Hi

I just spoke with [name] from ACTU re the mistake in reporting from the Australian and ABC. Those reports referenced an ACTU report citing one million people in secondary jobs, but it should have read one million jobs worked.

The report has not yet been released, but the ACTU circulated it to media. [name] will be sending us a copy in about an hour’s time. He says their report makes it clear it’s jobs worked, not people.

I managed his enquiry earlier in the week clarifying that point.

I suggest we ask The Australian and ABC to correct their article, and clarify the point with any future enquiries. If there are any questions about the ACTU report, we refer them back to the ACTU.

Also, as a recommendation, and I have discussed that to make media releases clearer in future we group things under sub-headings. In this particular media release, the third para being about job vacancies is confusing.

Media and Communications

Australian Bureau of Statistics

The Australian Bureau of Statistics acknowledges the traditional custodians of country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and elders, both past and present.
Hi

I'm not sure what you are saying? Are you saying my report was wrong?

Hi

Somebody mentioned to me recently that you were lecturing at a uni - is that so?

I missed your recent report, but read it yesterday: "More people than ever need a second job to help pay the bills." It is, as always, a very interesting read.

In the lead it says, inter alia, that there was a surge in people working in secondary jobs that has led for the first time there being more than one million people working in multiple jobs.

The Labour Account on 12 March showed that the number of secondary jobs in Australia rose to more than one million in the December quarter 2018, which represented more than 7 per cent of all jobs worked in the economy.

We put out a media release on 12 March:

http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/latestProducts/6150.0.55.003Media%20Release1December%202018

These new concepts such as the Labour Account can be a bit tricky. I was wondering if you might be interested in having a chat with one of our data experts about the figures and methodology?
There is a virtual treasure trove of data that is showing up new aspects of jobs, persons, labour volume and labour payments and industry divisions.

If you want to follow-up give me a call.

Best regards

ABS Media
But if there are a million secondary jobs then doesn’t that mean a million people working more than 1 job? The numbers working more than 2 jobs would be small.

On 22 Mar 2019, at 2:19 pm, <22> wrote:

Thanks. I think the point is that it’s a million secondary jobs not people.

Would you like our data expert, to give you a call?

Best regards

ABS Media
Hi,

You're correct, it is the number of secondary jobs which is now over one million.

We don't currently publish in the Labour Account the number of people who hold secondary jobs.

It seems these data are getting a bit of a run today - there's something on ABC news today as well.

https://www.abc.net.au/triplej/programs/hack/a-record-number-of-australians-are-working-second-job-actu-says/10926818

cheers,

Assistant Director
Labour Market Section | Macroeconomic Division | Australian Bureau of Statistics
(P) (E) (W) @abs.gov.au

Hi there Article in the Australian today on sec... 22/03/2019 08:58:22 AM

Article in the Australian today on secondary jobs. It says that the number of Australians working two jobs has jumped by 20 per cent over two years to more than one million...

I thought it was the number of secondary jobs has risen to more than one million.

The Australian reports that analysis of ABS data shows the number of people working secondary jobs rose by 174,300, from 846,600 to 1.02 million, in the two years to last December.
Second jobs up with wages flat

EWIN HANNAN
WORKPLACE EDITOR

The number of Australians working two jobs has jumped by 20 per cent over two years to more than a million, with the growth in workers taking on secondary jobs spiking in the health and education sectors.

The increase in workers taking on multiple jobs has coincided with a sustained period of flat wages growth, which the ACTU said was driving the decision by workers to juggle two jobs.

Analysis of Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows the number of people working secondary jobs rose by 174,300, from $46,600 to 1.02 million, in the two years to last December. Australia’s jobless rate hit 4.9 per cent last month, defying fears of an economic slump.

FULL REPORT P2

‘Uberisation’ of work as we burn the candle at both ends

EWIN HANNAN
WORKPLACE EDITOR

The number of Australians working two jobs has jumped by 20 per cent over two years to more than a million, with the growth in workers taking on secondary jobs spiking in the health and education sectors.

