



2002 TO 2004

6287.0

LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AUSTRALIANS

AUSTRALIA

EXPERIMENTAL ESTIMATES FROM THE LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

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For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Craig Blair on Canberra (02) 6252 5967.

NOTES

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION This publication presents information about the labour force characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. Information on labour force characteristics is presented by sex, age, state or territory, and remoteness.

The statistics in this publication were compiled from the monthly Labour Force Survey, conducted throughout Australia by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Monthly data have been pooled to produce annual estimates.

Due to a change in methodology, estimates from the previous release under this catalogue number — *Occasional Paper: Labour Force Characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, Experimental Estimates from the Labour Force Survey* (cat. no. 6287.0), are not strictly comparable. It is recommended that the estimates from this publication and the previous release not be treated as a single time series.

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



ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
CDEP	Community Development Employment Projects
ERP	estimated resident population
LFS	Labour Force Survey
NATSIHS	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey
NATSISS	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey
NHS(I)	National Health Survey (Indigenous)
pts	points
RSE	relative standard error
SE	standard error

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INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

This publication presents information about the labour force characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians aged 15 years and over. The information is based on data collected in the national monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS) over the period 2002 to 2004.

The monthly LFS is the main source of information about the labour force status of Australia's civilian population. From April 2001, the monthly LFS has included a question on Indigenous status. This has enabled information on the self-identified Indigenous status of respondents to be collected for each month of the survey. The LFS estimates for Indigenous Australians in this publication were produced by combining the samples for each of the 12 months of the year to produce annual estimates. Information on the methodology used to produce the estimates is included in a later section of this publication.

To help in the interpretation of these estimates, this publication also draws attention to a number of statistical issues that need to be considered when using LFS estimates to describe Indigenous labour force characteristics. These have an impact on the relevance, quality and reliability of Indigenous estimates from the LFS.

Some of these statistical issues arise because the LFS is designed primarily to provide reliable estimates of key labour force aggregates for the whole of Australia and, secondarily, for each state and territory, rather than estimates for small populations or small geographic areas. The small size of the Indigenous population, its wide dispersion, and the high proportion who live in remote areas present particular difficulties in producing reliable labour force estimates for the Indigenous population. There are also some practical difficulties with applying the standard LFS concepts and definitions and using the standard LFS survey questions in Indigenous communities, particularly in remote regions. In addition, the small sample of Indigenous people identified in the LFS, even when pooled across the year, has implications for the reliability of the survey estimates.

Information on the labour force status of Indigenous people is also available from a number of other data collections, including the 2001 Census of Population and Housing, the 2001 National Health Survey (Indigenous) (NHS(I)), and the 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS). Although the statistics available from these data sources are based on the same underlying concepts as the LFS, there are differences in the methodologies and definitions used which affect the comparability of the data. Broad estimates from these sources, and the methodological and definitional differences, are presented later in this publication.

INDIGENOUS LABOUR FORCE ESTIMATES

METHODOLOGY

Information about the labour force characteristics of the Indigenous population has been collected in the LFS using international standards for defining and measuring employment and unemployment. The distinction between paid and unpaid work is fundamental to these definitions. As a result, the definitions may not always give adequate recognition to the 'unpaid' activities which some people undertake, for example as part of social and cultural obligations. However, the use of standard definitions across all population groups is seen as important for ensuring objectivity and uniformity in measuring Australia's labour force. This section provides information on issues specific to Indigenous estimates from the LFS. Information on the methodology and concepts used in the LFS more generally are published in *Labour Statistics: Concepts Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

Questionnaire

Information is collected by specially trained interviewers using a standard LFS questionnaire, from people in dwellings selected in the LFS. The questionnaire used in the survey is published in *Information Paper: Questionnaires used in the Labour Force Survey* (cat. no. 6232.0).

There can be cultural and practical difficulties associated with collecting data from some Indigenous communities in remote areas. To help overcome some of these difficulties, special procedures are used to collect information in some Indigenous communities. In particular, a 'short form', which collects the minimum data required to derive basic labour force characteristics, is available for use when interviewers encounter significant cultural, language or operational difficulties in remote areas. This also results in minimising respondent load and achieving maximum cooperation and response rates.

From April 2001, the monthly LFS has included a question on Indigenous status. This has enabled information on the self-identified Indigenous status of respondents to be collected for each month of the survey (rather than just one month a year as previously), increasing the amount of information available on Indigenous people from the LFS.

The question asked to determine Indigenous status is:

- Is anyone who usually lives here of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?

Although the question on Indigenous origin allows people to identify as solely Aboriginal, solely Torres Strait Islander, or as both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, it is not feasible to derive separate employment statistics for these three groups because of the small numbers of Indigenous people in the LFS sample.

Sample size

The LFS has a monthly sample of around 63,000 people aged 15 years and over, in urban, rural and remote areas across all states and territories of Australia. This sample size is sufficient to provide reliable estimates for levels and changes in the major labour force characteristics of the total population for Australia and for each state and territory. However, the survey sample is not specifically designed to provide estimates for small population groups, such as the Indigenous population, or for small geographic areas.

The methodology used to produce the 2002, 2003 and 2004 LFS estimates for Indigenous Australians combined the samples for each of the twelve months of the year. This pooling results in a sample of approximately 13,800, 12,200 and 12,100 Indigenous people respectively. This sample size is adequate for providing broad aggregates of labour force characteristics at the state and territory level. However, the sample size per

INDIGENOUS LABOUR FORCE ESTIMATES *continued*

Sample size continued

year for Indigenous people is still quite small, resulting in constraints on the level of disaggregated data available from the survey. Note that as the sample is pooled from monthly data throughout the year, and most people are interviewed for the LFS in more than one month (up to eight consecutive months), the number of individual people interviewed each year (e.g. 4,000 in 2004) is substantially lower than the sample used in producing the estimates (12,100 in 2004).

Sample design

In remote areas of Australia, the LFS sample is more clustered than in non-remote areas, so that the majority of the survey's sample of Indigenous people living in remote communities is represented by a relatively small number of communities. This has significant implications for estimates for Indigenous persons in remote areas, as there is a high degree of variability between Indigenous communities with respect to employment opportunities, and to the labour force characteristics of community residents. A key factor here is whether the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme has been implemented locally. CDEP schemes operate in many remote communities and can be a major source of paid employment for community residents. Conceptually, the participants in a CDEP scheme are considered to be employed in the LFS, however, the LFS does not separately identify whether an Indigenous person or community is participating in a CDEP scheme.

Not all Indigenous communities in remote areas participate in the CDEP scheme. However, in a community with a CDEP scheme, the majority of adult members of the community could have an 'employed' labour force status when surveyed in the LFS if they worked in the reference week. Because of the small number of Indigenous communities selected in the LFS, there is the potential for wide statistical fluctuations in estimates of labour force characteristics of remote Indigenous communities over time if the sample moves from communities participating in CDEP to those which do not (and vice versa).

Estimation

As part of the estimation process, the LFS estimates of Indigenous persons employed, unemployed and not in the labour force are calculated in such a way as to add to independent estimates of the size and structure of the Indigenous population. Independent population estimates (benchmarks) for the Indigenous population aged 15 years and over by sex, broad age groups and remoteness type, for each state and territory of Australia, as at 30 June, were used for each year of estimates (i.e. 2002, 2003 and 2004). These benchmarks reflect the published low series population projections in *Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians* (cat. no. 3238.0). Where information in this publication is presented across geographic variables (such as remoteness, or state or territory), this data is based on a respondent's place of enumeration.

INDIGENOUS LABOUR FORCE ESTIMATES *continued*

CONCEPTS

Standard LFS definitions and concepts are presented in the Explanatory Notes. However, there are some issues specific to Indigenous labour force estimates which are discussed here.

Employment

The definition of employment is based around working for at least one hour for pay or profit, or as contributing family workers. Persons who participate in labour market programs are counted as employed, unemployed or not in the labour force according to how they respond to questions in the LFS about their actual activity in the week before interview.

The CDEP scheme is a program provided by the Federal Government for (primarily) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in remote, rural and urban areas. It enables an Indigenous community or organisation to pool the unemployment benefit entitlements of individuals into direct wages for those people who choose to participate in local employment in various community development or organisation programs as an alternative to receiving individual income support payments. The relationship between CDEP communities and organisations and the individual participants who are undertaking paid work is treated by ABS as an employer-employee relationship. The individual participants are considered to be in paid employment, even though they are paid for their work from funds originating as unemployment benefits. It is unclear at this stage whether changes to the CDEP scheme resulting from recent government reviews will impact on how such activity is classified by the ABS in the future.

Unemployment

The definition of unemployment is based around the concepts of actively looking for work and being available to start work. Where job opportunities are scarce or may not exist, such as in some remote parts of Australia, there may be little incentive to actively look for work. As a result, there may be relatively little unemployment measured in such regions, with the not employed population falling mainly into the not in the labour force category.

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

When reading the following summary of findings, or using the data presented in the tables section, it is important to consider the relative strengths and weaknesses of the LFS as a data source for Indigenous labour force information. It is also important to remember that LFS estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors.

The Technical Note provides more information about the reliability of estimates based on a sample survey. However, in general terms, very small estimates are subject to high sampling errors (relative to the size of the estimate). Estimates with a relative standard error (RSE) of 25% or greater would not be suitable for most practical purposes. These estimates are indicated by an asterisk (*) in the tables presented in this publication. The actual standard errors for level estimates are provided in the Technical Note tables L1 to L5.

The reliability of estimates of labour force characteristics of Indigenous people is affected by: the relatively small size of the Indigenous population; the small number of Indigenous persons in the LFS sample; and particular collection difficulties in remote areas. Caution is required in the use and interpretation of these estimates.

INDIGENOUS LABOUR FORCE ESTIMATES *continued*

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES *continued*

Comparisons over time of Indigenous labour force characteristics should also be interpreted with particular caution. It is important to take into account the high standard errors associated with annual movements.

High standard errors can mean that apparent differences in the estimates may not be statistically significant. For example, the estimated number of Indigenous people employed in Major Cities increased from 41,700 in 2003 to 44,600 in 2004. However, the standard error on this movement (2,400) means that this increase is not statistically significant. The standard errors of the year to year movements are provided in the Technical Note tables M1 to M5.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

PARTICIPATION

In 2004, an estimated 164,100 Indigenous people were in the labour force (i.e. either employed or unemployed). This represents a labour force participation rate for all Indigenous people aged 15 years and over of 54.4%. Of the Indigenous people in the labour force, more lived in Regional areas (69,800 people) than in Major Cities (53,700) or Remote areas (40,700). The labour force participation rate for Indigenous people in Major Cities was 58.3%, which was higher than the rate for both Regional areas (53.9%) and Remote areas (50.6%).

The participation rate for the working age population (15 to 64 years) was only slightly higher than the rate for all Indigenous people aged 15 years and over, at 56.6%. Indigenous people aged 65 years and over accounted for 4.7% of the total Indigenous population aged 15 years and over in 2004. In comparison, the non-Indigenous population aged 65 years and over accounted for 16.1% of the total non-Indigenous population aged 15 years and over in 2004.

