

Long-term unemployment (ABS Cat No 6291.0.55.001)

Latest month: January 2020

Release date: 27 February 2020

Next release date: 26 March 2020

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 4 500 persons in the year to January 2020 (Table 1), down 0.4 per cent (less than 100 persons) compared with the previous year. Nationally, the estimated number of long-term unemployed decreased by 0.9 per cent in the same period (Table 2).

Tasmania recorded the equal second highest long-term unemployment rate as a percentage of the labour force of all jurisdictions in the year to January 2020 (1.7 per cent), below that of South Australia (1.9 per cent) and equal with that of Queensland and the Northern Territory. The national long-term unemployment rate was 1.2 per cent in the same period (Table 1).

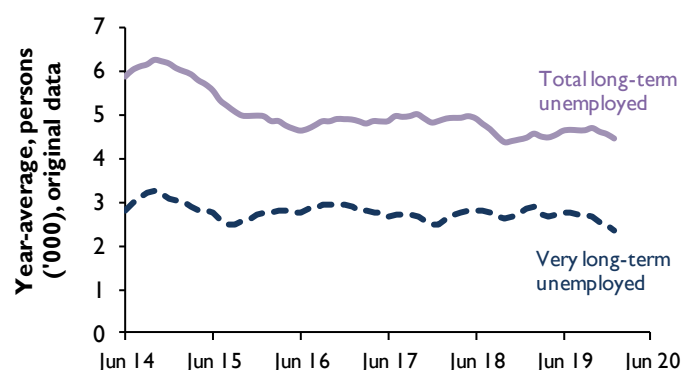
The number of long-term unemployed and very long-term unemployed Tasmanians have decreased from the high level recorded in late 2014 (Chart 1). The average duration of unemployment increased in the first half of 2019, but has decreased since then. However, it remains higher than the national level (Chart 2). The average duration of unemployment in Tasmania in the year to January 2020 was 61.2 weeks, compared to an average of 49.0 weeks nationally (Table 2).

Table 1: Long-term unemployment and unemployment rate by jurisdiction, 12 months to January 2020, original data

| | Number LTU Persons ('000) | LT UR (%) | Total UR (%) |
|------------|------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| NSW | 41.4 | 1.0 | 4.5 |
| Vic | 33.8 | 0.9 | 4.8 |
| Qld | 47.0 | 1.7 | 6.2 |
| SA | 17.3 | 1.9 | 6.2 |
| WA | 22.4 | 1.6 | 5.8 |
| Tas | 4.5 | 1.7 | 6.2 |
| NT | 2.4 | 1.7 | 5.0 |
| ACT | 1.0 | 0.4 | 3.4 |
| Aus | 169.7 | 1.2 | 5.2 |

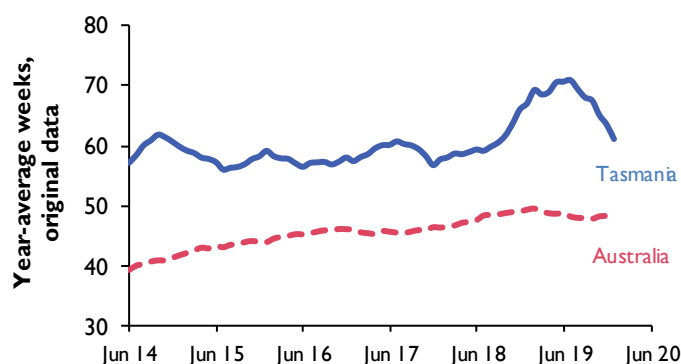
SOURCE: LABOUR FORCE, DETAILED, ABS CAT NO 6291.0: TABLE UM2; LABOUR FORCE, AUSTRALIA, ABS CAT NO 6202.0: TABLE 9

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 (ABS Cat No 6291.0.55.001)

Latest month: January 2020

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

| Original data, year-average | Tasmania | | | | Australia | | | |
|---|----------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Jan 19 | Nov 19 | Dec 19 | Jan 20 | Jan 19 | Nov 19 | Dec 19 | Jan 20 |
| Long-term unemployed | | | | | | | | |
| persons ('000) | 4.5 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 171.3 | 165.7 | 167.7 | 169.7 |
| year-to change (%) | -7.9 | 4.8 | 2.7 | -0.4 | 1.2 | -5.0 | -2.6 | -0.9 |
| Long-term unemployment rate | | | | | | | | |
| % of labour force | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| % of unemployed | 28.0 | 27.2 | 27.0 | 26.8 | 24.5 | 23.7 | 23.9 | 24.1 |
| Very long-term unemployed | | | | | | | | |
| persons ('000) | 2.9 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 97.8 | 94.9 | 94.9 | 96.2 |
| year-to change (%) | 14.2 | -4.5 | -9.7 | -17.8 | 8.9 | -3.2 | -2.6 | -1.7 |
| Very long-term unemployment | | | | | | | | |
| % of labour force | 1.1 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 |
| % of unemployed | 17.8 | 14.9 | 14.6 | 14.0 | 14.0 | 13.6 | 13.6 | 13.6 |
| Average duration of unemployment | | | | | | | | |
| Number of weeks | 67.1 | 65.2 | 63.6 | 61.2 | 49.5 | 48.3 | 48.5 | 49.0 |

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

This Data Release is not to be reproduced or altered without the permission of the Economic Policy Branch.