



- **Employment fell to 235,000**
- **Unemployment rate increased to 5.5%**
- **Participation rate fell slightly to 61.5%**

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

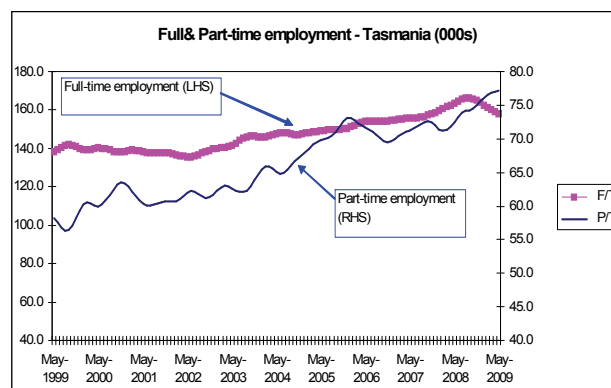
### Employment

The total number of employed people in Tasmania fell in May for the eighth successive month. Total employment in Tasmania is now 0.5% lower than it was in May last year. This is the first annual decline since June 2002. Full-time employment declined by 3.5% over the last 12 months, while part-time employment partially off-set this decline, with a 6.3% increase since last May. Total male employment fell by 2.5% over the last year. This decline consisted of a 4.8% fall in full-time employment which again, was balanced by a 9.2% increase in part-time work. These figures may indicate that employers are reducing the hours of some employees, as an alternative to reducing their workforce. Total female employment actually grew compared to May last year, by 2.1%. This growth was made up of a 0.9% fall in full-time work, but a 5.2% increase in part-time work, which is consistent with the trend in male employment.

### Unemployment

Total unemployment in Tasmania in May increased by 3,200 over the year, from 10,500 to 13,700, a rise of 30.4%. Male unemployment increased by 2,800 over the year,

while female unemployment grew by a statistically insignificant amount. The unemployment rate in Tasmania this month was 5.5%, up from 4.3% in May last year but still below the current national rate of 5.7%. In the other States and Territories, the unemployment rate was 6.5% in NSW, 5.9% in Vic, 5.2% in Qld, 5.6% in SA, 5.0% in WA, 3.9% in the NT, and 3.3% in the ACT.



### Labour Force & Participation Rates

The number of people in the Tasmanian labour force continued to fall slightly in May, but is still 0.9% higher than it was in May last year. The male labour force fell marginally by 0.3% over the year, but this was compensated for by a 2.3% rise in the female labour force over the same period. The participation rate in Tasmania fell slightly over the month to 61.5%, which was also down on the 61.6% recorded in May last year. Male participation rates fell from 68.7% last May to 67.7% this May, while female participation rates increased from 54.8% to 55.5% over the same period. The current national participation rate is 65.5%.

## Labour Force Estimates - Tasmania (Trend data)

	May-2008	Apr-2009	May-2009
	000's	000's	000's
Employment			
Male	129.7	127.2	126.4
Female	106.4	108.7	108.6
Full-time	163.6	158.9	157.9
Part-time	72.5	77.0	77.1
Persons	236.1	235.9	235.0
Unemployment			
Male	4.5	7.0	7.3
Female	6.0	6.3	6.4
Persons	10.5	13.3	13.7
Labour Force			
Male	134.2	134.2	133.8
Female	112.4	115.0	115.0
Persons	246.6	249.2	248.7
Unemployment Rate %			
Male	3.4	5.2	5.5
Female	5.3	5.4	5.5
Persons	4.3	5.3	5.5
Full-time Teenage*	13.3	24.9	23.4
Participation Rate %			
Male	68.7	68.0	67.7
Female	54.8	55.5	55.5
Persons	61.6	61.6	61.5
*unadjusted data			

