## CHAPTER 8

## HOURS OF WORK, WORK PATTERNS, WORK PREFERENCES AND JOB SATISFACTION

It is widely recognised that statistics of hours of work and patterns of work are essential for the study of economic activity, productivity, working conditions, living standards and the quality of life of working people. In this chapter a range of data has been brought together on work patterns and hours of work. The data have been obtained from the labour force survey, special supplementary surveys and the surveys of employers.

The ABS monthly labour force survey provides the principal source of information about actual, average and aggregate hours worked by employed persons. Hours worked data from this survey are provided for males and females, full-time and part-time employed persons, and by broad industry group. Data on hours worked are presented in Chart 8.1, and Tables 8.1 and 8.2.

To supplement the statistics on hours worked collected in the labour force survey, data on hours paid for are collected from surveys of employers. Information on hours paid for is presented in Chart 8.2. In addition, a quarterly survey of overtime hours paid for is conducted and data from this survey are presented in Chart 8.3 and Table 8.3.

Information on other aspects of hours of work has been obtained in a number of special surveys including:-

- A special household survey conducted in 1981, which obtained data on the different types of working patterns of employees; in particular the number and characteristics of shiftworkers and nightworkers, the usual hours worked and days in the week usually worked.
- A survey conducted during the period March to May 1982 which obtained information about preferences for working arrangements, such as number of hours worked, type of working week, start/finish times, etc.

Some summary data from these surveys are presented in Tables 8.4 and 8.5.

## SELECTED FEATURES

## Hours of work

Average hours of work have declined over the last ten years due largely to the increase in part-time work. The average weekly hours worked declined from 36.5 hours in August 1977 to 35.6 hours in August 1987, although over the same period the average hours worked by full-time workers showed little change ( 40.3 hours per week in August 1977 compared with 40.6 hours per week in August 1987). The average weekly hours worked by part-time workers were 15.5 hours in August 1987 and 14.9 hours in August 1977.

Average hours of work were higher for males than females. For full-time female workers, the average weekly hours worked were 37.9 hours in August 1987, compared with 41.8 hours for full-time male workers.

## Overtime

In the November 1987 survey week, average weekly overtime hours paid for were 1.46 hours per employee, 13.2 per cent higher than the November 1986 average of 1.29 hours.

Average weekly overtime hours per employee working overtime, and the percentage of employees working overtime, also show significant increases since November 1986.

These levels for overtime are the highest since the commencement of the current survey methodology in November 1983.

## CHART 8.1 HOURS WORKED BY EMPLOYED PERSONS


(a) Persons who had a job but were not at wort.

Indicates break in series. Estimates from August 1986 are based on a revised definition introduced in April 1986. See Appendix 3 for further information.

TABLE 8.1. EMPLOYED PERSONS : AGGREGATE AND AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS WORKED AUGUST 1977 TO AUGUST 1987

