

SURVEY OF LEAVERS FROM SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES OR OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS,  
FEBRUARY 1971

Reference No. 6.9

In February 1971 a survey, based on the quarterly population survey sample (a one per cent sample of households), was conducted throughout Australia in order to obtain information about persons aged 15 to 24 years who had attended full time at a school, university or other educational institution at some time during 1970. This survey continued the series of surveys which have been carried out in February of each year from 1964.

2. The main survey questions were designed to distinguish among persons who had attended full time at a school, university or other educational institution at some time in the previous year, those who were intending to return to full-time education and those who were not returning to full-time education, the latter being described in this publication as "leavers".

3. The results of the latest survey showed that of the 645,600 persons aged from 15 to 24 years who attended full time at a school, university, etc., at some time during 1970, 441,900 had returned or intended to return to full-time education in 1971.

4. In recent years there has been a noticeable increase in the proportion of persons in the 15 to 24 age group who continue with full-time education. In 1971, 71 per cent of males and 66 per cent of females were returning to full-time education; in 1964 the corresponding percentages were 62 and 59.

5. Of those returning to full-time education, 42,200 were persons who had attended a school in 1970 and were intending to enter a university, college of advanced education, technical college or other post-school educational institution on a full-time basis in 1971. This represents 20 per cent of the total number of persons (210,500) leaving school. It does not include persons, mostly entering the labour force, who were intending to continue their studies on a part-time basis.

6. Of the 203,800 persons who were not returning to full-time education ("leavers"), 186,400 were in the labour force in February 1971, 172,100 being employed. Those unemployed numbered 16,300, or 9 per cent of the total "leavers" (7 per cent of males and 10 per cent of females).

7. The industries in which the leavers were mainly employed in February 1971 were public authority, community and business services (38,800), commerce (37,400) and manufacturing (35,100). Nearly half of the employed males were craftsmen, production-process workers or labourers, while two-thirds of the females were employed in professional, technical or clerical occupations.

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

Population coverage

8. The sample used in the survey covers the six States, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. The estimates relate to all persons in the age group 15 to 24 years, except members of the permanent armed forces, national servicemen enlisted in the Regular Army Supplement and certain diplomatic personnel customarily excluded from census and estimated populations.

9. Certain categories of persons covered by the survey were not asked the survey questions. These comprised persons who were patients in hospitals and sanatoria, or inmates of gaols, reformatories, etc., and for whom, for the purpose of the survey, the institution was regarded as their dwelling, and persons reported as permanently unable to work. An estimate of the total number of such persons is shown in Table 1.

Classification of the labour force

10. The labour force category to which a person is assigned depends on his actual activity (i.e. whether working, looking for work, etc.) during a specified week, known as "survey week", which is the week immediately preceding that in which the interview takes place. The principal categories are the employed and unemployed,

which together comprise the labour force, and the remainder, who are not in the labour force. Details of the classification are as follows:

(i) The labour force comprises all persons who, during survey week, were employed or unemployed as defined in (ii) and (iii) below.

(ii) Employed persons comprise all those who, during survey week,

- (a) did any work for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind, in a job or business, or on a farm (including employees, employers and self-employed persons), or
- (b) worked fifteen hours or more without pay in a family business (or farm), or
- (c) had a job, business or farm, but were not at work because of illness, accident, leave, holiday or industrial dispute; or because of production hold-up due to bad weather, plant breakdown, etc.

A person who had a job but was temporarily laid off by his employer for the whole week without pay is excluded, and is classified in the tables as unemployed. A person who did some work during the week, however, before he either lost his job or was laid off, is classified as employed. A person who held more than one job is counted only once, in the job at which he worked most hours during survey week.

(iii) Unemployed persons comprise all those who, during survey week, did no work at all, and who either

- (a) did not have a job or business and were actively looking for work (including those who stated that they would have looked for work if they had not been temporarily ill or believed no work was available, or had not already made definite arrangements to start work in a new job after survey week), or
- (b) were laid off from their jobs without pay for the whole week.

A person who either lost his job or was laid off during survey week, but did some work at his job during that week, is classified as employed.

