



### THE LABOUR FORCE, AUSTRALIA, APRIL 1984 (PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES)

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#### MAIN FEATURES

Care should be taken in the interpretation of month-to-month movements in these estimates. Survey estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling variability as explained in paragraphs 14 to 18. Attention is directed to paragraph 20 concerning interpretation of seasonally adjusted estimates.

Between March and April 1984, employment fell by 25,200 and unemployment decreased by 24,500 (including a reduction of 20,500 in persons looking for full-time work). The unemployment rate fell from 9.7 per cent to 9.5 per cent and the participation rate fell from 61.5 per cent to 61.0 per cent.

In seasonally adjusted terms, unemployment increased by 16,200, and the unemployment rate rose from 9.3 per cent to 9.5 per cent. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has now been within the range of 9.3 per cent to 9.5 per cent for five successive months. The participation rate rose from 60.8 per cent to 61.0 per cent, the highest level in the last year.

Over the twelve months to April 1984, employment has risen by 224,500, of which 152,700 was full-time employment. Unemployment has fallen by 32,800 (predominantly persons looking for full-time work). The unemployment rate has decreased by 0.7 percentage points.

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTES

##### INTRODUCTION

This publication contains preliminary estimates of the civilian labour force derived from the labour force survey part of the monthly population survey. Estimates for the current month are preliminary and subject to revision. Revised figures for the current month and more detailed estimates will be published in "The Labour Force, Australia" (6203.0)

interviewers. The interviews are generally conducted during the two weeks beginning on the Monday between the 6th and 12th of each month. Because of operational problems arising from the Christmas and New Year holidays, interviews for the December 1983 survey commenced on Monday 5 December. The information obtained relates to the week before the interview (i.e. the survey week).

##### THE POPULATION SURVEY

2. The population survey is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (about 33,000 houses, flats, etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.) and covers about two-thirds of one per cent of the population of Australia. The information is obtained from the occupants of selected dwellings by carefully chosen and specially trained

##### SCOPE

3. The labour force survey includes all persons aged 15 and over except: members of the permanent defence forces; certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations; overseas residents in Australia; and members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependents) stationed in Australia.

## DEFINITIONS

4. The labour force category to which a person is assigned depends on his actual activity (i.e. whether working, looking for work, etc.) during the survey week. The following definitions, which conform closely to the international standard definitions specified by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), relate only to those persons within the scope of the survey.

5. Employed persons comprise all those aged 15 and over who, during the survey week:

- (a) worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (including employees, employers and self-employed persons); or
- (b) worked for 15 hours or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. unpaid family helpers); or
- (c) 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 survey 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 survey week; on strike or locked out; on workers' compensation and expected to be returning to their job; or receiving wages or salary while undertaking full-time study; or
- (d) were employers or self-employed persons who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

6. Unemployed persons are those aged 15 and over who were not employed during the survey week, and:

- (a) had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the survey week and:
  - (i) were available for work in the survey week, or would have been available except for temporary illness (i.e. lasting for less than four weeks to the end of the survey week); or
  - (ii) were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the survey week and would have started in the survey week if the job had been available then;

or (b) were waiting to be called back to a full-time or part-time job from

which they had been stood down without pay for less than four weeks up to the end of the survey week (including the whole of the survey week) for reasons other than bad weather or plant breakdown.

7. Unemployed persons looking for first job are those who had never worked full time for two weeks or more.

8. The unemployment rate for any group is the number unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labour force in the same group.

9. The labour force comprises all persons who, during the survey week, were employed or unemployed, as defined above.

10. The labour force participation rate for any group is the labour force expressed as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 and over in the same group.

11. Full-time workers are those who usually worked 35 hours or more a week and others who, although usually part-time workers, worked 35 hours or more during the survey week. Part-time workers are those who usually worked less than 35 hours a week and who did so during the survey week. When recording hours of work fractions of an hour are disregarded.

12. Persons not in the labour force are those who, during the survey week, were not in the categories "employed" or "unemployed".

## REVISION OF SERIES

13. Following the change in official population estimates to a place of usual residence basis after the 1981 Census of Population and Housing, the population benchmarks used in the estimation of labour force survey data are compiled according to place of usual residence. The February 1984 issue of "The Labour Force, Australia" (6203.0) contained labour force estimates from February 1978 to February 1984, compiled on the new usual residence basis along with an explanation of the change to the population estimates and its consequent effect on labour force survey estimates.

## RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

14. Since the survey estimates are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings they, and the movements derived from them, are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ by chance from the figures 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. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

15. Standard errors of estimates for the latest month and of estimates of movements since the previous month are shown in the tables. Standard errors of other estimates and other movements may be determined by using information in the Technical note in "The Labour Force, Australia" (6203.0).

16. Very small estimates are not published but are indicated with a '\*' because they are subject to high relative standard errors. Although figures for these small components can in some cases be derived by subtraction, they should not be regarded as reliable.

17. Examples of the calculation and use of standard errors are given below:

(a) The estimate of 364,000 unemployed males looking for full-time work in April 1984 has a standard error of about 6,400. Therefore there are about two chances in three that the number that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey will be within the range 357,600 to 370,400 and about nineteen chances in twenty that the number will be within the range 351,200 to 376,800.

(b) The estimate of movement in the number of unemployed males looking for full-time work from March to April 1984 is a decrease of 16,000. The standard error of this monthly movement is about 5,200. Therefore there are about two chances in three that if all dwellings had been included in the surveys the movement would have been within the range -21,200 to -10,800 and about nineteen chances in twenty that it would have been within the range -26,400 to -5,600.

18. The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the standard error, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents, errors made in collection such as in recording and coding of data, and errors made in processing the data. Inaccuracies 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 question-

naires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient operating procedures.

#### SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

19. Seasonally adjusted series are published in Tables 2 and 5. The figures in these tables were revised in the February 1984 issue of this publication. As happens with all seasonally adjusted series, the seasonal factors are reviewed annually to take account of each additional year's original data, the latest review being in February 1984 which revised the monthly series back to February 1978. Information about the method of adjustment and seasonally adjusted figures for all months since February 1978 were published in an appendix to "The Labour Force, Australia, February 1984" (6203.0).

20. The large increase in unemployment in 1982 and 1983 may have been accompanied by a change in the seasonal pattern. It would not be possible to quantify any such change adequately until some additional years' data are available. Particular care should therefore be exercised in interpreting current movements in these seasonally adjusted estimates.

#### RELATED PUBLICATIONS

21. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available on request:

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)  
- issued monthly  
Job Vacancies, Australia (6231.0)  
- issued quarterly  
Overtime, Australia (6330.0) - issued quarterly  
Labour Statistics, Australia, 1982 (6101.0)

22. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the "Catalogue of Publications, Australia" (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a "Publication Advice" (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publication Advice are available from any ABS office.

#### SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

\* subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses (see paragraph 16)  
.. not applicable

23. Figures have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

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Acting Australian Statistician





TABLE 3. LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER,  
STATES AND TERRITORIES, APRIL 1984

