

**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 Market Section on Canberra (02) 6252 7206.

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

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

This publication presents information about the characteristics of underemployed workers aged 15 years and over. For time series information on the number of underemployed workers, users are advised to use the quarterly Labour Force Survey estimates. Trend and seasonally adjusted estimates are released quarterly in *Australian Labour Market Statistics* (cat. no. 6105.0), tables 4.1 to 4.4.

The statistics in this publication were compiled from the Underemployed Workers Survey conducted throughout Australia in September 2008 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.

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

The September 2008 Underemployed Workers Survey included changes to the questions used in previous surveys to identify part-time workers who preferred to work more hours and their availability to start work with more hours. This was to align the survey questions with the questions asked in the Labour Force Survey each quarter.

The changes to the questions have resulted in a break in series for the Underemployed Workers Survey and users need to exercise caution when comparing the characteristics of underemployed workers in this publication with previous issues. For further information see paragraphs 16 to 17 of the Explanatory Notes. Note that the underlying concept of underemployment has not changed.

NOTES ABOUT THE ESTIMATES

Sample reductions in the Labour Force Survey, (see Information Paper: *Labour Force Survey Sample Design, Nov 2007* (Second edition) (cat. no. 6269.0)), resulted in the Underemployed Workers Survey sample being approximately one-third smaller than the sample size in September 2007.

ROUNDING

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

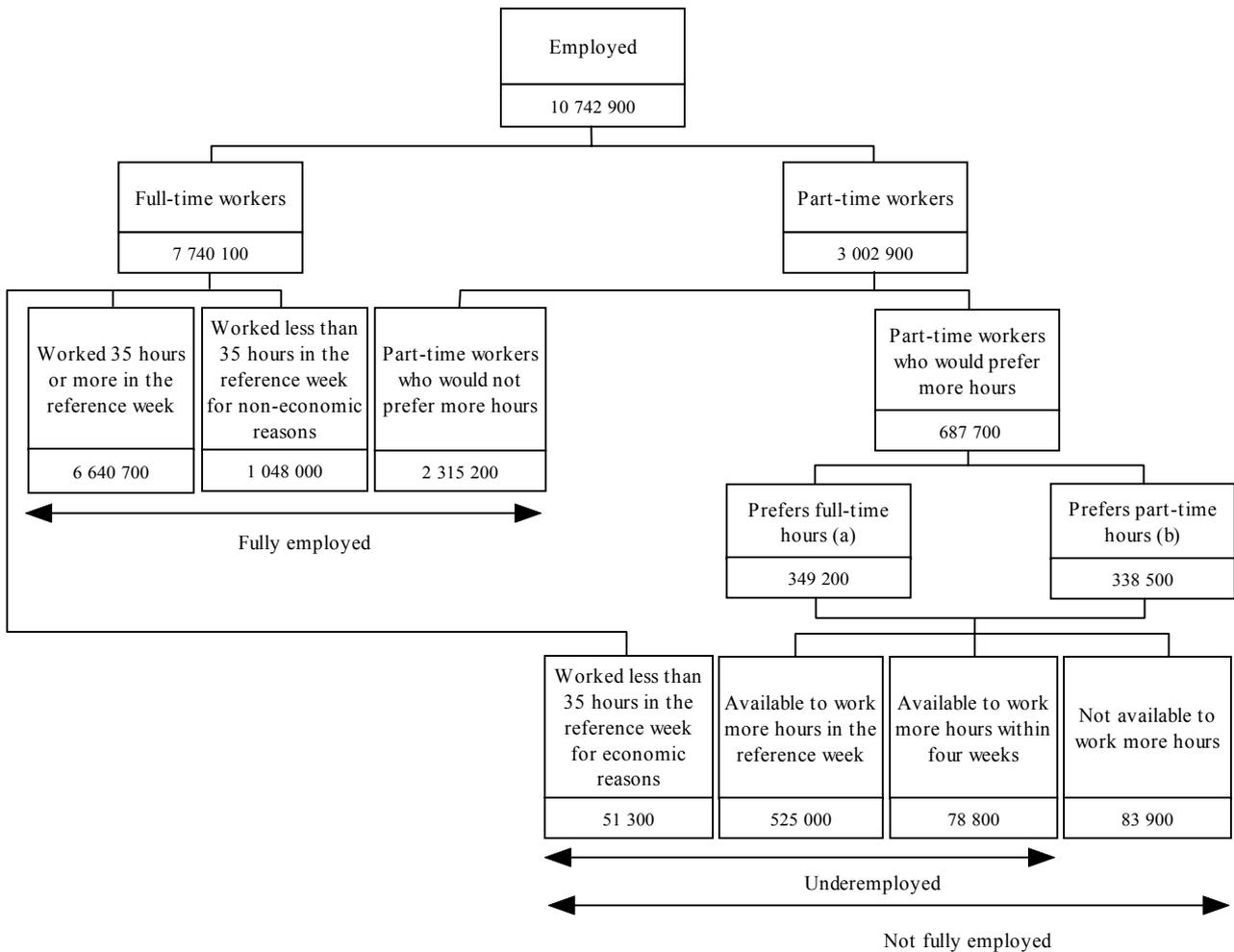
Ian Ewing
Acting Australian Statistician

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

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

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



- (a) Total number of hours preferred to work each week are 35 or more.
 (b) Total number of hours preferred to work each week are between 1 to 34 hours.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK *continued*

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK *continued*

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

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

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

OVERVIEW

There were 10.7 million employed people aged 15 years and over in September 2008.

Of these:

- 10 million (93%) were fully employed
- 739,000 (7%) were not fully employed
- 655,100 (6%) were underemployed workers, of these:
 - 603,700 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
 - 51,300 usually worked full-time but worked part-time hours in the reference week due to economic reasons (being stood down, on short-time, or having insufficient work).

PART-TIME WORKERS WHO WOULD PREFER MORE HOURS

In September 2008, there were 3 million part-time workers (2.1 million women and 861,800 men). There were 687,700 (23%) part-time workers who would prefer to work more hours, consisting of 447,100 women and 240,600 men.

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

- 33% were aged 15–24 years
- 51% would prefer to work full-time (65% of men and 43% of women)
- 603,700 were available for work with more hours (389,800 women and 213,900 men). Of these, 45% were looking for work with more hours
- 83,900 were not available for work with more hours. Of these, 11% were looking for work with more hours.

UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS

In September 2008 there were 603,700 underemployed part-time workers. These people comprise the majority (92%) of all underemployed workers.

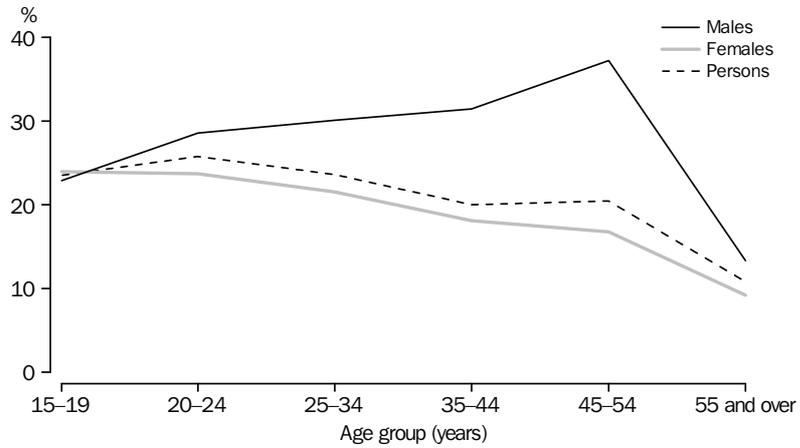
Of the underemployed part-time workers:

- 65% were women
- 20% were aged 35–44 years and a further 19% were aged 15–19 years
- 21% usually worked 16–20 hours per week and 10% usually worked 1–5 hours per week
- 60% reported they would not prefer to change employer to work more hours (56% of men and 62% of women), 25% would prefer to change employer while the remaining 15% 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



Part-time workers aged 20–24 years had the highest incidence of underemployment, with 26% of part-time workers in this age group underemployed. The proportion of part-time workers who were underemployed generally decreased with age.

