

**TRADE UNION STATISTICS, AUSTRALIA
30 JUNE 1993**

MAIN FEATURES

At June 30 1993 there were 188 trade unions with a total reported membership of 3,000,100. This represents a decrease of 39 unions (or 17%) compared to June 1992 when there were 227 unions and a total membership of 3,135,100.

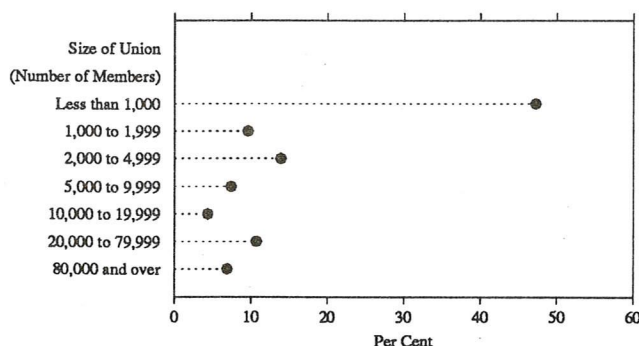
During the period 1988 to 1993 the number of trade unions continued to decline. Between 1988 and 1990 the decline was fairly small (ie the number of unions decreased by 13). Between 1990 and 1991 the number of unions declined by 20, from 1991 to 1992 and from 1992 to 1993 there was a reduction in the number of unions of 48 and 39 respectively. The number of unions declined in all States and Territories over the

period 1988 to 1993 but at differential rates (see Table 1).

At 30 June 1993 the majority of unions (122) operated in one State or Territory (refer to Table 4). These unions, however, accounted for only 16 per cent of total union membership (488,700).

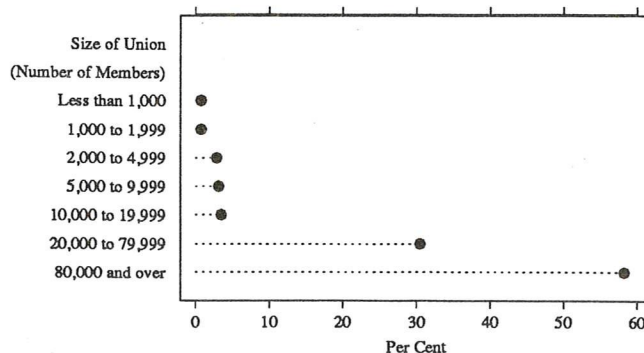
The reduction in the number of unions was most marked in those unions registered under the Federal Industrial Relations Act 1988. The number of unions fell from 94 in 1992 to 66 in 1993 (see paragraph 11 on page 7).

DISTRIBUTION OF TRADE UNIONS BY SIZE OF UNION,
AUSTRALIA, 30 JUNE 1993



Source: Table 5

DISTRIBUTION OF TRADE UNION MEMBERSHIP BY SIZE OF UNION,
AUSTRALIA, 30 JUNE 1993



Source: Table 6

INQUIRIES

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics contact Laura Smith on Canberra (06) 252 6561 or any ABS State office.
- for information about other ABS statistics and services please refer to the back page of this publication.

Amalgamations were the main cause of the reduction in union numbers. In the year to 30 June 1993, 52 unions amalgamated to form 17 unions.

While the number of unions with less than 1,000 members declined from 104 to 89 (compared to 143 unions in 1988) they still represent 47 per cent of all unions. The number of unions with a membership of 100,000 and over increased from 8 to 9 and now account for 46 per cent of total union membership compared to 34 per cent in 1992 (refer to Tables 5 and 6).

At 30 June 1993 trade unions and employee associations reported financial membership of 2,715,200. This represents a decrease of 4 per cent on the previous year.

Financial union membership as a proportion of total employees declined for the second successive year. At 30 June 1993, 46 per cent of employees were financial members of a union compared to 47 per cent in 1992 and 50 per cent in 1991.

NOTES

The trade union statistics are compiled from questionnaires completed by individual trade unions. Accordingly, persons who are members of more than one trade union are counted more than once.

