

# Labour force

August 2025 | Economic brief

## Seasonally adjusted

	NT	Aust
Employed persons	144 057	14 626 501
- Monthly change	▲0.2%	flat
- Year-ended change	▲0.7%	▲1.5%
- Year-average change	▲0.9%	▲2.1%
Unemployment rate	4.5%	4.2%
Participation rate	72.8%	66.8%

Employment in the Territory increased by 0.2% to 144,057 persons in August 2025. Part-time employment increased by 6.4%, partly offset by full-time employment which declined by 1.5%. The Territory reported the third strongest result of the jurisdictions, which ranged from a decline of 1.5% in the Australian Capital Territory to an increase of 0.9% in Victoria. Nationally, employment was flat. Employment in the Territory increased by 0.7% over the year to August 2025 (Chart 1). This was the third weakest result of the jurisdictions.

The Territory's unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage points (ppt) to 4.5% in August 2025 (Chart 2). The Territory reported the third highest rate of the jurisdictions, which ranged from 3.2% in Tasmania to 4.9% in South Australia. Nationally, the monthly unemployment was flat at 4.2%. The Territory's unemployment rate increased by 0.4 ppt over the year to August 2025.

The participation rate in the Territory increased by 0.1 ppt to 72.8%. This is the highest rate of the jurisdictions, and is 5.9 ppt above the national rate (66.8%). The Territory's participation rate declined by 0.4 ppt over the year to August 2025.

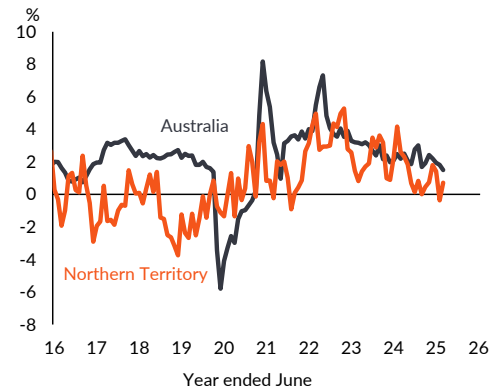
## Trend

	NT	Aust
Employed persons	144 518	14 642 955
- Monthly change	▲0.2%	▲0.1%
- Annual change	▲1.5%	▲1.7%
Unemployment rate	4.2%	4.3%
Participation rate	72.8%	66.9%

Employment in the Territory increased by 0.2% to 144,518 persons in August 2025. Part-time employment increased by 1.1%, partly offset by full-time employment which declined by 0.1%. Employment increased by 1.5% in the Territory over the year to August 2025 (Chart 3).

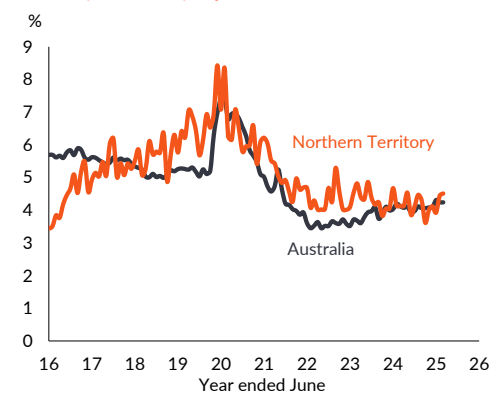
The Territory's unemployment rate increased by 0.1 ppt to 4.2% in August 2025 and by 0.1 ppt over the year. The participation rate in the Territory increased by 0.1 ppt to 72.8%, however declined by 0.1 ppt over the year.

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



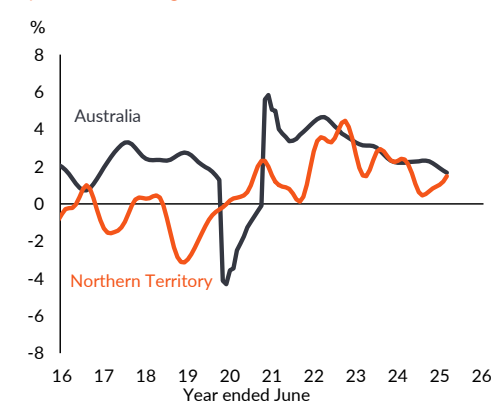
Source: DTF; ABS, Labour Force

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>	
	Aug 24	Jul 25	Aug 25	%	%	No.	
<b>Northern Territory</b>							
<b>Seasonally adjusted</b>							
Employment	143 025	143 798	144 057	0.2%	0.7%	1 032	
– full-time	115 305	113 498	111 830	-1.5%	-3.0%	- 3 475	
– part-time	27 720	30 301	32 227	6.4%	16.3%	4 507	
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.4%	4.5%	0.1 ppt	0.4 ppt		
– Unemployed	6 172	6 680	6 808	1.9%	10.3%	637	
Participation rate	73.2%	72.7%	72.8%	0.1 ppt	-0.4 ppt		
Labour force	149 197	150 478	150 865	0.3%	1.1%	1 669	
<b>Trend</b>							
Employment	142 391	144 275	144 518	0.2%	1.5%	2 127	
– full-time	112 864	114 091	114 015	-0.1%	1.0%	1 151	
– part-time	29 526	30 184	30 503	1.1%	3.3%	976	
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.2%	4.2%	0.1 ppt	0.1 ppt		
– Unemployed	6 120	6 274	6 377	1.6%	4.2%	257	
Participation rate	72.8%	72.7%	72.8%	0.1 ppt	-0.1 ppt		
Labour force	148 511	150 550	150 896	0.2%	1.6%	2 384	
<b>Australia</b>							
<b>Seasonally adjusted</b>							
Employment	14 409 295	14 631 879	14 626 501	0.0%	1.5%	217 207	
– full-time	9 946 344	10 118 234	10 077 325	-0.4%	1.3%	130 981	
– part-time	4 462 951	4 513 645	4 549 176	0.8%	1.9%	86 226	
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.2%	4.2%	0.0 ppt	0.1 ppt		
– Unemployed	619 258	648 301	647 397	-0.1%	4.5%	28 139	
Participation rate	67.1%	67.0%	66.8%	-0.1 ppt	-0.2 ppt		
Labour force	15 028 553	15 280 180	15 273 898	0.0%	1.6%	245 345	
<b>Trend</b>							
Employment	14 401 014	14 624 814	14 642 955	0.1%	1.7%	241 942	
– full-time	9 946 524	10 089 667	10 101 760	0.1%	1.6%	155 236	
– part-time	4 454 489	4 535 147	4 541 195	0.1%	1.9%	86 706	
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.2%	4.3%	0.0 ppt	0.2 ppt		
– Unemployed	612 280	648 257	652 329	0.6%	6.5%	40 049	
Participation rate	67.0%	66.9%	66.9%	0.0 ppt	-0.1 ppt		
Labour force	15 013 294	15 273 071	15 295 285	0.1%	1.9%	281 991	

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 (%)

	August 2025		Ranking (highest to lowest)	
	Seasonally adjusted	Trend	Seasonally adjusted	Trend
<b>States</b>				
NSW	4.2	4.2	6	5
Vic	4.4	4.4	5	2
Qld	4.4	4.2	4	4
WA	3.8	4.0	7	6
SA	4.9	4.6	1	1
Tas	3.2	3.7	8	8
ACT	4.7	3.9	2	7
NT	4.5	4.2	3	3
<b>Australia</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>4.3</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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