

**UNDEREMPLOYED WORKERS**

AUSTRALIA

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For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Labour Supplementary Surveys Section on Canberra (02) 6252 7206, <labour.statistics@abs.gov.au>.

NOTES

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication presents information about underemployed workers. The number of underemployed workers is 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. 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).

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, seasonally adjusted and original estimates are released monthly in *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0), tables 22 to 23.

The statistics in this publication were compiled from the Underemployed Workers Survey conducted throughout Australia in September 2011 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.

ROUNDING

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



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

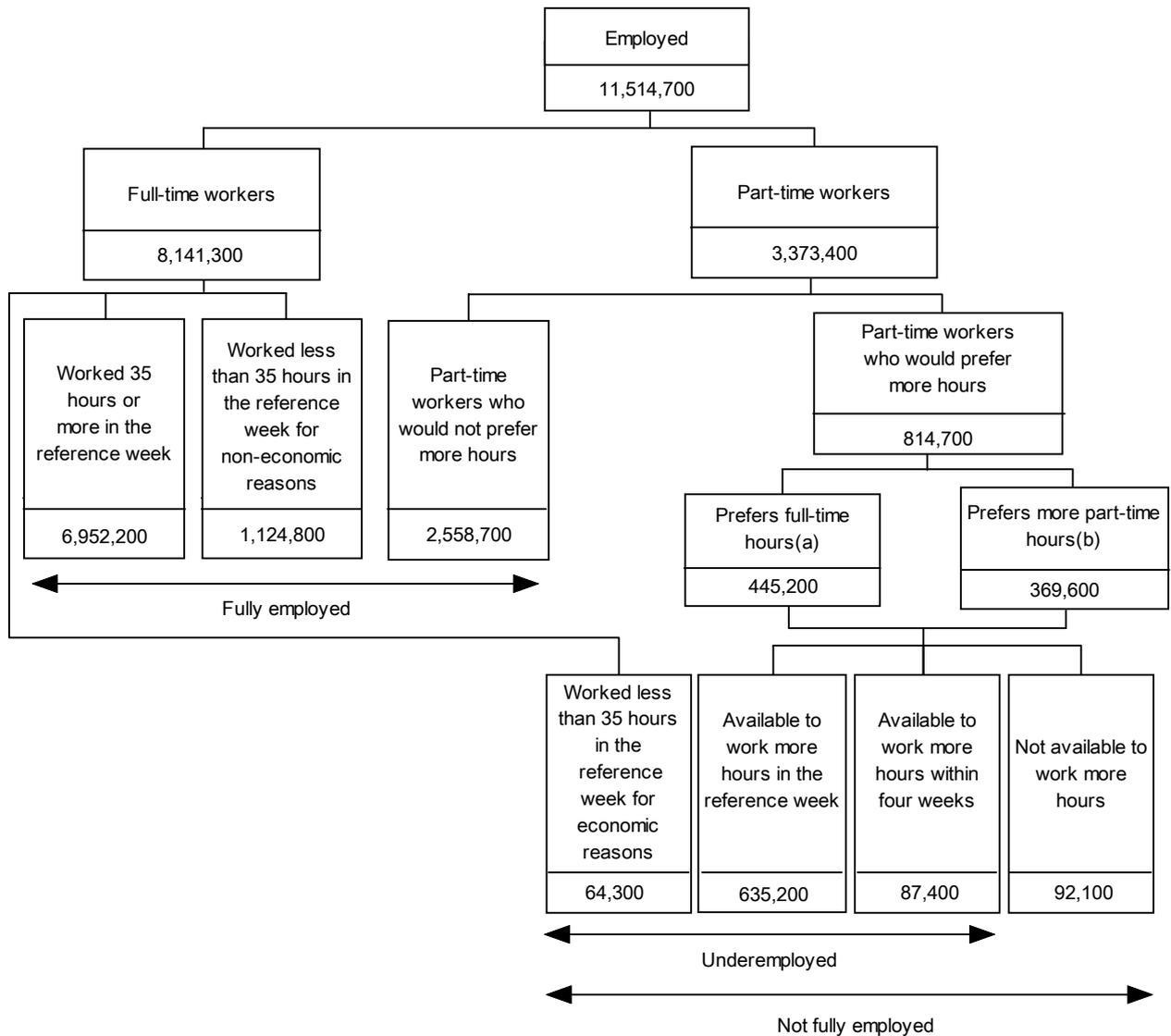
Brian Pink
Australian Statistician

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); and
 - 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; and
 - 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; and
- 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

Of the 11.5 million employed people aged 15 years and over in September 2011,

- 10.6 million were fully employed; and
- 879,000 were not fully employed, of whom 786,800 were underemployed.

Of the 786,800 underemployed workers:

- 722,600 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; and
- 64,300 usually worked full-time, but worked part-time hours in the reference week due to economic reasons (for example, no work or not enough work available, been stood down, or on short time).

PART-TIME WORKERS WHO WOULD PREFER MORE HOURS

In September 2011, there were 3.4 million part-time workers (2.4 million women and just over 1 million men). Of all part-time workers, 814,700 (24%) would prefer to work more hours. This is similar to the number of part-time workers (817,100 or 25%) who said they would prefer to work more hours in September 2010.

Of the 814,700 part-time workers who would prefer more hours:

- one third (33%) were aged 15–24 years;
- just over half (55%) would prefer to work full-time;
- 722,600 were available for work with more hours (446,000 women and 276,600 men), of whom 50% were looking for work with more hours;
- 92,100 were not available for work with more hours, of whom 12% were looking for work with more hours; and
- 37% were males and 63% were females.

UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS

Underemployed part-time workers are people who usually work less than 35 hours a week, would prefer to work more hours and are available to start work with more hours. In September 2011, there were 722,600 underemployed part-time workers. These people comprise 92% of all underemployed workers.

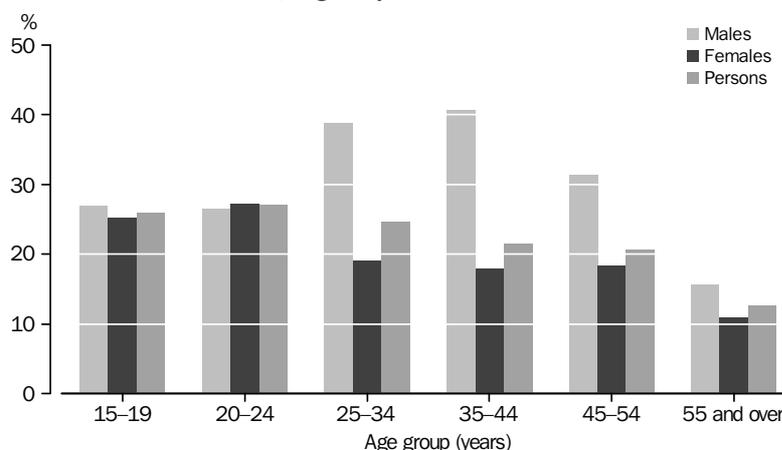
Of the underemployed part-time workers:

- 62% were women;
- 19% were aged 35–44 years and a further 18% in the 15–19 and 25–34 year age groups; and
- 60% reported they would not prefer to change employer to work more hours, 25% would prefer to change employer, while the remaining 16% had no preference.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS *continued*

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

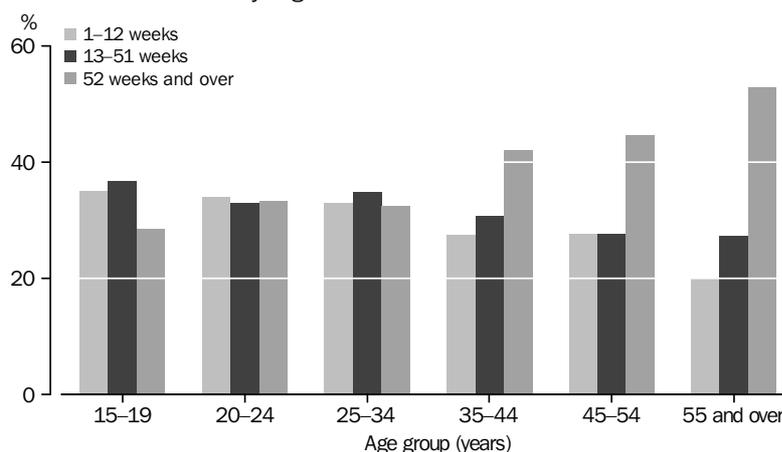


The proportion of part-time workers who were underemployed generally decreased with age. While there were more women who were underemployed part-time workers than men (446,000 compared with 276,600), the proportion of underemployment for part-time workers was higher for men (28%) than women (19%). This was the case in most age groups, with the largest percentage point difference being for those aged 35–44 years (40% for men and 18% for women) and for those aged 25–34 years (39% for men and 19% for women).

