

# Labour force

May 2025 | Economic brief

## Seasonally adjusted

	NT	Aust
Employed persons	144 549	14 620 648
- Monthly change	↑0.5%	flat
- Year-ended change	↑1.9%	↑2.3%
- Year-average change	↑1.4%	↑2.3%
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.1%
Participation rate	73.1%	67.0%

Employment in the Territory increased by 0.5% to 144,549 persons in May 2025. Full-time employment increased by 1.3%, partly offset by part-time employment which declined by 2.5%. The Territory reported the fourth strongest result of the jurisdictions, which ranged from a decline of 2.0% in the Australian Capital Territory to an increase of 1.2% in South Australia. Nationally, employment was flat. Employment in the Territory increased by 1.9% over the year to May 2025 (Chart 1). This was the fourth weakest result of the jurisdictions.

The Territory's unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percentage points (ppt) to 4.1% in May 2025 (Chart 2). The Territory reported the fourth lowest rate of the jurisdictions, which ranged from 3.7% in Queensland to 4.4% in Victoria. Nationally, the monthly unemployment was flat at 4.1%. The Territory's unemployment rate increased by 0.1 ppt over the year to May 2025.

The participation rate in the Territory increased by 0.4 ppt to 73.1%. This is the highest rate of the jurisdictions, and is 6.1 ppt above the national rate (67.0%). The Territory's participation rate increased by 0.3 ppt over the year to May 2025.

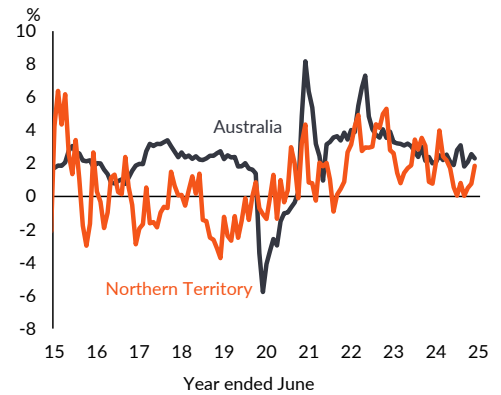
## Trend

	NT	Aust
Employed persons	145 231	14 636 807
- Monthly change	↑0.4%	↑0.2%
- Annual change	↑1.7%	↑2.3%
Unemployment rate	4.0%	4.1%
Participation rate	73.3%	67.0%

Employment in the Territory increased by 0.4% to 145,231 persons in May 2025. Full-time employment increased by 0.4% and part-time employment increased by 0.3%. Employment increased by 1.7% in the Territory over the year to May 2025 (Chart 3).

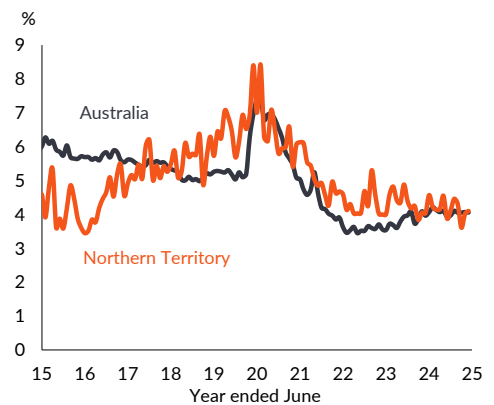
The Territory's unemployment rate was flat at 4.0% in May 2025, however declined by 0.1 ppt over the year. The participation rate in the Territory increased by 0.2 ppt to 73.3%, however was flat over the year.

Chart 1: Employment change (year-ended change, seasonally adjusted)



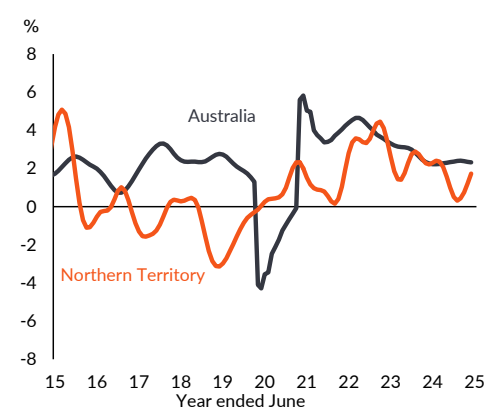
Source: DTF; ABS, Labour Force

Chart 2: Unemployment rate (monthly, seasonally adjusted)



Source: DTF; ABS, Labour Force

Chart 3: Employment change (year-ended change, trend)



