



LABOUR FORCE EXPERIENCE, AUSTRALIA, DURING THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1984 (PRELIMINARY)

PHONE INQUIRIES *for more information about these statistics*—contact Ms Gail Carters on Canberra (062) 52 6661 or any of our State offices.

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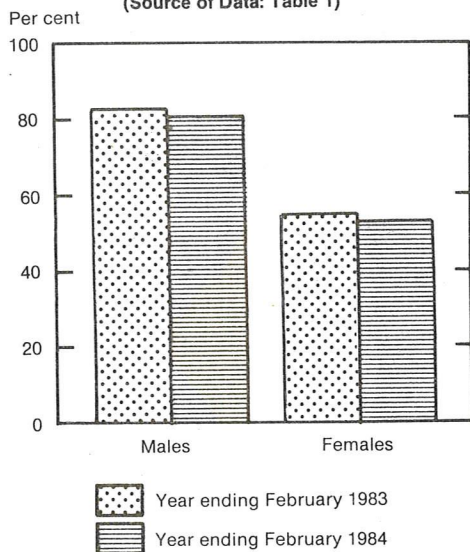
MAIL INQUIRIES *write to* Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any of our State offices.

MAIN FEATURES

Note: Survey estimates are subject to sampling variability, as explained in paragraph 20 following.

DIAGRAM 1. CIVILIAN POPULATION : PERSONS WHO WERE IN THE LABOUR FORCE AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR, FEBRUARY 1983 AND FEBRUARY 1984.

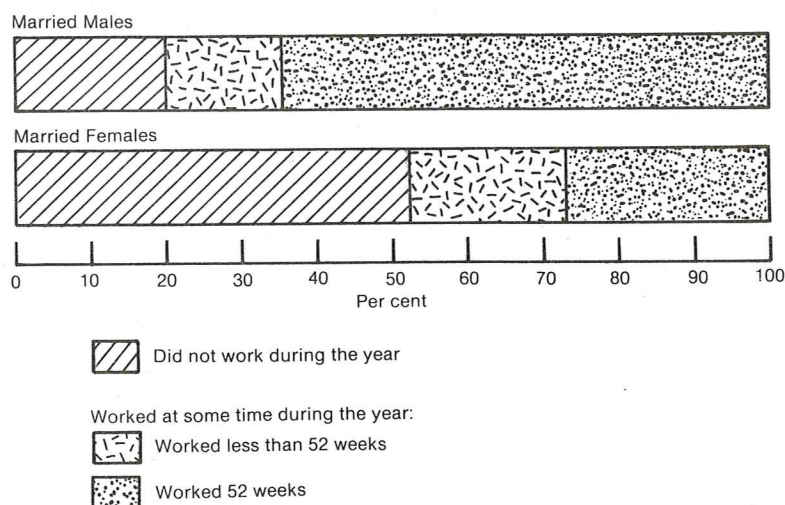
(Source of Data: Table 1)



Of the civilian population aged 15 years and over at February 1984, 81.8 per cent of males and 53.9 per cent of females were in the labour force at some time during the year ending February 1984. For the twelve months prior to that, the proportions were 82.4 per cent for males and 54.3 per cent for females.

DIAGRAM 2. MARRIED PERSONS: WHETHER WORKED AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1984 AND WEEKS WORKED.

(Source of Data: Table 1)



80.0 per cent of all married males worked at some time during the year ending February 1984, including 64.9 per cent for the full year. On the other hand, while 47.6 per cent of all married females worked at some time, only 26.9 per cent worked for the full year.

Of those in the labour force at some time during the year, 20.1 per cent (1,563,900 persons) spent some time looking for work compared with 19.1 per cent in the year ending February 1983. The average time spent looking for work varied from 19.4 weeks for 15-19 year olds to 28.0 weeks for persons aged 55 years and over.

3,714,600 persons (32.3 per cent of the population) neither worked nor looked for work during the year.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

In association with the February 1984 labour force survey conducted throughout Australia, persons aged fifteen years and over were asked about their labour force experience during the year up to the end of the week prior to interview in February 1984. Information sought includes the length of time they worked, looked for work or were not in the labour force, the number of spells during which they looked for work and other aspects of labour force experience.

2. During the two weeks beginning Monday 6 February, 1984, specially trained interviewers asked the questions of a sub-sample of 52,000 of the 72,000 respondents in the February labour force survey.

3. Results of similar surveys, the first conducted in February 1969, have been published in *Labour Force Experience, Australia* (6206.0).

4. This publication contains only a summary of the results of the survey. Estimates shown are preliminary and may be revised. Further information which will be published as soon as possible is available on request.

Scope

5. The survey includes all civilians aged fifteen years and over except:

- (a) certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations;
- (b) overseas residents in Australia;
- (c) dependants of non-Australian defence forces personnel stationed in Australia;
- (d) students boarding at school, some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and inmates of jails, reformatories etc.

