

UNDEREMPLOYED WORKERS AUSTRALIA

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- For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information Service on 1300 135 070 or Kate Nielsen on Canberra 02 6252 5759.

NOTES

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication presents information about underemployed workers. The number of underemployed workers supplements other measures of labour market slack such as the number of unemployed persons and discouraged jobseekers. It also highlights the aspirations of many workers for adequate work and greater earnings.

Underemployment can be considered in two forms:

- Time-related underemployment, which reflects an insufficient volume of work.
- Inadequate employment situations, which reflects an insufficient use of skills and experience or low productivity.

The information presented in this publication relates only to time-related underemployment.

The term underemployment in this publication is a generic term used to refer to a range of situations of time-related underemployment. The conceptual framework identifies various categories of underemployed workers.

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Statistics in this publication were obtained from the Underemployed Workers Survey conducted throughout Australia in September 1999 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Monthly Labour Force Survey.

Data from the survey relate to all persons aged 15 years and over. Persons who worked less than 35 hours in the week prior to the survey who would have preferred to work more hours were asked about whether they were looking for work with more hours, whether they were available to start work with more hours, and their experience in looking for work with more hours. Other information includes the duration of the current period of insufficient work, and the number of extra hours preferred.



ABBREVIATIONS

- ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics
- ABSCQ Australian Bureau of Statistics Classification of Qualifications
- ICLS International Conference of Labour Statisticians
- ILO International Labour Organisation
- LFS Labour Force Survey
- RSE Relative standard error
- SE Standard error

T. J. Skinner
Acting Australian Statistician

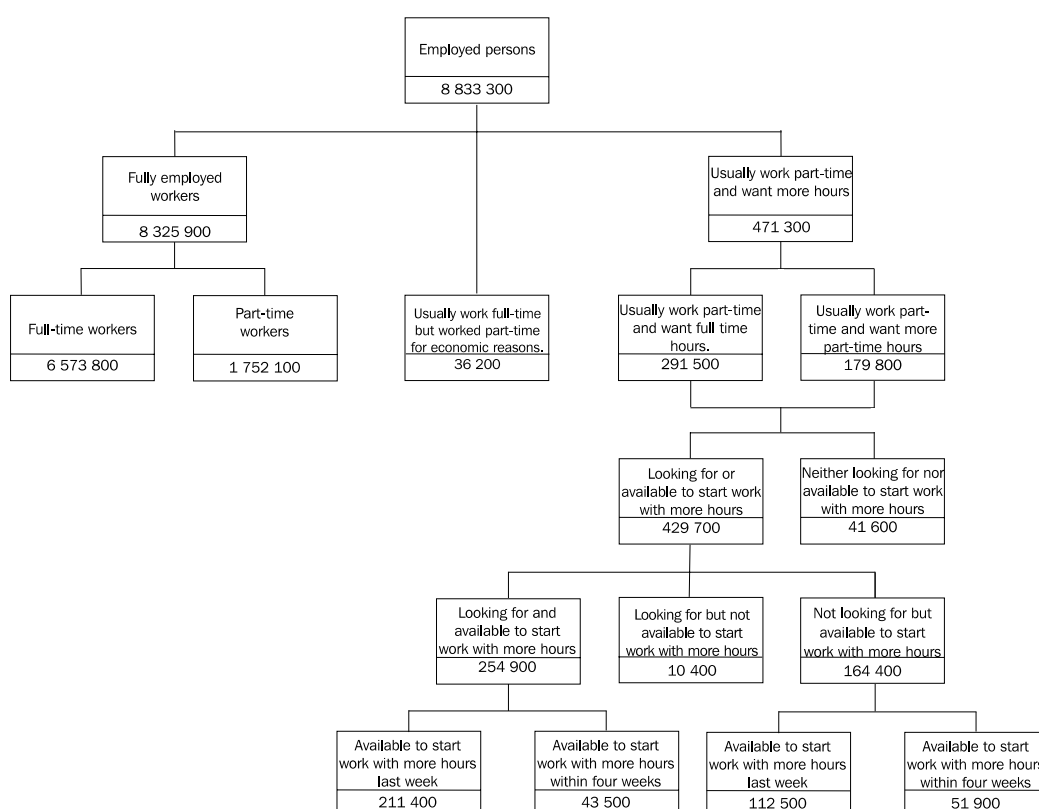
CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The conceptual framework within which underemployed workers are classified is based on separating employed persons into three mutually exclusive groups:

- fully employed workers;
- workers who usually work part-time and want more hours; and
- workers who usually work full-time but worked part-time hours in the reference week due to economic reasons (stood down, short time or insufficient work).

Fully employed workers comprise all full-time workers, including persons who usually work part-time but worked 35 hours or more in the reference week and all part-time workers who do not desire additional hours of work.



DEFINITIONS OF UNDEREMPLOYMENT

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition of underemployment was reviewed by the Sixteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) in 1998. The ICLS introduced the term 'time-related' underemployment which occurs when the hours of work of an employed person are insufficient in relation to an alternative employment situation in which the person is willing and available to engage. The concept of time-related underemployment is closely related to the 'visible' underemployment used in previous recommendations (see below).

The ICLS also identified inadequate employment situations, which are situations in the workplace that reduce the capacities and wellbeing of workers as compared to an alternative situation. Inadequate employment situations have not been addressed by the Underemployed Workers Survey. This concept is closely related to the concept of 'invisible' underemployment.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK *continued*

DEFINITIONS OF UNDEREMPLOYMENT *continued*

The ICLS defined time-related underemployment as occurring when the following three criteria are met in the reference period used to define employment:

- willing to work additional hours. Those who have actively sought to work additional hours should be separated from those who have not;
- available to work additional hours, within a specified subsequent period; and
- worked less than a threshold relating to working time. This threshold is chosen according to national circumstances.

Prior to the Sixteenth ICLS, the ILO recognised underemployment in two forms:

- visible underemployment, reflecting an insufficient volume of work (i.e. the hours worked); and
- invisible underemployment, reflecting an insufficient use of skills and experience or low productivity.

Visible underemployment was based on three criteria:

- working less than normal duration;
- doing so on an involuntary basis; and
- seeking or being available for additional work during the reference week.

The information collected in the Underemployed Workers Survey is compatible with both definitions of underemployment. The conceptual framework for this survey is based on earlier definitions and has not changed as a result of the definitional change. The only difference in definitions between the survey and the new ILO underemployment measure is the reference period for availability to start work with more hours. Availability was collected for 'last week' in the survey, and for the subsequent four weeks for people not available 'last week'. The criterion of availability in 'last week' ensures that the survey approach is consistent with the criteria used in determining unemployment in Australia. In contrast, the new ILO underemployment definition recommends a subsequent reference period for availability.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FRAMEWORK

Employed workers who usually work part-time and want more hours can be split into two groups: those who want to work full-time hours; and those who want to work more part-time hours.

Further classification of employed workers who usually work part-time and want more hours is based on whether they were looking for and/or available to start work with more hours. These workers are further separated on the basis of whether they had looked for extra work (during the four weeks prior to the survey) and whether they were available to start extra work.

The criterion of availability to start work with more hours last week was introduced in 1994 to more closely align the survey with the criteria for unemployment. The underemployed group satisfying the criteria which most closely aligns with the ABS definition of unemployment are those who have actively looked for work in the last four weeks and were available to start work last week.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK *continued*

DESCRIPTION OF THE
FRAMEWORK *continued*

Persons who usually work full-time but worked part-time for economic reasons, are separately identified in the underemployment framework as they represent a special case of underemployment. These people worked less than 35 hours in the reference week due to being stood down or insufficient work being available. For these people it is assumed that they wanted to work full-time in the reference week and would have been available to do so.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

OVERVIEW

There were 8,833,300 employed persons aged 15 years and over in September 1999. Of these:

- 471,300 (5%) usually worked part-time and wanted to work more hours.
- 36,200 (0.4%) usually worked full-time but worked part-time hours in the reference week due to economic reasons (being stood down, short time or insufficient work).

PART-TIME WORKERS WHO WANT MORE HOURS

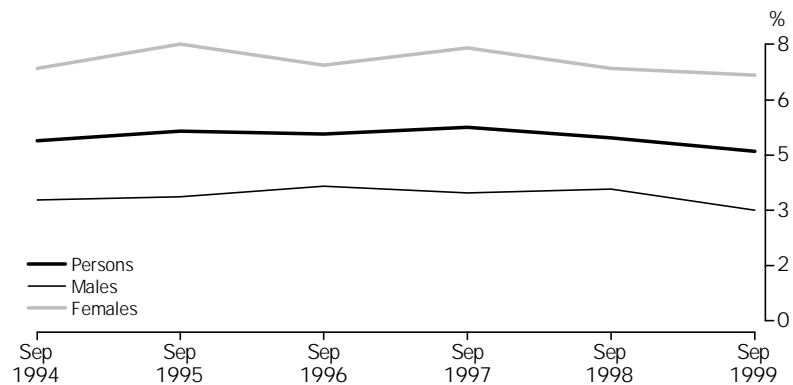
The number of persons working part-time who wanted more hours peaked at 515,500 persons in September 1997.

Between September 1998 and September 1999, the number of people working part-time and wanting more hours decreased by 6%. The number of males wanting more hours decreased by 14% during this period. Total employment increased 2% over the same period.

In September 1999, about a fifth (21%) of part-time workers wanted to work more hours. For males, however, the proportion was much higher (30%) than for females (18%). A similar pattern has occurred in previous years.

Persons working part-time and wanting more hours made up 5% of the labour force in September 1999. This continues the decrease from 6% in September 1997.

PART-TIME WORKERS WHO WANT MORE HOURS, PROPORTION OF THE LABOUR FORCE



There were 211,400 part-time workers looking for work with more hours who were available to start work in the week before the survey. This is the group of underemployed workers which most closely aligns with criteria applied in the ABS definition of unemployment. More than half (59%) of these workers were female.

Characteristics of part-time workers who want more hours

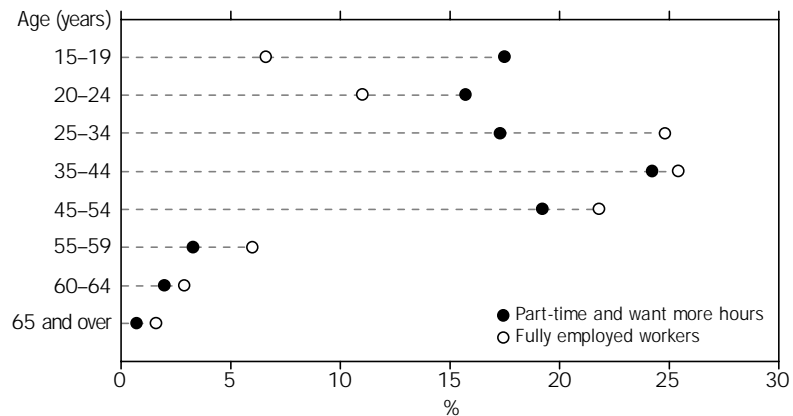
There were 471,300 persons who worked part-time and wanted more hours in September 1999. The majority (63%) continue to be female. The majority of part-time underemployed workers wanted to work full-time (62%). Males were more likely to want full-time work (76%) than females (54%).

