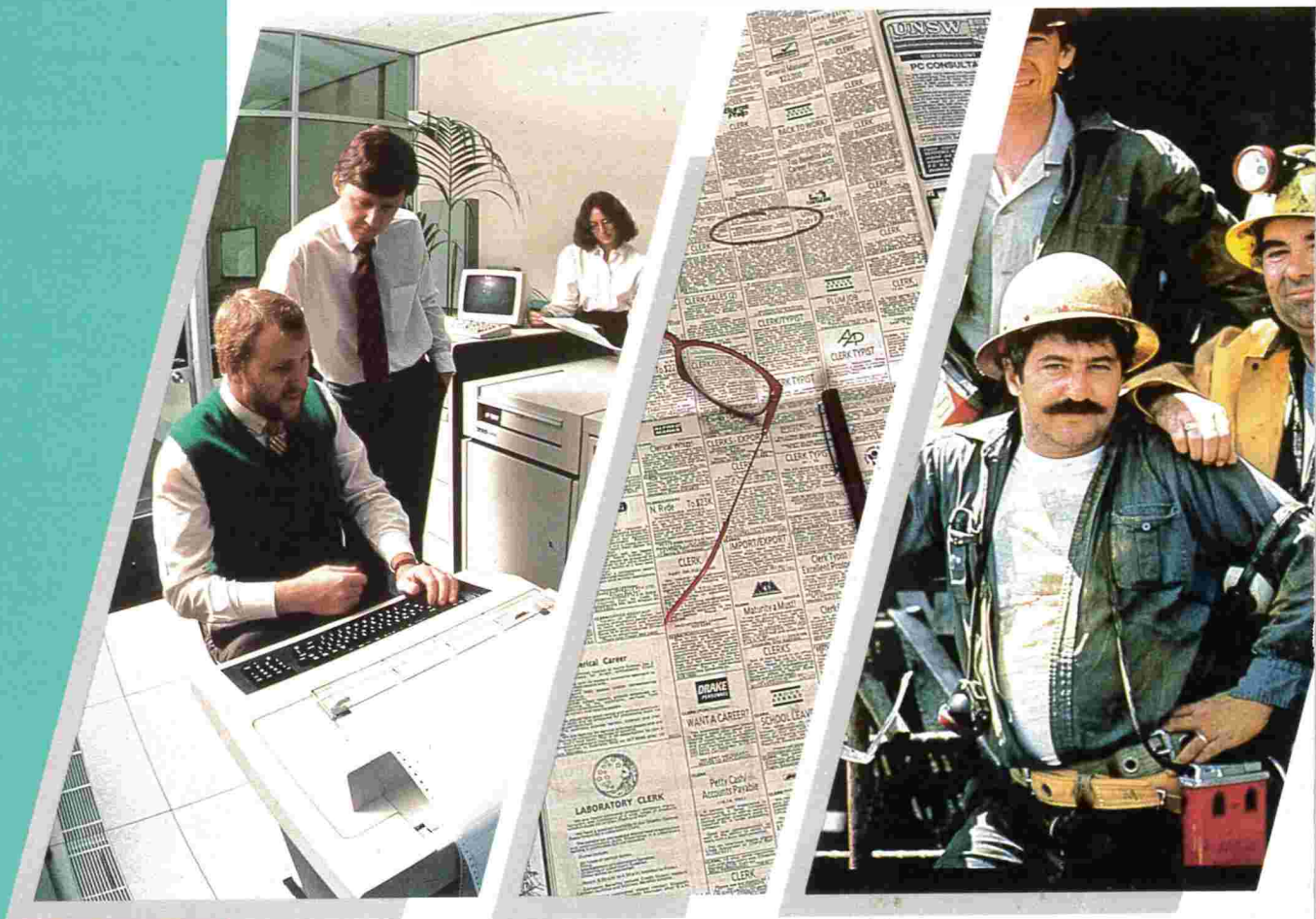




May 1991

# UNDEREMPLOYED WORKERS AUSTRALIA



EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.30 A.M. 23 DECEMBER 1991

**UNDEREMPLOYED WORKERS  
AUSTRALIA  
MAY 1991**

**IAN CASTLES**  
Australian Statistician

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### ADDITIONAL DATA ON REQUEST

The ABS offers a range of unpublished data from this survey upon request. An order form can be found on page 21.

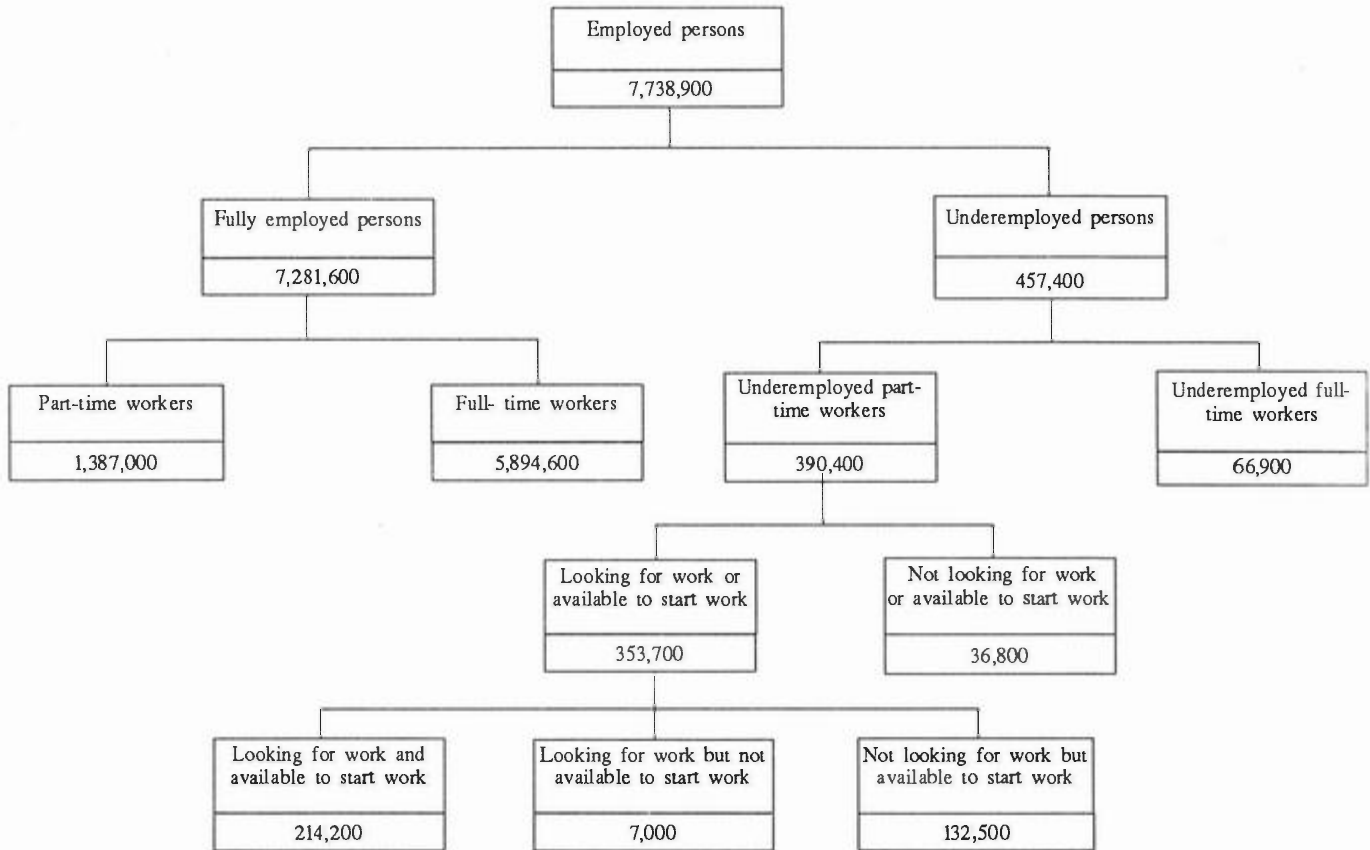
### INQUIRIES

- for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Ms Jo Jackson on Canberra (06) 252 6661 or Labour Force Inquiries in your ABS State office. (See last page for contact numbers).
  - for information about other ABS statistics and services please refer to the last page of this publication.
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## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

DIAGRAM 1. EMPLOYED PERSONS: RELATIONSHIP OF UNDEREMPLOYED WORKERS TO FULLY EMPLOYED WORKERS, MAY 1991



Source: Table 2

### Overview

The focus of this survey is underemployed workers in May 1991, that is, employed persons who did not work as many hours as they would have liked. The survey provides information on the characteristics of these underemployed workers, including information about the jobs in which they are employed and their employment preferences. The data enable some comparisons between the underemployed and the fully employed. The potential hours of work that are lost due to underemployment is also measured.

In May 1991, there were 7,738,900 employed persons aged 15 and over. Of these, 7,281,600 (94%) were fully employed and 457,400 (6%) were underemployed.

