



Australian Bureau of Statistics INFORMATION PAPER

CATALOGUE NO. 6262.0

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.30 A.M. 18 APRIL 1985

NEW ISSUE

RELEASE OF REGIONAL LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS

- PHONE INQUIRIES** *for more information relating to this publication*—contact the appropriate officer listed at the end of the Paper if your enquiry relates to a particular State or Allen Grant on Canberra (062) 526565 if information relating to more than one State is involved.
other inquiries including copies of publications—contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6627 or in any of our State offices.
- MAIL INQUIRIES** *write to* Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any of our State offices.

Introduction

This Paper foreshadows the release, for about fifty regions across Australia, of estimates of the civilian labour force derived from the labour force component of the monthly population survey. Where appropriate, data on supplementary topics will, in future, also be made available on a regional basis.

Background

2. ABS has been conducting labour force surveys since 1960. The surveys were undertaken on a quarterly basis prior to February 1978 and monthly since then. Details of estimates derived from the surveys and descriptions of the methodology of the surveys and the sample of dwellings are published monthly in *The Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary* (6202.0) and *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).
3. The sample used for the monthly population survey is designed to allow estimation of labour force characteristics at the Australian, State and regional levels. For detailed information on sample design and selection, see the Technical Note in *The Labour Force, Australia, 1978* (6204.0).
4. The population survey sample is reselected every five years to allow data from the latest census of population and housing to be used to improve the efficiency of the sample design. The latest reselection, which used data from the 1981 Census and which was introduced for the October 1982 survey, is based on place of usual residence. The labour force survey questionnaire was changed in October 1982 to enable identification of each respondent's place of usual residence. Regional data on a usual residence basis is thus available from October 1982 onwards.
5. National and State labour force survey estimates are calculated in such a way as to add to the independently estimated distribution of the population aged 15 years and over by age and sex. This use of benchmarks in estimation compensates for underenumeration in the survey and leads to more reliable estimates. Since regular estimates of the population are not available at the regional level, the State benchmarks were used to produce

regional estimates. This methodology assumes a common pattern of underenumeration at the regional level and also ensures that regional estimates add to State totals.

Regions for which data will be available

6. Monthly labour force survey estimates will be available for each of the regions listed below. These regions have been formulated following detailed discussions with users, taking into consideration State geography, the need for consistency with other statistical collections, sample size and the requirement to produce a reasonable range of reliable data on both employment and unemployment for each region.

New South Wales

- Sydney Statistical Division
 - Central Sydney and Inner Western Sydney Statistical Subdivisions
 - Southern Sydney Statistical Subdivision
 - South Western Sydney Statistical Subdivision
 - Western Sydney Statistical Subdivision
 - Northern Sydney Statistical Subdivision
- Balance of New South Wales
 - Hunter Statistical Division
 - Newcastle Statistical District
 - Illawara and South-Eastern Statistical Divisions
 - Wollongong Statistical District
 - Richmond-Tweed and Mid-North Coast Statistical Divisions
 - Northern, North-Western and Central West Statistical Divisions
 - Murrumbidgee and Murray Statistical Divisions

Victoria

- Melbourne Statistical Division
 - Western Melbourne Region
 - Inner Melbourne Region
 - North-Eastern Melbourne Region
 - Inner-Eastern Melbourne Region
 - Southern Melbourne Region
 - Outer-Eastern Melbourne Region
 - Mornington Peninsular Region

Balance of Victoria

- North West Victoria Region (Central Highlands, Wimmera and Northern Mallee Statistical Divisions)
- South West Victoria Region (Barwon and South Western Statistical Divisions)
- Northern Victoria Region (Loddon-Campaspe, Goulburn and North Eastern Statistical Divisions)
- Eastern Victoria Region (East Gippsland, Central Gippsland and East Central Statistical Divisions)

Queensland

- Brisbane Statistical Division
 - Brisbane City
 - Inner Suburbs (Inner Statistical Subdivisions)
 - Outer Suburbs (Outer Statistical Subdivisions)
- Balance of Brisbane Statistical Division
- Balance of Queensland
 - Moreton Statistical Division
 - Wide Bay-Burnett and Darling Downs Statistical Divisions
 - Mackay and Fitzroy Statistical Divisions
 - North and Western Queensland (Northern, Far North, North-West, Central-West and South-West Statistical Divisions)
 - North Queensland (Northern and Far North Statistical Divisions)

South Australia

- Adelaide Statistical Division
 - Para and North Eastern Statistical Subdivision
 - Western Statistical Subdivision
 - Eastern Statistical Subdivision
 - Southern Statistical Subdivision
- Balance of South Australia
 - Yorke and Lower North, Eyre and Northern Statistical Divisions
 - Outer Adelaide, Murraylands and South East Statistical Divisions

Western Australia

- Perth Statistical Division
 - Central Metropolitan Statistical Subdivision
 - East Metropolitan Statistical Subdivision
 - North Metropolitan Statistical Subdivision
 - South West Metropolitan Statistical Subdivision
 - South East Metropolitan Statistical Subdivision
- Balance of Western Australia
 - South West, Upper Great Southern and Lower Great Southern Statistical Divisions
 - Kimberley, Pilbara, Central, Midland and South East Statistical Divisions

Tasmania

- Hobart and Southern Statistical Divisions
 - Hobart Statistical Division
- Northern Statistical Division
- Mersey-Lyell Statistical Division

Range of data available

7. A core set of estimates of the labour force characteristics of the population will be made available for each region, i.e. numbers employed, unemployed, in the

labour force, and not in the labour force together with unemployment and labour force participation rates, by sex. More detailed cross classifications (including details by age and marital status, and industry and occupation data for employed persons) will be released for the larger regions in the larger States or for aggregations of the basic dissemination regions listed above.

Reliability of the estimates

8. As with National and State labour force survey estimates, regional estimates are subject to sampling error. Since estimates for regions are components of corresponding estimates at the State level—and are thus considerably smaller—they are subject to higher relative standard errors. In addition, as noted in paragraph 5 above, the use of benchmarks in the estimation of regional estimates was not possible.

9. For these reasons, users should note that regional estimates may be more volatile than corresponding State estimates and thus they should not be regarded as reliable indicators of short term (monthly) movements.

Release of regional labour force statistics

10. Monthly labour force estimates for regions will be available on a quarterly basis with the first release of data, for the three months ending November 1984, available by the end of April 1985. Data for the three months ending February 1985 should be available by about the middle of June 1985. As noted in paragraph 4, regional estimates for periods back to October 1982 will be available on request.

11. Responsibility for the dissemination of regional estimates will largely lie with the State offices of the ABS. Those users particularly interested in estimates of labour force characteristics for regions within a particular State should contact that State Office. Users who wish to obtain information for regions across different States should contact the ABS Central Office in Canberra.

12. Regional labour force estimates will be published by most States on a quarterly basis from the end of April 1985. For those States initially not issuing a regional publication, or in cases where extensive historical data series are required, information may be released to users in computer printout format. Interested users should contact the ABS State offices for further information regarding plans for publication.

Contact officers

13. For more information regarding the release of regional labour force statistics, the following persons may be contacted.

Canberra—Mr A. Grant (062) 526565
 Sydney—Mr G. Bray (02) 2684408
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