(iv) Persons not in the labour force are all those who, during survey week, were not in the categories "employed" or "unemployed" as defined. This category therefore includes persons without a job, business or farm who were not actively looking for work, and who, during survey week, were either keeping house (unpaid), attending school, university, etc., retired or voluntarily idle, permanently unable to work or inmates of institutions. A person who worked less than fifteen hours without pay in a family business during survey week is also classified as not in the labour force.

#### Labour force characteristics of "leavers"

11. All persons covered by the survey were asked questions about their occupational status and those in the labour force were further questioned about their occupation and industry. Occupational status is shown in Table 5 for "leavers", but not for persons returning to full-time education. Although many of these latter persons were in the labour force at the time of the survey, their numbers would not give a useful indication of the extent of vacation employment because "survey week" (see para. 10) extended from the second week in February to the first week in March. Hence, between the first and last survey weeks, the level of vacation jobholding would have decreased substantially.

#### Reliability of the estimates

12. Since the estimates in this bulletin are based on a sample, they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained from a complete census using the same questionnaires and procedures. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample, and not the whole population, was enumerated. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figures that would have been obtained from a comparable complete enumeration, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. A table of standard errors which is intended to be of general application is given by

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate (Persons)	Approximate standard error of estimates		Size of estimate (Persons)	Approximate standard error of estimates	
	Persons	Per cent of estimate		Persons	Per cent of estimate
4,000	750	19	100,000	3,000	3
5,000	850	17	200,000	4,000	2
10,000	1,100	11	500,000	5,000	1
20,000	1,400	7	1,000,000	5,500	0.6
50,000	2,000	4	2,000,000	8,000	0.4

13. In the tables in this bulletin only estimates of 4,000 or over have been shown, as smaller estimates would be subject to such high standard errors (relative to the size of the estimate) as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable uses. Although, in some cases, figures for these small components can be derived by subtraction, they should not be regarded as reliable.

14. The reliability of an estimated percentage, computed by using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends upon both the size of the percentage and the size of the denominator. Percentages calculated from figures in this bulletin have generally somewhat lower standard errors (proportionally) than have the estimates which form the numerators of the percentages, particularly where the percentages are large.

15. The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the standard error, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as the non-sampling error, and they may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or only a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient operating procedures.

NOTE. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in tables are due to rounding.

TABLE 1. - PERSONS AGED 15 TO 24 YEARS (a), BY ATTENDANCE OR NON-ATTENDANCE FULL TIME AT A SCHOOL, UNIVERSITY, ETC., IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR, AUSTRALIA

February	Attended school, university, etc., full time in previous year				Did not attend school, university etc., full time in previous year (b) ( '000)	In hospitals, etc. (c) ( '000)	Total person aged 15 to 24 years ( '000)
	Returning to full time education		Not returning to full time education ("leavers") ( '000)	Total ( '000)			
	( '000)	Per cent of total					
MALES							
1967	192.1	69.3	85.0	277.1	679.8	11.9	968.8
1968	214.5	70.8	88.5	303.0	690.9	11.5	1,005.4
1969	226.8	70.5	95.0	321.8	709.0	8.5	1,039.3
1970	232.4	71.0	95.1	327.5	733.9	9.5	1,070.9
1971	247.9	70.6	103.3	351.2	741.8	11.6	1,104.6
FEMALES							
1967	140.1	63.0	82.4	222.5	719.6	6.6	948.8
1968	162.4	66.8	80.8	243.2	739.4	5.7	986.3
1969	178.4	65.6	93.4	271.7	746.1	7.4	1,025.2
1970	180.6	66.3	91.7	272.3	777.6	4.6	1,054.5
1971	194.0	65.9	100.5	294.5	784.0	5.5	1,084.0
PERSONS							
1967	332.3	66.5	167.4	499.7	1,399.4	18.5	1,917.6
1968	376.8	69.0	169.4	546.2	1,430.3	17.2	1,993.7
1969	405.2	68.3	188.3	593.5	1,455.1	15.8	2,064.5
1970	413.0	68.9	186.8	599.8	1,511.5	14.0	2,125.4
1971	441.9	68.4	203.8	645.6	1,525.8	17.1	2,188.6

(a) At the time of the survey. (b) Excludes some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and some inmates of jails, reformatories, etc., at the time of the survey, and persons permanently unable to work. (c) Estimated numbers of persons within the scope of the survey for whom the hospital, sanatorium, gaol, reformatory, etc., was regarded as their dwelling and persons who were reported as permanently unable to work. Particulars of attendance at schools, etc., were not obtained in respect of such persons.

