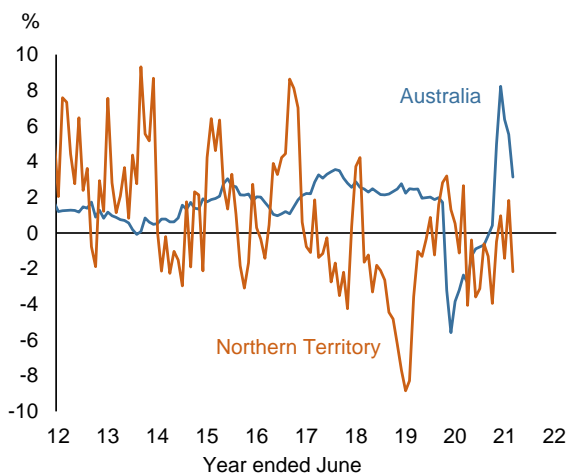
ECONOMIC BRIEF

Labour force

August 2021

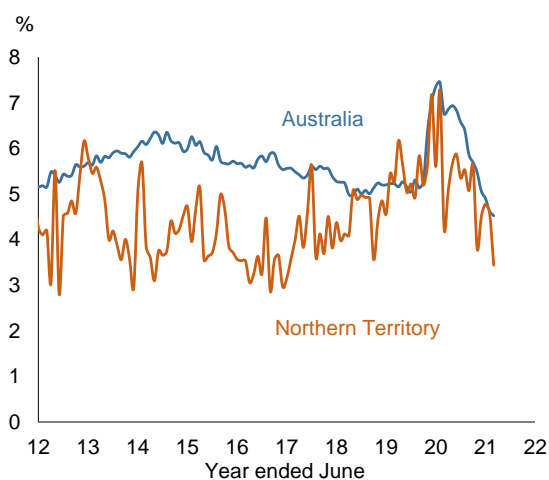
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Chart 1: Employment change (annual, seasonally adjusted)



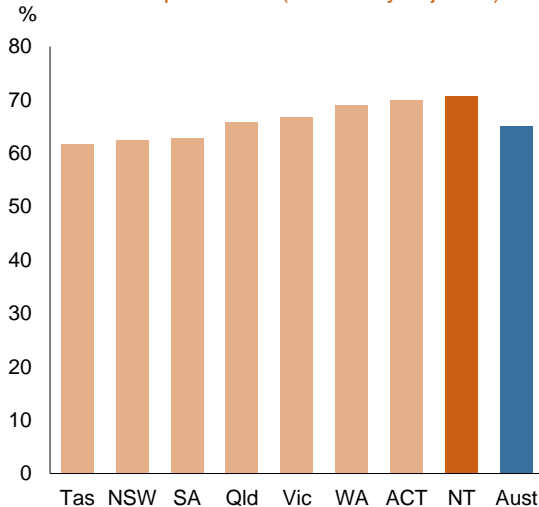
Source: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS Cat No. 6202.0

Chart 2: Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)



Source: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS Cat No.

Chart 3: Participation rate (seasonally adjusted)



Source: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS Cat No.

Employment

	NT	Aust
Employed persons (seasonally adjusted)	130 483	13 022 597
Monthly change (seasonally adjusted)	↑0.4%	↓1.1%
Annual change (seasonally adjusted)	↓2.2%	↑3.1%
Year-on-year change (original)	↓1.5%	↑1.8%

In August 2021, seasonally adjusted resident employment in the Territory increased by 0.4% to 130,483 persons. Full-time employment was steady (0.0%) while part-time employment increased by 1.9%. Nationally, employment decreased by 1.1%, with full time employment decreasing by 0.8%, and part-time employment decreasing by 1.9%.

Annually, seasonally adjusted resident employment decreased by 2.2% in the Territory. Nationally, employment increased by 3.1% over the same period (Chart 1). In the year to August 2021, Territory employment decreased by 1.5%, reflecting a 2.9% decrease in full-time employment, partly offset by a 3.0% increase in part-time employment. Nationally, year-on-year employment increased by 1.8%.