A third (33%) of all persons working part-time and wanting to work more hours were under 25 years of age, whereas only 18% of fully employed workers were under 25 years of age.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

PART-TIME WORKERS WHO WANT MORE HOURS *continued*

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATUS



Other characteristics of persons working part-time and wanting to work more hours were:

- 36% worked 0–10 hours in the reference week, 32% worked 11–20 hours, 23% worked 21–29 hours, 9% worked 30 hours and over;
- 59% had no post-school qualifications; and
- 11% were lone parents (almost all were females) compared to 4% of fully employed workers.

Duration of insufficient work

The median duration of the current period of insufficient work for people who worked part-time and wanted to work more hours was 26 weeks for both males and females.

Available to start extra hours last week

Of persons working part-time who wanted to work more hours, 80% (377,800) had looked for or were available to start extra hours in the past week. The remaining 20% (93,500 people) were not looking for work with more hours and were not available last week. Of these, 51,900 were available within the next four weeks.

LOOKING FOR OR AVAILABLE TO START WORK

In September there were a total of 429,700 part-time workers who were looking for or available to start work with more hours. This number had decreased 8% from September 1998. More than half of these people were female in September 1999.

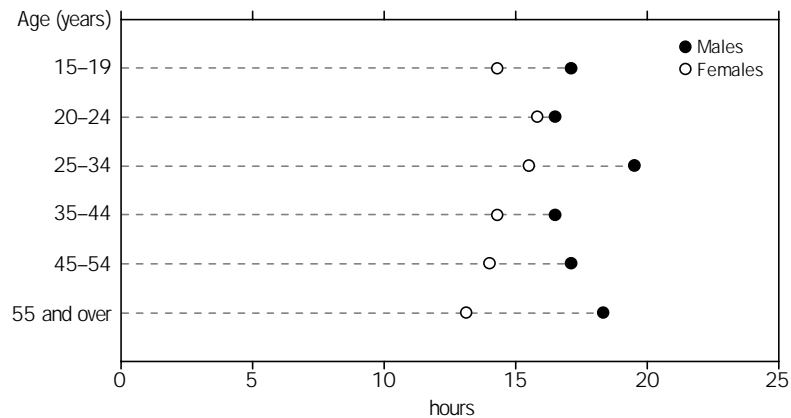
Extra hours wanted

Of the part-time workers who were looking for or available to start work with more hours, 44% wanted to work 10–19 extra hours each week and 23% wanted to work 20–29 extra hours. The average number of extra hours wanted each week was 15.7 hours. On average, males wanted to work more extra hours (17.5 hours) than females (14.6 hours). This pattern was similar in each age group.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

LOOKING FOR OR
AVAILABLE TO START
WORK *continued*

AVERAGE EXTRA HOURS WANTED

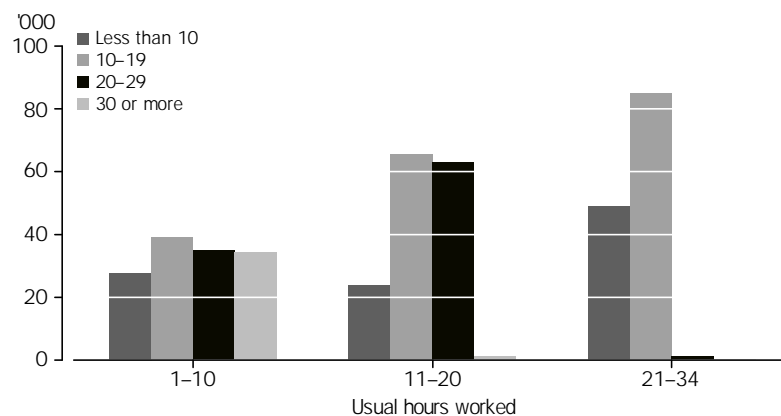


The desired number of extra hours was highest for people who usually worked 1–10 hours. These people wanted an average of 20 extra hours. The desired extra hours generally decreased as the usual number of hours increased.

Of those who usually worked less than 10 hours per week, about half (49%) wanted up to 19 extra hours. Forty-three per cent of those who usually worked 11–20 hours wanted 10–19 extra hours and 41% wanted to work 20–29 extra hours per week. Nearly all those who usually worked 21–34 hours (99%) wanted less than 20 extra hours.

Out of a total of 6,727,700 additional hours wanted per week, males wanted an extra 2,792,300 hours and females wanted 3,935,400 hours.

USUAL HOURS WORKED, PREFERRED NUMBER OF EXTRA HOURS



JOB SEARCH EXPERIENCE

Information on job search experience was asked of the 265,300 part-time workers who were looking for work with more hours.

The main reasons these people had not found work with additional hours were 'no vacancies in line of work' (20%), 'considered too young or old by employers' (13%), 'no vacancies at all' (11%) and 'too many applicants for available jobs' (9%).

The steps most frequently taken to find work with more hours were 'contacted prospective employers' (81%), 'looked in newspapers' (64%), 'registered with Centrelink' (38%) and 'contacted friends or relatives' (32%).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

USUALLY WORK FULL-TIME

There were 36,200 people who usually work full-time but worked part-time hours in the reference week due to economic reasons (being stood down, on short time or insufficient work). Males made up the majority of these people (77%).

The number of people who usually worked full-time but worked part-time due to economic reasons decreased 16% from September 1998, following a 13% increase from September 1997 to September 1998.

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LABOUR FORCE STATUS

	SEPTEMBER 1997		SEPTEMBER 1998		SEPTEMBER 1999		
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Persons aged 15 and over	7 160.2	7 401.5	7 242.6	7 467.4	7 343.8	7 586.6	14 930.4
Not in the labour force	1 901.3	3 381.8	1 902.5	3 366.3	1 977.0	3 409.1	5 386.1
In the labour force	5 259.0	4 019.7	5 340.0	4 101.1	5 366.8	4 177.5	9 544.3
Unemployed	469.5	323.3	444.7	319.3	402.3	308.6	711.0
Employed	4 789.4	3 696.5	4 895.5	3 781.8	4 964.4	3 868.9	8 833.3

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UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATUS

	SEPTEMBER 1997		SEPTEMBER 1998		SEPTEMBER 1999		
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Employed persons	4 789.4	3 696.5	4 895.5	3 781.8	4 964.4	3 868.9	8 833.3
Fully employed workers	4 559.3	3 373.2	4 660.3	3 471.3	4 763.2	3 562.6	8 325.9
Full-time workers	4 174.1	2 065.5	4 284.2	2 195.0	4 355.2	2 218.6	6 573.8
Part-time workers	385.1	1 307.6	376.1	1 276.3	408.0	1 344.1	1 752.1
Usually work full-time but worked part-time	33.2	4.8	32.9	10.0	27.7	8.5	36.2
Usually work part-time and want more hours	197.0	318.5	202.3	300.5	173.5	297.8	471.3
Usually work part-time and want more part-time hours	41.8	152.1	48.0	135.9	41.7	138.1	179.8
Usually work part-time and want full-time hours	155.2	166.4	154.2	164.7	131.8	159.6	291.5

EMPLOYED PERSONS, Selected Characteristics

	USUALLY WORK PART-TIME AND WANT MORE HOURS				FULLY EMPLOYED WORKERS			
	Males	Females	Persons	%	Males	Females	Persons	%
	'000	'000	'000		'000	'000	'000	
State or Territory of usual residence								
New South Wales	51.8	89.5	141.3	30.0	1 630.2	1 190.5	2 820.7	33.9
Victoria	42.1	72.1	114.2	24.2	1 194.6	907.3	2 101.9	25.2
Queensland	32.8	59.8	92.6	19.6	871.1	654.5	1 525.6	18.3
South Australia	19.4	28.0	47.3	10.0	348.0	263.4	611.4	7.3
Western Australia	18.6	32.7	51.4	10.9	488.6	356.5	845.1	10.2
Tasmania	*4.0	8.7	12.7	2.7	104.4	78.4	182.8	2.2
Northern Territory(a)	*0.7	*2.5	*3.3	*0.7	45.4	36.6	82.0	1.0
Australian Capital Territory	*4.1	*4.4	8.5	1.8	81.0	75.4	156.4	1.9
Age group (years)								
15-19	38.4	44.3	82.7	17.5	284.0	266.1	550.1	6.6
20-24	29.1	44.9	74.0	15.7	490.7	421.8	912.5	11.0
25-34	33.6	48.1	81.7	17.3	1 183.3	884.0	2 067.3	24.8
35-44	31.5	82.5	114.0	24.2	1 207.4	904.3	2 111.7	25.4
45-54	26.4	64.1	90.5	19.2	1 031.3	782.0	1 813.4	21.8
55-59	6.8	9.0	15.8	3.3	309.6	190.2	499.8	6.0
60-64	6.4	*2.8	9.2	2.0	162.7	74.6	237.3	2.9
65 and over	*1.3	*2.0	*3.3	*0.7	94.2	39.6	133.8	1.6
Relationship in household								
Family member	136.2	249.9	386.1	81.9	3 882.7	2 929.8	6 812.5	81.8
Husband or wife	66.2	137.8	204.1	43.3	3 016.7	2 101.7	5 118.4	61.5
Lone parent	*2.6	49.5	52.2	11.1	66.5	239.8	306.3	3.7
Dependent student	17.4	17.1	34.4	7.3	150.2	196.5	346.7	4.2
Non-dependent child	44.4	40.8	85.2	18.1	572.3	337.2	909.5	10.9
Other family person	5.6	4.7	10.3	2.2	77.0	54.6	131.6	1.6
Non-family member	29.7	37.6	67.2	14.3	745.9	514.0	1 259.9	15.1
Lone person	15.9	19.2	35.0	7.4	390.6	274.3	664.9	8.0
Not living alone	13.8	18.4	32.2	6.8	355.4	239.7	595.0	7.1
Not determined	7.6	10.3	17.9	3.8	134.6	118.8	253.4	3.0
Birthplace								
Born in Australia	130.0	229.9	359.9	76.4	3 533.5	2 719.2	6 252.7	75.1
Born outside Australia	43.5	67.9	111.4	23.6	1 229.7	843.4	2 073.2	24.9
Born in main English-speaking countries	16.6	25.0	41.6	8.8	531.5	364.3	895.8	10.8
Born in other countries	26.9	42.9	69.8	14.8	698.2	479.1	1 177.3	14.1
Full-time and part-time status								
Full-time workers	..	..	..	..	4 355.2	2 218.6	6 573.8	79.0
Part-time workers	173.5	297.8	471.3	100.0	408.0	1 344.1	1 752.1	21.0
Status in employment								
Employee	145.3	269.8	415.1	88.1	4 014.6	3 174.9	7 189.5	86.4
Employer	*1.3	*2.0	*3.3	*0.7	201.2	101.0	302.2	3.6
Own account worker	19.4	20.2	39.6	8.4	523.3	241.6	764.9	9.2
Contributing family worker	7.5	5.8	13.3	2.8	24.1	45.1	69.2	0.8
Number of hours worked in reference week								
0-5	28.5	55.7	84.2	17.9	245.5	336.4	581.9	7.0
6-10	30.7	53.5	84.2	17.9	106.2	242.9	349.1	4.2
11-15	25.5	41.2	66.7	14.1	72.4	205.1	277.5	3.3
16-20	31.1	54.8	85.9	18.2	97.5	261.4	358.9	4.3
21-29	38.6	68.4	107.0	22.7	135.5	313.8	449.3	5.4
30-34	19.2	24.2	43.4	9.2	178.9	254.4	433.3	5.2
35 or more	..	..	..	..	3 927.2	1 948.7	5 875.9	70.6
Total	173.5	297.8	471.3	100.0	4 763.2	3 562.6	8 325.9	100.0

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

.. not applicable

(a) Refers to mainly urban areas only.

