

LABOUR MOBILITY, AUSTRALIA FEBRUARY 1980 (PRELIMINARY)

INQUIRIES

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MAIN FEATURES

Note : Survey estimates are subject to sampling variability, as explained in paragraph 8 below.

87.8 per cent of males and 88.7 per cent of females who were employed at the end of 1979 had not changed their employer or business during the year.

9.5 per cent of males and 9.2 per cent of females had made one change.

Amongst the males a higher proportion (18.3 per cent) of sales workers had changed their employer or business than had those in any other occupation group. The highest proportion for females (12.6 per cent) was recorded for service, sport and recreation workers.

20.0 per cent of persons aged 15 to 24 years who were employed at the end of 1979 had changed their employer or business at least once during the year, compared with 9.3 per cent of persons aged 25 years and over.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

In February 1980 a survey, based on the monthly population survey, was conducted throughout Australia in order to obtain information about some aspects of the mobility of persons who had been employed at some time during 1979, e.g. the number of different employers for whom employees had worked during 1979 or the number of different businesses in which employers and self-employed persons had been engaged. The results of similar surveys in November 1972 and in February 1975, 1976 and 1979 were published in *Labour Mobility* (6209.0).

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 subject to revision.

3. The survey was based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (about 15,000 houses, flats

etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, institutions, etc.) and covered about one third 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, 11th February, 1980.

Scope

4. The survey included all persons aged fifteen years and over 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, and
- (e) boarding school students, patients in hospitals and sanatoria, or inmates of gaols, reformatories, etc.

5. The estimates relate to the labour mobility in 1979 of persons covered by the survey in February 1980. Because of emigration, deaths and other exits not all persons employed in 1979 were covered. Labour mobility may relate to experience outside Australia.

Definitions

6. For this survey, each person was assigned to a labour force category for each week in 1979 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 :

- (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 looking for work 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 had :

- (a) worked for one hour or more, 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) *Persons looking for work.* A person was classified as looking for work during a week if, in that week, he did no work at all, did not have a job or business, and was looking for work. No constraints concerning the taking of active steps to find work, or availability to start work, applied.
- (iv) *Persons not in the labour force* are all those who, in any week, were not in the categories "employed" or "looking for work", 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 not in the labour force in that week.

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.

Locality. In capital cities and major towns, each suburb was considered to be a different locality; otherwise, each town and each country area associated with a town constituted a separate locality.

Reliability of the estimates

8. Since the survey estimates are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings they are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ by chance 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 in the survey, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

9. The smaller the estimate the higher is the relative standard error. Very small estimates are subject to such high relative standard errors as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable uses. A table of estimated standard errors for this survey is shown below. Estimates with a standard error of more than about 25 per cent have not been shown in this publication. 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

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

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)

Labour Force Experience, Australia (6206.0)

Persons not in the Labour Force, Australia (6220.0)

Persons Looking for Work, Australia (6222.0)

Labour Mobility, Australia (6209.0)

11. 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 9 above.

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

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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
6,000	1,500	25.0	200,000	7,100	3.6
10,000	2,000	20.0	500,000	10,000	2.0
20,000	2,700	13.5	1,000,000	12,800	1.3
50,000	4,100	8.2	2,000,000	16,100	0.8
100,000	5,400	5.4	5,000,000	21,300	0.4

TABLE 1. CIVILIAN POPULATION (a), FEBRUARY 1980 : SUMMARY OF LABOUR MOBILITY DURING 1979 ('000)

