

The dynamics of unemployment and employment in Australia
A study using the ABS Survey of Employment and Unemployment Patterns
1994-1997

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The recent release of the Survey of Employment and Unemployment Patterns 1994-1997 by the Australian Bureau of Statistics allows for longitudinal research on the Australian labour market. So far, this type of research has been frustrated by a lack of suitable data.

In this paper, we analyse the duration of unemployment spells and the duration of employment spells after a period of unemployment. Our sample covers the period from September 1994 to September 1996. This period includes the major social security changes of 1 July 1995. We identify factors that affect both types of labour market spell. After estimation of the two models, the results can be compared to investigate whether factors that increase unemployment duration tend to decrease employment duration.

This research provides novel insights into Australian unemployment duration and examines the relationship between unemployment duration and subsequent employment duration.

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