

EMPLOYMENT INCREASES IN DECEMBER 2011

Main Features

In trend terms, the number of ACT residents in employment increased by 300 persons to 204,900 in December 2011. (Note: the November 2011 number of employed persons was revised up to 204,600.)

The trend number of unemployed persons in the ACT was unchanged at 8,100 persons in December 2011 (Note: the November 2011 unemployed number was revised down to 8,100 persons). In trend terms, the ACT's participation rate was steady at 72.1%, while the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.8% in December 2011. (Note: the November 2011 participation rate was revised up to 72.1% and the November 2011 unemployment rate was revised down to 3.8%.)

Nationally, trend employment decreased by 2,100 persons in December 2011. The trend participation rate and trend unemployment rate remained unchanged at 65.4% and 5.3% respectively. (Note: the November 2011 participation rate was revised down to 65.4%.)

Commentary

The number of ACT residents employed increased by 300 persons in December 2011, in trend terms. Part-time employment increased by 1,000 persons, while full-time employment decreased by 700 persons. (Note: estimates are rounded.)

Year-on-year to December 2011, ACT employment grew by 0.5%, in original terms. Nationally, year-on-year employment growth was 1.7%.

Nationally, in seasonally adjusted terms, employment decreased by 29,300 persons in December 2011. The employment outcome was below market expectations. The unemployment rate was steady at 5.2%, which was also below market expectations. The participation rate, in seasonally adjusted terms, declined to 65.2% in December 2011.

States/Territory Comparison

In trend terms, the Northern Territory (up 0.5%), the ACT, Tasmania and Western Australia (all up 0.1%) recorded increases in employment in December 2011. Victoria and South Australia (both down 0.1%) recorded decreases in employment. Queensland and New South Wales recorded flat growth in employment in December 2011.

Year-on-year to December 2011, all jurisdictions recorded a rise in employment. The strongest employment growth was recorded in Victoria (up 2.2%), followed by New South Wales and Western Australia (both up 1.8%).

In December 2011, the ACT recorded the lowest unemployment rate (3.8%), followed by Western Australia (4.3%) and the Northern Territory (4.4%). The highest unemployment rate was recorded by Tasmania (5.9%), followed by Queensland (5.6%). The ACT is the only jurisdiction to record an unemployment rate below 4%.

Data Discrepancy

Ongoing monthly revisions of seasonal factors will result in revisions of trend estimates on a monthly basis. Estimates have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

New Sample Size

Starting from July 2008, releases were based on the new sample size which has been reduced by 24%. Given that, the ABS continues to encourage users to focus on trend estimates as the increased volatility, carried by a smaller sample size and seen in the original and seasonally adjusted estimates, will be dampened through the 'trending' process. It is likely the quality of monthly data, especially for a small jurisdiction like the ACT, has been greatly reduced. However, the ABS started to reinstate the sample size in the September 2009 estimates and the full sample size was implemented for the December 2009 estimates.

Starting from the July 2010 release, labour force estimates are based on new population benchmarks that incorporate revisions made to Net Overseas Migration estimates in the September 2008 and September 2009 issues of Australian Demographic Statistics. The revised population benchmarks apply to the months of July 2006 to June 2010. These changes have had major impacts on the key aggregates. For example, the employment level in 2009-10 is revised up by 2,900 persons.

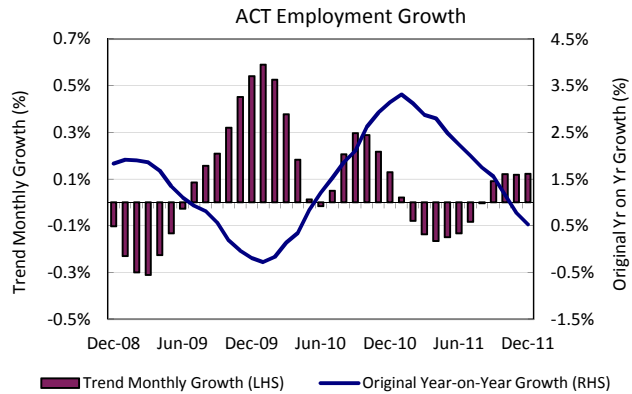
Total Employment ACT & Australia – All Series

December 2011

	Persons ('000)	Change	
		Monthly	Annual (a)
Original			
ACT	208.1	2.2%	0.5%
Australia	11,553.0	1.0%	1.7%
Trend			
ACT	204.9	0.1%	0.6%
Australia	11,440.1	0.0%	1.7%

Source: ABS Cat. no. 6202.0

(a) Year-on-year growth.



Source: ABS Cat. no. 6202.0

Employment Growth and Unemployment Rate

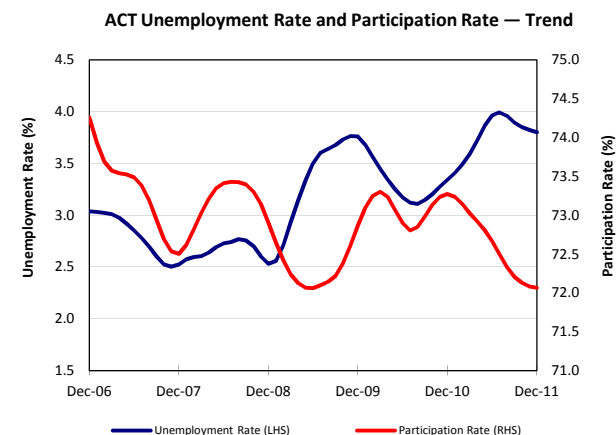
— State/Territory Comparisons

December 2011

State/Territory	Employment growth		Unemployment Rate (a)
	Monthly(a)	Annual (b)	
New South Wales	0.0%	1.8%	5.4%
Victoria	-0.1%	2.2%	5.4%
Queensland	0.0%	1.2%	5.6%
South Australia	-0.1%	1.2%	5.4%
Western Australia	0.1%	1.8%	4.3%
Tasmania	0.1%	0.4%	5.9%
Northern Territory	0.5%	0.9%	4.4%
ACT	0.1%	0.5%	3.8%
Australia	0.0%	1.7%	5.3%

Source: ABS Cat. no. 6202.0

(a) Trend (b) Year-on-year growth, Original



Source: ABS Cat. no. 6202.0