



2008 LABOUR STATISTICS IN BRIEF



CATALOGUE NO. 6104.0

OVERVIEW

Labour statistics are of interest from both economic and social perspectives. This pamphlet provides a brief overview of data available from the ABS, relating to Australian labour statistics. Comparisons of data over a 20-year period are given for labour force participation, employment and unemployment, hours worked, industrial disputes, earnings and job vacancies. Also included are recent data on labour force underutilisation, education and work, first job starters, people not in the labour force, methods of setting pay, and an international comparison of population and standardised unemployment rates.

The quarterly publication *Australian Labour Market Statistics* (cat. no. 6105.0) provides regular updates on a range of labour statistics to provide an overall picture of the labour market. The publication is available free from the ABS website and is accessible through the Labour Theme Page. To find the Theme Page go to <<http://www.abs.gov.au>> (Themes-People-Labour).

For a comprehensive reference on the concepts and definitions underpinning Australian labour statistics refer to the publication *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

More information on labour statistics can be found in the sources listed throughout this pamphlet.



KEY FACTS

		ANNUAL AVERAGE	
	UNITS	1987	2007
CIVILIAN POPULATION			
Aged 15 years and over	'000	12 520.7	16 846.0

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION

Males	%	75.3	72.3
Females	%	48.9	57.8
Persons	%	61.9	65.0

EMPLOYMENT

Males	'000	4 295.0	5 767.1
Females	'000	2 846.8	4 702.8
Persons	'000	7 141.8	10 469.9
Employment/population ratio	%	57.0	62.2
Part-time employment: Proportion of total employment			
Males	%	7.0	15.0
Females	%	38.8	44.7

UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployed persons	'000	611.8	478.3
Unemployment rate			
Males	%	7.6	4.0
Females	%	8.3	4.8
Persons	%	7.9	4.4
Average duration of unemployment	weeks	46.6(a)	34.6(b)
Median duration of unemployment	weeks	na(c)	9.0

(a) Duration of unemployment since last full-time job.

(b) Duration of unemployment since last job.

(c) Data available since 2002. In 2002 the median duration of unemployment was 14 weeks.

LABOUR FORCE UNDERUTILISATION

	SEPTEMBER 2007	
	'000	%
Underutilised labour force(a)	983.8	8.9(b)
Underemployed(c)	518.3	4.7
Unemployed	465.5	4.2
Labour force	11 077.1	100.0

(a) Comprises the unemployed plus underemployed.

(b) Referred to as the labour force underutilisation rate.

(c) Employed persons who want, and are available for, more hours of work than they currently have.

KEY FACTS

		ANNUAL AVERAGE	
		1987	2007
HOURS WORKED(a)			
Employed persons	hours	35.0	32.6
Full-time	hours	39.8	39.2
Part-time	hours	15.0	16.0

(a) Based on actual hours worked in the reference week of each month.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

		YEAR ENDED DECEMBER	
		1987	2007
Industrial disputes			
Working days lost per thousand employees	no.	219.3	5.4
Working days lost	'000	1 311.9	49.7
		AUG 1987	AUG 2007
Trade union members	%	na	18.9

CHANGES IN WAGES AND PRICES

		12 MONTHS TO DEC QTR 2007	20 YEARS TO DEC QTR 2007
Wage price index, total hourly rate of pay excluding bonuses	%	4.2	na
Consumer price index, all groups	%	3.0	87.3

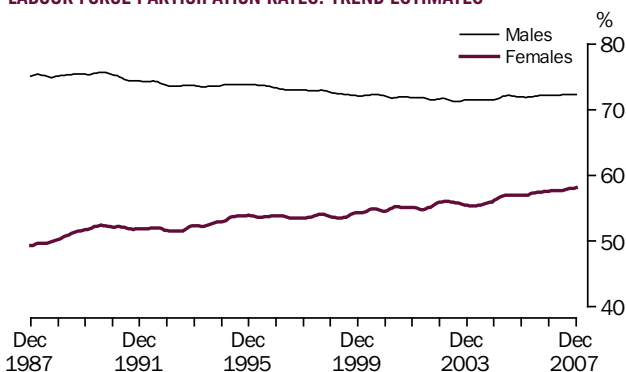
EARNINGS OF EMPLOYEES

		NOV 1987	NOV 2007
Average weekly earnings			
Full-time adult total earnings			
Males	\$	516.30	1 245.70
Females	\$	401.90	1 007.80
Persons	\$	479.70	1 160.00
Full-time adult ordinary time earnings	\$	450.10	1 108.50
All employees total earnings	\$	401.80	875.80

Source: Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0); Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (cat. no. 6302.0); Consumer Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6401.0); Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia (cat. no. 6310.0); Industrial Disputes, Australia (cat. no. 6321.0.55.001); Labour Force, Australia, Detailed – Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001); Labour Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6345.0).

LABOUR FORCE

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES: TREND ESTIMATES



Source: Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets (cat. no. 6202.0.55.001).