TABLE 2. - "LEAVERS" (a) BY TIME OF LEAVING AND BY STATE, FEBRUARY 1971

('000)

	Persons aged 15-19 years			Persons aged 15-24 years		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Time of leaving -						
January-June 1970	6.8	6.6	13.4	8.0	7.3	15.2
July-October 1970	9.9	13.0	22.9	11.5	13.8	25.2
November 1970	33.6	30.7	64.2	39.7	34.5	74.2
December (b) 1970	39.9	43.0	82.9	44.1	45.0	89.1
<b>Total</b>	90.1	93.3	183.5	103.3	100.5	203.8
State -						
New South Wales	33.7	31.2	65.0	37.8	33.6	71.4
Victoria	21.2	25.5	46.6	26.1	27.8	53.9
Queensland	13.2	13.5	26.6	14.6	14.2	28.8
South Australia	9.3	9.6	18.8	10.5	10.3	20.7
Western Australia	8.6	8.2	16.8	9.3	8.6	17.8
Tasmania	*	*	5.4	*	*	5.8
<b>Australia (c)</b>	90.1	93.3	183.5	103.3	100.5	203.8

(a) Persons aged 15 to 24 years inclusive at the time of the survey who had attended school, university, etc., full time during the previous year and who were not returning to full-time education. See also notes (b) and (c) to Table 1. (b) Includes a small number of persons who left school, university, etc., in January or February 1971.

(c) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

\* Less than 4,000. See page 3, paragraph 13.

TABLE 3. - PERSONS AGED 15 TO 24 YEARS IN FEBRUARY 1971 WHO ATTENDED FULL TIME AT  
A SCHOOL, UNIVERSITY, ETC., IN 1970, BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION ATTENDED AND  
WHETHER OR NOT RETURNING TO FULL-TIME EDUCATION IN 1971, AUSTRALIA  
( '000)

	Institution attended full time in 1970					Total
	School	University	College of Advanced Education	Technical College	Other	
MALES						
Returning to full-time education in 1971	201.9	34.1	8.4	*	*	247.9
At same type of institution (a)	182.8	33.4	7.9	*	*	227.2
At different type of institution (a)	19.2	*	*	*	*	20.7
Not returning to full-time education in 1971 ("leavers")	87.2	9.9	*	*	*	103.3
<u>Total</u>	289.1	44.0	12.1	*	*	351.2
FEMALES						
Returning to full-time education in 1971	166.8	18.2	*	*	*	194.0
At same type of institution (a)	143.8	17.9	*	*	*	170.1
At different type of institution (a)	23.0	*	*	*	*	23.8
Not returning to full-time education in 1971 ("leavers")	81.1	4.7	*	6.6	6.3	100.5
<u>Total</u>	247.9	22.9	5.0	8.4	10.2	294.5
PERSONS						
Returning to full-time education in 1971	368.7	52.4	11.5	*	6.2	441.9
At same type of institution (a)	326.5	51.3	10.7	*	5.8	397.3
At different type of institution (a)	42.2	*	*	*	*	44.5
Not returning to full-time education in 1971 ("leavers")	168.3	14.6	5.6	7.8	7.6	203.8
<u>Total</u>	537.0	66.9	17.1	10.8	13.7	645.6

(a) As the survey was conducted in February 1971, the estimates shown will partly reflect expectations as to the institution to be attended.

\* Less than 4,000. See page 3, paragraph 13.

