

**UNDEREMPLOYED WORKERS**

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) TUES 23 FEB 2010

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I N Q U I R I E S

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Labour Market Section on Canberra (02) 6252 7206.

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

Underemployed workers are defined as part-time workers who want, and are available for, more hours of work than they currently have, and full-time workers who worked part-time hours during the reference week for economic reasons (such as being stood down or insufficient work being available). The number of underemployed workers are an important component of underutilised labour resources in the economy, along with the number of unemployed and some people with marginal attachment to the labour force.

This publication presents information about the characteristics of underemployed workers aged 15 years and over. For time series information on the number of underemployed workers, users are advised to use the quarterly Labour Force Survey estimates. Trend and seasonally adjusted and original estimates are released monthly in *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0), tables 19 to 20.

The statistics in this publication were compiled from the Underemployed Workers Survey conducted throughout Australia in September 2009 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). A range of information is presented on underemployed workers including the number of hours usually worked, number of preferred hours, steps taken to find work with more hours and difficulties finding work with more hours.

NOTES ABOUT THE ESTIMATES

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) sample size in September 2009 was approximately 9% higher than the sample size in September 2008. This is due to re-instated sample that was cut from the LFS and supplementary surveys from July 2008. Detailed information about the sample reduction/re-instatement is provided in Information Paper: *Labour Force Survey Sample Design, Nov 2007 (Third edition)* (cat. no. 6269.0).

The re-instated sample will still be representative, with selections made across all parts of Australia.

ROUNDING

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

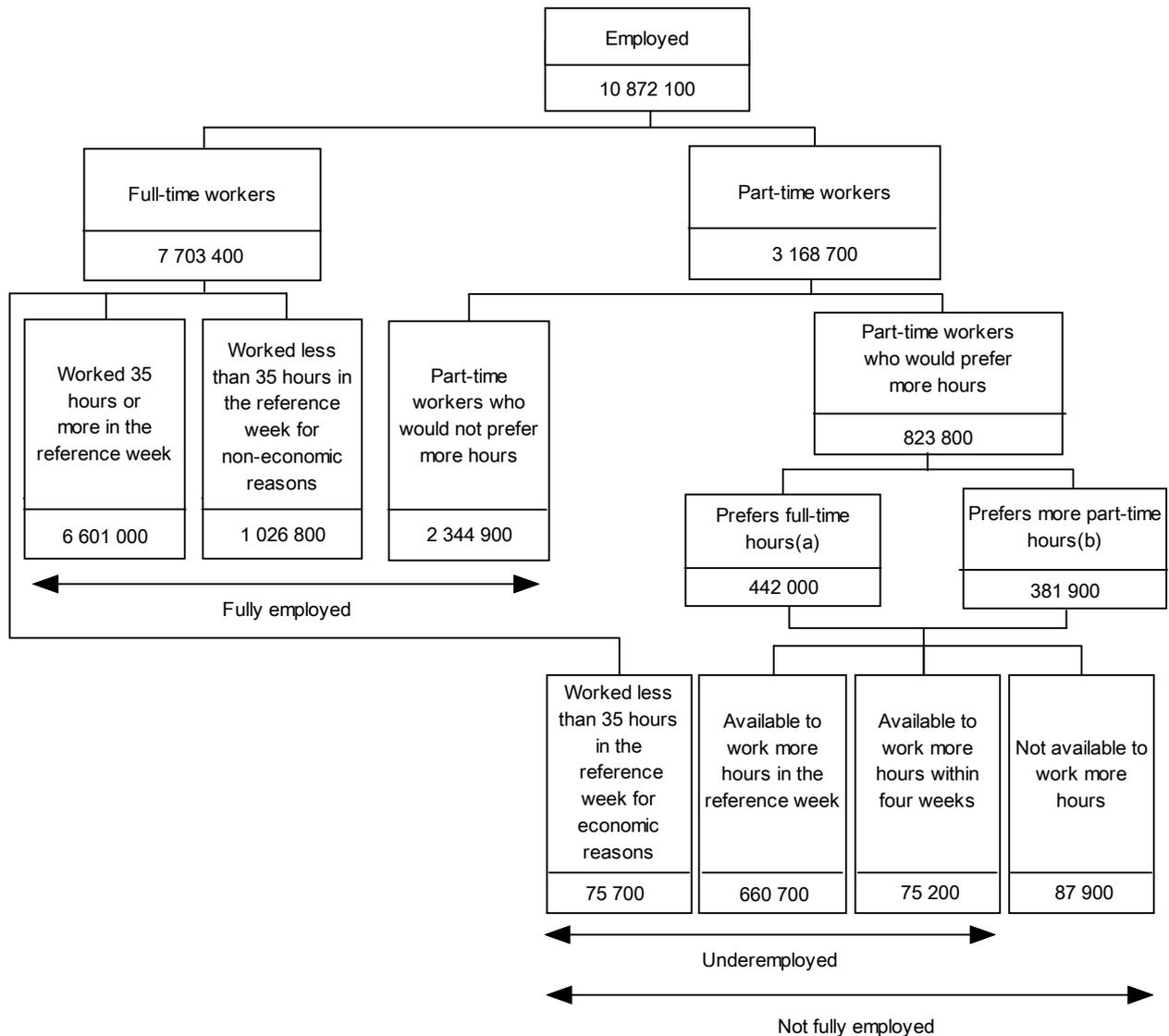
Trevor Sutton
Acting Australian Statistician

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The ABS conceptual framework for underemployment separates employed people into two mutually exclusive groups:

- workers who are considered to be fully employed, comprising:
 - employed people who worked full-time during the reference week (includes people who usually work part-time)
 - employed people who usually work full-time but worked part-time in the reference week for non-economic reasons (including illness or injury, leave, holiday or flextime, and personal reasons)
 - part-time workers (usually work part-time and did so in the reference week) who would not prefer additional hours of work.
- workers who are not fully employed, comprising:
 - part-time workers who would prefer to work more hours
 - full-time workers who worked part-time in the reference week for economic reasons (such as being stood down or insufficient work being available).



(a) Total number of hours preferred to work each week are 35 hours or more.

(b) Total number of hours preferred to work each week are between 1 to 34 hours.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK *continued*

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK *continued*

The conceptual framework further defines workers who are underemployed, comprising:

- part-time workers who would prefer to work more hours and were available to start work with more hours, either in the reference week or in the four weeks following the survey
- full-time workers who worked part-time hours in the reference week for economic reasons (such as being stood down or insufficient work being available).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

OVERVIEW

There were 10.9 million employed people aged 15 years and over in September 2009.

Of these:

- 10 million (92%) were fully employed
- 899,500 (8%) were not fully employed of whom 811,600 were underemployed.

Of the 811,600 underemployed workers:

- 735,900 usually worked part-time but would prefer more hours and were available to start work with more hours either in the reference week, or in the four weeks following the interview
- 75,700 usually worked full-time but worked part-time hours in the reference week due to economic reasons (being stood down, on short-time, or having insufficient work).

PART-TIME WORKERS WHO WOULD PREFER MORE HOURS

In September 2009, there were 3.2 million part-time workers (2.2 million women and 938,300 men). Of all part-time workers, 26% (823,800) would prefer to work more hours, compared to 23% in September 2008.

Of the 823,800 part-time workers who would prefer more hours:

- 32% were aged 15–24 years
- 54% would prefer to work full-time, compared with 51% in September 2008
- 735,900 were available for work with more hours (452,100 women and 283,800 men), of whom 49% were looking for work with more hours
- 87,900 were not available for work with more hours, of whom 13% were looking for work with more hours.

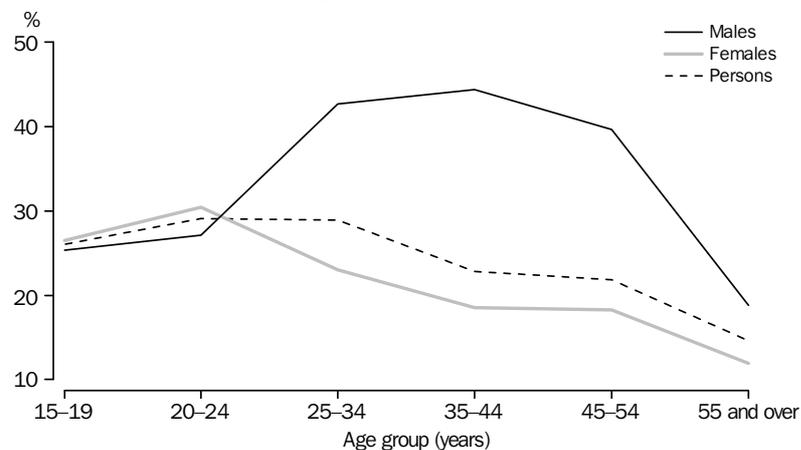
UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS

In September 2009, there were 735,900 underemployed part-time workers. These people comprise 91% of all underemployed workers.

Of the underemployed part-time workers:

- 61% were women
- 20% were aged 35–44 years and a further 18% were aged 25–34 years
- 61% reported they would not prefer to change employer to work more hours, 24% would prefer to change employer while the remaining 16% had no preference.

UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS AS A PROPORTION OF PART-TIME WORKERS, Age by sex



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS *continued*

Part-time workers aged 20–24 and 25–34 years had the highest incidence of underemployment, with 29% of part-time workers in both of these age groups underemployed. The proportion of part-time workers who were underemployed generally decreased with age.

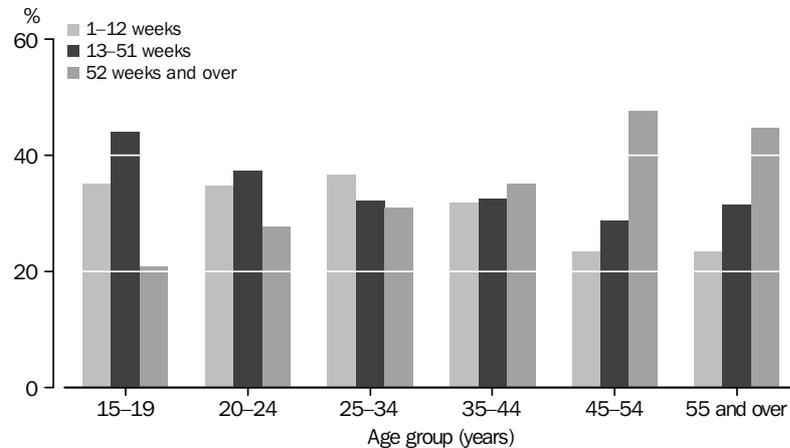
While there were more underemployed part-time women than men (452,100 compared with 283,800), the incidence of underemployment for part-time workers was higher for men (30%) than women (20%). This was the case in all age groups except for those aged 15–19 and 20–24 years. The largest percentage point difference was for those aged 35–44 years (44% for men and 18% for women) and 45–54 years (40% for men and 18% for women).

Underemployed part-time men were more likely to report that they would move intrastate if offered a suitable job (32%) than women (21%), whereas 23% of underemployed part-time men and 14% of women reported that they would move interstate if offered a suitable job.