Males accounted for 56.2% of the Indigenous labour force in 2004. The labour force participation rate for Indigenous males (62.9%) was considerably higher than for Indigenous females (46.3%).

The size of the Indigenous labour force declined from 169,200 people in 2002 to 164,100 in 2004. The labour force participation rate decreased over this period (from 59.0% to 54.4%), despite an increase in the Indigenous population. Indigenous females in Remote areas experienced the greatest decline in participation rate, falling from 56.4% to 40.3% over the period.

Between 2002 and 2004, the Indigenous population not in the labour force increased from 117,600 to 137,700. More Indigenous people not in the labour force lived in Regional areas (59,700) than in Remote areas (39,700) and Major Cities (38,300). Females accounted for 60.5% of the total Indigenous population not in the labour force.

EMPLOYMENT

In 2004, there were an estimated 136,500 Indigenous people aged 15 years and over in employment. This represented 45.2% of the Indigenous population aged 15 years and over. The employment to population ratio for Indigenous males was 51.8%, compared with 39.0% for Indigenous females.

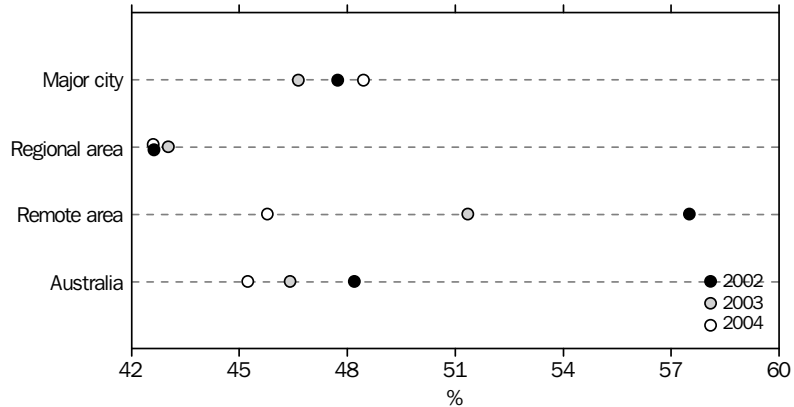
In the same year, there were 44,600 Indigenous people employed in Major Cities, 55,100 employed in Regional areas and 36,800 employed in Remote areas. The employment to population ratio was 48.5% in Major Cities, 42.6% in Regional areas and 45.8% in Remote areas. Indigenous people participating in the CDEP scheme, who are classified by the ABS as employed, are likely to form a significant proportion of Indigenous employment in remote areas (see *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey* (cat. no. 4714.0)).

Between 2002 and 2004, the employment to population ratio for Indigenous Australians declined slightly from 48.2% to 45.2%. The decrease was most marked for Indigenous females in Remote areas, where the employment to population ratio fell from 52.3% in 2002 to 36.7% in 2004. Indigenous males in Remote areas experienced a lesser decline, from 63.0% in 2002 to 55.6% in 2004.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

EMPLOYMENT *continued*

EMPLOYMENT TO POPULATION RATIO OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE (a)



(a) Population aged 15 years and over

UNEMPLOYMENT

In 2004, the unemployment rate for the Indigenous population was 16.8%. The unemployment rate for Indigenous people was 16.9% in Major Cities, 21.0% in Regional areas, and 9.5% in Remote areas. However, estimates of unemployment for Remote areas should be used with great care because they are subject to high sampling errors. In addition, Remote areas are regions which generally have limited employment opportunities and this is reflected in the low number of Indigenous people actively looking for work in these areas.

The number of Indigenous people unemployed decreased from 31,000 in 2002 to 27,600 in 2004. Over this period the unemployment rate remained relatively stable at 18.3% in 2002 and 16.8% in 2004.

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	Total employed	Total unemployed	Labour force	Not in labour force	Civilian population aged 15 years and over	Unemployment rate	Participation rate	Employment to population ratio
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%
MALES								
2002								
Major city	24.0	5.7	29.7	11.9	41.6	19.2	71.4	57.7
Regional area	29.0	10.4	39.3	20.4	59.7	26.4	65.9	48.5
Remote area	23.9	*2.6	26.4	11.5	37.9	*9.7	69.7	63.0
Australia	76.8	18.6	95.5	43.8	139.2	19.5	68.6	55.2
2003								
Major city	23.2	5.0	28.3	14.5	42.8	17.7	66.1	54.4
Regional area	29.1	8.9	38.0	22.1	60.1	23.5	63.2	48.3
Remote area	25.1	*1.8	26.9	13.1	40.0	*6.8	67.4	62.8
Australia	77.4	15.8	93.2	49.7	142.8	16.9	65.2	54.2
2004								
Major city	24.6	5.3	30.0	13.9	43.9	17.8	68.3	56.1
Regional area	29.8	8.6	38.4	25.6	64.0	22.4	60.0	46.5
Remote area	21.5	*2.4	23.9	14.8	38.7	*9.9	61.7	55.6
Australia	75.9	16.3	92.3	54.4	146.6	17.7	62.9	51.8
FEMALES								
2002								
Major city	17.6	4.7	22.3	23.2	45.5	21.1	49.0	38.7
Regional area	23.1	6.0	29.1	33.3	62.4	20.6	46.6	37.0
Remote area	20.7	*1.6	22.3	17.2	39.6	*7.4	56.4	52.3
Australia	61.4	12.3	73.7	73.8	147.5	16.7	50.0	41.6
2003								
Major city	18.5	5.5	24.0	22.7	46.8	23.0	51.4	39.6
Regional area	24.3	7.7	32.0	32.0	64.0	24.0	50.0	38.0
Remote area	16.3	*1.8	18.1	22.5	40.6	*9.9	44.6	40.2
Australia	59.1	15.0	74.1	77.2	151.3	20.2	49.0	39.1
2004								
Major city	19.9	3.7	23.7	24.4	48.0	15.8	49.3	41.5
Regional area	25.4	6.1	31.4	34.1	65.5	19.4	48.0	38.7
Remote area	15.3	*1.5	16.8	24.8	41.6	*8.9	40.3	36.7
Australia	60.6	11.3	71.9	83.3	155.2	15.8	46.3	39.0
PERSONS								
2002								
Major city	41.6	10.4	52.0	35.2	87.2	20.0	59.7	47.7
Regional area	52.1	16.4	68.4	53.7	122.1	23.9	56.0	42.6
Remote area	44.5	*4.2	48.7	28.7	77.4	*8.6	62.9	57.5
Australia	138.2	31.0	169.2	117.6	286.7	18.3	59.0	48.2
2003								
Major city	41.7	10.5	52.3	37.2	89.5	20.1	58.4	46.6
Regional area	53.4	16.6	70.0	54.1	124.0	23.7	56.4	43.0
Remote area	41.4	*3.6	45.0	35.5	80.6	*8.1	55.9	51.4
Australia	136.5	30.8	167.2	126.9	294.1	18.4	56.9	46.4
2004								
Major city	44.6	9.1	53.7	38.3	92.0	16.9	58.3	48.5
Regional area	55.1	14.7	69.8	59.7	129.5	21.0	53.9	42.6
Remote area	36.8	3.9	40.7	39.7	80.3	9.5	50.6	45.8
Australia	136.5	27.6	164.1	137.7	301.8	16.8	54.4	45.2

* estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes

EXPERIMENTAL ESTIMATES, INDIGENOUS PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, Labour force status by age groups—2002 to 2004

	Total employed	Total unemployed	Labour force	Not in labour force	Civilian population aged 15 years and over	Unemployment rate	Participation rate	Employment to population ratio
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%
MALES								
2002								
15 to 24 years	22.2	8.0	30.2	13.7	43.9	26.4	68.8	50.6
25 to 44 years	40.5	8.7	49.3	13.2	62.5	17.8	78.9	64.9
45 years or more	14.1	*1.9	16.0	16.9	32.8	*12.0	48.7	42.8
<i>Total</i>	76.8	18.6	95.5	43.8	139.2	19.5	68.6	55.2
15 to 64 years	76.2	18.6	94.9	38.4	133.3	19.6	71.2	57.2
2003								
15 to 24 years	22.0	7.3	29.3	16.5	45.8	24.8	64.0	48.1
25 to 44 years	39.5	6.8	46.3	16.9	63.2	14.8	73.3	62.5
45 years or more	15.9	1.7	17.5	16.4	33.9	9.4	51.7	46.9
<i>Total</i>	77.4	15.8	93.2	49.7	142.8	16.9	65.2	54.2
15 to 64 years	76.9	15.8	92.7	45.9	138.6	17.0	66.9	55.5
2004								
15 to 24 years	20.5	7.6	28.1	19.7	47.8	27.0	58.9	43.0
25 to 44 years	40.4	7.0	47.4	16.4	63.8	14.8	74.3	63.3
45 years or more	15.0	*1.7	16.7	18.3	35.0	*10.1	47.6	42.8
<i>Total</i>	75.9	16.3	92.3	54.4	146.6	17.7	62.9	51.8
15 to 64 years	75.2	16.3	91.5	48.9	140.4	17.8	65.2	53.6
FEMALES								
2002								
15 to 24 years	16.8	5.4	22.2	21.1	43.3	24.2	51.3	38.9
25 to 44 years	33.4	5.6	39.0	28.9	67.9	14.4	57.4	49.1
45 years or more	11.2	1.4	12.5	23.8	36.4	10.9	34.5	30.8
<i>Total</i>	61.4	12.3	73.7	73.8	147.5	16.7	50.0	41.6
15 to 64 years	61.2	12.3	73.5	67.4	140.9	16.8	52.2	43.4
2003								
15 to 24 years	17.7	6.0	23.8	21.1	44.9	25.4	53.0	39.5
25 to 44 years	28.4	7.1	35.5	33.3	68.8	19.9	51.6	41.3
45 years or more	12.9	*1.9	14.8	22.8	37.6	*12.8	39.4	34.3
<i>Total</i>	59.1	15.0	74.1	77.2	151.3	20.2	49.0	39.1
15 to 64 years	58.4	15.0	73.4	71.3	144.7	20.4	50.7	40.4
2004								
15 to 24 years	17.1	5.5	22.7	23.9	46.6	24.4	48.7	36.8
25 to 44 years	30.7	4.8	35.5	34.1	69.6	13.5	51.0	44.1
45 years or more	12.7	*1.0	13.7	25.3	39.0	*7.2	35.2	32.6
<i>Total</i>	60.6	11.3	71.9	83.3	155.2	15.8	46.3	39.0
15 to 64 years	60.1	11.3	71.5	75.9	147.3	15.9	48.5	40.8

* estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes

EXPERIMENTAL ESTIMATES, INDIGENOUS PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, Labour force status by age groups—2002 to 2004 *continued*