### Underutilisation of the labour force - Table 2

Some 1,269,600 persons (out of a labour force numbering 8,551,100 at May 1991) were found to be underutilised - comprising 457,400 underemployed persons and 812,200 unemployed persons. This represents an underutilisation

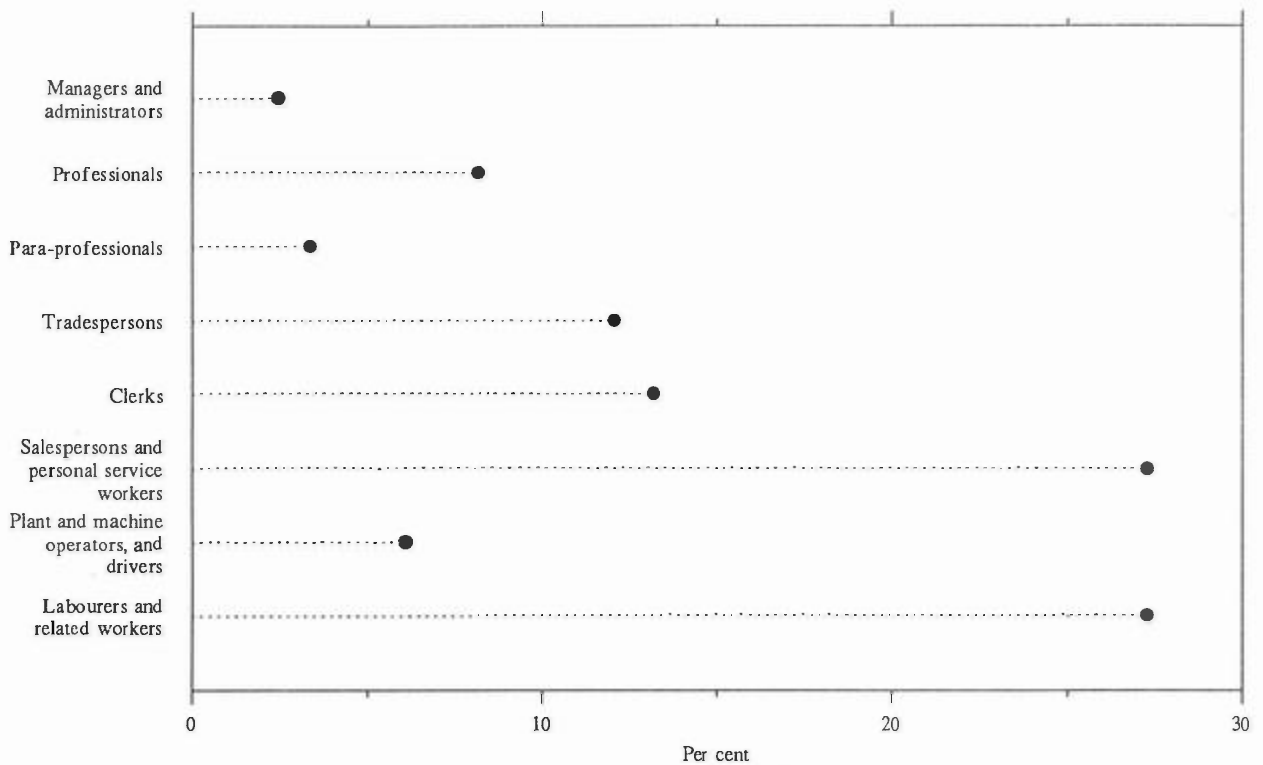
rate of 15 per cent. This is an increase on the May 1988 result (the last time this survey was conducted) when the underutilisation rate was 11 per cent and both the unemployment and underemployment rates were 2 percentage points lower than the 1991 estimates.

### Underemployed workers - Table 2, Table 3 and Diagram 2

The estimate of 457,400 underemployed workers at May 1991 represents a 57 per cent increase in underemployment over May 1988. Of these underemployed persons, 85 per cent were part-time workers. The remaining 15 per cent were full-time workers who did not work full-time hours due to economic reasons (short time, insufficient work and stood down for reasons other than bad weather/breakdown).

Female underemployed workers accounted for 59 per cent of the total underemployed. (Females accounted for 42 per cent of the labour force at May 1991). Of the 267,700 underemployed female workers, 96 per cent worked part-

DIAGRAM 2. UNDEREMPLOYED WORKERS: OCCUPATION,  
MAY 1991



Source: Table 3

time. Of the 189,700 underemployed male workers, 71 per cent worked part-time.

With regard to all underemployed workers:

- 77 per cent were wage and salary earners.
- 63 per cent had been underemployed for 13 weeks or longer.
- 27 per cent were Salespersons and personal service workers, as were Labourers and related workers.
- 25 per cent (115,700) came from the Wholesale and retail trade industry, with a further 87,000 from Community services and 79,300 from Recreation, personal and other services.

#### Underemployed part-time workers - Table 5

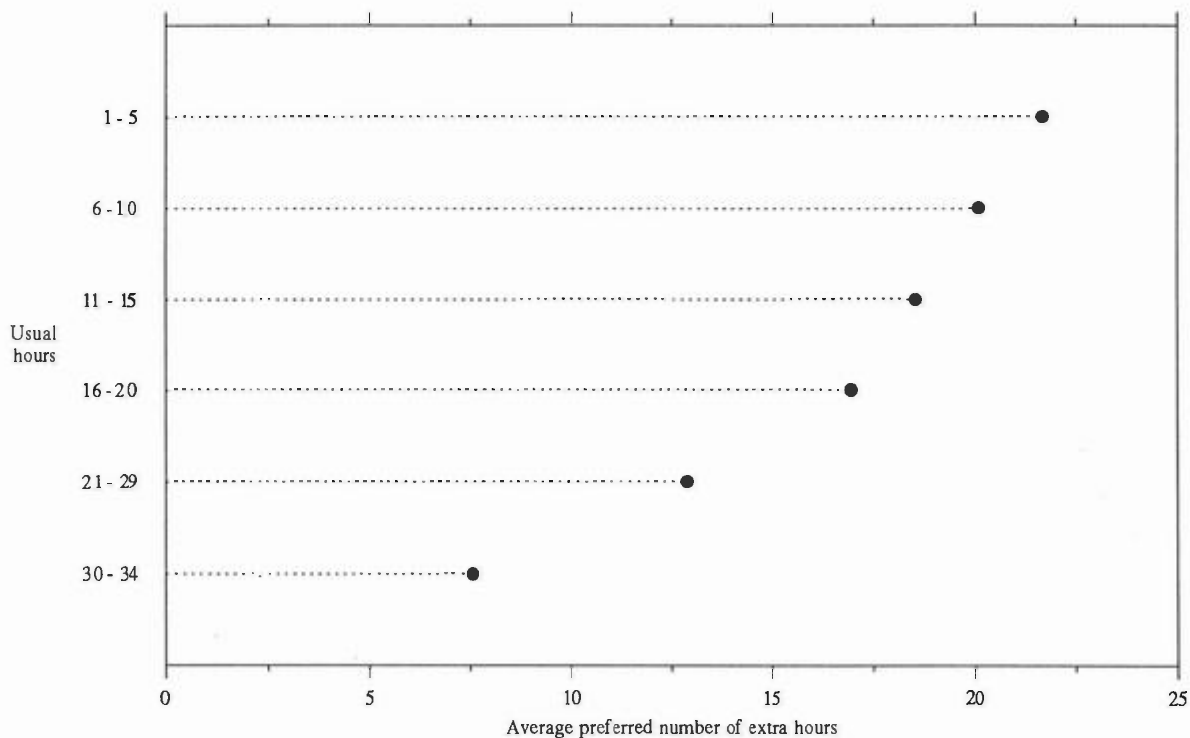
There were 390,400 underemployed part-time workers in May 1991, an increase of 61 per cent in part-time underemployment over May 1988. In that period, total part-time employment increased by 21 per cent.

Some 37 per cent of underemployed part-time workers would have preferred to work 10 to 19 hours more per week, whereas 14 per cent would have preferred to work an extra 30 or more hours per week.

An estimated 130,800 underemployed part-time workers reported that they would prefer to change employer to work more hours rather than work more hours for their current employer. A further 184,700 preferred to work more hours for their current employer. Just under half (48%) of all underemployed part-time workers indicated they would prefer to change occupation to work more hours rather than work more hours in their existing occupation.

The duration of underemployment for part-time workers increased between survey periods. In May 1988, 61 per cent of underemployed part-time workers had been underemployed for 13 weeks or more. In May 1991, this proportion had risen to 68 per cent.

DIAGRAM 3. UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS WHO HAD BEEN LOOKING FOR WORK WITH MORE HOURS OR WERE AVAILABLE TO START SUCH WORK WITHIN FOUR WEEKS: USUAL NUMBER OF HOURS WORKED AND AVERAGE PREFERRED NUMBER OF EXTRA HOURS, MAY 1991



Source: Table 6

**Underemployed part-time workers who had been looking for work with more hours or were available to start such work within four weeks - Table 6 and Diagram 3**

Some 91 per cent of all underemployed part-time workers had been looking for work with more hours or were available to start such work within four weeks.

