

Long-term unemployment (ABS Cat No 6291.0.55.001)

Latest month: August 2017

Release date: 21 September 2017

Next release date: 26 October 2017

Long-term unemployment refers to those persons who have been unemployed for 52 consecutive weeks or longer. Very long-term unemployment refers to those persons who have been unemployed for 104 consecutive weeks or longer. The very long-term unemployed are therefore a subset of the long-term unemployed.

Monthly estimates of the number of long-term unemployed persons are highly volatile, consequently year-average figures have been reported. Trend and seasonally adjusted data are not available for this series.

Recent performance

The number of long-term unemployed Tasmanians was estimated to be around 5 000 persons in the year to August 2017 (Table 1), up 3.9 per cent compared with the previous year. Nationally, the estimated number of long-term unemployed increased by 2.5 per cent in the same period (Table 2).

Tasmania recorded the equal highest long-term unemployment rate as a percentage of the labour force (1.9 per cent) of all jurisdictions in the year to August 2017. The national long-term unemployment rate was 1.4 per cent in the same period (Table 1).

The number of long-term unemployed and very long-term unemployed Tasmanians have increased over recent years from the low level recorded in early 2009. However, the number of total long-term unemployment in year-average terms remains below the high level recorded in late 2014 (Chart 1).

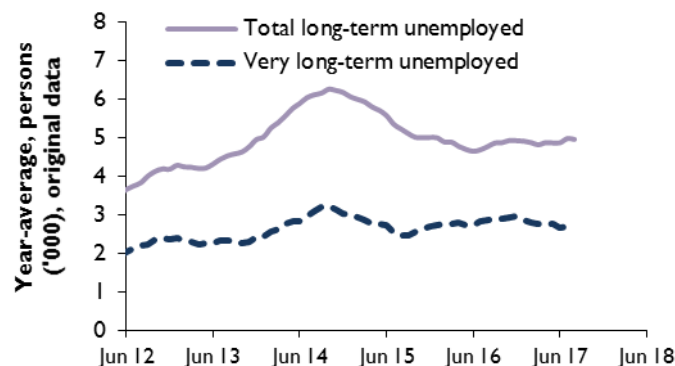
The current average duration of unemployment in Tasmania remains below the highs in 2001 and the recent peak in late 2014, but remains higher than nationally (Chart 2). The average duration of employment in Tasmania in the year to August 2017 was 59.5 weeks, compared to an average of 45.6 weeks nationally.

Table 1: Long-term unemployment and unemployment rate by jurisdiction, 12 months to August 2017, original data

	Number LTU Persons ('000)	LT UR (%)	Total UR (%)
NSW	50.1	1.2	5.0
Vic	41.3	1.2	6.0
Qld	38.9	1.5	6.2
SA	16.5	1.9	6.6
WA	19.4	1.4	6.0
Tas	5.0	1.9	6.1
NT	0.8	0.6	3.5
ACT	1.2	0.5	3.9
Aus	173.3	1.4	5.7

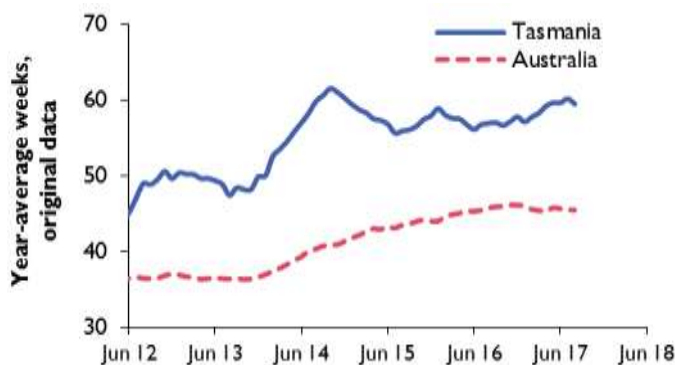
SOURCE: LABOUR FORCE, DETAILED, ABS CAT NO 6291.0: TABLE UM2; LABOUR FORCE, AUSTRALIA, ABS CAT NO 6202.0: TABLE 9

Chart 1: Long-term unemployment, Tasmania, 12-month moving average, original data



SOURCE: LABOUR FORCE, DETAILED, ABS CAT NO 6291.0: TABLE UM2

Chart 2: Average duration of unemployment, Tasmania and Australia, 12-month moving average, original data



SOURCE: LABOUR FORCE, DETAILED, ABS CAT NO 6291.0: TABLE UM2

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Table 2: Long-term unemployment, Tasmania and Australia, year-average original data

Original data, year-average	Tasmania				Australia			
	Aug 16	Jun 17	Jul 17	Aug 17	Aug 16	Jun 17	Jul 17	Aug 17
Long-term unemployed								
persons ('000)	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.0	169.1	173.1	173.2	173.3
year-to change (%)	-8.8	4.8	6.2	3.9	-5.1	1.1	1.8	2.5
Long-term unemployment rate								
% of labour force	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4
% of unemployed	28.5	30.9	31.4	31.6	23.1	23.8	23.8	23.8
Very long-term unemployed								
persons ('000)	2.9	2.7	2.7	2.7	88.1	88.4	88.1	88.5
year-to change (%)	15.3	-2.5	-4.6	-5.3	2.8	-1.0	-0.9	0.4
Very long-term unemployment								
% of labour force	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
% of unemployed	17.1	16.9	16.9	17.2	12.1	12.2	12.1	12.2
Average duration of unemployment								
Number of weeks	57.0	59.7	60.2	59.5	45.8	45.7	45.6	45.6

SOURCE: LABOUR FORCE, DETAILED, ABS CAT NO 6291.0: TABLE UM2

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