

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2008-09
22-23 October 2008

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Manufacturing

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard 23 October 2008, E73)

QUESTION No.: SI-41

Mr Paterson—I am aware of a number of job losses from the manufacturing sector over a period of 12 months to October 2008, but it does not accord with the number that you have just mentioned.

Senator ABETZ—What number do you have?

Mr Paterson—The number that I have is 7,600 jobs between June 2007 and October 2008. You said 9,000—

Senator ABETZ—Your figure is up to June 2008?

Mr Paterson—No. Our number is from June 2007 to October 2008 and your number was larger and over a much shorter period, so I cannot reconcile those two.

Senator ABETZ—In this AAP report of Friday 3 October at 9.28 am, I am told that recent statistics from the Australian Bureau of Statistics show that 9,200 manufacturing jobs have been lost in Australia since May.

Mr Paterson—We will check that.

Senator ABETZ—Thank you very much.

ANSWER

Based on announcements made by manufacturing companies between June 2007 and October 2008, some 7,600 jobs losses were expected to occur due to companies ceasing operations or restructuring.

In reviewing the latest ABS employment data released on 18 September 2008, the Department was unable to reconcile the figure of 9,200 manufacturing jobs being lost in Australia since May 2008 as reported in the referred AAP report of 3 October 2008.

It should be noted that the latest ABS data indicated an increase of 9,200 jobs in the Machinery and Equipment Manufacturing Sector since May 2008. This sector includes motor vehicle and part manufacturing; other transport equipment manufacturing; photographic and scientific equipment manufacturing; electronic equipment manufacturing; electrical equipment and appliance manufacturing; and industrial machinery and equipment manufacturing.