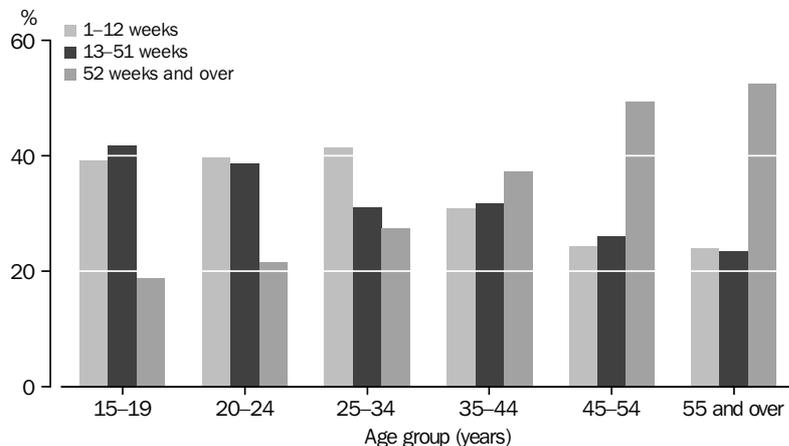
While there were more women underemployed part-time workers than men, the incidence of underemployment for part-time workers was higher for men (25%) than women (18%) and this was the case in almost all age groups. The largest percentage point difference was for those aged 45–54 years (37% for men and 17% for women) and 35–44 years (32% for men and 18% for women).

Underemployed part-time men were more likely to report that they would move intrastate if offered a suitable job (25%) than women (21%), whereas 16% of underemployed part-time men and 15% of women reported that they would move interstate if offered a suitable job.

There was a higher proportion of people who reported uncertainty about moving intrastate than interstate if offered a suitable job in September 2008 (13% of underemployed part-time workers might move or did not know if they would move intrastate, compared to 9.2% for interstate).

Duration of current period of insufficient work

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



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

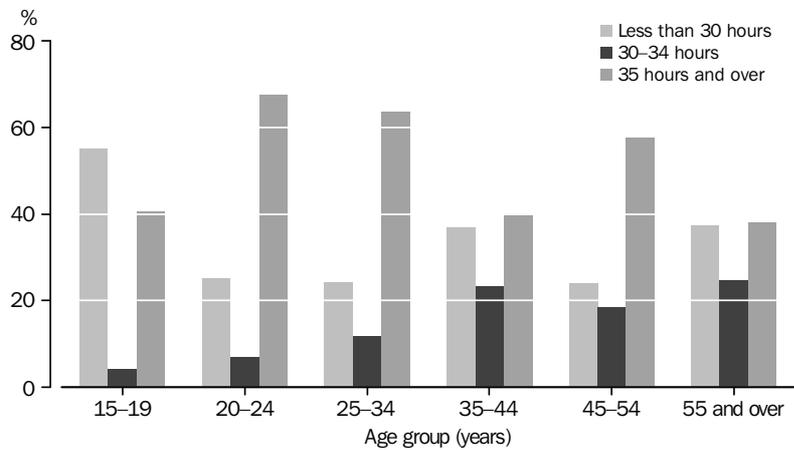
Duration of current period of insufficient work continued

Older people generally had a longer period of duration of underemployment than younger people. For example, under one fifth (19%) of 15–19 year old underemployed part-time workers had experienced insufficient work for one year or more. In contrast, 50% of those aged 45–54 years, and 53% of those aged 55 years and over had insufficient work for one year or more.

For those aged 15–19 years, the median duration of the current period of insufficient work for underemployed part-time workers was 20 weeks (17 weeks for men and 21 weeks for women). For those aged 25–34 years the median duration was 15 weeks and for those aged 55 years and over the median duration was 52 weeks. Overall, the median duration of the current period of insufficient work for underemployed part-time workers was 26 weeks.

Preferred number of hours

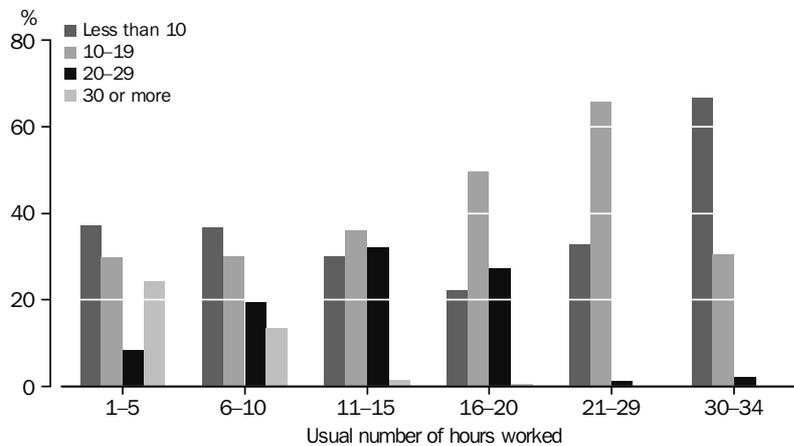
UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS, Preferred number of total hours by age



Just over half (51%) of underemployed part-time workers would prefer to work a total of 35 hours or more per week. For those aged 20–24 years, 68% preferred a total of 35 hours or more per week, while for those aged 15–19 years, 55% preferred a total of less than 30 hours per week.

Preferred number of extra hours

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



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Preferred number of extra hours continued

The number of extra hours preferred by part-time workers varied with the number of hours they usually worked. For example, just over three quarters (76%) of those who usually worked 1–5 hours a week preferred less than 30 extra hours. Of those who worked 16–20 hours a week, 50% preferred less than 10–19 hours a week. Of those who usually worked 20–29 hours a week, 32% preferred 11–16 extra hours a week and of those who worked 30–34 hours a week, 67% preferred to work less than 10 hours a week.

The mean preferred number of extra hours per week for underemployed part-time workers was 13.4 hours. Men preferred to work an average of 14.5 extra hours each week compared with women who preferred to work an average extra 12.8 hours. The mean preferred number of extra hours was lowest for people aged 15–19 years (12.4 hours), and highest for those aged 25–34 years (14.4 hours).

Looking for work with more hours

Of the 603,700 underemployed part-time workers, 271,800 (45%) had looked for work with more hours at some time during the four weeks prior to the survey. Of the 389,800 underemployed part-time women, 43% were looking for work with more hours. By comparison, of the 213,900 underemployed part-time men, 49% were looking for work with more hours.

The most common step taken by underemployed part-time workers who had looked for work with more hours, was 'asked current employer for more work' (61%). This was followed by 'contacted prospective employers' (57%) and 'looked in newspapers' (52%). The largest percentage point differences between men and women were for 'contacted friends or relatives' (37% of men and 26% of women) and 'checked centrelink touchscreens' (12% of men and 6.4% of women).

The main difficulty in finding work most commonly reported by underemployed part-time workers who had looked for work with more hours, was 'no vacancies in line of work' (17%). This was followed by 'other difficulties' (15%), and 'unsuitable hours' and 'lacked necessary skills or education' (both 10%). The largest percentage point difference between men and women was for 'unsuitable hours' (6% of men and 13% of women).

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

UNDEREMPLOYED FULL-TIME WORKERS

There were 7.7 million full-time workers in September 2008, accounting for 72% of all employed people. Approximately 1.1 million people (14%) worked less than 35 hours in the reference week. Less than 5 per cent (51,300) of these worked less than 35 hours in the reference week due to economic reasons, of which 80% were men.