	Total employed	Total unemployed	Labour force	Not in labour force	Civilian population aged 15 years and over	Unemployment rate	Participation rate	Employment to population ratio
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%
PERSONS								
2002								
15 to 24 years	39.1	13.4	52.4	34.8	87.2	25.5	60.1	44.8
25 to 44 years	73.9	14.3	88.2	42.2	130.4	16.3	67.7	56.7
45 years or more	25.3	3.3	28.5	40.7	69.2	11.5	41.2	36.5
Total	138.2	31.0	169.2	117.6	286.7	18.3	59.0	48.2
15 to 64 years	137.4	31.0	168.4	105.8	274.2	18.4	61.4	50.1
2003								
15 to 24 years	39.8	13.3	53.1	37.6	90.6	25.1	58.6	43.9
25 to 44 years	67.9	13.9	81.8	50.2	132.0	17.0	62.0	51.5
45 years or more	28.8	3.5	32.3	39.2	71.5	11.0	45.2	40.3
Total	136.5	30.8	167.2	126.9	294.1	18.4	56.9	46.4
15 to 64 years	135.4	30.8	166.1	117.2	283.3	18.5	58.6	47.8
2004								
15 to 24 years	37.7	13.1	50.8	43.6	94.4	25.8	53.8	39.9
25 to 44 years	71.1	11.8	82.9	50.5	133.4	14.3	62.2	53.3
45 years or more	27.7	2.7	30.4	43.6	74.0	8.8	41.1	37.5
Total	136.5	27.6	164.1	137.7	301.8	16.8	54.4	45.2
15 to 64 years	135.3	27.6	163.0	124.8	287.7	17.0	56.6	47.0

	Total employed	Total unemployed	Labour force	Not in labour force	Civilian population aged 15 to 64 years	Unemployment rate	Participation rate	Employment to population ratio
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%
MALES								
2002								
Major city	24.0	5.7	29.7	11.0	40.6	19.2	73.0	59.1
Regional area	28.7	10.4	39.1	18.2	57.4	26.5	68.2	50.1
Remote area	23.5	*2.6	26.1	9.2	35.3	*9.8	73.9	66.6
Australia	76.2	18.6	94.9	38.4	133.3	19.6	71.2	57.2
2003								
Major city	23.1	5.0	28.1	13.9	42.0	17.8	67.0	55.1
Regional area	28.9	8.9	37.8	20.4	58.2	23.6	64.9	49.6
Remote area	24.9	*1.8	26.8	11.7	38.5	*6.9	69.7	64.9
Australia	76.9	15.8	92.7	45.9	138.6	17.0	66.9	55.5
2004								
Major city	24.4	5.3	29.7	13.0	42.7	18.0	69.6	57.1
Regional area	29.5	8.6	38.1	22.5	60.6	22.6	62.9	48.7
Remote area	21.3	*2.4	23.7	13.4	37.1	*10.0	63.8	57.4
Australia	75.2	16.3	91.5	48.9	140.4	17.8	65.2	53.6
FEMALES								
2002								
Major city	17.5	4.7	22.2	22.0	44.2	21.1	50.3	39.6
Regional area	23.1	6.0	29.1	29.9	58.9	20.6	49.3	39.2
Remote area	20.6	*1.6	22.2	15.6	37.8	*7.4	58.8	54.5
Australia	61.2	12.3	73.5	67.4	140.9	16.8	52.2	43.4
2003								
Major city	18.4	5.5	23.9	20.7	44.7	23.0	53.5	41.2
Regional area	23.9	7.7	31.6	29.4	61.0	24.4	51.7	39.1
Remote area	16.1	*1.8	17.9	21.1	39.0	*10.0	45.9	41.4
Australia	58.4	15.0	73.4	71.3	144.7	20.4	50.7	40.4
2004								
Major city	19.8	3.7	23.5	21.7	45.2	15.9	52.1	43.8
Regional area	25.2	6.1	31.3	31.4	62.7	19.4	49.9	40.2
Remote area	15.1	*1.5	16.6	22.8	39.4	*9.0	42.1	38.3
Australia	60.1	11.3	71.5	75.9	147.3	15.9	48.5	40.8
PERSONS								
2002								
Major city	41.5	10.4	51.9	32.9	84.8	20.0	61.2	48.9
Regional area	51.8	16.4	68.2	48.1	116.3	24.0	58.6	44.6
Remote area	44.1	*4.2	48.3	24.8	73.1	*8.7	66.1	60.3
Australia	137.4	31.0	168.4	105.8	274.2	18.4	61.4	50.1
2003								
Major city	41.5	10.5	52.0	34.6	86.6	20.2	60.1	47.9
Regional area	52.8	16.6	69.4	49.9	119.2	23.9	58.2	44.3
Remote area	41.1	*3.6	44.7	32.8	77.5	*8.1	57.7	53.0
Australia	135.4	30.8	166.1	117.2	283.3	18.5	58.6	47.8
2004								
Major city	44.2	9.1	53.3	34.7	87.9	17.1	60.6	50.2
Regional area	54.7	14.7	69.4	53.9	123.3	21.2	56.3	44.4
Remote area	36.4	3.9	40.3	36.3	76.5	9.6	52.6	47.6
Australia	135.3	27.6	163.0	124.8	287.7	17.0	56.6	47.0

* estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes

EXPERIMENTAL ESTIMATES, INDIGENOUS PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, Labour force status by states and territories(a)—2002 to 2004

	Total employed	Total unemployed	Labour force	Not in labour force	Civilian population aged 15 years and over	Unemployment rate	Participation rate	Employment to population ratio
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%
NEW SOUTH WALES								
2002	38.5	8.6	47.1	36.0	83.1	18.3	56.6	46.3
2003	38.6	9.8	48.4	36.7	85.1	20.3	56.9	45.4
2004	36.0	8.2	44.2	43.0	87.2	18.6	50.7	41.2
VICTORIA								
2002	8.0	2.0	10.0	7.6	17.6	20.5	56.9	45.3
2003	7.4	2.3	9.7	8.5	18.2	23.9	53.3	40.5
2004	7.5	2.3	9.8	9.0	18.8	23.5	52.1	39.8
QUEENSLAND								
2002	39.0	10.1	49.1	28.6	77.7	20.5	63.2	50.2
2003	40.1	9.1	49.2	30.6	79.7	18.5	61.7	50.3
2004	42.9	7.4	50.3	31.7	82.0	14.7	61.3	52.3
SOUTH AUSTRALIA								
2002	6.9	2.1	8.9	7.3	16.2	23.2	55.1	42.3
2003	7.2	1.7	8.8	7.9	16.7	18.9	52.9	42.9
2004	8.2	1.7	9.9	7.3	17.1	*17.2	57.5	47.6
WESTERN AUSTRALIA								
2002	21.0	*3.9	24.9	16.6	41.5	*15.8	59.9	50.5
2003	20.6	3.7	24.2	18.5	42.7	15.2	56.8	48.2
2004	20.2	3.4	23.6	20.3	43.9	14.5	53.7	45.9
TASMANIA								
2002	5.2	1.4	6.6	4.2	10.8	21.2	61.4	48.4
2003	4.7	1.1	5.8	5.3	11.0	18.3	52.3	42.8
2004	5.7	0.9	6.6	4.6	11.3	13.3	58.8	51.0
NORTHERN TERRITORY								
2002	18.3	*2.7	21.0	16.4	37.3	*12.7	56.2	49.1
2003	16.5	*2.8	19.4	18.7	38.1	*14.7	50.9	43.4
2004	14.5	3.5	18.0	20.9	38.8	19.4	46.2	37.3
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY								
2002	1.4	*0.2	1.6	0.9	2.5	*10.8	64.7	57.7
2003	1.5	0.2	1.7	*0.9	2.6	*14.2	66.7	57.2
2004	1.6	*0.2	1.9	0.8	2.6	*13.1	71.0	61.7
AUSTRALIA								
2002	138.2	31.0	169.2	117.6	286.7	18.3	59.0	48.2
2003	136.5	30.8	167.2	126.9	294.1	18.4	56.9	46.4
2004	136.5	27.6	164.1	137.7	301.8	16.8	54.4	45.2

* estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes

(a) Caution should be used when comparing estimates across states and territories, and over time within states and territories. See paragraph 21 in the Explanatory Notes for further information.

EXPERIMENTAL ESTIMATES, PROPORTIONS OF INDIGENOUS PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, Labour force status by remoteness—2002 to 2004

		2002	2003	2004
EMPLOYED				
Major city	%	30.1	30.6	32.6
Regional area	%	37.7	39.1	40.4
Remote area	%	32.2	30.3	27.0
<i>Australia</i>	%	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Australia</i>	'000	138.2	136.5	136.5
UNEMPLOYED				
Major city	%	33.6	34.2	32.9
Regional area	%	52.8	54.0	53.1
Remote area	%	*13.6	*11.8	14.0
<i>Australia</i>	%	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Australia</i>	'000	31.0	30.8	27.6
LABOUR FORCE				
Major city	%	30.7	31.3	32.7
Regional area	%	40.5	41.8	42.5
Remote area	%	28.8	26.9	24.8
<i>Australia</i>	%	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Australia</i>	'000	169.2	167.2	164.1
NOT IN LABOUR FORCE				
Major city	%	29.9	29.4	27.8
Regional area	%	45.7	42.6	43.4
Remote area	%	24.4	28.0	28.8
<i>Australia</i>	%	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Australia</i>	'000	117.6	126.9	137.7
CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER				
Major city	%	30.4	30.4	30.5
Regional area	%	42.6	42.2	42.9
Remote area	%	27.0	27.4	26.6
Australia	%	100.0	100.0	100.0
Australia	'000	286.7	294.1	301.8

* estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes

EXPLANATORY NOTES

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY METHODOLOGY AND CONCEPTS

1 The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has been conducting the Labour Force Survey (LFS) since 1960. Originally, the survey was conducted quarterly, before becoming monthly in February 1978. The LFS provides information on the labour market activity of the usually resident civilian population of Australia aged 15 years and over. This section provides information about the LFS methodology, concepts and definitions.

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY METHODOLOGY

2 The LFS is conducted by the ABS to provide monthly labour force statistics. The information is obtained from the occupants of selected dwellings by specially trained interviewers. The information obtained relates to the week before the interview (i.e. the reference week).

3 Households selected for the LFS are interviewed each month for eight months, with one eighth of the sample being replaced each month. The first interview is conducted face-to-face. Subsequent interviews are conducted by telephone (if acceptable to the respondent). A responsible adult in each selected household is asked to provide information about the labour force status of the usual residents and visitors covered by the survey. A usual resident is one who regards that dwelling as their own or main home, and who usually lives there. Persons who are away from their usual residence for six weeks or less are enumerated at their usual residence wherever possible (by obtaining information from other usual residents present at the time of the survey).

4 The LFS includes all persons aged 15 years and over except members of the permanent defence forces, certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments customarily excluded from census and estimated population counts, overseas residents in Australia, and members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia. In common with other ABS household surveys, Jervis Bay Territory is excluded from the scope of the survey.

Benchmarks

5 LFS estimates are calculated in such a way as to add up to independent estimates of the civilian population aged 15 years and over (population benchmarks). Labour force estimates are usually compiled using estimated resident population benchmarks. However, Indigenous estimates in this publication were compiled using benchmarks from the low series population projections in *Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians* (cat. no. 3238.0).

LFS sample

6 The LFS is based on a sample of private dwellings (around 30,000 houses, flats, etc.) and a list sample of non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.), and covers around 60,000 people, or 0.45% of the population of Australia aged 15 years and over.

