

The Labour Force in July 2005

The Labour Force comprises the employed and the unemployed; all other persons 14 years and over are 'outside the labour force'. In July 2005, there were 1,197,500 persons in the Labour Force comprising 667,800 males (55.8%) and 529,700 females (44.2%).

The employed labour force comprises all persons 14 years and over in employment; that is, all persons working (whether for their own account or as employees) for at least one hour during survey week, together with persons who had jobs but were not working during the survey week eg. persons on vacation leave. Overall 88.8 percent of the Labour Force or 1,063,300 persons were employed in July 2005. Of those employed, 617,900 were males and 445,400 were females, with employment rates of 92.5 and 84.1 percent respectively. For July 2004, the corresponding employment rates were 89.4 percent overall, with 92.5 percent for males and 85.4 percent for females.

The unemployed are those persons actively 'Looking for work', as well as persons, who, although not actively looking, were 'Wanting work and available for work'. The latter category therefore would include the 'discouraged workers', who have stopped looking for work but would accept a job if offered. The unemployment rate for July 2005 was 11.2 percent. The number of unemployed persons increased by 7,200 persons between July 2004 and July 2005, moving from 127,000 to 134,200 persons respectively, while in comparison, there was a decrease in numbers between April 2005 and July 2005, from 146,100 to 134,200.

The job-seeking rate is the percentage of the labour force actively seeking work. In July 2005 the job-seeking rate was 5.2 percent overall, 3.7 percent for males and 7.2 percent for females. This shows little change when compared with July 2004, when the job seeking rates were 5.2 percent overall, 4.0 percent for males and 6.8 percent for females.

All persons 14 years and older who were not classified as employed or unemployed, are considered to be 'Outside the Labour Force'. Persons outside the labour force include persons who not only were not looking for work, but were also either not available for work, did not want to work or were incapable of working. In July 2005, the number of persons outside the labour force was 668,300, comprising 241,000 males and 427,300 females. The percentage of the population 14 years and over who were outside the labour force was 35.8%. Approximately two third (63.9%) of the persons outside the labour force in July 2005 were females.