



### THE LABOUR FORCE, AUSTRALIA, MARCH 1987, PRELIMINARY

#### PHONE INQUIRIES

• *about these statistics* — contact Mr Russell Hill on Canberra (062) 52 6525 or any ABS State office

• *about other statistics and ABS services* — contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6627, 52 5402, 52 6007 or any ABS State office

#### MAIL INQUIRIES

• write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, ACT 2616 or any ABS State Office

#### ELECTRONIC SERVICES

• on VIATEL— key \*656#

• on AUSSTATS— phone (062) 52 6017

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To assist users in interpreting underlying trends, this issue introduces estimates of trend for the major labour force series. For a brief explanation of the methodology, refer to paragraphs 19 to 22 of the Explanatory Notes.

Care should be taken in the interpretation of the trend series, as the most recent data are subject to revision when subsequent months' data become available. Care should also be taken in the interpretation of month-to-month movements in the original and seasonally adjusted data - see paragraphs 14 to 18.

#### MAIN FEATURES

The March 1987 estimate (seasonally adjusted) of employed persons was 7,061,400, an increase of 20,000 compared with February. The trend estimates of employed persons show that the rate of growth in employment in the past few months has almost returned to the levels experienced in the period April 1983 to April 1986, following a levelling-off in

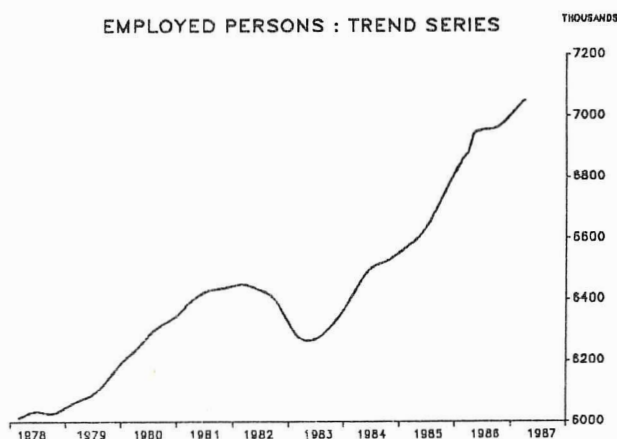
the rate of growth from April 1986 to September 1986.

Unemployment increased by 18,800 (seasonally adjusted) to 650,700 between February and March 1987 with increases of 5,900 and 13,000 in male and female unemployment respectively. Although this rise was the most significant monthly movement for several months, the trend estimates show that the plateau in the number of unemployed that has been experienced since November 1986 continues. It is too early to determine whether there has been any change in that underlying trend. Prior to reaching the current plateau, the trend estimate of unemployed persons showed a decline from July 1983 (722,900) to November 1985 (583,400), followed by a gradual increase to October 1986 (636,000).

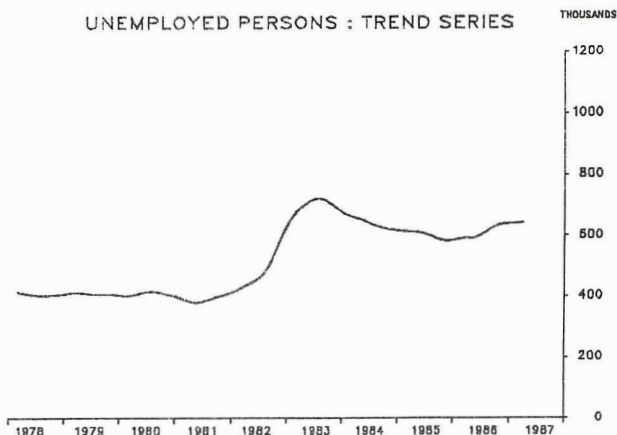
The March 1987 unemployment rate for persons was 8.4% (seasonally adjusted), up by 0.2 percentage points from February. However, the trend estimates show that the underlying trend remains unchanged. Following uniformly small monthly increases from April 1986 (7.8%), the trend estimate reached a level of 8.4% in October 1986 and has remained at that level since that time. The increases from April 1986 followed a period of steady decline in the unemployment rate from a peak of 10.3% in June 1983.

The participation rate (seasonally adjusted) for March 1987 was 62.2%, compared with 62.0% for both January and February. Trend estimates show this rate has been relatively unchanged since April 1986. Before that, trend estimates showed steady increases from a turning point of 60.5% in November 1984. However, trend estimates for male and female participation rates are now moving in opposite directions. For males the trend shows a steady decline from April 1986 (76.2%) to November 1986 (75.7%). There has been no change from then to March 1987. The females rate has continually increased from April 1983 (44.6%) to March 1987 (48.9%).

EMPLOYED PERSONS : TREND SERIES



UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : TREND SERIES



## EMPLOYED PERSONS

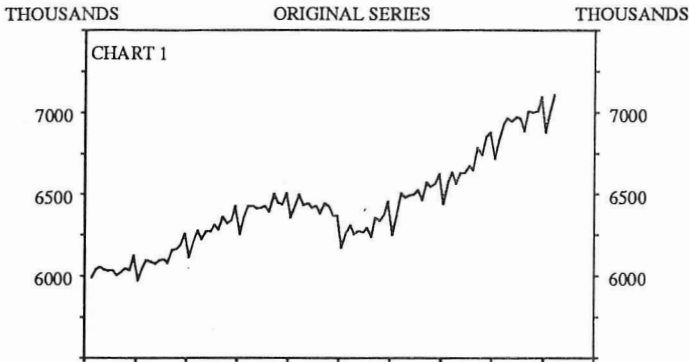


Chart 1 shows the behaviour of the *original monthly data* over 9 years. At any point in time a particular observation in an unadjusted Labour Force series is the result of three notional influences:

- . seasonal influences
- . trend
- . residual/irregular influences.

