



UNEMPLOYMENT, AUSTRALIA, MAY 1982 PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES

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MAIN FEATURES

Note: Survey estimates are subject to sampling variability, as explained in paragraphs 8 to 10 below. Standard errors of estimates and of movements are shown in the tables.

In May 1982 the estimated number of unemployed persons was 448,300—371,400 were looking for full-time work and 76,900 looking for part-time work. The unemployment rate was 6.5 per cent.

In seasonally adjusted terms, the number unemployed increased 16,800 between April and May 1982—those looking for full-time work increased 13,000. The unemployment rate increased from 6.4 per cent to 6.6 per cent.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication contains preliminary unemployment estimates derived from the monthly population survey. It is generally released in the third week following completion of the interviews. (See paragraph 2.) More detailed estimates are published in *The Labour Force, Australia (Preliminary)* (6202.0) and *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

The population survey

2. The survey is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (about 30,000 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).

Definitions

3. For the purposes of the survey, *unemployed persons* are those aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the survey week and:

(a) had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the survey week and:

(i) were available for work in the survey week, or would have been available except for temporary illness (i.e. lasting for less than four weeks to the end of the survey week); or

(ii) were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the survey week and would have started in the survey week if the job had been available then;

or (b) were waiting to be called back to a full-time or part-time job from which they had been stood down without pay for less than four weeks up to the end of the survey week (including the whole of the survey week) for reasons other than bad weather or plant breakdown.

This definition of unemployed persons conforms closely to that recommended by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

4. *Unemployed persons looking for first job* are those who had never worked full-time for two weeks or more.

5. The *unemployment rate* for any group is the number unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labour force (i.e. employed plus unemployed) in the same group.

Earlier estimates

6. Estimates back to August 1966 on a basis comparable with those in this publication are published in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6204.0) beginning with the 1978 issue.

Comparability of series

7. Since the introduction of monthly surveys in February 1978 the interviews have been conducted during a two-week period, whereas formerly the period was four weeks. This change of timing may affect the level of the figures for any month, but particularly for months during which unemployment may be changing rapidly.

Reliability of the estimates

8. Since the survey estimates are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings they, and the movements derived from them, are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ by chance from the figures 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*. 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.

9. Detailed information on standard errors of the estimates and of movements in the estimates is published in current issues of *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

10. Standard errors of unemployment estimates for the latest month and of estimates of movements since the previous month are contained in the tables. Examples of the use of these two sets of standard errors are given below.

- (a) The estimate of 371,400 unemployed persons looking for full-time work in May 1982 has a standard error of about 6,400 and therefore there are about two chances in three that the number that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey will be within the range 365,000 to 377,800 and about nineteen chances in twenty that the number will be within the range 358,600 to 384,200.
- (b) The estimate of movement in the number of unemployed persons looking for full-time work from April to May 1982 is an increase of 8,200. The standard error of this estimate of movement is about 5,200 and therefore there are about two chances in three that if all dwellings had been included in the survey the movement would have been within the range +3,000 to +13,400 and about nineteen chances in twenty that it would have been within the range -2,200 to +18,600.

Seasonal adjustment

11. Seasonal adjustment of a number of monthly series from the labour force survey commenced in *The Labour Force, Australia, February 1982* (6202.0). That publication contained an appendix giving details of the methods of seasonal adjustment used and other explanatory notes. This publication contains seasonally adjusted estimates based on an expanded set of unemployment series for the latest months. The addition of further components of unemployed persons looking for full-time work to the set of available seasonally adjusted series required a change in the method of aggregatively adjusting that series and the total number of unemployed persons. Therefore the figures for these series published in *The Labour Force, Australia, (Preliminary) February 1982* (6202.0) have been revised slightly. More information about this change in method of adjustment and seasonally adjusted figures for all months since February 1978 for the major labour force series which now have been published in seasonally adjusted form are contained in an appendix to *The Labour Force, Australia, February 1982* (6203.0).

12. The seasonal adjustment factors have been calculated on the basis of four years of monthly data. This is a relatively short series of data on which to base the calculation of seasonal factors, particularly when the pattern of movement is varying from year to year. This effect is particularly marked in the

unemployment figures. As happens with all seasonally adjusted series, the seasonal factors will be reviewed when a further year's figures are available. The additional year's figures will cause the factors to be revised; it follows that the seasonally adjusted figures in this publication are certain to be revised at that time. When interpreting trends based on seasonally adjusted series, it should always be borne in mind that seasonally adjusted figures by their nature will be revised when later information is used in calculating the seasonal factors.