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EMPLOYED PERSONS, Full-time or part-time status—By sex—September 2006 to September 2008(a)

	SEPTEMBER 2006		SEPTEMBER 2007		SEPTEMBER 2008(a)		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Persons
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Employed persons	5 630.2	4 659.8	5 777.8	4 752.2	5 886.4	4 856.5	10 742.9
Full-time workers	4 799.3	2 587.5	4 926.0	2 628.4	5 024.7	2 715.4	7 740.1
Worked 35 hours or more in the reference week	4 154.5	2 176.1	4 104.3	2 100.2	4 365.0	2 275.7	6 640.7
Worked less than 35 hours in the reference week	644.8	411.4	821.8	528.3	659.6	439.7	1 099.4
For non-economic reasons	595.0	400.6	786.6	517.3	618.5	429.5	1 048.0
For economic reasons	49.8	10.8	35.2	11.0	41.1	10.2	51.3
Part-time workers	830.9	2 072.3	851.8	2 123.8	861.8	2 141.1	3 002.9
Would not prefer to work more hours	610.6	1 716.2	648.8	1 754.9	621.2	1 694.0	2 315.2
Would prefer to work more hours	220.3	356.1	203.0	368.9	240.6	447.1	687.7
Prefers more part-time hours(b)	64.5	184.6	57.6	186.0	84.5	254.0	338.5
Prefers full-time hours(c)	155.9	171.4	145.4	182.9	156.1	193.1	349.2

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

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

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

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PART-TIME WORKERS WHO WOULD PREFER MORE HOURS, Whether available and/or looking—By sex—September 2006 to September 2008(a)

	SEPTEMBER 2006		SEPTEMBER 2007		SEPTEMBER 2008(a)		
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Persons
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Available to start work with more hours(b)	186.5	297.4	171.8	300.3	213.9	389.8	603.7
Available in the reference week	150.7	219.0	135.5	212.9	191.0	334.0	525.0
Looking	101.4	122.9	88.4	122.0	98.2	151.5	249.7
Not looking	49.3	96.0	47.1	90.9	92.8	182.5	275.3
Available within four weeks(c)	35.8	78.5	36.3	87.4	22.9	55.8	78.8
Looking	15.5	34.7	15.7	38.9	6.8	15.2	22.0
Not looking	20.2	43.8	20.6	48.6	16.1	40.6	56.7
Not available to start work with more hours(d)	33.8	58.6	31.2	68.5	26.6	57.3	83.9
Looking	*4.9	5.9	*4.7	7.9	*3.0	*6.1	9.1
Not looking	28.9	52.8	26.5	60.6	23.6	51.2	74.8
Total	220.3	356.1	203.0	368.9	240.6	447.1	687.7

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

(b) Underemployed part-time workers.

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

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

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

MALES

Age group (years)					
15–19	20.8	25.9	46.8	*6.4	53.1
20–24	19.3	23.6	42.9	*3.9	46.8
25–34	17.8	13.5	31.4	*3.5	34.8
35–44	15.6	11.4	27.0	*3.6	30.6
45–54	20.1	16.2	36.4	*5.0	41.4
55 and over	11.3	18.2	29.6	*4.3	33.9
Relationship in household					
Family member	83.2	91.0	174.3	23.7	198.0
Husband, wife or partner	37.8	46.0	83.8	10.7	94.5
Lone parent	*2.8	**0.7	*3.4	**2.0	*5.5
Dependent student	11.9	22.2	34.1	*5.7	39.8
Non-dependent child	28.2	18.4	46.6	*3.9	50.6
Other family person	*2.5	*3.8	*6.3	**1.3	*7.6
Non-family member	21.0	15.5	36.5	**2.1	38.6
Relationship not determined	**0.8	**2.3	*3.1	**0.8	*4.0
Level of highest educational attainment (b)					
Bachelor Degree or higher	19.0	10.9	29.9	*5.0	34.8
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	*8.1	*6.2	14.3	**1.0	15.4
Certificate (c)	9.9	17.0	26.9	*3.4	30.3
Year 12	27.2	32.4	59.6	*6.4	65.9
Year 11	10.1	13.3	23.4	**0.7	24.1
Year 10 or below	29.4	29.0	58.4	*8.3	66.7
Status in employment (d)					
Employees	88.2	91.0	179.2	18.5	197.7
Own account workers	14.4	16.9	31.3	*8.1	39.4
Preferred total number of hours					
Less than 30 hours	18.0	33.4	51.4	9.6	61.0
30–34	9.6	12.7	22.2	**1.2	23.5
35–39	38.7	31.7	70.3	*5.5	75.8
40 or more	38.8	31.2	69.9	10.3	80.3
Preferred number of extra hours					
Less than 10 hours	21.1	45.5	66.6	10.4	77.0
10–19	46.8	39.2	86.0	*7.9	93.8
20–29	27.1	21.2	48.3	*4.8	53.1
30 or more	10.1	*3.0	13.1	*3.5	16.6
Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours					
Would prefer to change employer	39.5	18.9	58.4	*6.6	65.0
Would prefer not to change employer	45.7	75.0	120.7	15.4	136.1
No preference	19.8	15.0	34.8	*4.6	39.5
Total	105.0	108.9	213.9	26.6	240.6

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

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

(a) Underemployed part-time workers.

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

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

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

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

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

	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	27.3	39.7	67.0	*7.4	74.4
20-24	24.7	25.4	50.2	*5.7	55.9
25-34	38.2	32.5	70.7	15.0	85.6
35-44	36.7	59.0	95.7	19.7	115.4
45-54	28.4	45.1	73.5	*7.3	80.8
55 and over	11.5	21.3	32.8	**2.2	35.0
Relationship in household					
Family member	145.3	199.0	344.3	52.5	396.8
Husband, wife or partner	75.5	121.4	196.9	32.7	229.6
Lone parent	29.8	24.5	54.3	9.5	63.8
Dependent student	15.7	29.7	45.5	*6.6	52.1
Non-dependent child	22.3	20.7	43.0	**1.3	44.4
Other family person	**1.9	*2.7	*4.6	**2.3	*7.0
Non-family member	19.1	18.5	37.6	*4.1	41.7
Relationship not determined	*2.4	*5.5	*7.9	**0.7	*8.6
Level of highest educational attainment (b)					
Bachelor Degree or higher	28.4	33.5	61.9	10.7	72.6
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	18.6	13.5	32.1	*4.6	36.7
Certificate (c)	26.7	27.8	54.5	*8.3	62.8
Year 12	43.2	51.7	94.9	13.0	107.9
Year 11	13.1	23.6	36.7	*6.8	43.4
Year 10 or below	35.3	69.0	104.2	12.7	116.9
Status in employment (d)					
Employees	152.5	204.9	357.3	50.0	407.4
Own account workers	13.7	14.6	28.3	*6.3	34.6
Preferred total number of hours					
Less than 30 hours	54.2	100.0	154.2	25.7	180.0
30-34	27.8	37.9	65.8	*8.3	74.0
35-39	57.1	53.5	110.6	15.1	125.7
40 or more	27.6	31.6	59.3	*8.1	67.4
Preferred number of extra hours					
Less than 10 hours	45.1	105.6	150.7	26.3	177.0
10-19	78.1	90.9	168.9	22.8	191.7
20-29	28.9	21.6	50.4	*6.2	56.6
30 or more	14.8	*5.0	19.8	**2.0	21.8
Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours					
Would prefer to change employer	55.6	39.8	95.4	11.0	106.4
Would prefer not to change employer	82.9	157.0	239.9	38.5	278.4
No preference	28.2	26.3	54.6	*7.8	62.3
Total	166.7	223.1	389.8	57.3	447.1

* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution (b) Excludes 'No educational attainment', 'Level not determined' and 'Other education'.

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use (c) Includes 'Certificate I, II, III, IV' and 'Certificate not further defined'.