Underemployed part-time men were more likely to report that they would move intrastate if offered a suitable job (35%) than women (24%). Over one quarter (26%) of underemployed part-time men and 17% of women reported that they would move interstate if offered a suitable job.

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 28% of 15–19 year old underemployed part-time workers had experienced insufficient work for one year or more. In contrast, around half of those aged 55 years and over (53%) and those aged 45–54 years (45%), had insufficient work for one year or more.

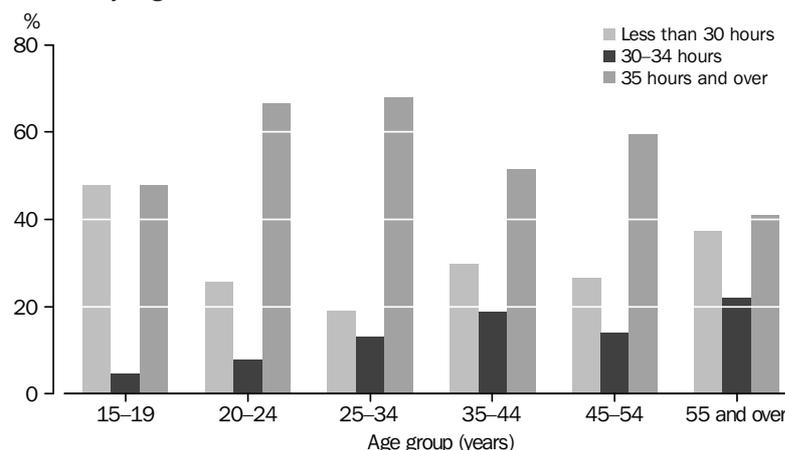
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Duration of current period of insufficient work continued

The median duration of the current period of insufficient work for underemployed part-time workers was 30 weeks, unchanged from 2010. For those aged 35–44 it was 35 weeks, up from 26 weeks in 2010. For people aged 45–54 years the median duration was 39 weeks, down from 50 weeks in 2010. For underemployed part-time workers aged 55 years and over, the median duration of the current period of insufficient work was 52 weeks, the same as in 2010.

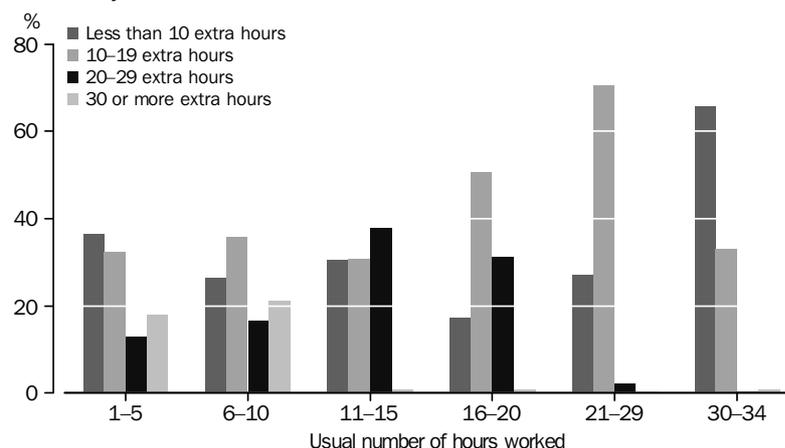
Preferred number of extra hours

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



Over half (56%) of underemployed part-time workers would prefer to work a total of 35 hours or more per week. For those aged 25–34 years, 68% preferred to work a total of 35 hours or more per week, while for those aged 15–19 years, just under half (48%) preferred to work a total of less than 30 hours per week.

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

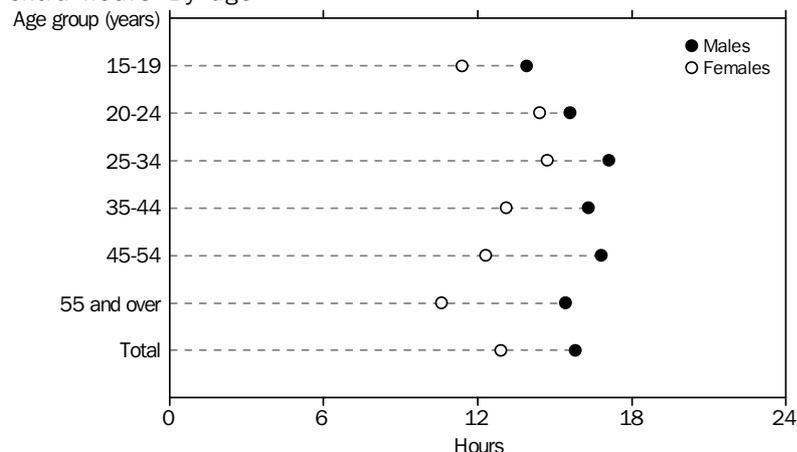


For underemployed part-time workers, the preferred number of extra hours varied with the number of hours they usually worked. For example, almost two thirds (or 63%) of those who usually worked 1–5 hours a week preferred 10 or more extra hours per week, and of those who worked 30–34 hours a week, two thirds (or 66%) preferred to work less than 10 extra hours per week.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Preferred number of extra hours continued

UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS, 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. The mean preferred number of extra hours was lowest for people aged 55 years and over (13.0 hours), and highest for those aged 25–34 years (15.2 hours). On average, men preferred to work an extra 15.2 hours per week, compared with women who preferred to work an extra 13.3 hours per week.

Looking for work with more hours

Of the 722,600 underemployed part-time workers, around half (363,000) had looked for work with more hours at some time during the four weeks prior to the survey. The proportion of part-time workers who were looking for work with more hours was similar for men (52%) and women (49%).

The most common step taken to find work with more hours, by underemployed part-time workers who had looked for work, was 'asked current employer for more work' (62%), followed by 'contacted prospective employers' (58%) and 'searched internet sites' (56%).

The main difficulty in finding work with more hours, most commonly reported by underemployed part-time workers who had looked for work, was 'no vacancies in line of work' (21%). This was the case for both men (25%) and women (19%). The next most common reason for men was 'no vacancies at all' (13%), whereas for women it was 'unsuitable hours' (11%). The largest percentage point difference between men and women was for 'unsuitable hours' (6% of men and 11% of women).

UNDEREMPLOYED
FULL-TIME WORKERS

There were 8.1 million full-time workers in September 2011, accounting for 71% of all employed people. Of those who usually worked full-time, 1.2 million people (15%) worked less than 35 hours in the reference week, with 64,300 (5%) of these people working less hours for economic reasons. Of these 64,300, almost three quarters (72%) were men.