Of this group of 353,700 persons:

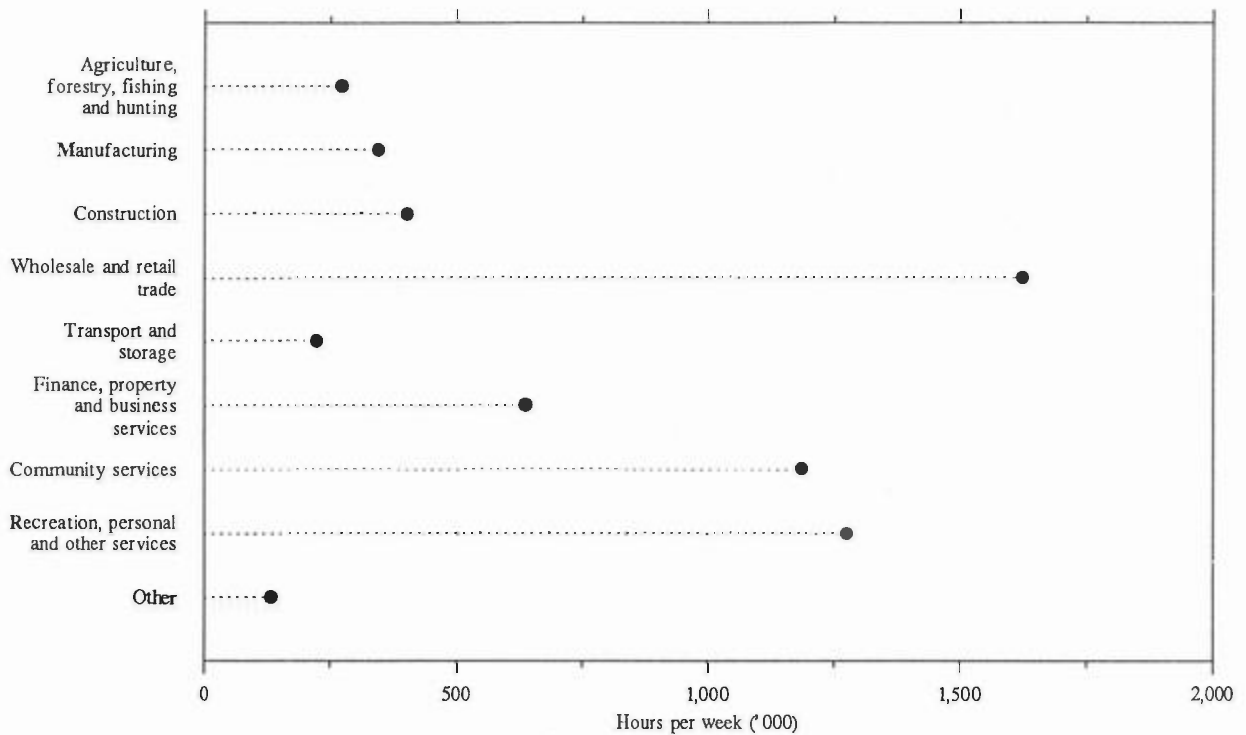
- 23 per cent reported they would move interstate if offered a suitable job compared to 31 per cent in May 1988.
- 20 per cent reported their main difficulty in finding work was that there were 'no vacancies at all'.

- 16 per cent stated that there were 'no vacancies in their line of work'.
- 30 per cent reported that they were registered with the CES.

Of the 219,400 persons who had been looking for work with more hours, 48 per cent said that they were registered with the CES.



DIAGRAM 4. UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS WHO HAD BEEN LOOKING FOR WORK WITH MORE HOURS OR WERE AVAILABLE TO START SUCH WORK WITHIN FOUR WEEKS: QUANTUM OF UNDEREMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRY, MAY 1991



Source: Table 7

#### Quantum of underemployment - Table 7 and Diagram 4

The total quantum of underemployment for those underemployed part-time workers who had been looking for work with more hours or were available to start work within four weeks was 6,111,700 hours per week.

In total, underemployed workers in the Wholesale and retail trade industry preferred to work an extra 1,624,500 hours per week, and for the Recreation, personal and other services and Community Services industries, the estimates were 1,277,100 and 1,184,800 hours per week.

Occupations with the highest estimated amounts of underemployment were Labourers and related workers with 1,874,300 hours per week and Salespersons and personal service workers, with 1,860,000 hours per week.

TABLE 1. UNDEREMPLOYED WORKERS: TYPE OF UNDEREMPLOYMENT,  
MAY 1983 TO MAY 1991

	<i>Part-time</i>	<i>Full-time</i> — '000—	<i>Total</i>	<i>Underemployment</i> <i>rate</i>	<i>Unemployment</i> <i>rate</i> — per cent —	<i>Underutilisation</i> <i>rate</i>
May 1983	228.7	56.8	285.5	4.1	10.3	14.4
May 1984	213.8	39.3	253.1	3.6	8.9	12.5
May 1985	199.7	27.2	226.9	3.1	8.4	11.5
May 1986	228.3	39.9	268.2	3.5	7.8	11.4
May 1987	268.0	38.9	306.9	4.0	8.2	12.2
May 1988	236.9	24.9	261.1	3.3	7.5	10.8
May 1989	279.9	33.9	313.8	3.8	6.3	10.1
May 1990	308.5	50.3	358.8	4.2	6.5	10.7
May 1991	390.4	66.9	457.4	5.3	9.5	14.8

Source: The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0).

TABLE 2. PERSONS AGED 15 AND OVER: LABOUR FORCE STATUS, WHETHER FULLY  
EMPLOYED OR UNDEREMPLOYED AND TYPE OF UNDEREMPLOYMENT,  
MAY 1985, MAY 1988 AND MAY 1991

	<i>May 1985</i>		<i>May 1988</i>		<i>May 1991</i>		
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
	— '000—						
<i>Persons aged 15 and over—</i>	5,868.0	6,059.3	6,243.2	6,445.9	6,649.7	6,819.3	13,469.0
Not in the labour force	1,424.0	3,263.5	1,544.6	3,226.5	1,667.0	3,250.9	4,917.9
In the labour force	4,444.0	2,795.9	4,698.6	3,219.4	4,982.7	3,568.4	8,551.1
Unemployed	361.8	245.9	327.9	263.9	486.5	325.7	812.2
Employed	4,082.3	2,550.0	4,370.6	2,955.5	4,496.2	3,242.7	7,738.9
Fully employed	4,005.2	2,400.3	4,280.2	2,784.9	4,306.5	2,975.0	7,281.6
Part-time	197.4	808.5	239.1	996.5	286.3	1,100.7	1,387.0
Full-time	3,807.9	1,591.9	4,041.1	1,788.4	4,020.2	1,874.4	5,894.6
Underemployed	77.1	149.7	90.5	170.6	189.7	267.7	457.4
Part-time	58.5	141.1	72.7	163.6	134.3	256.2	390.4
Had been looking for work with more hours or were available to start such work within four weeks	..	..	63.6	143.8	123.2	230.4	353.7
Had been looking for work with more hours and were available to start such work within four weeks	31.0	59.8	46.5	83.6	89.0	125.2	214.2
Had been looking for work with more hours but were not available to start such work within four weeks	..	..	*1.5	*2.9	*2.0	5.0	7.0
Had not been looking for work with more hours but were available to start such work within four weeks	..	..	15.6	57.2	32.3	100.2	132.5
Had not been looking for work with more hours and were not available to start such work within four weeks	..	..	9.0	19.9	11.0	25.8	36.8
Full-time	18.5	8.6	17.8	7.0	55.5	11.5	66.9
	— per cent —						
<i>Unemployment rate</i>	8.1	8.8	7.0	8.2	9.8	9.1	9.5
<i>Underemployment rate</i>	1.7	5.4	1.9	5.3	3.8	7.5	5.3
<i>Underutilisation rate</i>	9.9	14.1	8.9	13.5	13.6	16.6	14.8

