



## LABOUR MOBILITY, AUSTRALIA FEBRUARY 1981 (PRELIMINARY)

**PHONE INQUIRIES** *for more information about these statistics*—contact Mr Dennis Scoble on Canberra (062) 52 6503 or any of our State offices.  
*other inquiries including copies of publications*—contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6627 or in any of our State offices.

**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 13 below.*

**86.5 per cent of males and 87.6 per cent of females who were employed at February 1981 had not changed their employer or business during the previous 12 months.**

**10.3 per cent of males and 9.8 per cent of females had made one change.**

**Amongst males, a higher proportion (20.0 per cent) of sales workers had changed their employer or business than had those in any other occupation group. The highest proportion for females (14.4 per cent) was recorded for service, sport and recreation workers.**

**21.0 per cent of persons aged 15 to 24 years who were employed at February 1981 had changed their employer or business during the previous 12 months compared with 10.4 per cent of persons aged 25 years and over.**

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

#### Introduction

In February 1981 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 the 12 months to February 1981, e.g. the number of different employers for whom employees had worked during the period or the number of different businesses in which employers and self-employed persons had been engaged. Results of similar surveys, the first conducted in November 1972, were published in *Labour Mobility, Australia* (6209.0). For details of the changed reference period between the February 1981 survey and previous surveys, refer to paragraph 12.

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 22,500 houses, flats, etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, 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 conducted during the two weeks beginning on Monday, 9 February 1981.

#### 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 jails, reformatories, etc.

5. The estimates relate to the labour mobility in the 12 months to February 1981, of persons covered by the survey in February 1981. Because of emigration, deaths and other exits not all persons with labour force experience during the period 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 during the 12 months to February 1981 on the basis of his *reported activity* (i.e. whether working, looking for work, etc.) during that week.

7. The *labour force* comprises all persons who, during any week, were employed or looking for work as defined in paragraphs 8 and 9.

8. *Employed persons.* Persons were classified as employed for those weeks they reported having either worked or being on paid leave. Periods of one week or more on strike or time off without pay were excluded.

9. Persons were classified as *looking for work* for those weeks they reported as being out of work and looking for a job. Taking active steps to find work and availability to start work are conditions which usually apply when defining such persons in labour force surveys. These conditions are not practicable, however, for a survey with a reference period of twelve months.

10. *Persons not in the labour force* are those who, during any week, were not in the categories 'employed' or 'looking for work', as defined in paragraphs 8 and 9.

11. For the purposes of the survey, a *job* was 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.

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

#### Discontinuity in the series

12. The estimates in this publication are not strictly comparable with those obtained from previous labour mobility surveys. The reference period for the February 1981 survey was from the beginning of February 1980 to the end of the survey week. For this reason the reference period could extend to 54 weeks but in this publication it is referred to as the 12 months to February 1981. In the past three surveys the reference period was the previous calendar year.

#### Reliability of the estimates

13. 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 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. More information about this topic will be found in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

#### Related publications

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

- The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)—issued monthly
- Labour Force Experience During 1979, Australia* (6206.0)
- Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia, September 1980* (6220.0)
- Persons Looking for Work, Australia, July 1980* (6222.0)
- Labour Mobility, Australia, February 1980* (6209.0)

15. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (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 13 above
- .. not applicable

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

**R.J. CAMERON**  
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	24.9	200,000	5,900	2.9
6,000	1,300	21.5	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	0.4
100,000	4,500	4.5			

TABLE 1. CIVILIAN POPULATION(a), FEBRUARY 1981: SUMMARY OF LABOUR MOBILITY DURING THE 12 MONTHS TO FEBRUARY 1981  
(<sup>' 000</sup>)