The increase in workers taking on multiple jobs has coincided with a sustained period of flat wages growth, which the ACTU said was driving the decision by workers to juggle two jobs.

According to analysis of Australian Bureau of Statistics data, the number of people working secondary jobs rose by 174,300, from $46,600 to 1.02 million, in the two years since December 2016, representing more than 7 per cent of all jobs in the economy. The incidence of secondary employment has risen from 6.4 per cent to 7.2 per cent.

Administrative and support services accounted for the largest share of secondary jobs, at 23 per cent. Since 2017, the number of secondary jobs in healthcare and social assistance has risen from just over 97,000 to 120,000, and in education and training from just over 107,000 to more than 126,000.

Carmel Heimeli, 37, said her wages as an early childhood educator did not cover her living costs and she supplemented her income by working as a nanny.

Ms Heimeli, who lives in Geelong, 75 km southwest of Melbourne, is paid $28 an hour as an early childhood educator.

She said she loved working with children and her employer paid slightly above-award rates.

But to purchase a home, she had to borrow the deposit from a friend, who also went guarantor. She took on the second job to pay the mortgage.

“Everything is going up — health insurance goes up, bills go up,” Ms Heimeli said.

“You’ve really got to be on top of it. I budget. Even with Easter coming, I have to think ahead and start buying a couple of things each week just to make sure I don’t get stuck with a big … bill. You’ve always got to be thinking ahead, making sure you don’t get caught.”

The ACTU said the growth in secondary jobs had coincided with record high levels of underemployment. The underemployment rate stands at 8.1 per cent, with 1,093,800 Australians not
Second jobs up with wages flat

The Australian, Australia

working the full-time hours they would like. ACTU secretary Sally McManus said workers wanted secure, steady jobs, not casual, part-time work that barely covered the rent.

“Scott Morrison goes on about job creation but with the rise of insecure work flat wages and high cost of living, the problem is people have to work two of these jobs just to make ends meet,” she said.

“With the Uberisation of the workforce, we’re fast heading down the American path where workers get the tips and scraps off the table, not a fair share of the revenue generated by their work.”

Carmel Heinelt
Low wages are forcing Australians into insecure work, multiple jobs, ACTU says

Friday 22 March 2019 5:00am

Stagnating wages, the "Uber-isation" of the workforce, and the growth of insecure casual or contract work has led to many more Australians taking on multiple jobs, according to a report by the ACTU.
The number of secondary jobs rose to a record high of more than one million at the end of 2018, **ABS data released last week shows**.

The number has increased more than 20 per cent in the past two years, with the growth coming mostly from roles such as office temping, answering phones at call centres, tutoring, caring and other healthcare and social assistance jobs.

The graph below shows the number of secondary jobs in healthcare and social assistance, and education and training between 2010-2018 - it shows the figures for each sector have been trending gradually upwards since 2010, and then shot up in early 2017:

Number of secondary jobs in healthcare and social assistance, and education and training 2010-2018.

Supplied: ABS Cat 6150.0.55.003 - Labour Account Australia, Quarterly Experimental Estimates, December 2018

The ACTU, which is the peak body for Australian trade unions, is running a campaign to give people the choice of converting from casual to permanent, and ending labour hire and 'sham contracting'.

ACTU Secretary Sally McManus calls the growth in secondary jobs the "Uber-isation" of the workforce:

"We're fast heading down the American path where workers get the tips and scraps off the table, not a fair share of the revenue generated by their work," she said in a statement.

**What's driving the change**

The ACTU says people are not earning enough in their primary job, and so are forced to pick up more work. This is partly due to the increase in casual, part-time and otherwise insecure work - for many, primary jobs are no longer as good as they were.
While unemployment is low, the rate of underemployment - where a worker is not working the full-time hours they would like - is near a record high. It currently stands at 8.1 per cent, which represents more than one million Australians.

This is a problem that disproportionately affects young people. According to last year's Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (Hilda) survey, young workers are much more likely to be underemployed - 31 per cent of workers aged 15-19 and 20 per cent aged 20-24 are underemployed, whereas no other age bracket sees more than 9 per cent of its workers in such a position.

