



CATALOGUE NO. 6219.0

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PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE, AUSTRALIA, MARCH 1983 (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 March 1983, an estimated 706,300 persons who were neither employed nor unemployed wanted a job. This represents an increase of 56,500 over the corresponding figure in September 1982.

Of the 706,300 who wanted a job, 491,900 were available to start work in the following four weeks. 273,100 were not looking for work because of personal considerations and 239,200 because of family considerations.

113,200 persons were discouraged jobseekers, an increase of 35,800 (46 per cent) since March 1982 and 28,700 (34 per cent) since September 1982. 96,000 discouraged jobseekers were female.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

In association with the March 1983 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 7 March, 1983, carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers asked questions of those of the 73,000 respondents in the March 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 have been ranked in the order of priority shown in Table 4; where more than one reason was given, only the highest ranked has been included in the estimates.

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 have not taken active steps to look 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 During the Period February 1980 to February 1981, Australia (6206.0)

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 13 above.
.. 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, MARCH 1983

	Number ('000)			Per cent of total		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Civilian population aged 15 years and over	5,673.0	5,806.9	11,479.9	100.0	100.0	100.0
Employed	3,951.9	2,348.9	6,300.8	69.7	40.5	54.9
Unemployed	435.3	296.4	731.6	7.7	5.1	6.4
Not in the labour force	1,285.9	3,161.6	4,447.5	22.7	54.4	38.7
Aged 65 years and over	575.0	854.6	1,429.7	10.1	14.7	12.5
Aged 15 to 64 years	711.0	2,307.0	3,017.9	12.5	39.7	26.3
Unable to work or in institutions(a)	61.0	33.2	94.1	1.1	0.6	0.8
Had a job but away without pay(a)(b)	5.1	11.7	16.8	0.1	0.2	0.1
Took active steps but unable to start(a)	11.8	16.8	28.6	0.2	0.3	0.2
Persons included in this survey(a)	633.1	2,245.3	2,878.4	11.2	38.7	25.1
Persons who do not want a job	485.6	1,686.5	2,172.1	8.6	29.0	18.9
Persons who want a job(c)	147.5	558.8	706.3	2.6	9.6	6.2

(a) See Explanatory notes, paragraph 4. (b) See Explanatory notes, paragraph 12 regarding comparability with other surveys. (c) For definition see Explanatory notes, paragraph 6.

TABLE 2. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE(a): SUMMARY, MARCH 1980 TO MARCH 1983
('000)

	March 1980(b)	September 1980	March 1981 (b)	September 1981 (b)	March 1982	September 1982	March 1983
Persons included in the supplementary survey(a)	2,727.4	2,679.5	2,755.0	2,750.8	2,762.0	2,841.3	2,878.4
Persons who do not want a job	2,151.3	2,057.9	2,147.1	2,131.7	2,102.5	2,191.5	2,172.1
Would not like a job now	2,120.9	2,034.1	2,116.4	2,112.8	2,076.7	2,170.5	2,147.9
Does not know whether would like a job	30.4	23.8	30.7	18.9	25.8	21.0	24.1
Persons who want a job	576.1	621.7	607.9	619.0	659.5	649.8	706.3
Have taken steps (non-active) to find a job	52.3	48.0	46.0	43.3	46.5	44.7	53.2
Have taken no steps to find a job	523.8	573.6	561.9	575.7	613.2	605.1	653.1
Yes, would like a job now	458.9	482.5	461.8	483.6	497.0	517.6	558.0
Maybe, would like a job now	64.9	91.1	100.1	92.1	116.1	87.5	95.1
Highest ranked reason for not actively looking for work-							
Has a job to go to	17.8	14.3	16.5	20.2	18.2	13.6	14.5
Personal considerations	215.0	265.6	253.2	249.9	255.2	264.6	273.1
Family considerations	203.7	215.2	216.2	216.4	240.2	230.3	239.2
Discouraged	76.0	73.7	69.8	73.3	77.4	84.5	113.2
No jobs in suitable hours	13.6	11.9	11.1	9.2	12.4	12.9	9.1
Other reasons	42.8	34.5	34.8	44.1	45.5	36.0	50.2
No reason given	7.1	6.5	6.3	5.8	10.7	7.3	7.0

(a) For scope see Explanatory notes, paragraph 4. (b) See Explanatory notes, paragraph 12, regarding comparability with other surveys.

