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Title:

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

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Press statement

FROM THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR,
MR. CLYDE CAMERON

EMBARGO: 10 am 10 June 1974

PROVISIONAL COMMONWEALTH EMPLOYMENT SERVICE STATISTICS MAY 1974

The provisional Commonwealth Employment Service statistics for May show a slight rise in the seasonally adjusted number of registered unemployed (excluding school-leavers) and a significant decline in seasonally adjusted unfilled vacancies. It was the second consecutive month during which seasonally adjusted unfilled vacancies have declined.

It is, however, still too early to say with certainty that the apparent easing is the beginning of a new trend. A number of abnormal factors obscured the labour market situation. These included: first, an unusually large number of persons who indicated that they were unemployed as a result of industrial disputes and second, a later than usual lapsing in New South Wales of unfilled vacancies for juniors.

During May seasonally adjusted registered unemployed (excluding school-leavers) increased by 119 to 70,074. Seasonally adjusted unfilled vacancies declined by 4,213 to 87,050.

Seasonally adjusted average hours of overtime worked per employee in the Department's monthly survey continued to ease slightly from 3.8 hours in March to 3.7 hours in April.

The actual number of registered unemployed increased during the month by 874 (1.1%) to 77,739 or 1.33% of the estimated labour force.

Actual unfilled vacancies declined by 7,391 to 73,867. Despite this 9.1% decline, unfilled vacancies remained at their highest level for May since 1951.

The provisional statistics for each of the 6 States and 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 Monday 17/6/74.

CLYDE R CAMERON

TABLE A. Registered Unemployed

State	Original Data		Original Data (excluding school-leavers)		Seasonally Adjusted Data (excluding school-leavers)	
	MAY 1974	Variation since previous month	MAY 1974	Variation since previous month	MAY 1974	Variation since previous month
New South Wales	28,937	+1,362	27,441	+1,892	26,068	+205
Victoria	20,625	+682	19,331	+1,063	18,223	+286
Queensland	9,679	-2,028	9,149	-1,828	9,095	-788
South Australia	8,809	+799	8,303	+948	7,657	+593
Western Australia	6,566	-27	6,304	+110	5,973	-390
Tasmania	3,123	+86	2,900	+208	2,863	-96
AUSTRALIA	77,739	+874	73,428	+2,393	70,074	+119

TABLE B. Unfilled Vacancies

State	Original Data		Seasonally Adjusted Data	
	MAY 1974	Variation since previous month	MAY 1974	Variation since previous month
New South Wales	27,653	-3,950	32,945	-4,358
Victoria	27,060	-1,601	33,474	+559
Queensland	7,935	+127	8,681	-114
South Australia	5,608	-1,166	6,146	-1,351
Western Australia	4,326	-645	4,716	-59
Tasmania	1,285	-156	1,575	-210
AUSTRALIA	73,867	-7,391	87,050	-4,213