

Media Release

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Tasmanian Employment Remains Robust

Statement by Richard Dowling – TCCI Chief Economist

Tasmania's peak employer body, the Tasmanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, says that the ABS jobs figures out today show that unemployment is close to peaking in Tasmania.

Richard Dowling, TCCI Chief Economist, said that the labour market remains relatively strong with many employers now seeking to hire new workers.

"Undoubtedly jobs have taken a big hit in recent times with a loss of some 8600 jobs since September 2008.

"On a positive note, January 2010 is the first time in 15 months that total employment hasn't declined," Mr Dowling said.

Mr Dowling said that there are now 232,000 Tasmanian's in employment.

According to ABS Labour Force figures for January 2010, Tasmania's trend unemployment rate was steady at 5.4% compared to 5.4% (down 0.1%) nationally.

On the less reliable seasonally adjusted measure of unemployment, Tasmania's unemployment rate was steady at 5.2% compared to 5.5% (down 0.2%) nationally.

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The TCCI is an independent and member funded not-for-profit organisation that represents 2,800 Tasmanian businesses and supporters who collectively employ 75,000 Tasmanians.

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