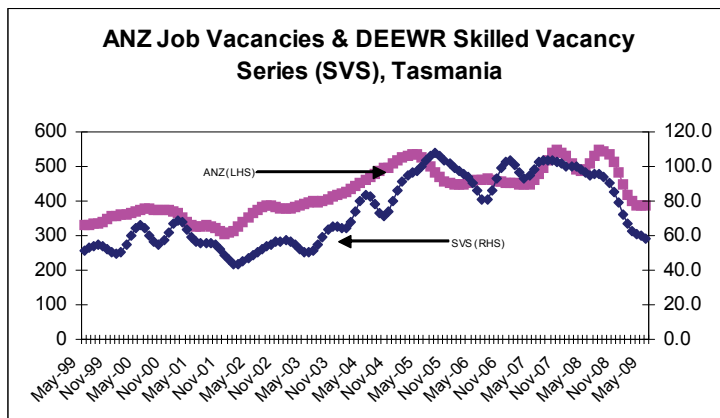
### Job Vacancies

#### The ANZ Bank Job Advertisement series

(trend) rose in Tasmania for the month of May by 0.8% but fell over the year by 23.6%. The index rose in Tasmania for the first time in ten months. Nationally, the series fell by 4.1% over the month, and by 55.6% over the year.

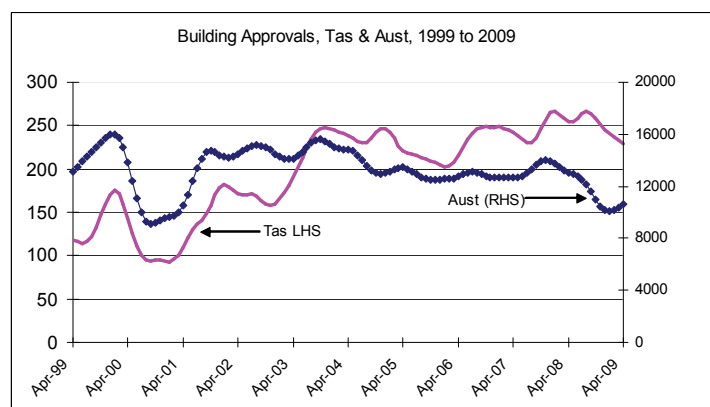
#### DEEWR's Skilled Vacancy Survey Index

(trend) for Tasmania fell by 2.3% in May and by 38.4% over the year. Nationally, the series declined by 7.0% over the month and by 62.6% over the year.



### Other Indicators

**Building approvals** in Tasmania fell by 1.7% during April, and by 10.2% over the year. Nationally building approvals increased during the month of April by 2.2% but had fallen by 18.9% over the year to April 2009.



**Average Weekly (Total) Earnings** for adults working full-time in Tasmania were \$1,107.30 for the quarter ending February 2009. This was 10.0% less than the national average of \$1,230.50 for the same period.

### Newstart Recipients & Youth Allowees

#### Benefit recipients (Newstart & Youth Allowances) Tasmania

	<12 months	>12 months	Total	% > 12 months
Apr-2008	3,676	6,500	10,176	63.9%
Apr-2009	5,326	5,725	11,051	51.8%
Number difference	1,650	-775	875	
% difference	44.9%	-11.9%	8.6%	

## THE SKILLSINFO WEBSITE – A WEALTH OF LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION

### Introduction

This month's article is designed to inform readers about a web site that has a large amount of labour market information on it, for those who would like to be better informed about their local labour market, and the range of information that is available generally. The site itself contains a wide variety of information on education and training, from apprenticeships to higher education, and industry profiles outlining recent employment growth and also future projections of growth. There is also a large amount of regional information on the site, including a 45 page regional profile on Tasmania, and a brief statistical overview of the State. Finally there is a summary of skill shortages in Australia, including information on how the data is collected, and what is actually meant by a skill shortage. In addition to the statistical information that is available in each section, there are also links to a wide range of other relevant web sites that may be of interest to people researching labour market issues and developments. The rest of this article will provide samples of the type of material that is available.