Related publications

13. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available on request:

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

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)—issued monthly

The Labour Force, Australia, 1980 (6204.0)

Job Vacancies, Australia (6231.0)—issued quarterly

Unemployment, Underemployment and Related Statistics, Australia, February 1978 to February 1980 (6236.0)

Information Paper: Questionnaires used in the Labour Force Survey December 1981 (6232.0)

14. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, 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

- .. not applicable
- * subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. See paragraphs 8 to 10 for details.
- p preliminary—figures subject to revision
- r revised since previous issue

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

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TABLE 1. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS—SEASONALLY ADJUSTED SERIES(a)

Month	Number ('000)										
	Looking for full-time work					Unemployment rate (per cent)					
	Aged 15-19			Looking for part-time work	Looking for full-time work						
	Looking for first job	Total	Aged 20 and over		Total	Aged 15-19	Aged 20 and over	Total	Looking for part-time work	Total	
MALES											
1981—December	21.6	53.3	143.0	196.3	18.8	215.1	15.1	3.9	4.8	8.5	5.0
1982—January	21.0	53.4	137.9	191.3	17.8	209.1	14.9	3.7	4.8	7.8	4.9
February	23.2	58.0	156.5	214.5	14.9	229.4	16.0	4.2	5.3	6.6	5.3
March	24.3	56.3	159.3	215.6	20.7	236.3	15.9	4.3	5.3	9.0	5.5
April r	19.0	52.8	161.8	214.6	17.5	232.1	15.2	4.4	5.3	7.0	5.4
May p	23.9	58.7	165.3	224.0	17.7	241.7	16.9	4.5	5.5	7.0	5.6
FEMALES											
1981—December	26.2	55.6	85.9	141.5	50.2	191.7	20.3	6.1	8.4	5.9	7.5
1982—January	25.1	59.9	81.5	141.4	55.4	196.8	22.1	5.8	8.4	6.3	7.7
February	28.4	60.9	90.9	151.8	55.0	206.8	22.4	6.5	9.1	6.3	8.1
March	27.7	57.0	93.1	150.1	55.6	205.7	21.1	6.7	9.0	6.3	8.1
April r	26.6	58.3	91.1	149.4	52.4	201.8	22.0	6.5	8.9	6.1	8.0
May p	25.3	60.8	91.7	152.5	56.9	209.4	22.5	6.5	9.1	6.5	8.2
PERSONS											
1981—December	48.0	108.6	229.0	337.6	68.3	405.9	17.3	4.5	5.9	6.4	6.0
1982—January	46.3	113.2	222.1	335.3	73.2	408.5	18.0	4.4	5.9	6.6	6.0
February	51.2	118.3	247.3	365.6	73.0	438.6	18.7	4.8	6.4	6.6	6.4
March	51.1	111.2	253.6	364.8	77.2	442.0	17.8	4.9	6.3	6.9	6.4
April r	45.3	112.7	252.7	365.4	70.3	435.7	18.5	5.0	6.4	6.3	6.4
May p	49.2	120.1	258.3	378.4	74.1	452.5	19.4	5.1	6.6	6.6	6.6

(a) Seasonally adjusted figures are subject to revision which may be substantial. For more information regarding seasonal adjustment see paragraphs 11 and 12 above.

TABLE 2. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS(a)

