



AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS Canberra

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PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE, AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER 1981 (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 12 below.

In September 1981 an estimated 2,750,800 persons aged 15 to 64 years were neither employed nor actively looking for work. Of these:

2,131,700 would not like, or did not know whether they would like a full-time or part-time job.

619,000 would or might like a job, of whom;

73,300 were discouraged job seekers (see paragraph 8)

the remaining 545,700 persons had not actively looked for work for the following reasons:

family reasons	216,400
attending an educational institution	113,600
ill health, disability, pregnancy	90,200
Other reasons or no reason	125,500

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

In September 1981 a survey, supplementary to the monthly 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 whether they wanted a job and, if they did, the reason they were not looking for work. Results of similar surveys, the first conducted in November 1975, have been published in Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (6220.0).

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 are subject to revision.

3. The survey was based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (about 30,000 houses, flats, etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.) and covered about two-thirds 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, 7 September 1981.

Scope

4. The survey includes 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, and
- (d) members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia
- (e) persons not in the labour force aged 65 years and over
- (f) persons who had actively looked for work but were unable to start a job in the survey week for reasons other than their own temporary illness
- (g) boarding school students, persons permanently unable to work, some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and inmates of reformatories, jails, etc.

Definitions

5. The labour force category to which a person is assigned depends on his actual activity (i.e. whether working, looking for work, etc.) during a specified week known as the survey week, which is the week immediately preceding that in which the interview takes place. Definitions of the principal labour force categories appearing in this publication are given in The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0).

6. Persons who want a job are those who

- (a) in the four weeks before the interview week had not looked for work but in the survey answer 'yes' or 'maybe' to the question 'Even though you have not been looking for work would you like a full-time or part-time job now?',

or (b) although claiming to have looked for work in the four weeks before the interview week, had not taken active steps (as defined below) to find employment.

7. Active steps to find work include checking or registering with the

Commonwealth Employment Service or other employment agencies, writing, telephoning or applying in person to an employer, answering a newspaper advertisement for a job, advertising or tendering for work, contacting friends or relatives and looking on factory or employment service notice boards.

8. Discouraged. Comprises persons who want a job but are not actively looking for work because they believe they would not be able to find a job for any of the following reasons: considered by employers to be too young or too old; have language or racial difficulties; lack the necessary training, skills or experience; no jobs in their locality or line of work. This definition has been revised since March 1979. See paragraphs 10 and 11 for the effect of the change.

9. Highest ranked reason. Reasons for not actively looking for work have been 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 Table 2.

Discontinuities in the series

10. Estimates for March 1979 and earlier periods are not strictly comparable with those obtained from later surveys because the definition of persons who want a job has been widened to include those persons referred to in paragraph 6(b), i.e. persons who, although claiming to have looked for work in the four weeks before the interview week, had not taken active steps (as defined above) to find employment. Estimates of the numbers of such persons for earlier surveys, including those defined as discouraged, are shown in previous issues of Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (6220.0)

11. The September 1980 survey also excluded 24,900 persons who had a job but had been away from work without pay for four weeks or more up to the end of survey week. For all other surveys of Persons Not in the Labour Force (before and after September 1980), such persons have been included in the survey.

Reliability of the estimates

12. 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 27 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

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

The Labour Force, Australia
(6203.0) - issued monthly

Labour Force Experience, Australia,
February 1980 to February 1981
(6206.0)

Persons Not in the Labour Force,
Australia, March 1981 (6220.0)

Persons Looking for Work,
Australia, June 1981 (6222.0)

Labour Mobility, Australia,
February 1980 to February 1981
(6209.0)

14. 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 12 above.

n.a. not available

. . not applicable.

15. 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
3,000	800	26.7	100,000	3,900	3.9
4,500	970	21.6	200,000	5,100	2.6
5,000	1,000	20.0	300,000	6,000	2.0
6,000	1,100	18.0	500,000	7,200	1.4
10,000	1,400	14.0	1,000,000	9,100	0.9
20,000	2,000	10.0	2,000,000	11,000	0.6
50,000	2,900	5.8	5,000,000	15,000	0.3

TABLE 1. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER: EMPLOYMENT STATUS,
SEPTEMBER 1981

	Number ('000)			Per cent of total		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Civilian population aged 15 years and over	5,486.3	5,623.3	11,109.6	100.0	100.0	100.0
Employed	4,088.0	2,378.1	6,466.1	74.5	42.3	58.2
Unemployed	209.5	181.6	391.1	3.8	3.2	3.5
Not in the labour force	1,188.9	3,063.6	4,252.5	21.7	54.5	38.3
Aged 65 years and over	544.6	821.0	1,365.6	9.9	14.6	12.3
Aged 15 to 64 years	644.3	2,242.5	2,886.9	11.7	39.9	26.0
Inmate of an institution, permanently unable to work, boarding school student	53.3	33.1	86.4	0.9	0.6	0.8
Had actively looked for work but was unable to start a job in the survey week for reasons other than own temporary illness or injury	22.6	27.1	49.7	0.4	0.5	0.4
PERSONS INCLUDED IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEY	568.5	2,182.3	2,750.8	10.4	38.8	24.8
Persons who do not want a job	442.2	1,689.6	2,131.7	8.1	30.0	19.2
Would not like a job now	437.5	1,675.4	2,112.8	8.0	29.8	19.0
Does not know whether would like a job	4.7	14.2	18.9	0.1	0.3	0.2
Persons who want a job (a)	126.3	492.7	619.0	2.3	8.8	5.6
Have taken steps (non-active) to find a job	10.8	32.5	43.3	0.2	0.6	0.4
Have taken no steps to find a job	115.5	460.2	575.7	2.1	8.2	5.2
Yes, would like a job now	95.1	388.6	483.6	1.7	6.9	4.4
Maybe, would like a job now	20.5	71.6	92.1	0.4	1.3	0.8
Discouraged (b)	8.3	65.0	73.3	0.2	1.2	0.7
Had other reasons for not actively looking for work (b)	118.0	427.7	545.7	2.2	7.6	4.9

(a) See paragraph 6. (b) See Table 2.

