

CHAPTER 7

HOURS OF WORK

The data in this chapter have been obtained from the labour force survey, special supplementary surveys and the surveys of employers.

The ABS monthly labour force survey provides the principal source of information about actual, average and aggregate hours worked by employed persons. Hours worked data from this survey are provided for males and females, full-time and part-time employed persons, and by broad industry group. Data on hours worked are presented in Chart 7.1, and Tables 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3.

To supplement the statistics on hours worked collected in the labour force survey, data on hours paid for are collected from surveys of employers. Information on overtime hours paid for is presented in Table 7.4 and Chart 7.2.

Hours of work

Average hours of work have declined slightly over the last ten years. The average weekly hours worked declined from 36.8 hours in August 1979 to 36.1 hours in August 1989, although over the same period the average hours worked by full-time workers increased (40.8 hours per week in August 1979 compared with 41.6 hours per week in August 1989). The average weekly hours worked by part-time workers has decreased to 15.3 hours in August 1989 from 15.7 hours in August 1979.

The most significant fall in average hours worked from August 1979 to August 1989 was in the group of persons employed as other than wage and salary earners, having fallen from 42.6 hours per week to 40.7 hours per week.

Average hours of work were higher for males than females. For full-time female workers the average weekly hours worked were 38.7 hours in August 1989, compared with 42.9 hours for full-time male workers.

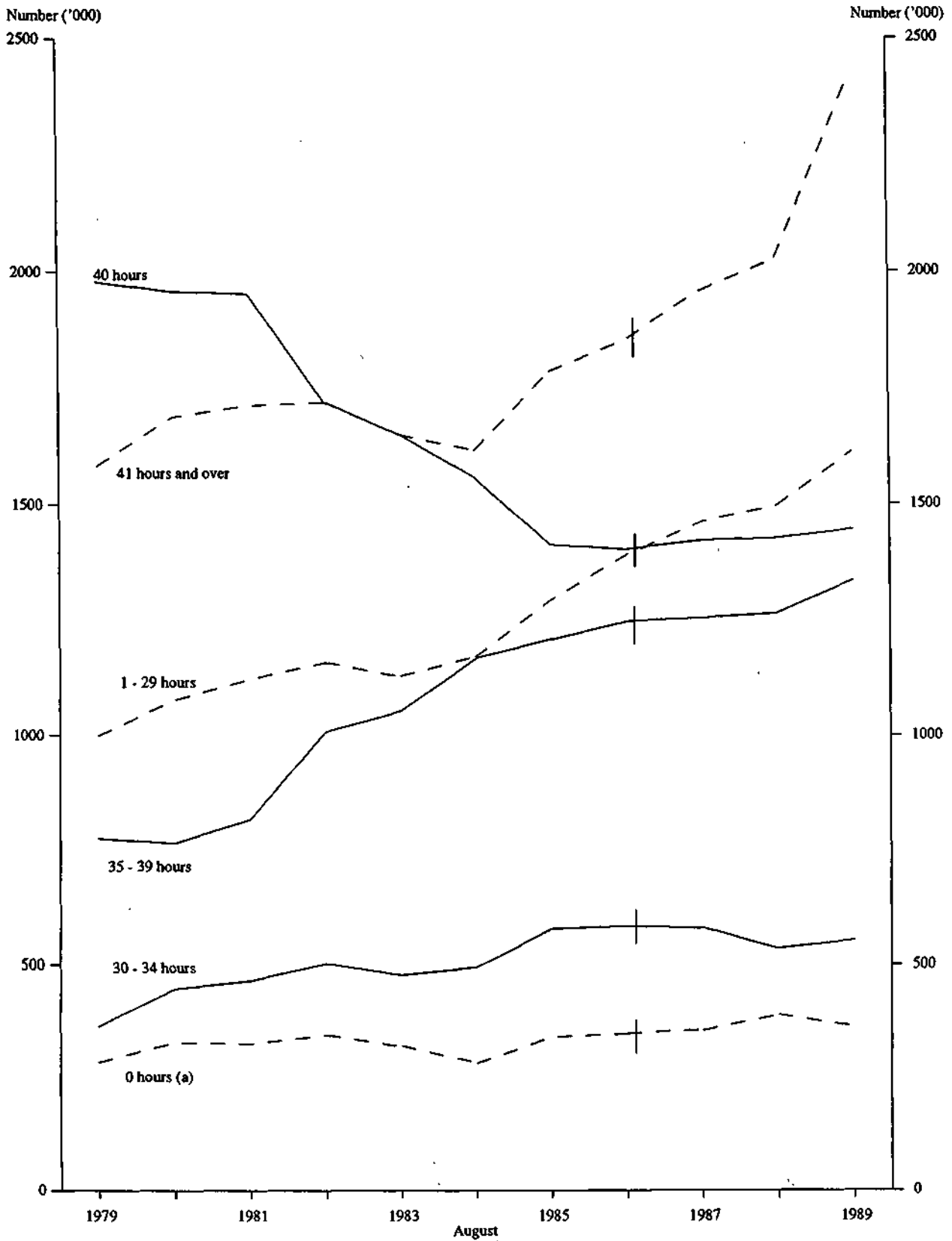
TABLE 7.1. HOURS WORKED BY EMPLOYED PERSONS, AUSTRALIA, AUGUST 1979 AND AUGUST 1989 ('000)