	Males	Females	Persons
Civilian population (a) in February 1980	5,251.7	5,366.6	10,618.3
<i>In the labour force at some time during 1979</i>	4,310.1	2,777.4	7,087.5
Employed at some time during 1979	4,199.5	2,605.3	6,804.8
Number of employers worked for (b) (or businesses) during 1979 —			
1	3,643.3	2,303.1	5,946.4
2	408.5	233.8	642.3
3	79.9	37.2	117.0
4	37.2	20.9	58.1
5	10.1	*	15.3
6 and over	20.5	*	25.7
Not employed at the end of 1979	305.0	401.5	706.4
Employed at the end of 1979	3,894.5	2,203.8	6,098.3
For one year or more in job held at the end of 1979	3,095.0	1,645.7	4,740.7
For less than one year in job held at the end of 1979	799.5	558.1	1,357.6
Did not have a previous job in the year	244.3	283.1	527.4
Had a previous job in the year	555.2	275.0	830.2
Did not change usual residence when obtaining job held at the end of 1979	635.3	476.5	1,111.8
Changed usual residence when obtaining job held at the end of 1979	164.2	81.6	245.8
Left a job in 1979	879.2	686.6	1,565.8
Did not leave a job in 1979	3,320.3	1,918.6	5,238.9
<i>Out of the labour force for the whole of 1979</i>	941.6	2,589.1	3,530.8

(a) Non-institutional civilians aged 15 years and over. (b) Not including second jobs of multiple jobholders.

NOTE. The estimates relate to the labour mobility in 1979 of persons covered by the survey in February 1980. Because of emigration, deaths and other exits not all persons employed in 1979 were covered. Labour mobility may relate to experience outside Australia.

TABLE 2. PERSONS EMPLOYED AT SOME TIME IN 1979 : NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS OR BUSINESSES IN 1979 AND MARITAL STATUS ('000)

	Number of employers or businesses in 1979						Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6 and over	
Males —							
Married	2,599.3	251.3	43.8	16.1	*	9.2	2,923.5
Not married	1,044.0	157.2	36.1	21.2	6.2	11.4	1,275.9
Total	3,643.3	408.5	79.9	37.2	10.1	20.5	4,199.5
Females —							
Married	1,527.1	116.8	15.2	9.2	*	*	1,670.9
Not married	776.0	117.0	22.0	11.7	*	*	934.4
Total	2,303.1	233.8	37.2	20.9	*	*	2,605.3
Persons —							
Married	4,126.4	368.2	59.0	25.2	*	10.8	4,594.4
Not married	1,820.0	274.1	58.0	32.8	10.5	14.9	2,210.4
Total	5,946.4	642.3	117.0	58.1	15.3	25.7	6,804.8

TABLE 3. PERSONS EMPLOYED AT SOME TIME DURING 1979 : NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS OR BUSINESSES IN 1979 AND CHANGE IN LOCALITY WHILE WITH THE SAME EMPLOYER OR IN THE SAME BUSINESS IN 1979 ('000)

Change in locality while with the same employer or in the same business in 1979	Number of employers or businesses in 1979				Total
	1	2	3	4 and over	
MALES					
Did not change locality	3,497.2	369.6	72.8	59.5	3,999.1
Changed locality	146.1	38.9	7.0	8.3	200.4
Number of changes –					
1	126.6	35.4	*	*	169.7
2	7.8	*	*	*	10.9
3	*	*	*	*	8.5
4 and over	6.3	*	*	*	11.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>3,643.3</i>	<i>408.5</i>	<i>79.9</i>	<i>67.8</i>	<i>4,199.5</i>
FEMALES					
Did not change locality	2,238.6	205.9	33.7	29.9	2,508.2
Changed locality	64.5	27.9	*	*	97.1
Number of changes –					
1	48.0	24.4	*	*	75.8
2 and over	16.5	*	*	*	21.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>2,303.1</i>	<i>233.8</i>	<i>37.2</i>	<i>31.2</i>	<i>2,605.3</i>
PERSONS					
Did not change locality	5,735.9	575.5	106.5	89.4	6,507.3
Changed locality	210.5	66.8	10.5	9.6	297.5
Number of changes –					
1	174.6	59.8	7.0	*	245.5
2	12.9	*	*	*	18.1
3	8.6	*	*	*	12.5
4 and over	14.5	*	*	*	21.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>5,946.4</i>	<i>642.3</i>	<i>117.0</i>	<i>99.0</i>	<i>6,804.8</i>

