

Technical Manual

Labour Force Survey and Labour Mobility, Australia: Basic and Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record Files, Technical Manual

February 2008

Technical Manual

Labour Force Survey and Labour Mobility, Australia: Basic and Expanded Confidentialised Unit Record Files, Technical Manual

February 2008

Brian Pink
Australian Statistician

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) WED 26 NOV 2008

ABS Catalogue No. 6202.0.30.005

© Commonwealth of Australia 2008

This work is copyright. Apart from any use as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced by any process without prior written permission from the Commonwealth. Requests and inquiries concerning reproduction and rights in this publication should be addressed to The Manager, Intermediary Management, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Locked Bag 10, Belconnen ACT 2616, by telephone (02) 6252 6998, fax (02) 6252 7102, or email: <intermediary.management@abs.gov.au>.

In all cases the ABS must be acknowledged as the source when reproducing or quoting any part of an ABS publication or other product.

Produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics

INQUIRIES

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Labour Market Section on Canberra (02) 6252 7206.

CONTENTS

	<i>page</i>
Introduction	vii
Survey Methodology	1
Using the CURF microdata	3
Comparisons between CURFs	7
File content	8
Conditions of release	11

APPENDICES

1. Data Items List	13
2. Comparison between 2006 and 2008 Basic CURFs	14
3. Comparison between 2008 Basic and Expanded CURFs	15

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Glossary	16
--------------------	----

ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ABSDL	Australian Bureau of Statistics Site Data Laboratory
ANZSCO	Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
ASCO	Australian Standard Classification of Occupations
AVCC	Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee
CURF	confidentialised unit record file
LFS	Labour Force Survey
OMIE	owner manager of incorporated enterprise
OMUE	owner manager of unincorporated enterprise
RADL	Remote Access Data Laboratory
RSE	relative standard error
SAS	software package for preparing and executing computerised data analysis
SE	standard error
SPSS	software package for preparing and executing computerised data analysis
STATA	software package for preparing and executing computerised data analysis

INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW

This paper provides information about the release of microdata from the February 2008 Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Labour Mobility Survey. The microdata are available as a Basic Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) and an Expanded CURF released with the approval of the Australian Statistician. The Basic CURF is available on CD-ROM, and via the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL). The Expanded CURF is accessible only through the RADL. Expanded CURFs allow more detail to be presented for some data items, for example, age, geography, industry and occupation.

The RADL is an on-line database query system, under which microdata are held on a server at the ABS. Users of the RADL can submit programs in SAS, SPSS and STATA software to interrogate and analyse the microdata, and access the results. Further information about the RADL facility and information about obtaining access to the file is available on the ABS website.

ABOUT THE SURVEYS

The monthly LFS provides information on the labour market activity of the usual resident civilian population of Australia aged 15 years and over, including estimates of the number of employed and unemployed people, the unemployment rate and the labour force participation rate. Estimates from the February 2008 LFS were published in *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) in March 2008. This publication is included on the CURF CD-ROM as the Acrobat file 62020_FEB2008.pdf.

The Labour Mobility Survey is conducted biennially in February as a supplement to the LFS. Information is collected about people aged 15 years and over who, within the 12 months to February 2008, either had a change of employer/business in their main job, or had some change in work with their current employer/business for whom they had worked for one year or more.

People who at February 2008, had worked with their current employer/business for less than 12 months, were asked whether they had changed their employer/business in the previous 12 months. Those who had changed employer/business were then asked if they had changed their occupation, industry, usual hours worked or employment type between their last and current employer/business.

Employees (excluding owner managers of incorporated enterprises)¹ who at February 2008, had worked for their current employer/business for one year or more were asked whether they had been promoted, transferred to a different position, changed occupation, or changed usual hours worked in the 12 months to February 2008.

Employees (excluding owner managers of incorporated enterprises)¹ who reported any of these changes were considered to have had some change in work in the 12 months to February 2008. See the *Labour Mobility, Australia, February 2008* (cat. no. 6209.0) Conceptual Framework for more information.

Estimates from the February Labour Mobility Survey were published in *Labour Mobility, Australia, February 2008* (cat. no. 6209.0) in October 2008. This publication is included on the CURF CD-ROM as Acrobat file 62090_FEB2008.pdf.

INTRODUCTION *continued*

INDUSTRY AND OCCUPATION

From 2008, occupation data are classified according to the *ANZSCO—Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, First Edition, 2006* (cat. no.1220.0). The new classification replaces the *ASCO—Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, Second Edition, 1997* (cat. no.1220.0). Data classified according to the ASCO can be obtained on request.

Also from 2008, industry data are classified according to the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006* (cat. no.1292.0). This new classification replaces the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 1993* (cat. no.1292.0). Data classified according to the ANZSIC 1993 can be obtained on request.

FUTURE RELEASES

The February 2008 LFS and Labour Mobility Survey CURF is the fourth in the series of CURFs containing microdata from the LFS. It is planned that a CURF will be released every year, alternating between the February and August supplementary topics. The upcoming CURFs are:

- LFS and Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership Survey, August 2008, scheduled for release in June 2009; and
- LFS and Labour Mobility, February 2010, scheduled for release in November 2010.

It is planned that future CURFs will be released as expanded CURFs, accessible only through the RADL, as well as Basic CURFs available on CD-ROM and the RADL.

END NOTES

1. Refer to the Glossary under 'Employment type'.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

SAMPLE DESIGN

The LFS is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings and a list sample of non-private dwellings and covered about 0.45% of the population of Australia. Households are interviewed each month for eight months, with one-eighth of the sample being replaced each month. In February 2008, the number of fully responding individuals was 60,502.

