

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 0.1 per cent in December 2018. The Territory's trend unemployment rate was 5.0 per cent and the trend participation rate was 74.3 per cent in the month.

Employment

	NT	AUST
Employment numbers (trend)	133 852	12 711 584
Change in the month (trend)	▲0.1%	▲0.2%
Annual change (trend)	▼2.3%	▲2.3%
Year on year (original)	▼1.0%	▲2.7%

In December 2018, trend resident employment in the Territory increased by 0.1 per cent to 133 852 persons, compared to the previous month.

Across the other jurisdictions, the employment change ranged from a 0.1 per cent decrease in Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory to a 0.4 per cent increase in Victoria. Nationally, trend employment growth increased by 0.2 per cent in the month.

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

In 2018, Territory employment decreased by 1.0 per cent. This was the only year on year decline of the jurisdictions. Across the other jurisdictions, growth ranged from 1.4 per cent in Tasmania to 3.5 per cent in New South Wales. Nationally, year on year employment grew by 2.7 per cent.

Unemployment

	NT	AUST
Unemployment rate (trend)	5.0%	5.0%
Change in the month (ppt)	▲0.1	flat
Annual change (ppt)	▲0.7	▼0.5

*ppt = percentage point

The Territory's monthly trend unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage points to 5.0 per cent (Chart 2). This was the fourth lowest result of the jurisdictions. Across the other jurisdictions the unemployment rate ranged from 3.6 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory to 6.4 per cent in Western Australia. Nationally, the monthly trend unemployment rate remained at 5.0 per cent.

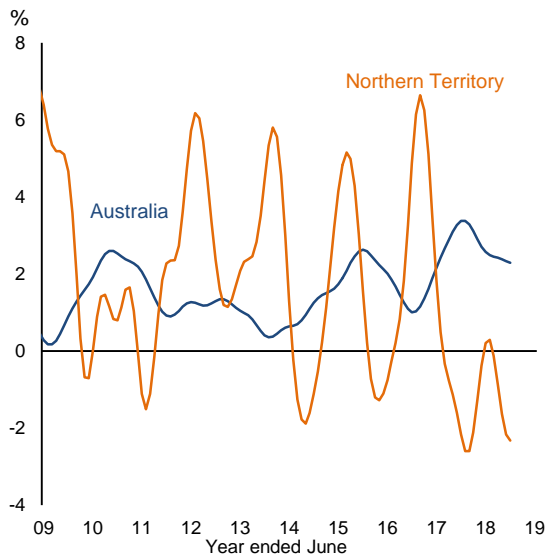
Labour Force Participation

	NT	AUST
Participation rate (trend)	74.3%	65.6%
Change in the month (ppt)	flat	flat
Annual change (ppt)	▼1.7	flat

*ppt = percentage points

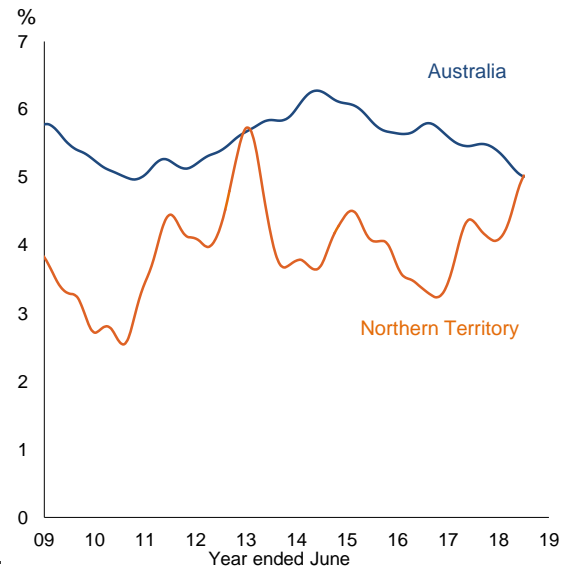
The trend participation rate in the Territory remained unchanged at 74.3 per cent in December 2018, however remains the highest trend participation rate of the jurisdictions and above the national average of 65.6 per cent (Chart 3).

