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# **CHILD EMPLOYMENT**

**AUSTRALIA**

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## **I N Q U I R I E S**

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

# NOTES

**ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION** This publication presents information about children aged 5 to 14 years who worked in the last 12 months. Statistics in this publication were obtained from the Child Employment Survey, conducted throughout Australia in June 2006 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). The survey collected details about whether children worked, when they worked, their reasons for working and their working arrangements.

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



**ABBREVIATIONS**

- ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics
- ANZSCO Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations
- CAI computer assisted interviewing
- LFS Labour Force Survey (Australia)
- RSE relative standard error
- SACC Standard Australian Classification of Countries
- SE standard error

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## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### OVERVIEW

In June 2006 there were 175,100 children aged 5 to 14 years who worked at some time during the last 12 months (for example by delivering leaflets for an employer or cleaning or gardening for non-household members for payment). This represented 6.6% of all children aged 5 to 14 years. There were 101,000 boys who had worked (7.4% of all boys) and 74,100 girls (5.7% of all girls). The proportion of children aged 5 to 9 years who had worked was 1.8% and the proportion of children aged 10 to 14 years who had worked was 11%.

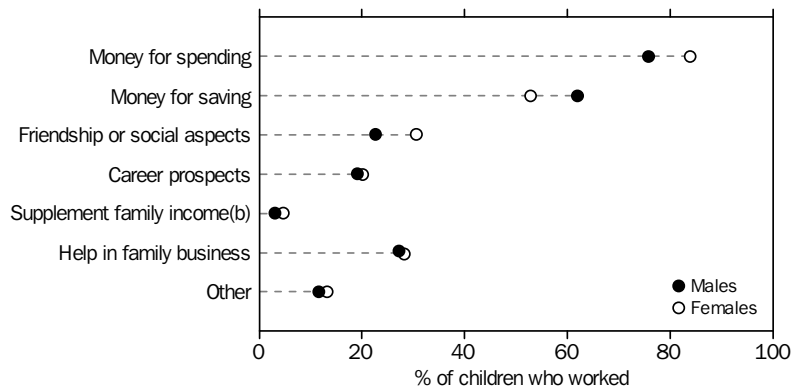
Northern Territory and Western Australia had the highest proportions of children who worked during the last 12 months (12% and 9.5% respectively). New South Wales and Victoria had the lowest proportions of children who worked during the last 12 months (each 5.8%). Across Australia, children in state capital cities were less likely to have worked in the last 12 months (5.3%) than children in the balance of state or in a territory (8.4%).

### CHILDREN WHO WORKED

Of the 175,100 children who had worked at some time during the last 12 months, 54% had worked for an employer, 33% had worked in a family business or farm and 16% had worked for themselves (children may have worked in more than one type of job). These proportions were similar for boys and girls, and for children aged 10 to 14 years. However, for children aged 5 to 9 years, 56% had worked in a family business or farm and 31% had worked for an employer.

The most common reason that children worked was 'Money for spending'. For 79% of children who had worked in the last 12 months this was one of the reasons they worked, and for 51% of children it was the main reason they worked. This was followed by 'Money for saving' which for 58% of children was one of the reasons and for 24% it was the main reason they worked.

### ALL REASONS CHILD WORKED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS (a), Males and females



(a) Refers to all reasons, therefore children may appear in more than one category.  
 (b) Estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution.

Over a quarter (28%) of children who worked during the last 12 months worked between 1 and 3 weeks of the year and 30% worked between 4 and 12 weeks of the year. The remaining 42% worked 13 weeks or more during the year.

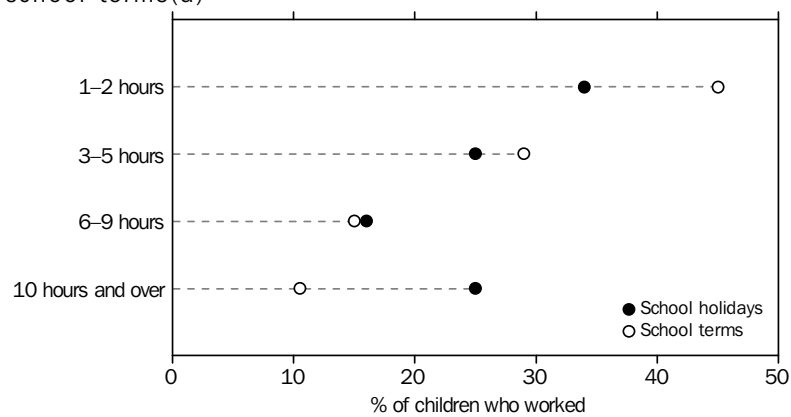
## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### WORK AND SCHOOL BALANCE

Of all children aged 5 to 14 years who worked in the last 12 months, 146,000 (83%) worked during school terms, 121,400 (69%) worked during school holidays and 92,300(53%) worked during both school holidays and school terms.

Of the children aged 5 to 14 years who worked during school terms, 45% usually worked 1 to 2 hours, 29% usually worked 3 to 5 hours and 11% usually worked 10 hours and over per week in all jobs during school terms. Of the children aged 5 to 14 years who worked during school holidays, 34% usually worked 1 to 2 hours, 25% usually worked 3 to 5 hours and 25% usually worked 10 hours and over per week in all jobs during school holidays.

USUAL HOURS WORKED PER WEEK IN ALL JOBS, School holidays and school terms(a)



(a) Some children worked during school holidays and school terms and appear in both populations.

Of children who worked during school terms, 67% usually worked Saturday to Sunday and 58% usually worked Monday to Friday during school terms. The most common times of the day usually worked were between 3pm and 5pm on Mondays to Fridays and between 9am and 12pm on Saturdays and Sundays (40% and 34% of children who worked during school terms respectively).

Of children who worked during school holidays, 63% usually worked Saturday to Sunday and 73% usually worked Monday to Friday during school holidays. The most common times of the day usually worked during school holidays were between 9am and 12pm and between 3pm and 5pm (50% and 48% of children who worked during school holidays respectively).