(a) Underemployed part-time workers. (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 IN THE REFERENCE WEEK OR WITHIN FOUR WEEKS (a)			Not available in the reference week or within four weeks	
	Available and looking	Available and not looking	Total		Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000

PERSONS

Age group (years)					
15-19	48.1	65.6	113.7	13.7	127.5
20-24	44.1	49.0	93.1	9.6	102.7
25-34	56.0	46.1	102.0	18.5	120.5
35-44	52.3	70.4	122.7	23.3	146.0
45-54	48.5	61.3	109.9	12.3	122.1
55 and over	22.8	39.6	62.4	*6.5	68.9
Relationship in household					
Family member	228.5	290.1	518.6	76.2	594.8
Husband, wife or partner	113.3	167.3	280.7	43.4	324.1
Lone parent	32.5	25.2	57.7	11.6	69.3
Dependent student	27.7	51.9	79.6	12.3	91.9
Non-dependent child	50.5	39.1	89.7	*5.2	94.9
Other family person	*4.5	*6.5	11.0	*3.6	14.6
Non-family member	40.1	34.1	74.1	*6.2	80.3
Relationship not determined	*3.2	*7.8	11.0	**1.5	12.5
Level of highest educational attainment (b)					
Bachelor Degree or higher	47.4	44.4	91.8	15.6	107.4
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	26.7	19.8	46.4	*5.6	52.1
Certificate (c)	36.6	44.8	81.4	11.7	93.1
Year 12	70.3	84.1	154.4	19.4	173.8
Year 11	23.1	36.9	60.0	*7.5	67.5
Year 10 or below	64.7	97.9	162.7	20.9	183.6
Status in employment (d)					
Employees	240.7	295.8	536.5	68.5	605.0
Own account workers	28.1	31.5	59.7	14.4	74.1
Preferred total number of hours					
Less than 30 hours	72.2	133.4	205.6	35.3	241.0
30-34	37.4	50.6	88.0	9.5	97.5
35-39	95.7	85.2	180.9	20.6	201.5
40 or more	66.4	62.8	129.2	18.5	147.7
Preferred number of extra hours					
Less than 10 hours	66.2	151.1	217.2	36.7	253.9
10-19	124.8	130.1	254.9	30.7	285.6
20-29	55.9	42.8	98.7	11.0	109.7
30 or more	24.8	*8.0	32.9	*5.6	38.4
Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours					
Would prefer to change employer	95.1	58.7	153.8	17.6	171.4
Would prefer not to change employer	128.6	231.9	360.5	53.9	414.4
No preference	48.1	41.3	89.4	12.4	101.8
Total	271.8	332.0	603.7	83.9	687.7

* 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 I, II, III, IV' and 'Certificate not further defined'.

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

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

	DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF INSUFFICIENT WORK (WEEKS)					
	1-12	13-51	52 and over	Total	Mean duration	Median duration
	'000	'000	'000	'000	weeks	weeks
MALES						
Age group (years)						
15-19	19.2	17.9	9.7	46.8	32.8	17
20-24	16.4	15.8	10.7	42.9	37.3	26
25-34	12.1	9.5	9.8	31.4	41.7	*15
35-44	9.0	*8.4	9.7	27.0	72.7	*31
45-54	12.9	*5.9	17.5	36.4	76.7	36
55 and over	*6.2	9.0	14.3	29.6	101.8	*50
Relationship in household						
Family member	60.2	57.0	57.1	174.3	56.7	26
Husband, wife or partner	23.6	25.4	34.8	83.8	79.0	39
Lone parent	**2.0	**0.7	**0.7	*3.4	**46.0	**8
Dependent student	13.4	13.6	*7.1	34.1	31.0	*18
Non-dependent child	18.9	14.4	13.3	46.6	40.5	21
Other family person	**2.3	*2.9	**1.2	*6.3	*24.3	**15
Non-family member	14.7	*8.2	13.6	36.5	55.6	23
Relationship not determined	**0.9	**1.3	**1.0	*3.1	**92.1	**20
Level of highest educational attainment(a)(b)						
Bachelor Degree or higher	11.9	10.1	*7.9	29.9	43.9	*21
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	*5.3	*4.2	*4.8	14.3	*130.2	*20
Certificate(c)	10.7	*7.0	9.2	26.9	45.1	*26
Year 12	14.3	24.9	20.4	59.6	46.3	34
Year 11	9.8	*7.7	*5.9	23.4	40.7	*15
Year 10 or below	23.1	12.6	22.7	58.4	68.4	26
Status in employment(d)						
Employees	64.1	59.2	55.9	179.2	51.4	26
Own account workers	11.2	*6.2	13.9	31.3	82.2	*26
Preferred total number of hours						
Less than 30 hours	22.0	14.5	14.9	51.4	46.4	20
30-34	*4.7	*8.0	9.5	22.2	96.4	*37
35-39	19.8	24.6	25.9	70.3	61.4	30
40 or more	29.2	19.4	21.3	69.9	47.9	20
Preferred number of extra hours						
Less than 10 hours	23.4	22.2	21.0	66.6	59.8	26
10-19	33.7	20.8	31.5	86.0	50.4	25
20-29	14.4	18.7	15.2	48.3	61.4	26
30 or more	*4.4	*4.7	*4.0	13.1	*69.8	*20
Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours						
Would prefer to change employer	24.2	19.5	14.8	58.4	43.0	21
Would prefer not to change employer	41.8	36.8	42.0	120.7	55.3	25
No preference	9.8	10.2	14.9	34.8	86.5	*39
<i>Total</i>	75.8	66.5	71.7	213.9	57.0	26

* 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) The levels of education are not necessarily in order from highest to lowest. For more information see Appendix 1.

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

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

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

UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS, Duration of current period of insufficient work—By selected characteristics—By sex *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	25.6	29.6	11.9	67.0	30.9	21
20-24	20.5	20.3	9.4	50.2	29.4	18
25-34	30.2	22.1	18.4	70.7	42.4	15
35-44	29.0	30.6	36.1	95.7	81.8	26
45-54	13.9	22.8	36.9	73.5	76.8	52
55 and over	8.7	*5.6	18.5	32.8	100.7	*52
Relationship in household						
Family member	115.6	111.1	117.6	344.3	60.9	26
Husband, wife or partner	67.3	56.7	72.9	196.9	69.4	26
Lone parent	11.8	18.1	24.4	54.3	74.2	39
Dependent student	15.6	17.9	11.9	45.5	39.6	26
Non-dependent child	19.4	16.4	*7.3	43.0	31.2	13
Other family person	**1.5	**2.1	**1.1	*4.6	**32.8	**21
Non-family member	9.4	15.2	13.0	37.6	54.5	26
Relationship not determined	*2.8	*4.5	**0.5	*7.9	*35.9	**13
Level of highest educational attainment(a)(b)						
Bachelor Degree or higher	21.5	20.5	19.8	61.9	50.7	26
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	10.8	10.0	11.3	32.1	65.6	*26
Certificate(c)	19.0	16.7	18.8	54.5	68.5	26
Year 12	34.3	32.1	28.5	94.9	45.9	24
Year 11	11.6	13.1	12.0	36.7	68.2	26
Year 10 or below	28.0	37.2	39.1	104.2	68.3	30
Status in employment(d)						
Employees	120.3	117.4	119.6	357.3	59.5	26
Own account workers	*6.7	10.8	10.8	28.3	61.9	*26
Preferred total number of hours						
Less than 30 hours	50.2	54.3	49.8	154.2	48.3	26
30-34	19.2	17.6	29.0	65.8	91.1	28
35-39	36.9	35.9	37.8	110.6	57.6	26
40 or more	21.6	23.2	14.5	59.3	59.3	26
Preferred number of extra hours						
Less than 10 hours	55.6	47.4	47.7	150.7	53.2	26
10-19	46.1	60.4	62.4	168.9	66.0	26
20-29	19.0	16.6	14.8	50.4	54.7	24
30 or more	*7.2	*6.4	*6.2	19.8	70.4	*26
Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours						
Would prefer to change employer	37.0	29.0	29.3	95.4	52.7	22
Would prefer not to change employer	79.7	77.3	82.8	239.9	64.3	26
No preference	11.1	24.5	19.0	54.6	52.8	30
<i>Total</i>	127.9	130.9	131.1	389.8	59.8	26

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

(a) The levels of education are not necessarily in order from highest to lowest. For more information see Appendix 1.

