

Labour force

December 2025 | Economic brief

Seasonally adjusted

	NT	Aust
Employed persons	147 139	14 684 083
- Monthly change	▲1.4%	▲0.4%
- Year-ended change	▲3.4%	▲1.1%
- Year-average change	▲1.1%	▲1.7%
Unemployment rate	3.9%	4.1%
Participation rate	73.5%	66.7%

Employment in the Territory increased by 1.4% to 147,139 persons in December 2025. Full-time employment increased by 1.5% and part-time employment increased by 0.9%. The Territory reported the second strongest result of the jurisdictions, which ranged from a decline of 0.7% in Tasmania to an increase of 1.6% in Western Australia. Nationally, employment increased by 0.4%. Employment in the Territory increased by 3.4% over the year to December 2025 (Chart 1). This was the second strongest result of the jurisdictions.

The Territory's unemployment rate declined by 0.4 percentage points (ppt) to 3.9% in December 2025 (Chart 2). The Territory reported the fourth highest rate of the jurisdictions, which ranged from 3.5% in the Australian Capital Territory to 4.6% in Victoria. Nationally, the monthly unemployment declined by 0.2 ppt to 4.1%. The Territory's unemployment rate declined by 0.2 ppt over the year to December 2025.

The participation rate in the Territory increased by 0.6 ppt to 73.5%. This is the highest rate of the jurisdictions and is 6.8 ppt above the national rate (66.7%). The Territory's participation rate increased by 1.0 ppt over the year to December 2025.

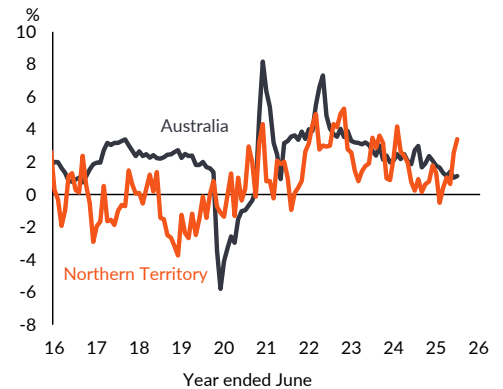
Trend

	NT	Aust
Employed persons	145 134	14 686 065
- Monthly change	▲0.3%	▲0.2%
- Annual change	▲1.5%	▲1.2%
Unemployment rate	4.5%	4.2%
Participation rate	72.9%	66.8%

Employment in the Territory increased by 0.3% to 145,134 persons in December 2025. Part-time employment increased by 0.7% and full-time employment increased by 0.2%. Employment increased by 1.5% in the Territory over the year to December 2025 (Chart 3).

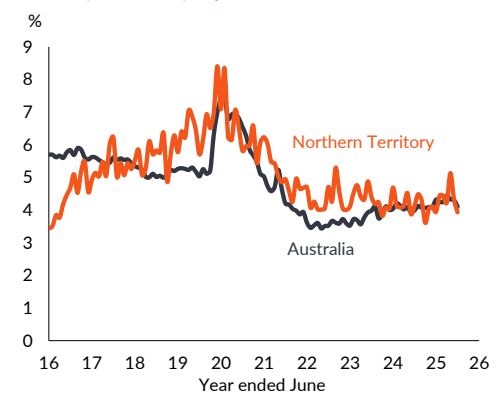
The Territory's unemployment rate was steady at 4.5% in December 2025 and increased by 0.4 ppt over the year. The participation rate in the Territory increased by 0.2 ppt to 72.9% and increased by 0.2 ppt over the year.

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



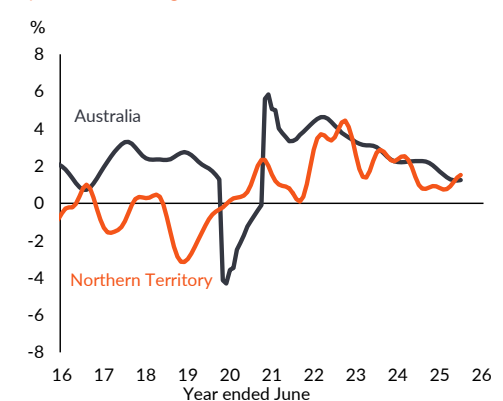
Source: DTF; ABS, Labour Force

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 ¹	Year-ended change ²	
	Dec 24	Nov 25	Dec 25	%	%	No.
Northern Territory						
Seasonally adjusted						
Employment	142 298	145 100	147 139	1.4%	3.4%	4 841
– full-time	112 350	112 415	114 152	1.5%	1.6%	1 802
– part-time	29 948	32 685	32 988	0.9%	10.1%	3 039
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.3%	3.9%	- 0.4 ppt	- 0.2 ppt	
– Unemployed	6 136	6 572	6 024	-8.3%	-1.8%	- 112
Participation rate	72.4%	72.9%	73.5%	0.6 ppt	1.0 ppt	
Labour force	148 434	151 671	153 163	1.0%	3.2%	4 729
Trend						
Employment	142 950	144 672	145 134	0.3%	1.5%	2 184
– full-time	112 473	112 658	112 893	0.2%	0.4%	420
– part-time	30 477	32 014	32 241	0.7%	5.8%	1 764
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.4%	4.5%	0.0 ppt	0.4 ppt	
– Unemployed	6 125	6 698	6 787	1.3%	10.8%	661
Participation rate	72.7%	72.8%	72.9%	0.2 ppt	0.2 ppt	
Labour force	149 075	151 370	151 921	0.4%	1.9%	2 845
Australia						
Seasonally adjusted						
Employment	14 518 701	14 618 908	14 684 083	0.4%	1.1%	165 382
– full-time	10 001 324	10 046 345	10 101 135	0.5%	1.0%	99 812
– part-time	4 517 378	4 572 564	4 582 948	0.2%	1.5%	65 570
Unemployment rate	4.0%	4.3%	4.1%	- 0.2 ppt	0.1 ppt	
– Unemployed	603 114	658 356	628 563	-4.5%	4.2%	25 449
Participation rate	67.1%	66.6%	66.7%	0.1 ppt	- 0.4 ppt	
Labour force	15 121 815	15 277 265	15 312 646	0.2%	1.3%	190 831
Trend						
Employment	14 505 248	14 661 278	14 686 065	0.2%	1.2%	180 817
– full-time	10 011 426	10 094 657	10 107 952	0.1%	1.0%	96 526
– part-time	4 493 822	4 566 621	4 578 113	0.3%	1.9%	84 291
Unemployment rate	4.0%	4.3%	4.2%	0.0 ppt	0.2 ppt	
– Unemployed	609 128	653 032	646 592	-1.0%	6.2%	37 464
Participation rate	67.1%	66.8%	66.8%	0.0 ppt	- 0.3 ppt	
Labour force	15 114 375	15 314 309	15 332 657	0.1%	1.4%	218 281

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 (%)

	December 2025		Ranking (highest to lowest)	
	Seasonally adjusted	Trend	Seasonally adjusted	Trend
States				
NSW	3.9	4.0	3	8
Vic	4.6	4.7	1	1
Qld	3.9	4.1	5	6
WA	3.9	4.3	6	4
SA	3.9	4.0	7	7
Tas	4.5	4.2	2	5
ACT	3.5	4.3	8	3
NT	3.9	4.5	4	2
Australia	4.1	4.2		

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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