# Package 'readabs'

July 23, 2025

```
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Title Download and Tidy Time Series Data from the Australian Bureau of
      Statistics
Version 0.4.19
Maintainer Matt Cowgill <mattcowgill@gmail.com>
Description Downloads, imports, and tidies time series data from the
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License MIT + file LICENSE
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```

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# Description

### [Experimental]

These experimental functions provide a minimal interface to the ABS.Stat API.

More information on the ABS.Stat API can be found on the ABS website

Note that an ABS.Stat 'dataflow' is like a table. A 'datastructure' contains metadata that describes the variables in the dataflow. To load data from the ABS.Stat API, you need to either:

- $\bullet$  Using read\_api\_dataflows() you can get information on the available dataflows
- Using read\_api\_datastructure() you can get metadata relating to a specific dataflow, including the variables available in each dataflow
- Using read\_api() you can get the data belonging to a given dataflow.
- Using read\_api\_url() you can get the data for a given query url generated using the online data viewer.

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### Usage

```
read_api_dataflows()
read_api(
  id,
  datakey = NULL,
  start_period = NULL,
  end_period = NULL,
  version = NULL
)
read_api_url(url)
read_api_datastructure(id)
```

### **Arguments**

id A dataflow id. Use read\_api\_dataflows() to obtain a dataframe listing avail-

able dataflows.

datakey A named list matching filter variables to codes. All variables with a position

in the datastructure are filterable. Use read\_api\_datastructure() to obtain information about the variables in a dataflow and the values of that variable.

start\_period The start period (used to filter by time). This is inclusive. The supported formats

are:

• "YYYY" for annual data (e.g. 2019)

• "YYYY-S[1-2]" for semi-annual data (e.g. 2019-S1)

• "YYYY-Q[1-4]" for quarterly data (e.g. 2019-Q1)

• "YYYY-MM[01-12]" for monthly data (e.g. 2019-01)

• "YYYY-W[01-53]" for weekly data (e.g. 2019-W01)

• "YYYY-MM-DD" for daily and business data (e.g. 2019-01-01)

end\_period The end period (used to filter on time). This is inclusive. The supported formats

are the same as for start\_period

version A version number, if unspecified the latest version of the dataset is used. Use

read\_api\_dataflows() to see available dataflow versions.

url A complete query url

#### Details

Note that the API enforces a reasonably strict gateway timeout policy. This means that, if you're trying to access a reasonably large dataset, you will need to filter it on the server side using the datakey. You might like to review the data manually via the ABS website to figure out what subset of the data you require.

Note, furthermore, that the datastructure contains a complete codebook for the variables appearing in the relevant dataflow. Since some variables are shared across multiple dataflows, this means that the datastructure corresponding to a particular id may contain values for a given variable which are not in the corresponding dataflow.

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#### Value

A data.frame

```
## Not run:
# List available dataflows
read_api_dataflows()
# Say we want the "Estimated resident population, Country of birth"
# data flow, with the id ERP_COB. We load the data like this:
# Get full data set for a given flow by providing id and start period:
read_api("ERP_COB", start_period = 2020)
# In some cases, loading a whole dataflow (as above) won't work.
# For eg., the `ABS_C16_T10_SA` dataflow is very large,
# so the gateway will timeout if we try to collect the full data set
try(read_api("ABS_C16_T10_SA"))
# We need to filter the dataflow before downlaoding it.
# To figure out how to filter it, we get metadata ('datastructure').
ds <- read_api_datastructure("ABS_C16_T10_SA")</pre>
# The `asgs_2016` code for 'Australia' is 0
ds[ds$var == "asgs_2016" & ds$label == "Australia", ]
# The `sex_abs` code for 'Persons' (i.e. all persons) is 3
ds[ds$var == "sex_abs" & ds$label == "Persons", ]
# So we have:
x \leftarrow read\_api("ABS\_C16\_T10\_SA", datakey = list(asgs\_2016 = 0, sex\_abs = 3))
unique(x["asgs_2016"]) # Confirming only 'Australia' level records came through
unique(x["sex_abs"]) # Confirming only 'Persons' level records came through
# Please note however that not all values in the datastructure necessarily
# appear in the data. You get 404s in this case
ds[ds$var == "regiontype" & ds$label == "Destination Zones", ]
try(read_api("ABS_C16_T10_SA", datakey = list(regiontype = "DZN")))
# If you already have a query url, then use `read_api_url()`
wpi_url <- "https://data.api.abs.gov.au/rest/data/ABS,WPI/all"</pre>
read_api_url(wpi_url)
## End(Not run)
```

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### **Description**

This function returns the most recent observation date for a specified ABS time series catalogue number (as a whole), individual tables, or series IDs.

### Usage