### OCCUPATION OF MAIN JOB

The most common occupation for boys in their main job during school terms was 'Leaflet or Newspaper Deliverer' (24%), while 'Farm, Forestry and Garden Workers' was the most common occupation for boys in their main job during school holidays (26%). For girls, the most common occupation in their main job during both school holidays and school terms was 'Sales Workers' (17% and 20% respectively).

### TRAVEL TO WORK

The most common way for children to travel to and from work was by 'Private motor vehicle with parents' (45% of boys and 57% of girls), followed by walking (25% of boys and 21% of girls). About one in five children (18% of boys and 21% of girls) worked from home or did not need to travel to and from work.

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	Worked in the last 12 months		Did not work in the last 12 months		Total	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
<b>Sex and Age group (years)</b>						
Males						
5-9	12.1	1.8	655.1	98.2	667.2	100.0
10-14	88.8	12.7	612.2	87.3	701.0	100.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>101.0</i>	<i>7.4</i>	<i>1 267.3</i>	<i>92.6</i>	<i>1 368.3</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Females						
5-9	10.8	1.7	623.3	98.3	634.1	100.0
10-14	63.3	9.5	602.0	90.5	665.3	100.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>74.1</i>	<i>5.7</i>	<i>1 225.3</i>	<i>94.3</i>	<i>1 299.4</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<b>Country of birth of child</b>						
Born in Australia	167.2	6.8	2 303.7	93.2	2 470.8	100.0
Born overseas	7.2	3.7	183.8	96.3	190.9	100.0
Not stated(a)	**0.7	**12.5	5.1	87.5	5.9	100.0
<b>State or territory and Area of usual residence</b>						
New South Wales						
State capital city	28.8	5.4	507.6	94.6	536.4	100.0
Balance of state	23.0	6.6	326.2	93.4	349.1	100.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>51.8</i>	<i>5.8</i>	<i>833.7</i>	<i>94.2</i>	<i>885.5</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Victoria						
State capital city	19.2	4.2	432.2	95.8	451.4	100.0
Balance of state	18.3	9.3	178.6	90.7	196.9	100.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>37.5</i>	<i>5.8</i>	<i>610.8</i>	<i>94.2</i>	<i>648.3</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Queensland						
State capital city	13.7	5.5	234.0	94.5	247.7	100.0
Balance of state	23.0	7.7	274.7	92.3	297.7	100.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>36.7</i>	<i>6.7</i>	<i>508.7</i>	<i>93.3</i>	<i>545.4</i>	<i>100.0</i>
South Australia						
State capital city	7.7	5.7	127.8	94.3	135.5	100.0
Balance of state	*4.6	*8.1	52.1	91.9	56.7	100.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>12.3</i>	<i>6.4</i>	<i>179.9</i>	<i>93.6</i>	<i>192.2</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Western Australia						
State capital city	13.6	7.0	180.2	93.0	193.8	100.0
Balance of state	11.7	16.1	60.6	83.9	72.2	100.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>25.3</i>	<i>9.5</i>	<i>240.7</i>	<i>90.5</i>	<i>266.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Tasmania						
State capital city	*1.6	*6.2	24.6	93.8	26.2	100.0
Balance of state	*3.7	*9.3	35.6	90.7	39.3	100.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>*5.3</i>	<i>*8.1</i>	<i>60.2</i>	<i>91.9</i>	<i>65.5</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Northern Territory(b)						
<i>Total</i>	<i>*2.7</i>	<i>*11.6</i>	<i>20.6</i>	<i>88.4</i>	<i>23.3</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Australian Capital Territory						
<i>Total</i>	<i>*3.6</i>	<i>*8.7</i>	<i>37.9</i>	<i>91.3</i>	<i>41.5</i>	<i>100.0</i>
Australia						
State capital city	84.6	5.3	1 506.4	94.7	1 590.9	100.0
Balance of state/territory	90.5	8.4	986.2	91.6	1 076.7	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>175.1</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>2 492.6</b>	<b>93.4</b>	<b>2 667.6</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* 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) Country of birth is not asked if the respondent is resident in a special dwelling.

(b) Refers to mainly urban areas only. For more information see paragraph 8 of the Explanatory Notes.

ALL CHILDREN AGED 5 TO 14 YEARS, Whether worked in the last 12 months—By labour force status and country of birth of parent(s)

WORKED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

	<i>Worked school holidays only</i>	<i>Worked school terms only</i>	<i>Worked both school holidays and school terms</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Did not work in the last 12 months</i>	<i>Total</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Labour force status of parent(s)</b>						
Child in couple family						
Both parents employed	18.7	29.2	58.4	106.3	1 209.0	1 315.3
One parent employed and one parent unemployed or not in the labour force	*4.9	13.3	15.8	34.0	635.0	669.0
Both parents unemployed or not in the labour force	**0.5	**0.9	*1.8	*3.2	107.3	110.5
Child in one parent family						
Parent employed	*2.5	7.3	9.6	19.4	282.8	302.2
Parent unemployed or not in the labour force	*2.0	*2.7	*5.3	10.1	239.6	249.7
<b>Country of birth of parent(s)</b>						
Child in couple family						
Both parents born in Australia	15.9	33.2	56.5	105.7	1 224.6	1 330.4
One parent born in Australia and one parent born overseas	*4.7	6.7	11.5	23.0	359.2	382.2
Both parents born overseas	*3.5	*3.7	8.3	15.5	376.5	392.0
Child in one parent family						
Parent born in Australia	*4.1	7.9	11.5	23.4	405.8	429.2
Parent born overseas	**0.4	*2.2	*3.5	6.1	117.5	123.5
<b>Total(a)</b>	<b>29.0</b>	<b>53.7</b>	<b>92.3</b>	<b>175.1</b>	<b>2 492.6</b>	<b>2 667.6</b>

\* 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) Total includes children with one or more parents who were out on scope for the Labour Force Survey. For more information see paragraph 20 of the Explanatory Notes.