There was a higher proportion of people who reported uncertainty about moving intrastate than interstate if offered a suitable job in September 2009 (12% of underemployed part-time workers might move or did not know if they would move intrastate, compared with 10% for interstate).

Duration of current period of insufficient work

UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS, Duration of current period of insufficient work by age



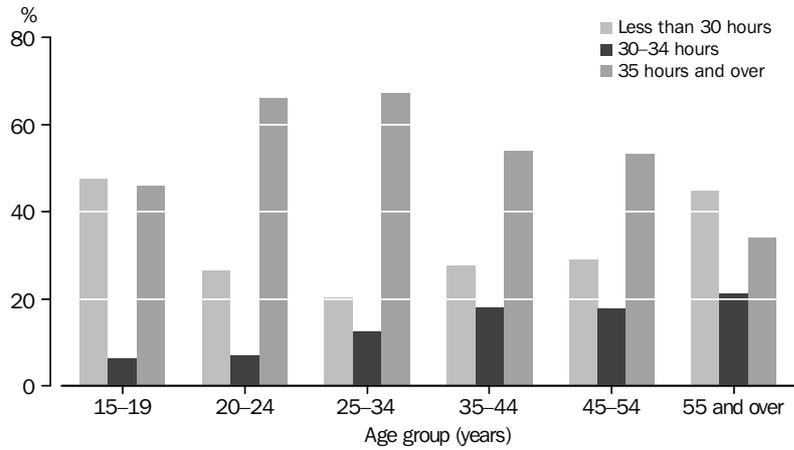
Older people generally had a longer duration of underemployment than younger people. For example, just over one fifth (21%) of 15–19 year old underemployed part-time workers had experienced insufficient work for one year or more. In contrast, 48% of those aged 45–54 years, and 45% of those aged 55 years and over had insufficient work for one year or more.

For those aged 45–54 years, the median duration of the current period of insufficient work was 39 weeks (34 weeks for men and 52 weeks for women) and for those aged 50 and over the median duration was 34 weeks. Overall, the median duration of the current period of insufficient work for underemployed part-time workers was 26 weeks.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Duration of current period of insufficient work continued

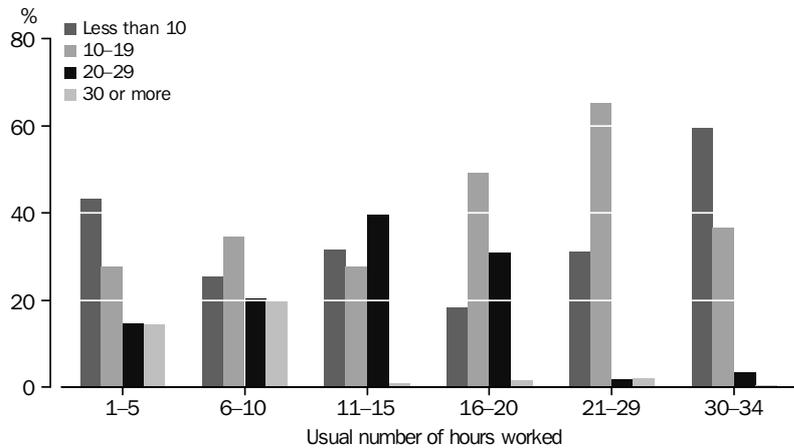
UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS, Preferred number of total hours by age



Over half (55%) of underemployed part-time workers would prefer to work a total of 35 hours or more per week. For those aged 20–24 years, 66% preferred to work a total of 35 hours or more per week, while for those aged 15–19 years, 48% preferred to work a total of less than 30 hours per week.

Preferred number of extra hours

UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS, Preferred number of extra hours by usual number of hours worked

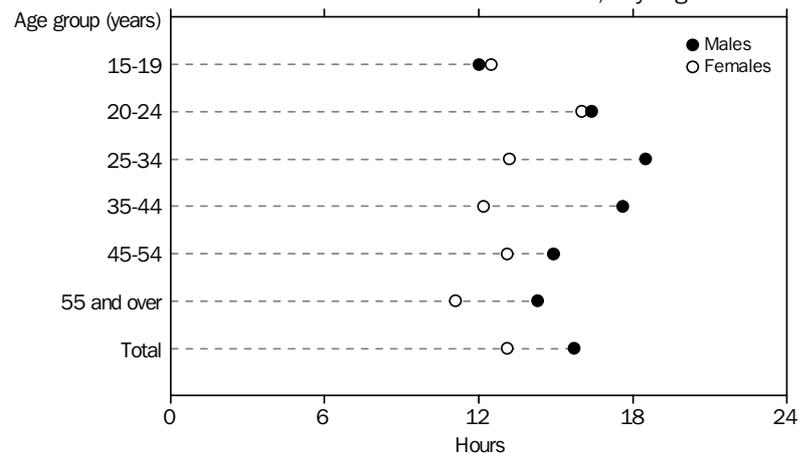


For underemployed part-time workers, the preferred number of extra hours varied with the number of hours they usually worked. For example, over half (57%) of those who usually worked 1–5 hours a week preferred 10 or more extra hours per week, whereas of those who worked 30–34 hours a week, 60% preferred to work less than 10 extra hours per week.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Preferred number of extra hours continued

MEAN PREFERRED NUMBER OF EXTRA HOURS, By age



The mean preferred number of extra hours per week for underemployed part-time workers was 14.1 hours, compared with 13.4 hours in September 2008.

The mean preferred number of extra hours was lowest for people aged 15–19 years (12.3 hours), and highest for those aged 20–24 years (16.2 hours). On average, men preferred to work an extra 15.7 hours per week compared with women who preferred to work an extra 13.1 hours per week.

Looking for work with more hours

Of the 735,900 underemployed part-time workers, around half (358,900) had looked for work with more hours at some time during the four weeks prior to the survey. Of the 452,100 underemployed part-time women, 45% were looking for work with more hours. By comparison, of the 283,800 underemployed part-time men, 57% were looking for work with more hours.

The most common step taken to find work with more hours by underemployed part-time workers was 'asked current employer for more work' (60%), followed by 'contacted prospective employers' (55%), 'searched Internet sites' and 'looked in newspapers' (both 50%).

The main difficulty in finding work with more hours most commonly reported by underemployed part-time workers was 'no vacancies in line of work' (21%), followed by 'no vacancies at all' (16%). The largest percentage point difference between men and women was for 'unsuitable hours' (5% of men and 9% of women).

Approximately 7% of underemployed part-time workers who had looked for work with more hours reported that they had 'no difficulties' in finding work with more hours, a decrease from 10% in 2008.

UNDEREMPLOYED
FULL-TIME WORKERS

There were 7.7 million full-time workers in September 2009, accounting for 71% of all employed people. Of those who usually worked full-time, 1.1 million people (14%) worked less than 35 hours in the reference week, with 75,700 (7%) of these people working less hours due to economic reasons.

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EMPLOYED PERSONS, Full-time or part-time status—By Sex—September 2006 to
September 2009

	2006	2007	2008(a)	2009
	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES				
Employed persons	5 630.2	5 777.8	5 886.4	5 915.5
Full-time workers	4 799.3	4 926.0	5 024.7	4 977.2
Worked 35 hours or more in the reference week	4 154.5	4 104.3	4 365.0	4 328.3
Worked less than 35 hours in the reference week	644.8	821.8	659.6	649.0
For non-economic reasons	595.0	786.6	618.5	585.1
For economic reasons	49.8	35.2	41.1	63.9
Part-time workers	830.9	851.8	861.8	938.3
Would not prefer to work more hours	610.6	648.8	621.2	627.8
Would prefer to work more hours	220.3	203.0	240.6	310.5
Prefers more part-time hours(b)	64.5	57.6	84.5	96.9
Prefers full-time hours(c)	155.9	145.4	156.1	213.6
FEMALES				
Employed persons	4 659.8	4 752.2	4 856.5	4 956.6
Full-time workers	2 587.5	2 628.4	2 715.4	2 726.2
Worked 35 hours or more in the reference week	2 176.1	2 100.2	2 275.7	2 272.7
Worked less than 35 hours in the reference week	411.4	528.3	439.7	453.5
For non-economic reasons	400.6	517.3	429.5	441.7
For economic reasons	10.8	11.0	10.2	11.8
Part-time workers	2 072.3	2 123.8	2 141.1	2 230.4
Would not prefer to work more hours	1 716.2	1 754.9	1 694.0	1 717.0
Would prefer to work more hours	356.1	368.9	447.1	513.4
Prefers more part-time hours(b)	184.6	186.0	254.0	285.0
Prefers full-time hours(c)	171.4	182.9	193.1	228.3
PERSONS				
Employed persons	10 290.0	10 530.0	10 742.9	10 872.1
Full-time workers	7 386.8	7 554.5	7 740.1	7 703.4
Worked 35 hours or more in the reference week	6 330.6	6 204.4	6 640.7	6 601.0
Worked less than 35 hours in the reference week	1 056.2	1 350.1	1 099.4	1 102.4
For non-economic reasons	995.6	1 303.9	1 048.0	1 026.8
For economic reasons	60.6	46.2	51.3	75.7
Part-time workers	2 903.2	2 975.6	3 002.9	3 168.7
Would not prefer to work more hours	2 326.8	2 403.7	2 315.2	2 344.9
Would prefer to work more hours	576.4	571.9	687.7	823.8
Prefers more part-time hours(b)	249.1	243.6	338.5	381.9
Prefers full-time hours(c)	327.3	328.3	349.2	442.0

(a) From September 2008 there is a break in series. See paragraphs 16-17 of the Explanatory Notes for more information on the comparability of time series.

(b) Total number of hours preferred to work each week are between 1 to 34 hours.

(c) Total number of hours preferred to work each week are 35 hours or more.

PART-TIME WORKERS WHO WOULD PREFER MORE HOURS, Whether available and/or looking—By sex—September 2006 to September 2009

	2006	2007	2008(a)	2009
	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES				
Available to start work with more hours(b)	186.5	171.8	213.9	283.8
Available in the reference week	150.7	135.5	191.0	259.9
Looking	101.4	88.4	98.2	147.9
Not looking	49.3	47.1	92.8	112.0
Available within four weeks(c)	35.8	36.3	22.9	23.9
Looking	15.5	15.7	6.8	8.1
Not looking	20.2	20.6	16.1	15.8
Not available to start work with more hours(d)	33.8	31.2	26.6	26.7
Looking	*4.9	*4.7	*3.0	*4.9
Not looking	28.9	26.5	23.6	21.8
Total	220.3	203.0	240.6	310.5
FEMALES				
Available to start work with more hours(b)	297.4	300.3	389.8	452.1
Available in the reference week	219.0	212.9	334.0	400.9
Looking	122.9	122.0	151.5	187.0
Not looking	96.0	90.9	182.5	213.9
Available within four weeks(c)	78.5	87.4	55.8	51.2
Looking	34.7	38.9	15.2	16.0
Not looking	43.8	48.6	40.6	35.3
Not available to start work with more hours(d)	58.6	68.5	57.3	61.3
Looking	5.9	7.9	*6.1	*6.6
Not looking	52.8	60.6	51.2	54.7
Total	356.1	368.9	447.1	513.4
PERSONS				
Available to start work with more hours(b)	483.9	472.2	603.7	735.9
Available in the reference week	369.7	348.4	525.0	660.7
Looking	224.4	210.4	249.7	334.9
Not looking	145.3	138.0	275.3	325.9
Available within four weeks(c)	114.2	123.7	78.8	75.2
Looking	50.2	54.5	22.0	24.1
Not looking	64.0	69.2	56.7	51.1
Not available to start work with more hours(d)	92.5	99.7	83.9	87.9
Looking	10.8	12.6	9.1	11.4
Not looking	81.7	87.2	74.8	76.5
Total	576.4	571.9	687.7	823.8

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) From September 2008 there is a break in series. See paragraphs 16-17 of the Explanatory Notes for more information on the comparability of time series.

