



INQUIRIES

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LABOUR FORCE EXPERIENCE DURING 1976 (PRELIMINARY)

MAIN FEATURES

- . Two out of every three persons (67.1 per cent) in the civilian non-institutional population aged 15 years and over in February 1977 had been in the labour force at some time during 1976, either employed or looking for work. The proportion for males was 84.2 per cent and for females 50.3 per cent.
- . Of those who had been in the labour force, 78.0 per cent had been in for the whole year.
- . 806,600 persons had experienced at least one period of unemployment lasting a week or more. This was 12.2 per cent of all persons who had been in the labour force at some time during 1976. The proportion for teenagers was 33.9 per cent.
- . Of persons who had been unemployed 475,600 (59.0 per cent) had been out of work for eight weeks or more in 1976. 200,400 (24.8 per cent) had been out of work for six months or more during the year.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

In February 1976 a survey, based on the quarterly population survey, was conducted throughout Australia in order to obtain information about the labour force experience during 1976 of civilians aged fifteen years and over. Information obtained included the length of time (in 1976) during which persons were employed, unemployed or not in the labour force, the number of times they were unemployed and other aspects of labour force experience. The results of similar surveys relating to the years 1968, 1972, 1974 and 1975 were published in a series of bulletins entitled *Labour Force Experience* (all Reference No. 6.26).

2. This statement contains only a summary of the more important results of the survey. More detailed estimates, which will be published in a bulletin to be issued 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 20,000 houses, flats etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, institutions, etc.) and covered about one-half 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 carried out during a four-week period.

Scope

4. The estimates relate to all persons aged 15 years and over, except persons in institutions, members of the permanent armed forces and certain diplomatic personnel customarily excluded from census and estimated populations. Persons in institutions are those 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.

Definitions

5. Each person was assigned to a labour force category for each week in 1976 on the basis of his actual activity (i.e. whether working, looking for work, etc.) during that week. The principal categories appearing in the tables in this bulletin are as follows :

- (i) *Persons in the labour force.* A person was classified as having been in the labour force during any week in which he was employed or unemployed as defined in (ii) and (iii) below.
- (ii) *Employed persons.* A person was classified as having been employed during a week if, in that week, he :
 - (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 was on paid leave (including sick leave).

(iii) *Unemployed persons.* A person was classified as having been unemployed during a week if, in that week, he did no work at all, and either

(a) was looking for work and did not have a job or business but could have taken one had it been available, or

(b) was laid off from his job without pay for the whole week.

(iv) *Persons out of the labour force* are all those who, in any week, were not in the categories "employed" or "unemployed", as defined above. For the purposes of this survey a person who was on strike and who did no work during a week was classified as out of the labour force in that week.

6. A person was classified as having worked mostly full time in 1976 if the number of weeks in which he worked 35 hours or more (*full-time work*) exceeded or was equal to the number of weeks in which he worked less than 35 hours (*part-time work*). If the number of weeks worked full time was less than the number of weeks worked part time he was classified as having worked mostly part time. When absent on paid leave (including paid sick leave) he was classified according to the usual hours worked in the job from which he was absent.

7. For the purposes of the survey, a *job* was defined as :

(i) employment as a wage or salary earner (or unpaid family helper) by a particular employer, in a particular locality; or

(ii) self-employment (with or without employees) in a particular locality.

Reliability of the estimates

8. Since the estimates in this statement are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the information had been obtained from occupants of all dwellings. 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 of dwellings was included in the survey. Estimates with a standard error of more than about 24 per cent have not been shown, as the degree of sampling variability would seriously detract 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. More information about this topic will be found in the quarterly bulletin *The Labour Force* (Reference No. 6.20). A table of estimated standard errors for this survey is shown below.

Symbols and other usages

* Subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses.

.. Not applicable.

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

All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Publications of the Australian Bureau of Statistics* (Reference No. 1.8) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

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	950	24.0	100,000	4,300	4.3
5,000	1,000	22.0	200,000	6,000	3.0
10,000	1,500	15.0	500,000	12,500	2.5
20,000	2,000	10.0	1,000,000	13,000	1.3
50,000	3,200	6.3	2,000,000	18,000	0.9

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TABLE 1. CIVILIAN POPULATION (a), FEBRUARY 1977, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS IN 1976
(000)

<i>Employment status (b)</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Married women</i>	<i>All females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Civilian population in February 1977	4,902.9	3,304.6	4,991.9	9,894.8
In the labour force at some time during 1976	4,126.7	1,631.4	2,509.6	6,636.3
For the whole year	3,589.0	1,005.2	1,589.6	5,178.6
For part of the year	537.7	626.2	920.0	1,457.7
Employed at some time during 1976	4,067.6	1,588.3	2,407.0	6,474.6
Mostly full time –				
No part-time work	3,811.0	916.5	1,546.0	5,357.0
Some part-time work	64.7	45.8	66.4	131.2
Mostly part time –				
No full-time work	166.5	593.9	741.1	907.6
Some full-time work	25.3	32.1	53.4	78.7
Number of jobs held during 1976 (c) –				
One	3,308.4	1,390.8	2,041.6	5,350.0
Two	529.1	154.2	272.9	802.0
Three	127.6	25.8	54.4	182.0
Four	45.9	8.5	18.1	64.0
Five	20.1	*	8.6	28.7
Six or more	36.5	6.2	11.4	47.9
Unemployed at some time during 1976	438.0	158.5	368.6	806.6
One period of unemployment	330.1	134.4	309.7	639.8
Two periods	55.7	13.7	35.2	90.9
Three periods	25.0	5.9	13.3	38.3
Four or more periods	27.2	4.5	10.4	37.6
Out of the labour force for the whole of 1976	776.3	1,673.4	2,482.1	3,258.5

(a) Non-institutional population aged 15 years and over. For scope of survey see page 1, paragraph 4. (b) For definitions see page 1, paragraphs 5 to 7. (c) Not including second jobs of multiple jobholders.