Month	Number ('000)										
	Looking for full-time work						Unemployment rate (per cent)				
	Aged 15-19			Looking for part-time work			Looking for full-time work			Looking for part-time work	
	Looking for first job	Total	Aged 20 and over	Total	Looking for part-time work	Total	Aged 15-19	Aged 20 and over	Total	Looking for part-time work	Total
MALES											
1981—											
March	19.7	46.7	139.1	185.8	17.5	203.2	12.5	3.8	4.6	7.5	4.8
April	15.6	40.6	131.1	171.7	16.2	187.9	11.2	3.6	4.3	7.0	4.4
May	15.0	44.2	131.3	175.5	17.3	192.9	12.1	3.6	4.4	7.3	4.5
June	12.4	40.3	128.9	169.2	12.3	181.5	11.5	3.5	4.2	5.3	4.3
July	12.5	42.4	139.8	182.1	14.7	196.8	12.0	3.8	4.5	6.5	4.6
August	12.5	40.7	146.4	187.0	12.7	199.7	12.2	4.0	4.7	5.4	4.7
September	15.1	43.5	150.7	194.2	15.3	209.5	12.5	4.1	4.8	6.6	4.9
October	18.0	44.9	140.5	185.4	14.3	199.7	13.4	3.8	4.6	6.1	4.7
November	18.5	46.7	138.9	185.6	14.8	200.4	14.4	3.8	4.6	6.5	4.7
December	36.6	68.7	137.4	206.1	26.5	232.6	17.9	3.7	5.0	11.4	5.4
1982—											
January	33.9	71.5	149.6	221.0	17.6	238.6	18.5	4.0	5.4	8.2	5.5
February	30.7	67.2	169.0	236.3	15.5	251.7	17.4	4.5	5.7	7.3	5.8
March	23.2	52.7	163.4	216.1	22.0	238.1	14.6	4.4	5.3	9.4	5.5
April r	15.9	49.2	160.9	210.1	17.1	227.2	14.2	4.4	5.2	6.8	5.3
May p	18.7	53.5	165.7	219.2	19.5	238.8	15.3	4.5	5.4	7.6	5.6
Standard error of—											
May 1982 estimates	1.9	3.0	4.8	5.3	2.0	5.5	0.9	0.1	0.1	0.8	0.1
April to May 1982 movement	1.9	2.8	4.1	4.4	2.0	4.5	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.8	0.1
FEMALES											
1981—											
March	28.4	59.4	85.5	144.9	61.7	206.6	20.7	6.4	8.9	6.9	8.2
April	25.6	55.9	78.9	134.8	53.3	188.1	19.6	5.8	8.2	6.1	7.5
May	23.9	51.8	80.3	132.1	50.5	182.6	18.6	6.0	8.1	5.8	7.3
June	20.6	46.6	73.8	120.5	48.3	168.7	16.9	5.5	7.4	5.6	6.8
July	23.3	52.7	80.0	132.8	45.2	178.0	19.1	5.9	8.1	5.2	7.1
August	17.9	50.3	83.5	133.8	43.5	177.4	19.1	6.2	8.3	5.0	7.1
September	21.2	48.6	85.3	133.9	47.7	181.6	18.7	6.1	8.0	5.4	7.1
October	19.5	44.1	74.5	118.7	52.0	170.6	17.7	5.4	7.2	5.9	6.8
November	19.6	45.8	79.3	125.1	46.4	171.5	18.4	5.7	7.6	5.2	6.8
December	38.1	68.8	83.8	152.6	48.1	200.7	23.2	5.9	8.9	5.6	7.8
1982—											
January	39.0	74.3	81.7	156.0	45.1	201.0	24.9	5.9	9.2	5.9	8.2
February	35.2	68.8	101.5	170.3	62.4	232.7	24.0	7.2	10.0	7.3	9.1
March	28.8	58.8	99.4	158.2	63.4	221.6	21.3	7.1	9.4	7.0	8.6
April r	25.6	57.7	95.4	153.1	55.9	209.0	21.6	6.8	9.2	6.4	8.2
May p	23.9	58.3	93.8	152.1	57.3	209.5	21.8	6.7	9.1	6.6	8.2
Standard error of—											
May 1982 estimates	2.1	3.1	3.8	4.6	3.1	5.2	1.2	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2
April to May 1982 movement	2.2	2.9	3.4	4.0	2.9	4.4	1.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2
PERSONS											
1981—											
March	48.1	106.1	224.6	330.7	79.2	409.9	16.0	4.5	5.8	7.0	6.0
April	41.2	96.5	210.0	306.5	69.5	376.0	14.9	4.2	5.4	6.3	5.6
May	38.8	96.0	211.6	307.7	67.8	375.5	14.9	4.2	5.4	6.1	5.6
June	33.0	86.9	202.7	289.7	60.6	350.2	13.9	4.1	5.1	5.5	5.2
July	35.8	95.1	219.8	314.9	59.9	374.8	15.1	4.4	5.6	5.5	5.5
August	30.4	91.0	229.9	320.9	56.2	377.1	15.2	4.6	5.7	5.1	5.6
September	36.3	92.1	236.0	328.1	63.0	391.1	15.2	4.6	5.7	5.6	5.7
October	37.4	89.0	215.1	304.1	66.3	370.4	15.2	4.2	5.4	5.9	5.5
November	38.1	92.5	218.2	310.7	61.2	371.9	16.1	4.3	5.5	5.5	5.5
December	74.8	137.5	221.2	358.7	74.6	433.3	20.2	4.3	6.2	6.9	6.3
1982—											
January	72.8	145.8	231.2	377.0	62.6	439.6	21.2	4.5	6.5	6.4	6.5
February	65.9	136.0	270.6	406.6	77.8	484.4	20.2	5.3	7.0	7.3	7.0
March	52.0	111.5	262.8	374.3	85.4	459.7	17.5	5.1	6.5	7.5	6.6
April r	41.6	106.9	256.3	363.2	73.0	436.2	17.4	5.0	6.4	6.5	6.4
May p	42.7	111.8	259.6	371.4	76.9	448.3	18.1	5.1	6.5	6.8	6.5
Standard error of—											
May 1982 estimates	2.8	4.1	5.7	6.4	3.5	6.9	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1
April to May 1982 movement	2.6	3.6	4.7	5.2	3.2	5.5	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1

(a) For definitions see page 1. For information on standard errors see paragraphs 8 to 10.