	Males	Females	Persons
<b>Civilian population</b>	<b>5,361.5</b>	<b>5,458.8</b>	<b>10,820.3</b>
<i>In the labour force at some time during the period</i>	<i>4,459.4</i>	<i>2,924.3</i>	<i>7,383.7</i>
Employed at some time during the period	4,342.2	2,737.6	7,079.8
Number of employers worked for(b) (or businesses) during the period—			
1	3,721.9	2,395.6	6,117.5
2	462.8	266.1	728.9
3	88.2	46.0	134.2
4	35.8	19.6	55.3
5	14.4	7.0	21.4
6 and over	19.1	*	22.5
Not employed at the end of the period	264.9	409.4	674.3
Employed at the end of the period(c)	4,077.3	2,328.2	6,405.6
For one year or more in job held at the end of the period	3,135.9	1,658.9	4,794.8
For less than one year in job held at the end of the period	939.5	662.6	1,602.1
Did not have a previous job during the period	255.2	311.8	566.9
Had a previous job during the period	684.3	350.9	1,035.2
Left a job during the period	949.6	760.9	1,710.5
Did not leave a job during the period	3,392.6	1,976.7	5,369.4
<i>Out of the labour force for the whole of the period</i>	<i>902.1</i>	<i>2,534.4</i>	<i>3,436.5</i>

(a) Non-institutional civilians aged 15 years and over. (b) Not including second jobs of multiple jobholders. (c) Includes 8,700 persons (6,700 females) who, being unpaid voluntary workers, were not asked details of their current job.

TABLE 2. JOB TENURE NOVEMBER 1972 TO FEBRUARY 1981

Duration of job	November 1972(a)	February 1975(a)	February 1976(b)	February 1979(b)	February 1980(b)	February 1981(a)	
	—per cent—						( <sup>' 000</sup> )
<b>MALES</b>							
Under 3 months	9.1	8.5	7.5	6.9	6.6	9.1	371.6
3 and under 6 months	4.6	4.2	5.2	6.9	5.3	5.6	228.7
6 and under 12 months	7.6	7.2	8.3	9.2	8.6	8.3	339.1
Total under 1 year	21.3	19.9	20.9	22.9	20.5	23.0	939.5
1 and under 2 years	13.3	13.1	11.4	12.2	12.5	12.6	512.0
2 and under 3 years	9.5	8.7	9.9	8.1	8.8	8.7	355.8
3 and under 5 years	11.9	11.8	15.0	14.9	14.2	14.1	573.6
5 years and over	44.1	46.5	42.8	41.9	43.9	41.6	1,694.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>(c)100.0</i>	<i>(c)4,077.3</i>
<b>FEMALES</b>							
Under 3 months	13.9	11.8	8.8	8.0	7.8	11.0	255.6
3 and under 6 months	6.6	6.1	7.0	7.8	6.2	6.7	155.0
6 and under 12 months	11.5	11.6	11.5	11.8	11.4	10.8	252.1
Total under 1 year	32.1	29.5	27.3	27.6	25.3	28.5	662.6
1 and under 2 years	18.2	20.0	16.1	15.7	15.8	16.0	371.8
2 and under 3 years	12.1	11.0	13.6	10.7	11.2	9.6	222.5
3 and under 5 years	12.9	12.9	16.8	17.1	17.1	15.8	367.8
5 years and over	24.8	26.6	26.2	28.8	30.5	29.9	696.8
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>(c)100.0</i>	<i>(c)2,328.2</i>

(a) Refers to time in their current job of persons employed at the time of the survey. (b) For persons in the survey who were employed at the end of the previous calendar year, time in job held at end of previous calendar year. (c) Includes 8,700 persons (6,700 females) who, being unpaid voluntary workers, were not asked details of their current job.

**TABLE 3. PERSONS EMPLOYED AT SOME TIME DURING THE 12 MONTHS TO FEBRUARY 1981: NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS OR BUSINESSES AND CHANGE IN LOCALITY WHILE WITH THE SAME EMPLOYER OR IN THE SAME BUSINESS DURING THE PERIOD ('000)**

<i>Change in locality while with the same employer or in the same business</i>	<i>Number of employers or businesses</i>				<i>Total</i>
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4 and over</i>	
<b>MALES</b>					
Did not change locality	3,585.7	435.4	84.6	64.4	4,170.0
Changed locality	136.2	27.4	*	4.9	172.2
Number of changes—					
1	114.8	25.3	*	*	145.9
2	12.5	*	*	*	15.2
3	4.8	*	*	*	5.8
4 and over	*	*	*	*	5.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,721.9</b>	<b>462.8</b>	<b>88.2</b>	<b>69.3</b>	<b>4,342.2</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>					
Did not change locality	2,328.3	253.0	42.1	27.6	2,651.0
Changed locality	67.3	13.1	*	*	86.7
Number of changes—					
1	60.9	11.5	*	*	76.2
2 and over	6.4	*	*	*	10.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,395.6</b>	<b>266.1</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>2,737.6</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>					
Did not change locality	5,914.0	688.3	126.7	92.0	6,821.0
Changed locality	203.6	40.6	7.5	7.2	258.8
Number of changes—					
1	175.7	36.7	5.2	4.5	222.1
2	15.8	*	*	*	20.3
3	6.0	*	*	*	7.4
4 and over	6.0	*	*	*	9.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,117.5</b>	<b>728.9</b>	<b>134.2</b>	<b>99.2</b>	<b>7,079.8</b>