| August | Aggregate weekly hours worked (million) |  |  | Average weekty hours worked |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Full-time workers | Part-time workers | Total | Full-time workers | Part-time workers | Wage and salary earners | Otherf(a) | Total |
| MALES |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1977 | 152.0 | 2.7 | 154.7 | 41.3 | 14.7 | 38.1 | 48.7 | 40.0 |
| 1978 | 150.9 | 3.5 | 154.4 | 41.4 | 16.9 | 38.6 | 47.2 | 40.1 |
| 1979 | 155.2 | 3.3 | 158.5 | 41.8 | 16.2 | 38.8 | 48.0 | 40.4 |
| 1980 | 156.5 | 3.4 | 159.9 | 41.5 | 16.4 | 38.3 | 48.2 | 40.1 |
| 1981 | 157.9 | 3.6 | 161.5 | 41.2 | 16.3 | 38.2 | 47.1 | 39.8 |
| 1982 | 154.7 | 4.0 | 158.7 | 40.9 | 16.7 | 37.9 | 46.7 | 39.4 |
| 1983 | 150.4 | 4.0 | 154.4 | 41.0 | 16.7 | 37.9 | 47.1 | 39.6 |
| 1984 | 156.6 | 3.9 | 160.5 | 41.6 | 16.1 | 38.4 | 46.9 | 40.0 |
| 1985 | 158.5 | 4.1 | 162.6 | 41.3 | 16.1 | 38.1 | 47.0 | 39.8 |
| 1986(b) | 162.5 | 4.3 | 166.8 | 41.6 | 15.4 | 38.4 | 46.5 | 39.9 |
| 1987 | 165.0 | 4.8 | 169.8 | 41.8 | 15.3 | 38.3 | 46.6 | 39.8 |
| FEMALES |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1977 | 53.5 | 10.7 | 64.2 | 37.9 | 15.0 | 30.0 | 31.1 | 30.2 |
| 1978 | 53.2 | 11.8 | 65.0 | 37.9 | 15.7 | 30.3 | 29.1 | 30.2 |
| 1979 | 53.4 | 11.8 | 65.2 | 38.2 | 15.6 | 30.4 | 29.0 | 30.2 |
| 1980 | 56.0 | 12.6 | 68.6 | 37.9 | 15.4 | 29.9 | 29.9 | 29.9 |
| 1981 | 56.7 | 13.1 | 69.8 | 37.8 | 15.7 | 30.0 | 29.1 | 29.9 |
| 1982 | 56.3 | 13.1 | 69.4 | 37.4 | 15.4 | 29.5 | 29.2 | 29.5 |
| 1983 | 56.5 | 13.1 | 69.6 | 38.0 | 15.4 | 29.7 | 30.3 | 29.8 |
| 1984 | 59.0 | 14.3 | 73.3 | 38.1 | 15.8 | 29.9 | 29.9 | 29.9 |
| 1985 | 60.4 | 15.1 | 75.5 | 37.7 | 15.8 | 29.4 | 30.2 | 29.5 |
| 1986(b) | 63.6 | 15.9 | 79.4 | 37.8 | 15.5 | 29.5 | 28.7 | 29.4 |
| 1987 | 64.8 | 17.2 | 81.9 | 37.9 | 15.6 | 29.3 | 28.5 | 29.2 |
| PERSONS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1977 | 205.5 | 13.4 | 218.9 | 40.3 | 14.9 | 35.1 | 43.8 | 36.5 |
| 1978 | 204.1 | 15.3 | 219.4 | 40.5 | 16.0 | 35.5 | 42.0 | 36.5 |
| 1979 | 208.5 | 15.1 | 223.7 | 40.8 | 15.7 | 35.7 | 42.6 | 36.8 |
| 1980 | 212.5 | 16.0 | 228.5 | 40.5 | 15.6 | 35.1 | 42.8 | 36.4 |
| 1981 | 214.6 | 16.7 | 231.3 | 40.2 | 15.8 | 35.1 | 41.8 | 36.2 |
| 1982 | 210.9 | 17.2 | 228.1 | 39.9 | 15.7 | 34.7 | 41.5 | 35.8 |
| 1983 | 206.8 | 17.1 | 223.9 | 40.2 | 15.7 | 34.7 | 42.1 | 35.9 |
| 1984 | 215.6 | 18.2 | 233.8 | 40.6 | 15.9 | 35.1 | 42.0 | 36.2 |
| 1985 | 218.9 | 19.2 | 238.1 | 40.3 | 15.9 | 34.6 | 41.9 | 35.8 |
| 1986(b) | 226.1 | 20.1 | 246.2 | 40.5 | 15.5 | 34.7 | 40.8 | 35.8 |
| 1987 | 229.7 | 22.0 | 251.7 | 40.6 | 15.5 | 34.6 | 40.8 | 35.6 |

(a) Comprises employers, self-employed persons and unpaid famuly helpers. (b) Estimates from August 1986 are based on a revised defirution introduced in April 1986. See paragraph 25 of Appendix 3 for further unformation.

Source: The Labour Force, Ausiralia (6203.0).

