

Wednesday, 22 March 2017

Australians say Roy Morgan unemployment estimate 'closer to reality' than ABS

A majority of Australians 58% (down 2% since April 2015) say the Roy Morgan February unemployment estimate (9.4%) is 'closer to reality' than the far lower official ABS February unemployment number (5.9%)*; 31% (up 2%) believe the ABS number while a further 11% (unchanged) can't say according to a special telephone Morgan Poll conducted over three nights last week, March 14-16, 2017.

Analysis by Gender & Age

Analysis by gender shows women 62% (up 3%) are now more likely than men 53% (down 8%) to say the Roy Morgan unemployment figure is 'closer to reality'. Now more men 36% (up 5%) than women 26% (down 1%) say the ABS unemployment figure is 'closer to reality' while 11% (up 3%) of men say they 'can't say' compared to 12% (up 1%) of women.

Analysis by age groups shows people of all ages are more likely to believe the Roy Morgan figures - 55% of 14-24yr olds believe the Roy Morgan unemployment figure is 'closer to reality', along with 46% of 25-34yr olds, 54% of 35-49yr olds, 69% of 50-64yr olds and 62% of 65+yr olds.

Analysis by Voting Intention

Analysis by voting intention shows a clear difference between supporters of the two major parties – ALP supporters are far more likely to say the Roy Morgan unemployment estimate is 'closer to reality' than L-NP supporters, although supporters of both major parties indicate they are more likely to believe the Roy Morgan unemployment estimate than the ABS unemployment estimate.

Now 59% (down 9%) of ALP supporters say the Roy Morgan unemployment estimate is 'closer to reality' compared to 32% (up 9%) that believe the ABS unemployment estimate while 50% (down 2%) of L-NP supporters say the Roy Morgan unemployment estimate is 'closer to reality' compared to 38% (up 1%) that say the ABS unemployment estimate is 'closer to reality'.

In addition Greens supporters also clearly believe the Roy Morgan unemployment estimate 64% (up 4%) ahead of the ABS estimate 25% (up 3%). Amongst One Nation supporters disbelief of the official ABS employment figures is even higher – 77% of One Nation supporters believe the Roy Morgan unemployment estimate is 'closer to reality' cf. 9% believing the ABS estimate.

Gary Morgan says:

"Once again a clear majority of Australians 58% (down 2% since April 2015) say the Roy Morgan unemployment estimate (9.4% in February – 1,253,000) is 'closer to reality' compared to 31% (up 1%) that say the official ABS unemployment estimate (5.9% in February) is 'closer to reality'. The ABS only releases an estimate of under-employment every three months (Roy Morgan estimates there are 1,137,000 under-employed in Australia - 8.5%).

"This is the fourth time Roy Morgan has asked this question, and the overall results have shown a majority each time say the Roy Morgan unemployment estimate is 'closer to reality' – 58% of Australians in June 2013, 55% in June 2014, 60% in April 2015 and 58% last week.

"The recent decision by the Fair Work Commission to reduce excessive penalty rates on weekends and public holidays is a step in the right direction, however more must be done to significantly reduce the large pool of unemployed and under-employed labour in Australia – 2.39 million (17.9%) in February 2017 according to the latest Roy Morgan estimates.

“The Turnbull Government needs to acknowledge that more than 2 million Australians want work, or want more work and must explain to the electorate that employment of those people (mainly young) can only take place if they are offered jobs with training and remuneration at a reduced award by law until training has been achieved by those passing tests.”

This special telephone Morgan Poll was conducted over three nights last week, March 14-16, 2017, with an Australia-wide cross-section of 622 Australians aged 14+.

Australians were asked: *“The ABS Unemployment rate in February was 5.9%. The Roy Morgan estimate for February was 9.4%. Which do you believe is closer to reality?”* *Before the ABS February unemployment estimate was released on the morning of Thursday March 16, this question referenced the ABS January unemployment estimate of 5.7%.

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ABS v Roy Morgan Unemployment figures

Australians were asked: "The ABS Unemployment rate in February was 5.9%. The Roy Morgan estimate for February was 9.4%. Which do you believe is closer to reality?" *Before the ABS February unemployment estimate was released on the morning of Thursday March 16, this question referenced the ABS January unemployment estimate of 5.7%.

Telephone Morgan Poll										
	Interviewing Dates				Electors					
	June 2013	June 2014	April 2015	March 14-16, 2017	L-NP	ALP	Greens	One Nation#	Ind/Other#	Can't say#
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Roy Morgan	58	55	60	59	50	59	64	77	62	65
ABS	21	33	29	30	38	32	25	9	22	24
Can't say	21	12	11	11	12	9	11	14	16	11
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

#Figures for some these demographics must be treated with caution as there are under 50 interviews.