7 The survey sample is designed so that, within each state or territory, each dwelling has the same probability of selection in the sample. The sampling fractions for each state and territory differ, in order to enable reliable estimates of the main labour force characteristics for each state and territory. For more information on the sample design refer to *Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Sample Design* (cat. no. 6269.0), released on 4 December 2002.

8 The LFS sample is not spread evenly across Australia or across a state or territory. The sample is clustered for the practical reason of reducing the costs associated with sample maintenance and of interviewer travel between selected dwellings. The more highly clustered the sample (that is the larger the number of selected units in a small area), the cheaper it is to enumerate, but also the less reliable are estimates derived from the sample (since the sample is confined to a small area and may be less representative).

9 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. The coverage rules are necessarily a balance between theoretical and operational considerations. Nevertheless, the chance of a person being enumerated at two separate dwellings in the survey is considered to be negligible.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

LABOUR FORCE CONCEPTS

10 The labour force framework classifies the in-scope population according to their labour force status (that is, employed, unemployed, or not in the labour force). The employed and unemployed categories together make up the labour force, which gives a measure of the number of persons contributing to, or willing to contribute to, the supply of labour at the time of the survey.

11 Labour force definitions used by the ABS align closely with international standards and guidelines as specified by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The definitions of employed, unemployed and not in the labour force used by the ABS are outlined below. More detailed concepts and definitions may be obtained from *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001), which is available from the Labour Statistics Theme Page on the ABS web site <www.abs.gov.au> (Themes — People — Labour).

Employment

12 Employed persons are those aged 15 years or more who, during the survey reference week, worked for one hour or more for pay, profit or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm; or worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm; or who had a job but were not at work for a number of specified reasons; or were employers or self-employed persons who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

13 The definition of employment specifically refers to work for at least one hour. This definition is used to ensure that any work which contributes to the national accounting measures of national production is included in the measure of employed.

14 Persons are classified as employed based on the actual activities of each person, and this categorisation does not depend on their participation in labour market programs. Persons who participate in labour market programs are counted as employed, unemployed or not in the labour force according to how they respond to questions in the labour force survey about their actual activity in the week before the interview. Two important labour market programs are the 'work for the dole' scheme and the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme.

15 Under the 'work for the dole' scheme, unemployed persons are required to work on not-for-profit community-based projects for a number of hours per week, which, at the relevant award rate of pay, equates to the unemployment benefit entitlement. The participants receive their unemployment benefit payments directly from the administering government agency and not from the organisations undertaking the community projects, and therefore the organisations do not have an employer/employee relationship with the scheme participants. Accordingly, persons participating in 'work for the dole' schemes are not regarded as being in paid employment but are considered to be undertaking unpaid work. Depending on other activity they undertake in the survey reference period, they may be classed as unemployed or not in the labour force.

16 The CDEP scheme provides employment for Indigenous people living in remote, rural and urban areas. In a community with a CDEP scheme, the participants are paid a wage by the CDEP organisation to undertake work or training. While the types of activities undertaken might not differ greatly from those undertaken by 'work for the dole' participants, there is an employer/employee relationship between the participants and the CDEP organisation. CDEP participants are therefore treated as employed in the LFS.

Unemployment

17 Unemployed persons are defined as all persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and either had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week, or were waiting to start a new job within

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

Unemployment continued

four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

18 'Actively looking for work' encompasses a range of formal and informal job search activities and includes: writing, telephoning or applying in person to an employer for work; answering an advertisement for a job; checking workplace notice boards or the touch screens at Centrelink offices; being registered as a job seeker with Centrelink; being registered with a Job Network agency or any other employment agency; advertising or tendering for work; and contacting friends or relatives. People actively looking for self-employment jobs (such as looking for a business or to purchase a lease) are also treated as looking for work.

19 People who only looked in newspapers or read job advertisements are seen as passively, rather than actively, looking for work and so are not considered unemployed. The ABS view is that 'only looked in newspapers' does not meet the active search criterion, nor does simply looking at job advertisements on the Internet. It is impossible to obtain work by looking at a job advertisement without some additional, active, job search step (for example, contacting the employer).

Not in the labour force

20 Persons not in the labour force comprise those in the population who satisfy neither the employment nor unemployment criteria. They include persons who don't want to work for a variety of reasons such as homemakers, retirees from the labour force, and those who can't work as a result of a variety of disabilities. It also includes people who are in hospital, prison, or other institutions.

DATA QUALITY

21 Care has been taken to ensure that the results of this survey are as accurate as possible. There remain, however, other factors which may have affected the reliability of results, and for which no specific adjustments can be made. The following factors should be considered when interpreting these estimates:

- Information recorded in this survey is essentially 'as reported' by respondents, and hence may differ from that which might be obtained from other sources or by using other collection methodologies. Responses may be affected by imperfect recall or individual interpretation of survey questions.
- The labour force characteristics of Indigenous people vary across remoteness types. Differences when comparing estimates between states and territories are therefore likely to be influenced by the proportion of Indigenous people in each remoteness type within the respective states and territories.
- Some states and territories have relatively small Indigenous populations, therefore the estimates are likely to be based on a very small sample which in turn may affect the data quality.
- The labour force characteristics of Indigenous people living in discrete Indigenous communities can be influenced by whether the community is participating in CDEP. Because of the small number of Indigenous communities selected in the LFS, there is the potential for wide statistical fluctuations in estimates of labour force characteristics of remote Indigenous communities over time if the sample moves from communities participating in CDEP to those which do not (and vice versa).

APPENDIX 1 OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Between 1994 and 2000, a question on Indigenous status was included in the LFS for one month (usually February) every year. The information collected provided a snapshot for that one month in each year, and was published in an earlier issue of this publication (cat. no. 6287.0), released on 20 December 2000. However, due to the small sample size, dissemination of Indigenous data was limited to sex by labour force status across broad geographical regions of Australia. Data was not released by age group or by state and territory. Due to major differences in the estimation methodology used to produce these previous estimates, comparisons should not be made with estimates in this publication.

Information on the labour force characteristics of the Indigenous population is also available from the five-yearly Census of Population and Housing, the 2001 National Health Survey (Indigenous), and the 2002 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey (NATSISS). The table below provides estimates from these three collections as well as annual estimates from the LFS.

Although the estimates available from the three non LFS sources are based on the same underlying concepts as the LFS, there are differences in their collection methodologies, definitions, questions and estimation procedures which affect the comparability of data. The section following the table details the differences between the various sources.

COMPARISON OF SOURCES OF LABOUR FORCE STATUS BY REMOTENESS, Indigenous persons aged 15 years and over

Source	Total employed '000	Total unemployed '000	Not in labour force '000	Civilian population aged 15 years and over '000	Unemployment rate %	Participation rate %	Employment to population ratio %
2001 Census(a)							
Major city	33.7	8.7	32.0	74.4	20.5	56.9	45.3
Regional area	39.3	12.6	49.6	101.5	24.3	51.2	38.7
Remote area	27.2	3.7	33.7	64.6	12.0	47.9	42.2
Australia(b)	100.3	25.0	115.3	240.7	20.0	52.1	41.7
2001 NHS(I)(c)(d)							
Australia	130.1	25.2	111.2	266.5	16.2	58.3	48.8
2002 LFS							
Major city	41.6	10.4	35.2	87.2	20.0	59.7	47.7
Regional area	52.1	16.4	53.7	122.1	23.9	56.0	42.6
Remote area	44.5	*4.2	28.7	77.4	*8.6	62.9	57.5
Australia	138.2	31.0	117.6	286.7	18.3	59.0	48.2
2002 NATSISS(d)							
Major city	42.3	14.2	29.9	86.4	25.1	65.4	49.0
Regional area	48.2	20.1	50.3	118.6	29.4	57.6	40.6
Remote area	39.9	4.5	32.8	77.1	10.2	57.5	51.7
Australia	130.4	38.8	113.0	282.2	22.9	60.0	46.2
2003 LFS							
Major city	41.7	10.5	37.2	89.5	20.1	58.4	46.6
Regional area	53.4	16.6	54.1	124.0	23.7	56.4	43.0
Remote area	41.4	*3.6	35.5	80.6	*8.1	55.9	51.4
Australia	136.5	30.8	126.9	294.1	18.4	56.9	46.4
2004 LFS							
Major city	44.6	9.1	38.3	92.0	16.9	58.3	48.5
Regional area	55.1	14.7	59.7	129.5	21.0	53.9	42.6
Remote area	36.8	3.9	39.7	80.3	9.5	50.6	45.8
Australia	136.5	27.6	137.7	301.8	16.8	54.4	45.2

* estimate is subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes

(a) Excludes people who did not state their Indigenous status, and those who did not state their labour force status.

(b) Excludes people in Migratory and Other Territories.

(c) Sample size is too small to be disaggregated by remoteness.

(d) Includes residents of private dwellings only.

APPENDIX 1 OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION *continued*

POPULATION CENSUS

The five-yearly Census of Population and Housing is a comprehensive source of information on small population groups such as the Indigenous population. The Census also provides information for small geographic regions. However, the Census collects only a limited range of labour force information, and the questionnaire is mainly completed by people answering the questions by themselves (or by another householder on their behalf), without an interviewer present (although interviewers are used in most discrete Indigenous communities). Because the self-enumerated questionnaire module defines unemployment less precisely than the LFS, the estimates produced are not strictly comparable with those from the LFS.

The number of Indigenous people aged 15 years and over enumerated in the 2001 Census is lower than the 2001 estimated resident Indigenous population and subsequent low-series Indigenous population projections (used for the LFS Indigenous population benchmarks). To obtain the estimated resident Indigenous population for 2001, various adjustments were made to the 7 August 2001 Census estimates. These adjustments included accounting for non-response to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin question, net Census undercount of Indigenous persons, and residents temporarily overseas on Census night. See the Explanatory Notes in *Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians* (cat. no. 3238.0) for further information.

As a result of the differing population bases, estimates of labour force characteristics from the Census are substantially lower for the employed, though the difference is less pronounced for the unemployed. Estimates of rates, such as the unemployment or labour force participation rate, which do not depend on having the same base population, show Census results which are quite similar to estimates from other Indigenous data sources.

To be consistent with the estimates in this publication, the Census data used here are based on place of enumeration and exclude Indigenous people in Other Territories and Indigenous people who did not state their labour force status.

While the Census aims to derive labour force status on a basis comparable with the LFS, the Census questions are not as detailed, nor as comprehensive. Largely due to space limitations on the Census form, as well as constraints imposed by self-enumeration, the Census uses a shorter questionnaire module to determine labour force status. This shorter questionnaire module produces different estimates of employment, unemployment and not in the labour force, compared with the full LFS questionnaire (which was used in 80% of LFS interviews with Indigenous respondents, with a short questionnaire used in the remaining 20%, mainly in remote communities). The shortened set of questions cannot determine labour force status as precisely as the full LFS questionnaire does, resulting in some differences. Other differences occur because of the self-enumerated nature of the Census questions and the inevitable differences in interpretation among respondents. As a result, the LFS and Census definitions differ slightly for those employed, unemployed, and not in the labour force.

