

# Labour force

March 2026 | Economic brief

## Seasonally adjusted

	NT	Aust
Employed persons	145 748	14 767 693
- Monthly change	▲0.3%	▲0.1%
- Year-ended change	▲0.7%	▲1.8%
- Year-average change	▲1.3%	▲1.5%
Unemployment rate	4.4%	4.3%
Participation rate	72.7%	66.8%

Employment in the Territory increased by 0.3% to 145,748 persons in March 2026. Part-time employment increased by 2.2%, partly offset by full-time employment which declined by 0.2%. The Territory reported the fourth weakest result of the jurisdictions, which ranged from a decline of 0.7% in Victoria to an increase of 1.3% in the Australian Capital Territory. Nationally, employment increased by 0.1%. Employment in the Territory increased by 0.7% over the year to March 2026 (Chart 1). This was the third weakest result of the jurisdictions.

The Territory's unemployment rate declined by 0.6 percentage points (ppt) to 4.4% in March 2026 (Chart 2). The Territory reported the third highest rate of the jurisdictions, which ranged from 3.7% in Queensland to 4.8% in Victoria. Nationally, the monthly unemployment was flat at 4.3%. The Territory's unemployment rate increased by 0.8 ppt over the year to March 2026.

The participation rate in the Territory declined by 0.4 ppt to 72.7%. This is the second highest rate of the jurisdictions, and is 5.9 ppt above the national rate (66.8%). The Territory's participation rate declined by 0.1 ppt over the year to March 2026.

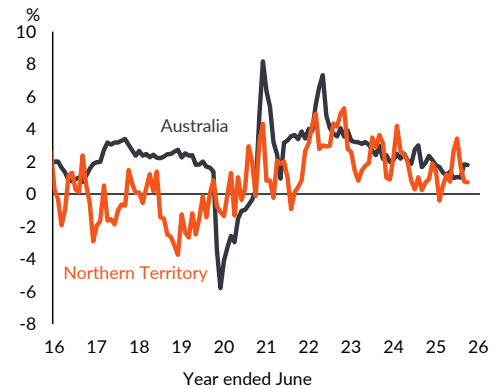
## Trend

	NT	Aust
Employed persons	146 321	14 762 771
- Monthly change	▲0.3%	▲0.2%
- Annual change	▲1.4%	▲1.4%
Unemployment rate	4.6%	4.3%
Participation rate	73.1%	66.8%

Employment in the Territory increased by 0.3% to 146,321 persons in March 2026. Part-time employment increased by 0.5% and full-time employment increased by 0.2%. Employment increased by 1.4% in the Territory over the year to March 2026 (Chart 3).

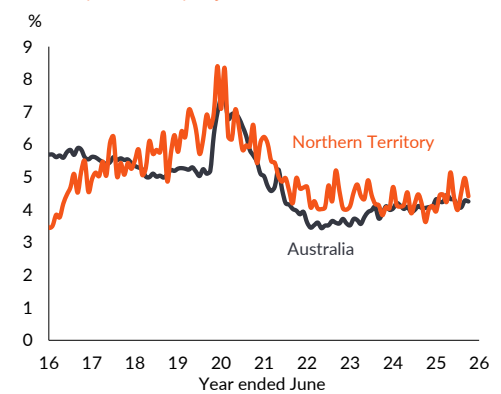
The Territory's unemployment rate was flat at 4.6% in March 2026 and increased by 0.5 ppt over the year. The participation rate in the Territory increased by 0.1 ppt to 73.1% and by 0.2 ppt over the year.