```
check_latest_date(cat_no = NULL, tables = "all", series_id = NULL)
```

#### **Arguments**

| cat_no    | ABS catalogue number, as a string, including the extension. For example, "6202.0".  |
|-----------|---|
| tables    | numeric. Time series tables in cat_no $^{^{^{^{^{^{^{^{^{^{^{^{^{^{^{^{^{^{^{$  |
| series_id | (optional) character. Supply an ABS unique time series identifier (such as "A2325807L") to get only that series. This is an alternative to specifying cat_no. |

#### **Details**

Where the individual time series in your request have multiple dates, only the most recent will be returned.

#### Value

Date vector of length one. Date corresponds to the most recent observation date for any of the time series in the table(s) requested. observation date for any of the time series in the table(s) requested.

```
## Not run:
# Check a whole catalogue number; return the latest release date for any
# time series in the number

check_latest_date("6345.0")

# Return latest release date for a table within a catalogue number - note
# the function will return the release date
# of the most-recently-updated series within the tables
check_latest_date("6345.0", tables = 1)

# Or for multiple tables - note the function will return the release date
# of the most-recently-updated series within the tables
check_latest_date("6345.0", tables = c("1", "5a"))

# Or for an individual time series
check_latest_date(series_id = "A2713849C")

## End(Not run)
```

download\_abs\_data\_cube

Experimental helper function to download ABS data cubes that are not compatible with read\_abs.

### Description

[Experimental] download\_abs\_data\_cube() downloads the latest ABS data cubes based on the catalogue name (from the website url) and cube. The function downloads the file to disk.

Unlike read\_abs(), this function doesn't import or tidy the data. Convenience functions are provided to import and tidy key data cubes; see ?read\_payrolls() and ?read\_lfs\_grossflows().

### Usage

```
download_abs_data_cube(
  catalogue_string,
  cube,
  path = Sys.getenv("R_READABS_PATH", unset = tempdir())
)
```

### **Arguments**

catalogue\_string

ABS catalogue name as a string from the ABS website. For example, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed is "labour-force-australia-detailed". The possible catalogues can be obtained using the helper function show\_available\_catalogues();

or search these catalogues using search\_catalogues(),

cube character. A character string that is either the complete filename or (uniquely) in

the filename of the data cube you want to download, e.g. "EQ09". The available filenames can be obtained using the helper function get\_available\_files()

path Local directory in which downloaded files should be stored. By default, path

takes the value set in the environment variable "R\_READABS\_PATH". If this variable is not set, any files downloaded will be stored in a temporary directory

(tempdir()). See Details below for more information.

#### **Details**

download\_abs\_data\_cube() downloads an Excel spreadsheet from the ABS.

The file need to be saved somewhere on your disk. This local directory can be controlled using the path argument to read\_abs(). If the path argument is not set, read\_abs() will store the files in a directory set in the "R\_READABS\_PATH" environment variable. If this variable isn't set, files will be saved in a temporary directory.

To check the value of the "R\_READABS\_PATH" variable, run Sys.getenv("R\_READABS\_PATH"). You can set the value of this variable for a single session using Sys.setenv(R\_READABS\_PATH = <path>). If you would like to change this variable for all future R sessions, edit your .Renviron file and add R\_READABS\_PATH = <path> line. The easiest way to edit this file is using usethis::edit\_r\_environ().

The filepath is returned invisibly which enables piping to unzip() or readx1::read\_excel.

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### See Also

Other data cube functions: search\_catalogues(), show\_available\_catalogues(), show\_available\_files()

### **Examples**

```
## Not run:
download_abs_data_cube(
   catalogue_string = "labour-force-australia-detailed",
   cube = "EQ09"
)
## End(Not run)
```

extract\_abs\_sheets

Extract data sheets from an ABS timeseries workbook saved locally as an Excel file.

### Description

Note that this function will not tidy the data for you. Use read\_abs\_local()to import and tidy data from local ABS time series spreadsheets or read\_abs() to download, import and tidy ABS time series.

# Usage

