

**UNDEREMPLOYED WORKERS**

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) TUES 8 MAR 2011

**C O N T E N T S**

	<i>page</i>
Notes . . . . .	2
Conceptual framework . . . . .	3
Summary of findings . . . . .	5

**T A B L E S**

List of tables . . . . .	9
Employed persons . . . . .	10
Part-time workers who would prefer more hours . . . . .	11
Underemployed part-time workers . . . . .	15
Populations . . . . .	23

**A D D I T I O N A L I N F O R M A T I O N**

Explanatory Notes . . . . .	24
Appendix 1: Educational attainment . . . . .	27
Appendix 2: Populations and data items list . . . . .	29
Appendix 3: Supplementary surveys . . . . .	35
Technical Note: Data quality . . . . .	36
Glossary . . . . .	39

**I N Q U I R I E S**

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Labour Market Statistics Section on Canberra (02) 6252 7206, <labour.statistics@abs.gov.au>.

## ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

Underemployed workers are defined as part-time workers who want, and are available for more hours of work than they currently have, and full-time workers who worked part-time hours, during the reference week for economic reasons (such as being stood down or insufficient work being available). The number of underemployed workers are an important component of underutilised labour resources in the economy, along with the number of unemployed and some people with marginal attachment to the labour force.

This publication presents information about the characteristics of underemployed workers aged 15 years and over. For time series information on the number of underemployed workers, users are advised to use the quarterly Labour Force Survey estimates. Trend and seasonally adjusted and original estimates are released monthly in *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0), tables 19 to 20.

The statistics in this publication were compiled from the Underemployed Workers Survey conducted throughout Australia in September 2010 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). A range of information is presented on underemployed workers including the number of hours usually worked, number of preferred hours, steps taken to find work with more hours and difficulties finding work with more hours.

## ROUNDING

As estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.



## ABBREVIATIONS

'000	thousand
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ASCED	Australian Standard Classification of Education
ILO	International Labour Organization
LFS	Labour Force Survey
n.f.d.	not further defined
OMIE	owner manager of incorporated enterprise
RSE	relative standard error
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
SE	standard error

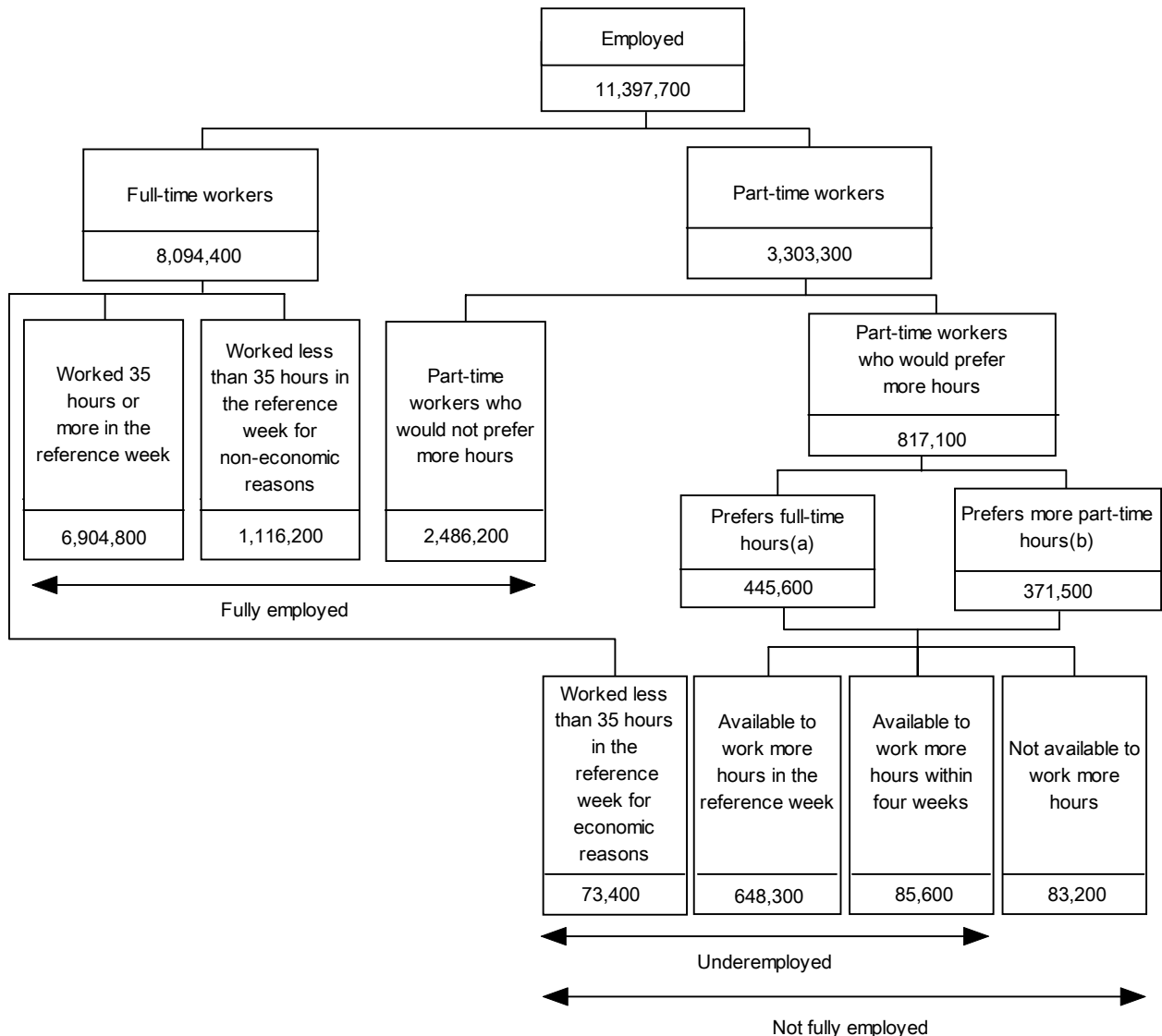
Brian Pink  
Australian Statistician

# CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

## CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The ABS conceptual framework for underemployment separates employed people into two mutually exclusive groups:

- workers who are considered to be fully employed, comprising:
  - employed people who worked full-time during the reference week (includes people who usually work part-time);
  - employed people who usually work full-time but worked part-time in the reference week for non-economic reasons (including illness or injury, leave, holiday or flextime, and personal reasons); and
  - part-time workers (usually work part-time and did so in the reference week) who would not prefer additional hours of work.
- workers who are not fully employed, comprising:
  - part-time workers who would prefer to work more hours; and
  - full-time workers who worked part-time in the reference week for economic reasons (such as being stood down or insufficient work being available).



(a) Total number of hours preferred to work each week are 35 hours or more.

(b) Total number of hours preferred to work each week are between 1 to 34 hours.

## CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK *continued*

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### CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK *continued*

The conceptual framework further defines workers who are underemployed, comprising:

- part-time workers who would prefer to work more hours and were available to start work with more hours, either in the reference week or in the four weeks following the survey; and
- full-time workers who worked part-time hours in the reference week for economic reasons (such as being stood down or insufficient work being available).

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### OVERVIEW

There were 11.4 million employed people aged 15 years and over in September 2010. Of these:

- 10.6 million were fully employed; and
- 890,500 were not fully employed, of whom 807,300 were underemployed.

Of the 807,300 underemployed workers:

- 733,900 usually worked part-time, but would prefer more hours and were available to start work with more hours either in the reference week, or in the four weeks following the interview; and
- 73,400 usually worked full-time, but worked part-time hours in the reference week due to economic reasons (for example, no work or not enough work available, been stood down, or on short time).

### PART-TIME WORKERS WHO WOULD PREFER MORE HOURS

In September 2010, there were 3.3 million part-time workers (2.3 million women and 983,200 men). Of all part-time workers, 817,100 (25%) would prefer to work more hours, compared to 823,800 (26%) in September 2009.

Of the 817,100 part-time workers who would prefer more hours:

- 33% were aged 15–24 years;
- 55% would prefer to work full-time;
- 733,900 were available for work with more hours (445,900 women and 288,000 men), of whom 50% were looking for work with more hours; and
- 83,200 were not available for work with more hours, of whom 10% were looking for work with more hours.

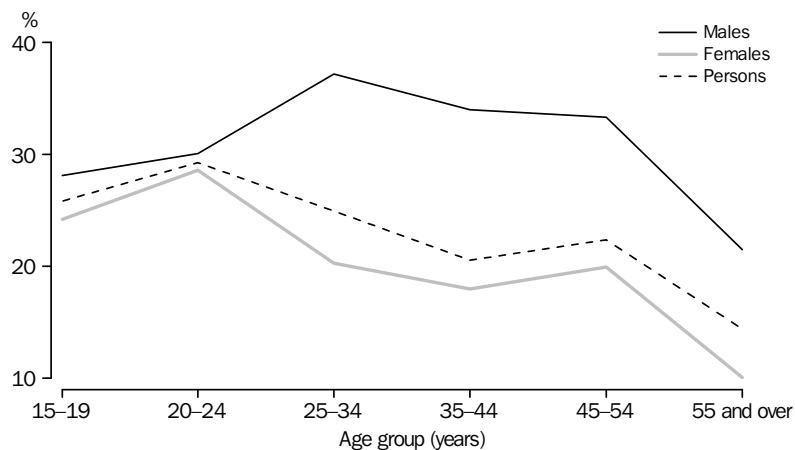
### UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS

In September 2010, there were 733,900 underemployed part-time workers. These people comprise 91% of all underemployed workers.

Of the underemployed part-time workers:

- 61% were women;
- 18% were aged 35–44 years and a further 17% were aged 25–34 years; and
- 59% reported they would not prefer to change employer to work more hours, 25% would prefer to change employer, while the remaining 16% had no preference.

UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS AS A PROPORTION OF PART-TIME WORKERS, Age–By sex



## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS *continued*

Part-time workers aged 20–24 had the highest incidence of underemployment (29%) followed by those aged 15–19 (26%). The proportion of part-time workers who were underemployed generally decreased with age.

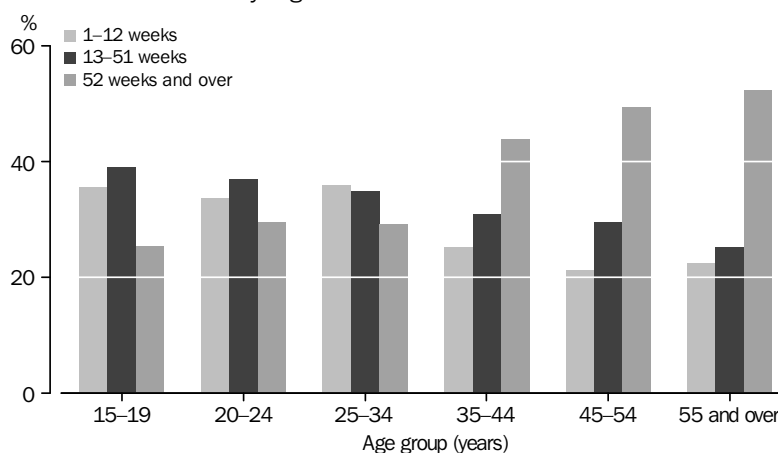
While there were more women who were underemployed part-time workers than men (445,900 compared with 288,000), the incidence of underemployment for part-time workers was higher for men (29%) than women (19%). This was the case in all age groups, with the largest percentage point difference being for those aged 25–34 years (37% for men and 20% for women) and 35–44 years (34% for men and 18% for women).

Underemployed part-time men were more likely to report that they would move intrastate if offered a suitable job (31%) than women (22%), whereas over one fifth (22%) of underemployed part-time men and 16% of women reported that they would move interstate if offered a suitable job.