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SOCIAL SURVEY

The 2002 NATSISS was a survey of approximately 9,400 Indigenous persons, or about 1 in 30 of the total Indigenous population aged 15 years and over in Australia. Although the underlying concepts were the same as in the LFS, the questions and definitions relating to the labour force differed slightly from those used in the LFS.

The NATSISS estimates were benchmarked to the low series Indigenous population projections aged 15 years and over living in *private dwellings* in each state and territory, at 31 December 2002. Consequently, the NATSISS benchmarks are lower than the benchmarks used for LFS annual estimates, which include people living in other types of dwellings, such as hotels and boarding houses.

APPENDIX 1 OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION *continued*

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SOCIAL SURVEY *continued*

In addition to the differing population basis, labour force estimates from NATSISS are likely to be different to the LFS due to the use of a reduced questionnaire module in the NATSISS. The reduced questionnaire module has been found to categorise 1% of unemployed persons (as defined by the LFS) as not in the labour force. Also, there are some situations where people would be classified as either unemployed or not in the labour force in the LFS, but where the reduced questionnaire module is used, are classified as employed (about 0.1% of employed).

NATSISS also differs from LFS practices by specifically asking about participation in CDEP. All respondents were asked whether they were CDEP participants, regardless of whether they reported having a job in the reference week or not. Therefore, some respondents in the NATSISS who did not consider CDEP participation to be a job, were classified as employed due to their participation in CDEP.

NATIONAL HEALTH SURVEY (INDIGENOUS)

The 2001 NHS(I) results are based on a sample of 2,100 Indigenous people aged 15 years and over. Although the NHS(I) included respondents from both Remote and non-Remote areas of Australia, estimates are not released at this level due to the limited sample size.

The 2001 NHS(I) was benchmarked to the estimated resident Indigenous population at 30 June 2001, living in *private dwellings*. This population count is based on results from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing, and is part of the same low series population projection used for the 2002 NATSISS benchmarks. The sample covered usual residents of private dwellings only. Residents of dwellings such as hotels, motels, hostels and hospitals, and visitors to private dwellings, were not included in the survey.

Information on labour force status was collected from people aged 15 years and over. The NHS(I) also used a reduced question module (similar to that used in the NATSISS), to determine labour force status. The question wording was changed for respondents in Remote areas to specifically state that work included participation in CDEP, which is not the case in the LFS questionnaire.

FUTURE DATA COLLECTIONS

In addition to the proposed future publication of annual estimates from the LFS, data on the labour force characteristics of Indigenous people will be available from the 2004–05 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Survey (NATSIHS), the 2006 Census and the 2008 NATSISS. Results from these collections are generally available in the year following enumeration.

APPENDIX 2 COMPARISONS WITH NON-INDIGENOUS ESTIMATES

COMPARISONS WITH OTHER LFS ESTIMATES

The methodology used to produce the estimates in this publication can also be used to produce estimates of the non-Indigenous population and total civilian population. The table below shows these estimates for 2004. The non-Indigenous and civilian population estimates have not been presented more broadly in this publication because there are a number of considerations when making comparisons to the labour force characteristics of Indigenous people.

Comparisons with non-Indigenous population

The Indigenous population has a younger age structure than the non-Indigenous population, which can make comparisons misleading. It is possible to remove the effect of the differences in age structures through age-standardisation. However, the estimates in this publication have not been age-standardised. For this reason caution should be used if a comparison of Indigenous and non-Indigenous estimates is made. This is especially relevant in comparisons of rates and ratios, such as the participation rate, of the Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations.

Comparisons with total population estimates

While the total population estimates in this publication are from the LFS, the estimates are not at all comparable to the monthly estimates released from the LFS. The monthly estimates from the LFS are produced using:

- information from the current month only, rather than 12 months pooled as used for the Indigenous estimates, and
- different benchmarks to those used for the Indigenous estimates.

The estimates in this publication should be used in analysing the labour force characteristics of Indigenous people only. If information on the labour force characteristics of the population more broadly is required refer to *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0).

APPENDIX 2 COMPARISONS WITH NON-INDIGENOUS ESTIMATES

continued

COMPARISON OF INDIGENOUS AND NON-INDIGENOUS ESTIMATES—2004

	<i>Total employed</i>	<i>Total unemployed</i>	<i>Labour force</i>	<i>Not in labour force</i>	<i>Civilian population</i>	<i>Unemployment rate</i>	<i>Participation rate</i>	<i>Employment to population ratio</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%	%
15 TO 64 YEARS								
Major city								
Indigenous	44.2	9.1	53.3	34.7	87.9	17.1	60.6	50.2
Non-Indigenous	6 436.7	356.2	6 792.9	2 232.0	9 024.9	5.2	75.3	71.3
<i>Civilian population</i>	6 480.8	365.3	6 846.2	2 266.6	9 112.8	5.3	75.1	71.1
Regional area								
Indigenous	54.7	14.7	69.4	53.9	123.3	21.2	56.3	44.4
Non-Indigenous	2 735.0	176.2	2 911.2	1 035.2	3 946.4	6.1	73.8	69.3
<i>Civilian population</i>	2 789.8	190.9	2 980.6	1 089.1	4 069.7	6.4	73.2	68.6
Remote area								
Indigenous	36.4	3.9	40.3	36.3	76.5	9.6	52.6	47.6
Non-Indigenous	207.0	5.8	212.8	50.4	263.2	2.7	80.9	78.6
<i>Civilian population</i>	243.4	9.7	253.1	86.6	339.7	3.8	74.5	71.6
Australia								
Indigenous	135.3	27.6	163.0	124.8	287.7	17.0	56.6	47.0
Non-Indigenous	9 378.7	538.3	9 917.0	3 317.5	13 234.5	5.4	74.9	70.9
<i>Civilian population</i>	9 514.0	565.9	10 079.9	3 442.3	13 522.2	5.6	74.5	70.4
15 YEARS AND OVER								
Major city								
Indigenous	44.6	9.1	53.7	38.3	92.0	16.9	58.3	48.5
Non-Indigenous	6 543.9	357.4	6 901.3	3 773.4	10 674.7	5.2	64.7	61.3
<i>Civilian population</i>	6 588.5	366.5	6 955.0	3 811.7	10 766.7	5.3	64.6	61.2
Regional area								
Indigenous	55.1	14.7	69.8	59.7	129.5	21.0	53.9	42.6
Non-Indigenous	2 805.7	176.7	2 982.4	1 819.3	4 801.7	5.9	62.1	58.4
<i>Civilian population</i>	2 860.8	191.4	3 052.2	1 879.0	4 931.1	6.3	61.9	58.0
Remote area								
Indigenous	36.8	3.9	40.7	39.7	80.3	9.5	50.6	45.8
Non-Indigenous	213.7	5.8	219.5	80.9	300.4	2.7	73.1	71.1
<i>Civilian population</i>	250.5	9.7	260.2	120.6	380.7	3.7	68.3	65.8
Australia								
Indigenous	136.5	27.6	164.1	137.7	301.8	16.8	54.4	45.2
Non-Indigenous	9 563.2	539.9	10 103.2	5 673.6	15 776.8	5.3	64.0	60.6
<i>Civilian population</i>	9 699.7	567.6	10 267.3	5 811.3	16 078.6	5.5	63.9	60.3

TECHNICAL NOTE

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

- 1** Estimates from the LFS, as with data from all surveys, are subject to error. The data presented in this publication are subject to two sources of error:
 - non-sampling error, which arises from imperfections in reporting, recording or processing of data that can occur in any survey or census.
 - sampling error, which occurs because data were obtained from a sample rather than the entire population.

NON-SAMPLING ERROR

- 2** The main sources of non-sampling error are response errors and non-response bias. These may occur in any enumeration whether it is a full count or a sample.
- 3** Response errors include errors on the part of both respondents and interviewers. These reporting errors may arise through inappropriate wording of questions, misunderstanding of what data are required, inability or unwillingness to provide accurate information, and mistakes in answers to questions.
- 4** Non-response bias arises because the persons for whom no response is available may have different characteristics in relation to labour market behaviour than persons who responded in the survey.
- 5** Non-sampling errors are difficult to quantify in any collection. However, every effort is made to minimise these errors in the LFS by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient operating procedures. Non-response bias is minimised by call-backs to those households which do not respond, and is compensated for in the estimation process.
- 6** There are a number of other issues associated with collecting information from Indigenous persons in communities in remote areas. One example is the appropriateness of labour force concepts in areas without a significant labour market. Although special procedures are used in some Indigenous communities, there may still be some cultural and practical difficulties in applying standard labour force concepts in these communities. Operational issues include the high turnover of trained interviewers in remote areas, the seasonal fluctuations in population numbers as well as in employment opportunities, and high population mobility.
- 7** Responses in the LFS may be given by any responsible adult in each selected household. Reporting errors may arise when the respondent provides information for another member of the household without being fully aware of their labour force details. Although this is a minor issue for the survey in general, the higher mobility of Indigenous household members may affect the reporting on details such as active job search or availability for work.

SAMPLING ERROR

- 8** The LFS estimates are based on information obtained from a sample of the population, and are subject to sampling error. Sampling error is the difference between the estimate obtained from a particular sample and the value that would have been obtained if the whole population were enumerated under the same procedures (referred to as the 'population value').

Standard error

- 9** The most commonly used measure of sampling error is the standard error (SE). This measure indicates the extent to which a survey estimate is likely to deviate from the true population value by chance. There are about two chances in three (67%) that the sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the estimates that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey, and about nineteen chances in twenty (95%) that the difference will be less than two standard errors.
- 10** The magnitude of the sampling error depends on the sample design, the sample size and the population variability. The larger the sample on which the estimates are based, the smaller the sampling error. The main contribution to sampling error for the Indigenous labour force estimates is the sample size.

Standard error continued

11 Movements in the level of an estimate are also subject to sampling variability. The standard error of the movement depends on the levels of the estimates from which the movement is obtained rather than the size of the movement. The standard errors for both level estimates and movements between annual estimates are shown in the tables in this section. The standard errors have been derived using the group jackknife method.

Relative standard error

12 Another measure of sampling error is the relative standard error, which is obtained by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the estimate to which it refers. The smaller the sample estimate, the higher the relative standard error. The small sample size of Indigenous persons results in estimates of labour force characteristics which are considerably less precise and less stable than comparable aggregate estimates for non-Indigenous persons. This is reflected in the relatively high standard errors for the survey estimates derived for Indigenous persons.

13 Very small estimates are subject to such high standard errors, relative to the size of the estimate, as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable uses. In the tables in this publication, only estimates with relative standard errors of 25% or less, are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. Accordingly, while included in the tables, estimates with relative standard errors greater than 25% are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. *3.4), to indicate they are subject to high standard errors and should be used with caution.

14 Proportions and percentages (for example, unemployment rates) formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling error. 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 or percentage is:

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

15 This formula is only valid when x is a subset of y.

EXAMPLES OF CALCULATIONS

Level standard errors

16 As an example of the calculation and use of standard errors, consider the estimate of 136,500 Indigenous persons employed in 2004. The standard error for this estimate is 4,700. This indicates that there are about two chances in three that the true value (the number that would have been obtained if the whole population had been included in the survey) is within the range 131,800 to 141,200 (that is 136,500 + or - 4,700). There are about 19 chances in 20 that the true value is in the range 127,100 to 145,900 (that is 136,500 + or - 9,400).