TABLE 3. EMPLOYED PERSONS: COMPARATIVE PROFILE OF UNDEREMPLOYED AND FULLY EMPLOYED, MAY 1991

	<i>Underemployed workers</i>				<i>Fully employed workers</i>			
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i> —'000—	<i>Persons</i>		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i> —'000—	<i>Persons</i>	
				<i>(Per cent)</i>				<i>(Per cent)</i>
<i>Age—</i>								
15-19	33.9	43.3	77.2	16.9	271.8	254.4	526.2	7.2
20-24	29.8	32.6	62.3	13.6	463.9	398.0	861.9	11.8
25-34	45.3	63.2	108.4	23.7	1,133.1	794.7	1,927.8	26.5
35-44	34.7	81.0	115.7	25.3	1,140.0	815.8	1,955.8	26.9
45 and over	46.0	47.6	93.6	20.5	1,297.7	712.1	2,009.8	27.6
<i>Family status—</i>								
Member of a family	153.3	225.5	378.8	82.8	3,589.8	2,478.3	6,068.0	83.3
Husband or wife	87.5	140.7	228.3	49.9	2,812.2	1,783.4	4,595.7	63.1
With dependents present	54.3	98.0	152.3	33.3	1,738.0	1,014.0	2,752.0	37.8
Without dependents present	33.2	42.8	76.0	16.6	1,074.2	769.5	1,843.7	25.3
Sole parent	* 2.3	23.8	26.2	5.7	30.4	126.2	156.6	2.2
Other family head	* 2.0	5.1	7.0	1.5	37.9	61.4	99.3	1.4
Full-time student aged 15-24	16.4	15.3	31.7	6.9	104.2	131.7	236.0	3.2
Other child of married couple or family head	43.3	36.5	79.8	17.4	554.6	343.5	898.1	12.3
Other relative of married couple or family head	* 1.8	4.0	5.9	1.3	50.5	31.9	82.4	1.1
Not a member of a family	28.7	31.9	60.6	13.2	564.1	375.6	939.8	12.9
Living alone	11.9	14.4	26.3	5.8	255.2	163.4	418.6	5.7
Not living alone	16.7	17.5	34.2	7.5	308.9	212.2	521.1	7.2
Family status not determined	7.7	10.3	18.0	3.9	152.6	121.1	273.7	3.8
<i>Birthplace and period of arrival—</i>								
Born in Australia	138.6	208.5	347.0	75.9	3,142.1	2,254.3	5,396.4	74.1
Born outside Australia	51.1	59.2	110.3	24.1	1,164.4	720.8	1,885.2	25.9
Arrived before 1981	38.8	40.0	78.8	17.2	856.4	512.4	1,368.8	18.8
Arrived 1981 to survey date	12.4	19.2	31.5	6.9	307.9	208.4	516.4	7.1
Born in main English-speaking countries	20.0	25.8	45.9	10.0	511.9	338.7	850.6	11.7
Born in other countries	31.1	33.3	64.5	14.1	652.4	382.1	1,034.6	14.2
<i>Industry—</i>								
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	10.0	10.0	20.0	4.4	280.1	113.7	393.8	5.4
Manufacturing	18.3	15.9	34.2	7.5	788.7	299.2	1,087.9	14.9
Construction	42.8	6.2	49.0	10.7	430.8	61.7	492.4	6.8
Wholesale and retail trade	43.6	72.1	115.7	25.3	853.8	652.3	1,506.1	20.7
Transport and storage	13.0	4.1	17.1	3.7	314.1	76.0	390.1	5.4
Finance, property and business services	17.6	27.8	45.3	9.9	456.6	404.0	860.6	11.8
Community services	14.0	73.0	87.0	19.0	464.9	878.6	1,343.5	18.5
Recreation, personal and other services	27.2	52.1	79.3	17.3	241.2	292.1	533.3	7.3
Other	* 3.2	6.5	9.7	2.1	476.3	197.5	673.7	9.3
<i>Occupation—</i>								
Managers and administrators	5.5	6.2	11.6	2.5	641.3	207.5	848.9	11.7
Professionals	11.7	25.7	37.4	8.2	590.8	398.3	989.0	13.6
Para-Professionals	4.2	11.4	15.6	3.4	237.0	205.8	442.8	6.1
Tradespersons	47.3	7.5	54.8	12.0	989.1	112.3	1,101.4	15.1
Clerks	7.2	53.2	60.4	13.2	306.2	973.9	1,280.1	17.6
Salespersons and personal service workers	25.5	99.6	125.1	27.4	384.7	641.2	1,025.9	14.1
Plant and machine operators, and drivers	21.6	6.3	27.9	6.1	456.7	81.5	538.1	7.4
Labourers and related workers	66.7	57.7	124.4	27.2	700.7	354.7	1,055.3	14.5
<i>Status of worker—</i>								
Employers/self-employed/unpaid family helpers	65.0	40.2	105.1	23.0	723.4	360.7	1,084.0	14.9
Wage and salary earners	124.8	227.5	352.2	77.0	3,583.2	2,614.4	6,197.5	85.1
<i>Duration of current period of underemployment (weeks)—</i>								
1 and under 4	33.3	27.0	60.3	13.2	..	..	..	..
4 and under 13	50.6	59.1	109.8	24.0	..	..	..	..
13 and under 52	69.5	96.4	165.8	36.3	..	..	..	..
52 and over	36.3	85.1	121.4	26.6	..	..	..	..
<b>Total</b>	<b>189.7</b>	<b>267.7</b>	<b>457.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,306.5</b>	<b>2,975.0</b>	<b>7,281.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>

TABLE 4. UNDEREMPLOYED WORKERS: SUMMARY OF CHARACTERISTICS AND DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNDEREMPLOYMENT, MAY 1991

	Duration of current period of underemployment (weeks)-				Total	Average duration—weeks—	Median duration
	1 and under 4	4 and under 13	13 and under 52 —'000—	52 and over			
<i>Age—</i>							
15-19	11.3	20.7	34.7	10.6	77.2	23.3	15.9
20-24	7.9	17.6	25.4	11.3	62.3	30.0	15.5
25-34	13.6	31.0	40.6	23.1	108.4	35.4	16.9
35-44	13.5	24.1	38.2	39.9	115.7	54.0	24.8
45 and over	14.0	16.3	26.9	36.5	93.6	61.7	25.6
<i>Family status—</i>							
Member of a family	50.6	87.2	138.4	102.6	378.8	42.9	20.0
Husband or wife	29.2	52.7	73.8	72.6	228.3	48.9	20.1
With dependents present	18.1	38.0	51.2	45.0	152.3	46.8	20.0
Without dependents present	11.1	14.8	22.5	27.6	76.0	53.2	26.0
Sole parent	* 3.6	5.2	8.9	8.4	26.2	43.9	24.1
Other family head	* 0.7	* 1.8	* 2.2	* 2.4	7.0	90.3	24.0
Full-time student aged 15-24	* 3.7	7.6	14.9	5.4	31.7	25.5	18.1
Other child of married couple or family head	12.3	19.0	36.1	12.5	79.8	27.7	17.1
Other relative of married couple or family head	* 1.2	* 0.8	* 2.5	* 1.3	5.9	45.9	14.0
Not a member of a family	7.2	17.7	20.1	15.6	60.6	42.5	17.1
Living alone	* 2.8	6.3	7.9	9.3	26.3	63.3	26.0
Not living alone	4.4	11.4	12.2	6.2	34.2	26.4	15.0
Family status not determined	* 2.5	4.8	7.4	* 3.3	18.0	39.9	20.0
<i>Birthplace and period of arrival—</i>							
Born in Australia	46.3	82.9	129.7	88.2	347.0	40.6	18.0
Born outside Australia	14.0	26.9	36.1	33.3	110.3	49.4	19.8
Arrived before 1981	10.4	16.4	26.6	25.5	78.8	53.8	22.4
Arrived 1981 to survey date	* 3.7	10.5	9.6	7.8	31.5	38.5	15.2
Born in main English-speaking countries	5.2	11.8	13.7	15.2	45.9	49.9	20.0
Born in other countries	8.9	15.1	22.5	18.0	64.5	49.1	22.1
<i>Educational attainment—</i>							
With post-school qualifications(a)	25.7	47.3	72.7	49.4	195.1	42.3	18.3
Degree	* 3.4	7.4	13.9	6.5	31.3	38.9	17.8
Trade qualification or apprenticeship	11.8	16.0	18.3	10.9	57.1	33.7	12.8
Certificate or diploma	9.9	23.5	39.5	31.5	104.4	48.1	19.7
Without post-school qualifications(b)	31.9	58.0	85.7	68.7	244.3	44.3	19.2
Attended highest level of secondary school available	9.7	18.6	34.0	24.1	86.3	44.1	20.4
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	22.2	39.4	51.2	44.4	157.2	44.5	17.7
Still at school	* 2.8	4.5	7.4	* 3.3	17.9	25.1	18.5
<i>Industry—</i>							
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	5.1	4.4	5.4	5.1	20.0	47.1	12.7
Manufacturing	6.4	10.0	12.1	5.6	34.2	26.2	12.8
Construction	10.8	12.0	17.5	8.7	49.0	33.7	14.9
Wholesale and retail trade	12.1	33.0	42.8	27.8	115.7	36.5	17.4
Transport and storage	* 2.6	* 3.3	6.1	5.1	17.1	36.8	20.7
Finance, property and business services	4.1	9.1	19.2	12.8	45.3	48.0	23.8
Community services	7.2	17.0	32.3	30.5	87.0	56.9	25.0
Recreation, personal and other services	11.0	19.0	27.5	21.9	79.3	44.1	17.6
Other	* 1.0	* 2.0	* 3.0	* 3.8	9.7	58.6	21.3
<i>Occupation—</i>							
Managers and administrators	* 2.0	* 2.3	4.1	* 3.3	11.6	44.7	16.6
Professionals	* 3.0	7.5	17.2	9.7	37.4	48.2	19.6
Para-Professionals	* 1.7	4.5	4.2	5.1	15.6	42.9	17.8
Tradespersons	14.2	16.6	16.7	7.3	54.8	24.6	8.5
Clerks	6.0	11.0	22.5	20.9	60.4	58.5	25.3
Salespersons and personal service workers	12.3	31.7	49.3	31.8	125.1	38.1	19.1
Plant and machine operators, and drivers	4.9	6.3	8.6	8.1	27.9	33.9	19.8
Labourers and related workers	16.1	29.9	43.2	35.2	124.4	47.7	19.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>60.3</b>	<b>109.8</b>	<b>165.8</b>	<b>121.4</b>	<b>457.4</b>	<b>42.7</b>	<b>18.9</b>

(a) Includes 'other post-school qualifications'. (b) Includes those whose highest level of secondary school could not be determined.

