

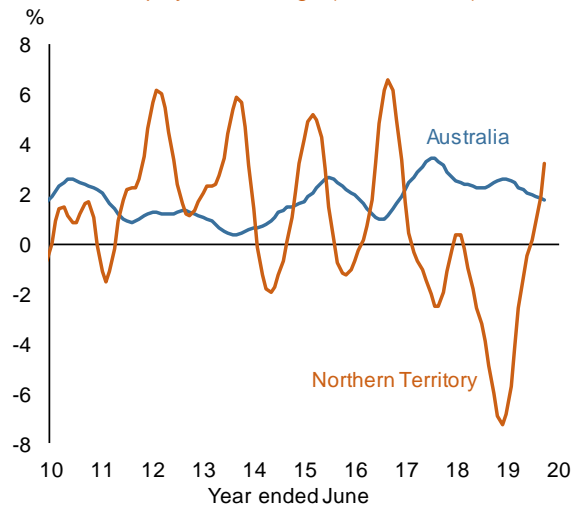
ECONOMIC BRIEF

Labour force

March 2020

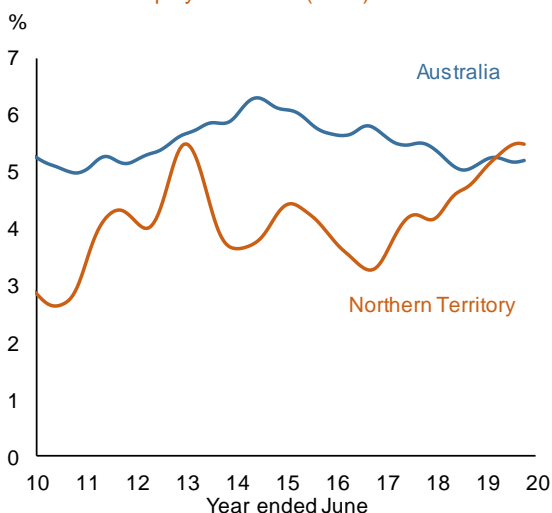
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Chart 1: Employment change (annual, trend)



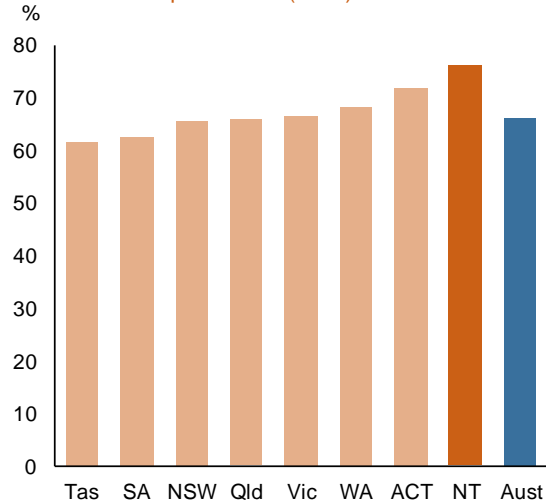
Source: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS Cat No. 6202.0

Chart 2: Unemployment rate (trend)



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

Chart 3: Participation rate (trend)



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

Employment

	NT	Aust
Employed persons (trend)	134 293	13 020 458
Monthly change (trend)	↑0.5%	↑0.1%
Annual change (trend)	↑3.2%	↑1.8%
Year-on-year change (original)	↓3.2%	↑2.2%

In March 2020, trend resident employment in the Territory increased by 0.5 per cent to 134 293 persons, compared to the previous month. This was the highest result of the jurisdictions, equal with the Australian Capital Territory. Nationally, trend employment grew by 0.1 per cent to 13 020 458 persons.

Annually, trend resident employment increased by 3.2 per cent compared to the same time last year, reporting the third highest result of the jurisdictions, with South Australia recording the only decrease of 0.1 per cent. Nationally, trend employment grew by 1.8 per cent (Chart 1).

In the year to March 2020, Territory employment decreased by 3.2 per cent. This was the only year-on-year decline of the jurisdictions, reflecting a 5.5 per cent decline in full-time employment, partly offset by a 5.7 per cent increase in part-time employment. Nationally, year-on-year employment grew by 2.2 per cent.

