In March 2019, trend resident employment in the Territory increased by 0.1 per cent to 133 451 persons, compared to the previous month. This was the second highest change of the jurisdictions, equal with South Australia.

Annually, trend resident employment decreased by 3.5 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 March 2019, Territory employment decreased by 1.3 per cent. This was the only year-on-year decline of the jurisdictions, reflecting a 6.5 per cent decline in part-time employment partly offset by an increase of 0.1 per cent in full-time employment. Nationally, year-on-year employment grew by 2.5 per cent.

The Territory’s monthly trend unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage points to 4.4 per cent (Chart 2). This was the third lowest rate of the jurisdictions, which ranged from 3.6 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory to 6.5 per cent in Tasmania. Nationally, the monthly trend unemployment rate remained at 5.0 per cent.

In the month, the trend participation rate in the Territory declined to 73.8 per cent. Despite this fall, the Territory’s labour force participation remains the highest trend participation rate of the jurisdictions and above the national average of 65.6 per cent (Chart 3).
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.

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