

- Employment in Tasmania increased to 246,500
- The unemployment rate marginally increased to 6.1 per cent
- The participation rate increased to 61.3 per cent

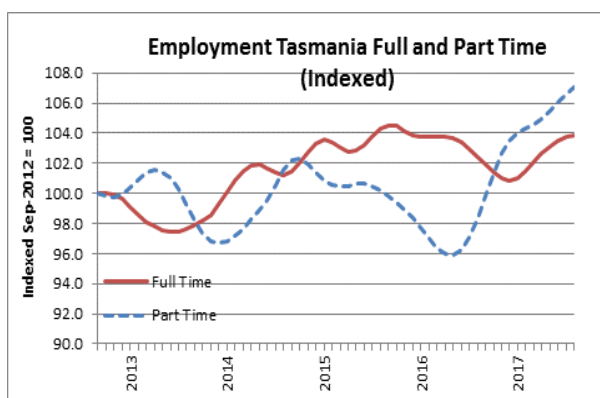
**Note:** All Labour Force estimates are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' *Labour Force Survey* and are *Trend estimates* unless otherwise stated.

Employment in Tasmania increased during August and is 4.0 per cent higher than a year ago.

Full-time employment increased by 1.4 per cent over the year, while part-time employment experienced an increase of 8.9 per cent over the same period.

Additionally, part-time employment in Tasmania is at 91,400 which is higher than the number recorded in August 2007 (72,200).

The Tasmanian unemployment rate marginally increased to 6.1 per cent, however remains lower than the rate of 6.6 per cent recorded in August last year. The participation rate experienced an increase to 61.3 per cent and is higher than the rate of 59.7 per cent recorded a year ago.



|                             | Aug-2017 | Jul-2017 | Aug-2016 |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
|                             | 000's    | 000's    | 000's    |
| <b>Employment</b>           |          |          |          |
| Male                        | 129.3    | 129.1    | 126.3    |
| Female                      | 117.2    | 116.8    | 110.6    |
| Full-time                   | 155.1    | 155.0    | 153.0    |
| Part-time                   | 91.4     | 90.9     | 83.9     |
| Persons                     | 246.5    | 245.9    | 236.9    |
| <b>Unemployment</b>         |          |          |          |
| Male                        | 8.9      | 8.6      | 9.2      |
| Female                      | 7.1      | 7.2      | 7.5      |
| Persons                     | 15.9     | 15.8     | 16.7     |
| <b>Labour Force</b>         |          |          |          |
| Male                        | 138.1    | 137.8    | 135.5    |
| Female                      | 124.3    | 124.0    | 118.1    |
| Persons                     | 262.4    | 261.7    | 253.6    |
| <b>Unemployment Rate %</b>  |          |          |          |
| Male                        | 6.4      | 6.3      | 6.8      |
| Female                      | 5.7      | 5.8      | 6.3      |
| Persons                     | 6.1      | 6.0      | 6.6      |
| Youth*                      | 14.5     | 14.8     | 15.5     |
| <b>Participation Rate %</b> |          |          |          |
| Male                        | 65.4     | 65.2     | 64.6     |
| Female                      | 57.3     | 57.2     | 54.8     |
| Persons                     | 61.3     | 61.2     | 59.7     |

\*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.

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

Trends is also available via our website:

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

## ECONOMIC MEDIA REPORTS IN AUGUST 2017

### North-west Tasmania

- Aug 5th Ashgrove Cheese has launched new wrapping equipment after the State and Federal Governments supported the project with \$84,000 from the Tasmanian Jobs and Investment Fund. The wrapper project meant five full-time jobs were created at the factory in machine operation, sales and on-site fitting. Ashgrove Cheese has also invested \$2.5 million in a new project, launching in November, to automate the cheese factory and increase capacity tenfold. *(The Advocate)*
- Aug 6th The University of Tasmania has been successful in receiving funding from the Australian Government for the establishment of a Rural and Regional Postgraduate Training Hub in Burnie. The Burnie Hub will offer expanded speciality training opportunities to medical professionals in rural Tasmania. *(The Advocate)*
- Aug 8th Dorset council has called for tenders to construct a bridge over the Brid River and Bridport Road intersection. The project is worth approximately \$4 million dollars and is expected to take about 18 months to complete. *(The Examiner)*
- Aug 17th Penguin Composites is in final negotiations to enter a defence manufacturing contract believed to be worth more than \$8 million. The three-year contract will create about 15 jobs, including four workers who have started already. *(The Advocate)*
- Aug 19th Devonport's old maternity hospital will be bought from Melbourne-based owner Portside Development by the Devonport City Council for \$950,000 and demolished. The State Government will provide the council with a grant of up to \$950,000 for demolition and to return the site to a greenfield state. The council expects to sell the site once demolition is complete, for private residential or commercial development. The council expects to take ownership in late September. Tenders for demolition will be advertised on August 26. *(The Advocate)*
- Aug 21st Renovations are underway to transform Apex House in Ulverstone into a hub for learning and entrepreneurs. The Apex Club of Ulverstone received a \$90,000 grant from the Tasmanian Community Fund for the makeover. Part of the building will be converted into a co-working space run by Switch Tasmania while the University of the Third Age (U3A) will make use of a presentation space. *(The Advocate)*
- Aug 23rd Moon Lake Investment will spend \$2.7 million upgrading The Gums dairy on the company's Woolnorth property. The existing rotary dairy will be replaced by a bigger rotary platform to boost output by up to 20 per cent. *(The Mercury)*
- Aug 26th Costa Group's Devonport berry distribution centre is doubling in capacity, with the modified atmosphere facility able to store up to 450 tonnes of blueberries. This upgrade is expected to be finished before the summer season. *(The Advocate)*

