

Prison entrant—labour force status 30 days prior to imprisonment, labour force and study status code N

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Labour force and study status 30 days prior to imprisonment
METEOR identifier:	791524
Registration status:	Health , Recorded 11/04/2024
Definition:	The self-reported labour force or study status of a prison entrant 30 days prior to imprisonment, as represented by a code.
Context:	Prisoner health.
Data Element Concept:	Prison entrant—labour force status 30 days prior to imprisonment
Value Domain:	Labour force and study status prior to imprisonment code N

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code
Data type:	Number
Format:	N
Maximum character length:	1

	Value	Meaning
Permissible values:	1	Full-time work
	2	Part-time work or casual work
	3	Full-time study
	4	Part-time study
	5	Unemployed and looking for work
	6	Unemployed and not looking for work
	7	Unable to work due to disability, age or health condition
Supplementary values:	9	Unknown

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:

For use in Prisoner health data collections. If this value domain is to be used with other metadata then 'Unknown' would map to code 8.

Only one option may be selected.

CODE 1 Full-time work

Employed persons are working full-time if they:

(a) usually work 35 hours or more in a week (in all paid jobs) or

(b) although usually work less than 35 hours a week, actually worked 35 hours or more a week during the 30 days prior to being imprisoned.

CODE 2 Part-time or casual work

Employed persons are working part-time if they usually work less than 35 hours a week (in all paid jobs) during the 30 days prior to being imprisoned.

A person's employment is classed as casual work if they are not entitled to paid sick or holiday leave and considered their job to be casual, and who either: worked in someone else's business or reported that they worked in their own unincorporated business but did not invoice clients for own payment and paid PAYE tax.

CODE 3 Full-time study**CODE 4 Part-time study****CODE 5 and 6 Unemployed and looking for work/not looking for work**

Unemployed persons are defined as all persons 15 years of age and over who were not employed during the 30 days prior to being imprisoned, and

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the 30 days prior to being imprisoned and were available for work during that period or
- were waiting to start a new job within the 30 days prior to being in prison

'Looking for work' encompasses a range of formal and informal job search activities and includes: writing, telephoning or applying in person to an employer for work, answering an advertisement for a job, checking workplace noticeboards or the touchscreens at Centrelink offices, being registered as a job seeker with Centrelink, being registered with a Job Network agency or any other employment agency, advertising or tendering for work, and contacting friends or relatives. People actively looking for self-employment jobs (such as looking for a business or to purchase a lease) are also treated as looking for work. People who only looked in newspapers or read job advertisements are seen as passively, rather than actively, looking for work and so are not considered unemployed.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Reference documents: ABS (Australian Bureau of Statistics) 1996. Standards for Labour Force Statistics Variables. Cat. no. 1288.0. Canberra: ABS

ABS 2007. Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods, Apr 2007. Cat. no. 6102.0.55.001. Canberra: ABS

ABS 2009. Education and work. Cat. no. 6227.0. Canberra: ABS

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Comments: Capturing the extent of employment participation of people entering prison is an important factor when following a throughcare approach to reducing recidivism and increasing protective factors for people involved in the criminal justice system.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: See also [Prison entrant—labour force status 30 days prior to imprisonment, code N](#)
[Health](#), Standard 28/04/2016

Implementation in Data Set Specifications: [Prison entrants NBEDS 2018](#)
[Health](#), Qualified 07/03/2024

DSS specific information:

This data element corresponds to the following question of the Prison Entrants Form:

12. In the 30 days prior to entering custody, which of the following best described your employment status?
Multiple boxes may be ticked unless "Unknown" is chosen.

This data element is included in the Prisoner health NBEDS as the National Prisoner Health Indicators include the indicator: Proportion of prison entrants who were unemployed in the 30 days prior to imprisonment.