

# TRENDS – The Tasmanian Labour Market Review

## Department of Jobs and Small Business

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Level 12 188 Collins St, Hobart Tasmania 7000, GPO Box 9880, Hobart

Back copies of this publication are available by emailing your request to [tasleo@jobs.gov.au](mailto:tasleo@jobs.gov.au).

## May 2018

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### Monthly highlights for May

- Employment in Tasmania remained stable at 248,479
- The unemployment rate increased to 6.3 per cent
- The participation rate increased to 61.4 per cent

**Note:** All Labour Force estimates are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' *Labour Force Survey* and are *Trend estimates* unless otherwise stated.

Employment in Tasmania is 1.2 per cent higher than a year ago. Full-time employment increased by 1.6 per cent over the year to 158,003 persons, while part-time employment increased by 0.4 per cent over the same period.

The Tasmanian unemployment rate of 6.3 per cent is higher than the rate of 5.8 per cent recorded the previous year. The participation rate of 61.4 per cent is higher than the rate of 60.9 per cent recorded the previous year.

*Please note: the ABS has re-benchmarked Labour Force estimates to 2016-based population benchmarks, resulting in revisions for the period from July 2011 onwards.*

### TRENDS TABLE FOR ACCESSIBILITY

Employment (000s)						
Male	May-18	128.1	Apr-18	128.0	May-17	128.5
Female	May-18	120.4	Apr-18	120.6	May-17	117.1
Full-time	May-18	158.0	Apr-18	157.3	May-17	155.4
Part-time	May-18	90.5	Apr-18	91.3	May-17	90.1
Persons	May-18	248.5	Apr-18	248.5	May-17	245.6
Unemployment (000s)						
Male	May-18	9.3	Apr-18	9.2	May-17	8.1
Female	May-18	7.2	Apr-18	7.1	May-17	7.0
Persons	May-18	16.5	Apr-18	16.4	May-17	15.1
Labour Force (000s)						

Male	May-18	137.4	Apr-18	137.2	May-17	136.6
Female	May-18	127.5	Apr-18	127.7	May-17	124.1
Persons	May-18	265.0	Apr-18	264.9	May-17	260.7
<b>Unemployment Rate (%)</b>						
Male	May-18	6.9	Apr-18	6.8	May-17	5.9
Female	May-18	5.6	Apr-18	5.6	May-17	5.8
Persons	May-18	6.3	Apr-18	6.2	May-17	5.8
Youth*	May-18	14.5	Apr-18	14.4	May-17	14.9
<b>Participation Rate (%)</b>						
Male	May-18	64.9	Apr-18	64.8	May-17	65.2
Female	May-18	58.0	Apr-18	58.0	May-17	56.8
Persons	May-18	61.4	Apr-18	61.3	May-17	60.9
*unadjusted data twelve month average						

*Please note that as the calculations of change presented in the table are taken from more detailed data, results obtained by manually calculating change may not exactly match those in the table, due to rounding.*

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*(Graph in original shows unemployment rates for all states and territories for May 2018).*

*(Graph in original shows Tasmanian Female Participation Rates from 2013 to 2018).*

*(Graph in original shows unemployment rates for Tasmania and Australia from 2013 to 2018).*

## ECONOMIC MEDIA REPORTS

### North-west Tasmania

Britton Timbers has begun constructing pre-drying sheds for timber. The project will cost more than \$750,000 with \$368,000 coming from the Federal Regional Jobs and Investment Package. Once completed Britton Timbers will employ five additional full-time staff to operate the new sheds.

*(The Advocate, 15 May 2018)*

Costa Berries' updated distribution centre at East Devonport has opened. The \$7.1 million project provides a central point for the company's Tasmanian expansion. The upgraded facility means 100 full-time equivalent jobs will be created, with more expected to come.

*(The Advocate, 17 May 2018)*

### Northern Tasmania

Expansion and redevelopment of Launceston General Hospital's paediatric ward will begin this month. The construction tender for the \$10.2 million, 36-bed redevelopment has been awarded to a Tasmanian construction firm. Construction of the redeveloped and expanded ward is expected to be completed by mid-2019.

*(The Examiner, 15 May 2018)*

### Southern Tasmania

The Norwegian company that operates the Boyer paper mill has been purchased by an independent investment firm. Norske Skog, which employs 280 Tasmanians, has been bought by Oceanwood after a four-month competitive auction process.

*(The Mercury, 7 May 2018)*

The H&M Hobart store opened on 5 May. Australia's 28<sup>th</sup> H&M store has employed 45 people. The H&M opening comes on the back of the Myer stage two and Mecca Maxima opening in April.

*(The Mercury, 6 May 2018)*

Vodafone has announced up to 100 redundancies from its Hobart call centre with falling demand for the service behind the decision. As part of the process, the company will be calling for expressions of interest in voluntary redundancies.

*(The Mercury, 8 May 2018)*

An early works construction agreement has been signed for Goldwind Australia's \$300 million Cattle Hill wind farm in the Central Highlands. It will create up to 150 jobs during construction and about 10 ongoing maintenance jobs. The wind farm will be on the eastern shore of Lake Echo. Site access construction work commenced in March. Goldwind expects construction to be finished by the end of 2019.

*(The Examiner, 22 May 2018)*

### **State-wide**

The State Government has launched a \$6 million tourism campaign to add to Tasmania's already growing tourism sector. Last year, the state welcomed a record 1.25 million visitors who spent \$2.33 billion. All regions reported growth, with higher visitation, occupancy and yields. The campaign comes as TT-Line has signed a \$700 million contract to replace its Bass Strait ferries by 2021. The Government says it will also spend \$12 million to market the state through bespoke campaigns targeting high-value travellers.

*(The Mercury, 8 May 2018)*

The 2018-19 Federal Budget was handed down on 8 May 2018. Budget initiatives to be delivered by the Department of Jobs and Small Business focus on support for mature age workers and job seekers, those in transitioning industries and disadvantaged regional areas, as well as additional funding for the Transition to Work service to help more young people into work. For full details visit: [www.jobs.gov.au/2018-19-budget-jobs-and-small-business-overview](http://www.jobs.gov.au/2018-19-budget-jobs-and-small-business-overview) and [www.budget.gov.au](http://www.budget.gov.au).