Source: DTF; ABS, Labour Force

Table 1: Labour force statistics\*

	Period			Monthly change <sup>1</sup>	Year-ended change <sup>2</sup>	
	May 24	Apr 25	May 25	%	%	No.
<b>Northern Territory</b>						
<b>Seasonally adjusted</b>						
Employment	141 918	143 814	144 549	0.5%	1.9%	2 631
– full-time	112 306	113 535	115 030	1.3%	2.4%	2 723
– part-time	29 612	30 280	29 520	-2.5%	-0.3%	- 92
Unemployment rate	4.0%	4.0%	4.1%	0.1 ppt	0.1 ppt	
– Unemployed	5 971	6 009	6 186	2.9%	3.6%	214
Participation rate	72.8%	72.7%	73.1%	0.4 ppt	0.3 ppt	
Labour force	147 889	149 823	150 735	0.6%	1.9%	2 846
<b>Trend</b>						
Employment	142 766	144 631	145 231	0.4%	1.7%	2 464
– full-time	113 125	114 714	115 221	0.4%	1.9%	2 097
– part-time	29 642	29 917	30 009	0.3%	1.2%	368
Unemployment rate	4.1%	4.0%	4.0%	0.0 ppt	-0.1 ppt	
– Unemployed	6 114	6 030	6 021	-0.1%	-1.5%	- 94
Participation rate	73.3%	73.1%	73.3%	0.2 ppt	0.0 ppt	
Labour force	148 881	150 661	151 251	0.4%	1.6%	2 370
<b>Australia</b>						
<b>Seasonally adjusted</b>						
Employment	14 291 533	14 623 102	14 620 648	0.0%	2.3%	329 115
– full-time	9 851 554	10 065 224	10 103 917	0.4%	2.6%	252 363
– part-time	4 439 979	4 557 877	4 516 731	-0.9%	1.7%	76 752
Unemployment rate	4.0%	4.1%	4.1%	0.0 ppt	0.1 ppt	
– Unemployed	590 053	620 870	618 283	-0.4%	4.8%	28 230
Participation rate	66.7%	67.1%	67.0%	-0.1 ppt	0.3 ppt	
Labour force	14 881 586	15 243 972	15 238 931	0.0%	2.4%	357 345
<b>Trend</b>						
Employment	14 304 774	14 608 813	14 636 807	0.2%	2.3%	332 034
– full-time	9 868 429	10 072 346	10 092 851	0.2%	2.3%	224 422
– part-time	4 436 345	4 536 467	4 543 957	0.2%	2.4%	107 612
Unemployment rate	4.0%	4.1%	4.1%	0.0 ppt	0.1 ppt	
– Unemployed	599 484	619 304	620 776	0.2%	3.6%	21 292
Participation rate	66.8%	67.0%	67.0%	0.0 ppt	0.2 ppt	
Labour force	14 904 258	15 228 117	15 257 584	0.2%	2.4%	353 326

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.

\* Due to rounding, changes in the table may not reflect the actual change.

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance; ABS, *Labour force*

Table 2: Unemployment rates by jurisdiction (%)

States	May 2025		Ranking (highest to lowest)	
	Seasonally adjusted	Trend	Seasonally adjusted	Trend
NSW	4.1	4.0	4	2
Vic	4.4	4.4	1	1
Qld	3.7	4.0	8	5
WA	3.9	3.8	7	7
SA	4.3	4.0	2	3
Tas	4.0	3.9	6	6
ACT	4.2	3.4	3	8
NT	4.1	4.0	5	4
<b>Australia</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.1</b>		

Source: Department of Treasury and Finance; ABS, *Labour force*

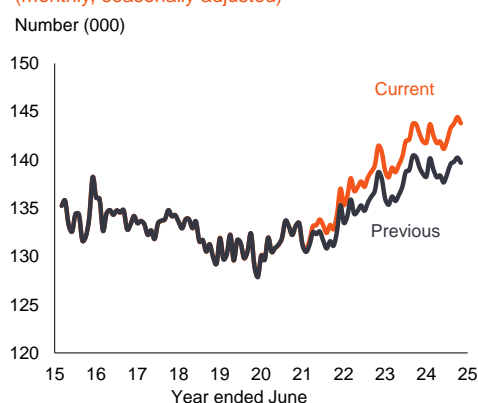
Term	Definition
Employment	Work for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind, in a job or business or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers)
Employed full-time	Employed people who usually work 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and those who usually work less but worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.
Employed part-time	Employed people who usually worked less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) or were not at work in the reference week.
Unemployed	People aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week and had actively looked for full time or part time work.
Unemployment rate	For any group, the number of unemployed people expressed as a percentage of the labour force in the same group.
Participation rate	For any group, the labour force expressed as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over in the same group.
Labour force	For any group, people who were employed or unemployed, as defined.
Year-ended change	Compares the latest quarter with the same quarter last year
Year-average change	Compares the 12 months up to and including the latest quarter with the previous 12 month period
Seasonally adjusted	A seasonally adjusted series involves estimating and removing the cyclical and seasonal effects from the original data. Seasonally adjusting a time series is useful if you wish to understand the underlying patterns of change or movement in a population, without the impact of the seasonal or cyclical effects.
Trend	A trend series is a seasonally adjusted series that has been further adjusted to remove irregular effects and 'smooth' out the series to show the overall 'trend' of the data over time.

## Revisions to labour force data

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has updated its methodology for estimating interstate migration, with revisions made to interstate migration estimates from September quarter 2021 onwards. The revisions have resulted in an overall improvement to the Territory's population estimates.

The labour force series from July 2021 onwards has been revised to reflect the updated population estimates. Territory employment is 4,100 persons higher in April 2025 compared to the last release (Chart 4). The Territory participation rate has reported an overall improvement while the Territory unemployment rate is inline with the last release.

Chart 4: Employed persons (monthly, seasonally adjusted)



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://www.abs.gov.au)

## More information

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