



TRENDS

THE TASMANIAN LABOUR MARKET REVIEW



January 2018

- Employment in Tasmania increased to 246,188
- The unemployment rate decreased to 5.7 per cent
- The participation rate decreased to 60.9 per cent

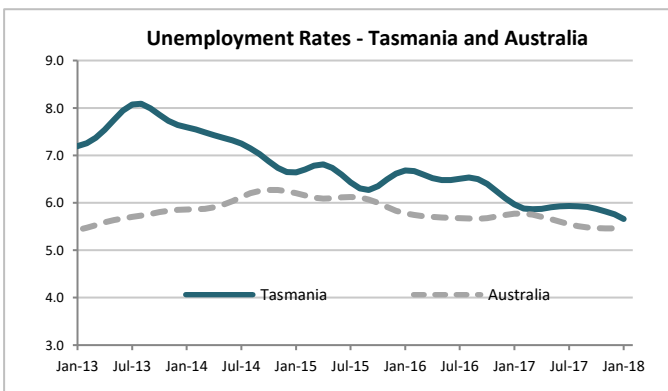
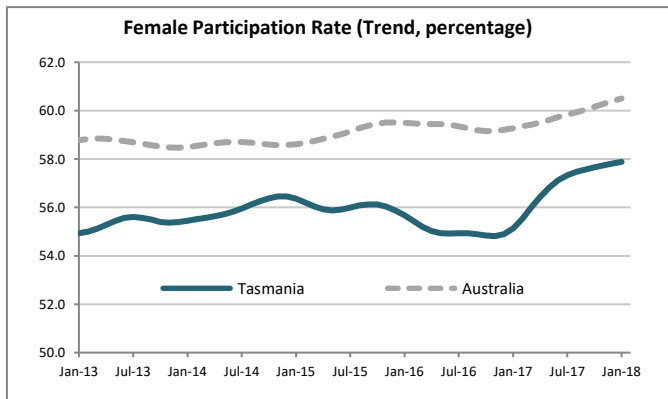
Employment in Tasmania increased during January to 246,188 persons and is 2.7 per cent higher than a year ago. Full-time employment increased by 0.9 per cent over the year to 152,259 persons, while part-time employment experienced an increase of 5.8 per cent over the same period.

The Tasmanian unemployment rate of 5.7 per cent is 0.1 per cent decrease from the previous month, 0.3 per cent lower than the rate of 6.0 per cent recorded the previous year. The participation rate of 60.9 per cent in January 2018 is higher than the rate of 59.9 per cent recorded the previous year.

Please note: The ABS will be implementing some minor improvements to the trend estimation for Labour Force time series. A short article will be published in the next release of [Labour Force, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6202.0), further outlining the improved approach and including indicative impacts of the change to trend estimates.

Unemployment Rates States and Territories

State/Territory	AUST	WA	SA	QLD	TAS	VIC	NT	NSW	ACT
UE %	5.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.7	5.7	4.6	4.8	4.0



	Jan-2018	Dec-2017	Jan-2017
Employment (000s)			
Male	126.2	126.2	127.0
Female	120.0	119.8	112.7
Full-time	152.3	152.3	150.9
Part-time	93.9	93.7	88.8
Persons	246.2	246.0	239.7
Unemployment (000s)			
Male	8.1	8.3	8.1
Female	6.7	6.7	7.1
Persons	14.8	15.0	15.2
Labour Force (000s)			
Male	134.2	134.5	135.1
Female	126.7	126.5	119.8
Persons	261.0	261.0	254.9
Unemployment Rate %			
Male	6.0	6.2	6.0
Female	5.3	5.3	6.0
Persons	5.7	5.8	6.0
Youth*	13.8	13.8	15.9
Participation Rate %			
Male	64.0	64.1	64.8
Female	57.9	57.8	55.1
Persons	60.9	60.9	59.9

*unadjusted data (12 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 error.



ECONOMIC MEDIA REPORTS

JANUARY 2018

North-West Tasmania

In a bid to grow regional tourism the West Coast Economic Working Group is developing a series of mountain bike tracks on the West Coast located around Zeehan and Rosebery.

(The Advocate - 9 January, 2018)

The next stage of a 250 house project in Burnie's Shorewell Park is poised to begin on 54 houses in March. The Malonga Heights project started in 2005 and has already built 100 lots.

(The Advocate - 15 January, 2018)

Development of a beef abattoir on King Island has received council approval. The proposal indicates the export abattoir will produce about 10,000 tonnes of product per year.

(The Advocate - 15 January, 2018)

A Jobs Action Package designed to help people in regional communities to secure jobs has been rolled out to the West Coast. The program works to connect job seekers to local opportunities, help young people complete qualifications, find pathways to work for the long-term unemployed and help older Tasmanians re-skill.

(The Advocate - 23 January, 2018)

Par Avion is in the midst of expansion and considering establishing an aviation training facility for international students in the North-West. The North-West airports low congestion made them suited to aviation training. Par Avion will train more than 100 pilots a year with two new nationally recognised VET diploma courses starting in 2018.

