



- **Employment rose to 235,100**
- **Unemployment rate fell to 4.2%**
- **Participation rate increased to 61.4%**

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

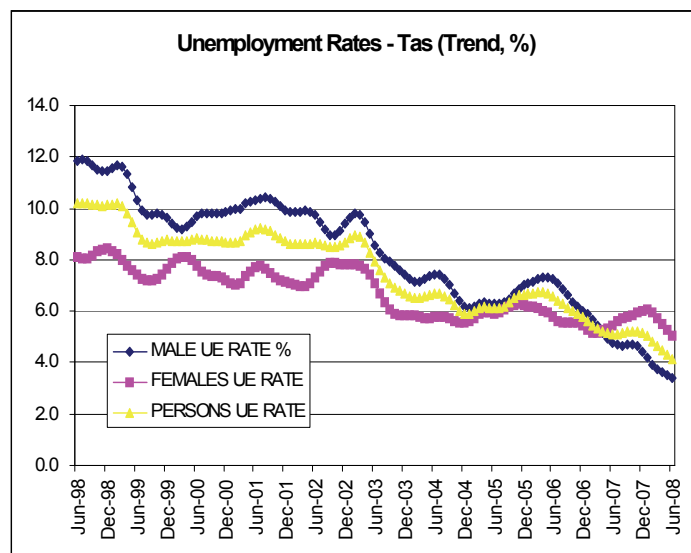
Employment

The total number of employed Tasmanians continued to grow in June, and currently stands at historically high levels. Employment has increased by 3.9% since June last year. Full-time employment has increased by 4.0% over the year, while part-time employment grew by 3.5% over the same period. Total female employment increased by 4.9%, consisting of a rise in part-time employment of 3.8% and a rise in full-time employment of 6.2%. Total male employment is 2.9% higher this month than it was in June last year. Full-time male employment has grown by 2.9% over the year, compared to a 3.0% increase in part-time employment. Total employment in Tasmania has now grown for 19 consecutive months.

Unemployment

The total number of unemployed people in Tasmania fell by 15.8% since last June, and currently stands at an estimated 10,200, its lowest level since the current series began in 1978. Male unemployment has fallen by

27.7% over the year, while female unemployment fell by 3.2%. The current Tasmanian unemployment rate stands at 4.2%, the same as the current national rate. This is also the first time this has occurred since the current series was introduced in 1978. In other States the unemployment rate was 4.6% in NSW, 4.4% in Vic, 3.8% in Qld, 4.9% in SA, and 3.4% in WA.



Labour Force & Participation Rates

A record 245,300 people were in the Tasmanian labour force in June, which was an increase of 2.9% since June last year. The male labour force increased by 1.5%, while the female labour force grew by 4.5%. The State's participation rate also increased from 60.2% in June last year, to 61.4% this month. Most of these increases were in female participation, which grew from 53.1% to 55.1% over the year. Male participation increased by a more modest 0.6 percentage points over the same period. The State's participation rate still lags the national rate of 65.3%, however.

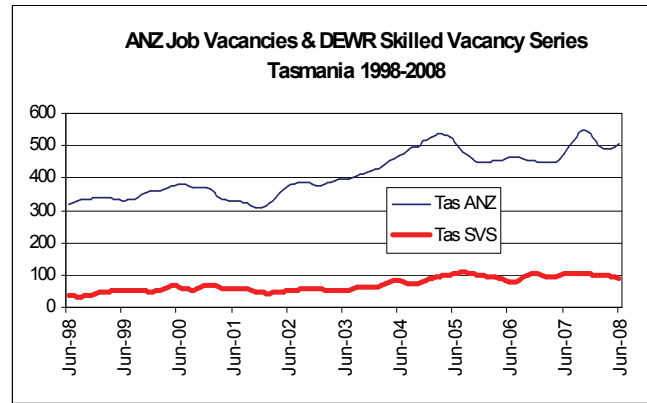
Labour Force Estimates - Tasmania (Trend data)

	Jun-2007	May-2008	Jun-2008
	000's	000's	000's
Employment			
Male	124.7	127.9	128.4
Female	101.7	106.0	106.7
Full-time	155.0	161.0	161.2
Part-time	71.4	72.9	73.9
Persons	226.4	233.9	235.1
Unemployment			
Male	6.3	4.6	4.5
Female	5.9	5.9	5.7
Persons	12.1	10.5	10.2
Labour Force			
Male	131.0	132.5	132.9
Female	107.6	111.9	112.4
Persons	238.5	244.5	245.3
Unemployment Rate %			
Male	4.8	3.5	3.4
Female	5.5	5.3	5.1
Persons	5.1	4.3	4.2
Full-time Teenage*	20.9	13.2	19.3
Participation Rate %			
Male	67.7	67.9	68.1
Female	53.1	54.9	55.1
Persons	60.2	61.2	61.4
*unadjusted data			

