

URnsa – Unemployment Rate, Not Seasonally Adjusted

1. **Definition (as of June 2011)¹:** The number of unemployed workers expressed as a percentage of the labour force.
2. **Vintage Date:** The vintage date reflects the quarter 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 Monthly Vintage:** 1969M7 dating back to 1966M8.
5. **Earliest Observation:** Historical series available dating back to 1964M2, although not for all vintages.
6. **Seasonality:** Not seasonally adjusted.
7. **Unit of Observations:** Percentage points.
8. **Frequency of publication:** Prior to 1978M3, 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.
9. **Monthly vintage names:** URnsayMm, 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 URnsa90M1 indicates that this column contains observations available in January 1990.
10. **Publication Delay:**
 - From the 1969M7 vintage up to and including the 1978M2 vintage, the quarterly vintages are obtained from quarterly issues and relate to the observation of the respective series in the mid-quarter month of the previous quarter. For example, data for the August month in quarter three is available in the issue released in the fourth quarter. Therefore, there is generally a one quarter delay in the release of data.

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

- After the introduction of a monthly survey in the 1978M3 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.

11. 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 onwards, the ABS introduced a concurrent adjustment method. As a result, the seasonal factors are re-analysed every month. Also, a specific adjustment for Easter and January holiday period was introduced.

12. **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 2 for details.

Table 2: Sources of Data Series

Publication Date	Reference	Format	Source
1969M7 – 1978M2	<i>Labour Force, Australia</i> (cat. no. 6203.0)	PDF	Online
1978M3 – 1981M4	<i>Labour Force, Preliminary</i> (cat. no. 6202.0)	Microfi che	The University of Melbourne, Business and Economics Library

Table 2: Sources of Data Series (Continued)

Publication Date	Reference	Format	Source
1981M5 – 1992M3	<i>Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary</i> (cat. no. 6202.0)	Micro-fiche	The University of Melbourne, Business and Economics Library
	<i>Time Series Data</i> (cat. no. 1311.0)	Micro-fiche	The National Library, Canberra
1992M4 – 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
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 03; Series ID: A163165V.	Excel Workbook	Online

Special notes:

1. **URnsa69M7 – First release of not seasonally adjusted Unemployment Rate.** First release of national series in a quarterly survey. 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. **URnsa73M9 – Two new observations.** This was the first vintage released in 1973 with observations referring to the period 1971M11 to 1973M2. It includes two new observations instead of one new observation relative to the earlier vintages.
3. **URnsa75M10 – Updated population benchmark.** All observations from here on are based on the results of the 1971 Census of Population and Housing.
4. **URnsa78M3 – Introduction of a monthly survey.** The first not seasonally adjusted Unemployment Rate series published in a monthly survey.
5. **URnsa84M3 – Updated population benchmark.** All observations from here on are based on the results of the 1981 Census of Population and Housing.
6. **URnsa86M5 – Unexpected revision.** From 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).
7. **URnsa89M3 – Updated population benchmark.** All observations from here on are based on the results of the 1986 Census of Population and Housing.
8. **URnsa94M3 – Updated population benchmark.** All observations from here on are based on the results of the 1991 Census of Population and Housing.
9. **URnsa99M3 – Updated population benchmark.** All observations from here on are based on the results of the 1996 Census of Population and Housing.
10. **URnsa01M5 – Unexpected revision.** The 2001M5 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 2001M5 vintage causing a trend break in the Unemployment rate series.

11. **URnsa04M3 – 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.
12. **URnsa09M3 – 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.
13. **URnsa10M8 – 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).