

Labour Market and Related Payments Profile

Latest month: December 2017

Release date: 19 February 2018

The Profile reports statistical information on the various types of labour market payments to job seekers delivered by the Department of Human Services on behalf of the Department of Social Services.

Long-term job seekers are defined as those who have been receiving income support payments for 12 months or longer.

Recent performance

The number of job seekers receiving income support in Tasmania increased by 4.1 per cent in December 2017 compared to the previous month. Nationally, the number of job seekers increased by 4.3 per cent in the same period (Table 1).

Compared to the same period in the previous year, three jurisdictions recorded an increase in the number of job seekers receiving income support in December 2017. In percentage terms, Western Australia recorded the highest increase (up 7.3 per cent), followed by the Northern Territory (up 3.6 per cent) and Tasmania (up 2.1 per cent), while the largest decrease was recorded in South Australia (down 8.1 per cent) in this period (Table 1).

The number of Tasmanian job seekers receiving income support accounted for 6.2 per cent of Tasmania's labour force in December 2017, compared to 3.8 per cent nationally (Table 2). Tasmania had the second highest rate of job seekers receiving income support of all jurisdictions as a proportion of its labour force in this period, behind the Northern Territory.

The number of Tasmanian job seekers receiving income support in December 2017 comprised around 3.1 per cent of the State's population, compared to 2.0 per cent nationally.

Table 1: Number of job seekers by jurisdiction, December 2017, original data

<i>Original</i>	Number ('000s)	monthly change (%)	annual change (%)
NSW	128.1	4.5	-4.6
Vic	105.9	4.3	-5.1
Qld	118.5	4.0	-2.9
SA	41.7	4.3	-8.1
WA	70.5	3.9	7.3
Tas	16.0	4.1	2.1
NT	14.5	6.0	3.6
ACT	4.2	7.9	-4.1
Aus	499.4	4.3	-2.7

SOURCE: AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES LABOUR AND RELATED PAYMENTS PROFILE: TABLE 5

Table 2: Number of job seekers as a proportion of the population and labour force by jurisdiction, December 2017, original data

<i>Original</i>	As a proportion of population (%)	As a proportion of labour force (%)
NSW	1.3	3.1
Vic	1.7	3.1
Qld	2.4	4.5
SA	2.4	4.7
WA	2.7	5.0
Tas	3.1	6.2
NT	5.9	10.4
ACT	1.0	1.8
Aus	2.0	3.8

SOURCE: AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES LABOUR AND RELATED PAYMENTS PROFILE: TABLE 5 AND LABOUR FORCE, ABS CAT NO 6202.0: TABLE 12

Labour Market and Related Payments Profile

Latest month: December 2017

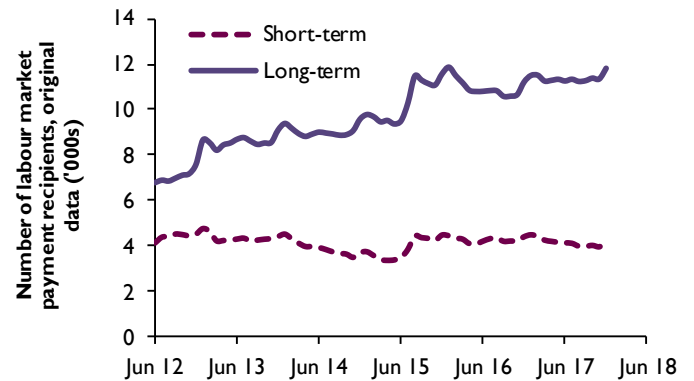
In Tasmania, the number of short-term job seekers receiving income support payments increased by 4.0 per cent in December 2017 compared to the previous month, while long-term job seekers receiving income support increased by 4.1 per cent in the same period (Chart 1).

At a regional level, the number of job seekers receiving income support increased by 4.7 per cent in the West and North West region, 4.4 per cent in the Hobart and South East region and 3.4 per cent in the Launceston and North East region in December 2017 compared to the previous month.

Analysis

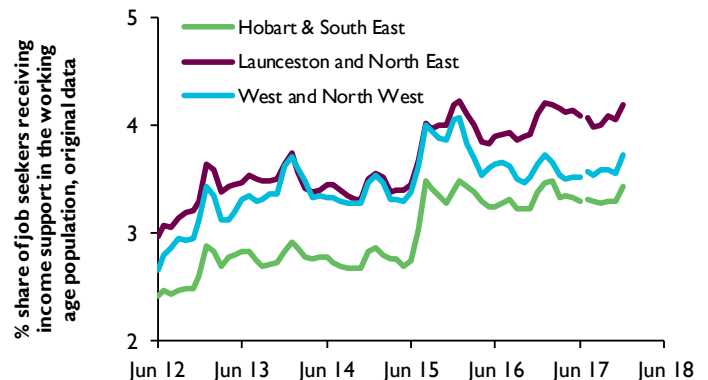
The data on labour market payments differ from the unemployment estimates from the ABS *Labour Force Survey* due to different definitions and enumeration methods. While the estimates are not directly comparable, the series tended to move together prior to July 2009 but diverged from late 2011 to mid-2015 (Chart 3).