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EMPLOYED PERSONS WHO USUALLY WORK PART-TIME AND WANT MORE HOURS

	NUMBER			PROPORTION OF LABOUR FORCE		
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%
May						
1985	58.5	141.1	199.6	1.3	5.0	2.8
1988	72.7	163.6	236.3	1.5	5.1	3.0
1991	134.3	256.2	390.4	2.7	7.2	4.6
September						
1994	179.1	281.3	460.5	3.5	7.3	5.2
1995	188.2	311.2	499.3	3.6	8.0	5.5
1996	202.7	296.1	498.7	3.9	7.4	5.4
1997	197.0	318.5	515.5	3.7	7.9	5.6
1998	202.3	300.5	502.8	3.8	7.3	5.3
1999	173.5	297.8	471.3	3.2	7.1	4.9

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USUALLY WORK PART-TIME AND WANT MORE HOURS

	SEPTEMBER 1997		SEPTEMBER 1998		SEPTEMBER 1999		
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Had been looking for work with more hours							
Were available to start							
Last week	112.2	130.2	111.4	127.5	87.7	123.7	211.4
Not last week but within four weeks	13.9	27.5	12.8	28.1	13.9	29.6	43.5
Were not available to start	2.5	4.4	6.0	4.1	5.8	4.6	10.4
Had not been looking for work with more hours							
Were available to start							
Last week	40.1	93.0	48.1	81.4	40.2	72.2	112.5
Not last week but within four weeks	15.5	37.0	12.3	37.0	12.3	39.6	51.9
Were not available to start	12.8	26.4	11.7	22.4	13.6	28.0	41.6
Total	197.0	318.5	202.3	300.5	173.5	297.8	471.3

DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF
INSUFFICIENT WORK (WEEKS)

	1-3	4-12	13-51	52 and over	Total	Mean duration	Median duration
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	weeks	weeks
MALES							
State or territory of usual residence							
New South Wales	*3.8	17.2	17.8	13.1	51.8	43.4	20
Victoria	*3.9	9.2	12.8	16.3	42.1	65.2	34
Queensland	*3.5	8.1	10.9	10.3	32.8	77.8	26
South Australia	*3.0	*4.5	6.4	5.4	19.4	48.3	*22
Western Australia	*2.4	*3.9	7.0	5.3	18.6	48.6	*26
Tasmania	**0.4	*0.7	*1.6	*1.3	*4.0	*48.1	**26
Northern Territory(a)	**—	**0.3	**0.2	**0.1	*0.7	**24.8	**26
Australian Capital Territory	**0.1	*1.6	*0.9	*1.4	*4.1	*50.0	**25
Age group (years)							
15-19	6.0	14.8	13.2	*4.4	38.4	24.7	12
20-24	4.9	6.9	11.5	5.7	29.1	33.0	17
25-34	*3.5	9.2	12.8	8.2	33.6	45.0	24
35-44	*1.9	7.7	8.1	13.9	31.5	81.0	32
45-54	*0.8	4.9	8.2	12.5	26.4	81.1	40
55 and over	**0.2	*2.1	*3.8	8.4	14.5	116.1	*68
Birthplace and period of arrival							
Born in Australia	12.9	35.5	45.3	36.3	130.0	54.3	26
Born outside Australia	*4.4	10.0	12.3	16.8	43.5	63.0	34
Arrived before 1981	*0.9	*2.1	4.7	10.7	18.4	97.9	*52
Arrived 1981-1990	**0.5	*3.1	*3.7	*2.6	9.8	*45.3	*24
Arrived 1991 to survey date	*3.0	4.9	*3.9	*3.5	15.2	32.3	*12
Born in main English-speaking countries	*1.4	*3.2	5.4	6.5	16.6	69.9	*34
Born in other countries	*2.9	6.8	6.9	10.3	26.9	58.9	34
Educational attainment							
With post-school qualifications(b)							
Higher degree or post-graduate diploma	**0.5	*1.6	*1.0	*1.3	*4.3	*41.8	**16
Bachelor degree	*1.6	4.6	4.8	5.2	16.2	62.9	*20
Undergraduate or associate diploma	**0.2	*1.0	5.6	*2.8	9.6	*50.5	*33
Skilled or basic vocational qualification	*2.7	8.7	10.0	14.4	35.8	72.6	30
Without post-school qualifications(c)							
Completed highest level of secondary school	*4.0	9.5	11.7	8.0	33.1	36.7	24
Did not complete highest level of secondary school	5.5	15.5	20.8	19.8	61.6	60.9	26
Still at school	*2.6	4.8	*3.7	*1.5	12.6	*25.8	*10
Status in employment(d)							
Employee	15.7	38.7	47.8	43.1	145.3	54.7	26
Own account worker	*1.0	*4.2	6.5	7.8	19.4	80.3	*30
Contributing family worker	**0.3	*2.4	*2.8	*2.0	7.5	*33.9	*18
Total	17.3	45.5	57.6	53.1	173.5	56.5	26

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

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Refers to mainly urban areas only.

(b) Includes nursing level unknown.

(c) Includes never attended school.

(d) Excludes employers.

DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF
INSUFFICIENT WORK (WEEKS)

	1-3	4-12	13-51	52 and over	Total	Mean duration	Median duration
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	weeks	weeks
FEMALES							
State or territory of usual residence							
New South Wales	7.2	16.3	29.2	36.8	89.5	72.6	30
Victoria	6.7	19.3	20.7	25.3	72.1	70.2	26
Queensland	*4.0	17.9	18.9	19.0	59.8	54.7	26
South Australia	*2.4	5.6	7.4	12.6	28.0	80.8	36
Western Australia	*3.2	7.7	11.6	10.2	32.7	54.1	26
Tasmania	**0.7	*1.4	*2.8	*3.9	8.7	*87.5	*38
Northern Territory(a)	**0.6	*1.0	**0.6	**0.4	*2.5	**14.7	**5
Australian Capital Territory	**0.4	*1.1	*1.3	*1.6	*4.4	*56.1	**26
Age group (years)							
15-19	4.7	14.6	17.9	7.1	44.3	27.1	16
20-24	4.8	12.5	14.6	13.1	44.9	51.1	20
25-34	6.9	10.4	15.2	15.7	48.1	42.0	26
35-44	*4.3	18.8	24.9	34.5	82.5	68.6	34
45-54	*3.8	12.8	18.0	29.5	64.1	96.7	39
55 and over	*0.9	*1.2	*2.0	9.8	13.9	*182.6	*104
Birthplace and period of arrival							
Born in Australia	18.3	56.4	73.2	81.9	229.9	62.4	26
Born outside Australia	7.0	13.9	19.3	27.8	67.9	81.9	28
Arrived before 1981	*1.9	5.9	7.3	16.9	32.0	114.5	52
Arrived 1981-1990	*1.7	4.6	4.8	5.9	17.1	53.3	*24
Arrived 1991 to survey date	*3.3	*3.3	7.2	5.0	18.8	52.5	*20
Born in main English-speaking countries	*2.6	6.5	6.6	9.4	25.0	86.3	26
Born in other countries	*4.4	7.4	12.7	18.4	42.9	79.3	30
Educational attainment							
With post-school qualifications(b)							
Higher degree or post-graduate diploma	**0.4	*1.7	*1.4	*2.3	5.8	*98.5	*31
Bachelor degree	*2.8	5.8	6.1	7.5	22.2	98.6	26
Undergraduate or associate diploma	*1.9	7.5	6.2	8.6	24.2	67.1	24
Skilled or basic vocational qualification	*4.2	7.7	18.4	24.1	54.3	74.1	35
Without post-school qualifications(c)							
Completed highest level of secondary school	6.1	17.6	19.3	20.9	63.9	56.1	26
Did not complete highest level of secondary school	8.5	26.4	37.1	44.6	116.6	65.5	26
Still at school	*1.5	*3.6	*3.3	*1.1	9.5	*21.4	*12
Status in employment(d)							
Employee	23.7	63.3	85.5	97.3	269.8	64.5	26
Own account worker	*0.8	4.8	5.7	8.9	20.2	82.0	*26
Contributing family worker	**0.6	*1.5	*1.2	*2.5	5.8	*122.3	*26
Total	25.3	70.3	92.5	109.7	297.8	66.9	26

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** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Refers to mainly urban areas only.

(b) Includes nursing level unknown.

(c) Includes never attended school.

(d) Excludes employers.

DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF
INSUFFICIENT WORK (WEEKS)

	1-3	4-12	13-51	52 and over	Total	Mean duration	Median duration
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	weeks	weeks
PERSONS							
State or territory of usual residence							
New South Wales	11.0	33.5	47.0	49.8	141.3	61.9	26
Victoria	10.7	28.5	33.5	41.6	114.2	68.4	30
Queensland	7.5	26.1	29.7	29.2	92.6	62.9	26
South Australia	5.4	10.1	13.8	18.0	47.3	67.5	26
Western Australia	5.6	11.6	18.6	15.5	51.4	52.1	26
Tasmania	*1.1	*2.1	*4.4	5.2	12.7	*75.1	*34
Northern Territory(a)	**0.6	*1.3	*0.8	*0.5	*3.3	*16.9	**10
Australian Capital Territory	**0.5	*2.7	*2.3	*3.0	8.5	*53.2	*26
Age group (years)							
15-19	10.6	29.5	31.0	11.6	82.7	26.0	13
20-24	9.7	19.4	26.1	18.8	74.0	44.0	20
25-34	10.4	19.5	28.0	23.9	81.7	43.2	26
35-44	6.1	26.5	33.0	48.4	114.0	72.1	34
45-54	4.6	17.7	26.1	42.0	90.5	92.2	40
55 and over	*1.1	*3.2	5.8	18.2	28.4	148.6	100
Birthplace and period of arrival							
Born in Australia	31.2	92.0	118.5	118.3	359.9	59.5	26
Born outside Australia	11.3	23.9	31.6	44.6	111.4	74.6	30
Arrived before 1981	*2.8	8.0	12.0	27.6	50.4	108.4	52
Arrived 1981-1990	*2.2	7.6	8.5	8.5	26.9	50.4	24
Arrived 1991 to survey date	6.3	8.2	11.1	8.5	34.1	43.5	17
Born in main English-speaking countries	*4.0	9.7	12.0	15.9	41.6	79.8	30
Born in other countries	7.3	14.2	19.6	28.7	69.8	71.4	30
Educational attainment							
With post-school qualifications(b)							
Higher degree or post-graduate diploma	*0.8	*3.3	*2.4	*3.5	10.0	*74.4	*26
Bachelor degree	*4.5	10.4	10.9	12.7	38.4	83.6	26
Undergraduate or associate diploma	*2.1	8.5	11.8	11.4	33.7	62.4	26
Skilled or basic vocational qualification	6.9	16.3	28.4	38.5	90.2	73.5	34
Without post-school qualifications(c)							
Completed highest level of secondary school	10.1	27.1	31.0	28.8	97.0	49.5	26
Did not complete highest level of secondary school	14.0	41.8	57.9	64.5	178.2	63.9	26
Still at school	*4.1	8.4	7.1	*2.6	22.2	23.9	12
Status in employment(d)							
Employee	39.3	102.0	133.4	140.5	415.1	61.0	26
Own account worker	*1.8	9.0	12.2	16.6	39.6	81.2	26
Contributing family worker	*0.9	*3.9	*4.0	*4.5	13.3	*72.7	*26
Total	42.5	115.8	150.1	162.8	471.3	63.0	26

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** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Refers to mainly urban areas only.

(b) Includes nursing level unknown.

(c) Includes never attended school.

(d) Excludes employers.

USUALLY WORK PART-TIME AND WANT MORE HOURS

LOOKING OR AVAILABLE LAST WEEK

	<i>Looking and available</i>	<i>Looking but not available</i>	<i>Not looking but available</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Not looking and not available last week</i>	<i>Total</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES						
Age group (years)						
15-19	17.7	*3.2	13.3	34.2	*4.2	38.4
20-24	16.0	*2.9	7.7	26.7	*2.4	29.1
25-34	18.4	6.1	4.6	29.1	*4.5	33.6
35-44	17.7	*3.9	*3.5	25.2	6.3	31.5
45-54	12.4	*2.0	6.4	20.8	5.7	26.4
55 and over	5.5	*1.5	4.8	11.7	*2.8	14.5
Relationship in household						
Family member	68.2	15.5	32.9	116.7	19.5	136.2
Husband or wife	30.2	8.2	15.2	53.6	12.6	66.2
Lone parent	*1.2	**0.6	**—	*1.8	*0.9	*2.6
Dependent student	5.9	*2.2	6.4	14.5	2.8	17.4
Non-dependent child	27.0	*3.8	10.9	41.6	2.8	44.4
Other family person	*4.0	*0.8	**0.4	5.2	**0.4	5.6
Non-family member	17.3	**2.5	5.4	25.1	4.5	29.7
Not determined	*2.2	*1.6	*2.0	5.8	*1.8	7.6
Preferred total number of hours						
Less than 35	15.5	*3.1	15.2	33.8	7.9	41.7
35 or more	72.2	16.6	25.1	113.9	18.0	131.8
Preferred number of extra of hours						
Less than 10	9.0	*4.5	10.7	24.2	7.8	32.0
10-19	35.3	7.3	19.4	62.0	10.5	72.5
20-29	28.5	5.2	8.3	42.0	5.4	47.3
30 or more	15.0	*2.7	*1.9	19.5	*2.2	21.8
Would prefer to change employer to work more hours						
Would prefer to change employer	32.0	7.9	8.0	47.9	6.7	54.6
Would prefer not to change employer	33.2	7.0	25.7	66.0	13.5	79.5
No preference	22.5	4.7	6.5	33.8	5.7	39.5
Would prefer to change occupation to work more hours						
Would prefer to change occupation	38.2	10.8	14.6	63.6	8.7	72.3
Would prefer not to change occupation	29.0	5.7	18.3	52.9	12.5	65.4
No preference	20.6	*3.2	7.4	31.1	4.6	35.7
Duration of current period of insufficient work (weeks)						
1-3	8.1	*2.4	5.2	15.7	*1.6	17.3
4-12	21.1	7.0	10.1	38.2	7.3	45.5
13-51	32.8	*3.8	13.2	49.8	7.8	57.6
52 and over	25.7	6.5	11.7	43.9	9.2	53.1
Total	87.7	19.7	40.2	147.6	25.9	173.5
Mean duration of current period of insufficient work (weeks)	52.6	71.8	49.0	54.2	69.6	56.5
Median duration of current period of insufficient work (weeks)	26.0	*20.0	25.0	26.0	26.0	26.0

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** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

LOOKING OR AVAILABLE LAST WEEK

	<i>Looking and available</i>	<i>Looking but not available</i>	<i>Not looking but available</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Not looking and not available last week</i>	<i>Total</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
.....						
FEMALES						
Age group (years)						
15-19	24.2	*3.7	9.8	37.7	6.6	44.3
20-24	22.7	5.1	8.2	36.0	8.9	44.9
25-34	18.7	7.0	12.2	37.9	10.2	48.1
35-44	31.7	10.7	20.9	63.4	19.1	82.5
45-54	23.1	6.8	15.3	45.2	18.9	64.1
55 and over	*3.2	*1.0	5.7	9.9	*3.9	13.9
Relationship in household						
Family member	100.5	27.7	63.2	191.3	58.6	249.9
Husband or wife	45.1	14.5	39.9	99.5	38.3	137.8
Lone parent	22.8	6.9	9.6	39.4	10.2	49.5
Dependent student	6.7	*1.7	5.8	14.2	*2.9	17.1
Non-dependent child	24.0	*4.2	6.9	35.1	5.6	40.8
Other family person	*1.8	**0.4	*0.9	*3.1	*1.6	4.7
Non-family member	18.9	*5.2	5.5	29.6	8.0	37.6
Not determined	*4.3	*1.4	*3.5	9.2	*1.1	10.3
Preferred total number of hours						
Less than 35	47.7	14.8	39.9	102.5	35.7	138.1
35 or more	75.9	19.4	32.3	127.7	32.0	159.6
Preferred number of extra of hours						
Less than 10	21.1	10.6	25.1	56.8	28.7	85.5
10-19	50.9	17.1	35.2	103.2	30.7	133.9
20-29	37.6	4.8	11.3	53.7	4.7	58.4
30 or more	14.1	*1.7	**0.6	16.4	*3.5	20.0
Would prefer to change employer to work more hours						
Would prefer to change employer	43.0	16.1	18.7	77.8	16.5	94.3
Would prefer not to change employer	51.0	12.5	44.1	107.5	40.7	148.2
No preference	29.7	5.6	9.4	44.8	10.5	55.2
Would prefer to change occupation to work more hours						
Would prefer to change occupation	53.0	18.2	24.6	95.7	25.3	121.1
Would prefer not to change occupation	41.9	10.7	36.5	89.1	33.6	122.6
No preference	28.8	5.3	11.2	45.3	8.8	54.1
Duration of current period of insufficient work (weeks)						
1-3	10.9	*1.1	6.9	18.9	6.4	25.3
4-12	32.2	10.0	13.4	55.6	14.7	70.3
13-51	40.6	8.6	22.6	71.8	20.7	92.5
52 and over	40.0	14.5	29.4	83.8	25.9	109.7
Total	123.7	34.2	72.2	230.1	67.7	297.8
Mean duration of current period of insufficient work (weeks)	55.3	63.5	75.1	62.8	80.7	66.9
Median duration of current period of insufficient work (weeks)	26.0	26.0	30.0	26.0	30.0	26.0

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** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

LOOKING OR AVAILABLE LAST WEEK

	<i>Looking and available</i>	<i>Looking but not available</i>	<i>Not looking but available</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Not looking and not available last week</i>	<i>Total</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
PERSONS						
Age group (years)						
15-19	41.9	6.9	23.1	71.9	10.8	82.7
20-24	38.7	8.0	16.0	62.7	11.3	74.0
25-34	37.2	13.1	16.8	67.1	14.7	81.7
35-44	49.4	14.7	24.4	88.5	25.5	114.0
45-54	35.5	8.8	21.7	66.0	24.5	90.5
55 and over	8.7	*2.5	10.5	21.6	6.7	28.4
Relationship in household						
Family member	168.7	43.2	96.1	308.0	78.1	386.1
Husband or wife	75.4	22.7	55.0	153.1	51.0	204.1
Lone parent	24.0	7.5	9.6	41.1	11.0	52.2
Dependent student	12.6	*3.9	12.2	28.7	5.7	34.4
Non-dependent child	50.9	8.0	17.8	76.8	8.4	85.2
Other family person	5.8	*1.2	*1.3	8.3	*2.0	10.3
Non-family member	36.2	7.7	10.9	54.7	12.5	67.2
Not determined	6.5	*3.0	5.5	15.0	*2.9	17.9
Preferred total number of hours						
Less than 35	63.2	17.9	55.1	136.2	43.6	179.8
35 or more	148.1	36.0	57.4	241.5	50.0	291.5
Preferred number of extra of hours						
Less than 10	30.0	15.1	35.8	80.9	36.5	117.4
10-19	86.2	24.4	54.6	165.2	41.2	206.4
20-29	66.1	10.0	19.6	95.7	10.1	105.7
30 or more	29.0	*4.4	*2.5	36.0	5.8	41.7
Would prefer to change employer to work more hours						
Would prefer to change employer	75.0	24.0	26.7	125.7	23.2	148.9
Would prefer not to change employer	84.2	19.5	69.8	173.5	54.2	227.7
No preference	52.2	10.4	16.0	78.5	16.2	94.7
Would prefer to change occupation to work more hours						
Would prefer to change occupation	91.2	29.0	39.2	159.3	34.1	193.4
Would prefer not to change occupation	70.8	16.4	54.8	142.0	46.1	188.1
No preference	49.4	8.5	18.5	76.4	13.4	89.8
Duration of current period of insufficient work (weeks)						
1-3	18.9	*3.5	12.1	34.6	8.0	42.5
4-12	53.3	17.0	23.5	93.8	22.0	115.8
13-51	73.5	12.4	35.8	121.6	28.4	150.1
52 and over	65.7	21.0	41.1	127.7	35.1	162.8
Total	211.4	53.9	112.5	377.8	93.5	471.3
Mean duration of current period of insufficient work (weeks)	54.2	66.6	65.8	59.4	77.7	63.0
Median duration of current period of insufficient work (weeks)	26.0	26.0	26.0	26.0	28.0	26.0

