## CHAPTER 7

## HOURS OF WORK

The ABS Monthly Labour Force survey provides the principal source of information about actual, average and aggregate hours worked by employed persons. Hours worked data from this survey are provided for males and females, full-time and part-ime employed persons, and by broad industry group.

In addition to the statistics on hours worked collected in the Labour Force Survey, data on hours paid for are collected from surveys of employers. Information on overtime hours paid for is presented in this chapter.

## Hours of work

Average hours of work were slightly lower in August 1991 than in August 1981, although there was some variability over the ten-year period. The average weekly hours worked declined from 36.2 hours in August 1981 to 35.3 hours in August 1991, although over the same period the average hours worked by futl-time workers increased ( 40.2 hours per week in August 1981 compared with 41.1 hours per week in August 1991). The average weekly hours worked by part-time workers has decreased to 15.3 hours in August 1991 from 15.8 hours in August 1981.

Average hours of work were higher for males than females. For full-time female workers the average weekly hours worked were 38.6 hours in August 1991, compared with 42.3 hours for full-time male workers.

TABLE 7.1. HOURS WORKED BY EMPLOYED PERSONS, AUSTRALIA, AUGUST 1981 AND AUGUST 1991 ( ${ }^{\circ} 000$ )

|  | Females |  |  |  | Persons |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Males | Not Married | Married | Total |  |
| AUGUST 1981 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Weekly hours worked- |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0 | 207.7 | 45.8 | 68.5 | 114.3 | 322.1 |
| 1-15 | 137.0 | 118.1 | 290.4 | 408.5 | 545.5 |
| 16-29 | 208.6 | 94.8 | 271.5 | 366.3 | 574.9 |
| 30-34 | 259.7 | 78.5 | 126.6 | 205.1 | 464.8 |
| 35-39 | 458.3 | 189.8 | 167.4 | 357.2 | 815.5 |
| 40 | 1,362.6 | 297.6 | 291.3 | 588.9 | 1,951.5 |
| 41-44 | 255.8 | 52.4 | 44.1 | 96.5 | 352.4 |
| 45-48 | 383.3 | 35.7 | 38.3 | 73.9 | 457.2 |
| 49 and over | 784.9 | 46.8 | 78.2 | 125.0 | 909.9 |
| Total | 4,057.9 | 959.6 | 1,376.3 | 2,335.8 | 6,393.7 |
| AUGUST 1991(a) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Weekly hours worked- |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0 | 214.6 | 60.0 | 99.0 | 159.0 | 373.6 |
| 1.15 | 246.0 | 240.8 | 396.8 | 637.6 | 883.6 |
| 16-29 | 275.8 | 143.3 | 435.2 | 578.5 | 854,3 |
| 30-34 | 329.2 | 109.3 | 186.6 | 295.8 | 625.0 |
| 35-39 | 744.0 | 256.9 | 319.1 | 576.0 | 1320.0 |
| 40 | 904.5 | 215.2 | 249.8 | 464.9 | 1369.4 |
| 41.44 | 250.7 | 59.1 | 64.1 | 123.2 | 373.9 |
| 45-48 | 412.9 | 54.8 | 79.9 | 134.8 | 547.6 |
| 49 and over | 1,066.1 | 96.2 | 159.5 | 255.7 | 1,321.7 |
| Total | 4,443.7 | 1,235.5 | 1,990.0 | 3,225.5 | 7,669.2 |

[^0][^1] Source: The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0).

TABLE 73. AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS WORKED: EMPL,OYED PERSONS BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, AUGUST 198 I TO AUGUST 1991

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

(a) Estimates from August 1986 are based on a revised definition introduced in April 1986. See the Technical Notes for further information.

Source: The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0).

## Overtime

In the five years to November 1991 overtime has grown to a peak in November 1989 followed by a fall for two years to November 1991.

Average weekly overtime hours per employee rose by 24 per cent from 1.29 hours in November 1986 to 1.60 hours in November 1989 and then fell by 29 per cent to 1.14 hours in November 1991.

Average weekly overtime hours worked per person who worked overtime rose by 13 per cent from 6.92 hours in November 1986 to 7.79 hours in November 1989 and then fell by 11 per cent to 6.96 hours in November 1991.

The percentage of employed persons who worked overtime was 18.68 per cent in November 1986, rose to 20.48 per cent in November 1989 and then fell to 16.31 in November 1991.

CHART 7.1. OVERTLME HOURS PAID FOR, AUSTRALIA, NOVEMBER 1986 AND NOVEMBER 1991


Source: Job Vacancies and Overtime, Ausiralia (6354.0).


