



LABOUR MOBILITY, AUSTRALIA, FEBRUARY 1982 (PRELIMINARY)

PHONE INQUIRIES *for more information about these statistics*—contact Ms Susan Purcell 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.

77.0 per cent of males and 72.0 per cent of females who were employed at February 1982 had been in their current job for a year or longer.

1,807,200 persons left a job during the period February 1981 to February 1982. Of these:

1,017,500 persons had more than one employer or business during the period although 768,100 of these persons (75.5 per cent) only worked for two employers or businesses.

584,000 persons left their only employer or business and were not employed at the end of the period.

Males aged 20 to 24 years are more mobile than other age groups with 27.5 per cent of those employed at some time during the period, having worked for two or more employers or businesses. For males aged 35 to 44 years, 12.1 per cent worked for more than one employer or business.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

In association with the February 1982 labour force survey conducted throughout Australia, persons aged fifteen years and over who had been employed at some time during the period February 1981 to February 1982 were asked about their labour mobility during the period. Specific questions related to the duration of current job, whether respondents had changed jobs or not and the number of jobs held during the period.

2. During the two weeks beginning Monday 8 February, 1982, specially trained interviewers asked the questions of a sub-sample of 50,000 of the 69,000 respondents in the February labour force survey.

3. Results of similar surveys, the first conducted in November 1972, have been published in *Labour Mobility, Australia* (6209.0).

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 visitors holidaying 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 1982. 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

7. For this survey, each person is assigned to a labour force category for each week during the period February 1981 to February 1982 on the basis of his *reported activity* (i.e. whether working, looking for work, etc.) during that week.

8. *Employed persons.* Persons are classified as employed for those weeks they report having either worked or being on paid leave. Periods of one week or more on strike or time off without pay are excluded. Estimates relating to employed persons in this publication differ from estimates published in *The Labour Force, Australia, February 1982* (6203.0) because of differences in definitions applied in the two surveys.

9. 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.

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

11. *A change of job* may involve a change of employer without a change of job location; a change of location without a change of employer; or a change in both employer and location. For example, the movement of an employer's operations to premises in a different location would entail a change of job for employees who moved to the new location. Promotion or transfer of an employee which involves a move to premises in a different location would also constitute a change of job. It should be noted, however, that for a person who works at different sites for the same employer (for example, a construction worker), his base of operations (i.e. his employer's office, depot, yard, etc.) is considered to be his place of work.

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 and 1982 surveys was from the beginning of the previous February to the end of the survey week. For this reason the reference period could extend to 54 weeks. In the three surveys February 1976, 1979 and 1980 the reference period was the previous calendar year.

Reliability of the estimates

13. 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 only 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

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

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)—issued monthly

Labour Force Experience, Australia, February 1981 (6206.0)

Labour Mobility, Australia, February 1981 (6209.0)

15. 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 13 above.
- .. not applicable
- n.e.c. not elsewhere classified

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 1982: SUMMARY OF LABOUR MOBILITY DURING THE PERIOD
FEBRUARY 1981 TO FEBRUARY 1982
(' 000)**

	<i>Married males</i>	<i>All males</i>	<i>Married females</i>	<i>All females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Civilian population	3,551.1	5,462.8	3,525.8	5,565.2	11,028.0
<i>In the labour force at some time during the period</i>	<i>2,964.3</i>	<i>4,523.8</i>	<i>1,827.7</i>	<i>3,014.2</i>	<i>7,538.0</i>
Employed at some time during the period	2,926.1	4,398.5	1,728.3	2,813.0	7,211.4
Number of employers/businesses(b) during the period—					
1	2,576.0	3,753.7	1,554.8	2,440.3	6,193.9
2	274.1	477.7	145.3	290.4	768.1
3	43.2	88.0	19.0	46.3	134.3
4	18.3	44.0	5.4	20.2	64.2
5	5.6	13.6	*	7.2	20.8
6 and over	9.0	21.4	*	8.6	30.1
Not employed at the end of the period	126.9	294.8	283.4	434.0	728.8
Employed at the end of the period	2,799.2	4,103.7	1,444.9	2,378.9	6,482.6
For one year or more in current job	2,306.9	3,159.0	1,128.1	1,713.6	4,872.5
For less than one year in current job	492.3	944.7	316.7	665.4	1,610.1
No previous job during the period	76.8	238.8	139.1	292.9	531.7
Had a previous job during the period	415.5	706.0	177.7	372.4	1,078.4
Left a job during the period	542.4	1,000.8	461.1	806.4	1,807.2
Did not leave a job during the period	2,383.7	3,397.7	1,267.2	2,006.5	5,404.2
<i>Out of the labour force for the whole of the period</i>	<i>586.8</i>	<i>939.0</i>	<i>1,698.0</i>	<i>2,551.0</i>	<i>3,490.0</i>