Movement standard errors

17 Standard errors can also be used to interpret the reliability of annual movement estimates. For example, in 2003 there were an estimated 59,100 Indigenous females in employment, increasing to 60,600 in the following year (a movement of 1,500). The associated standard error for the movement estimate is 4,000. This indicates that there are two chances in three that the true value of the movement is within the range -2,500 to 5,500 (that is 1,500 + or - 4,000). There are about 19 chances in 20 that the true value is in the range -6,500 to 9,500 (that is 1,500 + or - 8,000).

Differences between estimates

18 Published estimates may also be used to calculate the difference between two survey estimates (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:

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

Differences between estimates continued

19 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.

20 For example, in 2004, the participation rate of Indigenous males was 62.9%, 16.6 percentage points higher than the rate of 46.3% for Indigenous females. The standard error of the difference between these two estimates can be calculated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} SE(x-y) &= \sqrt{[SE(x)]^2 + [SE(y)]^2} \\ &= \sqrt{[1.7]^2 + [1.9]^2} \\ &= 2.5 \end{aligned}$$

TECHNICAL NOTE *continued*

L1 - STANDARD ERRORS FOR INDIGENOUS PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, Labour force status by remoteness—2002 to 2004

	Total employed	Total unemployed	Labour force	Not in labour force	Civilian population aged 15 years and over	Unemployment rate	Participation rate	Employment to population ratio
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	pts	pts	pts
MALES								
2002								
Major city	1.4	0.9	1.2	1.2	—	2.9	3.0	3.4
Regional area	1.5	1.1	1.5	1.5	0.1	2.6	2.5	2.5
Remote area	1.2	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.1	2.7	2.1	3.2
Australia	2.4	1.7	1.7	1.7	—	1.8	1.3	1.7
2003								
Major city	1.3	0.7	1.3	1.3	—	2.2	3.1	3.1
Regional area	1.6	0.9	1.8	1.8	—	2.2	3.0	2.7
Remote area	1.7	0.7	1.7	1.7	—	2.5	4.1	4.2
Australia	2.0	1.3	2.0	2.0	—	1.3	1.4	1.4
2004								
Major city	1.2	0.8	1.1	1.1	—	2.7	2.6	2.7
Regional area	2.1	1.1	2.3	2.4	0.4	2.7	3.7	3.4
Remote area	1.8	0.7	1.6	1.6	0.4	3.0	4.2	4.6
Australia	2.8	1.4	2.5	2.5	—	1.6	1.7	1.9
FEMALES								
2002								
Major city	1.2	0.6	1.2	1.2	—	2.8	2.7	2.7
Regional area	1.4	0.5	1.4	1.4	—	1.8	2.2	2.2
Remote area	1.7	0.7	1.5	1.5	—	3.1	3.7	4.4
Australia	2.0	1.1	1.9	1.9	—	1.5	1.3	1.4
2003								
Major city	1.5	0.7	1.2	1.2	—	3.4	2.6	3.3
Regional area	1.9	0.9	1.5	1.6	0.1	3.2	2.4	3.0
Remote area	1.9	0.6	2.1	2.1	0.1	2.9	5.3	4.8
Australia	2.9	1.5	2.7	2.7	—	2.0	1.8	1.9
2004								
Major city	1.1	0.6	1.2	1.2	—	2.2	2.4	2.3
Regional area	1.4	0.9	1.5	1.5	—	2.7	2.3	2.1
Remote area	2.1	0.6	2.1	2.0	—	3.5	4.9	4.9
Australia	3.1	1.4	2.9	2.9	—	2.0	1.9	2.0
PERSONS								
2002								
Major city	1.8	1.0	1.7	1.7	—	1.9	1.9	2.1
Regional area	2.0	1.2	2.1	2.1	0.1	1.6	1.7	1.6
Remote area	2.7	1.3	2.1	2.1	0.1	2.7	2.7	3.5
Australia	2.9	2.2	2.4	2.4	—	1.3	0.8	1.0
2003								
Major city	2.3	1.0	2.1	2.1	—	2.1	2.3	2.6
Regional area	2.4	1.4	2.5	2.5	0.1	1.9	2.0	1.9
Remote area	3.0	1.2	3.3	3.3	0.1	2.5	4.0	3.7
Australia	4.0	2.2	4.1	4.1	—	1.2	1.4	1.3
2004								
Major city	1.8	1.1	1.7	1.7	—	2.0	1.8	2.0
Regional area	3.0	1.7	3.2	3.3	0.4	2.2	2.5	2.3
Remote area	3.1	0.8	3.0	3.0	0.4	2.1	3.7	3.8
Australia	4.7	2.0	4.3	4.3	—	1.3	1.4	1.5

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

TECHNICAL NOTE *continued*

L2 - STANDARD ERRORS FOR INDIGENOUS PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, Labour force status by age groups—2002 to 2004

	Total employed	Total unemployed	Labour force	Not in labour force	Civilian population aged 15 years and over	Unemployment rate	Participation rate	Employment to population ratio
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	pts	pts	pts
MALES								
2002								
15 to 24 years	1.3	0.7	1.0	1.0	—	2.6	2.2	2.9
25 to 44 years	1.8	1.2	1.1	1.1	—	2.5	1.8	2.8
45 years or more	1.2	0.5	1.2	1.2	—	3.1	3.5	3.6
<i>Total</i>	2.4	1.7	1.7	1.7	—	1.8	1.3	1.7
15 to 64 years	2.3	1.7	1.7	1.8	0.9	1.8	1.3	1.8
2003								
15 to 24 years	1.4	0.7	1.4	1.4	—	2.3	3.2	3.1
25 to 44 years	1.3	1.0	1.2	1.2	—	2.1	1.9	2.0
45 years or more	0.9	0.4	0.8	0.8	—	2.1	2.4	2.6
<i>Total</i>	2.0	1.3	2.0	2.0	—	1.3	1.4	1.4
15 to 64 years	2.1	1.3	2.1	2.1	0.9	1.3	1.5	1.4
2004								
15 to 24 years	1.6	1.1	1.5	1.5	—	3.7	3.2	3.3
25 to 44 years	1.6	0.7	1.6	1.6	—	1.6	2.5	2.6
45 years or more	1.3	0.5	1.1	1.1	—	3.3	3.2	3.6
<i>Total</i>	2.8	1.4	2.5	2.5	—	1.6	1.7	1.9
15 to 64 years	2.9	1.4	2.6	2.4	1.2	1.6	1.7	2.0
FEMALES								
2002								
15 to 24 years	1.2	0.6	1.2	1.2	—	2.5	2.8	2.7
25 to 44 years	1.4	0.7	1.3	1.3	—	1.8	2.0	2.1
45 years or more	0.9	0.3	1.0	1.0	—	2.4	2.6	2.5
<i>Total</i>	2.0	1.1	1.9	1.9	—	1.5	1.3	1.4
15 to 64 years	2.0	1.1	2.0	2.0	0.7	1.5	1.4	1.5
2003								
15 to 24 years	1.3	1.0	1.2	1.2	—	4.1	2.6	3.0
25 to 44 years	1.9	0.9	1.8	1.8	—	2.6	2.6	2.7
45 years or more	1.2	0.5	1.2	1.2	—	3.3	3.1	3.1
<i>Total</i>	2.9	1.5	2.7	2.7	—	2.0	1.8	1.9
15 to 64 years	3.0	1.5	2.8	3.0	0.8	2.0	2.0	2.1
2004								
15 to 24 years	1.1	0.6	1.0	1.0	—	2.6	2.2	2.3
25 to 44 years	2.1	0.9	1.9	1.9	—	2.7	2.7	3.0
45 years or more	1.2	0.4	1.2	1.2	—	2.5	3.1	3.0
<i>Total</i>	3.1	1.4	2.9	2.9	—	2.0	1.9	2.0
15 to 64 years	3.1	1.4	2.9	3.2	1.2	2.0	2.0	2.1

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

TECHNICAL NOTE *continued*

L2 - STANDARD ERRORS FOR INDIGENOUS PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, Labour force status by age groups—2002 to 2004 *continued*

	Total employed	Total unemployed	Labour force	Not in labour force	Civilian population aged 15 years and over	Unemployment rate	Participation rate	Employment to population ratio
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	pts	pts	pts
PERSONS								
2002								
15 to 24 years	1.9	0.8	1.6	1.6	—	1.8	1.9	2.1
25 to 44 years	2.1	1.5	1.6	1.6	—	1.7	1.2	1.6
45 years or more	1.7	0.6	1.6	1.6	—	2.1	2.3	2.4
Total	2.9	2.2	2.4	2.4	—	1.3	0.8	1.0
15 to 64 years	2.8	2.2	2.4	2.5	1.3	1.3	0.9	1.1
2003								
15 to 24 years	2.3	1.3	2.4	2.4	—	2.3	2.6	2.5
25 to 44 years	2.1	1.6	2.1	2.1	—	1.8	1.6	1.6
45 years or more	1.7	0.7	1.6	1.6	—	2.3	2.2	2.4
Total	4.0	2.2	4.1	4.1	—	1.2	1.4	1.3
15 to 64 years	4.1	2.2	4.3	4.5	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.5
2004								
15 to 24 years	2.1	1.1	2.2	2.2	—	2.1	2.3	2.2
25 to 44 years	3.0	1.3	2.8	2.8	—	1.6	2.1	2.2
45 years or more	1.9	0.6	1.8	1.8	—	2.1	2.4	2.6
Total	4.7	2.0	4.3	4.3	—	1.3	1.4	1.5
15 to 64 years	4.5	2.0	4.3	4.5	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.6

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

TECHNICAL NOTE *continued*

L3 - STANDARD ERRORS FOR INDIGENOUS PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS, Labour force status by remoteness—2002 to 2004

