

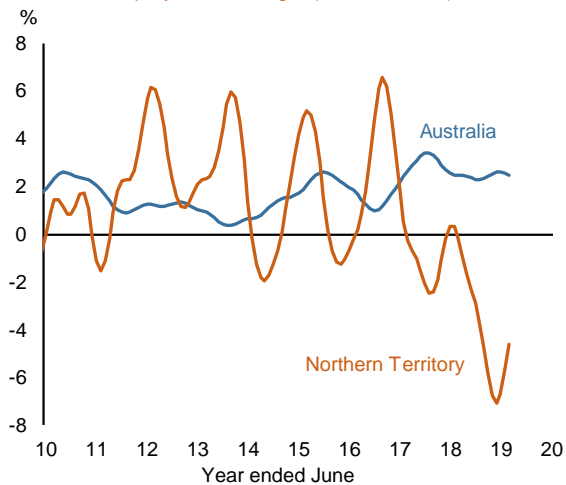
# ECONOMIC BRIEF

## Labour force

August 2019

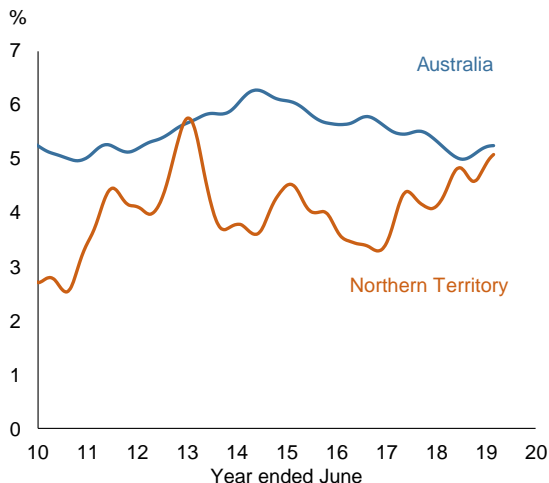
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Chart 1: Employment change (annual, trend)



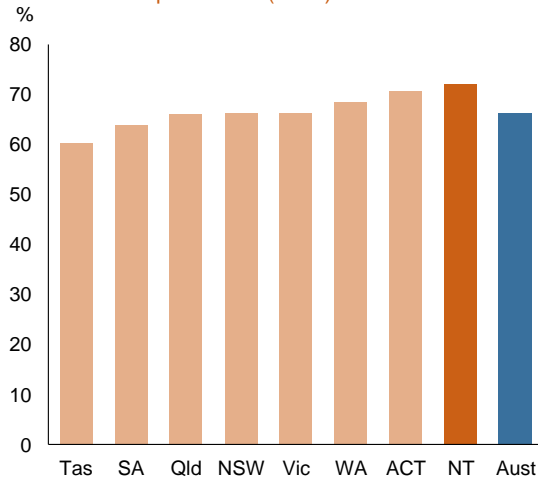
Source: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS Cat No. 6202.0

Chart 2: Unemployment rate (trend)



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

Chart 3: Participation rate (trend)



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

## Employment

	NT	Aust
Employed persons (trend)	129 469	12 921 053
Monthly change (trend)	↑0.3%	↑0.2%
Annual change (trend)	↓4.6%	↑2.5%
Year-on-year change (original)	↓4.6%	↑2.4%

In August 2019, trend resident employment in the Territory increased by 0.3 per cent to 129 469 persons, compared to the previous month. This was the highest growth of the jurisdictions, equal with the Australian Capital Territory and New South Wales. Nationally, trend employment grew by 0.2 per cent to 12 921 053.

Annually, trend resident employment decreased by 4.6 per cent compared to the same time last year, reporting the lowest annual result of the jurisdictions. Nationally, trend employment grew by 2.5 per cent (Chart 1).

In the year to August 2019, Territory employment decreased by 4.6 per cent. This was the largest year-on-year decline of the jurisdictions, reflecting a 5.7 per cent decline in full-time employment and a 0.2 per cent decline in part-time employment. Nationally, year-on-year employment grew by 2.4 per cent.