(b) Underemployed part-time workers.

(c) Available within four weeks but not in the reference week.

(d) Availability refers to 'in the reference week or within four weeks'.

AVAILABLE IN THE REFERENCE
WEEK OR WITHIN FOUR WEEKS (a)

Available and looking	Available and not looking	Total
'000	'000	'000

Not available in the reference week or within four weeks	Total
'000	'000

MALES

	Available and looking	Available and not looking	Total	Not available in the reference week or within four weeks	Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Age group (years)					
15–19	24.3	26.4	50.7	*4.9	55.5
20–24	26.6	17.6	44.1	*3.3	47.4
25–34	40.5	19.1	59.7	*7.2	66.9
35–44	27.1	21.1	48.1	*4.0	52.2
45–54	18.9	18.3	37.3	*2.8	40.0
55 and over	18.6	25.3	43.9	*4.5	48.4
Relationship in household					
Family member	124.3	99.0	223.3	22.9	246.2
Husband, wife or partner	66.4	51.6	118.0	11.3	129.3
Lone parent	*4.4	*2.6	*7.0	**1.5	*8.5
Dependent student	13.9	19.1	33.0	*4.8	37.8
Non-dependent child	32.7	21.6	54.2	*4.5	58.8
Other family person	*6.8	*4.2	11.0	**0.8	11.8
Non-family member	28.3	27.2	55.5	*3.8	59.3
Relationship not determined	*3.4	**1.6	*5.0	—	*5.0
Level of highest educational attainment (b)					
Bachelor degree or higher	34.9	21.3	56.2	*4.4	60.6
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	10.6	8.8	19.4	**2.1	21.4
Certificate (c)	25.4	18.2	43.6	*3.9	47.5
Year 12	32.4	33.1	65.4	*6.7	72.1
Year 11	11.8	11.2	23.0	*2.8	25.8
Year 10 or below	38.6	32.7	71.3	*6.3	77.5
Status in employment (d)					
Employees	123.2	99.4	222.6	23.9	246.5
Own account workers	31.0	25.6	56.6	**2.3	58.8
Preferred total number of hours					
Less than 30 hours	22.9	36.8	59.7	*8.1	67.8
30–34	12.5	15.2	27.7	**1.3	29.0
35–39	51.3	34.1	85.3	8.8	94.1
40 or more	69.3	41.8	111.1	*8.5	119.5
Preferred number of extra hours					
Less than 10 hours	31.7	40.1	71.8	9.5	81.3
10–19	58.4	61.5	119.9	9.3	129.2
20–29	47.2	19.7	66.9	*7.3	74.2
30 or more	18.7	*6.6	25.3	**0.6	25.8
Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours					
Would prefer to change employer	52.2	22.8	75.0	*7.2	82.2
Would prefer not to change employer	71.5	93.4	164.9	15.1	179.9
No preference	32.2	11.7	43.9	*4.4	48.3
Total	155.9	127.9	283.8	26.7	310.5

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Underemployed part-time workers.

(b) Excludes 'No educational attainment', 'Level not determined' and 'Other education'.

(c) Includes 'Certificate I, II, III, IV' and 'Certificate not further defined'.

(d) Excludes 'Employers' and 'Contributing family workers'.

PART-TIME WORKERS WHO WOULD PREFER MORE HOURS, Whether available and/or looking—By selected characteristics—By sex *continued*

	AVAILABLE IN THE REFERENCE WEEK OR WITHIN FOUR WEEKS (a)			Not available in the reference week or within four weeks	
	Available and looking	Available and not looking	Total		Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
FEMALES					
Age group (years)					
15-19	36.4	36.9	73.3	*4.1	77.4
20-24	41.9	30.4	72.3	11.2	83.5
25-34	35.6	39.3	74.9	13.5	88.4
35-44	43.0	56.4	99.4	20.4	119.8
45-54	36.4	51.3	87.7	10.2	97.9
55 and over	9.6	34.9	44.5	**1.9	46.4
Relationship in household					
Family member	175.4	221.8	397.2	55.5	452.8
Husband, wife or partner	90.1	129.1	219.3	36.0	255.2
Lone parent	23.1	28.0	51.1	9.4	60.5
Dependent student	21.0	28.0	49.0	*7.5	56.5
Non-dependent child	38.1	28.5	66.6	**1.6	68.2
Other family person	*3.1	*8.1	11.3	**1.1	12.4
Non-family member	26.0	25.8	51.8	*5.2	57.0
Relationship not determined	**1.5	**1.5	*3.1	**0.5	*3.6
Level of highest educational attainment (b)					
Bachelor degree or higher	37.1	44.5	81.5	15.7	97.3
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	22.5	22.6	45.1	10.0	55.1
Certificate (c)	32.9	37.6	70.5	*4.3	74.8
Year 12	54.6	51.0	105.6	14.3	120.0
Year 11	14.3	21.0	35.3	*4.9	40.3
Year 10 or below	39.1	69.4	108.6	11.6	120.1
Status in employment (d)					
Employees	179.3	227.7	407.0	52.1	459.1
Own account workers	21.1	21.0	42.1	*7.2	49.3
Preferred total number of hours					
Less than 30 hours	66.2	108.2	174.4	29.7	204.1
30-34	29.6	43.3	72.9	*8.0	80.9
35-39	62.3	62.4	124.6	16.8	141.4
40 or more	45.0	35.2	80.2	*6.7	86.9
Preferred number of extra hours					
Less than 10 hours	56.5	110.3	166.8	24.5	191.3
10-19	85.7	106.0	191.8	24.1	215.9
20-29	44.6	29.6	74.3	9.6	83.9
30 or more	16.1	*3.1	19.2	*3.1	22.3
Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours					
Would prefer to change employer	61.2	37.5	98.6	17.0	115.6
Would prefer not to change employer	101.1	180.2	281.3	38.2	319.5
No preference	40.7	31.4	72.1	*6.1	78.2
Total	203.0	249.1	452.1	61.3	513.4

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Underemployed part-time workers.

(b) Excludes 'No educational attainment', 'Level not determined' and 'Other education'.

(c) Includes 'Certificate I, II, III, IV' and 'Certificate not further defined'.

(d) Excludes 'Employers' and 'Contributing family workers'.

PART-TIME WORKERS WHO WOULD PREFER MORE HOURS, Whether available and/or looking—By selected characteristics—By sex *continued*

	AVAILABLE IN THE REFERENCE WEEK OR WITHIN FOUR WEEKS (a)			Not available in the reference week or within four weeks	
	Available and looking	Available and not looking	Total		Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
PERSONS					
Age group (years)					
15-19	60.7	63.3	124.0	9.0	132.9
20-24	68.5	47.9	116.4	14.5	130.9
25-34	76.1	58.4	134.6	20.7	155.3
35-44	70.1	77.5	147.6	24.4	172.0
45-54	55.3	69.6	125.0	13.0	138.0
55 and over	28.2	60.2	88.4	*6.3	94.8
Relationship in household					
Family member	299.7	320.8	620.5	78.4	698.9
Husband, wife or partner	156.6	180.7	337.3	47.2	384.5
Lone parent	27.5	30.6	58.1	10.9	69.0
Dependent student	34.9	47.1	82.0	12.2	94.2
Non-dependent child	70.7	50.1	120.9	*6.1	127.0
Other family person	10.0	12.3	22.2	**1.9	24.2
Non-family member	54.3	53.0	107.3	9.0	116.3
Relationship not determined	*4.9	*3.2	*8.1	**0.5	*8.6
Level of highest educational attainment (b)					
Bachelor degree or higher	72.0	65.7	137.7	20.1	157.8
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	33.1	31.4	64.5	12.1	76.6
Certificate (c)	58.3	55.8	114.0	*8.3	122.3
Year 12	87.0	84.0	171.1	21.0	192.1
Year 11	26.2	32.2	58.4	*7.7	66.1
Year 10 or below	77.8	102.1	179.8	17.8	197.7
Status in employment (d)					
Employees	302.5	327.1	629.5	76.0	705.6
Own account workers	52.0	46.6	98.6	9.5	108.1
Preferred total number of hours					
Less than 30 hours	89.1	145.0	234.1	37.8	271.9
30-34	42.0	58.6	100.6	9.4	110.0
35-39	113.5	96.4	209.9	25.5	235.5
40 or more	114.3	77.0	191.3	15.2	206.5
Preferred number of extra hours					
Less than 10 hours	88.2	150.4	238.6	34.0	272.6
10-19	144.1	167.5	311.7	33.4	345.1
20-29	91.8	49.4	141.2	16.9	158.0
30 or more	34.8	9.7	44.5	*3.6	48.1
Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours					
Would prefer to change employer	113.4	60.2	173.7	24.2	197.9
Would prefer not to change employer	172.6	273.6	446.2	53.2	499.5
No preference	72.9	43.1	116.0	10.5	126.5
Total	358.9	377.0	735.9	87.9	823.8

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Underemployed part-time workers.

(b) Excludes 'No educational attainment', 'Level not determined' and 'Other education'.

(c) Includes 'Certificate I, II, III, IV' and 'Certificate not further defined'.

(d) Excludes 'Employers' and 'Contributing family workers'.

UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS, Duration of current period of insufficient work—By selected characteristics—By sex

	DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF INSUFFICIENT WORK (WEEKS)					
	1–12	13–51	52 and over	Total	Mean duration	Median duration
	'000	'000	'000	'000	weeks	weeks
MALES						
Age group (years)						
15–19	15.1	23.6	12.1	50.7	35.5	26.0
20–24	14.0	17.7	12.4	44.1	36.9	20.0
25–34	19.9	18.1	21.6	59.7	63.9	26.0
35–44	15.8	13.3	19.0	48.1	72.5	26.0
45–54	*8.5	13.6	15.1	37.3	75.2	34.0
55 and over	10.0	16.3	17.6	43.9	70.3	28.0
Relationship in household						
Family member	58.5	85.1	79.6	223.3	61.9	28.0
Husband, wife or partner	32.4	41.7	43.9	118.0	64.4	28.0
Lone parent	*3.4	**1.5	**2.1	*7.0	84.7	15.0
Dependent student	*8.0	15.9	9.1	33.0	39.4	26.0
Non-dependent child	11.0	22.0	21.3	54.2	68.5	35.0
Other family person	*3.7	*4.1	*3.2	11.0	54.3	30.0
Non-family member	21.4	16.7	17.5	55.5	48.5	20.0
Relationship not determined	*3.4	**0.9	**0.7	*5.0	21.5	8.0
Level of highest educational attainment(a)						
Bachelor degree or higher	16.0	21.1	19.0	56.2	65.5	30.0
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	*5.1	*6.9	*7.4	19.4	62.0	40.0
Certificate(b)	12.4	14.9	16.2	43.6	59.7	26.0
Year 12	20.1	24.3	21.0	65.4	51.0	26.0
Year 11	*4.8	10.9	*7.4	23.0	60.0	30.0
Year 10 or below	23.2	21.3	26.8	71.3	60.7	26.0
Status in employment(c)						
Employees	65.3	80.7	76.6	222.6	59.5	26.0
Own account workers	15.3	21.1	20.2	56.6	57.7	26.0
Preferred total number of hours						
Less than 30 hours	16.3	24.2	19.2	59.7	58.8	30.0
30–34	*7.9	*7.5	12.3	27.7	62.5	26.0
35–39	27.9	25.9	31.5	85.3	69.6	30.0
40 or more	31.1	45.1	34.9	111.1	48.9	26.0
Preferred number of extra hours						
Less than 10 hours	21.6	25.1	25.1	71.8	60.8	26.0
10–19	35.8	41.1	42.9	119.9	64.2	26.0
20–29	19.9	25.5	21.5	66.9	48.8	26.0
30 or more	*6.0	11.0	*8.3	25.3	50.7	25.0
Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours						
Would prefer to change employer	24.8	23.5	26.7	75.0	49.0	26.0
Would prefer not to change employer	46.1	63.1	55.6	164.9	60.9	26.0
No preference	12.5	16.0	15.5	43.9	66.1	26.0
<i>Total</i>	83.3	102.6	97.8	283.8	58.5	26.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Excludes 'No educational attainment', 'Level not determined' and 'Other education'.

(b) Includes 'Certificate I, II, III, IV' and 'Certificate not further defined'.

(c) Excludes 'Employers' and 'Contributing family workers'.

UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS, Duration of current period of insufficient work—By selected characteristics—By sex *continued*

	DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF INSUFFICIENT WORK (WEEKS)					
	1-12	13-51	52 and over	Total	Mean duration	Median duration
	'000	'000	'000	'000	weeks	weeks
FEMALES						
Age group (years)						
15-19	28.4	31.1	13.8	73.3	28.4	21.0
20-24	26.5	25.8	20.0	72.3	45.3	26.0
25-34	29.4	25.4	20.1	74.9	44.4	24.0
35-44	31.4	35.0	33.1	99.4	65.9	26.0
45-54	20.9	22.4	44.4	87.7	96.9	52.0
55 and over	10.8	11.7	22.1	44.5	99.7	50.0
Relationship in household						
Family member	127.5	132.1	137.6	397.2	62.8	26.0
Husband, wife or partner	65.8	66.8	86.7	219.3	74.3	26.0
Lone parent	15.8	15.2	20.1	51.1	69.8	26.0
Dependent student	22.6	15.8	10.6	49.0	29.0	13.0
Non-dependent child	20.0	28.5	18.1	66.6	48.2	26.0
Other family person	*3.3	*5.9	**2.1	11.3	40.7	20.0
Non-family member	17.5	18.4	15.9	51.8	61.6	26.0
Relationship not determined	*2.4	**0.6	**0.1	*3.1	13.8	6.0
Level of highest educational attainment(a)						
Bachelor degree or higher	24.1	32.4	25.1	81.5	61.2	24.0
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	17.8	12.6	14.8	45.1	74.7	26.0
Certificate(b)	19.8	25.8	24.8	70.5	62.4	26.0
Year 12	38.1	36.4	31.1	105.6	48.3	26.0
Year 11	11.9	12.4	11.0	35.3	47.1	26.0
Year 10 or below	34.0	30.4	44.1	108.6	74.3	26.0
Status in employment(c)						
Employees	137.5	132.6	136.9	407.0	60.1	26.0
Own account workers	9.4	17.4	15.3	42.1	82.5	32.0
Preferred total number of hours						
Less than 30 hours	57.3	60.6	56.5	174.4	62.8	26.0
30-34	21.9	27.0	24.0	72.9	57.8	26.0
35-39	41.4	39.6	43.6	124.6	68.4	26.0
40 or more	26.7	24.0	29.5	80.2	55.9	26.0
Preferred number of extra hours						
Less than 10 hours	52.6	54.3	60.0	166.8	63.8	26.0
10-19	58.4	68.3	65.0	191.8	65.2	26.0
20-29	27.4	23.4	23.5	74.3	58.2	26.0
30 or more	8.9	*5.3	*5.1	19.2	36.2	13.0
Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours						
Would prefer to change employer	30.5	32.8	35.4	98.6	53.1	26.0
Would prefer not to change employer	94.2	92.0	95.1	281.3	66.3	26.0
No preference	22.6	26.4	23.0	72.1	59.4	26.0
<i>Total</i>	147.3	151.2	153.6	452.1	62.3	26.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Excludes 'No educational attainment', 'Level not determined' and 'Other education'.

(b) Includes 'Certificate I, II, III, IV' and 'Certificate not further defined'.

(c) Excludes 'Employers' and 'Contributing family workers'.

UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS, Duration of current period of insufficient work—By selected characteristics—By sex *continued*

	DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF INSUFFICIENT WORK (WEEKS)					
	1-12	13-51	52 and over	Total	Mean duration	Median duration
	'000	'000	'000	'000	weeks	weeks
PERSONS						
Age group (years)						
15-19	43.5	54.6	25.9	124.0	31.3	26.0
20-24	40.5	43.5	32.4	116.4	42.1	26.0
25-34	49.3	43.5	41.7	134.6	53.0	26.0
35-44	47.1	48.3	52.1	147.6	68.1	26.0
45-54	29.4	36.0	59.6	125.0	90.4	39.0
55 and over	20.8	27.9	39.7	88.4	85.1	34.0
Relationship in household						
Family member	186.0	217.2	217.3	620.5	62.5	26.0
Husband, wife or partner	98.2	108.5	130.6	337.3	70.8	26.0
Lone parent	19.3	16.7	22.2	58.1	71.6	26.0
Dependent student	30.6	31.7	19.8	82.0	33.2	25.0
Non-dependent child	31.0	50.4	39.4	120.9	57.3	30.0
Other family person	*6.9	10.0	*5.3	22.2	47.4	26.0
Non-family member	38.9	35.1	33.3	107.3	54.8	21.0
Relationship not determined	*5.8	**1.5	**0.8	*8.1	18.6	6.0
Level of highest educational attainment(a)						
Bachelor degree or higher	40.1	53.5	44.2	137.7	62.9	26.0
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	22.9	19.4	22.2	64.5	70.9	26.0
Certificate(b)	32.3	40.7	41.1	114.0	61.4	26.0
Year 12	58.2	60.7	52.1	171.1	49.4	26.0
Year 11	16.7	23.3	18.4	58.4	52.2	26.0
Year 10 or below	57.2	51.7	70.9	179.8	68.9	26.0
Status in employment(c)						
Employees	202.9	213.2	213.4	629.5	59.9	26.0
Own account workers	24.6	38.5	35.5	98.6	68.3	26.0
Preferred total number of hours						
Less than 30 hours	73.6	84.8	75.6	234.1	61.8	26.0
30-34	29.8	34.4	36.3	100.6	59.1	26.0
35-39	69.4	65.5	75.1	209.9	68.9	26.0
40 or more	57.8	69.1	64.4	191.3	51.8	26.0
Preferred number of extra hours						
Less than 10 hours	74.2	79.3	85.1	238.6	62.9	26.0
10-19	94.3	109.4	108.0	311.7	64.8	26.0
20-29	47.4	48.8	45.0	141.2	53.8	26.0
30 or more	14.9	16.2	13.4	44.5	44.4	21.0
Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours						
Would prefer to change employer	55.2	56.3	62.1	173.7	51.3	26.0
Would prefer not to change employer	140.3	155.1	150.8	446.2	64.3	26.0
No preference	35.1	42.4	38.5	116.0	61.9	26.0
Total	230.7	253.8	251.4	735.9	60.9	26.0

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Excludes 'No educational attainment', 'Level not determined' and 'Other education'.

(b) Includes 'Certificate I, II, III, IV' and 'Certificate not further defined'.

(c) Excludes 'Employers' and 'Contributing family workers'.

UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS, Preferred number of extra hours—By selected characteristics—By sex

	Less than 10 hours	10-19	20 or more	Total	Mean preferred number of extra hours
	'000	'000	'000	'000	hours
MALES					
Age group (years)					
15-19	25.7	15.8	9.2	50.7	12.0
20-24	10.9	19.8	13.5	44.1	16.4
25-34	*6.4	25.1	28.2	59.7	18.5
35-44	*8.3	18.7	21.1	48.1	17.6
45-54	8.8	19.5	9.0	37.3	14.9
55 and over	11.8	20.9	11.2	43.9	14.3
Status in employment(a)					
Employees	56.0	95.3	71.2	222.6	15.7
Own account workers	15.2	21.7	19.7	56.6	15.6
Hours usually worked					
1-5	14.6	*5.6	11.0	31.2	15.3
6-10	*8.6	12.6	24.6	45.7	20.3
11-15	10.1	*6.1	19.2	35.4	17.3
16-20	*3.1	31.8	30.1	65.0	18.2
21-29	*8.6	43.1	*4.1	55.9	13.9
30-34	26.8	20.7	*3.2	50.7	9.4
Whether would move interstate if offered a suitable job					
Would move interstate	10.8	27.8	26.7	65.3	17.9
Would not move interstate	54.5	72.7	53.1	180.4	14.7
Might move interstate	*4.3	11.9	8.7	24.9	17.0
Did not know	**2.1	*7.4	*3.7	13.2	16.2
Whether would move intrastate if offered a suitable job					
Would move intrastate	14.8	38.3	37.9	91.0	18.1
Would not move intrastate	50.2	63.3	42.9	156.4	14.3
Might move intrastate	*4.4	14.8	*8.4	27.6	16.2
Did not know	**2.3	*3.5	*2.9	8.8	15.3
Total	71.8	119.9	92.2	283.8	15.7

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Excludes 'Employers' and 'Contributing family workers'.

