

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.

NOTES

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication presents information about underemployed workers. The number of underemployed workers is 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. 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.

The statistics in this publication were compiled from the Underemployed Workers Survey, conducted throughout Australia in September 2005 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Data from the survey relate to all employed people aged 15 years and over. People who worked less than 35 hours in the week prior to the survey (i.e. the reference week) and who would have preferred to work more hours, were asked about whether they were available to start work with more hours, whether they were looking for work with more hours, and their experience in looking for work with more hours. Other information sought included the duration of the current period of insufficient work and the number of extra hours preferred.

CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

The populations for tables 5 to 8 have been changed in this issue based on client feedback. In previous issues, the populations for these tables were 'Part-time workers who want more hours' (table 5) and 'Part-time workers looking for, or available to start work with, more hours' (tables 6, 7 and 8). In the 2005 issue the population for tables 5 to 8 is 'Underemployed part-time workers' (i.e. part-time workers who would prefer more hours and are available to start work with more hours). Time-series tables with both the old and new populations for 2000-2005 will be released on Tuesday 28 March 2006.

ROUNDING

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



ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ASCED	Australian Standard Classification of Education
CAI	computer assisted interviewing
ILO	International Labour Organization
LFS	Labour Force Survey
n.f.d.	not further defined
RSE	relative standard error
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
SE	standard error

Peter Harper
Acting Australian Statistician

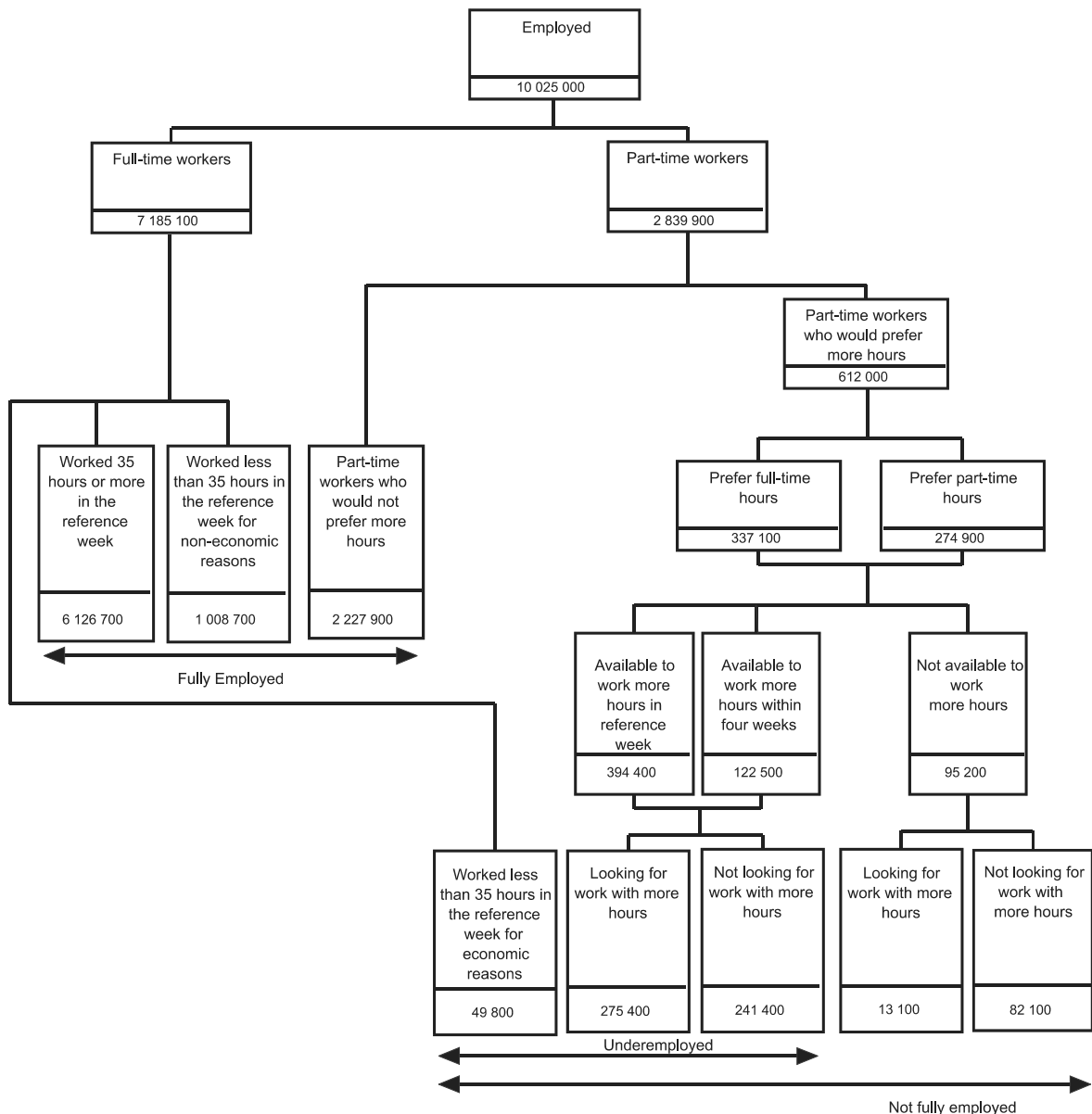
CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

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

- workers who are fully employed
- workers who are not fully employed, comprising:
 - part-time workers who would prefer to work more hours
 - 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).

Fully employed workers comprise: 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); and part-time workers (usually work part time and did so in the reference week) who would not prefer additional hours of work.



CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK *continued*

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK *continued*

The ABS underemployment framework classifies people who are not fully employed into a number of groups based on whether they are available and/or looking to start work with more hours. The framework separately identifies part-time workers who would prefer full-time hours and those who would prefer more part-time hours. These people are further classified according to whether they were available to start extra work (either in the reference week or in the four weeks subsequent to the survey), and whether they had looked for extra work during the four weeks prior to the survey.

People who usually work full time, but worked part time in the reference week for economic reasons, are separately identified in the underemployment framework. It is assumed that these people would prefer to work full time in the reference week and would have been available to do so.

DEFINITION OF UNDEREMPLOYMENT

The ABS definition of the underemployed is 'employed people who want, and are available for, more hours of work than they currently have'. This is consistent with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) definition of time-related underemployment.

According to the ILO definition adopted in 1998, 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:

- availability to work additional hours, within a specified subsequent period
- willingness to work additional hours — the ILO recommends that those who have actively sought to work additional hours should be distinguished from those who have not
- 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.

UNDEREMPLOYED WORKERS SURVEY

The Underemployed Workers Survey is the primary ABS data source on underemployment. It provides a wide range of information about underemployed workers, including information on 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. Summary information on underemployed workers is also collected in the Labour Force Survey (LFS) on a quarterly basis.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

OVERVIEW

There were 10,025,000 employed people aged 15 years and over in September 2005. Of these:

- 612,000 (6.2%) usually worked part time and would have preferred to work more hours
- 566,600 (5.9%) were underemployed workers, comprising:
 - 516,800 who 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 subsequent to the interview
 - 49,800 who 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). The majority (78%) of these were men.

PART-TIME WORKERS WHO WOULD PREFER MORE HOURS

In September 2005, there were 2,839,900 part-time workers. Of these, 22% (612,000) would have preferred to work more hours and this was higher for men (26%) than for women (20%). A similar pattern occurred in previous years.

Of the part-time workers who would prefer to work more hours, the majority (55%) would prefer to work full time. For men, the proportion who preferred to work full time was 67% compared to 49% for women.

UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS

Underemployed part-time workers are people who usually work less than 35 hours, would prefer to work more hours and are available to work more hours. Of the 516,800 underemployed part-time workers, 53% (275,400) had looked for work with more hours at some time during the four weeks up to the end of the reference week.

Women made up 66% of underemployed part-time workers, compared with 62% in September 2004. Of those underemployed part-time workers who were women, only half (169,700) were looking for more hours in the reference week or within four weeks.

The median duration of the current period of insufficient work for underemployed part-time workers was 26 weeks. For women aged 45–54 years who were underemployed part-time workers, the median duration of insufficient work was 40 weeks. See the Glossary for the definition of *median duration of insufficient work*.

Of underemployed part-time workers:

- 42% would prefer to work 10–19 extra hours per week
- 32% would prefer to work less than 10 extra hours per week
- 20% would prefer to work 20–29 extra hours per week; and
- 6% would prefer to work an additional 30 hours or more per week.