TABLE 2. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANTED A JOB:
REASON FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK (a) AND WHETHER INTENDING TO LOOK FOR
WORK IN THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS, SEPTEMBER 1981
('000)

Reason for not actively looking for work (a)	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
Has a job to go to	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	7.7	12.5	20.2
Own ill health, disability, pregnancy	31.3	20.2	34.6	4.1	37.3	52.9	90.2
Attending and educational institution	75.1	15.1	21.5	*	51.3	62.2	113.6
Had no need to work	13.7	10.1	19.9	*	6.4	39.8	46.2
Family considerations	79.2	44.9	83.4	8.9	4.1	212.3	216.4
Ill health of other than self	6.2	3.5	4.3	*	*	13.5	14.9
Unable to find child care	12.1	6.7	7.5	*	*	27.6	27.7
Prefer to look after children	44.5	28.6	57.7	5.1	*	134.7	135.9
Spouse disapproves	*	*	4.2	*	*	6.4	6.4
Other family considerations	15.0	5.5	9.7	*	*	30.1	31.4
Discouraged	38.3	11.3	20.9	*	8.3	65.0	73.3
Considered too young or too old by employers	7.3	*	8.3	*	*	15.3	17.8
Language or racial difficulties, lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience	7.2	*	*	*	*	10.7	11.8
No jobs in locality or line of work	23.8	7.3	10.3	*	4.8	39.0	43.8
No jobs in suitable hours	4.7	*	*	*	*	8.4	9.2
Other reasons	26.3	6.6	10.0	*	10.1	34.1	44.1
No reason given		3.7	*	*	*	5.5	5.8
TOTAL-							
Males	67.1	18.3	29.3	3.9	126.3
Females	204.2	93.1	164.6	18.3	..	492.7	..
Persons	271.4	111.4	193.9	22.2	619.0

(a) Highest ranked reason only. See paragraph 9. (b) Intention to look for work in the next twelve months was not asked of persons who were not looking for work because they already had a job to go to.

TABLE 3. DISCOURAGED JOBSEEKERS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS: SUMMARY OF CHARACTERISTICS

	Females	Persons	Females	Persons
	- '000 -		- per cent -	
TOTAL	65.0	73.3	100.0	100.0
Marital status -				
Married (a)	50.8	55.4	78.0	75.5
Not married	14.3	18.0	22.0	24.5
Age (years) -				
15-19	3.0	4.9	4.6	6.7
20-24	4.9	5.4	7.5	7.4
25-34	14.0	15.0	21.5	20.5
35-44	15.3	16.4	23.5	22.4
45-54	14.8	16.1	22.8	22.0
55-64	13.1	15.5	20.2	21.1
Place of residence -				
New South Wales	21.8	24.9	33.5	34.0
Victoria	19.0	22.2	30.5	30.3
Queensland	8.4	9.2	12.9	12.6
South Australia	6.5	7.8	10.0	10.6
Western Australia	5.6	6.2	8.6	8.5
Tasmania	2.1	2.1	3.2	2.9
Six State capital cities	34.0	39.7	52.3	54.2
Other areas (b)	31.0	33.6	47.7	45.8
Birthplace -				
Australia	40.5	45.0	62.3	61.4
Main English-speaking countries (c)	10.3	10.9	15.8	14.9
Other countries	14.2	17.5	21.8	23.9
Had looked for work in the last 12 months	24.7	29.1	38.0	39.7
Had not looked for work in the last 12 months	40.3	44.2	62.0	60.3
Had never had a regular job	5.8	6.9	8.9	9.4
Had had a regular job	59.3	66.4	91.2	90.6
Time since last regular job -				
Under 1 year	10.5	14.1	16.1	19.2
1 year and under 3 years	13.5	15.4	20.7	21.0
3 years and under 10 years	21.7	23.3	33.3	31.7
10 years and under 20 years	8.1	8.1	12.4	11.0
20 years and over	5.6	5.6	8.6	7.6
Reason for leaving last regular job -				
Dismissed, retrenched	8.9	10.0	13.7	13.6
Seasonal/temporary, went back to school	7.8	9.9	12.0	13.5
Retired, did not need to work any longer	3.9	4.1	5.9	5.6
Own ill health or injury	5.1	6.5	7.9	8.8
Family considerations	18.0	18.0	27.7	24.6
Left to get married	6.9	6.9	10.6	9.4
Left to have children	6.5	6.5	10.0	8.9
Other family considerations	4.5	4.5	7.0	6.2
Travel, changed residence, spouse transferred	8.0	8.2	12.4	11.1
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	3.7	4.7	5.6	6.4
Other reasons	3.9	5.2	6.0	7.1

(a) Includes permanently separated. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (c) Comprises the U.K., Ireland, Canada, U.S.A., New Zealand and South Africa.