The statistics relate to trade union membership and State of operation of unions. Membership is that reported by the unions, and may include persons who do not consider themselves as members (eg. unfinancial, honorary, suspended). Explanatory notes are published on pages 6 and 7 of this publication.

IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. TRADE UNIONS : NUMBER OF SEPARATE UNIONS

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.(a)</i>
<i>30 June</i>									
1988	170	166	130	136	139	120	73	74	308
1989	169	160	129	135	134	125	71	73	299
1990	163	157	126	131	134	121	57	62	295
1991	150	146	115	121	118	110	55	58	275
1992	124	114	94	95	95	91	46	54	227
1993	93	89	69	68	72	67	35	41	188

(a) Australian totals do not equal the sum of the States and Territories. See paragraph 3 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 2. TRADE UNIONS : NUMBER OF MEMBERS ('000)

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
MALES									
<i>30 June</i>									
1988—Financial	675.1	520.2	266.2	165.4	155.1	56.7	10.1	35.9	1,884.6
<i>Total</i>	795.3	589.6	303.1	183.9	178.5	62.5	11.7	42.2	2,166.6
1989—Financial	652.8	523.3	255.1	165.5	157.4	56.3	9.4	31.4	1,851.2
<i>Total</i>	807.6	598.9	300.0	187.3	181.9	63.0	11.6	40.6	2,191.0
1990—Financial	664.7	532.6	280.2	173.4	167.5	58.1	9.7	30.2	1,916.3
<i>Total</i>	812.9	598.5	311.8	189.4	193.6	62.4	10.6	37.9	2,217.1
1991—Financial	643.6	502.1	257.7	169.8	165.9	53.4	9.4	30.0	1,831.8
<i>Total</i>	762.5	573.5	300.5	186.8	186.9	59.3	11.7	34.3	2,115.5
1992—Financial	573.4	464.1	239.5	157.4	160.3	51.5	8.2	27.7	1,682.1
<i>Total</i>	683.9	522.0	279.9	176.8	178.6	57.2	9.9	31.1	1,939.4
1993—Financial (a)	525.5	429.4	243.6	158.4	156.3	51.3	8.1	32.1	1,604.7
<i>Total (a)</i>	614.0	482.4	273.1	174.6	167.1	55.6	9.2	36.5	1,812.6
FEMALES									
<i>30 June</i>									
1988—Financial	383.9	289.3	132.5	90.9	83.7	31.3	7.0	19.2	1,037.6
<i>Total</i>	423.1	311.9	144.1	95.3	89.6	31.6	7.6	20.8	1,123.8
1989—Financial	430.9	310.2	145.2	103.4	86.9	32.1	7.1	21.6	1,137.2
<i>Total</i>	461.5	332.3	158.0	110.6	92.5	34.0	7.7	22.7	1,219.3
1990—Financial	406.3	307.4	155.2	112.1	94.5	33.1	7.4	20.7	1,136.7
<i>Total</i>	450.5	316.7	161.3	114.8	98.3	33.3	7.9	22.3	1,205.2
1991—Financial	423.9	325.7	171.0	114.2	96.6	35.3	7.9	21.6	1,196.2
<i>Total</i>	454.6	338.5	183.8	119.2	103.0	36.3	8.8	22.8	1,267.0
1992—Financial	411.7	291.0	162.5	114.6	96.2	35.9	7.2	21.5	1,140.5
<i>Total</i>	428.4	305.0	175.2	120.4	99.1	36.9	7.9	22.7	1,195.7
1993—Financial (a)	396.3	265.8	169.5	112.7	98.9	37.1	7.5	22.8	1,110.5
<i>Total (a)</i>	423.6	288.2	183.4	119.3	102.8	38.4	8.1	23.8	1,187.5
PERSONS									
<i>30 June</i>									
1988—Financial	1,059.0	809.5	398.7	256.3	238.8	88.0	17.0	55.1	2,922.3
<i>Total</i>	1,218.3	901.5	447.1	279.2	268.0	94.1	19.3	63.0	3,290.5
1989—Financial	1,083.6	833.5	400.3	268.8	244.3	88.4	16.4	53.0	2,988.4
<i>Total</i>	1,269.0	931.2	458.0	297.9	274.4	97.1	19.3	63.4	3,410.3
1990—Financial	1,071.1	840.0	435.3	285.4	262.2	91.2	17.1	50.9	3,053.2
<i>Total</i>	1,263.5	915.2	473.1	304.3	291.9	95.7	18.4	60.2	3,422.2
1991—Financial	1,067.4	827.8	428.7	284.0	262.5	88.6	17.3	51.6	3,027.9
<i>Total</i>	1,217.1	912.0	484.3	306.0	289.9	95.6	20.5	57.1	3,382.6
1992—Financial	985.1	755.0	402.0	272.0	256.4	87.4	15.5	49.2	2,822.6
<i>Total</i>	1,112.3	827.0	455.2	297.2	277.7	94.1	17.8	53.7	3,135.1
1993—Financial (a)	921.8	695.2	413.1	271.1	255.2	88.3	15.6	55.0	2,715.2
<i>Total (a)</i>	1,037.5	770.6	456.5	294.0	269.9	94.0	17.3	60.3	3,000.1

