THE LABOUR FORCE, AUSTRALIA, JULY 1986, PRELIMINARY

PHONE INQUIRIES

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ON VIATEL * key *656\# for selected economic, social and demographic statistics on VIATEL.

Care should be taken in the interpretation of month to month movements in these estimates. Survey estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling variability as explained in paragraphs 14 to 18. Particular care should be taken in the interpretation of the seasonally adjusted series in this publication as the short term movement cannot be assumed to indicate changes in trend.

## MAIN FEATURES

In seasonally adjusted terms, there were an estimated $7,575,500$ persons in the labour force in July 1986, of whom $6,943,100$ were employed and 632,500 were unemployed.

Between July 1985 and July 1986, employment increased in original terms by 242,500 persons ( 96,700 males and 145,800 females). The number of persons employed full time increased by 159,100, while part-time employment increased by 83,400 ( 71,100 females). Over the same twelve-month period, unemployment grew by 35,300 persons in original terms, with the number of unemployed females increasing by 33,900 . The number of persons looking for part-time work increased by 16,000 or 18.3 per cent. The original unemployment rate increased from 7.7 per cent in July 1985 to 7.9 per cent in July 1986. The original participation rate increased by l. 1 percentage points from 60.8 per cent to 61.9 per cent, however female participation increased by 2.0 percentage points from 46.5 per cent to 48.5 per cent in original terms.

Total seasonally adjusted employment decreased by 35,700 between June and July 1986, with the number of full-time employed males decreasing by 38,900 . Unemployment increased by 56,600 in seasonally adjusted terms ( 26,500 males and 30,000 females), with the number of persons looking for full-time work growing by 51,300 ( 26,500 males and 24,700 females). The unemployment rate stood at 8.3 per cent (seasonally adjusted) at July 1986, compared with 7.6 per cent in June 1986. The seasonally adjusted participation rate increased slightly to stand at 62.1 per cent in July 1986.


## EXPLANATORY NOTES

## INTRODUCTION

This publication contains preliminary estimates of the civilian labour force derived from the labour force survey part of the monthly population survey. Estimates for the current month are preliminary and subject to revision. Revised figures for the current month and more detailed estimates will be published in "The Labour Force, Australia" (6203.0)
2. Commencing with the April 1986 labour force survey, the definition of employment was extended to include all persons who worked without pay for one hour or more in a family business or on a farm (i.e. unpaid family helpers). This results from changes to international standard definitions by the International Labour Office (ILO). Previously, such persons who worked 1 to 14 hours or who had such a job but were not at work were defined as either unemployed or not in the labour force, depending on whether they were actively looking for work. All estimates in this publication are based on the new definition. Details about this change, together with other changes made to the questionnaire, are contained in "The Labour Force, Australia, April $1986^{\prime \prime}$ and in the information paper "Questionnaires used in the Labor Force Survey" (6232.0) issued in June 1986.

## THE POPULATION SURVEY

3. The population survey is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (about 35,000 houses, flats, etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.) and covers about two-thirds of one per cent of the population of Australia. The information is obtained from the occupants of selected dwellings by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers. The interviews are generally conducted during the two weeks beginning on the Monday between the 6 th and 12th of each month. Because of operational problems arising from the Christmas and New Year holidays, interviews for the December 1985 survey commenced on Monday 2 December, and for the January 1986 survey, on Monday 13 January. The information obtained relates to the week before the interview (i.e. the survey week).

## SCOPE

4. The labour force survey includes all persons aged 15 and over except:
members of the permanent defence forces: certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations; overseas residents in Australia; and members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependents) stationed in Australia.

