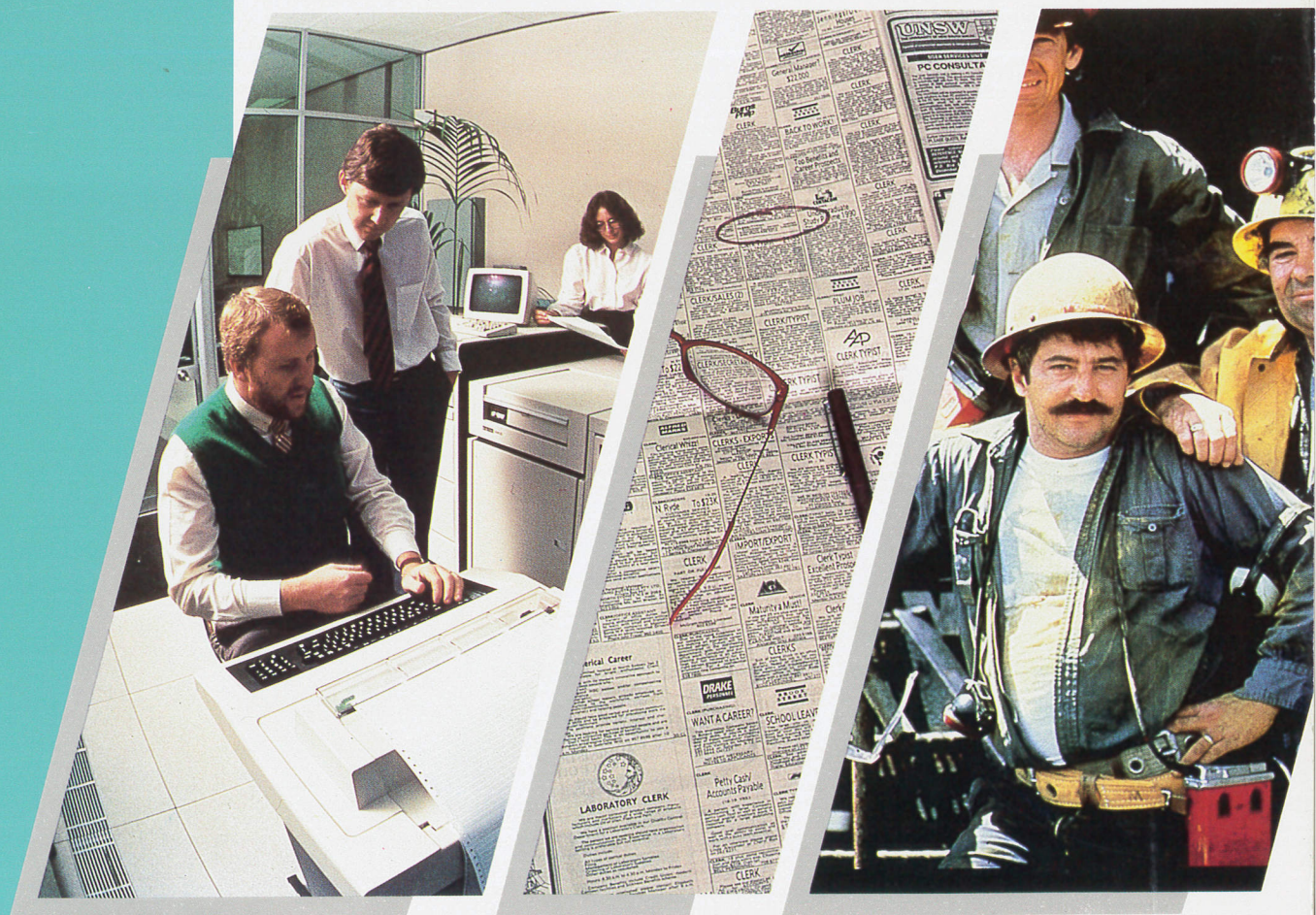




Australian
Bureau of
Statistics

During the Year Ending March 1991
**LABOUR FORCE EXPERIENCE
AUSTRALIA**



EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.30 A.M. 6 AUGUST 1991

**LABOUR FORCE EXPERIENCE
AUSTRALIA
DURING THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1991**

**IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician**

AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

CATALOGUE NO. 6206.0

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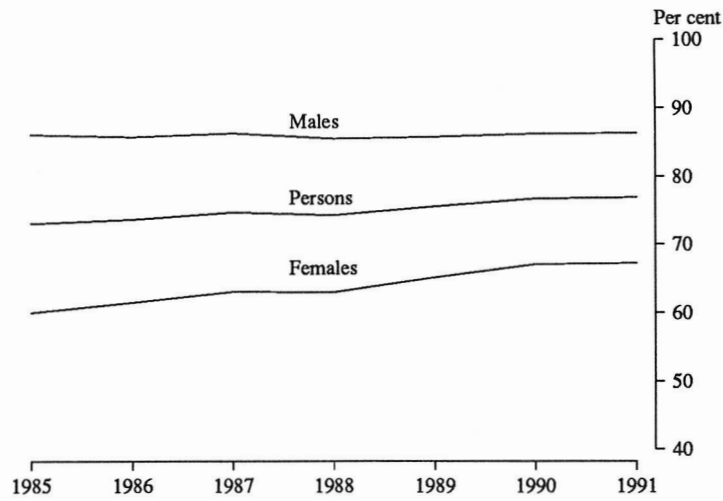
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ADDITIONAL DATA ON REQUEST	The ABS offers a range of unpublished data from this survey upon request. An order form can be found on page 21.
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INQUIRIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Mr Michael Jones on Canberra (06) 252 6503 or any ABS State office.</i> • <i>for information about other ABS statistics and services please refer to the back page of this publication.</i>
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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

DIAGRAM 1. LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION, 1985 TO 1991



Source: Table 1

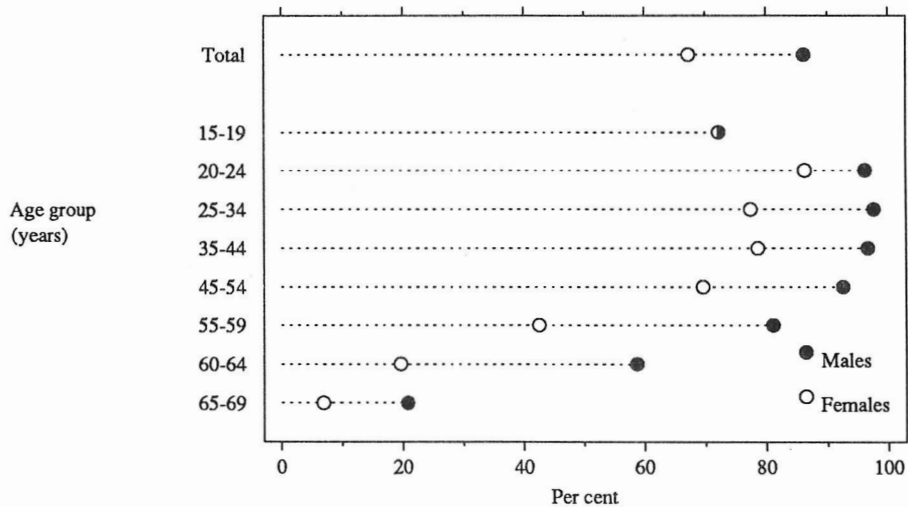
Participation in the labour force

An estimated 9,215,200 persons aged between 15 and 69 years participated in the labour force at some time during the twelve months ending March 1991 (Table 3). The proportion of persons participating in the labour force has increased from 73 per cent in 1985 to 77 per cent in 1991. Over this period, female participation in the labour force increased from 60 per cent in 1985 to 67 per cent in 1991. Male participation remained steady at around 86 per cent (Table 1, Diagram 1).

For all age groups, the participation rate for married males was higher than the rate for not-married males. Those males aged between 20 and 54 years continue to record participation rates over 90 per cent.

