



2009 LABOUR STATISTICS IN BRIEF

CATALOGUE NO. 6104.0

OVERVIEW

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

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

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

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

KEY FACTS

	UNITS	ANNUAL AVERAGE	
		1988	2008
CIVILIAN POPULATION			
Aged 15 years and over	`000	12 783.8	17 207.7

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION

Males	%	75.2	72.5
Females	%	49.8	58.5
Persons	%	62.3	65.4

EMPLOYMENT

Males	`000	4 428.0	5 901.6
Females	`000	2 984.6	4 875.9
Persons	`000	7 412.6	10 777.4
Employment/population ratio	%	58.0	62.6
Part-time employment: Proportion of total employment			
Males	%	7.2	15.1
Females	%	38.9	44.6

UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployed persons	`000	557.5	476.6
Unemployment rate			
Males	%	6.6	4.0
Females	%	7.5	4.6
Persons	%	7.0	4.2
Average duration of unemployment	weeks	48.3(a)	32.8(b)
Median duration of unemployment	weeks	na (c)	9.0

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

(b) Duration of unemployment since last job.

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

LABOUR FORCE UNDERUTILISATION

	ANNUAL AVERAGE 2008	
	`000	%
Underutilised labour force (a)	1 149.1	10.3(b)
Underemployed (c)	678.7	6.1
Unemployed	470.4	4.2
Labour Force	11 210.7	100.0

(a) Comprises the unemployed plus the underemployed.

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

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

KEY FACTS

		ANNUAL AVERAGE	
		1988	2008
HOURS WORKED (a)			
Employed persons	hours	34.8	33.6
Full-time	hours	39.7	40.4
Part-time	hours	14.7	16.4

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

		YEAR ENDED DECEMBER	
		1988	2008
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS			
Industrial disputes			
Working days lost per thousand employees	no.	264.9	21.0
Working days lost	'000	1 641.4	196.6

		AUG 1988	AUG 2008
Trade union members	%	42	18.9

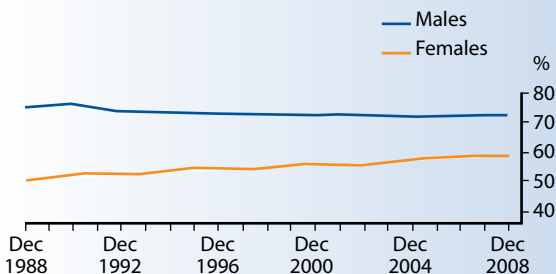
		12 MONTHS TO DEC QTR 2008	
CHANGES IN WAGES AND PRICES			
Wage price index, total hourly rate of pay excluding bonuses	%		4.3
Consumer price index, all groups	%		3.7

		NOV 1988	NOV 2008
EARNINGS OF EMPLOYEES			
Average weekly earnings			
Full-time adult total earnings			
Males	\$	558.90	1 315.50
Females	\$	439.60	1 050.10
Persons	\$	520.20	1 216.80
Full-time adult ordinary time earnings	\$	484.90	1 165.30
All employees total earnings	\$	430.10	909.50

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

LABOUR FORCE

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATES: TREND ESTIMATES



Source: Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0).

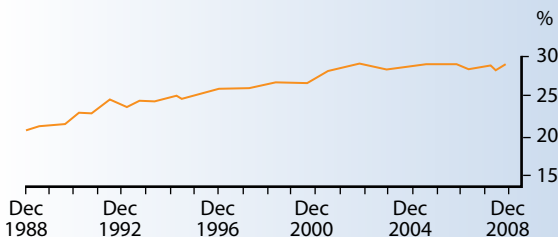
EMPLOYED PERSONS: EMPLOYMENT TYPE

	AUGUST 2007	
	'000	%
Employees(a)	8 456.9	81.0
with paid leave entitlements	6 360.9	61.0
without paid leave entitlements	2 096.0	20.1
Owner managers of incorporated enterprises	660.4	6.3
Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises	1 291.4	12.4
Contributing family workers	27.1	0.3
Total	10 435.8	100.0

(a) Excluding owner managers of incorporated enterprises.

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

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



Source: Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0).

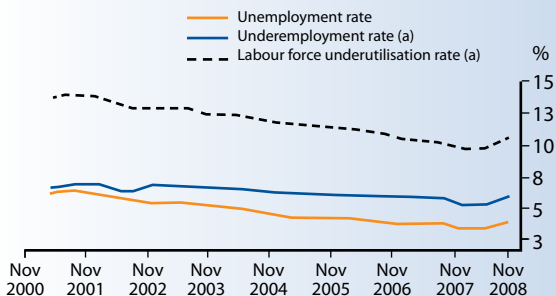
LABOUR FORCE

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT

	ANNUAL AVERAGE 2008	
	'000	%
Under 52 weeks		
Under 4 weeks	144.4	30.3
4 weeks and under 13 weeks	132.8	27.9
13 weeks and under 26 weeks	72.2	15.2
26 weeks and under 52 weeks	56.3	11.8
52 weeks and over (long-term unemployed)		
52 weeks and under 104 weeks	35.6	7.5
104 weeks and over	35.2	7.4
Total	476.6	100.0

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

LABOUR FORCE UNDERUTILISATION RATES: TREND ESTIMATES



(a) Current quarterly series began May 2001

Source: Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0).