	Total employed	Total unemployed	Labour force	Not in labour force	Civilian population aged 15 to 64 years	Unemployment rate	Participation rate	Employment to population ratio
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	pts	pts	pts
MALES								
2002								
Major city	1.4	0.9	1.2	1.1	0.4	2.9	2.8	3.3
Regional area	1.5	1.1	1.5	1.4	0.5	2.7	2.5	2.6
Remote area	1.1	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.7	2.7	2.4	3.6
<i>Australia</i>	2.3	1.7	1.7	1.8	0.9	1.8	1.3	1.8
2003								
Major city	1.3	0.7	1.4	1.3	0.3	2.2	3.1	3.0
Regional area	1.6	0.9	1.8	1.9	0.4	2.2	3.2	2.8
Remote area	1.7	0.7	1.7	1.5	0.7	2.5	4.0	4.3
<i>Australia</i>	2.1	1.3	2.1	2.1	0.9	1.3	1.5	1.4
2004								
Major city	1.2	0.8	1.1	1.1	0.5	2.7	2.5	2.6
Regional area	2.1	1.1	2.3	2.4	1.0	2.7	3.8	3.5
Remote area	1.9	0.7	1.7	1.7	0.7	3.1	4.5	4.9
<i>Australia</i>	2.9	1.4	2.6	2.4	1.2	1.6	1.7	2.0
FEMALES								
2002								
Major city	1.3	0.6	1.3	1.2	0.4	2.8	2.8	2.8
Regional area	1.4	0.5	1.4	1.5	0.5	1.8	2.4	2.4
Remote area	1.7	0.7	1.5	1.5	0.4	3.2	3.9	4.7
<i>Australia</i>	2.0	1.1	2.0	2.0	0.7	1.5	1.4	1.5
2003								
Major city	1.5	0.7	1.2	1.2	0.4	3.3	2.6	3.3
Regional area	2.0	0.9	1.7	1.8	0.5	3.3	2.8	3.3
Remote area	1.9	0.6	2.1	2.3	0.6	2.9	5.6	5.0
<i>Australia</i>	3.0	1.5	2.8	3.0	0.8	2.0	2.0	2.1
2004								
Major city	1.1	0.6	1.2	1.3	0.7	2.2	2.6	2.5
Regional area	1.4	0.9	1.5	1.6	0.6	2.7	2.4	2.3
Remote area	2.2	0.6	2.1	2.3	0.6	3.5	5.6	5.5
<i>Australia</i>	3.1	1.4	2.9	3.2	1.2	2.0	2.0	2.1

TECHNICAL NOTE *continued*

L3 - STANDARD ERRORS FOR INDIGENOUS PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS, Labour force status by remoteness—2002 to 2004 *continued*

	<i>Total employed</i>	<i>Total unemployed</i>	<i>Labour force</i>	<i>Not in labour force</i>	<i>Civilian population aged 15 to 64 years</i>	<i>Unemployment rate</i>	<i>Participation rate</i>	<i>Employment to population ratio</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	pts	pts	pts
PERSONS								
2002								
Major city	1.9	1.0	1.7	1.6	0.6	1.9	1.9	2.1
Regional area	2.0	1.2	2.1	2.1	0.8	1.6	1.7	1.7
Remote area	2.6	1.3	2.1	2.3	1.0	2.7	2.9	3.9
Australia	2.8	2.2	2.4	2.5	1.3	1.3	0.9	1.1
2003								
Major city	2.3	1.0	2.1	2.0	0.6	2.1	2.3	2.5
Regional area	2.5	1.4	2.6	2.7	0.8	1.9	2.2	2.1
Remote area	3.0	1.2	3.2	3.4	0.9	2.5	4.2	3.9
Australia	4.1	2.2	4.3	4.5	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.5
2004								
Major city	1.8	1.1	1.6	1.6	0.7	2.1	1.8	1.9
Regional area	3.0	1.7	3.2	3.5	1.1	2.2	2.7	2.5
Remote area	3.2	0.8	3.1	3.4	1.1	2.1	4.2	4.2
Australia	4.5	2.0	4.3	4.5	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.6

TECHNICAL NOTE *continued*

L4 - STANDARD ERRORS FOR INDIGENOUS PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, Labour force status by state and territory—2002 to 2004

	Total employed	Total unemployed	Labour force	Not in labour force	Civilian population aged 15 years and over	Unemployment rate	Participation rate	Employment to population ratio
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	pts	pts	pts
NEW SOUTH WALES								
2002	2.5	1.3	2.0	2.0	—	2.8	2.4	2.9
2003	2.8	1.5	2.7	2.7	—	3.0	3.2	3.3
2004	3.5	1.3	3.4	3.4	—	3.2	3.9	4.0
VICTORIA								
2002	1.0	0.3	0.8	0.8	—	4.3	4.8	5.9
2003	0.9	0.4	0.9	0.9	—	4.6	4.9	5.0
2004	0.8	0.5	0.9	0.9	—	4.9	4.8	4.4
QUEENSLAND								
2002	1.6	1.2	1.2	1.2	—	2.4	1.6	2.1
2003	2.6	1.3	2.1	2.1	—	2.8	2.7	3.3
2004	2.1	0.7	2.2	2.2	—	1.3	2.7	2.6
SOUTH AUSTRALIA								
2002	0.7	0.4	0.7	0.7	—	5.0	4.0	4.6
2003	0.7	0.4	0.8	0.8	—	4.1	4.8	4.4
2004	1.1	0.4	0.9	0.9	—	4.6	5.0	6.1
WESTERN AUSTRALIA								
2002	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.0	—	4.1	2.3	3.1
2003	1.6	0.8	1.8	1.8	—	3.0	4.2	3.9
2004	1.1	0.7	1.1	1.1	—	2.9	2.5	2.5
TASMANIA								
2002	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.4	—	3.4	3.3	3.2
2003	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	—	3.6	2.2	3.1
2004	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.3	—	2.1	2.8	3.1
NORTHERN TERRITORY								
2002	2.4	0.7	2.2	2.2	—	4.1	5.8	6.4
2003	1.9	0.7	1.8	1.8	—	4.1	4.6	5.0
2004	2.0	0.8	2.0	2.0	—	4.5	5.2	5.1
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY								
2002	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	—	2.8	7.5	6.6
2003	0.3	—	0.3	0.3	—	4.0	9.9	10.7
2004	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	—	4.3	5.2	6.4
AUSTRALIA								
2002	2.9	2.2	2.4	2.4	—	1.3	0.8	1.0
2003	4.0	2.2	4.1	4.1	—	1.2	1.4	1.3
2004	4.7	2.0	4.3	4.3	—	1.3	1.4	1.5

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

TECHNICAL NOTE *continued*

L5 - STANDARD ERRORS FOR PROPORTIONS OF INDIGENOUS PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, Labour force status by remoteness—2002 to 2004

		2002	2003	2004
.....				
EMPLOYED				
Major city	pts	1.3	1.5	1.5
Regional area	pts	1.5	1.5	1.7
Remote area	pts	1.6	1.9	1.7
Australia	'000	2.9	4.0	4.7

.....				
UNEMPLOYED				
Major city	pts	2.6	3.2	3.3
Regional area	pts	2.9	3.2	4.4
Remote area	pts	3.4	3.4	2.8
Australia	'000	2.2	2.2	2.0

.....				
LABOUR FORCE				
Major city	pts	0.9	1.4	1.3
Regional area	pts	1.1	1.2	1.5
Remote area	pts	1.1	1.5	1.4
Australia	'000	2.4	4.1	4.3

.....				
NOT IN LABOUR FORCE				
Major city	pts	1.3	1.8	1.5
Regional area	pts	1.7	1.6	1.8
Remote area	pts	1.6	2.0	1.7
Australia	'000	2.4	4.1	4.3

.....				
CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER				
Major city	pts	—	—	—
Regional area	pts	—	—	0.1
Remote area	pts	—	—	0.1
Australia	'000	—	—	—

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

TECHNICAL NOTE *continued*

M1 - MOVEMENT STANDARD ERRORS FOR INDIGENOUS PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, Labour force status by remoteness—2002 to 2004

	Total employed	Total unemployed	Labour force	Not in labour force	Civilian population aged 15 years and over	Unemployment rate	Participation rate	Employment to population ratio
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	pts	pts	pts
MALES								
2002 to 2003								
Major city	1.9	1.1	1.9	1.9	—	3.7	4.6	4.6
Regional area	2.5	1.5	1.9	1.8	0.2	4.1	3.1	4.1
Remote area	2.1	0.9	1.9	1.9	0.2	3.4	4.9	5.3
Australia	4.0	2.3	3.3	3.3	—	2.5	2.4	2.8
2003 to 2004								
Major city	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.5	—	3.6	3.5	3.1
Regional area	2.9	1.3	3.2	3.2	0.3	3.2	5.0	4.5
Remote area	1.8	0.8	1.8	1.8	0.3	3.1	4.6	4.6
Australia	3.8	2.2	3.4	3.4	—	2.4	2.3	2.6
FEMALES								
2002 to 2003								
Major city	2.0	0.8	1.8	1.8	—	3.8	3.9	4.3
Regional area	2.2	0.8	2.1	2.1	—	3.1	3.2	3.5
Remote area	2.6	0.9	2.4	2.4	—	4.8	6.0	6.6
Australia	4.1	1.6	3.6	3.6	—	2.4	2.4	2.7
2003 to 2004								
Major city	1.7	0.9	2.0	2.0	—	3.4	4.1	3.6
Regional area	2.5	1.1	2.2	2.2	0.1	3.8	3.4	3.8
Remote area	1.9	0.7	1.8	1.8	0.1	3.8	4.3	4.6
Australia	4.0	1.8	3.9	3.9	—	2.4	2.5	2.6
PERSONS								
2002 to 2003								
Major city	2.9	1.5	2.8	2.8	—	2.9	3.2	3.2
Regional area	3.9	1.9	3.1	3.0	0.2	3.1	2.5	3.2
Remote area	4.1	1.6	3.8	3.8	0.2	3.5	4.8	5.2
Australia	6.7	3.3	5.8	5.8	—	2.1	2.0	2.3
2003 to 2004								
Major city	2.4	1.6	2.6	2.6	—	2.8	2.8	2.7
Regional area	4.3	1.7	4.3	4.3	0.3	2.5	3.4	3.4
Remote area	3.1	1.1	3.1	3.1	0.3	2.5	3.9	3.8
Australia	6.6	2.9	6.3	6.3	—	1.8	2.1	2.2

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

TECHNICAL NOTE *continued*

M2 - MOVEMENT STANDARD ERRORS FOR INDIGENOUS PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, Labour force status by age groups—2002 to 2004