The Labour Mobility Survey is conducted on 7/8ths of the LFS sample and covers both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, but excludes people living in very remote areas of Australia. Information is collected about people aged 15 years and over who, within the 12 months to February 2008, either had a change of employer/business in their main job, or had some change in work with their current employer/ business for whom they had worked for one year or more.

In February 2008, the number of fully completed interviews (after taking into account scope, coverage and subsampling exclusions) was 34,167.

The scope of the LFS was people aged 15 years and over and excluded the following:

- members of the permanent defence forces
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from the census and estimated population counts
- overseas residents in Australia
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants).

Additional exclusions for the Labour Mobility Survey were:

- students at boarding schools
- institutionalised persons (e.g. patients in hospitals; residents of homes, such as retirement homes and homes for persons with disabilities; and inmates of prisons)
- persons living in very remote parts of Australia who would otherwise have been within scope of the survey. The exclusion of these persons will only have a minor impact on any aggregate estimates that are produced from the Labour Mobility Survey for individual states and territories, with the exception of the Northern Territory where such persons account for around 23% of the population.

WEIGHTING ESTIMATION AND BENCHMARKING

Weighting is the process of adjusting results from a sample survey to infer results for the total population. To do this, a 'weight' is allocated to each sample unit. The weight is a value which indicates how many population units are represented by the sample unit.

Weighting

Separate weights were calculated for LFS and Labour Mobility Survey samples (as some units were in scope for LFS but not for the Labour Mobility Survey). The LFS weighting method ensures that LFS estimates conform to the benchmark distribution of the population by age, sex and geographic area, and also LFS region by sex (two sets of benchmarks). Weights are allocated to each sample respondent according to their state/territory of selection, state/territory of usual residence, part of state of usual residence, age group and sex. The weights are calculated using the inverse of the probabilities of selection, adjusted for any under-enumeration and non-response.

Benchmarking

The Labour Mobility Survey is benchmarked to LFS estimates for the following variables: state of usual residence, part of state of usual residence, sex, age group and labour force status.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY *continued*

Benchmarking continued

Benchmarking to LFS estimates accounts for the one eighth of the sample where the Labour Mobility Survey is not conducted and for non-respondents to the Labour Mobility Survey. The Labour Mobility Survey weighting excludes all residents in institutions, boarding schools, and very remote areas because the sample scope excludes these people.

Estimation

Survey estimates of the number of people with a particular characteristic are obtained by summing the weights of people who have that characteristic.

For more information on weights, see the 'Using the CURF Microdata' chapter in this Technical Manual.

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

Since the information on the CURF is based on information from a sample of dwellings, any statistics produced from the CURF will be subject to sampling and non-sampling error.

Sampling error

Sampling error is the difference between the survey estimate and the value that could have been produced had all dwellings in scope of the survey been included. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied because only a sample of dwellings was included.

There are about two chances in three (67%) that a sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the number that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two SEs. Another measure of the likely difference is the relative standard error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate. Generally, only estimates with RSEs less than 25% are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes.

Non-sampling error

Non-sampling error arises from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the microdata. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to keep the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and effective processing procedures.

SEASONAL FACTORS

Estimates are based on information collected in the survey month, and, due to seasonal factors, they may not be representative of other months of the year.

MORE INFORMATION

Further information on the survey methodology can be found in:

- *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001)
- *Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Sample Design, November 2007* (cat. no. 6269.0)
- *Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, 2005* (cat. no. 6298.0)
- *Information Paper: Questionnaires Used in the Labour Force Survey, 2004* (cat. no. 6232.0).

USING THE CURF MICRODATA

ABOUT THE MICRODATA

The LFS and Labour Mobility Survey microdata are released under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, which has provision for the release of microdata in the form of unit records where the information is not likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation. Accordingly, there are no names or addresses of survey respondents on the CURF and other steps have been taken to protect the confidentiality of respondents. These include removing some data items from the CURF, reducing the level of detail shown on the CURF for some other items and swapping some characteristics between records.

Steps to confidentialise the data sets made available on the CURF are taken in such a way as to ensure the integrity of the data sets and optimise their content, while maintaining the confidentiality of respondents. The steps taken to preserve confidentiality include:

- reducing the level of detail for some items (e.g. geographic and demographic)
- ranging or collapsing the values of some variables
- modifying some records identified as high risk.

As a result, it may not be possible to exactly reconcile all statistics produced from the CURF with published statistics.

Intending purchasers should ensure that the data they require, at the level of detail they require, are available on the CURF they are intending to use; data obtained in the survey but not contained in the CURF may be available in tabulated form on request. The full list of CURF survey data items is available on the ABS website. To view the data item list, refer to Appendix 1 of this *Technical Manual*.

The CURF contains 60,502 confidentialised respondent records. Each person record has a unique person identifier (ABSPID). Subject to the limitations of sample size and the data classifications used, it is possible to manipulate the microdata, produce tabulations and undertake statistical analyses to individual specifications.

CURF CONTENTS

The CD-ROM of the Basic CURF contains SAS, SPSS and STATA formats.

Five types of files relating to LFS and Labour Mobility Survey 2008 microdata are provided on the Basic CURF:

- Information files - including several in Adobe Acrobat format
- Data and metadata - an ASCII data file holding 60,502 records, and metadata files that document the data file and every data item on that file. The metadata are provided in plain text file, for information
- SAS user files - including a SAS version of the data set, and the SAS programs that generated the SAS-formatted version
- SPSS user files - including an SPSS version of the data set; and
- STATA user files - including a STATA version of the data set.