Aside from underemployment, wages aren't so good either.

Since 2012 there has been little change in real wages (which takes into account increases in the price of goods and services, also known as inflation). Compare this with the years between 1995 and 2012, when workers saw average real wages increase by almost 2 per cent per year.

Economists call this wage stagnation.

The graph below shows the real value of wages falling from 2010 to 2018, while the number of secondary as a proportion of total jobs has gone up:

![Graph showing the real value of wages falling from 2010 to 2018, while the number of secondary jobs as a proportion of total jobs has gone up.](Supplied: ABS Cat 6150.0.55.003 - Labour Account Australia, Quarterly Experimental Estimates, December 2018 and Cat 6345.0 - Wage Price Index, Australia, Dec 2018)

Rising number of secondary jobs as a proportion of total jobs and low wage growth 2010-2018.

The wage stagnation is not due to a broader economic decline, but worsening inequality, according to an open letter this week from more than 120 economists, lawyers and labour market analysts demanding action to address stagnant wage growth. It was published in the Australian Financial Review.

The letter states that wages as a percentage of gross domestic product is at its lowest level since quarterly records began in 1959. Workers are producing more but earning the same or less.
The ACTU report states: "The net result is rising debt and desperation for ordinary people as many workers are forced to work two or more jobs to get by."

It also blames the growth in part-time work, temporary work, self-employment, or work that is otherwise insecure: "Many workers simply cannot get enough hours and this is a key source of anxiety for many workers in today's labour market."

The truth is Australia is rapidly changing and is now bearing an even greater resemblance to some of the worst aspects of American society.

"In both countries workers have been waiting close to a decade for a decent pay rise, income inequality is at record levels, working hours are long or unpredictable and penalty rates are being cut or do not exist."

**Why insecure work is an inequality problem**

For some, insecure work has meant flexibility. Jobs like driving for Uber have been a handy way of earning a little more around other commitments, such as work or family.

But stories like this may be the exception. According to the OECD, an organisation which promotes market capitalism, having more insecure work may worsen inequality across society.

In 2015, the OECD concluded that about 40 per cent of all employment in Australia is 'non-standard' - meaning work that does not conform to the norm of full-time, regular employment with a single employer over a long time span. Non-standard work can include work that is temporary, part-time, on-call, or arranged through an agency or subcontractor.

Australia's rate of non-standard work was the third-highest rate among the 36 OECD countries, behind the Netherlands and Switzerland.

Explaining how increased non-standard work can lead to more inequality, the report stated: "People are more likely to be poor or in the struggling bottom 40 per cent of society if they have non-standard work, especially if they live in a household with other nonstandard or non-employed workers."

"This might not matter too much if such work were a stepping stone to a better job in the future, but too often this is not the case.

Excessive wage penalties associated with temporary jobs in particular can contribute to wider inequality. That can also contribute to lower levels of training and skill development - precisely those activities that can lead to higher growth in the future.

The 2018 triple j What's Up In Your World survey found a third of young people - including a quarter of full-time workers who completed our survey - have a side-hustle to bring in more money.

The ACTU report says that one of the major problems with the growth in non-standard work in Australia is the shift in 'economic risk' from the employer to the worker. The true cost of insecure work will be known when growth stalls and workers are sacked.

"If Australia is hit by a global financial crisis or domestic demand diminishes, it is labour, not capital, that absorbs most of the pain," the report says.
"Because of the very high proportion of insecure jobs, Australian employers can rapidly and substantially reduce their labour input and labour costs in a downturn."

"Public policy in Australia over the last 30 years has gone too far in promoting downward wage flexibility and flexible forms of work."

"This is why we have a great divide."

Facebook Comments

1 Comment  Sort by Oldest

Add a comment...

Looks like it is time for a big change in Australian voting patterns to bring about a Federal Policy shift. Maybe even lower the voting Age to 16 and stop over 70 year olds voting would just about bring on that form of real change! Only saying!