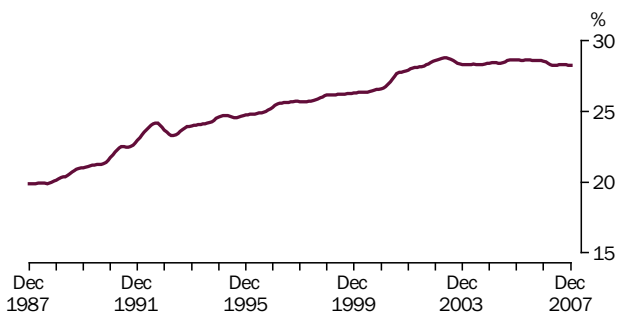
EMPLOYED PERSONS: EMPLOYMENT TYPE

	AUGUST 2006	
	'000	%
Employees(a)	8 177.8	80.4
with paid leave entitlements	6 176.0	60.7
without paid leave entitlements	2 001.8	19.7
Owner managers of incorporated enterprises	690.4	6.8
Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises	1 275.2	12.5
Contributing family workers	28.5	0.3
Total	10 172.0	100.0

(a) Excluding owner managers of incorporated enterprises.

Source: Australian Labour Market Statistics, July issue data cube (cat. no. 6105.0).

PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT AS A PROPORTION OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT: TREND ESTIMATES



Source: Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets (cat. no. 6202.0.55.001).

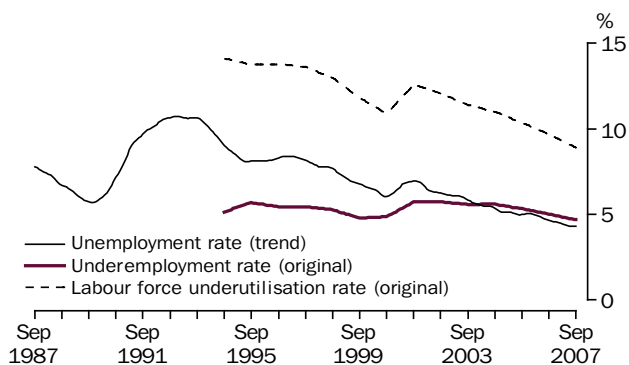
LABOUR FORCE

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT

	ANNUAL AVERAGE 2007	
	'000	%
Under 52 weeks		
Under 4 weeks	142.0	29.7
4 weeks and under 13 weeks	130.4	27.3
13 weeks and under 26 weeks	76.2	15.9
26 weeks and under 52 weeks	55.8	11.7
52 weeks and over (long-term unemployed)		
52 weeks and under 104 weeks	36.1	7.5
104 weeks and over	37.8	7.9
Total	478.3	100.0

Source: *Labour Force, Australia, Detailed – Electronic Delivery* (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001).

LABOUR UNDERUTILISATION RATES



Source: *Australian Labour Market Statistics, April issue data cube* (cat. no. 6105.0).

LABOUR FORCE

EMPLOYED PERSONS: INDUSTRY

	ANNUAL AVERAGE 2007	
	'000	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	354.5	3.4
Mining	138.2	1.3
Manufacturing	1 033.3	9.9
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	105.6	1.0
Construction	943.3	9.0
Wholesale trade	387.8	3.7
Retail trade	1 201.1	11.5
Accommodation and food service	697.2	6.7
Transport, postal and warehousing	537.0	5.1
Information media and telecommunications	239.1	2.3
Finance and insurance services	401.5	3.8
Rental, hiring and real estate services	199.0	1.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	741.7	7.1
Administrative and support services	353.0	3.4
Public administration and safety	637.1	6.1
Education and training	768.0	7.4
Health care and social assistance	1 072.5	10.3
Arts and recreation services	191.0	1.8
Other services	443.2	4.2
Total	10 444.1	100.0

Source: Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003).

EMPLOYED PERSONS: OCCUPATION

	ANNUAL AVERAGE 2007	
	'000	%
Managers and administrators	1 343.9	12.9
Professionals	2 110.7	20.2
Technicians and trades workers	1 600.4	15.3
Community and personal service workers	906.3	8.7
Clerical and administrative workers	1 617.5	15.5
Sales workers	991.0	9.5
Machinery operators and drivers	720.2	6.9
Labourers	1 154.1	11.0
Total	10 444.1	100.0

Source: Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003).

LABOUR FORCE

EDUCATION AND WORK, POPULATION AGED 15-64 YEARS

	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE %		PARTICIPATION RATE%	
	2002	2007	2002	2007
Level of highest non-school qualification				
Postgraduate Degree	2.9	2.5	91.0	88.9
Graduate Diploma/Graduate Certificate	*1.5	2.2	87.2	87.8
Bachelor Degree	2.9	2.0	87.5	87.4
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	4.8	3.1	82.4	84.8
Certificate III/IV	4.2	2.4	86.7	87.2
Certificate I/II	7.1	5.3	75.2	76.1
Certificate n.f.d.	8.9	7.3	85.7	88.2
Level not determined	*5.8	*3.5	75.5	78.9
Total with a non-school qualification	4.2	2.8	84.8	85.8
Total without a non-school qualification	9.1	6.5	65.8	68.5
Total	6.4	4.3	74.9	77.6

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution
Source: Education and Work, Australia (cat. no. 6227.0).