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

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

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

UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS, Duration of current period of insufficient work—By selected characteristics—By sex *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	44.7	47.5	21.5	113.7	31.7	20
20-24	36.9	36.0	20.1	93.1	33.0	21
25-34	42.3	31.6	28.1	102.0	42.2	15
35-44	37.9	39.0	45.8	122.7	79.7	26
45-54	26.8	28.7	54.4	109.9	76.8	43
55 and over	15.0	14.6	32.8	62.4	101.2	52
Relationship in household						
Family member	175.8	168.1	174.7	518.6	59.5	26
Husband, wife or partner	90.9	82.1	107.7	280.7	72.3	26
Lone parent	13.8	18.8	25.1	57.7	72.5	34
Dependent student	29.1	31.5	19.1	79.6	35.9	24
Non-dependent child	38.3	30.8	20.6	89.7	36.1	17
Other family person	*3.8	*4.9	**2.3	11.0	*27.9	**20
Non-family member	24.1	23.5	26.5	74.1	55.0	26
Relationship not determined	*3.7	*5.8	**1.5	11.0	*51.9	**17
Level of highest educational attainment(a)(b)						
Bachelor Degree or higher	33.4	30.7	27.7	91.8	48.5	26
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	16.1	14.2	16.1	46.4	85.6	26
Certificate(c)	29.7	23.7	28.0	81.4	60.8	26
Year 12	48.5	56.9	48.9	154.4	46.1	26
Year 11	21.3	20.7	17.9	60.0	57.5	21
Year 10 or below	51.1	49.8	61.8	162.7	68.3	26
Status in employment(d)						
Employees	184.4	176.6	175.5	536.5	56.8	26
Own account workers	18.0	17.0	24.6	59.7	72.5	26
Preferred total number of hours						
Less than 30 hours	72.2	68.8	64.7	205.6	47.8	26
30-34	23.9	25.5	38.5	88.0	92.4	30
35-39	56.7	60.4	63.8	180.9	59.1	26
40 or more	50.8	42.6	35.8	129.2	53.1	21
Preferred number of extra hours						
Less than 10 hours	79.0	69.6	68.6	217.2	55.2	26
10-19	79.8	81.2	93.9	254.9	60.7	26
20-29	33.4	35.4	30.0	98.7	58.0	26
30 or more	11.5	11.1	10.2	32.9	70.2	*26
Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours						
Would prefer to change employer	61.2	48.5	44.1	153.8	49.0	21
Would prefer not to change employer	121.6	114.1	124.8	360.5	61.3	26
No preference	20.9	34.7	33.8	89.4	65.9	34
Total	203.7	197.3	202.8	603.7	58.8	26

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(a) The levels of education are not necessarily in order from highest to lowest. For more information see Appendix 1.

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

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

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

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

	Less than 10 hours	10-19	20 or more	Total	Mean preferred number of extra hours
	'000	'000	'000	'000	hours
MALES					
Age group (years)					
15-19	25.2	9.7	11.9	46.8	12.6
20-24	13.5	18.4	11.0	42.9	14.1
25-34	*8.5	13.7	9.1	31.4	14.6
35-44	*7.1	10.4	9.5	27.0	15.6
45-54	*3.1	18.4	14.8	36.4	17.7
55 and over	9.1	15.4	*5.1	29.6	12.8
Status in employment(a)					
Employees	59.7	70.0	49.5	179.2	14.1
Own account workers	*6.2	15.8	9.3	31.3	15.5
Hours usually worked					
1-5	*8.4	*3.6	*4.9	17.0	14.9
6-10	13.1	*3.6	15.5	32.2	17.5
11-15	9.5	*5.9	16.8	32.2	16.9
16-20	*7.3	28.9	21.5	57.7	16.3
21-29	*7.9	29.3	**1.2	38.4	12.4
30-34	20.3	14.6	**1.5	36.4	8.6
Whether would move interstate if offered a suitable job					
Would move interstate	*5.2	15.3	12.9	33.4	17.8
Would not move interstate	53.5	59.9	41.6	155.0	13.8
Might move interstate	*6.3	*6.9	*3.6	16.8	13.8
Did not know	**1.7	*3.9	*3.2	8.8	15.4
Whether would move intrastate if offered a suitable job					
Would move intrastate	12.0	21.4	20.5	53.9	16.9
Would not move intrastate	45.5	48.1	30.4	124.1	13.1
Might move intrastate	*6.7	13.3	9.6	29.7	16.0
Did not know	**2.3	*3.1	**0.8	*6.3	13.2
Total	66.6	86.0	61.4	213.9	14.5

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

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

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

	Less than 10 hours	10-19	20 or more	Total	Mean preferred number of extra hours
	'000	'000	'000	'000	hours
FEMALES					
Age group (years)					
15-19	33.9	19.1	14.0	67.0	12.2
20-24	19.5	20.3	10.3	50.2	13.7
25-34	17.0	38.0	15.6	70.7	14.3
35-44	35.6	43.3	16.8	95.7	12.7
45-54	28.3	36.2	9.0	73.5	11.6
55 and over	16.4	11.9	*4.5	32.8	12.3
Status in employment(a)					
Employees	136.4	158.4	62.5	357.3	12.8
Own account workers	12.8	*8.4	*7.1	28.3	13.4
Hours usually worked					
1-5	13.7	14.1	14.7	42.6	16.9
6-10	28.9	30.6	22.0	81.5	14.4
11-15	22.0	31.6	18.3	71.9	13.9
16-20	21.2	34.7	14.2	70.1	13.0
21-29	30.3	47.3	**0.5	78.2	10.8
30-34	34.5	10.6	**0.6	45.6	7.5
Whether would move interstate if offered a suitable job					
Would move interstate	20.1	24.3	14.5	58.8	14.1
Would not move interstate	124.6	128.6	48.7	301.8	12.3
Might move interstate	*5.0	13.2	*7.1	25.3	15.7
Did not know	**1.0	*2.9	—	*3.9	*12.4
Whether would move intrastate if offered a suitable job					
Would move intrastate	21.7	39.8	20.4	81.9	15.1
Would not move intrastate	118.0	108.1	39.3	265.4	11.8
Might move intrastate	10.3	18.7	10.5	39.5	15.0
Did not know	**0.6	*2.4	—	*3.0	*12.5
Total	150.7	168.9	70.2	389.8	12.8

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** 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 '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	59.0	28.8	25.9	113.7	12.4
20-24	33.0	38.7	21.3	93.1	13.9
25-34	25.5	51.8	24.7	102.0	14.4
35-44	42.7	53.7	26.3	122.7	13.3
45-54	31.5	54.6	23.8	109.9	13.6
55 and over	25.4	27.3	9.6	62.4	12.6
Status in employment(a)					
Employees	196.1	228.3	112.1	536.5	13.2
Own account workers	19.0	24.2	16.4	59.7	14.5
Hours usually worked					
1-5	22.2	17.8	19.6	59.6	16.3
6-10	42.0	34.2	37.5	113.7	15.3
11-15	31.4	37.6	35.1	104.1	14.8
16-20	28.5	63.6	35.7	127.8	14.5
21-29	38.2	76.6	**1.7	116.6	11.3
30-34	54.8	25.1	**2.0	82.0	8.0
Whether would move interstate if offered a suitable job					
Would move interstate	25.3	39.5	27.4	92.2	15.5
Would not move interstate	178.0	188.5	90.3	456.9	12.8
Might move interstate	11.3	20.1	10.7	42.1	15.0
Did not know	*2.7	*6.8	*3.2	12.6	14.4
Whether would move intrastate if offered a suitable job					
Would move intrastate	33.7	61.2	40.9	135.8	15.8
Would not move intrastate	163.5	156.2	69.7	389.4	12.2
Might move intrastate	17.0	32.0	20.2	69.2	15.4
Did not know	*3.0	*5.5	**0.8	9.3	13.0
Total	217.2	254.9	131.6	603.7	13.4