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PERSONS LOOKING OR AVAILABLE FOR WORK WITH MORE HOURS(a)

	PREFERRED NUMBER OF EXTRA HOURS					Mean preferred number of extra hours
	Less than 10	10-19	20-29	30 or more	Total	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		hours
MALES						
Age group (years)						
15-19	8.6	12.7	10.8	*4.1	36.3	17.1
20-24	*3.7	15.6	6.0	*2.5	27.7	16.5
25-34	*4.5	10.8	10.7	4.9	30.9	19.5
35-44	6.7	11.7	5.9	*3.3	27.6	16.5
45-54	*4.4	9.0	7.4	*3.1	23.9	17.1
55 and over	*1.6	6.5	*3.6	*1.7	13.4	18.3
Status in employment(b)						
Employee	26.2	60.6	36.2	13.4	136.4	16.8
Own account worker	*3.0	5.3	4.9	*3.4	16.5	21.5
Contributing family worker	**0.3	**0.2	*3.1	*2.8	6.4	19.2
Usual number of hours worked						
1-5	5.1	*2.4	*0.8	6.7	15.0	21.3
6-10	*2.9	8.0	12.0	11.3	34.1	23.0
11-15	*3.5	5.0	14.0	**—	22.5	19.5
16-20	*2.1	13.8	16.2	*1.1	33.3	18.6
21-29	4.8	27.0	**0.4	**0.4	32.6	13.1
30-34	9.0	10.0	**0.3	**—	19.3	8.9
35 or more	*2.1	**0.2	*0.8	**—	*3.0	*10.6
Whether would move interstate if offered a suitable job						
Would move interstate	*2.8	14.9	11.4	5.0	34.2	19.6
Would not move interstate	24.4	42.9	26.2	12.5	106.0	16.7
Might move interstate	*2.2	5.3	6.0	*1.6	15.1	18.6
Don't know	**0.1	*3.2	*0.9	**0.4	4.7	17.0
Whether would move intrastate if offered a suitable job						
Would move intrastate	*4.2	23.0	14.2	6.9	48.3	19.0
Would not move intrastate	22.1	35.0	20.2	9.3	86.7	16.0
Might move intrastate	*3.3	7.1	8.5	*3.2	22.1	19.6
Don't know	**—	*1.4	*1.5	**—	*2.9	*18.5
Total	29.6	66.4	44.4	19.5	159.9	17.5
Mean duration of current period of insufficient work (weeks)	44.8	53.5	58.5	70.1	55.3	..
Median duration of current period of insufficient work (weeks)	20.1	26.1	26.3	*34.3	26.3	..

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution
 ** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use
 — nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
 .. not applicable
 (a) Availability refers to last week or within four weeks.
 (b) Excludes employers.

	PREFERRED NUMBER OF EXTRA HOURS					<i>Mean preferred number of extra hours</i> hours
	<i>Less than 10</i>	10-19	20-29	30 or more	Total	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	
FEMALES						
Age group (years)						
15-19	13.9	14.6	9.4	*3.4	41.2	14.3
20-24	8.5	18.5	10.1	*3.7	40.8	15.8
25-34	8.5	19.5	11.4	*2.0	41.5	15.5
35-44	20.7	35.9	14.7	*3.4	74.8	14.3
45-54	17.7	28.6	9.1	*2.7	58.1	14.0
55 and over	4.7	6.0	*1.4	*1.2	13.4	13.1
Status in employment(b)						
Employee	71.3	111.0	50.0	15.2	247.4	14.4
Own account worker	*1.5	10.2	*3.4	*0.7	15.9	15.4
Contributing family worker	*1.0	*1.5	*2.4	**0.1	4.9	17.8
Usual number of hours worked						
1-5	8.2	12.0	8.2	6.5	34.9	18.6
6-10	11.5	16.7	14.0	9.7	51.9	18.2
11-15	10.2	15.8	14.8	**0.3	41.1	15.2
16-20	7.9	30.8	18.3	**—	57.1	15.2
21-29	16.4	39.0	**0.6	**—	56.1	11.2
30-34	18.7	8.8	**—	**—	27.5	7.6
35 or more	**1.1	**—	**0.1	**—	*1.2	*6.8
Whether would move interstate if offered a suitable job						
Would move interstate	9.1	12.5	11.2	*4.1	37.0	17.1
Would not move interstate	60.2	100.1	38.8	11.3	210.4	14.1
Might move interstate	*4.0	9.7	*3.9	*0.8	18.4	14.5
Don't know	*0.7	*0.9	*2.2	*0.3	*4.0	18.5
Whether would move intrastate if offered a suitable job						
Would move intrastate	11.9	25.1	15.0	4.9	56.8	16.1
Would not move intrastate	55.5	82.9	33.8	10.4	182.6	14.1
Might move intrastate	6.4	15.2	6.8	*1.1	29.6	14.8
Don't know	**0.2	**0.1	**0.5	**—	*0.8	*17.9
Total	74.0	123.3	56.1	16.4	269.8	14.6
Mean duration of current period of insufficient work (weeks)	60.6	72.2	58.9	58.6	65.4	..
Median duration of current period of insufficient work (weeks)	26.2	32.1	26.4	*26.4	26.7	..

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution
 ** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use
 — nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
 .. not applicable
 (a) Availability refers to last week or within four weeks.
 (b) Excludes employers.

	PREFERRED NUMBER OF EXTRA HOURS					<i>Mean preferred number of extra hours</i> hours
	<i>Less than 10</i>	10-19	20-29	30 or more	Total	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	
PERSONS						
Age group (years)						
15-19	22.5	27.3	20.2	7.5	77.5	15.6
20-24	12.2	34.1	16.1	6.2	68.6	16.1
25-34	13.0	30.4	22.1	6.9	72.4	17.2
35-44	27.4	47.7	20.6	6.7	102.4	14.9
45-54	22.1	37.7	16.4	5.8	82.0	14.9
55 and over	6.4	12.5	5.1	*2.9	26.8	15.7
Status in employment(b)						
Employee	97.6	171.5	86.2	28.6	383.8	15.3
Own account worker	*4.5	15.5	8.3	*4.1	32.4	17.3
Contributing family worker	*1.3	*1.7	5.5	*2.9	11.3	23.5
Usual number of hours worked						
1-5	13.3	14.4	9.0	13.2	49.9	19.4
6-10	14.4	24.7	26.0	21.0	86.0	20.1
11-15	13.7	20.9	28.8	**0.3	63.7	16.7
16-20	10.1	44.7	34.5	*1.1	90.3	16.4
21-29	21.2	66.0	*1.1	**0.4	88.7	11.9
30-34	27.7	18.8	**0.3	**—	46.9	8.1
35 or more	*3.2	**0.2	*0.9	**—	*4.2	9.5
Whether would move interstate if offered a suitable job						
Would move interstate	11.9	27.4	22.6	9.2	71.1	18.3
Would not move interstate	84.6	143.1	65.0	23.7	316.3	14.9
Might move interstate	6.2	15.1	9.9	*2.4	33.5	16.3
Don't know	*0.8	*4.1	*3.1	*0.7	8.7	17.7
Whether would move intrastate if offered a suitable job						
Would move intrastate	16.1	48.0	29.2	11.8	105.1	17.5
Would not move intrastate	77.6	117.9	54.0	19.8	269.2	14.7
Might move intrastate	9.7	22.2	15.4	*4.4	51.6	16.9
Don't know	**0.2	*1.4	*2.0	**—	*3.7	18.3
Total	103.5	189.6	100.6	36.0	429.7	15.7
Mean duration of current period of insufficient work (weeks)	56.1	65.6	58.7	64.8	61.7	..
Median duration of current period of insufficient work (weeks)	24.8	27.4	26.3	27.6	26.6	..

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 — nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
 .. not applicable
 (a) Availability refers to last week or within four weeks.
 (b) Excludes employers.

PERSONS LOOKING OR AVAILABLE FOR WORK WITH MORE HOURS(a)

	NUMBER			MEAN PREFERRED NUMBER OF EXTRA HOURS		
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
	'000	'000	'000	hours	hours	hours
<i>Main difficulty in finding work</i>						
Had been looking for work with more hours	107.4	157.9	265.3	19.3	16.6	17.7
Own ill health or disability	*3.2	*3.2	6.4	21.7	21.3	21.5
Considered too young or too old by employers	15.8	18.6	34.4	18.7	18.1	18.4
Unsuitable hours	5.2	14.5	19.7	16.8	11.5	12.9
Too far to travel/transport problems	*4.0	5.1	9.0	23.5	14.9	18.7
Lacked necessary skills or education	8.6	15.5	24.0	22.1	18.9	20.1
Language difficulties	*2.0	*2.6	4.7	*17.0	*17.4	17.2
Insufficient work experience	6.8	10.3	17.1	19.6	19.4	19.5
No vacancies in line of work	19.9	32.8	52.7	18.9	15.8	17.0
Too many applicants for available jobs	11.4	13.5	24.9	19.5	16.9	18.1
No vacancies at all	13.5	16.2	29.7	22.3	15.6	18.6
Difficulties with ethnic background	**0.4	**—	**0.4	*38.0	**—	*38.0
Difficulties with childcare	**—	*1.6	*1.6	**—	*14.7	*14.7
Other family responsibilities	*1.5	*3.3	4.8	*20.2	15.6	17.1
Other difficulties	9.9	10.0	20.0	15.5	17.6	16.6
No difficulties reported	5.0	10.7	15.7	12.2	16.9	15.4
Had not been looking for work with more hours	52.5	111.9	164.4	13.8	11.8	12.4
Total	159.9	269.8	429.7	17.5	14.6	15.7

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** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Availability refers to last week or within four weeks.