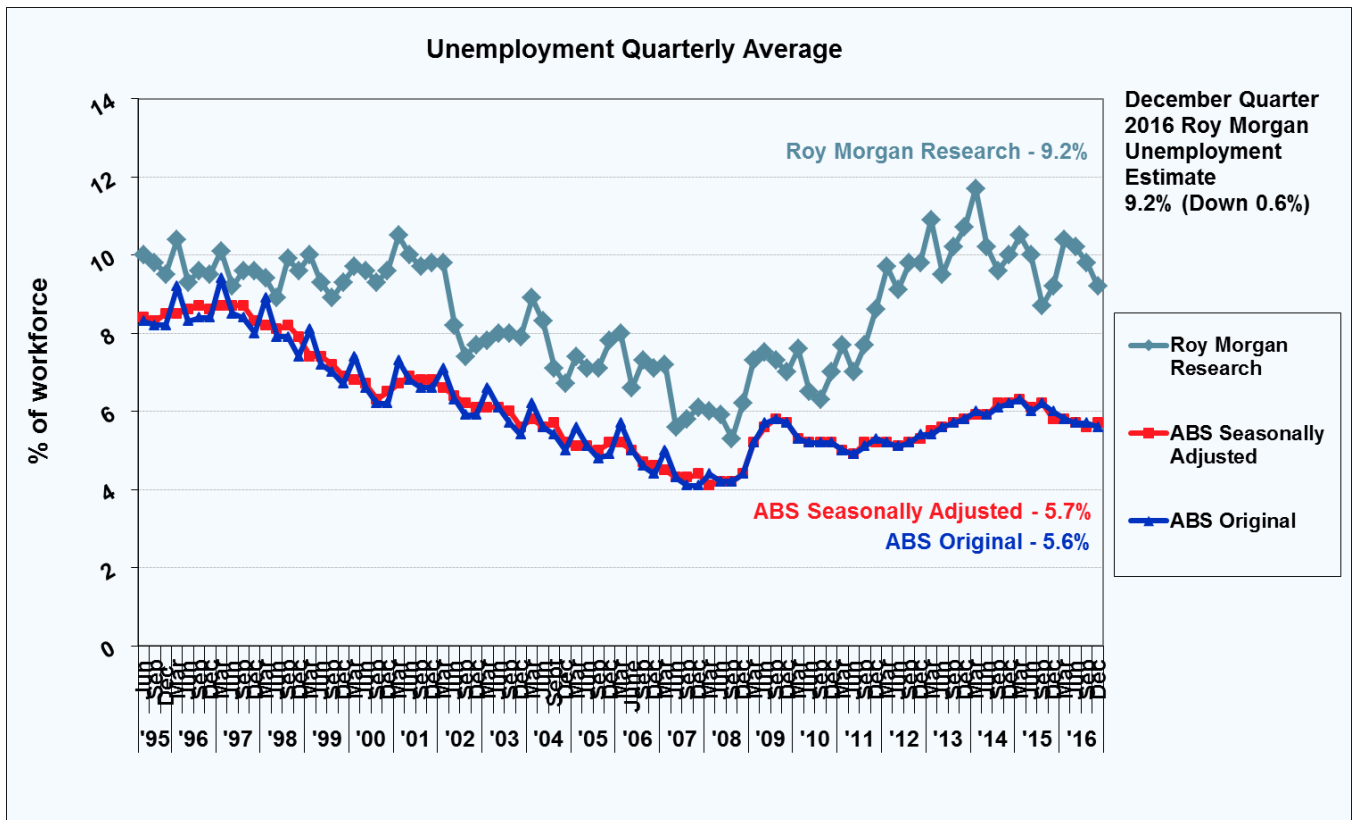
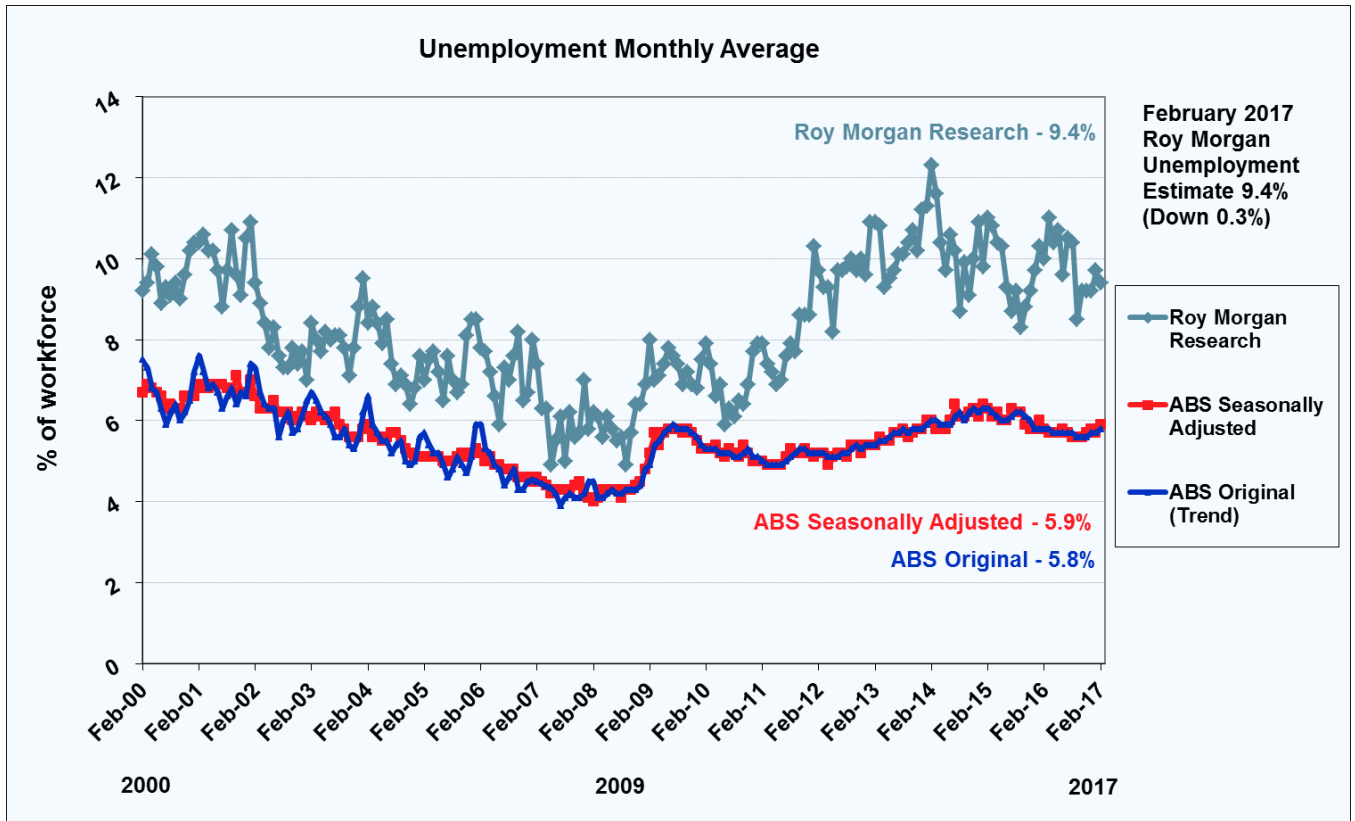
Telephone Morgan Poll											
	Australians 14+				Gender		Age				
	June 2013	June 2014	April 2015	March 14-16, 2017	Men	Women	14-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Roy Morgan	58	55	60	58	53	62	55	46	54	69	62
ABS	21	32	29	31	36	26	36	41	33	21	27
Can't say	21	13	11	11	11	12	9	13	13	10	11
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