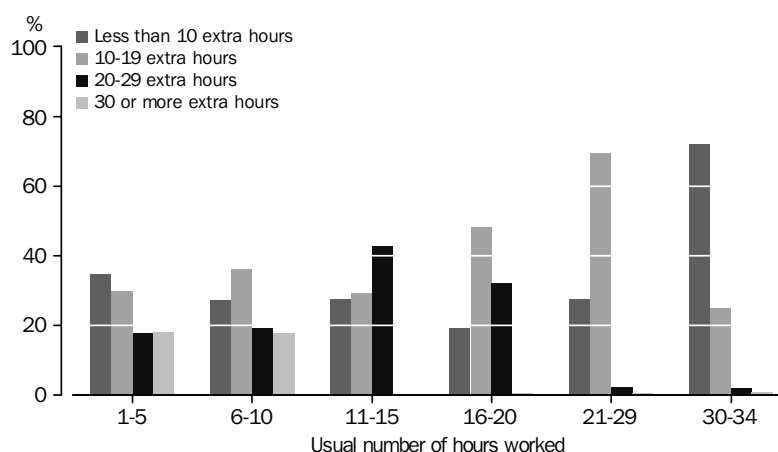
The mean preferred number of extra hours each week, for underemployed part-time workers, was 14.4 hours. Men would prefer to work an average of 16.3 extra hours compared with an average of 13.3 extra hours for women. The mean preferred number of extra hours was highest for people aged 25–34 years (16.3 hours) and lowest for people aged 15–19 years (12.9 hours).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS *continued*

The number of additional hours preferred by part-time workers varied with the number of hours they usually worked. Generally, those usually working few hours wanted a greater number of additional hours than others. However, many did not want to work full-time hours, for example, 82% of those working 1-5 hours a week wanted fewer than 30 additional hours.

UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS, PREFERRED NUMBER OF EXTRA HOURS



Underemployed part-time workers who looked for work with more hours were asked to report their main difficulty in finding work with more hours. The most commonly reported main difficulty in September 2005 was 'no vacancies in line of work' (19%). A further 10% reported 'unsuitable hours' as their main difficulty, and another 9% reported 'lacked necessary skills or education'.

The most common steps taken to find work with more hours were 'contacted prospective employers' (64%), 'looked in newspapers' (62%) and 'asked current employer for more work' (54%). The proportion of people searching internet sites to find work with more hours increased from 26% in September 2002 to 42% in September 2005. This is the largest increase in frequency of all the steps taken to find work with more hours.

MOST COMMON STEPS TAKEN BY UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS TO FIND WORK WITH MORE HOURS—September 2002 to 2005

	September 2002		September 2003		September 2004		September 2005	
	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%
Contacted prospective employers	192.8	66	185.7	65	185.9	64	174.8	64
Looked in newspapers	168.3	57	165.6	58	170.0	58	171.8	62
Asked current employer for more work	155.1	53	168.1	59	162.3	56	147.5	54
Searched internet sites	75.7	26	81.5	29	92.4	32	116.1	42
Contacted friends or relatives	70.1	24	80.0	28	87.1	30	84.6	31
Answered a newspaper advertisement for a job	61.2	21	64.6	23	64.7	22	71.4	26
Registered with Centrelink	70.0	24	67.4	24	67.7	23	65.5	24

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EMPLOYED PERSONS, Full-time or part-time status—September 2003 to 2005

	SEPTEMBER 2003		SEPTEMBER 2004		SEPTEMBER 2005		
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Employed persons	5 313.7	4 256.9	5 360.8	4 363.2	5 510.2	4 514.9	10 025.0
Full-time workers	4 550.0	2 331.4	4 569.0	2 414.4	4 710.8	2 474.4	7 185.1
Worked 35 hours or more in the reference week	3 994.0	1 965.4	3 974.0	2 057.6	4 069.3	2 057.4	6 126.7
Worked less than 35 hours in the reference week	556.0	366.0	595.0	356.7	641.5	417.0	1 058.5
For non-economic reasons	525.7	356.7	549.1	347.3	602.6	406.1	1 008.7
For economic reasons	30.4	9.2	45.9	9.4	38.9	10.8	49.8
Part-time workers	763.7	1 925.4	791.8	1 948.9	799.4	2 040.5	2 839.9
Would not prefer more hours	536.7	1 541.8	561.5	1 566.3	588.5	1 639.3	2 227.9
Would prefer more hours	227.0	383.7	230.3	382.6	210.8	401.2	612.0
Would prefer more part-time hours	62.2	193.5	66.3	186.2	69.1	205.8	274.9
Would prefer full-time hours	164.8	190.2	164.0	196.4	141.7	195.4	337.1

2

UNDEREMPLOYED WORKERS, Underemployment status—September 2003 to 2005

	SEPTEMBER 2003		SEPTEMBER 2004		SEPTEMBER 2005		
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Underemployed full-time workers	30.4	9.2	45.9	9.4	38.9	10.8	49.8
Underemployed part-time workers							
Looking	117.1	168.8	119.5	171.8	105.8	169.7	275.4
Not looking	83.1	158.8	78.0	153.6	70.4	171.0	241.4
Total underemployed	230.5	336.8	243.4	334.9	215.1	351.5	566.6

3

PART-TIME WORKERS WHO WOULD PREFER MORE HOURS, Whether available and/or looking—September 2003 to 2005

	SEPTEMBER 2003		SEPTEMBER 2004		SEPTEMBER 2005		
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Available to start work with more hours(a)	(a) 200.2	327.6	197.5	325.4	176.1	340.7	516.8
Available in the reference week	170.4	238.8	159.1	241.4	145.9	248.5	394.4
Looking	105.4	131.3	100.5	137.1	91.3	135.2	226.6
Not looking	65.0	107.5	58.6	104.3	54.5	113.3	167.8
Available within four weeks	29.8	88.8	38.5	84.0	30.3	92.2	122.5
Looking	11.7	37.5	19.0	34.7	14.4	34.4	48.8
Not looking	18.1	51.3	19.4	49.3	15.8	57.8	73.6
Not available to start work with more hours(b)	26.9	56.1	32.8	57.2	34.7	60.5	95.2
Looking	5.7	8.8	**2.6	7.9	*5.3	7.8	13.1
Not looking	21.2	47.3	30.2	49.3	29.4	52.7	82.1
Total	227.0	383.7	230.3	382.6	210.8	401.2	612.0

* 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) 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

	AVAILABLE IN THE REFERENCE WEEK OR WITHIN FOUR WEEKS (a)			Not available in the reference week or within four weeks (a)	
	Available and looking	Available and not looking	Total available		Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES					
Age group (years)					
15–19	20.5	18.3	38.8	8.1	46.9
20–24	21.6	11.7	33.3	6.2	39.6
25–34	18.4	8.5	26.9	*5.4	32.3
35–44	16.4	10.8	27.1	8.7	35.8
45–54	17.7	10.4	28.1	*3.3	31.4
55 and over	11.2	10.6	21.8	*3.0	24.8
Relationship in household					
Family member	76.4	57.7	134.1	29.4	163.5
Husband, wife or partner	37.2	26.4	63.6	14.8	78.4
Lone parent	*2.5	*2.4	*4.9	*2.0	6.9
Dependent student	12.5	12.8	25.3	8.0	33.3
Non-dependent child	21.6	13.7	35.4	*4.1	39.5
Other family person	*2.6	*2.3	*4.8	**0.6	*5.5
Non-family member	23.2	8.8	31.9	*3.1	35.0
Relationship not determined	6.2	*3.9	10.1	*2.2	12.3
Level of highest educational attainment(b)(c)					
Bachelor Degree or above	18.2	8.0	26.2	*4.6	30.8
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	6.1	*5.3	11.4	*1.9	13.3
Certificate	13.7	6.4	20.1	5.9	26.0
Year 12(d)	28.9	19.1	48.0	8.7	56.7
Year 11(d)	9.6	6.1	15.7	*5.1	20.8
Year 10 or below(d)	27.3	24.4	51.7	7.9	59.6
Status in employment					
Employee	91.4	57.4	148.8	26.3	175.0
Employer	**0.9	—	**0.9	**0.5	*1.3
Own account worker	12.4	13.0	25.4	7.7	33.1
Contributing family worker	**1.1	—	**1.1	**0.3	*1.4
Preferred total number of hours					
Less than 30	21.9	19.1	41.0	8.3	49.3
30–34	11.1	6.3	17.3	*2.5	19.8
35–39	34.1	17.8	51.9	10.8	62.8
40 or more	38.7	27.2	65.9	13.1	79.0
Preferred number of extra hours					
Less than 10	18.6	25.6	44.2	9.9	54.1
10–19	46.3	25.5	71.8	10.0	81.9
20–29	31.3	12.7	44.0	10.1	54.1
30 or more	9.6	6.5	16.1	*4.7	20.7
Whether would prefer to change employer(e)					
Would prefer to change employer	46.9	14.6	61.5	6.8	68.3
Would prefer not to change employer	42.7	43.8	86.5	22.2	108.7
No preference	16.2	11.9	28.2	5.7	33.8
Whether would prefer to change occupation(f)					
Would prefer to change occupation	52.1	24.3	76.4	11.6	88.0
Would prefer not to change occupation	35.0	34.7	69.7	20.7	90.4
No preference	18.7	11.4	30.0	*2.4	32.5
Total	105.8	70.4	176.1	34.7	210.8

* 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) Underemployed part-time workers.