PERSONS LOOKING OR AVAILABLE FOR WORK WITH MORE HOURS(a)

All steps taken to find work in the last four weeks	PREFERRED NUMBER OF EXTRA HOURS					Mean preferred number of extra hours
	Less than 10	10-19	20-29	30 or more	Total	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	
MALES						
Registered with Centrelink	*2.9	16.7	21.6	10.8	52.0	22.0
Contacted prospective employers	9.2	35.2	30.0	16.4	90.8	19.9
Checked Centrelink touchscreens	**0.7	12.0	11.6	*4.3	28.5	21.3
Checked factory noticeboards	**0.4	*3.8	4.8	*1.1	10.2	21.2
Checked or registered with any other employment agency	*1.3	7.5	8.6	*3.9	21.4	21.6
Looked in newspapers	7.0	26.6	22.4	11.8	67.8	19.7
Searched Internet sites	**0.6	5.3	*2.5	*2.6	11.0	20.3
Answered a newspaper advertisement for a job	*1.9	13.1	11.2	*3.3	29.4	19.9
Advertised or tendered for work	**0.4	6.8	*3.1	*3.3	13.6	21.3
Contacted friends or relatives	5.4	16.9	11.3	6.8	40.4	19.1
Other steps taken to find work	*3.4	5.5	*4.1	*2.2	15.3	18.0
Had not been looking for work with more hours	16.1	23.8	10.8	*1.9	52.5	13.8
FEMALES						
Registered with Centrelink	*3.8	16.4	18.5	8.9	47.6	20.7
Contacted prospective employers	20.2	52.1	36.6	14.3	123.3	17.5
Checked Centrelink touchscreens	*3.1	11.3	11.4	5.9	31.8	20.2
Checked factory noticeboards	*1.0	*3.7	*1.7	*1.3	7.7	17.4
Checked or registered with any other employment agency	*3.5	13.0	8.1	4.9	29.5	18.9
Looked in newspapers	18.7	44.1	26.9	12.7	102.4	17.1
Searched Internet sites	*0.7	*3.1	*2.7	*1.7	8.2	21.0
Answered a newspaper advertisement for a job	*3.7	16.3	8.4	8.4	36.8	19.3
Advertised or tendered for work	*2.7	6.1	5.3	**0.6	14.8	16.8
Contacted friends or relatives	6.9	21.3	9.0	6.7	43.9	17.0
Other steps taken to find work	4.8	6.6	*4.0	*2.3	17.7	16.5
Had not been looking for work with more hours	42.3	55.3	13.7	**0.6	111.9	11.8
PERSONS						
Registered with Centrelink	6.7	33.1	40.1	19.8	99.6	21.4
Contacted prospective employers	29.4	87.3	66.6	30.7	214.1	18.5
Checked Centrelink touchscreens	*3.7	23.3	23.1	10.2	60.3	20.8
Checked factory noticeboards	*1.5	7.5	6.4	*2.5	17.9	19.6
Checked or registered with any other employment agency	4.9	20.5	16.7	8.8	50.9	20.1
Looked in newspapers	25.8	70.7	49.3	24.5	170.2	18.2
Searched Internet sites	*1.4	8.4	5.1	*4.3	19.2	20.6
Answered a newspaper advertisement for a job	5.6	29.4	19.5	11.7	66.1	19.6
Advertised or tendered for work	*3.1	12.9	8.5	*3.9	28.4	18.9
Contacted friends or relatives	12.3	38.2	20.3	13.5	84.4	18.0
Other steps taken to find work	8.2	12.2	8.1	*4.5	33.0	17.2
Had not been looking for work with more hours	58.4	79.0	24.5	*2.5	164.4	12.4

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** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Availability refers to last week or within four weeks.

PERSONS LOOKING OR AVAILABLE FOR WORK WITH MORE HOURS(a)

	TOTAL NUMBER OF EXTRA HOURS PREFERRED PER WEEK		
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
	'000 hours	'000 hours	'000 hours
State or Territory of usual residence			
New South Wales	852.1	1 176.3	2 028.4
Victoria	645.8	900.5	1 546.3
Queensland	553.2	884.2	1 437.4
South Australia	300.4	352.6	653.0
Western Australia	289.3	395.5	684.8
Tasmania	74.5	132.0	206.5
Northern Territory(b)	8.8	33.9	42.8
Australian Capital Territory	68.1	60.3	128.5
Age group (years)			
15-19	620.6	588.5	1 209.1
20-24	458.0	645.4	1 103.3
25-34	602.9	641.6	1 244.4
35-44	456.0	1 070.6	1 526.6
45-54	409.6	814.0	1 223.6
55 and over	245.3	175.3	420.6
Status in employment(c)			
Employee	2 284.6	3 573.5	5 858.1
Own account worker	317.2	244.6	561.8
Contributing family worker	177.9	87.2	265.1
Educational attainment			
With post-school qualifications(d)	1 128.1	1 399.3	2 527.5
Higher degree or post-graduate diploma	67.9	86.2	154.1
Bachelor degree	271.8	259.8	531.5
Undergraduate or associate diploma	178.2	288.9	467.2
Skilled or basic vocational qualification	610.2	749.9	1 360.2
Without post-school qualifications(e)	1 532.2	2 474.4	4 006.6
Completed highest level of secondary school	537.4	831.3	1 368.7
Did not complete highest level of secondary school	994.8	1 643.1	2 637.9
Still at school	132.0	61.6	193.6
Total	2 792.3	3 935.4	6 727.7

(a) Availability refers to last week or within four weeks.

(b) Refers to mainly urban areas only.

(c) Excludes employers.

(d) Includes nursing level unknown.

(e) Includes never attended school.

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT(a)	ACT	Aust.
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES									
Population 1									
Persons aged 15 years and over	2 496.0	1 843.3	1 349.1	579.5	723.1	179.4	58.2	115.3	7 343.8
Population 2									
Employed persons	1 690.9	1 242.8	909.4	369.5	510.9	109.2	46.5	85.1	4 964.4
Population 3									
Fully employed workers	1 630.2	1 194.6	871.1	348.0	488.6	104.4	45.4	81.0	4 763.2
Population 4									
Employed persons who usually work part-time and want more hours	51.8	42.1	32.8	19.4	18.6	*4.0	*0.7	*4.1	173.5
Population 5									
Employed persons who usually work part-time and want more hours who have been looking for work with more hours or were available to start such work last week or within four weeks	46.3	40.3	30.7	17.8	16.8	*3.9	**0.6	*3.6	159.9
FEMALES									
Population 1									
Persons aged 15 years and over	2 583.2	1 924.3	1 376.9	607.5	725.7	189.8	56.8	122.3	7 586.6
Population 2									
Employed persons	1 281.7	981.6	716.9	291.8	390.1	87.4	39.2	80.2	3 868.9
Population 3									
Fully employed workers	1 190.5	907.3	654.5	263.4	356.5	78.4	36.6	75.4	3 562.6
Population 4									
Employed persons who usually work part-time and want more hours	89.5	72.1	59.8	28.0	32.7	8.7	*2.5	*4.4	297.8
Population 5									
Employed persons who usually work part-time and want more hours who have been looking for work with more hours or were available to start such work last week or within four weeks	80.4	65.4	56.0	24.6	29.0	8.3	*2.1	*4.0	269.8
PERSONS									
Population 1									
Persons aged 15 years and over	5 079.2	3 767.6	2 726.0	1 187.1	1 448.8	369.2	115.0	237.6	14 930.4
Population 2									
Employed persons	2 972.6	2 224.4	1 626.3	661.3	901.1	196.7	85.7	165.3	8 833.3
Population 3									
Fully employed workers	2 820.7	2 101.9	1 525.6	611.4	845.1	182.8	82.0	156.4	8 325.9
Population 4									
Employed persons who usually work part-time and want more hours	141.3	114.2	92.6	47.3	51.4	12.7	*3.3	8.5	471.3
Population 5									
Employed persons who usually work part-time and want more hours who have been looking for work with more hours or were available to start such work last week or within four weeks	126.7	105.7	86.6	42.3	45.8	12.2	*2.7	7.6	429.7

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

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Refers to mainly urban areas only.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 The statistics in this publication were compiled from data collected in the Underemployed Workers Survey that was conducted throughout Australia in September 1999 as a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). Respondents to the LFS who fell within the scope of the supplementary survey were asked further questions.

2 The publication *Labour Force, Australia* (Cat. no. 6203.0) contains information about survey design, sample redesign, scope, coverage and population benchmarks relevant to the monthly LFS, which also apply to supplementary surveys. It also contains definitions of demographic and labour force characteristics which are relevant to both the monthly LFS and supplementary surveys.

SCOPE

3 In addition to those already excluded from the LFS, there were approximately 80,000 persons living in remote and sparsely settled parts of Australia who were out of scope of this survey. The exclusion of these persons has only minor impact on any aggregate estimates that are produced for individual States and Territories, except the Northern Territory. Please contact the person listed on the front cover of this publication if you require more information.

4 Students at boarding schools, patients in hospitals, residents of homes (e.g. retirement homes, homes for persons with handicaps), and inmates of prisons are excluded from all supplementary surveys. However, they have been included in the estimates of persons not in the labour force and the civilian population which appear in Table 1 of this publication.

5 This survey was restricted to persons who worked less than 35 hours in the week prior to the survey week, and who would have preferred more hours.

COVERAGE

6 The estimates in this publication relate to persons covered by the survey in September 1999. In the LFS, coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling and hence has only one chance of selection in the survey. See *Labour Force, Australia* (Cat. no. 6203.0).

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

7 Estimates in this publication are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors:

- Sampling error is the difference between the published estimate and the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. For further information on sampling error, refer to the Technical Notes.
- Non-sampling errors are inaccuracies that occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents and interviewers, and errors made in coding and processing data. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient processing procedures.

SEASONAL FACTORS

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

CLASSIFICATIONS USED

9 The educational attainment data item in this survey has been classified according to the ABS *Classification of Qualifications (ABSCQ)* (Cat. no. 1262.0).

COMPARABILITY OF TIME SERIES

10 Revisions are made to population benchmarks for the LFS after each five-yearly Census of Population and Housing. The last such revision was made in

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

COMPARABILITY OF TIME SERIES *continued*

February 1999 to take account of the results of the 1996 Census of Population and Housing. Estimates from supplementary surveys conducted from and including February 1999 are therefore based on revised population benchmarks.

11 Supplementary surveys are not always conducted on the full LFS sample. Apart from the scope exclusions listed on the previous page, since August 1994 the sample for supplementary surveys has been restricted to no more than seven-eighths of the LFS sample. For this survey the sample was restricted to seven-eighths. This reduction in sample size means that the standard errors for this survey differ from those applicable to previous surveys.

12 Since September 1994, underemployed workers who usually work part-time and were available to start work within four weeks have been asked whether they were also available to start work last week. This question was added to the survey so that estimates of underemployment could be more closely aligned with ILO recommendations on underemployment.

COMPARABILITY WITH LABOUR FORCE SURVEY STATISTICS

13 Due to differences in the scope and sample size of this supplementary survey and that of the monthly LFS, the estimation procedure may lead to variations between labour force estimates from this survey and those from the LFS.

COMPARABILITY WITH ILO DEFINITIONS

14 Comparability of the concepts and definitions used in the Underemployed Workers Survey are discussed in Conceptual Framework on page 3.

PREVIOUS SURVEYS

15 Underemployed Workers Survey was conducted in May 1985 and then in May 1988 and 1991. In 1994, the survey became an annual survey, collected in September. Results of previous surveys have been published in *Underemployed Workers, Australia* (Cat. no. 6265.0) and the standard data service *Underemployed Workers, Australia* (Cat. no. 6265.0.40.001) for 1994 and 1995.

