

Labour Market and Related Payments Profile

Latest month: September 2017

Release date: 1 November 2017

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 0.2 per cent in September 2017 compared to the previous month. Nationally, the number of job seekers decreased by 1.9 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 September 2017. In percentage terms, Western Australia recorded the highest increase (up 11.8 per cent), followed by the Northern Territory (up 4.6 per cent) and Tasmania (up 3.2 per cent), while the largest decrease was recorded in South Australia (down 7.3 per cent) in this period (Table 1).

The number of Tasmanian job seekers receiving income support accounted for 5.9 per cent of Tasmania's labour force in September 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 September 2017 comprised around 2.9 per cent of the State's population, compared to 2.0 per cent nationally.

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

<i>Original</i>	Number ('000s)	monthly change (%)	annual change (%)
NSW	124.7	-2.3	-3.5
Vic	103.3	-1.9	-2.3
Qld	116.5	-2.0	-0.9
SA	41.1	-2.1	-7.3
WA	68.6	-1.2	11.8
Tas	15.3	0.2	3.2
NT	13.5	-1.1	4.6
ACT	4.0	-2.8	-5.5
Aus	486.9	-1.9	-0.6

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, September 2017, original data

<i>Original</i>	As a proportion of population (%)	As a proportion of labour force (%)
NSW	1.3	3.1
Vic	1.6	3.1
Qld	2.4	4.5
SA	2.4	4.7
WA	2.7	4.7
Tas	2.9	5.9
NT	5.5	9.7
ACT	1.0	1.7
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

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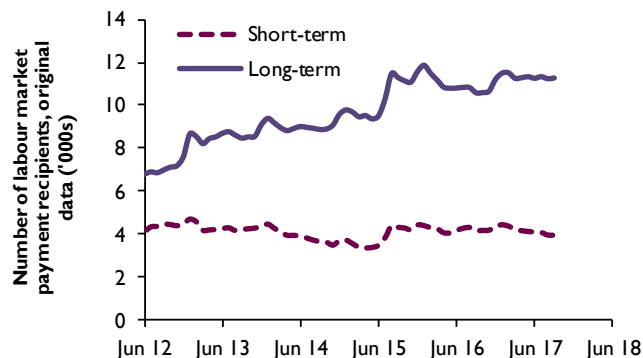
In Tasmania, the number of short-term job seekers receiving income support payments decreased by 0.2 per cent in September 2017 compared to the previous month, while long-term job seekers receiving income support increased by 0.3 per cent in the same period (Chart 1).

At a regional level, the number of job seekers receiving income support increased by 1.4 per cent in the West and North West region and by 0.4 per cent in the Launceston and North East region in September 2017 compared to the previous period. The Hobart and South East region decreased by 0.7 per cent in the same period.

Analysis

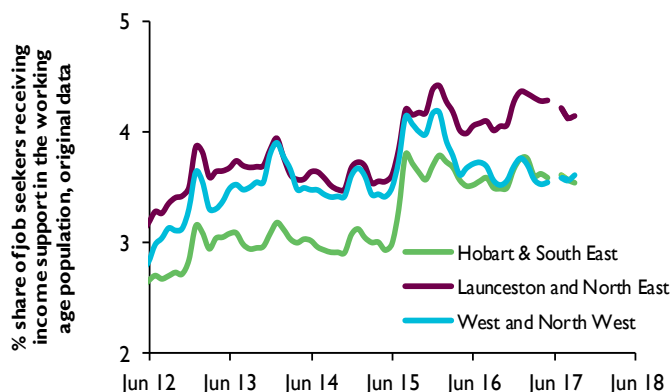
The data on labour market payments differ from the unemployment estimates from the ABS *Labour Force Survey* due to different definitions and enumeration methods. While the estimates are not directly comparable, the series tended to move together prior to July 2009 but diverged from late 2011 to mid-2015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

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



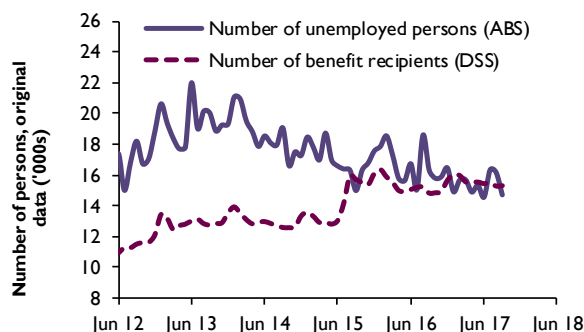
SOURCE: AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES LABOUR AND RELATED PAYMENTS PROFILE TABLE 5

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

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

DSS Labour Market and Related Payments Profile - September 2017

	Sep 16	Jul 17	Aug 17	Sep 17
NUMBER OF JOB SEEKERS RECEIVING INCOME SUPPORT PAYMENTS				
Total	14 798	15 465	15 249	15 276
By region*				
Hobart & South East	na	7 272	7 188	7 146
Brighton	na	726	712	716
Central Highlands (Tas.)	na	357	360	365
Hobart - North East	na	1 175	1 170	1 147
Hobart - North West	na	2 204	2 194	2 183
Hobart - South and West	na	538	529	526
Hobart Inner	na	1 087	1 052	1 061
Huon - Bruny Island	na	526	529	521
Sorell - Dodges Ferry	na	445	426	410
South East Coast	na	214	216	217
Launceston and North East	na	4 838	4 738	4 762
Launceston	na	2 884	2 842	2 886
Meander Valley - West Tamar	na	607	602	587
North East	na	1 347	1 294	1 289
West and North West	na	3 260	3 240	3 287
Burnie - Ulverstone	na	1 454	1 436	1 449
Devonport	na	1 237	1 248	1 278
West Coast	na	569	556	560
By duration of income support payments				
Short-term job seekers	4 195	4 109	3 989	3 982
Long-term job seekers	10 603	11 356	11 260	11 294
PERCENTAGE CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS MONTH				
Total	-2.6	0.4	-1.4	0.2
By region				
Hobart & South East	na	na	-1.2	-0.6
Brighton	na	na	-1.9	0.6
Central Highlands (Tas.)	na	na	0.8	1.4
Hobart - North East	na	na	-0.4	-2.0
Hobart - North West	na	na	-0.5	-0.5
Hobart - South and West	na	na	-1.7	-0.6
Hobart Inner	na	na	-3.2	0.9
Huon - Bruny Island	na	na	0.6	-1.5
Sorell - Dodges Ferry	na	na	-4.3	-3.8
South East Coast	na	na	0.9	0.5
Launceston and North East	na	na	-2.1	0.5
Launceston	na	na	-1.5	1.5
Meander Valley - West Tamar	na	na	-0.8	-2.5
North East	na	na	-3.9	-0.4
West and North West	na	na	-0.6	1.5
Burnie - Ulverstone	na	na	-1.2	0.9
Devonport	na	na	0.9	2.4
West Coast	na	na	-2.3	0.7
By duration of income support payments				
Short-term job seekers	-3.3	-0.5	-2.9	-0.2
Long-term job seekers	-2.3	0.7	-0.8	0.3

* - 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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