TABLE 4. PERSONS EMPLOYED AT SOME TIME DURING 1979 : NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS OR BUSINESSES IN 1979, AGE (a) AND WHETHER EMPLOYED AT THE END OF 1979 ('000)

Age group (years)	Number of employers or businesses in 1979									
	Males					Females				
	1	2	3	4 and over	Total	1	2	3	4 and over	Total
EMPLOYED AT THE END OF 1979										
15 – 19	257.1	44.9	8.0	6.1	316.2	226.2	44.4	6.8	*	281.8
20 – 24	391.2	79.0	15.5	16.1	501.8	313.5	56.0	8.9	7.1	385.4
25 – 34	885.8	132.4	24.9	12.8	1,055.8	497.3	55.6	9.8	6.7	568.1
35 – 44	751.3	63.3	7.0	6.5	826.3	439.6	29.6	*		}
45 – 54	650.4	37.4	*		}	692.8	322.7	13.5	*	
55 – 59	277.0	11.0	*	*		290.9	99.2	*	*	*
60 – 64	141.5	*	*	*	144.9	36.0	*	*	*	36.6
65 and over	64.8	*	*	*	65.8	20.1	*	*	*	20.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>3,419.2</i>	<i>371.9</i>	<i>60.1</i>	<i>43.3</i>	<i>3,894.5</i>	<i>1,954.6</i>	<i>201.7</i>	<i>28.9</i>	<i>18.6</i>	<i>2,203.8</i>
NOT EMPLOYED AT THE END OF 1979										
15 – 19	46.0	10.7	*	*	63.0	46.3	*	7.0	}	58.4
20 – 24	38.4	8.9	6.5	6.2	60.0	62.3	10.4			}
25 – 34	41.1	7.4	7.4	6.8	62.7	100.0	10.1	}	}	
35 – 44	20.8	7.7	*	6.4	31.4	59.5	6.0			*
45 – 54	18.4		*		*	23.5		45.6	*	*
55 – 59	9.7	*	*	*	12.1	18.9	*	*	*	19.9
60 – 64	21.2	*	*	*	22.9	12.2	*	*	*	12.3
65 and over	28.5	*	*	*	29.5	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Total</i>	<i>224.1</i>	<i>36.6</i>	<i>19.7</i>	<i>24.5</i>	<i>305.0</i>	<i>348.5</i>	<i>32.1</i>	<i>8.3</i>	<i>12.6</i>	<i>401.5</i>

(a) At the time of the survey.

TABLE 5. PERSONS EMPLOYED AT SOME TIME DURING 1979 : NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS OR BUSINESSES IN 1979 AND OCCUPATION ('000)

	Number of employers or businesses in 1979									
	Males					Females				
	1	2	3	4 and over	Total	1	2	3	4 and over	Total
EMPLOYED AT THE END OF 1979										
Occupation at end of year										
Professional and technical	416.7	32.9	*	*	455.0	332.4	35.8	*	*	377.1
Administrative, executive and managerial	327.9	28.9	*	*	360.1	53.4	*	*	*	56.9
Clerical	297.0	22.4	*	*	325.0	640.6	69.9	8.8	7.1	726.4
Sales	213.1	40.4	*	*	260.9	263.2	27.3	*	*	297.6
Farmers, fishermen, timber-getters, etc.	304.1	26.5	6.6	6.0	343.3	82.0	*	*	*	86.3
Transport and communication	237.9	27.6	*	*	274.6	47.0	*	*	*	52.0
Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c. (a)	1,432.6	168.0	25.8	24.1	1,650.5	220.3	21.8	*	*	246.4
Service, sport and recreation	189.7	25.3	7.1	*	225.1	315.7	36.5	6.4	*	361.1
Total	3,419.2	371.9	60.1	43.3	3,894.5	1,954.6	201.7	28.9	18.6	2,203.8
NOT EMPLOYED AT THE END OF 1979										
Occupation of last job held in 1979										
Professional and technical	16.0	*	*	*	20.4	47.5	6.3	*	*	56.5
Administrative, executive and managerial	12.1	*	*	*	14.8	*	*	*	*	*
Clerical	11.4	*	*	*	12.6	95.3	7.7	*	*	105.6
Sales	20.2	*	*	*	25.6	64.4	*	*	*	70.9
Farmers, fishermen, timber-getters, etc.	21.2	7.5	*	*	31.9	12.8	*	*	*	15.3
Transport and communication	15.7	*	*	*	22.3	10.6	*	*	*	11.8
Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c. (a)	105.2	17.8	11.1	15.4	149.4	44.0	6.2	*	*	50.9
Service, sport and recreation	22.4	*	*	*	28.0	71.1	10.6	*	*	87.5
Total	224.1	36.6	19.7	24.5	305.0	348.5	32.1	8.3	12.6	401.5

