

CHAPTER 4

UNEMPLOYMENT

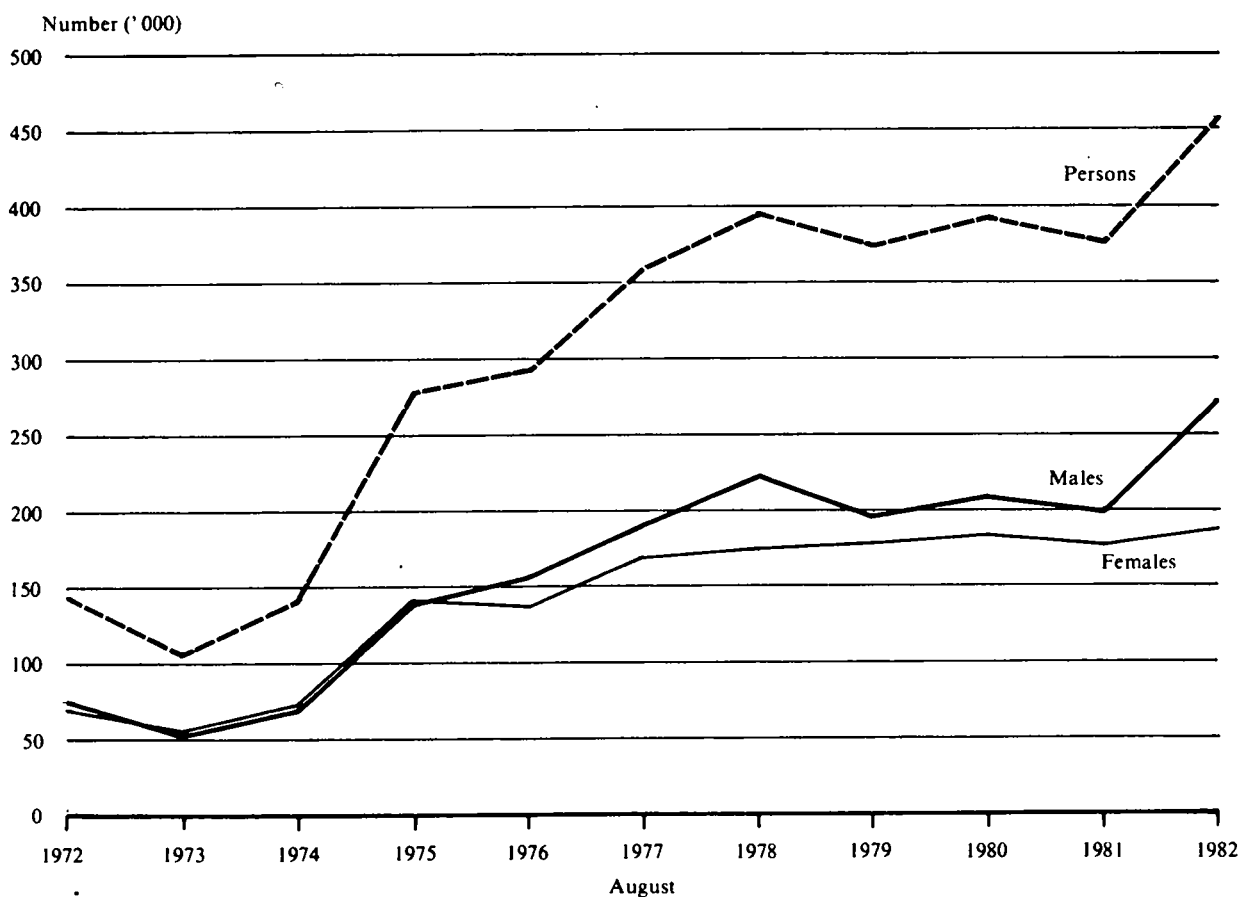
The unemployment statistics presented in this Chapter have been derived from ABS sources, primarily the ABS monthly labour force survey and its supplementaries.

Broadly a person is considered to be unemployed if he or she satisfies three criteria-not employed, available for work, and taking active steps to find work. The employed and the unemployed together make up the labour force.

Measures of unemployment provide indicators of the underutilization of labour. The two most important measures are the number of persons unemployed and the unemployment rate. The unemployment rate is defined as the number of unemployed expressed as a percentage of the size of the labour force. The most important characteristics of the unemployed presented include their demographic composition, the duration of unemployment, their educational qualifications and the difficulties experienced in finding work. The unemployment characteristics of families, i.e. unemployment rates of different family members and number of families with some unemployment are also shown.

Some summary statistics on job vacancies are also included in this Chapter.

CHART 4.1 UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : AUGUST 1972 TO AUGUST 1982



Source: *The Labour Force, Australia* (6204.0)

CHART 4.2 UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : JANUARY 1982 TO MARCH 1983