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UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS

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EMPLOYED PERSONS, Full-time or part-time status—By sex—September 2008 to
September 2011

	2008(a)	2009	2010	2011
	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES				
Employed persons	5 886.4	5 915.5	6 220.9	6 242.3
Full-time workers	5 024.7	4 977.2	5 237.6	5 239.3
Worked 35 hours or more in the reference week	4 365.0	4 328.3	4 518.1	4 542.8
Worked less than 35 hours in the reference week	659.6	649.0	719.6	696.5
For non-economic reasons	618.5	585.1	662.8	649.9
For economic reasons	41.1	63.9	56.8	46.6
Part-time workers	861.8	938.3	983.2	1 002.9
Would not prefer to work more hours	621.2	627.8	667.9	697.9
Would prefer to work more hours	240.6	310.5	315.3	305.1
Prefers more part-time hours(b)	84.5	96.9	104.6	102.0
Prefers full-time hours(c)	156.1	213.6	210.8	203.1
FEMALES				
Employed persons	4 856.5	4 956.6	5 176.9	5 272.4
Full-time workers	2 715.4	2 726.2	2 856.8	2 902.0
Worked 35 hours or more in the reference week	2 275.7	2 272.7	2 386.7	2 409.4
Worked less than 35 hours in the reference week	439.7	453.5	470.0	492.6
For non-economic reasons	429.5	441.7	453.4	474.9
For economic reasons	10.2	11.8	16.6	17.7
Part-time workers	2 141.1	2 230.4	2 320.1	2 370.5
Would not prefer to work more hours	1 694.0	1 717.0	1 818.4	1 860.8
Would prefer to work more hours	447.1	513.4	501.8	509.7
Prefers more part-time hours(b)	254.0	285.0	266.9	267.6
Prefers full-time hours(c)	193.1	228.3	234.9	242.0
PERSONS				
Employed persons	10 742.9	10 872.1	11 397.7	11 514.7
Full-time workers	7 740.1	7 703.4	8 094.4	8 141.3
Worked 35 hours or more in the reference week	6 640.7	6 601.0	6 904.8	6 952.2
Worked less than 35 hours in the reference week	1 099.4	1 102.4	1 189.6	1 189.1
For non-economic reasons	1 048.0	1 026.8	1 116.2	1 124.8
For economic reasons	51.3	75.7	73.4	64.3
Part-time workers	3 002.9	3 168.7	3 303.3	3 373.4
Would not prefer to work more hours	2 315.2	2 344.9	2 486.2	2 558.7
Would prefer to work more hours	687.7	823.8	817.1	814.7
Prefers more part-time hours(b)	338.5	381.9	371.5	369.6
Prefers full-time hours(c)	349.2	442.0	445.6	445.2

(a) From September 2008 there is a break in series. See paragraphs 14–15 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 2008 to September 2011

	2008(a)	2009	2010	2011
	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES				
Available to start work with more hours(b)	213.9	283.8	288.0	276.6
Available in the reference week	191.0	259.9	259.9	248.2
Looking	98.2	147.9	142.2	134.8
Not looking	92.8	112.0	117.7	113.4
Available within four weeks(c)	22.9	23.9	28.2	28.4
Looking	6.8	8.1	12.9	8.3
Not looking	16.1	15.8	15.3	20.1
Not available to start work with more hours(d)	26.6	26.7	27.3	28.5
Looking	*3.0	*4.9	*2.9	*2.8
Not looking	23.6	21.8	24.4	25.7
Total	240.6	310.5	315.3	305.1
FEMALES				
Available to start work with more hours(b)	389.8	452.1	445.9	446.0
Available in the reference week	334.0	400.9	388.4	387.0
Looking	151.5	187.0	191.8	202.9
Not looking	182.5	213.9	196.6	184.1
Available within four weeks(c)	55.8	51.2	57.4	59.0
Looking	15.2	16.0	19.5	17.0
Not looking	40.6	35.3	38.0	42.0
Not available to start work with more hours(d)	57.3	61.3	55.9	63.6
Looking	*6.1	*6.6	*5.8	8.4
Not looking	51.2	54.7	50.1	55.3
Total	447.1	513.4	501.8	509.7
PERSONS				
Available to start work with more hours(b)	603.7	735.9	733.9	722.6
Available in the reference week	525.0	660.7	648.3	635.2
Looking	249.7	334.9	334.0	337.7
Not looking	275.3	325.9	314.3	297.5
Available within four weeks(c)	78.8	75.2	85.6	87.4
Looking	22.0	24.1	32.4	25.3
Not looking	56.7	51.1	53.3	62.1
Not available to start work with more hours(d)	83.9	87.9	83.2	92.1
Looking	9.1	11.4	8.6	11.2
Not looking	74.8	76.5	74.6	80.9
Total	687.7	823.8	817.1	814.7

* 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 the series. See paragraphs 14–15 of the Explanatory Notes for more information on 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'.

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

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

	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

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	31.6	26.4	58.1	*5.3	63.4
20–24	22.5	22.7	45.2	*3.7	48.9
25–34	35.4	23.7	59.2	7.2	66.4
35–44	19.7	21.4	41.1	*5.1	46.2
45–54	16.5	16.4	32.9	*4.0	36.9
55 and over	17.3	22.8	40.2	*3.2	43.3
Relationship in household					
Family member	113.9	104.8	218.7	24.9	243.6
Husband, wife or partner	48.6	49.2	97.7	12.4	110.2
Lone parent	*3.3	**1.6	*5.0	**1.0	*6.0
Dependent student	14.3	27.4	41.8	*6.8	48.5
Non-dependent child	40.9	23.5	64.5	*3.1	67.6
Other family person	*6.8	*3.0	9.8	**1.6	11.4
Non-family member	28.0	27.0	55.0	*3.5	58.5
Relationship not determined	**1.1	*1.7	*2.9	**0.1	*3.0
Level of highest educational attainment (b)					
Bachelor degree or higher	23.9	22.0	45.9	*4.1	50.0
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	11.2	9.2	20.4	*1.8	22.2
Certificate III/IV	21.0	16.0	37.1	*4.9	42.0
Year 12	40.9	36.9	77.9	7.5	85.3
Year 11	11.5	14.0	25.5	*1.7	27.2
Year 10 and below	30.0	32.3	62.3	7.2	69.6
Certificate I/II (c)	*2.0	**0.5	*2.6	—	*2.6
Status in employment (d)					
Employees	124.6	105.3	229.9	21.9	251.9
Own account workers	17.5	26.1	43.5	*5.8	49.3
Preferred total number of hours					
Less than 30 hours	22.2	38.5	60.7	8.2	68.9
30–34	13.7	14.7	28.4	*4.7	33.1
35–39	53.1	38.7	91.8	*5.6	97.4
40 or more	54.2	41.5	95.7	10.1	105.7
Preferred number of extra hours					
Less than 10 hours	33.6	45.4	78.9	12.2	91.2
10–19	53.4	56.4	109.9	8.5	118.4
20–29	40.2	24.5	64.7	*5.7	70.4
30 or more	15.8	7.2	23.0	*2.1	25.2
Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours					
Would prefer to change employer	44.9	26.9	71.7	*5.5	77.2
Would prefer not to change employer	67.3	90.4	157.7	19.9	177.6
No preference	31.0	16.2	47.2	*3.1	50.3
Total	143.1	133.5	276.6	28.5	305.1

* 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) Underemployed part-time workers.

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

(c) Includes 'Certificate not further defined'. Refer to Appendix 1 for more information.

(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)

	Available and looking	Available and not looking	Total	Not available in the reference week or within four weeks	Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000

FEMALES

Age group (years)					
15-19	34.2	36.6	70.9	*6.7	77.6
20-24	41.7	28.5	70.2	*6.8	77.1
25-34	34.7	37.8	72.6	20.5	93.1
35-44	49.6	49.4	99.0	18.5	117.4
45-54	40.4	47.1	87.5	*5.5	93.0
55 and over	19.2	26.7	45.9	*5.6	51.5
Relationship in household					
Family member	194.1	205.5	399.5	60.2	459.7
Husband, wife or partner	104.0	124.1	228.1	42.7	270.8
Lone parent	30.6	26.5	57.1	*5.9	63.0
Dependent student	18.9	30.8	49.7	7.3	57.0
Non-dependent child	37.4	19.1	56.5	**1.5	58.1
Other family person	*3.2	*4.9	8.1	*2.7	10.8
Non-family member	24.9	20.0	44.9	*3.0	47.9
Relationship not determined	**0.9	**0.6	**1.6	**0.5	*2.1
Level of highest educational attainment (b)					
Bachelor degree or higher	47.0	35.0	82.0	17.0	98.9
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	21.1	25.6	46.7	*6.8	53.5
Certificate III/IV	41.8	33.7	75.5	*6.8	82.3
Year 12	53.0	48.9	101.8	16.5	118.3
Year 11	15.0	19.2	34.1	*3.4	37.5
Year 10 and below	34.2	55.4	89.6	9.4	99.0
Certificate I/II (c)	*5.4	*5.4	10.8	**1.1	11.9
Status in employment (d)					
Employees	198.8	207.2	406.0	53.5	459.5
Own account workers	18.7	18.4	37.1	8.4	45.5
Preferred total number of hours					
Less than 30 hours	64.7	96.5	161.2	31.7	192.9
30-34	31.8	34.0	65.8	8.9	74.7
35-39	75.5	61.4	136.9	13.1	150.0
40 or more	47.9	34.2	82.1	10.0	92.1
Preferred number of extra hours					
Less than 10 hours	51.0	95.2	146.2	25.6	171.9
10-19	110.6	102.7	213.3	28.1	241.4
20-29	43.1	23.4	66.5	*6.3	72.8
30 or more	15.2	*4.7	20.0	*3.7	23.6
Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours					
Would prefer to change employer	67.4	39.5	106.9	17.6	124.5
Would prefer not to change employer	109.4	163.3	272.6	35.8	308.4
No preference	43.1	23.3	66.4	10.3	76.7
Total	219.9	226.1	446.0	63.6	509.7

* 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) Underemployed part-time workers.

