



- **Employment increased slightly to 242,000**
- **Unemployment rate fell to 3.7%**
- **Participation rate remained steady at 62.6%**

Note: All Labour Force estimates are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' *Labour Force Survey* and are *Trend estimates* unless otherwise stated.

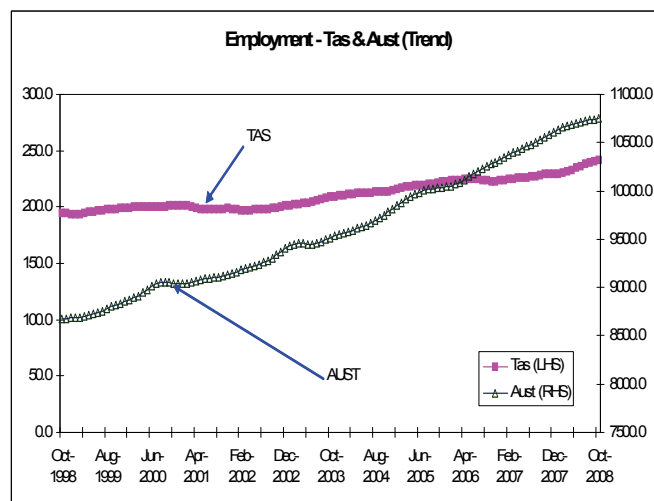
Employment

Total employment continued to rise this month in Tasmania, and has now increased every month since March 2002. The figure is currently 5.7% higher than it was in October last year. Total full-time employment grew by 6.8% over the year, while part-time employment grew by 3.2% over the same period. Male unemployment has increased by 7.5% in total over the year, with full-time employment increasing by 7.2% and part-time employment increasing by 9.0%. Total female employment increased by 3.5% over the year to October. Female full-time employment grew by 3.8% while part-time employment grew by 2.5%.

Unemployment

The total number of unemployed Tasmanians in October was estimated to be 9,300, which was 26.8% lower than the number recorded in October last year. Approximately 60% of the falls in unemployment occurred among males. Total male unemployment fell by 33.2% over the year, while female

unemployment fell by 21.3%. The unemployment rate in Tasmania was estimated to be 3.7% in October, down from 5.3% in October last year. The current national unemployment rate is 4.3%, while in other States it was 5.0% in NSW, 4.3% in Vic, 3.6% in Qld, 5.2% in SA, 2.5% in WA, 3.0% in the NT, and 2.7% in the ACT.

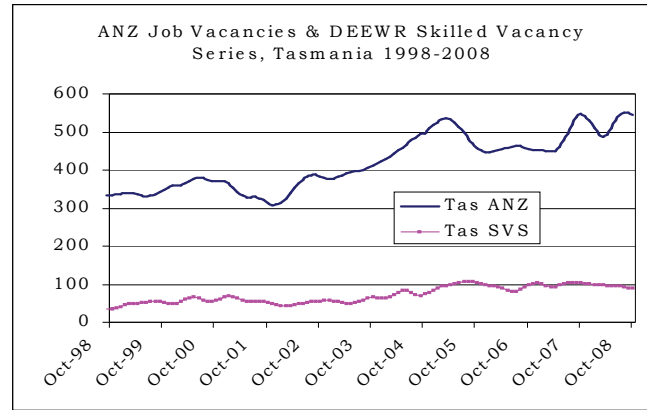


Labour Force & Participation Rates

Tasmania's participation rate remained steady at 62.6% in October, an increase on the 60.9% recorded in October last year, but still below the national rate of 65.2%. Male participation in Tasmania increased to 70.8%, which is its highest level since 1996, while female participation has been steady at 54.8% for the last five months. The total number of Tasmanians in the labour force is currently estimated at 251,200, which is its highest level since the current series began in 1978. The labour force has increased by 3.9% over the year, consisting of 5.6% growth in the male labour force, and 2.0% increase in the female labour force.

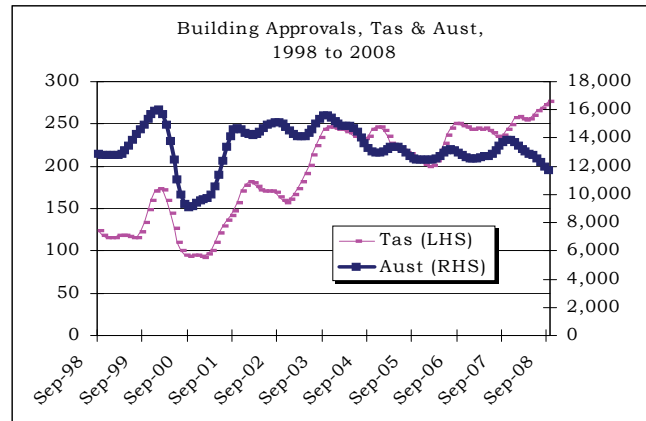
Labour Force Estimates - Tasmania (Trend data)

