

Long-term unemployment (ABS Cat No 6291.0.55.001)

Latest month: April 2018

Release date: 24 May 2018

Next release date: 21 June 2018

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 4 900 persons in the year to April 2018 (Table 1), up 1.0 per cent compared with the previous year. Nationally, the estimated number of long-term unemployed decreased by 2.6 per cent in the same period (Table 2).

Tasmania recorded the highest long-term unemployment rate as a percentage of the labour force (1.9 per cent) of all jurisdictions in the year to April 2018. The national long-term unemployment rate was 1.3 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 unemployed in year-average terms remains below the high level recorded in late 2014 (Chart 1).

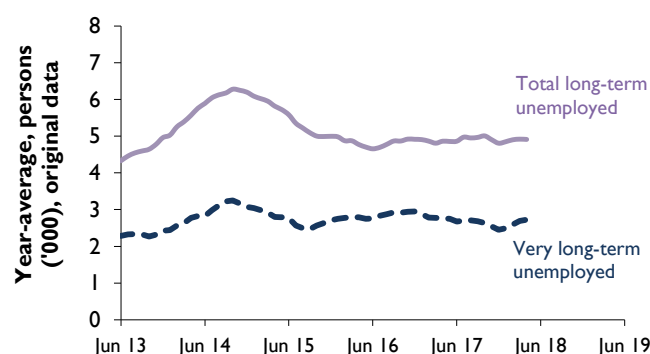
The current average duration of unemployment in Tasmania has increased slightly in recent months and remains higher than the national duration but below the peak recorded in late 2014 (Chart 2). The average duration of unemployment in Tasmania in the year to April 2018 was 58.5 weeks, compared to an average of 47.3 weeks nationally (Table 2).

Table 1: Long-term unemployment and unemployment rate by jurisdiction, 12 months to April 2018, original data

	Number LTU Persons ('000)	LT UR (%)	Total UR (%)
NSW	48.5	1.2	4.8
Vic	41.7	1.2	5.7
Qld	38.0	1.5	6.1
SA	15.0	1.7	6.0
WA	19.5	1.4	6.0
Tas	4.9	1.9	5.9
NT	0.7	0.5	4.0
ACT	1.5	0.6	4.1
Aus	169.8	1.3	5.5

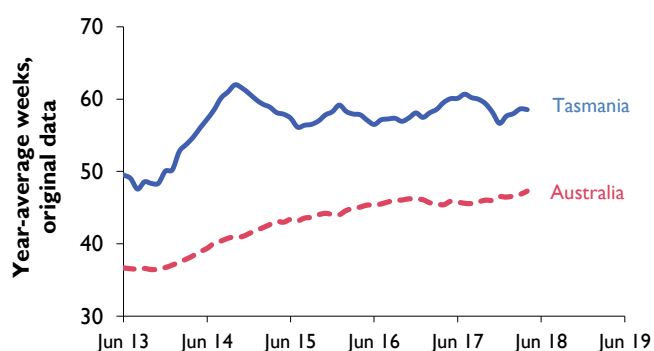
SOURCE: LABOUR FORCE, DETAILED, ABS CAT NO 6291.0: TABLE UM2; LABOUR FORCE, AUSTRALIA, ABS CAT NO 6202.0: TABLE 9

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

Long-term unemployment

April 2018

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

Original data, year-average	Tasmania				Australia			
	Apr 17	Feb 18	Mar 18	Apr 18	Apr 17	Feb 18	Mar 18	Apr 18
Long-term unemployed								
persons ('000)	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	174.3	168.9	168.8	169.8
year-to change (%)	1.9	0.8	2.3	1.0	0.5	-2.5	-2.9	-2.6
Long-term unemployment rate								
% of labour force	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.3
% of unemployed	30.6	32.0	32.0	31.9	23.9	23.3	23.3	23.5
Very long-term unemployed								
persons ('000)	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.7	89.2	90.3	90.9	92.8
year-to change (%)	-1.0	-7.1	-3.0	-1.5	0.8	0.6	1.2	4.0
Very long-term unemployment								
% of labour force	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
% of unemployed	17.4	16.8	17.4	17.6	12.3	12.5	12.6	12.8
Average duration of unemployment								
Number of weeks	59.5	58.0	58.6	58.5	45.4	46.6	46.8	47.3

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

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