## Unemployment

	NT	Aust
Unemployment rate (trend)	5.1%	5.3%
Monthly change (ppt)	↑0.1	flat
Annual change (ppt)	↑0.8	flat

The Territory's monthly trend unemployment rate increased to 5.1 per cent in August 2019 (Chart 2). This was the fourth lowest rate of the jurisdictions, which ranged from 3.5 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory to 6.8 per cent in South Australia. Nationally, the monthly trend unemployment rate remained at 5.3 per cent.

## Participation

	NT	Aust
Participation rate (trend)	71.9%	66.2%
Monthly change (ppt)	↑0.1	↑0.1
Annual change (ppt)	↓3.0	↑0.6

The trend participation rate in the Territory increased by 0.1 percentage points to 71.9 per cent compared to the previous month. The Territory's participation rate remains the highest of the jurisdictions and above the national average of 66.2 per cent (Chart 3).

# Labour force August 2019

Table 1: Labour force statistics\*

	Period			Change		
	Aug 18	Jul 19	Aug 19	Monthly <sup>1</sup>	Annual <sup>2</sup>	Year-on-year <sup>3</sup>
<b>Northern Territory</b>						
<b>Original</b>						
Employment	133 356	128 003	128 299	0.2%	-3.8%	-4.6%
– full-time	106 514	98 967	99 170	0.2%	-6.9%	-5.7%
– part-time	26 841	29 036	29 129	0.3%	8.5%	-0.2%
Unemployment rate	4.3%	5.3%	5.4%	0.1 ppt	1.1 ppt	
Participation rate	73.6%	71.6%	71.8%	0.2 ppt	- 1.7 ppt	
Labour force	139 287	135 172	135 569	0.3%	-2.7%	-4.1%
<b>Seasonally adjusted<sup>4</sup></b>						
– not published for the Northern Territory						
<b>Trend<sup>5</sup></b>						
Employment	135 733	129 094	129 469	0.3%	-4.6%	
– full-time	109 095	99 764	99 971	0.2%	-8.4%	
– part-time	26 638	29 330	29 498	0.6%	10.7%	
Unemployment rate	4.3%	5.0%	5.1%	0.1 ppt	0.8 ppt	
Participation rate	74.9%	71.8%	71.9%	0.1 ppt	- 3.0 ppt	
Labour force	141 972	135 788	136 281	0.4%	-4.0%	
<b>Australia</b>						
<b>Original</b>						
Employment	12 547 078	12 888 685	12 859 357	-0.2%	2.5%	2.4%
– full-time	8 560 571	8 855 683	8 746 942	-1.2%	2.2%	2.7%
– part-time	3 986 508	4 033 001	4 112 415	2.0%	3.2%	1.8%
Unemployment rate	5.3%	5.2%	5.3%	0.1 ppt	0.0 ppt	
Participation rate	65.3%	66.0%	65.8%	- 0.2 ppt	0.5 ppt	
Labour force	13 245 392	13 591 409	13 574 152	-0.1%	2.5%	2.0%
<b>Seasonally adjusted<sup>4</sup></b>						
Employment	12 616 150	12 892 240	12 926 892	0.3%	2.5%	
– full-time	8 631 264	8 833 529	8 817 993	-0.2%	2.2%	
– part-time	3 984 886	4 058 711	4 108 899	1.2%	3.1%	
Unemployment rate	5.3%	5.2%	5.3%	0.0 ppt	0.0 ppt	
Participation rate	65.6%	66.1%	66.2%	0.1 ppt	0.5 ppt	
Labour force	13 317 463	13 604 912	13 643 674	0.3%	2.4%	
<b>Trend<sup>5</sup></b>						
Employment	12 607 490	12 899 084	12 921 053	0.2%	2.5%	
– full-time	8 624 602	8 821 119	8 828 358	0.1%	2.4%	
– part-time	3 982 888	4 077 965	4 092 694	0.4%	2.8%	
Unemployment rate	5.2%	5.2%	5.3%	0.0 ppt	0.0 ppt	
Participation rate	65.6%	66.1%	66.2%	0.1 ppt	0.6 ppt	
Labour force	13 300 933	13 612 113	13 636 732	0.2%	2.5%	

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:

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