```
extract_abs_sheets(
  filename,
  table_title = NULL,
  path = Sys.getenv("R_READABS_PATH", unset = tempdir())
)
```

### Arguments

filename Filename for an ABS time series spreadsheet (as string)

table\_title String giving the full title of the ABS table, such as "Table 1. Employed persons,

Australia"

path Local directory in which an ABS time series is stored. Default is Sys.getenv("R\_READABS\_PATH",

unset = tempdir()).

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```
get_available_lfs_cubes
```

Show the available Labour Force, Australia, detailed data cubes that can be downloaded

### **Description**

Show the available Labour Force, Australia, detailed data cubes that can be downloaded

### Usage

```
get_available_lfs_cubes()
```

### **Details**

Intended to be used with read\_lfs\_datacube(). Call read\_lfs\_datacube() interactively, find the table of interest (eg. "LM1"), then use read\_lfs\_datacube().

### **Examples**

```
get_available_lfs_cubes()
```

read\_abs

Download, extract, and tidy ABS time series spreadsheets

### **Description**

### [Stable]

read\_abs() downloads ABS time series spreadsheets, then extracts the data from those spreadsheets, then tidies the data. The result is a single data frame (tibble) containing tidied data.

```
read_abs(
  cat_no = NULL,
  tables = "all",
  series_id = NULL,
  path = Sys.getenv("R_READABS_PATH", unset = tempdir()),
  metadata = TRUE,
  show_progress_bars = TRUE,
  retain_files = TRUE,
  check_local = TRUE,
  release_date = "latest"
)

read_abs_series(series_id, ...)
```

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### **Arguments**

cat\_no ABS catalogue number, as a string, including the extension. For example,

"6202.0".

tables numeric. Time series tables in cat\_no`` to download and extract. Default is "all", which will

blesto download and import specific tables(s) - eg.tables = lortables

= c(1, 5)'.

series\_id (optional) character. Supply an ABS unique time series identifier (such as "A2325807L")

to get only that series. This is an alternative to specifying cat\_no.

path Local directory in which downloaded ABS time series spreadsheets should be

stored. By default, path takes the value set in the environment variable "R\_READABS\_PATH".

If this variable is not set, any files downloaded by read\_abs() will be stored in a temporary directory (tempdir()). See Details below for more information.

metadata logical. If TRUE (the default), a tidy data frame including ABS metadata (series

name, table name, etc.) is included in the output. If FALSE, metadata is dropped.

show\_progress\_bars

TRUE by default. If set to FALSE, progress bars will not be shown when ABS

spreadsheets are downloading.

retain\_files when TRUE (the default), the spreadsheets downloaded from the ABS website

will be saved in the directory specified with path. If set to FALSE, the files will

be stored in a temporary directory.

check\_local If TRUE, the default, local fst files are used, if present.

release\_date Either "latest" or a string coercible to a date, such as "2022-02-01". If

"latest", the latest release of the requested data will be returned. If a date, (eg. "2022-02-01") read\_abs() will attempt to download the data from that month's release. Note that this only works consistently as expected for monthly

data. See Details.

... Arguments to read\_abs\_series() are passed to read\_abs().

#### **Details**

read\_abs\_series() is a wrapper around read\_abs(), with series\_id as the first argument.

read\_abs() downloads spreadsheet(s) from the ABS containing time series data. These files need to be saved somewhere on your disk. This local directory can be controlled using the path argument to read\_abs(). If the path argument is not set, read\_abs() will store the files in a directory set in the "R\_READABS\_PATH" environment variable. If this variable isn't set, files will be saved in a temporary directory.

To check the value of the "R\_READABS\_PATH" variable, run Sys.getenv("R\_READABS\_PATH"). You can set the value of this variable for a single session using Sys.setenv(R\_READABS\_PATH = <path>). If you would like to change this variable for all future R sessions, edit your .Renviron file and add R\_READABS\_PATH = <path> line. The easiest way to edit this file is using usethis::edit\_r\_environ().

Certain corporate networks restrict your ability to download files in an R session. On some of these networks, the "wininet" method must be used when downloading files. Users can now specify the method that will be used to download files by setting the "R\_READABS\_DL\_METHOD" environment variable.

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For example, the following code sets the environment variable for your current session: sSys.setenv("R\_READABS\_DL\_METHOD = "wininet") You can add R\_READABS\_DL\_METHOD = "wininet" to your .Renviron to have this persist across sessions.

The release\_date argument allows you to download table(s) other than the latest release. This is useful for examining revisions to time series, or for obtaining the version of series that were available on a given date. Note that you cannot supply more than one date to release\_date. Note also that any dates prior to mid-2019 (the exact date varies by series) will fail. Specifying release\_date only reliably works for monthly, and some quarterly, data. It does not work for annual data.