	Oct-2007	Sep-2008	Oct-2008
	000's	000's	000's
Employment			
Male	125.4	134.2	134.8
Female	103.6	107.0	107.2
Full-time	156.9	166.9	167.6
Part-time	72.1	74.2	74.3
Persons	229.0	241.1	242.0
Unemployment			
Male	6.2	4.2	4.1
Female	6.5	5.3	5.1
Persons	12.7	9.6	9.3
Labour Force			
Male	131.6	138.4	138.9
Female	110.1	112.3	112.3
Persons	241.7	250.7	251.2
Unemployment Rate %			
Male	4.7	3.0	3.0
Female	5.9	4.8	4.6
Persons	5.3	3.8	3.7
Full-time Teenage*	23.7	18.3	20.5
Participation Rate %			
Male	67.8	70.6	70.8
Female	54.2	54.8	54.8
Persons	60.9	62.6	62.6
*unadjusted data			



Other Indicators

Building approvals in Tasmania increased by 1.8% in September and were 16.9% higher than the same time last year. Nationally, building approvals were down 2.0% for the month and by 14.5% over the year.



The Consumer Price Index for Hobart in September increased by 1.1% over the quarter, and by 4.3% over the year. This was the biggest annual increase for Hobart since June 2001. Nationally the index grew by 1.2% over the quarter and by 5.0% higher over the year.

Job Vacancies

The ANZ Bank Job Advertisement series

(trend) for Tasmania decreased by 1.1% in October. The series was 0.5% below that recorded in October last year. Nationally, the series fell by 8.3% over the month, and by 34.6% over the year.

DEEWR's Skilled Vacancy Survey Index

(trend) for Tasmania fell by 3.0% over the month of October and by 14.6% over the year. Nationally, the series decreased by 3.7% over the month and by 22.2% over the year.

Newstart & Youth Allowees

Benefit recipients (Newstart & Youth Allowances)				
	<12 months	> 12 months	Total	% > 12 months
Sep-2007	4,184	7,362	11,546	63.8%
Sep-2008	4,068	5,882	9,950	59.1%
Number difference	-116	-1,480	-1,596	
% difference	-2.8%	-20.1%	-13.8%	