CHILDREN AGED 5 TO 14 YEARS WHO WORKED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, Whether worked during school holidays, school terms or both—By selected characteristics

	<i>Worked school holidays only</i>	<i>Worked school terms only</i>	<i>Worked both school holidays and school terms</i>	<i>Total</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000
.....				
Sex				
Males	15.9	28.2	56.9	101.0
Females	13.2	25.5	35.4	74.1
Age group (years)				
5–9	*3.7	6.7	12.6	22.9
10–14	25.4	47.1	79.7	152.2
State or territory of usual residence				
New South Wales	7.7	15.4	28.7	51.8
Victoria	8.4	10.8	18.3	37.5
Queensland	*4.9	12.8	19.1	36.7
South Australia	*2.4	*4.1	5.8	12.3
Western Australia	*2.8	8.0	14.5	25.3
Tasmania	*1.4	**1.0	*2.9	*5.3
Northern Territory(a)	**0.6	**0.8	*1.2	*2.7
Australian Capital Territory	**1.0	**0.8	*1.8	*3.6
Area of usual residence				
State capital city	15.8	28.3	40.4	84.6
Balance of state/territory	13.2	25.4	51.9	90.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>29.0</b>	<b>53.7</b>	<b>92.3</b>	<b>175.1</b>

\* 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 mainly urban areas only. For more information see paragraph 8 of the Explanatory Notes.



# CHILDREN AGED 5 TO 14 YEARS WHO WORKED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, Occupation and usual hours worked during school holidays and school terms—Main job(a)

	AGE GROUP (YEARS)		SEX		Total
	5-9	10-14	Males	Females	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	
WORKED DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS (b)					
Occupation of main job during school holidays(c)					
Technicians and Trades Workers	**1.0	6.3	*4.3	*3.0	7.3
Community and Personal Service Workers	**0.3	9.7	*3.1	7.0	10.1
Carers and Aides	—	*5.4	**0.2	*5.2	*5.4
Other Community and Personal Service Workers	**0.3	*4.4	*2.9	*1.8	*4.7
Clerical and Administrative Workers	**0.5	7.3	*3.5	*4.3	7.8
Sales Workers	*2.2	9.2	*3.3	8.1	11.4
Labourers	10.5	68.5	53.6	25.4	79.0
Cleaners and Laundry Workers	*2.5	12.1	8.8	5.8	14.6
Farm, Forestry and Garden Workers	*3.3	23.3	19.3	7.3	26.6
Food Preparation Assistants	—	*4.7	*2.4	*2.4	*4.7
Leaflet or Newspaper Deliverer	*3.5	17.9	15.2	6.2	21.4
Other Labourers(d)	*1.3	10.4	8.0	*3.7	11.6
Other(e)	*1.7	*4.1	*5.0	**0.7	5.8
Usual hours worked per week in main job during school holidays					
1-2 hours	5.7	35.8	27.2	14.3	41.5
3-5 hours	*5.2	24.4	16.3	13.3	29.6
6-9 hours	*3.1	17.2	11.8	8.5	20.3
10 hours and over	*2.2	27.7	17.5	12.5	29.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>105.1</b>	<b>72.8</b>	<b>48.6</b>	<b>121.4</b>

WORKED DURING SCHOOL TERMS (b)					
Occupation of main job during school terms(c)					
Technicians and Trades Workers	**0.4	*5.5	*3.3	*2.6	5.9
Community and Personal Service Workers	**0.3	20.2	7.0	13.5	20.5
Carers and Aides	—	9.5	**0.2	9.4	9.5
Other Community and Personal Service Workers	**0.3	10.6	6.8	*4.2	11.0
Clerical and Administrative Workers	**0.9	6.5	*3.3	*4.1	7.4
Sales Workers	*1.7	15.8	*5.1	12.4	17.5
Labourers	13.3	73.4	60.5	26.2	86.7
Cleaners and Laundry Workers	*4.1	11.5	9.7	5.8	15.5
Farm, Forestry and Garden Workers	*3.4	21.3	18.8	5.9	24.7
Food Preparation Assistants	—	7.4	*3.5	*3.9	7.4
Leaflet or Newspaper Deliverer	*4.1	25.2	20.4	8.9	29.3
Other Labourers(d)	*1.7	8.1	8.1	*1.7	9.8
Other(e)	*2.6	*5.3	5.8	*2.1	7.9
Usual hours worked per week in main job during school terms					
1-2 hours	9.0	57.3	39.8	26.5	66.3
3-5 hours	6.8	36.3	26.1	17.0	43.1
6-9 hours	*2.3	19.2	11.8	9.7	21.5
10 hours and over	*1.2	13.9	7.4	7.7	15.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>126.8</b>	<b>85.1</b>	<b>60.9</b>	<b>146.0</b>

\* 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) Main job is the job in which the child worked the most hours. The information was collected for both school holidays and school terms, as the main job during these periods may differ.

(b) Some children worked during both school holidays and school terms and appear in both populations.

(c) Occupation was coded using ANZSCO 2006. This presentation of occupation is not standard because the occupations in which children aged 5 to 14 years tend to work differ from those of persons aged 15 years and over. For more information see paragraph 21 of the Explanatory Notes.

(d) Includes 'Construction and Mining Labourers', 'Factory Process Workers' and 'Other Labourers' (excluding 'Leaflet or Newspaper Deliverer').

(e) Includes occupations in other ANZSCO categories, namely 'Managers', 'Professionals' and 'Machinery Operators and Drivers'.

# CHILDREN AGED 5 TO 14 YEARS WHO WORKED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, Working arrangements during school holidays and school terms—All jobs