TABLE 5. UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS: SUMMARY OF CHARACTERISTICS, WHETHER HAD BEEN LOOKING FOR WORK WITH MORE HOURS AND WHETHER AVAILABLE TO START SUCH WORK WITHIN FOUR WEEKS, MAY 1991

	<i>Whether had been looking for work with more hours and whether available to start such work within four weeks</i>					
	<i>Looking or available</i>			<i>Total</i>	<i>Not looking and not available</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>Looking and available</i>	<i>Looking but not available</i>	<i>Not looking but available</i>			
			—'000—			
Males	89.0	* 2.0	32.3	123.2	11.0	134.3
Females	125.2	5.0	100.2	230.4	25.8	256.2
<i>Age—</i>						
15-19	42.2	* 1.1	25.7	68.9	6.1	75.0
20-24	36.9	* 1.4	15.3	53.6	* 3.3	56.9
25-34	53.4	* 1.7	28.2	83.3	7.9	91.1
35-44	48.7	* 1.9	34.8	85.4	10.0	95.4
45 and over	33.0	* 0.8	28.6	62.4	9.5	71.9
<i>Family status—</i>						
Member of a family	174.5	5.2	111.6	291.2	30.5	321.7
Husband or wife	95.6	* 2.7	64.1	162.4	19.0	181.4
With dependents present	65.2	* 1.7	44.0	111.0	11.5	122.5
Without dependents present	30.4	* 1.0	20.0	51.4	7.6	59.0
Sole parent	10.5	* 0.1	10.4	21.0	* 3.6	24.6
Other family head	* 3.5	* 0.1	* 2.2	5.8	* 0.8	6.5
Full-time student aged 15-24	11.2	* 0.7	15.0	26.8	4.9	31.7
Other child of married couple or family head	49.9	* 1.2	19.0	70.1	* 2.2	72.3
Other relative of married couple or family head	* 3.9	* 0.3	* 0.9	5.1	* 0.0	5.1
Not a member of a family	30.2	* 1.3	15.7	47.2	5.1	52.4
Living alone	12.2	* 0.7	7.5	20.5	* 1.6	22.1
Not living alone	18.0	* 0.6	8.2	26.7	* 3.5	30.2
Family status not determined	9.5	* 0.5	5.2	15.2	* 1.2	16.4
<i>Birthplace and period of arrival—</i>						
Born in Australia	168.7	5.4	102.1	276.2	27.0	303.2
Born outside Australia	45.5	* 1.6	30.4	77.5	9.7	87.2
Arrived before 1981	30.1	* 1.1	21.7	52.9	7.0	59.9
Arrived 1981 to survey date	15.4	* 0.5	8.7	24.6	* 2.7	27.3
Born in main English-speaking countries	21.0	* 0.5	13.9	35.4	* 2.8	38.2
Born in other countries	24.5	* 1.1	16.5	42.1	6.9	49.0
<i>Preferred number of extra hours—</i>						
Less than 10	35.8	* 1.3	45.9	82.9	13.5	96.4
10-19	70.9	* 3.9	59.6	134.4	15.5	149.9
20-29	64.7	* 1.0	20.6	86.3	4.8	91.1
30 or more	42.7	* 0.9	6.4	50.0	* 3.0	53.0
<i>Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours—</i>						
Would prefer to change employer	87.6	* 2.8	32.7	123.1	7.6	130.8
Would prefer not to change employer	79.3	* 2.0	79.2	160.4	24.3	184.7
No preference	47.2	* 2.3	20.6	70.1	4.9	74.9
<i>Whether would prefer to change occupation to work more hours—</i>						
Would prefer to change occupation	115.2	* 3.8	55.9	174.9	12.8	187.7
Would prefer not to change occupation	66.4	* 2.9	59.5	128.8	21.7	150.5
No preference	32.5	* 0.3	17.1	49.9	* 2.3	52.2
<i>Duration of current period of underemployment (weeks)—</i>						
1 and under 4	19.5	* 0.5	8.4	28.4	* 2.9	31.3
4 and under 13	52.8	* 2.3	28.1	83.3	9.1	92.4
13 and under 52	88.3	* 1.8	48.7	138.8	10.5	149.3
52 and over	53.6	* 2.4	47.2	103.2	14.3	117.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>214.2</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>132.5</b>	<b>353.7</b>	<b>36.8</b>	<b>390.4</b>
			—weeks—			
<i>Average duration of underemployment</i>	41.6	43.4	55.3	46.8	57.6	47.8
<i>Median duration of underemployment</i>	19.5	16.9	25.4	21.1	25.2	21.4

TABLE 6. UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS WHO HAD BEEN LOOKING FOR WORK WITH MORE HOURS OR WERE AVAILABLE TO START SUCH WORK WITHIN FOUR WEEKS: SUMMARY OF CHARACTERISTICS AND PREFERRED NUMBER OF EXTRA HOURS, MAY 1991

	Preferred number of extra hours				Total	Average preferred number of extra hours (hours)
	Less than 10	10 - 19	20-29	30 or more		
Males	25.0	38.2	32.4	27.6	123.2	19.4
Females	57.9	96.1	53.9	22.5	230.4	16.2
<i>Age—</i>			— '000 —			
15-19	25.8	17.0	15.4	10.7	68.9	15.9
20-24	8.5	20.8	14.8	9.5	53.6	18.8
25-34	16.1	35.4	19.5	12.2	83.3	17.7
35-44	19.0	36.5	21.9	8.1	85.4	16.8
45 and over	13.6	24.7	14.7	9.5	62.4	17.7
<i>Family status—</i>						
Member of a family	67.2	110.9	72.9	40.3	291.2	17.3
Husband or wife	33.8	70.3	41.0	17.3	162.4	17.0
With dependents present	24.8	49.5	26.3	10.3	111.0	16.4
Without dependents present	8.9	20.8	14.7	7.0	51.4	18.1
Sole parent	4.6	7.5	5.3	* 3.5	21.0	17.7
Other family head	* 1.0	* 2.9	* 1.1	* 0.8	5.8	17.3
Full-time student aged 15-24	19.0	4.6	* 1.8	* 1.4	26.8	9.1
Other child of married couple or family head	8.3	23.2	22.0	16.6	70.1	20.8
Other relative of married couple or family head	* 0.5	* 2.3	* 1.7	* 0.6	5.1	20.0
Not a member of a family	11.9	17.8	9.8	7.8	47.2	17.3
Living alone	5.0	8.4	* 3.5	* 3.5	20.5	17.5
Not living alone	6.9	9.4	6.3	4.3	26.7	17.1
Family status not determined	* 3.9	5.7	* 3.7	* 1.9	15.2	17.3
<i>Birthplace and period of arrival—</i>						
Born in Australia	68.4	103.6	65.1	39.1	276.2	17.0
Born outside Australia	14.5	30.8	21.2	10.9	77.5	18.1
Arrived before 1981	9.8	19.8	15.7	7.6	52.9	18.2
Arrived 1981 to survey date	4.8	10.9	5.5	* 3.3	24.6	17.5
Born in main English-speaking countries	6.8	14.1	9.2	5.2	35.4	18.1
Born in other countries	7.7	16.6	12.0	5.7	42.1	18.1
<i>Usual number of hours worked—</i>						
1-5	14.4	14.3	6.3	22.4	57.4	21.6
6-10	15.5	21.3	18.2	22.9	77.9	20.1
11-15	11.5	11.9	28.3	* 0.9	52.7	18.6
16-20	9.0	31.8	30.9	* 2.0	73.7	17.0
21-29	12.8	43.8	* 1.0	* 0.9	58.6	12.9
30 and over	19.7	11.3	* 1.6	* 0.9	33.5	9.5
<i>Whether would move interstate—</i>						
If offered a suitable job—						
Would move interstate	14.3	28.9	22.1	16.4	81.8	19.1
Would not move interstate	63.3	94.3	56.6	27.0	241.2	16.4
Might move interstate	5.3	11.2	7.7	6.6	30.7	19.5
<i>Whether would move intrastate—</i>						
If offered a suitable job—						
Would move intrastate	20.3	38.5	29.8	23.1	111.7	19.4
Would not move intrastate	56.1	78.7	45.2	21.7	201.8	16.0
Might move intrastate	6.5	17.2	11.3	5.2	40.1	17.9
<i>Main difficulty in finding work—</i>						
Considered too young or too old by employers	* 3.6	6.0	6.0	6.8	22.4	21.9
Unsuitable hours	* 3.7	5.8	* 1.7	* 0.6	11.8	14.0
Lacked necessary skills/education	* 3.0	4.9	4.6	* 3.8	16.2	19.9
Insufficient work experience	* 0.6	4.8	4.3	* 2.4	12.2	21.4
No vacancies in line of work	7.0	22.0	17.2	9.1	55.3	19.4
No vacancies at all	10.8	20.2	23.6	15.1	69.6	20.1
Other difficulties(a)	8.4	11.0	8.3	5.8	33.6	15.3
Had not been looking for work with more hours	45.9	59.6	20.6	6.4	132.5	13.4
<i>Whether registered with the C.E.S.—</i>						
Registered with the C.E.S.	8.4	30.7	35.3	31.3	105.7	22.7
Not registered with the C.E.S.	28.7	44.0	30.4	12.4	115.5	16.7
Had not been looking for work with more hours	45.9	59.6	20.6	6.4	132.5	13.4
<i>Duration of current period of underemployment (weeks)—</i>						
1 and under 4	9.3	8.8	5.5	4.7	28.4	16.3
4 and under 13	20.2	33.0	19.5	10.6	83.3	16.8
13 and under 52	32.5	47.9	36.1	22.2	138.8	17.8
52 and over	20.8	44.6	25.2	12.5	103.2	17.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>82.9</b>	<b>134.4</b>	<b>86.3</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>353.7</b>	<b>17.3</b>
<i>Average duration of underemployment</i>	39.4	48.1	53.7	43.2	46.8	..
<i>Median duration of underemployment</i>	19.4	24.3	21.9	21.4	21.1	..