#### Value

A data frame (tibble) containing the tidied data from the ABS time series table(s).

```
# Download and tidy all time series spreadsheets
# from the Wage Price Index (6345.0)
## Not run:
wpi <- read_abs("6345.0")</pre>
## End(Not run)
# Download table 1 from the Wage Price Index
## Not run:
wpi_t1 <- read_abs("6345.0", tables = "1")</pre>
## End(Not run)
# Or table 1 as in the Sep 2019 release of the WPI:
wpi_t1_sep2019 <- read_abs("6345.0", tables = "1", release_date = "2019-09-01")</pre>
## End(Not run)
# Or tables 1 and 2a from the WPI
## Not run:
wpi_t1_t2a <- read_abs("6345.0", tables = c("1", "2a"))</pre>
## End(Not run)
# Get two specific time series, based on their time series IDs
## Not run:
cpi <- read_abs(series_id = c("A2325806K", "A2325807L"))</pre>
## End(Not run)
# Get series IDs using the `read_abs_series()` wrapper function
## Not run:
cpi <- read_abs_series(c("A2325806K", "A2325807L"))</pre>
```

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```
## End(Not run)
```

read\_abs\_data

Extracts ABS time series data from local Excel spreadsheets and converts to long format.

### **Description**

read\_abs\_data() is soft deprecated and will be removed in a future version. Please use read\_abs\_local() to import and tidy locally-stored ABS time series spreadsheets, or read\_abs() to download, import, and tidy time series spreadsheets from the ABS website.

### Usage

```
read_abs_data(path, sheet)
```

### **Arguments**

path Filepath to Excel spreadsheet.

sheet Sheet name or number.

### Value

Long-format dataframe

read\_abs\_local

Read and tidy locally-saved ABS time series spreadsheet(s)

### **Description**

If you need to download and tidy time series data from the ABS, use read\_abs(). read\_abs\_local() imports and tidies data from ABS time series spreadsheets that are already saved to your local drive.

```
read_abs_local(
  cat_no = NULL,
  filenames = NULL,
  path = Sys.getenv("R_READABS_PATH", unset = tempdir()),
  use_fst = TRUE,
  metadata = TRUE
)
```

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#### **Arguments**

character; a single catalogue number such as "6202.0". When cat\_no is specicat\_no fied, all local files in path corresponding to the specified catalogue number will be imported. For example, if you run read\_abs\_local("6202.0"), it will look in the 6202.0 sub-folder of path and attempt to load any .xls and .xlsx files in that location. If cat\_no` is specified, filenames' will be ignored. filenames character vector of at least one filename of a locally-stored ABS time series spreadsheet. For example, "6202001.xls" or c("6202001.xls", "6202005.xls"). Ignored if a value is supplied to cat\_no. If filenames is blank and cat\_no is blank, read\_abs\_local() will attempt to read all .xls and .xlsx files in the directory specified with path. path path to local directory containing ABS time series file(s). Default is Sys.getenv("R\_READABS\_PATH", unset = tempdir()). If nothing is specified in filenames or cat\_no, read\_abs\_local() will attempt to read all .xls and .xlsx files in the directory specified with path. use\_fst logical. If TRUE (the default) then, if an fst file of the tidy data frame has already been saved in path, it is read immediately.

logical. If TRUE (the default), a tidy data frame including ABS metadata (series name, table name, etc.) is included in the output. If FALSE, metadata is dropped.

#### **Details**

metadata

Unlike read\_abs(), the table\_title column in the data frame returned by read\_abs\_local() is blank. If you require table\_title, please use read\_abs() instead.

### **Examples**

```
# Load and tidy two specified files from the "data/ABS" subdirectory
# of your working directory
## Not run:
lfs <- read_abs_local(c("6202001.xls", "6202005.xls"))
## End(Not run)</pre>
```

read\_abs\_metadata

Extracts ABS series metadata directly from Excel spreadsheets and converts to long-form.

### **Description**

Extracts ABS series metadata directly from Excel spreadsheets and converts to long-form.

