



Reference No. 6.56

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PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK, MAY 1976 (PRELIMINARY)

MAIN FEATURES

In May 1976 the estimated number of persons looking for work was 244,100 (130,200 males and 113,900 females). In a special survey of these persons:

- 33.9 per cent reported that they had been unemployed for six months or more during the previous twelve months.
- 16.2 per cent reported that their main difficulty in finding a job was that there were no vacancies in their line of work.
- A further 27.4 per cent reported that there were no vacancies at all. In areas outside the six State capital cities the percentage in this category was 44.5.
- 13.1 per cent were considered by employers to be too young or too old.
- The unemployment rate for male heads of families was 1.7 per cent and for female heads 5.6 per cent.
- Of the 168,300 persons who had been wage or salary earners in their last job, 41.6 per cent had left of their own accord.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

In May 1976 a survey, based on the quarterly population survey, was conducted throughout Australia in order to obtain information about persons who had recently been looking for work, including particulars of their last job, difficulties experienced in finding a job, educational attainment and family status.

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

The population survey

3. The survey is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (about 30,000 houses, flats, etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.), the information being obtained in February, May, August and November from the occupants of selected dwellings

by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers. Interviews are carried out during a period of four weeks, so that in each of the months to which the survey relates, there are four survey weeks, chosen so as to fall within the limits of the calendar month or with minimum encroachment into the adjacent months.

Scope

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

Definitions

5. For this survey *persons looking for work* were defined as all civilians aged 15 years and over who during the survey week did not work and did not have a job, but could have taken one had it been available, and had been actively looking for full-time or part-time work in the four weeks up to and including the survey week (including persons who would have been prevented from taking a job in the survey week by their own temporary illness or injury, or by their having made arrangements to start after the survey week in a new job in which they would have preferred to start in the survey week). They therefore comprise all unemployed persons other than those waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been temporarily stood down without pay for four weeks or less (including the whole of the survey week). In May 1976 there were an estimated 3,500 persons in this latter category.

6. A *family* was generally defined to consist of two or more persons living in the same household at the time of the survey, including the head of the family and any person or persons having any of the following relationships to the head:

- (i) wife
- (ii) son or daughter of any age, if unmarried and not accompanied by children of his or her own
- (iii) brother or sister, if unmarried and not accompanied by parents or children of his or her own
- (iv) grandchild, if unmarried and not accompanied by either of his or her parents, nor by children of his or her own

- (v) ancestor, if not married and not accompanied by children under 15 years of age of his or her own; or
- (vi) any child under 15 years of age not accompanied by a parent, unless the child was related to some person in a second family in the household.

7. The following points should be noted in relation to the definition of a family in the previous paragraph:

- (i) family status was determined at the time of the survey. Thus, if members of the family were absent (e.g. children at boarding schools) the family status of the head and other family members could have been affected
- (ii) the term 'relationship' includes relationships by blood, marriage or adoption
- (iii) the marriage relationship includes legal and de facto relationships
- (iv) the term "not married" comprises never married, widowed, divorced and permanently separated persons
- (v) for married couple families where the husband was a member of the armed forces or in an institution (and hence out of the scope of the survey) the wife was automatically made the head of the household
- (vi) a family, as defined, can contain no more than two married persons, and can contain two married persons only if these persons are husband and wife.

Dependent children comprise all family members under 15 years of age and all family members aged 15 to 20 years who are full-time students.

Reliability of the estimates

8. Since the estimates in this statement are based on a sample, they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained from a complete census using the same questionnaire and procedures. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample and not the whole population was enumerated. The smaller the estimate the higher is the relative standard error : for example, the relative standard error of an estimate of 200,000 is approximately 2.0 per cent (4,000) while that of an estimate of 3,000 is approximately 24 per cent (720). 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 from a comparable complete enumeration, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. Estimates less than 3,000 have not been shown as they would be subject to such high standard errors as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable uses. More information on this topic, together with a table of estimated standard errors, is given in the quarterly bulletin *The Labour Force* (Reference No. 6.20).