(a) Includes 'no difficulties at all'.

TABLE 7. UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS WHO HAD BEEN LOOKING FOR WORK WITH MORE HOURS OR WERE AVAILABLE TO START SUCH WORK WITHIN FOUR WEEKS: QUANTUM OF UNDEREMPLOYMENT, INDUSTRY AND OCCUPATION, MAY 1991  
(<sup>'000</sup> hours per week)

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
<i>Industry—</i>			
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	144.8	129.6	274.4
Manufacturing	157.6	188.9	346.4
Construction	309.3	95.1	404.3
Wholesale and retail trade	669.9	954.6	1,624.5
Transport and storage	159.2	66.6	225.8
Finance, property and business services	235.5	403.6	639.1
Community services	208.7	976.1	1,184.8
Recreation, personal and other services	467.2	809.9	1,277.1
Other	36.4	98.8	135.2
<i>Occupation—</i>			
Managers and administrators	74.8	57.1	131.9
Professionals	140.9	346.5	487.4
Para-Professionals	49.2	124.2	173.4
Tradespersons	305.7	111.0	416.7
Clerks	107.4	681.6	789.0
Salespersons and personal service workers	425.4	1,434.6	1,860.0
Plant and machine operators, and drivers	298.7	80.3	379.0
Labourers and related workers	986.4	887.9	1,874.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,388.5</b>	<b>3,723.2</b>	<b>6,111.7</b>

TABLE 8. UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS WHO HAD BEEN LOOKING FOR WORK WITH MORE HOURS OR WERE AVAILABLE TO START SUCH WORK WITHIN FOUR WEEKS: MAIN DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WORK AND WHETHER WOULD PREFER TO CHANGE EMPLOYER TO WORK MORE HOURS, MAY 1991  
(<sup>'000</sup>)

<i>Main difficulty in finding work</i>	<i>Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours</i>			<i>Total</i>
	<i>Would prefer to change</i>	<i>Would prefer not to change</i>	<i>No preference</i>	
Considered too young or too old by employers	7.9	9.0	5.6	22.4
Unsuitable hours	4.6	4.2	* 3.0	11.8
Lacked necessary skills/education	8.0	4.6	* 3.6	16.2
Insufficient work experience	5.7	* 3.9	* 2.6	12.2
No vacancies in line of work	18.7	27.2	9.4	55.3
No vacancies at all	28.1	19.8	21.7	69.6
Other difficulties(a)	17.3	12.5	* 3.7	33.6
Had not been looking for work with more hours	32.7	79.2	20.6	132.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>123.1</b>	<b>160.4</b>	<b>70.1</b>	<b>353.7</b>

(a) Includes 'no difficulties at all'.

TABLE 9. ALL POPULATIONS BY STATE AND TERRITORY OF USUAL RESIDENCE  
MAY 1991  
(<sup>'000</sup>)

	<i>New South Wales</i>	<i>Victoria</i>	<i>Queensland</i>	<i>South Australia</i>	<i>Western Australia</i>	<i>Tasmania</i>	<i>Northern Territory</i>	<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>	<i>Australia</i>
<i>Population 1:</i> Persons aged 15 and over	4,587.9	3,471.2	2,291.2	1,152.2	1,281.4	354.3	113.0	217.8	13,469.0
<i>Population 2:</i> Employed persons	2,632.5	1,979.8	1,297.7	657.7	756.3	193.6	72.3	149.1	7,738.9
<i>Population 3:</i> Fully employed workers	2,501.4	1,856.4	1,206.6	614.2	710.3	181.1	68.4	143.2	7,281.6
<i>Population 4:</i> Underemployed workers	131.1	123.4	91.0	43.5	46.0	12.5	3.9	5.9	457.4
<i>Population 5:</i> Underemployed part-time workers	111.5	99.8	78.4	39.8	40.7	11.2	3.4	5.7	390.4
<i>Population 6:</i> Underemployed part-time workers who had been looking for work with more hours at some time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week or were available to start such work within four weeks	99.7	90.3	71.1	35.7	38.2	10.6	2.8	5.3	353.7



## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### Introduction

The monthly population survey (which is described in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)) comprises the monthly labour force survey and supplementary topics. This publication contains some results of a supplementary survey run in association with the May 1991 labour force survey conducted throughout Australia.

2. Of the respondents to the labour force survey, those who fell within the scope of the supplementary survey were asked additional questions. They were asked about their type and duration of current period of underemployment; educational attainment; main difficulty in finding work during current period of underemployment and preferred number of extra hours.

### Scope

3. The scope of this supplementary survey was confined to underemployed persons who were in scope for the labour force survey (which is described in full in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)).

### Coverage

4. In the population survey, 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. See *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0) for more details.

### Definitions

5. Definitions of labour force and demographic classifications appearing in this publication are given in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

6. Unless otherwise stated, all characteristics referenced in this publication relate to the week before the interview (ie. the reference week).

### Results of the survey

7. Estimates of underemployed workers may be compiled from data published in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0). However, more detailed information is contained in this publication.

8. Due to differences in the method of estimation used in this supplementary survey and that used in the Labour Force Survey, there are some small variations between estimates in this publication and those in the corresponding issue of *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

9. The estimates in this publication refer to information collected in the survey month and, due to seasonal factors, may not be representative of other months of the year.

10. Results of similar surveys, conducted in May 1985 and May 1988, were given in previous issues of this publication.

11. It is proposed that this survey will be conducted next in May 1994.

### ILO Guidelines

12. The resolution of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Thirteenth International Conference in October 1982 defined underemployment as follows:

'Underemployment exists when a person's employment is inadequate in relation to specified norms or alternative employment, account being taken of his or her occupational skill'.

13. The Conference Resolution further distinguished two principal forms of underemployment, visible and invisible:

(a) *visible underemployment* reflects an insufficiency in the volume of employment (ie. the hours worked); and

(b) *invisible underemployment* exists when the labour supplied to the labour market is not being efficiently utilised in terms of either the type of work offered to the individual (disguised underemployment) or how the individual's working time is used (potential underemployment).

14. Due to the serious conceptual difficulties that would be encountered in seeking measures of invisible underemployment, the ILO recommended that statistical measurement be limited to visible underemployment. This is the approach adopted in this supplementary survey.

### ABS Usage

15. The term underemployment has been used by the ABS for many years to cover persons working part-time who prefer to work more hours, plus full-time workers who did not work full-time hours in the reference week for economic reasons.

16. The measure of underemployment used by the ABS is broader than the ILO resolution which requires that part-time workers who are underemployed should not only have stated a preference to work more hours but should also have indicated that they were seeking or were available for additional work during the reference week.

17. Data collected in this supplementary survey allow more restrictive measures of underemployment, taking into account job search and availability criteria, to be compiled.

### Unpublished statistics

18. As well as the statistics included in this and related publications, the ABS may have other relevant unpublished data available. Inquiries may be made to either the contact in the Inquiries box at the front of this publication or Labour Force Inquiries at your ABS State office.

### Estimation procedure

19. The estimates are derived from the population survey by use of a ratio estimation procedure, which ensures that the estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population for each State or Territory by sex and labour force status, rather than to the corresponding distribution within the sample itself.

**Reliability of the estimates**

20. Estimates in this publication are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. For more information refer to the Technical Note, page 14.