	Less than 10 hours	10-19	20 or more	Total	Mean preferred number of extra hours
	'000	'000	'000	'000	hours
FEMALES					
Age group (years)					
15-19	30.9	28.9	13.5	73.3	12.5
20-24	19.4	25.2	27.6	72.3	16.0
25-34	24.1	34.4	16.3	74.9	13.2
35-44	36.2	48.0	15.1	99.4	12.2
45-54	36.1	35.5	16.1	87.7	13.1
55 and over	20.0	19.7	*4.8	44.5	11.1
Status in employment(a)					
Employees	155.4	168.5	83.1	407.0	12.9
Own account workers	10.0	22.2	9.8	42.1	14.5
Hours usually worked					
1-5	19.5	16.1	11.8	47.5	14.3
6-10	25.3	33.5	28.8	87.6	15.8
11-15	28.0	27.5	29.9	85.4	14.5
16-20	25.5	45.7	21.1	92.4	13.3
21-29	38.2	54.5	**1.3	94.1	10.9
30-34	30.3	14.4	**0.5	45.2	7.9
Whether would move interstate if offered a suitable job					
Would move interstate	12.0	29.5	23.8	65.2	16.1
Would not move interstate	147.1	145.2	60.0	352.3	12.3
Might move interstate	*5.0	12.7	*7.0	24.7	15.6
Did not know	*2.7	*4.4	*2.8	9.9	15.2
Whether would move intrastate if offered a suitable job					
Would move intrastate	20.5	40.9	33.0	94.5	15.8
Would not move intrastate	133.5	127.8	45.2	306.4	11.8
Might move intrastate	9.3	18.3	13.3	40.8	16.4
Did not know	*3.5	*4.8	**2.0	10.4	13.0
<i>Total</i>	166.8	191.8	93.5	452.1	13.1

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

(a) Excludes 'Employers' and 'Contributing family workers'.

UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS, Preferred number of extra hours—By selected characteristics—By sex *continued*

	Less than 10 hours	10-19	20 or more	Total	Mean preferred number of extra hours
	'000	'000	'000	'000	hours
PERSONS					
Age group (years)					
15-19	56.6	44.7	22.7	124.0	12.3
20-24	30.3	45.0	41.1	116.4	16.2
25-34	30.5	59.5	44.5	134.6	15.5
35-44	44.5	66.8	36.3	147.6	14.0
45-54	44.9	55.0	25.0	125.0	13.6
55 and over	31.8	40.6	16.1	88.4	12.7
Status in employment(a)					
Employees	211.4	263.8	154.3	629.5	13.9
Own account workers	25.2	43.9	29.5	98.6	15.1
Hours usually worked					
1-5	34.1	21.7	22.8	78.6	14.7
6-10	33.9	46.0	53.4	133.3	17.3
11-15	38.1	33.6	49.1	120.8	15.3
16-20	28.6	77.5	51.3	157.3	15.4
21-29	46.9	97.7	*5.4	150.0	12.0
30-34	57.1	35.1	*3.7	95.8	8.7
Whether would move interstate if offered a suitable job					
Would move interstate	22.7	57.3	50.5	130.5	17.0
Would not move interstate	201.7	217.9	113.1	532.6	13.1
Might move interstate	9.4	24.6	15.7	49.6	16.3
Did not know	*4.9	11.8	*6.4	23.1	15.8
Whether would move intrastate if offered a suitable job					
Would move intrastate	35.3	79.2	70.9	185.4	16.9
Would not move intrastate	183.7	191.1	88.1	462.9	12.6
Might move intrastate	13.7	33.1	21.7	68.5	16.3
Did not know	*5.9	*8.3	*4.9	19.1	14.1
Total	238.6	311.7	185.7	735.9	14.1

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Excludes 'Employers' and 'Contributing family workers'.

UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS, Main difficulty in finding work with more hours—By sex

<i>Main difficulty in finding work with more hours</i>				MEAN PREFERRED NUMBER OF EXTRA HOURS		
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
	'000	'000	'000	hours	hours	hours
Had been looking for work with more hours	155.9	203.0	358.9	17.7	15.2	16.3
Own ill health or disability	*4.9	*5.1	10.1	18.2	15.8	17.0
Considered too old by employers	*5.7	*6.7	12.5	15.6	14.9	15.2
Unsuitable hours	*7.7	17.8	25.4	9.9	13.3	12.3
Too far to travel/transport problems	*3.9	*5.0	8.9	17.7	15.1	16.2
Lacked necessary skills or education	10.0	9.7	19.7	21.7	16.8	19.3
Language difficulties	**1.1	**1.2	**2.3	18.6	19.6	19.1
Insufficient work experience	8.9	10.9	19.9	16.2	18.4	17.4
No vacancies in line of work	38.7	38.0	76.8	18.7	14.8	16.7
Too many applicants for available jobs	16.1	17.8	33.9	19.9	15.7	17.7
No vacancies at all	27.2	29.7	56.9	19.8	17.0	18.3
Difficulties in finding child care	—	*5.6	*5.6	—	17.4	17.4
Other family responsibilities	*2.7	10.2	12.9	14.8	13.4	13.7
Other difficulties(a)	20.5	28.6	49.1	15.5	13.7	14.4
No difficulties reported	*8.5	16.5	25.0	13.4	13.9	13.7
Had not been looking for work with more hours	127.9	249.1	377.0	13.3	11.3	12.0
Total	283.8	452.1	735.9	15.7	13.1	14.1

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes 'Considered too young by employers' and 'Difficulties with ethnic background'.

UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS, Preferred number of extra hours—By all steps taken to find work in the last 4 weeks—By sex

All steps taken to find work with more hours(a)	Less than 10 hours	10–19	20 or more	Total	Mean preferred number of extra hours
	'000	'000	'000	'000	hours
MALES					
Had been looking for work with more hours	31.7	58.4	65.9	155.9	17.7
Asked current employer for more work	17.4	29.9	39.2	86.5	17.8
Contacted prospective employers	14.1	30.7	44.1	88.8	19.2
Registered with Centrelink	*5.0	9.4	17.7	32.1	19.5
Checked Centrelink touchscreens	—	**2.1	*6.7	8.8	24.0
Contacted an employment agency	**1.5	9.0	17.5	28.0	20.9
Looked in newspapers	10.8	30.5	43.0	84.2	19.8
Searched Internet sites	10.4	30.5	39.1	80.0	19.3
Answered a newspaper advertisement for a job	*2.5	12.2	20.4	35.1	20.6
Advertised or tendered for work	**2.3	*6.2	*8.3	16.8	19.0
Contacted friends or relatives	*7.6	21.0	23.3	51.8	18.8
Other steps taken to find work(b)	*5.7	10.1	*7.8	23.6	15.4
Had not been looking for work with more hours	40.1	61.5	26.3	127.9	13.3
Total	71.8	119.9	92.2	283.8	15.7
FEMALES					
Had been looking for work with more hours	56.5	85.7	60.7	203.0	15.2
Asked current employer for more work	35.2	52.8	40.4	128.4	15.2
Contacted prospective employers	24.5	46.0	39.5	110.0	16.9
Registered with Centrelink	*6.6	11.8	10.9	29.2	17.1
Checked Centrelink touchscreens	**1.8	*3.1	*5.1	9.9	20.0
Contacted an employment agency	*6.0	*8.1	9.6	23.6	17.7
Looked in newspapers	20.3	40.2	34.3	94.7	16.6
Searched Internet sites	23.1	43.1	33.9	100.1	16.4
Answered a newspaper advertisement for a job	*6.8	18.7	11.9	37.5	16.6
Advertised or tendered for work	*2.8	*4.9	**2.3	9.9	13.7
Contacted friends or relatives	13.9	25.7	20.8	60.4	16.2
Other steps taken to find work(b)	*6.2	14.0	*5.9	26.1	13.7
Had not been looking for work with more hours	110.3	106.0	32.8	249.1	11.3
Total	166.8	191.8	93.5	452.1	13.1
PERSONS					
Had been looking for work with more hours	88.2	144.1	126.6	358.9	16.3
Asked current employer for more work	52.7	82.7	79.6	214.9	16.3
Contacted prospective employers	38.6	76.6	83.6	198.8	17.9
Registered with Centrelink	11.6	21.2	28.6	61.3	18.4
Checked Centrelink touchscreens	**1.8	*5.2	11.7	18.7	21.9
Contacted an employment agency	*7.5	17.1	27.1	51.6	19.5
Looked in newspapers	31.1	70.6	77.2	179.0	18.1
Searched Internet sites	33.5	73.7	73.0	180.2	17.7
Answered a newspaper advertisement for a job	9.3	30.9	32.3	72.6	18.6
Advertised or tendered for work	*5.1	11.1	10.6	26.7	17.0
Contacted friends or relatives	21.4	46.7	44.1	112.2	17.4
Other steps taken to find work(b)	12.0	24.1	13.7	49.7	14.5
Had not been looking for work with more hours	150.4	167.5	59.1	377.0	12.0
Total	238.6	311.7	185.7	735.9	14.1

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Refers to all steps taken to find work during the four weeks prior to the survey, therefore people may appear in more than one category.

(b) Includes 'Checked factory noticeboards'.

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES									
Population 1									
Employed persons	1 869.9	1 460.0	1 212.0	430.5	655.4	124.5	63.0	100.1	5 915.5
Population 2									
Full-time workers	1 570.6	1 213.5	1 041.1	354.1	552.2	103.7	55.9	86.2	4 977.2
Population 3									
Part-time workers	299.3	246.5	171.0	76.5	103.1	20.9	7.1	14.0	938.3
Population 4									
Part-time workers who would prefer more hours	98.7	87.7	55.7	22.2	35.1	5.6	1.8	3.6	310.5
Population 5									
Part-time workers who would prefer more hours who had been looking for work with more hours or were available to start work with more hours(a)	91.1	81.9	52.3	21.2	32.0	5.5	1.7	3.0	288.7
Population 6									
Underemployed part-time workers	89.9	79.2	51.8	21.2	31.6	5.5	1.7	3.0	283.8
Population 7									
Underemployed workers	108.6	91.7	70.4	25.4	38.4	7.5	1.8	3.7	347.7
FEMALES									
Population 1									
Employed persons	1 569.8	1 228.1	1 030.0	372.6	497.6	111.1	51.4	95.9	4 956.6
Population 2									
Full-time workers	863.6	669.3	578.2	187.5	271.9	54.0	38.0	63.8	2 726.2
Population 3									
Part-time workers	706.2	558.9	451.8	185.1	225.8	57.1	13.4	32.1	2 230.4
Population 4									
Part-time workers who would prefer more hours	161.1	140.5	103.3	42.0	47.2	9.8	3.3	6.3	513.4
Population 5									
Part-time workers who would prefer more hours who had been looking for work with more hours or were available to start work with more hours(a)	144.2	122.9	95.1	39.0	40.9	9.1	2.5	4.9	458.7
Population 6									
Underemployed part-time workers	141.6	119.2	95.1	39.0	40.9	9.0	2.4	4.9	452.1
Population 7									
Underemployed workers	143.8	124.1	98.0	39.9	41.6	9.2	2.5	4.9	463.9
PERSONS									
Population 1									
Employed persons	3 439.7	2 688.2	2 242.1	803.1	1 153.0	235.7	114.4	196.1	10 872.1
Population 2									
Full-time workers	2 434.2	1 882.8	1 619.3	541.6	824.1	157.7	93.9	150.0	7 703.4
Population 3									
Part-time workers	1 005.5	805.4	622.8	261.6	328.9	78.0	20.5	46.1	3 168.7
Population 4									
Part-time workers who would prefer more hours	259.8	228.2	159.0	64.2	82.3	15.4	5.1	9.9	823.8
Population 5									
Part-time workers who would prefer more hours who had been looking for work with more hours or were available to start work with more hours(a)	235.2	204.9	147.5	60.1	72.9	14.6	4.3	7.9	747.3
Population 6									
Underemployed part-time workers	231.5	198.4	146.9	60.1	72.5	14.5	4.1	7.9	735.9
Population 7									
Underemployed workers	252.4	215.8	168.4	65.3	80.0	16.7	4.4	8.6	811.6

(a) Availability refers to 'in the reference week or within four weeks'.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 The statistics in this publication were compiled from data collected in the Underemployed Workers Survey conducted throughout Australia in September 2009 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). Respondents to the monthly LFS who were within the scope of the supplementary survey were asked further questions.