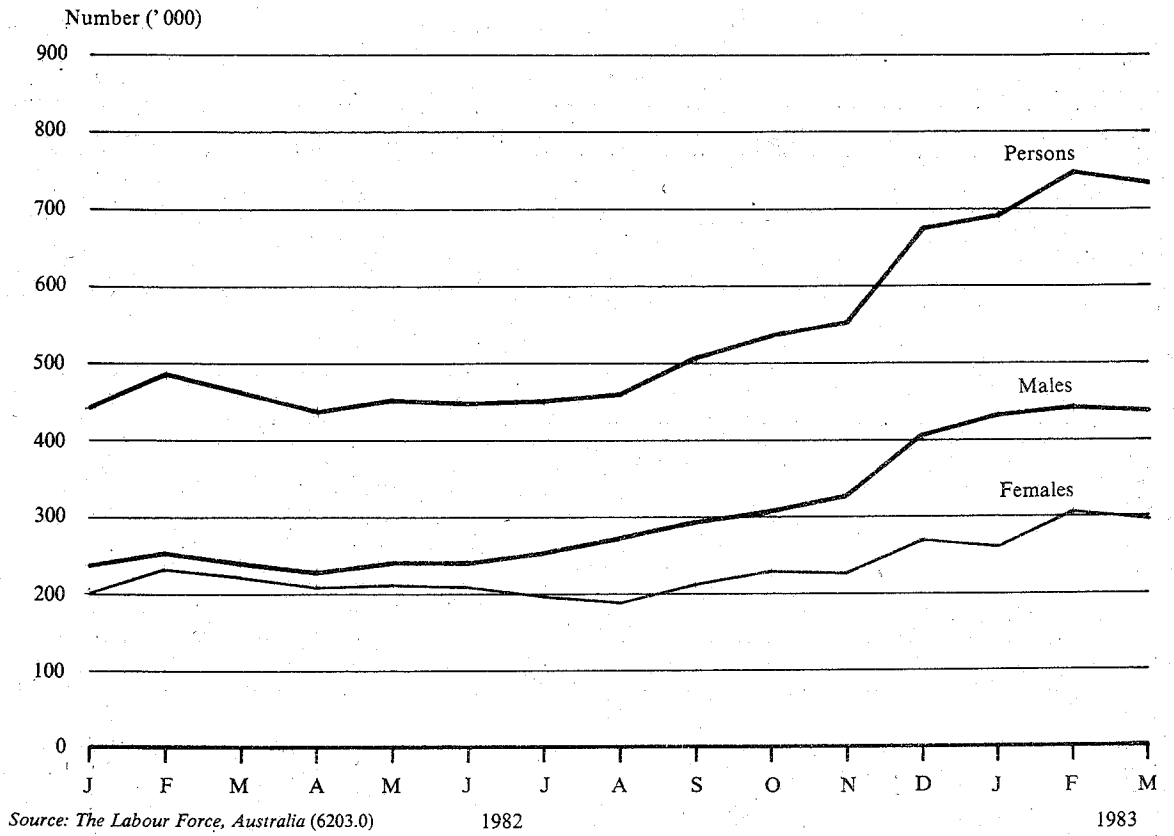


CHART 4.3 UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, PROPORTION OF THE CIVILIAN LABOUR FORCE, AUGUST 1972 TO AUGUST 1982

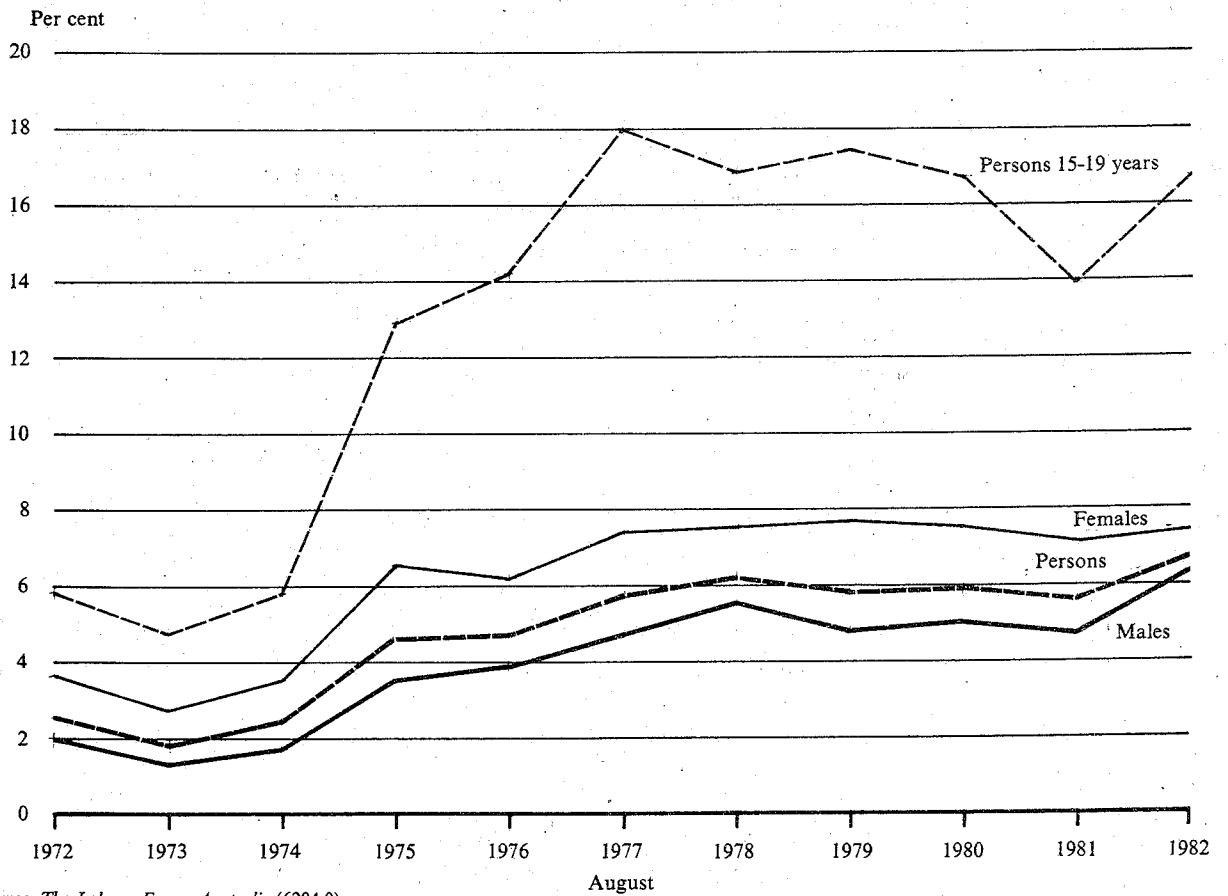


TABLE 4.1. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: AGE, UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
(Per cent)

Age group (years)	August			
	1972	1975	1979	1982
MALES				
15-19	5.6	10.8	14.7	16.4
20-24	2.6	5.2	8.3	11.3
25-34	1.5	2.4	3.7	5.5
35-44	1.3	2.3	2.4	3.6
45-54	1.4	2.2	2.4	3.6
55 and over	1.5	2.5	2.7	3.0
<i>Total</i>	2.0	3.5	4.8	6.3
FEMALES				
15-19	5.9	15.1	20.4	17.1
20-24	3.8	6.9	8.0	8.8
25-34	4.1	5.5	6.5	6.9
35-44	3.1	4.5	4.2	4.8
45-54	2.1	3.6	3.8	3.6
55 and over	*	*	*	*
<i>Total</i>	3.6	6.5	7.7	7.4
PERSONS				
15-19	5.8	12.9	17.4	16.7
20-24	3.1	5.9	8.2	10.2
25-34	2.3	3.4	4.6	6.0
35-44	1.9	3.1	3.1	4.0
45-54	1.6	2.7	2.9	3.6
55 and over	1.6	2.3	2.6	2.8
<i>Total</i>	2.5	4.6	5.8	6.7