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

(c) Excludes 'no educational attainment' and 'level not determined'.

(d) Includes persons who are currently undertaking school study.

(e) Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours.

(f) Whether would prefer to change occupation to work more hours.

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

	AVAILABLE IN THE REFERENCE WEEK OR WITHIN FOUR WEEKS (a)			Not available in the reference week or within four weeks (a)	
	Available and looking	Available and not looking	Total available		Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
FEMALES					
Age group (years)					
15–19	29.3	27.3	56.7	9.3	66.0
20–24	32.1	17.5	49.6	10.7	60.3
25–34	28.2	27.1	55.4	13.8	69.1
35–44	41.0	41.3	82.4	14.7	97.1
45–54	30.4	41.9	72.3	7.6	79.9
55 and over	8.6	15.8	24.4	*4.3	28.7
Relationship in household					
Family member	135.9	148.7	284.7	55.0	339.6
Husband, wife or partner	66.7	89.3	156.1	32.9	189.0
Lone parent	22.5	22.2	44.7	6.1	50.8
Dependent student	17.3	17.8	35.0	10.3	45.4
Non-dependent child	25.1	18.4	43.5	*4.8	48.3
Other family person	*4.4	**1.1	*5.4	**0.8	6.2
Non-family member	24.8	17.1	41.9	*3.7	45.6
Relationship not determined	8.9	*5.2	14.1	*1.8	15.9
Level of highest educational attainment(b)(c)					
Bachelor Degree or above	24.9	19.1	44.0	12.7	56.7
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	14.2	16.7	30.9	6.3	37.2
Certificate	22.6	23.2	45.8	6.1	51.9
Year 12(d)	46.3	43.1	89.3	17.9	107.2
Year 11(d)	15.5	15.4	30.8	6.1	36.9
Year 10 or below(d)	44.3	51.9	96.1	9.5	105.7
Status in employment					
Employee	153.7	155.6	309.3	51.0	360.2
Employer	**1.1	**1.2	*2.3	**1.1	*3.4
Own account worker	13.5	12.3	25.8	7.6	33.4
Contributing family worker	*1.4	*2.0	*3.4	**0.8	*4.2
Preferred total number of hours					
Less than 30	55.2	69.7	124.9	24.7	149.7
30–34	20.8	28.6	49.4	6.7	56.1
35–39	66.4	49.3	115.7	19.0	134.7
40 or more	27.3	23.3	50.6	10.1	60.7
Preferred number of extra hours					
Less than 10	49.4	71.9	121.3	21.5	142.8
10–19	71.6	74.4	146.0	22.9	168.9
20–29	38.0	21.4	59.4	13.4	72.8
30 or more	10.7	*3.4	14.0	*2.7	16.7
Whether would prefer to change employer(e)					
Would prefer to change employer	73.4	39.2	112.6	19.5	132.1
Would prefer not to change employer	70.8	107.9	178.7	34.4	213.2
No preference	25.5	23.9	49.4	6.5	55.9
Whether would prefer to change occupation(f)					
Would prefer to change occupation	84.3	62.3	146.6	23.6	170.2
Would prefer not to change occupation	65.9	86.6	152.5	31.2	183.7
No preference	19.5	22.2	41.7	5.6	47.3
Total	169.7	171.0	340.7	60.5	401.2

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

(c) Excludes 'no educational attainment' and 'level not determined'.

(d) Includes persons who are currently undertaking school study.

(e) Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours.

(f) Whether would prefer to change occupation to work more hours.

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

	AVAILABLE IN THE REFERENCE WEEK OR WITHIN FOUR WEEKS (a)			Not available in the reference week or within four weeks (a)	
	Available and looking	Available and not looking	Total available	Total	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
PERSONS					
Age group (years)					
15–19	49.8	45.7	95.5	17.4	112.9
20–24	53.7	29.3	83.0	17.0	99.9
25–34	46.6	35.6	82.3	19.2	101.4
35–44	57.4	52.1	109.5	23.4	132.9
45–54	48.1	52.3	100.4	10.9	111.3
55 and over	19.8	26.4	46.2	7.3	53.5
Relationship in household					
Family member	212.3	206.5	418.7	84.4	503.1
Husband, wife or partner	103.9	115.8	219.7	47.7	267.3
Lone parent	25.0	24.6	49.6	8.1	57.7
Dependent student	29.7	30.6	60.3	18.3	78.7
Non-dependent child	46.7	32.1	78.8	8.9	87.7
Other family person	7.0	*3.3	10.3	*1.4	11.7
Non-family member	48.0	25.8	73.8	6.7	80.6
Relationship not determined	15.1	9.1	24.3	*4.0	28.3
Level of highest educational attainment(b)(c)					
Bachelor Degree or above	43.1	27.1	70.2	17.3	87.5
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	20.3	22.0	42.3	8.2	50.5
Certificate	36.3	29.6	65.9	12.0	77.9
Year 12(d)	75.2	62.2	137.3	26.6	163.9
Year 11(d)	25.1	21.5	46.5	11.2	57.8
Year 10 or below(d)	71.6	76.3	147.9	17.4	165.3
Status in employment					
Employee	245.1	212.9	458.0	77.2	535.2
Employer	*1.9	**1.2	*3.1	*1.5	*4.7
Own account worker	25.9	25.3	51.2	15.3	66.5
Contributing family worker	*2.5	*2.0	*4.5	**1.1	5.6
Preferred total number of hours					
Less than 30	77.1	88.8	165.9	33.0	198.9
30–34	31.8	34.9	66.7	9.2	75.9
35–39	100.5	67.2	167.6	29.8	197.5
40 or more	66.0	50.5	116.5	23.1	139.7
Preferred number of extra hours					
Less than 10	68.0	97.5	165.5	31.3	196.9
10–19	117.9	99.9	217.8	33.0	250.8
20–29	69.3	34.1	103.3	23.5	126.9
30 or more	20.2	9.9	30.1	7.3	37.5
Whether would prefer to change employer(e)					
Would prefer to change employer	120.2	53.9	174.1	26.3	200.4
Would prefer not to change employer	113.5	151.8	265.2	56.6	321.9
No preference	41.8	35.8	77.5	12.2	89.8
Whether would prefer to change occupation(f)					
Would prefer to change occupation	136.4	86.6	223.0	35.2	258.2
Would prefer not to change occupation	100.9	121.3	222.2	51.9	274.1
No preference	38.1	33.5	71.7	8.0	79.7
Total	275.4	241.4	516.8	95.2	612.0

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

(c) Excludes 'no educational attainment' and 'level not determined'.

(d) Includes persons who are currently undertaking school study.

(e) Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours.

(f) Whether would prefer to change occupation to work more hours.

