

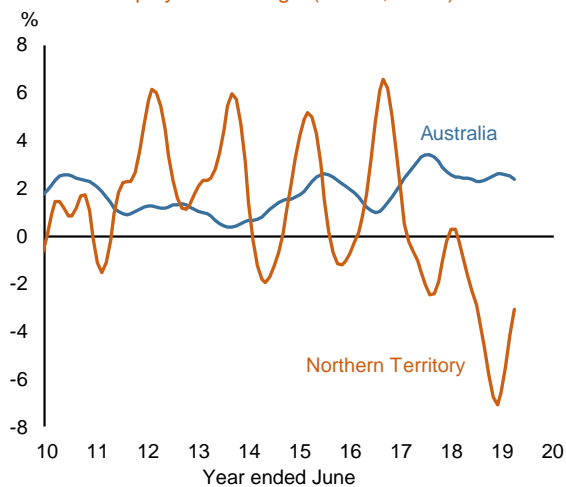
ECONOMIC BRIEF

Labour force

September 2019

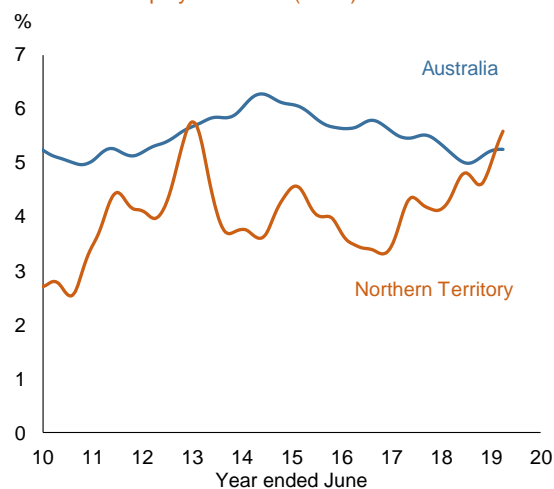
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Chart 1: Employment change (annual, trend)



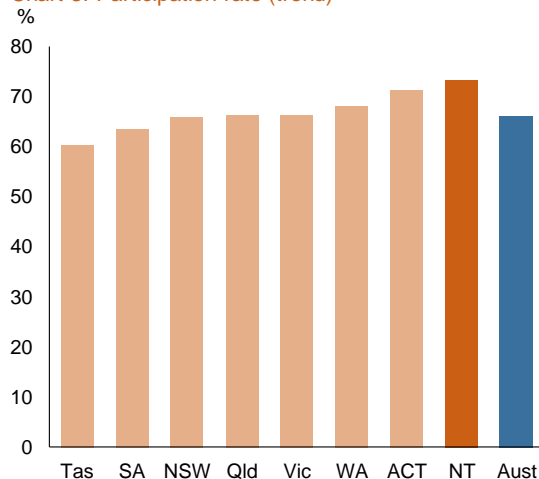
Source: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS Cat No. 6202.0

Chart 2: Unemployment rate (trend)



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

Chart 3: Participation rate (trend)



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

Employment

	NT	Aust
Employed persons (trend)	130 450	12 942 775
Monthly change (trend)	↑0.3%	↑0.2%
Annual change (trend)	↓3.0%	↑2.4%
Year-on-year change (original)	↓4.6%	↑2.4%

In September 2019, trend resident employment in the Territory increased by 0.3 per cent to 130 450 persons, compared to the previous month. This was the second highest growth of the jurisdictions, equal with Tasmania and Queensland. Nationally, trend employment grew by 0.2 per cent to 12 942 775.

Annually, trend resident employment decreased by 3.0 per cent compared to the same time last year, reporting the lowest annual result of the jurisdictions. Nationally, trend employment grew by 2.4 per cent (Chart 1).

In the year to September 2019, Territory employment decreased by 4.6 per cent. This was the largest year-on-year decline of the jurisdictions, reflecting a 6.0 per cent decline in full-time employment partly offset by a 0.8 per cent increase in part-time employment. Nationally, year-on-year employment grew by 2.4 per cent.

