

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 decreased by 0.6 per cent in October 2018. The Territory's trend unemployment rate was 4.6 per cent and the trend participation rate was 74.7 per cent in the month.

Employment

	NT	AUST
Employment numbers (trend)	135 880	12 665 836
Change in the month (trend)	↓0.6%	↑0.2%
Annual change (trend)	↓0.2%	↑2.3%
Year on year (original)	↓0.6%	↑2.9%

In October 2018, trend resident employment in the Territory decreased by 0.6 per cent to 135 880 persons, compared to the previous month. This was the lowest recorded employment change of all jurisdictions.

Across the other jurisdictions, the change in employment ranged from a 0.2 per cent decline in the Australian Capital Territory to a 0.3 per cent increase New South Wales. Nationally, trend employment growth increased by 0.2 per cent in the month.

Annually, trend resident employment decreased by 0.2 per cent in the Territory compared to the same time last year, reporting the second lowest annual growth of the jurisdictions. Nationally, trend employment grew by 2.3 per cent over the same period (Chart 1).

In the year to October 2018, Territory employment decreased by 0.6 per cent. This was the only year on year decline of the jurisdictions. Across the other jurisdictions, growth ranged from 1.9 per cent in Western Australia to 3.6 per cent in New South Wales. Nationally, year on year employment grew by 2.9 per cent.

Unemployment

	NT	AUST
Unemployment rate (trend)	4.6%	5.1%
Change in the month (ppt)	↑0.2	↓0.1
Annual change (ppt)	↑0.2	↓0.4

*ppt = percentage point

The Territory's monthly trend unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage points to 4.6 per cent (Chart 2). This was the third lowest result of the jurisdictions, equal with New South Wales, which ranged from 3.7 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory to 6.2 per cent in Queensland. Nationally, the monthly trend unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage points to 5.1 per cent.

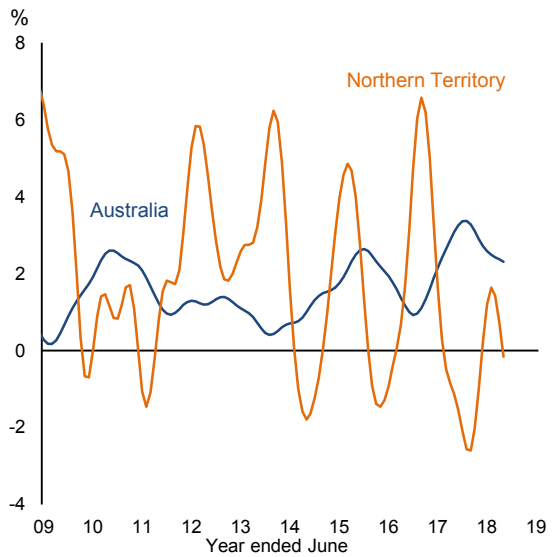
Labour Force Participation

	NT	AUST
Participation rate (trend)	74.7%	65.6%
Change in the month (ppt)	↓0.4	flat
Annual change (ppt)	↓0.6	↑0.2

*ppt = percentage points

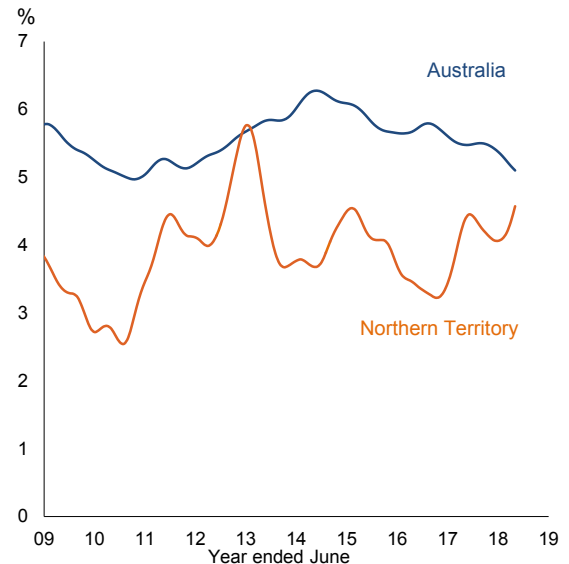
The trend participation rate in the Territory declined to 74.7 per cent in October 2018, however remains the highest trend participation rate of the jurisdictions and above the national average of 65.6 per cent (Chart 3).