REGIONAL PROFILE - NORTHERN TASMANIA

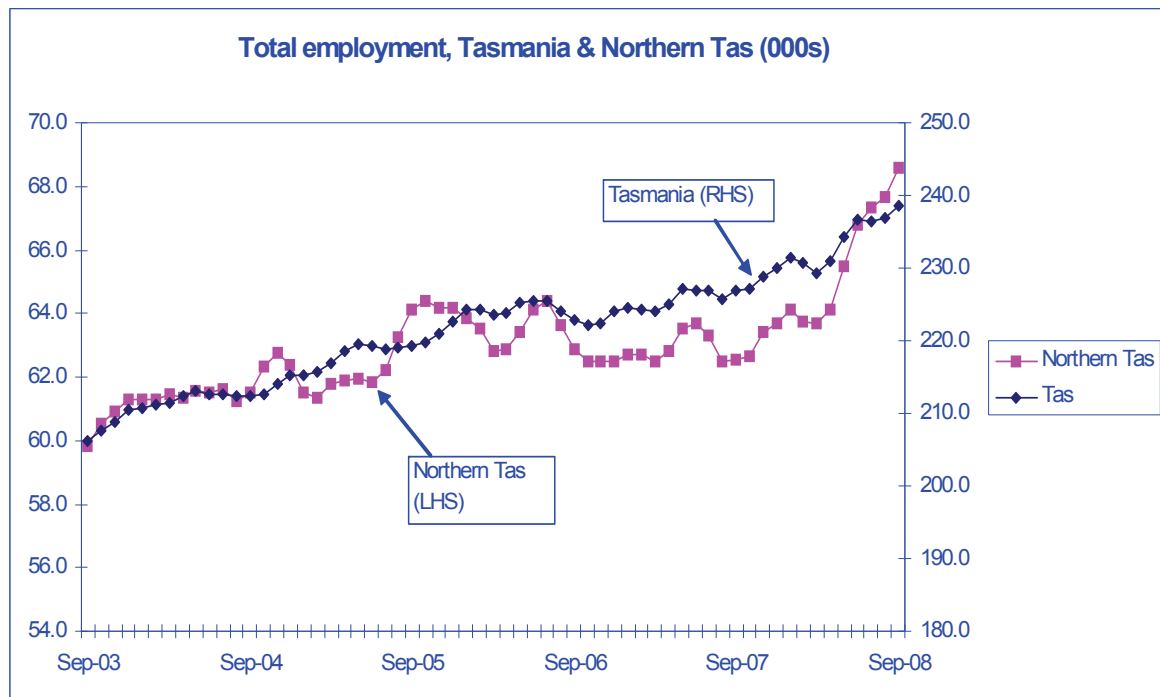
Introduction

The following article will look at the changes to the main labour force indicators in the Northern Region of Tasmania. The data is drawn primarily from the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) monthly labour force survey, and three month averages have been used in an attempt to smooth the volatility of the data. This is important to remember as data that has been averaged over three months will be different to single monthly figures released by the ABS, and sometimes commented on by the media. The main point of the article will be to compare the performance of the labour market in the north of the State to that of Tasmania as a whole. In general, data over the last five years will be looked at.

Employment

The following graph shows employment growth in Tasmania compared to that for the northern region.

Total employment in Northern Tasmania increased by 14.7 per cent between Sep-



tember 2003 and September 2008. This compares to a slightly higher increase of 15.8 per cent for the State as a whole. Total male employment in the north grew by 14.9 per cent while total female employment grew by a similar amount at 14.5 per cent. This again is slightly different to the State picture, where male employment growth reached 17.9 per cent, outstripping the 13.2 per cent state-wide female employment growth. Total full-time employment in the north grew by 13.9 per cent while part-time employment grew by 16.7, over the last five years. This compares to 15.1 per cent growth in full-time employment, and 17.2 per cent growth in part-time employment over the same period, state-wide.

In September 2003, 29 per cent of employed Tasmanians lived in the north of the State. By September 2008, the north's share of the State's employment had

dropped to 28.8 per cent.

Unemployment

Total unemployment has fallen by 55.2 per cent in the north over the last five years and in September 2008 was estimated to be 2,600. Male unemployment had fallen by 57.6 per cent, to approximately 1,400, while female unemployment had fallen by 52.1 per cent, to stand at an estimated 1,200. This compares to a total fall in unemployment of 35.2 per cent state-wide, made up of a 54.3 per cent fall in male unemployment, and a far more modest fall in female unemployment of just 5.8 per cent. Between September 2003 and September 2008, the unemployment rate in the north fell from 8.7 per cent to 3.6 per cent. The state-wide unemployment rate fell from 7.2 per cent to 4.2 per cent over the same period.

In September 2003 35.8 per cent of the State's unemployed lived in the northern region, but by September 2008, this had fallen to 24.8 per cent.

Labour Force and Participation Rates

The labour force is defined as the number of people in work and the number of people actively looking and available for work. The number of people in the labour force in northern Tasmania increased by 8.6 per cent in the five years to September 2008. The female labour force increased by 8.9 per cent, while the male labour force increased by 8.4 per cent. Over the same period, the labour force for the whole State increased by 12.1 per cent. The state-wide increase was made up of a 12.2 per cent increase for the male labour force and a 12.0 per cent increase in females. In September 2003, 29.5 per cent of the State's labour force resided in the northern region, and by September this year, the north's share of the labour force had declined slightly to 28.6 per cent.

The participation rate is the labour force expressed as a percentage of the total civilian population over the age of 15. In northern Tasmania, the participation rate increased from 61.1 per cent in September 2003, to 63.0 per cent in September this year. Female participation in the north increased from 52.0 per cent to 53.9 per cent, while male participation rates increased from 70.0 per cent to 72.5 per cent, over the same period. Participation rates for the whole of the State increased from 58.4 per cent five years ago to 62.2 per cent in September this year.

Summary

- Job growth in the north of the State was slightly lower than the State average over the last five years;
- The unemployment rate fell by 5.1 percentage points in the north of the State, compared to a 3.0 percentage point fall for the whole of the State;

Labour force participation increased by 1.9 percentage points in the north of the State, compared to a 3.8 percentage point increase for the whole of Tasmania.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN OCTOBER 2008

