

## Introduction

The data in this chapter include statistics on the labour force and industrial disputes. The data are from the original series, unless otherwise indicated. Data sources include the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS), quarterly business Survey of Employment and Earnings and the monthly Industrial Disputes Collection, all of which are conducted by the ABS.

The labour force concept is the basis for measuring employment and unemployment, and measures the total official supply of labour available. The labour force is broadly defined as persons aged 15 years and over who are either employed or unemployed in a given reference week. The employed can also be considered in terms of full-time and part-time status, which is determined by the number of hours worked per week. Part-time workers are those who usually work less than 35 hours per week in all jobs. The labour force participation rate is the number of persons in the labour force as a percentage of the civilian population of working age (15 years and over), and serves as a measure of those participating in economic activity.

The ABS conducts a monthly household-based labour force survey which provides estimates at national, state and regional levels. This survey produces major statistical indicators such as the number of persons employed and unemployed. In the LFS, persons are considered unemployed if they: are aged 15 years and over and are not employed during the reference week; had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week; and were available for work in the reference week or were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week, and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then. The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of persons in the labour force.

From April 2001, the Labour Force Survey was conducted using a redesigned questionnaire containing additional items and a small number of definitional changes to provide more precise, consistent and detailed data, that reflect contemporary labour market developments. The changes bring ABS definitions into closer alignment with international standards for labour force statistics. The core labour force series have been revised from April 1986 to March 2001 to adjust for the most significant changes, ensuring continuity of time series data. Refer to the *Information Paper: Implementing the Redesigned Labour Force Survey Questionnaire* (Cat. no. 6295.0) for further information about the questionnaire changes and the revised series.

Measures of industrial disputes are collected monthly by the ABS. An industrial dispute is defined as a withdrawal from work by a group of employees, or a refusal by an employer or a number of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work. The collection is restricted to stoppages and lockouts of 10 working days or more at the establishments where the stoppages occurred. These statistics are based on all disputes identified which occurred during the period.

## The labour force

In August 2001, there were 2,455,100 persons in the Victorian labour force (table 5.1). This comprised 2,303,100 employed and 152,000 unemployed persons. The Victorian participation rate was 63.2%. The unemployment rate (which measures the number of unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force) was 6.2%.

As a whole, the participation rate has remained steady at around 63% over the past five years. The unemployment rate has declined from 8.4% in August 1996 to 6.2% in August 2001. The number of employed persons has increased over this period by 10.4% (217,600).

While full-time employment grew by 5.9% between August 1996 and August 2001, part-time employment increased by 23.7%. Part-time employment as a proportion of total employment has increased from 25.4% in August 1996 to 28.4% in August 2001.

Part-time employment is significantly higher for females than for males. Females comprised 70.9% of all part-time workers in August 2001 and 45.7% of all employed females were employed part-time, compared with 14.8% of employed males. Growth in part-time employment, however, has been 36.6% for males since August 1996, compared with 19.0% for females.

The unemployment rate is lower for females than for males (5.8% and 6.5% respectively). The participation rate for females increased between August 1996 and August 2001, while that for males decreased. There remains, however, a significant difference between the participation rates of females and males (54.6% and 72.2% respectively).

