

EX-SERVICE PERSONNEL, WIDOWS AND CHILDREN, AUSTRALIA OCTOBER 1979 (PRELIMINARY)

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr Eric Hubbard on Canberra 526507 or our State Office, or write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 19, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616
For copies of this publication contact Information Services, Canberra 526627 or State offices.

MAIN FEATURES

Note : Survey estimates are subject to sampling variability, as explained in paragraph 10 below.

In October 1979, there were an estimated 674,000 civilians (621,000 males and 53,000 females) in Australia who had served in the Australian defence forces in one of the wars or operations listed in paragraph 6(a). An additional 40,900 civilians were peace-time ex-service personnel, as defined in paragraph 6(b).

About three-quarters (74.4 per cent) of ex-service personnel were aged 55 years or over.

260,700 (39.6 per cent) ex-servicemen were not in the labour force. Of the 398,000 (60.4 per cent) who were in the labour force, 2.6 per cent were unemployed. 39,300 (70.1 per cent) of ex-servicewomen were not in the labour force.

Widows of ex-servicemen numbered 164,100, of whom 50,000 were receiving a defence widow's pension.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

In October 1979 a survey, based on the monthly population survey, was conducted throughout Australia in order to obtain information about ex-service personnel and widows of ex-service personnel. The concepts and definitions used in the survey were designed in consultation with the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Services Canteens Trust Fund. Information collected included the number of surviving ex-service personnel and their areas of service; the number of widows of ex-servicemen and whether or not they were receiving a defence widow's pension; the number of outstanding defence service home loans; and the number and ages of the unmarried children of ex-service personnel who served in World War II. Similar surveys were conducted in November 1966 and 1971.

2. This publication contains only a summary of the more important results of the survey. More detailed estimates, which will be published as soon as possible, are available on request. The estimates shown are preliminary and are subject to revision.

3. The survey was based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (about 30,000 houses, flats etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, institutions, etc.) and covered about two-thirds of one per cent of the population of Australia. The information was obtained from the occupants of selected dwellings by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers, the interviews being conducted during the two weeks beginning on Monday 8 October 1979.

Scope

4. The survey questions were asked of persons aged 18 years and over at the time of the survey except:

- (a) members of the permanent defence forces
- (b) certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations
- (c) overseas visitors holidaying in Australia
- (d) members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia
- (e) boarding school students, some patients in hospitals and sanatoria or inmates of gaols, reformatories, etc.

NOTE. The 1966 and 1971 surveys included patients in Repatriation Hospitals. For operational reasons, the October 1979 survey included only those patients whose current period in Repatriation Hospitals was expected to be of six weeks or less.

Definitions

5. 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 the *survey week*, which is the week immediately preceding that in which the interview takes place. Definitions of the principal labour force categories appearing in this publication are given in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

6. For this survey *ex-service personnel* comprise:

- (a) persons who served in the Australian defence forces in one or more of the following:
 - (i) the South African (Boer) War

- (ii) the 1914-18 War (World War I)
 - (iii) the 1939-45 War (World War II) (including Occupation Forces to April 1952)
 - (iv) Korean operations (June 1950 to April 1956)
 - (v) Malayan operations (June 1950 to August 1957)
 - (vi) Far East Strategic Reserve (September 1957 to May 1963) except as a member of the naval forces in the complement of a sea-going vessel
 - (vii) Special Overseas Zones : Sarawak, Sabah, Brunei, Malaya, Singapore (1962 to 1967) and Vietnam
- (b) persons who had not served in any of the above, but had been discharged after 7 December 1972 having served for three years or more, or had been a national serviceman serving at 7 December 1972. These persons were classified as *peace-time ex-service personnel* for the purposes of this survey.

NOTE. 225,200 males and 17,000 females who stated that they had served in the Australian defence forces were not classified as ex-service personnel for the purposes of this survey because they did not satisfy the above definition.

7. Service *outside Australian territorial waters* was service in the Australian defence forces and included service:

- (a) outside the territorial waters of the Commonwealth of Australia or the Dominion of enlistment;
- (b) in the territories of Papua or New Guinea.

NOTE. Service in the Northern Territory north of 14.5° South latitude (approximately north of Katherine) for three months or more between February 1942 and November 1943 was defined as service in a 'theatre of war'. Therefore, persons who served in that area during that period are included in the tables as if they had served outside Australian territorial waters.

8. A *defence widow's pension* (or war widows pension) is granted to a woman if her husband's death is accepted as service related, or if her husband was receiving a disability pension at the time of his death.

Comparability of series

9. When comparing estimates from this survey with those from the November 1966 and 1971 surveys, the following differences should be kept in mind.

In the October 1979 survey,

- (a) information was not obtained for some patients in Repatriation Hospitals. See NOTE in paragraph 4.