Job Vacancies

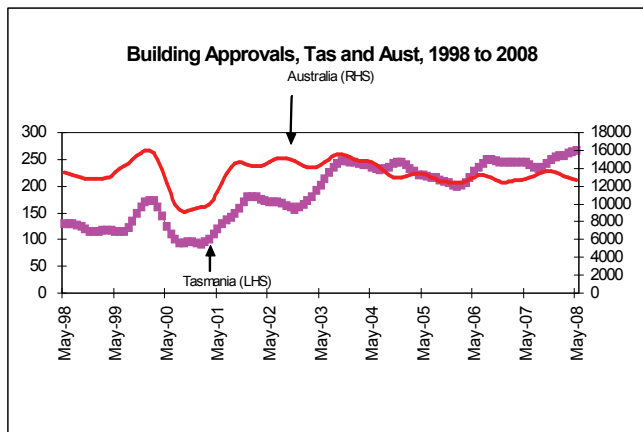
The **ANZ Bank Job Advertisement series** (trend) for Tasmania rose by 1.8% in June. The series was 5.7% above that recorded in June last year. Nationally, the series fell by 1.9% over the month, and by 11.5% over the year.

DEWR's Skilled Vacancy Survey Index (trend) for Tasmania decreased by 1.3% in June and by 11.7% over the year. Nationally, the series decreased by 0.1% over the month and was 2.9% lower than in June last year.



Other Indicators

Building Approvals in Tasmania for May increased by 0.8%, and were 9.4% higher than in May last year. Nationally, building approvals were down 1.4% for the month and also 1.4% lower than in May 2007.



Average weekly total earnings of adults working full-time in Tasmania was \$1,066.80 for the quarter ending February 2008. This was 10% less than the national average of \$1,173.50 for the same period.

Benefit recipients (Newstart & Youth Allowances)

	<12 months	> 12 months	Total	% > 12 months
May-2007	4,305	7,946	12,251	64.9%
May-2008	3,717	6,289	10,006	62.9%
Number difference	-588	-1,657	-2,245	
% difference	-13.7%	-20.9%	-18.3%	

TASMANIA'S INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY

Introduction

The following article looks at some characteristics of Tasmania's Indigenous community, based on 2006 Census data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. It is important to note that there were 22,904 people who did not state whether they were Indigenous or not at the last Census. These people have been excluded from the totals of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations where possible.

Demographics

The age profile of the Tasmanian Indigenous community is quite different to that of the non-Indigenous community. The following table shows age groups expressed as a percentage of both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations.

	Indigenous		N o n - Indigenous	
	Number	%	Number	%
0-4 years	1,884	11.2%	25,285	5.8%
5-9 years	2,016	12.0%	27,972	6.4%
10-14 years	2,183	13.0%	29,973	6.9%
15-19 years	1,996	11.9%	29,335	6.7%
20-24 years	1,422	8.5%	26,218	6.0%
25-29 years	1,029	6.1%	23,178	5.3%
30-34 years	989	5.9%	26,627	6.1%
35-39 years	1,123	6.7%	30,205	6.9%
40-44 years	1,001	6.0%	31,903	7.3%
45-49 years	939	5.6%	33,831	7.7%
50-54 years	699	4.2%	31,837	7.3%
55-59 years	567	3.4%	30,778	7.0%
60-64 years	358	2.1%	24,345	5.6%
65 years and over	564	3.4%	65,318	15.0%
TOTAL	16,770		436,805	

These figures show that Indigenous people in the younger age groups make up a significantly greater percentage of the Indigenous population, than younger age groups in the non-Indigenous population. In fact 36.3 per cent of the Indigenous population are under the age of 15, compared to 19.1 per cent of the non-Indigenous population. At the other end of the scale, only 8.9 per cent of the Indigenous population are over the age of 55, compared to 27.6 per cent of the non-Indigenous population