(The Advocate - 26 January, 2018)

More than 200 jobs will be created by a \$190 million hardwood timber mill being developed by Melbourne-based Hermal Group near Burnie. Construction is expected to start later in 2018 and to be completed in 2019-20. The mill is expected to create 221 direct jobs and thousands of indirect jobs in forestry, transport, engineering and construction.

(The Advocate - 31 January, 2018)

Northern Tasmania

George Town's \$1.322 million upgraded waste transfer station was opened on 18 January 2018. Along with a tip shop, the upgraded facility offers free recycling services. The project upgrade supported 10 to 15 full-time positions during construction, with up to three ongoing jobs.

(The Examiner - 19 January, 2018)

Fruit fly larvae has been found on two backyard apricot trees at a Flinders Island home.

The state's chief plant health manager Andrew Bishop said it was likely an isolated incursion.

"Flinders Island is not a commercial fruit growing area and does not export fruit, this means export markets from mainland Tasmania should not be affected," Mr Bishop said.

(The Mercury - 20 January, 2018)

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State Treasury analysis of Australian Bureau of Statistics original terms data showed that employment in Southern and North-East Tasmania increased (5,800 and 1,900 jobs respectively) on a monthly average basis in the year to the end of December. However, North-West Tasmania has lost an estimated 1,000 jobs in a year.

(The Examiner - 27 January, 2018)

A masterplan for the Beauty Point foreshore has been unveiled to coincide with the arrival of the first cruise ship to the region in five years. The goal is to create a tourism precinct at the wharf, with car parking, public amenities, space for a farmers' market and a picnic and fitness space. The plan will be a collaboration between Tourism Northern Tasmania, TasPorts and the West Tamar Council.

(The Examiner - 29 January, 2018)

Southern Tasmania

The state and federal leaders have agreed to a Hobart City Deal that will drive \$400 million for a STEM centre in the CBD and \$2 billion for the redevelopment of Macquarie Point. Transport options will be considered such as a light rail system, Derwent ferries and busways.

(The Mercury - 16 January, 2018)

THE top five most in-demand suburbs for rental houses in Australia are all in Hobart, based on internet searches of realestate.com.au. A sharp rise in rental demand is generally explained by people wanting to move to a city for employment. Hobart has the lowest ever recorded vacancy rate (0.4 per cent) of any Australian capital city.

(The Mercury - 17 January, 2018)

The Royal Agricultural Show Society of Tasmania has committed to the Royal Hobart Show in October 2018. The show attracts about 50,000 patrons annually and nearly 6,000 exhibit entries. The duration of the show is yet to be determined.

(The Mercury - 20 January, 2018)

Vodafone has repaid about \$330,000 of a \$4 million handout from the Federal Government after failing to meet key criteria regarding staffing levels. The telecommunications company received a \$4 million grant to maintain at least 700 positions at the Hobart location. The number of jobs at the centre peaked at 1021 but has since fallen to 504 employees. Vodafone advised this was because customers were choosing to self-serve online with call volumes dropping 40 per cent since 2013.

(The Mercury - 25 January, 2018)

The southern Tasmanian 'timber town' of Maydena is embracing a new beginning as mountain bike tourism replaces forestry as its economic backbone. Trade in the town is already picking up, it is expected that 150-200 people will visit the mountain bike park every day.

(The Mercury - 28 January, 2018)

State-wide

According to a recent Tourism Research Australia Survey Tasmania has seen a 59 per cent rise in international visitors; this growth is listed as the fastest in the country. The state welcomed 267,000 visitors in the year to September 2017 with international visitors staying for an average 11 nights and contributing \$484 million to the economy.

(The Examiner - 4 January, 2018)

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Australian Bureau of Statistics released preliminary primary commodity production figures for 2016-17. The data for Tasmania showed a growth in barley and beef, the price for wool increase whilst the value of lamb decreased along with wheat.
(The Advocate - 16 January, 2018)

Tasmanian home loan numbers are staying strong, with Australian Bureau of Statistics trend figures show that although housing finance commitments dropped by 0.1 per cent they remained near their multi-year peak in November. The numbers follow other recent ABS figures showing dwelling approvals by Tasmanian councils were 48.6 per cent stronger in November than in November 2016, with the approvals growth trend in Tasmania significantly stronger than the national trend.
(The Mercury - 20 January, 2018)

The Hobart International Airport expansion plans now include a freight handling facility to enable fresh produce to go direct from Hobart to Asia. The \$13 million facility would cut through some of the restricting factors Tasmanian producers face when exporting. The potential for farmers to export their produce from Hobart direct to Asian centres is expected to add millions to the \$80 million a year currently achieved.
(The Mercury - 21 January, 2018)

Inspections have been completed at farms within the 15km fruit fly biosecurity control zone and growers have been given the all-clear to move their fruit outside under a strict protocol. President of Fruit Growers Tasmania Nic Hansen said the handling of the fruit fly incursion would have implications for the entire state. Protocols were expected to be in place until early May.
(The Mercury - 30 January, 2018)

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

