

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 0.2 per cent in January 2018. The Territory's trend unemployment rate was 4.6 per cent and the trend participation rate was 76.2 per cent in the month.

Employment

	NT	AUST
Employment numbers (trend)	136 078	12 446 597
Change in the month (trend)	▲0.2%	▲0.2%
Annual change (trend)	▼3.1%	▲3.3%
Year on year (original)	▲0.7%	▲2.4%

In January 2018, trend resident employment in the Territory increased by 0.2 per cent to 136 078 persons, compared to the previous month.

The Territory recorded the second highest monthly result of the jurisdictions, equal with New South Wales. The monthly change in trend resident employment ranged from an increase of 0.1 per cent in Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania, to 0.3 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory. Nationally, trend employment growth was 0.2 per cent.

Annually, trend resident employment decreased by 3.1 per cent in the Territory compared to January 2017, reporting the only annual decline of the jurisdictions. Nationally, trend employment grew by 3.3 per cent over the same period (Chart 1).

In original terms, Territory employment grew by 0.7 per cent in the year to January 2018, which was the lowest growth of all jurisdictions. Year on year employment growth ranged from increases of 1.5 per cent in South Australia to 3.3 per cent in Victoria. Nationally, year on year employment grew by 2.4 per cent.

Unemployment

	NT	AUST
Unemployment rate (trend)	4.6%	5.5%
Change in the month (ppt)	flat	flat
Annual change (ppt)	▲1.1	▼0.3

*ppt = percentage point

The Territory's monthly trend unemployment rate remained at 4.6 per cent (Chart 2). This was the second lowest trend unemployment rate of the jurisdictions, which ranged from 4.0 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory to 6.0 per cent in Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia. Nationally, the monthly trend unemployment rate remained at 5.5 per cent.

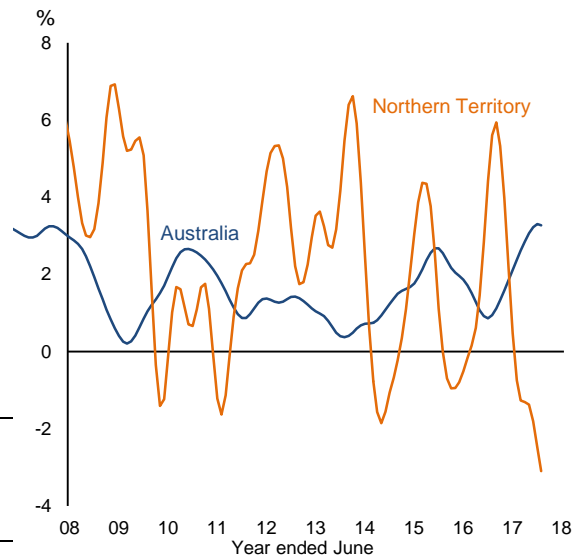
Labour Force Participation

	NT	AUST
Participation rate (trend)	76.2%	65.6%
Change in the month (ppt)	▲0.2	▲0.1
Annual change (ppt)	▼1.8	▲0.9

*ppt = percentage points

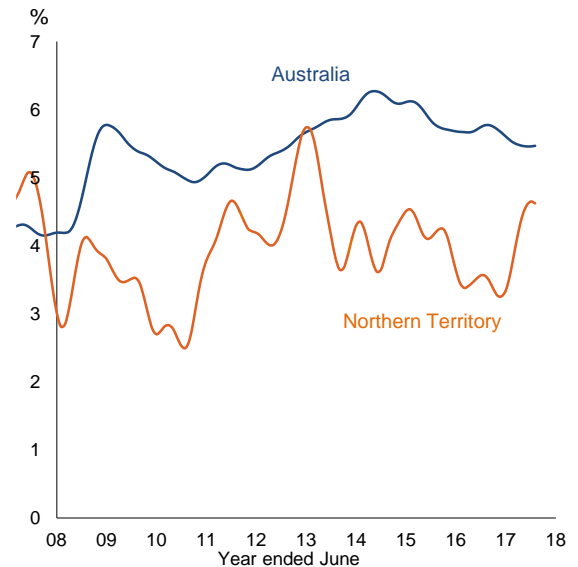
The trend participation rate in the Territory increased by 0.2 percentage points to 76.2 per cent. This remains the highest monthly trend participation rate of the jurisdictions and above the national average of 65.6 per cent (Chart 3).