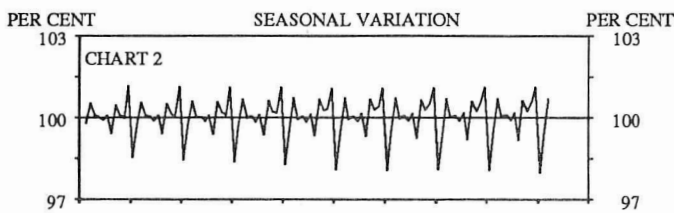
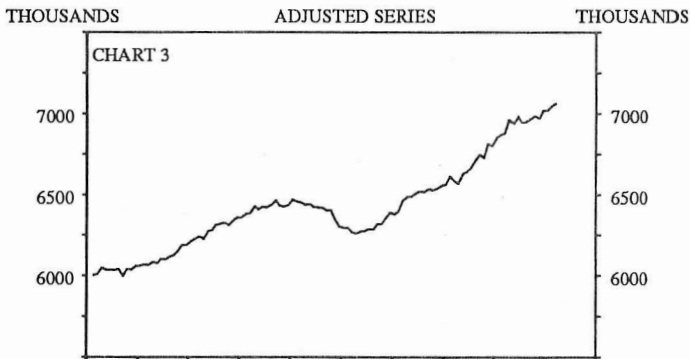
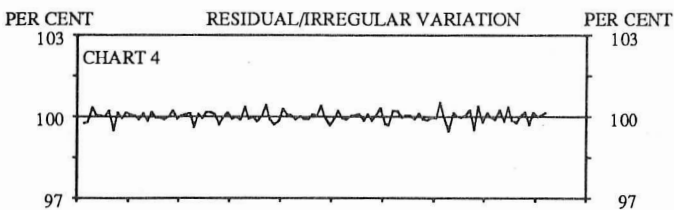


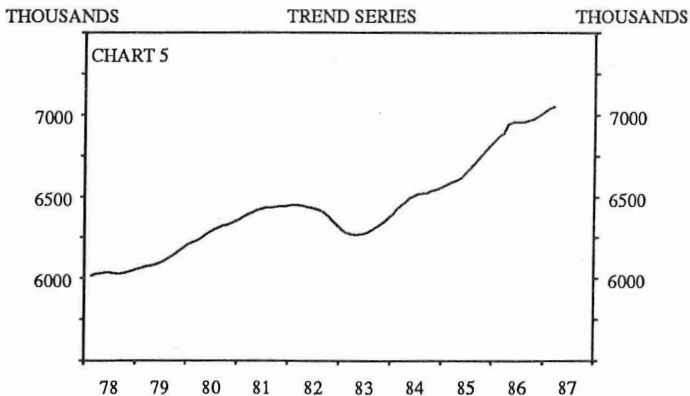
Chart 2 displays the features of the *seasonal pattern* measured each year.



The seasonally adjusted series (Chart 3) results when the *seasonal influences are removed* from the original data.



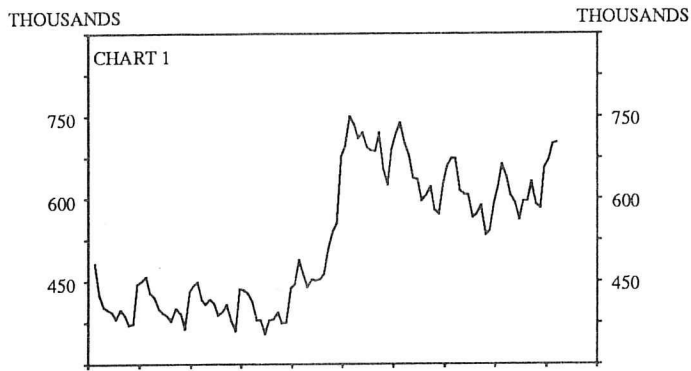
The seasonally adjusted series is quite variable, the *remaining variability* being due largely to the residual/irregular influences (Chart 4).



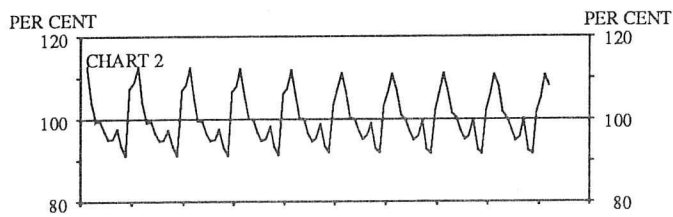
The *trend series* (Chart 5) results when the residual/irregular influences are significantly dampened from the seasonally adjusted data. The trend shows the *underlying direction of the series*.

Further information on seasonally adjusted series and trend estimates is given in paragraphs 19 to 22 of the Explanatory Notes.

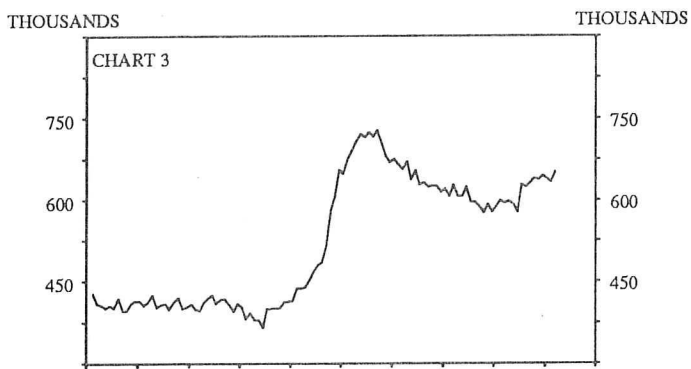
### UNEMPLOYED PERSONS



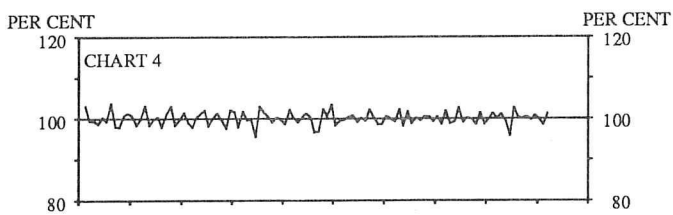
ORIGINAL SERIES



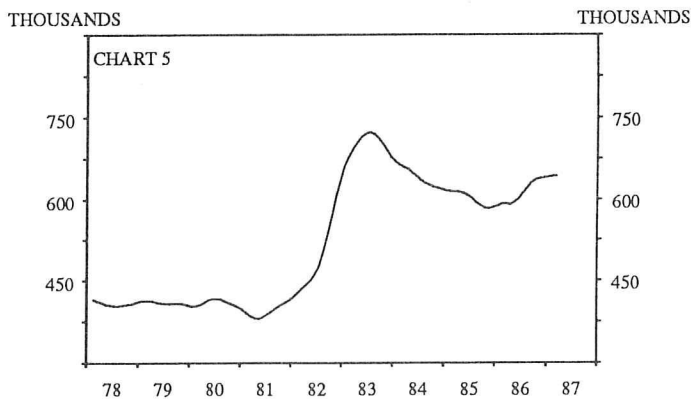
SEASONAL VARIATION



ADJUSTED SERIES



RESIDUAL/IRREGULAR VARIATION



TREND SERIES

Further information on seasonally adjusted series and trend estimates is given in paragraphs 19 to 22 of the Explanatory Notes.

