

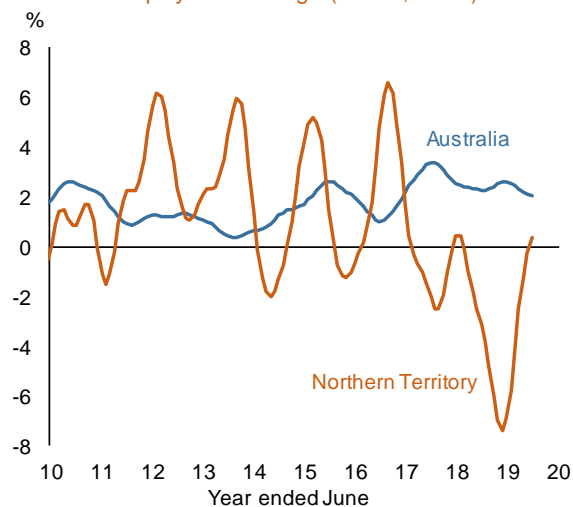
ECONOMIC BRIEF

Labour force

December 2019

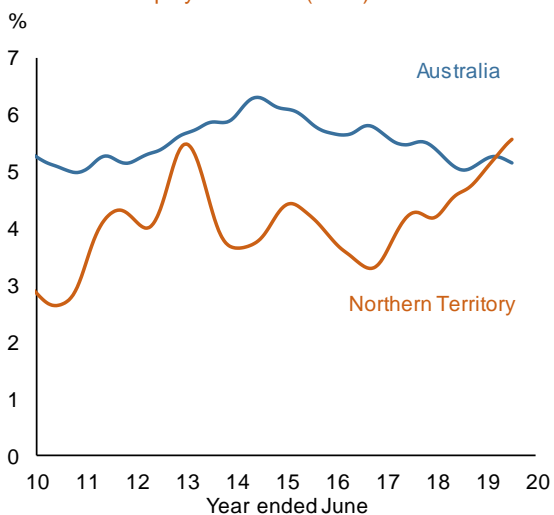
Released: 23 January 2020 | Next release: 20 February 2020

Chart 1: Employment change (annual, trend)



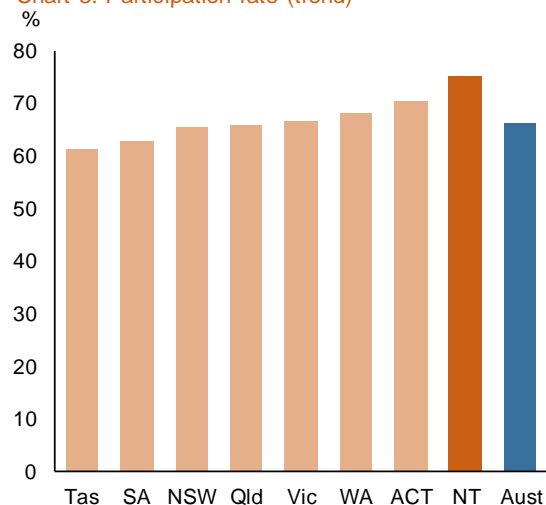
Source: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS Cat No. 6202.0

Chart 2: Unemployment rate (trend)



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

Chart 3: Participation rate (trend)



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

Employment

	NT	Aust
Employed persons (trend)	133 109	12 976 282
Monthly change (trend)	↑0.3%	↑0.1%
Annual change (trend)	↑0.4%	↑2.1%
Year-on-year change (original)	↓4.2%	↑2.3%

In December 2019, trend resident employment in the Territory increased by 0.3 per cent to 133 109 persons, compared to the previous month. This was the second highest result of the jurisdictions. Nationally, trend employment grew by 0.1 per cent to 12 976 282.

Annually, trend resident employment increased by 0.4 per cent compared to the same time last year, reporting the second lowest increase of the jurisdictions. Nationally, trend employment grew by 2.1 per cent (Chart 1).

In 2019, Territory employment decreased by 4.2 per cent. This was the only year-on-year decline of the jurisdictions, reflecting a 6.3 per cent decline in full-time employment, partly offset by a 3.6 per cent increase in part-time employment. Nationally, year-on-year employment grew by 2.3 per cent.