There was a higher proportion of people who reported uncertainty about moving intrastate than interstate if offered a suitable job in September 2010 (12% of underemployed part-time workers might move or did not know if they would move intrastate, compared with 10% for interstate).

### *Duration of current period of insufficient work*

### UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS, Duration of current period of insufficient work—By age



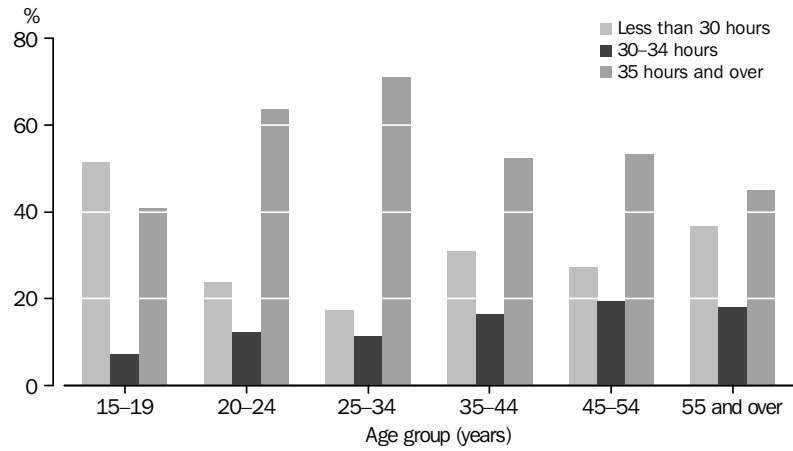
Older people generally had a longer duration of underemployment than younger people. For example, one quarter of 15–19 year old underemployed part-time workers had experienced insufficient work for one year or more. In contrast, around half of those aged 55 years and over (52%) and those aged 45–54 years (49%), had insufficient work for one year or more.

The median duration of the current period of insufficient work for underemployed part-time workers was 30 weeks. For those aged 45–54 years and 55 years and over, the median duration was 50 weeks and 52 weeks respectively.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

*Duration of current period of insufficient work continued*

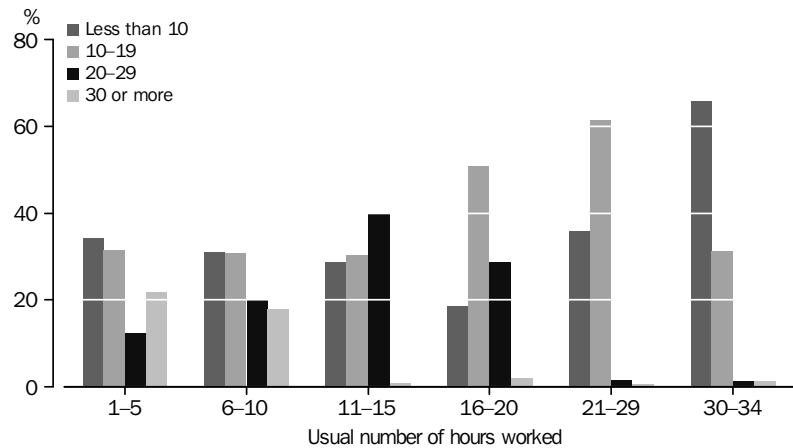
UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS, Preferred number of total hours—By age



Over half (55%) of underemployed part-time workers would prefer to work a total of 35 hours or more per week. For those aged 25–34 years, 71% preferred to work a total of 35 hours or more per week, while for those aged 15–19 years, over half (52%) preferred to work a total of less than 30 hours per week.

*Preferred number of extra hours*

UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS, Preferred number of extra hours—By usual number of hours worked

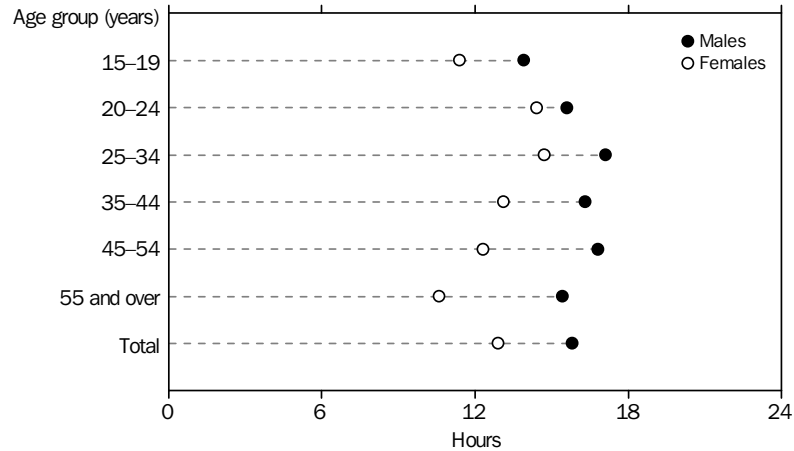


For underemployed part-time workers, the preferred number of extra hours varied with the number of hours they usually worked. For example, two thirds (or 66%) of those who usually worked 1–5 hours a week preferred 10 or more extra hours per week, and of those who worked 30–34 hours a week, two thirds (or 66%) preferred to work less than 10 extra hours per week.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

*Preferred number of extra hours continued*

UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS, Mean preferred number of extra hours—By age



The mean preferred number of extra hours per week for underemployed part-time workers was 14.0 hours. The mean preferred number of extra hours was lowest for people aged 15–19 years (12.6 hours), and highest for those aged 25–34 years (15.7 hours). On average, men preferred to work an extra 15.8 hours per week, compared with women who preferred to work an extra 12.9 hours per week.

*Looking for work with more hours*

Of the 733,900 underemployed part-time workers, around half (366,300) had looked for work with more hours at some time during the four weeks prior to the survey. Of the 445,900 underemployed part-time women, almost half (47%) were looking for work with more hours. By comparison, of the 288,000 underemployed part-time men, 54% were looking for work with more hours.

The most common step taken to find work with more hours, by underemployed part-time workers who had looked for work, was 'asked current employer for more work' (62%), followed by 'contacted prospective employers' (53%) and 'searched Internet sites' (51%).

The main difficulty in finding work with more hours, most commonly reported by underemployed part-time workers who had looked for work, was 'no vacancies in line of work' (20%), followed by 'unsuitable hours' (10%). The largest percentage point difference between men and women was for 'unsuitable hours' (8% of men and 12% of women).

Approximately 8% of underemployed part-time workers who had looked for work with more hours reported that they had 'no difficulties' in finding work with more hours.

UNDEREMPLOYED  
FULL-TIME WORKERS

There were 8.1 million full-time workers in September 2010, accounting for 71% of all employed people. Of those who usually worked full-time, 1.2 million people (15%) worked less than 35 hours in the reference week, with 73,400 (6%) of these people working less hours due to economic reasons.



## LIST OF TABLES

page

### EMPLOYED PERSONS

- 1** Full-time or part-time status by sex for September 2007 to September 2010 . . . . . 10

### PART-TIME WORKERS WHO WOULD PREFER MORE HOURS

- 2** Whether available and/or looking by sex for September 2007 to September 2010 . . . . . 11
- 3** Age group (years), relationship in household, level of highest educational attainment, status in employment, preferred total number of hours, preferred number of extra hours and whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours by whether available and/or looking by sex . . . . 12

### UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS

- 4** Age group (years), relationship in household, level of highest educational attainment, status in employment, preferred total number of hours, preferred number of extra hours and whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours by duration of current period of insufficient work, mean duration and median duration of current period of insufficient work by sex . . . . . 15
- 5** Age group (years), status in employment, hours usually worked, whether would move interstate if offered a suitable job and whether would move intrastate if offered a suitable job by preferred number of extra hours and mean preferred number of extra hours by sex . . . . . 18
- 6** Main difficulty in finding work with more hours by sex and mean preferred number of extra hours by sex . . . . . 21
- 7** All steps taken to find work with more hours in the last four weeks by preferred number of extra hours and mean preferred number of extra hours by sex . . . . . 22

### POPULATIONS

- 8** State or territory of usual residence by sex . . . . . 23

EMPLOYED PERSONS, Full-time or part-time status—By sex—September 2007 to  
September 2010

	2007	2008(a)	2009	2010
	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES				
Employed persons	5 777.8	5 886.4	5 915.5	6 220.9
Full-time workers	4 926.0	5 024.7	4 977.2	5 237.6
Worked 35 hours or more in the reference week	4 104.3	4 365.0	4 328.3	4 518.1
Worked less than 35 hours in the reference week	821.8	659.6	649.0	719.6
For non-economic reasons	786.6	618.5	585.1	662.8
For economic reasons	35.2	41.1	63.9	56.8
Part-time workers	851.8	861.8	938.3	983.2
Would not prefer to work more hours	648.8	621.2	627.8	667.9
Would prefer to work more hours	203.0	240.6	310.5	315.3
Prefers more part-time hours(b)	57.6	84.5	96.9	104.6
Prefers full-time hours(c)	145.4	156.1	213.6	210.8
FEMALES				
Employed persons	4 752.2	4 856.5	4 956.6	5 176.9
Full-time workers	2 628.4	2 715.4	2 726.2	2 856.8
Worked 35 hours or more in the reference week	2 100.2	2 275.7	2 272.7	2 386.7
Worked less than 35 hours in the reference week	528.3	439.7	453.5	470.0
For non-economic reasons	517.3	429.5	441.7	453.4
For economic reasons	11.0	10.2	11.8	16.6
Part-time workers	2 123.8	2 141.1	2 230.4	2 320.1
Would not prefer to work more hours	1 754.9	1 694.0	1 717.0	1 818.4
Would prefer to work more hours	368.9	447.1	513.4	501.8
Prefers more part-time hours(b)	186.0	254.0	285.0	266.9
Prefers full-time hours(c)	182.9	193.1	228.3	234.9
PERSONS				
Employed persons	10 530.0	10 742.9	10 872.1	11 397.7
Full-time workers	7 554.5	7 740.1	7 703.4	8 094.4
Worked 35 hours or more in the reference week	6 204.4	6 640.7	6 601.0	6 904.8
Worked less than 35 hours in the reference week	1 350.1	1 099.4	1 102.4	1 189.6
For non-economic reasons	1 303.9	1 048.0	1 026.8	1 116.2
For economic reasons	46.2	51.3	75.7	73.4
Part-time workers	2 975.6	3 002.9	3 168.7	3 303.3
Would not prefer to work more hours	2 403.7	2 315.2	2 344.9	2 486.2
Would prefer to work more hours	571.9	687.7	823.8	817.1
Prefers more part-time hours(b)	243.6	338.5	381.9	371.5
Prefers full-time hours(c)	328.3	349.2	442.0	445.6

(a) From September 2008 there is a break in series. See paragraphs 14-15 of the Explanatory Notes for more information on the comparability of time series.

(b) Total number of hours preferred to work each week are between 1 to 34 hours.

(c) Total number of hours preferred to work each week are 35 hours or more.