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

	DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF INSUFFICIENT WORK (WEEKS)					
	1-12	13-51	52 or more	Total	Mean duration	Median duration
	'000	'000	'000	'000	weeks	weeks
MALES						
Age group (years)						
15-19	21.0	12.5	*5.3	38.8	21.2	12
20-24	14.1	10.6	8.6	33.3	33.3	20
25-34	11.9	9.1	5.9	26.9	39.0	20
35-44	8.9	8.9	9.4	27.1	58.2	26
45-54	7.9	8.8	11.4	28.1	72.3	28
55 and over	*4.5	*4.6	12.7	21.8	117.1	*52
Relationship in household						
Family member	47.7	44.7	41.7	134.1	55.0	24
Husband, wife or partner	18.9	22.5	22.2	63.6	66.0	26
Lone parent	**1.2	**0.4	*3.4	*4.9	*120.5	**52
Dependent student	11.9	9.2	*4.2	25.3	24.3	16
Non-dependent child	13.9	10.9	10.5	35.4	51.5	24
Other family person	*1.8	*1.6	*1.4	*4.8	*30.3	**20
Non-family member	14.9	7.2	9.9	31.9	39.8	18
Relationship not determined	5.7	*2.8	*1.7	10.1	*49.1	*10
Level of highest educational attainment(a)(b)						
Bachelor Degree or above	8.6	8.7	8.9	26.2	63.1	28
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	*3.5	*4.0	*3.9	11.4	*73.6	*26
Certificate	7.6	*3.6	8.8	20.1	77.3	*27
Year 12(c)	21.3	15.0	11.7	48.0	34.2	20
Year 11(c)	*4.2	8.7	*2.8	15.7	39.1	*24
Year 10 or below(c)	21.2	13.8	16.8	51.7	54.0	21
Status in employment						
Employee	58.2	47.2	43.3	148.8	48.2	20
Employer	**0.5	**0.4	—	*0.9	**6.7	**1
Own account worker	9.1	6.4	9.9	25.4	76.7	26
Contributing family worker	**0.6	**0.6	—	*1.1	**18.8	**8
Preferred total number of hours						
Less than 30	17.1	13.1	10.8	41.0	51.8	22
30-34	*5.2	*3.7	8.5	17.3	65.3	*50
35-39	19.8	13.8	18.3	51.9	61.3	26
40 or more	26.2	24.1	15.6	65.9	41.1	18
Preferred number of extra hours						
Less than 10	19.3	13.1	11.9	44.2	38.1	19
10-19	25.6	24.2	22.0	71.8	64.0	24
20-29	17.5	12.2	14.2	44.0	49.5	20
30 or more	5.9	*5.1	*5.1	16.1	42.9	*26
Whether would prefer to change employer(d)						
Would prefer to change employer	26.2	19.8	15.4	61.5	40.5	20
Would prefer not to change employer	31.0	26.4	29.1	86.5	63.0	24
No preference	11.0	8.4	8.7	28.2	42.9	24
Whether would prefer to change occupation(e)						
Would prefer to change occupation	32.3	24.7	19.4	76.4	46.3	20
Would prefer not to change occupation	24.7	21.7	23.4	69.7	60.8	24
No preference	11.3	8.3	10.5	30.0	45.8	24
Total	68.3	54.6	53.2	176.1	51.9	21

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

(b) Excludes 'no educational attainment' and 'level not determined'.

(c) Includes persons who are currently undertaking school study.

(d) Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours.

(e) Whether would prefer to change occupation to work more hours.

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

	DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF INSUFFICIENT WORK (WEEKS)					
	1-12	13-51	52 or more	Total	Mean duration	Median duration
	'000	'000	'000	'000	weeks	weeks
FEMALES						
Age group (years)						
15-19	21.6	19.4	15.7	56.7	33.0	23
20-24	20.2	16.1	13.2	49.6	35.3	24
25-34	22.4	16.2	16.8	55.4	47.1	20
35-44	30.4	23.9	28.1	82.4	59.2	26
45-54	23.2	14.4	34.6	72.3	82.2	40
55 and over	*4.9	6.6	12.9	24.4	129.6	*52
Relationship in household						
Family member	100.9	78.8	104.9	284.7	59.6	26
Husband, wife or partner	53.7	43.6	58.8	156.1	63.5	26
Lone parent	14.7	10.3	19.6	44.7	81.1	34
Dependent student	12.2	10.8	12.1	35.0	38.5	24
Non-dependent child	17.1	12.7	13.7	43.5	45.2	26
Other family person	*3.2	*1.5	*0.8	*5.4	*22.5	**12
Non-family member	15.3	13.1	13.5	41.9	66.0	24
Relationship not determined	6.4	*4.7	*3.0	14.1	33.3	*16
Level of highest educational attainment(a)(b)						
Bachelor Degree or above	16.3	12.9	14.8	44.0	55.9	26
Advanced Diploma/Diploma Certificate	11.8	7.2	11.9	30.9	69.7	26
Year 12(c)	17.0	13.4	15.4	45.8	55.6	24
Year 11(c)	33.2	28.9	27.2	89.3	50.8	26
Year 10 or below(c)	10.8	8.1	11.9	30.8	53.9	28
Year 10 or below(c)	32.0	25.5	38.6	96.1	67.9	26
Status in employment						
Employee	111.3	88.0	109.9	309.3	57.6	26
Employer	*1.6	**0.3	**0.4	*2.3	**58.2	**8
Own account worker	8.2	8.0	9.7	25.8	68.4	26
Contributing family worker	*1.6	**0.3	*1.5	*3.4	**145.4	**34
Preferred total number of hours						
Less than 30	42.2	35.3	47.4	124.9	65.8	26
30-34	18.7	13.3	17.4	49.4	64.0	26
35-39	40.2	35.9	39.7	115.7	51.3	26
40 or more	21.6	12.1	16.9	50.6	57.2	20
Preferred number of extra hours						
Less than 10	45.0	35.5	40.8	121.3	49.9	26
10-19	46.9	41.5	57.6	146.0	70.8	26
20-29	24.3	16.7	18.4	59.4	44.0	21
30 or more	6.4	*3.0	*4.7	14.0	86.8	*14
Whether would prefer to change employer(d)						
Would prefer to change employer	43.5	31.5	37.6	112.6	58.0	22
Would prefer not to change employer	60.9	53.9	63.9	178.7	58.5	26
No preference	18.3	11.2	20.0	49.4	65.3	26
Whether would prefer to change occupation(e)						
Would prefer to change occupation	51.5	43.3	51.7	146.6	56.8	26
Would prefer not to change occupation	54.9	42.4	55.2	152.5	61.7	26
No preference	16.2	10.9	14.5	41.7	59.4	21
Total	122.6	96.6	121.4	340.7	59.3	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' and 'level not determined'.

(c) Includes persons who are currently undertaking school study.

(d) Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours.

(e) Whether would prefer to change occupation to work more hours.

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

	DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF INSUFFICIENT WORK (WEEKS)					
	1-12	13-51	52 or more	Total	Mean duration	Median duration
	'000	'000	'000	'000	weeks	weeks
PERSONS						
Age group (years)						
15-19	42.5	31.9	21.1	95.5	28.2	16
20-24	34.3	26.8	21.9	83.0	34.5	20
25-34	34.3	25.2	22.7	82.3	44.4	20
35-44	39.3	32.8	37.5	109.5	59.0	26
45-54	31.2	23.3	46.0	100.4	79.4	36
55 and over	9.3	11.3	25.6	46.2	123.7	52
Relationship in household						
Family member	148.6	123.5	146.6	418.7	58.2	26
Husband, wife or partner	72.6	66.2	80.9	219.7	64.3	26
Lone parent	15.9	10.7	23.0	49.6	85.0	36
Dependent student	24.1	20.0	16.2	60.3	32.6	20
Non-dependent child	31.0	23.6	24.2	78.8	48.1	25
Other family person	*5.0	*3.1	*2.2	10.3	*26.2	*13
Non-family member	30.2	20.3	23.4	73.8	54.7	24
Relationship not determined	12.1	7.5	*4.7	24.3	39.9	*13
Level of highest educational attainment(a)(b)						
Bachelor Degree or above	24.9	21.5	23.7	70.2	58.6	26
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	15.3	11.2	15.8	42.3	70.8	26
Certificate	24.7	17.0	24.2	65.9	62.2	24
Year 12(c)	54.5	43.9	38.9	137.3	45.0	24
Year 11(c)	15.1	16.8	14.7	46.5	48.9	26
Year 10 or below(c)	53.2	39.3	55.4	147.9	63.1	26
Status in employment						
Employee	169.5	135.3	153.2	458.0	54.6	25
Employer	*2.1	**0.7	**0.4	*3.1	**44.2	**8
Own account worker	17.2	14.4	19.6	51.2	72.5	26
Contributing family worker	*2.2	**0.9	*1.5	*4.5	*113.2	**26
Preferred total number of hours						
Less than 30	59.3	48.4	58.2	165.9	62.3	26
30-34	23.9	17.0	25.9	66.7	64.3	30
35-39	60.0	49.7	58.0	167.6	54.4	26
40 or more	47.8	36.2	32.6	116.5	48.1	20
Preferred number of extra hours						
Less than 10	64.3	48.6	52.6	165.5	46.7	24
10-19	72.5	65.7	79.6	217.8	68.5	26
20-29	41.8	28.9	32.6	103.3	46.3	21
30 or more	12.3	8.0	9.8	30.1	63.4	20
Whether would prefer to change employer(d)						
Would prefer to change employer	69.7	51.4	53.0	174.1	51.8	20
Would prefer not to change employer	91.9	80.4	93.0	265.2	60.0	26
No preference	29.3	19.5	28.7	77.5	57.1	26
Whether would prefer to change occupation(e)						
Would prefer to change occupation	83.8	68.0	71.1	223.0	53.2	24
Would prefer not to change occupation	79.6	64.1	78.5	222.2	61.4	26
No preference	27.5	19.2	25.0	71.7	53.7	24
Total	190.9	151.2	174.7	516.8	56.8	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' and 'level not determined'.