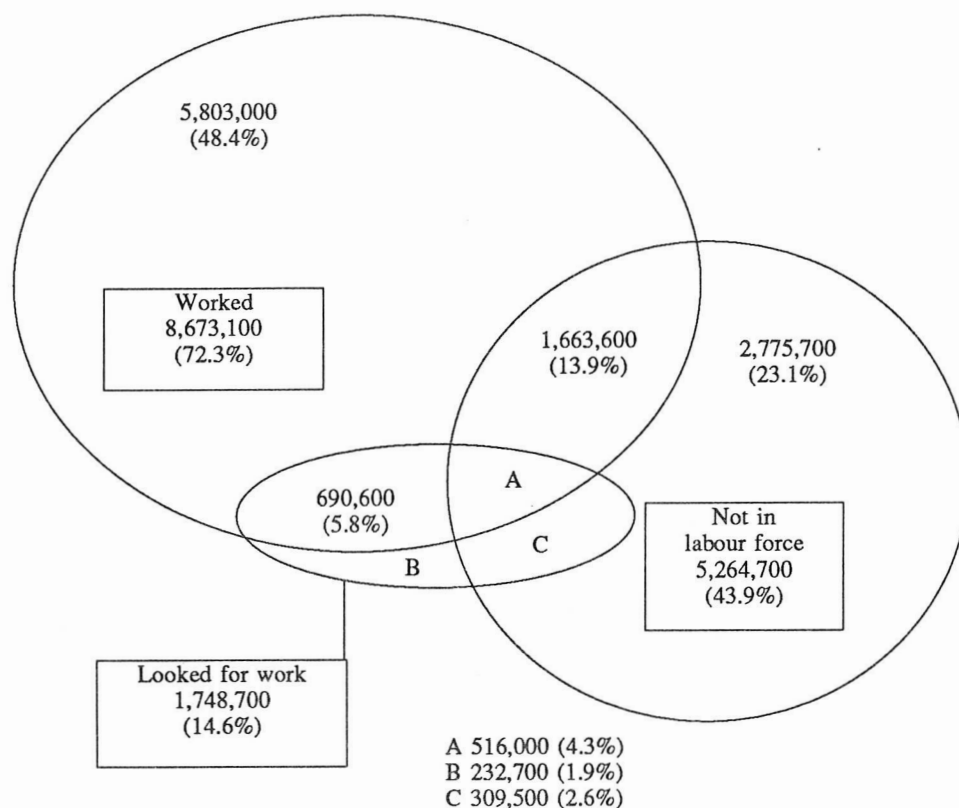
For females, the 20-24 year age group continues to record the highest participation rate. Participation in the labour force by married females has grown steadily since 1985, from 55 per cent to 65 per cent in 1991. Over the same period, married females aged between 45 and 54 years recorded the largest participation rate increase, rising from 57 per cent in 1985 to 69 per cent in 1991 (Table 2).

DIAGRAM 2. LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION, MARCH 1991



Source: Table 2

DIAGRAM 3. ALL PERSONS : LABOUR FORCE EXPERIENCE, DURING THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1991
(Source of data : Tables 3, 8 and 9)



In analysing labour force experience over an extended period, persons can be assigned to three categories: those who *worked* at some time during the year, those who *looked* for work at some time during the year, and those who were *not in the labour force* at some time during the year. These groups are not mutually exclusive as it is possible for an individual to be in more than one of the groups over the course of a twelve month period. Diagram 3 shows the extent to which this happened.

For instance, 690,600 (5.8%) of all persons at March 1991, had worked at some time, and also looked for work at some time but at no time during the year had they been out of the labour force. Similarly 5,803,000 persons (48.4%) had worked for the whole year and 516,000 persons (4.3%) worked at some time, looked for work at some time, and at some time during the year they were neither working nor looking for work.

Persons who worked at some time during the year

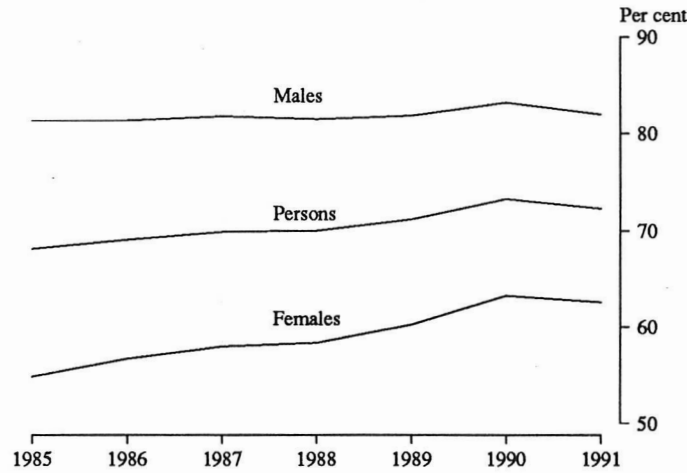
An estimated 8,673,100 persons worked at some time during the year ending March 1991 (Table 3). The proportion of persons who worked at some time during the year has risen by 4 percentage points to 72 per cent since 1985. The proportion of females working at some time during

the year has risen from 55 per cent in 1985 to 63 per cent in 1991, while the proportion of males has remained steady around 82 per cent. The proportion of females who worked at some time during the year and who worked only as part-time workers has increased from 19 per cent in 1985 to 23 per cent in 1991 (Table 1, Diagram 4).

Of the 8,673,100 persons who had worked at some time during the year ending March 1991—

- 5,803,000 persons (67%) had worked for the full 52 weeks
- 73 per cent of male workers had worked for 52 weeks compared to 59 per cent of female workers
- 86 per cent of male workers had worked all their weeks on a full-time basis compared to 53 per cent for female workers
- 8 per cent of male workers had worked all their weeks on a part-time basis compared to 37 per cent of female workers (Table 7).

**DIAGRAM 4. PERSONS WHO HAD WORKED AT SOME TIME
IN THE PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS,
1985 TO 1991**



Source: Table 1

Persons who looked for work at some time during the year

During the year ending March 1991, 1,748,700 persons looked for work at some time. Of these, 232,700 persons (13%) looked for work for the whole 52 weeks (Table 8). The proportion of males who looked for work at some time during the year increased from 13 per cent in 1990 to 16 per cent in 1991 and for females, there was a small increase to 13 per cent (Table 1).

Of the 1,748,700 persons who looked for work during 1991, 80 per cent had only one spell of looking for work — on average, this spell lasted 19 weeks (Table 8).

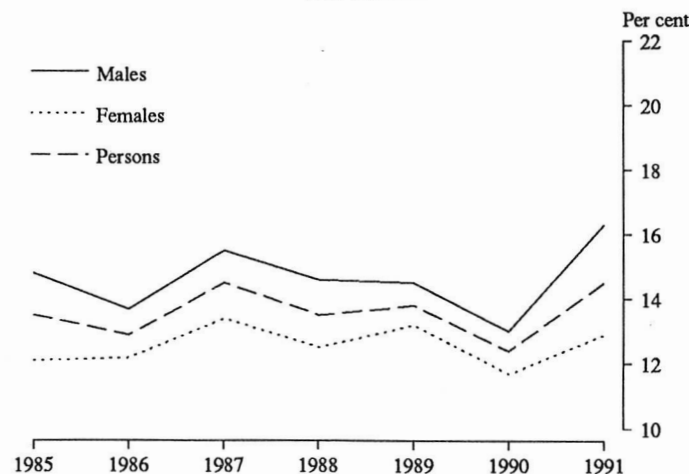
Persons not in the labour force at some time

The number of persons not in the labour force at some time during the year was 5,264,700 with 2,775,700 persons (53%) not in the labour force for the whole year. Females made up 65 per cent of persons not in the labour force at some time during the year. Of those women who were out of the labour force at some time during the year 62 per cent reported their main activity as "home duties/child care" (Table 9).

Persons who spent some time in the labour force during the year

The proportion of males spending the whole year in the labour force was 70 per cent, compared to 42 per cent of females. Some 67 per cent of females spent some time in the labour force compared with 86 per cent of males (Table 5).

**DIAGRAM 5. PERSONS WHO HAD LOOKED FOR WORK AT SOME TIME
IN THE PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS,
1985 TO 1991**



Source: Table 1

TABLE 1. ALL PERSONS: LABOUR FORCE EXPERIENCE, FEBRUARY 1985 TO MARCH 1991
(Per cent)