The Basic and Expanded CURF accessed via the RADL contain the following files:

- Information files - including this Technical Manual in Adobe Acrobat format, the Data Item list and frequencies
- Test files - files that mirror the actual data files, but have random data and random identifiers; these files are located on the RADL and users can use these to trouble shoot their code prior to submitting RADL jobs

CURF CONTENTS *continued*

- SAS user files - including a SAS version of the data set, and the SAS programs that generated the SAS-formatted version
- SPSS user files - including an SPSS version of the data set; and
- STATA user files - including a STATA version of the data set.

Refer to the File Content chapter of this *Technical Manual* for more information.

WEIGHTS AND ESTIMATION

As the survey was conducted on a sample of households in Australia, it is important to take account of the method of sample selection when deriving estimates from the CURF. This is particularly important as a person's chance of selection in the survey varied depending on the state or territory in which they lived.

Each person record contains two weights, a Labour Force Survey (LFS) weight called LFSWTD and a Labour Mobility Survey weight called FINPRSWT. These weights indicate the number of people in the civilian population represented by that person. There are two weights because the scope of the LFS is different to the scope of the Labour Mobility Survey. For data items that are only applicable to the Labour Mobility Survey, it is important to use the Labour Mobility Survey weight, FINPRSWT. Users should take care to ensure the appropriate weight is used for analysis. To view the data item list, refer to Appendix 1 of this *Technical Manual*.

The LFS weight, LFSWTD, is available on all records on the CURF. The Labour Mobility Survey weight, FINPRSWT, appears on 34,167 records. The estimates in the Labour Mobility Survey publication are based on a subset of these records, that is persons who worked at some time during the year ending February 2008. Therefore when using FINPRSWT, in order to match published Labour Mobility Survey estimates, the filter CURFPOP1=1 must be used.

Where estimates are derived from the CURF, it is essential that they are calculated by adding the weights of persons in each category and not just by counting the number in each category. If each person's 'weight' is ignored, then no account would be taken of a person's chance of selection or of different response rates across population groups, and the resulting estimates could be significantly biased and would only represent distributions within the actual selected sample and not the population of interest.

The application of weights will ensure that the subsequent estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population by age and sex, rather than to the age and sex distribution within the sample itself.

For further information see the Explanatory Notes in the publications *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) and *Labour Mobility, Australia, February 2008* (cat. no. 6209.0) on the CURF CD-ROM as Acrobat files 62020_FEB2008.pdf and 62090_FEB2008.pdf.

STANDARD ERRORS

Standard errors for each estimate produced from this CURF can be calculated using the replicate weights provided on the file.

Each person record contains two sets of replicate weights. Replicate weights applicable to LFS data items contain the prefix 'WPM01' and those applicable to Labour Mobility Survey data items contain the prefix 'WPX02'. Using these replicate weights, it is possible to calculate standard errors for estimates produced from this file, using what is known as the 30 group Jack-knife standard error estimator. For data items that are only applicable to the Labour Mobility Survey, refer to Appendix 1 of this *Technical Manual*.

To obtain the standard error of a weighted estimate y , calculate the same estimate using each of the 30 replicate weights. The variability between these replicate estimates (denoting $y_{(g)}$ for group number g) is used to measure the standard error of the original weighted estimate y using the formula:

$$SE(y) = \sqrt{(29/30) \sum_{g=1}^{30} (y_{(g)} - y)^2}$$

Where:

g = the replicate groups

$y_{(g)}$ = the weighted estimate, having applied the weights for replicate group 'g'

y = the weighted estimate from the full sample.

The 30 group Jack-knife method can be applied not just to estimates of population total, but also where the estimate y is a function of estimates of population total, such as a proportion, difference or ratio. For more information on the 30 group Jack-knife method of SE estimation, see *Research Paper: Weighting and Standard Error Estimation for ABS Household Surveys (Methodology Advisory Committee), July 1999* (cat. no. 1352.0.55.029).

Use of the 30 group Jack-knife method for complex estimates, such as regression parameters from a statistical model, is not straightforward and may not be appropriate. The method as described does not apply to investigations where survey weights are not used, such as in unweighted statistical modelling.

USING THE CURF MICRODATA *continued*

STANDARD ERRORS

continued

The following table has been provided to enable CURF users to check some of the relative standard errors they have produced.

PERSONS WHO WERE WORKING AT FEBRUARY 2008 AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, Duration and change in employer/business

	PERSONS	RELATIVE STANDARD ERROR
	'000	%
Duration with current employer/business		
Under 12 months	2 318.4	1.1
Under 3 months	697.3	2.3
3 and under 6 months	676.9	2.2
6 and under 12 months	944.2	1.8
One year or more	8 177.9	0.5
1 and under 2 years	1 265.4	1.8
2 and under 3 years	1 130.9	2.2
3 and under 5 years	1 442.6	1.6
5 and under 10 years	1 794.6	1.7
10 and under 20 years	1 554.5	1.5
20 years and over	989.9	2.1
Whether changed employer/business in the last 12 months(a)		
Changed employer/business in the last 12 months	1 207.9	1.6
Did not change employer/business in the last 12 months	1 110.5	2.0
Total	10 496.3	0.4

(a) Refers only to persons who have worked with the current employer/business for less than 12 months.

