



## **Technical Manual**

# **Labour Force Survey and Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership - Basic and Expanded CURF**

**Australia**

**August 2008**



New  
Issue

## **Technical Manual**

# **Labour Force Survey and Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership - Basic and Expanded CURF**

**Australia**

**August 2008**

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AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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## INQUIRIES

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

# CONTENTS

	<i>page</i>
Abbreviations	vi
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
Overview	vii
About the survey	vii
Future releases	vii
<b>SURVEY METHODOLOGY</b>	
Sample design	1
Sample size	1
Weighting, benchmarking and estimation	1
Reliability of the estimates	2
Seasonal factors	2
Imputation	3
More information	3
<b>USING THE CURF MICRODATA</b>	
About the microdata	4
Use of weights	4
Standard errors	5
Earnings	6
<b>COMPARISONS BETWEEN CURFS</b>	
Comparison between the 2006 and 2008 CURFs	8
Comparison between the 2008 Basic and Expanded CURFs	8
<b>CONDITIONS OF RELEASE</b>	
Conditions of release	9
Conditions of sale	9
Price	10
Accessing the CURF	10
Further information	10
<b>FILE CONTENT</b>	
2008 LFS and EEBTUM Survey Basic CURF	11
2008 LFS and EEBTUM Survey Expanded CURF	12
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>	
Appendix 1: Data items list	14
Appendix 2: Comparison between 2006 and 2008 CURFs	15
Appendix 3: Comparison between 2008 Basic and Expanded CURFs	16
Glossary	17

## ABBREVIATIONS

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<b>ABS</b>	Australian Bureau of Statistics
<b>ABSDL</b>	Australian Bureau of Statistics Data Laboratory
<b>ANZSCO</b>	Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations
<b>ANZSIC</b>	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
<b>AVCC</b>	Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee
<b>CURF</b>	confidentialised unit record file
<b>EEBTUM</b>	Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership
<b>GST</b>	goods and services tax
<b>LFS</b>	Labour Force Survey
<b>RADL</b>	Remote Access Data Laboratory
<b>RSE</b>	relative standard error
<b>SACC</b>	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
<b>SAS</b>	software package for preparing and executing computerised data analysis
<b>SE</b>	standard error
<b>SPSS</b>	software package for preparing and executing computerised data analysis
<b>STATA</b>	software package for preparing and executing computerised data analysis

# INTRODUCTION

## OVERVIEW

This manual provides information about the release of microdata from the August 2008 Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership (EEBTUM) Survey. The microdata are available as a Basic Confidentialised Unit Record File (CURF) and an Expanded CURF released with the approval of the Australian Statistician. The Basic CURF is available on CD-ROM, and via the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL). The Expanded CURF is accessible only through the RADL. Expanded CURFs allow more detail to be presented for some data items, for example, age, industry, occupation, hours and earnings.

The RADL is a secure, on-line database query service, which clients can access via the ABS website. Users of the RADL can submit programs in SAS, SPSS and STATA software to interrogate and analyse the microdata, and access the results. Further information about the RADL facility and information about obtaining access to the file is available on the ABS website.

## ABOUT THE SURVEY

The monthly LFS provides information on the labour market activity of the usual resident civilian population of Australia aged 15 years and over, including estimates of the number of employed and unemployed people, the unemployment rate and the labour force participation rate. Estimates from the August 2008 LFS were published in *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) in September 2008. This publication is included on the CURF CD-ROM and the RADL website as the Acrobat file 62020\_AUG2008.pdf.

The EEBTUM Survey is conducted in August each year as a supplement to the LFS. Information is collected on three survey topics: weekly earnings of employees, employment benefits and trade union membership. The survey provides information on the distribution of weekly earnings of employees, their entitlement to paid leave (holiday leave, sick leave, long-service leave, maternity/paternity leave), superannuation coverage, shares benefits and trade union membership. Estimates from the survey were published in *Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia, August 2008* (cat. no. 6310.0) in April 2009. This publication is included on the CURF CD-ROM and RADL website as Acrobat file 63100\_AUG2008.pdf.

## FUTURE RELEASES

The August 2008 LFS and EEBTUM Survey CURFs are the fifth in a series of CURFs containing microdata from the LFS. The upcoming CURFs are:

- LFS and Forms of Employment, November 2008, scheduled for release in December 2009;
- LFS and Labour Mobility, February 2010, scheduled for release in November 2010; and
- LFS and EEBTUM Survey, August 2010, scheduled for release in July 2011.

It is planned that future CURFs will be released as basic and expanded CURFs.





## SURVEY METHODOLOGY

### SAMPLE DESIGN

The LFS is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings and a list sample of non-private dwellings and covers about 0.24% of the population of Australia. Households are interviewed each month for eight months, with one-eighth of the sample being replaced each month. In August 2008, the number of fully responding individuals was 41,518.

The EEBTUM Survey is conducted on 7/8ths of the LFS sample and covers both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, but excludes people living in very remote areas of Australia. Information is collected about employed persons aged 15 years and over who worked in their main job for a public or private sector employer (and either received remuneration in wages or salary, received a retainer fee from their employer while working on a commission basis, or were paid in tips or piece-rates) or operated their own incorporated enterprise with or without employees. In August 2008, the number of responding individuals (after taking into account scope, coverage and subsampling exclusions) was 19,367.

### SAMPLE SIZE

The LFS sample size in August 2008 was approximately one-third smaller than the sample size in August 2007. This is due to an 11% sample reduction that was implemented from November 2007 to June 2008 based on the 2006 sample design, and an additional 24% sample reduction implemented in July 2008. Detailed information about the sample reduction is provided in *Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Sample Design, Nov 2007 (Second edition)* (cat. no. 6269.0).

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

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 population counts
- overseas residents in Australia
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants).

