



2010 LABOUR STATISTICS IN BRIEF

CATALOGUE NO. 6104.0

2010



OVERVIEW

2010 LABOUR STATISTICS IN BRIEF

Labour statistics are of interest from both economic and social perspectives. This pamphlet provides a brief overview of data available from the ABS, relating to Australian labour statistics. Comparisons of data over a 20-year period are given for labour force participation, employment and unemployment, hours worked, industrial disputes, earnings and job vacancies. Also included are recent data on labour force underutilisation, education and work, first job starters, people not in the labour force, methods of setting pay and an international comparison of population and unemployment rates.

The quarterly publication *Australian Labour Market Statistics* (cat. no. 6105.0) provides regular updates on a range of labour statistics to provide an overall picture of the labour market. The publication is available free from the ABS website and is accessible through the Labour Topics @ a Glance Page. To find the Topics @ a Glance Page go to **www.abs.gov.au** (Topics @ a Glance-People-Labour).

For a comprehensive reference on the concepts and definitions underpinning Australian labour statistics refer to the publication *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

More information on labour statistics can be found in the sources listed throughout this pamphlet.

KEY FACTS

	UNITS	ANNUAL AVERAGE	
		1989	2009
CIVILIAN POPULATION			
Aged 15 years and over	`000	13 027.1	17 528.6

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION

Males	%	75.4	72.2
Females	%	51.2	58.6
Persons	%	63.1	65.3

EMPLOYMENT

Males	`000	4 570.5	5 878.9
Females	`000	3 163.9	4 930.3
Persons	`000	7 734.4	10 809.2
Employment/population ratio	%	59.4	61.7
Part-time employment: Proportion of total employment			
Males	%	7.7	16.1
Females	%	39.4	45.4

UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployed persons	`000	489.7	638.4
Unemployment rate			
Males	%	5.6	5.7
Females	%	6.5	5.4
Persons	%	6.0	5.6
Average duration of unemployment	weeks	45.6(a)	32.6(b)
Median duration of unemployment	weeks	na (c)	13.0

(a) Duration of unemployment since last full-time job.

(b) Duration of unemployment since last job.

(c) Data available since 2002. In 2002 the median duration of unemployment was 14 weeks.

UNDEREMPLOYMENT

Males	`000	114.5	371.7
Females	`000	208.3	495.5
Persons	`000	322.8	867.2

HOURS WORKED (a)

Employed persons	hours	34.7	32.8
Full-time	hours	39.9	39.7
Part-time	hours	14.9	16.3

(a) Based on actual hours worked in the reference week of each month.

KEY FACTS

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER

1989 2009

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Industrial disputes

Working days lost per

thousand employees

no. 183.6 14.0

Working days lost

'000 1 202.3 132.7

AUG 1999

AUG 2009

Trade union members

% 25.7 19.7

12 MONTHS TO 12 MONTHS TO

DEC QTR 1999 DEC QTR 2009

CHANGES IN WAGES AND PRICES

Wage price index, total hourly rate of

pay excluding bonuses

% 3.0 2.9

Consumer price index, all groups

% 1.8 2.1

NOV 1989

NOV 2009

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS

Full-time adult total earnings

Males \$ 595.90 1 380.90

Females \$ 467.60 1 096.80

Persons \$ 553.80 1 276.70

Full-time adult ordinary

time earnings \$ 516.60 1 226.80

All employees total earnings

\$ 457.20 955.00

NOV 1989

NOV 2009(a)

JOB VACANCIES

Sector

Public '000 19.2 16.9

Private '000 57.5 133.9

Total

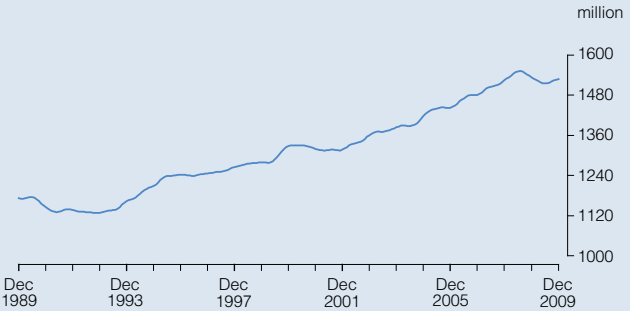
'000 76.7 150.8

(a) Caution should be used when comparing estimates from November 2009 onwards with estimates for May 2008 and previous periods, due to the changes in the survey. For further details, see Job Vacancies, Australia (cat. no. 6354.0).