State or Territory	Employed		Unemployed			Labour force	Not in labour force	Civilian population aged 15 and over	Unemployment rate	Participation rate
	Full-time workers	Total	Looking for full-time work	Looking for part-time work	Total					
- '000 -										
- per cent -										
MALES										
New South Wales	1,304.4	1,394.0	136.4	5.6	142.0	1,536.1	482.6	2,018.7	9.2	76.1
Victoria	996.7	1,071.3	76.5	6.2	82.8	1,154.1	360.2	1,514.3	7.2	76.2
Queensland	607.3	647.1	64.2	3.7	67.9	715.0	210.3	925.3	9.5	77.3
South Australia	326.1	347.4	32.8	*	34.6	381.9	126.6	508.6	9.1	75.1
Western Australia	352.6	373.1	36.5	2.8	39.2	412.3	106.0	518.3	9.5	79.5
Tasmania	105.1	110.5	11.0	*	11.2	121.7	39.1	160.8	9.2	75.7
Northern Territory	30.3	32.0	3.7	*	3.7	35.7	13.6	49.3	10.3	72.4
Australian Capital Territory	58.8	61.4	2.9	*	3.9	65.3	15.5	80.8	5.9	80.8
Australia	3,781.3	4,036.8	364.0	21.3	385.3	4,422.1	1,353.9	5,776.0	8.7	76.6
FEMALES										
New South Wales	553.1	846.6	79.0	28.7	107.7	954.3	1,137.2	2,091.5	11.3	45.6
Victoria	416.6	650.5	50.2	23.3	73.5	724.0	855.3	1,579.2	10.2	45.8
Queensland	232.3	373.5	30.7	14.0	44.7	418.3	523.3	941.6	10.7	44.4
South Australia	122.1	216.5	18.2	6.2	24.4	240.9	290.7	531.6	10.1	45.3
Western Australia	132.7	227.7	18.3	7.4	25.6	253.3	263.7	517.0	10.1	49.0
Tasmania	35.7	61.6	6.4	1.8	8.3	69.9	96.1	166.0	11.8	42.1
Northern Territory	14.1	18.8	2.0	*	2.7	21.5	22.5	44.0	12.4	48.9
Australian Capital Territory	31.1	47.1	2.8	*	4.2	51.3	35.9	87.2	8.2	58.9
Australia	1,537.7	2,442.2	207.7	83.5	291.2	2,733.4	3,224.7	5,958.1	10.7	45.9
PERSONS										
New South Wales	1,857.6	2,240.6	215.4	34.3	249.8	2,490.4	1,619.8	4,110.1	10.0	60.6
Victoria	1,413.3	1,721.8	126.8	29.5	156.3	1,878.1	1,215.4	3,093.5	8.3	60.7
Queensland	839.6	1,020.6	94.9	17.7	112.7	1,133.3	733.6	1,866.9	9.9	60.7
South Australia	448.2	563.8	51.0	8.0	59.0	622.8	417.3	1,040.2	9.5	59.9
Western Australia	485.3	600.7	54.7	10.1	64.9	665.6	369.8	1,035.3	9.7	64.3
Tasmania	140.8	172.1	17.4	2.0	19.5	191.5	135.3	326.8	10.2	58.6
Northern Territory	44.4	50.8	5.7	*	6.4	57.2	36.1	93.3	11.1	61.3
Australian Capital Territory	89.9	108.6	5.7	2.4	8.1	116.7	51.4	168.0	6.9	69.4
Australia	5,319.0	6,479.0	571.7	104.8	676.5	7,155.5	4,578.6	11,734.1	9.5	61.0