Additional exclusions for the EEBTUM Survey were:

- students at boarding schools
- institutionalised persons (e.g. patients in hospitals; residents of homes, such as retirement homes and homes for persons with disabilities; and inmates of prisons)
- persons living in very remote parts of Australia who would otherwise have been within scope of the survey. The exclusion of these people will only have a minor impact on any aggregate estimates that are produced from the EEBTUM Survey for individual states and territories, with the exception of the Northern Territory where such people account for around 23% of the population.

### WEIGHTING, BENCHMARKING AND ESTIMATION

Weighting is the process of adjusting results from a sample survey to infer results for the total population. To do this, a 'weight' is allocated to each sample unit. The weight is a value which indicates how many people are represented by the respondents.

## SURVEY METHODOLOGY *continued*

### *Weighting*

Separate weights were calculated for LFS and EEBTUM Survey samples (as some units were in scope for LFS but not for the EEBTUM Survey). The LFS weighting method ensures that LFS estimates conform to the benchmark distribution of the population by age, sex and geographic area, and also LFS region by sex (two sets of benchmarks). Weights are allocated to each sample respondent according to their state/territory of selection, state/territory of usual residence, part of state of usual residence, age group and sex. The weights are calculated using the inverse of the probabilities of selection, adjusted for any under-enumeration and non-response.

### *Benchmarking*

The EEBTUM Survey is benchmarked to LFS estimates for the following variables: state of usual residence, area of usual residence (capital city or balance of state), sex, age group and labour force status.

Benchmarking to LFS estimates accounts for the one eighth of the sample where the EEBTUM Survey is not conducted and for non-respondents to the EEBTUM Survey. The EEBTUM Survey weighting excludes all residents in institutions, boarding schools, and very remote areas because the sample scope excludes these people.

### *Estimation*

Survey estimates of the number of people with a particular characteristic are obtained by summing the weights of people who have that characteristic.

For more information on weights, see the 'Using the CURF Microdata' chapter in this Technical Manual.

## RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

Since the information on the CURF is based on information from a sample of dwellings, any statistics produced from the CURF will be subject to sampling error and non-sampling error.

### *Sampling error*

Sampling error is the difference between the survey estimate and the value that could have been produced had all dwellings in scope of the survey been included. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied 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. Generally, only estimates with RSEs less than 25% are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes.

### *Non-sampling error*

Non-sampling error arises from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the microdata. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to keep the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and effective processing procedures.

## SEASONAL FACTORS

Estimates are based on information collected in the survey month, and, due to seasonal factors, they may not be representative of other months of the year.

### IMPUTATION

Information relating to earnings in main job and earnings in second job not provided by the respondent have been imputed. In August 2008 there were 1,775 cases where information relating to earnings in main job was not provided by the respondent, and 65 cases where information relating to earnings in second job was not provided by the respondent. Where this was the only information missing from the record, a value has been imputed based on answers provided from another respondent with similar characteristics (referred to as the donor). Donor records were selected for main job imputation by matching information on sex, age, state or territory of usual residence and labour force characteristics (full-time or part-time in main job, industry, occupation, hours worked in main job) of the person with missing information. Donor records were selected for second job imputation by matching information on sex, age, state or territory of usual residence, area of usual residence and owner manager status. Depending on which values were to be imputed, donors were chosen from the pool of individual records with complete information for the block of questions where the missing information occurred.

### MORE INFORMATION

Further information on the survey methodology can be found in:

- *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001)
- *Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Sample Design, November 2007 (Second edition)* (cat. no. 6269.0)
- *Labour Force Survey Standard Errors, 2005* (cat. no. 6298.0)
- *Information Paper: Questionnaires Used in the Labour Force Survey, 2004* (cat. no. 6232.0).

## USING THE CURF MICRODATA

### ABOUT THE MICRODATA

The LFS and EEBTUM Survey microdata are released under the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*, which has provision for the release of microdata in the form of unit records where the information is not likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation. Accordingly, there are no names or addresses of survey respondents on the CURF and other steps have been taken to protect the confidentiality of respondents. These include removing some data items from the CURF, reducing the level of detail shown on the CURF for some other items and swapping some characteristics between records.

Steps to confidentialise the data sets made available on the CURF are taken in such a way as to ensure the integrity of the data sets and optimise their content, while maintaining the confidentiality of respondents. The steps taken to preserve confidentiality include:

- reducing the level of detail for some items (e.g. geographic and demographic)
- ranging or collapsing the values of some variables
- modifying some records identified as high risk
- perturbation of all earnings items
- swapping weights between some of the Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory records on the Basic CURF.

As a result, it may not be possible to exactly reconcile all statistics produced from the CURF with published statistics.

Intending purchasers should ensure that the data they require, at the level of detail they require are available on the CURF they are intending to use. Data obtained in the survey but not contained in the CURF may be available in tabulated form on request. The full list of CURF survey data items is available on the ABS website. To view the data item list, refer to Appendix 1 of this *Technical Manual*.

The CURF contains 41,518 confidentialised respondent records. Each person record has a unique person identifier (ABSPID). Subject to the limitations of sample size and the data classifications used, it is possible to manipulate the microdata, produce tabulations and undertake statistical analyses to individual specifications.

### USE OF WEIGHTS

As the survey was conducted on a sample of households in Australia, it is important to take account of the method of sample selection when deriving estimates from the CURF. This is particularly important as a person's chance of selection in the survey varied depending on the state or territory in which they lived.

Each person record contains two weights, an LFS weight called LFSWTD and an EEBTUM Survey weight called FINPRSWT. These weights indicate how many people are represented by that person. There are two weights because the scope of the LFS is different to the scope of the EEBTUM Survey. For data items that are only applicable to the EEBTUM Survey (refer to Appendix 1, Data Items List), it is important to use the EEBTUM Survey weight, FINPRSWT. Users should take care to ensure the appropriate weight is used for analysis.