Rounding

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

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

TABLE 1. — PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK (a): NUMBER OF PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT (b) AND DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT (b) IN PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS, MAY 1976 ('000)

Number of periods of unemployment in previous twelve months (b)	Duration of unemployment (b) in previous twelve months (weeks)						Total
	1 and under 2	2 and under 4	4 and under 8	8 and under 13	13 and under 26	26 and over	
MALES							
One	6.7	8.8	9.2	8.9	20.1	27.1	80.8
Two	..	*	3.8	6.0	9.7	12.7	33.2
Three and over	..	*	*	3.8	3.9	7.1	16.1
Total	6.7	9.9	14.3	18.7	33.7	46.8	130.2
FEMALES							
One	8.6	12.2	12.4	11.3	16.3	24.2	85.0
Two	..	*	*	*	5.7	9.0	21.1
Three and over	..	*	*	*	*	*	7.9
Total	8.6	13.3	16.0	16.1	24.0	35.9	113.9
PERSONS							
One	15.3	21.0	21.6	20.2	36.4	51.3	165.8
Two	..	*	6.7	8.3	15.4	21.7	54.3
Three and over	..	*	*	6.3	5.9	9.8	24.0
Total	15.3	23.2	30.3	34.8	57.7	82.7	244.1

(a) For definition see page 1, paragraph 5. (b) Includes current period of unemployment.

* Less than 3,000. See page 2, paragraph 8.

TABLE 2. — PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK (a) : MAIN DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WORK,
BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE AND BIRTHPLACE, MAY 1976

Main difficulty in finding work	Place of residence		Birthplace		Males	Females	Persons
	State capital cities (b)	Other areas	Australia	Overseas			
	NUMBER ('000)						
Own ill health or handicap	11.7	*	9.8	3.3	9.2	3.8	13.0
Considered by employers to be too young or too old	21.7	10.3	23.3	8.7	15.2	16.8	32.0
Unsuitable hours	9.9	3.5	9.7	3.7	3.1	10.3	13.4
Too far to travel/transport problems	12.9	5.0	12.5	5.4	8.9	9.0	17.9
Lacked necessary education, training or skills	13.4	6.5	15.2	4.7	12.6	7.3	19.9
Insufficient work experience	16.5	4.7	17.8	3.4	8.4	12.8	21.2
No vacancies in line of work	26.3	13.3	27.4	12.2	23.4	16.2	39.6
No vacancies at all	26.2	40.6	52.2	14.6	38.7	28.0	66.7
Other difficulties (c)	7.3	3.0	4.4	5.9	5.9	4.4	10.4
No difficulties reported	7.1	3.0	6.8	3.3	4.7	5.3	10.0
Total	153.0	91.2	179.0	65.1	130.2	113.9	244.1
PER CENT							
Own ill health or handicap	7.6	*	5.5	5.1	7.1	3.3	5.3
Considered by employers to be too young or too old	14.2	11.3	13.0	13.4	11.7	14.7	13.1
Unsuitable hours	6.5	3.8	5.4	5.7	2.4	9.0	5.5
Too far to travel/transport problems	8.4	5.5	7.0	8.3	6.8	7.9	7.3
Lacked necessary education, training or skills	8.8	7.1	8.5	7.2	9.7	6.4	8.2
Insufficient work experience	10.8	5.2	9.9	5.2	6.5	11.2	8.7
No vacancies in line of work	17.2	14.6	15.3	18.7	18.0	14.2	16.2
No vacancies at all	17.1	44.5	29.2	22.4	29.7	24.6	27.4
Other difficulties	4.8	3.3	2.5	8.9	4.5	3.9	4.3
No difficulties reported	4.6	3.3	3.8	5.1	3.6	4.7	4.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) For definition see page 1, paragraph 5. (b) The figures relate to persons residing within the boundaries of the relevant Statistical Divisions. Explanatory notes on the definition of urban boundaries and maps showing the boundaries of the capital city Statistical Divisions were published in *Census of Population and Housing, 30 June 1971 — Census Bulletin No.6*. (c) Includes about 3,700 persons who reported their main difficulty was language problems or discrimination against migrants or racial groups.

* Less than, or based on a figure less than 3,000. See page 2, paragraph 8.