COMPARISONS BETWEEN CURFS

COMPARISON BETWEEN THE 2006 AND 2008 BASIC CURFS

The differences between the 2006 and 2008 Basic CURFs are detailed in Appendix 2.

Note that on the 2008 Basic CURF, the Identifiers for some data items differ from the 2006 Basic CURF for processing reasons. Therefore use caution when comparing items between the Basic CURFs. Also, on the 2008 Basic CURF some data item labels and categories differ from the 2006 Basic CURF to align with current ABS standards for CURFs.

Key changes affecting data items between the 2006 and 2008 Basic CURFs are:

- The introduction of ANZSCO First Edition and ANZSIC 2006 classifications have meant that data relating to occupation and industry are not comparable with previous years. See *Labour Mobility, Australia, February 2008* (cat. no. 6209.0) Explanatory Notes for more information.
- In 2008, data item 'Whether changed occupation group (with current employer for one year or more)' is derived and output based on change at Major and Minor occupation levels. In previous years, this was derived and output based on change at any level. See *Labour Mobility, Australia, February 2008* (cat. no. 6209.0) Explanatory Notes for more information.

COMPARISON BETWEEN THE 2008 BASIC AND EXPANDED CURFS

The differences between the 2008 Basic and Expanded CURFs are detailed in Appendix 3.

Note that the Identifiers for some data items differ between the Basic and Expanded CURFs due to the differences in the presentation of data items. Therefore, caution should be exercised if using both the Basic and Expanded CURFs.

Key differences between data items in the 2008 Basic and Expanded CURFs are:

- State/territory - The NT and ACT have been combined into 'Balance of Australia' on the Basic CURF.
- Country of birth - A second item with more detail is available on the Expanded CURF.
- Occupation at February 2007, Occupation at February 2008, Occupation of last job, Previous occupation with current employer/business - The Basic CURF presents Major group level only, while the Expanded CURF presents Sub-major group level.
- Industry at February 2007, Industry at February 2008, Industry of last job - The Basic CURF presents Division level only, while the Expanded CURF presents Sub-division level.
- A number of data items are presented as ranges on the Basic CURF and as continuous values on the Expanded CURF, e.g. age and usual hours, to align with current ABS standards for CURFs.

FILE CONTENT

The February 2008 Labour Force Survey (LFS) and Labour Mobility Survey Basic CURF is distributed on a single CD-ROM and via RADL. The LFS and Labour Mobility Survey Expanded CURF is distributed via RADL only.

2008 LFS AND LABOUR MOBILITY SURVEY BASIC CURF

The 2008 LFS and Labour Mobility Survey Basic CURF contains the files listed below:

Test files

The test files mirror the actual data files, but have random data and random identifiers. These files are on the RADL website and can be downloaded so users can use these to trouble shoot their code prior to submitting RADL jobs.

Data and metadata

MOB08B.csv - this file contains the raw Basic confidentialised survey data in hierarchical comma delimited ASCII text format.

SAS files

MOB08B.sas7bdat - this file contains the data for the Basic CURF in SAS for Windows format.

SPSS files

MOB08B.sav - this file contains the data for the Basic CURF in SPSS for Windows format.

Stata files

MOB08B.dta - this file contains the data for the Basic CURF in STATA format.

Information Files

6202030005_FEB2008.pdf - this is an Adobe Acrobat file that contains this *Technical Manual*.

6202030005_data_items_list_LFS_MOB08_BE_CURF.xls - this file contains the data items on the person level files for both the Basic and Expanded CURFs.

FORMATS.sas7bcat - this file is a SAS library containing formats.

FREQUENCIES_LFSWTD_MOB08B.txt; FREQUENCIES_UNWTD_MOB08B.txt;
FREQUENCIES_SUPWTD_MOB08B.txt - these frequency files contain documentation of the person level data. Data item code values and category labels are provided with frequencies of each value. These files are in plain text format.

README.txt - this file describes what is on the CD-ROM and is in plain text format.

62020_FEB2008.pdf - this is the complete publication *Labour Force, Australia, February 2008* (cat. no. 6202.0) in Adobe Acrobat format.

62090_FEB2008.pdf - this is the complete publication *Labour Mobility, Australia, 2008* (cat. no. 6209.0) in Adobe Acrobat format.

ABS CONDITIONS OF SALE.pdf - this is an Adobe Acrobat file describing the ABS conditions of sale and copyright obligations.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CURF USERS.pdf - this file directs users to the ABS website for more and up to date information on what is available from the ABS.

RESPONSIBLE ACCESS TO CURFS.pdf - this is an Adobe Acrobat file explaining the CURF users' role and obligations when using confidentialised data.

FILE CONTENT *continued*

2008 LFS AND LABOUR MOBILITY SURVEY EXPANDED CURF

The 2008 LFS and Labour Mobility Survey Expanded CURF contains the files listed below:

Test Files

The test files mirror the actual data files, but have random data and random identifiers. These files are on the RADL web site and can be downloaded so users can use these to trouble shoot their code prior to submitting RADL jobs.

Data and metadata

MOB08E.csv - this file contains the raw Expanded confidentialised survey data in hierarchical comma delimited ASCII text format.

SAS files

MOB08E.sas7bdat - this file contains the data for the Expanded CURF in SAS for Windows format.

MOB08E.sas - this file contains a SAS program to run the SAS formats.

SPSS files

MOB08E.sav - this file contains the data for the Expanded CURF in SPSS for Windows format.

Stata files

MOB08E.dta - this file contains the data for the Expanded CURF in STATA format.

Information Files

6202030005_FEB2008.pdf - this is an Adobe Acrobat file that contains this Technical Manual.