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

(c) Includes 'Certificate not further defined'. Refer to Appendix 1 for more information.

(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)				
	Available and looking			Not available in the reference week or within four weeks	
	Available and looking	Available and not looking	Total	Total	Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
PERSONS					
Age group (years)					
15–19	65.9	63.1	128.9	12.0	140.9
20–24	64.2	51.2	115.4	10.6	126.0
25–34	70.2	61.5	131.7	27.7	159.5
35–44	69.3	70.8	140.1	23.5	163.6
45–54	56.9	63.5	120.4	9.5	129.9
55 and over	36.5	49.6	86.1	8.8	94.8
Relationship in household					
Family member	308.0	310.3	618.3	85.1	703.3
Husband, wife or partner	152.6	173.3	325.8	55.1	381.0
Lone parent	33.9	28.2	62.1	6.9	69.0
Dependent student	33.2	58.2	91.4	14.1	105.5
Non-dependent child	78.3	42.7	121.0	*4.6	125.7
Other family person	10.0	7.9	17.9	*4.3	22.2
Non-family member	52.9	46.9	99.9	*6.5	106.3
Relationship not determined	*2.1	*2.4	*4.5	**0.6	*5.1
Level of highest educational attainment (b)					
Bachelor degree or higher	70.9	57.0	127.9	21.1	149.0
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	32.3	34.8	67.1	8.6	75.7
Certificate III/IV	62.8	49.8	112.5	11.7	124.2
Year 12	93.9	85.8	179.7	23.9	203.6
Year 11	26.5	33.1	59.6	*5.1	64.8
Year 10 and below	64.3	87.6	151.9	16.6	168.5
Certificate I/II (c)	7.4	*5.9	13.3	**1.1	14.4
Status in employment (d)					
Employees	323.4	312.5	635.9	75.4	711.3
Own account workers	36.2	44.5	80.6	14.2	94.8
Preferred total number of hours					
Less than 30 hours	86.9	135.0	221.9	39.9	261.8
30–34	45.5	48.8	94.2	13.5	107.8
35–39	128.5	100.1	228.7	18.7	247.4
40 or more	102.1	75.7	177.8	20.1	197.8
Preferred number of extra hours					
Less than 10 hours	84.6	140.6	225.2	37.9	263.0
10–19	164.0	159.2	323.2	36.6	359.8
20–29	83.4	47.9	131.2	11.9	143.1
30 or more	31.1	12.0	43.0	*5.8	48.8
Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours					
Would prefer to change employer	112.3	66.4	178.7	23.1	201.7
Would prefer not to change employer	176.6	253.7	430.3	55.7	486.0
No preference	74.1	39.5	113.6	13.4	127.0
Total	363.0	359.6	722.6	92.1	814.7

* 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) Underemployed part-time workers.

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

(c) Includes 'Certificate not further defined'. Refer to Appendix 1 for more information.

(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	21.5	22.4	14.2	58.1	34.2	26.0
20-24	16.7	14.0	14.5	45.2	44.4	26.0
25-34	19.6	20.0	19.6	59.2	47.9	26.0
35-44	11.5	13.8	15.8	41.1	59.0	39.0
45-54	11.1	12.1	9.7	32.9	61.1	26.0
55 and over	8.1	9.0	23.1	40.2	115.7	52.0
Relationship in household						
Family member	71.5	71.2	76.0	218.7	56.1	26.0
Husband, wife or partner	27.3	31.6	38.8	97.7	71.7	39.0
Lone parent	**1.6	*2.2	**1.2	*5.0	42.2	18.0
Dependent student	15.3	14.3	12.1	41.8	39.7	26.0
Non-dependent child	24.6	18.6	21.3	64.5	47.6	26.0
Other family person	*2.6	*4.5	*2.6	9.8	33.5	26.0
Non-family member	15.2	19.3	20.6	55.0	65.1	34.0
Relationship not determined	*1.8	**0.8	**0.3	*2.9	20.3	10.0
Level of highest educational attainment(a)						
Bachelor degree or higher	10.3	15.0	20.6	45.9	67.3	39.0
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	*3.8	8.0	8.6	20.4	95.8	28.0
Certificate III/IV	11.9	11.7	13.5	37.1	55.1	34.0
Year 12	26.3	28.6	23.0	77.9	44.3	26.0
Year 11	10.2	*6.4	8.8	25.5	57.8	20.0
Year 10 and below	24.0	18.6	19.7	62.3	50.7	26.0
Certificate I/II(b)	—	*1.7	**0.8	*2.6	41.6	40.0
Status in employment(c)						
Employees	78.4	73.7	77.9	229.9	50.9	26.0
Own account workers	9.3	15.9	18.4	43.5	94.3	39.0
Preferred total number of hours						
Less than 30 hours	20.9	19.5	20.3	60.7	52.5	26.0
30-34	10.0	8.9	9.5	28.4	72.5	34.0
35-39	26.4	31.3	34.1	91.8	62.4	30.0
40 or more	31.0	31.7	33.0	95.7	51.6	26.0
Preferred number of extra hours						
Less than 10 hours	26.7	28.6	23.6	78.9	49.2	26.0
10-19	32.9	34.2	42.8	109.9	63.2	36.0
20-29	19.7	22.5	22.6	64.7	58.2	26.0
30 or more	9.2	*6.0	7.8	23.0	56.7	20.0
Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours						
Would prefer to change employer	23.6	20.8	27.3	71.7	64.0	34.0
Would prefer not to change employer	51.7	51.3	54.7	157.7	55.6	26.0
No preference	13.1	19.2	14.8	47.2	54.0	26.0
Total	88.4	91.3	96.8	276.6	57.5	28.0

* 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

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

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

(b) Includes 'Certificate not further defined'. Refer to Appendix 1 for more information.

(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	23.5	24.8	22.5	70.9	35.5	26.0
20-24	22.5	23.9	23.8	70.2	51.8	26.0
25-34	23.8	25.8	22.9	72.6	46.6	26.0
35-44	26.8	29.0	43.2	99.0	85.9	34.0
45-54	22.1	21.3	44.1	87.5	104.8	52.0
55 and over	9.0	14.6	22.3	45.9	131.3	46.0
Relationship in household						
Family member	112.4	124.9	162.3	399.5	73.7	34.0
Husband, wife or partner	60.0	74.1	94.0	228.1	78.8	32.0
Lone parent	16.2	14.1	26.7	57.1	104.1	38.0
Dependent student	14.7	16.3	18.6	49.7	45.7	34.0
Non-dependent child	18.2	18.6	19.8	56.5	48.7	30.0
Other family person	*3.2	*1.7	*3.2	8.1	62.5	30.0
Non-family member	15.0	13.5	16.4	44.9	83.7	30.0
Relationship not determined	**0.5	**0.9	**0.1	**1.6	16.7	15.0
Level of highest educational attainment(a)						
Bachelor degree or higher	26.9	30.0	25.1	82.0	66.0	26.0
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	10.3	15.6	20.8	46.7	93.7	35.0
Certificate III/IV	23.1	23.0	29.4	75.5	79.4	30.0
Year 12	32.3	31.1	38.4	101.8	53.1	30.0
Year 11	7.4	11.7	15.0	34.1	61.6	30.0
Year 10 and below	21.7	24.8	43.1	89.6	90.2	48.0
Certificate I/II(b)	*4.5	**1.5	*4.9	10.8	122.8	27.0
Status in employment(c)						
Employees	115.5	127.4	163.1	406.0	71.4	32.0
Own account workers	12.4	10.6	14.1	37.1	96.6	26.0
Preferred total number of hours						
Less than 30 hours	48.3	50.5	62.5	161.2	78.5	32.0
30-34	20.0	17.5	28.3	65.8	88.7	32.0
35-39	35.0	41.6	60.3	136.9	71.8	36.0
40 or more	24.6	29.8	27.7	82.1	59.9	26.0
Preferred number of extra hours						
Less than 10 hours	48.6	41.3	56.2	146.2	73.1	30.0
10-19	55.0	68.5	89.7	213.3	77.4	32.0
20-29	17.1	24.5	25.0	66.5	75.9	34.0
30 or more	7.1	*5.0	7.9	20.0	49.9	26.0
Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours						
Would prefer to change employer	30.8	35.2	40.9	106.9	60.5	30.0
Would prefer not to change employer	83.4	83.2	106.0	272.6	75.9	32.0
No preference	13.6	20.9	31.9	66.4	91.4	39.0
Total	127.9	139.3	178.8	446.0	74.5	32.0

* 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 not further defined'. Refer to Appendix 1 for more information.