The LFS weight is available on all records on the CURF. The EEBTUM Survey weight, FINPRSWT, appears on 19,367 records. The estimates in the EEBTUM Survey publication are based on a subset of these records, that is employees in main job. Therefore when

USE OF WEIGHTS *continued*

using FINPRSWT, in order to match published EEBTUM Survey estimates, the filter POPSUP1C = 1 ('Employees in main job') must be used.

Where estimates are derived from the CURF, it is essential that they are calculated by adding the weights of persons in each category and not just by counting the number in each category. If each person's 'weight' is ignored, then no account would be taken of a person's chance of selection or of different response rates across population groups, and the resulting estimates could be significantly biased as they would represent distributions within the actual selected sample and not the population of interest.

The application of weights will ensure that the subsequent estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population by age and sex, rather than to the age and sex distribution within the sample itself.

In addition, there are 30 replicate weights which can be used to derive estimates of standard error. Information on the use of these replicate weights is provided in the section, Standard Errors, below.

For further information see the Explanatory Notes in the publications *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) and *Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia, August 2008* (cat. no. 6310.0) on the CURF CD-ROM as Acrobat files 62020\_AUG2008.pdf and 63100\_AUG2008.pdf.

STANDARD ERRORS

Standard errors for each estimate produced from this CURF can be calculated using the replicate weights provided on the file.

Each person record contains two sets of replicate weights. Replicate weights applicable to LFS data items contain the prefix 'WPM01' and those applicable to EEBTUM Survey data items contain the prefix 'WPX02'. Using these replicate weights, it is possible to calculate standard errors for estimates produced from this file, using what is known as the 30 group Jack-knife standard error estimator. For data items that are only applicable to the EEBTUM Survey, refer to Appendix 1 of this *Technical Manual*.

To obtain the standard error of a weighted estimate  $y$ , calculate the same estimate using each of the 30 replicate weights. The variability between these replicate estimates (denoting  $y_{(g)}$  for group number  $g$ ) is used to measure the standard error of the original weighted estimate  $y$  using the formula:

$$SE(y) = \sqrt{(29/30) \sum_{g=1}^{30} (y_{(g)} - y)^2}$$

Where:

$g$  = the replicate groups

$y_{(g)}$  = the weighted estimate, having applied the weights for replicate group 'g'

$y$  = the weighted estimate from the full sample.

The 30 group Jack-knife method can be applied not just to estimates of population total, but also where the estimate  $y$  is a function of estimates of population total, such as a proportion, difference or ratio. For more information on the 30 group Jack-knife method of SE estimation, see *Research Paper: Weighting and Standard Error Estimation for ABS*

## USING THE CURF MICRODATA *continued*

### STANDARD ERRORS *continued*

*Household Surveys (Methodology Advisory Committee), July 1999*  
(cat. no. 1352.0.55.029).

Use of the 30 group Jack-knife method for complex estimates, such as regression parameters from a statistical model, is not straightforward and may not be appropriate. The method as described does not apply to investigations where survey weights are not used, such as in unweighted statistical modelling.

The following tables of data have been provided to enable CURF users to check some of the relative standard errors they have produced.

### EMPLOYED PERSONS BY INDUSTRY (BASIC CURF), August 2008

<i>Industry of main job</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Relative Standard Error</i>
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	357.8	9.4
Mining	172.6	6.3
Manufacturing	1 039.1	2.0
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	120.5	6.3
Construction	981.6	2.2
Wholesale trade	414.7	3.5
Retail trade	1 197.5	1.9
Accommodation and food services	707.5	2.2
Transport, postal and warehousing	564.4	3.4
Information media and telecommunications	216.9	4.8
Financial and insurance services	402.3	4.1
Rental, hiring and real estate services	205.0	6.2
Professional, scientific and technical services	757.4	3.9
Administrative and support services	337.2	3.5
Public administration and safety	643.5	2.9
Education and training	830.1	2.7
Health care and social assistance	1 088.0	1.9
Arts and recreation services	184.6	4.9
Other services	452.5	3.7

### EMPLOYED PERSONS BY DURATION OF EMPLOYMENT (EXPANDED CURF) , August 2008

<i>Duration of employment in main job</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Relative Standard Error</i>
	<i>'000</i>	<i>%</i>
Not employed/Not applicable	6 519.2	0.9
In current job for less than 3 months	625.9	2.6
In current job for 3 months and less than 6 months	654.1	3.5
In current job for 6 months and less than 8 months	453.9	3.8
In current job for 8 months and less than 10 months	351.8	4.7
In current job for 10 months and less than 12 months	308.3	3.9
In current job for 12 months or more	8 279.4	0.8

### EARNINGS

Weekly earnings for main job and all jobs have been perturbed and are expressed in deciles on both the Basic and Expanded CURFs, and as perturbed continuous data items on the Expanded CURF. Perturbation is a process of altering the reported values for earnings to prevent identification of respondents. The distribution of values is not changed significantly through perturbation and the statistical validity of aggregate data is not affected.

**USING THE CURF MICRODATA** *continued*

**EARNINGS** *continued*

To assist in the use and interpretation of these items, the dollar amounts contained in each decile are shown in the following table. OMIEs who 'Did not draw a wage or salary' were excluded from the decile calculations.

<i>Decile</i>	<i>Main job earnings(a)</i>	<i>All job earnings(a)</i>
	\$ value	\$ value
1	1 - 240	1-250
2	241 - 438	251-450
3	439 - 600	451-600
4	601 - 700	601-700
5	701 - 800	701-805
6	801 - 950	806-950
7	951 - 1,100	951-1,100
8	1,101 - 1,303	1,101-1,333
9	1,304 - 1,726	1,334-1,726
10	1,727 and over	1,727 and over

(a) Excludes 'did not draw a wage or salary'.