**Related publications**

21. Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

*The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0) — issued monthly

*Employment, Underemployment and Unemployment 1966-83, Australia* (6246.0) — issued irregularly

*Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Australia*, (6222.0) — issued two-yearly

*Underemployed Workers, Australia, May 1985 and May 1988* (6265.0)

*Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience, Australia, July 1990* (6245.0) — issued two-yearly

22. 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**

- \* subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. See the Technical Note, page 14
- .. not applicable

CES Commonwealth Employment Service

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

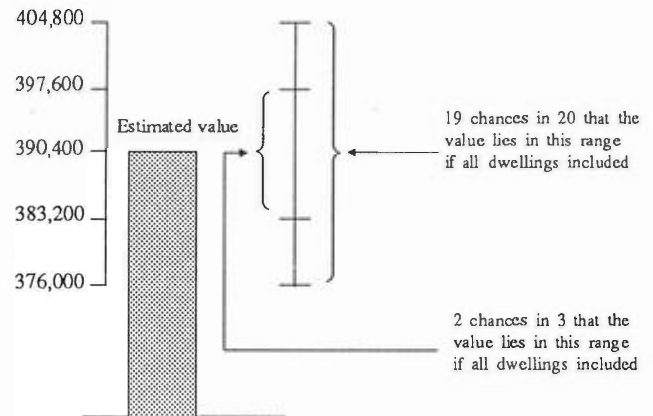
## TECHNICAL NOTE

Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they are subject to sampling variability, that is, they may differ from those 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*, 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 that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the number that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. Another measure of the likely difference is the *relative standard error*, which is obtained by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the estimate.

2. Space does not allow for the separate indication of the standard errors of all estimates in this publication. A table of standard errors for general application is given on the following page. Since they are averages based on calculations for a limited number of past surveys over a wide range of labour force characteristics these numbers will not give a precise measure of the standard error of a particular estimate but they will provide an indication of its magnitude.

3. An example of the calculation and the use of standard errors in relation to estimates of persons is as follows. Table 1 shows the estimated number of persons in Australia who were underemployed part-time workers was 390,400. Since this estimate is between 300,000 and 500,000 the table below shows that the standard error for Australia will lie between 6,600 and 8,000 and can be approximated, by interpolation, as 7,200 (rounded to the nearest 100). 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 in the range 383,200 to 397,600 and about nineteen chances in twenty that the value will fall within the range 376,000 to 404,800. This example is illustrated in the following diagram.

4. As can be seen from the standard error table, *the smaller the estimate the higher is the relative standard error*. Very small estimates are thus subject to such high standard errors (relative to the size of the estimate) as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable uses. In this publication, only estimates with relative standard errors less than 25 per cent are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. However, estimates with larger relative standard errors have been included and are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. \*3.4) to indicate they are subject to high standard errors and should be used with caution.



5. 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 relative standard error (RSE) of a proportion is given below:

$$RSE (x/y) = \sqrt{[RSE (x)]^2 + [RSE (y)]^2}$$

6. Considering the example from paragraph 3 above, of the 390,400 persons who were underemployed and working part-time, 117,500 or 30.1 per cent had been underemployed for more than a year. The standard error of 117,500 is approximately 4,500 so the relative standard error is 3.8 per cent. The relative standard error for 390,400 is 1.8 per cent. Applying the above formula, the relative standard error of the proportion is  $\sqrt{(3.8)^2 + (1.8)^2}$  or 3.3 per cent, giving a standard error for the proportion (30.0%) of 1.0 percentage point. Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the proportion of persons who were underemployed and working part-time and who had been underemployed for more than a year was between 29.0 per cent and 31.0 per cent and nineteen chances in twenty that the proportion is within the range 28.0 per cent to 32.0 per cent.

7. 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 standard errors and the relationship (correlation) between them. An approximate standard error (SE) of the difference between two estimates (x-y) may be calculated by the following formula:

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

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.

8. 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 interviewers and respondents and errors made in coding and processing 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.

## STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate (Persons)	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	ACT.	Australia	
	—number—									Relative standard error (per cent)
300						150				
400						170				
500						190				
600				250		190		220		
800			380	270	290	210	280	240		
1,000			430	320	340	240	320	270	400	49.5
1,300	590	600	490	350	380	270	350	300	450	44.9
1,500	640	640	530	400	420	300	390	330	520	39.9
1,800	700	700	580	430	450	320	410	350	560	37.3
2,000	730	740	610	470	490	350	440	380	620	34.3
2,500	820	820	680	490	520	370	460	390	650	32.7
3,000	890	900	750	540	570	410	500	430	740	29.4
3,500	960	970	800	590	620	440	540	460	810	27.0
4,000	1,000	1,050	850	630	670	470	570	480	880	25.1
4,500	1,100	1,100	900	670	710	490	600	510	940	23.5
5,000	1,150	1,150	950	700	740	520	630	530	1000	22.2
6,000	1,250	1,250	1,050	740	780	540	660	550	1,050	21.1
10,000	1,550	1,550	1,300	800	840	580	700	590	1,150	19.2
20,000	2,100	2,100	1,750	980	1,050	710	850	700	1,500	14.9
50,000	3,150	3,050	2,550	1,300	1,350	920	1,100	870	2,050	10.4
100,000	4,150	4,000	3,300	1,850	1,950	1,250	1,550	1,150	3,150	6.3
200,000	5,400	5,100	4,200	2,350	2,500	1,550	1,950	1,350	4,250	4.2
300,000	6,400	5,900	4,850	2,950	3,150	1,900		1,600	5,600	2.8
500,000	7,700	7,000	5,700	3,350	3,600	2,100			6,600	2.2
1,000,000	9,800	8,600	7,100	3,900	4,200				8,000	1.6
2,000,000	12,400	10,600	8,600	4,750	5,100				10,400	1.0
5,000,000	16,700	13,600	10,900	5,700	6,200				13,200	0.7
10,000,000									17,700	0.4
									21,800	0.2

## GLOSSARY

*Average preferred number of extra hours:* the aggregate preferred number of extra hours reported by a group divided by the number of persons in that group.

*Certificate or diploma:* completion of an approved certificate or diploma in secretarial or business studies, administration, teaching, nursing, etc.

*CES:* Commonwealth Employment Service.

*Degree:* a bachelor degree (including honours), a graduate or post-graduate diploma, masters degree or doctorate.

*Duration of current period of underemployment:* the period from the time the person became underemployed to the end of the reference week. Periods of underemployment are recorded in full weeks and this results in a slight understatement of duration. *Average (mean) duration* is obtained by dividing the aggregate number of weeks a group has been underemployed by the number of persons in that group. *Median duration* is that which divides underemployed persons into two equal groups, one comprising persons whose duration of underemployment is above the median and the other, persons whose duration is below it.

*Educational attainment:* measures the highest educational qualifications obtained by the respondent. Qualifications may include those obtained at other than educational institutions (eg. nursing qualifications obtained at a hospital).

*Employed persons:* comprise all persons aged 15 and over who, during the reference period —

- (a) 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 self-employed persons); or
- (b) worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (ie. 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 reference 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 reference 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.

*Full-time workers:* employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week and others who, although working less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference period.

*Fully employed workers:* persons who are voluntarily working part-time, or who worked full-time hours in the reference week, or who are full-time workers who did not work full-time hours in the reference week for non-economic reasons. It should be noted that persons who are normally underemployed but who worked full-time hours in the reference week are classified as fully employed.

*Highest level of secondary school available:* the highest level of secondary schooling (or equivalent) offered by the education system at the time the respondent left school.

*Interstate:* movement to another State or Territory.

*Intrastate:* movement to another part of the home State or Territory.

*Looking for work with more hours:* looking for work with more hours at some time during the four weeks up to the end of the reference week.

*Main difficulty in finding work:* the main difficulty experienced during the current period of underemployment.

*Main English-speaking countries:* comprises United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, South Africa, U.S.A. and New Zealand.

*Other post-school qualifications:* completion of other types of education, eg. adult education, preparatory/bridging course or hobby course.

*Part-time workers:* employed persons who usually work less than 35 hours a week and who did so during the reference period.

*Persons with a post-school qualification:* those who had left school and answered 'Yes' to the question: 'Since leaving school have you obtained a trade qualification, certificate, diploma, degree or any other qualification?'. Respondents indicated which of the following groups best described their highest qualifications: degree; trade qualification or apprenticeship; certificate or diploma; other post-school qualification.

*Quantum of underemployment:* the sum of the preferred number of extra hours reported. It measures the number of potential hours of work lost due to underemployment.

*Trade qualification or apprenticeship:* completion of an approved trade/technical apprenticeship in fitting and turning, hairdressing, plumbing, carpentry, etc.

*Underemployment:* there are two categories of underemployed workers —

- (a) Part-time workers who indicate that they would prefer to work more hours, ie. underemployed part-time workers.
- (b) Full-time workers who did not work full-time hours (ie. did not work 35 hours or more) in the reference week for economic reasons, ie. underemployed full-time workers. Economic reasons comprise short time, insufficient work and stood down for reasons other than bad weather/breakdown.