TABLE 3. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANT A JOB: TIME SINCE LAST JOB(a)
AND WHETHER LOOKED FOR WORK IN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS, MARCH 1983
(^{'000})

Time since last job	Has looked for work in the last 12 months(b)					Total	Has not looked in the last 12 months	Has a job to go to	Total
	Within last 4 weeks	5 to 7 weeks ago	8 to 12 weeks ago	13 to 51 weeks ago	Total				
FEMALES									
Has never had a job	4.1	6.3	5.3	3.5	19.3	44.0	*		64.1
Under 6 months	6.6	6.6	*	*	16.4	45.9	4.9		67.3
6 and under 12 months	4.6	4.7	*	3.3	15.1	29.5	*		46.0
1 and under 3 years	9.8	7.4	6.7	12.7	36.6	76.5	*		114.0
3 and under 10 years	9.5	9.2	7.3	10.4	36.5	133.3	*		171.0
10 years or more	5.4	*	*	3.9	14.3	82.2	*		96.5
Total	40.1	36.7	25.8	35.4	138.1	411.5	9.2		558.8
PERSONS									
Has never had a job	7.0	10.8	11.3	5.1	34.2	75.0	*		110.5
Under 6 months	9.7	10.8	*	*	25.4	68.5	9.0		102.9
6 and under 12 months	5.9	7.3	3.3	4.1	20.6	38.0	*		60.6
1 and under 3 years	13.4	10.8	9.1	15.1	48.4	93.1	*		142.5
3 and under 10 years	10.7	10.3	8.1	11.2	40.4	149.0	*		190.6
10 years or more	5.4	*	*	3.9	14.6	84.7	*		99.3
Total	52.0	52.5	37.3	41.7	183.6	508.2	14.5		706.3

(a) Paid employment for two weeks or more in any job or business. (b) Persons who have left a job in the last twelve months are only asked whether they have looked for work since that job.

TABLE 4. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANT A JOB:
AGE AND REASON FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK, MARCH 1983
(^{'000})

Highest ranked reason for not actively looking for work	Age group (years)							Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	
Has a job to go to	4.5		4.8	3.2	*	*	*	14.5
Personal considerations	103.3	26.0	31.2	37.6	40.7	18.1	16.2	273.1
Family considerations	6.8	33.4	110.6	59.2	20.1	4.9	4.1	239.2
Discouraged	10.5	5.3	22.0	24.3	27.2	13.4	10.6	113.2
Considered too young or too old	*	*	*	3.9	12.0	7.8	7.6	35.5
No jobs in locality or line of work	7.2	3.4	17.3	17.6	13.1	5.1	*	66.3
No jobs in suitable hours		4.4		3.3	*	*	*	9.1
Other reasons(a)	6.7	5.9	13.6	13.7	9.0	5.1	3.2	57.2
Total	131.1	73.4	184.6	141.3	99.6	42.0	34.3	706.3

(a) Includes persons who gave no reason.

TABLE 5. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANT A JOB: WHETHER
COULD START WORK(a), MARCH 1983
(^{'000})

Whether could start work within four weeks	Number '000			Per cent of total		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Could start work	94.6	397.2	491.9	64.1	71.1	69.6
Could not start work because-						
Own illness or injury	19.7	21.2	40.9	13.4	3.8	5.8
Attending educational institution	17.1	14.7	31.8	11.6	2.6	4.5
Secondary school	12.0	9.6	21.6	8.1	1.7	3.1
Other	5.1	5.1	10.2	3.5	0.9	1.4
Personal, family reasons	3.1	84.2	87.4	2.1	15.1	12.4
Other reasons	*	5.6	6.8	*	1.0	1.0
Total	41.1	125.7	166.8	27.9	22.5	23.6
Does not know	6.5	26.6	33.1	4.4	4.8	4.7
Has a job to go to	5.3	9.2	14.5	3.6	1.6	2.1
Total	147.5	558.8	706.3	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Responses to the question 'If offered a job are there any reasons you could not start work in the next four weeks?'

