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REGIONAL LABOUR FORCE STATISTICS

Introduction

This paper describes changes to be implemented in September 1992 to a number of the existing regions used in the dissemination of labour force statistics derived from the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). The paper also provides general information on the availability of labour force statistics for those dissemination regions.

Objectives of the Labour Force Survey

2. The main purpose of the LFS is to obtain timely information monthly on the labour force status of the Australian population, thereby enabling labour force trends to be monitored. The LFS classifies the civilian Australian population aged 15 and over according to labour force status — those employed, full time or part time; those who are unemployed and whether they are looking for full-time or part-time work; and those not in the labour force. The major data items can also be cross-classified with variables such as age, sex, occupation and industry. The data are compiled according to concepts and definitions recommended by the International Labour Organisation.

Regional data

3. While the LFS is designed primarily to produce reliable estimates at the national and State/Territory levels, it also delivers estimates for a number of regions within States. There are more than fifty such regions across Australia.

4. The statistical regions used for the publication of labour force statistics are recognised as standard geographical regions and are now identical in terms of spatial definitions with the statistical regions of the *Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), Edition 2.1* (1216.0). These regions were originally established following analysis of data from recent Censuses of Population and Housing, extensive consultation with major users, consideration of regional population levels required to yield reliable estimates and the need for consistency with other statistical collections.

5. A wide range of labour force data is available for each region and is included in various quarterly publications produced by State offices of the ABS. For details see the list of related publications provided in paragraph 13. Regional data are also available monthly, generally within one week after the release of *The Labour Force*,

Australia, Preliminary (6202.0), on a number of media such as floppy disk, microfiche and customised reports. In general, a charge is made for this information. Inquiries should be made to an ABS office (see paragraph 15 for a list of telephone numbers).

Changes to regions

6. The following changes to the existing labour force dissemination regions take effect from September 1992—

- the region 'Manly-Warringah Statistical Subdivision', New South Wales, has been renamed 'Northern Beaches Statistical Region'. There have been no changes to the boundary of this region;
- Melbourne Major Statistical Region has been expanded to include the whole of the Shires of Cranbourne, Healesville and Pakenham, and part of the Shire of Upper Yarra. There has been a realignment of Statistical Region boundaries within this Major Statistical Region involving the splitting of Mornington Peninsula into two statistical regions, namely, South Eastern Melbourne and the revised Mornington Peninsula. The Balance of Victoria Major Statistical Region now consists of five statistical regions;
- Brisbane Major Statistical Region has been expanded to include all of the Shire of Pine Rivers and additional parts of the Shires of Caboolture, Beaudesert, Moreton and Albert. 'South and East BSD Balance Statistical Region' and 'North and West BSD Balance Statistical Region' have been enlarged with corresponding reductions to 'South and East Moreton Statistical Region' and 'North and West Moreton Statistical Region';
- the region comprising 'Yorke and Lower North, Eyre, and Northern Statistical Divisions', South Australia, has been renamed 'Northern and Western SA Statistical Region'. Similarly, the region comprising 'Outer Adelaide, Murray Lands and South East Statistical Divisions' has been renamed 'Southern and Eastern SA Statistical Region'. There have been no changes to the boundaries of these regions;

INQUIRIES

- for further information about the contents of this publication or the availability of labour force data products and services, contact Ivan Neville on Canberra (06) 252 6565 or any ABS State office (see paragraph 15 for contact numbers).
- for information about other ABS statistics and services please refer to the back page of this publication.

- the region comprising 'South West, Lower Great Southern and Upper Great Southern Statistical Divisions', Western Australia, has been renamed 'Lower Western WA Statistical Region'. The region comprising 'Kimberley, Pilbara, Central, Midlands and South Eastern Statistical Divisions' has been renamed 'Remainder – Balance WA Statistical Region'.

7. The introduction of these changes will coincide with the implementation of a new design and sample for the LFS for which more details are given in *Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Sample Design (6269.0)*.

8. It should be noted that in the few instances where boundaries have changed, regional estimates from September 1992 onwards may not be comparable with those before September 1992.