	Females				Persons
	Males	Not Married	Married	Total	
AUGUST 1979(a)					
Weekly hours worked—					
0	180.1	62.8	39.0	101.8	281.8
1-15	119.5	266.4	105.8	372.2	491.8
16-29	180.8	252.0	74.0	326.0	506.8
30-34	196.2	105.9	58.0	164.0	360.2
35-39	436.6	167.7	169.4	337.1	773.8
40	1,394.6	286.9	295.1	582.0	1,976.6
41-44	266.7	45.2	46.9	92.1	358.9
45-48	375.5	43.4	25.3	68.7	444.2
49 and over	771.0	77.3	36.2	113.5	884.5
Total	3,921.1	1,307.7	849.7	2,157.4	6,078.5
AUGUST 1989(b)					
Weekly hours worked—					
0	213.6	96.6	50.5	147.0	360.6
1-15	216.6	190.2	211.8	601.9	818.5
16-29	240.7	416.6	136.9	553.5	794.2
30-34	285.1	176.0	92.3	268.3	553.6
35-39	744.0	315.7	274.9	590.6	1,334.6
40	960.7	246.0	237.3	483.3	1,444.0
41-44	281.9	72.8	63.7	136.5	418.5
45-48	459.9	72.0	71.7	143.6	603.5
49 and over	1,169.4	141.1	89.8	230.9	1,400.3
Total	4,571.9	1,926.9	1,228.8	3,155.7	7,727.6

(a) These estimates are based on 1981 census benchmarks. (b) Estimates are based on a revised definition introduced in April 1986. See paragraph 22 of the Technical Notes for further information.

Source: *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

CHART 7.1. HOURS WORKED BY EMPLOYED PERSONS, AUSTRALIA



(a) Persons who had a job but were not at work.

Indicates break in series. Estimates from August 1986 are based on a revised definition introduced in April 1986. See Technical Notes for further information.

Source: *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

TABLE 7.2. EMPLOYED PERSONS : AGGREGATE AND AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS WORKED, AUSTRALIA
AUGUST 1979 TO AUGUST 1989