(a) Non-institutional population aged 15 years and over. (b) Excludes second jobs of multiple jobholders.

TABLE 2. JOB TENURE(a) NOVEMBER 1972 TO FEBRUARY 1982

<i>Duration of job</i>	<i>November 1972(b)</i>	<i>February 1975(b)</i>	<i>February 1976(c)</i>	<i>February 1979(c)</i>	<i>February 1980(c)</i>	<i>February 1981(b)</i>	<i>February 1982(b)</i>	
	—per cent—							(' 000)
MALES								
Under 3 months	9.1	8.5	7.5	6.9	6.6	9.2	8.7	358.9
3 and under 6 months	4.6	4.2	5.2	6.9	5.3	5.6	5.8	239.2
6 and under 12 months	7.6	7.2	8.3	9.2	8.6	8.3	8.4	346.6
<i>Total under 1 year</i>	<i>21.3</i>	<i>19.9</i>	<i>20.9</i>	<i>22.9</i>	<i>20.5</i>	<i>23.1</i>	<i>23.0</i>	<i>944.7</i>
1 and under 2 years	13.3	13.1	11.4	12.2	12.5	12.6	12.2	501.4
2 and under 3 years	9.5	8.7	9.9	8.1	8.8	8.7	9.2	379.0
3 and under 5 years	11.9	11.8	15.0	14.9	14.2	14.1	14.1	577.1
5 years and over	44.1	46.5	42.8	41.9	43.9	41.6	41.5	1,701.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>4,103.7</i>
FEMALES								
Under 3 months	13.9	11.8	8.8	8.0	7.8	11.3	10.7	255.0
3 and under 6 months	6.6	6.1	7.0	7.8	6.2	6.7	7.2	171.7
6 and under 12 months	11.5	11.6	11.5	11.8	11.4	10.8	10.0	238.7
<i>Total under 1 year</i>	<i>32.1</i>	<i>29.5</i>	<i>27.3</i>	<i>27.6</i>	<i>25.3</i>	<i>28.8</i>	<i>28.0</i>	<i>665.4</i>
1 and under 2 years	18.2	20.0	16.1	15.7	15.8	16.0	15.2	360.5
2 and under 3 years	12.1	11.0	13.6	10.7	71.2	9.6	10.7	255.4
3 and under 5 years	12.9	12.9	16.8	17.1	17.1	15.8	15.1	358.4
5 years and over	24.8	26.6	26.2	28.8	30.5	29.9	31.1	739.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>2,378.9</i>

(a) Duration of job. (b) Refers to time in their current job of persons employed at the time of the survey. (c) 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.