	AGE GROUP (YEARS)		SEX		Total
	5-9	10-14	Males	Females	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
WORKED DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS (a)					
Usual hours worked per week during school holidays					
1-2 hours	5.7	35.4	26.8	14.3	41.1
3-5 hours	*5.2	24.9	17.0	13.1	30.2
6-9 hours	*3.1	16.8	11.2	8.6	19.8
10 hours and over	*2.2	28.0	17.7	12.5	30.2
Days of the week worked during school holidays					
Worked Mon-Fri only	5.8	38.8	28.0	16.7	44.7
Worked Sat-Sun only	*3.7	29.4	19.7	13.4	33.1
Worked Mon-Fri and Sat-Sun	6.7	36.9	25.1	18.5	43.6
Time(s) of the day worked during school holidays(b)					
Before 6am	—	*2.7	*1.6	**1.1	*2.7
6am-9am	*2.9	23.3	18.3	7.9	26.2
9am-12pm	7.4	53.1	36.5	24.0	60.4
12pm-3pm	6.2	44.8	29.2	21.9	51.0
3pm-5pm	7.5	50.7	33.7	24.4	58.2
5pm-7pm	*2.2	25.9	15.4	12.8	28.2
After 7pm	**0.3	15.6	7.4	8.5	15.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>105.1</b>	<b>72.8</b>	<b>48.6</b>	<b>121.4</b>
WORKED DURING SCHOOL TERMS (a)					
Usual hours worked per week during school terms					
1-2 hours	9.0	57.1	39.8	26.2	66.1
3-5 hours	6.8	35.9	25.6	17.1	42.7
6-9 hours	*2.3	19.6	12.0	10.0	21.9
10 hours and over	*1.2	14.2	7.7	7.7	15.3
Days of the week worked during school terms					
Worked Mon-Fri only	6.3	42.2	31.8	16.7	48.5
Worked Sat-Sun only	8.1	52.6	36.5	24.1	60.6
Worked Mon-Fri and Sat-Sun	*4.9	32.1	16.8	20.1	36.9
Time(s) of the day worked during school terms(b)					
Mon-Fri					
Before 6am	—	*1.3	**0.3	**0.9	*1.3
6am-9am	*2.5	7.7	6.7	*3.5	10.2
9am-12pm	*1.8	*1.7	*1.3	*2.2	*3.5
12pm-3pm	**1.0	*2.2	*1.7	*1.4	*3.2
3pm-5pm	8.1	49.9	34.6	23.4	57.9
5pm-7pm	*3.6	35.3	19.7	19.1	38.8
After 7pm	**0.9	18.9	8.2	11.7	19.8
Sat-Sun					
Before 6am	**0.2	*1.8	**0.7	*1.3	*2.0
6am-9am	*1.7	15.6	9.2	8.2	17.4
9am-12pm	*4.7	45.0	29.2	20.5	49.7
12pm-3pm	5.8	37.2	23.6	19.4	43.0
3pm-5pm	6.1	29.8	20.7	15.2	35.9
5pm-7pm	*1.6	14.4	*5.0	11.1	16.0
After 7pm	—	12.9	*3.2	9.7	12.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>126.8</b>	<b>85.1</b>	<b>60.9</b>	<b>146.0</b>

\* 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) Some children worked during both school holidays and school terms and appear in both populations.

(b) Refers to all times of the day worked, therefore children may appear in more than one category.

# 6

## CHILDREN AGED 5 TO 14 YEARS WHO WORKED IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, Details of work—All jobs

	AGE GROUP (YEARS)		SEX		
	5-9	10-14	Male	Female	Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Who the child worked for(a)					
Employer	7.1	88.0	55.0	40.1	95.1
Themselves	*3.0	24.8	16.6	11.2	27.8
Family business or farm	12.8	44.5	32.4	24.8	57.3
Number of weeks worked during the last 12 months					
1 week	6.9	21.6	15.6	12.9	28.5
2-3 weeks	*2.3	17.6	10.9	9.0	19.9
4-12 weeks	*3.6	49.5	29.9	23.3	53.2
13-25 weeks	*4.1	21.9	15.3	10.7	26.0
26-51 weeks	*1.9	23.2	16.3	8.8	25.1
52 weeks	*4.2	18.3	13.1	9.4	22.5
All reasons child worked(b)					
Money for spending	13.4	125.5	76.7	62.2	138.9
Money for saving	11.4	90.2	62.5	39.2	101.6
Friendship or social aspects	*4.5	41.2	22.9	22.7	45.6
Career prospects	*2.4	31.9	19.3	15.0	34.3
Supplement family income	**0.3	6.3	*3.1	*3.5	6.6
Help in family business	10.5	37.9	27.5	20.9	48.4
Other	5.8	15.7	11.7	9.8	21.5
Main reason child worked					
Money for spending	8.6	81.5	46.7	43.4	90.1
Money for saving	*4.1	37.1	29.5	11.7	41.2
Friendship or social aspects	**1.0	*5.3	*3.4	*2.8	6.3
Career prospects	**0.8	*4.7	*2.8	*2.6	*5.5
Help in family business	*5.3	15.4	12.5	8.2	20.7
Other(c)	*3.1	8.3	6.0	*5.4	11.4
Mode of travel to and from work(d)					
Public transport	—	*2.9	**0.9	*1.9	*2.9
Private motor vehicle with parents	11.2	75.8	45.0	42.0	87.0
Motor vehicle with friends or employer	**0.5	7.3	6.1	*1.8	7.9
Walk	*3.8	36.8	25.2	15.4	40.6
Bicycle	**0.2	15.2	13.5	*1.9	15.4
Worked from home or no travel involved	7.4	26.1	18.0	15.5	33.5
Child suffered a work-related injury or illness in the last 12 months	np	np	np	np	**1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>22.9</b>	<b>152.2</b>	<b>101.0</b>	<b>74.1</b>	<b>175.1</b>

- \* 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)
- np not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated
- (a) Refers to all jobs, therefore children may appear in more than one category.
- (b) Refers to all reasons, therefore children may appear in more than one category.
- (c) Other includes 'Supplement family income'.
- (d) Refers to all modes of travel usually used in all jobs, therefore children may appear in more than one category. Note that the 'Other' category is not presented separately but is included in the total.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### INTRODUCTION

**1** The statistics in this publication were compiled from data collected in the Child Employment Survey, conducted throughout Australia in June 2006 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). This is the first time the Child Employment Survey has been conducted.

**2** The publication *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) contains information about survey design, sample redesign, scope, coverage and population benchmarks, which also apply to supplementary surveys. LFS also contains definitions of demographic and labour force characteristics, and information about telephone interviewing which are relevant to both the monthly LFS and supplementary surveys.

**3** Information for this survey was collected using computer assisted interviewing (CAI), whereby responses are recorded directly into an electronic questionnaire via a notebook computer.

### CONCEPTS, SOURCES AND METHODS

**4** The conceptual framework used in Australia's LFS aligns closely with the standards and guidelines set out in 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

**5** The scope of the LFS was restricted to persons aged 15 years and over and excluded the following people:

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

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

**7** The scope of this supplementary survey was restricted to children aged 5 to 14 years. Information about the working patterns of each child was collected from a parent or guardian if they were resident in the same household and fully responding to the LFS. If a parent or guardian of the child was unavailable, out on scope or not fully responding to the LFS then the information was collected from another person aged 15 years or over resident in the same household who was fully responding to the LFS.