August	Aggregate weekly hours worked (million)			Average weekly hours worked				Total
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Total	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Wage and salary earners	Other(a)	
MALES								
1979	155.2	3.3	158.5	41.8	16.2	38.8	48.0	40.4
1980	156.5	3.4	159.9	41.5	16.4	38.3	48.2	40.1
1981	157.9	3.6	161.5	41.2	16.3	38.2	47.1	39.8
1982	154.7	4.0	158.7	40.9	16.7	37.9	46.7	39.4
1983	150.4	4.0	154.4	41.0	16.7	37.9	47.1	39.6
1984	156.8	3.9	160.8	41.6	16.1	38.4	46.8	40.0
1985	159.4	4.1	163.5	41.3	16.2	38.1	47.0	39.8
1986(b)	163.3	4.3	167.7	41.6	15.4	38.4	46.5	39.9
1987	165.5	4.9	170.4	41.8	15.3	38.3	46.6	39.8
1988	173.2	4.6	177.8	42.5	15.0	39.1	47.2	40.6
1989	181.1	5.1	186.2	42.9	14.4	39.5	46.3	40.7
FEMALES								
1979	53.4	11.8	65.2	38.2	15.6	30.4	29.0	30.2
1980	56.0	12.6	68.6	37.9	15.4	29.9	29.9	29.9
1981	56.7	13.1	69.8	37.8	15.7	30.0	29.1	29.9
1982	56.3	13.1	69.4	37.4	15.4	29.5	29.2	29.5
1983	56.5	13.1	69.6	38.0	15.4	29.7	30.3	29.8
1984	59.0	14.3	73.2	38.1	15.8	29.9	29.9	29.9
1985	60.5	15.1	75.7	37.7	15.8	29.4	30.2	29.5
1986(b)	63.8	15.9	79.7	37.8	15.5	29.5	28.7	29.4
1987	64.8	17.2	82.0	37.9	15.6	29.2	28.4	29.1
1988	68.7	18.3	87.1	38.2	15.6	29.5	28.0	29.3
1989	73.2	19.7	93.0	38.7	15.6	29.5	29.0	29.5
PERSONS								
1979	208.5	15.1	223.7	40.8	15.7	35.7	42.6	36.8
1980	212.5	16.0	228.5	40.5	15.6	35.1	42.8	36.4
1981	214.6	16.7	231.3	40.2	15.8	35.1	41.8	36.2
1982	210.9	17.2	228.1	39.9	15.7	34.7	41.5	35.8
1983	206.8	17.1	223.9	40.2	15.7	34.7	42.1	35.9
1984	215.8	18.2	234.0	40.6	15.9	35.1	42.0	36.2
1985	220.0	19.3	239.2	40.3	15.9	34.7	41.9	35.8
1986(b)	227.1	20.2	247.4	40.5	15.5	34.7	40.7	35.8
1987	230.3	22.1	252.4	40.6	15.5	34.6	40.8	35.6
1988	241.9	22.9	264.8	41.2	15.5	35.1	40.9	36.0
1989	254.3	24.8	279.2	41.6	15.3	35.3	40.7	36.1

(a) Comprises employers, self-employed persons and unpaid family helpers. (b) Estimates from August 1986 are based on a revised definition introduced in April 1986. See paragraph 22 of the Technical Notes for further information.

Source: *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

TABLE 7.3. AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS WORKED: EMPLOYED PERSONS BY INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, AUGUST 1981 TO AUGUST 1989