(c) Includes persons who are currently undertaking school study.

(d) Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours.

(e) Whether would prefer to change occupation to work more hours.

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

	PREFERRED NUMBER OF EXTRA HOURS					Mean preferred number of extra hours
	Less than 10	10-19	20-29	30 or more	Total	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		hours
MALES						
Age group (years)						
15-19	18.0	12.2	5.8	*2.7	38.8	12.9
20-24	9.0	14.0	7.5	*2.8	33.3	15.3
25-34	*4.5	9.7	9.9	*2.8	26.9	19.0
35-44	*4.8	10.1	7.6	*4.6	27.1	19.4
45-54	*4.1	15.0	7.5	*1.6	28.1	16.7
55 and over	*3.8	10.9	5.6	*1.5	21.8	16.3
Status in employment						
Employee	41.8	61.9	32.7	12.3	148.8	15.7
Employer	—	—	**0.9	—	**0.9	*20.5
Own account worker	*2.5	9.6	10.0	*3.3	25.4	19.5
Contributing family worker	—	**0.3	**0.4	**0.5	**1.1	*25.4
Usual number of hours worked						
1-5	7.5	*2.6	*1.3	*3.8	15.3	16.9
6-10	8.8	8.8	7.8	10.7	36.1	20.2
11-15	6.7	5.8	15.7	**0.3	28.6	18.1
16-20	*3.6	15.8	16.0	**0.6	35.9	17.6
21-29	*5.2	30.9	*2.0	**0.4	38.6	13.7
30-34	12.3	7.9	**1.1	**0.3	21.7	9.5
Whether would move interstate if offered a suitable job						
Would move interstate	5.8	18.2	11.7	*4.6	40.4	18.8
Would not move interstate	35.6	45.1	24.6	9.1	114.3	15.1
Might move interstate	*2.6	7.4	*5.5	*1.9	17.4	17.3
Did not know	**0.2	**1.1	*2.1	**0.6	*4.0	21.1
Whether would move intrastate if offered a suitable job						
Would move intrastate	8.1	25.5	16.1	6.8	56.4	18.5
Would not move intrastate	32.1	38.2	18.3	7.1	95.7	14.4
Might move intrastate	*4.0	7.0	7.3	*2.3	20.6	18.6
Did not know	—	**1.2	*2.3	—	*3.4	19.1
Total	44.2	71.8	44.0	16.1	176.1	16.3

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— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

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

	PREFERRED NUMBER OF EXTRA HOURS					Mean preferred number of extra hours
	Less than 10	10-19	20-29	30 or more	Total	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	
FEMALES						
Age group (years)						
15-19	26.1	17.1	10.1	*3.4	56.7	13.0
20-24	16.9	21.1	10.5	**1.0	49.6	13.4
25-34	14.3	25.2	13.7	*2.2	55.4	14.9
35-44	25.7	39.8	13.1	*3.8	82.4	13.7
45-54	27.4	32.4	9.9	*2.6	72.3	12.5
55 and over	10.9	10.4	*2.0	**1.0	24.4	11.6
Status in employment						
Employee	115.8	127.5	54.3	11.7	309.3	13.2
Employer	**0.6	*1.4	**0.3	—	*2.3	*12.0
Own account worker	*4.2	14.8	*4.8	*2.1	25.8	15.1
Contributing family worker	**0.7	*2.3	—	**0.3	*3.4	14.4
Usual number of hours worked						
1-5	9.7	12.2	7.4	*5.2	34.5	17.3
6-10	20.8	30.7	13.0	8.5	73.0	15.3
11-15	17.9	20.6	22.6	—	61.1	15.2
16-20	15.1	31.2	15.7	—	62.1	14.0
21-29	24.2	43.2	**0.4	**0.2	68.0	10.7
30-34	33.6	8.2	**0.2	**0.1	42.1	7.2
Whether would move interstate if offered a suitable job						
Would move interstate	13.4	22.4	12.1	*2.3	50.3	15.2
Would not move interstate	100.3	112.9	40.9	10.5	264.6	12.8
Might move interstate	6.4	6.6	5.7	**1.2	19.9	15.3
Did not know	**1.2	*4.0	**0.7	—	5.8	12.6
Whether would move intrastate if offered a suitable job						
Would move intrastate	21.2	32.2	14.6	*4.1	72.2	14.8
Would not move intrastate	89.3	97.2	33.5	8.3	228.2	12.6
Might move intrastate	10.0	13.9	10.3	*1.3	35.4	14.9
Did not know	**0.9	*2.7	**1.0	**0.4	*4.9	15.7
<i>Total</i>	<i>121.3</i>	<i>146.0</i>	<i>59.4</i>	<i>14.0</i>	<i>340.7</i>	<i>13.3</i>

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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)

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

	PREFERRED NUMBER OF EXTRA HOURS					Mean preferred number of extra hours
	Less than 10	10-19	20-29	30 or more	Total	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000		hours
PERSONS						
Age group (years)						
15-19	44.1	29.3	15.9	6.1	95.5	12.9
20-24	25.9	35.1	18.0	*3.9	83.0	14.2
25-34	18.8	34.8	23.6	*5.0	82.3	16.3
35-44	30.5	49.9	20.7	8.4	109.5	15.1
45-54	31.5	47.4	17.4	*4.2	100.4	13.7
55 and over	14.8	21.3	7.7	*2.5	46.2	13.8
Status in employment						
Employee	157.6	189.4	87.0	24.0	458.0	14.0
Employer	**0.6	*1.4	**1.1	—	*3.1	14.3
Own account worker	6.6	24.4	14.8	*5.4	51.2	17.3
Contributing family worker	**0.7	*2.7	**0.4	**0.8	*4.5	17.2
Usual number of hours worked						
1-5	17.2	14.8	8.8	9.0	49.7	17.2
6-10	29.7	39.4	20.8	19.2	109.1	16.9
11-15	24.6	26.4	38.4	**0.3	89.7	16.1
16-20	18.7	47.1	31.7	**0.6	98.0	15.4
21-29	29.4	74.1	*2.4	**0.6	106.5	11.8
30-34	46.0	16.0	*1.3	**0.5	63.7	8.0
Whether would move interstate if offered a suitable job						
Would move interstate	19.3	40.7	23.9	6.9	90.7	16.8
Would not move interstate	135.9	158.0	65.5	19.6	378.9	13.5
Might move interstate	9.0	14.0	11.2	*3.1	37.3	16.2
Did not know	*1.4	*5.1	*2.8	**0.6	9.9	16.1
Whether would move intrastate if offered a suitable job						
Would move intrastate	29.3	57.7	30.7	10.8	128.6	16.4
Would not move intrastate	121.4	135.3	51.8	15.4	323.9	13.1
Might move intrastate	14.0	20.9	17.6	*3.5	56.0	16.2
Did not know	**0.9	*3.9	*3.2	**0.4	8.4	17.1
Total	165.5	217.8	103.3	30.1	516.8	14.4

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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)

UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS, Main difficulty in finding work with more hours

	NUMBER			MEAN PREFERRED NUMBER OF EXTRA HOURS		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
	'000	'000	'000	hours	hours	hours
Had been looking for work with more hours						
Own ill health or disability	*4.5	*4.5	9.0	22.2	15.6	18.9
Considered too young by employers(a)	**0.9	*2.7	*3.6	*9.6	*14.8	13.5
Considered too old by employers(a)	6.1	9.5	15.6	14.2	15.5	15.0
Unsuitable hours	8.6	20.0	28.6	12.5	11.6	11.9
Too far to travel/transport problems	6.3	9.0	15.3	21.3	15.4	17.8
Lacked necessary skills or education	10.5	13.2	23.7	21.3	15.8	18.2
Language difficulties	*2.6	*1.9	*4.5	*19.4	*20.3	19.8
Insufficient work experience	5.9	10.8	16.7	14.4	19.1	17.4
No vacancies in line of work	23.6	29.5	53.1	16.9	13.8	15.2
Too many applicants for available jobs	7.6	10.3	17.9	14.3	15.2	14.8
No vacancies at all	7.3	14.1	21.5	22.6	16.4	18.5
Difficulties in finding child care	—	*4.8	*4.8	—	16.0	16.0
Other family responsibilities	**0.5	6.8	7.4	**11.2	14.8	14.6
Other difficulties	13.0	18.6	31.6	16.1	14.7	15.3
No difficulties reported	8.3	13.9	22.2	18.5	13.2	15.2
<i>Total</i>	105.8	169.7	275.4	17.4	14.8	15.8
Had not been looking for work with more hours	70.4	171.0	241.4	14.7	11.9	12.7
Total(b)	176.1	340.7	516.8	16.3	13.3	14.4

* 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) From July 2004, a change has been made to the category 'considered too young or too old by employers'. See paragraph 20 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

(b) Includes 'difficulties with ethnic background'.