(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	45.0	47.2	36.7	128.9	34.9	26.0
20-24	39.2	37.9	38.3	115.4	48.9	26.0
25-34	43.4	45.9	42.5	131.7	47.2	26.0
35-44	38.3	42.8	58.9	140.1	78.0	35.0
45-54	33.3	33.4	53.8	120.4	92.8	39.0
55 and over	17.1	23.5	45.4	86.1	124.0	52.0
Relationship in household						
Family member	183.9	196.1	238.3	618.3	67.5	30.0
Husband, wife or partner	87.4	105.8	132.7	325.8	76.7	34.0
Lone parent	17.8	16.4	27.9	62.1	99.1	38.0
Dependent student	30.1	30.6	30.7	91.4	42.9	26.0
Non-dependent child	42.8	37.2	41.1	121.0	48.1	26.0
Other family person	*5.8	*6.2	*5.9	17.9	46.6	26.0
Non-family member	30.1	32.8	36.9	99.9	73.4	30.0
Relationship not determined	*2.3	*1.8	**0.4	*4.5	19.0	10.0
Level of highest educational attainment(a)						
Bachelor degree or higher	37.1	45.0	45.8	127.9	66.5	30.0
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	14.1	23.6	29.3	67.1	94.4	34.0
Certificate III/IV	34.9	34.7	42.9	112.5	71.4	30.0
Year 12	58.6	59.7	61.3	179.7	49.3	30.0
Year 11	17.6	18.1	23.8	59.6	60.0	26.0
Year 10 and below	45.7	43.4	62.8	151.9	74.0	34.0
Certificate I/II(b)	*4.5	*3.2	*5.7	13.3	107.3	27.0
Status in employment(c)						
Employees	193.9	201.0	241.0	635.9	64.0	30.0
Own account workers	21.7	26.5	32.5	80.6	95.4	34.0
Preferred total number of hours						
Less than 30 hours	69.2	70.0	82.8	221.9	71.4	30.0
30-34	30.0	26.4	37.8	94.2	83.8	32.0
35-39	61.4	72.9	94.4	228.7	68.0	34.0
40 or more	55.7	61.4	60.6	177.8	55.4	26.0
Preferred number of extra hours						
Less than 10 hours	75.3	70.0	79.9	225.2	64.7	26.0
10-19	87.9	102.8	132.5	323.2	72.6	34.0
20-29	36.7	47.0	47.6	131.2	67.2	30.0
30 or more	16.4	11.0	15.7	43.0	53.5	21.0
Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours						
Would prefer to change employer	54.4	56.0	68.2	178.7	61.9	30.0
Would prefer not to change employer	135.1	134.6	160.6	430.3	68.5	30.0
No preference	26.7	40.1	46.8	113.6	75.9	30.0
Total	216.3	230.7	275.6	722.6	68.0	30.0

* 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 not further defined'. Refer to Appendix 1 for more information.

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

	<i>Less than 10 hours</i>	<i>10–19</i>	<i>20 or more</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Mean preferred number of extra hours</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	hours
MALES					
Age group (years)					
15–19	23.7	12.8	21.6	58.1	14.5
20–24	14.1	19.8	11.3	45.2	14.1
25–34	14.7	26.5	18.0	59.2	16.0
35–44	9.2	18.0	13.9	41.1	15.7
45–54	6.6	14.3	12.1	32.9	16.0
55 and over	10.7	18.6	10.9	40.2	15.2
Status in employment(a)					
Employees	70.6	87.5	71.9	229.9	15.0
Own account workers	7.6	20.9	15.1	43.5	16.4
Hours usually worked					
1–5	11.0	6.6	8.1	25.8	15.0
6–10	9.1	9.0	23.0	41.0	20.4
11–15	9.9	7.7	23.9	41.5	18.6
16–20	9.0	27.3	29.5	65.8	16.7
21–29	13.7	48.2	2.5	64.4	12.5
30–34	26.3	11.1	0.8	38.1	8.1
Whether would move interstate if offered a suitable job					
Would move interstate	18.6	25.0	28.4	72.0	15.9
Would not move interstate	53.5	68.9	51.1	173.5	14.8
Might move interstate	5.8	11.0	5.8	22.7	15.3
Did not know	1.0	4.9	2.4	8.4	17.3
Whether would move intrastate if offered a suitable job					
Would move intrastate	24.3	36.1	35.4	95.7	16.0
Would not move intrastate	46.8	57.5	38.5	142.8	14.1
Might move intrastate	5.1	12.9	12.9	30.9	18.2
Did not know	2.8	3.4	1.0	7.2	13.8
<i>Total</i>	<i>78.9</i>	<i>109.9</i>	<i>87.8</i>	<i>276.6</i>	<i>15.2</i>

(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
FEMALES					
Age group (years)					
15-19	33.3	22.3	15.3	70.9	12.3
20-24	22.4	34.0	13.9	70.2	13.9
25-34	16.8	37.2	18.6	72.6	14.6
35-44	27.0	52.3	19.6	99.0	13.8
45-54	27.3	45.8	14.4	87.5	13.4
55 and over	19.4	21.8	4.7	45.9	11.1
Status in employment(a)					
Employees	135.2	194.7	76.0	406.0	13.2
Own account workers	11.0	16.6	9.5	37.1	14.5
Hours usually worked					
1-5	13.1	14.7	12.3	40.1	16.2
6-10	25.0	37.3	25.5	87.8	15.4
11-15	30.9	33.4	28.1	92.4	14.1
16-20	17.3	49.4	18.9	85.6	14.2
21-29	27.8	60.3	1.3	89.3	11.5
30-34	32.2	18.2	0.3	50.8	7.8
Whether would move interstate if offered a suitable job					
Would move interstate	17.2	41.7	18.8	77.6	15.4
Would not move interstate	120.0	149.1	57.9	327.0	12.7
Might move interstate	6.9	14.9	6.7	28.6	14.3
Did not know	2.1	7.6	3.1	12.7	15.6
Whether would move intrastate if offered a suitable job					
Would move intrastate	20.9	59.7	27.1	107.8	15.5
Would not move intrastate	109.5	127.9	47.0	284.3	12.4
Might move intrastate	12.8	22.1	11.9	46.7	14.2
Did not know	3.1	3.6	0.5	7.2	11.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>146.2</i>	<i>213.3</i>	<i>86.5</i>	<i>446.0</i>	<i>13.3</i>

(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	57.0	35.0	36.9	128.9	13.3
20-24	36.5	53.7	25.2	115.4	14.0
25-34	31.5	63.6	36.6	131.7	15.2
35-44	36.2	70.4	33.5	140.1	14.3
45-54	33.9	60.0	26.5	120.4	14.1
55 and over	30.1	40.4	15.6	86.1	13.0
Status in employment(a)					
Employees	205.8	282.2	147.9	635.9	13.9
Own account workers	18.6	37.4	24.6	80.6	15.5
Hours usually worked					
1-5	24.1	21.4	20.4	65.9	15.7
6-10	34.1	46.3	48.5	128.9	17.0
11-15	40.7	41.1	52.0	133.8	15.5
16-20	26.3	76.7	48.4	151.4	15.3
21-29	41.5	108.5	3.8	153.7	11.9
30-34	58.5	29.3	1.1	88.9	7.9
Whether would move interstate if offered a suitable job					
Would move interstate	35.7	66.7	47.2	149.7	15.7
Would not move interstate	173.6	218.0	109.0	500.5	13.4
Might move interstate	12.8	26.0	12.6	51.3	14.7
Did not know	3.1	12.5	5.5	21.1	16.3
Whether would move intrastate if offered a suitable job					
Would move intrastate	45.2	95.8	62.5	203.5	15.8
Would not move intrastate	156.3	185.4	85.5	427.1	13.0
Might move intrastate	17.8	35.0	24.8	77.6	15.8
Did not know	5.9	7.0	1.5	14.4	12.4
Total	225.2	323.2	174.2	722.6	14.1