Source: *The Labour Force, Australia* (6204.0)

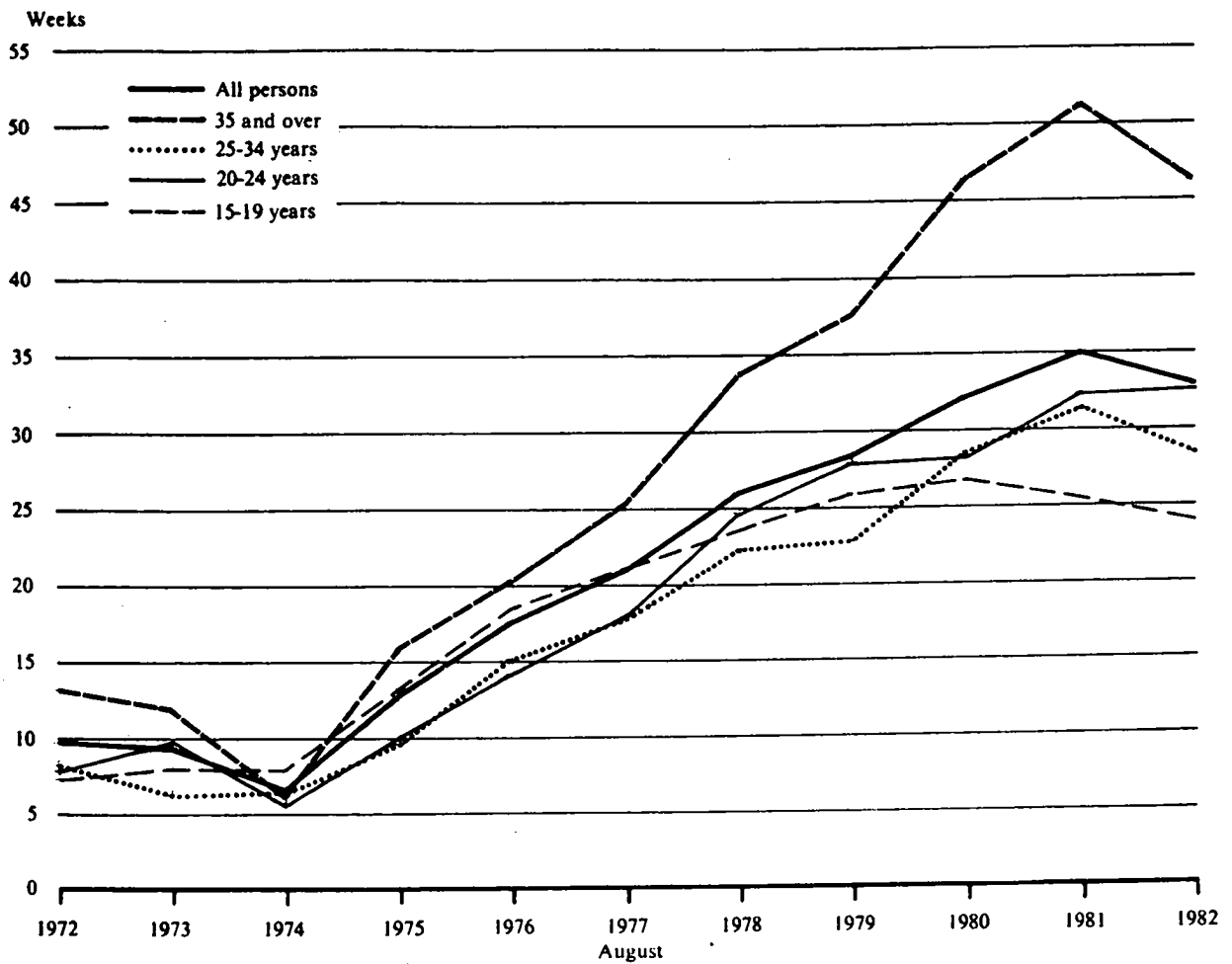
TABLE 4.2. CIVILIAN AND TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT:
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES, AUGUST 1972-AUGUST 1982
(Per cent)

August	Civilian unemployment rate	Total unemployment rate(a)
1972	2.5	2.5
1973	1.8	1.8
1974	2.4	2.3
1975	4.6	4.5
1976	4.7	4.7
1977	5.7	5.6
1978	6.2	6.1
1979	5.8	5.8
1980	5.9	5.8
1981	5.6	5.5
1982	6.7	6.7

(a) Includes permanent defence forces.

Source: *The Labour Force, Australia* (6204.0)

CHART 4.4 UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : AVERAGE DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT, AND AGE, AUGUST 1972 TO AUGUST 1982



NOTE: Estimates for average duration of unemployment represent current spells of unemployment not complete spells.
Source: *The Labour Force, Australia* (6204.0)

TABLE 4.3. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Duration of unemployment (weeks)	August			
	1972	1975	1979	1982
	— '000—			
Under 2	24.7	25.6	33.0	38.1
2 and under 4	36.0	57.7	42.5	57.6
4 and under 8	25.8	65.6	51.4	71.8
8 and under 13	28.3	46.6	43.9	51.9
13 and under 26	15.5	37.4	60.9	60.9
26 and under 39	7.5	25.4	60.4	72.9
39 and under 52	*	7.6	13.9	17.6
<i>Under 1 year</i>	140.3	266.0	306.0	370.8
52 and under 65	*	7.0	24.5	25.6
65 and over	*	5.4	43.3	62.1
Total	144.0	278.4	373.8	458.5
	—weeks—			
Average (mean) duration	9.7	12.7	28.4	32.8

Source: *The Labour Force, Australia* (6204.0)

TABLE 4.4. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: WHETHER LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME WORK

