



## Business and skills

A strong economy is essential for providing jobs for Tasmanians. It is also the foundation on which the Government provides the services required and expected by the Tasmanian community.

The Tasmanian Government will continue to work with Tasmanian businesses of all sizes and across our diverse range of industries to improve productivity and ensure that we maintain a competitive business environment and a prosperous economy.

The Government is committed to continuing to achieve jobs growth and reducing the number of Tasmanians who are long-term unemployed.

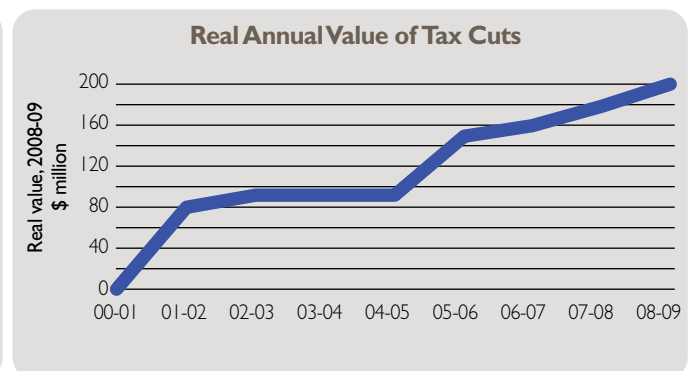
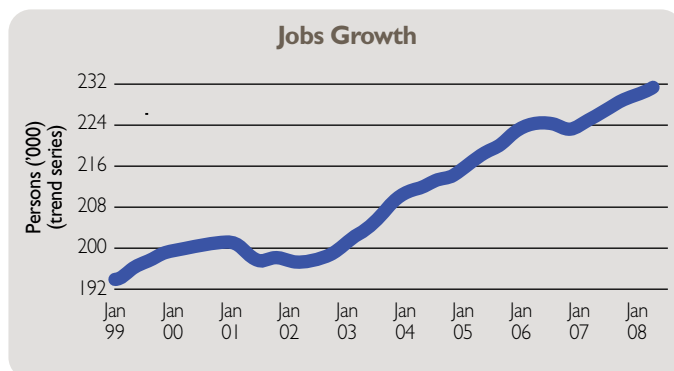
### Budget initiatives

#### Supporting Tasmanian businesses and industry

• Creating opportunities for Tasmanian businesses with <b>the biggest four year infrastructure program</b> in Tasmania's history.	<b>\$1.5 b</b>
• <b>More tax cuts</b> from the abolition of non-real commercial property transfer duty from 1 July 2008.	<b>\$65 m</b>
• <b>Business Tax and Regulation Reference Group</b> – continue to improve the competitiveness of the Tasmanian business environment.	
• <b>Supporting the mining industry</b> – purchase of a new X-Ray Fluorescent Spectrophotometer:	<b>\$369,000</b>
• Operation of the <b>Tasmanian Electronic Commerce Centre</b> .	<b>\$300,000</b>
• Develop and enhance the Tasmanian Brand locally, nationally and internationally through the <b>Tasmanian Brand Project</b> .	<b>\$8 m</b>
• <b>Planning System</b> Review.	<b>\$75,000</b>
• Investigate the potential for light rail in Hobart.	<b>\$250,000</b>

#### Improving participation and productivity

• <b>Workforce Participation Program</b> to increase participation in the Tasmanian workforce and address the impact of demographic change.	<b>\$10 m</b>
• <b>2,000 new training places</b> through the <i>Skilling Tasmania</i> initiative.	<b>\$7.2 m</b>
• Promoting the value of education and learning through the new <b>Tasmanian Education Foundation</b> .	<b>\$1 m</b>





## Continuing initiatives

- **Tax cuts** totalling **\$199 million per annum** in 2008-09, including:
  - 2008-09 Budget – abolition of non-real commercial property transfer duty; **\$16.3 m**
  - 2007-08 Budget – abolition of mortgage duty; **\$18.9 m**
    - cutting motor tax on light vehicles; **\$9.6 m**
    - reducing transfer duty on heavy vehicle registration. **\$5 m**
- **Tourism promotion plan** – **\$2.9 million** as part of the Government's **\$16 million** commitment to tourism development and marketing.
- **Skilling Tasmania** – continuation of the **\$9.7 million** in funding for skills announced in the 2006-07 Budget.
- **Enterprise growth** – continuation of the additional funding of **\$4 million** provided in 2007-08 for this successful initiative.
- **Payroll tax harmonisation** – cutting costs for business by harmonising payroll tax legislation with other States.
- **SMART Farming** – improving the productivity and national and international competitiveness of the Tasmanian primary industries sector.
- **Improving broadband** – developing a competitive environment to lower broadband prices and improve services.
- **Fiscal strategy** – ongoing commitment to a strong and effective Government fiscal strategy.

## Tasmania – then and now

	1998	2008
State Final Demand	\$14.4 b	<b>\$21.5 b</b>
Business investment	\$1 b	<b>\$2.2 b</b>
Number of Tasmanians with a job	196,400	<b>231,300</b>
Unemployment rate	10.2%	<b>4.5%</b>
Value of exports	\$2.1 b	<b>\$3.5 b</b>
Retail trade	\$3 b	<b>\$5.1 b</b>
General Government Net Debt	\$1,610 m	<b>\$(969) m</b>
Tasmania's tax severity	Second worst	<b>Second best</b>
State credit rating – Standard and Poor's	AA-	<b>AA+</b>
– Moody's Investor Services	Aa2	<b>Aaa</b>
Tourist visitors	505,100	<b>824,100</b>
Fast ships on Bass Strait	No	<b>Yes</b>
Demographic Change Advisory Council	No	<b>Yes</b>
Wind energy output	0.66 GWh	<b>350 GWh</b>
Natural gas in Tasmania	No	<b>Yes</b>

## Further information

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### 2008-09 Budget Paper set includes:

Tasmanian Budget Speech  
 Guide to the Budget  
 Budget Paper No. 1 – The Budget  
 Budget Paper No. 2 – Government Services (Volumes 1 and 2)  
 Various brochures

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