



PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE, AUSTRALIA,
SEPTEMBER 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.

In September 1982, 643,400 persons who were neither employed nor actively looking for work indicated they wanted a job. Of these, 386,400 persons are available to start work in the next 4 weeks and 448,700 persons indicate a preference for part time work.

261,700 persons who want a job have not actively looked for work because of personal considerations and 228,400 persons because of family considerations.

83,700 persons (73,300 females) are discouraged jobseekers (see paragraph 10), an increase of 10,400 since September 1981 and 6,300 since March 1982.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

In association with the September 1982 labour force survey conducted throughout Australia, persons aged fifteen to sixty-four years who were not in the labour force were asked about their labour force aspirations and, if appropriate, their availability for work and reasons for not currently seeking employment.

2. During the two weeks beginning Monday 6 September 1982 specially trained interviewers asked the questions of those of the 69,000 respondents in the September labour force survey who fell within the scope of this survey.

3. 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. Results of similar surveys, the first conducted in November 1975, have been published in Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (6220.0).

Scope

4. The survey includes all persons not in the labour force aged fifteen to sixty-four years 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) persons who had actively looked for work but were unable to start a job in survey week for reasons other than their own temporary illness or injury;

- (e) persons who have a job but, up to the end of survey week, have been away from work without pay for four weeks or longer; and
- (f) persons permanently unable to work, students boarding at school, some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and inmates of reformatories, jails, etc.

Table 1 illustrates the group within the civilian population aged fifteen years and over who are covered by this survey.

Definitions

5. Definitions of the principal labour force and demographic 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 to find work.

7. Active steps to find work include writing, telephoning or applying in person to an employer for work; answering a newspaper advertisement for a job; checking factory or Commonwealth Employment Service noticeboards; being registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service; checking or registering with any other employment agency; advertising or tendering for work; and contacting friends or relatives.

8. Highest ranked reason. Reasons for not actively looking for work were recorded in the order shown in Table 3.

Where more than one reason was given, only the highest ranked has been included in the estimates. The estimates do not therefore reflect the relative importance of the reasons for not looking for work.

9. Among the reasons for not looking for work personal considerations include: own ill health, physical disability or pregnancy; studying or returning to studies; and no necessity to work; family considerations include such matters as ill health of another person; inability to find child care; children thought to be too young; a preference for looking after children and disapproval by the person's spouse.

10. 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; language or racial difficulties; lack the necessary training, skills or experience; no jobs in their locality or line of work.

Discontinuities in the series

11. Estimates for March 1979 and earlier periods are not strictly comparable with those obtained from later surveys because, commencing with the September 1979 survey, the definition of Persons who want a job was widened to include those persons referred to in paragraph 6(b), some of whom would be classified as Discouraged.

12. This survey excludes persons who have a job but, up to the end of survey week, have been away from work without pay for four weeks or longer (see paragraph 4(e)). With the exception of the September 1980 survey when these persons were also excluded, surveys of Persons Not in the Labour Force prior to March 1982 included such persons and asked them appropriate questions.

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 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.

(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 1980 to February 1981 (6206.0)

Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia, March 1982 (6220.0)

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

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 15 above.
- r revised since previous issue.
- . . 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 estimate		Size of estimate (Persons)	Approximate standard error of estimate	
	Persons	Per cent of estimate		Persons	Per cent of estimate
3,000	800	26.7	50,000	2,900	5.8
4,000	900	22.5	100,000	3,900	3.9
5,000	1,000	20.0	200,000	5,100	2.6
10,000	1,400	14.0	300,000	6,000	2.0
20,000	2,000	10.0	500,000	7,200	1.4

TABLE 1. RELATIONSHIP OF PERSONS INCLUDED IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEY TO
THE CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, SEPTEMBER 1982

	Number ('000)			Per cent of total		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Civilian population aged 15 years and over	5,606.5	5,742.9	11,349.3	100.0	100.0	100.0
Employed	4,059.2	2,355.0	6,414.2	72.4	41.0	56.5
Unemployed	293.7	212.1	505.9	5.2	3.7	4.5
Not in the labour force	1,253.6	3,175.7	4,429.3	22.4	55.3	39.0
Aged 65 years and over	565.3	844.2	1,409.5	10.1	14.7	12.4
Aged 15 to 64 years	688.3	2,331.5	3,019.8	12.3	40.6	26.6
Unable to work or in institutions(a)	59.0	32.6	91.6	1.1	0.6	0.8
Had a job but away without pay(a)(b)	8.3	19.8	28.2	0.1	0.3	0.2
Took active steps but unable to start(a)	24.6	29.7	54.3	0.4	0.5	0.5
Persons included in this survey(a)	596.4	2,249.3	2,845.6	10.6	39.2	25.1
Persons who do not want a job	466.6	1,735.6	2,202.2	8.3	30.2	19.4
Persons who want a job(c)	129.8	513.7	643.4	2.3	8.9	5.7

(a) See Explanatory notes, paragraph 4. (b) See Explanatory notes, paragraph 11 regarding comparability with other surveys. (c) For definition see Explanatory notes, paragraph 6.

