

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 increased by 0.2 per cent in February 2018. The Territory's trend unemployment rate was 4.4 per cent and the trend participation rate was 76.1 per cent in the month.

## Employment

	NT	AUST
Employment numbers (trend)	136 035	12 480 477
Change in the month (trend)	▲0.2%	▲0.2%
Annual change (trend)	▼3.5%	▲3.3%
Year on year (original)	▼0.3%	▲2.7%

In February 2018, trend resident employment in the Territory increased by 0.2 per cent to 136 035 persons, compared to the previous month.

The Territory recorded the second highest monthly change of the jurisdictions, equal with New South Wales and Queensland. The monthly change in trend resident employment ranged from 0.1 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory to 0.3 per cent in South Australia. There was no change in Tasmania, Victoria or Western Australia. Nationally, trend employment growth was 0.2 per cent.

Annually, trend resident employment decreased by 3.5 per cent in the Territory compared to February 2017, reporting the only annual decline of the jurisdictions. Nationally, trend employment grew by 3.3 per cent over the same period (Chart 1).

In original terms, Territory employment decreased by 0.3 per cent in the year to February 2018, which was the only year on year decline of the jurisdictions. Year on year employment growth ranged from increases of 1.6 per cent in South Australia to 3.5 per cent in Queensland. Nationally, year on year employment grew by 2.7 per cent.

## Unemployment

	NT	AUST
Unemployment rate (trend)	4.4%	5.5%
Change in the month (ppt)	▼0.1	flat
Annual change (ppt)	▲0.9	▼0.2

\*ppt = percentage point

The Territory's monthly trend unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage points to 4.4 per cent (Chart 2). This was the second lowest trend unemployment rate of the jurisdictions, which ranged from 4.1 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory to 6.2 per cent in South Australia. Nationally, the monthly trend unemployment rate remained at 5.5 per cent.

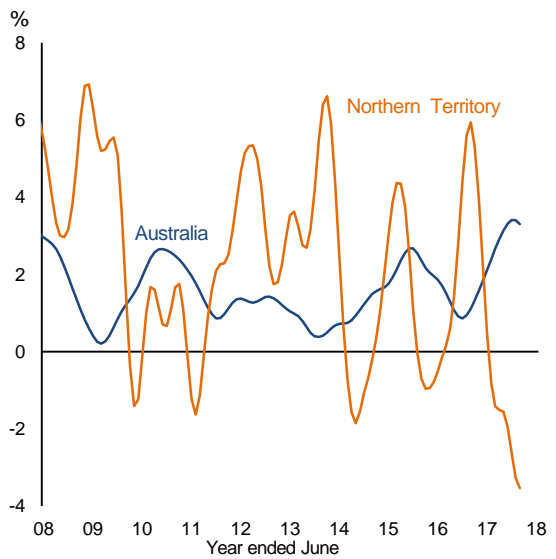
## Labour Force Participation

	NT	AUST
Participation rate (trend)	76.1%	65.7%
Change in the month (ppt)	▲0.1	▲0.1
Annual change (ppt)	▼2.1	▲0.9

\*ppt = percentage points

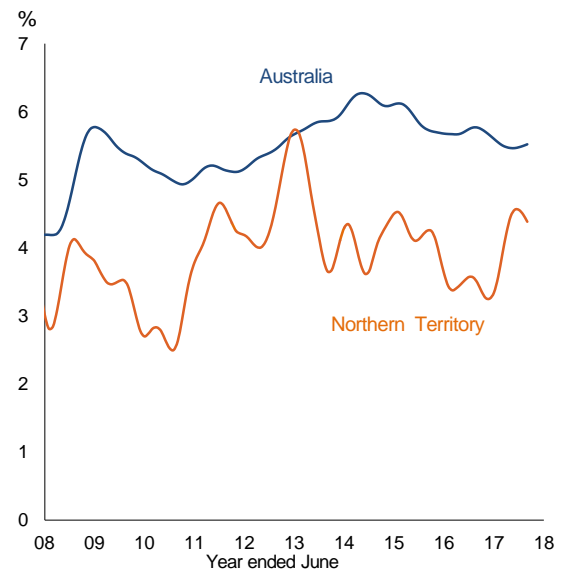
The trend participation rate in the Territory increased by 0.1 percentage points to 76.1 per cent. This remains the highest monthly trend participation rate of the jurisdictions and above the national average of 65.7 per cent (Chart 3).