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

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

(a) 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	105.0	166.7	271.8	16.5	15.1	15.6
Own ill health or disability	*5.6	*3.5	9.1	17.7	*17.4	17.6
Considered too old by employers	*7.0	*4.0	11.1	19.1	*17.0	18.3
Unsuitable hours	*5.9	22.2	28.2	9.7	13.7	12.8
Too far to travel/transport problems	*3.3	*8.2	11.5	*15.5	15.4	15.4
Lacked necessary skills or education	10.3	16.1	26.3	18.8	18.9	18.8
Language difficulties	**2.2	**1.1	*3.3	*20.7	**13.6	*18.3
Insufficient work experience	*6.2	*7.8	13.9	16.3	17.2	16.8
No vacancies in line of work	21.0	26.2	47.1	15.5	15.4	15.5
Too many applicants for available jobs	*6.4	11.0	17.3	15.6	14.9	15.1
No vacancies at all	9.7	12.2	21.9	17.5	14.5	15.8
Difficulties in finding child care	—	*6.8	*6.8	—	13.1	13.1
Other family responsibilities	*2.9	*5.8	*8.6	*14.9	11.3	12.5
Other difficulties(a)	17.0	22.4	39.5	14.0	14.8	14.5
No difficulties reported	*7.7	19.5	27.2	23.3	13.9	16.5
Had not been looking for work with more hours	108.9	223.1	332.0	12.5	11.1	11.6
Total	213.9	389.8	603.7	14.5	12.8	13.4

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

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

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

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

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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	21.1	46.8	37.2	105.0	16.5
Asked current employer for more work	13.2	28.8	21.2	63.2	15.8
Contacted prospective employers	11.0	24.1	25.6	60.7	17.6
Registered with Centrelink	**1.4	*5.9	9.9	17.2	21.0
Checked Centrelink touchscreens	**1.2	*3.8	*7.5	12.5	21.6
Contacted an employment agency	**2.2	*4.6	10.0	16.8	21.0
Looked in newspapers	*7.1	22.9	23.5	53.5	18.2
Searched Internet sites	*8.5	19.4	18.6	46.5	17.7
Answered a newspaper advertisement for a job	*2.9	11.2	*7.5	21.6	17.3
Advertised or tendered for work	*2.7	*2.5	*3.2	*8.4	16.4
Contacted friends or relatives	*7.0	19.0	12.9	38.9	16.6
Other steps taken to find work(b)	*3.2	*7.2	*6.4	16.8	17.8
Had not been looking for work with more hours	45.5	39.2	24.2	108.9	12.5
Total	66.6	86.0	61.4	213.9	14.5
FEMALES					
Had been looking for work with more hours	45.1	78.1	43.6	166.7	15.1
Asked current employer for more work	25.7	54.4	22.6	102.6	14.7
Contacted prospective employers	23.1	42.4	29.7	95.2	16.2
Registered with Centrelink	**1.9	13.5	11.0	26.4	18.8
Checked Centrelink touchscreens	**2.2	*5.1	*3.5	10.7	16.7
Contacted an employment agency	*4.7	*8.3	*8.5	21.5	16.8
Looked in newspapers	19.5	37.8	30.5	87.9	16.3
Searched Internet sites	22.8	34.2	23.6	80.6	15.4
Answered a newspaper advertisement for a job	10.4	12.5	*8.6	31.5	15.1
Advertised or tendered for work	*3.2	*3.9	**2.0	9.0	14.5
Contacted friends or relatives	9.5	22.1	12.0	43.6	15.8
Other steps taken to find work(b)	*6.5	*5.0	*4.6	16.0	14.8
Had not been looking for work with more hours	105.6	90.9	26.6	223.1	11.1
Total	150.7	168.9	70.2	389.8	12.8
PERSONS					
Had been looking for work with more hours	66.2	124.8	80.8	271.8	15.6
Asked current employer for more work	38.9	83.2	43.8	165.9	15.1
Contacted prospective employers	34.1	66.5	55.3	155.8	16.7
Registered with Centrelink	*3.3	19.3	20.9	43.5	19.7
Checked Centrelink touchscreens	*3.4	8.9	11.0	23.2	19.4
Contacted an employment agency	*6.9	12.9	18.5	38.3	18.7
Looked in newspapers	26.6	60.7	54.0	141.4	17.1
Searched Internet sites	31.4	53.6	42.2	127.1	16.2
Answered a newspaper advertisement for a job	13.3	23.7	16.1	53.1	16.0
Advertised or tendered for work	*5.8	*6.4	*5.2	17.4	15.5
Contacted friends or relatives	16.5	41.1	24.8	82.5	16.2
Other steps taken to find work(b)	9.7	12.2	11.0	32.8	16.3
Had not been looking for work with more hours	151.1	130.1	50.8	332.0	11.6
Total	217.2	254.9	131.6	603.7	13.4

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

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

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

(b) Includes 'Checked factory noticeboards'.

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT(a)	ACT	Aust.
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES									
Population 1									
Employed persons	1 890.9	1 452.5	1 191.4	422.9	643.2	133.6	51.1	100.8	5 886.4
Population 2									
Full-time workers	1 610.7	1 214.2	1 033.7	358.7	564.2	112.1	46.3	84.8	5 024.7
Population 3									
Part-time workers	280.2	238.3	157.7	64.2	79.0	21.6	4.8	16.0	861.8
Population 4									
Part-time workers who would prefer more hours	88.3	69.6	35.2	18.9	19.4	5.1	*0.9	3.2	240.6
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(b)	79.6	66.3	30.6	16.9	15.5	4.4	*0.8	3.0	216.9
Population 6									
Underemployed part-time workers	78.1	64.7	30.6	16.9	15.5	4.4	*0.8	3.0	213.9
Population 7									
Underemployed workers	92.0	75.6	38.4	19.1	19.7	5.6	*1.0	3.7	255.0
FEMALES									
Population 1									
Employed persons	1 543.8	1 196.4	1 008.1	356.3	507.6	107.3	44.0	93.0	4 856.5
Population 2									
Full-time workers	886.9	645.5	572.1	185.5	276.0	56.4	32.1	60.9	2 715.4
Population 3									
Part-time workers	656.9	550.9	435.9	170.8	231.7	50.8	12.0	32.2	2 141.1
Population 4									
Part-time workers who would prefer more hours	171.8	96.4	79.4	37.4	46.7	8.8	2.0	4.6	447.1
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(b)	154.4	81.6	72.9	32.3	41.7	8.0	1.5	3.6	395.9
Population 6									
Underemployed part-time workers	153.8	81.0	70.4	31.3	40.2	8.0	1.5	3.6	389.8
Population 7									
Underemployed workers	158.0	83.3	72.9	32.3	40.2	8.3	1.6	3.6	400.1
PERSONS									
Population 1									
Employed persons	3 434.8	2 648.9	2 199.4	779.1	1 150.9	240.9	95.1	193.8	10 742.9
Population 2									
Full-time workers	2 497.7	1 859.7	1 605.8	544.2	840.2	168.5	78.4	145.7	7 740.1
Population 3									
Part-time workers	937.1	789.2	593.6	235.0	310.7	72.4	16.8	48.1	3 002.9
Population 4									
Part-time workers who would prefer more hours	260.1	165.9	114.6	56.3	66.1	13.9	2.9	7.8	687.7
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(b)	234.0	147.9	103.4	49.1	57.2	12.4	2.4	6.5	612.8
Population 6									
Underemployed part-time workers	232.0	145.7	100.9	48.1	55.7	12.4	2.4	6.5	603.7
Population 7									
Underemployed workers	249.9	158.8	111.3	51.3	59.9	13.9	2.6	7.2	655.1

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

(a) Refers to mainly urban areas only. See paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes.
 (b) 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 2008 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) which is available on the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>> (Methods, Classifications, Concepts & Standards).