	Survey conducted in(a) —						
	February(b)					March	
	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
MALES							
Not in the labour force at any time during the preceding year	13.9	14.2	13.7	14.5	14.2	13.8	13.7
In the labour force at some time during the preceding year	86.1	85.8	86.3	85.5	85.8	86.2	86.3
Time in the labour force during the preceding year (weeks)—							
52	70.9	69.6	70.4	70.2	69.1	68.5	69.8
1 and under 52	15.1	16.2	15.6	15.3	16.7	17.8	16.4
Worked at some time during the preceding year	81.4	81.4	81.8	81.5	81.9	83.2	82.0
Full-time/part-time status of weeks worked—							
All were full-time	74.0	73.8	72.2	73.0	72.5	72.1	70.1
More full-time than part-time	2.5	2.7	3.7	2.8	3.2	3.6	4.3
More part-time than full-time	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.9	0.9	1.6	1.3
All were part-time	4.1	4.1	4.8	4.8	5.3	5.9	6.3
Number of jobs held during the preceding year—							
One	68.7	67.5	67.3	66.1	65.3	69.4	71.1
Two	9.1	10.1	10.9	11.3	12.2	10.1	8.1
Three	2.0	2.2	2.1	2.4	2.5	2.4	1.9
Four or more	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.9	1.3	1.0
Looked for work at some time during the preceding year	14.8	13.7	15.5	14.6	14.5	13.0	16.3
Number of spells of looking for work during the preceding year—							
One	12.3	11.3	12.2	11.7	11.7	10.1	12.9
Two	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.5
Three	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.8
Four or more	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.8	1.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
FEMALES							
Not in the labour force at any time during the preceding year	40.0	38.5	36.9	37.0	34.8	32.9	32.7
In the labour force at some time during the preceding year	60.0	61.5	63.1	63.0	65.2	67.1	67.3
Time in the labour force during the preceding year (weeks)—							
52	37.2	36.7	38.4	39.8	40.7	41.1	42.2
1 and under 52	22.8	24.8	24.1	23.3	24.5	26.1	25.1
Worked at some time during the preceding year	54.9	56.7	58.0	58.4	60.3	63.3	62.6
Full-time/part-time status of weeks worked—							
All were full-time	32.2	32.8	32.1	33.6	33.0	33.5	33.4
More full-time than part-time	2.3	2.5	3.1	2.9	3.0	4.0	3.5
More part-time than full-time	1.6	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.9	2.8	2.5
All were part-time	18.8	19.5	20.9	20.3	22.5	23.0	23.2
Number of jobs held during the preceding year—							
One	46.6	47.2	48.3	48.3	48.8	52.7	54.5
Two	6.2	7.0	7.2	7.6	8.7	8.1	6.2
Three	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.4
Four or more	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.6
Looked for work at some time during the preceding year	12.1	12.2	13.4	12.5	13.2	11.7	12.9
Number of spells of looking for work during the preceding year—							
One	10.0	10.1	10.9	10.3	10.5	9.3	10.4
Two	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.3
Three	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.5
Four or more	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
PERSONS							
Not in the labour force at any time during the preceding year	26.9	26.3	25.3	25.7	24.4	23.3	23.1
In the labour force at some time during the preceding year	73.1	73.7	74.7	74.3	75.6	76.7	76.9
Time in the labour force during the preceding year (weeks)—							
52	54.1	53.2	54.4	55.0	55.0	54.8	56.1
1 and under 52	19.0	20.5	19.8	19.2	20.6	21.9	20.8
Worked at some time during the preceding year	68.2	69.1	69.9	70.0	71.2	73.3	72.3
Full-time/part-time status of weeks worked—							
All were full-time	53.1	53.3	52.2	53.3	52.9	52.9	51.9
More full-time than part-time	2.4	2.6	3.4	2.8	3.1	3.8	3.9
More part-time than full-time	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.4	2.2	1.9
All were part-time	11.4	11.8	12.8	12.5	13.8	14.4	14.6
Number of jobs held during the preceding year—							
One	57.7	57.4	57.8	57.2	57.1	61.1	62.8
Two	7.7	8.6	9.0	9.4	10.4	9.1	7.2
Three	1.6	1.9	1.8	2.0	2.2	2.1	1.6
Four or more	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.1	0.8
Looked for work at some time during the preceding year	13.5	12.9	14.5	13.5	13.8	12.4	14.6
Number of spells of looking for work during the preceding year—							
One	11.1	10.7	11.6	11.0	11.1	9.7	11.7
Two	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.4
Three	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.7
Four or more	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 13, regarding comparability of the reference periods surveyed. (b) Prior to March 1990, the scope of the survey included persons aged 70 years and over. To enable time series comparisons, proportions from 1985 to 1989 have been revised to exclude persons aged 70 years and over.

TABLE 2. ALL PERSONS: PROPORTION WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE LABOUR FORCE AT SOME TIME DURING THE REFERENCE PERIOD AND AGE, FEBRUARY 1985 TO MARCH 1991(a)
(Per cent)

Survey conducted in—	Age group								Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	
MARRIED MALES									
February									
1985	100.0	98.5	98.7	97.7	94.1	84.9	53.9	19.0	87.9
1986	*100.0	98.5	98.6	97.8	94.3	85.8	51.5	20.5	87.2
1987	100.0	99.7	98.7	97.7	93.3	85.4	54.1	20.3	87.5
1988	*100.0	99.2	98.7	97.6	92.9	83.3	54.9	16.2	87.1
1989	100.0	98.3	98.2	97.7	93.4	81.7	60.2	17.6	87.3
March									
1990	100.0	99.1	99.0	97.7	93.8	81.6	59.1	20.0	87.5
1991	89.0	98.8	98.8	97.7	94.1	83.2	61.1	21.2	87.7
ALL MALES									
February									
1985	72.3	95.9	97.6	96.9	92.7	82.1	53.4	18.6	86.1
1986	74.0	97.0	97.6	96.9	92.6	83.4	51.1	18.6	85.8
1987	74.7	96.7	98.0	96.6	92.1	83.6	52.8	19.5	86.3
1988	70.1	95.6	97.3	96.4	90.8	81.2	54.5	16.3	85.5
1989	73.9	96.1	97.2	96.7	92.1	79.8	57.7	17.0	85.8
March									
1990	75.4	95.8	97.5	96.5	92.4	80.3	57.7	19.2	86.2
1991	72.3	96.3	97.7	96.7	92.6	81.1	58.7	20.8	86.3
MARRIED FEMALES									
February									
1985	69.7	70.5	63.8	68.2	56.8	30.9	13.9	5.5	55.3
1986	72.2	73.4	66.8	71.8	57.4	33.2	15.1	6.9	57.2
1987	77.1	75.8	68.1	72.5	61.0	35.3	16.6	6.0	59.3
1988	59.4	77.2	69.6	73.5	60.8	32.8	13.7	6.8	59.8
1989	66.3	74.8	72.4	76.2	62.7	36.9	17.4	7.1	61.7
March									
1990	73.2	80.2	75.1	79.9	66.5	39.1	18.1	5.2	64.7
1991	79.0	78.0	74.1	77.9	69.3	41.0	18.3	7.4	64.5
ALL FEMALES									
February									
1985	72.0	82.4	68.4	69.3	57.9	33.6	15.6	5.6	60.0
1986	72.8	84.5	71.1	71.9	58.7	35.8	16.3	6.6	61.5
1987	73.4	85.2	72.1	72.6	61.8	37.1	17.5	6.9	63.1
1988	68.5	86.4	73.1	73.8	61.8	35.1	15.9	6.6	63.0
1989	73.9	86.4	74.6	76.4	64.7	39.4	19.0	5.9	65.2
March									
1990	73.4	86.5	78.0	80.5	66.8	38.5	18.7	5.8	67.1
1991	72.3	86.4	77.4	78.6	69.6	42.5	19.6	6.9	67.3
PERSONS									
February									
1985	72.1	89.2	83.0	83.3	75.6	58.0	34.0	11.7	73.1
1986	73.4	90.7	84.3	84.5	76.0	59.8	33.4	12.1	73.7
1987	74.1	91.0	85.0	84.7	77.3	60.5	34.9	12.8	74.7
1988	69.3	91.0	85.2	85.2	76.6	58.3	35.0	11.1	74.3
1989	73.9	91.3	85.9	86.6	78.7	59.9	38.1	11.2	75.6
March									
1990	74.4	91.1	87.8	88.5	79.9	59.7	38.1	12.2	76.7
1991	72.3	91.4	87.5	87.7	81.4	62.1	38.7	13.6	76.9

(a) See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 13, regarding comparability of the reference periods surveyed. Prior to March 1990, the scope of the survey included persons aged 70 years and over. To enable time series comparisons, proportions from 1985 to 1989 have been revised to exclude persons aged 70 years and over.

TABLE 3. ALL PERSONS: LABOUR FORCE EXPERIENCE DURING THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1991
AND MARITAL STATUS
(^{'000})

	<i>Married</i>			<i>Not-married</i>			<i>Total</i>		
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Not in the labour force at any time during the preceding year	452.3	1,319.2	1,771.5	374.8	629.4	1,004.2	827.1	1,948.6	2,775.7
In the labour force at some time during the preceding year	3,217.7	2,400.3	5,618.1	1,985.3	1,611.8	3,597.1	5,203.0	4,012.2	9,215.2
Time in the labour force during the preceding year (weeks)—									
1 and under 4	9.0	56.3	65.3	41.8	48.1	89.9	50.8	104.4	155.2
4 and under 13	22.2	116.8	138.9	112.5	121.5	234.0	134.7	238.3	373.0
13 and under 26	29.8	116.3	146.1	91.8	104.0	195.8	121.6	220.3	341.9
26 and under 39	47.4	164.9	212.2	80.9	90.7	171.6	128.2	255.6	383.8
39 and under 49	161.9	280.9	442.8	142.8	142.2	285.0	304.7	423.1	727.8
49 and under 52	155.1	158.3	313.4	96.2	97.8	194.0	251.3	256.1	507.4
52	2,792.3	1,506.9	4,299.3	1,419.4	1,007.5	2,426.9	4,211.8	2,514.4	6,726.2
Worked at some time during the preceding year	3,137.5	2,281.2	5,418.7	1,805.3	1,449.1	3,254.4	4,942.8	3,730.3	8,673.1
Time worked during the preceding year (weeks)—									
1 and under 4	9.0	44.9	53.9	36.9	41.5	78.4	45.9	86.4	132.3
4 and under 13	42.9	106.7	149.6	108.7	106.8	215.5	151.6	213.5	365.1
13 and under 26	57.0	118.9	176.0	111.2	97.4	208.5	168.2	216.3	384.5
26 and under 39	116.4	173.0	289.4	145.4	115.4	260.8	261.8	288.4	550.2
39 and under 49	255.3	291.5	546.7	213.9	183.7	397.6	469.2	475.1	944.3
49 and under 52	163.9	152.9	316.8	91.8	85.1	176.9	255.7	238.0	493.7
52	2,493.0	1,393.4	3,886.4	1,097.4	819.2	1,916.6	3,590.4	2,212.6	5,803.0
Full-time/part-time status of weeks worked—									
All were full-time	2,851.8	1,126.0	3,977.8	1,378.2	862.5	2,240.7	4,230.0	1,988.5	6,218.5
All were part-time	123.1	945.6	1,068.7	254.5	434.5	689.0	377.6	1,380.0	1,757.7
More full-time than part-time	132.3	119.6	251.9	125.1	91.3	216.4	257.4	210.9	468.3
More part-time than full-time	30.3	90.0	120.3	47.5	60.8	108.2	77.8	150.8	228.6
Number of jobs held during the preceding year—									
One	2,812.4	2,062.7	4,875.0	1,472.3	1,187.8	2,660.1	4,284.6	3,250.5	7,535.1
Two	255.4	177.1	432.5	234.0	193.1	427.1	489.4	370.2	859.6
Three	46.0	34.3	80.3	65.6	48.0	113.7	111.6	82.4	194.0
Four or more	25.4	12.2	37.6	35.5	23.0	58.4	60.9	35.2	96.1
Looked for work at some time during the preceding year	404.8	311.5	716.3	577.2	455.2	1,032.4	982.0	766.7	1,748.7
Number of spells of looking for work during the preceding year—									
One	319.4	256.1	575.5	457.6	366.1	823.8	777.0	622.2	1,399.3
Two	35.3	28.9	64.2	56.7	47.8	104.6	92.1	76.7	168.7
Three	18.8	9.9	28.8	30.6	19.4	50.0	49.5	29.3	78.8
Four or more	31.2	16.6	47.8	32.2	21.8	54.1	63.4	38.5	101.9
Total	3,670.0	3,719.5	7,389.6	2,360.1	2,241.2	4,601.3	6,030.2	5,960.7	11,990.9