6. The estimates relate to persons covered by the survey in February 1984. Because of emigration, deaths and other exits not all persons with labour force experience during the period were covered. Labour force experience may relate to experience outside Australia.

Definitions

7. It is impractical to obtain information relating to a whole year which is strictly comparable with that obtained in the monthly labour force survey for which the reference period is one week. The definitions used in determining the labour force status of persons in the monthly survey depend on a detailed set of questions asked about a person's labour force activity during the reference period. For the survey of labour force experience, a person is assigned to a labour force category for each of the weeks in the year on the basis of a more limited set of questions. It is for this reason that the terms *worked* and *looked for work* are used in this survey rather than the rigidly defined terms *employed* and *unemployed* used in the monthly labour force survey.

8. Persons in the *labour force* are those persons who, for those weeks, reported having either worked or looked for work as defined in paragraphs 9 and 10.

9. Persons who *worked* are those persons who, for those weeks, reported having either worked or been on paid leave. Periods of one week or more on strike or time off without pay are excluded.

10. Persons who *looked for work* are those persons who, for those weeks, reported having been out of work and looking for a job.

11. Persons *out of the labour force* are those who, during any week, neither worked nor looked for work as defined in paragraphs 9 and 10.

12. For the purposes of the survey, a *job* is defined as:

- (a) employment as a wage or salary earner (or unpaid family helper) by a particular employer, in a particular locality; or
- (b) self-employment (with or without employees) in a particular locality.

13. *Locality*. In capital cities and major towns each suburb is considered to be a different locality.

14. Persons are classified as *married* if they are reported as being married (including de facto) and their spouse was a usual resident of the household at the time of the survey. The *not-married* category includes persons who have never married, or are separated, widowed or divorced, as well as those who, although reported as being married, did not have a spouse who usually lived in the household. For effects on estimates of marital status, see paragraph 19.

Population benchmarks

15. Following the change in official population estimates to a place of usual residence basis after the 1981 Census, the population benchmarks used in this survey are compiled according to place of usual residence. For an explanation of the new conceptual basis of population estimates see *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

16. The change from 1976 Population Census based benchmarks to 1981 Population Census based benchmarks has had little effect on the movement in the estimates between the February 1983 and February 1984 surveys.

Discontinuities in the series

17. The estimates for February 1983 and February 1984 are not strictly comparable with those obtained from previous surveys. The reference period for the February 1980 and prior surveys was the previous calendar year (e.g. 1 January to 31 December 1979). The reference period for the February 1981 and 1982 surveys was from the beginning of the previous February to the end of the week prior to interview. As interviews were conducted over the second and third week of February, the reference period could extend to 54 weeks. For the February 1983 and 1984 surveys the reference period is the 52 weeks up to the end of the week prior to interview. Due to the change in the reference period timing, some estimates, particularly those for groups who enter the labour force during the earlier months of the year (e.g. 15 to 19 year olds) will also be affected from February 1981 survey onwards.

18. In the February 1982 survey persons who answered that they had been in their current job for a year or longer but who also reported having actually worked for less than the whole period were not counted as out of the labour force for the remainder of the period. In all other years these persons were counted as out of the labour force for that time. In consequence, the February 1982 estimate of persons out of the labour force during all or part of the period is 512,300 persons (249,100 males and 263,200 females) less than the figures which would have been obtained with the procedures used in other years.

19. Paragraph 14 outlines the definition of marital status now used in this survey. Consequently, estimates of marital status contained in this publication are not comparable with estimates published for this survey in previous years, which classified as married all respondents who reported that they were married or separated.

Reliability of the estimates

20. Estimates in this publication are subject to two sources of error:

- (a) *sampling error*: since the estimates 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*. More information about this topic will be found in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0). A table of estimated standard errors for this survey follows these notes. Estimates with a standard error of more than about 25 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.

- (b) *non-sampling error*: inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents and errors made in the coding and processing of data. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or 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.

Related publications

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

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)—issued monthly

Labour Force Experience, Australia, During the Year Ending February 1983 (6206.0)

Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (6220.0) issued March and September

Characteristics of Persons Looking for Work, Australia, July 1983 (6222.0)

Labour Mobility, Australia, During the Year Ending February 1983 (6209.0)

22. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- * subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. See paragraph 20 above.