SCOPE

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

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

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

6 This supplementary survey was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, but excluded approximately 120,000 people living in very remote parts of Australia who would otherwise have been within the scope of the survey. The exclusion of these people will have only a minor impact on any aggregate estimates that are produced for individual states and territories, except the Northern Territory where such people account for around 23% of the population.

COVERAGE

7 In the LFS, coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling and hence has only one chance of selection in the survey. See *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) for more details.

SAMPLE SIZE

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

9 The LFS sample size in September 2008 was approximately one-third smaller than the sample size in September 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).

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

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

SAMPLE SIZE *continued*

11 The initial sample for the September LFS consisted of 27,469 private dwelling households and special dwelling units. Of the 21,787 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 20,631 or 94.7% 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 22,656.

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

12 Estimates in this publication are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors:

- Sampling error is the difference between the published estimate and the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. For more information see the Technical Note.
- Non-sampling errors are inaccuracies that occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents and interviewers, and errors made in coding and processing data. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and effective processing procedures.

SEASONAL FACTORS

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

CLASSIFICATIONS USED

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

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

COMPARABILITY OF TIME SERIES

16 In this publication there is 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 are 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 new question has been altered to be consistent with the LFS and is broader and more inclusive of peoples situations as it relates to a preference for more hours of work.

17 This change has 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 in this publication with previous releases because of this break in series.

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

19 Revisions are made to population benchmarks for the LFS after each five-yearly Census of Population and Housing. The last such revision was made in February 2004 to take account of the results of the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. Estimates from supplementary surveys conducted from and including February 2004 are based on the revised population benchmarks.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

COMPARABILITY OF TIME SERIES *continued*

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

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

COMPARABILITY WITH MONTHLY LFS STATISTICS

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

COMPARABILITY WITH ILO GUIDELINES

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

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

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

PREVIOUS SURVEYS

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

NEXT SURVEY

26 The ABS plans to conduct this survey again in September 2009.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

28 ABS publications which may be of interest include:

- *Australian Labour Market Statistics* (cat. no. 6105.0)
- *Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation* (cat. no. 6239.0)
- *Job Search Experience, Australia* (cat. no. 6222.0)
- *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0)

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

continued

- *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)

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

ABBREVIATIONS

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

APPENDIX 1 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION

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

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

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

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

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

APPENDIX 1 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT *continued*

CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION *continued*

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

APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST

DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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

The population(s) for a particular data item refers to the person in the survey to whom the data item relates.

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

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

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

APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
7C Country of birth (2)	All	9C Whether available and/or looking	4-6
Born in Australia		Available to start work with more hours	
Born overseas		Available in the reference week	
Oceania and Antarctica		Looking	
North-West Europe		Not looking	
Southern and Eastern Europe		Available within four weeks (but not in the reference week)	
North Africa and the Middle East		Looking	
South-East Asia		Not looking	
North-East Asia		Not available to start work with more hours	
Southern and Central Asia		Looking	
Americas		Not looking	
Sub-Saharan Africa			
8 Age group (years)	All	10 Full-time or part-time status	All
15-19		Employed persons	
20-24		Full-time workers	
25-34		Worked 35 hours or more in the reference week	
35-44		Worked less than 35 hours in the reference week	
45-54		For non-economic reasons	
55-59		For economic reasons	
60-64		Part-time workers	
65-69		Would not prefer to work more hours	
70 and over		Would prefer to work more hours	
Note: Age collected in single years		Prefers more part-time hours	
		Prefers full-time hours	
9A Underemployment status	7	11 Whether fully employed	All
Worked less than 35 hours in the reference week for economic reasons		Fully employed	
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		Part-time workers who would prefer more hours and persons who worked less than 35 hours in the reference week for economic reasons	
Looking and available to start			
Not looking but available to start			
9B Whether looking and/or available	4-6	12 Status in employment	All
Had been looking for work with more hours		Employees	
Looking and available to start		Employers	
Looking and available in the reference week		Own account workers	
Looking and not available in the reference week but available within four weeks		Contributing family workers	
Looking and not available to start		13 Number of hours worked in the reference week	4-7
Had not been looking for work with more hours		0-5	
Not looking but available to start		6-10	
Not looking but available in the reference week		11-15	
Not looking and not available in the reference week but available within four weeks		16-20	
Not looking and not available to start		20-29	
		30-34	
		35 or more	
		Note: Hours worked collected in single hours	
		14 Type of insufficient work	4-6
		Full-time	
		Part-time	

APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
15 Duration of current period of insufficient work	4-7	21 All steps taken to find work with more hours in the last four weeks <i>cont.</i>	4-6
1 week and under 4 weeks		Checked factory noticeboards	
4 weeks and under 13 weeks		Contacted an employment agency	
13 weeks and under 52 weeks		Looked in newspapers	
52 weeks and over		Searched Internet sites	
Note: Period of insufficient work collected in single weeks		Answered a newspaper advertisement for a job	
16 Level of highest educational attainment	4-7	Advertised or tendered for work	
Postgraduate Degree		Contacted friends or relatives	
Graduate Diploma/Graduate Certificate		Other steps taken to find work	
Bachelor Degree		Had not been looking for work with more hours	
Advanced Diploma/Diploma		22 Whether registered with Centrelink	4-6
Certificate III/IV		Registered with Centrelink for job search assistance	
Certificate I/II		Not registered with Centrelink for job search assistance	
Certificate not further defined		Had not been looking for work with more hours	
Year 12		23 Preferred number of extra hours	4-6
Year 11		Less than 10 hours	
Year 10 or below		10-19	
Other education		20-29	
Level not determined		30 or more	
No educational attainment		Note: Preferred extra hours collected in single hours	
17 Whether would move interstate if offered a suitable job	4-7	24 Main difficulty in finding work with more hours	4-6
Would move interstate		Had been looking for work with more hours	
Would not move interstate		Own ill health or disability	
Might move interstate		Considered too young by employers	
Did not know		Considered too old by employers	
18 Whether would move intrastate if offered a suitable job	4-7	Unsuitable hours	
Would move intrastate		Too far to travel/transport problems	
Would not move intrastate		Lacked necessary skills or education	
Might move intrastate		Language difficulties	
Did not know		Insufficient work experience	
19 Whether would prefer to change occupation to work more hours	4-7	No vacancies in line of work	
Would prefer to change occupation		Too many applicants for available jobs	
Would prefer not to change occupation		No vacancies at all	
No preference		Difficulties with ethnic background	
20 Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours	4-7	Difficulties in finding child care	
Would prefer to change employer		Other family responsibilities	
Would prefer not to change employer		Other difficulties	
No preference		No difficulties reported	
21 All steps taken to find work with more hours in the last four weeks	4-6	Had not been looking for work with more hours	
Asked current employer for more work			
Contacted prospective employers			
Registered with Centrelink			
Checked Centrelink touchscreens			

APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
25 Hours usually worked	4-6	26 Preferred total number of hours <i>cont.</i>	4-6
1-5		35-39	
6-10		40 or more	
11-15		Note: Preferred total hours collected in single hours	
16-20			
21-29		27 Employment type	All
30-34		Employees (excluding OMIEs)	
Note: Hours usually worked collected in single hours		Owner managers of incorporated enterprises	
26 Preferred total number of hours	4-6	Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises	
Less than 30 hours		Contributing family workers	
30-34			

APPENDIX 3 SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

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

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

(a) Latest data available on request July 2001.