## DEFINITIONS

5. The labour force category to which a person is assigned depends on the actual activity undertaken during the survey week (i.e. whether working, looking for work, etc.). The following definitions, which conform closely to the international standard definitions specified by the International Labour Office (ILO), relate only to those persons within the scope of the survey.
6. Employed persons comprise all those aged 15 and over who, during the survey week:
(a) worked for one hour or more for pay, profit. commission or payment in kind in a job or businessy or on a farm (including employees. employers and self-employed persons): or
(b) worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. unpaid family helpers): or
(c) were employees who had a job but were not at work and were: on paid leave; on leave without pay for less than four weeks up to the end of the survey week: stood down without pay because of bad weather or plant breakdown at their place of employment for less than four weeks up to the end of the survey week; on strike or locked out; on workers" compensation and expected to be returning to their job; or receiving wages or salary while undertaking full-time study: or
(d) were employers, self-employed persons or unpaid family helpers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.
7. Ünemployed persons are those aged 15 and over who were not employed during the survey week, and:
(a) had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the survey week and:
(i) were available for work in the survey week, or would have been available except for temporary illness (i.e. lasting for less than four weeks to the end of the survey week) ;or
(ii) were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the survey week and would have started in the survey week if the job had been available then;
or (b) were waiting to be called back to a full-time or part-time job from which they had been stood down without pay for less than four weeks up to the end of the survey week (including the whole of the survey week) for reasons other than bad weather or plant breakdown.
8. Unemployed persons looking for their first full-time job are those who had never worked full time for two weeks or more.
9. The unemployment rate for any group is the number unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labour force in the same group.
10. The labour force comprises all persons who, during the survey week, were employed or unemployed, as defined above.
11. The labour force participation rate for any group is the labour force expressed as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 and over in the same group.
12. Full-time workers are those who usually worked 35 hours or more a week and others who, although usually parttime workers, worked 35 hours or more during the survey week. Part-time workers are those who usually worked less than 35 hours a week and who did so during the survey week. When recording hours of work fractions of an hour are disregarded.
13. Persons not in the labour force are those who, during the survey week, were not in the categories "employed" or "unemployed".

## RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

14. Two types of error are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey: sampling error and non-sampling error. The sampling error is a measure of the variability that occurs by chance because a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed. One measure of the likely difference resulting from not including all dwellings in the survey is
given by the standard error. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.
15. Standard errors of estimates for the latest month and of estimates of movements since the previous month are shown in the tables. Standard errors of other estimates and other movements may be determined by using information in the Technical note in "The Labour Force, Australia" (6203.0).
16. Very small estimates are not published but are indicated with a "*"
because they are subject to high relative standard errors. Although figures for these small components can in some cases be derived by subtraction, they should not be regarded as reliable.
17. Examples of the calculation and use of standard errors are given below:
(a) The estimate of 317,400 unemployed males looking for full-time work in July 1986 has a standard error of about 6,300. Therefore there are about two chances in three that the number that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey will be within the range 311,100 to 323,700 and about nineteen chances in twenty that the number will be within the range 304,800 to 330,000 。
(b) The estimate of movement in the number of unemployed males looking for full-time work from June 1986 to July 1986 is an increase of 24,500. The standard error of this monthly movement is about 4,900. Therefore, there are about two chances in three that if all dwellings had been included in the surveys the movement would have been within the range $+19,600$ to $+29,400$ and about nineteen chances in twenty that it would have been within the range $+14,700$ to +34 , 300 .
18. The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the standard error, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents, errors made in collection such as in recording and coding of data, and errors made in processing the data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as the non-sampling error, and they 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 efficient operating procedures.

## SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT

19. Seasonally adjusted series are published in Tables 2 and 5. As happens with all seasonally adjusted series, the seasonal factors are reviewed annually to take account of each additional year's original data. The results of the latest review were used to compile the revised seasonally adjusted estimates contained in this bulletin. Information about the method of adjustment, and revised seasonally adjusted figures for all months since February 1978, were published in an appendix to "The Labour Force, Australia, February 1986" (6203.0).

## RELATED PUBLICATIONS

20. Users may also wish to refer to "The Labour Force, Australia" (6203.0), ( $\$ 1.20$, $\$ 2.10$ incl. postage). This publication contains a detailed list of related publications which are available on request.