(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	143.1	219.9	363.0	16.8	15.4	16.0
Own ill health or disability	7.3	*6.0	13.3	20.7	17.1	19.1
Considered too old by employers	*5.4	7.3	12.6	16.9	19.4	18.3
Unsuitable hours	8.9	23.9	32.9	12.2	13.8	13.4
Too far to travel/transport problems	*3.5	*5.1	8.7	21.9	18.0	19.6
Lacked necessary skills or education	12.9	11.8	24.7	17.0	17.8	17.4
Language difficulties	*2.4	*2.6	*5.0	18.6	20.0	19.3
Insufficient work experience	7.4	13.9	21.3	14.9	16.0	15.6
No vacancies in line of work	35.5	42.2	77.7	17.2	16.1	16.6
Too many applicants for available jobs	9.6	20.9	30.5	18.9	15.8	16.8
No vacancies at all	18.7	21.0	39.7	15.7	17.0	16.4
Difficulties in finding child care	—	7.3	7.3	—	16.3	16.3
Other family responsibilities	*2.1	9.7	11.8	18.1	14.5	15.2
Other difficulties(a)	21.0	33.5	54.4	16.8	13.2	14.6
No difficulties reported	8.4	14.7	23.1	14.9	12.2	13.2
Had not been looking for work with more hours	133.5	226.1	359.6	13.5	11.3	12.1
Total	276.6	446.0	722.6	15.2	13.3	14.1

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution
 — 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	33.6	53.4	56.1	143.1	16.8
Asked current employer for more work	20.5	33.4	35.2	89.1	16.8
Contacted prospective employers	16.1	26.7	37.0	79.8	17.8
Registered with Centrelink	*3.5	7.6	17.4	28.5	20.9
Checked noticeboards	**1.0	*3.5	*3.2	7.7	18.5
Contacted an employment agency	*3.1	8.4	14.7	26.2	20.2
Looked in newspapers	8.8	25.7	33.2	67.7	18.5
Searched internet sites	12.7	28.1	32.0	72.7	18.0
Answered a newspaper advertisement for a job	*4.5	8.9	14.4	27.8	19.6
Advertised or tendered for work	**1.0	*4.3	*5.1	10.4	19.4
Contacted friends or relatives	7.4	17.6	19.5	44.5	17.9
Other steps taken to find work	*3.0	*4.6	*4.8	12.4	17.9
Had not been looking for work with more hours	45.4	56.4	31.7	133.5	13.6
Total	78.9	109.9	87.8	276.6	15.3
FEMALES					
Had been looking for work with more hours	51.0	110.6	58.3	219.9	15.5
Asked current employer for more work	33.5	67.2	35.5	136.2	15.3
Contacted prospective employers	24.4	64.2	41.6	130.2	16.6
Registered with Centrelink	*2.2	18.4	20.5	41.0	19.8
Checked noticeboards	*3.5	7.0	*2.2	12.7	14.0
Contacted an employment agency	*3.7	17.6	10.4	31.7	16.7
Looked in newspapers	18.5	56.7	36.9	112.1	16.9
Searched internet sites	25.7	70.1	35.7	131.5	15.9
Answered a newspaper advertisement for a job	*4.5	17.9	15.3	37.7	17.8
Advertised or tendered for work	*2.8	*4.8	*5.1	12.6	16.8
Contacted friends or relatives	11.0	29.3	20.4	60.7	16.4
Other steps taken to find work	6.9	7.0	*4.8	18.6	13.5
Had not been looking for work with more hours	95.2	102.7	28.1	226.1	11.4
Total	146.2	213.3	86.5	446.0	13.4
PERSONS					
Had been looking for work with more hours	84.6	164.0	114.4	363.0	16.0
Asked current employer for more work	54.0	100.6	70.6	225.3	15.9
Contacted prospective employers	40.6	90.9	78.6	210.1	17.0
Registered with Centrelink	*5.7	26.0	37.9	69.6	20.2
Checked noticeboards	*4.5	10.4	*5.5	20.4	15.7
Contacted an employment agency	*6.8	26.0	25.1	57.9	18.3
Looked in newspapers	27.4	82.4	70.1	179.8	17.5
Searched internet sites	38.3	98.2	67.7	204.2	16.6
Answered a newspaper advertisement for a job	9.1	26.8	29.7	65.5	18.6
Advertised or tendered for work	*3.8	9.1	10.2	23.0	18.0
Contacted friends or relatives	18.4	46.8	39.9	105.1	17.0
Other steps taken to find work	9.9	11.6	9.5	31.0	15.2
Had not been looking for work with more hours	140.6	159.2	59.8	359.6	12.2
Total	225.2	323.2	174.2	722.6	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

(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.

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES									
Population 1									
Employed persons	1 968.5	1 572.5	1 269.2	443.9	692.9	125.1	64.2	106.0	6 242.3
Population 2									
Full-time workers	1 649.5	1 303.9	1 077.2	365.2	594.7	103.4	57.0	88.4	5 239.3
Population 3									
Part-time workers	319.1	268.6	191.9	78.8	98.1	21.7	7.1	17.6	1 002.9
Population 4									
Part-time workers who would prefer more hours	99.6	80.8	61.4	25.0	25.9	*6.5	**1.6	*4.4	305.1
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)	90.4	73.7	56.3	23.4	23.7	*6.2	**1.6	*4.2	279.4
Population 6									
Underemployed part-time workers	88.7	73.7	55.5	23.4	23.5	*6.1	**1.6	*4.2	276.6
Population 7									
Underemployed workers	98.0	87.0	67.9	28.7	27.6	7.4	*2.2	*4.3	323.2
FEMALES									
Population 1									
Employed persons	1 665.2	1 316.2	1 090.2	380.5	551.9	112.4	57.4	98.6	5 272.4
Population 2									
Full-time workers	915.7	713.0	628.4	183.0	299.2	54.5	41.9	66.3	2 902.0
Population 3									
Part-time workers	749.6	603.2	461.8	197.5	252.7	58.0	15.4	32.3	2 370.5
Population 4									
Part-time workers who would prefer more hours	179.8	131.6	87.8	41.3	44.2	15.6	*2.5	6.9	509.7
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)	161.1	115.7	79.7	37.9	38.0	14.1	*2.4	*5.5	454.4
Population 6									
Underemployed part-time workers	158.6	114.7	76.3	37.4	37.4	13.6	*2.4	*5.5	446.0
Population 7									
Underemployed workers	163.7	119.1	82.1	38.2	38.8	13.8	*2.5	*5.5	463.7
PERSONS									
Population 1									
Employed persons	3 633.8	2 888.8	2 359.4	824.5	1 244.7	237.5	121.5	204.6	11 514.7
Population 2									
Full-time workers	2 565.2	2 016.9	1 705.6	548.2	893.9	157.9	99.0	154.6	8 141.3
Population 3									
Part-time workers	1 068.6	871.9	653.7	276.3	350.8	79.6	22.5	49.9	3 373.4
Population 4									
Part-time workers who would prefer more hours	279.4	212.4	149.3	66.3	70.0	22.0	*4.1	11.3	814.7
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)	251.5	189.4	136.0	61.3	61.7	20.3	*4.0	9.7	733.8
Population 6									
Underemployed part-time workers	247.3	188.4	131.8	60.8	60.9	19.7	*4.0	9.7	722.6
Population 7									
Underemployed workers	261.7	206.1	150.0	66.9	66.4	21.2	*4.8	9.8	786.8

* 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) 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 2011 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; and
- 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 2011. 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 initial sample for the September 2011 LFS consisted of 36,312 private dwelling households and special dwelling units. Of the 29,288 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 27,365 or 93.4% were fully responding to the Underemployed Workers Survey. The number of completed interviews obtained from these private dwelling households and special dwelling units (after taking into account scope, coverage and subsampling exclusions) was 29,818.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

- 10** 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

- 11** 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

- 12** Country of birth data are classified according to the *Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2011* (cat. no. 1269.0).