TABLE 3. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS(a), STATES AND TERRITORIES

State or Territory	Number ('000)					Unemployment rate (per cent)				
	Looking for full-time work					Looking for full-time work				
	Aged 15-19	Aged 20 and over	Total	Looking for part-time work	Total	Aged 15-19	Aged 20 and over	Total	Looking for part-time work	Total
New South Wales—										
1981—May	24.5	70.4	94.9	21.1	116.0	11.5	4.0	4.8	5.7	4.9
1982—April r	33.0	89.5	122.5	22.5	145.0	15.7	5.0	6.1	6.0	6.1
May p	38.1	86.0	124.1	24.6	148.8	17.7	4.8	6.2	6.5	6.2
Standard error of—										
May 1982 estimates	2.7	3.7	4.2	2.2	4.5	1.3	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.2
April to May 1982 movement	2.3	3.0	3.4	2.0	3.6	1.1	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.1
Victoria—										
1981—May	31.0	50.9	82.0	22.1	104.1	18.9	3.7	5.3	7.6	5.7
1982—April r	28.4	62.5	90.8	19.9	110.8	19.3	4.5	5.9	6.8	6.1
May p	27.2	67.3	94.5	22.2	116.7	18.6	4.8	6.1	7.6	6.4
Standard error of—										
May 1982 estimates	2.2	3.0	3.4	2.0	3.7	1.5	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.2
April to May 1982 movement	1.9	2.5	2.7	1.8	2.9	1.2	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.2
Queensland—										
1981—May	14.2	33.4	47.7	8.2	55.8	13.3	4.5	5.7	4.7	5.5
1982—April r	13.0	39.4	52.4	10.4	62.8	12.8	5.2	6.1	6.1	6.1
May p	13.9	39.9	53.8	11.5	65.2	13.6	5.2	6.2	6.7	6.3
Standard error of—										
May 1982 estimates	1.3	2.0	2.2	1.2	2.4	1.3	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.2
April to May 1982 movement	1.2	1.6	1.8	1.1	1.9	1.2	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.2
South Australia—										
1981—May	12.7	27.6	40.3	6.3	46.6	21.4	6.3	8.1	5.7	7.7
1982—April r	11.9	26.7	38.6	6.3	44.9	20.2	6.1	7.8	5.5	7.4
May p	12.5	28.0	40.5	6.3	46.7	20.9	6.4	8.2	5.5	7.7
Standard error of—										
May 1982 estimates	1.0	1.3	1.5	0.7	1.6	1.7	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.3
April to May 1982 movement	0.8	1.0	1.1	0.7	1.2	1.3	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.2
Western Australia—										
1981—May	8.0	19.1	27.1	5.7	32.8	12.3	4.5	5.5	5.3	5.5
1982—April r	11.9	24.0	36.0	6.9	42.9	19.8	5.5	7.2	6.1	7.0
May p	10.5	23.8	34.3	6.7	41.0	17.8	5.4	6.9	5.9	6.7
Standard error of—										
May 1982 estimates	0.9	1.3	1.5	0.8	1.5	1.5	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.2
April to May 1982 movement	0.8	1.0	1.1	0.7	1.2	1.2	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.2
Tasmania—										
1981—May	3.9	5.0	8.9	*	10.1	17.6	3.7	5.6	*	5.3
1982—April r	6.7	8.1	14.8	2.6	17.4	29.6	6.0	9.4	8.6	9.3
May p	7.0	8.2	15.2	2.0	17.2	30.6	6.1	9.6	6.7	9.2
Standard error of—										
May 1982 estimates	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.8	2.6	0.4	0.4	1.0	0.4
April to May 1982 movement	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.5	1.7	0.3	0.3	0.8	0.3
Northern Territory—										
1981—May	*	*	1.8	*	2.7	*	*	3.7	*	4.9
1982—April r	*	2.6	3.4	*	4.2	*	5.3	6.3	*	6.7
May p	*	2.6	3.7	*	4.6	*	5.3	6.8	*	7.3
Standard error of—										
May 1982 estimates	..	0.5	0.6	..	0.7	..	1.0	1.1	..	1.1
April to May 1982 movement	..	0.4	0.5	..	0.6	..	0.8	0.9	..	1.0
Australian Capital Territory—										
1981—May	*	3.5	5.0	2.3	7.3	*	4.1	5.4	12.8	6.6
1982—April r	*	3.5	4.6	3.7	8.3	*	4.1	5.1	17.1	7.4
May p	*	3.6	5.3	2.7	8.0	*	4.3	5.8	13.2	7.2
Standard error of—										
May 1982 estimates	..	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.7	..	0.6	0.7	2.4	0.6
April to May 1982 movement	..	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.5	..	0.5	0.5	1.4	0.4

(a) See note (a) to Table 2.