Unemployment

	NT	Aust
Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)	3.4%	4.5%
Monthly change (ppt)	↓1.2	↓0.1
Annual change (ppt)	↓0.9	↓2.3

The Territory's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased from 4.6% in July to 3.4% in August 2021 (Chart 2). The sharp fall in the unemployment rate reflects the twin impacts of almost 600 people transitioning to employment in the month, and people exiting the labour market (reflected in the lower participation rate). Nationally, the monthly unemployment rate decreased from 4.6% to 4.5%.

Participation

	NT	Aust
Participation rate (seasonally adjusted)	70.7%	65.2%
Monthly change (ppt)	↓0.6	↓0.8
Annual change (ppt)	↓2.8	↑0.2

The seasonally adjusted participation rate in the Territory decreased by 0.6 percentage points to 70.7% in August 2021. The Territory's participation rate is the highest of the jurisdictions, and well above the national rate of 65.2% (Chart 3).

Labour force August 2021

Table 1: Labour force statistics*

	Period			Change		
	Aug 20	Jul 21	Aug 21	Monthly ¹	Annual ²	Year-on-year ³
Northern Territory						
Original						
Employment	131 622	128 744	128 965	0.2%	-2.0%	-1.5%
– full-time	98 876	97 477	97 230	-0.3%	-1.7%	-2.9%
– part-time	32 745	31 267	31 735	1.5%	-3.1%	3.0%
Unemployment rate	4.3%	4.6%	3.3%	- 1.3 ppt	- 1.0 ppt	
Participation rate	72.6%	70.7%	69.8%	- 0.9 ppt	- 2.8 ppt	
Labour force	137 489	134 903	133 348	-1.2%	-3.0%	-2.3%
Seasonally adjusted⁴						
Employment	133 369	129 908	130 483	0.4%	-2.2%	
– full-time	99 922	97 889	97 860	0.0%	-2.1%	
– part-time	33 448	32 019	32 623	1.9%	-2.5%	
Unemployment rate	4.3%	4.6%	3.4%	- 1.2 ppt	- 0.9 ppt	
Participation rate	73.5%	71.3%	70.7%	- 0.6 ppt	- 2.8 ppt	
Labour force	139 291	136 150	135 131	-0.7%	-3.0%	
Trend⁵						
– labour force trend series suspended from the April 2020 release						
Australia						
Original						
Employment	12 562 650	13 160 655	12 956 179	-1.6%	3.1%	1.8%
– full-time	8 511 137	9 033 037	8 877 676	-1.7%	4.3%	1.1%
– part-time	4 051 513	4 127 618	4 078 503	-1.2%	0.7%	3.3%
Unemployment rate	6.8%	4.6%	4.6%	0.0 ppt	- 2.2 ppt	
Participation rate	64.7%	66.0%	64.9%	- 1.1 ppt	0.2 ppt	
Labour force	13 484 284	13 792 841	13 576 122	-1.6%	0.7%	1.6%
Seasonally adjusted⁴						
Employment	12 626 501	13 168 871	13 022 597	-1.1%	3.1%	
– full-time	8 585 734	9 024 581	8 956 533	-0.8%	4.3%	
– part-time	4 040 767	4 144 290	4 066 063	-1.9%	0.6%	
Unemployment rate	6.8%	4.6%	4.5%	- 0.1 ppt	- 2.3 ppt	
Participation rate	65.0%	66.0%	65.2%	- 0.8 ppt	0.2 ppt	
Labour force	13 541 663	13 807 833	13 639 708	-1.2%	0.7%	
Trend⁵						
– labour force trend series suspended from the April 2020 release						

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.

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

4 Seasonal adjustment removes 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.

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

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

Caution is advised when using monthly data for the Territory, which is often derived from small samples and highly volatile. Although all due care has been exercised in the preparation of this material, no responsibility is accepted for any errors or omission.

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