TABLE 4. ALL PERSONS: WHETHER IN THE LABOUR FORCE DURING THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1991,
AGE AND MARITAL STATUS
(Per cent)

Age group	Married			Not-married			Total		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
WORKED AT SOME TIME									
15-19	79.7	67.1	69.6	60.2	59.5	59.9	60.3	59.7	60.0
20-24	94.6	71.6	79.3	89.3	83.4	86.7	90.1	79.9	85.1
25-34	96.6	69.7	82.1	89.9	80.2	85.8	94.0	72.7	83.4
35-44	96.0	74.2	85.2	86.9	74.8	80.9	94.3	74.4	84.4
45-54	92.1	67.1	80.2	80.3	64.8	71.8	90.3	66.6	78.8
55-59	79.2	39.0	60.1	64.1	44.3	53.0	76.6	40.2	58.7
60-69	40.3	13.5	28.0	29.0	12.9	18.3	38.2	13.3	25.5
Total	85.5	61.3	73.3	76.5	64.7	70.7	82.0	62.6	72.3
LOOKED FOR WORK AT SOME TIME									
15-19	*56.4	41.1	44.1	30.2	29.4	29.8	30.4	29.7	30.0
20-24	29.4	17.1	21.3	28.7	24.9	27.0	28.8	22.6	25.7
25-34	15.8	11.7	13.6	23.4	20.0	22.0	18.7	14.0	16.4
35-44	10.8	9.5	10.2	18.4	16.9	17.7	12.2	10.9	11.6
45-54	8.7	6.0	7.4	14.2	15.0	14.7	9.6	7.8	8.7
55-59	10.0	3.1	6.8	13.5	*4.4	8.4	10.6	3.4	7.1
60-69	4.3	*0.2	2.4	7.3	*0.7	2.9	4.8	*0.4	2.6
Total	11.0	8.4	9.7	24.5	20.3	22.4	16.3	12.9	14.6
IN THE LABOUR FORCE AT SOME TIME									
15-19	89.0	79.0	80.9	72.2	72.1	72.1	72.3	72.3	72.3
20-24	98.8	78.0	85.0	95.9	89.9	93.2	96.3	86.4	91.4
25-34	98.8	74.1	85.6	95.8	85.6	91.5	97.7	77.4	87.5
35-44	97.7	77.9	87.8	92.3	81.7	87.0	96.7	78.6	87.7
45-54	94.1	69.3	82.3	84.7	70.6	77.0	92.6	69.6	81.4
55-59	83.2	41.0	63.2	71.0	47.5	57.8	81.1	42.5	62.1
60-69	42.3	13.5	29.1	33.7	13.5	20.3	40.7	13.5	26.8
Total	87.7	64.5	76.0	84.1	71.9	78.2	86.3	67.3	76.9
NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE AT SOME TIME									
15-19	*16.1	54.6	47.0	66.5	71.5	68.9	66.2	71.0	68.5
20-24	18.3	50.7	39.8	28.2	38.8	33.0	26.8	42.3	34.5
25-34	13.5	59.3	38.1	21.9	36.8	28.2	16.7	52.9	34.8
35-44	13.9	49.6	31.7	20.1	40.4	30.3	15.0	47.9	31.4
45-54	15.3	51.2	32.4	28.6	46.3	38.3	17.4	50.2	33.4
55-59	30.2	72.8	50.4	41.9	63.8	54.2	32.2	70.7	51.1
60-69	69.4	91.6	79.6	76.4	91.4	86.4	70.7	91.5	81.4
Total	23.9	59.5	41.8	39.9	55.0	47.3	30.2	57.8	43.9

TABLE 5. ALL PERSONS: TIME IN THE LABOUR FORCE DURING THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1991, MARITAL STATUS AND AGE ('000)

Time in the labour force during the year (weeks)	Married								Total(a)							
	Age group								Age group							
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-69	Total	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-69	Total
	MALES															
Nil	*0.5	*1.2	10.1	24.0	47.3	49.8	319.4	452.3	188.5	24.9	32.3	42.5	69.7	67.6	401.6	827.1
1 and under 4	*0.0	*0.0	*0.8	*1.2	*0.7	*0.8	5.4	9.0	32.0	4.5	*3.1	*2.5	*1.2	*1.2	6.2	50.8
4 and under 13	*0.1	*0.6	4.0	*1.8	*3.3	4.0	8.4	22.2	76.5	24.1	11.8	*3.0	4.0	4.7	10.6	134.7
13 and under 26	*0.0	*1.0	5.1	5.7	4.8	3.8	9.5	29.8	56.3	18.4	16.9	7.1	6.9	5.1	10.9	121.6
26 and under 39	*0.1	*1.8	7.3	11.8	9.6	6.9	9.8	47.4	33.7	22.5	22.2	15.6	12.9	8.3	13.0	128.2
39 and under 49	*0.0	8.6	38.3	48.1	28.2	16.6	22.2	161.9	41.1	50.1	71.9	60.7	35.8	19.2	25.9	304.7
49 and under 52	*0.0	5.1	50.0	54.6	28.7	7.5	9.3	155.1	22.4	37.9	73.1	64.6	34.0	8.9	10.4	251.3
52	4.1	81.8	739.6	914.6	676.7	206.4	169.1	2,792.3	230.1	499.6	1,152.5	1,108.0	781.0	242.2	198.4	4,211.8
Total	4.9	100.1	855.1	1,061.8	799.3	295.7	553.1	3,670.0	680.5	682.1	1,383.9	1,303.9	945.3	357.3	677.1	6,030.2
	FEMALES															
Nil	4.2	43.2	256.7	233.6	222.1	157.1	402.3	1,319.2	181.0	91.2	313.2	277.8	273.7	198.3	613.4	1,948.6
1 and under 4	*0.5	4.6	21.1	16.7	7.8	3.6	*2.1	56.3	32.1	11.9	25.2	19.0	9.2	4.6	*2.4	104.4
4 and under 13	*0.8	8.8	49.5	32.8	16.4	5.4	*3.1	116.8	77.2	27.3	60.4	39.9	20.9	7.2	5.4	238.3
13 and under 26	*1.2	9.1	53.5	30.6	13.1	4.9	3.9	116.3	56.0	31.8	67.3	38.7	15.8	5.4	5.5	220.3
26 and under 39	*1.4	11.3	73.7	47.1	22.8	5.0	3.6	164.9	40.3	31.0	90.6	56.5	26.5	5.8	4.8	255.6
39 and under 49	*1.8	15.0	84.1	102.4	57.0	12.3	8.2	280.9	47.8	54.6	107.2	118.2	66.6	14.9	13.9	423.1
49 and under 52	*1.0	7.8	50.2	59.6	31.4	5.4	*2.8	158.3	29.5	36.4	69.4	70.0	39.4	7.6	3.9	256.1
52	9.1	96.7	404.0	532.0	353.5	72.5	39.1	1,506.9	189.9	388.3	652.0	675.4	448.0	100.9	59.9	2,514.4
Total	20.0	196.3	992.9	1,054.9	724.2	266.1	465.1	3,719.5	653.8	672.5	1,385.2	1,295.5	900.1	344.5	709.1	5,960.7
	PERSONS															
Nil	4.8	44.4	266.8	257.6	269.4	206.9	721.7	1,771.5	369.5	116.2	345.4	320.3	343.4	265.9	1,015.0	2,775.7
1 and under 4	*0.5	4.6	21.9	17.9	8.4	4.4	7.5	65.3	64.0	16.5	28.3	21.5	10.4	5.7	8.7	155.2
4 and under 13	*0.9	9.4	53.5	34.6	19.7	9.3	11.5	138.9	153.7	51.5	72.2	42.9	24.9	11.9	15.9	373.0
13 and under 26	*1.2	10.0	58.6	36.3	18.0	8.6	13.4	146.1	112.3	50.2	84.1	45.8	22.6	10.5	16.4	341.9
26 and under 39	*1.5	13.1	81.0	58.9	32.4	11.9	13.4	212.2	74.0	53.5	112.8	72.1	39.4	14.2	17.8	383.8
39 and under 49	*1.8	23.6	122.4	150.5	85.2	28.9	30.4	442.8	88.9	104.6	179.2	178.9	102.4	34.0	39.8	727.8
49 and under 52	*1.0	12.9	100.2	114.2	60.1	12.9	12.1	313.4	51.8	74.3	142.5	134.6	73.3	16.5	14.3	507.4
52	13.2	178.5	1,143.6	1,446.7	1,030.3	278.9	208.1	4,299.3	420.0	887.9	1,804.5	1,783.3	1,229.0	343.1	258.3	6,726.2
Total	25.0	296.5	1,848.0	2,116.7	1,523.5	561.9	1,018.1	7,389.6	1,334.3	1,354.7	2,769.0	2,599.4	1,845.5	701.8	1,386.3	11,990.9

(a) Includes not-married persons.