(a) Due to changes in union structures some members formerly recorded in New South Wales are now included in the Australian Capital Territory. See paragraph 10 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 3. TRADE UNION MEMBERS : PROPORTION OF TOTAL EMPLOYEES
(per cent)

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
MALES									
<i>30 June</i>									
1988—Financial	54	55	52	57	50	63	32	55	54
<i>Total</i>	64	63	59	63	57	69	38	64	62
1989—Financial	53	54	45	56	52	62	27	49	52
<i>Total</i>	66	62	53	63	60	69	34	63	62
1990—Financial	54	55	50	58	55	63	26	48	54
<i>Total</i>	66	62	55	63	64	68	28	60	62
1991—Financial	56	57	49	59	56	63	23	45	55
<i>Total</i>	66	65	58	64	63	70	28	52	63
1992—Financial	51	54	45	57	51	62	25	40	51
<i>Total</i>	60	60	53	64	57	69	31	45	59
1993—Financial (a)	48	52	45	60	50	57	26	47	50
<i>Total (a)</i>	56	58	50	66	54	62	29	53	56
FEMALES									
<i>30 June</i>									
1988—Financial	42	39	37	42	36	47	28	31	40
<i>Total</i>	46	43	40	45	38	47	30	34	43
1989—Financial	46	40	35	45	36	48	26	36	41
<i>Total</i>	49	43	39	48	39	51	28	38	44
1990—Financial	42	40	37	48	39	47	25	33	40
<i>Total</i>	46	41	38	49	41	48	26	37	43
1991—Financial	46	44	42	48	40	54	27	35	44
<i>Total</i>	49	46	45	50	42	56	31	37	47
1992—Financial	45	41	38	52	40	54	31	32	43
<i>Total</i>	47	43	41	55	42	55	34	34	45
1993—Financial (a)	44	37	39	52	38	51	28	34	41
<i>Total (a)</i>	47	40	42	55	40	52	30	36	44
PERSONS									
<i>30 June</i>									
1988—Financial	49	48	46	51	44	56	30	43	48
<i>Total</i>	57	54	51	55	49	60	34	50	54
1989—Financial	50	48	41	51	45	56	27	43	47
<i>Total</i>	58	54	47	57	50	62	31	51	54
1990—Financial	49	48	44	54	48	56	25	41	48
<i>Total</i>	57	53	48	57	53	59	27	48	54
1991—Financial	51	51	46	54	49	59	24	40	50
<i>Total</i>	58	56	52	58	54	64	29	45	56
1992—Financial	48	48	42	55	47	59	28	36	47
<i>Total</i>	54	52	48	60	50	63	32	39	53
1993—Financial (a)	46	45	42	56	45	54	27	41	46
<i>Total (a)</i>	52	50	47	61	47	58	29	45	51

(a) Due to changes in union structures some members formerly recorded in New South Wales are now included in the Australian Capital Territory. See paragraph 10 of the Explanatory Notes.