PART-TIME WORKERS WHO WOULD PREFER MORE HOURS, Whether available and/or looking—By sex—September 2007 to September 2010

	2007	2008(a)	2009	2010
	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES				
Available to start work with more hours(b)	171.8	213.9	283.8	288.0
Available in the reference week	135.5	191.0	259.9	259.9
Looking	88.4	98.2	147.9	142.2
Not looking	47.1	92.8	112.0	117.7
Available within four week(c)	36.3	22.9	23.9	28.2
Looking	15.7	6.8	8.1	12.9
Not looking	20.6	16.1	15.8	15.3
Not available to start work with more hours(d)	31.2	26.6	26.7	27.3
Looking	*4.7	*3.0	*4.9	*2.9
Not looking	26.5	23.6	21.8	24.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>203.0</b>	<b>240.6</b>	<b>310.5</b>	<b>315.3</b>
FEMALES				
Available to start work with more hours(b)	300.3	389.8	452.1	445.9
Available in the reference week	212.9	334.0	400.9	388.4
Looking	122.0	151.5	187.0	191.8
Not looking	90.9	182.5	213.9	196.6
Available within four week(c)	87.4	55.8	51.2	57.4
Looking	38.9	15.2	16.0	19.5
Not looking	48.6	40.6	35.3	38.0
Not available to start work with more hours(d)	68.5	57.3	61.3	55.9
Looking	7.9	*6.1	*6.6	*5.8
Not looking	60.6	51.2	54.7	50.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>368.9</b>	<b>447.1</b>	<b>513.4</b>	<b>501.8</b>
PERSONS				
Available to start work with more hours(b)	472.2	603.7	735.9	733.9
Available in the reference week	348.4	525.0	660.7	648.3
Looking	210.4	249.7	334.9	334.0
Not looking	138.0	275.3	325.9	314.3
Available within four week(c)	123.7	78.8	75.2	85.6
Looking	54.5	22.0	24.1	32.4
Not looking	69.2	56.7	51.1	53.3
Not available to start work with more hours(d)	99.7	83.9	87.9	83.2
Looking	12.6	9.1	11.4	8.6
Not looking	87.2	74.8	76.5	74.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>571.9</b>	<b>687.7</b>	<b>823.8</b>	<b>817.1</b>

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

(a) From September 2008 there is a break in the series. See paragraphs 14-15 of the Explanatory Notes for more information on the comparability of time series.

(b) Underemployed part-time workers.

(c) Available within four weeks but not in the reference week.

(d) Availability refers to 'in the reference week or within four weeks'.

PART-TIME WORKERS WHO WOULD PREFER MORE HOURS, Whether available and/or looking—By selected characteristics—By sex

AVAILABLE IN THE REFERENCE  
WEEK OR WITHIN FOUR WEEKS (a)

Available and looking  
'000

Available and not looking  
'000

Total  
'000

Not available  
in the reference  
week or within  
four weeks

Total  
'000

MALES

	Available and looking '000	Available and not looking '000	Total '000	Not available in the reference week or within four weeks	Total '000
<b>Age group (years)</b>					
15–19	27.6	29.0	56.6	*5.7	62.3
20–24	31.5	23.6	55.0	*3.8	58.8
25–34	31.2	21.2	52.5	*4.0	56.5
35–44	22.2	12.9	35.1	*5.5	40.6
45–54	22.0	13.6	35.6	*4.4	40.0
55 years and over	20.6	32.6	53.3	*3.9	57.2
<b>Relationship in household</b>					
Family member	127.6	105.8	233.4	23.2	256.6
Husband, wife or partner	64.6	56.9	121.5	11.9	133.4
Lone parent	*2.2	**1.5	*3.7	**0.2	*4.0
Dependent student	18.5	21.6	40.0	*6.1	46.2
Non-dependent child	35.4	21.5	56.8	*4.2	61.0
Other family person	*6.9	*4.4	11.3	**0.8	12.1
Non-family member	25.4	26.1	51.5	*3.2	54.6
Relationship not determined	**2.1	**1.1	*3.2	**0.9	*4.1
<b>Level of highest educational attainment (b)</b>					
Bachelor degree or higher	29.8	21.1	50.9	*7.2	58.0
Advanced diploma/Diploma	14.9	*7.2	22.2	**0.4	22.6
Certificate (c)	24.0	26.4	50.4	*5.0	55.4
Year 12	47.1	36.8	84.0	*5.6	89.6
Year 11	9.3	*7.5	16.9	*3.1	20.0
Year 10 and below	27.8	31.9	59.6	*5.6	65.2
<b>Status in employment (d)</b>					
Employees	128.2	107.7	236.0	23.0	259.0
Own account workers	25.0	22.7	47.7	*3.5	51.3
<b>Preferred total number of hours</b>					
Less than 30 hours	27.0	35.6	62.6	*7.4	70.0
30–34	12.9	18.1	30.9	*3.7	34.6
35–39	54.9	37.2	92.1	9.9	102.1
40 or more	60.2	42.1	102.4	*6.3	108.7
<b>Preferred number of extra hours</b>					
Less than 10 hours	28.6	48.4	77.0	*7.4	84.5
10–19	58.3	54.6	112.9	8.8	121.7
20–29	51.9	20.7	72.6	*7.1	79.8
30 or more	16.3	9.2	25.5	*3.4	28.9
<b>Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours</b>					
Would prefer to change employer	54.9	26.1	81.0	*5.5	86.4
Would prefer not to change employer	67.8	93.0	160.8	16.7	177.5
No preference	32.3	13.9	46.3	*5.1	51.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>155.1</b>	<b>133.0</b>	<b>288.0</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>315.3</b>

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

\*\* estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Underemployed part-time workers.

(b) Excludes 'No educational attainment', 'Level not determined' and 'Other education'.

(c) Includes 'Certificate I, II, III, IV' and 'Certificate not further defined'.

(d) Excludes 'Employers' and 'Contributing family workers'.

PART-TIME WORKERS WHO WOULD PREFER MORE HOURS, Whether available and/or looking—By selected characteristics—By sex *continued*

AVAILABLE IN THE REFERENCE  
WEEK OR WITHIN FOUR WEEKS (a)

	Available and looking	Available and not looking	Total	Not available in the reference week or within four weeks	Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000

FEMALES

Age group (years)					
15-19	35.1	31.6	66.7	*4.2	70.9
20-24	38.5	29.1	67.7	*6.3	74.0
25-34	41.4	34.5	76.0	13.4	89.3
35-44	41.1	56.7	97.8	16.7	114.5
45-54	43.1	52.7	95.8	10.9	106.7
55 years and over	12.0	29.9	41.9	*4.4	46.3
Relationship in household					
Family member	176.4	206.3	382.8	49.9	432.7
Husband, wife or partner	83.0	122.5	205.5	32.3	237.8
Lone parent	29.2	29.9	59.1	9.4	68.5
Dependent student	19.9	25.2	45.1	*5.8	50.9
Non-dependent child	39.0	23.4	62.4	**1.4	63.8
Other family person	*5.3	*5.4	10.6	**1.1	11.8
Non-family member	32.6	25.2	57.8	*5.6	63.4
Relationship not determined	*2.3	*3.0	*5.3	**0.4	*5.7
Level of highest educational attainment (b)					
Bachelor degree or higher	43.7	33.7	77.4	13.0	90.4
Advanced diploma/Diploma	22.0	27.6	49.6	*7.9	57.5
Certificate (c)	40.4	42.6	83.0	10.3	93.3
Year 12	50.4	48.5	98.9	11.4	110.2
Year 11	14.2	23.2	37.4	*3.8	41.2
Year 10 and below	37.9	55.0	92.9	9.4	102.4
Status in employment (d)					
Employees	191.4	208.9	400.3	47.8	448.1
Own account workers	17.2	22.8	40.0	*6.5	46.5
Preferred total number of hours					
Less than 30 hours	62.4	102.4	164.8	19.4	184.2
30-34	29.0	43.4	72.4	10.3	82.7
35-39	75.0	65.0	140.0	15.2	155.2
40 or more	45.0	23.8	68.7	11.0	79.7
Preferred number of extra hours					
Less than 10 hours	57.4	112.5	169.9	18.6	188.5
10-19	98.0	95.0	193.0	25.1	218.1
20-29	41.7	21.1	62.8	*7.7	70.6
30 or more	14.1	*6.0	20.2	*3.6	23.8
Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours					
Would prefer to change employer	70.9	34.1	105.0	13.4	118.5
Would prefer not to change employer	98.5	173.3	271.7	33.0	304.7
No preference	41.9	27.2	69.1	9.5	78.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>211.3</b>	<b>234.6</b>	<b>445.9</b>	<b>55.9</b>	<b>501.8</b>

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

\*\* estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Underemployed part-time workers.

(b) Excludes 'No educational attainment', 'Level not determined' and 'Other education'.

(c) Includes 'Certificate I, II, III, IV' and 'Certificate not further defined'.

(d) Excludes 'Employers' and 'Contributing family workers'.

PART-TIME WORKERS WHO WOULD PREFER MORE HOURS, Whether available and/or looking—By selected characteristics—By sex *continued*

	AVAILABLE IN THE REFERENCE WEEK OR WITHIN FOUR WEEKS (a)			Not available in the reference week or within four weeks	
	Available and looking	Available and not looking	Total		Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
PERSONS					
Age group (years)					
15–19	62.6	60.6	123.3	9.9	133.2
20–24	70.0	52.7	122.7	10.1	132.8
25–34	72.7	55.8	128.4	17.4	145.8
35–44	63.3	69.6	132.9	22.1	155.1
45–54	65.1	66.3	131.4	15.3	146.7
55 years and over	32.6	62.5	95.2	8.3	103.5
Relationship in household					
Family member	304.0	312.1	616.1	73.1	689.3
Husband, wife or partner	147.6	179.4	327.0	44.1	371.1
Lone parent	31.4	31.4	62.9	9.6	72.5
Dependent student	38.4	46.7	85.2	11.9	97.1
Non-dependent child	74.4	44.8	119.2	*5.5	124.8
Other family person	12.1	9.8	21.9	**1.9	23.8
Non-family member	58.0	51.3	109.3	8.7	118.0
Relationship not determined	*4.4	*4.1	8.5	**1.4	9.8
Level of highest educational attainment (b)					
Bachelor degree or higher	73.5	54.7	128.3	20.2	148.4
Advanced diploma/Diploma	37.0	34.8	71.8	8.3	80.1
Certificate (c)	64.4	69.1	133.4	15.3	148.7
Year 12	97.5	85.3	182.9	17.0	199.9
Year 11	23.6	30.7	54.3	*6.9	61.1
Year 10 and below	65.7	86.9	152.6	15.0	167.6
Status in employment (d)					
Employees	319.6	316.7	636.3	70.9	707.1
Own account workers	42.2	45.5	87.7	10.0	97.7
Preferred total number of hours					
Less than 30 hours	89.4	137.9	227.4	26.8	254.1
30–34	41.8	61.5	103.4	14.0	117.3
35–39	129.9	102.2	232.1	25.1	257.2
40 or more	105.2	65.9	171.1	17.3	188.4
Preferred number of extra hours					
Less than 10 hours	85.9	160.9	246.9	26.0	272.9
10–19	156.3	149.6	305.9	33.9	339.8
20–29	93.6	41.8	135.5	14.9	150.4
30 or more	30.4	15.2	45.7	*7.0	52.7
Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours					
Would prefer to change employer	125.8	60.2	186.0	18.9	204.9
Would prefer not to change employer	166.3	266.2	432.5	49.7	482.2
No preference	74.2	41.2	115.4	14.6	130.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>366.3</b>	<b>367.6</b>	<b>733.9</b>	<b>83.2</b>	<b>817.1</b>

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

\*\* estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Underemployed part-time workers.

(b) Excludes 'No educational attainment', 'Level not determined' and 'Other education'.

(c) Includes 'Certificate I, II, III, IV' and 'Certificate not further defined'.

(d) Excludes 'Employers' and 'Contributing family workers'.

UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS, Duration of current period of insufficient work—By selected characteristics—By sex

	DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF INSUFFICIENT WORK (WEEKS)					
	1-12	13-51	52 and over	Total	Mean duration	Median duration
	'000	'000	'000	'000	weeks	weeks
MALES						
Age group (years)						
15-19	19.3	22.2	15.1	56.6	32.2	21.0
20-24	18.3	18.7	18.0	55.0	45.4	26.0
25-34	20.1	17.5	14.9	52.5	55.7	25.0
35-44	10.4	14.1	10.6	35.1	78.3	26.0
45-54	9.7	13.7	12.2	35.6	65.2	30.0
55 and over	13.0	12.6	27.7	53.3	136.1	52.0
Relationship in household						
Family member	72.9	79.7	80.8	233.4	69.1	26.0
Husband, wife or partner	36.4	42.4	42.8	121.5	82.5	26.0
Lone parent	**0.9	**0.5	*2.4	*3.7	50.8	52.0
Dependent student	12.2	15.9	11.9	40.0	38.6	21.0
Non-dependent child	18.8	17.7	20.4	56.8	64.7	26.0
Other family person	*4.7	*3.2	*3.3	11.3	60.4	26.0
Non-family member	16.3	17.8	17.3	51.5	65.9	26.0
Relationship not determined	**1.6	**1.1	**0.5	*3.2	16.5	9.0
Level of highest educational attainment(a)						
Bachelor degree or higher	11.5	18.3	21.0	50.9	89.0	39.0
Advanced Diploma/Diploma Certificate(b)	*6.1	*8.1	*8.0	22.2	92.2	26.0
Year 12	20.6	15.4	14.4	50.4	69.9	20.0
Year 11	28.6	27.9	27.5	84.0	49.3	26.0
Year 10 or below	*4.6	*5.8	*6.5	16.9	94.6	30.0
Year 10 or below	17.4	21.8	20.5	59.6	60.8	26.0
Status in employment(c)						
Employees	77.8	80.8	77.4	236.0	60.0	26.0
Own account workers	11.8	16.2	19.7	47.7	108.3	36.0
Preferred total number of hours						
Less than 30 hours	23.0	16.7	22.9	62.6	88.8	21.0
30-34	9.6	10.1	11.2	30.9	67.9	26.0
35-39	23.7	29.7	38.8	92.1	83.0	36.0
40 or more	34.5	42.1	25.7	102.4	41.5	20.0
Preferred number of extra hours						
Less than 10 hours	29.6	22.4	25.0	77.0	61.3	20.0
10-19	33.4	39.0	40.5	112.9	72.6	26.0
20-29	19.5	29.0	24.1	72.6	63.2	26.0
30 or more	8.4	8.2	8.9	25.5	80.4	26.0
Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours						
Would prefer to change employer	26.1	30.7	24.2	81.0	49.9	26.0
Would prefer not to change employer	48.4	56.2	56.1	160.8	79.8	26.0
No preference	16.4	11.7	18.2	46.3	58.0	30.0
<i>Total</i>	90.9	98.7	98.5	288.0	67.9	26.0

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

\*\* estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Excludes 'No educational attainment', 'Level not determined' and 'Other education'.

(b) Includes 'Certificate I, II, III, IV' and 'Certificate not further defined'.

(c) Excludes 'Employers' and 'Contributing family workers'.

UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS, Duration of current period of insufficient work—By selected characteristics—By sex *continued*

	DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF INSUFFICIENT WORK (WEEKS)					
	1-12	13-51	52 and over	Total	Mean duration	Median duration
	'000	'000	'000	'000	weeks	weeks
FEMALES						
Age group (years)						
15-19	24.6	25.9	16.2	66.7	35.2	26.0
20-24	22.9	26.8	18.0	67.7	39.9	21.0
25-34	26.0	27.3	22.6	76.0	52.3	21.0
35-44	23.1	27.0	47.7	97.8	80.8	40.0
45-54	18.1	25.1	52.6	95.8	120.9	52.0
55 and over	8.3	11.5	22.1	41.9	114.9	52.0
Relationship in household						
Family member	102.8	121.5	158.5	382.8	74.8	34.0
Husband, wife or partner	53.9	55.5	96.1	205.5	84.0	40.0
Lone parent	12.2	20.0	26.9	59.1	94.1	37.0
Dependent student	15.9	18.7	10.5	45.1	34.9	26.0
Non-dependent child	18.4	25.2	18.8	62.4	57.2	26.0
Other family person	*2.4	**2.1	*6.1	10.6	60.6	52.0
Non-family member	18.7	20.3	18.8	57.8	77.1	26.0
Relationship not determined	**1.5	**1.8	**2.0	*5.3	45.7	26.0
Level of highest educational attainment(a)						
Bachelor degree or higher	25.7	22.0	29.7	77.4	71.1	30.0
Advanced Diploma/Diploma Certificate(b)	14.5	13.2	21.9	49.6	75.5	35.0
Year 12	15.9	25.5	41.6	83.0	97.4	52.0
Year 11	32.5	37.5	28.8	98.9	50.1	26.0
Year 10 or below	10.9	12.8	13.6	37.4	62.6	26.0
Year 10 or below	22.1	30.3	40.5	92.9	87.7	40.0
Status in employment(c)						
Employees	112.1	130.3	157.9	400.3	73.0	30.0
Own account workers	9.1	12.2	18.7	40.0	93.3	43.0
Preferred total number of hours						
Less than 30 hours	44.6	53.8	66.4	164.8	74.8	34.0
30-34	16.3	23.9	32.2	72.4	85.1	39.0
35-39	40.2	45.9	53.9	140.0	73.7	30.0
40 or more	21.7	20.1	26.9	68.7	65.9	26.0
Preferred number of extra hours						
Less than 10 hours	48.1	53.0	68.8	169.9	74.6	30.0
10-19	50.9	65.6	76.5	193.0	79.8	34.0
20-29	16.9	19.9	26.0	62.8	64.5	34.0
30 or more	*7.0	*5.2	*8.0	20.2	59.0	26.0
Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours						
Would prefer to change employer	28.7	35.9	40.4	105.0	76.3	34.0
Would prefer not to change employer	78.9	83.6	109.2	271.7	69.9	32.0
No preference	15.2	24.3	29.7	69.1	91.2	37.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>122.9</b>	<b>143.7</b>	<b>179.3</b>	<b>445.9</b>	<b>74.7</b>	<b>34.0</b>

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

\*\* estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Excludes 'No educational attainment', 'Level not determined' and 'Other education'.

(b) Includes 'Certificate I, II, III, IV' and 'Certificate not further defined'.

(c) Excludes 'Employers' and 'Contributing family workers'.



UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS, Duration of current period of insufficient work—By selected characteristics—By sex *continued*

	DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF INSUFFICIENT WORK (WEEKS)					
	1-12	13-51	52 and over	Total	Mean duration	Median duration
	'000	'000	'000	'000	weeks	weeks
PERSONS						
Age group (years)						
15-19	43.9	48.1	31.3	123.3	33.8	24.0
20-24	41.2	45.5	36.0	122.7	42.4	24.0
25-34	46.1	44.8	37.5	128.4	53.7	22.0
35-44	33.4	41.1	58.4	132.9	80.1	34.0
45-54	27.8	38.8	64.8	131.4	105.8	50.0
55 and over	21.3	24.1	49.8	95.2	126.7	52.0
Relationship in household						
Family member	175.7	201.2	239.2	616.1	72.6	30.0
Husband, wife or partner	90.3	97.9	138.9	327.0	83.5	34.0
Lone parent	13.0	20.5	29.3	62.9	91.5	39.0
Dependent student	28.0	34.7	22.5	85.2	36.6	26.0
Non-dependent child	37.2	42.9	39.2	119.2	60.8	26.0
Other family person	*7.1	*5.3	9.4	21.9	60.5	40.0
Non-family member	35.0	38.2	36.1	109.3	71.8	26.0
Relationship not determined	*3.1	*3.0	*2.5	8.5	34.7	18.0
Level of highest educational attainment(a)						
Bachelor degree or higher	37.2	40.3	50.7	128.3	78.2	30.0
Advanced Diploma/Diploma Certificate(b)	20.6	21.3	29.9	71.8	80.7	27.0
Year 12	36.5	40.9	56.1	133.4	87.0	30.0
Year 11	61.1	65.4	56.3	182.9	49.8	26.0
Year 10 or below	15.5	18.6	20.1	54.3	72.6	26.0
Year 10 or below	39.5	52.1	61.0	152.6	77.2	34.0
Status in employment(c)						
Employees	189.9	211.0	235.3	636.3	68.2	26.0
Own account workers	20.9	28.5	38.4	87.7	101.5	39.0
Preferred total number of hours						
Less than 30 hours	67.6	70.5	89.2	227.4	78.6	30.0
30-34	26.0	34.0	43.3	103.4	80.0	34.0
35-39	63.9	75.5	92.6	232.1	77.4	30.0
40 or more	56.2	62.3	52.6	171.1	51.3	26.0
Preferred number of extra hours						
Less than 10 hours	77.7	75.4	93.8	246.9	70.5	26.0
10-19	84.3	104.6	117.0	305.9	77.1	30.0
20-29	36.4	48.9	50.1	135.5	63.8	28.0
30 or more	15.4	13.4	16.9	45.7	70.9	26.0
Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours						
Would prefer to change employer	54.8	66.6	64.6	186.0	64.8	26.0
Would prefer not to change employer	127.4	139.8	165.3	432.5	73.6	30.0
No preference	31.6	35.9	47.9	115.4	77.9	30.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>213.7</b>	<b>242.4</b>	<b>277.8</b>	<b>733.9</b>	<b>72.1</b>	<b>30.0</b>

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

(a) Excludes 'No educational attainment', 'Level not determined' and 'Other education'.

(b) Includes 'Certificate I, II, III, IV' and 'Certificate not further defined'.

(c) Excludes 'Employers' and 'Contributing family workers'.

UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS, Preferred number of extra hours—By selected characteristics—By sex

	Less than 10 hours	10-19	20 or more	Total	Mean preferred number of extra hours
	'000	'000	'000	'000	hours
MALES					
Age group (years)					
15-19	26.5	13.6	16.5	56.6	13.9
20-24	11.1	25.5	18.4	55.0	15.6
25-34	8.6	26.7	17.2	52.5	17.1
35-44	*7.5	12.4	15.2	35.1	16.3
45-54	*6.5	14.7	14.3	35.6	16.8
55 and over	16.8	20.0	16.5	53.3	15.4
Status in employment(a)					
Employees	67.5	93.9	74.6	236.0	15.3
Own account workers	8.6	16.8	22.3	47.7	17.8
Hours usually worked					
1-5	*7.6	*4.5	12.3	24.3	20.0
6-10	16.0	10.7	25.2	51.9	18.4
11-15	8.6	*7.3	27.6	43.5	19.2
16-20	*6.8	32.1	28.3	67.2	17.0
21-29	13.8	41.1	*2.3	57.1	12.2
30-34	24.3	17.2	*2.5	44.0	9.6
Whether would move interstate if offered a suitable job					
Would move interstate	8.2	28.5	26.9	63.6	18.2
Would not move interstate	62.8	67.6	59.6	190.0	14.7
Might move interstate	*4.5	14.1	9.9	28.5	17.2
Did not know	**1.5	*2.7	**1.7	*5.9	15.6
Whether would move intrastate if offered a suitable job					
Would move intrastate	12.8	40.9	36.3	90.0	17.9
Would not move intrastate	58.9	58.1	46.1	163.0	14.1
Might move intrastate	*4.7	10.2	12.7	27.7	17.7
Did not know	**0.7	*3.7	*3.0	*7.4	17.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>77.0</b>	<b>112.9</b>	<b>98.1</b>	<b>288.0</b>	<b>15.8</b>

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

\*\* estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Excludes 'Employers' and 'Contributing family workers'.