Industry division or subdivision	August									
	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986(b)	1987	1988	1989	
MALES										
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	47.8	47.9	48.0	47.8	48.0	48.6	48.2	48.0	46.0	
Agriculture and services to agriculture	48.7	49.0	48.7	49.0	48.6	49.4	48.5	48.5	46.5	
Forestry and logging, fishing and hunting	37.6	34.6	40.0	34.3	36.6	38.2	44.5	41.7	39.7	
Mining	39.9	38.7	37.2	36.9	39.2	38.6	38.6	41.5	42.2	
Manufacturing	39.2	38.5	38.4	39.4	39.1	39.5	39.3	40.5	40.9	
Food, beverages and tobacco	38.3	38.7	39.0	39.3	38.4	39.1	38.4	39.5	40.8	
Metal products	39.1	38.2	37.7	39.6	38.7	39.7	39.7	41.5	41.5	
Other manufacturing	39.4	38.5	38.5	39.4	39.5	39.5	39.5	40.3	40.7	
Electricity, gas and water	36.4	35.3	35.3	35.5	34.5	35.0	35.5	33.8	36.4	
Construction	38.3	38.1	37.9	38.9	38.7	38.3	39.2	40.4	40.9	
Wholesale and retail trade	40.8	40.8	41.5	41.6	41.3	41.5	40.9	41.2	41.0	
Wholesale trade	40.9	40.2	41.1	40.9	40.4	41.3	41.8	41.8	42.4	
Retail trade	40.7	41.2	41.7	42.0	41.9	41.6	40.4	40.8	40.2	
Transport and storage	39.5	39.3	39.3	39.7	40.4	39.9	39.5	40.3	40.9	
Communication	34.1	33.9	33.5	33.7	35.7	34.1	34.5	34.4	36.5	
Finance, property and business services	39.5	38.7	39.7	40.7	40.2	40.4	40.5	42.0	42.0	
Public administration and defence	36.1	35.2	35.5	36.2	34.8	35.4	35.6	36.2	36.2	
Community services	39.1	38.9	39.2	39.1	37.9	38.4	38.5	39.2	39.4	
Recreation, personal and other services	40.8	41.1	39.4	39.9	39.1	39.6	39.2	38.9	39.0	
Total employed	39.8	39.4	39.5	40.0	39.8	39.9	39.8	40.6	40.7	
MARRIED FEMALES										
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	28.3	26.3	28.8	27.5	27.4	27.9	29.3	26.6	26.5	
Agriculture and services to agriculture	28.6	26.4	29.0	27.5	27.7	28.2	29.7	27.1	26.7	
Manufacturing	33.2	31.7	32.1	32.4	31.0	31.6	31.9	32.1	32.5	
Food, beverages and tobacco	33.6	29.8	32.5	31.9	30.2	31.0	30.6	32.5	31.4	
Metal products	32.6	30.0	29.8	30.8	29.6	31.3	32.2	30.8	30.8	
Other manufacturing	33.1	32.3	32.2	32.8	31.4	31.7	32.2	32.2	33.0	
Electricity, gas and water	26.7	35.6	30.7	26.5	27.7	29.4	30.5	27.0	31.6	
Construction	18.4	18.1	19.1	18.3	18.5	17.9	17.7	18.8	17.7	
Wholesale and retail trade	28.6	29.1	29.4	29.5	29.7	29.5	29.0	28.7	28.8	
Wholesale trade	28.5	28.9	27.5	30.1	29.6	29.8	28.3	28.2	28.3	
Retail trade	28.6	29.2	29.9	29.4	29.8	29.4	29.2	28.9	28.9	
Transport and storage	26.7	26.0	24.1	28.9	27.0	26.7	25.3	27.0	28.8	
Communication	28.6	27.0	28.1	29.8	28.4	28.1	27.9	30.1	31.1	
Finance, property and business services	27.0	26.1	27.6	28.9	27.0	27.0	27.6	28.2	28.8	
Public administration and defence	28.8	28.3	28.5	28.3	27.6	28.6	28.3	29.5	28.2	
Community services	27.6	27.3	27.4	27.4	26.9	27.2	26.9	27.5	27.3	
Recreation, personal and other services	25.5	26.4	25.5	26.7	28.5	27.8	27.4	27.5	28.1	