TABLE 4. TRADE UNIONS : NUMBER OF STATES AND/OR TERRITORIES OF OPERATION, AUSTRALIA

	<i>One</i>	<i>Two</i>	<i>Three</i>	<i>Four</i>	<i>Five</i>	<i>Six or more</i>	<i>Total all States</i>
NUMBER OF SEPARATE UNIONS							
<i>30 June</i>							
1988	177	6	4	12	16	93	308
1989	168	6	6	10	15	94	299
1990	168	5	5	12	16	89	295
1991	156	9	3	16	12	79	275
1992	134	5	3	9	13	63	227
1993	122	5	2	5	8	46	188
NUMBER OF MEMBERS ('000)							
<i>30 June</i>							
1988	575.3	18.3	54.8	109.3	218.6	2,314.1	3,290.5
1989	531.4	18.9	55.9	111.7	186.6	2,505.7	3,410.3
1990	545.3	18.2	46.3	133.9	127.4	2,551.1	3,422.2
1991	578.6	22.9	4.6	140.5	132.2	2,503.9	3,382.6
1992	466.1	13.6	4.4	68.1	135.0	2,447.9	3,135.1
1993	488.7	12.2	9.2	21.5	73.5	2,395.1	3,000.1

TABLE 5. TRADE UNIONS : NUMBER OF UNIONS ACCORDING TO SIZE OF UNION, AUSTRALIA

<i>Size of Union (number of members)</i>	<i>Number of unions</i>				<i>30 June 1993</i>		
	<i>30 June 1989</i>	<i>30 June 1990</i>	<i>30 June 1991</i>	<i>30 June 1992</i>	<i>Number of unions</i>	<i>Per cent total unions</i>	<i>Cumulative per cent of total unions</i>
	Under 100	38	40	35	32	29	15.4
100 and under 250	31	34	34	26	20	10.6	26.1
250 and under 500	26	18	17	18	14	7.4	33.5
500 and under 1,000	41	44	38	28	26	13.8	47.3
1,000 and under 2,000	42	34	31	21	18	9.6	56.9
2,000 and under 3,000	12	18	13	14	11	5.9	62.8
3,000 and under 5,000	25	23	24	16	15	8.0	70.7
5,000 and under 10,000	19	21	18	19	14	7.4	78.2
10,000 and under 20,000	19	18	21	15	8	4.3	82.4
20,000 and under 30,000	12	11	11	7	5	2.7	85.1
30,000 and under 40,000	10	11	8	6	3	1.6	86.7
40,000 and under 50,000	6	5	6	5	4	2.1	88.8
50,000 and under 80,000	7	6	5	5	8	4.3	93.1
80,000 and under 100,000	4	5	7	7	4	2.1	95.2
100,000 and over	7	7	7	8	9	4.8	100.0
Total	299	295	275	227	188	100.0	