Looking for	August			
	1972	1975	1979	1982
NUMBER ('000)				
Males—				
Full-time work	67.7	122.5	182.8	249.9
Part-time work	7.0	16.3	13.3	21.2
Total	74.8	138.8	196.1	271.0
Females—				
Full-time work	43.4	93.0	130.1	135.6
Part-time work	25.9	46.6	47.5	51.9
Total	69.3	139.7	177.7	187.5
Persons—				
Full-time work	111.1	215.5	312.9	385.4
Part-time work	32.9	62.9	60.8	73.1
Total	144.0	278.4	373.8	458.5
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (per cent)				
Males—				
Full-time work	1.8	3.2	4.7	6.2
Part-time work	5.3	9.7	6.1	8.1
Total	2.0	3.5	4.8	6.3
Females—				
Full-time work	3.1	6.3	8.6	8.4
Part-time work	5.0	6.8	5.9	5.8
Total	3.6	6.5	7.7	7.4
Persons—				
Full-time work	2.2	4.1	5.8	6.8
Part-time work	5.0	7.3	6.0	6.3
Total	2.5	4.6	5.8	6.7

Source: The Labour Force, Australia (6204.0)

TABLE 4.5. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: BIRTHPLACE AND AGE, AUGUST 1982

	Number unemployed ('000)			Unemployment rate (per cent)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
BORN IN AUSTRALIA						
Total	188.8	133.6	322.4	6.1	7.1	6.4
Looking for full-time work	173.9	99.3	273.2	6.0	8.2	6.6
Looking for part-time work	15.0	34.3	49.3	7.6	5.0	5.6
Aged 15-19	55.8	50.9	106.7	16.1	17.0	16.5
Aged 20 and over	133.1	82.7	215.8	4.8	5.2	5.0
20-24	54.4	30.9	85.3	11.2	8.2	9.9
25-34	40.3	29.5	69.8	4.7	6.2	5.3
35-44	16.7	13.4	30.1	2.7	3.6	3.0
45-54	12.9	7.0	19.9	2.8	2.7	2.7
55 and over	8.8	*	10.7	2.6	*	2.4
Aged 15-64	188.8	133.4	322.2	6.2	7.1	6.5
BORN OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA						
Total	82.2	53.9	136.1	7.0	8.6	7.6
Looking for full-time work	76.0	36.3	112.3	6.8	8.7	7.3
Looking for part-time work	6.2	17.6	23.8	9.5	8.5	8.8
Aged 15-19	10.3	8.4	18.8	18.1	17.8	18.0
Aged 20 and over	71.8	45.5	117.3	6.4	7.9	6.9
20-24	11.9	8.8	20.8	11.6	12.0	11.8
25-34	22.2	15.2	37.3	7.6	8.6	8.0
35-44	17.4	13.1	30.4	5.3	7.3	6.0
45-54	12.7	6.2	18.9	5.3	5.8	5.5
55 and over	7.6	*	9.8	4.8	*	4.9
Aged 15-64	81.7	53.9	135.6	7.0	8.7	7.6

Source: The Labour Force, Australia, August 1982 (6203.0)

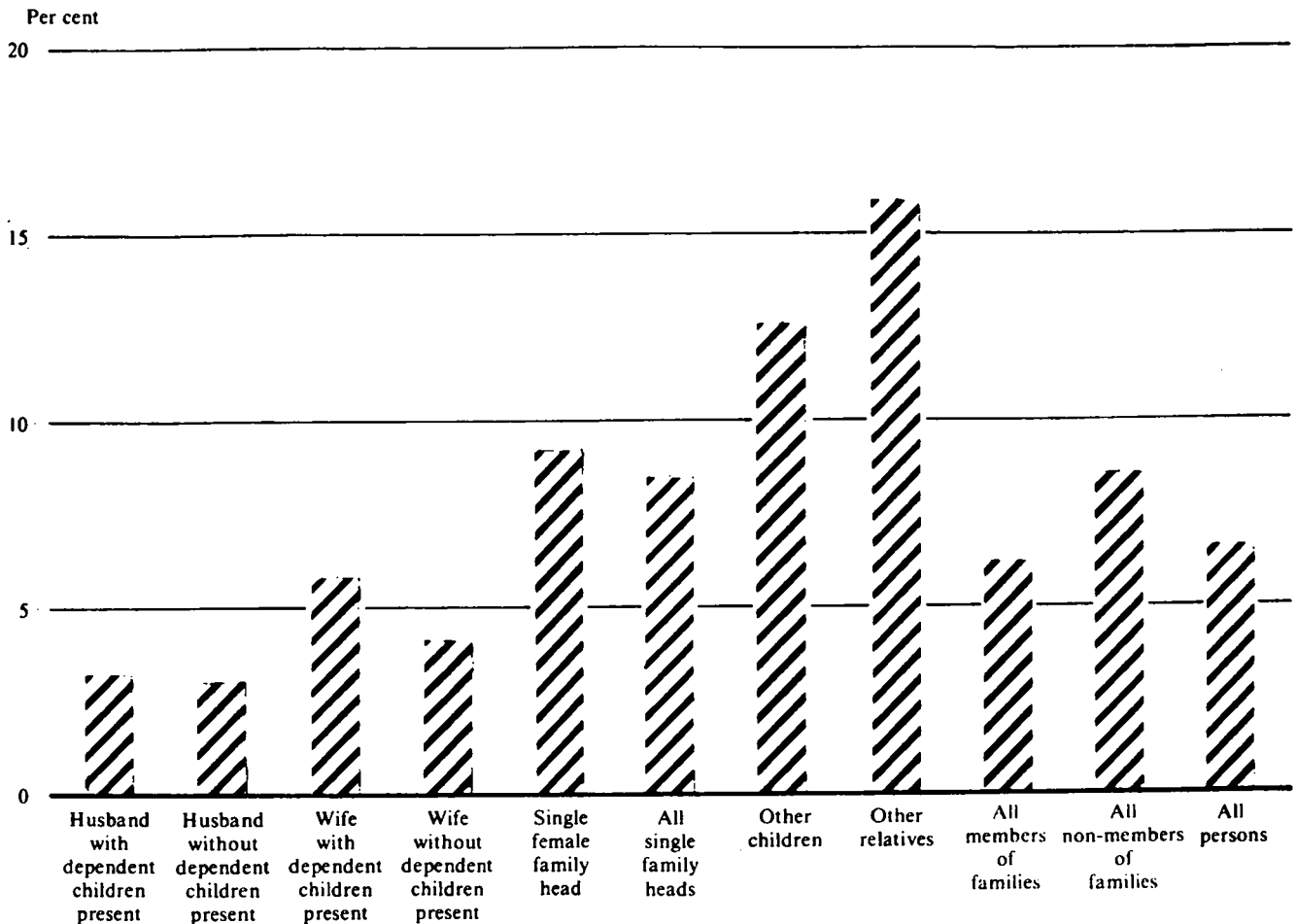
TABLE 4.6. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: INDUSTRY AND OCCUPATION OF LAST FULL-TIME JOB, AUGUST 1982