Regions for which data will be available

9. The regions for which labour force data will be available from September 1992 are as follows —

New South Wales

Sydney Major Statistical Region

Inner Sydney and Inner Western Sydney Statistical Regions

Inner Sydney Statistical Region

Eastern Suburbs Statistical Region

St George-Sutherland Statistical Region

Canterbury-Bankstown Statistical Region

Fairfield-Liverpool and Outer South Western

Sydney Statistical Regions

Fairfield-Liverpool Statistical Region

Central Western Sydney Statistical Region

Outer Western Sydney Statistical Region

Blacktown-Baulkham Hills Statistical Region

Lower Northern Sydney Statistical Region

Hornsby-Ku-ring-gai Statistical Region

Northern Beaches Statistical Region

Gosford-Wyong Statistical Region

Balance of New South Wales Major Statistical Region

Hunter Statistical Region

Newcastle Statistical Region Sector

Illawarra and South Eastern Statistical Regions

Illawarra Statistical Region

Wollongong Statistical Region Sector

Richmond-Tweed and Mid-North Coast Statistical Regions

Northern, Far West-North Western and Central West Statistical Regions

Murray-Murrumbidgee Statistical Region

Victoria

Melbourne Major Statistical Region

Outer Western Melbourne Statistical Region

North Western Melbourne Statistical Region

Inner Melbourne Statistical Region

North Eastern Melbourne Statistical Region

Inner Eastern Melbourne Statistical Region

Southern Melbourne Statistical Region
Outer Eastern Melbourne Statistical Region
South Eastern Melbourne Statistical Region
Mornington Peninsula Statistical Region

Balance of Victoria Major Statistical Region

Barwon-Western District Statistical Region

Central Highlands-Wimmera Statistical Region

Loddon-Campaspe-Mallee Statistical Region

Goulburn-Ovens-Murray Statistical Region

All Gippsland Statistical Region

Queensland

Brisbane Major Statistical Region

Brisbane City Inner Ring Statistical Region

Brisbane City Outer Ring Statistical Region

South and East BSD Balance Statistical Region

North and West BSD Balance Statistical Region

Balance of Queensland Major Statistical Region

South and East Moreton Statistical Region

North and West Moreton Statistical Region

Wide Bay-Burnett Statistical Region

Darling Downs-South West Statistical Region

Mackay-Fitzroy-Central West Statistical Region

Northern-North West Statistical Region

Far North Statistical Region

South Australia

Adelaide Major Statistical Region

Northern Adelaide Statistical Region

Western Adelaide Statistical Region

Eastern Adelaide Statistical Region

Southern Adelaide Statistical Region

Balance of South Australia Major Statistical Region

Northern and Western SA Statistical Region

Southern and Eastern SA Statistical Region

Western Australia

Perth Major Statistical Region

Central Metropolitan Statistical Region

East Metropolitan Statistical Region

North Metropolitan Statistical Region

South West Metropolitan Statistical Region

South East Metropolitan Statistical Region

Balance of Western Australia Major Statistical Region

Lower Western WA Statistical Region

Remainder – Balance WA Statistical Region

Tasmania

Greater Hobart - Southern Statistical Region Sector

Greater Hobart Statistical Division

Northern Statistical Region Sector

Mersey-Lyell Statistical Region Sector

Northern Territory

Australian Capital Territory

10. For more details regarding the make-up of these regions or the changes to existing labour force dissemination regions which will be introduced in September 1992, see the ASGC manual.

11. Maps for each of these regions are expected to be available from the ABS in November 1992.

Reliability of regional estimates

12. As with national and State estimates, regional labour force estimates are subject to sampling error. Since estimates for regions are components of corresponding estimates at the State level – and are thus considerably smaller – they are subject to higher relative standard errors. Care should therefore be taken in the interpretation of regional estimates. Tables of standard errors for each region are available from any ABS office.

Related publications

13. The main publications for national, State and regional statistics are listed below. They may be obtained from any ABS office.

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0) — issued monthly
Labour Statistics, Australia (6101.0) — issued annually
The Labour Force, New South Wales (6201.1) — issued quarterly

The Labour Force, Victoria (6202.2) — issued quarterly
The Labour Force, Queensland (6201.3) — issued quarterly

Labour Force, South Australia (6201.4) — issued quarterly

Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Sample Design (6269.0)

Information Paper: Questionnaires Used in the Labour Force Survey (6232.0)

Information Paper: Measuring Employment and Unemployment (6279.0)

14. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Further information

15. For further information regarding the changes to the labour force dissemination regions or the availability of regional labour force statistics, users should contact the ABS on one of the following numbers —

Sydney	(02) 268 4212
Melbourne	(03) 615 7677
Brisbane	(07) 222 6387
Adelaide	(08) 237 7438
Perth	(09) 323 5198
Hobart	(002) 20 5841
Darwin	(089) 81 5222
Canberra	(06) 252 6565

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 Acting Australian Statistician



For more information ...

The ABS publishes a wide range of information on Australia's economic and social conditions. A catalogue of publications and products is available from any of our Offices (see below for contact details).

Information Consultancy Service

Special tables or in-depth data investigations are provided by the ABS Information Consultancy Service in each of our Offices (see below for contact details).

Electronic Data Services

A growing range of our data is available on electronic media. Selections of the most frequently requested data are available, updated daily, on DISCOVERY (Key *656#). Our TELESTATS service delivers major economic indicator publications ready to download into your computer on the day of release. Our PC-AUSSTATS service enables on-line access to a data base of thousands of up-to-date time series. Selected datasets are also available on diskette or CD-ROM. For more details on our electronic data services, contact Information Services in any of our Offices on the numbers below.

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