## 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).

**The population survey**

2. 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 6th and 12th of each month. The information obtained relates to the week before the interview (i.e. the survey week).

**Scope**

3. 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**

4. 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.

5. *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 business, 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.

6. *Full-time workers* are those who usually worked 35 hours or more a week and others who, although usually part-time workers, worked 35 hours or more during the survey week. *Part-time workers* are those who usually work 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.

7. *Unemployed 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 break-down.

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. *Persons not in the labour force* are those who, during the survey week, were not in the categories employed or unemployed as defined above.

### Revision of series

13. From April 1986, the definition of employed persons was changed to include persons who worked without pay between 1 and 14 hours per week in a family business or on a farm (i.e. unpaid family helpers). In this issue, estimates for months prior to April 1986 are on the old basis, and estimates for April 1986 and later months are based on the new definition. For further information, see paragraphs 37 and 38 of the Explanatory Notes to the February 1987 issue of *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

### 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 and percentages based on such 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) An estimate of 320,000 unemployed males looking for full-time work 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 313,700 to 326,300 and about nineteen chances in twenty that the number will be within the range 307,400 to 332,600.
- (b) An estimate of movement in the number of unemployed males looking for full-time work from

one month to the next is an increase of 28,300. The standard error of this monthly movement is about 5,100. 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 +23,200 to +33,400, and about nineteen chances in twenty that it would have been within the range +18,100 to +38,500.

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 and trend estimation

19. Seasonally adjusted series are published in Tables 2 and 6. Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences on the series can be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment does not aim to remove the irregular or non-seasonal influences which may be present in any particular month. Influences that are volatile can still make it difficult to interpret the movement of the series even after adjustment for seasonal variation.

20. Smoothing seasonally adjusted series produces a measure of trend by reducing the impact of the irregular component of the series. The trend estimates have been derived by applying a 13-term Henderson-weighted moving average to the series. Trend series are used to analyse the underlying behaviour of the series over time. These are published in Tables 3 and 7.

21. While this smoothing technique enables estimates to be produced for the latest month, it does result in revisions to the most recent months as additional observations become available. Generally, subsequent revisions become smaller, and after three months have a negligible impact on the series. There will also be revisions as a result of the annual review of seasonal factors.

22. Users may wish to refer to the ABS Information Papers *A Guide to Smoothing Time Series - Estimates of 'Trend'* (1316.0), and *Time Series Decomposition - an Overview* (1317.0) for more detailed information on smoothing of seasonally adjusted time series data.

**Related publications**

23. Users may also wish to refer to *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0). This publication contains a detailed list of related publications which are available on request.

**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

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

**Electronic services**

VIATEL. Key \*656# for selected current economic, social and demographic statistics.

AUSSTATS. Thousands of up-to-date time series are available on this ABS on-line service through CSIRONET.

For further information phone the AUSSTATS Help Desk on (062) 52 6017.

TELESTATS. This service provides foreign trade statistics tailored to users' requirements. Further information is available on (062) 52 5404.