Source: Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat.no. 6105.0); Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (cat. no. 6302.0); Consumer Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6401.0); Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia (cat. no. 6310.0); Industrial Disputes, Australia (cat. no. 6321.0.55.001); Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001); Labour Price Index, Australia (cat. no. 6345.0); Job Vacancies (cat. no. 6354.0).

LABOUR FORCE

AGGREGATE MONTHLY HOURS WORKED: TREND ESTIMATES



Source: Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0).

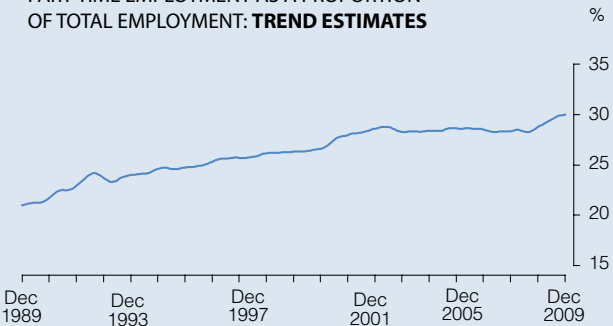
EMPLOYED PERSONS: EMPLOYMENT TYPE

	NOVEMBER 2009	
	'000	%
Employees(a)	8 613.2	80.8
with paid leave entitlements	6 530.9	61.2
without paid leave entitlements	2 082.3	19.5
Owner managers of incorporated enterprises	693.9	6.5
Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises	1 242.1	11.6
Total	10 664.9	100.0

(a) Excluding owner managers of incorporated enterprises.

Source: Forms of Employment, Australia, Nov 2009 (cat. no. 6359.0).

PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT AS A PROPORTION OF TOTAL EMPLOYMENT: TREND ESTIMATES



Source: Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0).

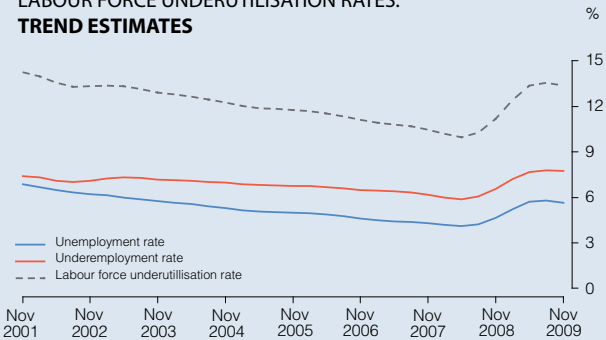
LABOUR FORCE

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT

	ANNUAL AVERAGE 2009	
	'000	%
Under 52 weeks		
Under 4 weeks	160.0	25.1
4 weeks and under 13 weeks	171.2	26.8
13 weeks and under 26 weeks	116.1	18.2
26 weeks and under 52 weeks	97.3	15.2
52 weeks and over (long-term unemployed)		
52 weeks and under 104 weeks	51.8	8.1
104 weeks and over	42.1	6.6
Total	638.4	100.0

Source: Labour Force, Australia, Detailed - Electronic Delivery (cat. no. 6291.0.55.001).

LABOUR FORCE UNDERUTILISATION RATES: TREND ESTIMATES



Source: Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0).

LABOUR FORCE

EMPLOYED PERSONS: INDUSTRY

	ANNUAL AVERAGE 2009	
	`000	%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	358.7	3.3
Mining	161.0	1.5
Manufacturing	1 002.0	9.3
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	133.3	1.2
Construction	980.7	9.1
Wholesale trade	407.0	3.8
Retail trade	1 193.1	11.1
Accommodation and food services	726.0	6.7
Transport, postal and warehousing	583.8	5.4
Information media and telecommunications	217.4	2.0
Financial and insurance services	393.5	3.7
Rental, hiring and real estate services	182.6	1.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	784.0	7.3
Administrative and support services	354.0	3.3
Public administration and safety	667.3	6.2
Education and training	807.2	7.5
Health care and social assistance	1 185.3	11.0
Arts and recreation services	200.7	1.9
Other services	439.1	4.1
Total	10 777.0	100.0

Source: Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003).