## COMPARISONS BETWEEN CURFS

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### COMPARISON BETWEEN THE 2006 AND 2008 CURFS

The differences between the 2006 and 2008 CURFs are detailed in Appendix 2.

Note that on the 2008 CURFs, the Identifiers for some data items differ from the 2006 CURFs for processing reasons. These data items are otherwise the same. Therefore use caution when comparing items between the CURFs. Also, on the 2008 CURFs some data item labels and categories differ from the 2006 CURFs to align with current ABS standards for CURFs.

Key changes to data items between the 2006 and 2008 CURFs are:

- The category 'Did not know' has been separated out for 'Whether entitled to paid holiday leave', 'Whether entitled to paid sick leave', 'Whether entitled to paid long service leave', 'Whether entitled to paid maternity/paternity leave', and 'Trade Union membership'.
- The ranges presented in 'Duration of unemployment (number of weeks since last full-time job)' have been expanded for the Basic CURF.

### COMPARISON BETWEEN THE 2008 BASIC AND EXPANDED CURFS

The differences between the 2008 Basic and Expanded CURFs are detailed in Appendix 3.

Note that the Identifiers for some data items differ between the Basic and Expanded CURFs for processing reasons. These items are otherwise the same. Therefore, caution should be exercised if using both the Basic and Expanded CURFs.

Key changes to data items between the 2008 Basic and Expanded CURFs are:

- State/territory - The NT and ACT have been combined into 'Balance of Australia' on the Basic CURF.
- Country of birth - A second item with more detail is available on the Expanded CURF.
- Occupation in main job - The Basic CURF presents Major group level only, while the Expanded CURF presents Sub-major group level.
- Industry in main job - The Basic CURF presents Divisions only, while the Expanded CURF presents Sub-divisions.
- Weekly earnings in main job and Weekly earnings in all jobs - The Basic CURF presents earnings as deciles only, while the Expanded CURF also presents perturbed single dollar amounts. For more information see 'Earnings' in the 'Using the CURF Microdata' chapter.
- A number of data items are presented as ranges on the Basic CURF and as continuous values on the Expanded CURF, e.g. age, hours worked and duration of unemployment, to align with current ABS standards for CURFs.



## CONDITIONS OF RELEASE

### CONDITIONS OF RELEASE

The August 2008 LFS and EEBTUM Survey Basic and Expanded CURFs are released in accordance with a Ministerial Determination (Clause 7, Statutory Rules 1983, No.19) in pursuance of section 13 of the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*. As required by the Determination, the CURF has been designed so that the information on the file is not likely to enable the identification of the particular person to which it relates.

The Australian Statistician's approval is required for each release of the CURF. Prior to being granted access to the CURF, all organisations, and individuals within organisations, who request access to the CURF will be required to sign an Undertaking to abide by the legislative restrictions on use. Organisations and individuals who seek access to the 2008 LFS and EEBTUM Survey Basic and Expanded CURFs are required to give an undertaking which includes, among other conditions, that in using the CURF data they will:

- use the data only for the statistical purposes specified
- not attempt to identify particular persons or organisations
- not disclose, either directly or indirectly, the data to any other person or organisation other than members of their organisation who have been approved by the ABS to have individual access to the information
- not attempt to match, with or without using identifiers, the data with any other list of persons or organisations
- in relation to data made available via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) or the ABS Site Data Laboratory (ABSDDL), access the data only in a manner specifically authorised in writing by the ABS
- not attempt to access the data after the term of their authorisation expires, or after their authorisation is rescinded by the organisation which provided it, or after they cease to be a member of that organisation.

Use of the data for statistical purposes means use of the content of the CURF to produce information of a statistical nature, i.e. the arrangement and classification of numerical facts or data, including statistical analyses or statistical aggregates. Examples of statistical purposes are:

- manipulation of the data to produce means, correlations or other descriptive or summary measures
- estimation of population characteristics
- use of data as input to mathematical models or for other types of analysis (e.g. factor analysis)
- providing graphical or pictorial representations of the characteristics of the population or subsets of the population.

All CURF users are required to read and abide by the *'Responsible Access to ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) Training Manual'* available on the ABS website. Use of the data for unauthorised purposes may render the purchaser liable to severe penalties. Advice on the propriety of any particular intended use of the data is available from the Microdata Access Strategies Section via <microdata.access@abs.gov.au> or on (02) 6252 7714.

### CONDITIONS OF SALE

All ABS products and services are provided subject to the ABS conditions of sale. Any queries relating to these Conditions of Sale should be referred to <intermediary.management@abs.gov.au>.

## CONDITIONS OF RELEASE *continued*

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### CONDITIONS OF SALE

*continued*

While the utmost care is taken in handling each CURF on CD-ROM, deterioration may occur between the time of copying and receipt of the file. Accordingly, if the CD-ROM is unreadable on receipt and this is reported to the ABS within 30 days of receipt, it will be replaced free of charge. Expanded CURFs are only accessible via the ABS Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL).

### PRICE

As at June 2009, the recommended retail price (RRP) of the August 2008 LFS and EEBTUM Survey CURFs on CD-ROM or via the RADL is \$1,430 including GST, freight and handling charges as appropriate. The bundled RRP price of the August 2008 LFS and EEBTUM Survey Basic and Expanded CURFs is \$2,140 when applied for in a single application, including GST, freight and handling charges as appropriate.

### ACCESSING THE CURF

All clients wishing to access the August 2008 LFS and EEBTUM Survey Basic or Expanded CURFs should refer to the ABS website and read the *Responsible Access to ABS Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) Training Manual*, and other related links, before downloading the appropriate Application and Undertaking forms and applying for access.

