



LABOUR MOBILITY, AUSTRALIA, DURING THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1985 (PRELIMINARY)

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MAIN FEATURES

Note: Survey estimates are subject to sampling variability, as explained in paragraph 17 following.

DIAGRAM 1. PERSONS WHO WORKED AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR: NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS/BUSINESSES, FEBRUARY 1984 AND FEBRUARY 1985.

(Source of Data: Table 1)

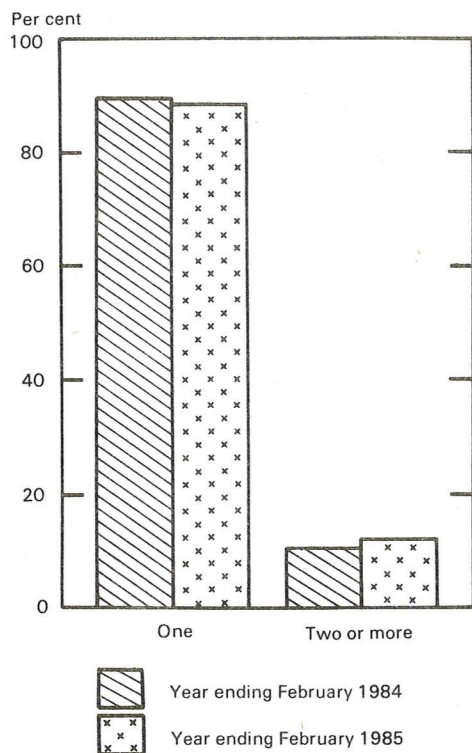
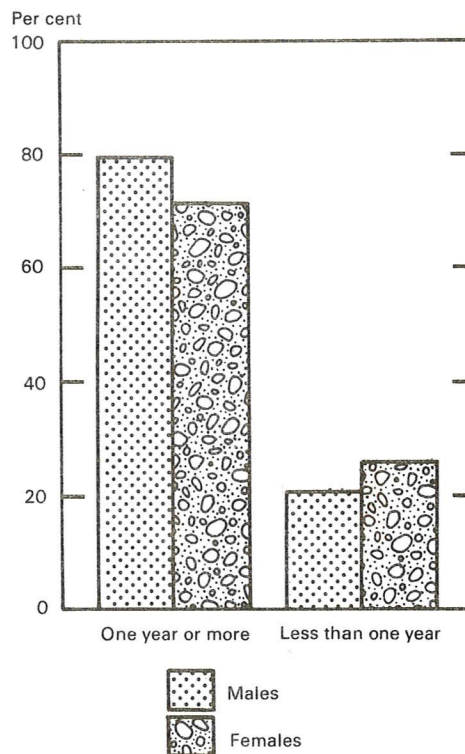


DIAGRAM 2. PERSONS WHO HAD A JOB AT FEBRUARY 1985: TIME IN CURRENT JOB.

(Source of Data: Table 2)



Of the 7,368,700 persons who worked at some time during the year ending February 1985, 88.1 per cent (89.4 per cent during the year ending February 1984) had only one employer or business during the year, and 11.9 per cent (10.6 per cent in the previous year) had two or more employers or businesses during the year.

Of the 4,100,400 males who had a job at February 1985, 20.8 per cent (851,400) had held their current job for less than a year. For females this proportion was 26.5 per cent.

At February 1985, of the 6,667,500 persons who had jobs, 15.3 per cent had changed jobs during the year, 7.7 per cent had had no previous job during the year and 77.0 per cent had been in their current job for one year or more. The proportion of persons who changed jobs during the year increased to 15.3 per cent in 1985 after dropping in each of the two previous years. The corresponding figures were 16.6 per cent in 1982, 14.4 per cent in 1983 and 13.7 per cent in 1984.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

The monthly Population Survey (which is described in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)) comprises the monthly labour force survey and supplementary topics. This publication contains some results of a supplementary survey run in association with the February 1985 labour force survey conducted throughout Australia.

2. Of the respondents to the labour force survey, those who fell within the scope of the supplementary were asked additional questions. This subset of respondents was asked about their labour mobility during the year up to the end of the week prior to interview in February 1985. 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.

Scope

3. The scope of this supplementary survey was the same as that used for the labour force survey (described in full in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)), except that it excluded students boarding at school, some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and inmates of jails, reformatories, etc.

4. The estimates relate to persons covered by the survey in February 1985. 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

5. 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 mobility 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.

6. Persons in the *labour force* are those persons who, for those weeks, reported having either worked or looked for work as defined in paragraphs 7 and 8.

7. 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.

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

9. Persons *out of the labour force* are those who, during any week, neither worked nor looked for work as defined in paragraphs 7 and 8.

10. 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.

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

12. *Job mobility* is defined as a change of job. 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.

13. 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.

Results of the survey

14. This publication contains only a summary of the results of the survey. Estimates shown are preliminary and may be revised. A more detailed publication will be released as soon as possible and further information is available on request.

