

# Labour Market and Related Payments Profile

Latest month: April 2018

Release date: 30 May 2018

The Labour Market and Related Payments 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 decreased by 1.7 per cent in April 2018 compared to the previous month. Nationally, the number of job seekers decreased by 2.0 per cent in the same period (Table 1).

Compared to the same period in the previous year, all jurisdictions except Tasmania and Western Australia (both up 0.4 per cent) recorded a decrease in the number of job seekers receiving income support in April 2018. In percentage terms, South Australia recorded the highest decrease (down 12.3 per cent), followed by Victoria (down 11.2 per cent) and the Australian Capital Territory (down 10.2 per cent) (Table 1).

The number of Tasmanian job seekers receiving income support accounted for 5.9 per cent of Tasmania's labour force in April 2018, compared to 3.7 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 April 2018 comprised around 3.0 per cent of the State's population, compared to 2.0 per cent nationally.

**Table 1: Number of job seekers by jurisdiction, April 2018, original data**

<i>Original</i>	<b>Number ('000s)</b>	<b>monthly change (%)</b>	<b>annual change (%)</b>
NSW	125.7	-2.0	-9.1
Vic	102.4	-2.2	-11.2
Qld	118.2	-1.4	-9.3
SA	40.3	-1.8	-12.3
WA	70.4	-2.1	0.4
<b>Tas</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>-1.7</b>	<b>0.4</b>
NT	13.9	-3.6	-3.6
ACT	4.0	-4.1	-10.2
<b>Aus</b>	<b>490.6</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>-8.2</b>

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, April 2018, original data**

<i>Original</i>	<b>As a proportion of population (%)</b>	<b>As a proportion of labour force (%)</b>
NSW	1.3	3.0
Vic	1.6	3.0
Qld	2.4	4.5
SA	2.3	4.5
WA	2.7	4.9
<b>Tas</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>5.9</b>
NT	5.6	9.7
ACT	1.0	1.7
<b>Aus</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>3.7</b>

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

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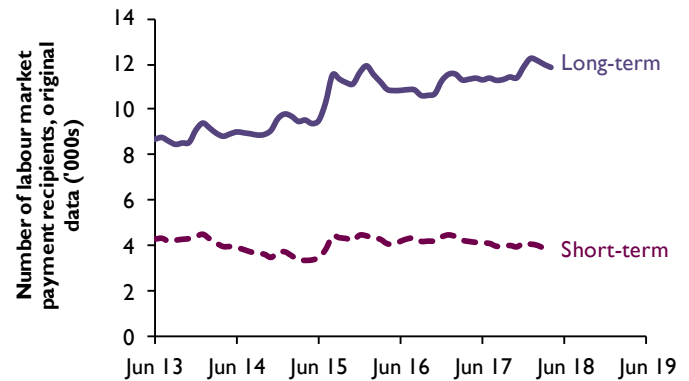
In Tasmania, the number of short-term job seekers receiving income support payments decreased by 3.6 per cent in April 2018 compared to the previous month, while long-term job seekers receiving income support decreased by 1.1 per cent in the same period (Chart 1).

At a regional level, the number of job seekers receiving income support decreased by 2.3 per cent in the West and North West region, 1.7 per cent in the Hobart and South East region and by 1.4 per cent in the Launceston and North East region in April 2018 compared to the previous month.

## Analysis

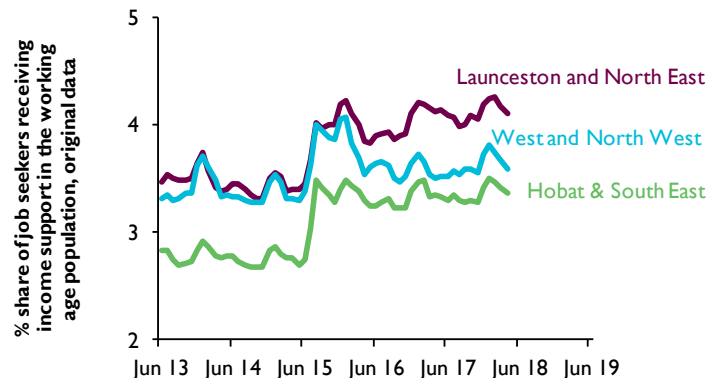
The data on labour market payments differ from the unemployment estimates from the ABS *Labour Force Survey* due to different definitions and enumeration methods. While the estimates are not directly comparable, the series tended to move together prior to July 2009 but diverged from late 2011 to mid-2015,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