Unemployment

	NT	Aust
Unemployment rate (trend)	5.6%	5.3%
Monthly change (ppt)	↑0.2	flat
Annual change (ppt)	↑1.1	↑0.1

The Territory's monthly trend unemployment rate increased to 5.6 per cent in September 2019 (Chart 2). This was the fourth lowest rate of the jurisdictions, which ranged from 3.5 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory to 6.6 per cent in Queensland. Nationally, the monthly trend unemployment rate remained at 5.3 per cent.

Participation

	NT	Aust
Participation rate (trend)	73.3%	66.2%
Monthly change (ppt)	↑0.6	flat
Annual change (ppt)	↓1.1	↑0.6

The trend participation rate in the Territory increased by 0.6 percentage points to 73.3 per cent compared to the previous month. The Territory's participation rate remains the highest of the jurisdictions and above the national average of 66.2 per cent (Chart 3).

Labour force September 2019

Table 1: Labour force statistics*

	Period			Change		
	Sep 18	Aug 19	Sep 19	Monthly ¹	Annual ²	Year-on-year ³
Northern Territory						
Original						
Employment	133 614	128 299	132 085	3.0%	-1.1%	-4.6%
– full-time	106 426	99 170	102 444	3.3%	-3.7%	-6.0%
– part-time	27 188	29 129	29 642	1.8%	9.0%	0.8%
Unemployment rate	4.1%	5.4%	6.2%	0.8 ppt	2.1 ppt	
Participation rate	73.6%	71.8%	74.6%	2.8 ppt	1.0 ppt	
Labour force	139 355	135 569	140 808	3.9%	1.0%	-3.9%
Seasonally adjusted⁴						
– not published for the Northern Territory						
Trend⁵						
Employment	134 551	130 022	130 450	0.3%	-3.0%	
– full-time	107 692	100 594	101 006	0.4%	-6.2%	
– part-time	26 860	29 428	29 444	0.1%	9.6%	
Unemployment rate	4.5%	5.4%	5.6%	0.2 ppt	1.1 ppt	
Participation rate	74.4%	72.8%	73.3%	0.6 ppt	- 1.1 ppt	
Labour force	140 861	137 332	138 027	0.5%	-2.0%	
Australia						
Original						
Employment	12 615 120	12 859 357	12 926 718	0.5%	2.5%	2.4%
– full-time	8 614 133	8 746 942	8 805 517	0.7%	2.2%	2.6%
– part-time	4 000 987	4 112 415	4 121 200	0.2%	3.0%	1.9%
Unemployment rate	4.9%	5.3%	5.1%	- 0.2 ppt	0.2 ppt	
Participation rate	65.3%	65.8%	65.9%	0.1 ppt	0.7 ppt	
Labour force	13 263 178	13 574 152	13 619 498	0.3%	2.7%	2.1%
Seasonally adjusted⁴						
Employment	12 632 415	12 929 296	12 944 017	0.1%	2.5%	
– full-time	8 655 475	8 820 999	8 847 159	0.3%	2.2%	
– part-time	3 976 940	4 108 297	4 096 858	-0.3%	3.0%	
Unemployment rate	5.0%	5.3%	5.2%	- 0.1 ppt	0.2 ppt	
Participation rate	65.4%	66.2%	66.1%	- 0.1 ppt	0.7 ppt	
Labour force	13 298 386	13 647 041	13 653 620	0.0%	2.7%	
Trend⁵						
Employment	12 639 702	12 922 531	12 942 775	0.2%	2.4%	
– full-time	8 654 282	8 831 170	8 840 152	0.1%	2.1%	
– part-time	3 985 420	4 091 361	4 102 623	0.3%	2.9%	
Unemployment rate	5.2%	5.3%	5.3%	0.0 ppt	0.1 ppt	
Participation rate	65.6%	66.2%	66.2%	0.0 ppt	0.6 ppt	
Labour force	13 325 386	13 638 914	13 660 728	0.2%	2.5%	

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.

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.

More information:

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