

URsa – Unemployment Rate, 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 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. **First Observation:** Historical series available dating back to 1964M2, although not for all vintages.
6. **Derived Vintages:**
 - 1970M7, dating back to 1969M2, to 1975M11, dating back to 1973M11, from the Total Labour Force and Unemployed Persons; and
 - 1978M2, dating back to 1976M8, to 1982M2, dating back to 1976M8, from the Total Labour Force and Employed Persons.
7. **Seasonality:** Seasonally adjusted.
8. **Unit of Observations:** Percentage points.
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:** URsyyMm, 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 URsa90M1 indicates that this column contains observations available in January 1990.
11. **Publication Delay:**

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

- 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 URsa 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 1975M7, the URsa values can be derived by dividing the Unemployed Persons by the Total Labour Force (i.e. $UPsa/TLFsa$). For the vintages between 1978M2 and 1982M2, the URsa values can be derived by dividing the difference between the Total Labour Force and Employed Persons (in EMPsa-Q.xls) by the Total Labour Force (i.e. $(TLFsa - EMPsa)/TLFsa$).

13. Revisions:

- The labour force estimates are revised every five years following the revisions made to the Estimated Resident Population (ERP).
- The series are revised every March due to an annual seasonal re-analysis using a forward factor adjustment method until the 2003M12 vintage. From the 2004M1 vintage onwards, the ABS has 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.

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)	Micro-fiche	The University of Melbourne, Business and Economics Library
1986M2 – 1986M6	<i>Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary</i> (cat. no. 6202.0)	Hard-copy	The University of Melbourne, Business and Economics Library
1986M7 – 1993M3	<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
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
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 2; Series ID: A181525X.	Excel Workbook	Online

Special notes:

1. **URsa70M7 – First release of the quarterly Labour Force Survey from which URsa 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. **URsa70M7 to URsa82M2 – Irregular releases of data.**
3. **URsa70M7 to URsa77M5 – Seasonally adjusted estimates of Unemployment Rate are not published.** Reported values are derived from the seasonally adjusted Total Labour Force and Unemployed Persons series.
4. **URsa75M10 – First published seasonally adjusted Unemployment Rate series in a quarterly survey and updated population benchmark.** All observations from here on are based on the results of the 1971 Census of Population and Housing.
5. **URsa78M2 to URsa82M2 – Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate measures are not published.** Reported values are derived from seasonally adjusted Labour Force and Employed Persons.
6. **URsa82M3 – Introduction of a monthly survey.** First seasonally adjusted Unemployment Rate series published in a monthly survey.
7. **URsa83M3 – Annual seasonal re-analysis.**
8. **URsa84M3 – Annual seasonal re-analysis and updated population benchmarks.** All observations from here on are based on the results of the 1981 Census of Population and Housing.
9. **URsa85M3 – Annual seasonal re-analysis.**
10. **URsa86M3 – Annual seasonal re-analysis.**
11. **URsa86M5 – 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).
12. **URsa87M3 – Annual seasonal re-analysis.**

13. **URsa88M3 – Annual seasonal re-analysis.**
14. **URsa89M3 – Annual seasonal re-analysis and updated population benchmark.** All observations from here on are based on the results of the 1986 Census of Population and Housing.
15. **URsa90M3 – Annual seasonal re-analysis.**
16. **URsa91M3 – Annual seasonal re-analysis.**
17. **URsa92M3 – Annual seasonal re-analysis.**
18. **URsa93M3 – Annual seasonal re-analysis.**
19. **URsa94M3 – Annual seasonal re-analysis and updated population benchmarks.** All observations from here on are based on the results of the 1991 Census of Population and Housing.
20. **URsa95M3 – Annual seasonal re-analysis.**
21. **URsa96M3 – Annual seasonal re-analysis.**
22. **URsa97M3 – Annual seasonal re-analysis.**
23. **URsa98M3 – Annual seasonal re-analysis.**
24. **URsa99M3 – Annual seasonal re-analysis and updated population benchmarks.** All observations from here on are based on the results of the 1996 Census of Population and Housing.
25. **URsa00M3 – Annual seasonal re-analysis.**
26. **URsa01M3 – Annual seasonal re-analysis.**
27. **URsa01M5 – 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 2001M5 vintage causing a trend break in the Unemployment rate series.
28. **URsa02M3 – Annual seasonal re-analysis.**
29. **URsa03M3 – Annual seasonal re-analysis.**
30. **URsa04M1 – Unexpected revision.** This revision is due to the introduction of a concurrent seasonality adjustment and holiday period adjustments.

31. **URsa04M3 – 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. **URsa09M3 – 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. **URsa10M8 – 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).