TABLE 6. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANT A JOB: REASON FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR
WORK AND WHETHER COULD START WORK(a), MARCH 1983
(^{'000})

Highest ranked reason for not actively looking for work	FEMALES				PERSONS			
	Could start work	Could not start work	Does not know	Total	Could start work	Could not start work	Does not know	Total
Has a job to go to	..	..	..	9.2	..	..	..	14.5
Personal considerations	110.6	47.7	8.5	166.7	173.4	85.8	14.0	273.1
Family considerations	152.4	69.2	13.2	234.8	155.2	70.7	13.3	239.2
Discouraged	90.2	3.8	*	96.0	106.3	4.5	*	113.2
Considered too young or too old	27.8	*	*	29.8	33.5	*	*	35.5
Language or racial difficulties	3.1	*	*	3.3	3.1	*	*	3.3
Lack necessary training experience	5.9	*	*	6.0	7.8	*	*	8.1
No jobs in locality or line of work	53.4	*	*	56.9	61.9	*	*	66.3
No jobs in suitable hours	7.3	*	*	8.4	8.0	*	*	9.1
Other reasons	32.5	4.1	*	37.9	43.7	5.0	*	50.2
No reason given	4.4	*	*	5.8	5.2	*	*	7.0
Total	397.2	125.7	26.6	558.8	491.9	166.8	33.1	706.3

(a) See footnote(a) Table 5.

TABLE 7. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANT A JOB : SUMMARY OF
CHARACTERISTICS, MARCH 1983
(^{'000})

	Discouraged jobseekers			All persons who want a job		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
TOTAL	17.2	96.0	113.2	147.5	558.8	706.3
Marital status -						
Married	8.0	75.3	83.4	51.6	417.6	469.2
Not married	9.2	20.7	29.9	96.0	141.2	237.1
Age group (years) -						
15-19	3.4	7.1	10.5	61.5	69.6	131.1
20-24	*	4.9	5.3	13.9	59.5	73.4
25-34	*	20.2	22.0	11.9	172.7	184.6
35-44	*	22.8	24.3	13.8	127.4	141.3
45-54	*	24.4	27.2	15.8	83.8	99.6
55-64	7.3	16.7	23.9	30.6	45.7	76.3
Whether looked for work in the last 12 months(a)-						
Has not looked for work	7.4	58.1	65.5	96.8	411.5	508.2
Has looked for work	9.8	37.9	47.7	45.5	138.1	183.6
Within last 4 weeks	3.1	10.5	13.6	11.9	40.1	52.0
5 to 7 weeks ago	3.5	10.4	13.9	15.8	36.7	52.5
8 to 12 weeks ago	*	8.2	10.2	11.5	25.8	37.3
13 to 51 weeks ago	*	8.8	10.0	6.3	35.4	41.7
Has a job to go to	..	..	..	5.3	9.2	14.5
Has never had a job	*	10.4	13.0	46.4	64.1	110.5
Has had a job	14.6	85.6	100.2	101.1	494.7	595.8
Time since last job-						
Under 6 months	*	7.7	10.4	35.5	67.3	102.9
6 and under 12 months	*	7.9	10.7	14.6	46.0	60.6
1 and under 3 years	5.8	19.3	25.1	28.5	114.0	142.5
3 and under 10 years	*	29.0	31.9	19.6	171.0	190.6
10 years or more	*	21.7	22.2	*	96.5	99.3
Availability to start work-						
Could start work	16.2	90.2	106.3	94.6	397.2	491.9
Could not start work	*	3.8	4.5	41.1	125.7	166.8
Does not know	*	*	*	6.5	26.6	33.1
Has a job to go to	..	..	..	5.3	9.2	14.5

(a) Persons who had left a job in the last twelve months are asked only whether they have looked for work since that job.