#### *Australian universities*

University clients should refer to the ABS website and read *Services for Universities*. The 2008 LFS and EEBTUM Survey Basic and Expanded CURFs can be accessed by universities participating in the ABS/Universities Australia (UA) CURF agreement for research and teaching purposes.

#### *Other clients*

Other prospective clients should contact the Microdata Access Strategies Section of the ABS via <microdata.access@abs.gov.au> or on (02) 6252 7714.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about accessing the CURF, clients should contact the Microdata Access Strategies Section of the ABS via <microdata.access@abs.gov.au> or on (02) 6252 7714. The CURF is not available on CD-ROM to overseas customers.

Access to the full detail from the LFS and EEBTUM surveys (including data items excluded from the CURF) may be available as a customised data request. Contact the Labour Market Statistics Section on (02) 6252 7206 or by email to labour.statistics@abs.gov.au for availability of additional data.

## FILE CONTENT

*The August 2008 Labour Force Survey (LFS) and Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership (EEBTUM) Survey Basic CURF is distributed on a single CD-ROM and via RADL. The LFS and EEBTUM Survey Expanded CURF is distributed via RADL only.*

### 2008 LFS AND EEBTUM SURVEY BASIC CURF

The 2008 LFS and EEBTUM Survey Basic CURF contains the files listed below:

#### *Test files*

The test files mirror the actual data files, but have random data and random identifiers. These files are on the RADL website and can be downloaded so users can use these to trouble shoot their code prior to submitting RADL jobs.

#### *Data and metadata*

EEB2008B.csv - this file contains the raw Basic confidentialised survey data in hierarchical comma delimited ASCII text format.

#### *SAS files*

EEB2008B.sas7bdat - this file contains the data for the Basic CURF in SAS for Windows format.

EEB2008B.sas - this file contains a SAS program to run the SAS formats.

#### *SPSS files*

EEB2008B.sav - this file contains the data for the Basic CURF in SPSS for Windows format.

#### *Stata files*

EEB2008B.dta - this file contains the data for the Basic CURF in STATA format.

#### *Information Files*

FORMATS.sas7bcat - this file is a SAS library containing formats.

FREQUENCIES\_LFSWTD\_EEB2008B.txt; FREQUENCIES\_UNWTD\_EEB2008B.txt;  
FREQUENCIES\_SUPWTD\_EEB2008B.txt

These frequency files contain documentation of the person level data. Data item code values and category labels are provided with frequencies of each value. These files are in plain text format.

README.txt - this file describes what is on the CD-ROM and is in plain text format.

6202030002\_AUG2008.pdf - this is an Adobe Acrobat file that contains this *Technical Manual*

6202030002\_data\_items\_list\_LFS\_EEBTUM08\_BE\_CURF.xls - this file contains the data items contained for both the Basic and Expanded CURFs.

62020\_AUG2008.pdf - this is the complete publication *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) in Adobe Acrobat format.

63100\_AUG2008.pdf - this is the complete publication *Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia, 2008* (cat. no. 6310.0) in Adobe Acrobat format.

## FILE CONTENT *continued*

### *Information Files continued*

ABS CONDITIONS OF SALE.pdf - this describes the ABS conditions of sale.

COPYRITE1.bat - this describes the copyright obligations for people using ABS data and products.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CURF USERS\_300903.pdf - this file directs users to the ABS website for additional and updated information.

RESPONSIBLE ACCESS TO CURFS TRAINING MANUAL\_MACROS.pdf - this is an Adobe Acrobat file explaining the CURF users' role and obligations when using confidentialised data.

### 2008 LFS AND EEBTUM SURVEY EXPANDED CURF

The 2008 LFS and EEBTUM Survey Expanded CURF contains the files listed below:

#### *Test Files*

The test files mirror the actual data files, but have random data and random identifiers. These files are on the RADL website and can be downloaded so users can use these to trouble shoot their code prior to submitting RADL jobs.

#### *Data and metadata*

EEB2008E.csv - this file contains the data for the Expanded CURF in hierarchical comma delimited ASCII text format.

#### *SAS files*

EEB2008E.sas7bdat - this file contains the data for the Expanded CURF in SAS for Windows format.

EEB2008E.sas - this file contains a SAS program to run the SAS formats.

#### *SPSS files*

EEB2008E.sav - this file contains the data for the Expanded CURF in SPSS for Windows format.

#### *Stata files*

EEB2008E.dta - this file contains the data for the Expanded CURF in STATA format.

#### *Information Files*

FORMATS.sas7bcats - this file is a SAS library containing formats.

FREQUENCIES\_LFSWTD\_EEB2008E.txt; FREQUENCIES\_UNWTD\_EEB2008E.txt;  
FREQUENCIES\_SUPWTD\_EEB2008E.txt

These frequency files contain documentation of the person level data. Data item code values and category labels are provided with frequencies of each value. These files are in plain text format.

6202030002\_AUG2008.pdf - this is an Adobe Acrobat file that contains this *Technical Manual*.

6202030002\_data\_items\_list\_LFS\_EEBTUM08\_BE\_CURF.xls - this file contains the data items contained for both the Basic and Expanded CURFs.

62020\_AUG2008.pdf - this is the complete publication *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) in Adobe Acrobat format.

63100\_AUG2008.pdf - this the complete publication *Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia, 2008* (cat. no. 6310.0) in Adobe Acrobat format.

## FILE CONTENT *continued*

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### *Information Files continued*

ABS CONDITIONS OF SALE.pdf - this describes the ABS conditions of sale.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CURF USERS\_300903.pdf - this file directs users to the ABS website for additional and updated information.

RESPONSIBLE ACCESS TO CURFS TRAINING MANUAL\_MACROS.pdf - this is an Adobe Acrobat file explaining the CURF users' role and obligations when using confidentialised data.

