



Reference No. 6.54

PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE,
NOVEMBER 1975 (PRELIMINARY)

MAIN FEATURES

In November 1975 an estimated 2,003,100 persons aged 15 to 64 years who were not in the labour force were keeping house, retired or voluntarily idle. Of these:

- 1,267,900 did not want to or need to work or believed that they should stay at home.
- 453,600 were not looking for work because of their own ill health, physical disability or pregnancy.
- 190,900 were not looking for work because of family considerations.
- 33,800 were discouraged job-seekers (i.e., they wanted a job but were not looking for one because there were no suitable jobs in their locality, employers considered them too young or too old or they lacked the necessary schooling, experience, etc.).
- 198,000 intended to look for work in the next twelve months and a further 121,300 stated that they might do so.
- 38,600 had recently been looking for work but had not taken active steps in the survey week to find a job.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

In November 1975 a survey, based on the quarterly population survey, was conducted throughout Australia in order to obtain information about persons aged 15 to 64 years who were not in the labour force : in particular, their intentions regarding entering or re-entering the labour force, whether they had ever held a regular job and, if so, how long ago and for what reason they had left it, and their educational qualifications.

2. This statement contains only a summary of the more important results of the survey. More detailed estimates, which will be published in a bulletin to be issued, as soon as possible, are available on request. The estimates shown are preliminary and are subject to revision.

The population survey

3. The survey is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (houses, flats, etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.), the information being obtained in February, May, August and November from the occupants of selected dwellings by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers. Interviews are carried out during a period of four weeks, so that in each of the months to which the survey relates, there are four survey weeks, chosen so as to fall within the limits of the calendar month or with minimum encroachment into the adjacent months.

4. The survey normally covers about two-thirds of one per cent of the population of Australia, but because of special circumstances in November 1975 the sample size was reduced to one half of one per cent.

Scope

5. The survey estimates generally relate to all persons aged 15 years and over, except persons in institutions, members of the permanent armed forces and certain diplomatic personnel customarily excluded from census and estimated populations. Persons in institutions are those who were patients in hospitals and sanatoria, or inmates of goals, reformatories, etc., and for whom, for the purpose of the survey, the institution was regarded as their dwelling. The estimates in Tables 2 to 4 relate only to persons aged 15 to 64 years.

Definitions

6. Definitions of *employed*, *unemployed* and *not in the labour force* used in this statement conform to those used in the quarterly population survey. Reference should be made to the November 1975 issue of the quarterly bulletin *The Labour Force* (Reference No. 6.20).

7. A *regular job* was defined as one which had lasted for two months or more and in which the person had worked at least an average of five hours a week.

8. Persons included in the survey who were not looking for work were asked to give reasons why they were not doing so (to a maximum of three). Reasons were ranked in the order of priority shown in Table 2. Where more than one reason was given, only the higher or highest-ranked has been included in the estimates in Tables 2 and 3.

Reliability of the estimates

9. Since the estimates in this statement are based on a sample, they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained from a complete census using the same questionnaires and procedures. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample, and not the whole population, was enumerated. Estimates with a standard error of more than about 20 per cent have not been shown as the degree of sampling variability would seriously detract from their value for most reasonable uses. Although in some cases figures for these small

components can be derived by subtraction they should not be regarded as reliable. Because of the reduction in the size of the sample in November 1975, the standard errors are larger than usual. More information about this topic, together with a table of estimated standard errors, will be found in the November 1975 issue of the quarterly bulletin *The Labour Force* (Reference No. 6.20).

Rounding

10. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in tables are due to rounding.

NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr Michael Salloom on 52 6507 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

TABLE 1. - CIVILIAN POPULATION 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER (a), BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS, NOVEMBER 1975

Employment status	Number ('000)			Per cent of population		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Employed	3,769.3	2,029.8	5,799.1	77.8	41.1	59.3
Unemployed	149.6	129.5	279.1	3.1	2.6	2.9
Not in the labour force	924.4	2,782.6	3,707.1	19.1	56.3	37.9
Aged 65 years and over	406.5	652.8	1,059.3	8.4	13.2	10.8
Aged 15 to 64 years	517.9	2,129.8	2,647.7	10.7	43.1	27.1
Attending an educational institution	291.2	251.0	542.2	6.0	5.1	5.5
Permanently unable to work	40.1	14.2	54.3	0.8	0.3	0.6
Inmate of an institution	32.7	15.4	48.1	0.7	0.3	0.5
Keeping house, retired or voluntarily idle	153.9	1,849.2	2,003.1	3.2	37.4	20.5
Had not looked for work in the four weeks before interview week	146.2	1,818.3	1,964.5	3.0	36.8	20.1
Other (b)	7.7	30.9	38.6	0.2	0.6	0.4
Total	4,843.3	4,942.0	9,785.3	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) For a note on persons excluded see page 1 paragraph 5. (b) Comprises persons who were looking for work in the survey week but had not taken active steps to find a job, and others who had been looking for work in the three weeks before the survey week. These persons are not classified as unemployed.