	<i>Total employed</i>	<i>Total unemployed</i>	<i>Labour force</i>	<i>Not in labour force</i>	<i>Civilian population aged 15 years and over</i>	<i>Unemployment rate</i>	<i>Participation rate</i>	<i>Employment to population ratio</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	pts	pts	pts
MALES								
2002 to 2003								
15 to 24 years	1.8	0.9	1.7	1.7	—	3.1	3.8	4.0
25 to 44 years	2.7	1.7	1.8	1.8	—	3.8	2.9	4.2
45 years or more	1.3	0.5	1.3	1.3	—	2.8	4.0	3.9
<i>Total</i>	4.0	2.3	3.3	3.3	—	2.5	2.4	2.8
15 to 64 years	4.0	2.3	3.4	3.4	1.3	2.5	2.5	2.9
2003 to 2004								
15 to 24 years	2.3	1.3	2.2	2.2	—	4.6	4.7	4.9
25 to 44 years	2.4	1.2	2.1	2.1	—	2.6	3.3	3.7
45 years or more	1.1	0.7	1.4	1.4	—	3.8	4.0	3.3
<i>Total</i>	3.8	2.2	3.4	3.4	—	2.4	2.3	2.6
15 to 64 years	3.8	2.2	3.3	3.7	1.2	2.4	2.5	2.8
FEMALES								
2002 to 2003								
15 to 24 years	1.8	0.9	1.8	1.8	—	4.0	4.2	4.1
25 to 44 years	2.5	0.9	2.3	2.3	—	2.8	3.4	3.7
45 years or more	1.4	0.5	1.4	1.4	—	3.6	3.9	3.7
<i>Total</i>	4.1	1.6	3.6	3.6	—	2.4	2.4	2.7
15 to 64 years	4.1	1.6	3.6	3.9	1.1	2.5	2.6	2.9
2003 to 2004								
15 to 24 years	1.9	0.9	2.0	2.0	—	3.9	4.3	4.2
25 to 44 years	2.5	1.2	2.1	2.1	—	3.6	3.0	3.6
45 years or more	1.7	0.5	1.7	1.7	—	3.9	4.4	4.5
<i>Total</i>	4.0	1.8	3.9	3.9	—	2.4	2.5	2.6
15 to 64 years	3.9	1.8	3.7	4.1	1.2	2.4	2.7	2.7
PERSONS								
2002 to 2003								
15 to 24 years	3.1	1.5	3.1	3.1	—	2.9	3.5	3.5
25 to 44 years	3.7	2.1	3.0	3.0	—	2.6	2.3	2.9
45 years or more	2.1	0.7	2.1	2.1	—	2.3	2.9	3.0
Total	6.7	3.3	5.8	5.8	—	2.1	2.0	2.3
15 to 64 years	6.7	3.3	5.7	6.3	1.8	2.1	2.2	2.5
2003 to 2004								
15 to 24 years	3.2	1.6	3.4	3.4	—	2.9	3.6	3.4
25 to 44 years	3.7	1.7	3.3	3.3	—	2.1	2.5	2.8
45 years or more	2.2	0.9	2.3	2.3	—	2.8	3.1	3.0
Total	6.6	2.9	6.3	6.3	—	1.8	2.1	2.2
15 to 64 years	6.5	2.9	6.2	6.8	2.0	1.8	2.2	2.3

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

TECHNICAL NOTE *continued*

M3 - MOVEMENT STANDARD ERRORS FOR INDIGENOUS PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS, Labour force status by remoteness—2002 to 2004

	Total employed	Total unemployed	Labour force	Not in labour force	Civilian population aged 15 to 64 years	Unemployment rate	Participation rate	Employment to population ratio
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	pts	pts	pts
MALES								
2002 to 2003								
Major city	1.9	1.1	1.9	1.9	0.6	3.7	4.6	4.7
Regional area	2.5	1.5	1.9	1.9	0.6	4.2	3.3	4.3
Remote area	2.1	0.9	1.9	1.8	0.9	3.4	4.8	5.4
Australia	4.0	2.3	3.4	3.4	1.3	2.5	2.5	2.9
2003 to 2004								
Major city	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.6	0.6	3.6	3.6	3.1
Regional area	2.8	1.3	3.0	3.7	1.0	3.3	5.7	5.1
Remote area	1.8	0.8	1.8	1.6	0.6	3.2	4.5	4.6
Australia	3.8	2.2	3.3	3.7	1.2	2.4	2.5	2.8
FEMALES								
2002 to 2003								
Major city	2.0	0.8	1.8	1.8	0.6	3.9	4.0	4.5
Regional area	2.2	0.8	2.1	2.3	0.7	3.1	3.6	3.8
Remote area	2.6	0.9	2.4	2.6	0.6	4.8	6.4	6.9
Australia	4.1	1.6	3.6	3.9	1.1	2.5	2.6	2.9
2003 to 2004								
Major city	1.7	0.9	2.0	2.0	0.8	3.4	4.4	3.9
Regional area	2.4	1.1	2.2	2.3	0.6	3.8	3.5	4.0
Remote area	1.9	0.7	1.7	2.0	0.8	3.9	4.6	4.8
Australia	3.9	1.8	3.7	4.1	1.2	2.4	2.7	2.7
PERSONS								
2002 to 2003								
Major city	2.9	1.5	2.8	2.9	1.0	2.9	3.3	3.4
Regional area	3.9	1.9	3.1	3.4	0.8	3.2	2.8	3.4
Remote area	4.0	1.6	3.8	4.0	1.2	3.5	5.1	5.5
Australia	6.7	3.3	5.7	6.3	1.8	2.1	2.2	2.5
2003 to 2004								
Major city	2.5	1.6	2.6	2.5	1.0	2.8	2.8	2.8
Regional area	4.3	1.7	4.2	4.8	1.1	2.6	3.7	3.6
Remote area	3.0	1.1	3.0	3.2	1.3	2.5	4.0	3.9
Australia	6.5	2.9	6.2	6.8	2.0	1.8	2.2	2.3

TECHNICAL NOTE *continued*

M4 - MOVEMENT STANDARD ERRORS FOR INDIGENOUS PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, Labour force status by state or territory—2002 to 2004

	Total employed	Total unemp- loyed	Labour force	Not in labour force	Civilian population aged 15 years and over	Unemp- loyment rate	Partici- pation rate	Employment to population ratio
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	pts	pts	pts
NEW SOUTH WALES								
2002 to 2003	3.4	2.0	3.3	3.3	—	4.1	3.9	4.1
2003 to 2004	4.5	1.9	4.3	4.3	—	4.3	4.9	5.3
VICTORIA								
2002 to 2003	1.7	0.5	1.6	1.6	—	6.9	9.1	9.7
2003 to 2004	1.2	0.7	1.2	1.2	—	6.8	6.7	6.3
QUEENSLAND								
2002 to 2003	3.4	1.5	2.6	2.6	—	3.5	3.3	4.4
2003 to 2004	2.4	1.1	2.3	2.3	—	2.2	2.8	2.9
SOUTH AUSTRALIA								
2002 to 2003	1.0	0.5	1.1	1.1	—	5.8	6.5	6.1
2003 to 2004	0.9	0.4	0.8	0.8	—	4.5	4.6	5.4
WESTERN AUSTRALIA								
2002 to 2003	2.5	1.2	2.3	2.3	—	4.9	5.5	6.0
2003 to 2004	2.1	0.9	2.3	2.3	—	3.3	5.4	4.9
TASMANIA								
2002 to 2003	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.5	—	4.6	4.3	4.8
2003 to 2004	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.5	—	4.4	4.1	5.0
NORTHERN TERRITORY								
2002 to 2003	3.2	1.1	2.9	2.9	—	5.9	7.7	8.4
2003 to 2004	1.5	0.7	1.3	1.3	—	4.1	3.4	4.0
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY								
2002 to 2003	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.3	—	4.9	13.7	13.4
2003 to 2004	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.3	—	6.0	11.3	12.2
AUSTRALIA								
2002 to 2003	6.7	3.3	5.8	5.8	—	2.1	2.0	2.3
2003 to 2004	6.6	2.9	6.3	6.3	—	1.8	2.1	2.2

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

TECHNICAL NOTE *continued*

M5 - MOVEMENT STANDARD ERRORS FOR PROPORTIONS OF INDIGENOUS PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, Labour force status by remoteness—2002 to 2004

2002	2003
to	to
2003	2004

EMPLOYED

Major city	pts	2.0	1.3
Regional area	pts	1.7	2.3
Remote area	pts	2.4	1.8
Australia	'000	6.7	6.6

UNEMPLOYED

Major city	pts	4.2	3.8
Regional area	pts	4.1	4.2
Remote area	pts	4.5	3.4
Australia	'000	3.3	2.9

LABOUR FORCE

Major city	pts	1.6	1.4
Regional area	pts	1.1	1.9
Remote area	pts	1.9	1.4
Australia	'000	5.8	6.3

NOT IN LABOUR FORCE

Major city	pts	2.1	1.7
Regional area	pts	1.4	2.4
Remote area	pts	2.6	1.8
Australia	'000	5.8	6.3

CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER

Major city	pts	—	—
Regional area	pts	0.1	0.1
Remote area	pts	0.1	0.1
Australia	'000	—	—

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

GLOSSARY

Actively looking for work	Includes writing, telephoning or applying in person to an employer for work; answering an advertisement for a job; checking factory notice boards or the touch screens at Centrelink offices; being registered with Centrelink as a jobseeker; checking or registering with any other employment agency; advertising or tendering for work; and contacting friends or relatives.
Civilian population aged 15 years and over	All usual residents of Australia aged 15 years and over except members of the permanent defence forces, certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments customarily excluded from the census and estimated population counts, overseas residents in Australia, and members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.
Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme	The CDEP scheme enables participants (usually members of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities) to exchange unemployment benefits for opportunities to undertake work and training in activities which are managed by a local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander community organisation. Participants in the program are therefore classified as employed.
Contributing family worker	A person who works without pay, in an economic enterprise operated by a relative.
Employed	Persons 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.
Employment to population ratio	For any group, the number of employed persons expressed as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over in the same group.
Indigenous	Refers to people who identified themselves, or were identified by another household member, as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin.
Labour force	For any group, persons who were employed or unemployed, as defined.
Labour force status	A classification of the civilian population aged 15 years and over into employed, unemployed or not in the labour force, as defined. The definitions conform closely to the international standard definitions adopted by the International Conferences of Labour Statisticians.
Major cities	Major Cities is a geographical category in the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Remoteness Structure. These categories are based on the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) which measures the remoteness of a point based on the physical road distance to the nearest Urban Centre. The 'Major Cities of Australia' class includes most capital cities, as well as major urban areas such as Newcastle, Geelong and the Gold Coast. For more information on the ASGC, see <i>Statistical Geography Volume 1, Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 2001</i> (cat. no. 1216.0). See also Regional and Remote.
Not in labour force	Persons who were not in the categories employed or unemployed, as defined.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Participation rate	For any group, the labour force expressed as a percentage of the civilian population in the same group.
Population benchmark	Labour Force Survey estimates of persons employed, unemployed and not in the labour force are calculated in such a way as to add up to an independently estimated distribution of the usually resident civilian population aged 15 years and over. The independent population estimates (benchmarks) for the Indigenous population are based on the low series population projections found in <i>Experimental Estimates and Projections, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians</i> (cat. no. 3238.0).
Population value	The value that would be obtained if the whole population were enumerated under the same procedures as used in the sample survey.
Relative Standard Error (RSE)	The relative standard error is the standard error expressed as a percentage of the estimate to which it refers, and is useful when comparing the variability of estimates of different sizes.
Regional	A geographical area comprising the 'Inner Regional' and 'Outer Regional' categories of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Remoteness Structure. These categories are based on the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) which measures the remoteness of a point based on the physical road distance to the nearest Urban Centre. For more information on the ASGC, see <i>Statistical Geography Volume 1, Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 2001</i> (cat. no. 1216.0). See also Major Cities and Remote.
Remote	A geographical area comprising the 'Remote' and 'Very Remote' categories of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC) Remoteness Structure. These categories are based on the Accessibility/Remoteness Index of Australia (ARIA) which measures the remoteness of a point based on the physical road distance to the nearest Urban Centre. For more information on the ASGC, see <i>Statistical Geography Volume 1, Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 2001</i> (cat. no. 1216.0). See also Major Cities and Regional.
Standard Error (SE)	A measure of the variation among the estimates from all possible samples, and thus a measure of the precision with which an estimate from a particular sample approximates the average result of all possible samples. The units of the standard error are the same as the variable of interest.
Unemployed	Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or■ were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.
Unemployment rate	For any group, the number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force in the same group.

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