**TABLE 4. PERSONS EMPLOYED AT SOME TIME DURING THE 12 MONTHS TO FEBRUARY 1981: NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS OR BUSINESSES DURING THE PERIOD, AGE AND WHETHER EMPLOYED AT FEBRUARY 1981 ('000)**

<i>Age group (years)</i>	<i>Number of employers or businesses</i>									
	<i>Males</i>					<i>Females</i>				
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4 and over</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4 and over</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b>EMPLOYED AT FEBRUARY 1981</b>										
15-19	315.2	52.2	12.0	9.0	388.4	259.0	50.9	9.5	5.9	325.2
20-24	410.9	92.1	17.8	19.3	540.1	321.6	60.3	9.2	9.2	400.3
25-34	910.0	144.9	25.3	16.9	1,097.1	523.9	61.0	10.3	5.1	600.3
35-44	764.8	79.1	11.6	7.9	863.3	448.9	35.2	5.1	*	490.8
45-54	643.0	34.3	4.8	*	685.2	322.9	16.3	*	*	342.3
55-59	282.1	8.9	*	*	292.6	105.7	*	*	*	109.3
60-64	135.5	7.3	*	*	143.7	36.7	*	*	*	37.8
65 and over	64.3	*	*	*	66.9	21.1	*	*	*	22.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,525.8</b>	<b>420.9</b>	<b>72.3</b>	<b>58.3</b>	<b>4,077.3</b>	<b>2,039.8</b>	<b>229.2</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>2,328.3</b>
<b>NOT EMPLOYED AT FEBRUARY 1981</b>										
15-19	49.3	9.1	*	} 7.9 {	63.2	53.0	9.9	} 8.2 {	} 4.7 {	69.9
20-24	31.3	10.8	5.5		50.5	62.1	8.2			73.9
25-34	26.4	11.5	4.9	45.4	113.6	10.3	128.6			
35-44	17.8	} 7.4 {	*	23.5	56.0	4.9	61.9			
45-54	17.6		*	23.1	36.0	*	39.0			
55-59	11.9	*	*	14.3	13.4	*	14.0			
60-64	22.1	*	*	23.7	15.9	*	16.1			
65 and over	19.7	*	*	21.2	5.8	*	6.1			
<b>Total</b>	<b>196.1</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>264.9</b>	<b>355.8</b>	<b>36.9</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>409.4</b>

**TABLE 5. PERSONS EMPLOYED AT SOME TIME DURING THE 12 MONTHS TO FEBRUARY 1981: NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS OR BUSINESSES DURING THE PERIOD AND OCCUPATION ('000)**

