

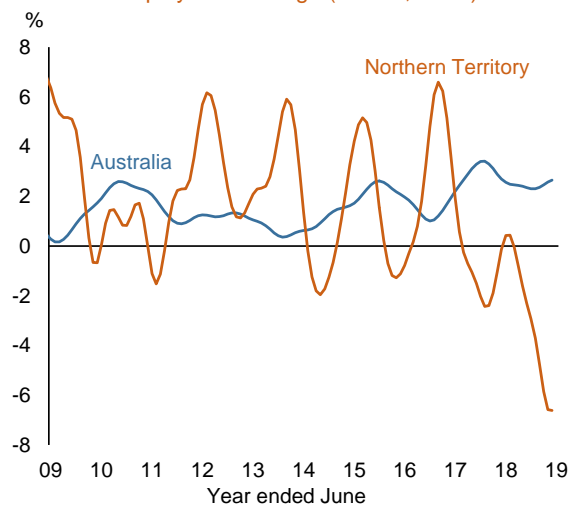
ECONOMIC BRIEF

Labour force

May 2019

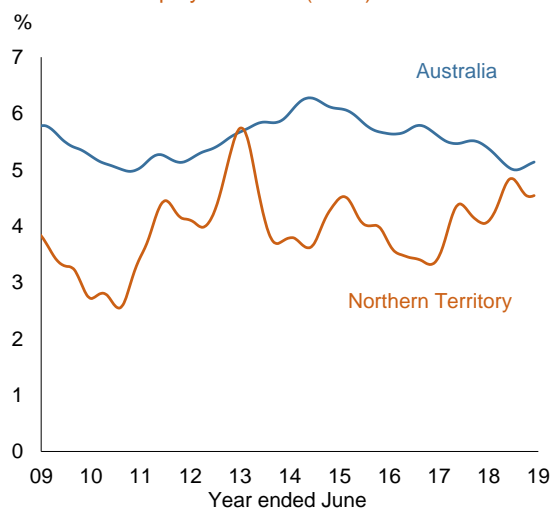
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Chart 1: Employment change (annual, trend)



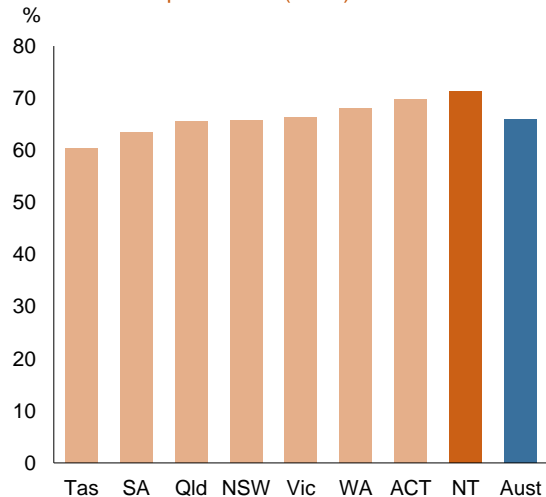
Source: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS Cat No. 6202.0

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)	129 704	12 856 582
Monthly change (trend)	↓0.1%	↑0.2%
Annual change (trend)	↓6.6%	↑2.7%
Year-on-year change (original)	↓2.3%	↑2.5%

In May 2019, trend resident employment in the Territory decreased by 0.1 per cent to 129 704 persons, compared to the previous month. This was the only monthly decline of the jurisdictions. Nationally, trend employment grew by 0.2 per cent to 12 856 582.

Annually, trend resident employment decreased by 6.6 per cent compared to the same time last year, reporting the lowest annual result of the jurisdictions. Nationally, trend employment grew by 2.7 per cent (Chart 1).

In the year to May 2019, Territory employment decreased by 2.3 per cent. This was the only year-on-year decline of the jurisdictions, reflecting a 3.3 per cent decline in part-time employment and a 2.0 per cent decline in full-time employment. Nationally, year-on-year employment grew by 2.5 per cent.