TABLE 8.2. AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS WORKED(a) : EMPLOYED PERSONS BY INDUSTRY, AUGUST 1980 TO AUGUST 1987

| Industry division or subdivisios | August |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1980 | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | 1986(c) | 1987 |
| MALES |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Agriculture, forastry, fishing and hunting | 49.7 | 47.8 | 47.9 | 48.0 | 47.8 | 47.9 | 48.5 | 48.2 |
| Agriculture and services to agriculture | 50.7 | 48.7 | 49.0 | 48.7 | 49.0 | 48.6 | 49.3 | 48.5 |
| Forestry and logging, fishing and hunting | 39.1 | 37.6 | 34.6 | 40.0 | 34.4 | 36.5 | 38.2 | 44.6 |
| Mining | 36.1 | 39.9 | 38.7 | 37.2 | 36.9 | 39.2 | 38.6 | 38.6 |
| Manufacturing | 39.5 | 39.2 | 38.5 | 38.4 | 39.4 | 39.1 | 39.5 | 39.3 |
| Food, beverages and tobscco | 39.1 | 38.3 | 38.7 | 39.0 | 39.3 | 38.4 | 39.1 | 38.4 |
| Metal products | 39.2 | 39.1 | 38.2 | 37.7 | 39.6 | 38.7 | 39.7 | 39.7 |
| Other manufacturing | 39.7 | 39.4 | 38.5 | 38.5 | 39.4 | 39.5 | 39.5 | 39.5 |
| Electricity, gas and water | 37.0 | 36.4 | 35.3 | 35.3 | 35.5 | 34.5 | 35.0 | 35.5 |
| Construction | 38.8 | 38.3 | 38.1 | 37.9 | 38.9 | 38.7 | 38.3 | 39.2 |
| Wholessle and retail trade | 42.0 | 40.8 | 40.8 | 41.5 | 41.6 | 41.3 | 41.4 | 40.9 |
| Wholesale trade | 41.0 | 40.9 | 40.2 | 41.1 | 40.8 | 40.4 | 41.3 | 41.8 |
| Retail trade | 42.5 | 40.7 | 41.2 | 41.7 | 42.0 | 41.9 | 41.5 | 40.4 |
| Transport mad storage | 40.1 | 39.5 | 39.3 | 39.3 | 39.7 | 40.5 | 39.9 | 39.6 |
| Commanication | 34.9 | 34.1 | 33.9 | 33.5 | 33.7 | 35.7 | 34.1 | 34.5 |
| Finance, property and basiness services | 38.6 | 39.5 | 38.7 | 39.7 | 40.7 | 40.2 | 40.4 | 40.5 |
| Public admuinistration and defence | 35.6 | 36.1 | 35.2 | 35.5 | 36.2 | 34.8 | 35.4 | 35.6 |
| Commurity services | 38.3 | 39.1 | 38.9 | 39.2 | 39.1 | 37.9 | 38.4 | 38.5 |
| Recreation, personal and other services | 40.1 | 40.8 | 41.1 | 39.4 | 39.9 | 39.1 | 39.6 | 39.2 |
| Total employed | 40.1 | 39.8 | 39.4 | 39.5 | 40.0 | 39.8 | 39.9 | 398 |
| MARRIED FEMALES |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting | 28.6 | 28.3 | 26.3 | 28.8 | 27.5 | 27.4 | 27.8 | 29.3 |
| Agricuiture and services to agnculture | 29.0 | 28.6 | 26.4 | 29.0 | 27.5 | 27.7 | 28.1 | 29.7 |
