

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 4 - Employment

DEEWR Question No.EW0896_12

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

Jobs

1. Which is a better measure of the level of employment in Australia: a. The total number of people employed. b. The unemployment rate. 2. When was the last time that there were less people employed (as a raw figure), month on month, in Australia?

Answer

1. The best measure of the level of employment in Australia is the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) measure of total employment. According to the latest available ABS statistics, in *seasonally adjusted* terms, the level of total employment in Australia stood at a record high of 11 463 900 in January 2012.
2. The last time there were less people employed than there were in January 2012, was the previous month (December 2011).