EMPLOYED PERSONS: OCCUPATION

	ANNUAL AVERAGE 2009	
	`000	%
Managers	1 413.0	13.1
Professionals	2 260.9	21.0
Technicians and trades workers	1 597.4	14.8
Community and personal service workers	995.2	9.2
Clerical and administrative workers	1 649.7	15.3
Sales workers	1 013.5	9.4
Machinery operators and drivers	692.6	6.4
Labourers	1 154.8	10.7
Total	10 777.0	100.0

Source: Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, Quarterly (cat. no. 6291.0.55.003).



EDUCATION AND WORK
population aged 15-64 years

	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE %		PARTICIPATION RATE %	
	2004	2009	2004	2009
Level of highest non-school qualification				
Postgraduate Degree	3.5	3.9	89.8	88.0
Graduate Diploma/Graduate Certificate	2.7	*2.3	88.7	88.3
Bachelor Degree	2.9	3.4	86.3	87.2
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	3.3	4.3	82.7	84.9
Certificate III/IV	3.6	4.3	86.4	88.4
Certificate I/II	6.3	8.0	75.5	76.8
Certificate n.f.d.	9.1	*5.1	83.6	85.4
Level not determined	*1.9	*4.1	80.1	86.6
Total with a non-school qualification	3.8	4.2	84.6	86.4
Total without a non-school qualification	8.0	8.6	66.2	69.5
Total	5.6	6.0	75.5	78.8

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

Source: Education and Work, Australia (cat. no. 6227.0).

**FIRST JOB STARTERS (a) WHO APPROACHED AN EMPLOYER:
SELECTED ACTIVE STEPS TAKEN TO ATTAIN A JOB (b)**

	12 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
	TO JULY	TO JULY
	2004	2009
	%	%
Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work	73.3	67.7
Contacted friends or relatives	37.8	43.9
Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper	29.8	21.2
Answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet	18.5	33.3
Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens	5.3	*0.9
Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards	*3.4	*6.9
Advertised or tendered for work	*2.9	*4.1
First job starters(a) who approached an employer	'000	'000
	120.4	93.4

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

(a) Employees, excluding owner managers of incorporated enterprises, who had never worked for two weeks or more before starting their current job.

(b) As responses were collected for all steps taken to attain a job, job starters may appear in more than one category.

Source: Job Search Experience, Australia (cat. no. 6222.0).

PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE

PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE: MAIN ACTIVITY

	SEPTEMBER 2009		
	MALES	FEMALES	PERSONS
	%	%	%
Retired or voluntarily inactive	39.6	24.6	30.5
Home duties	7.3	33.3	23.0
Caring for children	1.2	11.1	7.2
Attending an educational institution	20.4	12.8	15.8
Own long-term health condition or disability	16.3	7.9	11.2
Own short-term illness or injury	1.4	1.1	1.2
Looking after ill or disabled person	3.2	3.6	3.4
Travel, holiday or leisure activity	5.8	2.9	4.1
Working in unpaid voluntary job	2.5	1.8	2.0
Other	2.4	0.9	1.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Persons not in the labour force '000	2 248.5	3 431.7	5 680.3

Source: Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6220.0).

WAGES AND PAY-SETTING METHODS

METHODS OF SETTING PAY

	AUGUST 2008		
	MALES	FEMALES	PERSONS
	%	%	%
Award only	13.3	19.9	16.5
Collective Agreement			
Registered	35.9	42.6	39.2
Unregistered	0.6	0.7	0.6
Individual Arrangement			
Registered	2.5	1.8	2.2
Unregistered	40.7	32.2	36.5
Working Proprietor of incorporated business	7.0	2.9	5.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia (cat. no. 6306.0).

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, Workdays lost per thousand employees: Original



Source: Industrial Disputes, Australia (cat. no. 6321.0.55.001).

INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS: SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS

	POPULATION 2008 (million)	HARMONISED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE(a) 2008 %
Australia	21.4	4.2
Canada	33.3	6.1
France	62.3	7.9
Germany	82.1	7.3
Japan	127.7	4.0
New Zealand	4.3	4.2
Sweden	9.2	6.3
United Kingdom	61.4	5.6
United States of America	304.1	5.8

(a) ILO/OECD definition.

Source: OECD Labour Force Statistics, 2008 Edition; OECD Main Economic Indicators, 2008.

SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED

Values shown in Australian dollars (\$). Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between the sums of the component items and totals.

Aug	August
Sep	September
Nov	November
Dec	December
qtr	quarter
na	not available
%	percent
no.	number
'000	thousand
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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 for general use by the community. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.



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