2 The publication *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) contains information about survey design, sample redesign, scope, coverage and population benchmarks relevant to the monthly LFS, which also apply to supplementary surveys. It also contains definitions of demographic and labour force characteristics, and information about telephone interviewing relevant to both the monthly LFS and supplementary surveys.

CONCEPTS, SOURCES AND METHODS

3 The conceptual framework used in Australia's LFS aligns closely with the standards and guidelines set out in the Resolutions of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians. Descriptions of the underlying concepts and structure of Australia's labour force statistics, and the sources and methods used in compiling these estimates, are presented in *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

SCOPE

4 The scope of the LFS is restricted to people aged 15 years and over and excludes the following people:

- members of the permanent defence forces
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from the census and estimated populations
- overseas residents in Australia
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants).

5 Students at boarding schools, patients in hospitals, residents of homes (e.g. retirement homes, homes for people with disabilities), and inmates of prisons are excluded from all supplementary surveys.

6 This supplementary survey was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories but excluded people living in Indigenous communities in very remote parts of Australia.

COVERAGE

7 The estimates in this publication relate to people covered by the survey in September 2009. In the LFS, 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 in the survey. See *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) for more details.

SAMPLE SIZE

8 Supplementary surveys are not always conducted on the full LFS sample. Since August 1994, the sample for supplementary surveys has been restricted to no more than seven-eighths of the LFS sample.

9 The LFS sample size in September 2009 was approximately 9% higher than the sample size in September 2008. This is due to re-instated sample that was cut from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and supplementary surveys from July 2008. Detailed information about the sample reduction/re-instatement is provided in Information Paper: *Labour Force Survey Sample Design, Nov 2007 (Third edition)* (cat. no. 6269.0).

10 The re-instated sample will still be representative, with selections made across all parts of Australia.

11 The initial sample for the September 2009 LFS consisted of 29,283 private dwelling households and special dwelling units. Of the 23,512 private dwelling households and special dwelling units that remained in the survey after sample loss (e.g. households selected in the survey which had no residents in scope for the LFS, vacant or derelict dwellings and dwellings under construction), approximately 22,362 or 95.1% were fully responding to the Underemployed Workers Survey. The number of completed

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

SAMPLE SIZE *continued*

interviews obtained from these private dwelling households and special dwelling units (after taking into account scope, coverage and subsampling exclusions) was 24,376.

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

- 12** Estimates in this publication are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors:
- Sampling error is the difference between the published estimate and the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. For more information see the Technical Note.
 - Non-sampling errors are inaccuracies that occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents and interviewers, and errors made in coding and processing data. These inaccuracies 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 effective processing procedures.

SEASONAL FACTORS

- 13** The estimates are based on information collected in the survey month and, due to seasonal factors, may not be representative of other months of the year.

CLASSIFICATIONS USED

- 14** Country of birth data are classified according to the *Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2008* (cat. no. 1269.0).

- 15** Educational attainment data are classified according to *Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)* (cat. no. 1272.0).

COMPARABILITY OF TIME SERIES

- 16** In September 2008 there was a substantial increase in the number of part-time workers who preferred more hours and underemployed workers. This was due to a change in the question being asked of part-time workers. From September 2008, part-time workers were asked "Would you prefer to work more hours than you usually work?". In previous surveys part-time workers were asked "Would you prefer a job in which you worked more hours a week?". The question was altered to be consistent with the LFS and is now broader and more inclusive of people's situations as it relates to a preference for more hours of work.

- 17** This change contributed to an additional 115,800 people who were classified as part-time workers who preferred more hours and an additional 131,500 people who were classified as underemployed workers in 2008. Users need to exercise care when comparing the number of part-time workers who preferred more hours and underemployed workers from 2008 onwards with previous releases because of this break in series.

- 18** From July 2004, a change was made to the category 'considered too young or too old by employers' for the items 'all difficulties in finding work with more hours' and 'main difficulty in finding work with more hours'. The category has been split into 'considered too young by employers' and 'considered too old by employers'.

- 19** Revisions are made to population benchmarks for the LFS after each five-yearly Census of Population and Housing. The last such revision was made in February 2009 to take account of the results of the 2006 Census of Population and Housing. Estimates from supplementary surveys conducted from and including February 2009 are based on these 2006 population benchmarks.

- 20** Prior to September 1994, part-time workers who would prefer more hours of work were asked whether they were available to start work with more hours within the subsequent four weeks. From September 1994, an additional question was added to determine their availability to start work with more hours during the reference week. This question was added to the survey so that estimates of underemployment could be more easily aligned with the then current International Labour Organisation (ILO) recommendations on underemployment.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

COMPARABILITY OF TIME SERIES *continued*

21 As part of the 2001 LFS questionnaire redesign, people who were on short-term unpaid leave initiated by the employer, are now classified as employed. This approach is consistent with ILO recommendations on formal job attachment. Analysis of data from the LFS shows that many of these people usually worked part time, and that a number of these had a preference to work more hours. However, overall, these people contribute only marginally to the change in part-time workers who would prefer more hours.

COMPARABILITY WITH MONTHLY LFS STATISTICS

22 Due to differences in the scope and sample size of this supplementary survey and that of the monthly LFS, the estimation procedure may lead to some small variations between labour force estimates from this survey and those from the monthly LFS.

COMPARABILITY WITH ILO GUIDELINES

23 The ABS definition of underemployment is consistent with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) guidelines of time-related underemployment adopted in 1998. According to these guidelines, time-related underemployment exists when the hours of work of an employed person are below a threshold, and are insufficient in relation to an alternative employment situation in which the person is willing and available to engage. More specifically, people in time-related underemployment comprise all employed people (as defined) who satisfy the following three criteria:

- willingness to work additional hours — want to work more hours than they currently work. The ILO recommends that those who have actively sought to work additional hours should be distinguished from those who have not
- availability to work additional hours, within a specified period
- worked less than a threshold (determined according to national circumstances) relating to working time — the ABS underemployment framework uses a threshold (35 hours in the reference week) based on the boundary between full-time and part-time work.

24 A more detailed discussion is included in *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001), Chapter 5.

PREVIOUS SURVEYS

25 The Underemployed Workers Survey was conducted in May 1985, 1988 and 1991. In 1994, the survey became an annual survey, collected each September. Results of previous surveys were published in: *Underemployed Workers, Australia* (cat. no. 6265.0); and the standard data service *Underemployed Workers, Australia* (cat. no. 6265.0.40.001) for 1994 and 1995.

NEXT SURVEY

26 The ABS plans to conduct this survey again in September 2010.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

27 The ABS draws extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated: without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

28 ABS publications which may be of interest include:

- *Australian Labour Market Statistics* (cat. no. 6105.0)
- *Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation* (cat. no. 6239.0)
- *Job Search Experience, Australia* (cat. no. 6222.0)
- *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0)
- *Labour Force Experience, Australia* (cat. no. 6206.0)
- *Labour Mobility, Australia* (cat. no. 6209.0)
- *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001)
- *Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6220.0)
- *Working Time Arrangements, Australia* (cat. no. 6342.0)

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

RELATED PUBLICATIONS *continued*

29 Current publications and other products released by the ABS are available free of charge from the Statistics Page on the ABS website. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the web site which details products to be released in the week ahead.

ABBREVIATIONS

'000	thousand
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ASCED	Australian Standard Classification of Education
ILO	International Labour Organization
LFS	Labour Force Survey
n.f.d.	not further defined
OMIE	owner manager of incorporated enterprise
RSE	relative standard error
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
SE	standard error

APPENDIX 1 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION

In 2001, the *ABS Classification of Qualifications (ABSCQ)* (cat. no. 1262.0) was replaced by the *Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)* (cat. no. 1272.0). The ASCED is a national standard classification which can be applied to all sectors of the Australian education system including schools, vocational education and training and higher education. ASCED replaces a number of classifications previously used in administrative and statistical systems, including the ABSCQ. The ASCED comprises two classifications: Level of Education and Field of Education.

Level of Highest Educational Attainment can be derived from information on Highest Year of School Completed and Level of Highest Non-school Qualification. The derivation process determines which of the 'non-school' or 'school' attainments will be regarded as the highest. Usually the higher ranking attainment will be self-evident, but in some cases some Secondary Education is regarded, for the purposes of obtaining a single measure, as higher than some Certificate level attainments.

The following decision table is used to determine which of the responses to questions on Highest Year of School Completed (coded to ASCED Broad Level 6) and Level of Highest Non-school Qualification (coded to ASCED Broad Level 5) will be regarded as the highest. It is emphasised that this table was designed for the purpose of obtaining a single value for the output variable Level of Highest Educational Attainment and is not intended to convey any other ordinality.

Decision Table: Level of Highest Educational Attainment							
ASCED LEVEL OF EDUCATION CODES	Certificate n.f.d. (500)	Certificate III or IV n.f.d. (510)	Certificate IV (511)	Certificate III (514)	Certificate I or II n.f.d. (520)	Certificate II (521)	Certificate I (524)
Secondary Education n.f.d. (600)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I
Senior Secondary Education n.f.d. (610)	Senior Secondary n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Senior Secondary n.f.d.	Senior Secondary n.f.d.	Senior Secondary n.f.d.
Year 12 (611)	Year 12	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Year 12	Year 12	Year 12
Year 11 (613)	Year 11	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Year 11	Year 11	Year 11
Junior Secondary Education n.f.d. (620)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I
Year 10 (621)	Year 10	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Year 10	Certificate II	Year 10
Year 9 (622)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I
Year 8 (623)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I
Year 7 (624)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I

The decision table is also used to rank the information provided in a survey about the qualifications and attainments of a single individual. It does not represent any basis for comparison between differing qualifications. For example, a person whose Highest Year of School Completed was Year 12, and whose Level of Highest Non-school Qualification was a Certificate III, would have those responses crosschecked on the decision table and would as a result have their Level of Highest Educational Attainment output as

APPENDIX 1 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT *continued*

CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION *continued*

Certificate III. However, if the same person answered 'Certificate' to the highest non-school qualification question, without offering any further detail, it would be crosschecked against Year 12 on the decision table as 'Certificate not further defined'. The output would then be 'Year 12'. The decision table, therefore, does not necessarily imply that one qualification is 'higher' than the other.

APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST

DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

The ABS has a range of data available on request from the Underemployed Workers Survey. This section lists the data items and populations which relate to the survey. More detailed breakdowns of some data items may also be available on request.

