

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 decreased by 0.5 per cent in September 2018. The Territory's trend unemployment rate was 4.1 per cent and the trend participation rate was 75.3 per cent in the month.

## Employment

	NT	AUST
Employment numbers (trend)	137 245	12 640 791
Change in the month (trend)	↓0.5	↑0.2%
Annual change (trend)	↑1.2%	↑2.4%
Year on year (original)	↓0.6%	↑2.9%

In September 2018, trend resident employment in the Territory decreased by 0.5 per cent to 137 245 persons, compared to the previous month. This was the lowest recorded employment change of all jurisdictions.

Across the other jurisdictions, the change in employment ranged from a 0.1 per cent decline in South Australia and Tasmania to a 0.2 per cent increase in Victoria and New South Wales. Nationally, trend employment growth increased 0.2 per cent in the month.

Annually, trend resident employment increased by 1.2 per cent in the Territory compared to the same time last year, reporting the fourth lowest annual growth of the jurisdictions. Nationally, trend employment grew by 2.4 per cent over the same period (Chart 1).

In the year to September 2018, Territory employment decreased by 0.6 per cent. This was the only year on year decline of the jurisdictions. Across the other jurisdictions, growth ranged from 2.0 per cent in South Australia and Western Australia to 3.6 per cent in Queensland. Nationally, year on year employment grew by 2.9 per cent.

## Unemployment

	NT	AUST
Unemployment rate (trend)	4.1%	5.2%
Change in the month (ppt)	flat	↓0.1
Annual change (ppt)	↓0.1	↓0.3

\*ppt = percentage point

The Territory's monthly trend unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.1 per cent (Chart 2). This was the second lowest result of the jurisdictions, which ranged from 3.6 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory to 6.1 per cent in Western Australia and Queensland. Nationally, the monthly trend unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage points to 5.2 per cent.

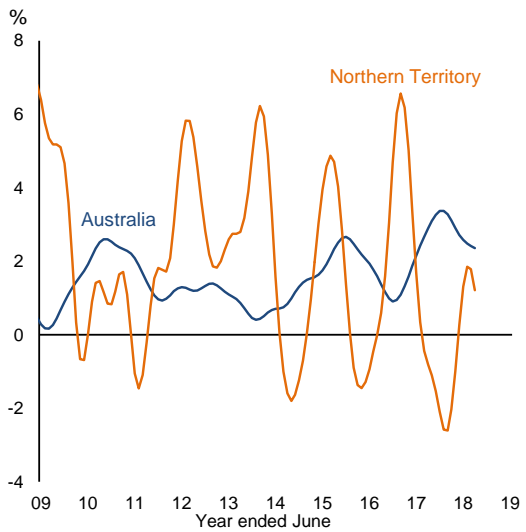
## Labour Force Participation

	NT	AUST
Participation rate (trend)	75.3%	65.6%
Change in the month (ppt)	↓0.4	flat
Annual change (ppt)	↑0.4	↑0.3

\*ppt = percentage points

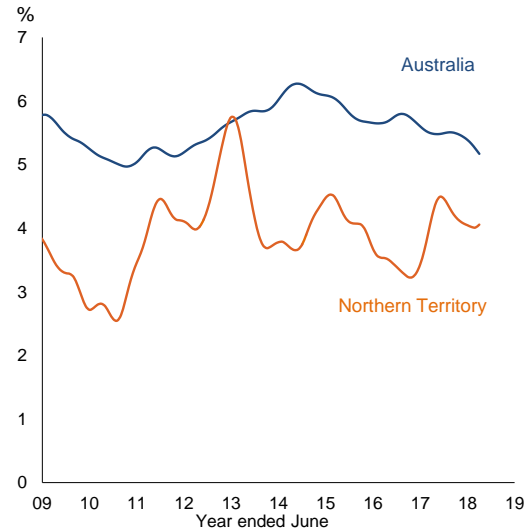
The trend participation rate in the Territory declined to 75.3 per cent in September 2018 (down 0.4 percentage points). This remains the highest trend participation rate of the jurisdictions and above the national average of 65.6 per cent (Chart 3).

Chart 1: Trend Employment (annual % ch.)