TABLE 6. TRADE UNIONS : NUMBER OF MEMBERS ACCORDING TO SIZE OF UNION, AUSTRALIA

<i>Size of Union (number of members)</i>	<i>Number of members ('000)</i>					<i>30 June 1993</i>		
	<i>30 June 1989</i>	<i>30 June 1990</i>	<i>30 June 1991</i>	<i>30 June 1992</i>	<i>30 June 1993</i>	<i>Average number per union</i>	<i>Per cent of total members</i>	<i>Cumulative per cent of total members</i>
	Under 100	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.2	42	—
100 and under 250	5.3	5.8	5.5	4.1	2.9	146	0.1	0.1
250 and under 500	8.9	6.1	5.7	6.2	4.4	316	0.1	0.3
500 and under 1,000	28.8	31.3	26.2	19.8	18.7	721	0.6	0.9
1,000 and under 2,000	59.5	46.8	41.6	26.6	24.2	1,343	0.8	1.7
2,000 and under 3,000	29.6	42.1	31.8	35.2	26.7	2,431	0.9	2.6
3,000 and under 5,000	98.8	93.4	92.7	60.2	58.6	3,907	2.0	4.6
5,000 and under 10,000	138.9	152.3	124.5	123.9	95.3	6,808	3.2	7.7
10,000 and under 20,000	261.3	265.9	293.3	212.2	106.2	13,279	3.5	11.3
20,000 and under 30,000	295.4	276.3	278.1	170.9	115.2	23,041	3.8	15.1
30,000 and under 40,000	350.2	377.8	264.1	210.5	108.2	36,063	3.6	18.7
40,000 and under 50,000	271.1	227.7	268.2	220.2	168.4	42,099	5.6	24.3
50,000 and under 80,000	453.1	407.9	333.4	331.1	523.8	65,474	17.5	41.8
80,000 and under 100,000	365.0	454.6	627.5	633.7	359.0	89,758	12.0	53.8
100,000 and over	1,042.9	1,032.5	988.6	1,079.2	1,387.1	154,123	46.2	100.0
Total	3,410.3	3,422.2	3,382.6	3,135.1	3,000.1	15,958	100.0	

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

The statistics in this publication have been compiled from questionnaires completed by individual trade unions in respect of their membership and State of operation as at 30 June 1993. The collection was changed to an end of June basis in 1985. Figures for previous years were collected as at 31 December.

Scope and coverage

2. Current lists of trade unions are maintained by reference to the following sources:

- trade unions registered under the provisions of the various Federal and State industrial relations Acts, trade union Acts, etc.
- unions reported to be engaged in conciliation and arbitration proceedings.
- reports in trade journals, trade union and employer periodicals, newspapers and other publications.

It should be noted that not all reporting trade unions are registered under industrial relations legislation or State trade union Acts.

3. To reduce the possibility of duplication of the number of unions and members in these statistics, where a trade union is a branch of a larger trade union, only the larger organisation is counted. An interstate or federated trade union (i.e. a union with members in more than one State or Territory) is treated as a separate union in each State or Territory in which it has members, but is counted only once in the Australian total. Unions with interstate associations which are not strictly branches of a common organisation are counted as separate unions in the totals for Australia.

4. The published number of trade unions varies from year to year as a result of amalgamations of unions, deregistration of unions, unions ceasing to operate, new unions being formed, existing organisations changing their status such that it brings them within the scope of the definition of a trade union (see paragraph 5), and unions reporting for the first time.

Definitions

5. For the purpose of these statistics a *trade union* is defined as an organisation, consisting predominantly of employees, the principal activities of which include the negotiation of rates of pay and conditions of employment for its members. Non-operating unions or branches, i.e. those with no members at the date of collection, are not included in the statistics.

6. *Membership of trade unions.* Financial members are dues paying members no more than 6 months in arrears. The total number of members includes all persons (financial, unfinancial, honorary, suspended, junior, etc.) regarded by unions as members.

7. Persons who are members of more than one union cannot be separately identified and are therefore counted more than once in the totals. The extent of this duplication is not known. Members of unions who work overseas are excluded from the reported membership data. Membership figures may be affected by differences in the concept of membership adopted by different unions or by the same union at different times (see paragraph 9 below).

8. *Proportion of total employees.* The approximate percentages of wage and salary earners in employment (i.e. employees) who were members of trade unions are shown in Table 3. From 30 June 1985, the proportions of employees have been calculated using estimates of employees from the ABS Survey of Employment and Earnings (*Employed Wage and Salary Earners (6248.0)*). These estimates have been adjusted by adding Labour Force Survey estimates of employees in Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting and in Private households employing staff (*Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)*). Prior to 30 June 1985, estimates of employees were taken from the Labour Force Survey only. The percentages shown should be regarded as giving only a broad indication of the extent of union membership among employees because they are based on estimates of employed wage and salary earners; the number of union members who were not employed (i.e. were unemployed, retired, etc.) will affect the percentages for a particular year and comparisons over time.