- 13** Educational attainment data are classified according to *Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001* (cat. no. 1272.0). See Appendix 1 for further information.

COMPARABILITY OF TIME SERIES

- 14** The Labour Force Survey estimates, and estimates from the supplementary surveys, are calculated in such a way as to sum to independent estimates of the civilian population aged 15 years and over (population benchmarks). These population benchmarks are based on Estimated Resident Population (ERP) data. Generally, revisions are made to population benchmarks after each five-yearly Census of Population and Housing (Census), however revisions were made to the population benchmarks from July 2010, including those used for the 2011 Underemployed Workers Survey, to reflect revisions to ERP. For more details on the population benchmarks, see the Explanatory Notes in *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0). and for details about the revisions made, see the article in the September 2010 issue of *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0).

COMPARABILITY WITH PREVIOUS SURVEYS

- 15** 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.

- 16** 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.

- 17** 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'.

COMPARABILITY WITH MONTHLY LFS STATISTICS

- 18** 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.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

COMPARABILITY WITH ILO GUIDELINES

19 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.

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

PREVIOUS SURVEYS

21 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

22 The ABS plans to conduct this survey again in September 2012.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

23 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

24 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)

25 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.

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, telephone (02) 6252 7400, or email <information.consultancy@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

Data items

Populations

1	State or territory of usual residence	All
	New South Wales	
	Victoria	
	Queensland	
	South Australia	
	Western Australia	
	Tasmania	
	Northern Territory	
	Australian Capital Territory	
2	Area of usual residence	All
	State capital city	
	Balance of state/territory	
3	Region of usual residence	All
	Standard labour force dissemination regions	
4	Sex	All
	Males	
	Females	
5	Marital status	All
	Married	
	Not married	

APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
6 Relationship in household	All
Family member	
Husband, wife or partner	
With dependants	
Without dependants	
Lone parent	
With dependants	
Without dependants	
Dependent student	
Non-dependent child	
Other family person	
Non-family member	
Lone person	
Not living alone	
Relationship not determined	
7A Country of birth and period of arrival	All
Born in Australia	
Born overseas	
Arrived before 1971	
Arrived 1971–1980	
Arrived 1981–1990	
Arrived 1991–2000	
Arrived 2001 to survey date	
7B Country of birth (1)	All
Born in Australia	
Born overseas	
Born in main English-speaking countries	
Born in other than main English-speaking countries	
7C Country of birth (2)	All
Born in Australia	
Born overseas	
Oceania and Antarctica	
North-West Europe	
Southern and Eastern Europe	
North Africa and the Middle East	
South-East Asia	
North-East Asia	
Southern and Central Asia	
Americas	
Sub-Saharan Africa	
8 Age group (years)	All
15–19	
20–24	
25–34	
35–44	
45–54	
55–59	
60–64	
65–69	
70 and over	
Note: Age collected in single years	
9A Underemployment status	7
Worked less than 35 hours in the reference week for economic reasons	
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	
Not looking but available to start	

APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
9B Whether looking and/or available Had been looking for work with more hours Looking and available to start Looking and available in the reference week Looking and not available in the reference week but available within four weeks Looking and not available to start Had not been looking for work with more hours Not looking but available to start Not looking but available in the reference week Not looking and not available in the reference week but available within four weeks Not looking and not available to start	4-6
9C Whether available and/or looking Available to start work with more hours Available in the reference week Looking Not looking Available within four weeks (but not in the reference week) Looking Not looking Not available to start work with more hours Looking Not looking	4-6
10 Full-time or part-time status Employed persons Full-time workers Worked 35 hours or more in the reference week Worked less than 35 hours in the reference week For non-economic reasons For economic reasons Part-time workers Would not prefer to work more hours Would prefer to work more hours Prefers more part-time hours Prefers full-time hours	All
11 Whether fully employed Fully employed Part-time workers who would prefer more hours and persons who worked less than 35 hours in the reference week for economic reasons	All
12 Status in employment Employees Employers Own account workers Contributing family workers	All
13 Number of hours worked in the reference week 0-5 6-10 11-15 16-20 20-29 30-34 35 or more Note: Hours worked collected in single hours	4-7
14 Type of insufficient work Full-time Part-time	4-6
15 Duration of current period of insufficient work 1 week and under 4 weeks 4 weeks and under 13 weeks 13 weeks and under 52 weeks 52 weeks and over Note: Period of insufficient work collected in single weeks	4-7

APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
16A Level of highest educational attainment	4-7
Postgraduate Degree	
Graduate Diploma/Graduate Certificate	
Bachelor Degree	
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	
Certificate III/IV	
Certificate I/II	
Certificate not further defined	
Year 12	
Year 11	
Year 10 or below	
Other education	
Level not determined	
No educational attainment	
16B Level of highest non-school qualification	4-7
With a non-school qualification	
Postgraduate Degree	
Graduate Diploma/Graduate Certificate	
Bachelor Degree	
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	
Certificate III/IV	
Certificate I/II	
Certificate not further defined	
Level not determined	
Without a non-school qualification	
16C Highest year of school completed	4-7
Year 12	
Year 11	
Year 10	
Year 9	
Year 8 or below	
Never attended school	
16D Highest non-school qualification and whether qualification obtained overseas or within Australia	4-7
Born in Australia	
Born overseas	
With a non-school qualification	
Qualification obtained overseas	
Qualification obtained in Australia	
Without a non-school qualification	
17 Whether would move interstate if offered a suitable job	4-7
Would move interstate	
Would not move interstate	
Might move interstate	
Did not know	
18 Whether would move intrastate if offered a suitable job	4-7
Would move intrastate	
Would not move intrastate	
Might move intrastate	
Did not know	
19 Whether would prefer to change occupation to work more hours	4-7
Would prefer to change occupation	
Would prefer not to change occupation	
No preference	
20 Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours	4-7
Would prefer to change employer	
Would prefer not to change employer	
No preference	

APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
21 All steps taken to find work with more hours in the last four weeks Asked current employer for more work Contacted prospective employers Registered with Centrelink Checked noticeboards Contacted an employment agency Looked in newspapers Searched internet sites Answered a newspaper advertisement for a job Advertised or tendered for work Contacted friends or relatives Other steps taken to find work Had not been looking for work with more hours	4-6
22 Whether registered with Centrelink Registered with Centrelink for job search assistance Not registered with Centrelink for job search assistance Had not been looking for work with more hours	4-6
23 Preferred number of extra hours Less than 10 hours 10-19 20-29 30 or more Note: Preferred extra hours collected in single hours	4-6
24 Main difficulty in finding work with more hours Had been looking for work with more hours Own ill health or disability Considered too young by employers Considered too old by employers Unsuitable hours Too far to travel/transport problems Lacked necessary skills or education Language difficulties Insufficient work experience No vacancies in line of work Too many applicants for available jobs No vacancies at all Difficulties with ethnic background Difficulties in finding child care Other family responsibilities Other difficulties No difficulties reported Had not been looking for work with more hours	4-6
25 Hours usually worked 1-5 6-10 11-15 16-20 21-29 30-34 Note: Hours usually worked collected in single hours	4-6
26 Preferred total number of hours Less than 30 hours 30-34 35-39 40 or more Note: Preferred total hours collected in single hours	4-6
27 Employment type Employees (excluding OMIEs) Owner managers of incorporated enterprises Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises Contributing family workers	All

APPENDIX 3 SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

The Monthly Population Survey program and the Multi-Purpose Household Survey program collect 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			
Childhood Education and Care, Australia	4402.0	Irregular	June 2008
Child Employment, Australia	6211.0	Irregular	June 2006
Education and Work, Australia	6227.0	Annual	May 2011
Employee Earnings, Benefits, and Trade Union Membership, Australia	6310.0	Annual	August 2010
Forms of Employment, Australia	6359.0	Annual	November 2010
Job Search Experience, Australia	6222.0	Annual	July 2011
Labour Force Experience, Australia	6206.0	Biennial	February 2011
Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia(a)	6250.0	Irregular	November 2010
Labour Mobility, Australia	6209.0	Biennial	February 2010
Locations of Work, Australia	6275.0	Irregular	November 2008
Multiple Jobholding, Australia(b)	6216.0	Irregular	August 1997
Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia	6220.0	Annual	September 2010
Underemployed Workers, Australia	6265.0	Annual	September 2010
Working Time Arrangements, Australia(c)	6342.0	Irregular	November 2009
Multi-Purpose Household Surveys			
Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation, Australia	6239.0	Biennial	2010–2011
Retirement and Retirement Intentions, Australia	6238.0	Biennial	2010–2011
Work-Related Injuries, Australia	6324.0	Irregular	2009–2010

(a) This product replaces the publication Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants, Australia (cat. no. 6250.0).