- Oct 1st Tasmania is about to experience its best cruise ship season ever, with more than 50 ships expected to visit between November this year and April 2009. The visiting tourists are expected to inject millions of dollars into the State's economy over the summer months. (The Mercury)
- Oct 6th A new \$2.8 million Civic Centre has been officially opened in the Brighton municipality in southern Tasmania. The community centre features a theatrette, dedicated meeting rooms, commercial kitchen and cafe. The centre, in Bridgewater, a northern suburb of Hobart, will offer a variety of recreational and educational programs to improve literacy, numeracy, parenting and other life skills. (The Mercury)
- Oct 9th The first sod has been turned on the \$4.4 million student accommodation complex to be built at Newstead College in Launceston in northern Tasmania. The new accommodation wing will cater for up to 50 students in Year 11 and 12 from rural and regional areas completing their education at Newstead campus. The complex is scheduled to be open by term two in 2009. (The Mercury)
- Oct 9th Fonterra cheese factory in the State's north-west has announced plans for a \$10m to \$15m upgrade for its Wynyard site. Fonterra general manager Bruce Donnison stated that "It will offer security not only for Fonterra employees, but for the Wynyard community as well. It's a huge vote of confidence in how the site is operating and the current demand for Tasmanian cheese exports." Mr Donnison said the company would inject the funds over three stages for the next two years. The stages will include widespread technology upgrades, the construction of an electricity generator and staff development. Mr Donnison said no new jobs would be created from the upgrade but none would be lost. (The Advocate)
- Oct 9th Plans for a \$50 million home-maker centre have been lodged with the Devonport City Council in the State's north-west. If it goes ahead the new development will encompass the area bordered by the Bass Highway, Stony Rise Road and Gatenby Drive in Devonport. (The Advocate)
- Oct 9th A new \$1.5 million state-of-the-art Commonwealth funded facility at TAFE's Mooreville Rd campus at Burnie in north-west Tasmania has officially been opened. The facility will benefit mining, engineering and electro-technology students, apprentices and trainees. (The Advocate)

- Oct 11th Eco-tourism operator Bruny Island Charters, based at Adventure Bay on Bruny Island in south-east Tasmania, has won the MYOB Small Business Award at the Telstra Business Awards in Sydney. Last month the company was named the 2008 Telstra Tasmanian Business of The Year. The Learning Edge International, which is a world leader in internet-based learning, was named the Tasmanian Exporter of the Year. (The Mercury)
- Oct 11th Two of Tasmania's major financial institutions have proposed a merger to create a new entity worth more than \$250 million. Thirty executives and senior managers of the two organisations would lose their jobs to reduce duplication. Tasmanian Perpetual Trustees Ltd shareholders and MyState Financial members are expected to vote on the proposal in April 2009. (The Mercury)
- Oct 14th A \$5.5 million upgrade for the AFL football's Tasmanian home, Aurora Stadium in the State's north has been endorsed by the Launceston City Council. While still subject to funding and planning approval Launceston Mayor Albert van Zetten said the redevelopment would help to attract major events. (The Examiner)
- Oct 14th A \$14.7 million refurbishment of the Lake Margaret power station, outside Queens-town on Tasmania's west coast, is underway. The project is expected to be completed by June 2009. (The Examiner)
- Oct 17th A new Tasmanian hotel group has won the lease for the \$17 million hotel at the old Launceston General Hospital redevelopment in the State's north. Developer Josef Chromy's JAC Group has announced that Ken Stronach and Lyndon Jago will operate the hotel under the brand *Stay Tasmania*. The J-A-C Group's Development Manager Sam Tucker says a 15 year lease has been signed by the new operators for the 99-room hotel. (www.abc.net.au)
- Oct 27th Hydro Tasmania announced that it is selling its telecommunications services to Transend Networks, for \$14.5 million. The deal includes a long-term agreement for the telecommunications services to be provided back to Hydro Tasmania by Transend. Vince Hawksworth, CEO of Hydro Tasmania says that the sale has been done in full consultation with staff and unions and will see employees' rights and conditions of employment preserved. (www.redorbit.com)
- Oct 30th The Federal Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator Kim Carr has invited north-east Tasmanian businesses with employment creating projects to apply for grants under the \$3.7 million North East Tasmania Innovation and Investment Fund. The Fund provides grants of \$50,000 and above to support investment projects that will generate sustainable, new jobs in north-east Tasmania, particularly in the Scottsdale area. The fund will be administered by the Australian Government through AusIndustry's Tasmanian State Office. Application forms and further information on the North East Tasmania Innovation and Investment Fund is available by phoning the AusIndustry hotline on 13 28 46 or by visiting AusIndustry's website. Applications close on 12 December 2008. (www.manmonthly.com.au)

Oct 30th Twenty-eight individual touring groups have been encouraged to hold their events in Tasmania next year through the State Government's Touring Event Grants Program, the Tasmanian Minister for Tourism Michelle O'Byrne announced today. "The touring grant program is designed to entice motorcycle clubs, cycling touring groups and other touring clubs to host their event in Tasmania, and has attracted 30 touring events in 2009," Ms O'Byrne said. The grant program, worth \$52,000 is expected to deliver more than \$7 million to local communities in Tasmania, with the 30 events bringing more than 4000 participants who will stay here for an average of nine nights.
(www.media.tas.gov.au)