## 5.1 CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, By Labour Force Status and Sex

| August  | Employed  |           |         | Unemployed |       | Labour force | Not in labour force | Unemployment rate | Participation rate |
|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|------------|-------|--------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
|         | Full-time | Part-time | Total   | Full-time  | Total |              |                     |                   |                    |
|         | '000      | '000      | '000    | '000       | '000  | '000         | '000                | %                 | %                  |
| MALES   |           |           |         |            |       |              |                     |                   |                    |
| 1996    | 1 047.0   | 139.2     | 1 186.2 | 96.8       | 108.1 | 1 294.3      | 471.4               | 8.4               | 73.3               |
| 1997    | 1 026.5   | 147.9     | 1 174.4 | 98.5       | 112.4 | 1 286.8      | 501.9               | 8.7               | 71.9               |
| 1998    | 1 050.9   | 158.0     | 1 208.9 | 86.2       | 101.6 | 1 310.5      | 504.3               | 7.8               | 72.2               |
| 1999    | 1 073.0   | 154.7     | 1 227.7 | 79.2       | 95.6  | 1 323.3      | 519.0               | 7.2               | 71.8               |
| 2000    | 1 093.3   | 174.3     | 1 267.7 | 64.9       | 82.4  | 1 350.0      | 521.5               | 6.1               | 72.1               |
| 2001    | 1 095.6   | 190.2     | 1 285.8 | 72.3       | 89.0  | 1 374.8      | 529.5               | 6.5               | 72.2               |
| FEMALES |           |           |         |            |       |              |                     |                   |                    |
| 1996    | 509.2     | 390.2     | 899.4   | 60.2       | 82.1  | 981.4        | 866.7               | 8.4               | 53.1               |
| 1997    | 500.5     | 398.4     | 898.8   | 56.2       | 82.0  | 980.9        | 890.4               | 8.4               | 52.4               |
| 1998    | 537.9     | 420.3     | 958.2   | 50.4       | 77.2  | 1 035.4      | 860.9               | 7.5               | 54.6               |
| 1999    | 527.8     | 427.4     | 955.2   | 38.1       | 65.2  | 1 020.3      | 902.6               | 6.4               | 53.1               |
| 2000    | 550.4     | 454.6     | 1 005.0 | 39.1       | 57.7  | 1 062.7      | 887.6               | 5.4               | 54.5               |
| 2001    | 552.9     | 464.4     | 1 017.3 | 40.9       | 63.0  | 1 080.3      | 897.3               | 5.8               | 54.6               |
| PERSONS |           |           |         |            |       |              |                     |                   |                    |
| 1996    | 1 556.1   | 529.4     | 2 085.5 | 157.0      | 190.2 | 2 275.7      | 1 338.0             | 8.4               | 63.0               |
| 1997    | 1 526.9   | 546.3     | 2 073.2 | 154.8      | 194.5 | 2 267.7      | 1 392.4             | 8.6               | 62.0               |
| 1998    | 1 588.8   | 578.3     | 2 167.0 | 136.6      | 178.8 | 2 345.9      | 1 365.2             | 7.6               | 63.2               |
| 1999    | 1 600.8   | 582.1     | 2 182.9 | 117.3      | 160.8 | 2 343.7      | 1 421.6             | 6.9               | 62.2               |
| 2000    | 1 643.7   | 629.0     | 2 272.7 | 104.0      | 140.0 | 2 412.7      | 1 409.1             | 5.8               | 63.1               |
| 2001    | 1 648.5   | 654.7     | 2 303.1 | 113.2      | 152.0 | 2 455.1      | 1 426.8             | 6.2               | 63.2               |

Source: Labour Force, Victoria (Cat. no. 6202.2).

## Unemployment

Duration of unemployment was previously defined in the LFS as the period of time from when an unemployed person began looking for work, until the end of the reference week; or the period of time since an unemployed person has worked full-time for two weeks or more, until the end of the reference week; whichever was the shorter period. Under the new questionnaire, the revised definition retains the two alternative criteria, but the second criterion now refers to the period of time since a person last worked in *any* job for two weeks or more, regardless of whether it was full-time or part-time. Due to this definitional change, unemployment duration data are not strictly comparable to data collected prior to April 2001.

In August 2001, 45.6% of unemployed persons were out of work for less than 13 weeks, 33.9% were unemployed for between 13 and 52 weeks and 20.5% were unemployed for 52 weeks or more (long-term unemployed) (table 2.5).

The proportion of unemployed persons who were long-term unemployed in August 2001 increased with age, ranging from 12.1% for 15–24 year olds to 43.0% for persons aged 55 years and over.

