

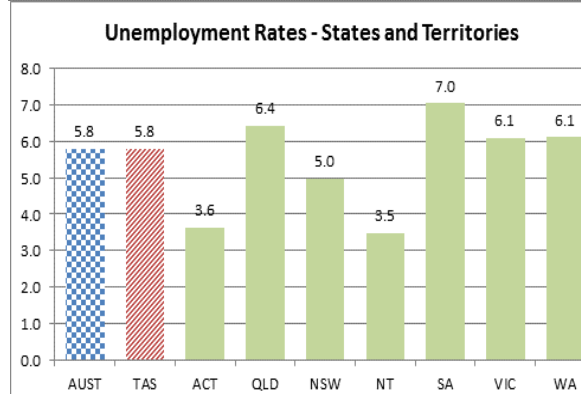
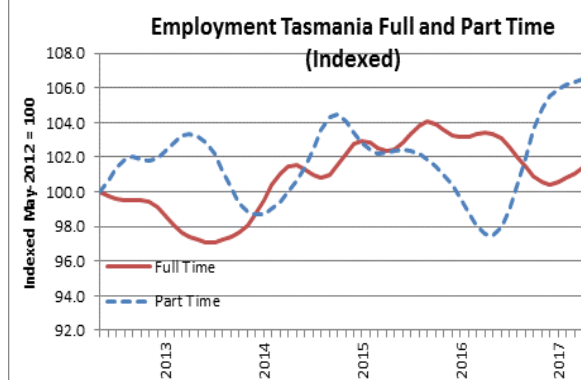
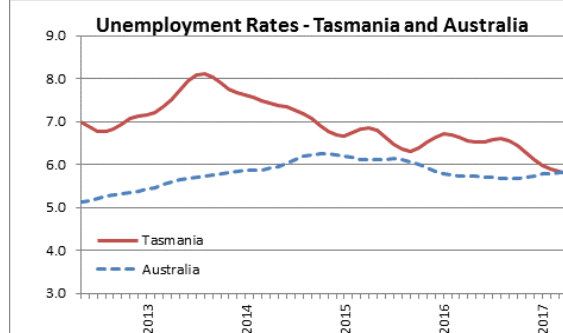
- Employment in Tasmania increased to 241,300
- The unemployment rate remained at 5.8 per cent
- The participation rate increased marginally to 60.0 per cent

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 increased during April, and is 1.9 per cent higher than a year ago. Full-time employment decreased by 1.9 per cent over the year while part-time employment increased by 9.1 per cent over the same period.

	Apr-2017	Mar-2017	Apr-2016
	000's	000's	000's
Employment			
Male	127.9	127.8	126.4
Female	113.4	112.9	110.5
Full-time	152.2	151.7	155.2
Part-time	89.1	89.0	81.7
Persons	241.3	240.7	236.9
Unemployment			
Male	7.3	7.6	9.1
Female	7.5	7.4	7.5
Persons	14.9	14.9	16.6
Labour Force			
Male	135.2	135.4	135.5
Female	121.0	120.2	118.0
Persons	256.2	255.6	253.5
Unemployment Rate %			
Male	5.4	5.6	6.7
Female	6.2	6.1	6.3
Persons	5.8	5.8	6.6
Youth*	15.1	15.2	15.1
Participation Rate %			
Male	64.1	64.2	64.7
Female	55.9	55.6	54.9
Persons	60.0	59.9	59.7
*unadjusted data (12 month average)			

The Tasmanian unemployment rate remained steady at 5.8 per cent and is the same as the national average. The participation rate experienced a slight increase to 60.0 per cent and is higher than the rate of 59.7 per cent recorded a year ago.



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 error.

Department of Employment, Level 12, 188 Collins St, Hobart Tasmania 7000, GPO Box 9880, Hobart.

Trends is also available via our website:

<http://mip.gov.au/default.aspx?LMIP/Publications/LabourEconomicsOfficeLEOReports/Tasmania>

ECONOMIC MEDIA REPORTS IN APRIL 2017

North-west Tasmania

- Apr 5th Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull visited the north-west on Wednesday to announce a deal to hand ownership of the Mersey Community Hospital to the State Government. The federal government will transfer the hospital on July 1 with federal funding of \$730.4 million. The federal funding is expected to cover the next 10 years of the hospital's operations. The current federal funding deal is due to end on June 30. *(The Advocate)*
- Apr 20th Parks and Wildlife Services have announced \$1 million would be spent revitalising eco-tourism attractions such as The Nut at Stanley and Sarah Island. *(The Mercury)*
- Apr 20th One hundred new buses to be built in the north-west for Metro Tasmania will lead to about 40 new jobs in the region and possibly to domestic and international exports. Queensland-based Bustech won the State Government's tender for the contract, worth about \$50 million. It will partner with north-west firm Elphinstone to manufacture the buses. Infrastructure Minister Rene Hidding on Wednesday said at least 24 full-time jobs were expected to be created at Elphinstone at Wynyard, with the balance of the 40 to be created in the supply chain. *(The Advocate)*
- Apr 29th The State Government will spend \$9.5 million on Mt Lyell improvements, to undertake projects essential for the re-start of operations. Premier Will Hodgman advised the projects will immediately create more than 50-60 new jobs in the construction phase and bring forward mining operations, which is expected to create up to 300 jobs. *(The Advocate)*