	Number of employers or businesses									
	Males					Females				
	1	2	3	4 and over	Total	1	2	3	4 and over	Total
<b>EMPLOYED AT FEBRUARY 1981</b>										
<i>Occupation at February 1981—</i>										
Professional and technical	437.5	47.6	5.0	*	493.2	360.0	39.4	4.7	*	406.7
Administrative, executive and managerial	323.0	25.3	*	*	351.1	50.1	4.5		*	54.6
Clerical	293.4	20.5	*	*	318.4	692.7	82.1	13.5	8.2	796.5
Sales	215.9	46.2	5.4	*	270.0	263.6	32.4	*	*	302.6
Farmers, fishermen, timber-getters, etc.	314.3	30.6	6.1	8.6	359.6	102.1	5.9	*	*	110.3
Transport and communication	262.4	33.3	6.8	*	306.1	40.1	*	*	*	44.6
Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c.(a)	1,482.6	193.1	38.6	34.4	1,748.6	208.3	20.9	*	*	235.9
Service, sport and recreation	196.8	24.3	5.7	*	230.4	322.9	40.8	7.9	5.5	377.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,525.8</b>	<b>420.9</b>	<b>72.3</b>	<b>58.3</b>	<b>4,077.3</b>	<b>2,039.8</b>	<b>229.2</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>2,328.2</b>
<b>NOT EMPLOYED AT FEBRUARY 1981</b>										
<i>Occupation of first job held in the period—</i>										
Professional and technical	11.8	*	*	*	15.6	48.7	4.9		*	54.8
Administrative, executive and managerial	10.8	*	*	*	14.3	4.5	*	*	*	5.7
Clerical	11.4	*	*	*	12.5	98.9	11.6	*	*	114.3
Sales	16.3	*	*	*	20.6	57.6	7.9	*	*	67.8
Farmers, fishermen, timber-getters, etc.	15.5	6.4		*	24.6	12.2	*	*	*	14.6
Transport and communication	11.2	5.1		*	17.4	6.5	*	*	*	7.2
Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c.(a)	98.3	19.9	9.7	5.9	133.7	48.7	*	*	*	54.2
Service, sport and recreation	20.8	5.1		*	26.2	78.9	7.6	*	*	90.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>196.1</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>264.9</b>	<b>355.8</b>	<b>36.9</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>409.4</b>

(a) Includes miners and quarrymen.

**TABLE 6. PERSONS EMPLOYED AT SOME TIME DURING THE 12 MONTHS TO FEBRUARY 1981: NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS OR BUSINESSES DURING THE PERIOD AND INDUSTRY ('000)**

	<i>Number of employers or businesses</i>									
	<i>Males</i>					<i>Females</i>				
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4 and over</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4 and over</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b>EMPLOYED AT FEBRUARY 1981</b>										
<i>Industry at February 1981—</i>										
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	281.3	24.1	5.0	7.3	317.7	103.7	7.6	*	*	113.5
Mining	67.3	9.1	*	*	79.4	4.8	*	*	*	6.8
Manufacturing	816.3	95.8	17.6	10.9	940.5	264.1	31.6	6.8	*	306.4
Electricity, gas and water	114.6	7.0	*	*	122.2	10.9	*	*	*	11.8
Construction	353.6	58.3	12.2	13.3	437.3	51.0	*	*	*	55.3
Wholesale and retail trade	615.0	89.0	14.4	11.1	729.4	487.2	53.8	7.5	*	552.5
Transport and storage	263.7	27.8	6.4	*	301.1	51.2	5.6	*	*	58.0
Communication	90.5	*	*	*	94.6	28.7	*	*	*	31.5
Finance, property and business services	258.9	37.1	5.0	*	303.5	214.4	29.1	*	*	250.9
Community services	346.7	30.2	*	*	384.0	560.6	52.7	9.2	*	625.5
Public administration and defence(a)	183.5	12.7	*	*	199.0	80.5	8.9	*	*	91.0
Recreation, personal and other services	134.5	26.5	*	*	168.5	182.9	31.9	5.1	5.2	225.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,525.8</b>	<b>420.9</b>	<b>72.3</b>	<b>58.3</b>	<b>4,077.3</b>	<b>2,039.8</b>	<b>229.2</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>2,328.2</b>
<b>NOT EMPLOYED AT FEBRUARY 1981</b>										
<i>Industry of first job held in the period—</i>										
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	13.5	—5.5—	*	*	21.6	14.7	*	*	*	17.8
Mining; electricity, gas and water	6.1	*	*	*	7.4	*	*	*	*	*
Manufacturing	52.6	7.6	4.5	*	66.4	51.1	5.1	*	*	59.5
Construction	23.3	6.1	*	*	34.2	*	*	*	*	*
Wholesale and retail trade	42.5	9.6	*	*	57.4	95.2	10.8	*	*	110.6
Transport and storage; communication	13.1	—5.5—	*	*	19.2	8.1	*	*	*	9.4
Finance, property	10.0	*	*	*	12.8	32.5	*	*	*	37.0
Community services	16.6	*	*	*	19.4	86.2	7.8	*	*	96.4
Public administration and defence(a)	6.4	*	*	*	8.8	13.1	*	*	*	14.9
Recreation, personal and other services	12.1	*	*	*	17.5	48.8	5.2	*	*	57.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>196.1</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>264.9</b>	<b>355.8</b>	<b>36.9</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>409.4</b>

(a) Excludes defence forces.