## 5.2 UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, By Age and Duration of Unemployment(a) — August 2001

| Duration of unemployment (weeks) | Age group (years) |             |             |             |             |             | Total        |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
|                                  | 15–19             | 20–24       | 25–34       | 35–44       | 45–54       | 55 and over |              |
|                                  | '000              | '000        | '000        | '000        | '000        | '000        | '000         |
| Under 13                         | 15.8              | 15.4        | 15.7        | 11.6        | 7.9         | *2.8        | 69.3         |
| 13 and under 52                  | 9.0               | 11.3        | 14.0        | 8.4         | 5.8         | *3.1        | 51.6         |
| 52 and over                      | *3.8              | *3.3        | 5.5         | 7.7         | 6.4         | *4.4        | 31.1         |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>28.6</b>       | <b>30.1</b> | <b>35.3</b> | <b>27.7</b> | <b>20.1</b> | <b>10.3</b> | <b>152.0</b> |

(a) Duration refers to the elapsed period to the end of the reference week since a person began looking for work, or since a person last worked for 2 weeks or more, whichever is shorter. Brief periods of work (of less than 2 weeks) since the person began looking for work are disregarded.

Source: ABS data available on request, Labour Force Survey.

## Age

Employment and unemployment characteristics vary markedly with age. Participation rates are highest amongst persons aged 20–54 years, ages traditionally associated with being in full-time employment. In August 2001, the highest participation rate was 82.4% among 35–44 year olds (table 5.3). In contrast, the participation rate for 15–19 year olds was 54.5%, lower than any other age group below age 60. This age group also had the highest unemployment rate (15.9%). Of those persons who were employed, the 15–19 year old age group had the highest proportion in part-time work (71.2% of employed persons).

## 5.3 CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, By Labour Force Status and Age — August 2001

| Age group (years) | Employed       |              |                | Unemployed   | Labour force   | Not in labour force | Unemployment rate | Participation rate |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
|                   | Full-time      | Part-time    | Total          |              |                |                     |                   |                    |
|                   | '000           | '000         | '000           | '000         | '000           | '000                | %                 | %                  |
| 15–19             | 43.8           | 107.9        | 151.6          | 28.6         | 180.2          | 150.5               | 15.9              | 54.5               |
| 20–24             | 172.4          | 83.6         | 256.0          | 30.1         | 286.0          | 67.1                | 10.5              | 81.0               |
| 25–34             | 459.0          | 110.3        | 569.3          | 35.3         | 604.6          | 139.1               | 5.8               | 81.3               |
| 35–44             | 430.3          | 144.8        | 575.1          | 27.7         | 602.8          | 129.0               | 4.6               | 82.4               |
| 45–54             | 387.7          | 117.6        | 505.4          | 20.1         | 525.4          | 126.2               | 3.8               | 80.6               |
| 55–59             | 98.0           | 44.3         | 142.3          | 7.2          | 149.5          | 99.3                | 4.8               | 60.1               |
| 60–64             | 42.0           | 24.9         | 66.9           | *2.8         | 69.7           | 132.8               | *4.0              | 34.4               |
| 65 and over       | 15.3           | 21.2         | 36.6           | *0.3         | 36.9           | 582.7               | *0.8              | 5.9                |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>1 648.5</b> | <b>654.7</b> | <b>2 303.1</b> | <b>152.0</b> | <b>2 455.1</b> | <b>1 426.8</b>      | <b>6.2</b>        | <b>63.2</b>        |

Source: ABS data available on request, Labour Force Survey.

## Birthplace

In August 2001, nearly one in four employed Victorians (24.8%) were born overseas (table 5.4). Participation rates for persons born overseas were generally lower than for those born in Australia. Persons born in the main English-speaking countries had a higher labour force participation rate than those born elsewhere overseas (65.0% and 50.7% respectively), and a lower unemployment rate (5.5% and 8.4% respectively).