TABLE 6. PERSONS IN THE LABOUR FORCE AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1991:
PROPORTION WHO LOOKED FOR WORK AT SOME TIME, AGE AND MARITAL STATUS
(Per cent)

Age group	Married			Not-married			Total		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
15-19	*63.4	52.0	54.5	41.8	40.7	41.3	42.0	41.1	41.5
20-24	29.7	22.0	25.0	29.9	27.7	28.9	29.9	26.2	28.1
25-34	15.9	15.8	15.9	24.5	23.3	24.0	19.1	18.1	18.7
35-44	11.0	12.3	11.6	19.9	20.7	20.3	12.6	13.9	13.2
45-54	9.3	8.7	9.0	16.8	21.3	19.0	10.4	11.2	10.7
55-59	12.1	7.6	10.7	19.0	*9.2	14.5	13.1	8.0	11.4
60-69	10.1	*1.7	8.3	21.7	*5.2	14.4	11.9	*2.9	9.6
Total	12.6	13.0	12.7	29.1	28.2	28.7	18.9	19.1	19.0

TABLE 7. PERSONS WHO WORKED AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1991:
TIME WORKED DURING THE YEAR, MARITAL STATUS AND FULL-TIME/PART-TIME STATUS DURING THE YEAR
(*'000)

Time worked during the preceding year (weeks)	Married			Not-married			Total		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
TIME WORKED WAS ALL FULL-TIME									
1 and under 4	4.3	15.0	19.3	15.8	14.3	30.1	20.1	29.3	49.4
4 and under 13	28.8	29.7	58.5	53.1	36.2	89.3	81.9	66.0	147.9
13 and under 26	42.4	37.4	79.8	57.3	32.0	89.3	99.7	69.4	169.1
26 and under 39	82.9	55.9	138.8	83.6	41.9	125.5	166.5	97.8	264.3
39 and under 49	182.6	74.8	257.4	123.6	62.5	186.1	306.2	137.3	443.5
49 and under 52	139.4	51.6	191.1	62.5	32.2	94.7	202.0	83.8	285.8
52	2,371.4	861.5	3,232.9	982.2	643.5	1,625.7	3,353.6	1,505.0	4,858.6
Total	2,851.8	1,126.0	3,977.8	1,378.2	862.5	2,240.7	4,230.0	1,988.5	6,218.5
TIME WORKED WAS MORE FULL-TIME THAN PART-TIME									
1 and under 13	*2.1	*3.3	5.3	8.1	5.6	13.6	10.1	8.8	19.0
13 and under 26	5.7	7.9	13.6	11.6	8.0	19.6	17.3	15.9	33.2
26 and under 39	14.8	14.2	29.0	21.5	13.1	34.6	36.3	27.4	63.6
39 and under 49	38.7	27.9	66.5	36.5	23.4	59.9	75.2	51.3	126.4
49 and under 52	15.2	10.2	25.4	10.1	8.4	18.5	25.3	18.6	43.9
52	55.9	56.2	112.0	37.4	32.8	70.2	93.2	89.0	182.2
Total	132.3	119.6	251.9	125.1	91.3	216.4	257.4	210.9	468.3
TIME WORKED WAS MORE PART-TIME THAN FULL-TIME									
1 and under 13	*2.3	4.2	6.5	5.6	*3.3	8.9	7.9	7.5	15.4
13 and under 26	*1.1	5.7	6.8	5.5	5.3	10.9	6.6	11.0	17.6
26 and under 39	4.9	10.3	15.2	7.4	10.0	17.4	12.3	20.3	32.6
39 and under 49	10.9	20.0	30.9	13.8	17.6	31.5	24.8	37.6	62.4
49 and under 52	*1.5	9.3	10.8	3.7	6.3	10.0	5.2	15.6	20.8
52	9.6	40.5	50.1	11.4	18.2	29.6	21.0	58.7	79.7
Total	30.3	90.0	120.3	47.5	60.8	108.2	77.8	150.8	228.6
TIME WORKED WAS ALL PART-TIME									
1 and under 4	4.6	29.4	34.0	20.0	26.8	46.8	24.6	56.2	80.8
4 and under 13	9.9	69.8	79.7	43.0	62.2	105.2	52.9	132.0	184.9
13 and under 26	7.8	68.0	75.8	36.7	52.0	88.7	44.6	120.0	164.5
26 and under 39	13.8	92.5	106.4	32.9	50.4	83.3	46.8	143.0	189.7
39 and under 49	23.1	168.8	191.9	40.0	80.1	120.1	63.1	248.9	312.0
49 and under 52	7.8	81.8	89.5	15.5	38.2	53.7	23.2	120.0	143.2
52	56.1	435.2	491.4	66.4	124.7	191.1	122.5	560.0	682.5
Total	123.1	945.6	1,068.7	254.5	434.5	689.0	377.6	1,380.0	1,757.7
TOTAL									
1 and under 4	9.0	44.9	53.9	36.9	41.5	78.4	45.9	86.4	132.3
4 and under 13	42.9	106.7	149.6	108.7	106.8	215.5	151.6	213.5	365.1
13 and under 26	57.0	118.9	176.0	111.2	97.4	208.5	168.2	216.3	384.5
26 and under 39	116.4	173.0	289.4	145.4	115.4	260.8	261.8	288.4	550.2
39 and under 49	255.3	291.5	546.7	213.9	183.7	397.6	469.2	475.1	944.3
49 and under 52	163.9	152.9	316.8	91.8	85.1	176.9	255.7	238.0	493.7
52	2,493.0	1,393.4	3,886.4	1,097.4	819.2	1,916.6	3,590.4	2,212.6	5,803.0
Total	3,137.5	2,281.2	5,418.7	1,805.3	1,449.1	3,254.4	4,942.8	3,730.3	8,673.1

**TABLE 8. PERSONS WHO LOOKED FOR WORK AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1991:
NUMBER OF SPELLS OF LOOKING FOR WORK, TIME SPENT LOOKING FOR WORK AND AGE**

Time spent looking for work (Weeks)	Age group						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-69	
ONE SPELL OF LOOKING FOR WORK							
— '000 —							
1 and under 2	37.6	22.8	33.6	24.3	10.1	5.2	133.5
2 and under 4	42.1	31.5	44.3	24.6	12.2	4.4	159.2
4 and under 8	59.8	44.4	57.8	35.5	18.7	4.6	220.8
8 and under 13	58.3	43.9	51.5	34.9	17.2	7.0	212.8
13 and under 26	54.2	49.7	54.8	40.2	18.5	10.3	227.9
26 and under 52	44.4	38.0	56.8	39.7	23.0	10.4	212.3
52	34.2	39.7	58.1	42.5	29.6	28.5	232.7
Total	330.7	270.0	357.1	241.6	129.4	70.5	1,399.3
Males	167.6	150.2	201.2	127.3	72.0	58.8	777.0
Females	163.1	119.7	155.9	114.3	57.4	11.8	622.2
— weeks —							
Average duration(a)	15.8	18.7	19.3	20.3	22.7	30.5	19.4
Median duration(a)	10	12	12	14	18	35	12
TWO SPELLS OF LOOKING FOR WORK							
— '000 —							
2 and under 4	5.5	4.1	*2.5	3.6	*1.9	*0.5	18.2
4 and under 13	15.3	13.7	14.6	7.3	*2.8	*1.9	55.6
13 and under 26	8.3	11.7	7.4	7.6	*3.3	*2.1	40.3
26 and under 52	11.0	15.4	15.3	6.7	4.8	*1.5	54.7
Total	40.2	44.9	39.7	25.1	12.8	6.0	168.7
Males	21.1	24.9	20.4	13.1	6.8	5.8	92.1
Females	19.1	20.1	19.3	12.0	6.0	*0.2	76.7
— weeks —							
Average duration(a)	16.7	20.3	20.0	18.2	21.4	16.7	19.0
Median duration(a)	12	18	18	16	20	17	16
THREE OR MORE SPELLS OF LOOKING FOR WORK							
— '000 —							
3 and under 4	*1.7	*1.1	*2.0	*0.9	*0.4	*0.8	6.9
4 and under 13	12.8	15.9	25.3	15.8	7.4	*3.1	80.3
13 and under 26	6.6	8.6	14.4	8.1	6.0	*2.9	46.5
26 and under 52	8.9	7.9	14.4	9.2	4.6	*2.0	47.0
Total	30.0	33.4	56.2	33.9	18.4	8.8	180.7
Males	17.9	21.2	37.0	18.8	11.9	6.2	112.9
Females	12.1	12.2	19.2	15.1	6.6	*2.6	67.8
— weeks —							
Average duration(a)	17.3	16.5	16.5	17.1	18.6	15.6	16.9
Median duration(a)	14	13	14	14	16	15	14
TOTAL							
— '000 —							
1 and under 2	37.6	22.8	33.6	24.3	10.1	5.2	133.5
2 and under 4	49.4	36.7	48.8	29.1	14.6	5.7	184.3
4 and under 8	74.5	57.0	75.3	46.8	22.9	7.1	283.6
8 and under 13	71.8	60.9	73.9	46.7	23.2	9.5	285.9
13 and under 26	69.1	70.0	76.6	55.8	27.8	15.3	314.7
26 and under 52	64.3	61.3	86.5	55.5	32.4	13.9	313.9
52	34.2	39.7	58.1	42.5	29.6	28.5	232.7
Total	400.9	348.3	453.0	300.6	160.6	85.3	1,748.7
Males	206.5	196.3	258.6	159.2	90.7	70.8	982.0
Females	194.3	152.1	194.4	141.4	70.0	14.5	766.7
— weeks —							
Average duration(a)	16.0	18.7	19.0	19.8	22.1	28.0	19.1
Median duration(a)	11	13	13	14	17	26	13