NEW ABS SERVICE: AUSSTATS
21. A wide range of economic, social and demographic statistics, including the series contained in this publication, is now available on AUSSTATS, ABS' new online service through CSIRONET.
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SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

* subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. See the Technical note in 6203.0 for more details
.. not applicable

23. Figures have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

## W. MCLENNAN

Acting Australian Statistician


TABLE 2. CIVILIAN LABOUR FORCE: SEASONALLY ADJUSTED SERIES


TABLE 3. LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER, STATES AND TERRITORIES, JULY 1986

```
State or
```

Territory
Employed

| Full-time |
| :---: |
| workers |$\quad$ Total


| Unemployed |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Looking | Looking |  |
| for full- for part- |  |  |
| time work time work |  |  |


|  | Civilian <br> popula- |  |
| ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Labour | Not in | tion |
| force | force | aged 15 |



Particiforce force
pation

- '000 -
- per cent -
New South Wales
Victoria
Queensland
South Australia
Western Australia
Tasmania
Northern Territory
Australian Capital
Territory
Australia

| $1,348.4$ | $1,446.0$ | 118.8 | 7.4 | 126.2 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| $1,043.8$ | $1,112.0$ | 62.4 | 6.3 | 68.8 |
| 620.4 | 668.7 | 62.5 | 4.0 | 66.5 |
| 330.7 | 354.9 | 31.0 | $*$ | 32.5 |
| 370.2 | 393.4 | 27.5 | 3.6 | 31.1 |
| 108.9 | 115.6 | 9.2 | $*$ | 9.6 |
| 38.5 | 40.8 | 4.3 | $*$ | 4.6 |
| 66.7 | 73.3 | 1.7 | $*$ | 2.6 |
| $3,927.7$ | $4,204.7$ | 317.4 | 24.3 | 341.7 |


| $1,572.1$ | 518.9 | $2,091.0$ | 8.0 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| $1,180.8$ | 396.6 | $1,577.4$ | 5.8 |
| 735.2 | 226.8 | 962.0 | 9.0 |
| 387.4 | 136.4 | 523.8 | 8.4 |
| 424.5 | 118.9 | 543.3 | 7.3 |
| 125.2 | 41.8 | 167.0 | 7.7 |
| 45.5 | 8.0 | 53.5 | 10.2 |
| 75.8 | 15.2 | 91.1 | 3.4 |
|  |  |  |  |
| $4,546.4$ | $1,462.6$ | $6,009.0$ | 7.5 |

75.2
74.9
76.4
74.0
78.1
75.0
85.0
83.3
75.7

New South Wales Victoria
Queensland
South Australia
Western Australia Tasmania
Northern Territory
Australian Capital
Territory
Australia

| 590.9 | 931.5 | 65.3 | 23.1 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 469.4 | 747.3 | 36.5 | 22.9 |
| 259.0 | 419.6 | 36.1 | 12.9 |
| 135.3 | 240.0 | 14.3 | 7.7 |
| 150.6 | 260.7 | 14.7 | 8.0 |
| 39.3 | 70.9 | 4.2 | 2.0 |
| 20.5 | 26.1 | $*$ | $*$ |
| 38.6 | 57.7 | $*$ | 2.0 |
|  |  |  |  |
| $1,703.5$ | $2,753.7$ | 173.5 | 78.9 |

88.4
59.5
49.0
22.0
22.7
6.2
$*$
3.0
252.4
$1,019.9$
806.8
468.6
262.0
283.4
77.1
27.8
60.6
3.006 .1

| $1,143.9$ | $2,163.8$ | 8.7 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 834.0 | $1,640.8$ | 7.4 |
| 514.0 | 982.6 | 10.5 |
| 285.4 | 547.4 | 8.4 |
| 259.6 | 543.0 | 8.0 |
| 95.5 | 172.6 | 8.0 |
| 20.6 | 48.4 | 4 |
| 36.4 | 97.0 | 4.9 |
|  |  |  |
| $3,189.4$ | $6,195.5$ | 8.4 |