The only birthplace region having a higher participation rate than Australia was Oceania (excluding Australia), with 79.0%. The majority of persons in this group were born in New Zealand. The lowest participation rate was 48.1%, for persons born in Europe and the Former USSR.

#### 5.4 CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER (a), By Labour Force Status and Birthplace — August 2001

| Birthplace                                 | Employed full-time<br>'000 | Total employed<br>'000 | Total unem-<br>ployed<br>'000 | Labour force<br>'000 | Not in labour force<br>'000 | Unem-<br>ployment rate<br>% | Parti-<br>cipation rate<br>% |
|--|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Australia                                  | 1 207.6                    | 1 732.2                | 106.0                         | 1 838.1              | 832.5                       | 5.8                         | 68.8                         |
| Oceania (excluding Australia)              | 38.7                       | 46.4                   | *3.3                          | 49.8                 | 13.2                        | *6.7                        | 79.0                         |
| Europe and the Former USSR                 | 216.4                      | 282.8                  | 18.4                          | 301.2                | 325.0                       | 6.1                         | 48.1                         |
| Middle East and North Africa               | 23.0                       | 28.9                   | *4.2                          | 33.1                 | 34.2                        | *12.7                       | 49.2                         |
| Southeast Asia                             | 67.9                       | 81.7                   | 9.4                           | 91.1                 | 62.8                        | 10.3                        | 59.2                         |
| Northeast Asia                             | 22.5                       | 30.0                   | *2.5                          | 32.5                 | 30.8                        | *7.6                        | 51.4                         |
| Southern Asia                              | 36.4                       | 50.5                   | *2.4                          | 52.9                 | 25.8                        | *4.5                        | 67.2                         |
| The Americas                               | 15.9                       | 21.9                   | *2.3                          | 24.2                 | 11.4                        | *9.5                        | 67.9                         |
| Africa (excluding North Africa)            | 19.8                       | 28.5                   | *3.6                          | 32.1                 | 12.7                        | *11.2                       | 71.6                         |
| Main English-speaking countries (b)        | 141.7                      | 182.8                  | 10.6                          | 193.4                | 104.2                       | 5.5                         | 65.0                         |
| Other than main English-speaking countries | 299.1                      | 388.2                  | 35.4                          | 423.6                | 411.7                       | 8.4                         | 50.7                         |
| <i>Total born outside Australia (c)</i>    | <i>440.8</i>               | <i>571.0</i>           | <i>46.0</i>                   | <i>617.0</i>         | <i>515.9</i>                | <i>7.5</i>                  | <i>54.5</i>                  |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>1 648.5</b>             | <b>2 303.1</b>         | <b>152.0</b>                  | <b>2 455.1</b>       | <b>1 348.4</b>              | <b>6.2</b>                  | <b>64.5</b>                  |

(a) Excluding persons in institutions. (b) United Kingdom, Ireland, South Africa, USA, Canada and New Zealand. (c) Includes born at sea.

Source: *Labour Force, Victoria (Cat. no. 6202.2)*.

## Industry

The major employing industries in Victoria in August 2001 were manufacturing (361,100 persons), retail trade (360,100 persons), and property and business services (255,800 persons) (table 5.5). These industries accounted for 15.7%, 15.6% and 11.1% respectively, of employed persons.

There were marked differences by sex with regard to the industry of employment. Males dominated employment in construction (88.9% of employed persons), mining (84.1%), transport and storage (77.3%), and electricity, gas and water supply (74.6%). Females, comprised 78.8% of employment in health and community services, and 64.9% of those employed in education.