**8** This supplementary survey was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, but excluded approximately 30,000 children aged 5 to 14 years living in very remote parts of Australia who would otherwise have been within the scope of the survey. The exclusion of these children will have only a minor impact on any aggregate estimates that are produced for individual states and territories, except the Northern Territory where such children account for around 30% of all children aged 5 to 14 years.

### COVERAGE

**9** The estimates in this publication relate to people covered by the survey in June 2006. 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

**10** The initial sample for the June 2006 LFS consisted of 41,518 private dwelling households and special dwelling units. Of the 33,806 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

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

- SAMPLE SIZE *continued*
- dwelling and dwellings under construction), approximately 31,906 or 94% were fully responding to the Child Employment 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 9,564.
- ESTIMATION METHODS
- 11** Weighting is the process of adjusting results from a sample survey to infer results for the total in scope population. To do this, a 'weight' is allocated to each sample unit. The weight is a value which indicates how many population units are represented by the sample unit. The first step in calculating weights for each unit is to assign an initial weight, which is the inverse of the probability of being selected in the survey. The initial weights are then calibrated to align with independent estimates of the population of interest, referred to as 'benchmarks'. Weights are calibrated against population benchmarks to ensure that the survey estimates conform to the independently estimated distribution of the population rather than the distribution within the sample itself.
- 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, with reference to the 12 months prior to interview. Enumeration may have been during school holidays or school terms, depending on the state or territory and the date of interview, which may affect recall for some questions. If enumeration had taken place in a different month estimates may have differed to those produced in this publication.
- CLASSIFICATIONS USED
- 14** Occupation data are classified according to the *ANZSCO - Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, First Edition, 2006* (cat. no. 1220.0).
- 15** Country of birth data are classified according to the *Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 1998* (cat. no. 1269.0).
- NOTES ON ESTIMATES
- Definition of employment for children*
- 16** The definition of employment for this survey has been adapted from the LFS. Children aged 5 to 14 years were considered to be employed if they worked for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job, business, or on a farm, or worked without pay in a family business or farm at some time in the last 12 months. Throughout this publication employment is referred to as 'worked in the last 12 months'.
- 17** Work in the last 12 months may include:
- paid work for an employer
  - unpaid work in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers)
  - paid work in a family business or on a farm
  - work carried out for non-household members (e.g. neighbourhood car washing, lawn mowing) for payment
  - street vending
  - busking
  - work done for payment in kind (e.g. if the child receives goods rather than cash as payment for work done)
  - paid work for non-profit organisations.
- 18** Work in the last 12 months excludes:

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

*Definition of employment for children continued*

- all household work undertaken for their household
- unpaid work experience (e.g. done as part of the child's schooling)
- unpaid probationary periods
- unpaid work done for all charities and non-profit organisations.

**19** All work undertaken by home-schooled children has been included under school holidays.

*Characteristics of parents*

**20** In this publication information on the Country of birth and Labour force status of the parent(s) or guardian(s) of each child is presented in Table 2. See the Glossary for definitions of 'parent or guardian'. If the parent(s) or guardian(s) were out on scope for the LFS, or did not complete the LFS then Country of birth and Labour force status information was not collected. These children are not separately identified in Table 2.

*Classification of occupation for children*

**21** Occupation was coded according to the ANZSCO - *Australian and New Zealand Classification of Occupations, First Edition, 2006* (cat. no. 1220.0) at the most detailed level (6 digit). The table below presents the concordance between the ANZSCO codes and the classification presented in Table 4. This alternative classification has been used to present more useful categories for the population of children because the occupations in which children tend to work differ from those in which adults tend to work.

<i>Classification in Table 4</i>	<i>ANZSCO code</i>
Technicians and Trades Workers	3
Community and Personal Service Workers	4
Carers and Aides	42
Other Community and Personal Service Workers	4 (remainder)
Clerical and Administrative Workers	5
Sales Workers	6
Labourers	8
Cleaners and Laundry Workers	81
Farm, Forestry and Garden Workers	84
Food Preparation Assistants	85
Leaflet or Newspaper Deliverer	899915
Other Labourers	8 (remainder)
Other(a)	1, 2 and 7

(a) Includes occupations in ANZSCO categories 1, 2 and 7, namely 'Managers', 'Professionals' and 'Machinery Operators and Drivers', such as 'Actors, Dancers and Other Entertainers', 'Music Professionals' and 'Private Tutors and Teachers'.

COMPARABILITY WITH  
MONTHLY LFS STATISTICS

**22** Due to differences in the scope of the surveys, comparisons can not be made between the LFS and the Child Employment Survey in regards to employment levels (i.e. the LFS obtains information on persons aged 15 years and over, while the Child Employment Survey collects information on persons aged 5 to 14 years).

COMPARABILITY WITH OTHER  
SURVEYS ON CHILD  
EMPLOYMENT

**23** Caution should be exercised when comparing child employment estimates collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and other collection sources. Definitions, scope of the survey, collection methodologies and survey constructions may be different, and hence not strictly comparable.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

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### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

**24** ABS surveys draw extensively on information provided 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

**25** Other publications which may be of interest include:

- *Australian Labour Market Statistics* (cat. no. 6105.0)
- *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0)
- *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2006* (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001)
- *Information Paper: Improving Statistics on Children and Youth – An Information Development Plan, 2006* (cat. no. 4907.0)
- *Schools, Australia* (cat. no. 4221.0)

**26** Current publications and other products released by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (cat. no. 1101.0). The Catalogue is available from any ABS office or the ABS web site. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the web site which details products to be released in the week ahead.

## APPENDIX 1 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST

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### DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

The ABS has a range of data available on request from the Child Employment Survey. This section lists the data items and populations which relate to the survey. More detailed breakdowns of some data items are available on request.

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

For more information about the ABS data available on request, contact Sarah Dexter on Canberra (02) 6252 7246, or by facsimile on (02) 6252 7512, or by email to <sarah.dexter@abs.gov.au>.