(a) Of total weeks spent looking for work during the year.

**TABLE 9. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1991:
MAIN ACTIVITY WHEN NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE AND TIME NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE
(*000)**

Main activity when not in the labour force	Time not in the labour force (weeks)						52	Total
	1 and under 4	4 and under 13	13 and under 26	26 and under 39	39 and under 49	49 and under 52		
MALES								
Retired or voluntarily inactive	17.8	35.0	23.8	19.6	16.5	6.4	391.2	510.3
Home duties/childcare	15.3	24.1	10.4	9.6	5.3	*2.1	41.4	108.2
Attended an educational institution	12.9	35.8	38.5	66.7	111.9	37.0	214.0	516.8
Unpaid leave	31.2	26.3	3.5	*0.8	*0.3	*0.0	*0.0	62.0
Own illness, injury/disability	23.1	29.5	15.2	12.2	9.8	3.5	156.6	249.8
Looking after ill/disabled person	*0.7	*1.9	*0.2	*0.5	*0.3	*0.0	4.7	8.3
Travelled, moved house, holiday	132.5	107.9	24.2	12.4	6.6	*0.5	4.1	288.1
Worked in an unpaid voluntary job	*1.4	4.3	*1.7	*1.0	*0.5	*0.2	7.6	16.7
Other	16.3	18.6	6.1	5.5	*3.0	*1.1	7.6	58.2
Total	251.3	283.4	123.5	128.3	154.1	50.8	827.1	1,818.4
FEMALES								
Retired or voluntarily inactive	7.0	11.1	6.5	4.4	4.4	*1.7	201.1	236.2
Home duties/childcare	50.5	169.0	132.7	146.9	143.9	60.0	1,439.0	2,142.0
Attended an educational institution	13.1	40.6	39.2	73.4	110.1	38.6	208.3	523.4
Unpaid leave	28.2	22.7	5.1	*2.3	*0.6	*0.0	*0.1	59.1
Own illness, injury/disability	23.5	23.2	10.1	5.7	*3.1	*1.4	45.5	112.4
Looking after ill/disabled person	*2.3	*2.2	*2.2	*2.0	*1.7	*0.4	18.5	29.2
Travelled, moved house, holiday	126.9	114.0	22.9	13.7	5.1	*0.8	3.9	287.3
Worked in an unpaid voluntary job	*1.2	*1.7	*1.9	*0.7	*1.2	*1.0	25.2	32.9
Other	*3.4	5.3	*3.2	*2.3	*2.1	*0.5	6.9	23.9
Total	256.1	389.6	223.9	251.4	272.3	104.4	1,948.6	3,446.4
PERSONS								
Retired or voluntarily inactive	24.9	46.1	30.3	24.0	20.9	8.1	592.3	746.5
Home duties/childcare	65.8	193.1	143.1	156.5	149.2	62.1	1,480.5	2,250.2
Attended an educational institution	26.0	76.4	77.7	140.2	222.0	75.6	422.3	1,040.2
Unpaid leave	59.4	49.0	8.6	*3.1	*0.9	*0.0	*0.1	121.1
Own illness, injury/disability	46.6	52.7	25.2	17.9	12.8	4.9	202.0	362.2
Looking after ill/disabled person	*3.0	4.1	*2.4	*2.5	*2.0	*0.4	23.2	37.5
Travelled, moved house, holiday	259.4	221.9	47.1	26.1	11.7	*1.2	8.0	575.4
Worked in an unpaid voluntary job	*2.6	5.9	3.6	*1.7	*1.7	*1.2	32.8	49.6
Other	19.7	23.9	9.3	7.8	5.2	*1.7	14.5	82.1
Total	507.4	673.1	347.3	379.7	426.4	155.2	2,775.7	5,264.7

TABLE 10. ALL POPULATIONS BY STATES AND TERRITORIES OF USUAL RESIDENCE
(*000)

	<i>New South Wales</i>	<i>Victoria</i>	<i>Queensland</i>	<i>South Australia</i>	<i>Western Australia</i>	<i>Tasmania</i>	<i>Northern Territory</i>	<i>Australian Capital Territory</i>	<i>Australia</i>
<i>Population 1:</i> All persons (excluding institutionalised and boarding school pupils)	4,064.2	3,108.4	2,029.5	1,013.9	1,150.9	315.6	105.3	203.1	11,990.9
<i>Population 2:</i> Persons in the labour force at some time during the year ending March 1991	3,054.5	2,385.8	1,579.4	781.9	913.1	241.4	87.1	171.9	9,215.2
<i>Population 3:</i> Persons who worked at some time during the year ending March 1991	2,880.7	2,248.4	1,480.6	732.0	859.5	224.6	83.4	163.8	8,673.1
<i>Population 4:</i> Persons who looked for work at some time during the year ending March 1991	532.8	438.5	342.2	146.9	196.4	48.0	17.8	26.1	1,748.7
<i>Population 5:</i> Persons not in the labour force at some time during the year ending March 1991	1,782.8	1,325.1	943.4	443.0	506.0	143.5	43.0	77.9	5,264.7
<i>Population 6:</i> Persons currently working who had worked for one year or more in current job	1,874.8	1,465.8	842.2	462.6	500.9	135.6	47.1	104.0	5,433.1

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 March 1991 labour force survey conducted throughout Australia.

2. Those respondents to the labour force survey who fell within the scope of the supplementary survey were asked additional questions. They were asked the length of time they worked, looked for work or were not in the labour force, the number of spells during which they looked for work and other aspects of labour force experience for the 52 weeks up to the end of the week before the interview.

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 was restricted to persons aged 15 to 69. Visitors to private dwellings, students who were boarding at school, some patients in hospitals and sanatoriums and inmates of reformatories, gaols, etc. have also been excluded.

4. In the tables, 'All Persons' refers to all persons within the scope of the survey.

Coverage

5. In the population survey, coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling, and hence has only one chance of selection. See *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0) for more details.

Definitions

6. Definitions of labour force and demographic classifications appearing in this publication are given in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

7. Labour force experience characteristics relate to the 52 weeks up to the end of the week before the interview. Unless otherwise stated, all other characteristics referenced in this publication relate to the week before the interview.

Results of the survey

8. The estimates relate to persons covered by the survey in March 1991. Because of emigration, deaths, etc., not all persons with labour force experience during the period were covered. Labour force experience may relate to experience outside Australia.

9. Results of similar surveys, conducted in February 1969, 1973, 1975, 1976, 1977, annually from February 1979 to February 1989 and annually since March 1990, have been given in previous issues of this publication.

10. It is proposed that this survey will be conducted next in March 1992.

Unpublished statistics

11. As well as the statistics included in this and related publications, the ABS may have other relevant unpublished data available. Inquiries should be made to the contact in the Inquiries box at the front of this publication.

Comparability of series

12. It is impracticable 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 week. For the survey of labour force experience, a person is assigned to a labour force category 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.

Discontinuities in the series

13. All surveys prior to March 1990 were run in February. Therefore, the estimates for this survey are not strictly comparable with those obtained from pre-March 1990 surveys. The scope of surveys run prior to March 1990 included persons aged 15 and over. From March 1990 the surveys have been restricted to exclude all persons aged 70 and over (see paragraph 3). Historical estimates contained in this publication for the years 1985 to 1989 have been revised to enable comparisons of estimates from this and the March 1990 survey.