6202030005_data_items_list_LFS_MOB08_BE_CURF.xls - this file contains the data items on the person level files for both the Basic and Expanded CURFs.

FORMATS.sas7bcat - this file is a SAS library containing formats.

FREQUENCIES_LFSWTD_MOB08E.txt; FREQUENCIES_UNWTD_MOB08E.txt;
FREQUENCIES_SUPWTD_MOB08E.txt - these frequency files contain documentation of the person level data. Data item code values and category labels are provided with frequencies of each value. These files are in plain text format.

README.txt - this file describes what is on the CD-ROM and is in plain text format.

62020_FEB2008.pdf - this is the complete publication *Labour Force, Australia, February 2008* (cat. no. 6202.0) in Adobe Acrobat format.

62090_FEB2008.pdf - this is the complete publication *Labour Mobility, Australia, 2008* (cat. no. 6209.0) in Adobe Acrobat format.

ABS CONDITIONS OF SALE.pdf - this is an Adobe Acrobat file describing the ABS conditions of sale and copyright obligations.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CURF USERS.pdf - this file directs users to the ABS website for more and up to date information on what is available from the ABS.

RESPONSIBLE ACCESS TO CURFS.pdf - this is an Adobe Acrobat file explaining the CURF users' role and obligations when using confidentialised data.

ABS CONDITIONS OF SALE.pdf - this is an Adobe Acrobat file describing the ABS conditions of sale and copyright obligations.

FILE CONTENT *continued*

Information Files continued

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CURF USERS.pdf - this file directs users to the ABS website for more and up to date information on what is available from the ABS.

RESPONSIBLE ACCESS TO CURFS.pdf - this is an Adobe Acrobat file explaining the CURF users' role and obligations when using confidentialised data.

CONDITIONS OF RELEASE

CONDITIONS OF RELEASE

The February 2008 LFS and Labour Mobility Survey Basic and Expanded CURFs are released in accordance with a Ministerial Determination (Clause 7, Statutory Rules 1983, No.19) in pursuance of section 13 of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. As required by the Determination, the CURF has been designed so that the information on the file is not likely to enable the identification of the particular person to which it relates.

The Australian Statistician's approval is required for each release of the CURF. Prior to being granted access to the CURF, all organisations, and individuals within organisations, who request access to the CURF will be required to sign an Undertaking to abide by the legislative restrictions on use. Organisations and individuals who seek access to the 2008 LFS and Labour Mobility Survey Basic and Expanded CURFs are required to give an undertaking which includes, among other conditions, that in using the CURF data they will:

- use the data only for the statistical purposes specified
- not attempt to identify particular persons or organisations
- not disclose, either directly or indirectly, the data to any other person or organisation other than members of their organisation who have been approved by the ABS to have individual access to the information
- not attempt to match, with or without using identifiers, the data with any other list of persons or organisations
- in relation to data made available via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) or the ABS Site Data Laboratory (ABSDL), access the data only in a manner specifically authorised in writing by the ABS
- not attempt to access the data after the term of their authorisation expires, or after their authorisation is rescinded by the organisation which provided it, or after they cease to be a member of that organisation.

Use of the data for statistical purposes means use of the content of the CURF to produce information of a statistical nature, i.e. the arrangement and classification of numerical facts or data, including statistical analysis or statistical aggregates. Examples of statistical purposes are:

- manipulation of the data to produce means, correlations or other descriptive or summary measures
- estimation of population characteristics
- use of data as input to mathematical models or for other types of analysis (e.g. factor analysis)
- providing graphical or pictorial representations of the characteristics of the population or subsets of the population.

All CURF users are required to read and abide by the *Responsible Access to ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) Training Manual* available on the ABS website. Use of the data for unauthorised purposes may render the purchaser liable to severe penalties. Advice on the propriety of any particular intended use of the data is available from the Microdata Access Strategies Section via <microdata.access@abs.gov.au> or on (02) 6252 7714.

CONDITIONS OF SALE

All ABS products and services are provided subject to the ABS conditions of sale. Any queries relating to these Conditions of Sale should be referred to <intermediary.management@abs.gov.au>.

CONDITIONS OF RELEASE *continued*

CONDITIONS OF SALE

continued

While the utmost care is taken in handling each CURF on CD-ROM, deterioration may occur between the time of copying and receipt of the file. Accordingly, if the CD-ROM is unreadable on receipt and this is reported to the ABS within 30 days of receipt, it will be replaced free of charge. Expanded CURFs are only accessible via the ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL).

PRICE

As at May 2007, the recommended retail price (RRP) of the February 2008 LFS and Labour Mobility Survey CURFs on CD-ROM or via the RADL is \$1,320 including GST, freight and handling charges as appropriate. The bundled RRP price of the February 2008 LFS and Labour Mobility Survey Basic and Expanded CURFs is \$1,980, when applied for in a single application, including GST, freight and handling charges as appropriate.

ACCESSING THE CURF

All clients wishing to access the February 2008 LFS and Labour Mobility Survey Basic or Expanded CURFs should refer to the ABS website and read the *Responsible Access to ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) Training Manual*, and other related links, before downloading the appropriate Application and Undertaking forms and applying for access.

Australian universities

University clients should refer to the ABS website and read *Services for Universities*. The 2008 LFS and Labour Mobility Survey Basic and Expanded CURFs can be accessed by universities participating in the ABS/Universities Australia (UA) CURF agreement for research and teaching purposes.