UNDEREMPLOYED PART-TIME WORKERS, All steps taken to find work with more hours(a)

	PREFERRED NUMBER OF EXTRA HOURS					Mean preferred number of extra hours
	Less than 10	10-19	20-29	30 or more	Total	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	
MALES						
Asked current employer for more work	9.5	24.1	15.8	*4.6	53.9	17.4
Contacted prospective employers	10.7	28.6	21.9	7.9	69.1	18.4
Registered with Centrelink	*3.2	10.6	9.5	*4.1	27.4	20.2
Checked Centrelink touchscreens	*1.6	6.5	*4.4	*3.2	15.7	21.4
Checked factory noticeboards	**0.7	*1.5	**0.1	**0.3	*2.7	*14.8
Contacted an employment agency	**1.1	7.4	*4.5	*4.3	17.3	21.6
Looked in newspapers	9.1	27.1	19.2	8.3	63.7	18.7
Searched internet sites	7.3	18.2	12.8	6.5	44.8	18.8
Answered a newspaper advertisement for a job	*2.5	10.2	7.2	*4.9	24.8	20.5
Advertised or tendered for work	**1.0	*2.9	*2.5	—	6.4	15.5
Contacted friends or relatives	6.5	18.3	10.7	*4.5	39.9	18.0
Other steps taken to find work	*2.0	*3.3	*5.2	**1.2	11.6	18.6
Had not been looking for work with more hours	25.6	25.5	12.7	6.5	70.4	14.7
FEMALES						
Asked current employer for more work	27.7	37.5	22.9	*5.5	93.6	15.0
Contacted prospective employers	25.4	43.7	28.9	7.7	105.7	16.0
Registered with Centrelink	5.8	17.4	10.2	*4.7	38.0	18.0
Checked Centrelink touchscreens	*2.8	8.3	*4.6	*1.8	17.5	17.4
Checked factory noticeboards	**1.1	*2.3	*2.1	**0.6	6.1	17.3
Contacted an employment agency	*2.6	13.8	9.2	*3.6	29.2	19.1
Looked in newspapers	30.3	46.1	24.6	7.1	108.1	15.1
Searched internet sites	17.9	31.1	17.2	*5.1	71.3	15.6
Answered a newspaper advertisement for a job	10.3	19.3	13.5	*3.5	46.6	16.7
Advertised or tendered for work	*1.3	*2.6	*2.3	**0.4	6.6	17.2
Contacted friends or relatives	11.8	17.6	11.2	*4.0	44.7	16.0
Other steps taken to find work	*3.8	8.4	*5.0	*1.6	18.8	16.2
Had not been looking for work with more hours	71.9	74.4	21.4	*3.4	171.0	11.9
PERSONS						
Asked current employer for more work	37.1	61.6	38.7	10.1	147.5	15.9
Contacted prospective employers	36.1	72.3	50.7	15.7	174.8	16.9
Registered with Centrelink	9.0	27.9	19.7	8.8	65.5	18.9
Checked Centrelink touchscreens	*4.4	14.8	9.0	*5.0	33.2	19.3
Checked factory noticeboards	*1.8	*3.8	*2.2	**1.0	8.8	16.6
Contacted an employment agency	*3.7	21.2	13.7	7.9	46.5	20.1
Looked in newspapers	39.4	73.2	43.8	15.3	171.8	16.4
Searched internet sites	25.2	49.3	30.1	11.5	116.1	16.9
Answered a newspaper advertisement for a job	12.8	29.5	20.7	8.4	71.4	18.0
Advertised or tendered for work	*2.3	*5.5	*4.7	**0.4	12.9	16.4
Contacted friends or relatives	18.3	35.9	21.9	8.5	84.6	16.9
Other steps taken to find work	5.8	11.7	10.2	*2.7	30.4	17.1
Had not been looking for work with more hours	97.5	99.9	34.1	9.9	241.4	12.7

* 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

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
 (a) Refers to all steps taken to find work during the four weeks prior to the survey, therefore persons may appear in more than one category.

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT(a)	ACT	Aust.
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES									
Population 1									
Employed persons	1 802.1	1 371.5	1 097.8	405.2	573.7	119.9	45.2	94.7	5 510.2
Population 2									
Full-time workers	1 549.6	1 163.8	943.8	341.8	491.4	99.6	39.9	80.8	4 710.8
Population 3									
Part-time workers	252.5	207.8	153.9	63.5	82.3	20.3	5.3	13.9	799.4
Population 4									
Part-time workers who would prefer more hours	70.2	55.7	39.1	17.7	17.3	6.6	*0.7	3.7	210.8
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)	60.4	48.5	33.5	15.8	14.5	5.8	**0.5	2.5	181.4
Population 6									
Underemployed part-time workers	58.1	47.4	32.3	15.4	14.3	5.7	**0.5	2.5	176.1
Population 7									
Underemployed workers	73.5	55.6	38.1	18.3	18.7	6.9	*1.0	2.8	215.1
FEMALES									
Population 1									
Employed persons	1 480.7	1 109.5	907.4	336.8	454.1	101.8	38.9	85.7	4 514.9
Population 2									
Full-time workers	826.4	601.7	504.3	171.0	236.7	53.1	27.9	53.1	2 474.4
Population 3									
Part-time workers	654.2	507.7	403.1	165.9	217.3	48.7	11.0	32.6	2 040.5
Population 4									
Part-time workers who would prefer more hours	127.3	99.7	88.7	30.5	39.2	10.0	2.0	3.7	401.2
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)	109.4	91.0	74.6	26.8	32.7	9.0	1.9	3.1	348.5
Population 6									
Underemployed part-time workers	106.5	89.3	72.5	26.4	32.3	8.9	1.9	3.0	340.7
Population 7									
Underemployed workers	110.7	90.9	74.2	27.2	34.3	9.1	1.9	3.2	351.5
PERSONS									
Population 1									
Employed persons	3 282.8	2 481.0	2 005.2	742.1	1 027.7	221.7	84.1	180.4	10 025.0
Population 2									
Full-time workers	2 376.1	1 765.5	1 448.2	512.7	728.2	152.7	67.8	133.9	7 185.1
Population 3									
Part-time workers	906.7	715.5	557.0	229.3	299.6	69.0	16.3	46.4	2 839.9
Population 4									
Part-time workers who would prefer more hours	197.5	155.4	127.8	48.2	56.5	16.6	2.7	7.4	612.0
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)	169.7	139.5	108.1	42.5	47.2	14.8	2.4	5.6	529.9
Population 6									
Underemployed part-time workers	164.6	136.7	104.7	41.8	46.6	14.6	2.4	5.5	516.8
Population 7									
Underemployed workers	184.2	146.5	112.3	45.5	53.0	16.1	2.9	6.0	566.6

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

(a) Refers to mainly urban areas only. For more information see paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes.

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

(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 2005 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). Respondents to the monthly LFS who fell 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.

3 From April 2001 the LFS has been conducted using a redesigned questionnaire containing additional questions and some minor definitional changes. These changes also affect the supplementary surveys. For further details, see *Information Paper: Implementing the Redesigned Labour Force Survey Questionnaire* (cat. no. 6295.0) and *Information Paper: Questionnaires Used in the Labour Force Survey* (cat. no. 6232.0).

