

Mr Joe Toohey  
Arts Industry Council Victoria

Regarding questions on notice, I provide answers below, but caution these are ABS figures and note their interpretation is mine alone.

Q: You gave some figures in your opening presentation in regard to job losses and losses of artists off payroll. I think you gave percentage figures. Are you able to provide those figures in total numbers to the committee?

A: Data published by the ABS (<https://beta.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/may-2020/6291004.xls>) shows the seasonally adjusted number of total employed in the arts & recreation sector fell from 248,100 to 160,300, or 87,770 nationally between Feb and May 2020. The percentage figure drops quoted in my introduction extend to July and will not perfectly match these numbers because of the differing time periods.

Q: Great, thanks. And do you also have figures in terms of lost hours and underemployment as well?

A: Hours: data published by the ABS (<https://beta.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/may-2020/6291011.xls>) recorded that the number of hours actually worked in all jobs in the arts & recreation sector fell from 7,272,700 in Feb to 3,639,200 in May - a fall of 3,633,478 hours in this period.

Underemployment: the ABS data (<https://beta.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/may-2020/6291019.xls>) recorded that the total number of underemployed persons remained static from Feb to May 2020 at 41,700 in the arts and recreation sector.