#### *Population 1*

All children aged 5 to 14 years.

#### *Population 2*

Children aged 5 to 14 years who worked at some time in the last 12 months.

#### *Population 3*

Children aged 5 to 14 years who worked during school terms at some time in the last 12 months.

#### *Population 4*

Children aged 5 to 14 years who worked during school holidays at some time in the last 12 months.

Note: Some children worked during both school holidays and school terms and appear in both populations 3 and 4.



## APPENDIX 1 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
<b>1 State or territory of usual residence</b>	All
New South Wales	
Victoria	
Queensland	
South Australia	
Western Australia	
Tasmania	
Northern Territory	
Australian Capital Territory	
<b>2 Area of usual residence</b>	All
State capital city	
Balance of state/territory	
<b>3 Sex</b>	All
Males	
Females	
<b>4 Country of birth of child</b>	All
Born in Australia	
Born overseas	
Oceania & Antarctica	
North-West Europe	
Southern & Eastern Europe	
Middle East and North Africa	
South-East Asia	
North-East Asia	
Southern & Central Asia	
Americas	
Sub-Saharan Africa	
Not stated	
<b>5 Year of arrival in Australia</b>	All
Arrived before 2001	
Arrived 2001	
Arrived 2002	
Arrived 2003	
Arrived 2004	
Arrived 2005	
Arrived 2006	
Born in Australia	
Not stated	
Note: Collected in single years	
<b>6 Country of birth of parents</b>	All
Child in couple family	
Both parents born in Australia	
One parent born in Australia and one parent born overseas	
Both parents born overseas	
One or both parents with Country of birth not stated	
Child in one parent family	
Parent born in Australia	
Parent born overseas	
Country of birth of parent not stated	
<b>7 Year of arrival in Australia of parent(s)</b>	All
Arrived before 2001	
Arrived 2001	
Arrived 2002	
Arrived 2003	
Arrived 2004	
Arrived 2005	
Arrived 2006	
Born in Australia	
Not stated	
Note: Collected in single years for each parent	

## APPENDIX 1 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
<p><b>8 Labour force status of parent(s)</b>            Child in couple family                Both parents employed                One parent employed and one parent unemployed or not in the labour force                Both parents unemployed or not in the labour force                One or both parents with Labour force status not stated            Child in one parent family                Parent employed                Parent unemployed or not in the labour force                Labour force status of parent not stated</p>	All
<p><b>9 Age group (years)</b>            5–9            10–14            Note: Collected in single years</p>	All
<p><b>10 Whether worked in the last 12 months</b>            Worked in the last 12 months            Did not work in the last 12 months</p>	1
<p><b>11 Working status in all jobs</b>            Worked for an employer            Worked for self            Worked in family business or farm            Note: Multiple response item. Children may appear in more than one category.</p>	2
<p><b>12 Working pattern in all jobs</b>            School holidays            School terms - weekends            School terms - weekdays                Before school/after school                During school hours (9am–3pm)            Note: Multiple response item. Children may appear in more than one category.</p>	2
<p><b>13 Usual hours worked per week in main job during school terms</b>            1–2 hours            3–5 hours            6–9 hours            10 hours and over            Note: Collected in single hours</p>	3
<p><b>14 Usual hours worked per week in main job during school holidays</b>            1–2 hours            3–5 hours            6–9 hours            10 hours and over            Note: Collected in single hours</p>	4
<p><b>15 Usual hours worked per week in all jobs during school terms</b>            1–2 hours            3–5 hours            6–9 hours            10 hours and over            Note: Collected in single hours</p>	3
<p><b>16 Usual hours worked per week in all jobs during school holidays</b>            1–2 hours            3–5 hours            6–9 hours            10 hours and over            Note: Collected in single hours</p>	4
<p><b>17 Usual days worked per week in all jobs during school terms</b>            Monday            Tuesday            Wednesday            Thursday            Friday            Saturday            Sunday            Note: Multiple response item. Children may appear in more than one category.</p>	3

## APPENDIX 1 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
<b>18 Whether worked Mon–Fri, Sat–Sun or both during school terms</b> Worked Mon–Fri only Worked Sat–Sun only Worked Mon–Fri and Sat–Sun	3
<b>19 Usual days worked per week in all jobs during school holidays</b> Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday Note: Multiple response item. Children may appear in more than one category.	4
<b>20 Whether worked Mon–Fri, Sat–Sun or both during school holidays</b> Worked Mon–Fri only Worked Sat–Sun only Worked Mon–Fri and Sat–Sun	4
<b>21 Usual number of days worked per week in all jobs during school terms</b> 1 day 2 days 3 days 4 days 5 days 6 days 7 days	3
<b>22 Usual number of days worked per week in all jobs during school holidays</b> 1 day 2 days 3 days 4 days 5 days 6 days 7 days	4
<b>23 Whether usually worked day-time, night-time or both in all jobs</b> Usually worked between 6am and 7pm only Usually worked between 7pm and 6am only Usually worked between 6am and 7pm and between 7pm and 6am	2
<b>24 Occupation of main job during school terms</b> Technicians and Trades Workers Community and Personal Service Workers Carers and Aides Other Community and Personal Service Workers  Clerical and Administrative Workers Sales Workers Labourers Cleaners and Laundry Workers Farm, Forestry and Garden Workers Food Preparation Assistants Leaflet or Newspaper Deliverer Other Labourers  Other	3
<b>25 Occupation of main job during school holidays</b> Technicians and Trades Workers Community and Personal Service Workers Carers and Aides Other Community and Personal Service Workers	4