Chart 1: Trend Employment (annual % ch.)



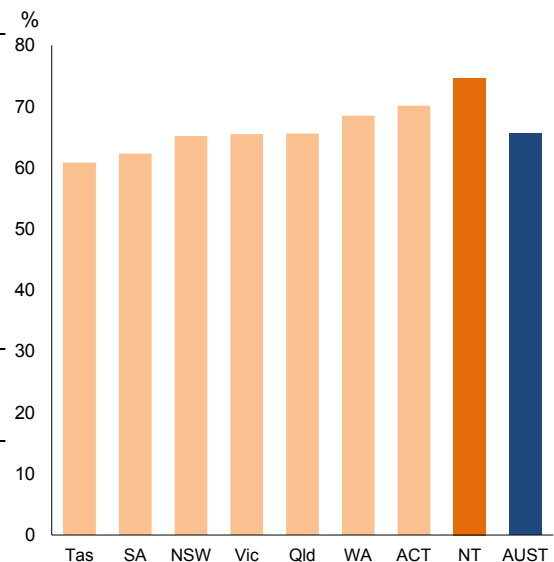
Source: DTF; ABS Cat No. 6202.0

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 *

	Oct 17	Sep 18	Oct 18	change		
				monthly ¹	annual ²	year on year ³
Northern Territory						
original						
employment	138 067	135 567	136 332	0.6%	-1.3%	-0.6%
- full time	108 182	108 721	108 771	0.0%	0.5%	0.6%
- part time	29 884	26 846	27 562	2.7%	-7.8%	-4.7%
unemployment rate	3.7%	3.9%	4.7%	0.9 ppt	1.0 ppt	
participation rate	75.9%	74.2%	75.3%	1.2 ppt	-0.6 ppt	
labour force	143 383	141 019	143 129	1.5%	-0.2%	0.1%
seasonally adj						
not published for the Northern Territory						
trend ⁵						
employment	136 095	136 632	135 880	-0.6%	-0.2%	
- full time	107 475	109 867	109 101	-0.7%	1.5%	
- part time	28 620	26 765	26 779	0.1%	-6.4%	
unemployment rate	4.4%	4.3%	4.6%	0.2 ppt	0.2 ppt	
participation rate	75.3%	75.1%	74.7%	-0.4 ppt	-0.6 ppt	
labour force	142 033	142 970	142 398	-0.4%	0.3%	
Australia						
original						
employment	12 361 699	12 622 538	12 664 686	0.3%	2.5%	2.9%
- full time	8 434 161	8 621 115	8 670 975	0.6%	2.8%	3.0%
- part time	3 927 539	4 001 422	3 993 711	-0.2%	1.7%	2.7%
unemployment rate	5.1%	4.9%	4.8%	-0.1 ppt	-0.4 ppt	
participation rate	65.1%	65.3%	65.3%	0.1 ppt	0.3 ppt	
labour force	13 029 625	13 268 053	13 298 968	0.2%	2.1%	2.6%
seasonally adj ⁴						
employment	12 363 428	12 638 736	12 671 542	0.3%	2.5%	
- full time	8 464 928	8 661 412	8 703 679	0.5%	2.8%	
- part time	3 898 499	3 977 324	3 967 862	-0.2%	1.8%	
unemployment rate	5.4%	5.0%	5.0%	0.0 ppt	-0.4 ppt	
participation rate	65.3%	65.5%	65.6%	0.1 ppt	0.3 ppt	
labour force	13 070 357	13 306 189	13 343 594	0.3%	2.1%	
trend ⁵						
employment	12 379 961	12 640 401	12 665 836	0.2%	2.3%	
- full time	8 478 763	8 658 306	8 681 229	0.3%	2.4%	
- part time	3 901 198	3 982 095	3 984 607	0.1%	2.1%	
unemployment rate	5.5%	5.2%	5.1%	-0.1 ppt	-0.4 ppt	
participation rate	65.4%	65.6%	65.6%	0.0 ppt	0.2 ppt	
labour force	13 097 407	13 328 332	13 346 146	0.1%	1.9%	

* 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.