47.1
49.2
47.7
47.9
52.2
44.7
57.4
62.5
48.5

New South Wales
Victoria
Queensland
South Australia
Western Australia
Tasmania
Northern Territory
Australian Capital Territory
Australia

| $1,939.3$ | $2,377.4$ | 184.1 | 30.5 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| $1,513.2$ | $1,859.3$ | 99.0 | 29.3 |
| 879.5 | $1,088.3$ | 98.6 | 16.8 |
| 466.0 | 594.9 | 45.3 | 9.2 |
| 520.8 | 654.1 | 42.2 | 11.6 |
| 148.2 | 186.5 | 13.4 | 2.4 |
| 59.0 | 66.9 | 5.7 | $*$ |
| 105.3 | 130.9 | 2.7 | 2.8 |
|  |  |  |  |
| $5,631.2$ | $6,958.4$ | 490.9 | 103.2 |


| 214.6 | $2,592.0$ |
| ---: | ---: |
| 128.3 | $1,987.5$ |
| 115.5 | $1,203.8$ |
| 54.5 | 649.4 |
| 53.8 | 707.9 |
| 15.8 | 202.3 |
| 6.3 | 73.2 |
| 5.5 | 136.4 |
| 594.2 | $7,552.6$ |


| $1,662.8$ | $4,254.8$ | 8.3 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: |
| $1,230.6$ | $3,218.2$ | 6.5 |
| 740.8 | $1,944.6$ | 9.6 |
| 421.9 | $1,071.2$ | 8.4 |
| 378.4 | $1,086.3$ | 7.6 |
| 137.3 | 339.6 | 7.8 |
| 28.6 | 101.8 | 8.6 |
| 51.6 | 188.1 | 4.0 |
|  |  |  |
| $4,652.0$ | $12,204.5$ | 7.9 |

TABLE 4. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, AUSTRALIA


TABLE 5. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: SEASONALLY ADJUSTED SERIES

table 6. unemployed persons, states and territories



NEW SOUTH WALES -
1985 - July
1986 - June
July
Standard error of -
July 1986 estimates
June 1986 to
July 1986 movements

| 15.7 | 37.9 | 139.3 | 177.1 | 28.2 | 205.3 | 21.8 | 7.3 | 8.5 | 6.8 | 8.2 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 13.4 | 38.4 | 135.6 | 173.9 | 33.7 | 207.7 | 21.9 | 6.9 | 8.2 | 7.3 | 8.0 |
| 16.9 | 41.5 | 142.6 | 184.1 | 30.5 | 214.6 | 23.3 | 7.3 | 8.7 | 6.5 | 8.3 |
| 1.8 | 2.7 | 4.5 | 4.9 | 2.4 | 5.2 | 1.5 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.2 |
| 1.5 | 2.2 | 3.5 | 3.8 | 2.0 | 4.1 | 1.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.2 |

VICTORIA -
1985 - July
1986 - June
July
Standard error of -
July 1986 estimates
June 1986 to
July 1986 movements

| 10.7 | 22.1 | 75.0 | 97.1 | 23.5 | 120.6 | 17.1 | 5.2 | 6.2 | 6.4 | 6.3 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 7.8 | 22.1 | 66.5 | 88.6 | 26.7 | 115.3 | 16.7 | 4.5 | 5.5 | 7.1 | 5.8 |
| 10.9 | 25.7 | 73.3 | 99.0 | 29.3 | 128.3 | 19.2. | 5.0 | 6.1 | 7.8 | 6.5 |
| 1.5 | 2.2 | 3.3 | 3.7 | 2.3 | 4.1 | 1.6 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 0.2 |
| 1.3 | 1.8 | 2.6 | 2.9 | 1.9 | 3.1 | 1.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.2 |

QUEENSLAND -
1985 - July
1986 - June
July
Standard error of -
July 1986 estimates
June 1986 to
July 1986 movements