NEXT SURVEY

16 The ABS plans to conduct this survey again in September 2000.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

17 ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated: without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

18 ABS publications which may be of interest include:
Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Australia (Cat. no. 6222.0)
Labour Force, Australia (Cat. no. 6203.0)
Labour Force Experience, Australia (Cat. no. 6206.0)
Labour Mobility, Australia (Cat. no. 6209.0)
Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (Cat. no. 6220.0)
Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience, Australia (Cat. no. 6245.0)
Working Arrangements, Australia (Cat. no. 6342.0)

19 Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (Cat. no. 1101.0). The ABS also issues on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Release Advice* (Cat. no. 1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Release Advice are available from any ABS office or from the ABS Information Service on the World Wide Web, <URL:<http://www.abs.gov.au>

APPENDIX POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEM LIST

The ABS has a range of unpublished data available from the Underemployed Workers Survey. This section lists the data items and populations which relate to the survey. More detailed breakdowns of some data items are available on request.

The population(s) for a particular data item refers to the persons in the survey to whom the data item relates. Where alternative output categories are available for the same data item, these are shown and the data item name is followed by a bracketed numeral (e.g. Birthplace (2)).

To obtain unpublished data or more information about the customised data service contact Kate Nielsen on Canberra 02 6252 5759, or by facsimile on 02 6252 7784.

Population 1	Persons aged 15 years and over.
Population 2	Employed persons.
Population 3	Fully employed persons.
Population 4	Employed persons who usually work part-time and want more hours.
Population 5	Employed persons who usually work part-time and want more hours who had been looking for work with more hours or were available to start such work last week or within four weeks.

APPENDIX POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data item</i>	<i>Populations</i>	<i>Data item</i>	<i>Populations</i>
1 State or Territory of usual residence	ALL	7C Birthplace (2)	ALL
New South Wales		Born in Australia	
Victoria		Born outside Australia	
Queensland		The Middle East and North Africa	
South Australia		Africa (excluding North Africa)	
Western Australia		Northern America	
Tasmania		South America, Central America	
Northern Territory		and the Caribbean	
Australian Capital Territory		Northeast Asia	
2 Area of usual residence	ALL	Southeast Asia	
State Capital City		Southern Asia	
Balance of State/Territory		Europe and the former USSR	
3 Region of usual residence	ALL	Oceania and Antarctica	
Standard Labour Force dissemination		New Zealand	
regions		8 Age group(years)	ALL
4 Sex	ALL	15-19	
Male		20-24	
Female		25-34	
5 Marital status	ALL	35-44	
Married		45-54	
Not married		55-59	
6A Relationship in household (1)	ALL	60-64	
Family member		65 years and over	
Husband or wife		9 Fully employed or underemployed work	1-2
With dependants		status (1)	
Without dependants		Employed persons	
Lone parent		Fully employed workers	
With dependants		Full-time workers	
Without dependants		Part-time workers	
Dependent student		Usually work full-time but worked	
Non-dependent child		part-time	
Other family person		Usually work part-time and want more	
Non-family member		hours	
Lone person		9A Usually work part-time and want more	1-2
Not living alone		hours(2)	
Not determined		Had been looking for work with more	
6B Relationship in household (2)	ALL	hours	
Family member		Were available to start	
Husband or wife		Last week	
With children under 15		Not last week but within four	
Without children under 15		weeks	
Lone parent		Were not available to start	
With children under 15		Had not been looking for work with more	
With dependent students but		hours	
without children under 15		Were available to start	
Without dependants		Last week	
Dependent student		Not last week but within four	
Non-dependent child		weeks	
Other family person		Were not available to start	
Non-family member		10 Full-time and part-time workers	2
Lone person		Part-time workers	
Not living alone		Full-time workers	
Not determined		11 Whether fully employed or worked	2
7A Birthplace and period of arrival	ALL	part-time and want more hours	
Born in Australia		Fully employed	
Born outside Australia		Usually work part-time and want more	
Arrived before 1981		hours	
Arrived 1981-1990		12 Status in employment	2-5
Arrived 1991 to survey date		Employee	
7B Birthplace (1)	ALL	Employer	
Born in Australia		Own account worker	
Born outside Australia		Contributing family worker	
Born in main English-speaking			
countries			
Born in other countries			

APPENDIX POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data item</i>	<i>Populations</i>	<i>Data item</i>	<i>Populations</i>
13 Number of hours worked in the reference week	2-5	21 Part-time underemployment status	4
1-5		Had been looking for work with more hours	
6-10		Were available to start	
11-15		Last week	
16-20		Not last week but within four weeks	
21-29		Were not available to start	
30-34		Had not been looking for work with more hours	
35 hours or more		Were available to start	
14 Type of insufficient work	4	Last week	
Part-time		Not last week but within four weeks	
Full-time		Were not available to start	
15 Duration of current period of insufficient work	4-5	22 All steps taken to find work in the last four weeks	4-5
1-3 weeks		Registered with Centrelink	
4-12 weeks		Contacted prospective employers	
13-51 weeks		Check Centrelink touchscreens	
52 weeks and over		Checked factory noticeboards	
16 Educational attainment	4-5	Checked or registered with any other employment agency	
With post-school qualifications		Looked in newspapers	
Higher degree or post-graduate diploma		Searched internet sites	
Bachelor degree		Answered a newspaper advertisement for a job	
Undergraduate or associate diploma		Advertised or tendered for work	
Skilled or basic vocational qualification		Contacted friends or relations	
Nursing level unknown		Other steps taken to find work	
Without post-school qualification		Had not been looking for work with more hours	
Completed highest level of secondary school		23 Whether registered with Centerlink	4-5
Did not complete highest level of secondary school		Registered with Centrelink	
Left aged 13 years or less		Not registered with Centrelink	
Left 14 years or less		Had not been looking for work with more hours	
Left 15 years or less		24 Preferred number of extra hours	4-5
Left 16 years or less		Less than 10	
Left 17 years or less		10-19	
Left 18 years or over		20-29	
Never attended school		30 or more	
Still at school		25 Main difficulty in finding work	4
17 Whether would move interstate if offered a suitable job	4-5	Had been looking for work with more hours	
Would move interstate		Own ill health or disability	
Would not move interstate		Considered too young or too old by employers	
Might move interstate		Unsuitable hours	
Don't know		Too far to travel/transport problems	
18 Whether would move intrastate if offered a suitable job	4-5	Lacked necessary skills or education	
Would move intrastate		Language difficulties	
Would not move intrastate		Insufficient work experience	
Might move interstate		No vacancies in line of work	
Don't know		Too many applicants for available jobs	
19 Whether would prefer to change occupation to work more hours	4-5	No vacancies at all	
Would prefer to change occupation		Difficulties with ethnic background	
Would prefer not to change occupation		Difficulties with childcare	
No preference		Other family responsibilities	
20 Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours	4-5	Other difficulties	
Would prefer to change employer		No difficulties reported	
Would prefer not to change employer		Had not looked for work with more hours	
No preference			
		26 Usual number of hours worked	4

APPENDIX POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data item</i>	<i>Populations</i>	<i>Data item</i>	<i>Populations</i>
1-5		Less than 30	
6-10		30-34	
11-15		35-39	
16-20		40 and over	
21-29			
30-34			
35 hours or more			

27 Preferred total number of hours 4

APPENDIX SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

The Monthly Population Survey program collects data on particular aspects of the labour force. The following is an historical list of supplementary and special labour force surveys. Data are available in publication form, by subscription or on request. It may be possible to order unpublished data from these surveys by contacting the ABS.

- *Career Experience*. Irregular. Latest issue November 1998 (Cat. no. 6254.0)
- *Career Paths of Persons with Trade Qualifications*. Final issue 1993 (Discontinued) (Cat. no. 6243.0)
- *Child Care*. Irregular. Latest issue March 1996 (Cat. no. 4402.0)
- *Education and Training Experience*. Irregular. Latest issue 1997 (Cat. no. 6278.0)
- *Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership*. Annual. Latest issue August 1999 (Cat. no. 6310.0)
- *Employment Benefits*. Final issue August 1994 (Discontinued) (Cat. no. 6334.0.40.001)
- *Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons*. Annual. Latest issue July 1999 (Cat. no. 6222.0)
- *Labour Force Experience*. Two-yearly. Latest issue February 1999 (Cat. no. 6206.0)
- *Labour Force Status and Educational Attainment*. Final issue February 1994 (Discontinued) (Cat. no. 6235.0)
- *Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families*. Annual. Latest issue June 1998 (Cat. no. 6224.0)
- *Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants*. Irregular. Latest issue November 1999 (Cat. no. 6250.0)
- *Labour Mobility*. Two-yearly. Latest issue February 1998 (Cat. no. 6209.0)
- *Multiple Jobholding*. Irregular. Latest issue August 1997 (Cat. no. 6216.0)
- *Participation in Education*. Annual. Latest issue September 1997 (Cat. no. 6272.0)
- *Persons Employed at Home*. Irregular. Latest issue September 1995 (Cat. no. 6275.0)
- *Persons Not in the Labour Force*. Annual. Latest issue September 1999 (Cat. no. 6220.0)
- *Persons Who had Re-entered the Labour Force*. Final issue July 1995 (Discontinued) (Cat. no. 6264.0.40.001)
- *Persons Who Have Left the Labour Force*. Final issue September 1994 (Discontinued) (Cat. no. 6267.0.40.001)
- *Retirement and Retirement Intentions*. Irregular. Latest issue November 1997 (Cat. no. 6238.0)
- *Retrenchment and Redundancy*. Irregular. Latest issue July 1997 (Cat. no. 6266.0)
- *Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience*. Two-yearly. Latest issue July 1998 (Cat. no. 6245.0)
- *Superannuation*. Irregular. Latest issue November 1995 (Cat. no. 6319.0)
- *Trade Union Members*. Two-yearly. August 1996 (Discontinued) (Cat. no. 6325.0)
- *Transition from Education to Work*. Annual. Latest issue May 1998 (Cat. no. 6227.0)
- *Underemployed Workers*. Annual. Latest issue September 1999 (Cat. no. 6265.0)
- *Working Arrangements*. Irregular. Latest issue August 1997 (Cat. no. 6342.0)

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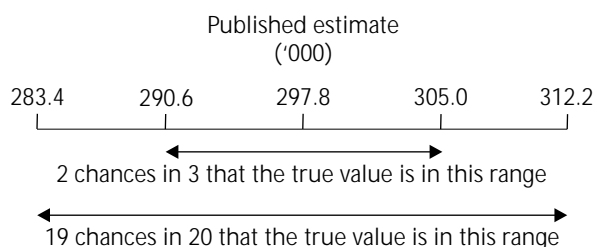
INTRODUCTION

1 Since the estimates in these tables are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they are subject to sampling variability. That is, they may differ from those that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three 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 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.

2 SEs for general application are given in table T1 below. Since they are based on calculations for a limited number of past surveys over a wide range of labour force characteristics, these numbers will not give a precise measure of the standard error of a particular estimate but they will provide an indication of its magnitude.

CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERROR

3 An example of the calculation and the use of SEs in relation to estimates of persons is as follows. Table 7 shows the estimated number of females workers who usually work part-time and want more hours was 297,800. Since this estimate is between 200,000 and 300,000 table T1 shows the SE for Australia will be between 6,250 and 7,250 and can be approximated by interpolation as 7,200 (rounded to the nearest 100). Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey will fall in the range 290,600 to 305,000 and about 19 chances in 20 that the value will fall within the range 283,400 to 312,200. This example is illustrated in the diagram below.