The following shows the front page of the site with subject areas listed on the left hand side.



### Education and Training

This section of the site contains:

- Information to job seekers on how to find out about apprenticeships;
- Job prospects for different trades;
- A selection of other relevant web sites related to apprenticeship training.

### **Industries**

This section contains:

- Profiles on Australian industries at the national level;
- An overview of Australian industries;
- Links to sites about skills related issues;
- Links to sites on career and job opportunities;
- Links to industry and training organisations.

### **Industry Profiles**

This section provides;

- Employment projections by industry for the five years to 2012-2013;
- The “New Jobs Report” which summarises employment growth by industry and projects this growth over the next five years. This report also contains some State data.
- A range of data about industries including gender splits, full-time part-time growth and workforce ageing, for example.

### **Industry Skills Councils**

Industry Skills Councils advise industries and governments on training requirements, current and future skill needs, and a range of other matters of concern or interest to their respective industries. They are run by boards of directors with representatives from the relevant industries. This section of the sites provides links to each of the Industry Skills Councils in Australia.

### **Regions**

This part of the site provides a short regional employment overview, as well as a series of links to other sites under the headings of:

- State employment and statistics;
- State skill needs and training;
- State industry and training organisations.

### **Regional Profiles**

This section provides a series of regional profiles from around Australia. There is a 45 page regional profile on Tasmania covering the major labour market indicators, and highlight other significant trends and characteristics of Tasmania’s labour market. It is

downloadable in PDF format.

### **Skills issues**

Information on skill shortages, where they are and how they are measured can be found under this link.

### **Census 2006**

Contains a range of labour market related data from the last Census, including Indigenous data, and industry and occupation data.

### **Quick links**

Presents a series of relevant and useful links in handy “button” format for ease of use. Many of these links are included in other parts of the site, but are summarised here.

### **Spotlight on**

This page will feature topics of interest that will change from time to time. The current spotlight is on the new Job Outlook internet site, the New Jobs Report, release of CData online, a Career Advice Australia presentation, a Dynamic State spreadsheet, Skills Australia, the National Skills Policy Collaboration, and selected skills links.

### **Summary**

The Skillsinfo web site can be found at:

<http://www.skillsinfo.gov.au/skills/Home.htm>

It is highly recommended as a first port of call for anyone needing detailed labour market information. If it is not on the Skillsinfo web site, it is highly likely that you will find a link to the information you need.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN MAY 2009**

- May 1<sup>st</sup> Tasmanian Agribusiness has recorded the best economic performance in Australia. The 10th Westpac and Charles Sturt University Index survey reported positive results in the Northern, Southern and Mersey-Lyell divisions for the last quarter. Westpac Tasmania Manager Sally Kirkright said “the lower inflation rate for agribusiness operating costs is mainly due to falls in the prices for fertiliser, chemicals and fuel”. Increased labour availability and falling interest rates helped Tasmania’s performance. (*Tasmanian Country*)
- May 4<sup>th</sup> Fifty-one Tasmanian primary schools will share nearly \$100 million as part of the Federal Government’s Primary Schools for the 21st Century stimulus package. The money will fund 11 multi-purpose hall refurbishments, 15 new gymnasiums or multi-purpose halls, two new performing arts centres, six school li-

brary refurbishments and 17 projects to build or upgrade classrooms. Projects in Southern Tasmania include: Brighton, Howrah and Lauderdale primary schools which will receive \$3 million; New Town, Kingston, Princes St, Margate and Blackmans Bay primary schools, \$2.5 million each; Bellerive, Richmond, New Norfolk, Snug and Risdon Vale primary schools, will get \$2 million each. The Friends' School gets \$2.5 million, St Michael's Collegiate gets \$2 million, Geeveston's Sacred Heart gets \$2 million as does Holy Rosary at Claremont (The Mercury). Northern Tasmanian primary schools to share in the funding include: Invermay: \$1,992,744 for a community access centre; Port Dalrymple School: \$1,959,276 for a performing arts centre; Ravenswood Heights: \$1,147,407 for multi-purpose hall and other amenities; Rocherlea Primary: \$850,000 for multi-purpose hall and library extensions; South George Town Primary: \$2 million for new gym; Winnaleah District High: \$850,000 for community gym; St Finn Barr's Catholic Primary: \$2 million for multi-purpose hall; St Thomas Moore's School: \$2,255,000; Launceston Church Grammar Primary: \$2 million. On a regional basis the funding is as follows: Northern schools: \$15 million; North-Western schools: \$22 million; and Southern schools: \$42 million. (*The Examiner*)