**IAN CASTLES**  
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER

Month	Employed		Unemployed		Labour force		Not in labour force	Civilian population aged 15 and over	Unemployment rate	Participation rate	
	Full-time workers	Total	Aged 15-19 looking for first job	Total	Looking for part-time work	Total					
- '000 -											
- per cent -											
MALES											
1986 -											
February (a)	3,937.7	4,180.5	39.8	339.6	28.4	367.9	4,548.5	1,409.2	5,957.7	8.1	76.3
March (a)	3,939.3	4,213.0	30.3	314.9	37.4	352.2	4,565.2	1,403.0	5,968.2	7.7	76.5
April	3,914.6	4,217.2	21.4	305.5	33.2	338.7	4,555.8	1,422.1	5,977.9	7.4	76.2
May	3,914.3	4,204.1	18.8	308.8	27.6	336.4	4,540.5	1,447.1	5,987.6	7.4	75.8
June	3,950.7	4,233.2	18.5	292.9	27.0	320.0	4,553.2	1,444.1	5,997.3	7.0	75.9
July	3,927.7	4,204.7	20.6	317.4	24.3	341.7	4,546.4	1,462.6	6,009.0	7.5	75.7
August	3,901.6	4,179.8	17.5	319.9	28.1	348.0	4,527.8	1,492.4	6,020.2	7.7	75.2
September	3,955.8	4,237.2	16.9	333.2	29.3	362.5	4,599.7	1,431.8	6,031.5	7.9	76.3
October	3,944.0	4,223.8	17.2	315.0	26.1	341.0	4,564.9	1,479.3	6,044.2	7.5	75.5
November	3,930.9	4,209.0	17.8	320.0	24.8	344.8	4,553.8	1,503.0	6,056.8	7.6	75.2
December	3,984.3	4,273.3	34.9	348.3	37.2	385.5	4,658.8	1,410.6	6,069.5	8.3	76.8
1987 -											
January	3,929.0	4,193.6	35.0	370.8	31.7	402.4	4,596.1	1,484.8	6,080.9	8.8	75.6
February	3,963.5	4,230.9	34.2	362.8	32.5	395.4	4,626.3	1,466.0	6,092.3	8.5	75.9
March	3,973.0	4,274.5	23.0	351.5	33.9	385.3	4,659.8	1,443.9	6,103.7	8.3	76.3
Standard error of -											
March 1987 estimates	15.4	15.7	2.1	6.6	2.5	6.8	16.2	11.0	..	0.1	0.3
Feb 87 to Mar 87 movements	12.7	13.1	2.1	5.2	2.1	5.4	13.5	8.8	..	0.1	0.2
FEMALES											
1986 -											
February (a)	1,701.1	2,646.8	34.6	209.3	86.0	295.3	2,942.2	3,201.2	6,143.4	10.0	47.9
March (a)	1,699.2	2,713.3	27.8	191.8	96.4	288.2	3,001.5	3,152.1	6,153.6	9.6	48.8
April	1,705.5	2,744.9	17.1	179.6	88.6	268.2	3,013.2	3,150.2	6,163.4	8.9	48.9
May	1,701.6	2,740.4	20.0	174.5	81.3	255.8	2,996.2	3,177.1	6,173.3	8.5	48.5
June	1,684.3	2,739.5	17.3	164.1	77.8	241.9	2,981.4	3,201.9	6,183.2	8.1	48.2
July	1,703.5	2,753.7	21.4	173.5	78.9	252.4	3,006.1	3,189.4	6,195.5	8.4	48.5
August	1,680.7	2,705.9	19.5	170.8	76.9	247.6	2,953.6	3,253.1	6,206.7	8.4	47.6
September	1,711.2	2,770.4	14.9	184.4	84.7	269.1	3,039.5	3,178.5	6,218.0	8.9	48.9
October	1,717.9	2,776.5	16.5	171.0	78.1	249.1	3,025.6	3,205.2	6,230.7	8.2	48.6
November	1,716.7	2,798.0	18.5	169.1	69.3	238.4	3,036.4	3,207.1	6,243.5	7.9	48.6
December	1,739.7	2,818.7	30.4	197.4	72.6	269.9	3,088.6	3,167.7	6,256.3	8.7	49.4
1987 -											
January	1,719.8	2,684.6	35.3	204.2	64.7	269.0	2,953.6	3,314.3	6,267.9	9.1	47.1
February	1,717.6	2,767.3	29.3	218.3	85.9	304.2	3,071.5	3,207.9	6,279.5	9.9	48.9
March	1,734.4	2,835.8	22.9	211.1	106.1	317.2	3,153.0	3,138.0	6,291.0	10.1	50.1
Standard error of -											
March 1987 estimates	11.7	13.8	2.1	5.4	4.0	6.3	14.3	14.2	..	0.2	0.2
Feb 87 to Mar 87 movements	9.3	11.2	2.0	4.3	3.3	4.9	11.7	11.7	..	0.2	0.2
PERSONS											
1986 -											
February (a)	5,638.8	6,827.4	74.4	548.8	114.4	663.2	7,490.6	4,610.4	12,101.1	8.9	61.9
March (a)	5,638.5	6,926.3	58.1	506.7	133.7	640.4	7,566.7	4,555.1	12,121.7	8.5	62.4
April	5,620.1	6,962.1	38.4	485.1	121.8	606.9	7,569.0	4,572.3	12,141.3	8.0	62.3
May	5,615.8	6,944.5	38.7	483.3	108.9	592.2	7,536.7	4,624.1	12,160.9	7.9	62.0
June	5,634.9	6,972.7	35.8	457.0	104.8	561.9	7,534.6	4,646.0	12,180.5	7.5	61.9
July	5,631.2	6,958.4	42.0	490.9	103.2	594.2	7,552.6	4,652.0	12,204.5	7.9	61.9
August	5,582.4	6,885.7	37.0	490.7	105.0	595.6	7,481.4	4,745.6	12,226.9	8.0	61.2
September	5,667.0	7,007.6	31.8	517.6	114.0	631.6	7,639.2	4,610.2	12,249.5	8.3	62.4
October	5,661.9	7,000.3	33.7	485.9	104.2	590.1	7,590.4	4,684.4	12,274.9	7.8	61.8
November	5,647.6	7,006.9	36.3	489.1	94.2	583.3	7,590.2	4,710.1	12,300.3	7.7	61.7
December	5,724.0	7,092.0	65.3	545.7	109.8	655.5	7,747.4	4,578.4	12,325.8	8.5	62.9
1987 -											
January	5,648.8	6,878.3	70.3	575.0	96.4	671.4	7,549.7	4,799.1	12,348.8	8.9	61.1
February	5,681.0	6,998.2	63.5	581.1	118.4	699.6	7,697.8	4,673.9	12,371.7	9.1	62.2
March	5,707.4	7,110.2	45.9	562.5	140.0	702.6	7,812.8	4,581.9	12,394.7	9.0	63.0
Standard error of -											
March 1987 estimates	17.2	18.4	2.8	7.8	4.5	8.5	18.9	16.1	..	0.1	0.2
Feb 87 to Mar 87 movements	14.6	15.8	2.7	6.2	3.6	6.7	16.4	13.5	..	0.1	0.1
ESTIMATES FOR MARCH 1986 BASED ON NEW DEFINITION											
Males	3,939.3	4,223.5	29.9	311.9	37.3	349.2	4,572.7	1,395.5	5,968.2	7.6	76.6
Females	1,699.2	2,737.9	27.2	189.7	95.7	285.5	3,023.3	3,130.2	6,153.6	9.4	49.1
Persons	5,638.5	6,961.4	57.1	501.6	133.0	634.6	7,596.0	4,525.7	12,121.7	8.4	62.7

(a) Estimates based on old definition. These estimates differ from those shown in the April 1986 to February 1987 issues of this publication. See paragraph 13. Estimates for March 1986 based on the new definition are shown above to assist users to assess the impact of the change.