TABLE 3. — PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK (a) : FAMILY STATUS, MAY 1976

Family Status	Number ('000)			Per cent of labour force (b)			Per cent of total			Average duration of current period of unemployment (weeks)
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	
Member of a family	104.0	98.3	202.3	3.0	5.4	3.8	79.9	86.3	82.9	18.5
Family head (c)	47.6	8.0	55.7	1.7	5.6	1.9	36.6	7.0	22.8	20.9
Married	44.8	*	47.1	1.7	*	1.7	34.4	*	19.3	21.5
with dependent children (d) present	27.7	*	29.1	1.6	*	1.6	21.3	*	11.9	17.3
without dependent children (d) present	17.1	*	18.0	1.8	*	1.9	13.1	*	7.4	28.1
Not married (e)	*	5.7	8.6	*	4.9	4.7	*	5.0	3.5	18.0
with dependent children (d) present	*	4.4	5.1	*	6.1	5.3	*	3.9	2.1	15.9
without dependent children (d) present	*	*	3.5	*	*	4.3	*	*	1.4	21.1
Wife of family head	..	44.6	44.6	..	3.6	3.6	..	39.2	18.3	15.0
Dependent child (f) of family head	6.1	6.5	12.6	13.4	16.2	14.7	4.7	5.7	5.2	14.3
Non-dependent child (g) of family head	46.2	37.4	83.6	7.3	10.2	8.3	35.5	32.8	34.2	19.2
Other relative (parent, brother, etc.)	4.0	*	5.8	8.2	*	7.6	3.1	*	2.4	24.0
Not a member of a family (h)	26.2	15.6	41.8	6.1	5.4	5.8	20.1	13.7	17.1	14.3
Total	130.2	113.9	244.1	3.3	5.4	4.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	17.8

(a) For definition see page 1, paragraph 5. (b) For definition see *The Labour Force, May 1976 (Preliminary)* (Reference No. 6.32). (c) See page 2, paragraph 7. (d) Comprises all family members under 15 years of age and all family members aged 15 to 20 years who were full-time students. (e) Includes widowed, divorced and permanently separated. (f) Family members aged 15 to 20 years who were full-time students. (g) Of any age. (h) Persons living by themselves or not related to any other member of the household in which they were living.

* Less than, or based on a figure less than 3,000. See page 2, paragraph 8.

TABLE 4. — PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK (a) WHO WERE WAGE OR SALARY EARNERS IN THEIR LAST JOB AND WHO FINISHED WORKING IN THAT JOB IN 1975 OR 1976 : AGE (b), DURATION OF JOB AND REASON FOR LEAVING, MAY 1976 ('000)

Duration of last job	Age group (years)				Total		
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35 and over	Males	Females	Persons
LOST LAST JOB (c)							
Under 2 weeks	3.7		*		3.6	*	5.7
2 weeks and under 8 weeks	15.5		7.4		15.7	7.2	22.9
8 weeks and under 26 weeks	18.0		10.6		20.0	8.5	28.5
26 weeks and under 52 weeks	6.5		7.1		9.7	4.0	13.7
1 year and under 2 years	} 5.8		{ 6.2		} 5.9	} 6.3	{ 9.7
2 years and under 3 years			{ 3.8				
3 years and under 5 years	} *		{ 3.5		} 3.6	} 3.6	{ 4.2
5 years and over			{ 6.2				
Total	51.5		46.9		66.5	31.8	98.3
LEFT LAST JOB VOLUNTARILY							
Under 2 weeks	*		*		*	*	*
2 weeks and under 8 weeks	5.9		*		4.1	4.3	8.4
8 weeks and under 26 weeks	11.9		6.1		9.2	8.9	18.1
26 weeks and under 52 weeks	6.7		4.5		6.4	4.8	11.2
1 year and under 2 years	6.8		5.4		5.7	6.4	12.1
2 years and under 3 years	3.5		3.1		*	4.9	6.7
3 years and under 5 years	} 3.3		{ *		} 5.8	} 4.9	{ 4.4
5 years and over			{ 5.2				
Total	40.5		29.4		34.4	35.6	70.0
TOTAL							
Under 2 weeks	4.2	*	*	*	5.0	3.5	8.6
2 weeks and under 8 weeks	14.6	6.7	5.2	4.7	19.8	11.5	31.3
8 weeks and under 26 weeks	19.3	10.6	8.6	8.1	29.2	17.4	46.7
26 weeks and under 52 weeks	7.6	5.6	5.1	6.5	16.1	8.8	24.8
1 year and under 2 years	} 8.2	} 7.9	} 8.1	{ 5.8	} 11.3	} 10.1	{ 21.5
2 years and under 3 years							
3 years and under 5 years	} *	} 4.6	} 6.0	{ 3.2	} 5.4	} 3.1	{ 8.5
5 years and over							
Total	54.8	37.3	33.8	42.6	100.9	67.4	168.3

(a) For definition see page 1, paragraph 5. (b) In May 1976. (c) Includes retrenchment and termination of seasonal jobs.

* Less than 3,000. See page 2, paragraph 8.

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