

Labour force

December 2023 | Economic brief

Employment

	NT	Aust
Employed persons (trend)	138 236	14 246 041
Monthly change (trend)	↑0.1%	↑0.1%
Annual change (trend)	↓1.0%	↑3.0%
Year-on-year change (original)	↑2.7%	↑3.3%

In December 2023, trend resident employment in the Territory increased by 0.1% to 138,236 persons. Part-time employment increased by 0.8% while full-time employment was flat. Nationally, employment increased by 0.1%, with part-time employment increasing by 0.5% while full-time employment was flat.

Annually, trend resident employment decreased by 1.0% in the Territory. Nationally, employment increased by 3.0% over the same period (Chart 1). In 2023, Territory employment increased by 2.7%, reflecting an increase in full-time employment of 3.4% and an increase in part-time employment of 0.2%. Nationally, year-on-year employment increased by 3.3%.

Unemployment

	NT	Aust
Unemployment rate (trend)	4.6%	3.8%
Monthly change (ppt)	↑0.1	flat
Annual change (ppt)	↑1.0	↑0.3

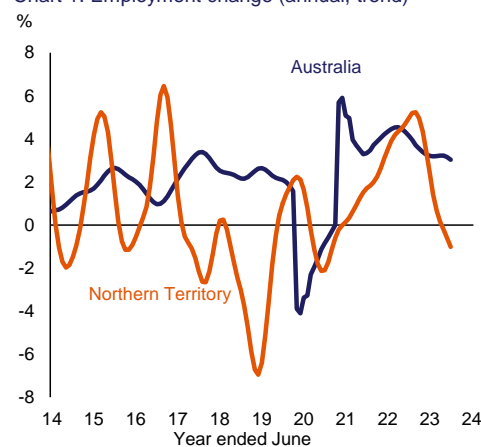
The Territory's trend unemployment rate increased from 4.5% in November 2023 to 4.6% in December 2023 (Chart 2). Nationally, the monthly unemployment rate was flat at 3.8%.

Participation

	NT	Aust
Participation rate (trend)	73.3%	67.0%
Monthly change (ppt)	↑0.1	flat
Annual change (ppt)	↓1.2	↑0.3

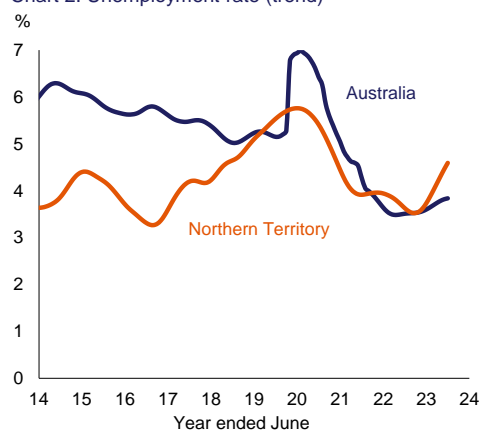
The trend participation rate in the Territory increased by 0.1 percentage points to 73.3% in December 2023. The Territory's participation rate is the highest of the jurisdictions, and well above the national rate of 67.0% (Chart 3).

Chart 1: Employment change (annual, trend)



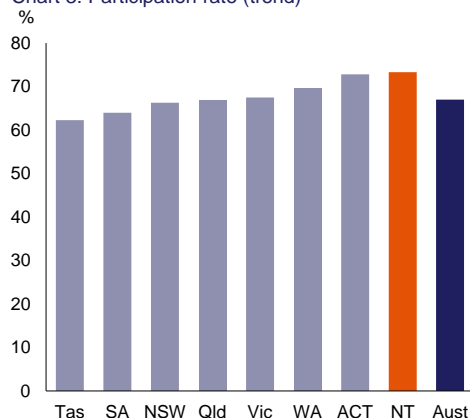
Source: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS Cat No. 6202.0

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

Table 1: Labour force statistics*

	Period			Change		
	Dec 22	Nov 23	Dec 23	Monthly ¹	Annual ²	Year-on-year ³
Northern Territory						
Original						
Employment	140 833	139 233	142 343	2.2%	1.1%	2.7%
– full-time	110 094	110 094	112 389	2.1%	2.1%	3.4%
– part-time	30 739	29 139	29 953	2.8%	-2.6%	0.2%
Unemployment rate	3.8%	4.9%	4.3%	- 0.6 ppt	0.5 ppt	
Participation rate	75.3%	74.2%	75.3%	1.1 ppt	0.0 ppt	
Labour force	146 328	146 434	148 766	1.6%	1.7%	2.8%
Seasonally adjusted						
Employment	138 833	138 475	140 367	1.4%	1.1%	
– full-time	107 873	108 794	110 135	1.2%	2.1%	
– part-time	30 960	29 681	30 232	1.9%	-2.4%	
Unemployment rate	3.9%	4.7%	4.5%	- 0.2 ppt	0.6 ppt	
Participation rate	74.4%	73.6%	74.4%	0.8 ppt	0.0 ppt	
Labour force	144 471	145 230	146 924	1.2%	1.7%	
Trend						
Employment	139 657	138 033	138 236	0.1%	-1.0%	
– full-time	108 066	109 520	109 495	0.0%	1.3%	
– part-time	31 590	28 513	28 741	0.8%	-9.0%	
Unemployment rate	3.6%	4.5%	4.6%	0.1 ppt	1.0 ppt	
Participation rate	74.5%	73.2%	73.3%	0.1 ppt	- 1.2 ppt	
Labour force	144 919	144 476	144 895	0.3%	0.0%	
Australia						
Original						
Employment	13 960 089	14 325 304	14 343 676	0.1%	2.7%	3.3%
– full-time	9 832 308	9 927 400	9 937 289	0.1%	1.1%	3.8%
– part-time	4 127 781	4 397 904	4 406 387	0.2%	6.7%	2.2%
Unemployment rate	3.4%	3.6%	3.8%	0.2 ppt	0.4 ppt	
Participation rate	67.3%	67.4%	67.4%	0.0 ppt	0.1 ppt	
Labour force	14 444 585	14 861 240	14 903 093	0.3%	3.2%	3.3%
Seasonally adjusted						
Employment	13 820 154	14 266 233	14 201 116	-0.5%	2.8%	
– full-time	9 686 466	9 897 776	9 791 225	-1.1%	1.1%	
– part-time	4 133 687	4 368 457	4 409 892	0.9%	6.7%	
Unemployment rate	3.5%	3.9%	3.9%	0.0 ppt	0.4 ppt	
Participation rate	66.7%	67.3%	66.8%	- 0.5 ppt	0.1 ppt	
Labour force	14 317 756	14 840 609	14 774 676	-0.4%	3.2%	
Trend						
Employment	13 827 499	14 227 231	14 246 041	0.1%	3.0%	
– full-time	9 677 556	9 858 938	9 857 135	0.0%	1.9%	
– part-time	4 149 944	4 368 293	4 388 906	0.5%	5.8%	
Unemployment rate	3.5%	3.8%	3.8%	0.0 ppt	0.3 ppt	
Participation rate	66.7%	67.0%	67.0%	0.0 ppt	0.3 ppt	
Labour force	14 330 948	14 792 545	14 815 074	0.2%	3.4%	

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.

* 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, as it is often derived from small samples and can be highly volatile. Although due care has been exercised in preparing this material, no responsibility is accepted for any errors or omission.

[Labour force, Australia | Australian Bureau of Statistics \(abs.gov.au\)](https://abs.gov.au)

More information

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