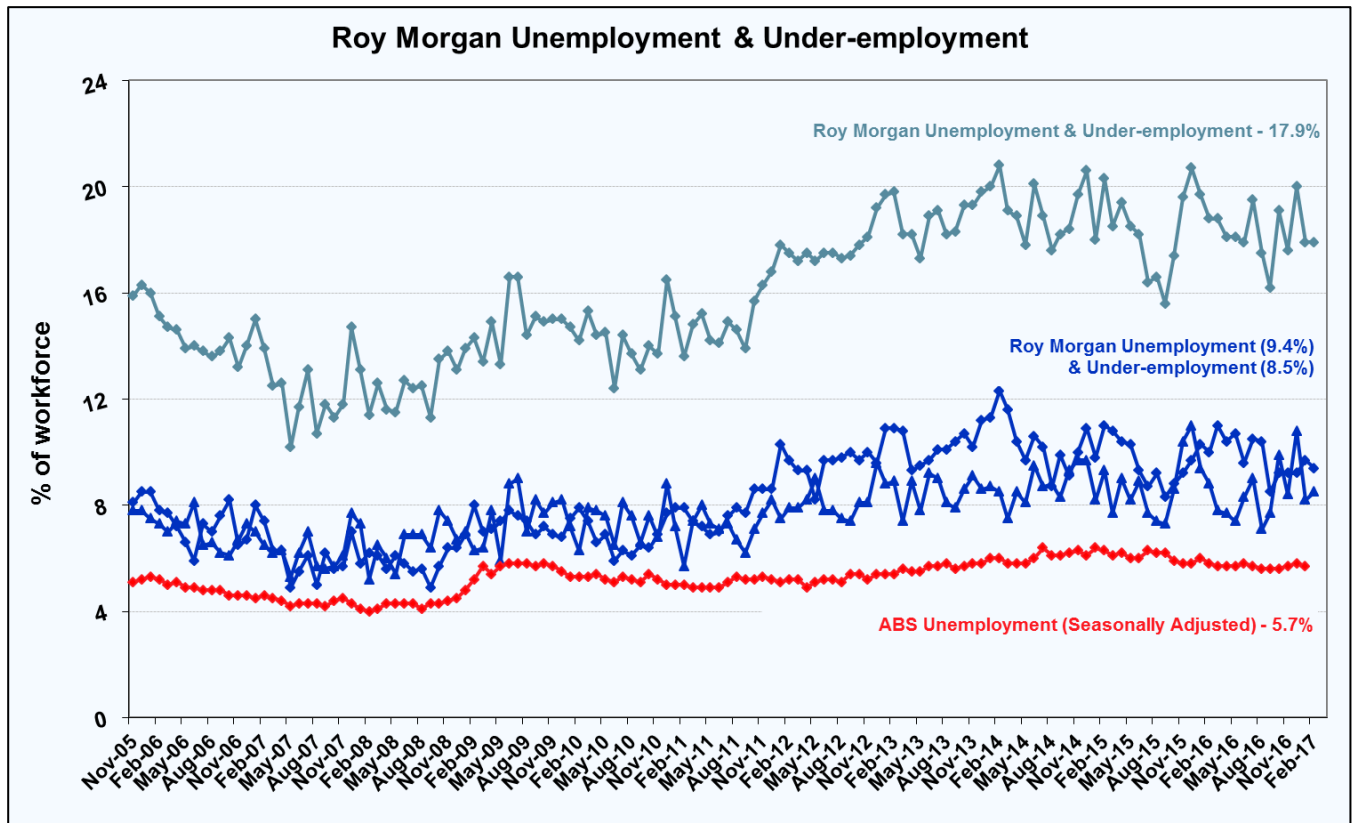
Telephone Morgan Poll										
	Australians 14+				State					
	June 2013	June 2014	April 2015	March 14-16, 2017	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS#
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Roy Morgan	58	55	60	58	57	55	60	53	75	39
ABS	21	32	29	31	34	35	24	40	12	46
Can't say	21	13	11	11	9	10	16	7	13	15
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