TABLE 3. CIVILIAN LABOUR FORCE: TREND SERIES

Month	Employed		Unemployed				Labour force	Unemp- loyment rate	Partici- pation rate
	Full-time workers	Total	Aged 15-19 looking for first job	Total	Looking for part-time work	Total			
- '000 -									
MALES									
1986 -									
February (a)	3,928.2	4,190.5	27.6	305.7	30.7	336.5	4,527.0	7.4	76.0
March (a)	3,931.5	4,197.4	27.3	307.4	31.2	338.5	4,535.9	7.5	76.0
April	3,933.2	4,215.3	26.2	306.8	30.6	337.4	4,552.7	7.4	76.2
May	3,934.5	4,218.4	25.2	309.6	30.1	339.6	4,558.0	7.5	76.1
June	3,936.3	4,219.3	24.2	313.5	29.4	343.0	4,562.3	7.5	76.1
July	3,937.7	4,218.0	23.2	318.9	29.0	347.9	4,565.8	7.6	76.0
August	3,938.4	4,215.9	22.4	325.6	28.7	354.4	4,570.3	7.8	75.9
September	3,938.0	4,214.0	21.9	332.4	28.7	361.1	4,575.1	7.9	75.9
October	3,937.9	4,214.3	21.8	337.6	29.0	366.6	4,580.9	8.0	75.8
November	3,939.2	4,217.8	21.9	340.6	29.3	369.8	4,587.6	8.1	75.7
December	3,942.2	4,224.2	22.3	341.5	29.7	371.2	4,595.4	8.1	75.7
1987 -									
January	3,945.9	4,231.7	22.7	341.5	30.2	371.8	4,603.4	8.1	75.7
February	3,949.6	4,239.3	23.0	341.1	30.7	371.9	4,611.2	8.1	75.7
March	3,953.4	4,246.6	23.1	339.9	31.3	371.2	4,617.8	8.0	75.7
FEMALES									
1986 -									
February (a)	1,688.8	2,675.9	23.8	176.7	77.6	254.3	2,930.2	8.7	47.7
March (a)	1,697.6	2,689.2	23.0	176.3	78.3	254.6	2,943.8	8.6	47.8
April	1,702.1	2,727.4	22.3	174.5	78.6	253.1	2,980.5	8.5	48.4
May	1,703.2	2,732.7	22.2	175.4	79.9	255.3	2,988.0	8.5	48.4
June	1,703.1	2,736.0	22.3	177.6	81.4	258.9	2,994.9	8.6	48.4
July	1,703.7	2,738.6	22.5	181.0	82.0	263.0	3,001.6	8.8	48.4
August	1,705.6	2,742.6	22.7	184.8	81.9	266.7	3,009.3	8.9	48.5
September	1,708.5	2,749.2	22.7	188.0	81.0	268.9	3,018.2	8.9	48.5
October	1,711.7	2,758.8	22.5	189.7	79.7	269.4	3,028.2	8.9	48.6
November	1,714.8	2,770.1	22.3	190.0	78.7	268.7	3,038.8	8.8	48.7
December	1,716.8	2,780.9	22.1	189.6	78.6	268.2	3,049.1	8.8	48.7
1987 -									
January	1,718.1	2,790.5	22.0	189.3	79.4	268.7	3,059.2	8.8	48.8
February	1,719.3	2,798.8	21.8	189.4	80.5	269.9	3,068.6	8.8	48.9
March	1,720.3	2,804.3	21.8	189.1	82.4	271.4	3,075.7	8.8	48.9
PERSONS									
1986 -									
February (a)	5,617.1	6,866.4	51.3	482.4	108.3	590.8	7,457.2	7.9	61.6
March (a)	5,629.1	6,886.6	50.3	483.7	109.4	593.1	7,479.7	7.9	61.7
April	5,635.2	6,942.7	48.6	481.3	109.1	590.4	7,533.1	7.8	62.0
May	5,637.7	6,951.1	47.4	485.0	110.0	595.0	7,546.1	7.9	62.1
June	5,639.5	6,955.3	46.4	491.1	110.8	601.9	7,557.2	8.0	62.0
July	5,641.4	6,956.6	45.7	499.9	111.0	610.9	7,567.4	8.1	62.0
August	5,644.0	6,958.5	45.1	510.5	110.6	621.1	7,579.6	8.2	62.0
September	5,646.5	6,963.2	44.7	520.4	109.7	630.1	7,593.3	8.3	62.0
October	5,649.6	6,973.1	44.3	527.3	108.7	636.0	7,609.1	8.4	62.0
November	5,654.0	6,987.9	44.2	530.6	108.0	638.6	7,626.4	8.4	62.0
December	5,659.0	7,005.1	44.4	531.1	108.3	639.4	7,644.5	8.4	62.0
1987 -									
January	5,664.0	7,022.2	44.7	530.9	109.6	640.4	7,662.6	8.4	62.1
February	5,668.9	7,038.0	44.8	530.5	111.3	641.8	7,679.8	8.4	62.1
March	5,673.6	7,050.9	44.8	529.0	113.7	642.6	7,693.5	8.4	62.1

(a) Estimates based on old definition. See paragraph 13.

TABLE 4. LABOUR FORCE STATUS OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER,  
STATES AND TERRITORIES, MARCH 1987

State or Territory	Employed		Unemployed			Labour force	Not in labour force	Civilian population aged 15 and over	Unemployment rate	Participation rate
	Full-time workers	Total	Looking for full-time work	Looking for part-time work	Total					
- '000 -						- per cent -				
MALES										
New South Wales	1,366.3	1,460.0	134.0	9.4	143.4	1,603.5	519.3	2,122.8	8.9	75.5
Victoria	1,070.7	1,155.7	65.6	8.3	73.9	1,229.6	367.9	1,597.5	6.0	77.0
Queensland	624.6	676.2	72.9	6.6	79.5	755.7	224.3	979.9	10.5	77.1
South Australia	331.9	357.7	32.8	3.6	36.4	394.1	135.6	529.6	9.2	74.4
Western Australia	365.3	394.8	29.1	2.9	32.0	426.8	128.6	555.4	7.5	76.8
Tasmania	108.7	114.9	11.2	*	12.0	127.0	42.0	169.0	9.5	75.1
Northern Territory	40.4	43.1	2.0	*	2.4	45.6	9.1	54.7	5.3	83.3
Australian Capital Territory	65.0	72.0	3.8	1.9	5.7	77.6	17.1	94.7	7.3	82.0
Australia	3,973.0	4,274.5	351.5	33.9	385.3	4,659.8	1,443.9	6,103.7	8.3	76.3
FEMALES										
New South Wales	602.1	956.5	75.4	34.4	109.9	1,066.3	1,128.5	2,194.8	10.3	48.6
Victoria	481.3	772.8	49.5	26.9	76.4	849.1	811.3	1,660.5	9.0	51.1
Queensland	262.8	439.3	39.5	19.4	58.8	498.2	503.7	1,001.9	11.8	49.7
South Australia	139.3	246.7	18.4	8.6	26.9	273.6	279.4	553.0	9.8	49.5
Western Australia	150.4	262.3	18.7	10.5	29.2	291.5	264.2	555.7	10.0	52.5
Tasmania	41.5	73.2	5.9	2.7	8.6	81.8	92.9	174.7	10.5	46.8
Northern Territory	20.4	28.1	*	*	2.6	30.7	18.9	49.6	8.6	61.9
Australian Capital Territory	36.6	57.0	2.2	2.7	4.8	61.8	39.0	100.8	7.8	61.3
Australia	1,734.4	2,835.8	211.1	106.1	317.2	3,153.0	3,138.0	6,291.0	10.1	50.1
PERSONS										
New South Wales	1,968.4	2,416.5	209.5	43.9	253.3	2,669.8	1,647.8	4,317.6	9.5	61.8
Victoria	1,552.0	1,928.5	115.1	35.1	150.3	2,078.7	1,179.2	3,258.0	7.2	63.8
Queensland	887.4	1,115.5	112.4	25.9	138.3	1,253.8	728.0	1,981.8	11.0	63.3
South Australia	471.3	604.3	51.2	12.2	63.4	667.7	415.0	1,082.7	9.5	61.7
Western Australia	515.7	657.1	47.8	13.4	61.2	718.3	392.8	1,111.1	8.5	64.6
Tasmania	150.3	188.2	17.1	3.5	20.6	208.8	134.9	343.7	9.9	60.7
Northern Territory	60.8	71.2	3.6	*	5.1	76.3	28.0	104.3	6.6	73.1
Australian Capital Territory	101.6	129.0	5.9	4.5	10.5	139.5	56.1	195.5	7.5	71.3
Australia	5,707.4	7,110.2	562.5	140.0	702.6	7,812.8	4,581.9	12,394.7	9.0	63.0