	Less than 10 hours	10-19	20 or more	Total	Mean preferred number of extra hours
	'000	'000	'000	'000	hours
FEMALES					
Age group (years)					
15-19	30.7	27.7	8.3	66.7	11.4
20-24	19.5	34.3	13.9	67.7	14.4
25-34	21.4	33.3	21.3	76.0	14.7
35-44	34.4	44.4	19.0	97.8	13.1
45-54	42.3	38.1	15.5	95.8	12.3
55 and over	21.6	15.2	*5.1	41.9	10.6
Status in employment(a)					
Employees	153.5	173.9	72.8	400.3	12.9
Own account workers	14.8	16.3	8.9	40.0	13.4
Hours usually worked					
1-5	15.4	16.8	10.7	43.0	14.7
6-10	26.1	31.2	26.0	83.3	15.5
11-15	28.3	31.8	25.1	85.2	14.3
16-20	22.1	47.4	19.4	88.9	13.8
21-29	42.2	54.6	**1.5	98.3	10.5
30-34	35.7	11.2	**0.2	47.2	7.5
Whether would move interstate if offered a suitable job					
Would move interstate	14.4	32.6	22.5	69.5	16.1
Would not move interstate	145.0	144.8	50.1	339.8	12.0
Might move interstate	*7.5	12.5	*7.1	27.1	15.0
Did not know	*3.0	*3.1	*3.3	9.4	16.3
Whether would move intrastate if offered a suitable job					
Would move intrastate	21.6	47.8	30.8	100.2	15.9
Would not move intrastate	130.0	121.1	40.0	291.1	11.7
Might move intrastate	16.7	21.5	9.8	47.9	13.7
Did not know	**1.6	*2.6	*2.5	*6.7	17.8
<i>Total</i>	169.9	193.0	83.0	445.9	12.9

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

\*\* estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Excludes 'Employers' and 'Contributing family workers'.

	Less than 10 hours	10-19	20 or more	Total	Mean preferred number of extra hours
	'000	'000	'000	'000	hours
PERSONS					
Age group (years)					
15-19	57.2	41.3	24.8	123.3	12.6
20-24	30.6	59.8	32.3	122.7	14.9
25-34	30.0	60.0	38.5	128.4	15.7
35-44	41.9	56.8	34.2	132.9	14.0
45-54	48.8	52.8	29.8	131.4	13.5
55 and over	38.4	35.2	21.6	95.2	13.3
Status in employment(a)					
Employees	221.0	267.8	147.5	636.3	13.8
Own account workers	23.4	33.1	31.2	87.7	15.8
Hours usually worked					
1-5	23.0	21.2	23.0	67.3	16.6
6-10	42.1	41.9	51.2	135.2	16.6
11-15	36.9	39.1	52.7	128.7	15.9
16-20	28.9	79.5	47.7	156.1	15.2
21-29	56.0	95.7	*3.8	155.4	11.2
30-34	60.0	28.5	*2.7	91.2	8.5
Whether would move interstate if offered a suitable job					
Would move interstate	22.5	61.1	49.4	133.1	17.1
Would not move interstate	207.8	212.3	109.7	529.8	13.0
Might move interstate	12.0	26.6	17.0	55.6	16.1
Did not know	*4.6	*5.8	*5.0	15.4	16.0
Whether would move intrastate if offered a suitable job					
Would move intrastate	34.4	88.7	67.1	190.2	16.8
Would not move intrastate	188.9	179.2	86.1	454.2	12.6
Might move intrastate	21.4	31.7	22.5	75.5	15.1
Did not know	*2.3	*6.3	*5.5	14.0	17.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>246.9</b>	<b>305.9</b>	<b>181.1</b>	<b>733.9</b>	<b>14.0</b>

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

(a) Excludes 'Employers' and 'Contributing family workers'.

## UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS, Main difficulty in finding work with more hours—By sex

<i>Main difficulty in finding work with more hours</i>				MEAN PREFERRED NUMBER OF EXTRA HOURS		
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
	'000	'000	'000	hours	hours	hours
Had been looking for work with more hours	155.1	211.3	366.3	17.5	14.8	16.0
Own ill health or disability	*4.5	*7.0	11.5	17.4	12.5	14.4
Considered too old by employers	8.3	*5.1	13.3	18.7	15.9	17.7
Unsuitable hours	12.1	25.6	37.7	16.1	13.0	14.0
Too far to travel/transport problems	*5.5	*4.9	10.4	17.2	12.7	15.1
Lacked necessary skills or education	10.4	16.2	26.6	19.3	14.4	16.3
Language difficulties	*3.2	**1.0	*4.2	21.0	26.7	22.4
Insufficient work experience	*7.8	13.5	21.3	16.0	13.7	14.5
No vacancies in line of work	32.7	40.4	73.0	18.4	16.3	17.2
Too many applicants for available jobs	14.0	18.7	32.7	17.0	15.8	16.3
No vacancies at all	12.1	19.6	31.8	16.9	15.7	16.2
Difficulties in finding child care	**1.7	*5.4	*7.1	21.4	14.5	16.1
Other family responsibilities	**1.7	9.6	11.3	22.2	14.1	15.3
Other difficulties(a)	12.6	16.7	29.3	16.9	13.3	14.9
No difficulties reported	28.6	27.5	56.1	16.6	15.5	16.1
Had not been looking for work with more hours	133.0	234.6	367.6	13.7	11.2	12.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>288.0</b>	<b>445.9</b>	<b>733.9</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>14.0</b>

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

\*\* estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Includes 'Considered too young by employers' and 'Difficulties with ethnic background'.

UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS, Preferred number of extra hours—By all steps taken to find work in the last 4 weeks—By sex

All steps taken to find work with more hours(a)	Less than 10 hours	10–19	20 or more	Total	Mean preferred number of extra hours
	'000	'000	'000	'000	hours
MALES					
Had been looking for work with more hours	28.6	58.3	68.2	155.1	17.5
Asked current employer for more work	17.2	35.0	36.3	88.5	17.3
Contacted prospective employers	9.0	31.3	41.0	81.2	19.3
Registered with Centrelink	*3.3	10.3	15.0	28.5	18.8
Contacted an employment agency	**1.4	9.5	12.5	23.5	20.4
Looked in newspapers	8.9	27.1	32.9	68.9	18.4
Searched Internet sites	12.5	30.5	39.1	82.1	17.9
Answered a newspaper advertisement for a job	*2.4	10.0	15.2	27.6	19.2
Advertised or tendered for work	*2.4	*5.2	*5.6	13.2	17.5
Contacted friends or relatives	8.6	25.4	26.2	60.1	17.8
Other steps taken to find work(b)	*4.0	*7.5	13.8	25.3	18.7
Had not been looking for work with more hours	48.4	54.6	29.9	133.0	13.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>77.0</b>	<b>112.9</b>	<b>98.1</b>	<b>288.0</b>	<b>15.8</b>
FEMALES					
Had been looking for work with more hours	57.4	98.0	55.9	211.3	14.8
Asked current employer for more work	38.5	62.8	36.2	137.5	14.8
Contacted prospective employers	27.2	53.6	33.5	114.2	15.6
Registered with Centrelink	*5.3	23.7	14.6	43.6	17.2
Contacted an employment agency	*5.0	13.6	9.8	28.4	17.1
Looked in newspapers	20.0	51.6	31.7	103.2	16.3
Searched Internet sites	25.9	47.8	32.7	106.4	15.6
Answered a newspaper advertisement for a job	*8.1	15.8	12.3	36.2	16.0
Advertised or tendered for work	*3.9	*3.2	*6.8	14.0	18.3
Contacted friends or relatives	12.8	22.7	18.4	53.9	16.4
Other steps taken to find work(b)	*5.6	16.5	11.3	33.4	15.9
Had not been looking for work with more hours	112.5	95.0	27.1	234.6	11.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>169.9</b>	<b>193.0</b>	<b>83.0</b>	<b>445.9</b>	<b>12.9</b>
PERSONS					
Had been looking for work with more hours	85.9	156.3	124.1	366.3	16.0
Asked current employer for more work	55.7	97.8	72.5	226.0	15.8
Contacted prospective employers	36.2	84.9	74.4	195.4	17.1
Registered with Centrelink	8.6	34.0	29.6	72.1	17.8
Contacted an employment agency	*6.5	23.1	22.3	51.9	18.6
Looked in newspapers	28.9	78.7	64.6	172.2	17.1
Searched Internet sites	38.4	78.3	71.9	188.5	16.6
Answered a newspaper advertisement for a job	10.5	25.8	27.5	63.8	17.4
Advertised or tendered for work	*6.3	8.5	12.4	27.2	17.9
Contacted friends or relatives	21.4	48.1	44.6	114.0	17.1
Other steps taken to find work(b)	9.6	24.0	25.1	58.7	17.1
Had not been looking for work with more hours	160.9	149.6	57.1	367.6	12.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>246.9</b>	<b>305.9</b>	<b>181.1</b>	<b>733.9</b>	<b>14.0</b>

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

\*\* estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Refers to all steps taken to find work during the four weeks prior to the survey, therefore people may appear in more than one category.

(b) Includes 'Checked factory noticeboards'.

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES									
<b>Population 1</b>									
Employed persons	1 967.3	1 563.8	1 264.3	439.5	691.4	125.0	64.6	105.0	6 220.9
<b>Population 2</b>									
Full-time workers	1 646.6	1 293.9	1 085.9	367.7	594.2	101.1	58.4	89.9	5 237.6
<b>Population 3</b>									
Part-time workers	320.8	269.8	178.4	71.7	97.3	23.9	6.2	15.1	983.2
<b>Population 4</b>									
Part-time workers who would prefer more hours	108.7	84.4	59.3	25.3	24.4	8.5	1.4	3.5	315.3
<b>Population 5</b>									
Part-time workers who would prefer more hours who had been looking for work with more hours or were available to start work with more hours(a)	99.4	76.9	56.0	23.5	22.5	8.1	*1.2	3.3	290.9
<b>Population 6</b>									
Underemployed part-time workers	98.8	76.4	55.3	22.7	22.5	8.0	*1.2	3.2	288.0
<b>Population 7</b>									
Underemployed workers	116.9	91.4	67.8	27.9	27.5	8.5	1.6	3.3	344.8
FEMALES									
<b>Population 1</b>									
Employed persons	1 629.5	1 286.0	1 075.7	378.3	538.3	112.7	57.2	99.2	5 176.9
<b>Population 2</b>									
Full-time workers	930.9	696.8	599.4	192.3	279.3	53.7	42.2	62.2	2 856.8
<b>Population 3</b>									
Part-time workers	698.6	589.2	476.2	186.0	259.0	59.0	15.0	37.0	2 320.1
<b>Population 4</b>									
Part-time workers who would prefer more hours	160.5	114.9	109.7	39.7	54.3	12.9	2.2	7.5	501.8
<b>Population 5</b>									
Part-time workers who would prefer more hours who had been looking for work with more hours or were available to start work with more hours(a)	144.8	102.9	99.0	35.1	48.9	11.8	1.9	7.3	451.6
<b>Population 6</b>									
Underemployed part-time workers	142.6	102.1	98.1	34.9	47.4	11.7	1.9	7.3	445.9
<b>Population 7</b>									
Underemployed workers	149.0	106.3	101.2	37.1	47.4	12.0	2.1	7.5	462.5
PERSONS									
<b>Population 1</b>									
Employed persons	3 596.9	2 849.8	2 339.9	817.8	1 229.7	237.7	121.7	204.2	11 397.7
<b>Population 2</b>									
Full-time workers	2 577.4	1 990.7	1 685.3	560.0	873.5	154.8	100.5	152.1	8 094.4
<b>Population 3</b>									
Part-time workers	1 019.4	859.1	654.7	257.7	356.2	82.9	21.2	52.1	3 303.3
<b>Population 4</b>									
Part-time workers who would prefer more hours	269.2	199.3	169.0	65.0	78.7	21.3	3.6	10.9	817.1
<b>Population 5</b>									
Part-time workers who would prefer more hours who had been looking for work with more hours or were available to start work with more hours(a)	244.1	179.8	155.0	58.6	71.4	19.9	3.1	10.6	742.5
<b>Population 6</b>									
Underemployed part-time workers	241.4	178.5	153.4	57.6	69.9	19.7	3.1	10.4	733.9
<b>Population 7</b>									
Underemployed workers	265.8	197.6	169.0	65.0	74.8	20.6	3.7	10.8	807.3

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

(a) Availability refers to 'in the reference week or within four weeks'.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### INTRODUCTION

**1** The statistics in this publication were compiled from data collected in the Underemployed Workers Survey conducted throughout Australia in September 2010 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). Respondents to the monthly LFS who were within the scope of the supplementary survey were asked further questions.

