

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

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

Outcome 8

DEEWR Question No. EW300_09

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

- i. Does the Labour Market Information Portal use any of the figures from the ABS job vacancies data?
- ii. Is DEEWR's Labour Market Information Portal reliant on ABS Labour Force data?
- iii. Has any analysis been conducted on the impact of the funding cuts to the ABS as a result of the 2008-09 Budget which will reduce the Labour Force survey sample size by 24% and stop collection of the Jobs Vacancy Data from July 2009?
- iv. According to the ABS, how many people were Long Term Unemployed (LTUE) in May 1998, and what proportion was this of unemployed persons?
- v. According to the ABS, how many people were Long Term Unemployed (LTUE) in 2008, and what proportion was this of unemployed persons

Answer

- i. No.
- ii. A large proportion of data available on the Labour Market Information Portal is sourced from the ABS Labour Force Survey. It includes employment by industry and occupation data, participation and unemployment rates and population data at the LFR, State/Territory and national level.
- iii. The Department is aware that the cut to the Labour Force Survey sample size will result in an increase in the standard errors on the estimates, particularly for data disaggregated at the finer level of detail. However, DEEWR has not undertaken any analysis of the magnitude of the impact on standard errors. The question should be forwarded to the ABS for consideration.
- iv. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, long-term unemployment stood at 211 600 in May 1998, while long-term unemployment incidence (long-term unemployment as a proportion of total unemployment) stood at 29.5 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 426 300 long-term unemployment benefit recipients (more than 12 months on income support) in May 1999 (earliest available comparable data for persons on unemployment benefits for five years or more), of whom 75 800 had been in receipt of income support for 5 years or more.

- v. 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.