## 5.5 EMPLOYED PERSONS, By Industry and Sex — August 2001

| Industry                              | Males              |                    |                | Females            |                    |                | Persons            |                    |                |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|
|                                       | Employed Full Time | Employed Part Time | Employed Total | Employed Full Time | Employed Part-time | Employed Total | Employed Full Time | Employed Part Time | Employed Total |
|                                       | '000               | '000               | '000           | '000               | '000               | '000           | '000               | '000               | '000           |
| Agriculture, forestry and fishing     | 47.1               | 10.2               | 57.4           | 16.5               | 17.4               | 33.9           | 63.7               | 27.6               | 91.3           |
| Mining                                | *3.2               | *0.0               | *3.2           | *0.3               | *0.3               | *0.6           | *3.5               | *0.3               | *3.8           |
| Manufacturing                         | 243.1              | 14.2               | 257.3          | 76.3               | 27.4               | 103.8          | 319.4              | 41.6               | 361.1          |
| Electricity, gas and water supply     | 15.3               | *0.0               | 15.3           | 4.7                | *0.6               | 5.2            | 19.9               | *0.6               | 20.5           |
| Construction                          | 131.5              | 9.0                | 140.5          | 4.6                | 13.0               | 17.6           | 136.1              | 22.0               | 158.1          |
| Wholesale trade                       | 62.3               | 7.4                | 69.7           | 22.1               | 11.3               | 33.5           | 84.5               | 18.8               | 103.2          |
| Retail trade                          | 124.8              | 58.5               | 183.3          | 66.1               | 110.7              | 176.8          | 190.9              | 169.2              | 360.1          |
| Accommodation, cafes and restaurants  | 26.8               | 14.0               | 40.8           | 21.9               | 28.3               | 50.1           | 48.7               | 42.3               | 91.0           |
| Transport and storage                 | 71.7               | 8.6                | 80.3           | 15.2               | 8.4                | 23.6           | 86.9               | 17.0               | 103.9          |
| Communication services                | 32.5               | *3.2               | 35.6           | 10.7               | *2.9               | 13.6           | 43.2               | 6.0                | 49.2           |
| Finance and insurance                 | 41.7               | *2.4               | 44.0           | 35.9               | 14.0               | 49.9           | 77.6               | 16.4               | 94.0           |
| Property and business services        | 118.8              | 22.5               | 141.3          | 67.7               | 46.8               | 114.5          | 186.5              | 69.3               | 255.8          |
| Government administration and defence | 33.6               | 4.7                | 38.2           | 29.3               | 13.1               | 42.4           | 62.9               | 17.7               | 80.6           |
| Education                             | 44.8               | 13.4               | 58.2           | 65.1               | 42.4               | 107.5          | 109.9              | 55.8               | 165.7          |
| Health and community services         | 38.3               | 8.5                | 46.8           | 83.1               | 91.3               | 174.4          | 121.4              | 99.8               | 221.2          |
| Cultural and recreational services    | 22.1               | 8.0                | 30.1           | 14.2               | 14.2               | 28.4           | 36.3               | 22.2               | 58.5           |
| Personal and other services           | 38.1               | 5.6                | 43.7           | 18.9               | 22.5               | 41.4           | 57.0               | 28.1               | 85.1           |
| <b>Total all industries</b>           | <b>1 095.6</b>     | <b>190.2</b>       | <b>1 285.8</b> | <b>552.9</b>       | <b>464.4</b>       | <b>1 017.3</b> | <b>1 648.5</b>     | <b>654.7</b>       | <b>2 303.1</b> |

Source: Labour Force, Victoria (Cat. no. 6202.2).

## Occupation

In August 2001, professionals comprised one in five employed persons in Victoria (20.1%), followed by intermediate clerical, sales and service workers (16.2%) (table 5.6). The largest occupation group for males was tradespersons and related workers (20.6%), and for females it was intermediate clerical, sales and service workers (27.2%). Females comprised 86.6% of advanced clerical, sales and service workers, while 89.2% of tradespersons and related workers were male.