LABOUR FORCE

EMPLOYED PERSONS: INDUSTRY

	ANNUAL AVERAGE 2008	
	'000	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	354.6	3.3
Mining	163.2	1.5
Manufacturing	1 049.1	9.8
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	122.9	1.1
Construction	986.5	9.2
Wholesale trade	404.5	3.8
Retail trade	1 216.0	11.3
Accommodation and food service	709.2	6.6
Transport, postal and warehousing	566.4	5.3
Information media and telecommunications	223.6	2.1
Financial and insurance services	402.4	3.7
Rental, hiring and real estate services	203.2	1.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	792.2	7.4
Administrative and support services	341.5	3.2
Public administration and safety	644.2	6.0
Education and training	808.3	7.5
Health care and social assistance	1 109.0	10.3
Arts and recreation services	187.5	1.7
Other services	456.1	4.2
Total	10 740.3	100.0

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

EMPLOYED PERSONS: OCCUPATION

	ANNUAL AVERAGE 2008	
	'000	%
Managers	1 376.8	12.8
Professionals	2 246.8	20.9
Technicians and trades workers	1 638.2	15.3
Community and personal services workers	932.8	8.7
Clerical and administrative workers	1 640.4	15.3
Sales workers	1 016.5	9.5
Machinery operators and drivers	721.8	6.7
Labourers	1 167.0	10.9
Total	10 740.3	100.0

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

LABOUR FORCE

EDUCATION AND WORK

population aged 15-64 years

	UNEMPLOYMENT		PARTICIPATION	
	RATE %		RATE %	
	2003	2008	2003	2008
Level of highest non-school qualification				
Postgraduate Degree	3.1	2.5	89.3	89.4
Graduate Diploma/Graduate Certificate	3.3	1.9	87.0	88.5
Bachelor Degree	3.1	2.0	86.5	85.9
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	4.2	3.5	82.6	82.7
Certificate III/IV	4.1	2.8	87.2	88.6
Certificate I/II	7.3	6.6	74.7	78.5
Certificate n.f.d.	10.1	4.6	86.1	81.9
Level not determined	4.1	*3.4	83.3	84.0
Total with a non-school qualification	4.3	2.9	84.8	85.8
Total without a non-school qualification	8.6	6.5	66.9	69.0
Total	6.2	4.4	75.7	78.1

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

Source: Education and Work, Australia (cat. no. 6227.0).

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

	12 MONTHS		
	TO JULY	TO JULY	
	2003	2008	
	%	%	
Wrote, phoned or applied in person	66.7	70.9	
Contacted friends or relatives	39.1	40.6	
Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper	29.0	18.4	
Answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet	11.3	28.1	
Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens	5.7	*3.2	
Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards	*3.4	5.5	
Advertised or tendered for work	*3.1	*0.1	
First job starters(a) who approached an employer	'000	119.2	111.2

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

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

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

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

PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE

PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE: MAIN ACTIVITY

	SEPTEMBER 2008		
	MALES	FEMALES	PERSONS
	%	%	%
Main activity			
Retired or voluntarily inactive	39.2	21.0	28.1
Home duties	8.5	37.9	26.3
Caring for children	1.3	10.1	6.6
Attending an educational institution	19.5	12.5	15.2
Own long-term health condition or disability	16.1	7.1	10.6
Own short-term illness or injury	1.4	1.0	1.2
Looking after ill or disabled person	2.4	3.8	3.3
Travel, holiday or leisure activity	7.2	3.4	4.8
Working in unpaid voluntary job	2.3	2.3	2.3
Other	2.2	0.9	1.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Persons not in the labour force '000 2 161.2 3 347.2 5 508.4

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

WAGES AND PAY-SETTING METHODS

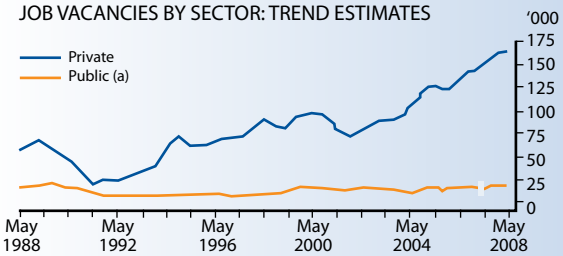
METHODS OF SETTING PAY

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

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

JOB VACANCIES

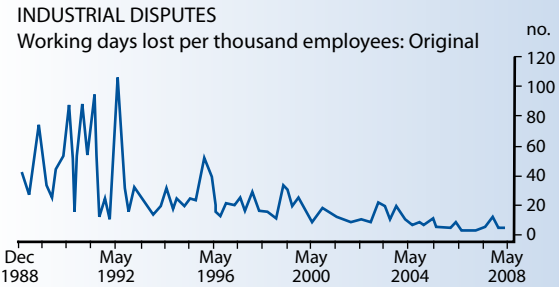
JOB VACANCIES



(a) Break in series between November 2006 and February 2007.
For more information please see information paper: *Future Treatment of Telstra in ABS Statistics, 2007* (cat. no. 8102.0).

Source: *Job Vacancies, Australia* (cat. no. 6354.0).

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES



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

INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS: SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS

	POPULATION 2007 (MILLION)	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE(a) 2007 %
Australia	21.0	4.4
Canada	33.0	6.0
France	61.7	8.3
Germany	82.3	8.4
Japan	127.8	3.9
New Zealand	4.2	3.6
Sweden	9.1	6.2
United Kingdom	61.0	5.3
United States of America	301.6	4.6

(a) ILO/OECD definition.

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

SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED

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

Aug	August
Sep	September
Nov	November
Dec	December
qtr	quarter
na	not available
%	percent
no.	number
'000	thousand
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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