	Number ('000)			Unemployment rate (per cent)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Had worked full time for two weeks or more in the last two years	198.0	91.8	289.8	4.7	3.8	4.4
<i>Industry division or subdivision—</i>						
Agriculture and services to agriculture	13.0	*	15.6	4.4	*	3.9
Manufacturing	57.5	18.2	75.7	6.0	5.8	6.0
Food, beverages and tobacco	8.8	*	12.9	6.3	*	6.8
Metal products	12.2	*	13.7	6.0	*	5.9
Other manufacturing	36.5	12.6	49.1	5.9	5.5	5.8
Construction	35.1	*	36.2	7.7	*	7.2
Wholesale trade	14.3	5.0	19.3	5.1	4.6	4.9
Retail trade	24.3	21.7	46.0	5.2	4.8	5.0
Transport and storage	8.2	*	10.1	2.5	*	2.6
Finance, property and business services	9.7	7.0	16.7	3.0	2.6	2.8
Community services	7.6	13.4	20.9	1.9	2.0	2.0
Recreation, personal and other services	11.9	15.0	26.9	6.5	6.2	6.3
Other industries	16.5	6.1	22.6	3.1	4.1	3.3
<i>Occupation group—</i>						
Professional, technical, etc.	12.6	9.5	22.1	2.3	2.1	2.2
Administrative, executive, and managerial	5.2	*	6.8	1.4	*	1.6
Clerical	6.0	23.9	29.9	1.8	2.9	2.6
Sales	12.4	15.2	27.6	4.6	4.9	4.8
Farmers, fishermen, timber-getters, etc.	20.4	*	23.3	5.6	*	5.0
Miners, quarrymen, etc.	*	*	*	*	*	*
Transport and communication	11.6	*	14.4	3.9	*	4.1
Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c.	116.3	19.6	135.9	6.6	8.1	6.8
Service, sport and recreation	11.2	16.4	27.6	4.8	4.2	4.4
Other(a)	68.1	89.2	157.3	..	..	..
Looking for first job	29.5	33.9	63.4	..	..	..
Looking for full-time work	21.7	23.8	45.5	..	..	..
Other	38.6	55.3	93.8	..	..	..
Stood down	4.9	6.4	11.4	..	..	..
Total	271.0	187.5	458.5	6.3	7.4	6.7

(a) Had never worked for two weeks or more in a full-time job or had not done so in the last two years. Industry and occupation were not obtained for these persons.

Source: *The Labour Force, Australia, August 1982* (6203.0)

CHART 4.5 UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : FAMILY STATUS, UNEMPLOYMENT RATES, JULY 1982
(Per cent)



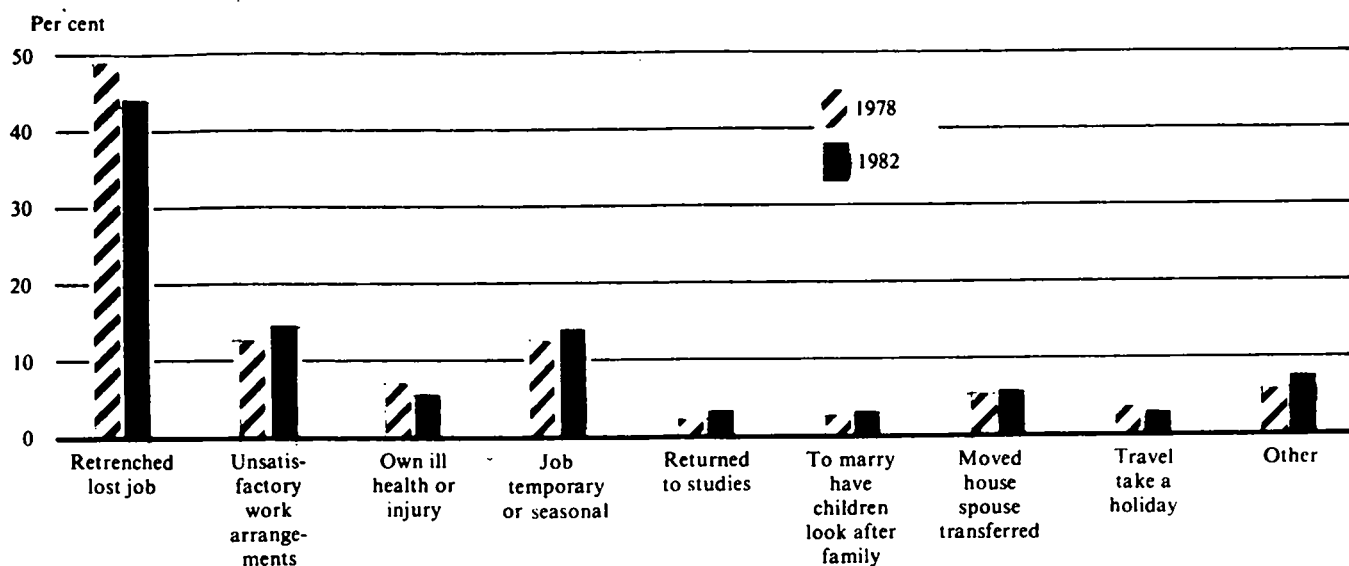
Source: Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, Australia (6224.0)

TABLE 4.7. FAMILIES: TYPE OF FAMILY, WHETHER ANY UNEMPLOYMENT IN FAMILY AND NUMBER EMPLOYED IN FAMILY, JULY 1979 AND JULY 1982
('000)