TABLE 2. - PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WERE KEEPING HOUSE, RETIRED OR VOLUNTARILY IDLE (a) : REASON FOR NOT LOOKING FOR WORK (b) AND WHETHER INTENDING TO LOOK FOR WORK IN THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS, NOVEMBER 1975

Reasons for not looking for work (b)	Intention to look for work in the next twelve months				Total		
	Intended to look	Might look	Would not look	Did not know	Males	Females	Persons
Own ill health, physical disability or pregnancy	37.3	24.4	376.7	15.3	90.0	363.6	453.6
Did not want to or need to work, believed should stay at home	72.8	60.3	1,091.5	43.2	50.5	1,217.3	1,267.9
Family considerations (c)	58.9	27.4	95.2	9.3	*	189.9	190.9
Ill health other than own	5.6	*	4.2	*	*	13.1	14.1
Lack of child care arrangements/ children too young	51.7	22.9	87.4	7.8	*	169.7	169.7
Discouraged	18.6	6.7	7.0	*	*	31.8	33.8
Considered too young or too old by employers	4.6	*	*	*	*	7.7	7.7
Language or racial difficulties; lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience							
No jobs in locality or line of work							
No jobs in locality or line of work	14.0	*	*	*	*	20.0	21.7
Other reasons (d)	10.4	*	4.4	*	*	15.8	18.3
Total							
Males	24.5	6.8	108.8	6.1	146.2
Females	173.5	114.5	1,466.0	64.4	..	1,818.3	..
Persons	198.0	121.3	1,574.8	70.4	1,964.5

(a) Excludes the 38,600 persons described in footnote (b) to Table 1. (b) Highest-ranked reason only. See page 1, paragraph 8. (c) Includes 7,100 females whose husbands disapproved of their taking a job. (d) Includes persons who stated they were not looking for work because there were no jobs available in suitable hours.

* Less than 4,000. See page 2, paragraph 9.

TABLE 3. — PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WERE KEEPING HOUSE, RETIRED OR VOLUNTARILY IDLE (a) : REASON FOR NOT LOOKING FOR WORK (b), NOVEMBER 1975

('000)							
Reason for not looking for work (b)	N.S.W.	VIC.	QLD	S.A.	W.A.	TAS.	AUST. (c)
MALES							
Own ill health or physical disability	34.6	17.0	20.9	6.6	8.2	2.2	90.0
Did not want to or need to work	16.7	12.9	8.1	4.9	4.6	*	50.5
Total (d)	52.3	32.3	29.9	11.8	13.5	3.8	146.2
FEMALES							
Own ill health, physical disability or pregnancy	139.8	96.6	55.4	29.7	25.7	9.7	363.6
Did not want to or need to work, believed should stay at home	422.6	309.4	205.2	118.2	99.2	40.3	1,217.3
Family considerations (e)	78.1	52.4	26.4	12.5	13.4	5.2	189.9
Ill health other than own	4.9	4.2	*	*	*	*	13.1
Child care arrangements/ children too young	70.9	46.1	23.0	11.2	12.2	4.8	169.7
Discouraged	13.7	10.5	3.2	*	*	*	31.8
Other reasons (f)	*	5.5	4.4	*	*	*	15.8
Total	656.9	474.4	294.7	162.6	141.4	56.1	1,818.3

(a) Excludes the 38,600 persons described in footnote (b) to Table 1. (b) Highest-ranked reason only. See page 1, paragraph 8. (c) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (d) Includes other reasons such as 'family considerations', 'discouraged' and 'other'. (e) See footnote (c) to Table 2. (f) See footnote (d) to Table 2.

* Figures subject to sampling variability too high for most reasonable uses. See page 2, paragraph 9.

TABLE 4. — PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WERE KEEPING HOUSE, RETIRED OR VOLUNTARILY IDLE (a) : TIME SINCE LAST REGULAR JOB (IF ANY) (b) AND REASON FOR LEAVING IT, NOVEMBER 1975.

('000)							
Reason for leaving last regular job (b)	Time since last regular job (b)						Total
	Under 1 year	1 year and under 3 years	3 years and under 5 years	5 years and under 10 years	10 years and under 20 years	20 years and over	
MALES							
Own ill health or injury	19.6	21.3	15.8	13.7	5.1	*	77.5
Dismissed, laid off, slack work	8.7	*	*	*	*	*	12.7
Did not need to work any longer (including retired)	11.7	15.3	6.0	*	*	*	37.0
Other reasons (c)	5.4	*	*	*	*	*	11.0
Total	45.3	41.1	23.9	17.9	6.5	*	(d)146.2
FEMALES							
Family considerations	93.6	159.1	116.5	198.3	188.2	317.9	1,073.7
Marriage	6.4	21.1	22.3	63.6	103.7	266.5	483.6
Pregnancy	56.1	103.9	72.2	104.9	66.1	35.3	438.4
Other	31.2	34.2	22.0	29.8	18.3	16.2	151.7
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	15.1	18.0	10.9	11.1	8.1	*	66.6
Own ill health or injury	24.2	34.9	26.1	25.5	17.8	5.7	134.1
Dismissed, laid off, slack work	45.0	40.1	19.9	19.4	18.2	11.3	153.8
Did not need to work any longer (including retired)	25.8	44.8	27.1	30.4	29.9	14.1	172.1
Other reasons	11.2	7.9	*	*	*	*	33.0
Total	214.9	304.7	203.9	288.3	265.7	355.8	(d)1,818.3
PERSONS							
Family considerations	94.4	160.1	117.1	198.6	188.5	318.6	1,077.3
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	16.9	18.7	11.2	11.4	8.1	*	69.6
Own ill health or injury	43.8	56.1	41.9	39.1	22.9	7.8	211.6
Dismissed, laid off, slack work	53.7	42.4	20.9	20.0	18.2	11.3	166.5
Did not need to work any longer (including retired)	37.5	60.1	33.1	33.0	31.0	14.4	209.1
Other reasons	14.0	8.5	*	*	*	*	37.3
Total	260.3	345.8	227.8	306.2	272.3	359.1	(d)1,964.5

(a) Excludes the 38,600 persons described in footnote (b) to Table 1. (b) For definition see page 1 paragraph 7. (c) Includes 6,700 males who left because of family considerations or unsatisfactory work arrangements. (d) Includes 8,000 males and 185,000 females who had never had a regular job.

* Less than 4,000. See page 2, paragraph 9.