The population(s) for a particular data item refers to the person in the survey to whom the data item relates. Where alternative output categories are available for the same data item, these are shown and the data item name is followed by a bracketed numeral (e.g. Country of birth (2)).

For more information about ABS data available on request, contact Labour Market Statistics Section on Canberra (02) 6252 7206, or by facsimile on (02) 6252 7102, or by email to <labour.statistics@abs.gov.au>.

<i>Population 1:</i>	Employed persons
<i>Population 2:</i>	Full-time workers
<i>Population 3:</i>	Part-time workers
<i>Population 4:</i>	Part-time workers who would prefer more hours
<i>Population 5:</i>	Part-time workers who would prefer more hours who had been looking for work with more hours or were available to start work with more hours in the reference week or within four weeks
<i>Population 6:</i>	Underemployed part-time workers
<i>Population 7:</i>	Underemployed workers

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
1 State or territory of usual residence	All	6 Relationship in household	All
New South Wales		Family member	
Victoria		Husband, wife or partner	
Queensland		With dependants	
South Australia		Without dependants	
Western Australia		Lone parent	
Tasmania		With dependants	
Northern Territory		Without dependants	
Australian Capital Territory		Dependent student	
2 Area of usual residence	All	Non-dependent child	
State capital city		Other family person	
Balance of state/territory		Non-family member	
3 Region of usual residence	All	Lone person	
Standard labour force dissemination regions		Not living alone	
4 Sex	All	Relationship not determined	
Males		7A Country of birth and period of arrival	All
Females		Born in Australia	
5 Marital status	All	Born overseas	
Married		Arrived before 1971	
Not married		Arrived 1971–1980	
		Arrived 1981–1990	
		Arrived 1991–2000	
		Arrived 2001 to survey date	

APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
7B Country of birth (1)	All	9B Whether looking and/or available <i>cont.</i>	4-6
Born in Australia		Had not been looking for work with more hours	
Born overseas		Not looking but available to start	
Born in main English-speaking countries		Not looking but available in the reference week	
Born in other than main English-speaking countries		Not looking and not available in the reference week but available within four weeks	
7C Country of birth (2)	All	Not looking and not available to start	
Born in Australia		9C Whether available and/or looking	4-6
Born overseas		Available to start work with more hours	
Oceania and Antarctica		Available in the reference week	
North-West Europe		Looking	
Southern and Eastern Europe		Not looking	
North Africa and the Middle East		Available within four weeks (but not in the reference week)	
South-East Asia		Looking	
North-East Asia		Not looking	
Southern and Central Asia			
Americas			
Sub-Saharan Africa			
8 Age group (years)	All	Not available to start work with more hours	
15-19		Looking	
20-24		Not looking	
25-34		10 Full-time or part-time status	All
35-44		Employed persons	
45-54		Full-time workers	
55-59		Worked 35 hours or more in the reference week	
60-64		Worked less than 35 hours in the reference week	
65-69		For non-economic reasons	
70 and over		For economic reasons	
Note: Age collected in single years		Part-time workers	
9A Underemployment status	7	Would not prefer to work more hours	
Worked less than 35 hours in the reference week for economic reasons		Would prefer to work more hours	
Part-time workers who would prefer more hours who were available to start work with more hours in the reference week or within four weeks			
Looking and available to start		Prefers more part-time hours	
Not looking but available to start		Prefers full-time hours	
9B Whether looking and/or available	4-6	11 Whether fully employed	All
Had been looking for work with more hours		Fully employed	
Looking and available to start		Part-time workers who would prefer more hours and persons who worked less than 35 hours in the reference week for economic reasons	
Looking and available in the reference week		12 Status in employment	All
Looking and not available in the reference week but available within four weeks		Employees	
Looking and not available to start		Employers	
		Own account workers	
		Contributing family workers	

APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
13	Number of hours worked in the reference week	16C	Highest year of school completed <i>cont.</i>
	0–5		Year 9
	6–10		Year 8 or below
	11–15		Never attended school
	16–20	16D	Highest non-school qualification and whether qualification obtained overseas or within Australia
	20–29		Born in Australia
	30–34		Born overseas
	35 or more		With a non-school qualification
	Note: Hours worked collected in single hours		Qualification obtained overseas
14	Type of insufficient work		Qualification obtained in Australia
	Full-time		Without a non-school qualification
	Part-time	17	Whether would move interstate if offered a suitable job
15	Duration of current period of insufficient work		Would move interstate
	1 week and under 4 weeks		Would not move interstate
	4 weeks and under 13 weeks		Might move interstate
	13 weeks and under 52 weeks		Did not know
	52 weeks and over	18	Whether would move intrastate if offered a suitable job
	Note: Period of insufficient work collected in single weeks		Would move intrastate
16A	Level of highest educational attainment		Would not move intrastate
	Postgraduate Degree		Might move intrastate
	Graduate Diploma/Graduate Certificate		Did not know
	Bachelor Degree	19	Whether would prefer to change occupation to work more hours
	Advanced Diploma/Diploma		Would prefer to change occupation
	Certificate III/IV		Would prefer not to change occupation
	Certificate I/II		No preference
	Certificate not further defined	20	Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours
	Year 12		Would prefer to change employer
	Year 11		Would prefer not to change employer
	Year 10 or below		No preference
	Other education	21	All steps taken to find work with more hours in the last four weeks
	Level not determined		Asked current employer for more work
	No educational attainment		Contacted prospective employers
16B	Level of highest non-school qualification		Registered with Centrelink
	With a non-school qualification		Checked Centrelink touchscreens
	Postgraduate Degree		Checked factory noticeboards
	Graduate Diploma/Graduate Certificate		Contacted an employment agency
	Bachelor Degree		Looked in newspapers
	Advanced Diploma/Diploma		Searched Internet sites
	Certificate III/IV		Answered a newspaper advertisement for a job
	Certificate I/II		Advertised or tendered for work
	Certificate not further defined		Contacted friends or relatives
	Level not determined		Other steps taken to find work
	Without a non-school qualification		Had not been looking for work with more hours
16C	Highest year of school completed		
	Year 12		
	Year 11		
	Year 10		

APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
22 Whether registered with Centrelink	4-6	24 Main difficulty in finding work with more hours <i>cont.</i>	4-6
Registered with Centrelink for job search assistance		Had been looking for work with more hours <i>cont.</i>	
Not registered with Centrelink for job search assistance		Other family responsibilities	
Had not been looking for work with more hours		Other difficulties	
		No difficulties reported	
23 Preferred number of extra hours	4-6	Had not been looking for work with more hours	
Less than 10 hours			
10-19		25 Hours usually worked	4-6
20-29		1-5	
30 or more		6-10	
Note: Preferred extra hours collected in single hours		11-15	
		16-20	
24 Main difficulty in finding work with more hours	4-6	21-29	
Had been looking for work with more hours		30-34	
Own ill health or disability		Note: Hours usually worked collected in single hours	
Considered too young by employers		26 Preferred total number of hours	4-6
Considered too old by employers		Less than 30 hours	
Unsuitable hours		30-34	
Too far to travel/transport problems		35-39	
Lacked necessary skills or education		40 or more	
Language difficulties		Note: Preferred total hours collected in single hours	
Insufficient work experience		27 Employment type	All
No vacancies in line of work		Employees (excluding OMIEs)	
Too many applicants for available jobs		Owner managers of incorporated enterprises	
No vacancies at all		Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises	
Difficulties with ethnic background		Contributing family workers	
Difficulties in finding child care			

APPENDIX 3 SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

The Monthly Population Survey program collects data on particular aspects of the labour force. The following is an historical list of supplementary surveys to the monthly labour force surveys. Data from these surveys are available on request and can be obtained by contacting the ABS.

	<i>cat. no.</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Latest issue</i>
Monthly Population Supplementary Surveys			
Child Care, Australia	4402.0	Irregular	June 2005
Child Employment, Australia	6211.0	Irregular	June 2006
Education and Work, Australia	6227.0	Annual	May 2009
Employee Earnings, Benefits, and Trade Union Membership, Australia	6310.0	Annual	August 2008
Forms of Employment, Australia	6359.0	Annual	November 2008
Job Search Experience, Australia	6222.0	Annual	July 2009
Labour Force Experience, Australia	6206.0	Biennial	February 2009
Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants, Australia	6250.0	Irregular	November 2007
Labour Mobility, Australia	6209.0	Biennial	February 2008
Locations of Work, Australia	6275.0	Irregular	November 2008
Multiple Jobholding, Australia(a)	6216.0	Irregular	August 1997
Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia	6220.0	Annual	September 2008
Underemployed Workers, Australia	6265.0	Annual	September 2009
Working Time Arrangements, Australia(b)	6342.0	Irregular	November 2006
Multi-Purpose Household Surveys			
Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation, Australia	6239.0	Biennial	2008–2009
Retirement and Retirement Intentions, Australia	6238.0	Biennial	2008–2009
Work-Related Injuries, Australia	6324.0	Irregular	2005–2006

(a) Latest data available on request July 2001.

(b) This product replaces the publication Working Arrangements, Australia (cat. no. 6342.0).

TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY

INTRODUCTION

1 Estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, and are subject to sampling variability. That is, they may differ from those estimates 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 (SE), 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 (67%) that a sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the number that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two SEs. Another measure of the likely difference is the relative standard error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate.

2 Due to space limitations, it is impractical to print the SE of each estimate in the publication. Instead, a table of SEs is provided to determine the SE for an estimate from the size of that estimate (see table T1). The SE table is derived from a mathematical model, referred to as the 'SE model', which is created using data from a number of past Labour Force Surveys. It should be noted that the SE model only gives an approximate value for the SE for any particular estimate, since there is some minor variation between SEs for different estimates of the same size.

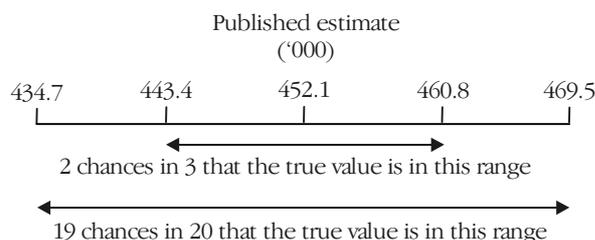
3 The LFS sample size in September 2009 was approximately 9% higher than the sample size in 2008. This is due to re-instated sample that was cut from Labour Force Survey (LFS) and supplementary surveys from July 2008. In combination, the sample re-instatement is expected to decrease the standard errors for estimates from the supplementary surveys by approximately 4% at the broad aggregate level, relative to estimates from 2008 (standard errors will vary at lower aggregate levels). Detailed information about the sample reduction/re-instatement is provided in *Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Sample Design, Nov 2007 (Third edition)* (cat. no. 6269.0).

CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERROR

4 An example of the calculation and the use of SEs in relation to estimates of persons is as follows. Table 4 shows the estimated number of female underemployed part-time workers was 452,100. Since this estimate is between 300,000 and 500,000, table T1 shows that the SE for Australia will lie between 7,300 and 9,200 and can be approximated by interpolation using the following general formula:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & SE \text{ of estimate} \\
 &= \text{lower SE} + \left(\left(\frac{\text{size of estimate} - \text{lower estimate}}{\text{upper estimate} - \text{lower estimate}} \right) \times (\text{upper SE} - \text{lower SE}) \right) \\
 &= 7,300 + \left(\left(\frac{452,100 - 300,000}{500,000 - 300,000} \right) \times (9,200 - 7,300) \right) \\
 &= 8,700 \text{ (rounded to the nearest 100)}
 \end{aligned}$$

5 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 within the range 443,400 to 460,800 and about 19 chances in 20 that the value will fall within the range 434,700 to 469,500. This example is illustrated in the following diagram.



CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERROR *continued*

6 In general, the size of the SE increases as the size of the estimate increases. Conversely, the RSE decreases as the size of the estimate increases. Very small estimates are thus subject to such high RSEs that their value for most practical purposes is unreliable. In the tables in this publication, only estimates with RSEs of 25% or less are considered reliable for most purposes. Estimates with RSEs greater than 25% but less than or equal to 50% are preceded by an asterisk (e.g.*3.2) to indicate they are subject to high SEs and should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs of greater than 50%, preceded by a double asterisk (e.g.**0.3), are considered too unreliable for general use and should only be used to aggregate with other estimates to provide derived estimates with RSEs of less than 25%.

MEANS AND MEDIANS

7 The RSEs of estimates of mean duration of insufficient work, median duration of insufficient work and mean preferred number of extra hours are obtained by first finding the RSE of the estimate of the total number of persons contributing to the mean or median (see table T1) and then multiplying the resulting number by the following factors:

- mean duration of insufficient work: 1.6
- median duration of insufficient work: 2.5
- mean preferred number of extra hours: 0.7

8 The following is an example of the calculation of SEs where the use of a factor is required. Table 4 shows that the estimated number of male underemployed part-time workers was 283,800 with a median duration of insufficient work of 26 weeks. The SE of 283,800 can be calculated from table T1 (by interpolation) as 7,100. To convert this to an RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate or $7,100/283,800 = 2.5\%$.

9 The RSE of the estimate of median duration of insufficient work is calculated by multiplying this number (2.5%) by the appropriate factor shown in paragraph 7 (in this case 2.5): $2.5 \times 2.5 = 6.3\%$. The SE of this estimate of median duration of insufficient work is therefore 6.3% of 26, i.e. about 2 (rounded to the nearest whole week). Therefore, there are two chances in three that the median duration of insufficient work for males that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey would have been within the range 24–28 weeks, and about 19 chances in 20 that it would have been within the range 22–30 weeks.

PROPORTIONS AND PERCENTAGES

10 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 RSE of a proportion is given below. This formula is only valid when x is a subset of y.

$$RSE\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \sqrt{[RSE(x)]^2 - [RSE(y)]^2}$$

11 Considering the example from paragraph 3, of the 452,100 female underemployed part-time workers, 153,600 or 34.0% had insufficient work for 52 weeks and over. The SE of 153,600 may be calculated by interpolation as 5,500. To convert this to an RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate, or $5,500/153,600 = 3.6\%$. The SE for 452,100 was calculated previously as 8,700, which converted to an RSE is $8,700/452,100 = 1.9\%$. Applying the above formula, the RSE of the proportion is:

$$RSE = \sqrt{(3.6)^2 - (1.9)^2} = 3.1\%$$

12 Therefore, the SE for the proportion of females who have a current period of insufficient work of 52 weeks or more is 1.1 percentage points ($= (34.0/100) \times 3.1$). Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the proportion of females who have a current period of insufficient work of 52 weeks or more was between 32.9% and 35.1% and 19 chances in 20 that the proportion is within the range 31.8% to 36.2%.

TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY *continued*

DIFFERENCES

13 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 SEs and the relationship (correlation) between them. An approximate SE of the difference between two estimates ($x-y$) may be calculated by the following formula:

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

14 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.

STANDARD ERRORS

T1 STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of Estimate (persons)	AUST.									RSE
	NSW	Vic.	Qld.	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	SE	
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	%
100	320	310	240	190	240	120	80	110	120	120.0
200	440	420	350	260	320	170	120	180	210	105.0
300	520	490	430	310	380	210	150	230	290	96.7
500	640	600	550	380	460	260	200	300	420	84.0
700	730	680	640	430	530	300	230	330	530	75.7
1,000	840	780	750	500	600	340	270	370	670	67.0
1,500	990	910	890	580	710	400	310	400	860	57.3
2,000	1 110	1 020	1 000	650	790	440	340	430	1 010	50.5
2,500	1 200	1 100	1 100	700	850	450	350	450	1 150	46.0
3,000	1 300	1 200	1 150	750	900	500	400	500	1 250	41.7
3,500	1 400	1 250	1 250	800	950	500	400	500	1 350	38.6
4,000	1 450	1 350	1 300	850	1 000	550	450	500	1 450	36.3
5,000	1 600	1 450	1 400	900	1 100	600	500	550	1 650	33.0
7,000	1 800	1 650	1 600	1 000	1 250	650	550	650	1 900	27.1
10,000	2 050	1 850	1 750	1 150	1 400	750	750	750	2 200	22.0
15,000	2 400	2 150	2 000	1 300	1 650	950	1 000	950	2 550	17.0
20,000	2 650	2 400	2 150	1 450	1 800	1 100	1 300	1 100	2 850	14.3
30,000	3 100	2 800	2 500	1 750	2 100	1 350	1 800	1 350	3 200	10.7
40,000	3 400	3 100	2 750	2 000	2 300	1 650	2 250	1 650	3 500	8.8
50,000	3 700	3 350	3 050	2 200	2 550	1 850	2 700	1 850	3 750	7.5
100,000	4 700	4 400	4 150	3 300	3 750	2 650	4 650	2 450	4 750	4.8
150,000	5 550	5 350	5 100	4 250	4 950	3 150	6 400	2 750	5 500	3.7
200,000	6 350	6 250	5 950	5 000	5 950	3 550	8 000	2 950	6 150	3.1
300,000	8 000	7 950	7 550	6 150	7 450	4 050	10 950	3 100	7 300	2.4
500,000	11 200	11 050	10 200	7 700	9 500	4 700	..	3 100	9 200	1.8
1,000,000	16 650	16 850	14 550	9 800	12 100	5 350	..	..	12 950	1.3
2,000,000	22 450	24 900	19 600	11 650	14 000	..	..	..	18 800	0.9
5,000,000	28 600	39 800	26 400	13 150	14 600	..	..	..	31 400	0.6
10,000,000	30 650	54 900	30 900	..	..	..	..	..	41 900	0.4
15,000,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	47 250	0.3

.. not applicable

GLOSSARY

Available to start work	Refers to people who were available to start work with more hours either in the reference week, or in the four weeks subsequent to the interview.
Contributing family worker	People who work without pay in an economic enterprise operated by a relative.
Duration of current period of insufficient work	<p>For full-time workers who worked less than 35 hours in the reference week due to economic reasons, refers to the number of weeks they have been working less than 35 hours a week.</p> <p>For part-time workers who would prefer to work more hours, refers to the number of weeks they have been wanting to work more hours.</p> <p>As periods of insufficient work are recorded in full weeks and rounded down, this results in a slight understatement of duration.</p>
Economic reasons	<p>Economic reasons for full-time workers having worked less than 35 hours in the reference week are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ there was no work or not enough work available, e.g. due to material shortages■ they were stood down■ they were on short time.
Employed	<p>People aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ 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 own account workers); or■ worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or■ were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or■ away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four-week period to the end of the reference week; or■ away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or■ on strike or locked out; or■ on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or■ were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.
Employees	<p>People who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ worked for a public or private employer; and■ received remuneration in wages, salary, or are paid a retainer fee by their employer and worked on a commission basis, or for tips or piece-rates or payment in kind; or■ operated their own incorporated enterprise with or without hiring employees.
Employers	People who operate his or her own unincorporated economic enterprise or engage independently in a profession or trade, and hires one or more employees.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Full-time workers	Employed people who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) or others who, although usually worked less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.
Fully employed workers	Employed people who: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ worked full time during the reference week (including people who usually work part time but worked full time in the reference week); or■ usually work full time but worked less than 35 hours in the reference week for non-economic reasons (such as illness or injury, leave holiday or flextime, or personal reasons); or■ part-time workers who would not prefer to work additional hours.
Interstate	Refers to whether people were prepared to move to another state or territory if offered a suitable job.
Intrastate	Refers to whether people were prepared to move to another part of their state or territory if offered a suitable job.
Level of highest educational attainment	<p>Level of highest educational attainment identifies the highest achievement a person has attained in any area of study. It is not a measurement of the relative importance of different fields of study but a ranking of qualifications and other educational attainments regardless of the particular area of study or the type of institution in which the study was undertaken.</p> <p>Years 12, 11 and 10 include people who are currently undertaking school study (See Appendix 1 for more information).</p>
Looking for work with more hours	Looked for work with more hours at some time during the four weeks up to the end of the reference week.
Mean duration of insufficient work	The mean duration of insufficient work is obtained by dividing the aggregate number of weeks a group has had insufficient work by the number of people in that group.
Mean preferred number of extra hours	The mean preferred number of extra hours is obtained by dividing the total preferred number of extra hours reported by a group by the number of people in that group.
Median duration of insufficient work	The median duration of insufficient work is obtained by dividing underemployed workers into two equal groups, one comprising people whose duration of insufficient work is above the mid point, and the other comprising people whose duration is below it.
Non-economic reasons	Non-economic reasons for full-time workers having worked less than 35 hours in the reference week include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ holiday, flextime or study leave■ own illness or injury or sick leave■ standard work arrangements, shift work or rostered day(s) off■ on strike, locked out or took part in an industrial dispute■ bad weather or plant breakdown■ began, left or lost job during the reference week■ personal reasons.
Not available to start work	Refers to people who were not available to start work with more hours either in the reference week, or in the four weeks following the interview.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Not fully employed	People who are not fully employed comprise part-time workers who would prefer to work more hours, and full-time workers who worked part-time hours in the reference week for economic reasons.
Own account workers	People who operate his or her own unincorporated economic enterprise or engage independently in a profession or trade, and hires no employees.
Part-time workers	Employed people who usually worked less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work during the reference week.
Preferred number of extra hours	The number of extra hours a week an underemployed worker would have preferred to work.
Preferred total number of hours	The total number of hours per week an underemployed worker would prefer to work.
Reference week	The week preceding the week in which the interview was conducted.
Status in employment	Employed people classified by whether they were employees, employers, own account workers, or contributing family workers.
Suitable job	Job with the preferred number of hours.
Underemployed workers	Underemployed workers are employed people who would prefer, and are available for, more hours of work than they currently have. They comprise: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ part-time workers who would prefer to work more hours and were available to start work with more hours, either in the reference week or in the four weeks subsequent to the survey■ full-time workers who worked part-time hours in the reference week for economic reasons (such as being stood down or insufficient work being available). It is assumed that these people would prefer to work full time in the reference week and would have been available to do so.
Underemployment rate	The number of underemployed workers expressed as a percentage of the labour force.
Usual number of hours	The number of hours usually worked in a week.

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