## APPENDIX 1 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
<b>25 Occupation of main job during school holidays <i>cont.</i></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clerical and Administrative Workers</li> <li>Sales Workers</li> <li>Labourers                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cleaners and Laundry Workers</li> <li>Farm, Forestry and Garden Workers</li> <li>Food Preparation Assistants</li> <li>Leaflet or Newspaper Deliverer</li> <li>Other Labourers</li> </ul> </li> <li>Other</li> </ul>	4
<b>26 Number of weeks worked during the last 12 months in all jobs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 week</li> <li>2–3 weeks</li> <li>4–12 weeks</li> <li>13–25 weeks</li> <li>26–51 weeks</li> <li>52 weeks</li> <li>Note: Collected in single weeks</li> </ul>	2
<b>27 Mode of travel to and from work</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public transport</li> <li>Private motor vehicle with parents</li> <li>Motor vehicle with friends or employer</li> <li>Walk</li> <li>Bicycle</li> <li>Worked from home or no travel involved</li> <li>Other</li> <li>Note: Multiple response item. Children may appear in more than one category.</li> </ul>	2
<b>28 Whether the child had suffered a work-related injury or illness in the last 12 months</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Did suffer an injury or illness</li> <li>Did not suffer an injury or illness</li> </ul>	2
<b>29 All reasons child worked</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Money for spending</li> <li>Money for saving</li> <li>Friendship or social aspects</li> <li>Career prospects</li> <li>Supplement family income</li> <li>Help in family business</li> <li>Other</li> <li>Note: Multiple response item. Children may appear in more than one category.</li> </ul>	2
<b>30 Main reason child worked</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Money for spending</li> <li>Money for saving</li> <li>Friendship or social aspects</li> <li>Career prospects</li> <li>Supplement family income</li> <li>Help in family business</li> <li>Other</li> </ul>	2

## APPENDIX 2 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 survey. 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>
Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation, Australia	6239.0	Biennial	2004–2005
Career Experience, Australia	6254.0	Discontinued	November 2002
Career Paths of Persons with Trade Qualifications, Australia	6243.0	Discontinued	Final issue 1993
Child Care, Australia	4402.0	Irregular	June 2005
Child Employment, Australia	6211.0	Irregular	June 2006
Education and Work, Australia	6227.0	Annual	May 2006
Employee Earnings, Benefits, and Trade Union Membership, Australia	6310.0	Annual	August 2005
Forms of Employment, Australia	6359.0	Irregular	November 2004
Job Search Experience, Australia	6222.0	Annual	July 2006
Labour Force Experience, Australia	6206.0	Biennial	February 2005
Labour Force Status and Educational Attainment, Australia	6235.0	Discontinued	Final issue 1994
Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, Australia(a)	6224.0	Discontinued	Final issue 2000
Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants, Australia	6250.0	Irregular	November 2004
Labour Mobility, Australia	6209.0	Biennial	February 2006
Locations of Work, Australia	6275.0	Irregular	November 2005
Multiple Jobholding, Australia(b)	6216.0	Irregular	August 1997
Participation in Education, Australia	6272.0	Discontinued	Final issue 1999
Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia	6220.0	Annual	September 2005
Persons Who had Re-entered the Labour Force, Australia	6264.0.40.001	Discontinued	Final issue 1995
Persons Who Have Left the Labour Force, Australia	6267.0.40.001	Discontinued	Final issue 1994
Retirement and Retirement Intentions, Australia	6238.0	Biennial	2004–2005
Retrenchment and Redundancy, Australia	6266.0	Discontinued	July 2001
Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience, Australia	6245.0	Discontinued	Final issue 2000
Superannuation, Australia	6319.0	Discontinued	Final issue 1995
Underemployed Workers, Australia	6265.0	Annual	September 2005
Working Arrangements, Australia	6342.0	Irregular	November 2003
Work-Related Injuries, Australia	6324.0	Irregular	2005–2006

(a) Latest data available June 2006, from the ABS web site cat. no. 6224.0.55.001 annual, or on request.

(b) Latest data available on request July 2001.

INTRODUCTION

**1** Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they 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.

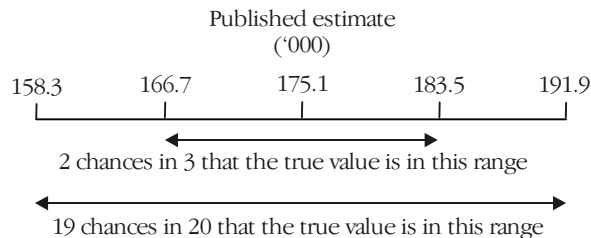
**2** Due to space limitations, it is impractical to print the SE of each estimate in the publication. Instead, a table of SEs is provided to enable readers to determine the SE for an estimate from the size of that estimate. The SE table is derived from a mathematical model, referred to as the 'SE model', which is created using the data collected in this survey. 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. Table T1 shows the SEs and RSEs that should be used for estimates of persons aged 5 to 14 years who worked in the last 12 months.

CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERRORS

**3** An example of the calculation and the use of SEs in relation to estimates of people is as follows. Table 1 shows that the estimated number of children in Australia aged 5 to 14 years who worked in the last 12 months was 175,100. Since this estimate is between 150,000 and 200,000, table T1 shows the SE will be between 7,800 and 9,000, and can be approximated by interpolation using the following general formula:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & SE \text{ of estimate} \\
 &= \text{lower SE} + \left( \left( \frac{\text{size of estimate} - \text{lower estimate}}{\text{upper estimate} - \text{lower estimate}} \right) \times (\text{upper SE} - \text{lower SE}) \right) \\
 &= 7,800 + \left( \left( \frac{175,100 - 150,000}{200,000 - 150,000} \right) \times (9,000 - 7,800) \right) \\
 &= 8,400 \text{ (rounded to the nearest 100)}
 \end{aligned}$$

**4** Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey will fall in the range 166,700 to 183,500, and about 19 chances in 20 that the value will fall within the range 158,300 to 191,900. This example is illustrated in the diagram below.



**5** In general, the size of the SE increases as the size of the estimate increases. Conversely, the RSE decreases as the size of the estimate increases. Very small estimates are thus subject to such high RSEs that their value for most practical purposes is unreliable. In the tables in this publication, only estimates with RSEs of 25% or less are considered reliable for most purposes. Estimates with RSEs greater than 25% but less than or equal to 50% are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. \*3.4) to indicate they are subject to high SEs and should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs of greater than 50%,

CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERRORS *continued*

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 25% or less.

**6** The RSEs for estimates of children who did not work and total children aged 5 to 14 years are obtained by first finding the RSE of the population estimate from table T1 then multiplying the resulting number by a factor of 0.32.