## 5.6 EMPLOYED PERSONS, By Occupation and Sex — August 2001

| Occupation                                       | Number         |                |                | Proportion   |              |              |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|  | Males          | Females        | Persons        | Males        | Females      | Persons      |
|  | '000           | '000           | '000           | %            | %            | %            |
| Managers and administrators                      | 143.8          | 54.2           | 198.0          | 11.2         | 5.3          | 8.6          |
| Professionals                                    | 235.9          | 227.3          | 463.2          | 18.3         | 22.3         | 20.1         |
| Associate professionals                          | 167.3          | 97.8           | 265.1          | 13.0         | 9.6          | 11.5         |
| Tradespersons and related workers                | 265.2          | 32.2           | 297.4          | 20.6         | 3.2          | 12.9         |
| Advanced clerical and service workers            | 12.7           | 82.2           | 94.9           | 1.0          | 8.1          | 4.1          |
| Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers | 97.6           | 276.2          | 373.8          | 7.6          | 27.2         | 16.2         |
| Intermediate production and transport workers    | 175.5          | 28.8           | 204.3          | 13.6         | 2.8          | 8.9          |
| Elementary clerical, sales and service workers   | 81.7           | 145.8          | 227.5          | 6.4          | 14.3         | 9.9          |
| Labourers and related workers                    | 106.2          | 72.7           | 178.9          | 8.3          | 7.1          | 7.8          |
| <b>Total all occupations</b>                     | <b>1 285.8</b> | <b>1 017.3</b> | <b>2 303.1</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

Source: Labour Force, Victoria (Cat. no. 6202.2).

## Sector

In May 2001, the quarterly business Survey of Employment and Earnings estimated 1,997,300 wage and salary earners in Victoria, the majority of which (83.9%) were employed in the private sector (table 5.7). The proportion of persons employed in the private sector has increased from 79.5% in May 1996. Growth in private sector employment has been partially offset by a decrease in public sector employment, especially in the Commonwealth Government, which declined by 30,400 persons (36.1%) between May 1996 and May 2001. The proportion of persons employed in the public sector has declined over the past five years from 20.5% in May 1996 to 16.1% in May 2001.

## 5.7 WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, Sector — Trend

| May  | Private | Public                  |                  |                  | Total   |
|------|---------|-------------------------|------------------|------------------|---------|
|      |         | Commonwealth Government | State Government | Local Government |         |
|      | '000    | '000                    | '000             | '000             | '000    |
| 1996 | 1 379.4 | 84.1                    | 229.9            | 40.7             | 1 734.1 |
| 1997 | 1 412.2 | 65.9                    | 218.4            | 39.7             | 1 736.2 |
| 1998 | 1 429.1 | 59.1                    | 222.0            | 31.2             | 1 741.4 |
| 1999 | 1 493.5 | 53.3                    | 218.7            | 31.0             | 1 796.5 |
| 2000 | 1 561.5 | 55.5                    | 219.6            | 32.1             | 1 868.7 |
| 2001 | 1 676.6 | 53.7                    | 234.0            | 33.0             | 1 997.3 |

Source: Wage and Salary Earners, Australia (Cat. no. 6248.0).

## Labour force regions

In August 2001, persons in metropolitan Melbourne had higher labour force participation than those in the balance of Victoria (64.1% compared with 61.0%) and lower unemployment (5.9% compared with 6.9%) (table 5.8). In metropolitan Melbourne, 42.0% of employed females worked part-time, compared with 56.5% in the balance of Victoria.

At the regional level there were even greater differences in labour force characteristics. The lowest unemployment rate (4.0%) was recorded in both Outer Eastern and Inner Eastern Melbourne, and the highest (10.7%) in North Western Melbourne.

The regions with the highest and lowest participation rates were both in metropolitan Melbourne, these being Outer Eastern Melbourne (72.3%) and Outer Western Melbourne (59.2%).

The proportion of employed persons who were female varied from 51.0% in Inner Melbourne to 40.6% in South-Eastern Melbourne. Inner Melbourne also recorded the lowest proportion of employed females working part-time (29.2%), while the highest was in Central Highlands-Wimmera (68.6%).

