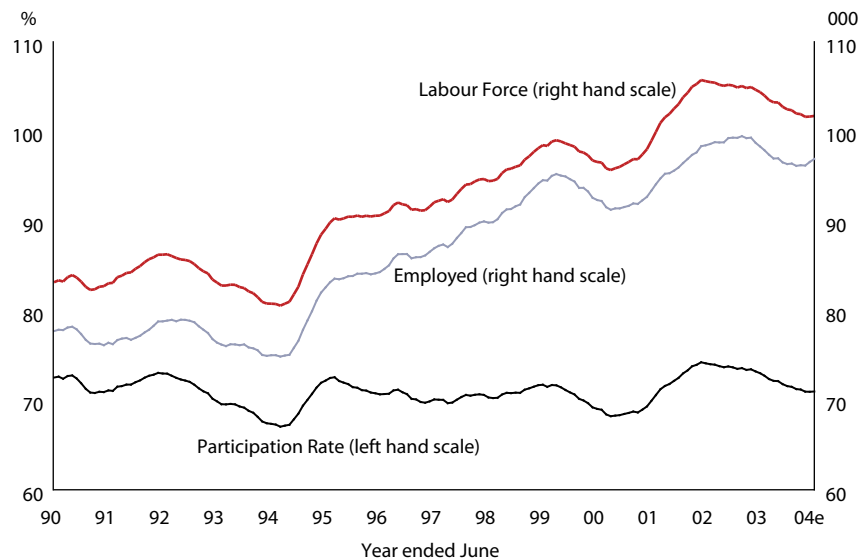


2004-05 Employment

- The Territory workforce of approximately 100 000 people is typically young, mobile and transient, and includes approximately 8 000 Indigenous participants on the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) program. In addition, there are approximately 5 500 defence force personnel resident in the Territory who are not included in workforce estimates.
- The past decade has seen the creation of about 20 000 non-defence force jobs in the Territory.
- Participation rates are typically close to, or about, 70 per cent and the unemployment rate typically in the 4-6 per cent range, both better than national averages.
- The Territory's labour force is heavily dependent on large interstate migration flows to overcome skills and expertise shortages, and to meet the short to medium term employment demands of major infrastructure projects.
- Recent employment growth has been negative (-0.1 per cent in 2002-03 and an estimated -1.4 per cent in 2003-04) following completion of the Alice Springs to Darwin rail link.
- Employment is forecast to increase by 2.9 per cent in 2004-05, boosted by work associated with the construction of the Wickham Point liquefied natural gas plant, and stronger tourism-related employment.

Chart 3: Territory Labour Market (moving annual average)



e: estimate
Source: NT Treasury, ABS Cat. No. 6202.0