

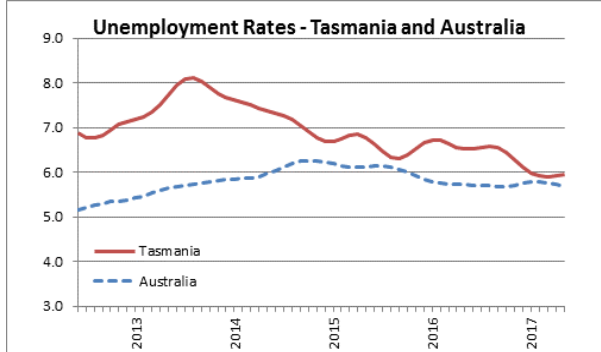
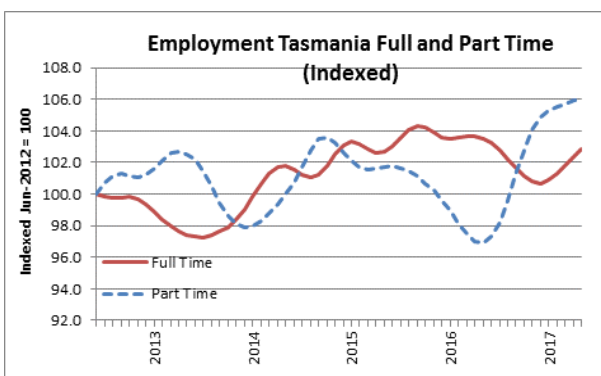
- Employment in Tasmania increased to 243,400
- The unemployment rate remained at 5.9 per cent
- The participation rate increased to 60.5 per cent

**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 May, and is 2.8 per cent higher than a year ago. Full-time employment decreased by 0.6 per cent over the year, while part-time employment experienced an increase of 9.4 per cent over the same period.

	May-2017	Apr-2017	May-2016
	000's	000's	000's
<b>Employment</b>			
Male	128.4	128.3	126.3
Female	115.0	114.3	110.4
Full-time	154.0	153.2	155.0
Part-time	89.4	89.3	81.7
Persons	243.4	242.6	236.7
<b>Unemployment</b>			
Male	7.8	7.7	9.0
Female	7.6	7.5	7.5
Persons	15.4	15.2	16.5
<b>Labour Force</b>			
Male	136.2	136.0	135.3
Female	122.5	121.8	117.9
Persons	258.8	257.8	253.2
<b>Unemployment Rate %</b>			
Male	5.7	5.7	6.6
Female	6.2	6.2	6.4
Persons	5.9	5.9	6.5
Youth*	15.0	15.1	15.1
<b>Participation Rate %</b>			
Male	64.5	64.5	64.5
Female	56.6	56.3	54.8
Persons	60.5	60.3	59.6
*unadjusted data (12 month average)			

The Tasmanian unemployment rate remained steady at 5.9 per cent and is lower than the rate of 6.5 per cent recorded in May last year. The participation rate experienced an increase to 60.5 per cent and is higher than the rate of 59.6 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 MAY 2017

### North-west Tasmania

- May 1st Agfest is being held this week, with 750 exhibitors and 70,000 patrons expected at Carrick from Thursday. The three-day agricultural and machinery field event has run for 34 years and this year is expected to contribute \$27 million to the state's economy. *(The Mercury)*
- May 3rd The 120 employees at Murray Goulburn's Edith Creek dairy manufacturing facility were told today the plant would close by December this year. Milk processed at the Edith Creek plant will be transferred to Murray Goulburn's Smithton facility and the company is considering options for the Circular Head site. *(The Advocate)*
- Postscript: Primary Industries Minister Jeremy Rockcliff has announced a \$1.5 million Circular Head Regional Economic Development Working Group which will try and direct the dismissed workers into other jobs and keep people from leaving the region. (09/05/17, The Mercury)*
- May 6th Free Spirit Airlines ceased its route between Melbourne and Burnie last Monday. Free Spirit had refunded passengers who had booked flights after Monday May 1, when flights closed. The company had also discharged three ground staff. *(The Advocate)*
- May 9th London-listed NQ Minerals has entered an agreement to buy Hellyer Mine, which employed about 300 people before production ceased in 2000. NQ Minerals says it aims to start production from tailings in mid-2018. *(The Advocate)*
- May 9th A tourism forum was held for west coast residents and community stakeholders on Sunday. A State Government funding commitment of \$400,000 was announced to assist west coast tourism development. The forum aimed to shed light on progress of the Destination West Coast project. The forum was attended by about 75 local tourism operators. *(The Advocate)*
- May 13th The State Government has unveiled a six-point plan over concerns about the new King Island shipping service. Investigator II, the ship TasPorts is using for its King Island service, will undertake an additional sailing and have its capacity increased by 20 per cent to 600 tonnes. *(The Advocate)*
- May 17th Shiploads in Burnie advertised 23 staffing positions on Monday and have received approximately 300 applications with the managing director expecting a thousand. The company is expected to be interviewing over the next two to three weeks and is on track to open in late July, early August. *(The Advocate)*
- May 20th The Devonport TasTAFE campus has expanded its health facility, enabling a more simulated learning experience. The new facility will be used by the 100 students currently studying enrolled nursing, aged care and disability services. *(The Advocate)*