#### 5.8 CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, By Labour Force Status and Labour Force Region(a) — August 2001

| Labour Force Region              | Employed full-time |                 | Employed part-time |                 | Total employed<br>'000 | Unem-<br>ployed<br>'000 | Labour<br>force<br>'000 | Unem-<br>ployment<br>rate<br>% | Parti-<br>cipation<br>rate<br>% |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|                                  | Males<br>'000      | Females<br>'000 | Males<br>'000      | Females<br>'000 |                        |                         |                         |                                |                                 |
| <b>Melbourne</b>                 |                    |                 |                    |                 |                        |                         |                         |                                |                                 |
| Outer Western Melbourne          | 123.9              | 67.5            | 14.1               | 39.2            | 244.7                  | 21.9                    | 266.7                   | 8.2                            | 59.2                            |
| North Western Melbourne          | 59.9               | 29.5            | 15.3               | 27.4            | 132.1                  | 15.8                    | 147.9                   | 10.7                           | 65.0                            |
| Inner Melbourne                  | 59.7               | 51.3            | 10.0               | 21.2            | 142.2                  | 10.9                    | 153.1                   | 7.1                            | 69.0                            |
| North Eastern Melbourne          | 92.9               | 47.4            | 15.8               | 38.3            | 194.3                  | 13.0                    | 207.4                   | 6.3                            | 62.1                            |
| Inner Eastern Melbourne          | 140.6              | 72.5            | 29.7               | 59.0            | 301.8                  | 12.5                    | 314.4                   | 4.0                            | 64.1                            |
| Southern Melbourne               | 91.4               | 54.9            | 14.6               | 34.0            | 194.9                  | 9.1                     | 204.0                   | 4.5                            | 64.3                            |
| Outer Eastern Melbourne          | 113.3              | 57.3            | 15.9               | 46.3            | 232.8                  | 9.7                     | 242.5                   | 4.0                            | 72.3                            |
| South Eastern Melbourne          | 81.4               | 39.9            | 13.7               | 25.2            | 160.2                  | 10.0                    | 170.2                   | 5.9                            | 61.2                            |
| Mornington Peninsula             | 52.1               | 20.7            | 8.5                | 28.3            | 109.6                  | 5.1                     | 114.7                   | 4.4                            | 61.0                            |
| <b>Total Melbourne</b>           | <b>815.3</b>       | <b>440.9</b>    | <b>137.6</b>       | <b>318.9</b>    | <b>1 712.8</b>         | <b>108.1</b>            | <b>1 820.8</b>          | <b>5.9</b>                     | <b>64.1</b>                     |
| <b>Balance of Victoria</b>       |                    |                 |                    |                 |                        |                         |                         |                                |                                 |
| Barwon–Western District          | 78.2               | 33.8            | 16.6               | 38.4            | 166.9                  | 8.8                     | 175.8                   | 5.0                            | 60.3                            |
| Central Highlands–Wimmera        | 39.4               | 12.7            | 7.9                | 27.7            | 87.7                   | 8.7                     | 96.4                    | 9.0                            | 59.7                            |
| Loddon–Mallee                    | 52.3               | 25.4            | 10.5               | 22.6            | 110.8                  | 11.0                    | 121.9                   | 9.1                            | 63.2                            |
| Goulburn–Ovens–Murray            | 64.6               | 25.4            | 11.3               | 34.6            | 135.9                  | 7.7                     | 143.7                   | 5.4                            | 62.9                            |
| All Gippsland                    | 45.9               | 14.7            | 6.3                | 22.1            | 88.9                   | 7.7                     | 96.6                    | 7.9                            | 58.5                            |
| <b>Total Balance of Victoria</b> | <b>280.3</b>       | <b>111.9</b>    | <b>52.6</b>        | <b>145.5</b>    | <b>590.4</b>           | <b>43.9</b>             | <b>634.3</b>            | <b>6.9</b>                     | <b>61.0</b>                     |
| <b>Total Victoria</b>            | <b>095.6</b>       | <b>552.9</b>    | <b>190.2</b>       | <b>464.4</b>    | <b>2 303.1</b>         | <b>152.0</b>            | <b>2 455.1</b>          | <b>6.2</b>                     | <b>63.2</b>                     |

(a) Refer to Appendix for map displaying Labour Force Regions.