23. Because figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

A. R. BAGNALL
Acting Australian Statistician

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
4,500	1,100	24.4	200,000	5,900	2.9
6,000	1,300	21.7	500,000	8,250	1.6
10,000	1,650	16.5	1,000,000	10,400	1.0
20,000	2,250	11.3	2,000,000	13,000	0.7
50,000	3,400	6.8	5,000,000	17,050	0.3
100,000	4,500	4.5	10,000,000	20,550	0.2

TABLE 1. CIVILIAN POPULATION(a), FEBRUARY 1984: LABOUR FORCE EXPERIENCE DURING THE YEAR
ENDING FEBRUARY 1984
(' 000)

Employment status	Married males	All males	Married females	All females	Persons
Civilian population	3,552.5	5,673.7	3,552.0	5,814.7	11,488.4
<i>In the labour force at sometime during the year</i>	2,936.8	4,639.7	1,817.9	3,134.1	7,773.8
For 1 and under 4 weeks	8.4	48.8	64.2	108.7	157.5
4 and under 13 weeks	19.4	135.3	119.6	239.5	374.8
13 and under 26 weeks	27.0	81.9	115.9	182.7	264.6
26 and under 39 weeks	48.3	115.9	146.1	218.2	334.1
39 and under 49 weeks	116.4	204.0	210.2	294.4	498.4
49 and under 52 weeks	131.7	195.3	102.6	161.2	356.5
52 weeks	2,585.7	3,858.6	1,059.3	1,929.4	5,788.0
Worked at some time during the year	2,843.5	4,352.6	1,689.2	2,831.3	7,183.9
Of weeks worked—					
All were full time	2,655.0	3,921.5	845.3	1,648.6	5,570.0
More full time than part time	86.4	148.7	65.2	116.8	265.6
All were part time	84.3	237.3	726.6	979.1	1,216.3
More part time than full time	17.7	45.1	52.1	86.9	132.0
Weeks worked—					
1 and under 4 weeks	12.7	63.5	39.4	74.0	137.5
4 and under 13 weeks	38.4	145.2	109.5	203.7	349.0
13 and under 26 weeks	67.9	155.2	117.7	190.0	345.3
26 and under 39 weeks	104.7	213.0	148.9	251.5	464.5
39 and under 49 weeks	180.2	321.4	216.4	320.3	641.6
49 and under 52 weeks	134.8	202.8	101.3	160.6	363.4
52 weeks	2,304.8	3,251.4	956.0	1,631.2	4,882.7
Looked for work at some time during the year	357.3	879.7	276.7	684.2	1,563.9
One spell of looking for work	272.3	686.8	219.6	545.7	1,232.5
Two spells	51.4	118.3	27.8	80.3	198.5
Three spells	11.9	26.1	9.4	20.5	46.6
Four or more spells	21.7	48.5	19.9	37.8	86.3
<i>Out of the labour force for the whole year-</i>	<i>615.7</i>	<i>1,034.0</i>	<i>1,734.0</i>	<i>2,680.6</i>	<i>3,714.6</i>

(a) Non-institutional population aged 15 years and over.

**TABLE 2. PERSONS IN THE LABOUR FORCE AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1984:
PROPORTION OF POPULATION(a)
(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>55-59</i>	<i>60-64</i>	<i>65 and over</i>	
Married males	*	99.1	98.9	98.2	95.6	85.0	55.6	14.4	82.7
All males	73.8	96.3	98.1	97.7	94.3	83.5	54.6	13.3	81.8
Married females	67.9	70.1	61.2	65.9	53.9	32.4	15.1	*	51.2
All females	71.1	82.2	65.9	66.7	55.9	34.7	15.9	3.1	53.9
Persons	72.5	89.2	82.0	82.0	75.7	59.3	34.4	7.7	67.7

(a) Persons in each group as a proportion of the total non-institutional civilian population in the same group at the time of the survey.

**TABLE 3. PERSONS WHO WORKED AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1984:
NUMBER OF JOBS(a) HELD DURING THE YEAR
(' 000)**

	<i>Number of jobs held during the year</i>				<i>Total</i>
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4 or more</i>	
Married males	2,487.4	272.0	49.0	35.1	2,843.5
All males	3,724.7	460.0	94.5	73.4	4,352.6
Married females	1,523.4	130.2	22.9	12.7	1,689.2
All females	2,469.6	274.1	55.9	31.7	2,831.3
Persons	6,194.4	734.0	150.4	105.1	7,183.9
<i>Age group (years)—</i>					
15-19	584.4	104.2	26.9	14.6	730.0
20-24	847.1	167.6	32.0	30.2	1,077.0
25-34	1,596.0	232.9	51.0	33.4	1,913.4
35-44	1,421.4	136.4	26.1	17.4	1,601.4
45-54	1,035.8	68.3	11.9	5.9	1,122.0
55-59	397.8	16.3	*	*	417.7
60-64	209.0	7.1	*	*	217.2
65 and over	102.8	*	*	*	105.3

(a) Excludes second jobs of multiple jobholders.