14. Data from February 1989, March 1990 and March 1991 have been weighted to conform to population estimates based on the 1986 Census of Population and Housing. Data from the February 1984 to 1988 surveys were based on estimates from the 1981 population census.

Survey sample redesign

15. The labour force survey sample has been redesigned and reselected using information collected in the 1986 Population Census. As a result, the standard errors in this Supplementary Survey differ from those for surveys of the same topic run prior to September 1987. For details, see *Information Paper — Labour Force Survey — Sample Design* (6269.0).

Sample size

16. In previous years this supplementary survey has been conducted on either 50 per cent or 75 per cent of the dwellings selected in the Labour Force Survey. For March 1990 and March 1991 this has been expanded to the full sample size. As a result the standard errors for this survey differ from those applicable to previous surveys.

Estimation procedure

17. The estimates are derived from the population survey by use of a ratio estimation procedure, which ensures that the estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population for each capital city and remainder of State by age, sex and labour force status, rather than to the corresponding distribution within the sample itself.

Reliability of the estimates

18. Estimates in this publication are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. For more information refer to the Technical Note, Page 15.

Related publications

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

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)—issued monthly

Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (6220.0)—issued annually

Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Australia, July 1990 (6222.0)—issued two-yearly

Persons who have Left the Labour Force, Australia, April 1988 (6267.0)—issued irregularly

Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience, Australia, July 1990 (6245.0)—issued two-yearly

Labour Mobility, Australia (6209.0)—issued annually

Persons who had Re-entered the Labour Force, Australia, May 1990 (6264.0)—issued irregularly

20. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products, 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 the Technical Note, Page 15.
- . . . not applicable

21. Because estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

Floppy disk service

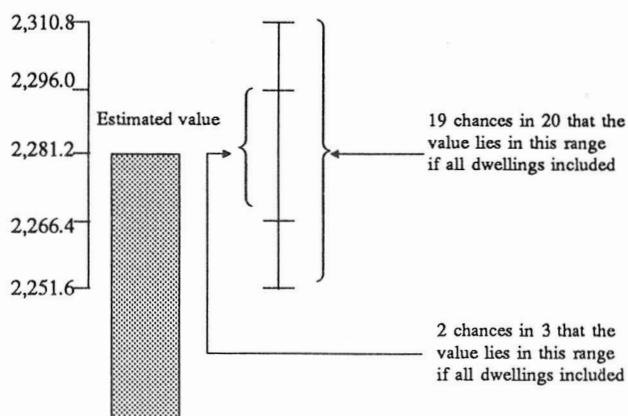
Selected ABS statistics are available on floppy disk. Further information is available on (06) 252 6684.

TECHNICAL NOTE

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 those 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*, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the number 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. Another measure of the likely difference is the *relative standard error*, which is obtained by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the estimate.

2. Space does not allow for the separate indication of the standard errors of all estimates in this publication. A table of standard errors for general application is given on the following page. Since they are averages based on calculations for a limited number of past surveys over a wide range of labour force characteristics these numbers will not give a precise measure of the standard error of a particular estimate but they will provide an indication of its magnitude.

3. An example of the calculation and the use of standard errors in relation to estimates of persons is as follows. Table 3 shows the estimated number of married females who worked at some time during the year ending March 1991 was 2,281,200. Since this estimate is between 2,000,000 and 5,000,000, the standard error for Australia will be between 14,300 and 19,700 in the standard error table and can be approximated as 14,800 (rounded to the nearest 100). Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey will fall in the range 2,266,400 to 2,296,000 and about nineteen chances in twenty that the value will fall within the range 2,251,600 and 2,310,800. This example is illustrated in the following diagram.



4. As can be seen from the standard error table, *the smaller the estimate the higher is the relative standard error*. Very small estimates are thus subject to such high standard errors (relative to the size of the estimate) as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable uses. In this publication, only estimates with relative standard errors less than 25 per cent are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. However, estimates with larger relative standard errors have been included and are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. *3.4) to indicate they are subject to high standard errors and should be used with caution.

5. Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling errors. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. A formula to approximate the relative standard error (RSE) of a proportion is given below:

$$\text{RSE } (x/y) = \sqrt{[\text{RSE } (x)]^2 + [\text{RSE } (y)]^2}$$

6. Considering the example from paragraph 3 above, these females as a proportion of all married females (3,719,500) is 61 per cent. The standard error for 3,719,500 is approximately 17,400 so the relative standard error is 0.5 per cent. The relative standard error for 2,281,200 is 0.6 per cent. Applying the above formula, the relative standard error of the proportion is $\sqrt{(0.6)^2 + (0.5)^2}$ or 0.3 per cent, giving a standard error for the proportion (62 per cent) of 0.3 percentage points. Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the proportion of married females who worked at some time during the year is between 60.7 per cent and 61.3 per cent and nineteen chances in twenty that the proportion is within the range 60.4 per cent to 61.6 per cent.

7. Published estimates may also be used to calculate the difference between two survey estimates (of numbers or percentages). Such an estimate is subject to sampling error. The sampling error of the difference between two estimates depends on their standard errors and the relationship (correlation) between them. An approximate standard error (SE) of the difference between two estimates (x-y) may be calculated by the following formula:

$$\text{SE } (x-y) = \sqrt{[\text{SE } (x)]^2 + [\text{SE } (y)]^2}$$

While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and uncorrelated characteristics or subpopulations it is expected to provide a good approximation for all differences likely to be of interest in this publication.

8. The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the standard error, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents and errors made in coding and processing data. Inaccuracies of this

kind are referred to as the *non-sampling error*, and they may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sam-

pling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient operating procedures.

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate (Persons)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia	
	— number —									Relative standard error (per cent)
100			130	110	120	80	130	100	120	117.6
200	230	230	190	160	180	120	170	140	180	89.0
300	290	280	240	200	220	150	210	170	230	75.2
400	340	330	280	230	250	180	240	200	270	66.6
500	380	370	310	260	280	200	260	220	300	60.5
600	420	410	340	280	310	220	280	240	340	55.9
800	480	470	390	330	350	250	320	270	390	49.2
1,000	540	530	440	370	390	280	360	300	450	44.5
1,300	620	610	500	410	440	320	400	340	510	39.6
1,500	660	650	530	440	470	340	430	360	560	37.0
1,800	720	710	580	480	510	360	470	390	610	34.0
2,000	760	750	610	510	540	380	490	410	650	32.4
2,500	850	840	680	560	600	420	540	450	730	29.2
3,000	920	910	740	610	650	450	590	490	800	26.8
3,500	990	980	800	660	700	480	630	520	870	24.9
4,000	1,050	1,050	850	700	740	510	670	550	930	23.3
4,500	1,100	1,100	900	730	780	540	710	580	990	22.0
5,000	1,200	1,150	940	770	820	560	750	600	1,050	20.9
6,000	1,300	1,250	1,000	830	880	600	810	650	1,150	19.1
10,000	1,600	1,600	1,300	1,050	1,100	730	1,050	800	1,500	14.8
20,000	2,200	2,200	1,750	1,400	1,500	920	1,400	1,050	2,050	10.4
50,000	3,250	3,250	2,600	2,050	2,150	1,200	2,150	1,500	3,150	6.3
100,000	4,300	4,300	3,400	2,650	2,850	1,500	3,000	1,900	4,300	4.3
200,000	5,700	5,600	4,500	3,450	3,700	1,750	4,200	2,450	5,800	2.9
300,000	6,600	6,600	5,200	3,950	4,300	1,900		2,800	6,900	2.3
500,000	8,000	7,900	6,300	4,750	5,200	2,100		3,300	8,400	1.7
1,000,000	10,300	10,100	8,100	6,000	6,600				11,100	1.1
2,000,000	13,000	12,800	10,300	7,500	8,400				14,300	0.7
5,000,000	17,600	17,100	13,900						19,700	0.4
10,000,000	21,800								24,800	0.2

GLOSSARY

All persons: civilian population aged 15-69 years. See paragraph 3 of Explanatory Notes for details of exclusions.

Average duration of time spent looking for work: obtained by dividing the aggregate number of weeks a group has been looking for work by the number of persons in that group.

In the labour force at some time (per cent): for a particular group, persons in the labour force at some time as a percentage of all persons in that group.

In the labour force: persons who were reported as having either worked or looked for work.

Looked for work at some time (per cent): for a particular group, persons who looked for work at some time as a percentage of all persons in that group.

Looked for work: persons who were reported as being out of work and looking for a job.

Median duration of time spent looking for work: the duration which divides persons who looked for work into two equal groups, one comprising persons whose time spent looking for work during the year is above the median, and the other, persons whose time spent looking for work is below it.

Multiple jobholders: all persons who had more than one job in any one week during the reference period. Persons who had more than one job in a week solely by reason of changing jobs were not counted as multiple jobholders.

Not in the labour force at some time (per cent): for a particular group, persons not in the labour force at some time as a percentage of all persons in that group.

Not in the labour force: during any week of the reference period, persons who reported as having neither worked nor looked for work were classified as not in the labour force for that week.

Number of spells of looking for work during the year: the number of different periods, including the current period, during which persons were reported as having been out of work and looking for a job.