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

Discontinuities in the series

16. The estimates for February of the years 1983, 1984 and 1985 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, 1984 and 1985 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 the February 1981 survey onwards.

Reliability of the estimates

17. 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

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

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)—issued monthly (\$1.10, \$1.90 incl. postage)

Labour Force Experience, Australia, During the Year Ending February 1984 (6206.0)

Internal Migration, Australia (3408.0)—Issued irregularly

19. 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 following 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 17 above.
n.e.c. not elsewhere classified

20. 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	23.9	200,000	6,100	3.0
6,000	1,300	20.7	500,000	8,700	1.7
10,000	1,600	16.0	1,000,000	11,200	1.1
20,000	2,250	11.1	2,000,000	14,200	0.7
50,000	3,400	6.8	5,000,000	19,100	0.4
100,000	4,550	4.6	10,000,000	23,500	0.2

**TABLE 1. PERSONS WHO WORKED AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1985:
SUMMARY OF LABOUR MOBILITY
(' 000)**

	<i>Married males</i>	<i>All males</i>	<i>Married females</i>	<i>All females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Worked at some time during the year	2,888.9	4,412.0	1,780.7	2,956.7	7,368.7
Number of employers or businesses(a) during the year—					
1	2,617.6	3,888.9	1,630.3	2,600.8	6,489.7
2	212.4	397.1	126.1	284.1	681.1
3	40.9	82.5	15.2	46.7	129.1
4 and over	18.1	43.6	9.1	25.2	68.8
Did not have a job at February 1985	147.1	311.6	252.5	389.6	701.2
Had a job at February 1985	2,741.8	4,100.4	1,528.2	2,567.1	6,667.5
For one year or more in current job	2,321.3	3,249.0	1,215.7	1,887.9	5,136.9
For less than one year in current job	420.6	851.4	312.5	679.3	1,530.6
Did not have a previous job during the year	57.8	221.1	144.0	292.3	513.3
Had a previous job during the year	362.8	630.3	168.5	387.0	1,017.3
Left a job during the year	509.9	941.9	421.0	776.6	1,718.5
Did not leave a job during the year	2,379.0	3,470.1	1,359.7	2,180.1	5,650.2

(a) Not including second jobs of multiple jobholders.

**TABLE 2. PERSONS WHO HAD A JOB AT THE TIME OF THE SURVEY:
DURATION OF CURRENT JOB, FEBRUARY 1976 TO FEBRUARY 1985**

<i>Duration of current job</i>	<i>Survey conducted in February—</i>							<i>1985</i>	<i>(' 000)</i>
	<i>1976(a)</i>	<i>1979(a)</i>	<i>1980(a)</i>	<i>1981</i>	<i>1982</i>	<i>1983</i>	<i>1984</i>		
	<i>—per cent—</i>								
MALES									
Under 3 months	7.5	6.9	6.6	9.2	8.7	7.6	8.6	9.0	369.3
3 and under 6 months	5.2	6.9	5.3	5.6	5.8	4.0	4.4	4.4	182.0
6 and under 12 months	8.3	9.2	8.6	8.3	8.4	7.2	6.4	7.3	300.1
<i>Total under 1 year</i>	<i>20.9</i>	<i>22.9</i>	<i>20.5</i>	<i>23.1</i>	<i>23.0</i>	<i>18.8</i>	<i>19.4</i>	<i>20.8</i>	<i>851.4</i>
1 and under 2 years	11.4	12.2	12.5	12.6	12.2	13.0	10.1	11.6	475.0
2 and under 3 years	9.9	8.1	8.8	8.7	9.2	12.0	11.3	9.4	385.7
3 and under 5 years	15.0	14.9	14.2	14.1	14.1	16.0	16.2	15.7	644.9
5 years and over	42.8	41.9	43.9	41.6	41.5	40.3	43.0	42.5	1,743.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	4,100.4
FEMALES									
Under 3 months	8.8	8.0	7.8	11.3	10.7	9.0	10.2	11.2	286.3
3 and under 6 months	7.0	7.8	6.2	6.7	7.2	5.3	5.6	6.5	165.7
6 and under 12 months	11.5	11.8	11.4	10.8	10.0	9.0	8.6	8.9	227.3
<i>Total under 1 year</i>	<i>27.3</i>	<i>27.6</i>	<i>25.3</i>	<i>28.8</i>	<i>28.0</i>	<i>23.3</i>	<i>24.5</i>	<i>26.5</i>	<i>679.3</i>
1 and under 2 years	16.1	15.7	15.8	16.0	15.2	15.8	13.9	14.5	371.9
2 and under 3 years	13.6	10.7	11.2	9.6	10.7	14.4	12.7	10.8	278.2
3 and under 5 years	16.8	17.1	17.1	15.8	15.1	16.7	17.0	17.3	444.1
5 years and over	26.2	28.8	30.5	29.9	31.1	29.8	31.9	30.9	793.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	2,567.1

(a) For persons in the survey who were working at the end of the previous calendar year, time in job held at end of previous calendar year.