**2** The publication *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) contains information about survey design, sample redesign, scope, coverage and population benchmarks relevant to the monthly LFS, which also apply to supplementary surveys. It also contains definitions of demographic and labour force characteristics, and information about telephone interviewing relevant to both the monthly LFS and supplementary surveys.

### CONCEPTS, SOURCES AND METHODS

**3** The conceptual framework used in Australia's LFS aligns closely with the standards and guidelines set out in the Resolutions of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians. Descriptions of the underlying concepts and structure of Australia's labour force statistics, and the sources and methods used in compiling these estimates, are presented in *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

### SCOPE

**4** The scope of the LFS is restricted to people aged 15 years and over and excludes the following people:

- members of the permanent defence forces;
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from the census and estimated populations;
- overseas residents in Australia; and
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants).

**5** Students at boarding schools, patients in hospitals, residents of homes (e.g. retirement homes, homes for people with disabilities), and inmates of prisons are excluded from all supplementary surveys.

**6** This supplementary survey was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories but excluded people living in Indigenous communities in very remote parts of Australia.

### COVERAGE

**7** The estimates in this publication relate to people covered by the survey in September 2010. In the LFS, coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling and hence has only one chance of selection in the survey. See *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) for more details.

### SAMPLE SIZE

**8** Supplementary surveys are not always conducted on the full LFS sample. Since August 1994, the sample for supplementary surveys has been restricted to no more than seven-eighths of the LFS sample.

**9** The initial sample for the September 2010 LFS consisted of 34,590 private dwelling households and special dwelling units. Of the 29,098 private dwelling households and special dwelling units that remained in the survey after sample loss (e.g. households selected in the survey which had no residents in scope for the LFS, vacant or derelict dwellings and dwellings under construction), approximately 27,668 or 95.1% were fully responding to the Underemployed Workers Survey. The number of completed interviews obtained from these private dwelling households and special dwelling units (after taking into account scope, coverage and subsampling exclusions) was 30,460.

### RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

**10** Estimates in this publication are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors:

- Sampling error is the difference between the published estimate and the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. For more information see the Technical Note.



## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES *continued*

- Non-sampling errors are inaccuracies that occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents and interviewers, and errors made in coding and processing data. These inaccuracies 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 questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and effective processing procedures.

### SEASONAL FACTORS

- 11** The estimates are based on information collected in the survey month and, due to seasonal factors, may not be representative of other months of the year.

### CLASSIFICATIONS USED

- 12** Country of birth data are classified according to the *Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), Second Edition* (cat. no. 1269.0).

- 13** Educational attainment data are classified according to *Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001* (cat. no. 1272.0). See Appendix 1 for further information.

### COMPARABILITY OF TIME SERIES

- 14** In September 2008 there was a substantial increase in the number of part-time workers who preferred more hours and underemployed workers. This was due to a change in the question being asked of part-time workers. From September 2008, part-time workers were asked "Would you prefer to work more hours than you usually work?". In previous surveys part-time workers were asked "Would you prefer a job in which you worked more hours a week?". The question was altered to be consistent with the LFS and is now broader and more inclusive of people's situations as it relates to a preference for more hours of work.

- 15** This change contributed to an additional 115,800 people who were classified as part-time workers who preferred more hours and an additional 131,500 people who were classified as underemployed workers in 2008. Users need to exercise care when comparing the number of part-time workers who preferred more hours and underemployed workers from 2008 onwards with previous releases because of this break in series.

- 16** From July 2004, a change was made to the category 'considered too young or too old by employers' for the items 'all difficulties in finding work with more hours' and 'main difficulty in finding work with more hours'. The category has been split into 'considered too young by employers' and 'considered too old by employers'.

- 17** Revisions are made to population benchmarks for the LFS after each five-yearly Census of Population and Housing (Census). Estimates from the 2010 Underemployed Workers Survey incorporate revised Net Overseas Migration estimates, published in the September 2008 and September 2009 issues of *Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0). For details on population benchmarks, see *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0).

- 18** Prior to September 1994, part-time workers who would prefer more hours of work were asked whether they were available to start work with more hours within the subsequent four weeks. From September 1994, an additional question was added to determine their availability to start work with more hours during the reference week. This question was added to the survey so that estimates of underemployment could be more easily aligned with the then current International Labour Organisation (ILO) recommendations on underemployment.

- 19** As part of the 2001 LFS questionnaire redesign, people who were on short-term unpaid leave initiated by the employer, are now classified as employed. This approach is consistent with ILO recommendations on formal job attachment. Analysis of data from the LFS shows that many of these people usually worked part time, and that a number of

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### COMPARABILITY OF TIME SERIES *continued*

these had a preference to work more hours. However, overall, these people contribute only marginally to the change in part-time workers who would prefer more hours.

### COMPARABILITY WITH MONTHLY LFS STATISTICS

**20** Due to differences in the scope and sample size of this supplementary survey and that of the monthly LFS, the estimation procedure may lead to some small variations between labour force estimates from this survey and those from the monthly LFS.

### COMPARABILITY WITH ILO GUIDELINES

**21** The ABS definition of underemployment is consistent with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) guidelines of time-related underemployment adopted in 1998. According to these guidelines, time-related underemployment exists when the hours of work of an employed person are below a threshold, and are insufficient in relation to an alternative employment situation in which the person is willing and available to engage. More specifically, people in time-related underemployment comprise all employed people (as defined) who satisfy the following three criteria:

- willingness to work additional hours — want to work more hours than they currently work. The ILO recommends that those who have actively sought to work additional hours should be distinguished from those who have not
- availability to work additional hours, within a specified period
- worked less than a threshold (determined according to national circumstances) relating to working time — the ABS underemployment framework uses a threshold (35 hours in the reference week) based on the boundary between full-time and part-time work.

**22** A more detailed discussion is included in *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001), Chapter 5.

### PREVIOUS SURVEYS

**23** The Underemployed Workers Survey was conducted in May 1985, 1988 and 1991. In 1994, the survey became an annual survey, collected each September. Results of previous surveys were published in: *Underemployed Workers, Australia* (cat. no. 6265.0); and the standard data service *Underemployed Workers, Australia* (cat. no. 6265.0.40.001) for 1994 and 1995.

### NEXT SURVEY

**24** The ABS plans to conduct this survey again in September 2011.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

**25** The ABS draws extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated: without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

### RELATED PUBLICATIONS

**26** ABS publications which may be of interest include:

- *Australian Labour Market Statistics* (cat. no. 6105.0)
- *Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation* (cat. no. 6239.0)
- *Job Search Experience, Australia* (cat. no. 6222.0)
- *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0)
- *Labour Force Experience, Australia* (cat. no. 6206.0)
- *Labour Mobility, Australia* (cat. no. 6209.0)
- *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001)
- *Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6220.0)
- *Working Time Arrangements, Australia* (cat. no. 6342.0)

**27** Current publications and other products released by the ABS are available free of charge from the Statistics Page on the ABS website. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the web site which details products to be released in the week ahead.

## APPENDIX 1 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

### CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION

In 2001, the *ABS Classification of Qualifications (ABSCQ)* (cat. no. 1262.0) was replaced by the *Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)* (cat. no. 1272.0). The ASCED is a national standard classification which can be applied to all sectors of the Australian education system including schools, vocational education and training and higher education. ASCED replaces a number of classifications previously used in administrative and statistical systems, including the ABSCQ. The ASCED comprises two classifications: Level of Education and Field of Education.

Level of Highest Educational Attainment can be derived from information on Highest Year of School Completed and Level of Highest Non-school Qualification. The derivation process determines which of the 'non-school' or 'school' attainments will be regarded as the highest. Usually the higher ranking attainment will be self-evident, but in some cases some Secondary Education is regarded, for the purposes of obtaining a single measure, as higher than some Certificate level attainments.

The following decision table is used to determine which of the responses to questions on Highest Year of School Completed (coded to ASCED Broad Level 6) and Level of Highest Non-school Qualification (coded to ASCED Broad Level 5) will be regarded as the highest. It is emphasised that this table was designed for the purpose of obtaining a single value for the output variable Level of Highest Educational Attainment and is not intended to convey any other ordinality.

Decision Table: Level of Highest Educational Attainment							
ASCED LEVEL OF EDUCATION CODES	Certificate n.f.d. (500)	Certificate III or IV n.f.d. (510)	Certificate IV (511)	Certificate III (514)	Certificate I or II n.f.d. (520)	Certificate II (521)	Certificate I (524)
Secondary Education n.f.d. (600)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I
Senior Secondary Education n.f.d. (610)	Senior Secondary n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Senior Secondary n.f.d.	Senior Secondary n.f.d.	Senior Secondary n.f.d.
Year 12 (611)	Year 12	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Year 12	Year 12	Year 12
Year 11 (613)	Year 11	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Year 11	Year 11	Year 11
Junior Secondary Education n.f.d. (620)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I
Year 10 (621)	Year 10	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Year 10	Certificate II	Year 10
Year 9 (622)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I
Year 8 (623)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I
Year 7 (624)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I

The decision table is also used to rank the information provided in a survey about the qualifications and attainments of a single individual. It does not represent any basis for comparison between differing qualifications. For example, a person whose Highest Year of School Completed was Year 12, and whose Level of Highest Non-school Qualification was a Certificate III, would have those responses crosschecked on the decision table and would as a result have their Level of Highest Educational Attainment output as

## APPENDIX 1 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT *continued*

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### CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION *continued*

Certificate III. However, if the same person answered 'Certificate' to the highest non-school qualification question, without offering any further detail, it would be crosschecked against Year 12 on the decision table as 'Certificate not further defined'. The output would then be 'Year 12'. The decision table, therefore, does not necessarily imply that one qualification is 'higher' than the other.

## APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST

### DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

The ABS has a range of data available on request from the Underemployed Workers Survey. This section lists the data items and populations which relate to the survey. More detailed breakdowns of some data items may also be available on request.

The population(s) for a particular data item refers to the person in the survey to whom the data item relates. Where alternative output categories are available for the same data item, these are shown and the data item name is followed by a bracketed numeral (e.g. Country of birth (2)).

For more information about ABS data available on request, contact Labour Market Statistics Section on Canberra (02) 6252 7206, or by facsimile on (02) 6252 7102, or by email to <labour.statistics@abs.gov.au>.