TABLE 4. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, AUSTRALIA

Month	Number looking for full-time work				Number looking for part-time work	Total	Unemployment rate				
	Aged 15-19		Aged 20 and over				Looking for full-time work			Looking for part-time work	
	Looking for first job	Total		Total			Aged 15-19	Aged 20 and over	Total		Total
			- '000 -				- per cent -				
MALES											
1983 -											
March	34.2	82.9	328.7	411.6	22.9	434.6	24.7	8.7	10.0	8.4	9.9
April	28.3	76.1	330.1	406.2	23.4	429.6	23.6	8.8	10.0	8.5	9.9
May	28.2	77.2	335.6	412.8	22.5	435.3	23.8	8.9	10.1	8.4	10.0
June	24.3	75.2	332.7	407.9	16.5	424.5	24.2	8.8	10.0	6.4	9.8
July	27.8	81.9	325.2	407.0	22.0	429.0	26.8	8.6	9.9	8.5	9.8
August	26.6	75.8	333.7	409.5	20.2	429.7	25.3	8.8	10.1	7.8	9.9
September	30.5	79.4	330.9	410.3	24.7	435.0	25.7	8.6	9.9	9.6	9.9
October	32.9	75.3	309.3	384.5	16.3	400.8	25.1	8.1	9.4	6.2	9.2
November	30.5	72.8	292.6	365.5	20.4	385.9	24.5	7.7	9.0	7.6	8.9
December	57.4	101.8	289.6	391.3	28.4	419.8	29.3	7.6	9.4	10.4	9.4
1984 -											
January	53.0	104.5	319.5	424.0	28.5	452.5	30.5	8.4	10.2	10.9	10.3
February	48.5	90.8	322.4	413.2	22.7	435.8	27.1	8.4	9.9	8.9	9.8
March	36.8	81.3	298.7	380.0	24.7	404.7	24.9	7.7	9.1	9.2	9.1
April	33.4	74.7	289.4	364.0	21.3	385.3	23.3	7.6	8.8	7.7	8.7
Standard error of -											
April 1984 estimates	2.5	3.5	5.9	6.4	2.0	6.5	1.1	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.1
Mar 84 to Apr 84 movements	2.5	3.2	4.9	5.2	2.1	5.3	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.8	0.1
FEMALES											
1983 -											
March	38.2	78.5	147.8	226.2	73.1	299.3	29.7	10.2	13.2	7.7	11.2
April	32.4	72.9	132.6	205.5	74.1	279.7	27.5	9.3	12.1	8.1	10.7
May	33.0	71.4	143.3	214.7	70.5	285.2	27.0	9.9	12.5	7.7	10.8
June	30.4	65.9	139.9	205.8	62.9	268.7	26.1	9.7	12.1	6.9	10.3
July	27.0	63.1	129.2	192.3	65.9	258.2	24.8	8.9	11.3	7.2	9.9
August	28.6	64.6	133.3	197.9	59.3	257.1	25.7	9.3	11.7	6.5	9.9
September	33.6	68.7	140.1	208.8	77.2	285.9	26.3	9.4	11.9	8.4	10.7
October	27.8	61.4	121.6	183.0	69.3	252.3	24.5	8.3	10.7	7.5	9.6
November	27.2	57.5	119.1	176.7	62.2	238.9	23.4	8.1	10.3	6.6	9.0
December	52.4	84.0	126.1	210.1	60.2	270.2	29.7	8.5	11.9	6.5	10.0
1984 -											
January	48.2	83.8	129.1	212.9	54.0	266.9	29.6	8.8	12.2	6.6	10.4
February	51.7	87.2	141.4	228.6	73.7	302.3	31.9	9.5	13.0	8.1	11.3
March	37.5	70.1	142.0	212.1	84.2	296.3	27.1	9.5	12.1	8.5	10.8
April	32.1	65.2	142.5	207.7	83.5	291.2	25.5	9.6	11.9	8.5	10.7
Standard error of -											
April 1984 estimates	2.4	3.3	4.5	5.2	3.6	5.9	1.3	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2
Mar 84 to Apr 84 movements	2.5	3.1	3.9	4.4	3.3	4.8	1.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2
PERSONS											
1983 -											
March	72.4	161.4	476.5	637.9	96.0	733.9	26.9	9.1	11.0	7.9	10.4
April	60.7	149.0	462.7	611.7	97.5	709.3	25.4	8.9	10.6	8.2	10.2
May	61.2	148.6	478.9	627.5	93.0	720.5	25.2	9.2	10.8	7.9	10.3
June	54.7	141.2	472.6	613.7	79.4	693.2	25.1	9.1	10.6	6.8	10.0
July	54.8	144.9	454.4	599.3	87.9	687.2	25.9	8.7	10.3	7.5	9.8
August	55.2	140.4	467.0	607.4	79.5	686.8	25.5	9.0	10.6	6.8	9.9
September	64.1	148.1	471.0	619.0	101.9	720.9	26.0	8.8	10.5	8.7	10.2
October	60.7	136.7	430.8	567.5	85.6	653.1	24.8	8.2	9.8	7.3	9.3
November	57.7	130.3	411.8	542.1	82.6	624.7	24.0	7.8	9.4	6.9	8.9
December	109.8	185.8	415.6	601.4	88.6	690.0	29.5	7.8	10.1	7.4	9.7
1984 -											
January	101.2	188.3	448.6	636.9	82.5	719.4	30.1	8.5	10.8	7.6	10.3
February	100.1	178.0	463.8	641.8	96.4	738.2	29.3	8.7	10.8	8.3	10.4
March	74.3	151.4	440.7	592.2	108.9	701.0	25.8	8.2	10.0	8.7	9.7
April	65.5	139.9	431.8	571.7	104.8	676.5	24.2	8.1	9.7	8.3	9.5
Standard error of -											
April 1984 estimates	3.3	4.5	6.8	7.5	4.0	7.9	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1
Mar 84 to Apr 84 movements	3.1	3.9	5.4	5.9	3.5	6.2	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1

TABLE 5. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: SEASONALLY ADJUSTED SERIES