## APPENDIX 1 DATA ITEMS LIST

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### DATA ITEMS LIST

For data items and structure, see the Excel spreadsheet available as a data cube '6202030002\_data\_items\_list\_LFS\_EEBTUM08\_BE\_CURF.xls' accompanying this *Technical Manual*. This spreadsheet provides the data items, SAS names and populations which relate to the LFS and EEBTUM Survey CURF. Every record has an identifier ABSPID.

- CURF SURVEY A (LFS): Civilian population aged 15 and over. The LFS weight is called LFSWTD.
- CURF SURVEY B (EEBTUM Survey): Persons aged 15 and over who were employees in their main job (POPSUP1C=1). Employees who worked solely for payment in kind are excluded. The EEBTUM Survey weight is called FINPRSWT.

## APPENDIX 2 COMPARISON BETWEEN 2006 AND 2008 CURFS

### COMPARISON BETWEEN 2006 AND 2008 CURFS

A comparison between the 2006 and 2008 CURFs is presented below. The table shows the Data Item label, the Identifier and notes key differences in the presentation of data items where applicable.

<i>Data Item label</i>	<i>2006 CURF</i>	<i>2008 CURF</i>
Future employment expectations	FUTEMPC	FUTEMP - SAS and output category name changes only
Whether part-time and looking and available to work more hours	PTPREFEC	PTPREFEC - output category name changes only
Whether had paid leave entitlements	ENTMJ	ENTMJ - Label changes only
Whether considered job to be casual	SELFEMP	SELFEMPC - Identifier name change and change in categories
Type of paid leave entitlement - No paid leave entitlement	TLVBENA	TLVBENA - data item label change only
Type of paid leave entitlement - Paid holiday leave	TLVBENB	TLVBENB - data item label change only
Type of paid leave entitlement - Paid sick leave	TLVBENC	TLVBENC - data item label change only
Type of paid leave entitlement - Paid long service leave	TLVBEND	TLVBEND - data item label change only
Type of paid leave entitlement - Paid maternity/paternity leave	TLVBENE	TLVBENE - data item label change only
Number of paid leave entitlements	NUMSTLB	NUMSTLB - data item label change only
Type of standard benefit - Paid holiday leave	TSTBENC	TYPBENC - data item label change only
Type of standard benefit - Paid sick leave	TSTBEND	TYPBEND - data item label change only
Type of standard benefit - Paid long service leave	TSTBENE	TYPBENE - data item label change only
Type of standard benefit - Paid maternity/paternity leave	TSTBENF	TYPBENF - data item label change only
Whether entitled to paid holiday leave	HOLLEAVE	HOLLEAVE - additional 'did not know' category
Whether entitled to paid sick leave	SICKLCRF	SICKLCRF - additional 'did not know' category
Whether entitled to paid long service leave	LSLMJC	LSLMJC - additional 'did not know' category
Whether entitled to paid maternity/paternity leave	MATPATC	MATPATC - additional 'did not know' category
Trade union membership	TUMCURF	TUMCURF - additional 'did not know' category
Duration of unemployment (number of weeks since last full-time job)	DUNFTJBC	DURUNFTJ - expanded categories BASIC curf only
Duration of employment in main job	TENUREC	DUREMPC - additional category
Employees who worked less than 35 hours in all jobs	Not available in 2006	POPSUP8C
Labour Force replicate weights	Not available in 2006	WPM01(01-30)
EEBTUM replicate weights	Not available in 2006	WPX02(01-30)

## APPENDIX 3 COMPARISON BETWEEN 2008 BASIC AND EXPANDED CURFS

### COMPARISON BETWEEN 2008 BASIC AND EXPANDED CURFS

A comparison between the 2008 Basic and Expanded CURFs is presented below. The table shows the Data Item label, the Identifier and notes key differences in the presentation of data items.

<i>Data Item label</i>	<i>Basic CURF</i>	<i>Expanded CURF</i>
State/territory	STATURCB NT and ACT combined as 'Balance of Australia'	STATEURE All states/territories listed separately
Age	AGECB Single years for 15 to 24 and 55 to 64. 5 year range categories for 25–54 and 65–79. Top coded at 80 years and over	AGECE Single years. Top coded at 85 years and over
Relationship in household	RELHHCBC With or without dependents not separated for Husband, wife or partner, and Lone parent categories	RELHHCE With or without dependents separated for Husband, wife or partner, and Lone parent categories
Country of birth	Not on dataset, see Country of birth (MESC) - COBPLACE	COBPLCEC Top 10 countries then major groups
Year of arrival	YOACB Born in Australia, Arrived 1985 and before, Arrived 1986–1995, Arrived 1996 to year of collection	YOACE Born in Australia, Arrival years grouped commencing 1955 and before, then in 5 year groups until 2000, and 2001 to year of collection
Occupation in main job	ANZSCOBC 8 major group categories	ANZSCOEC 51 sub-major group categories
Industry in main job	INDNEWBC 19 division categories	INDNEWEC 66 sub-division categories
Hours usually worked in all jobs	HRUWAJCB Ranges from 1–39, then 40 hours, then ranges from 41–59 hours. Top coded at 60 hours and over	HRUWAJCE Bottom coded 1–5 hours, single hours from 6 to 59 hours, top coded at 60 hours and over
Hours actually worked in all jobs	HRACAJCB Ranges from 1–39, then 40 hours, then ranges from 41–59 hours. Top coded at 60 hours and over	HRAWAJCE Bottom coded 1–5 hours, single hours from 6 to 59 hours, top coded at 60 hours and over
Hours usually worked in main job	HUWMJBC Ranges from 1–39, then 40 hours, then ranges from 41–59 hours. Top coded at 60 hours and over	HUWMJEC Bottom coded 1–5 hours, single hours from 6 to 59 hours, top coded at 60 hours and over
Hours actually worked in main job	HAWMJBC Ranges from 1–39, then 40 hours, then ranges from 41–59 hours. Top coded at 60 hours and over	HAWMJEC Bottom coded 1–5 hours, single hours from 6 to 59 hours, top coded at 60 hours and over
Hours paid for in main job	HPDMJBC Ranges from 1–39, then 40 hours, then ranges from 41–59 hours. Top coded at 60 hours and over	HPDMJEC Bottom coded 1–5 hours, single hours from 6 to 59 hours, top coded at 60 hours and over
Duration of unemployment (number of weeks since any previous work)	DUNEMPBC Under 4 weeks, 4 and under 13 weeks, 13 and under 26 weeks, 26 and under 52 weeks, 52 weeks and over	DUNEMPEC Under 4 weeks, single weeks from 4 to 103 and top coded at 104 weeks and over
Duration of unemployment (number of weeks since last full-time job)	DURUNFTJ Under 4 weeks, 4 and under 13 weeks, 13 and under 26 weeks, 26 and under 52 weeks, 52 weeks and over, Never worked in a job for 35 hours or more	DUNFTJEC Under 4 weeks, single weeks from 4 to 103 and top coded at 104 weeks and over, Never worked in a job 35 hours or more
Weekly earnings in main job	ERNMJDEC Perturbed earnings shown in deciles	ERNMJDEC Perturbed earnings shown in deciles, EARNMJEC Perturbed earnings shown in single dollar amounts
Weekly earnings in all jobs	ERNAJDEC Perturbed earnings shown in deciles	ERNAJDEC Perturbed earnings shown in deciles, EARNAJEC Perturbed earnings shown in single dollar amounts