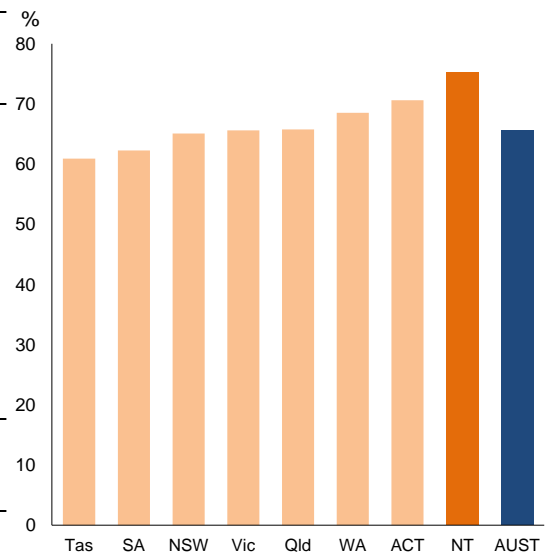
Source: DTF; ABS Cat No. 6202.0

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		
	Sep 17	Aug 18	Sep 18	monthly <sup>1</sup>	annual <sup>2</sup>	year on year <sup>3</sup>
<b>Northern Territory</b>						
original						
employment	135 129	136 020	135 567	-0.3%	0.3%	-0.6%
- full time	106 864	109 382	108 721	-0.6%	1.7%	0.2%
- part time	28 265	26 638	26 846	0.8%	-5.0%	-3.4%
unemployment rate	4.5%	4.1%	3.9%	- 0.3 ppt	- 0.6 ppt	
participation rate	74.8%	74.6%	74.2%	- 0.5 ppt	- 0.6 ppt	
labour force	141 451	141 889	141 019	-0.6%	-0.3%	0.0%
seasonally adj						
not published for the Northern Territory						
trend <sup>5</sup>						
employment	135 604	137 978	137 245	-0.5%	1.2%	
- full time	107 006	111 511	110 811	-0.6%	3.6%	
- part time	28 598	26 467	26 434	-0.1%	-7.6%	
unemployment rate	4.2%	4.0%	4.1%	0.0 ppt	- 0.1 ppt	
participation rate	74.9%	75.7%	75.3%	- 0.4 ppt	0.4 ppt	
labour force	141 384	143 859	143 183	-0.5%	1.3%	
<b>Australia</b>						
original						
employment	12 344 804	12 559 253	12 622 538	0.5%	2.2%	2.9%
- full time	8 406 988	8 571 413	8 621 115	0.6%	2.5%	3.1%
- part time	3 937 816	3 987 840	4 001 422	0.3%	1.6%	2.7%
unemployment rate	5.3%	5.3%	4.9%	- 0.4 ppt	- 0.5 ppt	
participation rate	65.2%	65.3%	65.3%	0.0 ppt	0.1 ppt	
labour force	13 038 425	13 257 762	13 268 053	0.1%	1.8%	2.7%
seasonally adj <sup>4</sup>						
employment	12 355 419	12 630 713	12 636 308	0.0%	2.3%	
- full time	8 436 867	8 634 094	8 654 388	0.2%	2.6%	
- part time	3 918 553	3 996 618	3 981 920	-0.4%	1.6%	
unemployment rate	5.5%	5.3%	5.0%	- 0.3 ppt	- 0.5 ppt	
participation rate	65.3%	65.7%	65.4%	- 0.2 ppt	0.1 ppt	
labour force	13 068 582	13 333 623	13 302 058	-0.2%	1.8%	
trend <sup>5</sup>						
employment	12 350 193	12 614 390	12 640 791	0.2%	2.4%	
- full time	8 459 641	8 624 299	8 645 769	0.2%	2.2%	
- part time	3 890 551	3 990 091	3 995 022	0.1%	2.7%	
unemployment rate	5.5%	5.2%	5.2%	- 0.1 ppt	- 0.3 ppt	
participation rate	65.3%	65.6%	65.6%	0.0 ppt	0.3 ppt	
labour force	13 067 735	13 313 394	13 329 264	0.1%	2.0%	

\* 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.