

Summary

In September 2009, the number of people employed in the Territory decreased slightly, but remains higher than the same time last year. For the third consecutive month the Territory has recorded an unemployment rate of 4.2%, the second lowest unemployment rate of all jurisdictions.

The following analysis is based on trend series data (unless stated otherwise) to allow for comparisons between the Northern Territory, Australia and other jurisdictions.

Employment

	NT	Aust
Employment numbers ('000)	118.1	10 786.0
Monthly change	↓0.3%	flat
Annual change	↑3.5%	↓0.2%
Year on year change	↑4.3%	↑0.5%

In September 2009, there were 118 144 people employed in the Territory, a decrease of 0.3% from the previous month. However, compared with September 2008, the number of employed people in the Territory has increased by 3.5%. The Territory recorded the strongest annual growth of all jurisdictions. Nationally, there was a 0.2% decrease between September 2008 and September 2009.

Year on year growth is considered a more stable measure of growth, however, it does not identify turning points in a timely manner. In the year to September 2009, the number of people employed in the Territory and in Australia increased by 4.3% and 0.5% respectively from the previous year.

According to the ANZ, the number of newspaper job advertisements in the Territory fell slightly in September 2009 in seasonally adjusted terms.

Unemployment

	NT	Aust
Unemployment rate	4.2%	5.8%
Change in the month (pts)*	flat	flat
Annual change (pts)*	↑1.0	↑1.5

*pts = percentage points

The Territory's unemployment rate in September 2009 was 4.2%. This is the third consecutive month with the unemployment rate at this level. The Territory continues to have the second lowest unemployment rate behind the Australian Capital Territory. The unemployment rate in other states varied between 3.5% in the Australian Capital Territory to 6.0% in Queensland. The national unemployment rate for September remained at 5.8%.

Compared with September 2008, the Territory's unemployment rate has risen by 1.0 percentage point. Nationally, the unemployment rate has increased by 1.5 percentage points over this period.

Labour Force Participation

	NT	Aust
Participation rate	73.8%	65.1%
Change in the month (pts)*	↓0.4	flat
Annual change (pts)*	↑1.6	↓0.2

*pts = percentage points

In September 2009, the Territory's participation rate decreased slightly from the previous month, but remains the highest of all jurisdictions.

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Nationally, media analysis of the Australian Bureau of Statistics 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.

Chart 1: Employment (Annual % change.)

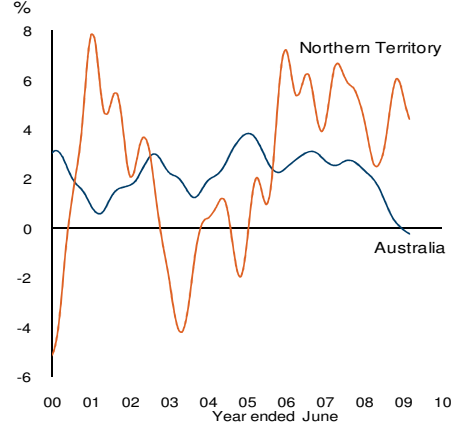


Chart 2: Unemployment Rate

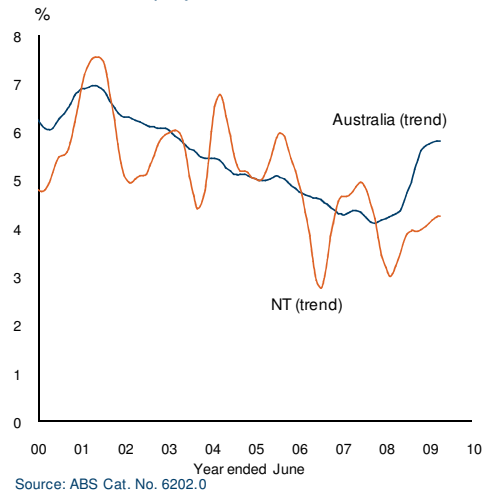
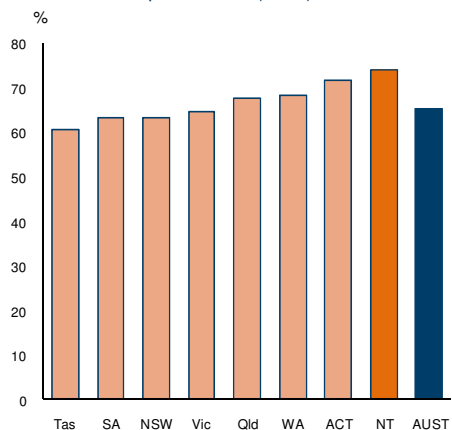