May 30th Three sport clubs have come together for a major redevelopment at the Devonport Golf Club at Spreyton. The Devonport Bowls and Croquet Club, Devonport Golf Club and Spreyton Bowls Club will become the Devonport Country Club with the redevelopment of the golf course this spring. The current plan is to build a new clubhouse over two levels with a club bar, bistro and function centre. Two croquet lawns, three outdoor bowling greens and upgrades to the golf course will also be part of the \$8.5 million redevelopment. The Devonport Country Club estimated the project would create 100 full time jobs during construction then 22 ongoing jobs once built. (*The Advocate*)

### **Northern Tasmania**

May 13th Narawntapu National Park will be home to a new ecotourism experience with plans underway to develop an “activity base” on the state’s central north-coast. The owners of Cradle Country Adventures have officially signed a lease agreement to develop a horse-riding adventure within the park. (*The Examiner*)

May 16th The Beaconsfield Hart Shaft will receive an extra \$250,000 to ensure the site will be reopened by the beginning of the peak tourist season in November. A further \$125,000 will be contributed by both State and Federal Governments on top of the \$1.25 million that has already been committed to the project. (*The Examiner*)

May 17th Medicinal cannabis producer AusCann has partnered with Tasmanian Alkaloids to produce a local cannabis crop and manufacture products for the Australian and international markets. Tasmanian Alkaloids will cultivate the crop and make medicinal cannabis products at its processing facility at Westbury. ([www.themercury.com.au](http://www.themercury.com.au))

May 23rd Sci-fi thriller movie *Enter Sanctum* was filmed on Tasmania’s east coast last week. The cast and crew spent a week filming on Diamond Island. The film is budgeted to be about \$500,000. (*The Examiner*)

May 25th More than 100 people turned out for Tassal’s jobs forum at Triabunna yesterday. The forum gave details on the 25 full-time jobs on offer at the company’s proposed Okehampton Bay salmon farm. (*The Mercury*)

May 30th The St Helens community garden has received a council grant of \$5,000 for garden beds. The aim of the garden is to create employment, horticultural education and allow those on low incomes to have access to affordable produce. (*The Examiner*)

### **Southern Tasmania**

May 6th A heritage restoration program is aimed at providing people with valuable trade skills. Heritage Regeneration spokesman Charlie Renner said the six-month project was calling for applicants aged between 16 and 25 to learn practical skills in carpentry, plastering and masonry while refurbishing the old Brighton army hospital. At the end of the training the participants are put in touch with others who can assist in their future employment pathways. (*The Mercury*)

- May 9th Tasmanian shipbuilder Incat has secured a \$109 million contract to build a new passenger ferry to operate in Spanish waters. The build for the new 109-metre high vehicle-passenger ferry, for Naviera Armas, will start next month with the expectation that it will be operating in 2019. Incat's 550-strong workforce will deliver up to two large high-speed catamarans each year. (*www.examiner.com.au*)
- May 11th Prossers on the Beach in Sandy Bay will close on June 18. New owners Glen Albyn Estate will reopen the pavilion as a wedding and function centre. (*The Mercury*)
- May 17th The Cadbury factory in Claremont is turning out two new products after a \$4 million investment in new equipment. Tasmania will be at the centre of a marketing campaign for the global chocolate maker (*www.themercury.com.au*)
- May 18th Tasmanian-made TV series Rosehaven is coming back for season two and is set to make its debut on US screens later this year. Eight new episodes will be filmed in and around Hobart and the Huon Valley next month, with US digital cable and satellite network SundanceTV signing on as co-producer of season two and acquiring the rights to also screen season one in the US. (*The Mercury*)
- May 18th Incat is expanding the size of the shipbuilding hall at its Prince of Wales Bay yards to enable the construction of bigger vessels. Incat chairman Robert Clifford said the Wilsons Shed roof would be raised by 2m for about a third of the length so that vessels could be wholly constructed under cover. The project is expected to cost about \$500,000. (*www.themercury.com.au*)
- May 23rd A Hobart-based research centre was opened yesterday, a collaboration between the CSIRO, China's Qingdao National Laboratory for Marine Science and Technology and the universities of Tasmania and NSW. The centre will get \$20 million funding over five years as it investigates southern hemisphere oceans and global climate. (*The Mercury*)
- May 27th About 70 cast and crew arrived in Oatlands for filming of an upcoming movie *The Nightingale*. Southern Midlands Mayor Tony Bisdee said the cast and crew had booked out all the nearby accommodation and many locals received employment. (*The Mercury*)
- May 28th Tasmanian Tea Company's Teahouse, also the home of 13 Seeds Hemp Farm Store, will open today. It is located at Gardners Bay, and is the most southern industrial hemp farm in Australia. The converted barn, made from recycled wood, will also be a farm gate stall for organic produce. (*Sunday Tasmanian*)

**State-wide**

- May 4th Backpackers are on the rise in the state. Numbers grew 20 per cent last year to 48,181, up from 40,314 in 2015, making up one in every five international visitors to the state. (*The Mercury*)
- May 9th The 2017-18 Federal Budget was released on 9 May 2017 and can be found at <http://www.budget.gov.au/>. The budget was reported in various media articles.
- May 25th Treasurer Peter Gutwein delivered the Tasmanian State Budget on 25 May 2017 and can be found at [www.treasury.tas.gov.au/budget-and-financial-management/2017-18-tasmanian-budget](http://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/budget-and-financial-management/2017-18-tasmanian-budget). The budget was reported in various media articles.
- May 30th Careers Australia has gone into voluntary administration. Administrator with PPB Advisory David McEvoy said 1100 staff across Australia were stood down and 15,000 students across 14 campuses had courses suspended. (*The Mercury*)