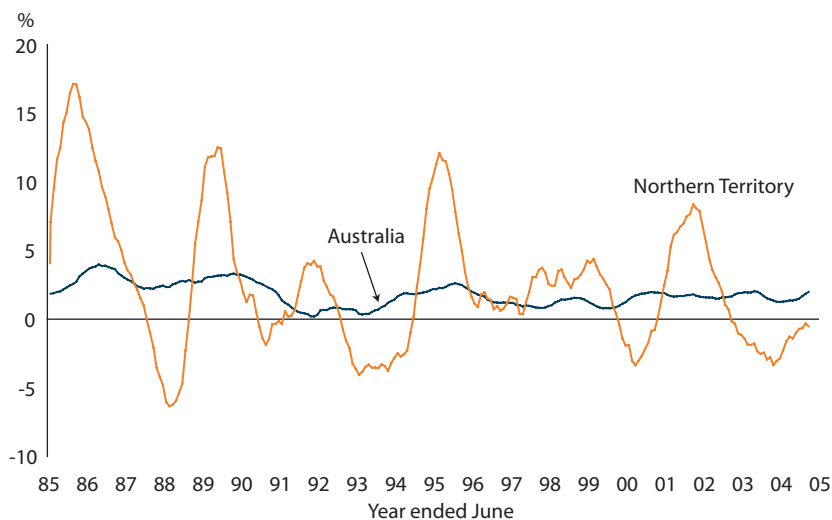


Employment

- The Territory's resident workforce of around 100 000 people is typically young, mobile and transient, and includes about 8000 Indigenous participants in the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) program. In addition, there are more than 5500 defence force personnel resident in the Territory and significant numbers of interstate-based fly-in fly-out workers that are not included in workforce estimates in the ABS labour force statistics.
- The Territory's labour force relies on large interstate migration flows to overcome skills shortages to meet the short to medium term employment demands of major infrastructure projects.
- For a variety of reasons Northern Territory labour force data are characterised by month to month, and year to year volatility. As such, analysis and interpretation of available data can be difficult.
- Despite stronger activity in key employment industries, based on ABS data, resident employment is estimated to decline by 1.3 per cent in 2004-05.
- Employment is forecast to increase by 2 per cent in 2005-06. Major projects such as the Alcan G3 alumina plant expansion at Gove and the Trans-Territory Pipeline, the Darwin City Waterfront Redevelopment project and solid residential construction activity will be contributors to growth.
- Stronger prospects for the tourism sector and the cyclical upswing in the economy will support jobs growth. An anticipated shortage of locally based skills is likely to constrain ABS-reported resident employment growth, with increased fly-in fly-out employment on major projects.

Chart 3: Labour Force Growth
(moving annual average, annual percentage change)



Source: ABS Cat. No. 6202.0