**TABLE 4. PERSONS WHO LOOKED FOR WORK AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1984 AS A PROPORTION
OF PERSONS IN THE LABOUR FORCE AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR
(Per cent)**

<i>Age group (years)</i>	<i>Married</i>			<i>Not married</i>			<i>Total</i>		
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
15-19	*	44.9	49.6	44.0	47.1	45.5	44.2	47.0	45.6
20-24	26.0	23.3	24.4	32.2	27.1	30.1	31.0	25.8	28.6
25-34	15.1	18.2	16.4	24.6	25.2	24.8	18.1	20.3	19.0
35-44	10.2	15.1	12.2	20.4	20.2	20.3	11.7	16.0	13.5
45-54	10.1	8.4	9.5	15.6	17.9	16.7	10.9	10.5	10.8
55 and over	9.2	4.8	8.2	13.4	9.0	11.4	9.9	6.2	8.9
Total	12.2	15.2	13.3	30.7	31.0	30.8	19.0	21.8	20.1

TABLE 5. PERSONS WHO LOOKED FOR WORK AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1984 : NUMBER OF SPELLS AND WEEKS SPENT LOOKING FOR WORK DURING THE YEAR

	<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>	
	— '000—						
One spell—							
Males	169.2	149.4	170.1	86.9	63.1	48.1	686.8
Females	173.9	108.9	129.8	88.1	34.4	10.6	545.7
Persons	343.1	258.3	300.0	174.9	97.5	58.7	1,232.5
	—weeks—						
Average duration(a)	18.6	23.6	22.4	24.1	29.1	29.4	22.7
Median duration(a)	10.0	16.1	15.0	18.1	26.1	28.0	15.0
	— '000—						
Two spells—							
Males	24.4	29.7	30.9	18.8	9.8	4.5	118.3
Females	23.4	20.3	18.9	12.3	*	*	80.3
Persons	47.9	50.1	49.8	31.1	13.9	5.8	198.5
	—weeks—						
Average duration(a)	24.2	24.5	20.9	19.4	26.3	20.0	22.7
Median duration(a)	24.0	25.0	20.1	16.1	31.0	25.0	22.1
	— '000—						
Three or more spells—							
Males	14.4	16.8	20.4	10.6	9.1	*	74.6
Females	10.6	11.4	18.2	11.2	5.9	*	58.2
Persons	25.0	28.2	38.6	21.9	15.1	*	132.9
	—weeks—						
Average duration(a)	21.1	20.3	19.4	21.0	20.5	*	20.3
Median duration(a)	21.1	18.1	14.0	18.1	18.1	*	18.0
	— '000—						
Total—							
Males	208.1	195.9	221.5	116.3	82.0	55.8	879.7
Females	207.9	140.7	166.9	111.6	44.4	12.8	684.2
Persons	416.0	336.6	388.4	227.9	126.5	68.6	1,563.9
	—weeks—						
Average duration(a)	19.4	23.4	21.9	23.1	27.8	28.0	22.5
Median duration(a)	12.0	18.1	16.0	18.0	26.1	26.1	16.1

(a) Of total weeks spent looking for work during the year

TABLE 6. PERSONS OUT OF THE LABOUR FORCE DURING ALL OR PART OF THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1984 : LENGTH OF TIME OUT OF THE LABOUR FORCE ('000)

	<i>Weeks out of the labour force</i>							<i>Total</i>
	<i>1 and under 4</i>	<i>4 and under 13</i>	<i>13 and under 26</i>	<i>26 and under 39</i>	<i>39 and under 49</i>	<i>49 and under 52</i>	<i>52</i>	
Males	195.3	196.0	94.6	101.7	144.8	48.8	1,034.0	1,815.2
Married	131.7	113.3	40.1	36.2	21.3	8.4	615.7	966.8
Not married	63.6	82.6	54.5	65.5	123.4	40.4	418.3	848.3
Females	161.2	271.1	185.7	217.2	260.8	108.7	2,680.6	3,885.3
Married	102.6	193.8	125.5	138.7	133.9	64.2	1,734.0	2,492.7
Not married	58.6	77.3	60.2	78.5	126.9	44.5	946.6	1,392.7
Persons	356.5	467.1	280.3	318.9	405.5	157.5	3,714.6	5,700.5
Age group (years)—								
15-19	31.4	48.1	46.5	76.3	176.0	59.2	346.5	784.0
20-24	56.2	60.8	40.2	37.5	60.8	16.5	142.3	414.1
25-34	114.1	121.1	81.3	84.8	73.8	37.8	448.7	961.6
35-44	77.6	114.0	54.6	56.3	45.2	22.9	371.0	741.5
45-54	47.2	67.1	28.3	25.6	24.5	10.4	378.2	581.3
55-59	16.7	27.5	11.8	14.0	7.1	5.3	299.5	382.0
60-64	8.3	18.6	10.1	14.1	10.4	*	433.1	496.8
65 and over	5.0	9.8	7.5	10.5	7.6	*	1,295.4	1,339.2