Other clients

Other prospective clients should contact the Microdata Access Strategies Section of the ABS via <microdata.access@abs.gov.au> or on (02) 6252 7714.

ORDERING TABLES

Access to further detail from the survey (including data items excluded from the CURF) is only available through tables produced on request by the ABS. Requirements for these tables should be discussed with the Labour Market Section on (02) 6252 7822.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about accessing the CURF, clients should contact the Microdata Access Strategies Section of the ABS via <microdata.access@abs.gov.au> or on (02) 6252 7714. The CURF is not available on CD-ROM to overseas customers.

For further information about the publication and spreadsheets contained on the CURF, contact the Labour Market Section on (02) 6252 7822.

APPENDIX 1 DATA ITEMS LIST

DATA ITEMS LIST

This section lists the data items, data item identifiers and populations which relate to the LFS and Labour Mobility CURF. Every record has a person record identifier, ABSPID.

The LFS weight is called LFSWTD.

The LABOUR MOBILITY SURVEY weight is called FINPRSWT.

The following data items are LFS items:

- State/territory
- Capital city/balance of state
- Sex
- Social marital status
- Relationship in household
- Year of arrival
- Country of birth
- Age
- Labour force status at February 2008
- Status in employment at February 2008
- Full-time or part-time status at February 2008
- Occupation at February 2008
- Industry at February 2008.

All other data items are only available for the Labour Mobility Survey sample. For more information see 'Use of weights' in the 'Using the CURF microdata' chapter. For a comprehensive list of data items and their structure, see the Excel data cube entitled '6202030005_data_items_list_LFS_MOB08_BE_CURF.xls' accompanying this *Technical Manual* on the ABS website.

APPENDIX 2 COMPARISON BETWEEN 2006 AND 2008 BASIC CURFS

COMPARISON BETWEEN 2006 AND 2008 BASIC CURFS

A comparison between the 2006 and 2008 Basic CURFs is presented below. The table shows the data item label, the data item identifier and notes key differences in the presentation of data items where applicable. Data items not identified remain unchanged since 2006.

NOTE

From 2008, occupation data are classified according to the *ANZSCO—Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, First Edition, 2006* (cat. no. 1220.0). The new classification replaces *ASCO—Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, Second Edition, 1997* (cat. no. 1220.0).

Also from 2008, industry data are classified according to the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006* (cat. no. 1292.0). This new classification replaces the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 1993* (cat. no. 1292.0).

All listed data items referring to either occupation or industry will be affected by the change of classifications. See *Labour Mobility, Australia, February 2008* (cat. no. 6209.0) Explanatory Notes for more information.

Data Item label	2006 CURF	2008 CURF
Occupation at February 2008	OCURCURF	OCURMAJC
Industry at February 2008	LMINDCJS	INDCRDIV
Whether changed Major occupation group (with current employer for one year or more)	OCPRECUR	CHOCCMAJ Derived differently
Whether changed Minor occupation group (with current employer for one year or more)	Not available	CHOCCMIN New item
Previous occupation with current employer/business	OCCPREVC	OCCHACRF
Previous usual hours worked with current employer/business	PREVHRSC	PREVHRSC
Whether promoted and/or transferred with current employer in the last 12 months	PROMTRAC	PROMTRAN Additional categories for 'Promoted only', 'Transferred only' and 'Promoted and transferred'
Whether changed Major occupation group (last to current employer/business)	LMCHOCCF	CHOCCF
Whether changed Minor occupation group (last to current employer/business)	Not available	CHOCCMF New item
Whether changed industry Division (last to current employer/business)	LMCINDCF	CHINDLCF
Whether changed industry Subdivision (last to current employer/business)	Not available	CHINLCSC New item
Occupation of last job	OCCLASTC	OCLJMAJ Additional category 'Inadequately described'
Industry of last job	LMINDLST	INDLJDIV Additional category 'Inadequately described'
Usual hours worked at February 2007	MOBQ155C	USHRLFC
Whether changed Major occupation group (February 2007 and February 2008)	LMCHOMAC	CHOCMAJC
Whether changed Minor occupation group (February 2007 and February 2008)	Not available	CHOCMNC New item
Whether changed industry Division (February 2007 and February 2008)	LMCHINDC	CHINDLYC
Whether changed industry Subdivision (February 2007 and February 2008)	Not available	CHINLYSC New item
Occupation at February 2007	OCCFEBUCU	OCLYMAJC Additional category 'Inadequately described'
Industry at February 2007	LMINDLFB	INDLYDIV Additional category 'Inadequately described'

APPENDIX 3 COMPARISON BETWEEN 2008 BASIC AND EXPANDED CURFS

COMPARISON BETWEEN 2008 BASIC AND EXPANDED CURFS

A comparison between the 2008 Basic and Expanded CURFs is presented below. The table shows the data item label, the data item identifier and notes key differences in the presentation of data items.