- May 10<sup>th</sup> The Federal Government will offer up to \$4 million to the Kingborough Council in the state's south for the new \$5 million Kingborough Sports Complex Twin Ovals development. Kingborough Councillor Roger McGinniss said works on the new ovals must start by September 1, 2009 and be completed within 12 months. Franklin Labour MHR Julie Collins said the multi-million dollar sport-based project would be a welcome boost to the local economy. (*The Sunday Tasmanian*)
- May 11<sup>th</sup> Burnie sport is set to get a \$2 million facelift of West Park Oval in the state's north-west. Announced as part of the Federal Government's Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program, the funding will provide a new state-of-the-art facility. Federal Member for Braddon Sid Sidebottom said the \$2 million for West Park Oval would come on top of the \$3.3 million previously announced for the Burnie waterfront project and \$1 million to be shared between other sporting projects in Burnie, as well as \$235,000 to expand the new Cooee bowls complex. (*The Advocate*)
- May 13<sup>th</sup> Princes Wharf No.2 on Hobart's waterfront in the State's south will be transformed into a \$45 million Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies, combining all the University of Tasmania's marine and Antarctic research and teaching on the one site. The institute is expected to become part of a burgeoning marine science precinct on Hobart's waterfront. According to 2009-10 Federal Government Budget papers The University of Tasmania will construct an iconic building to house the Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies. The facility which will be next door to the CSIRO is expected to create a critical mass of marine scientists in Hobart allowing co-location of research teams in a marine science precinct. It will build a platform for Australia's research in temperate water, Southern Ocean and Antarctic marine science. (*The Mercury*)
- May 13<sup>th</sup> The Launceston General Hospital in the State's north will get a \$50 million refurbishment with a world-class acute medical and surgical service unit. Hospital Chief Executive, John Kirwan said that the new money meant the hospital would pump nearly \$100 million worth of building works into the Northern Tasmanian economy during the next three years. (*The Examiner*)