FIRST JOB STARTERS(a) WHO APPROACHED AN EMPLOYER: SELECTED ACTIVE STEPS TAKEN TO ATTAIN A JOB(b)

	12 MONTHS TO JULY 2002	12 MONTHS TO JULY 2007
	%	%
Wrote, phoned or applied in person	79.3	69.2
Contacted friends or relatives	36.1	40.5
Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper	27.6	21.4
Answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet	9.9	29.6
Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens	7.2	*4.1
Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards	4.7	6.9
Advertised or tendered for work	*3.3	*3.6
First job starters(a) who approached an employer	'000	
	125.5	130.1

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Employees, excluding owner managers of incorporated enterprises, who had never worked for two weeks or more before starting their current job.

(b) As responses were collected for all steps taken to attain a job, job starters may appear in more than one category.

Source: Job Search Experience, Australia (cat. no. 6222.0).

PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE

PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE: MAIN ACTIVITY

	SEPTEMBER 2007		
	MALES	FEMALES	PERSONS
	%	%	%
Main activity			
Retired or voluntarily inactive	40.9	26.0	31.8
Home duties or caring for children	6.5	42.9	28.7
Attending an educational institution	19.7	11.8	14.9
Own disability or handicap	17.1	7.5	11.2
Own illness or injury	1.4	1.0	1.2
Looking after ill or disabled person	2.9	3.9	3.5
Travel, holiday or leisure activity	7.0	3.9	5.1
Working in unpaid voluntary job	2.2	2.2	2.2
Other	2.2	0.9	1.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Persons not in the labour force	'000		
	2 141.1	3 350.8	5 492.0

Source: *Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6220.0)*.

WAGES AND PAY-SETTING METHODS

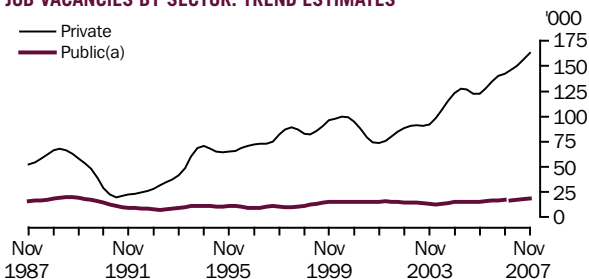
METHODS OF SETTING PAY

	MAY 2006		
	MALES	FEMALES	PERSONS
	%	%	%
Award only	14.7	23.4	19.0
Collective Agreement			
Registered	34.6	41.7	38.1
Unregistered	3.3	2.8	3.0
Individual Arrangement			
Registered	3.6	2.5	3.1
Unregistered	36.6	26.7	31.7
Working Proprietor of incorporated business	7.2	2.9	5.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: *Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia (cat. no. 6306.0)*.

JOB VACANCIES

JOB VACANCIES BY SECTOR: TREND ESTIMATES

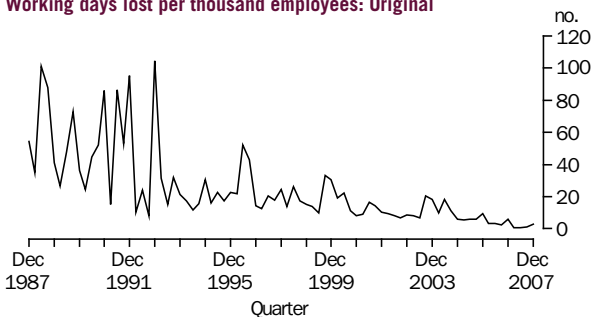


(a) Break in series between November 2006 and February 2007. For more information please see Information Paper: Future Treatment of Telstra in ABS Statistics, 2007 (cat. no. 8102.0).
Source: Job Vacancies, Australia (cat. no. 6354.0).

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

Working days lost per thousand employees: Original



Source: Industrial Disputes, Australia (cat. no. 6321.0.55.001).

INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS: SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS

	POPULATION 2006 (MILLION)	STANDARDISED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE(a) 2006 %
Australia	20.6	4.8
Canada	32.6	6.3
France	61.4	9.2
Germany	82.4	9.8
Japan	127.8	4.1
New Zealand	4.1	3.8
Sweden	9.1	7.0
United Kingdom	60.6	5.3
United States of America	299.4	4.6

(a) ILO/OECD definition.

Source: OECD Labour Force Statistics, 2007 Edition; OECD Main Economic Indicators, January 2008.

SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED

Values shown in Australian dollars (\$). Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between the sums of the component items and totals.

Aug — August **Sep** — September **Nov** — November

Dec — December **qtr** — quarter **na** — not available

% — per cent **no.** — number **'000** — thousand

OECD — Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development

ILO — International Labour Organisation

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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