Type of family	July 1979			July 1982		
	Number employed in family			Number employed in family		
	None	1 or more	Total	None	1 or more	Total
With dependent children						
Families with some unemployment	52.7	120.9	173.6	69.4	125.9	195.3
Married couple families	33.6	109.7	143.3	47.0	113.8	160.8
Husband unemployed	30.0	8.6	38.6	41.5	15.5	57.0
Other family member unemployed	*	101.1	104.7	5.4	98.4	103.8
Other families	19.2	11.1	30.3	22.4	12.1	34.5
Head unemployed	12.6	*	14.5	13.2	*	15.3
Other family member unemployed	6.6	9.2	15.7	9.2	10.1	19.3
Families with no unemployment	148.2	1,792.8	1,941.1	173.6	1,802.4	1,976.0
All families	201.0	1,913.7	2,114.7	243.0	1,928.3	2,171.3
Without dependent children						
Families with some unemployment	28.6	74.1	102.7	39.2	91.1	130.3
Married couple families	18.7	61.0	79.7	26.6	71.2	97.8
Husband unemployed	13.8	10.8	24.6	17.8	12.4	30.2
Other family member unemployed	4.9	50.2	55.1	8.7	58.8	67.5
Other families	9.9	13.1	23.0	12.5	19.9	32.5
Head unemployed	*	*	5.4	*	*	4.3
Other family member unemployed	7.3	10.4	17.6	11.0	17.2	28.2
Families with no unemployment	447.9	1,113.7	1,561.7	534.1	1,166.9	1,701.0
All families	476.5	1,187.8	1,664.3	573.2	1,258.0	1,831.3

Source: Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, Australia (6224.0)

CHART 4.6 UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : REASON FOR LEAVING LAST FULL-TIME JOB, JULY 1978 AND JULY 1982



Source: Persons Looking for Work, Australia (6222.0)

TABLE 4.8. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: REASON FOR LEAVING LAST FULL-TIME JOB,(a)
JULY 1978 AND JULY 1982
(Per cent)

	July 1978			July 1982		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Retrenched/lost job	55.0	36.4	48.8	48.6	35.4	43.8
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	11.2	15.8	12.7	13.4	15.8	14.3
Own ill health or injury	6.3	8.2	6.9	5.0	6.3	5.5
Job was temporary or seasonal	13.2	10.9	12.4	13.9	13.7	13.9
Returned to studies	2.0	*	2.1	3.6	*	3.2
To marry/have children/look after family	*	5.9	2.4	*	7.0	3.1
Moved house/spouse transferred	2.4	10.7	5.2	4.2	8.4	5.7
Travel/take a holiday	3.0	4.1	3.4	2.6	3.8	3.1
Other	6.4	5.4	6.0	7.6	7.2	7.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Refers to persons looking for work who were wage and salary earners.

Source: Persons Looking for Work, Australia (6222.0)

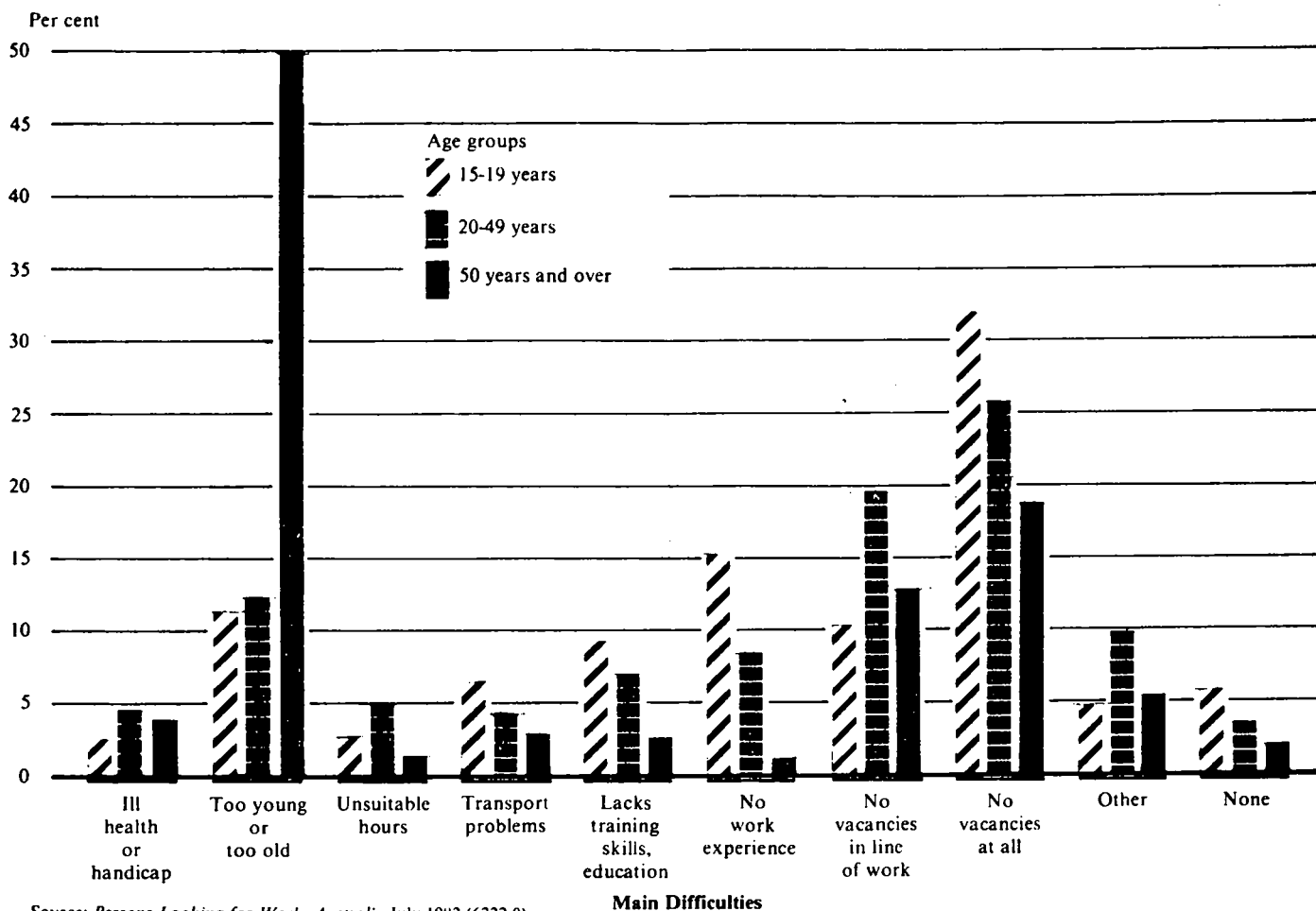
TABLE 4.9. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK(a): WHETHER LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME WORK
AND STEPS TAKEN TO FIND WORK, JULY 1982
(' 000)