Like  Reply  24w
Low wages are forcing Australians into insecure work, multiple jobs, ACTU says - Ha...
Low wages are forcing Australians into insecure work, multiple jobs, ACTU says - Ha...

https://www.abc.net.au/triplej/programs/hack/low-wages-forcing-australians-into-inse...
Low wages are forcing Australians into insecure work, multiple jobs, ACTU says - Ha...
I have just spoken with [Name], he just wanted assistance in calculating the proportion of secondary jobs. I have assisted him through that, no further action required.

Director
Labour Market Statistics | Australian Bureau of Statistics

ABS Media WDB
Hi there The ACTU asks the following question about the Labour Account

Cheers

ABS Media
Thanks for responding in our absence. You were correct:

* the headline does relate to jobs and not the person,
* there is no gender breakdown in the Labour Account.

----- Forwarded by /Staff/ABS on 20/03/2019 08:06 AM -----

From: /Staff/ABS
To: /Staff/ABS@ABS
Cc: ABS Media WDB@ABS, /Staff/ABS@ABS, /Staff/ABS@ABS, media@abs.gov.au
Date: 19/03/2019 01:34 PM
Subject: Re: Secondary jobs enquiry

Great thank you.

----- Forwarded by /Staff/ABS on 20/03/2019 08:06 AM -----

From: /Staff/ABS
To: /Staff/ABS@ABS
Cc: ABS Media WDB@ABS, /Staff/ABS@ABS, /Staff/ABS@ABS, media@abs.gov.au
Date: 19/03/2019 12:36 PM
Subject: Re: Secondary jobs enquiry

Hello I will do my best to assist, we are missing a few key team members today. will be back tomorrow if you need more detailed information. I have added some comments below in blue.

Regards

Assistant Director (P/T Tue, Thu, Fri)
Hello

As discussed, please see below.

Cheers

---

Hi

Just got a couple of follow up questions from [22] at the ACTU on the experimental labour...
accounts out last week.

He wanted to know, firstly, whether there is any gender breakdown of the secondary jobs data - I can't see any but just want to confirm. Gender breakdown is not currently available

Also just wanted to clear up some confusion about the leading line in the headline - he asks, ‘does the one million figure relate to the number of persons working two or more jobs or is this the number of jobs?’

The third line about vacancies is what might have caused the confusion.

I've said that the figure is about the number of jobs worked - are you happy with that response? No issues with this response.

Cheers

Media and Communications
Australian Bureau of Statistics
℡@abs.gov.au
W: www.abs.gov.au

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----- Forwarded by /Staff/ABS on 10/09/2019 09:38 AM -----

From: /LTDACC/ABS
To: /Staff/ABS@ABS, /Staff/ABS@ABS
Date: 22/03/2019 08:58 AM
Subject: secondary jobs

Hi there

Article in the Australian today on secondary jobs. It says that the number of Australians working two jobs has jumped by 20 per cent over two years to more than one million...

I thought it was the number of secondary jobs has risen to more than one million.

The Australian reports that analysis of ABS data shows the number of people working secondary jobs rose by 174,300, from 846,600 to 1.02 million, in the two years to last December.

----- Forwarded by /Staff/ABS on 10/09/2019 09:38 AM -----

From: /LTDACC/ABS
To: /Staff/ABS@ABS, /Staff/ABS@ABS
Date: 22/03/2019 02:03 PM
Subject: Fw: Hi there
Hmmm. Well, yes... That is what I am saying....

:)
Hi there

The 2pm news round-up. Note the radio interviews with the ACTU claiming that a record number of Australians - more than one million - now have secondary jobs.