Number of jobs held during the preceding year: excludes second jobs of multiple jobholders.

Time in the labour force during the year: the total number of weeks persons were reported as having either worked or looked for work.

Time not in the labour force during the year: the total number of weeks persons were reported as having neither worked nor looked for work.

Time spent looking for work during the year: the total number of weeks persons were reported as being out of work and looking for a job.

Time worked during the year: the total number of weeks persons were reported as having either worked or been on paid leave. Periods of one week or more on strike or time off without pay are not classified as work.

Time worked full-time during the year: the total number of weeks persons were reported as having worked other than part-time.

Time worked part-time during the year: the total number of weeks persons were reported as having worked part-time.

Reference period: the 52 weeks up to the end of the week prior to interview. See also paragraph 13 of the Explanatory Notes, Page 13.

Worked at some time (per cent): for a particular group, persons who worked at some time as a percentage of all persons in that group.

Worked: persons who were reported as having either worked or been on paid leave.

SPECIAL DATA SERVICES

DATA ITEMS AND HOW TO ORDER SPECIAL TABLES FROM THIS SURVEY

The ABS offers a range of unpublished data from this survey upon request. When ordering special tables from this survey, please ensure you identify the **population(s)** and the **data item(s)** which you require.

This Section specifies the data items, categories and populations which relate to the survey and includes an order form for special tables.

The population(s) for a particular data item refers to the persons in the survey to whom the data item relates.

POPULATIONS

POPULATION 1: All persons (excluding institutionalised and boarding school pupils)

POPULATION 2: Persons in the labour force at some time during the year ending March 1991

POPULATION 3: Persons who worked at some time during the year ending March 1991

POPULATION 4: Persons who looked for work at some time during the year ending March 1991

POPULATION 5: Persons not in the labour force at some time during the year ending March 1991

POPULATION 6: Persons currently working who had worked for one year or more in current job

DATA ITEM	POPULATIONS	DATA ITEM	POPULATIONS
1 STATE	ALL	Not a member of a family	
New South Wales		Living alone	
Victoria		Not living alone	
Queensland		Family status not determined	
South Australia			
Western Australia		(a) Excludes persons aged 20-24 attending school.	
Tasmania		(b) Aged 15 and over.	
Northern Territory			
Australian Capital Territory		6B FAMILY STATUS (2)	ALL
2 AREA	ALL	Member of a family	
Metropolitan		Husband or wife	
Non-metropolitan		With children aged 0-14 present	
3 DISSEMINATION REGION	ALL	Without children aged 0-14 present	
Standard labour force dissemination regions		Sole parent	
4 SEX	ALL	With children aged 0-14 present	
Males		Without children aged 0-14 present	
Females		Other family head	
5 MARITAL STATUS	ALL	Full-time student aged 15-24(a)	
Married		Other child(b) of married couple or family head	
Not-married		Other relative of married couple or family head	
6A FAMILY STATUS (1)	ALL	Not a member of a family	
Member of a family		Living alone	
Husband or wife		Not living alone	
With dependents present		Family status not determined	
Without dependents present			
Sole parent with dependents present		(a) Excludes persons aged 20-24 attending school.	
Other family head without dependents present		(b) Aged 15 and over.	
Full-time student aged 15-24(a)			
Other child(b) of married couple or family head			
Other relative of married couple or family head			

DATA ITEM	POPULATIONS	DATA ITEM	POPULATIONS
7A BIRTHPLACE AND PERIOD OF ARRIVAL	ALL	12 TIME IN LABOUR FORCE DURING THE YEAR	1-5
Born in Australia		Nil weeks	
Born outside Australia		In labour force at some time	
Arrived before 1961		1 and under 13 weeks	
Arrived 1961 - 1970		13 and under 26 weeks	
Arrived 1971 - 1980		26 and under 39 weeks	
Arrived 1981 - 1991		39 and under 52 weeks	
		52 weeks	
7B BIRTHPLACE (1)	ALL	13 TIME WORKED DURING THE YEAR	1-5
Born in Australia		Nil weeks	
Born outside Australia		Worked at some time	
Born in main English speaking countries(a)		1 and under 13 weeks	
Born in other countries		13 and under 26 weeks	
		26 and under 39 weeks	
(a) Comprises UK, Ireland, Canada, South Africa, USA and New Zealand.		39 and under 52 weeks	
		52 weeks	
7C BIRTHPLACE (2)	ALL	14 TIME NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE DURING THE YEAR	1-5
Born in Australia		Nil weeks	
Born outside Australia		Not in the labour force at some time	
Africa		1 and under 13 weeks	
America		13 and under 26 weeks	
Asia		26 and under 39 weeks	
Lebanon		39 and under 52 weeks	
Viet Nam		52 weeks	
Other countries in Asia			
Europe			
Germany			
Greece			
Italy			
Malta			
Netherlands			
Poland			
United Kingdom and Ireland			
Yugoslavia			
Other countries in Europe			
Oceania			
New Zealand			
Other countries in Oceania			
At sea, etc			
8 AGE	ALL	15 NUMBER OF JOBS HELD DURING THE YEAR	1-5
15-19		One	
20-24		Two	
25-34		Three	
35-44		Four or more	
45-54			
55-64			
65-69			
9 LABOUR FORCE STATUS AT MARCH 1991	ALL	16 FULL-TIME/PART-TIME STATUS DURING THE YEAR	ALL
In labour force		All full-time	
Had a job		Most full-time, some part-time	
Looking for work		Most part-time, some full-time	
Not in labour force		All part-time	
11 FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME STATUS AT MARCH 1991	6	17 TIME SPENT LOOKING FOR WORK DURING THE YEAR	1-5
Had a job, asked full-time/part-time status		1 and under 4 weeks	
Full-time		4 and under 8 weeks	
Part-time		8 and under 13 weeks	
Had a job, not asked full-time/part-time status		13 and under 26 weeks	
		26 and under 39 weeks	
		39 and under 52 weeks	
		52 weeks	
		Did not look for work at any time	
		18 DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF LOOKING FOR WORK	4
		Currently looking for work	
		1 and under 2 weeks	
		2 and under 4 weeks	
		4 and under 8 weeks	
		8 and under 13 weeks	
		13 and under 26 weeks	
		26 and under 39 weeks	
		39 and under 52 weeks	
		1 year and over	
		Not currently looking for work but looked for work at some time	

DATA ITEM	POPULATIONS	DATA ITEM	POPULATIONS
19 NUMBER OF SPELLS OF LOOKING FOR WORK DURING THE YEAR	4	22 WHETHER IN LABOUR FORCE AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR	1-5
1 spell		In labour force at some time	
2 spells		For whole year	
3 spells		For part of year	
4 or more spells		Not in labour force at some time	
		For whole year	
20 MAIN ACTIVITY WHEN NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE	5	For part of year	
Retired or voluntarily inactive		Not in labour force at any time	
Home duties/childcare		23 WHETHER LOOKED FOR WORK AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR	1-5
Attended an educational institution		Looked for work	
Unpaid leave		Did not look for work	
Own illness or injury		24 WHETHER WORKED AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR	1-5
Own disability or handicap		Worked	
Looking after ill/disabled person		Did not work	
Travelled, moved house, holiday		25 NUMBER OF WEEKS WORKED PART-TIME DURING THE YEAR	ALL
Worked in an unpaid voluntary job		Worked part-time at some time	
Other		1 and under 13 weeks	
21 WHETHER CEASED A JOB DURING THE YEAR	1-5	13 and under 26 weeks	
Ceased a job		26 and under 39 weeks	
Did not cease a job		39 weeks and over	
		Did not work part-time	

NOTE: More detailed breakdowns of some data items are available.

SPECIAL DATA REQUEST ORDER FORM

LABOUR FORCE EXPERIENCE, MARCH 1991

Please specify your special data request(s) on the order form provided on the following page.

The following points should be noted when requesting special tables:

1. Table requests will be available on computer printout, floppy disk or microfiche.
2. The current cost of special tables is as follows —

No. of data items (excluding populations)	Cost per table (\$)
2	120
3	150
4	210
5	300
6 or more	negotiable

- NOTE** (i) For tables provided on floppy disk, an additional cost of \$65.00 per 360K will be charged;
- (ii) For tables provided on microfiche, an additional cost of \$50.00 plus \$5.00 per microfiche will be charged;
- (iii) Prices quoted are subject to revisions.

3. Return the completed order form together with the **address advice** to —

Assistant Director
Labour Force Supplementary Surveys
Australian Bureau of Statistics
PO Box 10
Belconnen ACT 2616

OR

Facsimile No. (06) 2526530

4. The invoiced cost is payable in full within 28 days of supply.
5. Any inquiries about this order should be directed to Mr Michael Jones on (06) 252 6503.



ADDRESS ADVICE — DETACH AND FORWARD TOGETHER WITH YOUR COMPLETED ORDER FORM.

Please send my order and invoice to —

NAME _____

ORGANISATION _____

ADDRESS _____

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TELEPHONE _____

Signature _____

Date / /

Labour Force Experience, March 1991

NOW AVAILABLE

GUIDE TO SUPERANNUATION STATISTICS

FROM ABS HOUSEHOLD AND EMPLOYER SURVEYS

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