Total employed(a)	28.2	27.8	28.2	28.5	28.0	28.0	28.0	28.2	28.3	
ALL FEMALES										
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	29.8	27.4	29.7	28.7	29.2	28.5	29.2	27.3	26.8	
Agriculture and services to agriculture	30.2	27.5	29.7	28.7	29.5	28.7	29.5	27.8	26.9	
Mining	32.1	34.7	36.8	32.3	30.8	34.9	33.3	37.2	35.1	
Manufacturing	33.9	32.8	33.1	33.5	32.2	32.7	33.1	33.0	33.4	
Food, beverages and tobacco	33.5	29.5	32.8	32.2	30.0	32.0	30.0	32.6	31.1	
Metal products	34.0	32.0	31.8	32.3	31.1	32.4	33.2	31.9	32.4	
Other manufacturing	34.0	33.6	33.4	34.0	32.9	32.9	33.9	33.1	34.0	
Electricity, gas and water	30.7	33.3	31.4	32.2	30.7	31.9	33.1	30.0	31.6	
Construction	21.5	21.2	21.5	21.2	21.6	20.0	20.1	21.1	20.6	
Wholesale and retail trade	28.7	28.7	28.9	28.5	28.9	28.7	27.7	27.5	27.7	
Wholesale trade	31.4	31.2	30.8	32.0	31.6	31.7	31.1	31.1	31.4	
Retail trade	28.0	28.1	28.5	27.7	28.3	27.9	26.8	26.5	26.8	
Transport and storage	30.2	29.8	29.8	32.8	29.9	30.0	29.3	30.3	31.9	
Communication	29.7	29.1	29.7	30.5	31.2	30.3	28.2	29.8	31.6	
Finance, property and business services	30.9	29.7	30.5	31.1	30.5	30.0	30.6	31.3	31.8	
Public administration and defence	30.6	30.3	30.6	31.1	29.9	30.9	30.6	31.3	30.7	
Community services	30.3	29.9	30.1	29.9	29.3	29.3	29.1	29.5	29.2	
Recreation, personal and other services	26.1	27.2	26.3	27.8	28.4	27.7	27.4	27.6	28.3	
Total employed	29.9	29.5	29.8	29.9	29.5	29.4	29.1	29.3	29.5	
PERSONS										
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	43.1	42.7	43.7	43.2	43.0	43.0	43.1	42.0	40.5	
Agriculture and services to agriculture	43.7	43.3	44.1	43.9	43.4	43.4	43.3	42.4	40.8	
Forestry and logging, fishing and hunting	35.1	33.6	38.4	33.8	33.9	35.7	40.9	36.6	37.1	
Mining	39.2	38.3	37.2	36.5	38.4	38.3	38.1	41.2	41.5	
Manufacturing	37.9	37.1	37.1	37.9	37.3	37.6	37.7	38.5	38.8	
Food, beverages and tobacco	36.9	36.3	37.4	37.3	35.8	37.0	36.0	37.5	37.8	
Metal products	38.5	37.4	37.0	38.6	37.6	38.7	38.9	40.4	40.0	
Other manufacturing	37.9	37.1	37.0	37.9	37.5	37.6	37.8	38.2	38.8	
Electricity, gas and water	35.8	35.2	35.0	35.2	34.2	34.7	35.3	33.5	36.0	
Construction	36.6	36.5	36.1	37.1	36.6	35.9	36.8	38.0	38.3	
Wholesale and retail trade	35.6	35.6	36.0	35.9	36.0	35.9	35.1	35.1	34.9	
Wholesale trade	38.2	37.7	38.1	38.4	38.0	38.4	38.6	38.6	39.0	
Retail trade	34.4	34.7	35.2	34.9	35.1	34.8	33.6	33.6	33.2	
Transport and storage	38.1	37.8	37.9	38.6	38.8	38.2	37.7	38.3	39.1	
Communication	33.0	32.7	32.6	32.9	34.6	33.1	32.9	33.2	35.2	
Finance, property and business services	35.6	34.5	35.3	36.2	35.8	35.4	35.8	36.7	37.1	
Public administration and defence	34.3	33.6	33.9	34.5	33.0	33.8	33.7	34.4	34.0	
Community services	33.6	33.3	33.5	33.2	32.4	32.7	32.4	32.9	32.8	
Recreation, personal and other services	32.6	33.1	31.9	33.4	33.1	32.9	32.5	32.4	32.9	
Total employed	36.2	35.8	35.9	36.2	35.8	35.8	35.6	36.0	36.1	