* Less than 4,000. See page 2, paragraph 8.

NOTE. The estimates relate to the labour force experience in 1976 of persons covered by the survey in February 1977. Because of emigration, deaths and other exits not all persons with 1976 labour force experience were covered. Labour force experience may relate to experience outside Australia.

TABLE 2. PERSONS IN THE LABOUR FORCE (a), BY AGE (b), 1976
(000)

<i>Age group (years)</i>	<i>In the labour force at some time during the year (c)</i>				<i>Average labour force (d)</i>			
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Married women</i>	<i>All females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Married women</i>	<i>All females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
15 – 19	408.1	28.5	375.5	783.6	375.7	22.0	331.7	707.4
20 – 24	544.1	224.5	443.0	987.1	519.8	181.0	373.4	893.2
25 – 34	1,055.8	493.4	608.0	1,663.8	1,028.4	386.6	487.1	1,515.5
35 – 44	780.3	414.8	465.3	1,245.6	765.4	359.7	411.7	1,177.1
45 – 54	746.8	350.9	417.7	1,164.5	734.2	294.8	359.8	1,094.0
55 – 59	285.1	81.1	117.4	402.4	268.9	68.5	97.5	366.4
60 – 64	199.8	28.2	51.7	251.6	180.5	23.4	41.9	222.3
65 and over	106.6	10.1	31.0	137.7	75.2	8.3	23.8	98.9
Total	4,126.7	1,631.4	2,509.6	6,636.3	3,948.1	1,344.2	2,126.7	6,074.8

(a) For definition see page 1, paragraph 8. (b) In February 1977. (c) See footnote (a) and NOTE to Table 1. (d) Average of February, May, August and November 1976 Labour Force Survey estimates.

TABLE 3. PERSONS EMPLOYED (a) AT SOME TIME DURING 1976, BY DURATION OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE YEAR ('000)

<i>Duration of employment (weeks)</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Married women</i>	<i>All females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
1 and under 4	36.2	42.9	77.8	114.1
4 " " 13	111.8	121.7	185.7	297.5
13 " " 26	105.2	120.7	176.2	281.4
26 " " 39	175.6	150.6	225.7	401.4
39 " " 49	260.7	175.6	259.4	520.2
49 " " 52	77.4	30.7	49.5	126.9
52	3,300.5	946.2	1,432.7	4,733.2
Total	4,067.6	1,588.3	2,407.0	6,474.6

(a) For definition see page 1, paragraph 5. See also footnote (a) and NOTE to Table 1.

TABLE 4. PERSONS UNEMPLOYED (a) AT SOME TIME DURING 1976, BY NUMBER OF PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE YEAR ('000)

<i>Number of periods of unemployment</i>	<i>Duration of unemployment (weeks)</i>							<i>52</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>1 and under 2</i>	<i>2 and under 3</i>	<i>3 and under 4</i>	<i>4 and under 8</i>	<i>8 and under 13</i>	<i>13 and under 26</i>	<i>26 and under 52</i>		
MALES									
One	24.8	32.1	17.5	77.9	48.2	53.7	51.4	24.4	330.1
Two	..	*	*	10.3	10.5	14.5	15.5	..	55.7
Three	..	..	*	*	6.1	8.6	7.2	..	25.0
Four and over	..	..	..	*	6.8	6.2	11.2	..	27.2
Total	24.8	34.4	21.3	93.2	71.6	83.0	85.3	24.4	438.0
FEMALES									
One	24.6	31.4	19.8	65.8	49.9	47.7	44.0	26.6	309.7
Two	..	*	*	5.0	4.4	8.4	13.1	..	35.2
Three and over	..	..	*	4.2	5.3	4.8	7.0	..	23.7
Total	24.6	34.9	22.8	75.1	59.6	60.9	64.1	26.6	368.6
PERSONS									
One	49.4	63.6	37.3	143.7	98.1	101.4	95.4	51.0	639.8
Two	..	5.7	*	15.4	14.9	22.9	28.6	..	90.9
Three	..	..	*	4.8	7.8	11.2	11.2	..	38.3
Four and over	..	..	..	4.4	10.4	8.5	14.3	..	37.6
Total	49.4	69.3	44.1	168.3	131.2	144.0	149.5	51.0	806.6

(a) For definition see page 1, paragraph 5. See also footnote (a) and NOTE to Table 1.

* Less than 4,000. See page 2, paragraph 8.

TABLE 5. PROPORTION OF PERSONS IN THE LABOUR FORCE (a) AT SOME TIME DURING 1976 WHO WERE UNEMPLOYED (a) AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR, BY AGE (b) (Per cent)

	<i>Age group (years)</i>						<i>Total</i>
	<i>15-19</i>	<i>20-24</i>	<i>25-34</i>	<i>35-44</i>	<i>45-54</i>	<i>55 and over</i>	
Males	31.0	19.0	8.7	6.9	5.0	4.2	10.6
Females	37.0	18.7	12.0	8.8	6.6	2.6	14.7
Persons	33.9	18.9	9.9	7.6	5.6	3.8	12.2

(a) For definitions see page 1, paragraph 5. See also footnote (a) and NOTE to Table 1. (b) In February 1977.