TABLE 5. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, AUSTRALIA

Month	Number looking for full-time work				Number looking for part-time work	Total	Unemployment rate				
	Aged 15-19		Aged 20 and over	Total			Looking for full-time work			Looking for part-time work	Total
	Looking for first job	Total					Aged 15-19	Aged 20 and over	Total		
			- '000 -						- per cent -		
MALES											
1986 -											
February (a)	39.8	78.2	261.4	339.6	28.4	367.9	23.0	6.6	7.9	10.5	8.1
March (a)	30.3	67.7	247.1	314.9	37.4	352.2	21.4	6.3	7.4	12.0	7.7
April	21.4	64.4	241.1	305.5	33.2	338.7	20.5	6.2	7.2	9.9	7.4
May	18.8	60.7	248.1	308.8	27.6	336.4	19.7	6.3	7.3	8.7	7.4
June	18.5	57.6	235.3	292.9	27.0	320.0	19.5	6.0	6.9	8.7	7.0
July	20.6	60.7	256.8	317.4	24.3	341.7	20.0	6.5	7.5	8.1	7.5
August	17.5	58.7	261.2	319.9	28.1	348.0	19.7	6.7	7.6	9.2	7.7
September	16.9	59.5	273.7	333.2	29.3	362.5	19.8	6.9	7.8	9.4	7.9
October	17.2	57.3	257.7	315.0	26.1	341.0	19.5	6.5	7.4	8.5	7.5
November	17.8	55.3	264.6	320.0	24.8	344.8	19.1	6.7	7.5	8.2	7.6
December	34.9	80.4	267.9	348.3	37.2	385.5	23.7	6.7	8.0	11.4	8.3
1987 -											
January	35.0	81.9	288.9	370.8	31.7	402.4	23.8	7.3	8.6	10.7	8.8
February	34.2	83.3	279.5	362.8	32.5	395.4	24.7	7.0	8.4	10.8	8.5
March	23.0	68.0	283.4	351.5	33.9	385.3	21.6	7.1	8.1	10.1	8.3
Standard error of -											
March 1987 estimates	2.1	3.3	6.0	6.6	2.5	6.8	1.1	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.1
Feb 87 to Mar 87 movements	2.1	3.0	4.7	5.2	2.1	5.4	0.9	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.1
FEMALES											
1986 -											
February (a)	34.6	68.1	141.1	209.3	86.0	295.3	25.4	8.6	11.0	8.3	10.0
March (a)	27.8	60.1	131.7	191.8	96.4	288.2	23.1	8.1	10.1	8.7	9.6
April	17.1	56.5	123.1	179.6	88.6	268.2	22.5	7.5	9.5	7.9	8.9
May	20.0	56.2	118.3	174.5	81.3	255.8	22.4	7.3	9.3	7.3	8.5
June	17.3	52.9	111.2	164.1	77.8	241.9	21.9	6.9	8.9	6.9	8.1
July	21.4	54.8	118.7	173.5	78.9	252.4	22.4	7.3	9.2	7.0	8.4
August	19.5	51.2	119.6	170.8	76.9	247.6	21.5	7.4	9.2	7.0	8.4
September	14.9	52.6	131.8	184.4	84.7	269.1	21.6	8.0	9.7	7.4	8.9
October	16.5	51.9	119.0	171.0	78.1	249.1	22.4	7.2	9.1	6.9	8.2
November	18.5	48.7	120.4	169.1	69.3	238.4	20.7	7.3	9.0	6.0	7.9
December	30.4	69.9	127.5	197.4	72.6	269.9	26.0	7.6	10.2	6.3	8.7
1987 -											
January	35.3	73.2	131.0	204.2	64.7	269.0	26.9	7.9	10.6	6.3	9.1
February	29.3	74.1	144.2	218.3	85.9	304.2	27.9	8.6	11.3	7.6	9.9
March	22.9	63.8	147.3	211.1	106.1	317.2	25.5	8.7	10.8	8.8	10.1
Standard error of -											
March 1987 estimates	2.1	3.3	4.6	5.4	4.0	6.3	1.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2
Feb 87 to Mar 87 movements	2.0	2.9	3.7	4.3	3.3	4.9	1.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2
PERSONS											
1986 -											
February (a)	74.4	146.3	402.6	548.8	114.4	663.2	24.1	7.2	8.9	8.8	8.9
March (a)	58.1	127.9	378.8	506.7	133.7	640.4	22.2	6.8	8.2	9.4	8.5
April	38.4	120.9	364.3	485.1	121.8	606.9	21.4	6.6	7.9	8.3	8.0
May	38.7	116.9	366.4	483.3	108.9	592.2	20.9	6.6	7.9	7.6	7.9
June	35.8	110.6	346.5	457.0	104.8	561.9	20.6	6.2	7.5	7.3	7.5
July	42.0	115.4	375.5	490.9	103.2	594.2	21.0	6.7	8.0	7.2	7.9
August	37.0	109.8	380.8	490.7	105.0	595.6	20.5	6.9	8.1	7.5	8.0
September	31.8	112.1	405.5	517.6	114.0	631.6	20.6	7.2	8.4	7.8	8.3
October	33.7	109.2	376.7	485.9	104.2	590.1	20.8	6.7	7.9	7.2	7.8
November	36.3	104.0	385.1	489.1	94.2	583.3	19.9	6.9	8.0	6.5	7.7
December	65.3	150.3	395.4	545.7	109.8	655.5	24.7	7.0	8.7	7.4	8.5
1987 -											
January	70.3	155.1	419.9	575.0	96.4	671.4	25.2	7.5	9.2	7.3	8.9
February	63.5	157.4	423.7	581.1	118.4	699.6	26.1	7.5	9.3	8.3	9.1
March	45.9	131.8	430.7	562.5	140.0	702.6	23.4	7.5	9.0	9.1	9.0
Standard error of -											
March 1987 estimates	2.8	4.4	7.1	7.8	4.5	8.5	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1
Feb 87 to Mar 87 movements	2.7	3.8	5.5	6.2	3.6	6.7	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
ESTIMATES FOR MARCH 1986 BASED ON NEW DEFINITION											
Males	29.9	66.3	245.7	311.9	37.3	349.2	21.0	6.2	7.3	11.6	7.6
Females	27.2	59.1	130.6	189.7	95.7	285.5	22.8	8.0	10.0	8.4	9.4
Persons	57.1	125.4	376.2	501.6	133.0	634.6	21.8	6.8	8.2	9.1	8.4

(a) Estimates based on old definition. These estimates differ from those shown in the April 1986 to February 1987 issues of this publication. See paragraph 13. Estimates for March 1986 based on the new definition are shown above to assist users to assess the impact of the change.



