

**EMPSa – Employed Persons, Seasonally Adjusted**

1. **Definition (as of June 2011)<sup>1</sup>:** All persons aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:
  - 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:
    - away from work for fewer 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.
2. **Vintage Date:** The vintage date reflects the month in which the publication is released.
3. **Reference Date:** The reference date refers to the date to which the observation is referring to.
4. **First Published Monthly Vintage:** 1970M7 dating back to 1969M2.
5. **Earliest Observation:** Historical series available dating back to 1964M2, although not for all vintages.
6. **Derived Vintages:** 1970M7, dating back to 1969M2, to 1977M5, dating back to 1975M11, from the Total Labour Force and Unemployed Persons.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: *Labor Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0), May 2011.

7. **Seasonality:** Seasonally adjusted.
8. **Unit of Observations:** Thousands of persons.
9. **Frequency of publication:** Prior to 1982M3, observations are reported in quarterly surveys; data is available from quarterly publications (i.e. one vintage per quarter with mid-quarter observations). Monthly surveys were introduced thereafter with monthly observations.
10. **Monthly vintage names:** EMPsyyMm, where yy is the year of the vintage, M refers to Month and m the number of the vintage month. For example, the column heading EMPsa90M1 indicates that this column contains observations available in January of 1990.
11. **Publication Delay:**
  - From the 1970M7 vintage up to and including the 1982M2 vintage there is generally a one quarter delay in the release of data, although the releases are not regular.
  - After the introduction of a monthly survey in the 1982M3 vintage, the figures are obtained from monthly releases. The data in these vintages relate to the observation of the respective series in the previous month. For example, data for the August month is available in the issue released within the first two weeks of September - there is a one month delay in the release of data.
12. **Variables to Derive Additional Vintages of the EMPsa Series:** Two seasonally adjusted series, the Total Labour Force (TLFsa) and the Unemployed Persons (UPsa), are included in the workbook. For the vintages between 1970M7 and 1977M5, the EMPsa values can be derived by subtracting the Unemployed Persons from the Total Labour Force (i.e. TLFsa – UPsa).
13. **Revisions:**
  - The labour force estimates are revised every five years following the revisions made to the Estimated Resident Population (ERP).

- The series were revised every February or March due to an annual seasonal re-analysis using a forward factor adjustment method until the 2003 December vintage. From the 2004 January vintage, the ABS introduced a concurrent adjustment method where the seasonal factors are re-analysed every month. Also, a specific adjustment for Easter and January holiday period was introduced.

14. **Data Sources:** The primary data source is the ABS publication Labour Force Australia (cat. no. 6202.0). Deep-history vintages are obtained from the ABS quarterly microfiche publication: *Time Series Data* (cat. no. 1311.0 & 1335.0). See Table 1 for details.

*Table 1: Sources of Data Series*

Publication Date	Reference	Format	Source
1970M7 – 1979M2	<i>The Labour Force</i> (cat. no. 6203.0)	PDF	Online
1979M5 – 1982M2	<i>The Labour Force, Australia</i> (cat. no. 6203.0)	PDF	Online
1982M3 – 1986M1	<i>Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary</i> (cat. no. 6202.0)	Microfiche	The University of Melbourne, Business and Economics Library
1986M2 – 1986M5	<i>Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary</i> (cat. no. 6202.0)	Hard-copy	The University of Melbourne, Business and Economics Library
1986M6 – 1993M3	<i>Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary</i> (cat. no. 6202.0)	Microfiche	The University of Melbourne, Business and Economics Library
	<i>Time Series Data</i> (cat. no. 1311.0)	Microfiche	The National Library, Canberra
1993M4 – 1993M12	<i>Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary</i> (cat. no. 6202.0)	Hard-copy	The University of Melbourne, Business and Economics Library
1994M1 – 1997M12	<i>Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary</i> (cat. no. 6202.0)	PDF	Online

Table 1: Sources of Data Series (Continued)

Publication Date	Reference	Format	Source
1998M1 – 2003M4	<i>Labour Force, Preliminary</i> (cat. no. 6202.0)	PDF	Online
2003M5 – 2009M2	<i>Labour Force, Australia</i> (cat. no. 6202.0)	PDF	Online
2005 M12 – 2009M2	<i>Labour Force, Australia, Spreadsheets</i> (cat. no. 6202.0.55.001)	Excel Workbook	Online
2009M3 – present	<i>Labour Force, Australia</i> (cat. no. 6202.0); Table 02; Series ID: A181515V.	Excel Workbook	Online

