

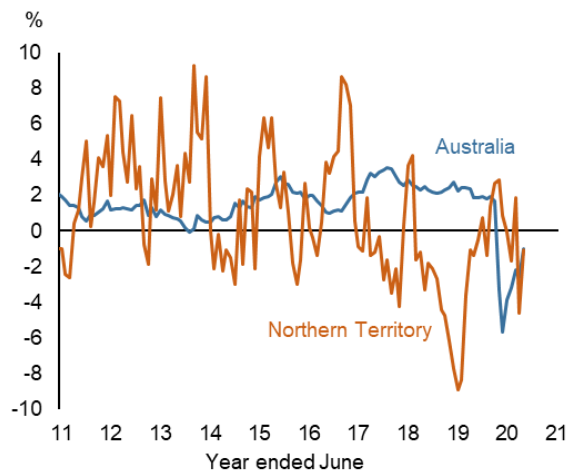
ECONOMIC BRIEF

Labour force

October 2020

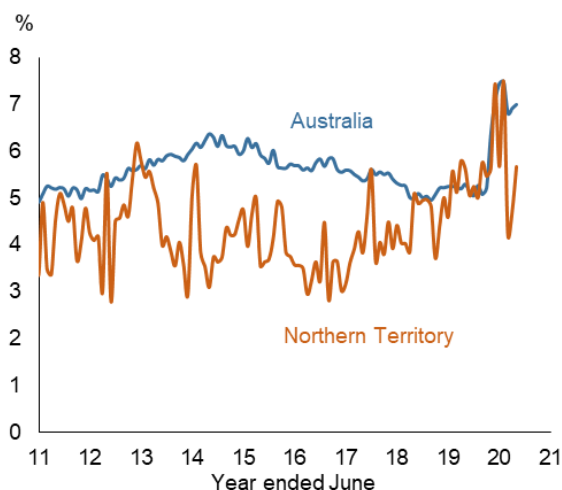
Released: 19 November 2020 | Next release: 17 December 2020

Chart 1: Employment change (annual, seasonally adjusted)



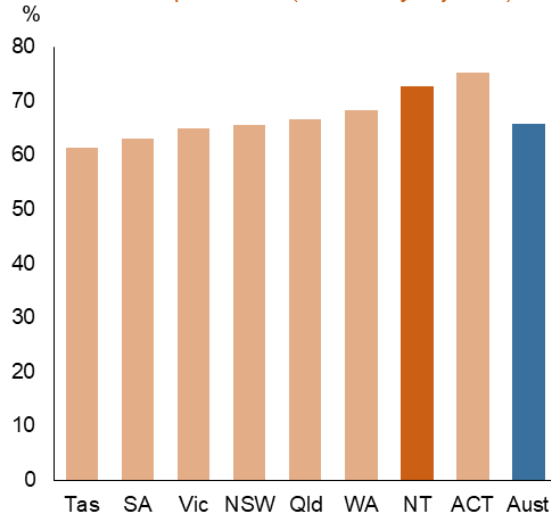
Source: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS Cat No. 6202.0

Chart 2: Unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted)



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

Chart 3: Participation rate (seasonally adjusted)



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

Employment

	NT	Aust
Employed persons (season. adjusted)	129 190	12 773 890
Monthly change (season. adjusted)	↑2.4%	↑1.4%
Annual change (season. adjusted)	↓1.1%	↓1.0%
Year-on-year change (original)	↑0.1%	↓1.1%

In October 2020, seasonally adjusted resident employment in the Territory increased by 2.4 per cent to 129 190 persons. Full-time employment and part-time employment increased by 0.4 per cent and 8.8 per cent, respectively. Nationally, employment increased by 1.4 per cent, with full-time and part-time employment increasing by 1.1 per cent and 2.0 per cent respectively.