TABLE 7. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: TREND SERIES

Month	Number looking for full-time work				Number looking for part-time work	Total	Unemployment rate				
	Aged 15-19			Total			Looking for full-time work			Looking for part-time work	
	Looking for first job	Total	Aged 20 and over				Aged 15-19	Aged 20 and over	Total	Total	Total
MALES											
1986 -											
February (a)	27.6	65.6	240.1	305.7	30.7	336.5	20.9	6.1	7.2	10.5	7.4
March (a)	27.3	66.9	240.5	307.4	31.2	338.5	21.3	6.1	7.3	10.5	7.5
April	26.2	66.4	240.4	306.8	30.6	337.4	21.3	6.1	7.2	9.8	7.4
May	25.2	66.3	243.3	309.6	30.1	339.6	21.4	6.2	7.3	9.6	7.5
June	24.2	65.8	247.8	313.5	29.4	343.0	21.3	6.3	7.4	9.4	7.5
July	23.2	65.3	253.6	318.9	29.0	347.9	21.1	6.4	7.5	9.4	7.6
August	22.4	64.9	260.7	325.6	28.7	354.4	20.9	6.6	7.6	9.4	7.8
September	21.9	64.6	267.8	332.4	28.7	361.1	20.7	6.8	7.8	9.4	7.9
October	21.8	64.5	273.1	337.6	29.0	366.6	20.7	6.9	7.9	9.5	8.0
November	21.9	64.7	275.8	340.6	29.3	369.8	20.7	7.0	8.0	9.5	8.1
December	22.3	65.1	276.4	341.5	29.7	371.2	20.8	7.0	8.0	9.5	8.1
1987 -											
January	22.7	65.7	275.8	341.5	30.2	371.8	21.0	6.9	8.0	9.6	8.1
February	23.0	66.4	274.7	341.1	30.7	371.9	21.2	6.9	8.0	9.6	8.1
March	23.1	67.1	272.8	339.9	31.3	371.2	21.4	6.9	7.9	9.6	8.0
FEMALES											
1986 -											
February (a)	23.8	56.8	120.0	176.7	77.6	254.3	22.5	7.4	9.5	7.3	8.7
March (a)	23.0	57.2	119.2	176.3	78.3	254.6	22.6	7.4	9.4	7.3	8.6
April	22.3	57.1	117.4	174.5	78.6	253.1	22.6	7.2	9.3	7.1	8.5
May	22.2	57.7	117.6	175.4	79.9	255.3	23.0	7.2	9.3	7.2	8.5
June	22.3	58.4	119.2	177.6	81.4	258.9	23.3	7.3	9.4	7.3	8.6
July	22.5	59.0	122.0	181.0	82.0	263.0	23.6	7.5	9.6	7.3	8.8
August	22.7	59.2	125.7	184.8	81.9	266.7	23.7	7.7	9.8	7.3	8.9
September	22.7	59.1	128.9	188.0	81.0	268.9	23.7	7.8	9.9	7.2	8.9
October	22.5	58.9	130.8	189.7	79.7	269.4	23.6	7.9	10.0	7.1	8.9
November	22.3	58.7	131.3	190.0	78.7	268.7	23.5	7.9	10.0	6.9	8.8
December	22.1	58.7	130.8	189.6	78.6	268.2	23.6	7.9	9.9	6.9	8.8
1987 -											
January	22.0	58.9	130.4	189.3	79.4	268.7	23.7	7.9	9.9	6.9	8.8
February	21.8	59.1	130.2	189.4	80.5	269.9	23.9	7.8	9.9	6.9	8.8
March	21.8	59.3	129.7	189.1	82.4	271.4	24.1	7.8	9.9	7.1	8.8
PERSONS											
1986 -											
February (a)	51.3	122.4	360.1	482.4	108.3	590.8	21.6	6.5	7.9	8.0	7.9
March (a)	50.3	124.0	359.6	483.7	109.4	593.1	21.9	6.5	7.9	8.0	7.9
April	48.6	123.5	357.8	481.3	109.1	590.4	21.9	6.4	7.9	7.7	7.8
May	47.4	124.0	361.0	485.0	110.0	595.0	22.1	6.5	7.9	7.7	7.9
June	46.4	124.2	366.9	491.1	110.8	601.9	22.2	6.6	8.0	7.8	8.0
July	45.7	124.3	375.6	499.9	111.0	610.9	22.2	6.7	8.1	7.8	8.1
August	45.1	124.1	386.4	510.5	110.6	621.1	22.2	6.9	8.3	7.8	8.2
September	44.7	123.7	396.7	520.4	109.7	630.1	22.0	7.1	8.4	7.7	8.3
October	44.3	123.4	403.9	527.3	108.7	636.0	22.0	7.2	8.5	7.6	8.4
November	44.2	123.5	407.1	530.6	108.0	638.6	21.9	7.2	8.6	7.5	8.4
December	44.4	123.9	407.2	531.1	108.3	639.4	22.0	7.2	8.6	7.4	8.4
1987 -											
January	44.7	124.6	406.3	530.9	109.6	640.4	22.2	7.2	8.6	7.5	8.4
February	44.8	125.5	404.9	530.5	111.3	641.8	22.4	7.2	8.6	7.5	8.4
March	44.8	126.4	402.6	529.0	113.7	642.6	22.6	7.1	8.5	7.6	8.4

(a) Estimates based on old definition. See paragraph 13.