```
read_abs_metadata(path, sheet)
```

read\_abs\_url

### **Arguments**

path Filepath to Excel spreadsheet.

sheet Sheet name or number.

#### Value

Long-form dataframe

read\_abs\_url

Download and import an ABS time series spreadsheet from a given URL

### **Description**

Download and import an ABS time series spreadsheet from a given URL

### Usage

```
read_abs_url(
  url,
  path = Sys.getenv("R_READABS_PATH", unset = tempdir()),
  show_progress_bars = TRUE,
  ...
)
```

# **Arguments**

url Character vector of url(s) to ABS time series spreadsheet(s).

path Local directory in which downloaded ABS time series spreadsheets should be

stored. By default, path takes the value set in the environment variable "R\_READABS\_PATH".

If this variable is not set, any files downloaded by read\_abs() will be stored in a

temporary directory (tempdir()). See ?read\_abs() for more.

show\_progress\_bars

TRUE by default. If set to FALSE, progress bars will not be shown when ABS

spreadsheets are downloading.

... Additional arguments passed to read\_abs\_local().

### **Details**

If you have a specific URL to the time series spreadsheet you wish to download, read\_abs\_url() will download, import and tidy it. This is useful for older vintages of data, or discontinued data.

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### **Examples**

```
## Not run:
url <- paste0(
   "https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/",
   "employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia/aug-2022/6202001.xlsx")
read_abs_url(url)
## End(Not run)</pre>
```

read\_awe

read\_awe

### Description

Convenience function to obtain wage levels from ABS 6302.0, Average Weekly Earnings, Australia.

### Usage

```
read_awe(
  wage_measure = c("awote", "ftawe", "awe"),
  sex = c("persons", "males", "females"),
  sector = c("total", "private", "public"),
  state = c("all", "nsw", "vic", "qld", "sa", "wa", "tas", "nt", "act"),
  na.rm = FALSE,
  path = Sys.getenv("R_READABS_PATH", unset = tempdir()),
  show_progress_bars = FALSE,
  check_local = FALSE
)
```

# Arguments

wage\_measure Character of length 1. Must be one of:

awote Average weekly ordinary time earnings; also known as Full-time adult

ordinary time earnings

ftawe Full-time adult total earnings

awe Average weekly total earnings of all employees

sex Character of length 1. Must be one of: persons, males, or females.

sector Character of length 1. Must be one of: total, private, or public. Note that

you cannot get sector-by-state data; if state is not all then sector must be

total.

state Character of length 1. Must be one of: all, nsw, vic, qld, sa, wa, nt, or act.

Note that you cannot get sector-by-state data; if sector is not total then state

must be all.

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na.rm Logical. FALSE by default. If FALSE, a consistent quarterly series is returned,

with NA values for quarters in which there is no data. If TRUE, only dates with

data are included in the returned data frame.

path See ?read\_abs

show\_progress\_bars

See ?read\_abs

check\_local See ?read\_abs

#### **Details**

The latest AWE data is available using read\_abs(cat\_no = "6302.0", tables = 2). However, this time series only goes back to 2012, when the ABS switched from quarterly to biannual collection and release of the AWE data. The read\_awe() function assembles on time series back to November 1983 quarter; it is quarterly to 2012 and biannual from then. Note that the data returned with this function is consistently quarterly; any quarters for which there are no observations are recorded as NA unless na.rm = TRUE.

#### Value

A tbl\_df with four columns: date, sex, wage\_measure and value. The data is nominal and seasonally adjusted.

### **Examples**

```
## Not run:
read_awe("awote", "persons")
## End(Not run)
```

read\_cpi

Download a tidy tibble containing the Consumer Price Index from the ABS

### **Description**

read\_cpi() uses the read\_abs() function to download, import, and tidy the Consumer Price Index from the ABS. It returns a tibble containing two columns: the date and the CPI index value that corresponds to that date. This makes joining the CPI to another dataframe easy. read\_cpi() returns the original (ie. not seasonally adjusted) all groups CPI for Australia. If you want the analytical series (eg. seasonally adjusted CPI, or trimmed mean CPI), you can use read\_abs().

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### Usage

```
read_cpi(
  path = Sys.getenv("R_READABS_PATH", unset = tempdir()),
  show_progress_bars = TRUE,
  check_local = FALSE,
  retain_files = FALSE
)
```

#### **Arguments**

path character; default is "data/ABS". Only used if retain\_files is set to TRUE. Local

directory in which to save downloaded ABS time series spreadsheets.

show\_progress\_bars

logical; TRUE by default. If set to FALSE, progress bars will not be shown

when ABS spreadsheets are downloading.

check\_local logical; FALSE by default. See ?read\_abs.

retain\_files logical; FALSE by default. When TRUE, the spreadsheets downloaded from the

ABS website will be saved in the directory specified with 'path'.

#### **Examples**

```
# Create a tibble called 'cpi' that contains the CPI index
# numbers for each quarter

cpi <- read_cpi()

# This tibble can now be joined to another to help streamline the process of # deflating nominal values.</pre>
```

read\_erp

Download a tidy tibble containing the Estimated Residential Population from the ABS

### **Description**

read\_erp() uses the read\_abs() function to download, import, and tidy the Estimated Residential Population from the ABS. It allows the user to specify age, sex and states/territories of interest. It returns a tibble containing five columns: the date, the age range, sex and states that the ERP corresponds to. This makes joining the ERP to another dataframe easy.