Chart 1: Employment change (year-ended change, seasonally adjusted)



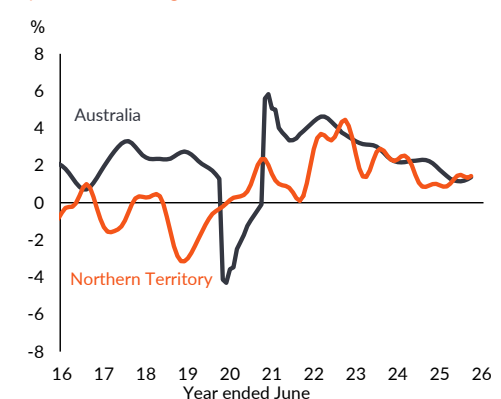
Source: DTF; ABS, Labour Force

Chart 2: Unemployment rate (monthly, seasonally adjusted)



Source: DTF; ABS, Labour Force

Chart 3: Employment change (year-ended change, trend)



Source: DTF; ABS, Labour Force

Table 1: Labour force statistics\*

	Period			Monthly change <sup>1</sup>	Year-ended change <sup>2</sup>	
	Mar 25	Feb 26	Mar 26	%	%	No.
<b>Northern Territory</b>						
<b>Seasonally adjusted</b>						
Employment	144 713	145 317	145 748	0.3%	0.7%	1 035
– full-time	115 854	114 027	113 770	-0.2%	-1.8%	- 2 084
– part-time	28 859	31 290	31 978	2.2%	10.8%	3 119
Unemployment rate	3.6%	5.0%	4.4%	-0.6 ppt	0.8 ppt	
– Unemployed	5 439	7 608	6 725	-11.6%	23.6%	1 286
Participation rate	72.8%	73.1%	72.7%	-0.4 ppt	-0.1 ppt	
Labour force	150 152	152 926	152 473	-0.3%	1.5%	2 321
<b>Trend</b>						
Employment	144 248	145 887	146 321	0.3%	1.4%	2 073
– full-time	114 189	114 173	114 439	0.2%	0.2%	250
– part-time	30 059	31 714	31 882	0.5%	6.1%	1 823
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.6%	4.6%	0.0 ppt	0.5 ppt	
– Unemployed	6 109	6 994	7 037	0.6%	15.2%	928
Participation rate	72.9%	73.0%	73.1%	0.1 ppt	0.2 ppt	
Labour force	150 357	152 881	153 358	0.3%	2.0%	3 001
<b>Australia</b>						
<b>Seasonally adjusted</b>						
Employment	14 508 912	14 749 815	14 767 693	0.1%	1.8%	258 781
– full-time	9 981 936	10 121 858	10 174 384	0.5%	1.9%	192 449
– part-time	4 526 976	4 627 957	4 593 309	-0.7%	1.5%	66 333
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.3%	4.3%	0.0 ppt	0.2 ppt	
– Unemployed	613 615	659 986	656 331	-0.6%	7.0%	42 716
Participation rate	66.7%	66.9%	66.8%	-0.1 ppt	0.1 ppt	
Labour force	15 122 526	15 409 801	15 424 024	0.1%	2.0%	301 497
<b>Trend</b>						
Employment	14 561 476	14 732 019	14 762 771	0.2%	1.4%	201 295
– full-time	10 035 264	10 143 687	10 161 171	0.2%	1.3%	125 906
– part-time	4 526 212	4 588 332	4 601 600	0.3%	1.7%	75 388
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.3%	4.3%	0.0 ppt	0.2 ppt	
– Unemployed	618 079	655 791	655 644	0.0%	6.1%	37 565
Participation rate	67.0%	66.8%	66.8%	0.0 ppt	-0.2 ppt	
Labour force	15 179 555	15 387 810	15 418 415	0.2%	1.6%	238 860

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 (%)

States	March 2026		Ranking (highest to lowest)	
	Seasonally adjusted	Trend	Seasonally adjusted	Trend
NSW	4.3	4.2	4	4
Vic	4.8	4.7	1	1
Qld	3.7	4.0	8	6
WA	4.2	4.1	6	5
SA	4.0	3.9	7	8
Tas	4.6	4.6	2	2
ACT	4.2	4.0	5	7
NT	4.4	4.6	3	3
<b>Australia</b>	<b>4.3</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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