Comparability of series

9. Comparability of figures for different years may be affected by a number of factors. As stated in paragraph 7, there may be duplication in the count of members. This duplication may vary over time. Union rules on membership may follow different concepts and practices and this may be reflected in the level and fluctuations of the figures reported. Unions reported financial and total membership separately for the first time as at 30 June 1985. In previous years some unions confined their reported membership to 'financial' members whilst others included various other members. Individual unions may or may not include in their reported membership unemployed members, members who have retired from the labour force, disabled members, members with dues in arrears (who may be kept on union books for varying lengths of time), etc.

10. Membership of trade unions is shown separately for males and females for each State and Territory. The subdivision of total membership into males and females is not precise because some trade unions are unable to state the exact number of male and female members. The subdivision of total membership by States and Territories is also not precise because some unions in the Territories are affiliated with State organisations and their membership is reported under the heading of that State. For example, some unions in the Northern Territory are affiliated with unions registered in Queensland or in South Australia. In addition the record keeping practices of unions may vary

over time and this will affect the division of membership by State and Territory.

Organisations registered under industrial arbitration legislation

11. Details of employee organisations registered under the *Federal Industrial Relations Act 1988* as at 30 June 1993, and comparisons for 1992, are as follows:

	1993	1992
Employee unions	66	94
Membership	2,510,500	2,611,700

1993 membership figures reflect 84% of total reported trade union membership.

12. Industrial legislation in most States also provides for the registration of employee associations. Some employee associations are registered under more than one Act but these are counted only once in these statistics.

Comparison with Trade Union Members, Australia (6325.0)

13. Statistics on trade union membership obtained from a supplementary survey to the labour force survey are published biennially in *Trade Union Members, Australia* (6325.0). The estimates in that publication are lower than those obtained from this census for a number of reasons, including the following:

- (i) estimates in the *Trade Union Members* publication relate only to trade union membership in the respondent's main job; a person who was a member of a trade union only by virtue of holding a second job was excluded;
- (ii) they relate only to trade union membership in one job, whereas a person who had recently changed jobs could be registered as a member of more than one union in the Trade Union Census;
- (iii) the estimates relate only to persons who were employees in their main job in the reference week: other persons (e.g. unemployed and those not in the labour force) are excluded even though they may have retained union membership in respect of some earlier employment;
- (iv) some persons may elect to belong to more than one union, but would be counted only once in the supplementary survey;
- (v) some unions may encounter difficulties in maintaining up-to-date registers of members. Numbers reported in the Trade Union Census may therefore include persons who are no longer members.

Related publications

14. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications:

Industrial Disputes, Australia (6322.0) — issued annually

Industrial Disputes, Australia (6321.0) — issued monthly

Distribution and Composition of Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia, Preliminary (6305.0) — issued annually

Distribution and Composition of Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia, (6306.0) — issued annually

Labour Statistics, Australia (6101.0) — issued annually

The Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary (6202.0) — issued monthly

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0) — issued monthly

Employed Wage and Salary Earners, Australia (6248.0) — issued quarterly

Trade Union Members, Australia, August 1992 (6325.0)

Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Australia (6312.0) — issued monthly

Award Coverage, Australia, May 1990 (6315.0)

Unpublished statistics

15. In some cases, the ABS can also make available information which is not published. This information may be made available in one or more of the following forms: microfiche, photocopy, data tape, computer printout, clerically-extracted tabulation. Generally, a charge is made for providing unpublished information. Inquiries regarding data availability and associated charges should be directed to Laura Smith on (06) 252 6561, or to Information Services in the nearest ABS office.

16. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

— nil or rounded to zero

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



For more information ...

The ABS publishes a wide range of statistics and other information on Australia's economic and social conditions. Details of what is available in various publications and other products can be found in the *ABS Catalogue of Publications and Products* available at all ABS Offices (see below for contact details).

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