(b) Latest data available on request July 2001.

(c) This product replaces the publication Working Arrangements, Australia (cat. no. 6340.0).

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.

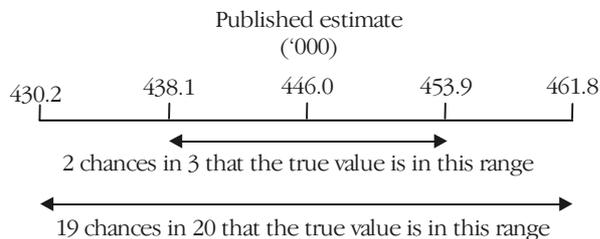
2 Due to space limitations, it is impractical to print the SE of each estimate in the publication. Instead, a table of SEs is provided to determine the SE for an estimate from the size of that estimate (see table T1). The SE table is derived from a mathematical model, referred to as the 'SE model', which 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.

CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERROR

3 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 446,000. Since this estimate is between 300,000 and 500,000, table T1 shows that the SE for Australia will lie between 6,650 and 8,350 and can be approximated by interpolation using the following general formula:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & SE \text{ of estimate} \\
 &= \text{lower SE} + \left(\left(\frac{\text{size of estimate} - \text{lower estimate}}{\text{upper estimate} - \text{lower estimate}} \right) \times (\text{upper SE} - \text{lower SE}) \right) \\
 &= 6,650 + \left(\left(\frac{446,000 - 300,000}{500,000 - 300,000} \right) \times (8,350 - 6,650) \right) \\
 &= 7,900 \text{ (rounded to the nearest 100)}
 \end{aligned}$$

4 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 438,100 to 453,900 and about 19 chances in 20 that the value will fall within the range 430,200 to 461,800. This example is illustrated in the following diagram.



CALCULATION OF STANDARD
ERROR *continued*

5 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

6 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

7 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 276,600 with a median duration of insufficient work of 28 weeks. The SE of 276,600 can be calculated from table T1 (by interpolation) as 6,400. To convert this to an RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate or $6,400/276,600 = 2.3\%$.

8 The RSE of the estimate of median duration of insufficient work is calculated by multiplying this number (2.3%) by the appropriate factor shown in paragraph 6 (in this case 2.5): $2.5 \times 2.3 = 5.8\%$. The SE of this estimate of median duration of insufficient work is therefore 5.8% of 28, 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 26–30 weeks, and about 19 chances in 20 that it would have been within the range 24–32 weeks.

PROPORTIONS AND
PERCENTAGES

9 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.

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

10 Considering the example from paragraph 3, of the 446,000 female underemployed part-time workers, 178,800 or 40.1% had insufficient work for 52 weeks and over. The SE of 178,800 may be calculated by interpolation as 5,300. To convert this to an RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate, or $5,300/178,800 = 3.0\%$. The SE for 446,000 was calculated previously as 7,900, which converted to an RSE is $7,900/446,000 = 1.8\%$. Applying the above formula, the RSE of the proportion is:

$$RSE = \sqrt{(3.0)^2 - (1.8)^2} = 2.4\%$$

TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY *continued*

PROPORTIONS AND PERCENTAGES *continued*

11 Therefore, the SE for the proportion of females who have a current period of insufficient work of 52 weeks or more is 1.0 percentage points ($= (40.1/100) \times 2.4$). 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 39.1% and 41.1% and 19 chances in 20 that the proportion is within the range 38.1% to 42.1%.

DIFFERENCES

12 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:

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

13 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.									SE	RSE
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	no.		
100	290	290	220	180	220	110	80	100	110	110.0	
200	400	380	320	240	290	160	120	170	190	95.0	
300	470	440	390	280	340	190	160	210	260	86.7	
500	580	540	500	340	420	240	200	270	380	76.0	
700	660	620	580	390	480	270	230	300	480	68.6	
1000	760	710	680	450	550	310	270	330	610	61.0	
1500	900	830	810	530	640	360	320	360	780	52.0	
2000	1 010	930	910	590	710	390	350	390	920	46.0	
2500	1 100	1 000	1 000	650	800	400	400	400	1 050	42.0	
3000	1 200	1 100	1 050	700	850	450	400	450	1 150	38.3	
3500	1 250	1 150	1 100	700	900	450	400	450	1 250	35.7	
4000	1 300	1 200	1 200	750	900	500	450	450	1 350	33.8	
5000	1 450	1 300	1 250	800	1 000	500	500	500	1 500	30.0	
7000	1 650	1 500	1 450	900	1 150	600	600	600	1 700	24.3	
10000	1 850	1 700	1 600	1 050	1 300	700	750	700	2 000	20.0	
15000	2 150	1 950	1 800	1 200	1 500	850	1 050	850	2 350	15.7	
20000	2 400	2 200	1 950	1 350	1 650	1 000	1 300	1 000	2 550	12.8	
30000	2 800	2 550	2 250	1 550	1 900	1 250	1 850	1 250	2 900	9.7	
40000	3 100	2 800	2 500	1 800	2 100	1 500	2 300	1 500	3 150	7.9	
50000	3 350	3 050	2 750	2 000	2 300	1 700	2 750	1 650	3 400	6.8	
100000	4 250	4 000	3 750	3 000	3 400	2 400	4 800	2 250	4 300	4.3	
150000	5 000	4 850	4 600	3 850	4 450	2 850	6 600	2 500	5 000	3.3	
200000	5 750	5 650	5 400	4 550	5 350	3 200	8 250	2 650	5 600	2.8	
300000	7 250	7 250	6 850	5 550	6 750	3 700	11 250	2 800	6 650	2.2	
500000	10 150	10 050	9 250	7 000	8 600	4 250	..	2 800	8 350	1.7	
1000000	15 100	15 250	13 200	8 900	10 950	4 850	..	..	11 750	1.2
2000000	20 350	22 550	17 700	10 600	12 700	..	..	..	17 050	0.9
5000000	25 900	36 100	23 900	11 900	13 250	..	..	..	28 450	0.6
10000000	27 750	49 750	27 950	..	..	..	..	..	37 950	0.4
15000000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42 850	0.3

.. not applicable

TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY *continued*

STANDARD ERRORS *continued*

T2 LEVELS AT WHICH ESTIMATES HAVE RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS
OF 25% AND 50%(a)

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
<i>Percentage</i>	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
RSE of 25%	6 300	5 400	5 100	2 600	3 500	1 400	1 200	1 400	6 800
RSE of 50%	2 000	1 800	1 700	800	1 200	500	300	600	1 600

(a) Refers to the number of persons contributing to the estimate.

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 workers	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 fewer than 35 hours in the reference week due to economic reasons, refers to the number of weeks they have been working fewer 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 fewer 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; or■ 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 their own unincorporated economic enterprise or engage independently in a profession or trade, and hire one or more employees.
Full-time workers	Employed people who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) or others who, although usually worked fewer than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.
Fully employed workers	<p>Employed people who:</p> <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 fewer 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.

GLOSSARY *continued*

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	<p>Non-economic reasons for full-time workers having worked fewer than 35 hours in the reference week include:</p> <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; and ■ 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.
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 fewer 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.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Suitable job	<p>A suitable job is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ any job for which the person is qualified (if applicable), is capable of performing and which provides adequate job conditions (including pay, hours, travel to work, etc.).■ it is a job that would be accepted by the person irrespective of whether a move was required.
Underemployed workers	<p>Underemployed workers are employed people who would prefer, and are available for, more hours of work than they currently have. They comprise:</p> <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; and■ 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	<p>The number of underemployed workers expressed as a percentage of the labour force.</p>
Usual number of hours	<p>The number of hours usually worked in a week.</p>

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