TABLE 4. - "LEAVERS" (a) BY AGE, AUSTRALIA, FEBRUARY 1971  
( '000)

Age at time of leaving (years)	Attended school in 1970			Attended any educational institution (b) in 1970		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
14	*	*	6.2	*	*	6.2
15	28.8	29.2	58.0	29.1	29.6	58.7
16	25.3	24.6	49.8	25.8	29.6	55.4
17	17.0	15.6	32.7	17.4	19.4	36.8
18	10.1	7.8	17.9	11.3	10.2	21.5
19 and over	*	*	*	16.6	8.6	25.2
<u>Total</u>	87.2	81.1	168.3	103.3	100.5	203.8

(a) See note (a) to Table 2. (b) Includes schools.

\* Less than 4,000. See page 3, paragraph 13.

TABLE 5. - "LEAVERS" (a) BY OCCUPATIONAL STATUS, FEBRUARY 1971

State	Occupational Status				Total "leavers"	
	Employed (b) ('000)	Unemployed ( '000)	Total in the labour force ( '000)	Not in the labour force ( '000)	Number ( '000)	Participation rate (c) (per cent)
MALES						
New South Wales	32.7	*	34.0	*	37.8	90.0
Victoria	23.1	*	25.0	*	26.1	95.7
Queensland	12.9	*	14.2	*	14.6	97.5
South Australia	9.0	*	9.9	*	10.5	94.8
Western Australia	7.8	*	8.8	*	9.3	95.0
Tasmania	*	*	*	*	*	*
<u>Australia (d)</u>	89.5	6.9	96.4	6.9	103.3	93.3
FEMALES						
New South Wales	28.4	*	31.0	*	33.6	92.3
Victoria	22.8	*	25.4	*	27.8	91.4
Queensland	12.0	*	13.6	*	14.2	95.6
South Australia	8.9	*	9.7	*	10.3	94.9
Western Australia	6.6	*	7.4	*	8.6	86.2
Tasmania	*	*	*	*	*	*
<u>Australia (d)</u>	82.6	9.4	92.1	8.5	100.5	91.6
PERSONS						
New South Wales	61.1	*	65.0	6.4	71.4	91.1
Victoria	45.9	4.5	50.4	*	53.9	93.5
Queensland	24.9	*	27.8	*	28.8	96.5
South Australia	17.9	*	19.7	*	20.7	94.9
Western Australia	14.4	*	16.2	*	17.8	90.8
Tasmania	4.6	*	5.2	*	5.8	89.7
<u>Australia (d)</u>	172.1	16.3	188.4	15.3	203.8	92.4

(a) See note (a) to Table 2. (b) Includes wage and salary earners, employers, self-employed persons and unpaid family helpers. (c) "Leavers" in the labour force as a percentage of total "leavers". (d) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

\* Less than or based on a figure less than 4,000. See page 3, paragraph 13.

TABLE 6. - "LEAVERS" (a) WHO WERE EMPLOYED (b), BY INDUSTRY AND  
OCCUPATION, AUSTRALIA, FEBRUARY 1971  
(1000)

Industry group	Males	Females	Persons	Occupation group	Males	Females	Persons
Primary production	7.6	*	9.6	Professional, technical and related workers	9.8	15.9	25.7
Manufacturing	24.6	10.5	35.1	Clerical workers (d)	19.3	38.7	58.0
Building and construction	10.0	*	10.6	Sales workers	5.2	12.6	17.8
Transport, storage and communication	7.0	*	9.0	Farmers, fishermen, timber getters, etc.	8.0	*	9.7
Commerce	14.6	22.8	37.4	Transport and communication workers	*	*	4.9
Public authority (n.e.i.), community and business services (including professional)	12.8	26.0	38.8	Craftsmen, production-process workers and labourers, miners, quarrymen	41.3	6.2	47.6
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	*	5.3	7.7	Service, sport and recreation workers	*	6.1	8.5
Other (c)	10.5	13.3	23.8				
<u>Total</u>	89.5	82.6	172.1	<u>Total</u>	89.5	82.6	172.1

(a) See note (a) to Table 2. (b) Includes wage and salary earners, employers, self-employed persons and unpaid family helpers. (c) Comprises mining and quarrying; electricity, gas, water and sanitary services; finance and property. (d) Includes administrative, executive and managerial workers.

\* Less than 4,000. See page 3, paragraph 13.

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NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 63 9111 extension 2347 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.