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

INTRODUCTION

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

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

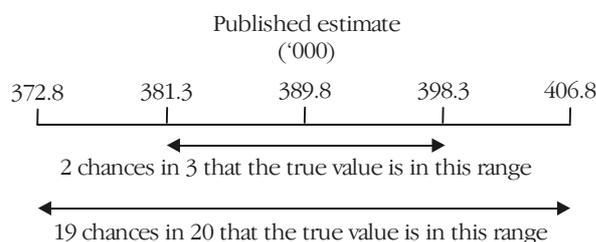
3 The LFS sample size in September 2008 was approximately one-third smaller than the sample size in September 2007. This is due to an 11% sample reduction that was implemented from November 2007 to June 2008 based on the 2006 sample design, and an additional 24% sample reduction implemented in July 2008. In combination, the two sample reductions are expected to increase the standard errors for estimates from the supplementary surveys by approximately 22% at the broad aggregate level, relative to the 2001 sample design (standard errors will vary at lower aggregate levels). Detailed information about the sample reduction is provided in Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Sample Design, Nov 2007 (Second edition) (cat. no. 6269.0).

CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERROR

4 An example of the calculation and the use of SEs in relation to estimates of persons is as follows. Table 5 shows the estimated number of female underemployed part-time workers was 389,800. Since this estimate is between 300,000 and 500,000, table T1 shows that the SE for Australia will lie between 7,600 and 9,550 and can be approximated by interpolation using the following general formula:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & SE \text{ of estimate} \\
 &= \text{lower SE} + \left(\left(\frac{\text{size of estimate} - \text{lower estimate}}{\text{upper estimate} - \text{lower estimate}} \right) \times (\text{upper SE} - \text{lower SE}) \right) \\
 &= 7,600 + \left(\left(\frac{389,800 - 300,000}{500,000 - 300,000} \right) \times (9,550 - 7,600) \right) \\
 &= 8,500 \text{ (rounded to the nearest 100)}
 \end{aligned}$$

5 Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey will fall within the range 381,300 to 398,300 and about 19 chances in 20 that the value will fall within the range 372,800 to 406,800. This example is illustrated in the following diagram.



CALCULATION OF STANDARD
ERROR *continued*

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

MEANS AND MEDIANS

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

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

8 The following is an example of the calculation of SEs where the use of a factor is required. Table 4 shows that the estimated number of male underemployed part-time workers was 213,900 with a median duration of insufficient work of 26 weeks. The SE of 213,900 can be calculated from table T1 (by interpolation) as 6,600. To convert this to an RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate or $6,600/213,900 = 3.1\%$.

9 The RSE of the estimate of median duration of insufficient work is calculated by multiplying this number (3.1%) by the appropriate factor shown in paragraph 7 (in this case 2.5): $3.1 \times 2.5 = 7.8\%$. The SE of this estimate of median duration of insufficient work is therefore 7.8% of 26, i.e. about 2 (rounded to the nearest whole week). Therefore, there are two chances in three that the median duration of insufficient work for males that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey would have been within the range 24–28 weeks, and about 19 chances in 20 that it would have been within the range 22–30 weeks.

PROPORTIONS AND
PERCENTAGES

10 Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling errors. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. A formula to approximate the RSE of a proportion is given below. This formula is only valid when x is a subset of y.

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

11 Considering the example from paragraph 3, of the 389,800 female underemployed part-time workers, 131,100 or 33.6% had insufficient work for 52 weeks and over. The SE of 131,100 may be calculated by interpolation as 5,400. To convert this to an RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate, or $5,400/131,100 = 4.1\%$. The SE for 389,800 was calculated previously as 8,500, which converted to an RSE is $8,500/389,800 = 2.2\%$. Applying the above formula, the RSE of the proportion is:

$$RSE = \sqrt{(4.1)^2 - (2.2)^2} = 3.5\%$$

12 Therefore, the SE for the proportion of females who have a current period of insufficient work of 52 weeks or more is 1.2 percentage points ($= (33.6/100) \times 3.5$). Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the proportion of females who have a current period of insufficient work of 52 weeks or more was between 32.4% and 34.8% and 19 chances in 20 that the proportion is within the range 31.2% to 36.0%.

TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY *continued*

DIFFERENCES

13 Published estimates may also be used to calculate the difference between two survey estimates (of numbers or percentages). Such an estimate is subject to sampling error. The sampling error of the difference between two estimates depends on their SEs and the relationship (correlation) between them. An approximate SE of the difference between two estimates (x-y) may be calculated by the following formula:

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

14 While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and uncorrelated characteristics or subpopulations, it is expected to provide a good approximation for all differences likely to be of interest in this publication.

STANDARD ERRORS

T1 STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of Estimate (persons)	AUST.									SE	RSE
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	no.		
100	340	330	250	200	250	130	90	120	120	120.0	
200	450	430	370	270	330	180	140	190	220	110.0	
300	540	510	450	320	390	220	170	240	300	100.0	
500	660	620	570	390	480	270	220	310	440	88.0	
700	760	710	670	450	550	310	260	350	550	78.6	
1,000	880	810	780	520	630	360	300	380	700	70.0	
1,500	1 030	950	930	600	730	410	350	420	890	59.3	
2,000	1 150	1 060	1 040	670	820	450	390	440	1 050	52.5	
2,500	1 250	1 150	1 150	750	900	500	400	450	1 200	48.0	
3,000	1 350	1 250	1 200	800	950	500	450	500	1 300	43.3	
3,500	1 450	1 300	1 300	800	1 000	550	450	500	1 400	40.0	
4,000	1 500	1 400	1 350	850	1 050	550	500	550	1 500	37.5	
5,000	1 650	1 500	1 450	950	1 150	600	550	600	1 700	34.0	
7,000	1 850	1 700	1 650	1 050	1 300	700	650	650	1 950	27.9	
10,000	2 150	1 950	1 850	1 200	1 500	800	800	800	2 300	23.0	
15,000	2 500	2 250	2 050	1 350	1 700	950	1 150	950	2 650	17.7	
20,000	2 750	2 500	2 250	1 500	1 900	1 150	1 450	1 100	2 950	14.8	
30,000	3 200	2 900	2 600	1 800	2 150	1 450	2 000	1 450	3 350	11.2	
40,000	3 550	3 200	2 850	2 050	2 400	1 700	2 550	1 700	3 650	9.1	
50,000	3 850	3 500	3 150	2 300	2 650	1 950	3 050	1 900	3 900	7.8	
100,000	4 900	4 550	4 300	3 450	3 900	2 750	5 250	2 550	4 900	4.9	
150,000	5 750	5 550	5 300	4 400	5 150	3 300	7 250	2 900	5 700	3.8	
200,000	6 600	6 450	6 200	5 200	6 150	3 700	9 050	3 050	6 400	3.2	
300,000	8 300	8 300	7 850	6 400	7 750	4 200	12 350	3 200	7 600	2.5	
500,000	11 650	11 500	10 600	8 000	9 850	4 850	..	3 200	9 550	1.9	
1,000,000	17 300	17 500	15 150	10 200	12 600	5 550	..	..	13 450	1.3
2,000,000	23 300	25 850	20 350	12 100	14 550	..	..	..	19 550	1.0
5,000,000	29 700	41 350	27 450	13 650	15 200	..	..	..	32 600	0.7
10,000,000	31 800	57 000	32 100	..	..	..	..	..	43 500	0.4
15,000,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	49 100	0.3

.. not applicable

GLOSSARY

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

GLOSSARY *continued*

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

GLOSSARY *continued*

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

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