<i>Population 1:</i>	Employed persons
<i>Population 2:</i>	Full-time workers
<i>Population 3:</i>	Part-time workers
<i>Population 4:</i>	Part-time workers who would prefer more hours
<i>Population 5:</i>	Part-time workers who would prefer more hours who had been looking for work with more hours or were available to start work with more hours in the reference week or within four weeks
<i>Population 6:</i>	Underemployed part-time workers
<i>Population 7:</i>	Underemployed workers

### Data items

### Populations

<b>1</b>	<b>State or territory of usual residence</b>	All
	New South Wales	
	Victoria	
	Queensland	
	South Australia	
	Western Australia	
	Tasmania	
	Northern Territory	
	Australian Capital Territory	
<b>2</b>	<b>Area of usual residence</b>	All
	State capital city	
	Balance of state/territory	
<b>3</b>	<b>Region of usual residence</b>	All
	Standard labour force dissemination regions	
<b>4</b>	<b>Sex</b>	All
	Males	
	Females	
<b>5</b>	<b>Marital status</b>	All
	Married	
	Not married	

## APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
<b>6 Relationship in household</b>	All
Family member	
Husband, wife or partner	
With dependants	
Without dependants	
Lone parent	
With dependants	
Without dependants	
Dependent student	
Non-dependent child	
Other family person	
Non-family member	
Lone person	
Not living alone	
Relationship not determined	
<b>7A Country of birth and period of arrival</b>	All
Born in Australia	
Born overseas	
Arrived before 1971	
Arrived 1971–1980	
Arrived 1981–1990	
Arrived 1991–2000	
Arrived 2001 to survey date	
<b>7B Country of birth (1)</b>	All
Born in Australia	
Born overseas	
Born in main English-speaking countries	
Born in other than main English-speaking countries	
<b>7C Country of birth (2)</b>	All
Born in Australia	
Born overseas	
Oceania and Antarctica	
North-West Europe	
Southern and Eastern Europe	
North Africa and the Middle East	
South-East Asia	
North-East Asia	
Southern and Central Asia	
Americas	
Sub-Saharan Africa	
<b>8 Age group (years)</b>	All
15–19	
20–24	
25–34	
35–44	
45–54	
55–59	
60–64	
65–69	
70 and over	
Note: Age collected in single years	

## APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
<b>9A Underemployment status</b>	7
Worked less than 35 hours in the reference week for economic reasons	
Part-time workers who would prefer more hours who were available to start work with more hours in the reference week or within four weeks	
Looking and available to start	
Not looking but available to start	
<b>9B Whether looking and/or available</b>	4-6
Had been looking for work with more hours	
Looking and available to start	
Looking and available in the reference week	
Looking and not available in the reference week but available within four weeks	
Looking and not available to start	
Had not been looking for work with more hours	
Not looking but available to start	
Not looking but available in the reference week	
Not looking and not available in the reference week but available within four weeks	
Not looking and not available to start	
<b>9C Whether available and/or looking</b>	4-6
Available to start work with more hours	
Available in the reference week	
Looking	
Not looking	
Available within four weeks (but not in the reference week)	
Looking	
Not looking	
Not available to start work with more hours	
Looking	
Not looking	
<b>10 Full-time or part-time status</b>	All
Employed persons	
Full-time workers	
Worked 35 hours or more in the reference week	
Worked less than 35 hours in the reference week	
For non-economic reasons	
For economic reasons	
Part-time workers	
Would not prefer to work more hours	
Would prefer to work more hours	
Prefers more part-time hours	
Prefers full-time hours	
<b>11 Whether fully employed</b>	All
Fully employed	
Part-time workers who would prefer more hours and persons who worked less than 35 hours in the reference week for economic reasons	
<b>12 Status in employment</b>	All
Employees	
Employers	
Own account workers	
Contributing family workers	

## APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
<b>13 Number of hours worked in the reference week</b> 0–5 6–10 11–15 16–20 20–29 30–34 35 or more Note: Hours worked collected in single hours	4–7
<b>14 Type of insufficient work</b> Full-time Part-time	4–6
<b>15 Duration of current period of insufficient work</b> 1 week and under 4 weeks 4 weeks and under 13 weeks 13 weeks and under 52 weeks 52 weeks and over Note: Period of insufficient work collected in single weeks	4–7
<b>16A Level of highest educational attainment</b> Postgraduate Degree Graduate Diploma/Graduate Certificate Bachelor Degree Advanced Diploma/Diploma Certificate III/IV Certificate I/II Certificate not further defined Year 12 Year 11 Year 10 or below Other education Level not determined No educational attainment	4–7
<b>16B Level of highest non-school qualification</b> With a non-school qualification Postgraduate Degree Graduate Diploma/Graduate Certificate Bachelor Degree Advanced Diploma/Diploma Certificate III/IV Certificate I/II Certificate not further defined Level not determined Without a non-school qualification	4–7
<b>16C Highest year of school completed</b> Year 12 Year 11 Year 10 Year 9 Year 8 or below Never attended school	4–7



## APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
<b>16D Highest non-school qualification and whether qualification obtained overseas or within Australia</b>	4-7
Born in Australia	
Born overseas	
With a non-school qualification	
Qualification obtained overseas	
Qualification obtained in Australia	
Without a non-school qualification	
<b>17 Whether would move interstate if offered a suitable job</b>	4-7
Would move interstate	
Would not move interstate	
Might move interstate	
Did not know	
<b>18 Whether would move intrastate if offered a suitable job</b>	4-7
Would move intrastate	
Would not move intrastate	
Might move intrastate	
Did not know	
<b>19 Whether would prefer to change occupation to work more hours</b>	4-7
Would prefer to change occupation	
Would prefer not to change occupation	
No preference	
<b>20 Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours</b>	4-7
Would prefer to change employer	
Would prefer not to change employer	
No preference	
<b>21 All steps taken to find work with more hours in the last four weeks</b>	4-6
Asked current employer for more work	
Contacted prospective employers	
Registered with Centrelink	
Checked factory noticeboards	
Contacted an employment agency	
Looked in newspapers	
Searched Internet sites	
Answered a newspaper advertisement for a job	
Advertised or tendered for work	
Contacted friends or relatives	
Other steps taken to find work	
Had not been looking for work with more hours	
<b>22 Whether registered with Centrelink</b>	4-6
Registered with Centrelink for job search assistance	
Not registered with Centrelink for job search assistance	
Had not been looking for work with more hours	
<b>23 Preferred number of extra hours</b>	4-6
Less than 10 hours	
10-19	
20-29	
30 or more	
Note: Preferred extra hours collected in single hours	

## APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
<b>24 Main difficulty in finding work with more hours</b> Had been looking for work with more hours Own ill health or disability Considered too young by employers Considered too old by employers Unsuitable hours Too far to travel/transport problems Lacked necessary skills or education Language difficulties Insufficient work experience No vacancies in line of work Too many applicants for available jobs No vacancies at all Difficulties with ethnic background Difficulties in finding child care Other family responsibilities Other difficulties No difficulties reported  Had not been looking for work with more hours	4-6
<b>25 Hours usually worked</b> 1-5 6-10 11-15 16-20 21-29 30-34 Note: Hours usually worked collected in single hours	4-6
<b>26 Preferred total number of hours</b> Less than 30 hours 30-34 35-39 40 or more Note: Preferred total hours collected in single hours	4-6
<b>27 Employment type</b> Employees (excluding OMIEs) Owner managers of incorporated enterprises Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises Contributing family workers	All

## APPENDIX 3 SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

### SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

The Monthly Population Survey program and the Multi-Purpose Household Survey program collect data on particular aspects of the labour force. The following is an historical list of supplementary surveys to the monthly labour force surveys. Data from these surveys are available on request and can be obtained by contacting the ABS.

	<i>cat. no.</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Latest issue</i>
<b>Monthly Population Supplementary Surveys</b>			
Childhood Education and Care, Australia	4402.0	Irregular	June 2008
Child Employment, Australia	6211.0	Irregular	June 2006
Education and Work, Australia	6227.0	Annual	May 2010
Employee Earnings, Benefits, and Trade Union Membership, Australia	6310.0	Annual	August 2009
Forms of Employment, Australia	6359.0	Annual	November 2009
Job Search Experience, Australia	6222.0	Annual	July 2010
Labour Force Experience, Australia	6206.0	Biennial	February 2009
Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants, Australia	6250.0	Irregular	November 2007
Labour Mobility, Australia	6209.0	Biennial	February 2010
Locations of Work, Australia	6275.0	Irregular	November 2008
Multiple Jobholding, Australia(a)	6216.0	Irregular	August 1997
Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia	6220.0	Annual	September 2009
Underemployed Workers, Australia	6265.0	Annual	September 2010
Working Time Arrangements, Australia(b)	6342.0	Irregular	November 2009
<b>Multi-Purpose Household Surveys</b>			
Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation, Australia	6239.0	Biennial	2008–2009
Retirement and Retirement Intentions, Australia	6238.0	Biennial	2008–2009
Work-Related Injuries, Australia	6324.0	Irregular	2009–2010

(a) Latest data available on request July 2001.

(b) This product replaces the publication Working Arrangements, Australia (cat. no. 6342.0).

INTRODUCTION

**1** Estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, and are subject to sampling variability. That is, they may differ from those estimates 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 (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three (67%) that a sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the number that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two SEs. Another measure of the likely difference is the relative standard error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate.

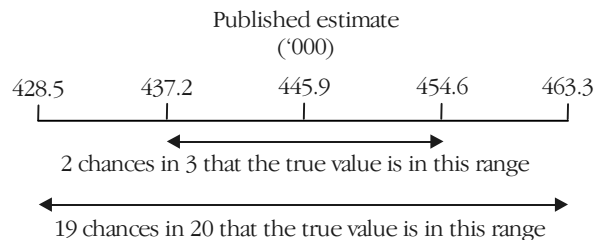
**2** Due to space limitations, it is impractical to print the SE of each estimate in the publication. Instead, a table of SEs is provided to determine the SE for an estimate from the size of that estimate (see table T1). The SE table is derived from a mathematical model, referred to as the 'SE model', which is created using data from a number of past Labour Force Surveys. It should be noted that the SE model only gives an approximate value for the SE for any particular estimate, since there is some minor variation between SEs for different estimates of the same size.

CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERROR

**3** An example of the calculation and the use of SEs in relation to estimates of persons is as follows. Table 4 shows the estimated number of female underemployed part-time workers was 445,900. Since this estimate is between 300,000 and 500,000, table T1 shows that the SE for Australia will lie between 7,300 and 9,200 and can be approximated by interpolation using the following general formula:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & SE \text{ of estimate} \\
 &= \text{lower SE} + \left( \left( \frac{\text{size of estimate} - \text{lower estimate}}{\text{upper estimate} - \text{lower estimate}} \right) \times (\text{upper SE} - \text{lower SE}) \right) \\
 &= 7,300 + \left( \left( \frac{445,900 - 300,000}{500,000 - 300,000} \right) \times (9,200 - 7,300) \right) \\
 &= 8,700 \text{ (rounded to the nearest 100)}
 \end{aligned}$$

**4** Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey will fall within the range 437,200 to 454,600 and about 19 chances in 20 that the value will fall within the range 428,500 to 463,300. This example is illustrated in the following diagram.



CALCULATION OF STANDARD  
ERROR *continued*

**5** In general, the size of the SE increases as the size of the estimate increases. Conversely, the RSE decreases as the size of the estimate increases. Very small estimates are thus subject to such high RSEs that their value for most practical purposes is unreliable. In the tables in this publication, only estimates with RSEs of 25% or less are considered reliable for most purposes. Estimates with RSEs greater than 25% but less than or equal to 50% are preceded by an asterisk (e.g.\*3.2) to indicate they are subject to high SEs and should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs of greater than 50%, preceded by a double asterisk (e.g.\*\*0.3), are considered too unreliable for general use and should only be used to aggregate with other estimates to provide derived estimates with RSEs of less than 25%.