*Underemployment rate:* for any group, the number of underemployed persons expressed as a proportion of the labour force (ie. employed plus unemployed) for the same group.

*Underutilisation rate:* for any group, the sum of the number unemployed and the number underemployed expressed as a proportion of the labour force for the same group.

*Underutilised persons:* those persons who are either unemployed or underemployed.

*Unemployment rate:* for any group, the number of unemployed persons expressed as a proportion of the labour force (ie. employed plus unemployed) for the same group.

*Usual number of hours worked:* the number of hours usually worked in a week.

## SPECIAL DATA SERVICES

## DATA ITEMS AND HOW TO ORDER SPECIAL TABLES FROM THIS SURVEY

The ABS offers a range of unpublished data from this survey upon request. When ordering special tables from this survey, please ensure you identify the **population(s)** and the **data item(s)** which you require.

This section specifies the **data items**, categories and **populations** which relate to the survey and includes an order form for special tables. More detailed breakdowns of some data items are available on request.

The population(s) for a particular data item refers to the persons in the survey to whom the data item relates.

## POPULATIONS

POPULATION 1: Persons aged 15 and over.

POPULATION 2: Employed persons.

POPULATION 3: Fully employed workers.

POPULATION 4: Underemployed workers.

POPULATION 5: Underemployed part-time workers.

POPULATION 6: Underemployed part-time workers who had been looking for work with more hours at some time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week *or* were available to start such work within four weeks.

DATA ITEMS	POPULATIONS	DATA ITEMS	POPULATIONS
<b>1 STATE OF USUAL RESIDENCE</b>	All	<b>6A FAMILY STATUS (1)</b>	All
New South Wales		Member of a family	
Victoria		Husband or wife	
Queensland		With dependents present	
South Australia		Without dependents present	
Western Australia		Sole parent	
Tasmania		Other family head	
Northern Territory		Full-time student aged 15-24	
Australian Capital Territory		Other child of married couple or family head	
		Other relative of married couple or family head	
<b>2 AREA OF USUAL RESIDENCE</b>	All	Not a member of a family	
Metropolitan		Living alone	
Non-metropolitan		Not living alone	
		Family status not determined	
<b>3 REGION OF USUAL RESIDENCE</b>	All	<b>6B FAMILY STATUS (2)</b>	All
Standard labour force dissemination regions		Member of a family	
		Husband or wife	
<b>4 SEX</b>	All	With children aged 0-14 present	
Males		Without children aged 0-14 present	
Females		Sole parent	
		With children aged 0-14 present	
<b>5 MARITAL STATUS</b>	All	Without children aged 0-14 present	
Married		Other family head	
Not-married		Full-time student aged 15-24	
		Other child of married couple or family head	
		Other relative of married couple or family head	
		Not a member of a family	
		Living alone	
		Not living alone	
		Family status not determined	

DATA ITEMS	POPULATIONS	DATA ITEMS	POPULATIONS
<b>7A BIRTHPLACE (1)</b>	2-6	<b>12 OCCUPATION</b>	2-6
Born in Australia		Managers and administrators	
Born outside Australia		Professionals	
Born in main English-speaking countries		Para-professionals	
Born in other countries		Tradespersons	
		Clerks	
<b>7B BIRTHPLACE (2)</b>	2-6	Salespersons and personal service workers	
Born in Australia		Plant and machine operators, and drivers	
Born outside Australia		Labourers and related workers	
Oceania			
New Zealand		<b>13 INDUSTRY</b>	2-6
Europe and the USSR		Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	
Germany		Manufacturing	
Greece		Construction	
Netherlands		Wholesale and retail trade	
UK and Ireland		Transport and storage	
Yugoslavia		Finance, property and business services	
The Middle East and North Africa		Community services	
Lebanon		Recreation, personal and other services	
Southeast Asia		Other	
Malaysia			
Philippines		<b>14 STATUS OF WORKER</b>	2-6
Viet Nam		Employers/self-employed	
Northeast Asia		Wage and salary earners	
China			
The Americas		<b>15A NUMBER OF HOURS WORKED IN REFERENCE WEEK</b>	2-6
Other		0 to 5 hours	
India		6 to 10 hours	
		11 to 15 hours	
<b>7C BIRTHPLACE AND PERIOD OF ARRIVAL</b>	2-6	16 to 20 hours	
Born in Australia		21 to 29 hours	
Born outside Australia		30 to 34 hours	
Arrived before 1971		35 hours or more	
Arrived 1971-1975			
Arrived 1976-1980		<b>16 TYPE OF UNDEREMPLOYMENT</b>	4
Arrived 1981-1985		Part-time	
Arrived 1986 to survey date		Full-time	
<b>8 AGE</b>	All	<b>17 DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNDEREMPLOYMENT</b>	4-6
(Single years collected)		1 and under 4 weeks	
15-19		4 and under 13 weeks	
20-24		13 and under 52 weeks	
25-34		52 weeks and over	
35-44			
45 and over		<b>18A EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT(1)</b>	4-6
		With post-school qualifications	
<b>9A UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATUS (1)</b>	1	Degree	
Persons aged 15 and over		Trade qualification or apprenticeship	
Not in the labour force		Certificate or diploma	
In the labour force		Other	
Unemployed		Without post-school qualifications	
Employed		Attended highest level of secondary school available	
Fully employed		Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	
Part-time workers		Still at school	
Full-time workers			
Underemployed		<b>19 WHETHER WOULD MOVE INTERSTATE IF OFFERED A SUITABLE JOB</b>	4-6
Part-time		If offered a suitable job—	
Full-time		Would move interstate	
		Would not move interstate	
<b>10 FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME WORKERS</b>	2	Might move interstate	
Part-time workers			
Full-time workers			
<b>11 WHETHER FULLY EMPLOYED OR UNDEREMPLOYED</b>	2		
Fully employed			
Underemployed			



DATA ITEMS	POPULATIONS	DATA ITEMS	POPULATIONS		
20	<b>WHETHER WOULD MOVE INTRASTATE IF OFFERED A SUITABLE JOB</b> If offered a suitable job— Would move intrastate Would not move intrastate Might move intrastate	4-6	25	<b>WHETHER REGISTERED WITH THE CES</b> Registered with the CES Not registered with the CES Had not been looking for work with more hours	4-6
21	<b>WHETHER WOULD PREFER TO CHANGE OCCUPATION</b> Would prefer to change occupation Would not prefer to change occupation No preference	4-6	26	<b>MAIN DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WORK</b> Own ill health or disability Considered too young or too old by employers Unsuitable hours Too far to travel/transport problems Lacked necessary skills/education Insufficient work experience No vacancies in line of work No vacancies at all Difficulties with ethnic background Other difficulties No difficulties at all Had not been looking for work with more hours	5-6
22	<b>WHETHER WOULD PREFER TO CHANGE EMPLOYER TO WORK MORE HOURS</b> Would prefer to change employer Would prefer not to change employer No preference	4-6	27	<b>USUAL NUMBER OF HOURS WORKED</b> 1 to 5 hours 6 to 10 hours 11 to 15 hours 16 to 20 hours 21 to 29 hours 30 to 34 hours	5-6
23	<b>PART-TIME UNDEREMPLOYMENT STATUS</b> Had been looking for work with more hours or were available to start such work within four weeks Had been looking for work with more hours <i>and</i> were available to start such work within four weeks Had been looking for work with more hours but were <i>not</i> available to start such work within four weeks Had <i>not</i> been looking for work with more hours but were available to start such work within four weeks Had <i>not</i> been looking for work with more hours and were <i>not</i> available to start such work within four weeks	5	28	<b>PREFERRED TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS</b> Less than 30 hours 30 to 34 hours 35 to 39 hours 40 hours and over	5-6
24	<b>ALL STEPS TAKEN TO FIND WORK DURING CURRENT PERIOD OF UNDEREMPLOYMENT</b> Registered with the CES Contacted prospective employers Checked factory or CES noticeboards Checked or registered with any other employment agency Looked in newspapers Answered a newspaper ad for a job Advertised or tendered for work Contacted friends or relations Other steps	4-6	29	<b>QUANTUM OF UNDEREMPLOYMENT SINCE PREVIOUS JOB</b> Sum of preferred number of extra hours	4-6
			30	<b>PREFERRED NUMBER OF EXTRA HOURS</b> Less than 10 extra hours 10 to 19 extra hours 20 to 29 extra hours 30 to 34 extra hours	4-6

## SPECIAL DATA REQUEST ORDER FORM

### UNDEREMPLOYED WORKERS, MAY 1991

Please specify your special data request(s) on the order form provided on the following page.

The following points should be noted when requesting special tables:

1. Table requests will be available on computer printout, floppy disk or microfiche.
2. The current cost of special tables is as follows —

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2	120
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- NOTE** (i) For tables provided on floppy disk, an additional cost of \$65.00 per 360k will be charged;
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Australian Bureau of Statistics  
PO Box 10  
Belconnen ACT 2616

**OR**

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4. The invoiced cost is payable in full within 28 days of supply.
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