

Long-term unemployment (ABS Cat No 6291.0.55.001)

Latest month: **October 2018**

Release date: **22 November 2018**

Next release date: **21 December 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.

As monthly estimates of the number of long-term unemployed persons are highly volatile year-average figures are 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 4 400 persons in the year to October 2018 (Table 1), down 13.0 per cent compared with the previous year. Nationally, the estimated number of long-term unemployed increased by 1.8 per cent in the same period (Table 2).

Tasmania recorded the highest long-term unemployment rate as a percentage of the labour force (1.7 per cent) of all jurisdictions in the year to October 2018. The national long-term unemployment rate was 1.3 per cent in the same period (Table 1).

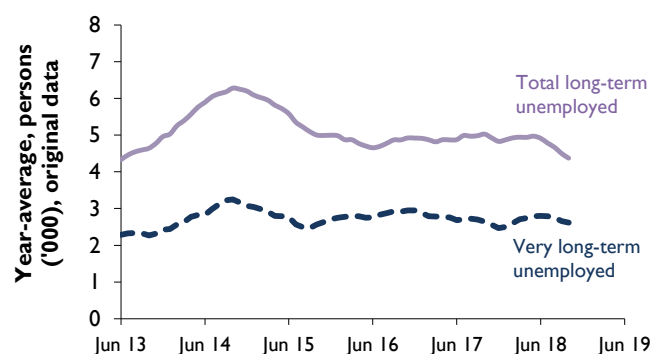
The number of long-term unemployed and very long-term unemployed Tasmanians have decreased from the high level recorded in late 2014 (Chart 1). The current average duration of unemployment in Tasmania has increased slightly in recent months and remains higher than the national level but below the peak recorded in late 2014 (Chart 2). The average duration of unemployment in Tasmania in the year to October 2018 was 61.0 weeks, compared to an average of 48.9 weeks nationally (Table 2).

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

	Number LTU Persons ('000)	LT UR (%)	Total UR (%)
NSW	51.6	1.2	4.8
Vic	38.1	1.1	5.2
Qld	41.6	1.6	6.1
SA	14.4	1.6	5.8
WA	22.3	1.6	6.2
Tas	4.4	1.7	5.9
NT	0.9	0.6	4.3
ACT	1.4	0.6	3.8
Aus	174.8	1.3	5.4

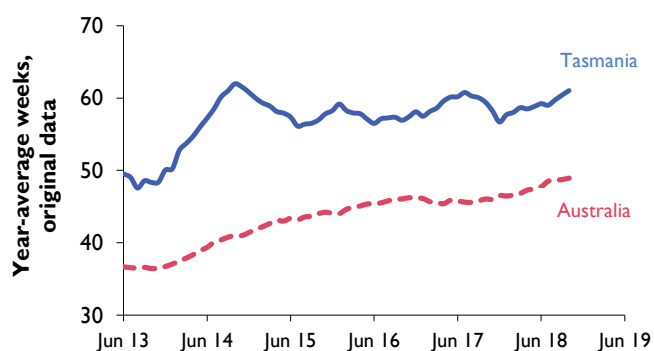
SOURCE: LABOUR FORCE, DETAILED, ABS CAT NO 6291.0: TABLE UM2; LABOUR FORCE, AUSTRALIA, ABS CAT NO 6202.0: TABLE 9

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

October 2018

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

Original data, year-average	Tasmania				Australia			
	Oct 17	Aug 18	Sep 18	Oct 18	Oct 17	Aug 18	Sep 18	Oct 18
Long-term unemployed								
persons ('000)	5.0	4.7	4.5	4.4	171.6	174.1	174.6	174.8
year-to change (%)	3.2	-6.1	-9.8	-13.0	1.3	0.4	1.2	1.8
Long-term unemployment rate								
% of labour force	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3
% of unemployed	32.5	29.7	28.5	28.0	23.5	24.2	24.4	24.6
Very long-term unemployed								
persons ('000)	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.6	89.3	97.3	97.7	98.1
year-to change (%)	-9.5	0.9	-1.3	-1.0	1.3	9.9	9.7	9.8
Very long-term unemployment								
% of labour force	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
% of unemployed	17.1	17.4	16.8	16.7	12.3	13.6	13.7	13.8
Average duration of unemployment								
Number of weeks	59.4	59.7	60.4	61.0	46.0	48.6	48.7	48.9

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

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