

# Labour force

April 2026 | Economic brief

## Trend

	NT	Aust
Employed persons	147 179	14 753 799
- Monthly change	↑0.5%	↑0.2%
- Year-ended change	↑2.0%	↑1.3%
Unemployment rate	4.8%	4.3%
Participation rate	73.6%	66.7%

Employment in the Territory increased by 0.5% to 147,179 persons in April 2026. Part-time employment increased by 1.5% and full-time employment increased by 0.2%. Employment in the Territory increased by 2.0% in the year-ended April 2026 (Chart 1). This is the the third strongest result of the jurisdictions, which otherwise ranged from a decline of 1.2% in Tasmania to an increase of 2.4% in Western Australia. Nationally, employment increased by 1.3% in the year-ended April 2026.

The Territory's unemployment rate was flat at 4.8% in April 2026 and up by 0.7 ppt in year-ended terms (Chart 2). This is the highest rate of all the jurisdictions, which ranged from 4.1% in South Australia to 4.8% in Victoria and Tasmania. Nationally, the monthly unemployment rate increased by 0.2 ppt to 4.3%.

The participation rate in the Territory increased by 0.2 ppt to 73.6% and by 0.7 ppt in year-ended terms. This is the highest rate of the jurisdictions, and is 6.9 ppt above the national rate (66.7%).

## Seasonally adjusted

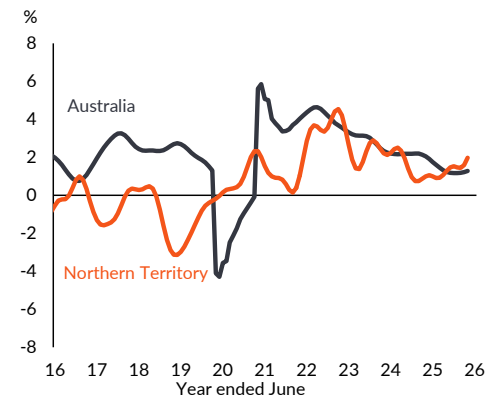
	NT	Aust
Employed persons	147 330	14 737 362
- Year-ended change	↑2.5%	↑0.9%
- Year-average change	↑1.4%	↑1.4%
Unemployment rate	5.0%	4.5%
Participation rate	73.8%	66.7%

Employment in the Territory increased by 2.5% to 147,330 persons in the year-ended April 2026 (Chart 3). This is the second strongest result of the jurisdictions. Nationally, employment increased by 0.9% in the year-ended April 2026.

The Territory's unemployment rate increased by 1.1 ppt to 5.0% in the year-ended April 2026 (Chart 2). This is the highest rate of the jurisdictions. Nationally, the unemployment rate increased by 0.4 ppt to 4.5%.

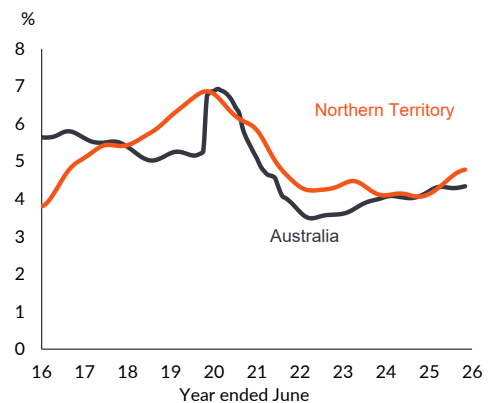
The Territory's participation rate increased by 1.3 ppt to 73.8% in the year-ended April 2026. This is the highest rate of the jurisdictions, and is 7.1 ppt above the national rate (66.7%).