Source: Job Vacanciet and Overtime (6354.0).

TABLE 7.4. AVERAGE WEEKLY OVERTIME HOURS PAID FOR : INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, NOVEMDER 1986 TO NOVEMBER 1991

| Industry | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| AVERAGE WEEKLY OVERTIME HOURS PER EMPLOYEE IN THE SURVEY |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mining | 4.12 | 4.00 | 5.66 | 5.92 | 5.25 | 5.44 |
| Manufacturing | 2.73 | 2.99 | 3.16 | 3.71 | 2.69 | 2.59 |
| Electricity, gas and water | 1.57 | 1.75 | 1.98 | 1.85 | 1.99 | 1.62 |
| Construction | 1.84 | 2.81 | 2.27 | 2.96 | 3.45 | 2.08 |
| Wholesale trade | 1.35 | 1.35 | 1.14 | 1.41 | 1.04 | 1.40 |
| Retail trade | 0.72 | 0.79 | 0.72 | 0.77 | 0.81 | 0.64 |
| Transport and storage; Communication | 2.35 | 2.70 | 3.44 | 2.82 | 2.55 | 1.89 |
| Public administration and defence | 0.73 | 0.77 | 0.88 | 0.87 | 0.84 | 0.80 |
| Community services | 0.34 | 0.40 | 0.36 | 0.39 | 0.42 | 0.37 |
| Other(a) | 0.73 | 0.64 | 0.68 | 0.70 | 0.53 | 0.37 |
| All industries | 1.29 | 1.46 | 1.48 | 1.60 | 1.34 | 1.14 |
| AVERAGE WEEKLY OVERTIME HOURS PER EMPLOYEE WORKING OVERTIME |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mining | 9.13 | 9.98 | 12.39 | 11.51 | 11.38 | 10.89 |
| Manufacturing | 7.67 | 8.11 | 8.63 | 9.25 | 8.23 | 7.93 |
| Electricity, gas and water | 6.84 | 7.30 | 7.51 | 7.40 | 7.91 | 7.20 |
| Construction | 8.19 | 8.72 | 7.77 | 9.50 | 10.72 | 9.76 |
| Wholesale trade | 7.40 | 7.24 | 6.47 | 7.04 | 6.25 | 6.79 |
| Retail trade | 4.02 | 4.27 | 4.39 | 4.54 | 4.96 | 4.67 |
| Transport and storage; Communication | 7.85 | 8.92 | 10.34 | 8.98 | 8.27 | 7.05 |
| Public administration and defence | 5.54 | 5.61 | 6.10 | 6.04 | 5.62 | 5.60 |
| Community services | 5.72 | 5.70 | 6.22 | 5.94 | 5.96 | 6.05 |
| Other(a) | 6.41 | 5.77 | 5.48 | 5.65 | 5.70 | 4.83 |
| All Indusiries | 6.92 | 7.27 | 7.59 | 7.79 | 7.44 | 6.96 |
| PERCENTAGE OF EMPLOYEES IN THE SURVEY WORKING OVERTIME |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mining | 45.15 | 40.07 | 45.65 | 51.45 | 46.12 | 49.92 |
| Manufacturing | 35.52 | 36.85 | 36.59 | 40.15 | 32.68 | 32.69 |
| Electricity, gas and water | 22.96 | 24.00 | 26.31 | 25.00 | 25.14 | 22.45 |
| Construction | 22.41 | 32.17 | 29.27 | 31.12 | 32.24 | 21.32 |
| Wholesale trade | 18.30 | 18.64 | 17.60 | 19.97 | 16.67 | 20.57 |
| Retsil trade | 17.91 | 18.49 | 16.49 | 17.01 | 16.26 | 13.75 |
| Transport and storage; Communication | 29.92 | 30.23 | 33.26 | 31.38 | 30.79 | 26.77 |
| Public administration and defence | 13.21 | 13.79 | 14.40 | 14.46 | 15.02 | 14.26 |
| Community services | 5.98 | 7.03 | 5.82 | 6.50 | 7.12 | 6.07 |
| Other(a) | 11.43 | 11.03 | 12.11 | 12.46 | 9.28 | 7.71 |
| Alt Industries | 18.68 | 20.05 | 19.51 | 20.48 | 17.98 | 16.31 |

(a) Comprises Finance, property and business services and Recreation, personal and other getvices.

Source: Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia (6354.0).


[^0]:    (a) Estimates are based on a revised definition introduced in April 1986. See the Techrical Notes for funther information

[^1]:    Source: The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0).

