

**EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
2008-09 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING**

**Outcome**            8

**DEEWR Question No. EW011\_09**

Senator Watson provided in writing.

**Question**

*Long-term unemployment*

According to the ABS, how many people were Long Term Unemployed (LTUE) in 2008, and what proportion was this of unemployed persons?

**Answer**

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, long-term unemployment stood at 72 500 in May 2008, while long-term unemployment incidence (long-term unemployment as a proportion of total unemployment) stood at 15.2 per cent.

The number of Centrelink long-term unemployment benefit recipients is also important in any analysis of unemployment duration, even though the duration on benefit is not directly comparable with the ABS' measure of unemployment duration and refers to a significantly different population group.

There were 272 900 long-term unemployment benefit recipients (more than 12 months on income support) in May 2008, of whom 106 800 had been in receipt of income support for 5 years or more.