

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

21 – 22 October 2009

Question: sbt 70

Topic: Definition of ‘Youth’

Hansard Page: E119 (22/10/09)

Senator JOYCE asked:

Senator JOYCE—What is defined as a ‘youth’ now?

Mr Harper—We publish estimates of labour force for 15- to 19-year-olds.

Senator JOYCE—What is the percentage of the 15- to 19-years olds in that bracket?

Mr Harper—Of those who are underemployed?

Senator JOYCE—Yes, unemployed and underemployed.

Mr Harper—I do not have those figures readily to hand, but we can get those for you.

Senator JOYCE—Are they published as well?

Mr Harper—We publish youth unemployment. I am not sure, as a matter of course, whether we publish youth underemployment, but I can check the availability of that data.

Answer:

The ABS publishes unemployment estimates for persons aged 15 to 19 years and persons aged 15 to 24 years on a monthly basis in *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0).

The ABS publishes estimates of underemployment on a quarterly basis in *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0). ABS does not publish estimates of underemployment for persons aged 15 to 19 years; however, it does publish estimates for persons aged 15 to 24 years.

The October 2009 unemployment rate for persons aged 15 to 19 years was 15.5% (seasonally adjusted); in trend terms, 16.1%.

The October 2009 unemployment rate for persons aged 15 to 24 years was 11.6% (seasonally adjusted); in trend terms, 11.7%.

The August 2009 underemployment rate for persons aged 15 to 24 years was 14.4% (seasonally adjusted); in trend terms, 14.6%.