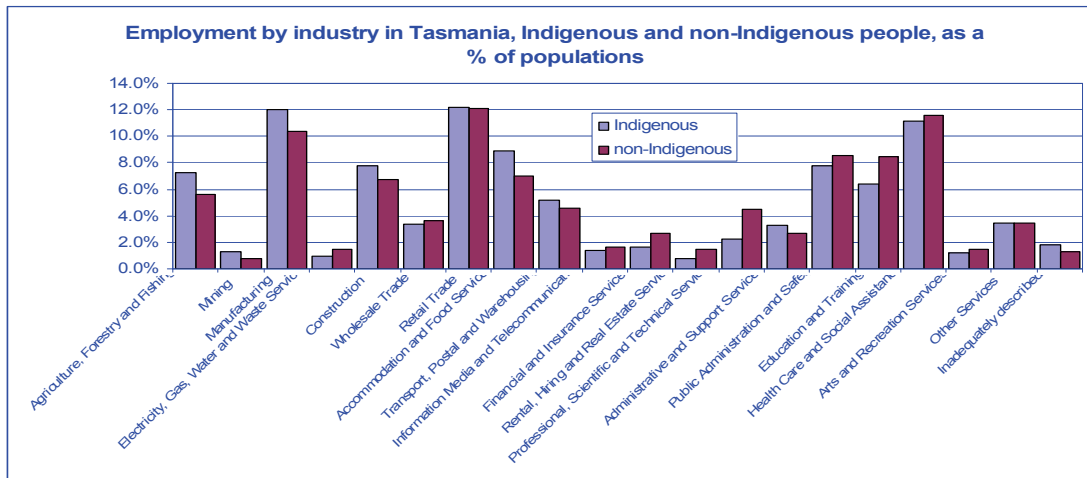
Population Distribution

The following table shows the distribution of Indigenous people on a regional basis, compared to the distribution of the whole population. It is clear from this table that in the south of the State, the proportion of Indigenous people as a percentage of the total Indigenous population is approximately the same as the rest of the population. In the north, Indigenous people appear to be under-represented, while in the north-west they make up a higher proportion of the State's Indigenous population, compared to the north-west's share of the State's total population.

	Indigenous	non-Indigenous
Mersey Lyell	32.6%	22.3%
Northern	20.8%	28.2%
Greater Hobart-Southern	46.6%	49.5%

Employment by Industry

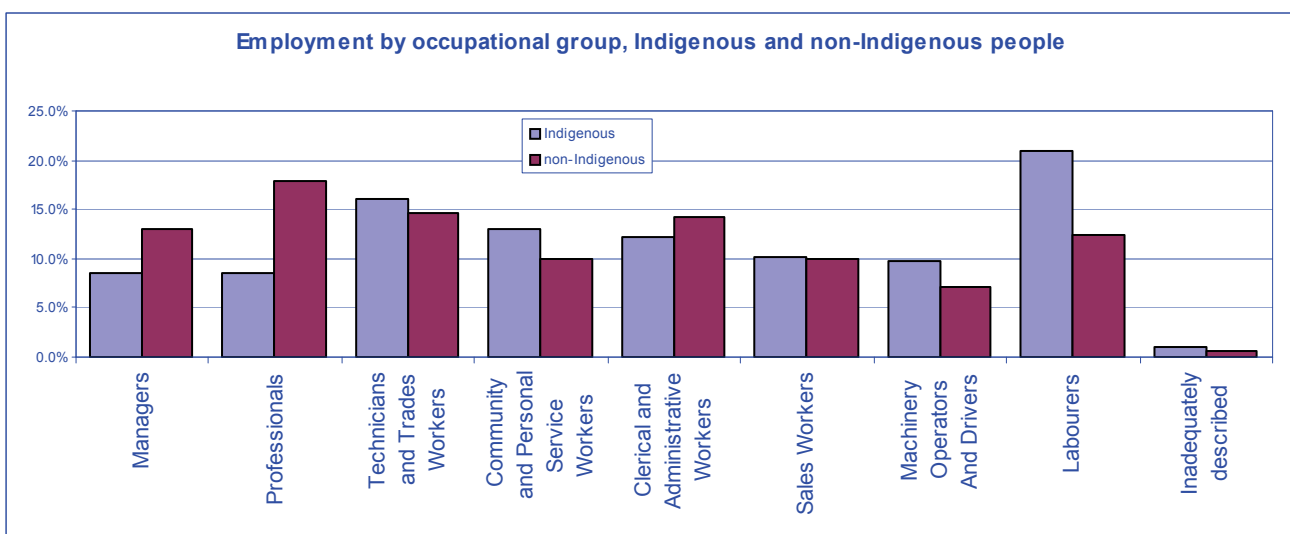
The following graph shows the percentages of the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations employed by industry.



The graph shows that 7.3 per cent of employed Indigenous people work in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry, compared to 5.6 per cent of employed non-Indigenous people for example. The areas that Indigenous people seem to be under-represented in are professional, scientific and technical services, education and training, and financial and insurance services, for example.