SOUTH AUSTRALIA -
1985 - July
1986 - June
July
Standarderror of -
July 1986 estimate

| 5.7 | 11.9 | 33.1 | 45.0 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 4.2 | 10.5 | 32.7 | 43.2 |
| 3.6 | 10.5 | 34.8 | 45.3 |
| 0.6 | 0.9 | 1.5 | 1.6 |
| 0.5 | 0.8 | 1.2 | 1.3 |


| 6.4 | 51.3 | 23.1 | 7.3 | 8.9 | 4.8 | 8.1 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 6.5 | 49.8 | 22.5 | 7.0 | 8.4 | 4.8 | 7.7 |
| 9.2 | 54.5 | 22.7 | 7.5 | 8.9 | 6.7 | 8.4 |
| 0.9 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.3 |
| 0.7 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.2 |

WESTERN AUSTRALIA -
1985 - July
1986 - June
July
Standard error of -
July 1986 estimates
June 1986 to
July 1986 movements

| 3.5 | 10.0 | 33.3 | 43.3 | 7.4 | 50.6 | 18.2 | 6.9 | 8.0 | 5.6 | 7.5 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 2.9 | 11.9 | 31.0 | 42.9 | 10.5 | 53.4 | 20.0 | 6.2 | 7.7 | 7.3 | 7.6 |
| 2.6 | 9.7 | 32.5 | 42.2 | 11.6 | 53.8 | 16.1 | 6.5 | 7.5 | 8.0 | 7.6 |
| 0.5 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 1.7 | 1.0 | 1.9 | 1.6 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 0.3 |
| 0.5 | 0.8 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 0.8 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 0.2 |

TASMANIA -
1985 - July
1986 - June
July
Standard error of -
July 1986 estimates
June 1986 to
July 1986 movements

| 1.5 | 3.6 | 10.7 | 14.2 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 1.9 | 4.4 | 9.5 | 13.9 |
| 1.3 | 3.7 | 9.7 | 13.4 |
| 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 0.7 |
| 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.6 |


| 2.4 | 16.6 | 19.9 | 7.4 | 8.8 | 6.9 | 8.4 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 1.9 | 15.9 | 23.9 | 6.7 | 8.7 | 4.9 | 7.9 |
| 2.4 | 15.8 | 21.0 | 6.7 | 8.3 | 5.9 | 7.8 |
| 0.4 | 0.8 | 2.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 0.4 |
| 0.3 | 0.6 | 2.1 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.8 | 0.3 |

NORTHERN TERRITORY -
1985 - July
1986 - June
July
Standard error of -
July 1986 estimates
June 1986 to

| $*$ | $*$ | 3.0 | 3.3 | $*$ | 4.5 | $*$ | 5.4 | 5.5 | $*$ | 6.7 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| $*$ | $*$ | 2.5 | 3.6 | $*$ | 4.3 | $*$ | 4.4 | 5.8 | $*$ | 5.8 |
| $*$ | $*$ | 5.2 | 5.7 | $*$ | 6.3 | $*$ | 9.0 | 8.8 | $*$ | 8.6 |
| 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 3.9 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 3.2 | 0.9 |
| 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 5.8 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 2.6 | 0.8 |

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY -
1985 - July
1986 - June
July
Standard error of -
July 1986 estimates
June 1986 to
July 1986 movements

| $*$ | 1.3 | 2.2 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: |
| $*$ | $*$ | 2.1 |
| $*$ | $*$ | 1.9 |
| 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.4 |
| 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.3 |


| 2.2 | 3.5 |
| :--- | :--- |
| 2.1 | 2.8 |
| 1.9 | 2.7 |
|  |  |
| 0.4 | 0.4 |
| 0.3 | 0.4 |

1.7
3.8
2.8

0.4

| 5.3 | 19.7 |
| :--- | ---: |
| 6.6 | * |
| 5.5 |  |
| 0.5 | 5.6 |
| 0.5 | 5.1 |


| 3.5 | 7.1 | 4.2 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 2.7 | 12.0 | 4.8 |
| 2.5 | 10.0 | 4.0 |
| 0.4 | 1.5 | 0.4 |
| 0.3 | 1.3 | 0.4 |

