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Title:

Press statement from the Minister for Labour: Provisional Commonwealth Employment Service statistics, March 1974

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press statement

FROM THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR,
MR. CLYDE CAMERON

11 APR 1974

EMBARGO: 8p.m. 7 April 1974

PROVISIONAL COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE STATISTICS MARCH 1974

The latest employment statistics compiled by my Department clearly illustrate the continuing prosperity in the Australian economy. The buoyancy in the labour market during March remained particularly marked in the major metropolitan areas.

In seasonally adjusted terms unfilled vacancies increased in March by 8,812 which was an increase of 10.4% in vacancies available. This is the third successive month that seasonally adjusted job vacancies have increased although the rate of increase was less in March than in February.

In seasonally adjusted terms, and excluding school leavers, the number of unemployed declined over the month by 2,744 or 3.7%. Seasonally adjusted average hours of overtime worked per employee in the Department's overtime survey increased to 3.9 hours in February. In January the figure was 3.8 hours. For comparative purposes in February 1972 overtime worked was 2.6 hours.

Whilst it is useful to look at the seasonally adjusted figures for purposes of considering trends, it is also desirable to examine the actual (as opposed to seasonally adjusted) figures. At the end of March 1974, 82,562 persons were registered as unemployed with the CES. This figure represents 1.41% of the estimated labour force. This figure is of course a very considerable drop from the figure at the end of March 1972. At that time 97,877 persons were registered and looking for employment which represented 1.75% of the estimated labour force. By comparison with the previous month, that is February 1974, the number of registered unemployed fell by 15,075 or 15.4%.

The best indication of the buoyancy in the labour market comes from the present state of vacancies which indicate an increasingly full use of our resources. If we look at unfilled vacancies in relation to unemployed applicants, we find that in March 1974 there were 5,000 more vacancies than there were unemployed applicants. The greatest excess was in Sydney and in Melbourne where vacancies exceeded unemployed by about 16,000 or 163% and 14,000 or 116% respectively.

The big improvement in the employment situation is seen by comparing this with the position in March 1973, that is the beginning of Labour's first year of office, and again with the figures in March 1972 which was the last year of office of the Opposition. In March 1972 the number of persons registered for employment exceeded the number of vacancies available by 68,774. The present position of relative balance between job opportunities and persons seeking employment is a very healthy one.

The provisional statistics for each of the 6 States and for Australia as a whole are set out in the attached tables. More detailed tables will be included in my Department's Monthly Review of the Employment Situation to be released on Tuesday 16 April 1974.

CLYDE R CAMERON

TABLE A. Registered Unemployed

State	Original Data		Original Data (excluding school-leavers)		Seasonally Adjusted Data (excluding school-leavers)	
	March 1974	Variation since previous month	March 1974	Variation since previous month	March 1974	Variation since previous month
New South Wales	28,373	- 4,304	25,708	- 2,200	25,290	- 411
Victoria	20,456	- 3,556	17,777	- 1,253	18,143	- 585
Queensland	14,383	- 3,900	13,280	- 2,993	10,816	- 1,281
South Australia	8,562	- 2,021	7,675	- 1,288	7,278	- 1,416
Western Australia	7,527	- 528	6,931	- 186	6,766	+ 362
Tasmania	3,261	- 766	2,751	- 420	3,227	- 53
AUSTRALIA	82,562	-15,075	74,122	-8,340	71,210	-2,744

TABLE B. Unfilled Vacancies

State	Original Data		Seasonally Adjusted Data	
	March 1974	Variation since previous month	March 1974	Variation since previous month
New South Wales	34,422	- 2,783	37,863	+ 2,841
Victoria	30,480	- 386	31,717	+ 5,629
Queensland	7,950	- 97	8,791	+ 200
South Australia	7,575	- 766	7,759	- 8
Western Australia	5,500	- 152	5,153	+ 120
Tasmania	1,625	- 107	1,781	+ 392
AUSTRALIA	87,552	- 4,291	93,258	+ 8,812

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