Chart 1: Trend Employment (annual % ch.)



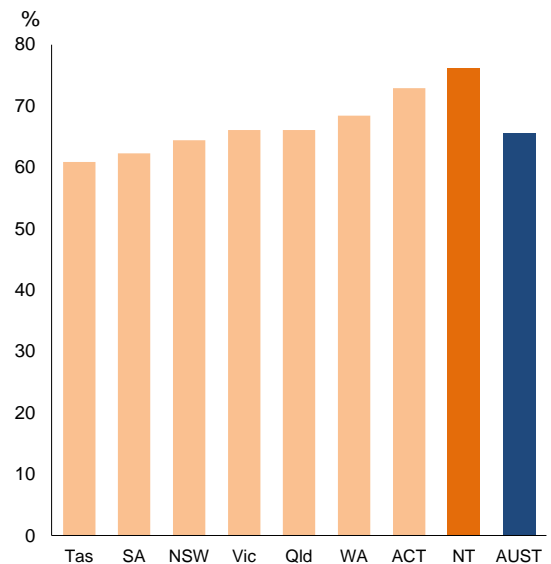
Source: DTF; ABS Cat No. 6202.0

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 *

	Jan 17	Dec 17	Jan 18	change		
				monthly ¹	annual ²	year on year ³
Northern Territory						
original						
employment	137 518	136 468	134 773	-1.2%	-2.0%	0.7%
- full time	109 775	108 218	105 855	-2.2%	-3.6%	-1.6%
- part time	27 743	28 250	28 918	2.4%	4.2%	10.1%
unemployment rate	4.8%	4.9%	3.9%	-1.1 ppt	-0.9 ppt	
participation rate	77.3%	76.6%	74.9%	-1.8 ppt	-2.5 ppt	
labour force	144 430	143 559	140 198	-2.3%	-2.9%	0.7%
seasonally adj						
not published for the Northern Territory						
trend ⁵						
employment	140 420	135 762	136 078	0.2%	-3.1%	
- full time	111 289	106 765	106 816	0.0%	-4.0%	
- part time	29 131	28 997	29 262	0.9%	0.5%	
unemployment rate	3.6%	4.7%	4.6%	0.0 ppt	1.1 ppt	
participation rate	78.0%	76.0%	76.2%	0.2 ppt	-1.8 ppt	
labour force	145 601	142 384	142 676	0.2%	-2.0%	
Australia						
original						
employment	11 888 510	12 562 080	12 297 559	-2.1%	3.4%	2.4%
- full time	8 106 839	8 655 691	8 437 970	-2.5%	4.1%	2.5%
- part time	3 781 671	3 906 389	3 859 588	-1.2%	2.1%	2.1%
unemployment rate	6.1%	5.4%	6.0%	0.6 ppt	-0.2 ppt	
participation rate	64.1%	66.2%	65.1%	-1.1 ppt	1.0 ppt	
labour force	12 666 650	13 278 786	13 077 277	-1.5%	3.2%	2.3%
seasonally adj ⁴						
employment	12 050 230	12 437 475	12 453 511	0.1%	3.3%	
- full time	8 167 756	8 510 736	8 460 909	-0.6%	3.6%	
- part time	3 882 474	3 926 740	3 992 603	1.7%	2.8%	
unemployment rate	5.7%	5.6%	5.5%	-0.1 ppt	-0.2 ppt	
participation rate	64.6%	65.7%	65.6%	-0.1 ppt	1.0 ppt	
labour force	12 774 424	13 169 208	13 177 358	0.1%	3.2%	
trend ⁵						
employment	12 051 678	12 423 591	12 446 597	0.2%	3.3%	
- full time	8 203 032	8 486 397	8 495 169	0.1%	3.6%	
- part time	3 848 647	3 937 194	3 951 428	0.4%	2.7%	
unemployment rate	5.8%	5.5%	5.5%	0.0 ppt	-0.3 ppt	
participation rate	64.7%	65.5%	65.6%	0.1 ppt	0.9 ppt	
labour force	12 789 889	13 141 199	13 166 788	0.2%	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.