TABLE 8. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, STATES AND TERRITORIES

State or Territory	Number looking for full-time work				Number looking for part-time work	Total	Unemployment rate					
	Aged 15-19			Total			Looking for full-time work			Looking for part-time work		Total
	Looking for first job	Total	Aged 20 and over				Aged 15-19	Aged 20 and over	Total	per cent	per cent	
- '000 -												
- per cent -												
NEW SOUTH WALES -												
1986 - March(a)	23.1	46.6	146.3	192.9	39.1	232.0	23.5	7.5	8.9	8.8	8.9	
1987 - February	25.4	56.5	160.5	217.0	36.8	253.8	28.7	8.2	10.0	7.9	9.7	
March	15.9	44.0	165.4	209.5	43.9	253.3	24.1	8.3	9.6	8.9	9.5	
Standard error of -												
Mar 1987 estimates	1.8	2.8	4.7	5.2	2.8	5.6	1.5	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.2	
Feb 1987 to												
Mar 1987 movements	1.8	2.4	3.7	4.1	2.2	4.4	1.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	
VICTORIA -												
1986 - March(a)	13.0	25.3	72.1	97.4	43.0	140.4	18.4	4.9	6.0	11.0	7.0	
1987 - February	14.6	34.2	85.6	119.8	30.2	150.0	21.9	5.7	7.2	8.2	7.4	
March	10.6	28.6	86.5	115.1	35.1	150.3	19.5	5.7	6.9	8.5	7.2	
Standard error of -												
Mar 1987 estimates	1.5	2.3	3.5	3.9	2.5	4.3	1.5	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.2	
Feb 1987 to												
Mar 1987 movements	1.5	2.0	2.7	3.1	2.0	3.3	1.3	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.2	
QUEENSLAND -												
1986 - March(a)	7.5	23.8	70.0	93.7	22.3	116.0	24.1	8.1	9.7	9.7	9.7	
1987 - February	9.9	30.6	81.2	111.8	24.5	136.2	29.5	9.1	11.2	9.9	11.0	
March	8.0	27.9	84.5	112.4	25.9	138.3	27.9	9.4	11.2	10.2	11.0	
Standard error of -												
Mar 1987 estimates	1.1	1.9	2.9	3.2	1.8	3.4	1.9	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.3	
Feb 1987 to												
Mar 1987 movements	1.1	1.6	2.3	2.5	1.5	2.7	1.5	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.2	
SOUTH AUSTRALIA -												
1986 - March(a)	6.1	12.6	34.3	46.9	10.0	56.9	24.1	7.4	9.1	7.4	8.7	
1987 - February	5.1	13.6	39.3	52.9	11.8	64.7	24.9	8.4	10.1	8.5	9.8	
March	4.6	11.7	39.5	51.2	12.2	63.4	23.2	8.4	9.8	8.4	9.5	
Standard error of -												
Mar 1987 estimates	0.7	1.0	1.6	1.7	1.0	1.9	1.9	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.3	
Feb 1987 to												
Mar 1987 movements	0.6	0.8	1.2	1.4	0.8	1.5	1.5	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.2	
WESTERN AUSTRALIA -												
1986 - March(a)	4.1	11.9	37.5	49.4	11.3	60.7	19.7	7.5	8.8	7.9	8.6	
1987 - February	4.1	13.8	35.5	49.3	9.6	58.9	24.5	7.0	8.7	6.6	8.3	
March	3.4	12.0	35.8	47.8	13.4	61.2	21.7	7.0	8.5	8.7	8.5	
Standard error of -												
Mar 1987 estimates	0.6	1.0	1.6	1.8	1.1	1.9	1.9	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.3	
Feb 1987 to												
Mar 1987 movements	0.5	0.9	1.2	1.4	0.8	1.5	1.5	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.2	
TASMANIA -												
1986 - March(a)	3.5	5.1	11.9	17.0	2.9	19.9	26.3	8.2	10.3	7.7	9.8	
1987 - February	3.2	6.0	12.7	18.7	1.9	20.6	28.6	8.4	10.9	5.4	10.0	
March	2.2	5.1	12.0	17.1	3.5	20.6	29.1	8.0	10.2	8.5	9.9	
Standard error of -												
Mar 1987 estimates	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.4	0.9	2.9	0.5	0.5	1.1	0.4	
Feb 1987 to												
Mar 1987 movements	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.7	2.1	0.4	0.4	0.9	0.3	
NORTHERN TERRITORY -												
1986 - March(a)	*	*	3.3	4.5	2.0	6.5	*	5.8	7.3	16.1	8.8	
1987 - February	*	*	3.3	4.5	*	5.3	*	5.7	7.0	*	7.1	
March	*	*	2.4	3.6	*	5.1	*	4.1	5.5	*	6.6	
Standard error of -												
Mar 1987 estimates	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.6	7.0	0.8	0.8	3.2	0.8	
Feb 1987 to												
Mar 1987 movements	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.5	5.8	0.8	0.8	2.8	0.7	
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY -												
1986 - March(a)	*	1.4	3.5	4.9	3.1	7.9	24.8	3.4	4.6	10.6	5.9	
1987 - February	*	1.5	4.6	7.1	2.9	10.0	20.4	5.5	6.5	10.6	7.3	
March	*	1.5	5.5	5.9	4.5	10.5	21.0	4.5	5.5	14.2	7.5	
Standard error of -												
Mar 1987 estimates	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	4.6	0.5	0.5	1.6	0.5	
Feb 1987 to												
Mar 1987 movements	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.6	4.0	0.4	0.5	1.3	0.4	

## ESTIMATES FOR MARCH 1986 BASED ON NEW DEFINITION

NEW SOUTH WALES -	22.9	46.0	144.8	190.7	38.7	229.4	23.3	7.4	8.8	8.5	8.8
VICTORIA -	12.8	25.1	72.1	97.2	43.0	140.2	18.2	4.9	6.0	10.8	7.0
QUEENSLAND -	7.2	22.8	69.6	92.4	22.2	114.6	23.4	8.1	9.6	9.4	9.6
SOUTH AUSTRALIA -	6.0	12.4	34.1	46.5	9.9	56.4	23.8	7.3	9.0	7.2	8.6
WESTERN AUSTRALIA -	4.0	11.5	37.1	48.6	11.3	59.9	19.2	7.4	8.6	7.7	8.4
TASMANIA -	3.4	5.0	11.8	16.8	2.9	19.7	25.9	8.1	10.2	7.5	9.7
NORTHERN TERRITORY -	*	*	3.3	4.5	2.0	6.5	*	5.8	7.3	15.6	8.7
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY -	*	1.4	3.5	4.9	3.1	7.9	24.8	3.4	4.6	10.4	5.9

(a) Estimates based on old definition. These estimates differ from those shown in the April 1986 to February 1987 issues of this publication. See paragraph 13. Estimates for March 1986 based on the new definition are shown above to assist users to assess the impact of the change.