Unemployment

	NT	Aust
Unemployment rate (trend)	4.5%	5.1%
Monthly change (ppt)	flat	flat
Annual change (ppt)	↑0.5	↓0.3

The Territory's monthly trend unemployment rate remained at 4.5 per cent in May 2019 (Chart 2). This was the third lowest rate of the jurisdictions, which ranged from 3.9 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory to 6.6 per cent in Tasmania. Nationally, the monthly trend unemployment rate remained at 5.1 per cent.

Participation

	NT	Aust
Participation rate (trend)	71.4%	65.9%
Monthly change (ppt)	↓0.6	↑0.1
Annual change (ppt)	↓5.0	↑0.4

In the month, the trend participation rate in the Territory declined 0.6 percentage points to 71.4 per cent. Despite this fall, the Territory's participation rate remains the highest of the jurisdictions and above the national average of 65.9 per cent (Chart 3).

Labour force May 2019

Table 1: Labour force statistics*

	Period			Change		
	May 18	Apr 19	May 19	Monthly ¹	Annual ²	Year-on-year ³
Northern Territory						
Original						
Employment	139 307	128 392	128 659	0.2%	-7.6%	-2.3%
– full-time	111 252	101 594	98 130	-3.4%	-11.8%	-2.0%
– part-time	28 055	26 798	30 529	13.9%	8.8%	-3.3%
Unemployment rate	3.6%	4.8%	4.6%	- 0.2 ppt	1.0 ppt	
Participation rate	76.3%	71.5%	71.4%	- 0.1 ppt	- 4.9 ppt	
Labour force	144 552	134 817	134 867	0.0%	-6.7%	-1.9%
Seasonally adjusted⁴						
– not published for the Northern Territory						
Trend⁵						
Employment	138 882	129 830	129 704	-0.1%	-6.6%	
– full-time	111 096	101 727	101 177	-0.5%	-8.9%	
– part-time	27 786	28 103	28 528	1.5%	2.7%	
Unemployment rate	4.0%	4.5%	4.5%	0.0 ppt	0.5 ppt	
Participation rate	76.4%	72.0%	71.4%	- 0.6 ppt	- 5.0 ppt	
Labour force	144 898	136 134	135 934	-0.1%	-6.2%	
Australia						
Original						
Employment	12 572 245	12 842 913	12 935 779	0.7%	2.9%	2.5%
– full-time	8 515 932	8 754 561	8 779 251	0.3%	3.1%	2.6%
– part-time	4 056 312	4 088 352	4 156 527	1.7%	2.5%	2.2%
Unemployment rate	5.3%	5.3%	5.1%	- 0.2 ppt	- 0.2 ppt	
Participation rate	65.7%	66.0%	66.3%	0.3 ppt	0.6 ppt	
Labour force	13 274 624	13 557 367	13 630 687	0.5%	2.7%	2.0%
Seasonally adjusted⁴						
Employment	12 507 976	12 825 973	12 868 237	0.3%	2.9%	
– full-time	8 526 534	8 790 457	8 792 883	0.0%	3.1%	
– part-time	3 981 442	4 035 516	4 075 353	1.0%	2.4%	
Unemployment rate	5.4%	5.2%	5.2%	0.0 ppt	- 0.2 ppt	
Participation rate	65.4%	65.9%	66.0%	0.1 ppt	0.6 ppt	
Labour force	13 219 496	13 533 015	13 572 915	0.3%	2.7%	
Trend⁵						
Employment	12 523 662	12 828 230	12 856 582	0.2%	2.7%	
– full-time	8 547 730	8 785 912	8 799 787	0.2%	2.9%	
– part-time	3 975 932	4 042 317	4 056 795	0.4%	2.0%	
Unemployment rate	5.4%	5.1%	5.1%	0.0 ppt	- 0.3 ppt	
Participation rate	65.5%	65.8%	65.9%	0.1 ppt	0.4 ppt	
Labour force	13 244 325	13 517 613	13 551 742	0.3%	2.3%	

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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