Chart 1: Number of job seekers by duration of benefits, Tasmania, original data



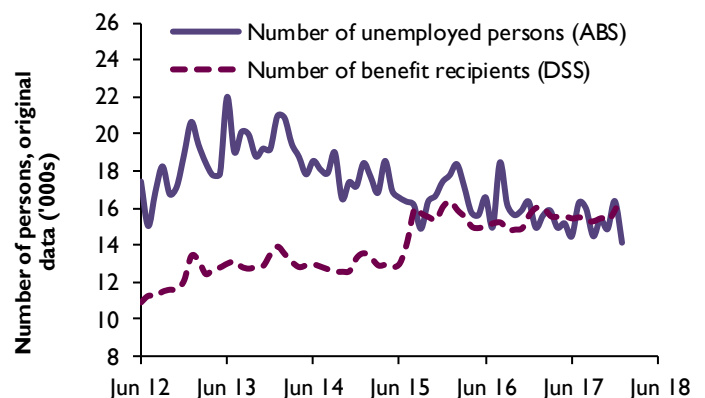
SOURCE: AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES LABOUR AND RELATED PAYMENTS PROFILE TABLE 5

Chart 2: Share of the working age population classified as job seekers by region, original data



Note: July 2017 break in series due to reclassification of regional reporting. SOURCE: AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES LABOUR AND RELATED PAYMENTS PROFILE: TABLE 7 AND LABOUR FORCE DETAILED, ABS CAT NO 6291.0.55.001, TABLE 16

Chart 3: Number of income support payments and level of unemployment, Tasmania, original data



SOURCE: AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES LABOUR AND RELATED PAYMENTS PROFILE: TABLE 5 AND LABOUR FORCE, ABS CAT NO 6202.0: TABLE 12

Labour Market and Related Payments Profile

Latest month: December 2017

Table 3: Key Data – Number of job seekers receiving income support payments, Tasmania, original data

DSS Labour Market and Related Payments Profile - December 2017				
	Dec 16	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17
NUMBER OF JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING INCOME SUPPORT PAYMENTS				
Total	15 624	15 426	15 330	15 958
By region*				
Hobart & South East	na	7 188	7 171	7 486
Brighton	na	727	726	752
Central Highlands (Tas.)	na	382	385	373
Hobart - North East	na	1 144	1 138	1 215
Hobart - North West	na	2 186	2 202	2 283
Hobart - South and West	na	531	523	541
Hobart Inner	na	1 073	1 063	1 147
Huon - Bruny Island	na	525	523	542
Sorell - Dodges Ferry	na	414	411	428
South East Coast	na	206	200	205
Launceston and North East	na	4 869	4 822	4 984
Launceston	na	2 991	2 971	3 084
Meander Valley - West Tamar	na	563	552	555
North East	na	1 315	1 299	1 345
West and North West	na	3 282	3 252	3 405
Burnie - Ulverstone	na	1 451	1 420	1 493
Devonport	na	1 283	1 288	1 338
West Coast	na	548	544	574
By duration of income support payments				
Short-term job seekers	4 387	4 021	3 962	4 121
Long-term job seekers	11 237	11 405	11 368	11 837
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS MONTH				
Total	4.9	1.0	-0.6	4.1
By region				
Hobart & South East	na	0.6	-0.2	4.4
Brighton	na	1.5	-0.1	3.6
Central Highlands (Tas.)	na	4.7	0.8	-3.1
Hobart - North East	na	-0.3	-0.5	6.8
Hobart - North West	na	0.1	0.7	3.7
Hobart - South and West	na	1.0	-1.5	3.4
Hobart Inner	na	1.1	-0.9	7.9
Huon - Bruny Island	na	0.8	-0.4	3.6
Sorell - Dodges Ferry	na	1.0	-0.7	4.1
South East Coast	na	-5.1	-2.9	2.5
Launceston and North East	na	2.2	-1.0	3.4
Launceston	na	3.6	-0.7	3.8
Meander Valley - West Tamar	na	-4.1	-2.0	0.5
North East	na	2.0	-1.2	3.5
West and North West	na	-0.2	-0.9	4.7
Burnie - Ulverstone	na	0.1	-2.1	5.1
Devonport	na	0.4	0.4	3.9
West Coast	na	-2.1	-0.7	5.5
By duration of income support payments				
Short-term job seekers	4.0	1.0	-1.5	4.0
Long-term job seekers	5.2	1.0	-0.3	4.1

* - The breakdown of job seekers by region may not add to totals due to rounding

na - not available due to regional reclassification

SOURCE: AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES LABOUR AND RELATED PAYMENTS PROFILE : TABLES 5 & 7

Data in this release have been sourced from the Department of Social Services and are available on the [Department of Social Services website](#).

This Data Release is not to be reproduced or altered without the permission of the Economic Analysis Unit.