<i>Data Item label</i>	<i>Basic CURF</i>	<i>Expanded CURF</i>
State/territory	STATEURC NT and ACT combined as 'Balance of Australia'	STATUREC All states/territories listed separately
Relationship in household	LMRHHCF With or without dependents not separated for Husband, wife or partner, and Lone parent categories	RELHHEC With or without dependents separated for Husband, wife or partner, and Lone parent categories
Year of arrival	BIRTHARC Born in Australia, Arrived 1985 and before, Arrived 1986–1995, Arrived 1996 to year of collection	BIRTAREC Born in Australia, Arrival years grouped commencing 1955 and before, then in 5 year groups until 2000, and 2001 to year of collection
Country of birth (2)	Not on dataset, see Country of birth (1) COBCURF	COBEC Top 10 countries then major groups
Age	AGEBCB Single years for 15–24 and 55–64. 5 year range categories for 25–54 and 65–79. Top coded at 80 years and over	AGEEC Single years. Top coded at 85 years and over
Level of highest educational attainment	EATASCDC Coded to 12 categories	EDATTC Coded to 13 categories
Level of highest non-school qualification	HIGHNSQC Coded to 8 categories	EDATNSCF Coded to 9 categories
Usual hours worked at February 2008	HRAWMJCF Ranged hours. Top coded at 60 hours and over	HRAWMJEC Bottom coded 1–5 hours, single hours from 6–59 hours, top coded at 60 hours and over
Occupation at February 2008	OCURMAJC 8 major group categories	OCURSMEC 51 sub-major group categories
Industry at February 2008	INDCRDIV 19 division categories	INDCRSEC 66 sub-division categories
Previous occupation with current employer/business	OCCHACRF 8 major group categories	PROCSMEC 51 sub-major group categories
Previous usual hours worked with current employer/business	PREVHRSC Ranged hours. Top coded at 60 hours and over	PREVHREC Bottom coded 1–5 hours, single hours from 6–59 hours, top coded at 60 hours and over
Usual hours worked in last job	HRQ135DC 5 hour ranges from 1–39, then 40 hours, then 5 hour ranges from 41–49, then 50–59 hours. Top coded at 60 hours and over	HRQ135DE Bottom coded 1–5 hours, single hours from 6–59 hours, top coded at 60 hours and over
Occupation of last job	OCLJMAJ 8 major group categories	OCLJSMEC 51 sub-major group categories
Industry of last job	INDLJDIV 19 division categories	INDLJSEC 66 sub-division categories
Usual hours worked at February 2007	USHRLFC Ranged hours. Top coded at 60 hours and over	USHRLFEC Bottom coded 1–5 hours, single hours from 6–59 hours, top coded at 60 hours and over
Occupation at February 2007	OCLYMAJC 8 major group categories	OCLYSMEC 51 sub-major group categories
Industry at February 2007	INDLYDIV 19 division categories	INDLYSEC 66 sub-division categories

GLOSSARY

Ceased a job	Left a job voluntarily (see 'Job leavers') or involuntarily (see 'Job losers').
Change in employer/business	People who were employed at February 2008 and, within the 12 months to February 2008, ceased working with one employer/business and started working with another employer/business in relation to their main job.
Change in employment type	Any change in employment type in relation to main job.
Change in industry Division	Any change between industry Divisions as classified by the <i>Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006</i> (cat. no. 1292.0).
Change in industry Subdivision	Any change between industry Subdivisions as classified by the <i>Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006</i> (cat. no. 1292.0).
Change in Major occupation group	Any change between Major occupation groups as classified by the ANZSCO— <i>Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, (ANZSCO), First Edition, 2006</i> (cat. no. 1220.0).
Change in Minor occupation group	Any change between Minor occupation groups as classified by the ANZSCO— <i>Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, (ANZSCO), First Edition, 2006</i> (cat. no. 1220.0).
Change in usual hours	Any change in the number of usual hours worked in relation to main job.
Change in work	<p>Employees (excluding owner managers of incorporated enterprises) were considered to have had some change in work if they had been with their current employer for one year or more at February 2008 and reported that, in the 12 months to February 2008, they had:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ been promoted ■ transferred to a different position ■ changed usual hours worked; or ■ changed occupation.
Contributing family workers	People who work without pay, in an economic enterprise operated by a relative.
Current employer/business	Refers to the employer/business which the person had in the week before the interview. Where the person had more than one employer/business, the employer/business for which most hours were usually worked, was regarded as the current employer/business.
Did not change employer/business	For this publication, it mainly refers to people who were employed at February 2008 for less than 12 months, and did not work with a different employer/business in the previous 12 months. People who were working at February 2008 for one year or more could also be considered to have not changed employer/business, but are not included in data items in this survey.
Different employment type	See 'Change in employment type'.
Different industry	See 'Change in industry'.
Different occupation	See 'Change in occupation'.
Different usual hours worked	See 'Change in usual hours'.
Duration of last job	The period from the commencement of the last job up to the time the person ceased working in that job.
Duration with employer/business at February 2008	The period between the commencement with the current employer/business and the week before the interview.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Employed	<p>People aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind, in a job or business or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or ■ worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or ■ were employees who had a job but were not at work and were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or ■ away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week; or ■ away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or ■ on strike or locked out; or ■ on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or ■ were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.
Employees	<p>People who work for a public or private employer and receive remuneration in wages, salary, a retainer fee from their employer while working on a commission basis, tips, piece rates, or payment in kind, or people who operate their own incorporated enterprise with or without hiring employees.</p>
Employer/business at February 2008	<p>See 'Current employer/business'.</p>
Employers	<p>People who operate their own unincorporated economic enterprise or engage independently in a profession or trade, and hire one or more employees.</p>
Employment type	<p>Classifies employed people according to the following categories on the basis of their main job (that is, the job in which they usually worked the most hours):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Employees (excluding owner managers of incorporated enterprises) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ with paid leave entitlements ■ without paid leave entitlements ■ Owner managers of incorporated enterprises ■ Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises ■ Contributing family workers.
Industry	<p>An industry is a group of businesses or organisations that undertake similar economic activities to produce both goods and services. In this product, industry is classified according to the <i>Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006</i> (cat. no. 1292.0).</p>
Job leavers	<p>People who ceased a job voluntarily, because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ of unsatisfactory work arrangements/pay/hours; or ■ the job was seasonal, temporary or a holiday job and they left that job to return to studies; or ■ they retired, started a new business, got a better job, left for family reasons.
Job losers	<p>People who ceased a job involuntarily, because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ they were retrenched or their business closed down because of financial difficulties; or ■ the job was seasonal, temporary or a holiday job and they did not leave that job to return to studies; or ■ they left their job because of their own ill health or injury.
Last job	<p>The last job in which employment ceased during the reference period.</p>