Unemployment

	NT	Aust
Unemployment rate (trend)	5.6%	5.1%
Monthly change (ppt)	↑0.1	flat
Annual change (ppt)	↑0.9	↑0.1

The Territory's monthly trend unemployment rate increased to 5.6 per cent in December 2019 (Chart 2). This was the fourth highest rate of the jurisdictions equal with Western Australia. Other jurisdictions ranged from 3.1 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory to 6.4 per cent in South Australia. Nationally, the monthly trend unemployment rate remained at 5.1 per cent.

Participation

	NT	Aust
Participation rate (trend)	75.1%	66.0%
Monthly change (ppt)	↑0.4	flat
Annual change (ppt)	↑1.3	↑0.4

The trend participation rate in the Territory increased by 0.4 percentage points to 75.1 per cent compared to the previous month. The Territory's participation rate remains the highest of the jurisdictions and above the national average of 66.0 per cent (Chart 3).

Labour force December 2019

Table 1: Labour force statistics*

	Period			Change		
	Dec 18	Nov 19	Dec 19	Monthly ¹	Annual ²	Year-on-year ³
Northern Territory						
Original						
Employment	134 627	134 058	135 404	1.0%	0.6%	-4.2%
– full-time	107 051	104 675	106 238	1.5%	-0.8%	-6.3%
– part-time	27 576	29 382	29 166	-0.7%	5.8%	3.6%
Unemployment rate	4.4%	5.3%	4.7%	- 0.6 ppt	0.3 ppt	
Participation rate	74.8%	75.3%	75.8%	0.4 ppt	0.9 ppt	
Labour force	140 779	141 504	142 031	0.4%	0.9%	-3.5%
Seasonally adjusted⁴						
– not published for the Northern Territory						
Trend⁵						
Employment	132 605	132 665	133 109	0.3%	0.4%	
– full-time	105 156	103 291	103 841	0.5%	-1.3%	
– part-time	27 450	29 373	29 268	-0.4%	6.6%	
Unemployment rate	4.6%	5.5%	5.6%	0.1 ppt	0.9 ppt	
Participation rate	73.8%	74.7%	75.1%	0.4 ppt	1.3 ppt	
Labour force	139 062	140 381	140 951	0.4%	1.4%	
Australia						
Original						
Employment	12 837 647	12 996 482	13 101 739	0.8%	2.1%	2.3%
– full-time	8 828 281	8 870 933	8 984 944	1.3%	1.8%	2.5%
– part-time	4 009 366	4 125 549	4 116 796	-0.2%	2.7%	2.0%
Unemployment rate	4.8%	4.8%	4.9%	0.1 ppt	0.0 ppt	
Participation rate	66.1%	65.9%	66.4%	0.5 ppt	0.3 ppt	
Labour force	13 486 387	13 651 959	13 770 619	0.9%	2.1%	2.2%
Seasonally adjusted⁴						
Employment	12 719 124	12 952 750	12 981 647	0.2%	2.1%	
– full-time	8 682 043	8 835 022	8 834 714	0.0%	1.8%	
– part-time	4 037 082	4 117 728	4 146 933	0.7%	2.7%	
Unemployment rate	5.0%	5.2%	5.1%	- 0.1 ppt	0.1 ppt	
Participation rate	65.7%	66.0%	66.0%	0.0 ppt	0.3 ppt	
Labour force	13 390 634	13 658 746	13 674 783	0.1%	2.1%	
Trend⁵						
Employment	12 715 338	12 958 734	12 976 282	0.1%	2.1%	
– full-time	8 718 410	8 842 064	8 851 014	0.1%	1.5%	
– part-time	3 996 928	4 116 670	4 125 268	0.2%	3.2%	
Unemployment rate	5.0%	5.2%	5.1%	0.0 ppt	0.1 ppt	
Participation rate	65.6%	66.0%	66.0%	0.0 ppt	0.4 ppt	
Labour force	13 387 541	13 666 657	13 679 851	0.1%	2.2%	

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.

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.

More information:

Economic Group | Department of Treasury and Finance

P: 08 8999 6801 | E: economics.dtf@nt.gov.au | W: <https://nteconomy.nt.gov.au/>