*In June 2013 the Roy Morgan unemployment figure was 9.7% and the ABS unemployment figure was 5.7%. In June 2014 the Roy Morgan unemployment figure was 10.6% and the ABS unemployment figure was 6.0%. In April 2015 the Roy Morgan unemployment figure was 10.8% and the ABS unemployment figure was 6.1%.

ROY MORGAN RESEARCH VS. ABS UNEMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE





**ROY MORGAN MEASURES REAL UNEMPLOYMENT IN AUSTRALIA
NOT THE 'PERCEPTION' OF UNEMPLOYMENT – JUNE 8, 2012**

<http://www.roymorgan.com/~media/Files/Papers/2012/20120603.pdf>

The Roy Morgan Unemployment estimate is obtained by surveying an Australia-wide cross section by face-to-face interviews. A person is classified as unemployed if they are looking for work, no matter when.

The results are not seasonally adjusted and provide an accurate measure of monthly unemployment estimates in Australia.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics Unemployment estimates are obtained by mostly telephone interviews. Households selected for the ABS Survey are interviewed each month for eight months, with one-eighth of the sample being replaced each month. The first interview is conducted face-to-face. Subsequent interviews are then conducted by telephone.

The ABS classifies a person as unemployed if, when surveyed, they have been actively looking for work in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and if they were available for work in the reference week.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics Unemployment estimates are also seasonally adjusted.

For these reasons the Australian Bureau of Statistics Unemployment estimates are different from the Roy Morgan Unemployment estimate. Gary Morgan's concerns regarding the ABS Unemployment estimate is clearly outlined in his letter to the Australian Financial Review, which was not published.

<http://www.roymorgan.com/news/papers/2003/20030801>