**7** The following is an example of the calculation of SEs where the use of a factor is required. Table 1 shows that the estimated number of boys aged 5 to 9 years that did not work was 655,100. The SE of 655,100 children that did work can be calculated from table T1 (by interpolation) as 15,500 (rounded to nearest 100). To convert this to an SE relating to boys aged 5 to 9 years that did not work, multiply this number by the factor 0.32:  $15,500 \times 0.32 = 5,000$  (rounded to nearest 100). The RSE of this estimate of boys aged 5 to 9 years that did not work is therefore  $5,000/655,100 = 0.8\%$ .

**8** In Table 1 estimates of the total number of children aged 5 to 14 years are shown by Sex, Country of birth of child, State or territory and Area of usual residence. With the exception of Country of birth of child, these total estimates have zero sampling error as they are the items used as benchmarks.

PROPORTIONS AND PERCENTAGES

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

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

**10** Considering the example above, of the 175,100 children aged 5 to 14 years who worked in the last 12 months, 101,000 or 57.7% were boys. The SE of 101,000 may be calculated by interpolation as 6,400. To convert this to an RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate, or  $6,400/101,000 = 6.3\%$ . The SE for 175,100 was calculated previously as 8,400, which converted to an RSE is  $8,400/175,100 = 4.8\%$ . Applying the above formula, the RSE of the proportion is:

$$RSE = \sqrt{(6.3)^2 - (4.8)^2} = 4.1\%$$

**11** Therefore, the SE for the proportion of boys aged 5 to 14 years who worked in the last 12 months is 2.4 percentage points ( $= (57.7/100) \times 4.1$ ). Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the proportion of boys aged 5 to 14 years who worked in the last 12 months is between 55.3% and 60.1% and 19 chances in 20 that the proportion is within the range 52.9% to 62.5%.

DIFFERENCES

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

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

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

**TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY *continued***

STANDARD ERRORS

T1 STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES (a)

	SE	RSE
<i>Size of estimate (children)</i>	no.	%
100	130	130
200	200	100
300	260	87
500	350	70
700	420	60
1,000	520	52
1,500	660	44
2,000	780	39
2,500	900	36
3,000	1 000	33
3,500	1 100	31
4,000	1 150	29
5,000	1 300	26
7,000	1 600	23
10,000	1 900	19
15,000	2 400	16
20,000	2 800	14
30,000	3 450	12
40,000	4 000	10
50,000	4 500	9
100,000	6 400	6
150,000	7 800	5
200,000	9 000	5
300,000	10 900	4
500,000	13 900	3
1,000,000	19 200	2
2,000,000	26 200	1

(a) Refers to children aged 5 to 14 years who worked in the last 12 months. To calculate RSEs for other estimates in this publication, refer to paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Technical Note.

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

	<i>Size of estimate</i>
25% RSE	
Children aged 5 to 14 years who worked in the last 12 months	5 600
50% RSE	
Children aged 5 to 14 years who worked in the last 12 months	1 100

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



## GLOSSARY

<b>Children who work for themselves</b>	A child who operates his or her own unincorporated economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade. Informal work for relatives or neighbours for payment where the child has solicited the employment is included.
<b>Employer</b>	A person who operates his or her own unincorporated economic enterprise or engages independently in a profession or trade, and hires one or more employees; or a business with one or more employees. For the Child Employment Survey it includes formal work for a registered non-family business and informal work for relatives or neighbours for payment, where the employer has solicited the child's employment.
<b>Family business or farm</b>	An economic enterprise (e.g. company, partnership or individual) operated solely by a relative of the child.
<b>Main job during school holidays</b>	The job in which the child worked the most hours during school holidays.
<b>Main job during school terms</b>	The job in which the child worked the most hours during school terms.
<b>Mode of travel to and from work</b>	Refers to the mode(s) of transport usually used to get to and from the place(s) of work. It excludes travel undertaken during the course of work.
<b>Number of weeks worked</b>	The number of weeks within the reference period where the child did any work. For example, if a child worked one hour a week for five weeks, this would constitute five weeks worked. If a child worked 20 hours a week for five weeks, this would also constitute five weeks worked.
<b>Occupation of main job</b>	Coded according to the <i>Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, 2006 edition</i> (cat. no. 1221.0). For more information see paragraph 21 of the Explanatory Notes.
<b>Parent or guardian</b>	A parent is a natural, step, adoptive or foster mother or father of a child and resident in the same household as the child. A guardian is a person aged 15 years and over who is reported as being the guardian or main carer of a child, regardless of the existence of any legal arrangement, and resident in the same household as the child. Throughout this publication the term 'parent' also refers to guardians.
<b>Reference period</b>	The 12 months prior to interview in June 2006.
<b>School holidays</b>	The periods of time between school terms. It includes all school holidays in the reference period. It excludes holidays taken during school terms, public holidays that fall during school terms and pupil free days. Note that school holidays differ between states and territories. All work undertaken by home-schooled children has been included under school holidays.
<b>School terms</b>	The official periods of time during which school was attended in the reference period. It includes weekends that fall between two weeks of school, pupil free days and public holidays that would otherwise constitute a school day. Note that school terms differ between states and territories.
<b>Time(s) of the day worked</b>	Refers to the time(s) of the day usually worked, that is the most common pattern of work undertaken. Time used for preparation is included. Children were counted in each of the time period categories they worked in, even if they did not work for the whole of that period. Children may appear in more than one category as they may have worked across more than one of the time periods presented.
<b>Usual hours worked per week</b>	Includes hours of preparation and regular shifts that the child works. It excludes irregular or extra shifts worked by the child and time taken to travel to and from work.

## GLOSSARY *continued*

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<b>Worked in the last 12 months</b>	Work occurred during the 12 month reference period if the child undertook activities for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job, business or on a farm, or worked without pay in a family business or farm. Some examples of children's work include carrying out work for non-household members for payment, busking or delivering leaflets. Note that chores undertaken for the child's household are excluded. See paragraphs 16 to 19 of the Explanatory Notes for further explanation of work.
<b>Work-related injury or illness</b>	Injuries or illnesses that were a direct result of the child working. Excludes injuries which were diagnosed more than 12 months ago and accidents that did not result in an injury (e.g. a minor scratch).



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