```
read_erp(
   age_range = 0:100,
   sex = "Persons",
   states = c("Australia", "New South Wales", "Victoria", "Queensland", "South Australia",
```

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```
"Western Australia", "Tasmania", "Northern Territory",
    "Australian Capital Territory"),
    path = Sys.getenv("R_READABS_PATH", unset = tempdir()),
    show_progress_bars = TRUE,
    check_local = FALSE,
    retain_files = FALSE
)
```

### **Arguments**

age\_range numeric; default is "0:100". A vector containing ages in single years for which an ERP is sought. The ABS top-code ages at 100.

sex character; default is "Persons". Other values are "Male" and "Female". Multiple values allowed.

states character; default is "Australia". Other values are the full or abbreviated names of the states and self-governing territories. Multiple values allowed.

path character; default is "data/ABS". Only used if retain\_files is set to TRUE. Local directory in which to save downloaded ABS time series spreadsheets.

show\_progress\_bars logical; TRUE by default. If set to FALSE, progress bars will not be shown

logical; TRUE by default. If set to FALSE, progress bars will not be shown when ABS spreadsheets are downloading.

check\_local logical; FALSE by default. See ?read\_abs.

retain\_files logical; FALSE by default. When TRUE, the spreadsheets downloaded from the

ABS website will be saved in the directory specified with 'path'.

### **Examples**

```
# Create a tibble called 'erp' that contains the ERP index
# numbers for 30 June each year for Australia.
erp <- read_erp()</pre>
```

read\_job\_mobility

Download and tidy ABS Job Mobility tables

### **Description**

Import a tidy tibble of ABS Job Mobility data

```
read_job_mobility(
  tables = "all",
  path = Sys.getenv("R_READABS_PATH", unset = tempdir())
)
```

18 read\_lfs\_datacube

### **Arguments**

tables Either "all" (the default) to import all tables, or a vector of table numbers, such

as 1 or c(2, 4).

path Local directory in which downloaded ABS time series spreadsheets should be

stored. By default, 'path' takes the value set in the environment variable "R\_READABS\_PATH".

If this variable is not set, any files downloaded by read\_abs() will be stored in a

temporary directory (tempdir()).

### **Examples**

```
## Not run:
# Get all tables from the ABS Job Mobility series
read_job_mobility()
# Get tables 1 and 2
read_job_mobility(c(1, 2))
## End(Not run)
```

read\_lfs\_datacube

Convenience function to download and tidy data cubes from ABS

Labour Force, Australia, Detailed.

### Description

Convenience function to download and tidy data cubes from ABS Labour Force, Australia, Detailed.

### Usage

```
read_lfs_datacube(cube, path = Sys.getenv("R_READABS_PATH", unset = tempdir()))
```

### **Arguments**

cube character. A character string that is either the complete filename or (uniquely) in

the filename of the data cube you want to download. Use get\_available\_lfs\_cubes()

to see a dataframe of options.

path Local directory in which downloaded files should be stored.

#### Value

A tibble with the data from the data cube. Columns names are tidied and dates are converted to Date class.

```
read_lfs_datacube("EQ02")
```

read\_lfs\_grossflows 19

| read_lfs_grossflows | Download, import and tidy 'gross flows' data cube from the monthly |
|---------------------|--|
|                     | ABS Labour Force survey.   |

# Description

This convenience function downloads, imports and tidies the 'gross flows' data cube from the monthly ABS Labour Force survey. The gross flows data cube (GM1) shows estimates of the number of people who transitioned from one labour force status to another between two months.

# Usage

```
read_lfs_grossflows(
  weights = c("current", "previous"),
  path = Sys.getenv("R_READABS_PATH", unset = tempdir())
)
```

### **Arguments**

weights

either "current" or "previous". If "current", figures will use the current month's Labour Force survey weights; if "previous", the previous month's

weights are used.

path

Local directory in which downloaded files should be stored. By default, 'path' takes the value set in the environment variable "R\_READABS\_PATH". If this variable is not set, any files downloaded will be stored in a temporary directory (tempdir()). See Details in ?read\_abs for more information.

