

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 0.5 per cent in March 2018. The Territory's trend unemployment rate was 3.9 per cent and the trend participation rate was 76.4 per cent in the month.

Employment

	NT	AUST
Employment numbers (trend)	137 342	12 485 800
Change in the month (trend)	▲0.5%	▲0.1%
Annual change (trend)	▼2.2%	▲3.1%
Year on year (original)	▼1.2%	▲2.8%

In March 2018, trend resident employment in the Territory increased by 0.5 per cent to 137 342 persons, compared to the previous month.

The Territory recorded the highest monthly change of the jurisdictions. The monthly change in trend resident employment in other jurisdictions ranged from a decline of 0.2 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory to an increase of 0.2 per cent in South Australia. There was no change in Tasmania. Nationally, trend employment growth was 0.1 per cent.

Annually, trend resident employment decreased by 2.2 per cent in the Territory compared to March 2017, which was the only annual decline of the jurisdictions. Nationally, trend employment grew by 3.1 per cent over the same period (Chart 1).

In original terms, Territory employment decreased by 1.2 per cent in the year to March 2018, which was the only year on year decline of the jurisdictions. Year on year employment growth ranged from 1.7 per cent in South Australia to 3.8 per cent in Queensland. Nationally, year on year employment grew by 2.8 per cent.

Unemployment

	NT	AUST
Unemployment rate (trend)	3.9%	5.6%
Change in the month (ppt)	▼0.1	flat
Annual change (ppt)	▲0.6	▼0.2

*ppt = percentage point

The Territory's monthly trend unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage points to 3.9 per cent (Chart 2). This was the lowest trend unemployment rate of the jurisdictions, which ranged from 4.1 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory to 6.4 per cent in Western Australia. Nationally, the monthly trend unemployment rate remained at 5.6 per cent.

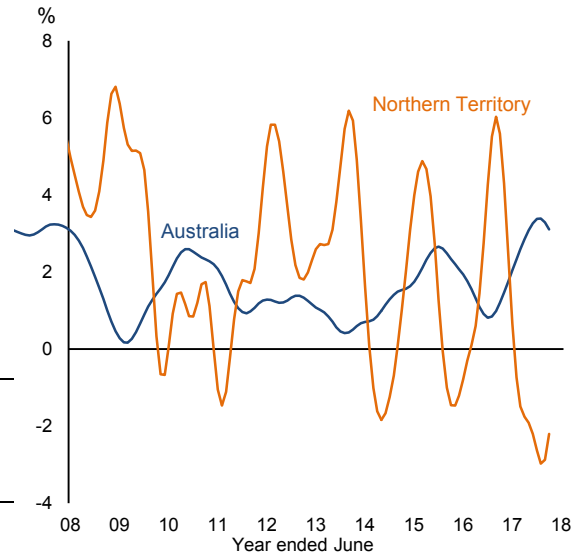
Labour Force Participation

	NT	AUST
Participation rate (trend)	76.4%	65.7%
Change in the month (ppt)	▲0.2	flat
Annual change (ppt)	▼1.3	▲0.8

*ppt = percentage points

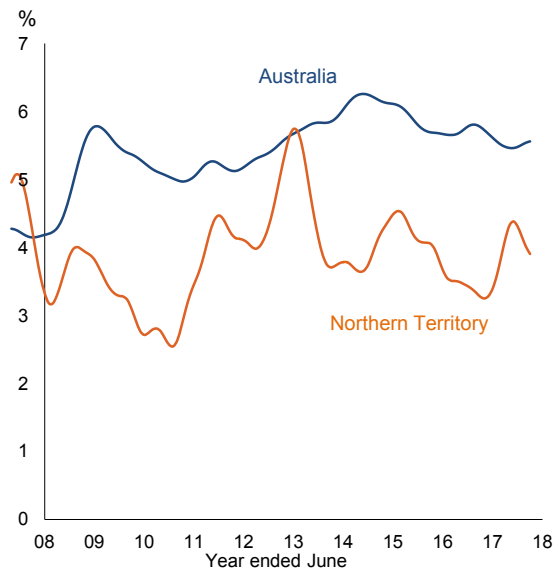
The trend participation rate in the Territory increased by 0.2 percentage points to 76.4 per cent. This remains the highest monthly trend participation rate of the jurisdictions and above the national average of 65.7 per cent (Chart 3).