4 Information for this survey was collected using computer-assisted interviewing (CAI), whereby responses are recorded directly onto an electronic questionnaire via a notebook computer. The CAI method was implemented in the LFS progressively between October 2003 and August 2004.

5 The change of interviewing method is not expected to have affected the estimates in any meaningful way.

CONCEPTS, SOURCES AND METHODS

6 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

7 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).

8 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.

9 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

10 The estimates in this publication relate to people covered by the survey in September 2005. 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.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

SAMPLE SIZE

11 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. Since it was introduced, this survey has been conducted on various proportional samples and therefore sampling errors associated with previous supplementary surveys may vary from the sampling error for this survey.

12 The initial sample for the September LFS consisted of 41,671 private dwelling households and special dwelling units. Of the 33,632 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 30,790 or 91.5% 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 33,144.

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

13 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

14 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

15 Country of birth data are classified according to the *Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 1998* (cat. no. 1269.0).

16 Educational attainment data are classified according to *Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)* (cat. no. 1272.0). See Appendix 1 for more information.

COMPARABILITY OF TIME SERIES

17 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.

18 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.

19 As part of the redesign in 2001 of the LFS questionnaire, 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.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

COMPARABILITY OF TIME SERIES *continued*

20 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'.

COMPARABILITY WITH MONTHLY LFS STATISTICS

21 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 DEFINITIONS

22 Comparability of the concepts and definitions used in the Underemployed Workers Survey are discussed in the Conceptual Framework on page 3. More detailed discussion is included in *Labour Statistics: Concepts Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001), Chapter 5, which is available on the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>> (Methods, Classifications, Concepts & Standards).

PREVIOUS SURVEYS

23 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

24 The ABS plans to conduct this survey again in September 2006.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

25 ABS publications draw 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

26 ABS publications which may be of interest include:

Job Search Experience, Australia, cat. no. 6222.0

Labour Force, Australia, cat. no. 6202.0

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 Arrangements, Australia, cat. no. 6342.0

Australian Labour Market Statistics, cat. no. 6105.0

Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation, cat. no. 6239.0

27 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 <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the web site which details products to be released in the week ahead.

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

APPENDIX 1 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT *continued*

CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION *continued*

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 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. Where alternative output categories are available for the same data item, these are shown and the data item name is followed by a bracketed numeral (e.g. Country of birth (2)).

For more information about ABS data available on request, contact Linda Fardell on Canberra (02) 6252 6562, or by facsimile on (02) 6252 7512, or by email to <linda.fardell@abs.gov.au>.

Population 1:

Employed persons.

Population 2:

Full-time workers.

Population 3:

Part-time workers.

Population 4:

Part-time workers who would prefer more hours.

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 in the reference week or within four weeks.

Population 6:

Underemployed part-time workers.

Population 7:

Underemployed workers

APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
1 State or territory of usual residence	All	7C Country of birth (2) <i>cont.</i>	All
New South Wales		Born overseas <i>cont.</i>	
Victoria		North-East Asia	
Queensland		Southern and Central Asia	
South Australia		Americas	
Western Australia		Sub-Saharan Africa	
Tasmania		8 Age group (years)	All
Northern Territory		15–19	
Australian Capital Territory		20–24	
2 Area of usual residence	All	25–34	
Capital city		35–44	
Balance of state/territory		45–54	
3 Region of usual residence	All	55–59	
Standard labour force		60–64	
dissemination regions		65 and over	
4 Sex	All	Note: Single years were collected	
Males		9 Underemployment status	7
Females		Worked less than 35 hours in	
5 Marital status	All	reference week for economic	
Married		reasons	
Not married		Part-time workers who would prefer	
6 Relationship in household	All	more hours who were available	
Family member		to start work with more hours in	
Husband, wife or partner		the reference week or within four	
With dependants		weeks	
Without dependants		Looking and available to start	
Lone parent		Not looking but available to	
With dependants		start	
Without dependants		10A Full-time or part-time status	All
Dependent student		Full-time workers	
Non-dependent child		Part-time workers	
Other family person		10B Full-time or part-time status (1)	All
Non-family member		Employed persons	
Lone person		Full-time workers	
Not living alone		Worked 35 hours or more in	
Relationship not determined		the reference week	
7A Country of birth and period of arrival	All	Worked less than 35 hours	
Born in Australia		in the reference week	
Born overseas		For non-economic	
Arrived before 1971		reasons	
Arrived 1971–1980		For economic reasons	
Arrived 1981–1990		Part-time workers	
Arrived 1991–2000		Would not prefer to work	
Arrived 2001 to survey date		more hours	
7B Country of birth (1)	All	Would prefer to work more	
Born in Australia		hours	
Born overseas		Prefers more part-time	
Born in main English-speaking		hours	
countries		Prefers full-time hours	
Born in other than main		11 Whether fully employed	All
English-speaking countries		Fully employed	
7C Country of birth (2)	All	Part-time workers who would prefer	
Born in Australia		more hours and persons who	
Born overseas		worked less than 35 hours in the	
Oceania and Antarctica		reference week for economic	
North-West Europe		reasons	
Southern and Eastern Europe		12 Status in employment	All
North Africa and the Middle		Employee	
East		Employer	
South-East Asia		Own account worker	
		Contributing family worker	

APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
13	Number of hours worked in the reference period 0-5 6-10 11-15 16-20 21-29 30-34 35 or more Note: Single hours were collected	4-7	
14	Type of insufficient work Full-time Part-time	4-6	
15	Duration of current period of insufficient work 1-3 weeks 4-12 weeks 13-51 weeks 52 weeks or more Note: Single weeks were collected	4-7	
16	Level of highest educational attainment Postgraduate Degree Graduate Diploma/Graduate Certificate Bachelor Degree Advanced Diploma/Diploma Certificate III/IV Certificate I/II Certificate not further defined Year 12 Year 11 Year 10 or below Other education Level not determined No educational attainment/attendance	4-7	
17	Whether would move interstate if offered a suitable job Would move interstate Would not move interstate Might move interstate Did not know	4-7	
18	Whether would move intrastate if offered a suitable job Would move intrastate Would not move intrastate Might move intrastate Did not know	4-7	
19	Whether would prefer to change occupation to work more hours Would prefer to change occupation Would prefer not to change occupation No preference	4-7	
20	Whether would prefer to change employer to work more hours Would prefer to change employer Would prefer not to change employer No preference	4-7	
21	Whether looking and/or available Had been looking for work with more hours Looking and available to start Looking and available in the reference week Looking and not available in the reference week but within four weeks Looking and not available to start	4-6	
21A	Whether available and/or looking Available to start work with more hours Available in the reference week Looking Not looking Available within four weeks (but not the reference week) Looking Not looking Not available to start work with more hours Looking Not looking	4-6	
22	All steps taken to find work in the last four weeks Asked current employer for more work Contacted prospective employers Registered with Centrelink Checked Centrelink touchscreens Checked factory noticeboards Contacted an employment agency Looked in newspapers Searched internet sites Answered a newspaper advertisement for a job Advertised or tendered for work Contacted friends or relatives Other steps taken to find work Had not been looking for work with more hours	4-6	
23	Whether registered with Centrelink Registered with Centrelink for job search assistance Not registered with Centrelink for job search assistance Had not been looking for work with more hours	4-6	

APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
24 Preferred number of extra hours Less than 10 10–19 20–29 30 or more Note: Single hours were collected	4–6	25 Main difficulty in finding work <i>cont.</i> Had been looking for work with more hours <i>cont.</i> No difficulties reported Had not been looking for work with more hours	4–6
25 Main difficulty in finding work Had been looking for work with more hours Own ill health or disability Considered too young by employers Considered too old by employers Unsuitable hours Too far to travel/transport problems Lacked necessary skills or education Language difficulties Insufficient work experience No vacancies in line of work Too many applicants for available jobs No vacancies at all Difficulties with ethnic background Difficulties in finding child care Other family responsibilities Other difficulties	4–6	26 Usual number of hours worked 1–5 6–10 11–15 16–20 21–29 30–34 Note: Single hours were collected	4–6
		27 Preferred total number of hours Less than 30 30–34 35–39 40 or more Note: Single hours were collected	4–6
		28 Owner manager of incorporated enterprise (OMIE) status Employee (not OMIE) Owner manager of incorporated enterprise Owner manager of unincorporated enterprise Contributing family worker	All

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>
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 2002
Education and Work, Australia	6227.0	Annual	May 2005
Employee Earnings, Benefits, and Trade Union Membership, Australia	6310.0	Annual	August 2004
Forms of Employment, Australia	6359.0	Irregular	November 2004
Job Search Experience, Australia	6222.0	Annual	July 2005
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 2004
Locations of Work, Australia	6275.0	Irregular	June 2000
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	September 2000

(a) Latest data available June 2003, from the ABS website cat. no. 6291.0.55.001 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.

