ACT unemployment rate decreased in October 2019

**ACT (Trend\(^1\))**

The unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 3.3 per cent in October 2019 (following a downward adjustment in September 2019). This remains the lowest unemployment rate of all jurisdictions. Through the year\(^2\) to October 2019, the unemployment rate decreased by 0.4 of a percentage point.

In October 2019, employment increased by 400 persons (0.2 per cent) to 234,700 persons. Through the year to October 2019, employment increased by 7,700 persons (3.4 per cent). The employment growth rate in the ACT was the highest of all jurisdictions in through the year terms and above its 15-year average of 1.7 per cent.

The participation rate in October 2019 increased by 0.2 of a percentage point to 71.2 per cent. This remains the second highest participation rate of all jurisdictions. Through the year to October 2019, the participation rate increased by 1.3 percentage points.

**National (Seasonally Adjusted)**

The unemployment rate increased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 5.3 per cent in October 2019. Through the year to October 2019, the unemployment rate increased by 0.3 of a percentage point.

In October 2019, employment decreased by 19,000 persons (0.1 per cent) to 12,919,200 persons. Through the year to October 2019, employment increased by 251,800 persons (2.0 per cent).

The participation rate in October 2019 decreased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 66.0 per cent. Through the year to October 2019, the participation rate increased by 0.4 of a percentage point.

### Key Measures, ACT and Australia, October 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>tty(^2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ACT- Trend</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate (%)</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>-0.1 ppts(^3)</td>
<td>-0.4 ppts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed persons ('000)</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>-0.1</td>
<td>-0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed persons ('000)</td>
<td>234.7</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment growth (%)</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation rate (%)</td>
<td>71.2</td>
<td>0.2 ppts</td>
<td>1.3 ppts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Australia - Seasonally Adjusted</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate (%)</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>0.1 ppts</td>
<td>0.3 ppts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed persons ('000)</td>
<td>726.1</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>57.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed persons ('000)</td>
<td>12,919.2</td>
<td>-19.0</td>
<td>251.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment growth (%)</td>
<td>-0.1</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation rate (%)</td>
<td>66.0</td>
<td>-0.1 ppts</td>
<td>0.4 ppts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ABS Cat. No. 6202.0; Estimates in this table have been calculated using unrounded estimates, hence they may not add due to rounding.

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1 Monthly removals of the effect of systematic calendar related patterns and the irregular (non-seasonal) influences across the entire series result in revisions of trend estimates on a monthly basis. Estimates are rounded and discrepancies may occur between the sums of component items and totals.

2 Through the year (tty) is the percentage change from the same period in the previous year.

3 Percentage points (ppts)
**Commentary**

Employment in the ACT increased by 400 jobs in October 2019, fully driven by an increase in part time employment (up by 400 jobs). The 7,700 jobs created over the year to October 2019 were driven by increases in both full time employment (up by 3,800 jobs) and part time employment (up by 3,900 jobs).

The increase in the participation rate to 71.2 per cent in October 2019 was due to increases in both the male participation rate (up 0.1 of a percentage point to 74.9 per cent) and the female participation rate (up 0.2 of a percentage point to 67.8 per cent).

The underutilisation rate in the ACT decreased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 8.7 per cent in October 2019, driven by a decrease in the unemployment rate while the underemployment rate was steady. Through the year to October 2019, the underutilisation rate decreased by 1.3 percentage points, driven by decreases in both the unemployment rate (down by 0.4 of a percentage point) and the underemployment rate (down by 1.0 percentage point). The ACT’s underutilisation rate in October 2019 was the lowest of all jurisdictions and well below the national average rate of 13.8 per cent.

The youth unemployment rate in the ACT decreased by 1.6 percentage points to 6.8 per cent in October 2019 and decreased by 2.8 percentage points over the past 12 months. The ACT’s youth unemployment rate was the lowest of all jurisdictions and well below the national average rate of 12.4 per cent.

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Unemployment Rate, ACT and Australia

![Unemployment Rate Chart](chart)

**Source:** ABS Cat. No. 6202.0

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4 Estimates of changes in the commentary and charts have been calculated using unrounded estimates, hence they may not add due to rounding.

5 The **underutilisation rate** is the sum of the number of persons unemployed and the number of persons in underemployment, expressed as a proportion of the labour force. Underemployment is the number of employed persons aged 15 years and over who want, and are available for, more hours of work than they currently have. The underutilisation rate by state and territory is in trend terms while it is in seasonally adjusted terms for Australia.

6 Youth employment is defined as the employment for those aged 15-24 years; Data for states/territories is available in original terms only and should be used with caution due to its volatility. Youth unemployment rate for Australia is in seasonally adjusted terms.
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Underutilisation Rate, Trend, Monthly Data, ACT

![Graph showing the trend of the Underutilisation Rate from October 2014 to October 2019.](chart1.png)

Source: ABS Cat. No. 6202.0

Participation Rate by Sex, Trend, Monthly Data, ACT

![Graph showing the trend of the Participation Rate by Sex from October 2014 to October 2019.](chart2.png)

Source: ABS Cat. No. 6202.0
Unemployment Rates, ACT

Source: ABS Cat. No. 6202.0