- May 14<sup>th</sup> The State Government Department of Environment, Parks, Heritage and Arts (DEPHA) which employs 700 people is to be abolished. The Tasmanian Premier, David Bartlett has not said how many jobs would be cut or from where, but said it would save the Government "tens of millions of dollars". DEPHA is headed by Minister Michelle O'Byrne, who is advised by Secretary Scott Gadd. It has seven divisions: Parks and Wildlife Service; Heritage Tasmania; Aboriginal Heritage Tasmania; Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery; Arts Tasmania; Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens; and Environment. Parks and Wildlife manages 423 reserves and national parks which equates to 37 per cent of the land in Tasmania. Under the changes, DEPHA will be merged into other departments. (*The Mercury*)
- May 14<sup>th</sup> Launceston steel foundry Bradken in the state's north has made 18 staff redundant and more jobs could go if the international economy doesn't improve. The Bradken national managing director Brian Hodges said the decision was necessary because forward orders had slumped more dramatically than anticipated. Cutbacks at Caterpillar's heavy machinery manufacturing plant in Burnie and scale backs in smelters throughout the country had played a role in reduced orders for Bradken, Mr Hodges said. (*Examiner*)
- May 14<sup>th</sup> Despite there being no Federal Budget allocation for an expansion of the Bell Bay port in the state's north the Tasmanian Ports Corporation (Tasports) says it will push ahead with its plans anyway. The \$150 million Bell Bay Integrated Gateway project will include more than eight hectares of reclamation, the redevelopment of container berths and berthing zones, and a realignment of the rail line and transport hub. Tasports' chief executive Robert Barnes says the project is vital to addressing Tasmania's longer term freight capacity restraints and that Tasmania's ports will be at full capacity when the recession ends and an upgrade is needed. (*ABC News*)
- May 15<sup>th</sup> Forestry Tasmania has opened its new \$1.2 million observation facility near the summit of Abbots Peak near Maydena south-west of Hobart. The 1100 metre vantage point will be open to the general public later this year. Other small business tourism and adventure activities are also part of Forestry Tasmania's new Maydena Adventure Hub. Forestry Tasmania managing director Bob Gordon said the Maydena Adventure Hub would boost the Derwent Valley economy in the same way the Tahune AirWalk had for the Huon Valley in the State's south. (*The Mercury*)
- May 16<sup>th</sup> State of the art facilities have been officially opened at the new St Aloysius Catholic College at Huntingfield near Kingston, south of Hobart. The new college will be completed in four to five stages. The \$8.2 million, stage one campus was built in nine months. (*The Mercury*)
- May 16<sup>th</sup> Aurora Energy's gas-fired power station in the Tamar Valley near Launceston in northern Tasmania is on track to be operating by September 2009. The Tasmanian Government purchased the partially-built power station for \$100-million last year, when its owner Babcock and Brown experienced financial difficulties. Since then the Government has

transferred ownership to energy retailer Aurora, and spent a further \$240-million on the project. ([www.abc.net.au](http://www.abc.net.au))

- May 19<sup>th</sup> Almost 90 Tasmanians will be affected by job uncertainty following the voluntary administration of managed investment scheme company Great Southern Ltd. The company manages 10,000ha of timber plantation in Northern Tasmania and employs eight staff and about 80 contractors. In a statement to the Australian Stock Exchange yesterday, administrator Martin Jones said the administrators were working with the board and management to look at options for the restructure of the company and its financial position. (*The Examiner*)
- May 25<sup>th</sup> Four Tasmanian schools have received more than \$1 million from the Federal Government for refurbishment. Acton Primary, which is one of three Burnie schools in Tasmania's north-west that will merge at a new site, gets \$375,000 for classroom extensions and refurbishment; Claremont Primary and Roseneath Primary in the State's south will get \$275,000 and \$200,000 respectively to upgrade classrooms; and Kingston High School, south of Hobart will get \$200,000 for water-saving devices installed at the new \$33 million school being built within two years. (*The Mercury*)
- May 25<sup>th</sup> A two-year partnership agreement between the Tasmanian Premier David Bartlett and Peter Partridge the Mayor of the Dorset municipality in the State's north-east, was signed yesterday. The agreement included establishing a new \$3 million Learning Information Network Centre at Scottsdale, funds to a number of other projects in the north-east including support for a merger of Winnaleah District High and Branhholm Primary, irrigation and dam schemes totalling \$85 million and extra funding to a program to assist small businesses. Mr Bartlett said the commitment to transport and road infrastructure would create jobs in the community. "Those projects will create jobs in building and construction on the ground, and together with the federally funded schools and social housing programs, I believe there will be more money coming into this area for infrastructure projects in the next 12 months than probably any time in the last two decades" he said. (*The Examiner*)
- May 30<sup>th</sup> Tasmanian hardware retailer, K&D has announced plans for a new \$5 million trade centre at Mertonvale Circuit in Kingston in the State's south. The 6000 square metre trade centre will be completed by the end of the year. The Tasmanian hardware company said it was confident the state's building industry would continue to grow despite the economic crisis. K&D managing director, Peter Geard said there would soon be increased building activity because of the Federal Government's injection of funds into school infrastructure. (*The Mercury*)