

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, INCREASE

211. Hon. C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for Consumer and Employment Protection

I refer the Minister to the July 2002 employment figures, seasonally adjusted, and ask why was Western Australia one of only two States in the Commonwealth, the other being Tasmania, to record an increase in the unemployment rate from 5.7% to six per cent?

Mr J.C. KOBELKE replied:

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) advise that the estimates provided in their monthly Labour Force publication (6202.0) are based on a sample survey. Because the entire population is not surveyed the published estimates and the movements derived from them are subject to sampling errors. This may explain why the month on month unemployment rate figures for WA have displayed a high level of volatility. This is one of the likely reasons for the recorded increase.

Coincidentally the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in Western Australia rose from 5.6% in June 2000 to 6.0% in July 2000.