Chart 3: Participation Rate (trend)



Labour Force Statistics

			change		
	September	August	monthly ¹	annual ²	year on year ³
Northern Territory					
original					
employment	119 558	118 053	1.3%	2.9%	4.3%
- full time	94 937	93 657	1.4%	5.5%	7.2%
- part time	24 621	24 396	0.9%	-6.0%	-6.3%
unemployment rate	3.6%	3.2%	0.4 ppt	0.8 ppt	
participation rate	74.1%	73.1%	1.0 ppt	1.0 ppt	
labour force	124 004	121 977	1.7%	3.8%	4.2%
seasonally adj					
not published for the Northern Territory					
trend					
employment	118 144	118 559	-0.3%	3.5%	4.3%
- full time	94 610	95 401	-0.8%	6.4%	
- part time	23 534	23 158	1.6%	-6.6%	
unemployment rate	4.2%	4.2%	0.0 ppt	1.0 ppt	
participation rate	73.8%	74.2%	-0.4 ppt	1.6 ppt	
labour force	123 381	123 804	-0.3%	4.6%	
Australia					
original					
employment	10 885 242	10 706 501	1.7%	0.1%	0.5%
- full time	7 687 111	7 487 365	2.7%	-1.9%	-0.7%
- part time	3 198 131	3 219 136	-0.7%	5.3%	3.6%
unemployment rate	5.6%	5.5%	0.1 ppt	1.3 ppt	
participation rate	65.6%	64.5%	1.1 ppt	-0.2 ppt	
labour force	11 535 851	11 330 353	1.8%	1.5%	1.7%
seasonally adj					
employment	10 805 642	10 765 027	0.4%	0.1%	
- full time	7 589 835	7 554 445	0.5%	-2.0%	
- part time	3 215 807	3 210 582	0.2%	5.3%	
unemployment rate	5.7%	5.8%	-0.1 ppt	1.4 ppt	
participation rate	65.2%	65.1%	0.1 ppt	-0.2 ppt	
labour force	11 464 279	11 427 473	0.3%	1.6%	
trend					
employment	10 786 005	10 781 349	0.0%	-0.2%	0.5%
- full time	7 571 225	7 579 661	-0.1%	-2.3%	
- part time	3 214 780	3 201 688	0.4%	5.2%	
unemployment rate	5.8%	5.8%	0.0 ppt	1.5 ppt	
participation rate	65.1%	65.2%	0.0 ppt	-0.2 ppt	
labour force	11 450 735	11 445 592	0.0%	1.5%	

¹ compares the latest month with the previous month

² compares the latest month with the same month last year

³ compares the 12 months up to and including the latest month with the previous 12 month period

ppt = percentage point

⁴ seasonal adjustment removes from 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

Caution is advised when using monthly data for the Territory, which is often derived from small samples and highly volatile.

ANZ Newspaper Job Advertisements

	September	August	change		
			monthly ¹	annual ²	year on year ³
Northern Territory					
original	320	304	5.3%	-24.3%	-26.6%
seasonally adj	287	289	-0.5%	-24.4%	
Australia					
original	9 990	9 259	7.9%	-41.4%	-47.4%
seasonally adj	8 929	8 613	3.7%	-41.3%	

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⁴ seasonal adjustment removes from a series influences that are systemic and calendar related

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Data Quality

The ABS acknowledges there is extreme volatility and high standard errors associated with monthly Territory labour force figures. As such, these estimates should be used with caution.

It is important to note that analysis of national labour force data generally concentrates on seasonally adjusted data. As the ABS does not provide seasonally adjusted data for the Territory, all data are trend (smoothed over time) figures for comparative purposes. Also, changes included in the above tables may vary from those calculated from the publication due to greater detail provided in ABS spreadsheets used to create this brief.

Disclaimer

Although all due care has been exercised in the preparation of this material, no responsibility is accepted for any errors or omission.

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