GLOSSARY *continued*

Level of highest educational attainment	Level of highest educational attainment identifies the highest achievement a person has attained in any area of study. It is not a measurement of the relative importance of different fields of study but a ranking of qualifications and other educational attainments regardless of the particular area of study or the type of institution in which the study was undertaken. See Appendix 1 of <i>Labour Mobility, Australia, February 2008</i> (cat. no. 6209.0) for an explanation of how highest level is derived.
Level of highest non-school qualification	Non-school qualifications are awarded for educational attainments other than those of pre-primary, primary or secondary education. They include qualifications at the Post Graduate Degree level, Master Degree level, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate level, Bachelor Degree level, Advanced Diploma and Diploma level, and Certificates I, II, III and IV levels. Non-school qualifications may be attained concurrently with school qualifications.
Main English-speaking countries	The list of main English-speaking countries provided here is not an attempt to classify countries on the basis of whether or not English is the predominant or official language of each country. It is a list of the main countries from which Australia receives, or has received, significant numbers of overseas settlers who are likely to speak English. These countries comprise the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and the United States of America.
Main job	The job in which the most hours were usually worked.
Not employed	People who were either 'unemployed' or 'not in the labour force' as defined.
Not in the labour force	People who were not in the categories 'employed' or 'unemployed' as defined.
Not working at February 2008	See 'Not Employed'.
Occupation	An occupation is a collection of jobs that are sufficiently similar in their title and tasks, skill level and skill specialisation which are grouped together for the purposes of classification. In this product, occupation is classified according to ANZSCO— <i>Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, First Edition, 2006</i> (cat. no. 1220.0).
Own account workers	People who operated their own unincorporated economic enterprise or engaged independently in a profession or trade, and hired no employees.
Owner managers	People who work in their own business, with or without employees, whether or not the business is an incorporated enterprise. Comprises owner managers of incorporated enterprises and owner managers of unincorporated enterprises.
Owner managers of incorporated enterprises (OMIE)	People who worked in their own incorporated enterprise, that is, a business entity which is registered as a separate legal entity to its members or owners (also known as a limited liability company). These people are classified as employees under 'status in employment'.
Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises	People who operated their own unincorporated enterprise, that is, a business entity in which the owner and the business are legally inseparable, so that the owner is liable for any business debts that are incurred. Includes those engaged independently in a trade or profession. These people are classified as employers under 'status in employment' if their business has employees, or own account workers if it does not.
Previous job	See 'Last job'.
Promoted	A permanent increase in wage or salary and an increase in responsibility or complexity of work. Temporary promotions, acting and temporary higher duties are excluded.
Reference period	The 52 weeks up to the end of the week prior to interview.
Reference week	The week preceding the week in which the interview was conducted.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Retrenched	<p>People who ceased their last job because they were either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ employees who were laid off, including no work available, made redundant, employer went out of business or dismissed; or ■ self employed people whose business closed down for economic reasons, including 'went broke', liquidated, no work, or no supply or demand.
Status in employment	Employed people classified by whether they were employees, employers, own account workers, or contributing family workers.
Transferred	A change of position without a change in either the level of responsibility or wages or salary. Both employer-initiated and employee-initiated transfers are included.
Unemployed	<p>People aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week, or ■ were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week, and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.
Usual hours worked	The number of hours usually worked.
With paid leave entitlements	The entitlement of employees (excluding OMIEs) to either paid holiday leave or paid sick leave (or both) in their current job. People employed in their own business or who were contributing family workers were not asked questions about paid leave entitlements.
Without paid leave entitlements	Employees (excluding OMIEs) who were not entitled to paid holiday leave and paid sick leave, or did not know whether they were entitled to paid sick leave and paid holiday leave in their current job.
Worked at some time during the year ending February 2008	For practical reasons it was not possible to include all of the questions from the Labour Force Survey for previous periods. People who were either currently employed, or reported having worked for an employer or in their own business at some time in the previous year, were defined as having worked at some time during the year ending February 2008.
Working at February 2007	For practical reasons it was not possible to include all of the questions from the Labour Force Survey for previous periods. Therefore, people who reported that they had a job or business one year ago were defined as working at February 2007.
Working at February 2008	See 'Employed'.

FOR MORE INFORMATION . . .

INTERNET **www.abs.gov.au** the ABS website is the best place for data from our publications and information about the ABS.

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICE

Our consultants can help you access the full range of information published by the ABS that is available free of charge from our website. Information tailored to your needs can also be requested as a 'user pays' service. Specialists are on hand to help you with analytical or methodological advice.

<i>PHONE</i>	1300 135 070
<i>EMAIL</i>	client.services@abs.gov.au
<i>FAX</i>	1300 135 211
<i>POST</i>	Client Services, ABS, GPO Box 796, Sydney NSW 2001

FREE ACCESS TO STATISTICS

All statistics on the ABS website can be downloaded free of charge.

WEB ADDRESS **www.abs.gov.au**