## GLOSSARY

<b>Civilian population aged 15 years and over</b>	All usual residents of Australia aged 15 years and over except members of the permanent defence forces, certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments customarily excluded from census and estimated population counts, overseas residents in Australia, and members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.
<b>Contributing family worker</b>	A person who works without pay, in an economic enterprise operated by a relative.
<b>Country of birth</b>	Classified according to the <i>Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), Second Edition</i> (cat. no. 1269.0).
<b>Dependants</b>	All family members under 15 years, and all children aged 15–24 years attending full-time education (except those who have a partner or child of their own usually resident in the household).
<b>Dependent student</b>	A child who is 15–24 years of age, who is attending full-time education, and who has no partner or child of his or her own usually resident in the same household.
<b>Did not draw a wage or salary</b>	Consists of people who worked in their own incorporated enterprise only.
<b>Duration of unemployment</b>	The period of time from when an unemployed person began looking for work, until the end of the reference week; or the period of time since an unemployed person last worked in any job for two weeks or more, until the end of the reference week; whichever was the shorter period.
<b>Employed</b>	<p>All people aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 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</li> <li>■ worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or</li> <li>■ were employees who had a job but were not at work and were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or</li> <li>■ 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</li> <li>■ away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or</li> <li>■ on strike or locked out; or</li> <li>■ on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ were employers or own account workers, who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.</li> </ul>
<b>Employees</b>	<p>People who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ worked for a public or private employer and;</li> <li>■ 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</li> <li>■ operated their own incorporated enterprise with or without hiring employees.</li> </ul> <p>For the EEBTUM survey, employee relates to employee in his/her main job and excludes payment in kind.</p>
<b>Employer</b>	A person who operates their own unincorporated economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires one or more employees.
<b>Full-time employees in main job</b>	<p>People who were employees in their main job and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ (for single job holders) usually work 35 hours or more a week, or usually work less than 35 hours but worked 35 hours or more in the reference week.</li> <li>■ (for multiple job holders) usually work 35 hours or more in their main job and those who, although usually working less than 35 hours or more in their main job, worked 35 hours or more in the reference week.</li> </ul>

## GLOSSARY *continued*

<b>Full-time workers</b>	Employed people who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and others who, although usually working less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week. For the EEBTUM survey, full-time workers relates to full-time workers who were employees in their main job.
<b>Hours paid for in main job</b>	The number of hours for which employees were paid, not necessarily the number of hours actually worked during the reference week (e.g. an employee on paid leave for the week was asked to report the number of hours for which they were paid).
<b>Hours worked</b>	The number of hours actually worked during the reference week.
<b>Incorporated enterprise</b>	An enterprise which is registered as a separate legal entity to its members or owners (also known as a limited liability company).
<b>Industry of main job</b>	An industry is a group of businesses or organisations that undertake similar economic activities to produce goods and/or services. In this product, industry refers to ANZSIC Division as classified according to the <i>Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006</i> (cat. no. 1292.0).
<b>Labour force status</b>	A classification of the civilian population aged 15 years and over into employed, unemployed or not in the labour force, as defined. The definitions conform closely to the international standard definitions adopted by the International Conferences of Labour Statisticians.
<b>Lone parent</b>	A person who has no spouse or partner present in the household but who forms a parent-child relationship with at least one dependent or non-dependent child usually resident in the household.
<b>Main English-speaking countries</b>	The list of main English-speaking countries provided here is not an attempt to classify countries on the basis of whether or not English is the predominant or official language of each country. It is a list of the main countries from which Australia receives, or has received, significant numbers of overseas settlers who are likely to speak English. These countries comprise the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and the United States of America.
<b>Main job</b>	The job in which most hours are usually worked.
<b>Multiple jobholder</b>	<p>Employed people who, during the reference week, worked in a second job. Multiple jobholders exclude those who changed employer and those who held a second job from which they were absent during the reference week because of holidays, sickness or any other reason.</p> <p>For the EEBTUM survey, a multiple jobholder relates to only those who were employees in their main job.</p> <p>Information on earnings in main job is collected from all multiple jobholders.</p> <p>Information on earnings in second job is only collected from multiple jobholders who were employees in their second job.</p>
<b>Non-family member</b>	A person who is not related to any other member of the household in which they are living.
<b>Not in the labour force</b>	People who were not in the categories employed or unemployed as defined.
<b>Occupation of main job</b>	An occupation is a collection of jobs that are sufficiently similar in their title and tasks, skill level and skill specialisation which are grouped together for the purposes of classification. In this product, occupation is classified according to ANZSCO— <i>Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, First Edition, 2006</i> (cat. no. 1220.0).
<b>Own-account worker</b>	A person who operates his or her own unincorporated economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires no employees.