Annually, seasonally adjusted resident employment decreased by 1.1 per cent in the Territory. Nationally, employment fell by 1.0 per cent over the same period (Chart 1). In the year to October 2020, Territory employment increased by 0.1 per cent, reflecting a 6.3 per cent increase in part-time employment, largely offset by a 1.6 per cent decline in full-time employment. Nationally, year-on-year employment decreased by 1.1 per cent.

Unemployment

	NT	Aust
Unemployment rate (season. adjusted)	5.7%	7.0%
Monthly change (ppt)	↑1.0	↑0.1
Annual change (ppt)	flat	↑1.7

The Territory's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 5.7 per cent in October 2020 (Chart 2), as the number of unemployed persons increased from 6245 to 7773. This increase reflects the increase in the participation rate. Nationally, the monthly unemployment rate rose to 7.0 per cent.

Participation

	NT	Aust
Participation rate (season. adjusted)	72.8%	65.8%
Monthly change (ppt)	↑2.5	↑0.9
Annual change (ppt)	↓0.6	↓0.1

The seasonally adjusted participation rate in the Territory increased by 2.5 percentage points to 72.8 per cent in October 2020. The Territory's participation rate is the second highest of the jurisdictions, behind the Australian Capital Territory (75.2 per cent) and well above the national rate of 65.8 per cent (Chart 3).

Labour force October 2020

Table 1: Labour force statistics*

	Period			Change		
	Oct 19	Sep 20	Oct 20	Monthly ¹	Annual ²	Year-on-year ³
Northern Territory						
Original						
Employment	131 701	125 846	130 294	3.5%	-1.1%	0.1%
– full-time	100 551	95 641	96 525	0.9%	-4.0%	-1.6%
– part-time	31 150	30 206	33 769	11.8%	8.4%	6.3%
Unemployment rate	5.5%	5.0%	5.6%	0.6 ppt	0.1 ppt	
Participation rate	74.0%	70.4%	73.3%	3.0 ppt	- 0.6 ppt	
Labour force	139 412	132 521	138 047	4.2%	-1.0%	0.7%
Seasonally adjusted⁴						
Employment	130 568	126 144	129 190	2.4%	-1.1%	
– full-time	100 453	96 057	96 462	0.4%	-4.0%	
– part-time	30 115	30 087	32 729	8.8%	8.7%	
Unemployment rate	5.6%	4.7%	5.7%	1.0 ppt	0.0 ppt	
Participation rate	73.4%	70.3%	72.8%	2.5 ppt	- 0.6 ppt	
Labour force	138 354	132 390	136 964	3.5%	-1.0%	
Trend⁵						
– labour force trend series suspended from the April 2020 release						
Australia						
Original						
Employment	12 891 935	12 587 527	12 760 036	1.4%	-1.0%	-1.1%
– full-time	8 795 063	8 510 905	8 610 394	1.2%	-2.1%	-1.0%
– part-time	4 096 872	4 076 621	4 149 642	1.8%	1.3%	-1.3%
Unemployment rate	5.0%	6.7%	6.7%	- 0.1 ppt	1.6 ppt	
Participation rate	65.7%	64.7%	65.5%	0.8 ppt	- 0.2 ppt	
Labour force	13 577 307	13 498 647	13 671 007	1.3%	0.7%	0.0%
Seasonally adjusted⁴						
Employment	12 906 182	12 595 066	12 773 890	1.4%	-1.0%	
– full-time	8 830 497	8 546 687	8 643 731	1.1%	-2.1%	
– part-time	4 075 685	4 048 379	4 130 159	2.0%	1.3%	
Unemployment rate	5.3%	6.9%	7.0%	0.1 ppt	1.7 ppt	
Participation rate	66.0%	64.9%	65.8%	0.9 ppt	- 0.1 ppt	
Labour force	13 628 183	13 530 472	13 734 776	1.5%	0.8%	
Trend⁵						
– labour force trend series suspended from the April 2020 release						

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.

More information:

Economic Group | Department of Treasury and Finance

P: 08 8999 6801 | E: economics.dtf@nt.gov.au | W: <https://nteconomy.nt.gov.au/>