4 As can be seen from the SE table, the smaller the estimate the larger the RSE. Very small estimates are subject to large RSEs, so that their value for most practical purposes is unreliable. In the tables in this publication, only estimates with RSEs of 25% or less are considered reliable for most purposes. Estimates with RSEs between 25% and 50% are preceded by an asterisk (*) to indicate that they are subject to high SEs and should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs greater than 50%, preceded by a double asterisk (**), are considered too unreliable for general use and should only be used to aggregate with other estimates to provide derived estimates with RSEs of less than 25%.

AVERAGES AND MEDIANS

5 The RSEs of estimates of mean duration of insufficient work, median duration of insufficient work and mean preferred number of extra hours are obtained by first finding the RSE of the estimate of the total number of persons contributing to the estimate (see table T1) and then multiplying the figure so obtained by the following relevant factors:

- mean duration of insufficient work: 0.6;
- median duration of insufficient work: 2.1; and
- mean preferred number of extra hours: 1.2.

AVERAGES AND MEDIANS
continued

6 The following is an example of the calculation of SEs where the use of a factor is required. Table 7 shows the estimated total number of male workers who usually work part-time and want more hours was 173,500 with a median duration of insufficient work of 26 weeks. The SE can be approximated by interpolation as 5,900 which is 3.4% as a RSE. The factor of 2.1 (see paragraph 5) is applied to the RSE of 3.4% to obtain an RSE for the median duration of insufficient work of 7.1%. Therefore the SE for the median duration of insufficient work is 7.1% of 26 weeks, i.e. about 2 (rounded to the nearest whole week). So there are two chances in three that the median duration of insufficient work is between 24 and 28 weeks, and about 19 chances in 20 that it is between 22 and 30 weeks.

7 Mean and median estimates produced from population estimates smaller than the values in T2 have RSEs larger than 25% and should be used with caution. Table T2 also indicates the size of the population estimates that would produce mean and medians with RSEs greater than 50% which are considered too unreliable for general use.

8 An example of an estimate with a RSE larger than 25% is in table 6. The mean duration of current period of insufficient work for males with an undergraduate degree or associate diploma was 50.5 weeks and the number of persons contributing to the estimate is 9,600. Table T2 shows that the level at which estimates of the mean duration of current period of insufficient work have a RSE of greater than 25% was 14,300. Therefore the estimate of the mean has a RSE of between 25% and 50% and is shown in table 6 preceded by an asterisk (i.e. *50.5).

PROPORTIONS AND
PERCENTAGES

9 Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling errors. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. A formula to approximate the RSE of a proportion is given below:

$$RSE(x/y) = \sqrt{[RSE(x)]^2 - [RSE(y)]^2}$$

10 Considering the example from the paragraph 3, table 7 shows that of the 297,800 female underemployed workers, 109,700 or 36.8% had had insufficient work for more than a year. The SE of 109,700 is approximately 5,000 so the RSE is 4.6%. The RSE for 297,800 is 2.4%. Applying the above formula, the RSE of the

proportion is $\sqrt{(4.6)^2 - (2.4)^2}$ or 3.9%, giving a SE for the proportion (36.8%) of 1.4 percentage points. Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the proportion of discouraged jobseekers who were males was between 35.4% and 38.2% and 19 chances in 20 the proportion was within the range 34.0% to 39.6%.

DIFFERENCES

11 Published estimates may also be used to calculate the difference between two survey estimates (of number or percentages). Such an estimate is subject to sampling error. The sampling error of the difference between two estimates depends on their SEs and the relationship (correlation) between them. An approximate SE of the difference between two estimates (x-y) may be calculated by the following formula:

$$SE(x - y) = \sqrt{[SE(x)]^2 + [SE(y)]^2}$$

12 While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and

TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY *continued*

DIFFERENCES *continued*

uncorrelated characteristics or subpopulations, it is expected to provide a good approximation for all differences likely to be of interest in this publication.

13 The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the SE, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents, and errors made in coding and processing data. In accuracies of this kind are referred to as the non-sampling error, and they may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient operating procedures.

T1 STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate (person)	AUSTRALIA									
	NSW	Vic.	Qld.	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	SE	RSE
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	%
100	90	100	180	160	160	110	110	130	80	80.0
200	160	170	260	220	220	140	150	160	140	70.0
300	220	230	310	260	260	170	170	180	190	63.3
500	330	320	390	320	340	210	210	220	270	54.0
700	420	400	460	370	390	240	240	240	350	50.0
1,000	530	500	540	420	460	280	280	270	440	44.0
1,500	690	630	650	500	550	330	330	310	580	38.7
2,000	820	750	740	570	620	370	370	350	700	35.0
2,500	950	850	800	600	700	400	400	400	800	32.0
3,000	1 050	950	900	650	750	450	450	400	900	30.0
3,500	1 150	1 000	950	700	800	450	450	450	1 000	28.6
4,000	1 250	1 100	1 000	750	850	500	500	450	1 050	26.3
5,000	1 400	1 200	1 100	850	900	550	550	500	1 200	24.0
7,000	1 650	1 400	1 300	950	1 050	600	600	550	1 450	20.7
10,000	1 950	1 700	1 500	1 100	1 200	700	700	650	1 750	17.5
15,000	2 350	2 000	1 800	1 300	1 450	800	800	750	2 150	14.3
20,000	2 700	2 250	2 050	1 450	1 600	900	900	850	2 450	12.3
30,000	3 150	2 650	2 450	1 700	1 850	1 050	1 050	1 000	2 950	9.8
40,000	3 500	2 900	2 750	1 900	2 100	1 200	1 150	1 100	3 350	8.4
50,000	3 800	3 150	3 000	2 100	2 250	1 300	1 250	1 250	3 700	7.4
100,000	4 750	4 000	4 000	2 750	2 900	1 700	1 600	1 650	4 850	4.9
150,000	5 350	4 600	4 750	3 250	3 350	1 950	1 800	2 000	5 600	3.7
200,000	5 900	5 150	5 300	3 650	3 750	2 150	..	2 300	6 250	3.1
300,000	6 900	6 100	6 250	4 300	4 300	2 500	..	2 750	7 250	2.4
500,000	8 550	7 700	7 650	5 250	5 050	3 050	..	..	8 800	1.8
1,000,000	11 950	10 800	10 050	6 850	6 350	..	..	..	11 550	1.2
2,000,000	17 600	15 650	13 100	9 000	7 800	..	..	..	15 250	0.8
5,000,000	31 550	26 900	18 450	..	..	..	..	..	23 400	0.5
10,000,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40 950	0.4

.. not applicable

TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY *continued*

T2 LEVELS AT WHICH ESTIMATES HAVE RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS OF 25% AND 50%(a)

	<i>Mean duration of current period of insufficient work</i>	<i>Mean duration of current period of insufficient work</i>	<i>Median duration of current period of insufficient work</i>	<i>Median duration of current period of insufficient work</i>	<i>Mean preferred number of extra hours</i>	<i>Mean preferred number of extra hours</i>	<i>All other estimates</i>	<i>All other estimates</i>
<i>RSE %</i>	25	50	25	50	25	50	25	50
NSW	13 670	3 340	24 240	6 790	3 890	590	6 250	1 180
Vic. (no.)	12 310	3 260	18 290	5 190	3 470	680	4 690	1 000
Qld (no.)	8 250	2 370	15 680	4 580	3 130	880	4 100	1 160
SA (no.)	5 820	1 790	8 590	2 650	1 970	600	2 470	750
WA (no.)	6 250	1 880	10 260	3 150	2 940	860	2 940	860
Tas. (no.)	2 940	920	4 050	1 270	1 000	310	1 210	370
NT (no.)	3 570	1 150	4 120	1 330	650	200	1 220	380
ACT (no.)	1 110	390	3 590	1 220	460	170	1 150	400
Australia (no.)	14 330	3 120	21 500	5 150	3 020	370	4 570	680

(a) Refers to the number of persons contributing to the estimate.

GLOSSARY

Centrelink	A statutory authority responsible for delivering a range of Commonwealth government services, including registering persons for assistance in finding work and providing referrals to job placement agencies.
Duration of insufficient work	The duration of insufficient work is the length of time underemployed workers have been working less than 35 hours a week. As periods of insufficient work are recorded in full weeks this results in a slight understatement of duration.
Employed persons	Employed persons are all persons aged 15 years and over who, during the reference period: <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 on paid leave, on leave without pay for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week, stood down without pay because of bad weather or plant breakdown at their place of employment for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week, on strike or locked out, on workers compensation and expecting to be returning to their job, or receiving wages or salary while undertaking full-time study; or■ were employers, own account workers or contributing workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.
Full-time workers	Full-time workers are employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and others who, although usually worked less than 35 hours, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.
Fully employed workers	Fully employed persons are employed persons who: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ worked part-time hours in the reference week and did not prefer to work more hours; or■ usually work part-time and prefer to work more hours, but worked full-time hours in the reference week; or■ usually work full-time and worked full-time hours in the reference week; or■ usually work full-time, but did not work full-time hours in the reference week for non-economic reasons.
Looking for work with more hours	Looking for work with more hours at some time during the four weeks up to the end of the reference week.
Main English-speaking countries	The main English-speaking countries are the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, South Africa, the United States of America and New Zealand.
Mean duration of insufficient work	The mean duration of insufficient work is obtained by dividing the aggregate number of weeks a group has had insufficient work by the number of persons in that group.
Mean preferred number of extra hours	The mean preferred number of extra hours is obtained by dividing the total preferred number of extra hours reported by a group by the number of persons in that group.
Median duration of insufficient work	The median duration of insufficient work is obtained by dividing underemployed workers into two equal groups, one comprising persons whose duration of insufficient work is above the median and the other, persons whose duration is below it.
Part-time workers	Employed persons who usually work less than 35 hours a week and who did so during the reference week.
Preferred number of extra hours	The number of extra hours a week an underemployed worker would have preferred to work.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Relationship in household	Two or more related persons (relationship includes relationship by blood, marriage or adoption) usually resident in the same household at the time of the survey. A family comprises a married couple or a family head as defined, together with any persons having any of the following relationships to them: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ sons or daughters of any age, if not married and with no children of their own present;■ other relatives if not accompanied by a spouse, sons or daughters, or parents of their own; or■ any children under 15 years of age who do not have a parent present.
Status in employment	Employed persons classified by whether they were employees, employers, own account workers, or contributing family workers.
Underemployment	Underemployment covers a range of employment situations which are characterised, at their broad level, where a worker: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ worked part-time hours in the reference week and preferred to work more hours; or■ usually works full-time, but did not work full-time hours in the reference week for economic reasons.
Usual number of hours	The number of hours usually worked in a week.

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