| Manufacuring | 33.4 | 33.2 | 31.7 | 32.1 | 32.4 | 31.0 | 316 | 31.9 |
| Food, beverages and tobscco | 32.3 | 33.6 | 29.8 | 32.5 | 31.9 | 30.3 | 31.1 | 30.6 |
| Metal products | 33.0 | 32.6 | 30.0 | 29.8 | 30.8 | 29.5 | 31.3 | 32.1 |
| Other manufacturing | 33.6 | 33.1 | 32.3 | 32.2 | 32.8 | 31.4 | 31.7 | 32.1 |
| Electichly, gas and water | 31.1 | 26.7 | 35.6 | 30.7 | 26.6 | 27.6 | 29.5 | 30.5 |
| Construction | 18.8 | 18.4 | 18.1 | 19.1 | 18.3 | 18.5 | 17.9 | 17.7 |
| Wholesale and resil trade | 29.2 | 28.6 | 29.1 | 29.4 | 29.5 | 29.8 | 29.5 | 29.0 |
| Wholesale trade | 29.8 | 28.5 | 28.9 | 27.5 | 30.1 | 29.6 | 29.8 | 28.3 |
| Revail trade | 29.0 | 28.6 | 29.2 | 29.9 | 29.3 | 29.8 | 294 | 29.2 |
| Transport and storage | 27.4 | 26.7 | 26.0 | 24.1 | 28.9 | 27.0 | 26.7 | 25.3 |
| Communication | 28.8 | 28.6 | 27.0 | 28.1 | 29.8 | 28.4 | 28.1 | 28.0 |
| Finance, property and busineas sarvices | 26.7 | 27.0 - | 26.1 | 27.6 | 28.9 | 27.0 | 27.0 | 27.6 |
| Public administration and defence | 28.7 | 28.8 | 28.3 | 28.5 | 28.3 | 27.6 | 28.7 | 28.3 |
| Community services | 27.0 | 27.6 | 27.3 | 27.4 | 27.3 | 26.9 | 27.2 | 27.0 |
| Recreation, personal and other services | 24.9 | 25.5 | 26.4 | 25.5 | 26.7 | 28.5 | 27.8 | 27.5 |
| Totat employed(b) | 28.2 | 28.2 | 27.8 | 28.2 | 28.5 | 28.0 | 28.1 | 28.0 |
| ALL FEMALES |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting | 29.9 | 29.8 | 27.4 | 29.7 | 28.7 | 29.2 | 28.4 | 29.2 |
| Agnculture and services to agriculture | 30.2 | 30.2 | 27.5 | 29.7 | 28.7 | 29.5 | 28.7 | 29.5 |
| Mining | 31.5 | 32.1 | 34.7 | 36.8 | 32.2 | 30.9 | 35.0 | 33.4 |
| Manufacturing | 34.0 | 33.9 | 32.8 | 33.1 | 33.5 | 32.2 | 32.7 | 33.1 |
| Food, beverages and tobacco | 32.7 | 33.5 | 29.5 | 32.8 | 32.1 | 30.0 | 32.0 | 30.1 |
| Metal products | 33.6 | 34.0 | 32.0 | 31.8 | 32.3 | 31.1 | 32.5 | 33.2 |
| Other manufacturing | 34.3 | 34.0 | 33.6 | 33.4 | 34.0 | 32.9 | 32.9 | 33.9 |
| Electricity, gas and water | 34.2 | 30.7 | 33.3 | 31.4 | 32.2 | 30.7 | 31.9 | 33.2 |
| Consinuction | 21.4 | 21.5 | 21.2 | 21.5 | 21.2 | 21.7 | 19.9 | 20.1 |
| Wholesale and reesil trade | 29.2 | 28.7 | 28.7 | 28.9 | 28.5 | 29.0 | 28.7 | 27.3 |
| Wholesale trade | 31.8 | 31.4 | 31.2 | 30.8 | 32.0 | 31.6 | 31.7 | 31.1 |
| Retal trade | 20.6 | 28.0 | 28.1 | 28.5 | 27.7 | 28.3 | 27.9 | 26.8 |
