

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 0.1 per cent in August 2018. The Territory's trend unemployment rate was 4.0 per cent and the trend participation rate was 76.7 per cent in the month.

Employment

	NT	AUST
Employment numbers (trend)	139 613	12 620 720
Change in the month (trend)	↓0.1	↑0.2%
Annual change (trend)	↑3.0%	↑2.5%
Year on year (original)	↓0.7%	↑3.0%

In August 2018, trend resident employment in the Territory decreased by 0.1 per cent to 139 613 persons, compared to the previous month.

The Territory recorded the only decrease of the jurisdictions. Across the jurisdictions, this ranged from no change in South Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory to a 0.3 per cent increase in Queensland. Nationally, trend employment growth was 0.2 per cent in the month.

Annually, trend resident employment increased by 3.0 per cent in the Territory compared to August 2017, reporting the second highest annual growth of the jurisdictions. Nationally, trend employment grew by 2.5 per cent over the same period (Chart 1).

In the year to August 2018, Territory employment decreased by 0.7 per cent. This was the only year on year decline of the jurisdictions. Year on year employment growth ranged from 2.1 per cent in South Australia and Western Australia to 3.9 per cent in Queensland. Nationally, year on year employment grew by 3.0 per cent.

Unemployment

	NT	AUST
Unemployment rate (trend)	4.0%	5.3%
Change in the month (ppt)	flat	flat
Annual change (ppt)	↑0.2	↓0.2

*ppt = percentage point

The Territory's monthly trend unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.0 per cent (Chart 2). This was the second lowest trend unemployment rate of the jurisdictions, which ranged from 3.7 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory to 6.3 per cent in Queensland. Nationally, the monthly trend unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.3 per cent compared to the previous month.

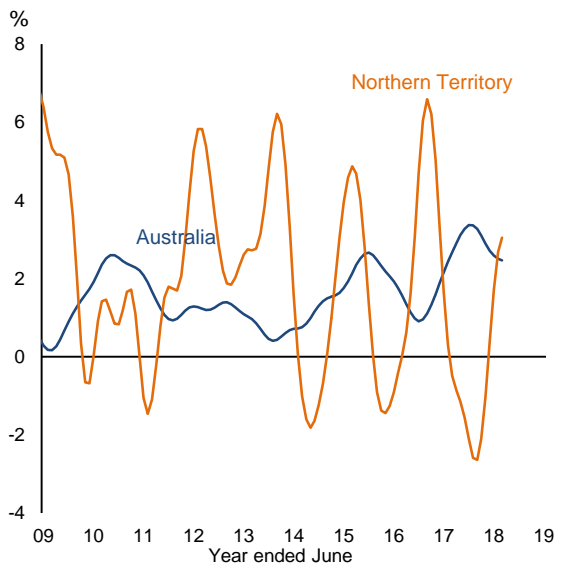
Labour Force Participation

	NT	AUST
Participation rate (trend)	76.7%	65.6%
Change in the month (ppt)	flat	flat
Annual change (ppt)	↑2.1	↑0.4

*ppt = percentage points

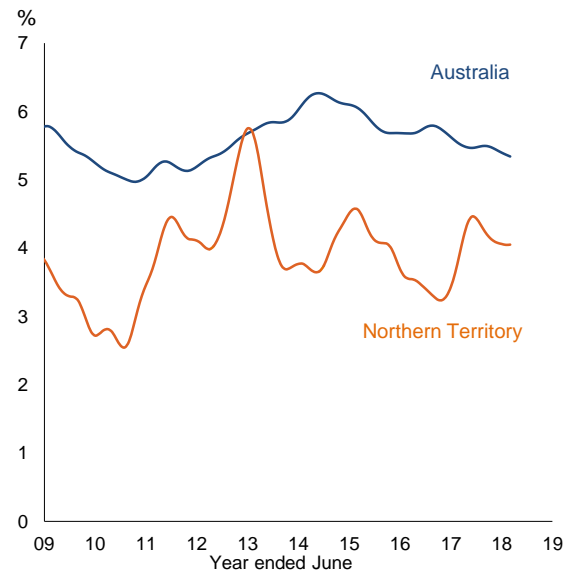
The trend participation rate in the Territory was unchanged at 76.7 per cent in the month. This remains the highest monthly trend participation rate of the jurisdictions and above the national average 65.6 per cent. (Chart 3).

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		
	Aug 17	Jul 18	Aug 18	monthly ¹	annual ²	year on year ³
Northern Territory						
original						
employment	135 632	140 226	136 020	-3.0%	0.3%	-0.7%
- full time	107 284	114 841	109 382	-4.8%	2.0%	0.0%
- part time	28 348	25 385	26 638	4.9%	-6.0%	-3.2%
unemployment rate	4.2%	3.9%	4.1%	0.3 ppt	0.0 ppt	
participation rate	74.9%	76.7%	74.6%	-2.1 ppt	-0.2 ppt	
labour force	141 545	145 884	141 889	-2.7%	0.2%	0.1%
seasonally adj						
not published for the Northern Territory						
trend ⁵						
employment	135 488	139 720	139 613	-0.1%	3.0%	
- full time	106 695	112 613	112 553	-0.1%	5.5%	
- part time	28 793	27 106	27 060	-0.2%	-6.0%	
unemployment rate	3.9%	4.0%	4.0%	0.0 ppt	0.2 ppt	
participation rate	74.6%	76.7%	76.7%	0.0 ppt	2.1 ppt	
labour force	141 022	145 668	145 612	0.0%	3.3%	
Australia						
original						
employment	12 256 714	12 583 994	12 559 253	-0.2%	2.5%	3.0%
- full time	8 372 236	8 620 582	8 571 413	-0.6%	2.4%	3.2%
- part time	3 884 478	3 963 412	3 987 840	0.6%	2.7%	2.7%
unemployment rate	5.5%	5.2%	5.3%	0.1 ppt	-0.2 ppt	
participation rate	64.9%	65.5%	65.3%	-0.2 ppt	0.4 ppt	
labour force	12 972 008	13 274 368	13 257 762	-0.1%	2.2%	2.8%
seasonally adj ⁴						
employment	12 324 920	12 587 284	12 631 284	0.3%	2.5%	
- full time	8 428 612	8 596 972	8 630 722	0.4%	2.4%	
- part time	3 896 308	3 990 312	4 000 561	0.3%	2.7%	
unemployment rate	5.6%	5.3%	5.3%	0.0 ppt	-0.2 ppt	
participation rate	65.3%	65.6%	65.7%	0.2 ppt	0.4 ppt	
labour force	13 050 896	13 290 281	13 340 057	0.4%	2.2%	
trend ⁵						
employment	12 317 666	12 591 750	12 620 720	0.2%	2.5%	
- full time	8 432 702	8 595 310	8 616 250	0.2%	2.2%	
- part time	3 884 964	3 996 440	4 004 471	0.2%	3.1%	
unemployment rate	5.5%	5.4%	5.3%	0.0 ppt	-0.2 ppt	
participation rate	65.3%	65.6%	65.6%	0.0 ppt	0.4 ppt	
labour force	13 038 746	13 306 328	13 332 586	0.2%	2.3%	

* 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.