**TABLE 3. PERSONS WHO WORKED AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1985:
NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS OR BUSINESSES AND CHANGES IN LOCALITY
(' 000)**

Change in locality	Had one employer or business	Had more than one employer or business				Total	Total
		Number of employers or businesses					
		2	3	4 and over			
Did not change locality	6,237.2	628.7	112.7	57.7	799.1	7,036.3	
Changed locality	252.4	52.4	16.5	11.1	80.0	332.4	
Number of changes—							
1	194.7	36.1	8.0	*	46.9	241.6	
2	24.2	8.3	5.7	*	17.2	41.4	
3	12.5	*	*	*	*	16.8	
4 and over	21.0	6.0	*	*	11.7	32.6	
Total	6,489.7	681.1	129.1	68.8	879.0	7,368.7	
Had a job at February 1985	5,883.2	616.2	113.1	55.0	784.3	6,667.5	
Did not have a job at February 1985	606.5	64.9	16.1	13.8	94.7	701.2	

**TABLE 4. PERSONS WHO WORKED AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 1985:
NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS OR BUSINESSES, CURRENT AGE, LABOUR FORCE STATUS, INDUSTRY AND OCCUPATION
(' 000)**

	Number of employers or businesses									
	Males					Females				
	1	2	3	4 and over	Total	1	2	3	4 and over	Total
Total	3,888.9	397.1	82.5	43.6	4,412.0	2,600.8	284.1	46.7	25.2	2,956.7
<i>Age group (years)—</i>										
15-19	310.2	58.5	12.0	5.9	386.6	293.3	55.3	9.9	5.5	364.1
20-24	465.6	85.7	22.9	12.9	587.1	403.6	80.2	15.1	5.6	504.4
25-34	1,004.9	133.2	27.4	14.2	1,179.7	695.2	80.2	14.3	8.5	798.2
35-44	923.5	75.3	12.8	6.0	1,017.6	634.6	46.7	5.9	*	691.0
45-54	658.6	32.4	5.7	*	699.4	386.2	17.9	*	*	406.6
55-59	285.8	8.8	*	*	296.6	113.0	*	*	*	116.7
60-64	163.2	*	*	*	166.4	54.8	*	*	*	55.4
65 and over	77.0	*	*	*	78.6	20.2	*	*	*	20.5
<i>Labour force status at February 1985—</i>										
Out of the labour force	142.5	7.9	*	*	153.6	281.2	21.2	*	*	310.1
Looking for work	121.0	22.9	7.1	6.9	158.0	61.8	12.9	*	*	79.5
Working	3,625.4	366.2	73.0	35.7	4,100.4	2,257.8	250.0	40.1	19.3	2,567.1
<i>Industry of current job—</i>										
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	279.9	17.6	4.8	5.1	307.5	107.1	*	*	*	113.9
Mining; electricity, gas and water	197.7	12.2	*	*	212.7	18.9	*	*	*	20.9
Manufacturing	775.0	69.1	12.0	6.5	862.6	278.3	28.9	*	*	311.9
Construction	345.0	48.4	11.2	6.9	411.5	59.7	*	*	*	64.1
Wholesale and retail trade	623.3	85.9	16.9	6.4	732.5	494.0	60.0	10.0	*	567.6
Transport and storage; communication	374.2	28.4	5.0	*	409.9	83.5	9.7	*	*	96.2
Finance, property and business services	303.9	33.5	7.7	*	347.1	258.3	30.7	6.4	*	297.7
Community services	385.0	27.1	4.6	*	418.5	654.0	64.3	9.4	5.6	733.2
Public administration and defence	188.2	15.8	*	*	207.2	100.6	12.5	*	*	115.2
Recreation, personal and other services	153.2	28.3	5.5	*	190.9	203.4	34.5	*	4.6	246.5
<i>Occupation of current job—</i>										
Professional, technical, etc.	510.9	45.6	7.2	*	567.1	427.5	44.5	6.1	4.8	482.9
Administrative, executive and managerial	350.6	30.2	*	*	385.3	62.7	6.6	*	*	70.9
Clerical	299.7	23.6	*	*	327.7	766.4	91.0	17.3	9.0	883.7
Sales	233.2	31.9	8.7	*	275.9	275.8	34.1	6.2	*	317.7
Farmers, fisherpersons and timber-getters, etc.	321.5	23.1	5.2	5.6	355.5	102.7	*	*	*	108.5
Miners and quarry workers	30.6	*	*	*	34.0	*	*	*	*	*
Transport and communication	261.3	26.3	5.4	*	294.5	37.1	5.2	*	*	42.7
Trades and production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c.	1,415.7	159.6	34.8	17.9	1,628.1	213.2	17.8	*	*	233.0
Service, sport and recreation	201.9	23.2	*	*	232.4	372.4	46.8	6.1	*	427.7