Chart 1: Employment change (year-ended change, trend)



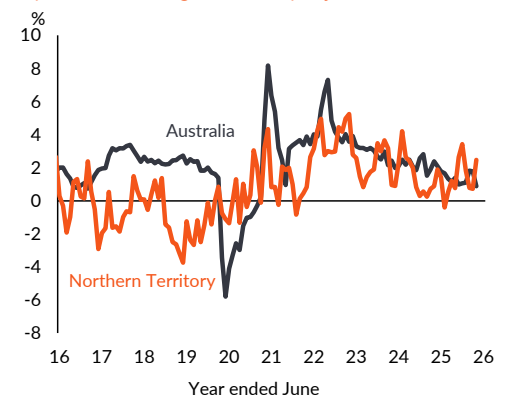
Source: DTF; ABS, Labour Force

Chart 2: Unemployment rate (monthly, trend)



Source: DTF; ABS, Labour Force

Chart 3: Employment change (year-ended change, seasonally adjusted)



Source: DTF; ABS, Labour Force

Table 1: Labour force statistics\*

	Period			Monthly change <sup>1</sup>	Year-ended change <sup>2</sup>	
	Apr 25	Mar 26	Apr 26	%	%	No.
<b>Northern Territory</b>						
<b>Trend</b>						
Employment	144 330	146 508	147 179	0.5%	2.0%	2 849
– full-time	114 360	114 283	114 476	0.2%	0.1%	115
– part-time	29 969	32 225	32 703	1.5%	9.1%	2 734
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.8%	4.8%	0.0 ppt	0.7 ppt	
– Unemployed	6 119	7 312	7 390	1.1%	20.8%	1 272
Participation rate	72.9%	73.4%	73.6%	0.2 ppt	0.7 ppt	
Labour force	150 448	153 820	154 569	0.5%	2.7%	4 121
<b>Seasonally adjusted</b>						
Employment	143 768	145 922	147 330	1.0%	2.5%	3 562
– full-time	113 271	113 840	113 109	-0.6%	-0.1%	- 162
– part-time	30 497	32 082	34 221	6.7%	12.2%	3 724
Unemployment rate	4.0%	4.4%	5.0%	0.6 ppt	1.1 ppt	
– Unemployed	5 947	6 739	7 791	15.6%	31.0%	1 844
Participation rate	72.5%	72.8%	73.8%	1.0 ppt	1.3 ppt	
Labour force	149 715	152 661	155 121	1.6%	3.6%	5 406
<b>Australia</b>						
<b>Trend</b>						
Employment	14 566 585	14 731 681	14 753 799	0.2%	1.3%	187 214
– full-time	10 044 631	10 148 417	10 163 313	0.1%	1.2%	118 682
– part-time	4 521 954	4 583 264	4 590 486	0.2%	1.5%	68 532
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.3%	4.3%	0.0 ppt	0.2 ppt	
– Unemployed	623 437	664 975	669 458	0.7%	7.4%	46 021
Participation rate	66.9%	66.7%	66.7%	0.0 ppt	-0.2 ppt	
Labour force	15 190 021	15 396 656	15 423 257	0.2%	1.5%	233 236
<b>Seasonally adjusted</b>						
Employment	14 608 443	14 755 992	14 737 362	-0.1%	0.9%	128 919
– full-time	10 045 148	10 171 569	10 160 868	-0.1%	1.2%	115 720
– part-time	4 563 295	4 584 423	4 576 494	-0.2%	0.3%	13 199
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.3%	4.5%	0.2 ppt	0.4 ppt	
– Unemployed	616 748	659 474	692 452	5.0%	12.3%	75 704
Participation rate	67.1%	66.8%	66.7%	-0.1 ppt	-0.4 ppt	
Labour force	15 225 192	15 415 466	15 429 814	0.1%	1.3%	204 623

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 (%)

	April 2026		Ranking (highest to lowest)	
	Seasonally adjusted	Trend	Seasonally adjusted	Trend
<b>States</b>				
NSW	4.5	4.3	5	4
Vic	4.8	4.8	3	2
Qld	4.2	4.2	6	7
WA	4.1	4.2	8	6
SA	4.2	4.1	7	8
Tas	5.0	4.8	2	3
ACT	4.7	4.2	4	5
NT	5.0	4.8	1	1
<b>Australia</b>	<b>4.5</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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