

Labour force

February 2025 | Economic brief

Seasonally adjusted

	NT	Aust
Employed persons	139 825	14 513 237
- Monthly change	↑0.2%	↓0.4%
- Year-ended change	↓0.4%	↑1.9%
- Year-average change	↑1.2%	↑2.3%
Unemployment rate	4.3%	4.1%
Participation rate	72.8%	66.8%

Employment in the Territory increased by 0.2% to 139,825 persons in February 2025. Full-time employment increased by 2.2% partly offset by part-time employment which declined by 6.6%. The Territory reported the second strongest result of the jurisdictions, which ranged from a decline of 3.0% in Tasmania to an increase of 0.3% in Western Australia. Nationally, employment declined by 0.4%. Employment declined by 0.4% in the Territory over the year to February 2025 (Chart 1).

The Territory's unemployment rate declined by 0.2 percentage points (ppt) to 4.3% in February 2025 (Chart 2). The Territory reported the second highest rate of the jurisdictions, which ranged from 2.6% in the Australian Capital Territory to 4.6% in Victoria. Nationally, the monthly unemployment was flat at 4.1%. The participation rate in the Territory declined by 0.1 ppt to 72.8%. This is the highest rate of the jurisdictions, and is 6.1 ppt above the national rate (66.8%).

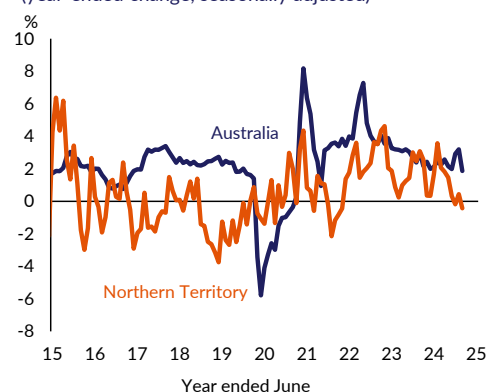
Trend

	NT	Aust
Employed persons	139 853	14 547 841
- Monthly change	↑0.5%	↑0.1%
- Annual change	↑0.3%	↑2.4%
Unemployment rate	4.3%	4.0%
Participation rate	72.9%	67.0%

Employment in the Territory increased by 0.5% to 139,853 persons in February 2025. Full-time employment increased by 0.6% and part-time employment increased by 0.1%. Employment increased by 0.3% in the Territory over the year to February 2025 (Chart 3).

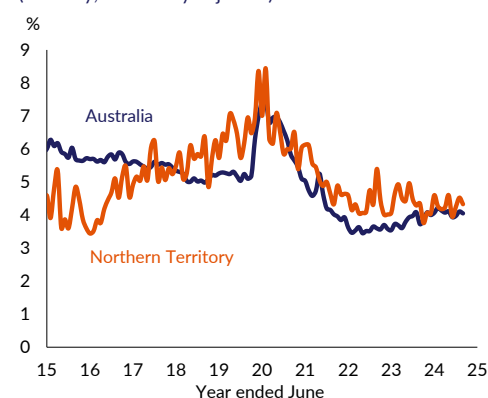
The Territory's unemployment rate was flat at 4.3% in February 2025. The participation rate in the Territory increased by 0.3 ppt to 72.9%.

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



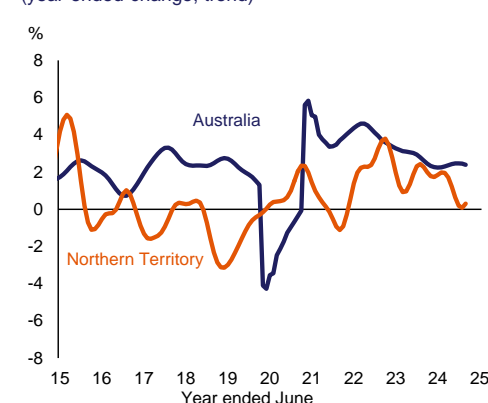
Source: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS Cat No. 6202.0

Chart 2: Unemployment rate
(monthly, seasonally adjusted)



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

Chart 3: Employment change
(year-ended change, trend)



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

Table 1: Labour force statistics*

	Period			Monthly change ¹	Year-ended change ²	
	Feb 24	Jan 25	Feb 25	%	%	No.
Northern Territory						
Seasonally adjusted						
Employment	140 429	139 561	139 825	0.2%	-0.4%	- 605
– full-time	110 314	107 956	110 304	2.2%	0.0%	- 10
– part-time	30 116	31 605	29 521	-6.6%	-2.0%	- 595
Unemployment rate	4.4%	4.5%	4.3%	- 0.2 ppt	- 0.1 ppt	
– Unemployed	6 391	6 617	6 329	-4.4%	-1.0%	- 62
Participation rate	73.9%	72.9%	72.8%	- 0.1 ppt	- 1.1 ppt	
Labour force	146 820	146 178	146 154	0.0%	-0.5%	- 666
Trend						
Employment	139 434	139 185	139 853	0.5%	0.3%	419
– full-time	110 347	109 356	109 998	0.6%	-0.3%	- 349
– part-time	29 087	29 829	29 855	0.1%	2.6%	768
Unemployment rate	4.3%	4.3%	4.3%	0.0 ppt	0.0 ppt	
– Unemployed	6 205	6 305	6 349	0.7%	2.3%	145
Participation rate	73.3%	72.6%	72.9%	0.3 ppt	- 0.4 ppt	
Labour force	145 639	145 491	146 203	0.5%	0.4%	564
Australia						
Seasonally adjusted						
Employment	14 247 071	14 566 007	14 513 237	-0.4%	1.9%	266 166
– full-time	9 811 167	10 043 039	10 007 303	-0.4%	2.0%	196 136
– part-time	4 435 903	4 522 968	4 505 934	-0.4%	1.6%	70 030
Unemployment rate	3.7%	4.1%	4.1%	0.0 ppt	0.4 ppt	
– Unemployed	551 259	623 769	612 599	-1.8%	11.1%	61 339
Participation rate	66.6%	67.2%	66.8%	- 0.4 ppt	0.2 ppt	
Labour force	14 798 330	15 189 776	15 125 835	-0.4%	2.2%	327 505
Trend						
Employment	14 207 809	14 532 649	14 547 841	0.1%	2.4%	340 032
– full-time	9 796 593	10 024 876	10 031 318	0.1%	2.4%	234 725
– part-time	4 411 215	4 507 773	4 516 523	0.2%	2.4%	105 308
Unemployment rate	3.9%	4.0%	4.0%	0.0 ppt	0.1 ppt	
– Unemployed	582 541	611 998	613 910	0.3%	5.4%	31 370
Participation rate	66.6%	67.0%	67.0%	0.0 ppt	0.4 ppt	
Labour force	14 790 350	15 144 647	15 161 751	0.1%	2.5%	371 402

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 Cat. No. 6202.0

Table 2: Unemployment rates by jurisdiction (%)

	February 2025		Ranking (highest to lowest)	
	Seasonally adjusted	Trend	Seasonally adjusted	Trend
States				
NSW	4.0	4.0	4	5
Vic	4.6	4.6	1	1
Qld	4.1	3.9	3	6
WA	3.4	3.5	7	7
SA	3.7	4.0	6	4
Tas	4.0	4.0	5	3
ACT	2.6	3.0	8	8
NT	4.3	4.3	2	2
Australia	4.1	4.0		

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

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

Economic Group | Department of Treasury and Finance

P: 08 8999 6718 | E: economics.dtf@nt.gov.au | W: nteconomy.nt.gov.au