### Value

A tibble containing data cube GM1 from the monthly Labour Force survey.

```
## Not run:
read_lfs_grossflows()
## End(Not run)
```

20 read\_payrolls

read\_payrolls

Download and tidy ABS payroll jobs and wages data

### Description

Import a tidy tibble of ABS Payroll Jobss data.

### Usage

```
read_payrolls(
   series = c("industry_jobs", "subindustry_jobs", "empsize_jobs"),
   path = Sys.getenv("R_READABS_PATH", unset = tempdir())
)
```

#### **Arguments**

series

Character. Must be one of:

"industry\_jobs" Payroll jobs by industry division, state, and age group (Table 1)

"subindustry\_jobs" Payroll jobs by industry sub-division and industry division (Table 2)

"empsize\_jobs" Payroll jobs by size of employer (number of employees) and state/territory (Table 3)

The default is "industry\_jobs".

path

Local directory in which downloaded ABS time series spreadsheets should be stored. By default, path takes the value set in the environment variable "R\_READABS\_PATH". If this variable is not set, any files downloaded by read\_abs() will be stored in a temporary directory (tempdir()).

#### **Details**

The ABS Payroll Jobs dataset draws upon data collected by the Australian Taxation Office as part of its Single-Touch Payroll initiative and supplements the monthly Labour Force Survey. Unfortunately, the data as published by the ABS (1) is not in a standard time series spreadsheet; and (2) is messy in various ways that make it hard to read in R. This convenience function uses download\_abs\_data\_cube() to import the payrolls data, and then tidies it up.

Note that this ABS release used to be called Weekly Payroll Jobs and Wages Australia. The total wages series were removed from this release in mid-2023 and it was renamed to Weekly Payroll Jobs. The ability to read total wages indexes using this function was therefore also removed. It was then renamed Payroll Jobs and the frequency was reduced, with further modifications to the data released.

#### Value

A tidy (long) tbl\_df. The number of columns differs based on the series.

scrape\_abs\_catalogues 21

### **Examples**

```
## Not run:
# Fetch payroll jobs by industry and state (the default, "industry_jobs")
read_payrolls()
# Payroll jobs by employer size
read_payrolls("empsize_jobs")
## End(Not run)
```

scrape\_abs\_catalogues Helper function for download\_abs\_data\_cube to scrape the available catalogues from the ABS website.

# Description

This function downloads a new version of the lookup table used by show\_available\_catalogues.

### Usage

```
scrape_abs_catalogues()
```

### Value

A tibble containing the catalogues and how they are organised on the ABS website.

search\_catalogues

Search for ABS catalogues that match a string

### **Description**

[Experimental] Helper function to use with download\_abs\_data\_cube().

download\_abs\_data\_cube() requires that you specify a catalogue. search\_catalogues() helps you find the catalogue you want, by searching for a given string in the catalogue names, product title, and broad topic.

### Usage

```
search_catalogues(string, refresh = FALSE)
```

#### **Arguments**

string Character. A word or phrase you want to search for, such as "labour" or "union".

Not case sensitive.

refresh Logical. FALSE by default. If TRUE, will re-scrape the ABS website to ensure

that the list of catalogues is up-to-date.

search\_files

### Value

A data frame (tibble) containing the topic (heading), product title (sub\_heading), catalogue (catalogue) and URL (URL) of any catalogues that match the provided string.

#### See Also

Other data cube functions: download\_abs\_data\_cube(), show\_available\_catalogues(), show\_available\_files()

### **Examples**

```
search_catalogues("labour")
```

search\_files

Search for a file within an ABS catalogue

# Description

Search for a file within an ABS catalogue

# Usage

```
search_files(string, catalogue, refresh = FALSE)
```

# Arguments

string String to search for among filenames in a catalogue

catalogue Name of catalogue

refresh logical; FALSE by default. When TRUE, will re-scrape the list of files within the

catalogue.

```
## Not run:
search_files("GM1", "labour-force-australia")
## End(Not run)
```

separate\_series 23

| separate_series | Separate the series column in a tidy ABS time series data frame |
|-----------------|---|
|                 |   |

# Description

Separate the 'series' column in a data frame (tibble) downloaded using read\_abs() into multiple columns using the ";" separator.