## GLOSSARY *continued*

<b>Owner managers of incorporated enterprises (OMIE)</b>	People who work in their own incorporated enterprise, that is, a business entity which is registered as a separate legal entity to its members or owners (also known as a limited liability company). These people are classified as 'Employees' under 'Status in Employment'.
<b>Paid holiday leave</b>	The entitlement of an employee to paid holiday, paid vacation or paid recreation leave in their main job.
<b>Paid leave entitlements</b>	The entitlement of employees (excluding OMIEs) to either paid holiday leave, paid sick leave, paid long service leave and/or paid maternity/paternity leave in their main job.
<b>Paid long service leave</b>	The entitlement of an employee to paid long service leave in their main job.
<b>Paid maternity/paternity leave</b>	The entitlement of an employee to paid maternity/paternity leave in their main job.
<b>Paid sick leave</b>	The entitlement of an employee to paid sick leave in their main job.
<b>Part-time employees in main job</b>	People who were employees in their main job and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ (for single job holders) usually work less than 35 hours a week, and did so in the reference week</li><li>■ (for multiple job holders) actually worked less than 35 hours in their main job in the reference week, or were away from their main job but usually work less than 35 hours a week in their main job.</li></ul>
<b>Part-time workers</b>	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 in the reference week. For the EEBTUM survey, part-time workers relates to part-time workers who were employees in their main job.
<b>Perturbation</b>	Adjustment of estimates to disguise individual values without affecting the statistical validity of aggregate data.
<b>Reference week</b>	The week preceding the week in which the interview was conducted.
<b>Salary sacrifice</b>	An arrangement under which an employee agrees contractually to forgo part of the remuneration, which the employee would otherwise receive as wages and salaries, in return for the employer or someone associated with the employer providing benefits of a similar value. ( <i>Australian Tax Office</i> )
<b>Second job</b>	A job, other than the main job, in which some hours were worked during the reference week.
<b>Sector of main job</b>	Is used to classify a respondent's employer as a public or private enterprise. The public sector includes all government units, such as government departments, non-market non-profit institutions that are controlled and mainly financed by government, and corporations and quasi-corporations that are controlled by government.
<b>Share benefit</b>	Receipt or provision of shares, rights or options in the employer's business as an employee entitlement.
<b>Size of location in main job</b>	The number of people employed at the location of the respondent's main job by their employer.
<b>Social marital status</b>	Social marital status is the relationship status of an individual with reference to another person who is usually resident in the household. A marriage exists when two people live together as husband and wife, or partners, regardless of whether the marriage is formalised through registration. Individuals are, therefore, regarded as married if they are in a de facto marriage, or if they are living with the person to whom they are registered as married.
<b>Standard benefit</b>	The entitlement of an employee to paid holiday leave, paid sick leave, paid long service leave, paid maternity/paternity leave or a superannuation benefit.
<b>Status in employment</b>	Employed people classified by whether they were employees, employers, own account workers or contributing family workers.

## GLOSSARY *continued*

<b>Superannuation coverage/ superannuation benefit</b>	<p>Membership of a superannuation or retirement benefits scheme regardless of whether the scheme was arranged or provided by the person's current employer.</p> <p>Under the Superannuation Guarantee Act, employers are obliged to make superannuation contributions on behalf of most employees. There are some exempt employees: for example, employees aged less than 18 years who are not working more than 30 hours a week, employees aged 70 years and over, or employees who are paid less than \$450 in a calendar month.</p>
<b>Trade union</b>	<p>An organisation consisting predominantly of employees, the principal activities of which include the negotiation of rates of pay and conditions of employment for its members.</p>
<b>Trade union member</b>	<p>Employees with membership in a trade union in conjunction with their main job.</p>
<b>Unemployed</b>	<p>People aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or</li><li>■ were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.</li></ul>
<b>Unemployed looking for full-time work</b>	<p>Unemployed people who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ actively looked for full-time work, or</li><li>■ were waiting to start a new full-time job.</li></ul>
<b>Unemployed looking for part-time work</b>	<p>Unemployed people who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ actively looked for part-time work only, or</li><li>■ were waiting to start a new part-time job.</li></ul>
<b>Weekly earnings</b>	<p>Amount of 'last total pay' (i.e. before taxation and other deductions had been made) from wage and salary jobs prior to the interview. For people paid other than weekly, earnings were converted to a weekly equivalent. No adjustment was made for any back payment of wage increases or prepayment of leave, or bonuses etc.</p>
<b>With paid leave entitlements</b>	<p>Employees (excluding OMIEs) who were entitled to either paid holiday leave or paid sick leave (or both) in their main job.</p>
<b>Without leave entitlements</b>	<p>Employees (excluding OMIEs) who were entitled to neither paid holiday leave nor paid sick leave, or did not know whether they were entitled to paid holiday leave or paid sick leave in their main job.</p>







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*LIBRARY*      A range of ABS publications are available from public and tertiary libraries Australia wide. Contact your nearest library to determine whether it has the ABS statistics you require, or visit our web site for a list of libraries.

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