Source: Labour Force, Victoria (Cat. no. 6202.2).

## Industrial disputes

After a steady increase in the total number of industrial disputes between 1996 and 1999, the year 2000 saw a slight decrease in the number of disputes in Victoria (table 5.9). The largest increase occurred between 1998 and 1999, when the number of disputes increased by 75.2% (from 137 to 240). The number of employees involved in industrial disputes increased by 36.8% between 1998 and 1999, while working days lost increased by 9.1%.

During the 12 months ended December 2000, there were 230 disputes, which was 4.3% lower than in the 12 months ended December 1999 (240), while the number of employees involved decreased by 57.8% to 71,000. There were 139,800 working days lost during the 12 months ended December 2000, a 35.9% decrease compared with the 12 months ended December 1999 (218,200).



## 5.9 INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES — Year ending 31 December

|      | Total disputes | Total employees involved | Working days lost | Working days lost per thousand employees |
|------|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--|
|      | no.            | '000                     | '000              | '000                                     |
| 1995 | 110            | 79.0                     | 126.1             | 72.0                                     |
| 1996 | 98             | 121.1                    | 218.1             | 122.0                                    |
| 1997 | 112            | 129.1                    | 212.1             | 118.0                                    |
| 1998 | 137            | 122.9                    | 200.0             | 108.0                                    |
| 1999 | 240            | 168.1                    | 218.2             | 116.0                                    |
| 2000 | 230            | 71.0                     | 139.8             | 71.0                                     |

Source: *Industrial Disputes, Australia* (Cat. no. 6321.0); ABS data available on request, *Industrial Disputes Collection*.

During 2000, the highest level of disputation occurred in the manufacturing industry, which accounted for 46.2% of working days lost and 33.8% of all employees involved in disputes (table 5.10). The construction industry accounted for 38.6% of working days lost and 43.1% of all employees involved. The average number of working days lost per employee involved in disputes in the manufacturing industry was 2.7, which compares with 1.8 in the construction industry, and 2.0 for all industries.

## 5.10 INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, By Industry — Year ending 31 December 2000

| Industry  | Disputes(a)<br>no. | Employees involved<br>'000 | Working days lost |              |
|---|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
|   |                    |                            | '000              | %            |
| Agriculture   | —                  | —                          | —                 | —            |
| Mining  | n.p.               | 0.2                        | 0.2               | 0.1          |
| Manufacturing                                       | 104                | 24.0                       | 64.6              | 46.2         |
| Electricity, gas and water supply                   | 5                  | 0.6                        | 4.6               | 3.3          |
| Construction  | 82                 | 30.6                       | 53.9              | 38.6         |
| Wholesale and retail trade, cafes and accommodation | 7                  | 0.4                        | 3.9               | 2.8          |
| Transport and storage                               | 10                 | 1.9                        | 1.4               | 1.0          |
| Communication services                              | 3                  | 0.1                        | —                 | —            |
| Finance insurance, property and business services   | 13                 | 5.2                        | 5.0               | 3.6          |
| Government administration and defence               | n.p.               | 0.2                        | —                 | —            |
| Education, health and community services            | 10                 | 7.3                        | 5.8               | 4.1          |
| Cultural, recreational, personal and other services | 4                  | 0.5                        | 0.5               | 0.4          |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>230</b>         | <b>71.0</b>                | <b>139.8</b>      | <b>100.0</b> |

(a) A dispute affecting more than one industry is counted once in each industry but only once at the total level.

Source: ABS data available on request, *Industrial Disputes Collection*.

## **Bibliography**

### **ABS sources**

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