TABLE 2. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE : SUMMARY, SEPTEMBER 1979 TO SEPTEMBER 1982
('000)

	September 1979	March 1980	September 1980(a)	March 1981	September 1981	March 1982(a)	September 1982(a)
Persons included in the supplementary survey	2,746.9	2,727.4	2,679.5	2,755.0	2,750.8	2,762.0	2,845.6
Persons who do not want a job	2,136.9	2,151.3	2,057.9	2,147.1	2,131.7	2,102.5	2,202.2
Would not like a job now	2,113.7	2,120.9	2,034.1	2,116.4	2,112.8	2,076.7	2,181.1
Does not know whether would like a job now	23.2	30.4	23.8	30.7	18.9	25.8	21.1
Persons who want a job	609.9	576.1	621.7	607.9	619.0	659.5	643.4
Have taken steps (non-active) to find a job	42.5	52.3	48.0	46.0	43.3	46.4	44.2
Have taken no steps to find a job	567.4	523.8	573.6	561.9	575.7	613.2	599.2
Yes, would like a job now	479.2	458.9	482.5	461.8	483.6	497.0	512.5
Maybe, would like a job now	88.3	64.9	91.1	100.1	92.1	116.1	86.7
Highest ranked reason for not actively looking for work-							
Has a job to go to	20.5	17.8	14.3	16.5	20.2	18.2	13.5
Personal considerations	250.8	215.0	265.6	253.2	249.9	255.2	261.7
Family considerations	217.9	203.7	215.2	216.2	216.4	240.2	228.4
Discouraged	74.0	76.0	73.7	69.8	73.3	77.4	83.7
No jobs in suitable hours	10.1	13.6	11.9	11.1	9.2	12.4	12.9
Other reasons	30.7	42.8	34.5	34.8	44.1	45.5	36.0
No reason given	5.8	7.1	6.5	6.3	5.8	10.7	7.3

(a) See Explanatory notes, paragraph 11, regarding comparability with other surveys.

TABLE 3. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANT A JOB : REASON FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK
AND WHETHER INTEND TO LOOK FOR WORK(a), SEPTEMBER 1982
(^{'000})

Highest ranked reason for not actively looking for work	Intention to look for work(a)				Total		
	Intending to look	Might look	Would not look	Does not know	Males	Females	Persons
Has a job to go to	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	3.1	10.4	13.5
Personal considerations	130.3	39.5	82.6	9.3	103.3	158.4	261.7
Own ill health, disability, pregnancy	38.5	16.0	30.0	4.6	40.1	49.0	89.0
Attending an educational institution	76.1	13.6	25.5	*	56.9	60.5	117.3
Has no need to work	15.7	9.9	27.1	*	6.3	49.0	55.3
Family considerations	91.2	41.6	85.9	9.7	*	226.1	228.4
Ill health of other than self	7.5	*	5.4	*	*	15.3	15.8
Unable to find child care	14.8	5.5	9.5	*	*	31.0	31.4
Prefer to look after children	51.1	25.6	56.7	5.8	*	138.7	139.2
Spouse disapproves	*	*	4.5	*	*	6.6	6.6
Other family considerations	17.2	6.9	9.9	*	*	34.6	35.4
Discouraged	48.6	11.9	19.7	3.4	10.4	73.3	83.7
Considered too young or too old by employers	9.3	3.3	8.8	*	3.5	19.2	22.7
Language or racial difficulties	—	3.2	*	*	*	3.5	3.9
Lacked necessary training, experience	3.6	*	*	*	*	5.7	5.9
No jobs in locality or line of work	33.2	7.5	9.1	*	6.3	44.9	51.1
No jobs in suitable hours	6.6	*	3.8	*	*	12.7	12.9
Other reasons	24.7	3.4	7.2	*	9.9	26.2	36.0
No reason given	3.5	*	—	3.0	*	6.5	7.3
Total -							
Males	73.0	18.1	30.7	4.9	129.8	..	..
Females	231.9	81.1	171.0	19.2	..	513.7	..
Persons	305.0	99.2	201.7	24.1	..	..	643.4

(a) In the next twelve months. (b) Not asked of persons who had a job to go to.

