



# Employment growth in Tasmania by occupation. Where have the opportunities been?

## Overview of employment in Tasmania

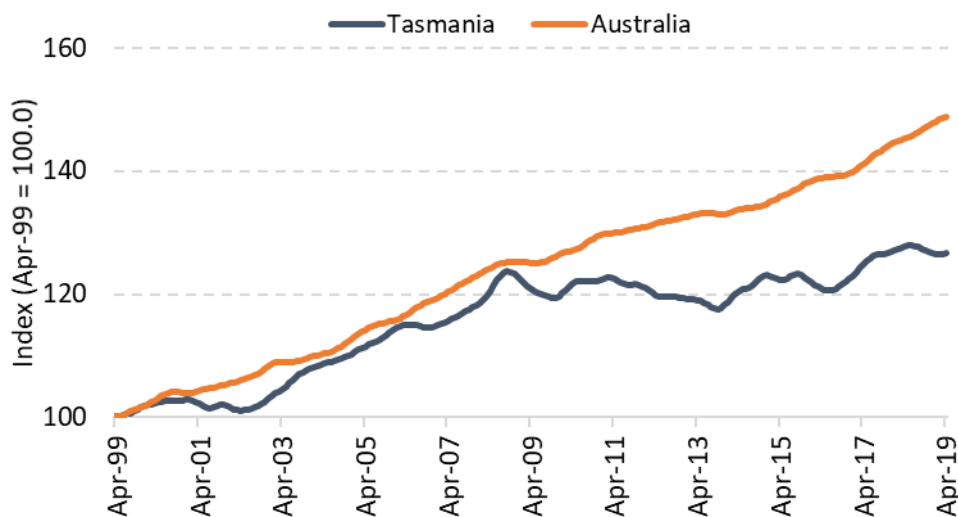
Over most of the past two decades, employment growth in Tasmania was weaker than that at the national level, particularly following the state's initial modest recovery from the global financial crisis (Figure 1). Employment in the state declined over an extended period between late 2011 and 2013, and in 2016. Two notable periods of growth were recorded in 2014 and 2017, where the rate of annual employment growth in Tasmania exceeded five per cent at its height (compared with the state's decade annualised growth rate of 0.6 per cent).

- In seasonally adjusted terms, Tasmania recorded a stronger annual growth rate over most of 2017 than at the national level, peaking at 5.2 per cent over the year to June 2017.

However, more recently, employment growth in the state has softened. Over the year to April 2019, employment increased by just 0.2 per cent (or 500), well below the 2.6 per cent recorded nationally.

In addition to employment growth, job turnover (that is, people changing jobs or leaving jobs altogether) provides more job opportunities in Tasmania than net job growth with 84,200 movements into employment recorded over the year to April 2019.

**Figure 1. Index of employment, Tasmania and Australia (April 1999 = 100.0)**



Source: ABS, Labour Force, Australia, cat. no. 6202.0, trend.

Over the 10 years to April 2019, employment in Tasmania grew by 6.0 per cent (or 14,000), in seasonally adjusted terms, well below the 18.8 per cent employment growth recorded nationally. The remainder of this note decomposes employment growth in the state over the past 10 years by occupation to highlight where opportunities have been created, despite soft employment growth, with a focus on skill level requirements.

## Employment growth by occupation

Over the 10 years to February 2019 (latest available occupational employment data), employment increased in a diverse range of occupations, across all skill levels<sup>1</sup>. The strength in the service sectors over this period is reflected in the largest growing occupations (Table 1), with the largest growth in employment recorded for Aged and Disabled Carers (up by 3100), followed by General Clerks (2900), Registered Nurses (1500), Motor Mechanics (1500), Chefs (1400) and Kitchenhands (1300).

- Notably, many of the largest growing occupations were commensurate with lower levels of educational attainment, such as those usually requiring a Certificate II or III level qualification (Skill Level 4) and those usually requiring a Certificate I or secondary education (Skill Level 5).
- More recently, over the year to February 2019, growth in these occupations has continued, with the exception of Chefs (down by 200) and General Clerks (100).

**Table 1. Largest growing occupations in Tasmania over the 10 years to February 2019**

Occupation	Skill Level	Employed, Tasmania, Feb-19 ('000)	Employment growth, Tasmania, year to Feb-19 ('000)	Employment growth, Tasmania, 10 years to Feb-19 ('000)
Aged and Disabled Carers	4	6.9	1.1	3.1
General Clerks	4	4.7	-0.1	2.9
Registered Nurses	1	6.2	0.8	1.5
Motor Mechanics	3	3.7	1.0	1.5
Chefs	2	2.3	-0.2	1.4
Kitchenhands	5	3.6	0.1	1.3
Waiters	4	3.2	0.1	1.2
Medical Imaging Professionals	1	1.3	0.7	1.2
Commercial Cleaners	5	5.2	1.5	1.1
Real Estate Sales Agents	3	2.1	0.6	1.0

Source: ABS, *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly*, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003, Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business trend.