Active steps taken to find work	Looking for full-time work			Looking for part-time work			Total		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Registered with the CES and—									
Contacted prospective employers	181.0	99.5	280.5	3.8	9.7	13.5	184.7	109.2	293.9
Took other steps	11.0	7.6	18.6	*	*	3.2	12.5	9.3	21.8
Total registered with CES	194.0	108.0	302.1	5.2	12.2	17.4	199.2	120.2	319.4
Not registered with the CES and—									
Contacted prospective employers	32.3	31.5	63.8	11.8	33.5	45.3	44.1	65.0	109.1
Checked CES noticeboards	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	4.3
Took other steps	*	*	*	*	*	4.3	*	3.6	6.5
Total not registered with CES	35.2	33.6	68.8	13.7	37.4	51.1	48.8	71.1	119.9
Total	229.2	141.7	370.9	18.9	49.6	68.4	248.1	191.2	439.3

(a) The number of persons looking for work differs from the number of unemployed persons shown elsewhere in that the latter includes persons who were waiting to be called back to a full-time or part-time job from which they had been stood down.

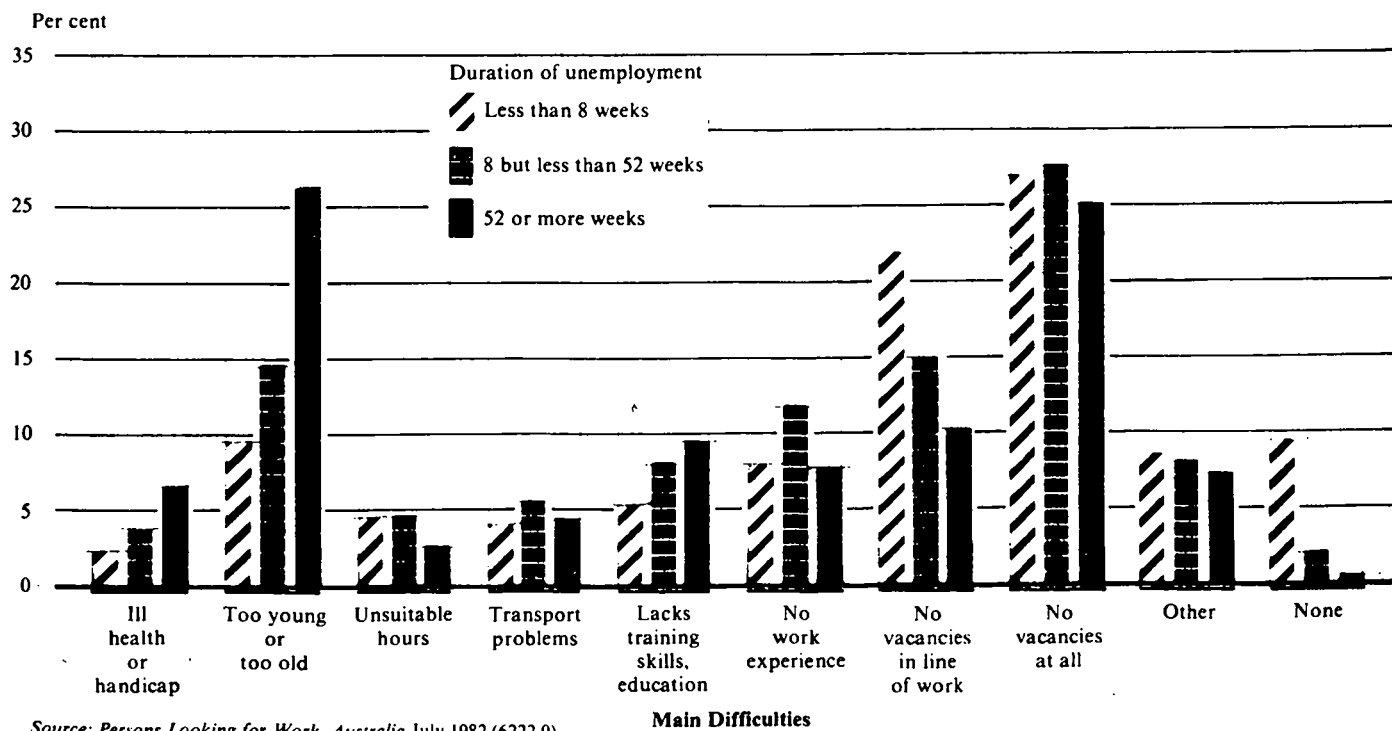
Source: Persons Looking for Work, Australia, July 1982 (6222.0)

CHART 4.7 PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK : MAIN DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WORK AND AGE, JULY 1982