Unemployment

	NT	Aust
Unemployment rate (trend)	5.5%	5.2%
Monthly change (ppt)	flat	flat
Annual change (ppt)	↑0.6	↑0.1

The Territory's monthly trend unemployment rate remained at 5.5 per cent in March 2020 (Chart 2). This was the third highest rate of the jurisdictions. Other jurisdictions ranged from 3.0 per cent in the Australian Capital Territory to 6.0 per cent in South Australia. Nationally, the monthly trend unemployment rate grew by 5.2 per cent.

Participation

	NT	Aust
Participation rate (trend)	76.0%	66.0%
Monthly change (ppt)	↑0.4	flat
Annual change (ppt)	↑3.4	↑0.2

The trend participation rate in the Territory increased 0.4 percentage points to 76.0 per cent compared to the previous month. The Territory's participation rate remains the highest of the jurisdictions and above the national average of 66.0 per cent (Chart 3).

Labour force March 2020

Table 1: Labour force statistics*

	Period			Change		
	Mar 19	Feb 20	Mar 20	Monthly ¹	Annual ²	Year-on-year ³
Northern Territory						
Original						
Employment	132 467	132 651	135 366	2.0%	2.2%	-3.2%
– full-time	101 533	103 447	103 011	-0.4%	1.5%	-5.5%
– part-time	30 934	29 204	32 356	10.8%	4.6%	5.7%
Unemployment rate	3.7%	6.0%	5.3%	- 0.7 ppt	1.6 ppt	
Participation rate	73.1%	75.3%	76.3%	1.0 ppt	3.3 ppt	
Labour force	137 554	141 050	142 870	1.3%	3.9%	-2.4%
Seasonally adjusted⁴						
– not published for the Northern Territory						
Trend⁵						
Employment	130 113	133 665	134 293	0.5%	3.2%	
– full-time	102 334	103 689	103 854	0.2%	1.5%	
– part-time	27 778	29 976	30 439	1.5%	9.6%	
Unemployment rate	4.8%	5.5%	5.5%	0.0 ppt	0.6 ppt	
Participation rate	72.6%	75.6%	76.0%	0.4 ppt	3.4 ppt	
Labour force	136 720	141 428	142 071	0.5%	3.9%	
Australia						
Original						
Employment	12 786 946	13 056 667	13 014 023	-0.3%	1.8%	2.2%
– full-time	8 763 824	8 971 676	8 854 464	-1.3%	1.0%	2.0%
– part-time	4 023 122	4 084 991	4 159 559	1.8%	3.4%	2.5%
Unemployment rate	5.4%	5.5%	5.6%	0.0 ppt	0.2 ppt	
Participation rate	65.9%	66.5%	66.2%	- 0.3 ppt	0.3 ppt	
Labour force	13 519 152	13 821 150	13 782 699	-0.3%	1.9%	2.2%
Seasonally adjusted⁴						
Employment	12 789 888	13 011 687	13 017 609	0.0%	1.8%	
– full-time	8 790 462	8 882 597	8 882 160	0.0%	1.0%	
– part-time	3 999 426	4 129 090	4 135 449	0.2%	3.4%	
Unemployment rate	5.1%	5.1%	5.2%	0.1 ppt	0.1 ppt	
Participation rate	65.7%	66.0%	66.0%	0.0 ppt	0.3 ppt	
Labour force	13 475 336	13 710 041	13 736 219	0.2%	1.9%	
Trend⁵						
Employment	12 796 393	13 003 672	13 020 458	0.1%	1.8%	
– full-time	8 772 919	8 880 073	8 888 904	0.1%	1.3%	
– part-time	4 023 473	4 123 600	4 131 554	0.2%	2.7%	
Unemployment rate	5.1%	5.2%	5.2%	0.0 ppt	0.1 ppt	
Participation rate	65.8%	66.0%	66.0%	0.0 ppt	0.2 ppt	
Labour force	13 482 452	13 713 482	13 733 789	0.1%	1.9%	

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

Please note, the labour force survey for March was conducted during the two weeks beginning on the Sunday between the 1st to the 14th of that month, which was before the global pandemic was declared and restrictions in Australia were put in place.

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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