Northern Tasmania

- Apr 1st The Launceston Health Hub expansion is almost complete, with more services and more staff. The Hub now has 14 GP rooms, eight specialist rooms and additional space for other providers. In the last half of 2017, pharmacy will join the hub, car spaces will rise to 72 from 50, and eventually an on-site cafe will also benefit patients. *(The Examiner)*
- Apr 20th The Launceston City Deal agreement has been signed by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, Premier Will Hodgman and Launceston mayor Albert van Zetten. The first milestone payment is expected in August with major projects to include the University of Tasmania relocation and \$19.4 million support for the City Heart project. The projects are expected to deliver more than 480 local jobs and apprenticeships, 225 university positions and the capacity for 10,000 extra student places. *(The Examiner)*
- Apr 20th JBS Longford has advised sheep processing has stopped at the abattoir. This temporary closure affects 86 workers, who had already been suspended for the past nine weeks. *(The Examiner)*

Postscript: JBS does not expect to restart sheep processing at its Longford abattoir until at least spring. (21/04/17, The Examiner)

Apr 27th The State Government has announced it will commit \$20 million to Launceston's John L Grove rehabilitation centre. It will be distributed over a four-year period, with \$5 million a year funding the specialist rehabilitation facility. The funding has secured 70 jobs with staff at the centre made up of 32 nurses, nine allied health, a specialist geriatrician and medical registrar, and other hospital support workers, along with pharmacy support. *(The Examiner)*

Apr 29th Tasman Sea Salt is now available in Virgin Australia business lounges around the country. Already supplying salt to the Park Hyatt hotel in Sydney, and through partnerships with Hudson Meat and Harris Farm, Tasman Sea Salt is expanding its reach on the mainland. Tasman Sea Salt was established in 2013 and started selling salt flakes in 2014. *(The Examiner)*

Apr 30th The first of the State Government's expressions of interest tourism projects in Northern Tasmania has officially been launched. The Blue Derby Pods Ride is a three-day, two-night guided ride with unique custom-made accommodation pods. The Blue Derby Pods will support 11 new jobs and the local economy with all equipment, food and services sourced from the state's Northern region. *(Sunday Examiner)*

Southern Tasmania

Apr 13th Tasmanian shipbuilder Incat is filling a record number of orders this year. The workforce of more than 500 will expand to cater for an increase in global demand, requiring a doubling of apprentice numbers and an overall growth to almost 750 workers by the end of the year. *(The Mercury)*

Apr 19th The National Australia Bank (NAB) has decided to close its New Norfolk branch at the end of June. A NAB spokesperson said the decision to close the branch was in response to the changing ways customers' bank. It is believed two staff members will be relocated or offered redundancies. *(The Mercury)*

Apr 25th The Birchalls bookshop in Hobart has announced it will be closing down. An official closing date is yet to be announced. *(The Examiner)*

State-wide

Apr 2nd The number of Uber drivers in Tasmania has grown to more than 100 since its launch in December. The growing fleet of drivers have tapped into the tourism dollars with Uber drivers finding tourists are a strong source of revenue over the summer. *(Sunday Tasmanian)*

- Apr 5th Tasmanian ports are expected to experience a 56 per cent increase in cruise ship visits in the 2017-18 season. This year's season officially ends tomorrow with Hobart receiving 48 cruise ships. The state had a 60 per cent increase in cruise ship visits in the past year, with a record 96 cruise ship visits to Burnie, Hobart and Port Arthur. Early next year, the State Government will review Tasmanian cruise ships ports, with an aim to find opportunities to -increase the number around the state. *(The Mercury)*
- Apr 6th The campervan and caravan tourism sector is increasing in the state. Tourism Research Australia data showed 2016 had the highest annual growth in domestic caravanning and camping overnight trips and visitor nights recorded since data was first collected in 1998. Railton is expected to receive an influx of visitors with the opening of a new Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia's RV park. *(The Mercury)*
- Apr 12th The State Government hopes to create more than 300 extra apprentice and trainee jobs in Tasmania through its Supporting Small Business with Apprenticeships and Traineeships Program. Treasurer Peter Gutwein announced five providers had been chosen to help small businesses with planning, support and advice to encourage them to take on more apprentice and trainees. *(The Mercury and The Examiner)*
- Apr 17th The State Government has announced they will commit \$800,000 over four years for the Digital Ready for Business Program. The program will help small businesses and retailers make the most of opportunities in the digital economy. *(The Advocate)*
- Apr 22nd Fruit growers are finding it challenging to find pickers to work in their orchards. The apple season finishes at the end of May and anyone seeking work is encouraged to visit the Tasmanian Agricultural Jobs Project website to connect with job opportunities. These jobs may be casual, part-time or even full-time. Additionally, a new Federal Government program (led by the Department of Employment) to be trialled from July 1 will allow seasonal workers to earn up to \$5000 without losing their welfare benefits. *(The Mercury)*
- Apr 29th The Health Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation has approved the recent Food Standards Australia New Zealand recommendation to allow low-THC hemp to be legally designated as a food. The food standard comes into effect in six months after it has been gazetted to allow all states and territories to amend legislation. The State Government sees this decision as a new economic opportunity for Tasmanian farmers. Primary Industries and Water minister Jeremy Rockliff said allowing the use of low-THC hemp in food products had the potential to boost overall production and open new markets in regional Tasmania. *(The Examiner)*