(a) Includes miners and quarrymen.

TABLE 6. PERSONS EMPLOYED AT SOME TIME DURING 1979 : NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS OR BUSINESSES IN 1979 AND INDUSTRY ('000)

	Number of employers or businesses in 1979									
	Males					Females				
	1	2	3	4 and over	Total	1	2	3	4 and over	Total
EMPLOYED AT THE END OF 1979										
Industry at end of year										
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	268.4	22.8	*	6.4	303.2	84.2	*	*	*	87.0
Mining	65.2	10.6	*	*	77.4	*	*	*	*	*
Manufacturing	792.3	88.4	12.6	9.6	902.9	283.1	29.9	*	*	317.9
Electricity, gas and water	111.3	*	*	*	116.7	9.5	*	*	*	10.0
Construction	363.4	45.8	7.3	8.2	424.7	45.8	*	*	*	49.0
Wholesale and retail trade	614.2	81.7	13.9	7.6	717.5	487.1	49.6	8.8	*	549.0
Transport and storage	261.8	22.6	6.5	*	293.8	49.2	7.2	*	*	58.7
Communication	89.3	*	*	*	91.8	29.9	*	*	*	31.6
Finance, insurance, real estate and business services	228.8	34.3	*	*	268.6	181.6	23.5	*	*	210.5
Community services	330.5	21.0	*	*	357.8	520.6	46.1	6.1	*	576.7
Public administration and defence (a)	164.1	13.8	*	*	180.1	79.9	9.2	*	*	91.9
Entertainment, recreation, restaurants, hotels and personal services	129.8	23.2	*	*	159.9	179.4	28.0	*	*	216.2
Total	3,419.2	371.9	60.1	43.3	3,894.5	1,954.6	201.7	28.9	18.6	2,203.8
NOT EMPLOYED AT THE END OF 1979										
Industry of last job held in 1979										
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	17.7	7.7	*	*	27.9	13.5	*	*	*	16.7
Mining	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Manufacturing	52.9	9.3	*	*	70.8	51.3	6.0	*	*	57.8
Electricity, gas and water	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Construction	26.1	*	*	7.0	42.3	*	*	*	*	*
Wholesale and retail trade	51.7	6.1	*	*	65.5	97.0	7.5	*	*	109.7
Transport and storage; communication	14.5	*	*	*	19.8	12.3	*	*	*	13.8
Finance, insurance, real estate and business services	10.1	*	*	*	14.6	25.4	*	*	*	29.0
Community services	18.2	*	*	*	21.7	83.5	10.2	*	*	96.2
Public administration and defence (a)	11.2	*	*	*	11.4	14.4	*	*	*	15.1
Entertainment, recreation, restaurants, hotels and personal services	16.3	*	*	*	23.8	44.8	6.8	*	*	57.0
Total	224.1	36.6	19.7	24.5	305.0	348.5	32.1	8.3	12.6	401.5

(a) Excludes defence forces.