TABLE 4. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANT A JOB : SUMMARY OF
CHARACTERISTICS, SEPTEMBER 1982
(^{'000})

	Discouraged jobseekers			All persons who want a job		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
TOTAL	10.4	73.3	83.7	129.8	513.7	643.4
Marital status -						
Married	5.6	55.5	61.1	38.9	371.1	410.0
Not married	4.8	17.8	22.6	90.9	142.5	233.4
Age group (years) -						
15-19	*	5.7	7.6	58.4	72.4	130.8
20-24	*	3.9	5.3	15.9	49.6	65.5
25-34	*	14.9	15.9	11.4	160.9	172.4
35-44	*	18.1	19.3	9.7	114.2	123.9
45-54	*	19.5	21.2	13.8	72.6	86.3
55-64	3.2	11.2	14.5	20.6	44.0	64.6

TABLE 4. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANT A JOB : SUMMARY OF
CHARACTERISTICS, SEPTEMBER 1982 - continued
(^{'000})

	Discouraged jobseekers			All persons who want a job		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Work preference -						
Prefers to work full time	6.5	13.8	20.3	66.8	85.2	152.0
Prefers to work part time	3.2	52.4	55.6	52.6	396.2	448.7
No preference	*	7.1	7.8	7.3	21.9	29.2
Not asked(a)	..	..	..	3.1	10.4	13.5
Whether could start work in the next						
4 weeks -						
Could start work	9.4	67.2	76.6	67.0	319.4	386.4
Could not start work	*	3.9	4.9	54.7	169.3	224.0
Does not know whether could start work	*	*	*	5.0	14.6	19.6
Not asked(a)	..	..	..	3.1	10.4	13.5
Whether looked for work in the last						
12 months -						
Had not looked for work	4.7	42.4	47.1	89.1	384.1	473.3
Had looked for work	5.6	31.0	36.6	37.6	119.1	156.7
Less than 5 weeks ago	4.0	12.6	16.6	18.5	49.3	67.8
5 and less than 8 weeks ago	*	3.7	3.8	4.3	14.4	18.7
8 and less than 13 weeks ago	*	6.7	7.1	4.7	24.2	28.9
13 and less than 52 weeks ago	*	8.0	9.1	10.0	31.3	41.2
Not asked(a)	..	..	..	3.1	10.4	13.5
Work experience -						
Has never had a job(b)	*	6.3	8.2	46.5	63.1	109.7
Has had a job(b)	8.5	67.0	75.5	83.3	450.5	533.8
Worked in the last year	4.4	13.2	17.6	38.4	99.2	137.6
Within the last 6 months	*	5.7	8.4	21.1	50.2	71.3
6 to 12 months ago	*	7.4	9.1	17.3	49.0	66.3
Worked 1 to 3 years ago	*	16.2	17.8	21.0	105.5	126.5
Worked 3 to 10 years ago	*	21.4	23.4	21.3	157.9	179.2
Worked more than 10 years ago	*	16.2	16.7	*	88.0	90.5
Reason for leaving last job(b) -						
Dismissed, retrenched	3.6	10.2	13.8	16.8	47.8	64.6
Seasonal/temporary, went back to school	*	9.0	10.2	18.1	58.7	76.9
Retired, did not need to work any longer	*	3.7	4.6	7.0	22.1	29.1
Own ill health or injury	*	4.9	5.4	29.5	36.0	65.5
Family considerations	*	21.2	21.2	*	205.1	206.4
Left to get married	*	7.1	7.1	*	39.3	39.3
Left to have children	*	10.0	10.0	*	129.8	129.9
Other family considerations	*	4.1	4.1	*	36.1	37.2
Travel, moved house, spouse transferred	*	10.7	11.7	4.0	47.4	51.4
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	*	5.5	6.6	*	21.1	23.9
Other reasons	*	*	*	3.9	12.3	16.2
Never had a job(b)	*	6.3	8.2	46.5	63.1	109.7

(a) Persons whose reason for not actively looking for work was that they already have a job to go to. (b) Paid employment, full time or part time, for two weeks or more in any job or business.