- Aug 26th Twenty new beds, a tea house and a community centre to be built at the Rubicon Grove aged care facility are expected to inject \$5 million into the local economy each year. Vos Construction has been employed for the redevelopment and construction work will start next week. New residents are expected to move in by the end of 2018. *(The Advocate)*
- Aug 29th The Elphinstone Group has been granted \$5 million to modernise its manufacturing operations on the north-west coast. Elphinstone Group applied for the funds under the Federal Government's \$106 million Tasmanian Jobs and Growth Plan in 2015. It is anticipated the upgrade will create 10 jobs in construction and enable the retention of 112 jobs. *(The Mercury)*
- Aug 31st Child services provider Maddington Child Services will close on Friday September 1 as the business is no longer financially viable and going into liquidation. Discovery Early Learning Centre will take in the 20 permanent clients and eight staff from the Maddingtons Central at Wilson Street, Burnie. *(The Advocate)*

### **Northern Tasmania**

- Aug 8th Launceston based telecommunications company Launtel is hiring at least two more staff to assist with sales and technical support as the company expands to provide internet services for residential customers. *(The Examiner)*
- Aug 23rd The Toll Group has received approval from the Launceston City Council for the development of a \$20 million transport hub. The development will increase the Toll Groups usage of Tasmania's rail network. *(The Mercury)*
- Aug 24th Westbury manufacturing company, Kolmark McLain Stainless, has opened a \$2 million facility which may increase the company's workforce by up to 30 per cent over the next year or so. *(The Examiner)*
- Aug 26th Launceston printworks BSG has closed with ten staff leaving the business as printing concluded this week. *(The Examiner)*
- Aug 31st Work to refurbish and open the Star Theatre at Invermay is on schedule to be completed by summer. This week building works began at the site with a cafe and function space for up to 200 people. It is expected to create up to 20 full-time and casual positions. *(The Examiner)*

### **Southern Tasmania**

- Aug 3rd Tassal received final approval under the Commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act to start putting fish in the water at Okehampton Bay. The development is expected to create 25 full-time jobs. *(The Mercury)*
- Aug 5th The redevelopment of the former Kingston High School into Kingston Park will receive \$2.8 million of Federal Government funding through the Building Better Regions Fund. The grant is half of what is required to start construction on the \$90 million Kingston Park project. The redevelopment is expected to create 640 jobs. Work is expected to begin on the development next year. *(The Mercury)*

- Aug 5th The Hobart City Council started work at the Queens Domain in Hobart within the Soldiers Memorial Oval Precinct. The development will include a playground, amphitheatre, picnic facilities and public toilets. Funded by the City of Hobart and the ANZAC Centenary Fund, the \$2.2 million project is due to be completed early next year and create approximately 80 jobs. *(The Mercury)*
- Aug 8th Incat launched the fourth of six ferries ordered to service Sydney Harbour. Incat's workforce has expanded to 550 people to keep up with demand, which includes two more ferries for Sydney and two 100 meter plus vessels bound for Malta and Spain. *(The Mercury)*
- Aug 10th Qantas will offer more seats on their flights between Hobart and Sydney and Melbourne over the peak summer period to cater to growing interest in Tasmania. The airline will operate its larger aircraft in and out of Hobart from December 16 to March 24, 2018. Jetstar also announced it would offer direct flights between Hobart and Adelaide on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from November 14. *(The Mercury)*
- Aug 15th Hardware chain Kemp and Denning Ltd (K&D) closed its Cambridge store on the 14th August, leading to the loss of approximately 25 jobs. Clennett's Mitre 10 has taken over the K&D Cambridge trade site, with K&D trade staff transferring to Clennett's to continue services for K&D trade account holders. *(The Mercury)*
- Aug 16th Chocolate maker Cadbury will be downsize by approximately 50 positions from its Claremont plant by the end of the year as the company moves to automation and new technology. It coincides with an investment of \$75 million over the next 18 months. *(The Mercury)*
- Aug 26th The Parks and Wildlife Service this weekend will open tenders to help complete the final stage of the Three Capes Track. \$7.8 million had been allocated for Stage 3, with the State Government providing \$4 million and the Federal Government \$3.8 million. *(The Mercury)*