Chart 1: Trend Employment (annual % ch.)



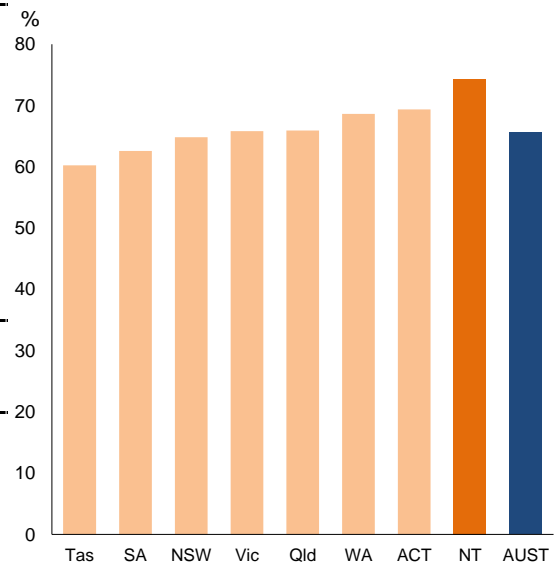
Source: DTF; ABS Cat No. 6202.0

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 *

				change		
	Dec 17	Nov 18	Dec 18	monthly ¹	annual ²	year on year ³
Northern Territory						
original						
employment	137 483	135 347	135 221	-0.1%	-1.6%	-1.0%
- full time	109 154	108 240	107 586	-0.6%	-1.4%	0.0%
- part time	28 329	27 108	27 635	1.9%	-2.4%	-5.0%
unemployment rate	4.9%	5.0%	4.4%	-0.6 ppt	-0.6 ppt	
participation rate	76.8%	75.4%	74.9%	-0.5 ppt	-1.9 ppt	
labour force	144 615	142 431	141 382	-0.7%	-2.2%	-0.7%
seasonally adj						
not published for the Northern Territory						
trend ⁵						
employment	137 036	133 679	133 852	0.1%	-2.3%	
- full time	108 031	106 678	106 727	0.0%	-1.2%	
- part time	29 006	27 001	27 125	0.5%	-6.5%	
unemployment rate	4.4%	4.9%	5.0%	0.1 ppt	0.7 ppt	
participation rate	76.0%	74.3%	74.3%	0.0 ppt	-1.7 ppt	
labour force	143 108	140 423	140 772	0.2%	-1.6%	
Australia						
original						
employment	12 567 327	12 739 197	12 838 314	0.8%	2.2%	2.7%
- full time	8 660 354	8 724 042	8 828 160	1.2%	1.9%	2.7%
- part time	3 906 973	4 015 155	4 010 154	-0.1%	2.6%	2.7%
unemployment rate	5.4%	4.7%	4.8%	0.1 ppt	-0.6 ppt	
participation rate	66.3%	65.7%	66.1%	0.5 ppt	-0.1 ppt	
labour force	13 284 260	13 374 081	13 486 334	0.8%	1.5%	2.4%
seasonally adj ⁴						
employment	12 445 502	12 692 459	12 714 056	0.2%	2.2%	
- full time	8 516 783	8 681 831	8 678 785	0.0%	1.9%	
- part time	3 928 719	4 010 628	4 035 271	0.6%	2.7%	
unemployment rate	5.6%	5.1%	5.0%	-0.1 ppt	-0.6 ppt	
participation rate	65.7%	65.7%	65.6%	0.0 ppt	-0.1 ppt	
labour force	13 182 469	13 373 289	13 380 763	0.1%	1.5%	
trend ⁵						
employment	12 427 481	12 688 515	12 711 584	0.2%	2.3%	
- full time	8 507 692	8 685 731	8 697 562	0.1%	2.2%	
- part time	3 919 789	4 002 783	4 014 021	0.3%	2.4%	
unemployment rate	5.5%	5.0%	5.0%	0.0 ppt	-0.5 ppt	
participation rate	65.5%	65.6%	65.6%	0.0 ppt	0.0 ppt	
labour force	13 145 327	13 362 594	13 382 489	0.1%	1.8%	

* 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.