## Employment growth by skill level

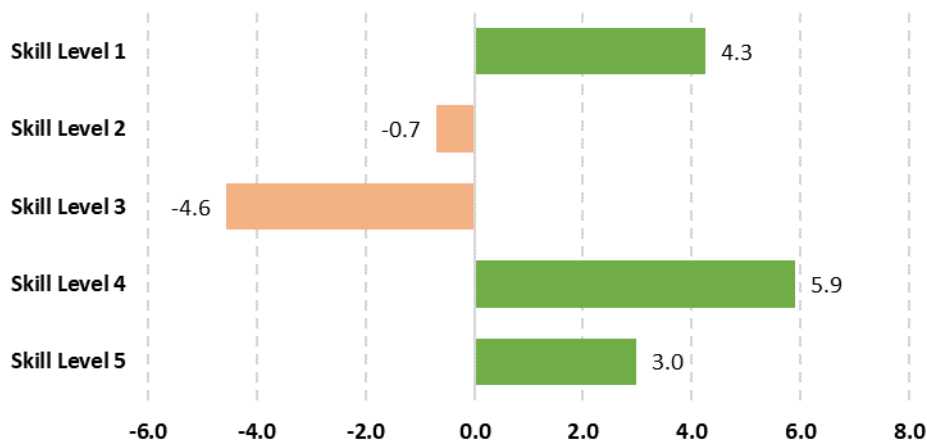
Over the 10 years to February 2019, growth in employment in Tasmania was recorded in three of the five skill level groupings, with the largest being in Skill Level 4 (occupations usually requiring a Certificate II or III level qualification, up by 5900 or 9.7 per cent), followed by Skill Level 1 (occupations usually requiring a Bachelor degree or higher qualification, up by 4300 or 6.5 per cent) and Skill Level 5 (occupations usually requiring a Certificate I or secondary education, up by 3000 or 6.2 per cent) (Figure 2).

- By contrast, employment in the state decreased for 'middle-skilled' occupations, with a fall of 4600 (or 11.6 per cent) recorded for Skill Level 3 (occupations usually requiring a Certificate III or IV Skilled VET level qualification), albeit from a near-record high point.

<sup>1</sup> Skill Level 1 includes occupations commensurate with a Bachelor degree or higher qualification; Skill Level 2 includes occupations commensurate with an Advanced Diploma or Diploma; Skill Level 3 includes occupations commensurate with a Certificate IV or III (including at least 2 years on-the-job training); Skill Level 4 includes occupations commensurate with a Certificate II or III; Skill Level 5 includes occupations commensurate with a Certificate I or secondary education.

- Despite this fall, Skill Level 3 occupations still account for 14.0 per cent of total employment in Tasmania.
- Furthermore, over the 10 years to February 2019, employment growth was recorded for a number of Skill Level 3 occupations, with the most notable for Motor Mechanics (up by 1500), Real Estate Sales Agents (1000), Structural Steel and Welding Trades Workers (500), Carpenters and Joiners (400), Other Miscellaneous Technicians and Trades Workers<sup>2</sup> (400) and Hotel Service Managers (400).
- Over the longer term, however, employment growth has been largest for occupations in the highest skill level group, with Skill Level 1 accounting for 47.9 per cent of total growth over the past 30 years.

**Figure 2. Employment growth by skill level in Tasmania over the 10 years to February 2019 ('000)**



Source: ABS, *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly*, cat. no. 6291.0.55.003, Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business trend.

Continued growth for Skill Level 4 and 5 occupations indicates that there are still entry-level opportunities in Tasmania, providing opportunities for job seekers and new labour market entrants.

### **Labour Market Research and Analysis Branch**

**Australian Government Department of Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business  
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#### **Additional resources**

Guide to Australian careers: [joboutlook.gov.au](http://joboutlook.gov.au)

Australian labour market information: [lmip.gov.au](http://lmip.gov.au)

Australian Jobs publication: [jobs.gov.au/Australian-jobs-publication](http://jobs.gov.au/Australian-jobs-publication)

Workforce analysis research program: [jobs.gov.au/skillshortages](http://jobs.gov.au/skillshortages)

<sup>2</sup> **Other Miscellaneous Technicians and Trades Workers** covers Technicians and Trades Workers not elsewhere classified. It includes Divers, Interior Decorators, Optical Dispensers, Optical Mechanics, Photographer's Assistants, Plastics Technicians, Wool Classers and Fire Protection Equipment Technicians.