

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates 25-26 February 2009

Question: aet 29

Topic: Unemployment Levels

Hansard Page: E79

Senator ABETZ asked:

Senator ABETZ—Can I tell you the Treasury department and other departments can tell us that they anticipate a growth in the unemployment level. They do not have any difficulty. I just thought that this department might be able to indicate whether they think they might be part of that unfortunate growth in the unemployment level, but you say you are not and I accept that and we will move on. Which sector of the Australian economy has suffered the most job losses since November 2007?

Senator Carr—I do not have a number to hand on that.

Senator ABETZ—Could you could take that on notice, if yours is the right department to ask that question?

Senator Carr—In terms of the compilation of numbers it is the Treasury portfolio and the ABS who were here earlier today I think, but we are happy—

Senator ABETZ—If the department would be as kind as to flick that through to Treasury I would be much obliged.

Answer:

The ABS does not collect data on job losses, however, it does collect information about the changes in levels of employment across industries.

Looking at overall trend employment levels from November 2007 to February 2009, there was an increase of 165,700 people in employment.

However, there have been compositional impacts at the industry level. Between November 2007 and February 2009, the largest decrease has been in the manufacturing industry, where the number of employed people has declined by 4.2% (44,000 people) in trend terms.