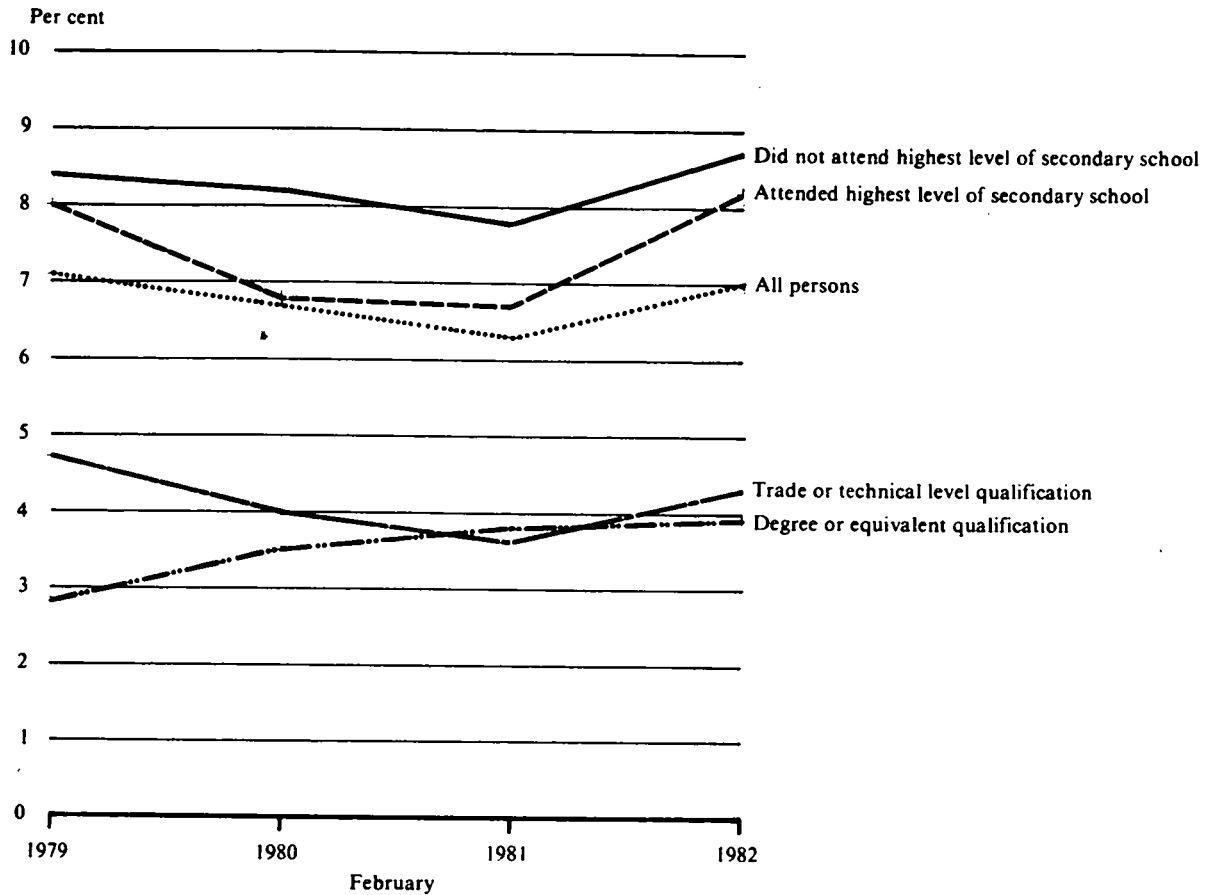
Source: *Persons Looking for Work, Australia, July 1982 (6222.0)*

CHART 4.8 PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK : MAIN DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WORK AND DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT, JULY 1982



Source: *Persons Looking for Work, Australia, July 1982 (6222.0)*

CHART 4.9 UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT RATES, FEBRUARY 1979 TO FEBRUARY 1982



Source: *The Labour Force: Educational Attainment, Australia* (6235.0)

TABLE 4.10. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FEBRUARY 1979 TO FEBRUARY 1982

February	With post-school qualifications			Without post-school qualifications			Total
	Degree or equivalent	Trade technical level	Total	Attended highest secondary level	Did not attend highest level of secondary school	Total	
UNEMPLOYED ('000)							
1979	12.3	86.8	103.7	60.3	276.9	338.1	460.1
1980	15.4	77.9	96.9	52.0	273.2	327.1	442.8
1981	19.6	72.8	96.7	53.2	251.9	306.4	422.4
1982	21.2	92.4	116.1	68.7	277.9	347.7	484.4
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (per cent)							
1979	2.8	4.7	4.4	8.0	8.4	8.3	7.1
1980	3.5	4.0	4.0	6.8	8.2	8.0	6.7
1981	3.8	3.6	3.7	6.7	7.8	7.5	6.3
1982	3.9	4.3	4.2	8.2	8.7	8.6	7.0

Source: *The Labour Force: Educational Attainment, Australia* (6235.0)

TABLE 4.11. JOB VACANCIES AND JOB VACANCY RATES(a): STATES AND TERRITORIES

Month	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia
JOB VACANCIES ('000)									
1974 March	62.7	51.6	20.6	12.2	10.1	2.4	1.5	4.0	165.2
1975 March	19.3	14.9	7.1	4.1	4.4	1.2	1.5	2.8	55.2
1976 March	15.3	18.2	5.9	4.7	3.4	1.5	0.8	1.1	50.8
1977 March	14.5	18.0	5.3	3.3	4.0	1.6	0.7	2.2	49.6
1978 March	13.2	11.5	3.5	1.8	3.0	1.0	0.4	1.8	36.3
1979 May	14.0	10.6	3.5	2.2	2.1	0.7	0.5	0.7	34.3
1980 May	13.0	8.1	3.0	1.4	2.2	0.8	0.5	0.8	29.8
1981 May	18.5	8.3	3.1	1.0	3.2	0.5	0.7	0.5	35.7
1982 February	13.9	8.4	6.0	1.5	2.0	0.7	0.1	0.9	33.7
May	9.0	7.6	3.9	1.2	2.2	0.4	0.2	0.8	25.3
August	7.4	6.9	3.1	1.0	1.7	0.5	0.4	0.6	21.5
November	5.9	4.3	2.7	0.8	1.2	0.5	0.3	0.8	16.4
JOB VACANCY RATES (per cent)									
1974 March	3.7	4.0	3.7	3.1	3.0	2.0	6.7	5.6	3.6
1975 March	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.1	1.4	1.1	5.2	3.8	1.3
1976 March	1.0	1.5	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.3	3.1	1.4	1.2
1977 March	1.0	1.6	1.0	0.8	1.2	1.4	2.5	2.7	1.2
1978 March	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.8	0.8	1.5	2.3	0.8
1979 May	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.7	1.0	0.8
1980 May	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.7	1.7	1.1	0.7
1981 May	1.2	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.9	0.4	2.3	0.7	0.8
1982 February	0.9	0.8	1.1	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.5	1.2	0.8
May	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.7	1.0	0.6
August	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.5	0.4	1.2	0.8	0.5
November	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.9	1.0	0.4

(a) Job vacancy rate is calculated by expressing the number of job vacancies as a percentage of the number of employees plus vacancies.

Source: *Job Vacancies, Australia* (6231.0)