(a) Includes mining. (b) Estimates from August 1986 are based on a revised definition introduced in April 1986. See paragraph 22 of the Technical Notes for further information.

Overtime

In the November 1989 survey week, estimated average weekly overtime hours paid for as reported by employers were 1.60 hours per employee, 9.6 per cent higher than the November 1988 average of 1.48 hours.

In November 1989, the Mining industry had the highest level of average overtime hours paid for (5.92 hours).

Average weekly overtime hours per employee working overtime increased by 2.7 per cent since November 1988, to 7.79 hours. For employees working overtime, the Mining industry again recorded the highest level for November 1989, at 11.51 hours.

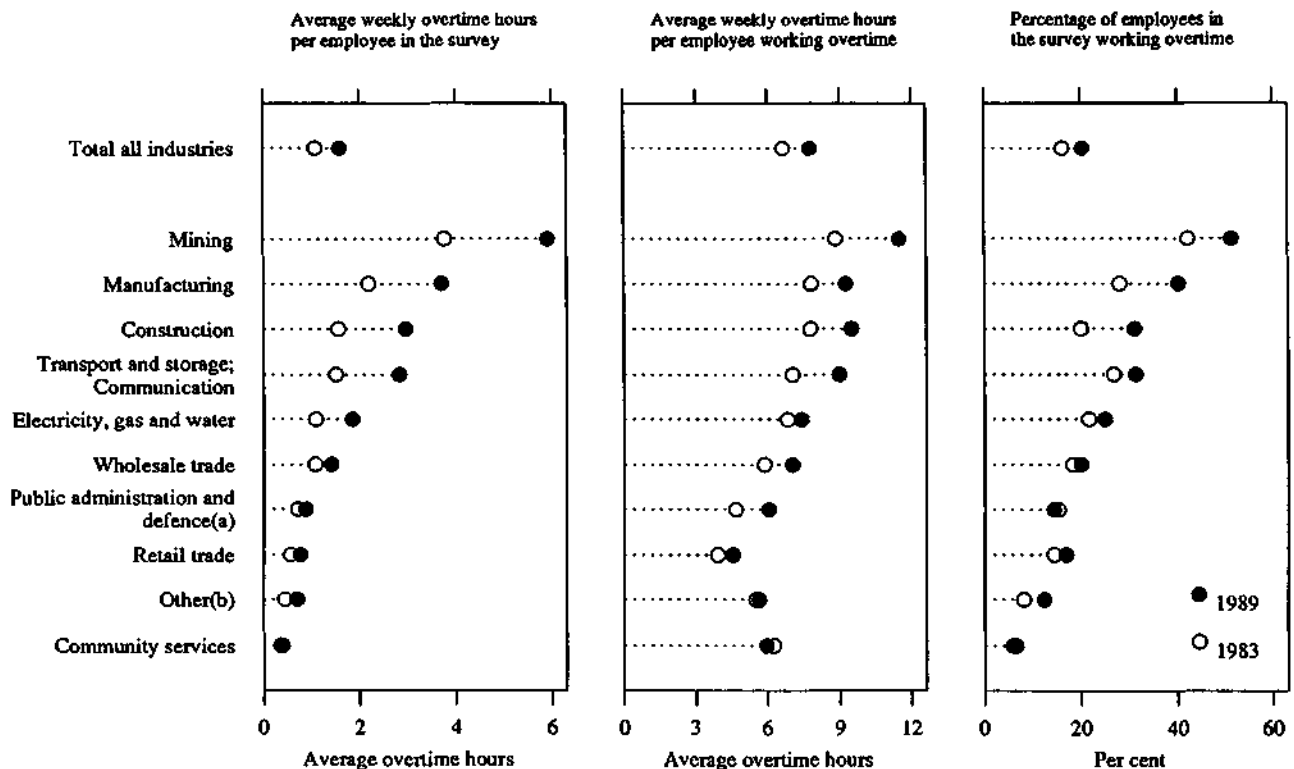
The Mining industry also recorded the highest percentage of employees working overtime (51.5 per cent) in November 1989.

Overall, the estimated percentage of employees working overtime increased by 5.0 per cent since November 1988.

A comparison of overtime statistics between November 1983 and November 1989, at the total, all industries level, shows that there has been very little change in the average levels of overtime hours (i) per employee and (ii) per employee working overtime, and little change also in the percentage of employees working overtime.

However, in the Mining, Manufacturing, Construction and Transport, storage and communications industries all aspects of overtime have risen significantly in that period.

CHART 7.2. OVERTIME HOURS PAID FOR, AUSTRALIA, NOVEMBER 1983 AND NOVEMBER 1989



(a) Excludes permanent defence forces. (b) Includes Finance, property and business services and Recreation, personal and other services.

Source: *Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia (6354.0)*.