| Transport and storage | 30.9 | 30.2 | 29.8 | 29.8 | 32.7 | 29.9 | 30.0 | 29.3 |
| Communication | 31.6 | 29.7 | 29.1 | 29.7 | 30.5 | 31.2 | 30.3 | 28.3 |
| Finance, property and business services | 30.3 | 30.9 | 29.7 | 30.5 | 31.1 | 30.5 | 30.0 | 30.6 |
| Publie admunistration and defence | 29.9 | 30.6 | 30.3 | 30.6 | 31.1 | 29.9 | 30.9 | 30.6 |
| Community services | 29.9 | 30.3 | 29.9 | 30.1 | 29.9 | 29.3 | 29.3 | 29.1 |
| Rectestion, personal and other services | 26.5 | 26.1 | 27.2 | 26.3 | 27.8 | 28.4 | 27.7 | 27.4 |
| Toral smployed | 29.9 | 29.9 | 29.5 | 29.8 | 29.9 | 29.5 | 29.4 | 29.2 |
| PERSONS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Agriculure, forestry, fishing and hunting | 45.0 | 43.1 | 42.7 | 43.7 | 43.2 | 43.0 | 42.9 | 43.1 |
| Agriculture and services to agriculmure | 45.7 | 43.7 | 43.3 | 44.1 | 43.9 | 43.4 | 43.4 | 43.3 |
| Frrestry and logging, fishing and huming | 37.1 | 35.1 | 33.6 | 38.4 | 33.8 | 33.9 | 35.7 | 41.0 |
| Mining | 35.7 | 39.2 | 38.3 | 37.2 | 36.5 | 38.4 | 38.3 | 38.1 |
| Manufacturing | 38.1 | 37.9 | 37.1 | 37.1 | 37.9 | 37.3 | 37.7 | 37.7 |
| Food, beverages and tobacco | 37.4 | 36.9 | 36.3 | 37.4 | 37.3 | 35.8 | 37.0 | 36.0 |
| Meial products | 38.6 | 38.5 | 37.4 | 37.0 | 38.6 | 37.6 | 38.6 | 38.8 |
| Other manufacturing | 38.2 | 37.9 | 37.1 | 37.0 | 37.9 | 37.5 | 37.6 | 37.8 |
| Electricity. gas and water | 36.8 | 35.8 | 35.2 | 35.0 | 35.2 | 34.2 | 34.7 | 35.3 |
| Construction | 37.1 | 36.6 | 36.5 | 36.1 | 37.1 | 36.6 | 35.9 | 36.8 |
| Whalesale and retail trade | 36.5 | 35.6 | 35.6 | 36.0 | 35.9 | 36.0 | 35.9 | 35.1 |
| Wholesale trade | 38.3 | 38.2 | 37.7 | 38.1 | 38.4 | 38.0 | 38.4 | 38.6 |
| Retail trade | 35.7 | 34.4 | 34.7 | 35.2 | 34.9 | 35.1 | 34.8 | 33.6 |
| Transport and storage | 38.7 | 38.1 | 37.8 | 37.9 | 38.6 | 38.8 | 38.2 | 37.7 |
| Commurication | 34.0 | 33.0 | 32.7 | 32.6 | 32.9 | 34.7 | 33.1 | 32.9 |
| Finance, property and business services | 34.9 | 35.6 | 34.5 | 35.3 | 36.2 | 35.7 | 35.4 | 35.8 |
| Public administration and defence | 33.6 | 34.3 | 33.6 | 33.9 | 34.5 | 33.0 | 33.8 | 33.7 |
| Community services | 32.9 | 33.6 | 33.3 | 33.5 | 33.2 | 32.4 | 32.7 | 32.4 |
| Recreation, personal and other servicea | 32.0 | 32.6 | 33.1 | 31.9 | 33.4 | 33.1 | 32.9 | 32.5 |
| Total employed | 36.4 | 36.2 | 35.8 | 35.9 | 36.2 | 35.8 | 35.8 | 35.6 |