Cheers

ABS Media
Interview with the Australian Council of Trade Unions Secretary Sally McManus. Byner states they learned that more than one million Australians are now having multiple jobs to provide their needs, which is over 7% of all jobs in the economy. He says the count of secondary jobs has risen over 20% in the last couple of years. Byner notes the tweet of Channel 9's finance editor Ross Greenwood comparing companies making bricks in Australia and America. McManus states that their numbers are from the ABS statistics issued last week and from their own statistician as well. She says that there's a 20% increase over the past two years. McManus states that NDIS isn't hiring individuals permanently to do the additional works. She says that they don't want to be like America. McManus states that brick makers might be part of the problem on low wages and multiple jobs. She says that there many individuals in the US that aren't being given salaries within the minimum wage. McManus states that they've lost some of their industries due to the global economy. Byner says that McManus is supporting Federal Opposition leader Bill Shorten. McManus states that Labor has declared a new policy at their Party Conference in Adelaide last year. She notes building a railway in Africa. McManus says many nations such as Korea and Japan don't permit importation of labour. He states that he'll gather figures next week on who are paying the minimum salary.
The ACTU analysis of data from the ABS shows a record number of A

22 Mar 2019 10:02 AM • i98 FM, Wollongong (10:00 News) hosted by Newsreader

The ACTU analysis of data from the ABS shows a record number of Australians work a second job.
Brief: Australian Bureau of Statistics - Radio & TV • Duration: 0 mins 17 secs • Region: NSW • Market: Australia • Item ID: X00078274115 • Sentiment: Neutral

Keywords: ABS(1), data(1), job(1)

Audience: 10,300 (all people)

Demographics: 4,700 (male 16+) • 5,600 (female 16+)

A record number of Australians are working a second job according

22 Mar 2019 10:02 AM • 2CC, Canberra (10:00 News) hosted by Newsreader

A record number of Australians are working a second job according to ACTU analysis of ABS data.
Brief: Australian Bureau of Statistics - Radio & TV • Duration: 0 mins 20 secs • Region: ACT • Market: Australia • Item ID: X00078274201 • Sentiment: Neutral

Keywords: ABS(1), data(1), job(1)

Audience: 10,000 (all people)

Demographics: 4,000 (male 16+) • 5,000 (female 16+)

A record number of Australians are working at a second job, an AC
A record number of Australians are working at a second job, an ACTU analysis of ABS data shows.

The ACTU analysis of ABS data shows that the number of Australians having secondary jobs has increased more than 20% in the past two years.

Levingston says Bongaree local Max wanted to know yesterday why people seem to fall asleep on buses and trains these days. Scientist Karl Kruszelnicki explains why this phenomenon happens to people. He mentions people are working longer hours and not getting enough sleep. Levingston says workforce data from the ABS supports the fact that people are working harder to stay afloat. She says the number of people working two jobs has risen 20%, which means more than a million of people are juggling two jobs. She mentions the ACTU claimed the data coincides with the sustained period of flat wages growth.
Program Preview - Discussion about Australian having a second job

22 Mar 2019 08:33 AM • ABC Radio Brisbane, Brisbane (Mornings)
hosted by Rebecca Levingston

Program Preview - Discussion about Australian having a second job following recent ABS' figures out today shows in the last two years, the number of people working two jobs has risen 20%.
Brief: Australian Bureau of Statistics - Radio & TV • Duration: 0 mins 54 secs • Region: QLD • Market: Australia • Item ID: X00078273778 • Sentiment: Neutral

Keywords: ABS(1), figures(1), job(1), jobs(1), risen(1)

Audience: 30,000 (all people)

Demographics: 14,000 (male 16+) • 15,000 (female 16+)

A number of Australians are working on a second job, according to

22 Mar 2019 08:02 AM • 6PR, Perth (08:00 News)
hosted by Newsreader

A number of Australians are working on a second job, according to an ACTU analysis of Bureau of Statistics data. Most of them are working in call centres, tutoring, caring and other health care and social assistance jobs.
Brief: Australian Bureau of Statistics - Radio & TV • Duration: 0 mins 18 secs • Region: WA • Market: Australia • Item ID: X00078275068 • Sentiment: Negative

Keywords: Bureau of Statistics(1)

Audience: 44,000 (all people)