**Special notes:**

1. **EMPsa70M7 – First release of the quarterly Labour Force Survey from which EMPsa can be calculated.** Each vintage reports the observations referring to the mid-quarter months (i.e. reference dates are: February, May, August and November in each year).
2. **EMPsa70M7 to EMPsa82M2 – Irregular releases of data.**
3. **EMPsa70M7 to EMPsa77M5 – Seasonally adjusted estimates of Employed Persons are not published.** Reported values are derived from the seasonally adjusted Total Labour Force and Unemployed Persons series.
4. **EMPsa75M10 – Updated population benchmark.** All observations from here on are based on the results of the 1971 Census of Population and Housing.
5. **EMPsa77M8 – First seasonally adjusted Employed Persons series published in a quarterly survey.**
6. **EMPsa82M3 – Introduction of a monthly survey.** The first seasonally adjusted Employed Persons series published in a monthly survey.
7. **EMPsa83M3 – Annual seasonal reanalysis.**
8. **EMPsa84M3 – Annual seasonal reanalysis and updated population benchmarks.** All observations from here on are based on the results of the 1981 Census of Population and Housing.
9. **EMPsa85M3 – Annual seasonal reanalysis.**
10. **EMPsa86M3 – Annual seasonal reanalysis.**
11. **EMPsa86M5 – Unexpected revision.** In May 1986, the definition of Employed Persons was changed to include persons who worked without pay between 1 to 14 hours per week in a family business or farm (i.e, contributing family workers).
12. **EMPsa87M3 – Annual seasonal reanalysis.**
13. **EMPsa88M3 – Annual seasonal reanalysis.**

14. **EMPsa89M3 – Annual seasonal reanalysis and updated population benchmarks.** All observations from here on are based on the results of the 1986 Census of Population and Housing.
15. **EMPsa90M3 – Annual seasonal reanalysis.**
16. **EMPsa91M3 – Annual seasonal reanalysis.**
17. **EMPsa92M3 – Annual seasonal reanalysis.**
18. **EMPsa93M3 – Annual seasonal reanalysis.**
19. **EMPsa94M3 – Annual seasonal reanalysis and updated population benchmarks.** All observations from here on are based on the results of the 1991 Census of Population and Housing.
20. **EMPsa95M3 – Annual seasonal reanalysis.**
21. **EMPsa96M3 – Annual seasonal reanalysis.**
22. **EMPsa97M3 – Annual seasonal reanalysis.**
23. **EMPsa98M3 – Annual seasonal reanalysis.**
24. **EMPsa99M3 – Annual seasonal reanalysis and updated population benchmarks.** All observations from here on are based on the results of the 1996 Census of Population and Housing.
25. **EMPsa00M3 – Annual seasonal reanalysis.**
26. **EMPsa01M3 – Annual seasonal reanalysis.**
27. **EMPsa01M5 – Unexpected revision.** The May 2001 vintage involves a re-designed survey questionnaire. As a result, the definition of Unemployed Persons was changed to include all persons who were waiting to start work and were available to start in the reference week. This change resulted in a revision of the historical data from the May 2001 vintage causing a trend break in the unemployment rate series.
28. **EMPsa02M3 – Annual seasonal reanalysis.**
29. **EMPsa03M3 – Annual seasonal reanalysis.**
30. **EMPsa04M1 – Unexpected revision.** This revision is due to the introduction of a concurrent seasonality adjustment and holiday period adjustments.

31. **EMPsa04M3 – Unexpected revision.** This revision is due to an updated population benchmark and definitional changes. All observations from here on are based on the results of the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. In addition, a minor change to the definition of unemployment was implemented which involved the treatment of future starters not actively looking for work.
32. **EMPsa09M3 – Updated population benchmark.** This revision is due to a revised population benchmark which takes into account the results of the 2006 Census of Population and Housing.
33. **EMPsa10M8 – Unexpected revision.** This revision is due to changes in population benchmarks which incorporate revisions made to the Net Overseas Migration estimates, published in the September 2008 and September 2009 issues of *Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0).