TABLE 7.4. AVERAGE WEEKLY OVERTIME HOURS PAID FOR : INDUSTRY, AUSTRALIA, NOVEMBER 1984 TO NOVEMBER 1989

Industry	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
AVERAGE WEEKLY OVERTIME HOURS PER EMPLOYEE IN THE SURVEY						
Mining	4.24	4.35	4.12	4.00	5.66	5.92
Manufacturing	2.58	2.64	2.73	2.99	3.16	3.71
Food, beverages and tobacco	2.82	2.88	2.90	3.09	2.84	3.42
Textiles; Clothing and footwear	2.08	2.00	2.14	2.15	2.48	3.86
Paper, paper products, printing and publishing	1.66	1.68	1.67	*1.83	*2.06	2.36
Chemical, petroleum and coal products	1.88	2.11	2.36	2.75	2.62	3.10
Basic metal products	3.16	4.02	4.37	4.42	4.86	4.93
Fabricated metal products; other machinery and equipment	2.70	2.61	2.81	3.31	3.40	3.99
Transport equipment	2.98	2.95	2.56	3.44	3.58	4.15
Other manufacturing	2.89	2.84	3.02	3.25	3.68	3.72
Electricity, gas and water	1.86	1.89	1.57	1.75	1.98	1.85
Construction	1.71	2.12	1.84	2.81	2.27	2.96
Wholesale trade	1.15	0.99	1.35	1.35	1.14	1.41
Retail trade	0.71	0.72	0.72	0.79	0.72	0.77
Transport and storage; Communication	2.23	2.45	2.35	2.70	3.44	2.82
Public administration and defence(a)	0.73	0.66	0.73	0.77	0.88	0.87
Community services	0.33	0.34	0.34	0.40	0.36	0.39
Other(b)	0.41	0.73	0.73	0.64	0.68	0.70
All industries	1.22	1.30	1.29	1.46	1.48	1.60
AVERAGE WEEKLY OVERTIME HOURS PER EMPLOYEE WORKING OVERTIME						
Mining	8.99	9.63	9.13	9.98	12.39	11.51
Manufacturing	7.98	7.78	7.67	8.11	8.63	9.25
Food, beverages and tobacco	7.67	7.25	6.73	6.89	7.92	8.41
Textiles; Clothing and footwear	9.20	7.66	7.11	7.34	8.66	11.33
Paper, paper products, printing and publishing	6.87	7.06	6.52	6.89	7.11	8.06
Chemical, petroleum and coal products	7.67	7.99	8.56	8.96	8.64	8.85
Basic metal products	8.70	9.39	9.73	10.04	10.31	10.52
Fabricated metal products; other machinery and equipment	7.68	7.13	7.39	8.40	8.69	9.28
Transport equipment	8.53	8.69	8.01	9.66	9.13	9.31
Other manufacturing	8.16	8.19	8.41	8.08	8.98	8.99
Electricity, gas and water	7.77	7.07	6.84	7.30	7.51	7.40
Construction	8.65	8.00	8.19	8.72	7.77	9.50
Wholesale trade	6.96	6.22	7.40	7.24	6.47	7.04
Retail trade	4.07	4.08	4.02	4.27	4.39	4.54
Transport and storage; Communication	7.99	7.83	7.85	8.92	10.34	8.98
Public administration and defence(a)	5.32	5.27	5.54	5.61	6.10	6.04
Community services	5.67	5.92	5.72	5.70	6.22	5.94
Other(b)	5.75	6.52	6.41	5.77	5.48	5.65
All industries	7.03	6.96	6.92	7.27	7.59	7.79
PERCENTAGE OF EMPLOYEES IN THE SURVEY WORKING OVERTIME						
Mining	47.24	45.23	45.15	40.07	45.65	51.45
Manufacturing	32.27	33.87	35.52	36.85	36.59	40.15
Food, beverages and tobacco	36.77	39.69	43.03	44.85	35.80	40.63
Textiles; Clothing and footwear	22.64	26.05	30.13	29.30	28.63	34.11
Paper, paper products, printing and publishing	24.15	23.74	25.69	26.53	28.93	29.28
Chemical, petroleum and coal products	24.49	26.37	27.57	30.66	30.30	35.03
Basic metal products	36.36	42.77	44.90	44.05	47.07	46.89
Fabricated metal products; other machinery and equipment	35.13	36.64	38.02	39.37	39.18	43.00
Transport equipment	34.97	33.92	32.01	35.63	39.21	44.53
Other manufacturing	35.35	34.63	35.88	40.19	40.98	41.36
Electricity, gas and water	23.92	26.76	22.96	24.00	26.31	25.00
Construction	19.74	26.53	22.41	32.17	29.27	31.12
Wholesale trade	16.58	15.95	18.30	18.64	17.60	19.97
Retail trade	17.36	17.60	17.91	18.49	16.49	17.01
Transport and storage; Communication	27.93	31.27	29.92	30.23	33.26	31.38
Public administration and defence(a)	13.81	12.60	13.21	13.79	14.40	14.46
Community services	5.88	5.68	5.98	7.03	5.82	6.50
Other(b)	7.21	11.16	11.43	11.03	12.11	12.46
All industries	17.35	18.68	18.68	20.05	19.51	20.48

(a) Excludes permanent defence forces. (b) Includes Finance, property and business services and Recreation, personal and other services.

Source: Job Vacancies and Overtime, Australia (6354.0).