Demographics: 26,000 (male 16+) • 18,000 (female 16+)
Interview with Flinders University Business School's Professor John Spoehr. Mitsopoulos says the Bureau of Statistics has released data today that shows a 20% increase in the number of people working two jobs in the last two years. She notes this trend has coincided with a period of flat wages growth. Spoehr explains this trend is part of the medium-term pattern that has been unfolding in Australia for some time and is pronounced in WA. He notes many full-time jobs during the Global Financial Crisis while the jobs generated in the recovery period have been part-time and casual jobs. He mentions the labour under-utilisation rate for WA has risen from 8% to 15% since the GFC. Spoehr points out there are still many full-time jobs available, but they are in sectors like education. He notes job growth can be heavily influenced by policy. He remarks people working part-time can be under significant pressure due to flat wages and high costs of living. Spoehr notes people who work casual jobs will have minimal retirement incomes.

Keywords: Bureau of Statistics(1)

Interviewees: John Spoehr, professor, Flinders University Business School

Audience: 40,000 (all people)
According to the latest data from the Bureau of Statistics, the jobless rate has fallen into an eight-year low due to the massive spike in part-time jobs.

Brief: Australian Bureau of Statistics - Radio & TV • Duration: 0 mins 14 secs • Region: NSW • Market: Australia • Item ID: X00078271670 • Sentiment: Negative

Keywords: Bureau of Statistics(1)

Audience: 68,000 (all people)

Demographics: 34,000 (male 16+) • 33,000 (female 16+)

Unions say too many Australians are working multiple jobs just to pay the bills. The latest data from the Bureau of Statistics show the jobless rate fell to an eight-year low due to a massive spike in part-time jobs.

Brief: Australian Bureau of Statistics - Radio & TV • Duration: 0 mins 17 secs • Region: QLD • Market: Australia • Item ID:
X00078274032 • Sentiment: Negative

Keywords: Bureau of Statistics(1)

Audience: 30,000 (all people)

Demographics: 12,000 (male 16+) • 13,000 (female 16+)
Hi

Thanks for getting back. And you make a good point. There would probably not be a big difference, as you point out.

With the new Labour Account we were trying to ensure that people knew that we were measuring secondary jobs and not people. The number of people working more than two jobs is pretty low. Our Jobs in Australia data that we released for the first time last year showed that, in 2015-16, it was a relatively small fraction (around 3% of all employed people in a year, or around 19% of multiple job holders).

We are also working on adding the number of multiple job holders to the person quadrant of the Labour Account in the future, and will keep you in the loop on this. When we have done this you will have both person and job information to draw from.

Regards

ABS Media
Hi

We have not put a figure on the number of multiple job holders until we confront the information through the Labour Account person quadrant. The percent we referenced in the response if from the Jobs in Australia publication and should be used a guide, because it is a measure of the numbers of relationships over a year and not at a point in time that the Labour Accounts presents.

We hope we will be able to answer this question soon.

Director
Labour Market Statistics | Australian Bureau of Statistics

(P) (M) (E) @abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

Hi guys Thanks for this. I shall pass it on to...
Thanks for this. I shall pass it on to [ ]. He has made an assumption that a million secondary jobs equates to one million people because most would have one secondary job.

However, according to your figures below does it mean nearly 20 per cent of people with secondary jobs have more than two jobs? Would this mean that instead of a million people it would be more like 800,000?

(I readily admit that I could be making this up)

Cheers

ABS Media

We have drafted the below message in response to [ ]. Thanks [ ]

Hi [ ],

You're right that this isn't a big distinction, we're just doing our due diligence in ensuring everyone is aware that the data is describing jobs.

The number of people working more than two jobs is pretty low. Our Jobs in Australia data that we released for the first time last year showed that, in 2015-16, it was a relatively small fraction (around 3% of all employed people in a year, or around 19% of multiple job holders).

We are also working on adding the number of multiple job holders to the person quadrant of the Labour Account in the future, and will keep you in the loop on this. When we have done this you will have both person and job information to draw from.

Cheers,

<sig block>
22 - Duplicate