- (b) the definition of ex-service personnel was extended to include peace-time members, as defined in paragraph 6.
- (c) survey estimates are based on population estimates derived from the results of the 1976 Population Census (adjusted for under-enumeration) and a revised population survey questionnaire.

Reliability of the estimates

10. Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings they are subject to sampling variability; that is they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the *standard error*. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. A table of estimated standard errors for this survey is shown below. Estimates with a standard error of more than about 22 per cent have not been shown in this publication, as the degree of sampling variability would seriously detract from their value for most reasonable uses. Although figures for these small components can, in some cases, be derived by subtraction they should not be regarded as reliable. More information about this topic will be found in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

Related publications

11. Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

Survey of Australian Ex-service Personnel, November 1966 (4403.0)
Ex-service Personnel, Widows and Children, November 1971 (4403.0)
The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)

12. All current publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications* (1101.0), which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- * subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. See paragraph 10 above.
- n.a. not available
- .. not applicable.

13. Figures have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

R. J. CAMERON
 Australian Statistician

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES (a)

Size of estimate	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia	
									Per cent of estimate	
- number -										
1,500						300				
2,000						340	470	440		
2,500				510	510	380	510	480		
3,000				550	560	410	550	510		
3,500			740	590	590	430	590	540		
4,000			780	620	630	460	620	560		
4,500	1,000	1,000	820	650	660	480	650	590	970	21.6
5,000	1,100	1,100	860	680	690	500	680	610	1,000	20.0
6,000	1,200	1,200	930	730	750	530	740	650	1,100	18.0
10,000	1,500	1,400	1,200	900	920	640	910	750	1,400	14.0
20,000	2,000	1,900	1,500	1,200	1,200	810	1,200	910	2,000	10.0
50,000	3,000	2,700	2,200	1,600	1,700	1,100	1,700	1,100	2,900	5.8
100,000	3,900	3,500	2,800	2,100	2,100	1,300		1,300	3,900	3.9
200,000	5,000	4,400	3,600	2,600	2,600	1,500			5,100	2.6
300,000	5,800	5,000	4,100	2,900	2,900				6,000	2.0
500,000	6,900	5,800	4,800	3,300	3,300				7,200	1.4
1,000,000	8,500	7,000	5,900						9,100	0.9
2,000,000	10,000	8,400							11,000	0.6
5,000,000									15,000	0.3

(a) Estimates below the level indicated have not been published. See paragraph 10.

TABLE 1. EX-SERVICE PERSONNEL (a) : AGE AND MARITAL STATUS, OCTOBER 1979

Age group (years)	Never married	Married (b)		Persons (^{'000})	Widowed Persons (^{'000})	Total (c)				
						Males		Persons		
						Persons (^{'000})	Per cent of population (d)	Females (^{'000})	Persons (^{'000})	Per cent of population (d)
18-24	5.2	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
25-29		16.0	*	16.8	*	19.2	3.3	*	20.4	1.8
30-34	4.9	29.0	*	29.7	*	34.1	6.0	*	35.3	3.1
35-39		8.5	*	8.6	*	9.5	2.0	*	9.6	1.0
40-44	*	11.7	*	11.7	*	13.8	3.4	*	14.0	1.7
45-49	*	13.0	*	13.0	*	14.9	3.9	*	15.0	2.0
50-54	6.3	65.6	6.2	71.8	*	74.3	18.8	10.3	84.6	11.0
55-59	12.0	165.6	19.4	185.1	9.7	188.8	52.7	24.6	213.4	29.7
60-64	10.6	119.3	8.5	127.8	7.9	138.4	49.4	11.2	149.7	25.7
65-69	6.7	67.1	*	68.9	9.3	83.9	35.6	*	87.1	17.1
70-74	6.7	32.9	*	33.8	4.5	41.4	25.2	*	43.3	11.6
75 and over		22.5	*	22.7	12.0	37.0	21.1	*	38.1	7.8
Total	(e)54.8	553.2	39.3	592.5	(f)47.9	658.7	13.5	56.1	714.8	7.2

(a) As defined for the purposes of the survey. (b) Includes permanently separated. (c) Includes 19,600 divorced (males 17,200). (d) The number of ex-service personnel in each group as a percentage of the civilian population in the same age group. (e) Includes 49,500 males and 5,400 females. (f) Includes 38,900 males and 9,100 females.

