

Labour force

July 2026 | Economic brief

Trend

	NT	Aust
Employed persons	147 534	14 824 176
- Monthly change	flat	↑0.2%
- Year-ended change	↑1.6%	↑1.6%
Unemployment rate	4.7%	4.5%
Participation rate	72.7%	66.9%

Employment in the Territory was flat at 147,534 persons in July 2026. Part-time employment declined by 0.8%, offset by full-time employment which increased by 0.2%. Employment in the Territory increased by 1.6% in the year-ended July 2026 (Chart 1). This is the fourth strongest result of the jurisdictions, which ranged from a decline of 1.3% in Tasmania to an increase of 2.0% in Western Australia. Nationally, employment increased by 1.6% in the year-ended July 2026.

The Territory's unemployment rate was flat at 4.7% in July 2026 and increased by 0.5 ppt in year-ended terms (Chart 2). This is the third highest rate of the jurisdictions, which ranged from 4.0% in the Australian Capital Territory to 5.1% in Tasmania. Nationally, the monthly unemployment rate increased by 0.2 ppt to 4.5%.

The participation rate in the Territory declined by 0.1 ppt to 72.7%, however was flat in year-ended terms. This is the highest rate of the jurisdictions, and is 5.7 ppt above the national rate (66.9%).

Seasonally adjusted

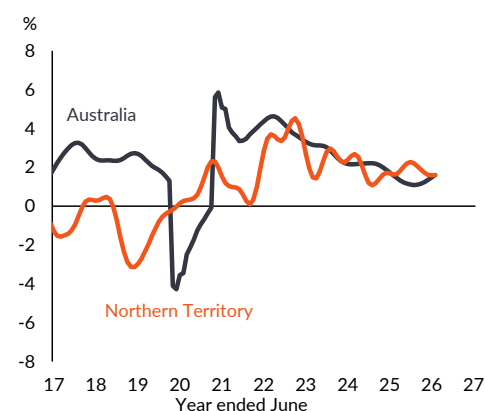
	NT	Aust
Employed persons	145 202	14 807 243
- Year-ended change	flat	↑1.3%
- Year-average change	↑2.0%	↑1.3%
Unemployment rate	4.5%	4.5%
Participation rate	71.4%	66.9%

Employment in the Territory was flat at 145,202 persons in the year-ended July 2026 (Chart 3). This is the second weakest result of the jurisdictions. Nationally, employment increased by 1.3% in the year-ended July 2026.

The Territory's unemployment rate was flat at 4.5% in the year-ended July 2026. This is the third highest rate of the jurisdictions. Nationally, the monthly unemployment rate was flat at 4.5%.

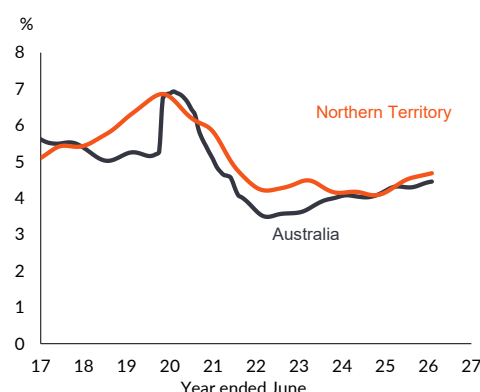
The Territory's participation rate declined by 1.5 ppt to 71.4% in the year-ended July 2026. This is the highest rate of the jurisdictions and is 4.6 ppt above the national rate (66.9%).

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



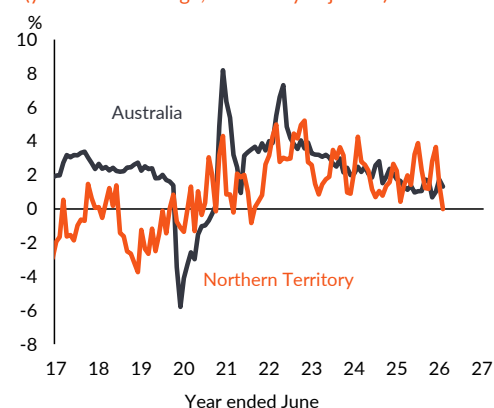
Source: DTF; ABS, Labour Force

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 ¹	Year-ended change ²	
	Jul 25	Jun 26	Jul 26	%	%	No.
Northern Territory						
Trend						
Employment	145 217	147 585	147 534	0.0%	1.6%	2 317
– full-time	114 187	114 826	115 039	0.2%	0.7%	852
– part-time	31 030	32 759	32 495	-0.8%	4.7%	1 465
Unemployment rate	4.2%	4.7%	4.7%	0.0 ppt	0.5 ppt	
– Unemployed	6 381	7 216	7 251	0.5%	13.6%	870
Participation rate	72.7%	72.8%	72.7%	-0.1 ppt	0.0 ppt	
Labour force	151 598	154 800	154 785	0.0%	2.1%	3 187
Australia						
Trend						
Employment	14 589 177	14 794 829	14 824 176	0.2%	1.6%	234 999
– full-time	10 060 127	10 188 904	10 213 314	0.2%	1.5%	153 187
– part-time	4 529 050	4 605 925	4 610 862	0.1%	1.8%	81 812
Unemployment rate	4.3%	4.4%	4.5%	0.0 ppt	0.2 ppt	
– Unemployed	648 165	686 939	691 296	0.6%	6.7%	43 131
Participation rate	66.9%	66.9%	66.9%	0.1 ppt	0.0 ppt	
Labour force	15 237 342	15 481 768	15 515 471	0.2%	1.8%	278 130
Seasonally adjusted						
Employment	14 615 374	14 823 070	14 807 243	-0.1%	1.3%	191 869
– full-time	10 098 765	10 194 195	10 210 528	0.2%	1.1%	111 764
– part-time	4 516 609	4 628 875	4 596 715	-0.7%	1.8%	80 106
Unemployment rate	4.2%	4.4%	4.5%	0.0 ppt	0.2 ppt	
– Unemployed	646 452	687 352	691 528	0.6%	7.0%	45 076
Participation rate	67.0%	67.0%	66.9%	-0.2 ppt	-0.1 ppt	
Labour force	15 261 825	15 510 421	15 498 771	-0.1%	1.6%	236 946

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 (%)

	July 2026		Ranking (highest to lowest)	
	Seasonally adjusted	Trend	Seasonally adjusted	Trend
States				
NSW	4.2	4.2	5	6
Vic	5.1	5.1	1	2
Qld	4.2	4.2	6	5
WA	4.4	4.3	4	4
SA	4.1	4.2	7	7
Tas	5.1	5.1	2	1
ACT	3.4	4.0	8	8
NT	4.5	4.7	3	3
Australia	4.5	4.5		

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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