Month	Number looking for full-time work				Number looking for part- time work	Total	Unemployment rate				Total
	Aged 15-19			Total			Looking for full-time work			Looking for part-time work	
	Looking for first job	Total	Aged 20 and over				Aged 15-19	Aged 20 and over	Total		
MALES											
1983 -											
March	33.7	86.2	313.8	400.0	20.9	420.9	26.1	8.4	9.8	7.8	9.7
April	36.0	87.1	327.9	415.0	23.9	438.9	26.4	8.7	10.1	8.9	10.0
May	35.4	81.8	334.7	416.5	20.9	437.4	25.3	8.8	10.1	8.0	10.0
June	36.3	86.4	343.8	430.2	19.6	449.8	26.7	9.0	10.4	7.6	10.3
July	39.7	91.1	332.2	423.3	22.6	445.9	28.8	8.7	10.3	8.6	10.2
August	37.3	87.3	334.7	422.0	22.0	444.0	27.1	8.8	10.3	8.6	10.2
September	36.3	86.7	327.1	413.8	24.6	438.4	27.1	8.6	10.0	9.7	10.0
October	37.0	84.1	323.8	407.9	17.5	425.4	26.2	8.5	9.9	6.9	9.7
November	35.7	80.4	309.4	389.8	24.3	414.1	25.1	8.1	9.5	9.1	9.4
December	33.7	77.7	304.2	381.9	21.9	403.8	24.7	8.0	9.2	8.2	9.2
1984 -											
January	32.5	77.8	301.7	379.5	27.3	406.8	25.1	7.9	9.2	9.8	9.3
February	34.6	75.1	299.9	375.0	22.6	397.6	24.2	7.9	9.1	8.3	9.0
March	36.2	84.5	284.7	369.1	22.6	391.7	26.3	7.4	8.9	8.6	8.8
April	42.5	85.5	287.2	372.8	21.7	394.4	26.1	7.5	9.0	8.0	8.9
FEMALES											
1983 -											
March	34.8	74.9	136.2	211.1	63.3	274.4	29.0	9.4	12.4	6.9	10.5
April	33.4	72.9	130.2	203.1	69.6	272.7	27.8	9.1	12.0	7.7	10.5
May	35.2	72.9	140.5	213.4	68.0	281.4	27.5	9.7	12.5	7.5	10.7
June	36.4	70.7	139.8	210.5	63.6	274.1	27.3	9.6	12.3	6.9	10.4
July	34.4	71.1	137.2	208.3	70.1	278.4	27.0	9.4	12.1	7.7	10.6
August	37.0	70.4	137.5	207.9	67.0	274.9	26.8	9.4	12.1	7.4	10.5
September	42.6	77.2	141.0	218.2	73.6	291.8	28.0	9.6	12.5	8.1	11.0
October	37.4	72.2	134.4	206.6	65.0	271.6	26.9	9.2	11.9	7.2	10.3
November	36.5	69.5	127.4	196.9	68.4	265.3	26.4	8.7	11.4	7.5	10.0
December	35.5	68.7	127.8	196.5	63.4	259.9	26.3	8.7	11.4	6.9	9.8
1984 -											
January	31.8	66.3	127.9	194.2	65.8	260.0	25.7	8.7	11.2	7.1	9.8
February	38.8	73.8	124.5	198.3	65.0	263.2	28.8	8.4	11.5	7.0	9.9
March	34.1	66.8	130.7	197.6	72.8	270.4	26.4	8.8	11.3	7.6	10.0
April	33.0	65.1	140.3	205.4	78.4	283.9	25.7	9.4	11.8	8.0	10.4
PERSONS											
1983 -											
March	68.5	161.1	450.0	611.1	84.2	695.3	27.4	8.7	10.6	7.1	10.0
April	69.4	160.0	458.1	618.1	93.5	711.6	27.0	8.8	10.7	7.9	10.2
May	70.6	154.7	475.2	629.9	88.9	718.8	26.3	9.1	10.8	7.6	10.3
June	72.7	157.1	483.6	640.7	83.2	723.9	27.0	9.2	11.0	7.1	10.3
July	74.1	162.2	469.4	631.6	92.7	724.3	28.0	8.9	10.8	7.9	10.3
August	74.3	157.7	472.2	629.9	89.0	718.9	26.9	9.0	10.8	7.7	10.3
September	78.9	163.9	468.1	632.0	98.2	730.2	27.5	8.9	10.7	8.5	10.4
October	74.4	156.3	458.2	614.5	82.5	697.0	26.5	8.7	10.5	7.2	9.9
November	72.2	149.9	436.8	586.7	92.7	679.4	25.7	8.3	10.0	7.9	9.7
December	69.2	146.4	432.0	578.4	85.3	663.7	25.5	8.2	9.9	7.2	9.4
1984 -											
January	64.3	144.1	429.6	573.7	93.1	666.8	25.4	8.2	9.8	7.7	9.5
February	73.4	148.8	424.4	573.2	87.6	660.8	26.3	8.0	9.8	7.3	9.4
March	70.2	151.3	415.4	566.7	95.3	662.1	26.4	7.8	9.6	7.8	9.3
April	75.6	150.7	427.5	578.2	100.1	678.3	25.9	8.0	9.8	8.0	9.5