Employment by occupation

The following graph shows employment by occupational groupings for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, as a percentage of their respective populations. It appears from this graph, that Indigenous people are over represented in lower skilled positions and under represented in the managers and professionals categories. For example, 20.9 per cent of Indigenous workers are classified as labourers, compared to 12.3 per cent of non-Indigenous. Conversely, 8.5 per cent of Indigenous workers were classified as professionals, compared to 18.0 per cent of non-Indigenous workers.



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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN JUNE 2008

- June 10th The ANZ Bank deputy chief economist, Tony Pearson, says the outlook for Tasmania's economy remains positive. The ANZ Regional and Rural Quarterly shows the value of residential building approvals in the state hit a record high in March, reaching \$66 million. It has also pointed to strength in the state's agricultural and mining sectors, with high dairy and grain prices. (*ABC News*)
- June 12th The Ulverstone Showgrounds site in north-west Tasmania is set for a \$2.2 million makeover. The Labour member for Braddon, Steve Kons, said the State Budget would provide the funding to the Central Coast Council to upgrade the showground site. Improvements to the showgrounds include retractable tiered seating for up to 1000 spectators. (www.media.tas.gov.au)
- June 12th Rail company, Pacific National is selling its Tasmanian rolling stock and leaving the state, the rail lines are owned by the State. The Tasmanian Minister for Infrastructure, Graeme Sturges says other companies are interested in Pacific National's rolling stock, and the \$120 million upgrade of rail lines is progressing well. (*ABC News*)
- June 12th The State Budget provides \$1.5 billion for a major capital investment in essential infrastructure. The Minister for Infrastructure, Graeme Sturges, said that Tasmania's road network would benefit from nearly \$627 million over the next four years in State and Australian Government funding in 2008/09. Road projects over the next four years include:
- Brighton Transport Hub \$79 million;
 - Brighton by-pass \$35.7 million;
 - Pontville/Bagdad bypass \$6.2 million;
 - Brooker Highway \$9.3 million;
 - North east freight roads \$42.5 million;
 - Sisters Hills \$7.9 million;
 - North West Tourist Rd \$23 million;
 - Kingston bypass \$30 million;
 - Bell Bay intermodal terminal \$3.9 million;
 - Bridgewater Bridge refurbishment \$11.8 million;
 - Midland/Lyell Highways junction upgrade \$2.3 million, and
 - Road sealing on Bruny Island \$4.9 million.
- The Australian Government previously allocated \$156 million towards a number of road projects.
- June 13th Money for capital works in Tasmania's State Budget reflect the reforms about to happen in post-grade 10 education. In Northern Tasmania, TAFE Alanvale will see \$405,000 spent at the site in the next two years. TAFE's information technology will

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get a \$550,000 upgrade and Elizabeth College in Hobart will undergo \$2.2 million in capital works in 2010-11. Other Northern education facilities where major works will take place include: Kings Meadows High School, \$1 million over two years; Port Dalrymple, \$1.8 million over two years; Deloraine High School, \$1.5 million over two years; Invermay Primary School, \$1.9 million, in 2008-09 and St Leonards Primary \$750,000, in 2010-11. (*Launceston Examiner*)

June 13th The Minister for Environment, Parks, Heritage and the Arts, Michelle O'Byrne, has announced details of the State Government's commitment to a \$6 million upgrade and renewal of the Flinders Island Multi-purpose Centre at Whitemark. The funding was part of more than \$50 million allocated in the State Budget for health infrastructure improvements over the next four years. The Flinders Island project will begin in 2009-10 and is expected to take two years to complete. (www.media.tas.gov.au)

June 15th Health and infrastructure upgrades for Bruny Island south of Hobart announced in last week's State Budget, have been detailed. About \$8 million has been allocated for building a new health centre and road-works. Health Minister Lara Giddings said Bruny Island would get a new \$3 million health centre to replace the current facility that dated back more than 70 years. Construction was expected to start this year and to be completed by 2010. (*Sunday Tasmanian*)

June 26th The \$330 million Tamar Valley power station near Bell Bay in Tasmania's north is progressing strongly with the majority of its large concrete pours completed. Early yesterday under floodlights three cranes were used to lower a 130-tonne heat recovery steam generator module into place in a 30-metre high frame. The foundations are finished and the mechanical components are now being erected. The power station, whose ultimate owner is Babcock and Brown Power, will have two new gas-fired turbines. Most of the Tamar Valley output is contracted to Aurora Energy. By September this year, 200 employees will work on the site from contractors United Group. (*The Mercury*)