MEANS AND MEDIANS

**6** The RSEs of estimates of mean duration of insufficient work, median duration of insufficient work and mean preferred number of extra hours are obtained by first finding the RSE of the estimate of the total number of persons contributing to the mean or median (see table T1) and then multiplying the resulting number by the following factors:

- mean duration of insufficient work: 1.6
- median duration of insufficient work: 2.5
- mean preferred number of extra hours: 0.7

**7** The following is an example of the calculation of SEs where the use of a factor is required. Table 4 shows that the estimated number of male underemployed part-time workers was 288,000 with a median duration of insufficient work of 26 weeks. The SE of 288,000 can be calculated from table T1 (by interpolation) as 7,200. To convert this to an RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate or  $7,200/288,800 = 2.5\%$ .

**8** The RSE of the estimate of median duration of insufficient work is calculated by multiplying this number (2.5%) by the appropriate factor shown in paragraph 7 (in this case 2.5):  $2.5 \times 2.5 = 6.3\%$ . The SE of this estimate of median duration of insufficient work is therefore 6.3% of 26, i.e. about 2 (rounded to the nearest whole week). Therefore, there are two chances in three that the median duration of insufficient work for males that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey would have been within the range 24–28 weeks, and about 19 chances in 20 that it would have been within the range 22–30 weeks.

PROPORTIONS AND  
PERCENTAGES

**9** Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling errors. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. A formula to approximate the RSE of a proportion is given below. This formula is only valid when x is a subset of y.

$$RSE\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \sqrt{[RSE(x)]^2 - [RSE(y)]^2}$$

**10** Considering the example from paragraph 3, of the 445,900 female underemployed part-time workers, 179,300 or 40.0% had insufficient work for 52 weeks and over. The SE of 179,300 may be calculated by interpolation as 5,900. To convert this to an RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate, or  $5,900/179,300 = 3.3\%$ . The SE for 445,900 was calculated previously as 8,700, which converted to an RSE is  $8,700/445,900 = 2.0\%$ . Applying the above formula, the RSE of the proportion is:

$$RSE = \sqrt{(3.3)^2 - (2.0)^2} = 2.6\%$$

## TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY *continued*

### PROPORTIONS AND PERCENTAGES *continued*

**11** Therefore, the SE for the proportion of females who have a current period of insufficient work of 52 weeks or more is 1.0 percentage points ( $= (40.0/100) \times 2.6$ ). Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the proportion of females who have a current period of insufficient work of 52 weeks or more was between 39.0% and 41.0% and 19 chances in 20 that the proportion is within the range 38.0% to 42.0%.

### DIFFERENCES

**12** Published estimates may also be used to calculate the difference between two survey estimates (of numbers or percentages). Such an estimate is subject to sampling error. The sampling error of the difference between two estimates depends on their SEs and the relationship (correlation) between them. An approximate SE of the difference between two estimates ( $x-y$ ) may be calculated by the following formula:

$$SE(x-y) = \sqrt{[SE(x)]^2 + [SE(y)]^2}$$

**13** While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and uncorrelated characteristics or subpopulations, it is expected to provide a good approximation for all differences likely to be of interest in this publication.

### STANDARD ERRORS

#### STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of Estimate (persons)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	SE	RSE
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	%
100	320	310	240	190	240	120	90	110	120	120.0
200	440	420	350	260	320	170	130	180	210	105.0
300	520	490	430	310	380	210	160	230	290	96.7
500	640	600	550	380	460	260	210	300	420	84.0
700	730	680	640	430	530	300	250	330	530	75.7
1,000	840	780	750	500	600	340	290	370	670	67.0
1,500	990	910	890	580	710	400	340	400	860	57.3
2,000	1 110	1 020	1 000	650	790	440	380	430	1 010	50.5
2,500	1 200	1 100	1 100	700	850	450	400	450	1 150	46.0
3,000	1 300	1 200	1 150	750	900	500	450	500	1 250	41.7
3,500	1 400	1 250	1 250	800	950	500	450	500	1 350	38.6
4,000	1 450	1 350	1 300	850	1 000	550	450	500	1 450	36.3
5,000	1 600	1 450	1 400	900	1 100	600	500	550	1 650	33.0
7,000	1 800	1 650	1 600	1 000	1 250	650	600	650	1 900	27.1
10,000	2 050	1 850	1 750	1 150	1 400	750	800	750	2 200	22.0
15,000	2 400	2 150	2 000	1 300	1 650	950	1 100	950	2 550	17.0
20,000	2 650	2 400	2 150	1 450	1 800	1 100	1 400	1 100	2 850	14.3
30,000	3 100	2 800	2 500	1 750	2 100	1 350	1 950	1 350	3 200	10.7
40,000	3 400	3 100	2 750	2 000	2 300	1 650	2 450	1 650	3 500	8.8
50,000	3 700	3 350	3 050	2 200	2 550	1 850	2 950	1 850	3 750	7.5
100,000	4 700	4 400	4 150	3 300	3 750	2 650	5 100	2 450	4 750	4.8
150,000	5 550	5 350	5 100	4 250	4 950	3 150	7 000	2 750	5 500	3.7
200,000	6 350	6 250	5 950	5 000	5 950	3 550	8 750	2 950	6 150	3.1
300,000	8 000	7 950	7 550	6 150	7 450	4 050	11 950	3 100	7 300	2.4
500,000	11 200	11 050	10 200	7 700	9 500	4 700	..	3 100	9 200	1.8
1,000,000	16 650	16 850	14 550	9 800	12 100	5 350	..	..	12 950	1.3
2,000,000	22 450	24 900	19 600	11 650	14 000	..	..	..	18 800	0.9
5,000,000	28 600	39 800	26 400	13 150	14 600	..	..	..	31 400	0.6
10,000,000	30 650	54 900	30 900	..	..	..	..	..	41 900	0.4
15,000,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	47 250	0.3

.. not applicable

## GLOSSARY

<b>Available to start work</b>	Refers to people who were available to start work with more hours either in the reference week, or in the four weeks subsequent to the interview.
<b>Contributing family workers</b>	People who work without pay in an economic enterprise operated by a relative.
<b>Duration of current period of insufficient work</b>	<p>For full-time workers who worked less than 35 hours in the reference week due to economic reasons, refers to the number of weeks they have been working less than 35 hours a week.</p> <p>For part-time workers who would prefer to work more hours, refers to the number of weeks they have been wanting to work more hours.</p> <p>As periods of insufficient work are recorded in full weeks and rounded down, this results in a slight understatement of duration.</p>
<b>Economic reasons</b>	<p>Economic reasons for full-time workers having worked less than 35 hours in the reference week are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ there was no work or not enough work available, e.g. due to material shortages;</li> <li>■ they were stood down; or</li> <li>■ they were on short time.</li> </ul>
<b>Employed</b>	<p>People aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind, in a job or business or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or</li> <li>■ worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or</li> <li>■ were employees who had a job but were not at work and were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or</li> <li>■ away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four-week period to the end of the reference week; or</li> <li>■ away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or</li> <li>■ on strike or locked out; or</li> <li>■ on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.</li> </ul>
<b>Employees</b>	<p>People who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ worked for a public or private employer; and</li> <li>■ received remuneration in wages, salary, or are paid a retainer fee by their employer and worked on a commission basis, or for tips or piece-rates or payment in kind; or</li> <li>■ operated their own incorporated enterprise with or without hiring employees.</li> </ul>
<b>Employers</b>	People who operate his or her own unincorporated economic enterprise or engage independently in a profession or trade, and hires one or more employees.
<b>Full-time workers</b>	Employed people who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) or others who, although usually worked less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.
<b>Fully employed workers</b>	<p>Employed people who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ worked full time during the reference week (including people who usually work part time but worked full time in the reference week); or</li> <li>■ usually work full time but worked less than 35 hours in the reference week for non-economic reasons (such as illness or injury, leave holiday or flextime, or personal reasons); or</li> <li>■ part-time workers who would not prefer to work additional hours.</li> </ul>
<b>Interstate</b>	Refers to whether people were prepared to move to another state or territory if offered a suitable job.

## GLOSSARY *continued*

<b>Intrastate</b>	Refers to whether people were prepared to move to another part of their state or territory if offered a suitable job.
<b>Level of highest educational attainment</b>	<p>Level of highest educational attainment identifies the highest achievement a person has attained in any area of study. It is not a measurement of the relative importance of different fields of study but a ranking of qualifications and other educational attainments regardless of the particular area of study or the type of institution in which the study was undertaken.</p> <p>Years 12, 11 and 10 include people who are currently undertaking school study (See Appendix 1 for more information).</p>
<b>Looking for work with more hours</b>	Looked for work with more hours at some time during the four weeks up to the end of the reference week.
<b>Mean duration of insufficient work</b>	The mean duration of insufficient work is obtained by dividing the aggregate number of weeks a group has had insufficient work by the number of people in that group.
<b>Mean preferred number of extra hours</b>	The mean preferred number of extra hours is obtained by dividing the total preferred number of extra hours reported by a group by the number of people in that group.
<b>Median duration of insufficient work</b>	The median duration of insufficient work is obtained by dividing underemployed workers into two equal groups, one comprising people whose duration of insufficient work is above the mid point, and the other comprising people whose duration is below it.
<b>Non-economic reasons</b>	<p>Non-economic reasons for full-time workers having worked less than 35 hours in the reference week include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ holiday, flextime or study leave;</li><li>■ own illness or injury or sick leave;</li><li>■ standard work arrangements, shift work or rostered day(s) off;</li><li>■ on strike, locked out or took part in an industrial dispute;</li><li>■ bad weather or plant breakdown;</li><li>■ began, left or lost job during the reference week; and</li><li>■ personal reasons.</li></ul>
<b>Not available to start work</b>	Refers to people who were not available to start work with more hours either in the reference week, or in the four weeks following the interview.
<b>Not fully employed</b>	People who are not fully employed comprise part-time workers who would prefer to work more hours, and full-time workers who worked part-time hours in the reference week for economic reasons.
<b>Own account workers</b>	People who operate his or her own unincorporated economic enterprise or engage independently in a profession or trade, and hires no employees.
<b>Part-time workers</b>	Employed people who usually worked less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work during the reference week.
<b>Preferred number of extra hours</b>	The number of extra hours a week an underemployed worker would have preferred to work.
<b>Preferred total number of hours</b>	The total number of hours per week an underemployed worker would prefer to work.
<b>Reference week</b>	The week preceding the week in which the interview was conducted.
<b>Status in employment</b>	Employed people classified by whether they were employees, employers, own account workers, or contributing family workers.
<b>Suitable job</b>	Job with the preferred number of hours.



## GLOSSARY *continued*

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<b>Underemployed workers</b>	Underemployed workers are employed people who would prefer, and are available for, more hours of work than they currently have. They comprise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ part-time workers who would prefer to work more hours and were available to start work with more hours, either in the reference week or in the four weeks subsequent to the survey; and</li><li>■ full-time workers who worked part-time hours in the reference week for economic reasons (such as being stood down or insufficient work being available). It is assumed that these people would prefer to work full time in the reference week and would have been available to do so.</li></ul>
<b>Underemployment rate</b>	The number of underemployed workers expressed as a percentage of the labour force.
<b>Usual number of hours</b>	The number of hours usually worked in a week.





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