



who, during the reference week:

(a) worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (comprising 'Employees', 'Employers' and 'Own Account Workers'; or  
(b) worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (ie. 'Contributing Family Worker'); or  
(c) were 'Employees' who had a job but were not at work and were: on paid leave; on leave without pay for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; stood down without pay because of bad weather or plant breakdown at their place of employment for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; on strike or locked out; on workers' compensation and expected to be returning to their job; or receiving wages or salary while undertaking full-time study; or  
(d) were 'Employers', 'Own Account Workers' or 'Contributing Family Workers' who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

### 3. Unemployed

Unemployed persons are those aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and:

(a) had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and; were available for work in the reference week, or would have been available except for temporary illness (ie. lasting for less than four weeks to the end of the reference week); or were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and would have started in the reference week if the job had been available then; or  
(b) were waiting to be called back to a full-time or part-time job from which they had been stood down without pay for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week (including the whole of the reference week) for reasons other than bad weather or plant breakdown.

Note: Actively looking for work includes writing, telephoning or applying in person to an employer for work; answering a newspaper advertisement for a job; checking factory or Commonwealth Employment Service notice boards; being registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service; checking or registering with any other employment agency; advertising or tendering for work; contacting friends or relatives.

### 4. Not in the labour force:

Persons not in the labour force are those persons who, during the reference week, were not in the categories employed or unemployed, as defined. They include persons who were keeping house (unpaid), retired, voluntarily inactive,

permanently unable to work, persons in institutions (hospitals, gaols, sanatoriums, etc.), trainee teachers, members of contemplative religious orders, and persons whose only activity during the reference week was jury service or unpaid voluntary work for a charitable organisation.

Collection Methods: This definition is based on the ABS standard definition of labour force status. It is generally measured at the point of coming into contact with (or completion of assistance by) an agency.

Proposed Standard Questionnaire:

Which of the following best describes the work situation of the main income earner last week? (Please tick one box only)

Employed full time (35 hours or more a week)

Employed part time (less than 35 hours a week)

Unemployed (actively looking for work in last 4 weeks)

Not in the labour force (not actively looking for or available for work in the last 4 weeks)

Related metadata: relates to the data element Income source version 2

relates to the data element Occupation of person version 1

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### *Administrative Attributes*

Source Document: Standards for Social, Labour and Demographic Statistics, ABS

Source Organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare  
Australian Bureau of Statistics

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### *Data Element Links*

*Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element*

*Data Agreements which include this Data Element*

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