Chart 1: Trend Employment (annual % ch.)



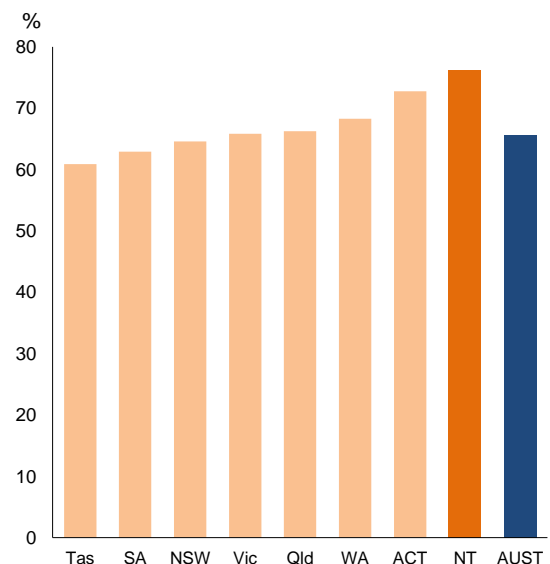
Source: DTF; ABS Cat No . 6202.0

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		
	Feb 17	Jan 18	Feb 18	monthly <sup>1</sup>	annual <sup>2</sup>	year on year <sup>3</sup>
<b>Northern Territory</b>						
original						
employment	141 484	134 511	135 849	1.0%	-4.0%	-0.3%
- full time	111 556	105 645	105 684	0.0%	-5.3%	-2.4%
- part time	29 928	28 866	30 165	4.5%	0.8%	8.0%
unemployment rate	2.9%	3.9%	4.2%	0.3 ppt	1.3 ppt	
participation rate	78.0%	74.9%	75.9%	1.0 ppt	-2.2 ppt	
labour force	145 748	139 927	141 772	1.3%	-2.7%	0.0%
seasonally adj						
not published for the Northern Territory						
trend <sup>5</sup>						
employment	141 015	135 813	136 035	0.2%	-3.5%	
- full time	111 097	106 232	106 061	-0.2%	-4.5%	
- part time	29 919	29 581	29 974	1.3%	0.2%	
unemployment rate	3.5%	4.5%	4.4%	-0.1 ppt	0.9 ppt	
participation rate	78.2%	76.1%	76.1%	0.1 ppt	-2.1 ppt	
labour force	146 116	142 203	142 277	0.1%	-2.6%	
<b>Australia</b>						
original						
employment	12 105 099	12 309 004	12 527 276	1.8%	3.5%	2.7%
- full time	8 292 258	8 445 344	8 622 969	2.1%	4.0%	2.9%
- part time	3 812 841	3 863 661	3 904 307	1.1%	2.4%	2.1%
unemployment rate	6.3%	6.0%	6.0%	0.1 ppt	-0.3 ppt	
participation rate	65.3%	65.1%	66.2%	1.1 ppt	1.0 ppt	
labour force	12 925 815	13 089 643	13 333 170	1.9%	3.2%	2.5%
seasonally adj <sup>4</sup>						
employment	12 059 789	12 462 973	12 480 484	0.1%	3.5%	
- full time	8 205 957	8 468 613	8 533 559	0.8%	4.0%	
- part time	3 853 832	3 994 360	3 946 925	-1.2%	2.4%	
unemployment rate	5.8%	5.5%	5.6%	0.1 ppt	-0.3 ppt	
participation rate	64.7%	65.6%	65.7%	0.0 ppt	1.0 ppt	
labour force	12 807 843	13 188 196	13 214 565	0.2%	3.2%	
trend <sup>5</sup>						
employment	12 080 933	12 461 147	12 480 477	0.2%	3.3%	
- full time	8 225 998	8 511 344	8 519 074	0.1%	3.6%	
- part time	3 854 935	3 949 803	3 961 404	0.3%	2.8%	
unemployment rate	5.8%	5.5%	5.5%	0.0 ppt	-0.2 ppt	
participation rate	64.8%	65.6%	65.7%	0.1 ppt	0.9 ppt	
labour force	12 820 513	13 186 292	13 209 970	0.2%	3.0%	

\* 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.