TABLE 3. PERSONS EMPLOYED AT SOME TIME DURING THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 1981 TO FEBRUARY 1982 : NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS OR BUSINESSES AND CHANGES IN LOCALITY

Change in locality while with the same employer or in the same business	Had one employer, business	Had more than one employer, business					Total	Total
		Number of employers, businesses				Total		
		2	3	4 and over	Total			
Did not change locality	5,979.3	724.7	124.5	104.6	953.8	6,933.2		
Changed locality	214.6	43.4	9.8	10.5	63.7	278.3		
Number of changes—								
1	183.8	37.0	6.1	4.9	48.0	231.8		
2	17.2	*	*	*	7.1	24.3		
3	7.8	*	*	*	*	11.8		
4 and over	5.9	*	*	*	4.5	10.4		
Total	6,193.9	768.1	134.3	115.1	1,017.5	7,211.4		
Employed at end of period	5,610.0	672.8	112.6	87.3	872.6	6,482.6		
Not employed at end of period	584.0	95.3	21.7	27.8	144.9	728.8		

TABLE 4. PERSONS EMPLOYED AT SOME TIME DURING THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 1981 TO FEBRUARY 1982: NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS OR BUSINESSES BY INDUSTRY AND OCCUPATION OF FIRST JOB DURING THE PERIOD ('000)

	Number of employers or businesses									
	Males					Females				
	i	2	3	4 and over	Total	1	2	3	4 and over	Total
<i>Age group (years)—</i>										
15-19	364.3	57.5	14.0	12.0	447.8	306.4	61.1	13.0	10.0	390.6
20-24	445.3	114.0	25.7	29.1	614.3	386.8	74.4	13.3	13.3	487.8
25-34	934.5	154.3	28.9	24.2	1,141.8	627.5	80.1	12.4	9.2	729.3
35-44	812.5	90.7	12.8	8.4	924.3	539.0	49.8	4.7	*	596.8
45-54	659.6	39.6	4.7	*	707.6	389.4	19.8	*	*	411.6
55-59	302.4	13.9	*	*	319.1	120.0	*	*	*	124.5
60-64	160.4	*	*	*	165.5	44.0	*	*	*	45.0
65 and over	74.8	*	*	*	78.2	27.1	*	*	*	27.4
<i>Industry of first job during the period—</i>										
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	286.8	26.1	8.0	13.8	334.7	113.2	6.2	*	*	122.4
Mining; electricity, gas and water	201.6	14.1	*	*	221.0	343.1	35.8	*	*	386.6
Manufacturing	849.8	127.5	22.7	16.5	1,016.5	20.3	*	*	*	22.4
Construction	381.8	66.2	11.3	15.2	474.5	52.3	4.5	*	*	58.0
Wholesale and retail trade	662.1	107.7	20.2	13.6	803.6	583.6	91.0	12.4	9.9	696.9
Transport and storage; communication	388.4	28.0	7.5	*	428.0	85.3	7.1	*	*	95.0
Finance, property and business services	274.2	34.8	*	*	316.3	251.8	32.6	5.2	*	293.2
Community services	355.8	27.9	4.7	*	391.4	657.8	64.8	9.7	7.1	739.4
Public administration and defence	189.7	17.0	*	*	211.5	100.1	9.9	*	*	112.6
Recreation, personal and other services	163.4	28.3	4.8	4.6	201.1	232.7	37.4	8.3	8.1	286.5
<i>Occupation of first job during the period—</i>										
Professional, technical, etc.	468.2	50.2	5.5	4.9	528.8	421.6	44.3	7.2	6.5	479.6
Administrative, executive and managerial	321.4	38.2	*	*	364.6	61.2	7.1	*	*	69.6
Clerical	318.5	27.8	*	*	351.6	796.5	97.7	16.0	9.4	919.7
Sales	252.0	43.3	9.7	*	308.7	322.3	55.6	7.4	4.6	389.8
Farmers, fishermen, timber-getters, etc.	327.1	31.9	9.1	13.3	381.4	110.3	6.0	*	*	119.2
Miners, quarry workers, etc.	36.3	*	*	*	42.4	*	*	*	*	*
Transport and communication	270.8	28.1	7.6	*	310.8	48.1	*	*	*	53.3
Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c.	1,550.1	226.1	43.7	43.4	1,863.3	270.9	27.6	*	*	306.2
Service, sport and recreation	209.3	27.6	5.2	4.7	246.9	409.3	48.1	10.1	7.7	475.2
Total	3,753.7	477.7	88.0	79.1	4,398.5	2,440.3	290.4	46.3	36.0	2,813.0