(a) Includes persons who had a job from which they were absen for the whole of the survey week. (b) lneludes mining. (c) Estimates from August 1986 are based on a revised definition introduced in April 1986. See paragraph 25 of Appendix 3 for further information.

## CHART 8.2 AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS PAID: FULL-TIME ADULT NON-MANAGERIAL, EMPLOYEES, DISTRIBUTION MAY 1987



Source: Distribution and Composition of Employee Earnings and Hours, Austrslia (6306.0).

CHART 8.3. OVERTTME HOURS PAID FOR: SELECTED INDUSTRIES, NOVEMBER


TABLE 83. AVERAGE WEEKLY OVERTIME HOURS PAID FOR : INDUSTRY, NOVEMBER 1982 TO NOVEMBER 1987

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  | 1983 | 1983 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

[^0][^1]TABLE 8.4. EMPLOYEES WHO WERE SHIFTWORKERS : FREQUENCY OF CHANGE IN SHIFTS, OCCUPATION AND NUMBER OF DIFFERENT SHIFTS WORKED, FEBRUARY TO MAY 1981 ( ${ }^{(000)}$

| Frequency of change in shifts |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Occupation group |  |  |  |  |  | Toral |
|  | Professional, technical, etc. |  Tradespersons, <br> production-  <br>  Transport process <br> and <br> workers and <br> communi- <br> labowers, <br> Clerical cotion ne.c. |  |  | Service, sporl and recreation | Other (a) |  |
| 2 SHIFTS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Every day | 9.9 | * | * | * | 6.1 | * | 20.0 |
| 2.6 days | 10.7 | * | 2.3 | 3.6 | 13.3 | * | 33.1 |
| 7 days | 6.6 | 6.2 | 9.8 | 23.5 | 12.6 | 6.5 | 65.1 |
| 8-14 days | 3.2 | 2.0 | 2.7 | 7.3 | 6.6 | * | 22.7 |
| 15 days or more | 3.9 | * | 2.8 | 8.2 | 5.8 | * | 23.6 |
| Total | 343 | 11.6 | 18.8 | 435 | 44.5 | 119 | 164.5 |
| 3 SHIFTS OR MORE |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Every day | 21.6 | * | 11.5 | 4.7 | 15.1 | * | 55.8 |
| 2-6 days | 10.6 | * | 6.4 | 13.3 | 13.5 | 3.7 | 48.8 |
| 7 days | 8.6 | 6.6 | 21.6 | 52.7 | 21.6 | 7.6 | 118.7 |
| $8-14$ days | 3.2 | * | 2.8 | 4.7 | 3.6 | * | 15.5 |
| 15 days or more | 3.7 | 2.5 | 3.5 | 7.4 | 5.6 | * | 23.8 |
| Total | 47.6 | 13.1 | 45.7 | 82.9 | 59.4 | 14.0 | 262.7 |
| TOTAL |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Every day | 31.5 | * | 12.7 | 5.7 | 21.2 | 3.1 | 75.9 |
| 2.6 days | 21.3 | 2.9 | 8.6 | 16.9 | 26.8 | 5.4 | 81.9 |
| 7 days | 15.1 | 12.7 | 31.4 | 76.2 | 34.2 | 14.1 | 183.8 |
| 8-14 days | 6.3 | 3.1 | 5.5 | 12.0 | 10.2 | * | 38.2 |
| 15 days or more | 7.6 | 4.4 | 6.3 | 15.6 | 11.4 | 2.2 | 47.4 |
| Total | 81.8 | 24.7 | 64.6 | 126.3 | 103.8 | 25.9 | 427.1 |

(a) Includes administrative, executive and managerial; sales; fatming, fisthing and timbergeting; and mining and quarrying ocoupaiont.

Scurce: Working Hows Arrangements, February to May 1981 (6338.0).

## TABLE 8.5. ALL EMPLOYEES IN MAIN JOB : PERMANENT OR CASUAL WORKER, PREFERRED WORKING HOURS AND USUAL HOURS WORKED, SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 1986 <br> ( ${ }^{\circ} 000$ )

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  |  |  |  | Usual hours | worked |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

[^2]
[^0]:    (a) Result from payroll tax based survey. (b) Result of sumple from ABS Register.

[^1]:    Source: Overtime, Australia (6330.0).

[^2]:    Source: Alsernative Working Arrangemants, Atestraha, Septamber to November 1986. Preliminary (6340.0).