### Usage

```
separate_series(
  data,
  column_names = NULL,
  remove_totals = FALSE,
  remove_nas = FALSE
)
```

# **Arguments**

| data          | A data frame (tibble) containing tidied data from the ABS time series table(s).   |
|---------------|---|
| column_names  | (optional) character vector. Supply a vector of column names, such as c("group_name", "variable", "gender"). If not supplied, columns will be named "series_1" etc. |
| remove_totals | logical. FALSE by default. If set to TRUE, any series rows that contain the word "total" will be removed.   |
| remove_nas    | locical. FALSE by default. If set to TRUE, any rows containining an NA in at least one of the separated series columns will be removed.                             |

### Value

A data frame (tibble) containing the tidied data from the ABS time series table(s).

```
## Not run:
wpi <- read_abs("6345.0", 1) %>%
    separate_series()
## End(Not run)
```

24 show\_available\_files

show\_available\_catalogues

Helper function for download\_abs\_data\_cube to show the available catalogues.

### **Description**

### [Experimental]

This function lists the possible catalogues that are available on the ABS website. These catalogues must be specified as a string as an argument to download\_abs\_data\_cube.

### Usage

```
show_available_catalogues(selected_heading = NULL, refresh = FALSE)
```

### **Arguments**

selected\_heading

optional character string specifying the heading on the ABS statistics webpage.

e.g. "Earnings and work hours"

refresh

logical; FALSE by default. If FALSE, an internal table of the available ABS catalogues is used. If TRUE, this table is refreshed from the ABS website.

### Value

a character vector of catalogues.

### See Also

Other data cube functions: download\_abs\_data\_cube(), search\_catalogues(), show\_available\_files()

### **Examples**

```
show_available_catalogues("Earnings and work hours")
```

show\_available\_files Helper function to show the files available in a particular catalogue number.

### **Description**

[Experimental] To be used in conjunction with download\_abs\_data\_cube().

This function lists the possible files that are available in a catalogue. The filename (or an unambiguous part of the filename) must be specified as a string as an argument to download\_abs\_data\_cube.

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### Usage

```
show_available_files(catalogue_string, refresh = FALSE)
get_available_files(catalogue_string, refresh = FALSE)
```

### **Arguments**

catalogue\_string

character string specifying the catalogue, e.g. "labour-force-australia-detailed". You can use show\_available\_catalogues() see all the possible catalogues, or search\_catalogues() to find catalogues that contain a given string.

refresh

logical; FALSE by default. If FALSE, an internal table of the available ABS catalogues is used. If TRUE, this table is refreshed from the ABS website.

#### Details

```
get_available_files() is an alias for show_available_files().
```

### Value

A tibble containing the title of the file, the filename and the complete url.

### See Also

```
Other data cube functions: download_abs_data_cube(), search_catalogues(), show_available_catalogues()
Other data cube functions: download_abs_data_cube(), search_catalogues(), show_available_catalogues()
```

### **Examples**

```
## Not run:
show_available_files("labour-force-australia-detailed")
## End(Not run)
```

tidy\_abs

Tidy ABS time series data.

### **Description**

Tidy ABS time series data.

```
tidy_abs(df, metadata = TRUE)
```

26 tidy\_abs\_list

### Arguments

df A data frame containing ABS time series data that has been extracted using

extract\_abs\_sheets.

metadata logical. If TRUE (the default), a tidy data frame including ABS metadata (series

name, table name, etc.) is included in the output. If FALSE, metadata is dropped.

#### Value

data frame (tibble) in long format.

### **Examples**

```
# First extract the data from the local spreadsheet
## Not run:
wpi <- extract_abs_sheets("634501.xls")

## End(Not run)

# Then tidy the data extracted from the spreadsheet. Note that
# \code{extract_abs_sheets()} returns a list of data frames, so we need to
# subset the list.
## Not run:
tidy_wpi <- tidy_abs(wpi[[1]])

## End(Not run)</pre>
```

tidy\_abs\_list

Tidy multiple dataframes of ABS time series data contained in a list.

### Description

Tidy multiple dataframes of ABS time series data contained in a list.

### Usage

```
tidy_abs_list(list_of_dfs, metadata = TRUE)
```

### Arguments

list\_of\_dfs A list of dataframes containing extracted ABS time series data.

metadata logical. If TRUE (the default), a tidy data frame including ABS metadata (series name, table name, etc.) is included in the output. If FALSE, metadata is dropped.

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