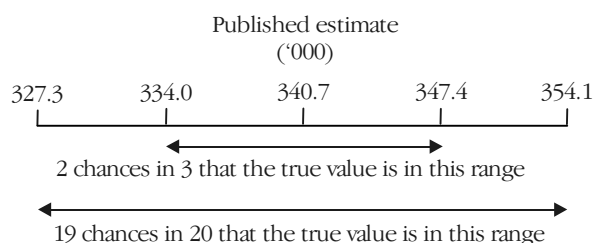
2 Due to space limitations, it is impractical to print the SE of each estimate in the publication. Instead, a table of SEs is provided to enable readers to determine the SE for an estimate from the size of that estimate (see table T1). The SE table is derived from a mathematical model, referred to as 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.

CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERROR

3 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 340,700. Since this estimate is between 300,000 and 500,000, table T1 shows that the SE for Australia will lie between 6,350 and 8,100 and can be approximated by interpolation using the following general formula:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & SE \text{ of estimate} \\
 &= \text{lower SE} + \left(\left(\frac{\text{size of estimate} - \text{lower estimate}}{\text{upper estimate} - \text{lower estimate}} \right) \times (\text{upper SE} - \text{lower SE}) \right) \\
 &= 6,350 + \left(\left(\frac{340,700 - 300,000}{500,000 - 300,000} \right) \times (8,100 - 6,350) \right) \\
 &= 6,700 \text{ (rounded to the nearest 100)}
 \end{aligned}$$

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 within the range 334,000 to 347,400 and about 19 chances in 20 that the value will fall within the range 327,300 to 354,100. This example is illustrated in the following diagram.



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.*3.2) 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

CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERROR *continued*

and should only be used to aggregate with other estimates to provide derived estimates with RSEs of less than 25%.

MEANS AND MEDIANS

6 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

7 The following is an example of the calculation of SEs where the use of a factor is required. Table 5 shows that the estimated number of male underemployed part-time workers was 176,100 with a median duration of insufficient work of 21 weeks. The SE of 176,100 can be calculated from table T1 (by interpolation) as 5,000. To convert this to an RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate or $5,000/176,100 = 2.8\%$.

8 The RSE of the estimate of median duration of insufficient work is calculated by multiplying this number (2.8%) by the appropriate factor shown in paragraph 6 (in this case 2.5): $2.8 \times 2.5 = 7.0\%$. The SE of this estimate of median duration of insufficient work is therefore 7.0% of 21, i.e. about 1 (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 20–22 weeks, and about 19 chances in 20 that it would have been within the range 19–23 weeks.

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 from paragraph 3, of the 340,700 female underemployed part-time workers, 121,400 or 35.6% had insufficient work for 52 weeks or more. The SE of 121,400 may be calculated by interpolation as 4,300. To convert this to an RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate, or $4,300/121,400 = 3.5\%$. The SE for 340,700 was calculated previously as 6,700, which converted to an RSE is $6,700/340,700 = 2.0\%$. Applying the above formula, the RSE of the proportion is:

$$RSE = \sqrt{(3.5)^2 - (2.0)^2} = 2.9\%$$

11 Therefore, the SE for the proportion of females who have a current period of insufficient work of 52 weeks or more is 1.0 percentage points ($= (35.6/100) \times 2.9$). 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 34.6% and 36.6% and 19 chances in 20 that the proportion is within the range 33.6% to 37.6%.

TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY *continued*

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.

STANDARD ERRORS

T1 STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

	AUST.									
	NSW	Vic.	Qld.	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	SE	RSE
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	%
100	290	250	250	150	160	100	100	140	100	100.0
200	380	330	330	210	220	140	150	180	180	90.0
300	440	390	390	250	260	180	200	200	240	80.0
500	540	470	470	300	330	220	260	230	350	70.0
700	620	540	540	350	380	260	310	260	430	61.4
1000	710	620	610	400	440	300	360	280	540	54.0
1500	830	730	710	470	520	340	430	320	690	46.0
2000	920	810	790	530	590	370	470	340	820	41.0
2500	1 000	900	850	550	650	400	500	350	900	36.0
3000	1 100	950	900	600	700	400	550	400	1 000	33.3
3500	1 150	1 000	950	650	750	450	550	400	1 100	31.4
4000	1 200	1 050	1 000	700	750	450	600	400	1 200	30.0
5000	1 300	1 150	1 100	750	850	500	650	450	1 300	26.0
7000	1 500	1 300	1 250	850	950	550	800	500	1 550	22.1
10000	1 700	1 500	1 400	950	1 100	650	1 000	600	1 800	18.0
15000	2 000	1 750	1 600	1 100	1 250	800	1 300	750	2 100	14.0
20000	2 200	1 950	1 800	1 200	1 400	950	1 650	850	2 300	11.5
30000	2 600	2 300	2 050	1 450	1 600	1 250	2 250	1 100	2 650	8.8
40000	2 850	2 550	2 250	1 700	1 750	1 500	2 800	1 350	2 900	7.3
50000	3 100	2 800	2 450	1 900	1 950	1 750	3 350	1 500	3 100	6.2
100000	4 050	3 600	3 400	2 900	3 050	2 600	6 000	2 050	4 000	4.0
150000	4 800	4 350	4 250	3 700	4 100	3 200	8 500	2 350	4 700	3.1
200000	5 550	5 200	5 100	4 400	4 950	3 650	11 000	2 450	5 300	2.7
300000	7 100	6 800	6 800	5 450	6 250	4 300	15 900	2 550	6 350	2.1
500000	9 950	9 300	9 550	6 900	7 950	5 150	..	2 550	8 100	1.6
1000000	14 950	13 700	13 500	9 000	10 050	6 250	..	..	11 600	1.2
2000000	21 350	19 350	16 550	11 000	11 400	..	..	..	17 150	0.9
5000000	31 500	28 550	17 350	13 000	11 500	..	..	..	29 250	0.6
10000000	39 750	36 450	15 250	..	..	..	..	..	39 200	0.4
15000000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44 050	0.3

.. not applicable

TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY *continued*

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

	NSW	Vic.	Qld.	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
RSE OF 25%									
Mean duration of current period of insufficient work	11 700	10 400	9 200	4 300	6 000	2 400	3 500	2 000	12 900
Median duration of current period of insufficient work	28 800	24 600	23 600	13 300	14 200	6 200	..	7 500	24 900
Mean preferred number of extra hours	3 300	3 200	2 500	1 500	1 800	900	1 400	700	3 000
All other estimates	5 400	4 400	4 100	2 200	2 600	1 300	1 800	1 200	5 500
RSE OF 50%									
Mean duration of current period of insufficient work	3 800	3 400	3 100	1 400	2 000	800	1 200	800	3 700
Median duration of current period of insufficient work	9 500	8 000	8 300	4 600	4 800	2 300	12 400	2 700	8 200
Mean preferred number of extra hours	1 100	1 000	800	500	600	300	400	300	500
All other estimates	1 800	1 400	1 400	700	800	400	500	400	1 200

.. not applicable

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

GLOSSARY

Centrelink	Centrelink is a statutory authority responsible for delivering a range of Commonwealth government services, including registering of people for job search assistance and income support.
Duration of insufficient work	The duration of insufficient work is the length of time underemployed workers have been working less than 35 hours a week. As periods of insufficient work are recorded in full weeks and rounded down, this results in a slight understatement of duration.
Employed	People aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week: <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.
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.
Labour force	The civilian population aged 15 years and over can be split into two mutually exclusive groups: the labour force (employed and unemployed people) and persons not in the labour force.
Level of highest educational attainment	Level of highest educational attainment identifies the highest achievement a person has attained in any area of study. It is defined as the highest educational attainment a person has achieved, and is not a measurement of relative importance of different fields of study.
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.
Main English-speaking countries	The main English-speaking countries are the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, South Africa, the United States of America and New Zealand.
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 median, and the other comprising people whose duration is below it.

GLOSSARY *continued*

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.
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.
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.
Usual number of hours	The number of hours usually worked in a week.

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