TABLE 2. EX-SERVICE PERSONNEL (a) : ALL AREAS OF SERVICE, OCTOBER 1979
(^{'000})

Area of service	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia (b)		
							Males	Females	Persons
1914-18 War (c)	7.2	5.6	3.8	*	*	*	21.0	*	21.0
Outside Australian territorial waters (a)	5.8	4.6	*	*	*	*	16.7	*	16.7
1939-45 War	215.7	153.5	100.3	48.5	49.6	16.6	539.9	52.2	592.1
Outside Australian territorial waters (a)	150.7	102.6	67.0	34.0	31.9	11.0	395.5	7.1	402.6
Occupation forces in Japan	7.5	*	3.9	*	*	*	19.3	*	19.6
Korea, Malaya, Far East									
Strategic Reserve	13.5	6.9	7.1	2.9	4.0	*	35.3	*	35.9
Special Overseas Zones	15.4	9.2	7.3	5.2	5.5	1.9	46.0	*	46.4
Peace-time (a)	14.2	8.0	7.8	*	4.9	1.5	37.7	*	40.9

(a) As defined for the purposes of the survey. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (c) Includes the South African (Boer) War.

NOTE. Because ex-service personnel who served in more than one area of service are shown in each of the areas in which they served, the estimates in Table 2 do not agree with those in other tables.

TABLE 3. EX-SERVICE PERSONNEL (a) : MOST RECENT AREA OF SERVICE, OCTOBER 1979
(⁰⁰⁰)

Most recent area of service	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia (b)		
							Males	Females	Persons
1914-18 War (c)	5.6	*	*	*	*	*	15.1	*	15.1
Outside Australian territorial waters (a)	4.7	*	*	*	*	*	12.6	*	12.6
1939-45 War (d)	211.7	150.4	99.0	48.0	49.4	16.6	530.5	52.0	582.5
Outside Australian territorial waters (a)	147.8	100.5	65.7	33.4	32.0	11.1	388.4	7.1	395.5
Korea, Malaya, Far East Strategic Reserve	11.1	5.7	6.0	2.7	3.3	*	29.4	*	30.0
Special Overseas Zones	15.4	9.2	7.3	5.2	5.5	1.9	46.0	*	46.4
Peace-time (a)	14.2	8.0	7.8	*	4.9	*	37.7	*	40.9
Total	257.9	177.0	123.0	59.6	64.2	20.9	658.7	56.1	714.8

(a) As defined for the purposes of the survey. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (c) Includes the South African (Boer) War. (d) Includes occupation forces in Japan.

TABLE 4. EX-SERVICE (a) AND OTHER CIVILIAN POPULATIONS : EMPLOYMENT STATUS, OCTOBER 1979

Employment status	Ex-service population (a)			Other civilian population			Total		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
NUMBER (⁰⁰⁰)									
Population aged 18 years and over	658.7	56.1	714.8	4,230.3	4,986.2	9,216.5	4,889.0	5,042.3	9,931.3
In the labour force	398.0	16.8	414.8	3,545.8	2,205.0	5,750.8	3,943.8	2,221.8	6,165.6
Employed	387.7	16.6	404.4	3,398.4	2,054.6	5,453.1	3,786.2	2,071.3	5,857.4
Unemployed	10.2	*	10.5	147.4	150.3	297.7	157.6	150.5	308.1
Not in the labour force	260.7	39.3	300.0	684.5	2,781.2	3,465.7	945.2	2,820.5	3,765.7
RATES (per cent)									
Labour force participation rate (b)	60.4	30.0	58.0	83.8	44.2	62.4	80.7	44.1	62.1
Unemployment rate (c)	2.6	*	2.5	4.2	6.8	5.2	4.0	6.8	5.0

(a) As defined for the purposes of the survey. (b) The labour force in each group as a percentage of the population in that group. (c) The unemployed as a percentage of the labour force in the same group.

TABLE 5. WIDOWS OF EX-SERVICEMEN (a) : MOST RECENT AREA OF HUSBAND'S SERVICE AND PENSION STATUS, OCTOBER 1979
(⁰⁰⁰)

Most recent area of husband's service, and pension status	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Aust. (b)
1914-18 War (c)	15.6	9.6	5.8	3.7	3.4	*	39.7
1939-45 War (d)	45.0	33.1	19.0	9.3	9.8	3.0	120.3
Total (e)	61.9	43.4	25.7	13.3	14.0	4.2	164.1
Outside Australian territorial waters (a)	46.1	30.3	18.2	10.3	9.8	2.7	118.8
Within Australian territorial waters (f)	15.7	13.2	7.5	3.0	4.2	1.5	45.3
In receipt of a defence widow's pension	18.6	13.9	9.2	*	4.2	*	50.0
Not in receipt of a defence widow's pension	43.2	29.5	16.5	10.9	9.9	3.0	114.0

(a) As defined for the purposes of the survey. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (c) Includes the South African (Boer) War. (d) Includes occupation forces in Japan. (e) Includes all other operations and peace-time service as defined for the purposes of the survey. (f) Includes 5,000 widows who did not know if their spouse had served outside Australian territorial waters.