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



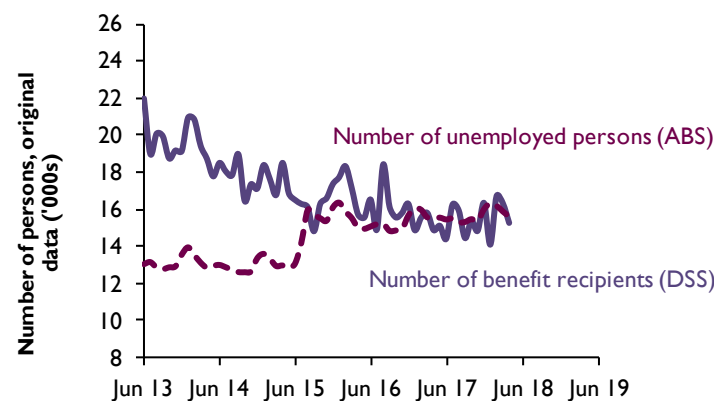
SOURCE: AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES LABOUR AND RELATED PAYMENTS PROFILE TABLE 5

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



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

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**Table 3: Number of job seekers receiving income support payments, Tasmania, original data**

DSS Labour Market and Related Payments Profile - April 2018

	Apr 17	Feb 18	Mar 18	Apr 18
<b>NUMBER OF JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING INCOME SUPPORT PAYMENTS</b>				
<b>Total*</b>	<b>15 501</b>	<b>16 145</b>	<b>15 841</b>	<b>15 570</b>
Hobart & South East	na	7 591	7 495	7 370
Brighton	na	795	804	800
Central Highlands (Tas.)	na	370	373	363
Hobart - North East	na	1 251	1 223	1 208
Hobart - North West	na	2 274	2 263	2 239
Hobart - South and West	na	565	574	558
Hobart Inner	na	1 134	1 089	1 070
Huon - Bruny Island	na	592	573	563
Sorell - Dodges Ferry	na	425	419	396
South East Coast	na	185	177	173
Launceston and North East	na	5 072	4 974	4 903
Launceston	na	3 084	3 021	3 003
Meander Valley - West Tamar	na	612	598	571
North East	na	1 376	1 355	1 329
West and North West	na	3 425	3 362	3 284
Burnie - Ulverstone	na	1 503	1 453	1 411
Devonport	na	1 335	1 333	1 290
West Coast	na	587	576	583
<b>By duration of income support payments</b>				
Short-term job seekers	4 193	4 029	3 891	3 750
Long-term job seekers	11 308	12 116	11 950	11 820
<b>PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS MONTH</b>				
<b>Total</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>-1.9</b>	<b>-1.7</b>
Hobart & South East	na	-0.9	-1.3	-1.7
Brighton	na	3.2	1.1	-0.5
Central Highlands (Tas.)	na	-2.1	0.8	-2.7
Hobart - North East	na	0.9	-2.2	-1.2
Hobart - North West	na	-2.1	-0.5	-1.1
Hobart - South and West	na	-1.7	1.6	-2.8
Hobart Inner	na	-2.7	-4.0	-1.7
Huon - Bruny Island	na	3.3	-3.2	-1.7
Sorell - Dodges Ferry	na	-2.1	-1.4	-5.5
South East Coast	na	-8.0	-4.3	-2.3
Launceston and North East	na	0.3	-1.9	-1.4
Launceston	na	-0.3	-2.0	-0.6
Meander Valley - West Tamar	na	4.3	-2.3	-4.5
North East	na	-0.1	-1.5	-1.9
West and North West	na	-1.9	-1.8	-2.3
Burnie - Ulverstone	na	-1.1	-3.3	-2.9
Devonport	na	-2.6	-0.1	-3.2
West Coast	na	-2.2	-1.9	1.2
<b>By duration of income support payments</b>				
Short-term job seekers	-1.2	-1.2	-3.4	-3.6
Long-term job seekers	0.3	-0.7	-1.4	-1.1

\* - 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](#).**

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