Chart 1: Trend Employment (annual % ch.)



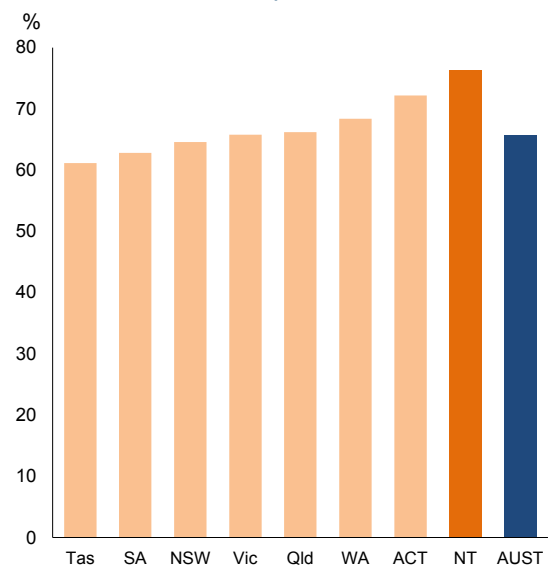
Source: DTF; ABS Cat No. 6202.0

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 *

	Mar 17	Feb 18	Mar 18	change		
				monthly ¹	annual ²	year on year ³
Northern Territory						
original						
employment	140 952	135 849	137 295	1.1%	-2.6%	-1.2%
- full time	110 856	105 684	107 140	1.4%	-3.4%	-3.1%
- part time	30 097	30 165	30 155	0.0%	0.2%	6.4%
unemployment rate	3.8%	4.2%	3.9%	-0.3 ppt	0.1 ppt	
participation rate	78.4%	75.9%	76.5%	0.6 ppt	-2.0 ppt	
labour force	146 458	141 772	142 811	0.7%	-2.5%	-0.8%
seasonally adj						
not published for the Northern Territory						
trend ⁵						
employment	140 434	136 667	137 342	0.5%	-2.2%	
- full time	110 337	106 947	107 361	0.4%	-2.7%	
- part time	30 097	29 720	29 981	0.9%	-0.4%	
unemployment rate	3.3%	4.0%	3.9%	-0.1 ppt	0.6 ppt	
participation rate	77.7%	76.2%	76.4%	0.2 ppt	-1.3 ppt	
labour force	145 211	142 499	143 090	0.4%	-1.5%	
Australia						
original						
employment	12 122 500	12 527 276	12 491 653	-0.3%	3.0%	2.8%
- full time	8 256 398	8 622 969	8 482 962	-1.6%	2.7%	3.1%
- part time	3 866 102	3 904 307	4 008 692	2.7%	3.7%	2.2%
unemployment rate	6.2%	6.0%	5.9%	-0.2 ppt	-0.4 ppt	
participation rate	65.2%	66.2%	65.8%	-0.4 ppt	0.7 ppt	
labour force	12 926 187	13 333 170	13 269 980	-0.5%	2.7%	2.6%
seasonally adj ⁴						
employment	12 117 101	12 479 236	12 484 146	0.0%	3.0%	
- full time	8 287 233	8 533 978	8 514 119	-0.2%	2.7%	
- part time	3 829 869	3 945 258	3 970 027	0.6%	3.7%	
unemployment rate	5.9%	5.5%	5.5%	0.0 ppt	-0.3 ppt	
participation rate	64.9%	65.6%	65.5%	-0.1 ppt	0.7 ppt	
labour force	12 870 395	13 211 839	13 214 385	0.0%	2.7%	
trend ⁵						
employment	12 109 653	12 471 772	12 485 800	0.1%	3.1%	
- full time	8 254 298	8 523 215	8 524 368	0.0%	3.3%	
- part time	3 855 354	3 948 557	3 961 432	0.3%	2.8%	
unemployment rate	5.8%	5.5%	5.6%	0.0 ppt	-0.2 ppt	
participation rate	64.8%	65.6%	65.7%	0.0 ppt	0.8 ppt	
labour force	12 851 295	13 203 231	13 220 780	0.1%	2.9%	

* 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.