

PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK, JULY 1979 (PRELIMINARY)

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr Eric Hubbard on Canberra 526507 or our State office, or write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616
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MAIN FEATURES

Note : Survey estimates are subject to sampling variability, as explained in paragraph 8 below.

- In July 1979, of 372,800 unemployed persons looking for work
 - 16.7 per cent reported that their main difficulty in finding a job was that there were no vacancies in their line of work
 - a further 30.3 per cent reported that there were no vacancies at all
- 84.4 per cent of those looking for full-time work had registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service, but most of these registrants (92.5 per cent) had also taken other active steps to find a job.
- 218,700 persons had been wage and salary earners in their last full-time job and had ceased working in it in 1978 or 1979. Of these
 - 133,800 (61 per cent) had lost their job, been retrenched or the job had been temporary, or seasonal
 - 84,900 (39 per cent) had left for other reasons.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

In July 1979 a survey, based on the monthly population survey, was conducted throughout Australia in order to obtain information about unemployed persons who had recently been looking for work, including particulars of their last job, difficulties experienced in finding a job, family status, steps taken to find work and duration of last job. The results of similar inquiries conducted in previous years were published in *Persons Looking for Work* (6222.0).

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

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

institutions, etc.) and covered about two-thirds of one per cent of the population of Australia. The information was obtained from the occupants of selected dwellings by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers, the interviews being conducted during the two weeks beginning on Monday, 9th July 1979.

Scope

4. The survey included all persons aged fifteen years and over except :

- (a) members of the permanent defence forces
- (b) certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations
- (c) overseas visitors holidaying in Australia
- (d) members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia, and
- (e) boarding school students, patients in hospitals and sanatoria, or inmates of gaols, reformatories, etc.

Definitions

5. For this survey *persons looking for work* were defined as all civilians aged 15 years and over within the scope of the survey who were not employed during the survey week, had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the survey week, and :

- (i) were available for work in the survey week, or would have been available except for temporary illness (i.e. lasting for less than four weeks to the end of the survey week); or
- (ii) were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the survey week and would have started in the survey week if the job had been available then.

6. Persons waiting to be called back to a full-time or part-time job from which they had been stood down without pay for less than four weeks up to the end of the survey week (including the whole of the survey week) for reasons other than bad weather or plant breakdown were not included in the survey. In July 1979 there were an estimated 9,600 persons in this category. As such persons are classified as unemployed in the labour force survey, the number of persons

looking for work shown in this publication does not agree with the number of unemployed published in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0). Furthermore, for a small number of unemployed persons the additional information necessary for this survey could not be obtained. Although the estimation procedures take account of this, estimates for some characteristics will be affected.

7. *State capital cities* refers to the 1976 Population Census State Metropolitan Statistical Divisions.

Reliability of the estimates

8. Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings they are subject to sampling variability; that is they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the *standard error*. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. A table of estimated standard errors for this survey is shown below. Estimates with a standard error of more than about 27 per cent have not been shown in this publication, as the degree of sampling variability would seriously detract from their value for most reasonable uses. Although figures for

these small components can, in some cases, be derived by subtraction they should not be regarded as reliable. More information about this topic will be found in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

Related publications

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

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)

Labour Force Experience (6206.0)

Persons not in the Labour Force (6220.0)

Persons Looking for Work (6222.0)

Labour Mobility (6209.0)

10. All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications* (1101.0) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

* subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. See paragraph 8 above.

n.a. not available

.. not applicable.

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

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Australian Statistician

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate (Persons)	Approximate standard error of estimates		Size of estimate (Persons)	Approximate standard error of estimates	
	Persons	Per cent of estimate		Persons	Per cent of estimate
3,000	800	26.7	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			

TABLE 1. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK : DURATION AND NUMBER OF PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT (a)
IN PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS (b), JULY 1979
(^{'000})

Number of periods of unemployment in previous twelve months	Duration of unemployment in previous twelve months (weeks)							52	Total
	1 and under 2	2 and under 4	4 and under 8	8 and under 13	13 and under 26	26 and under 39	39 and under 52		
MALES									
One	7.4	10.9	15.1	11.6	22.0	25.3	9.8	46.1	148.2
Two	..	*	3.6	3.6	11.2	10.2	7.7	..	36.6
Three or more	..	..	*	*	4.0	3.8	*	..	12.5
Total	7.4	11.3	19.0	16.7	37.1	39.3	20.4	46.1	197.3
FEMALES									
One	10.1	13.0	14.9	12.1	26.1	30.0	7.9	34.6	148.6
Two	..	*	*	3.4	6.7	5.2	4.8	..	21.7
Three or more	..	..	*	*	*	*	*	..	5.2
Total	10.1	13.6	16.5	16.1	35.1	36.3	13.2	34.6	175.5
PERSONS									
One	17.5	23.9	30.0	23.7	48.1	55.2	17.7	80.7	296.8
Two	..	*	4.6	7.0	17.9	15.3	12.5	..	58.3
Three or more	..	..	*	*	6.3	5.0	3.5	..	17.7
Total	17.5	24.9	35.4	32.8	72.2	75.5	33.6	80.7	372.8

(a) Includes current period of unemployment. (b) Up to and including the survey week.

TABLE 2. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK : MAIN DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WORK,
BY DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT, JULY 1979

Main difficulty in finding work	Duration of current period of unemployment (weeks)							Total	Per cent of total	Average duration of current period of unemployment
	1 and under 4	4 and under 8	8 and under 13	13 and under 26	26 and under 39	39 and over				
	- '000 -								- % -	- weeks -
Own ill health or handicap	*	*	*	*	*	7.1	14.4	3.9	54.8	
Considered by employers to be too young or too old	*	5.1	4.6	9.1	8.3	21.5	51.4	13.8	46.8	
Unsuitable hours	3.4	*	*	*	*	*	13.4	3.6	26.6	
Too far to travel/transport problems	*	*	*	3.9	3.6	5.6	20.6	5.5	35.1	
Lacked necessary education, training or skills	3.1	4.5	3.0	5.0	6.1	7.5	29.3	7.9	30.5	
Insufficient work experience	3.0	4.2	3.3	6.7	6.7	6.2	30.0	8.0	31.6	
No vacancies in line of work	8.6	13.9	7.7	11.3	8.6	12.1	62.2	16.7	25.1	
No vacancies at all	16.7	16.4	12.9	19.8	21.5	25.5	112.8	30.3	29.7	
Other difficulties	4.7	3.3	*	4.8	4.1	5.4	24.3	6.5	26.5	
No difficulties reported	10.1	*	*	*	*	*	14.4	3.9	5.6	
Total	56.9	54.2	38.7	65.3	64.3	93.4	372.8	100.0	31.5	

TABLE 3. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK : WHEN LAST WORKED (a),
BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE, JULY 1979
(^{'000})

When last worked (a)	State capital cities				Other areas				Total			
	Males	Married women	All females	Persons	Males	Married women	All females	Persons	Males	Married women	All females	Persons
During 1979	63.0	10.5	33.9	96.9	34.4	7.3	18.7	53.1	97.4	17.8	52.7	150.0
During 1978	29.4	6.6	21.3	50.7	18.2	5.3	12.6	30.8	47.6	11.8	33.9	81.5
Before 1978	17.7	25.0	32.3	50.0	10.9	13.3	19.9	30.8	28.6	38.4	52.2	80.8
Never worked (a)	12.6	*	20.7	33.3	11.1	*	16.0	27.1	23.7	*	36.7	60.4
Total	122.6	43.7	108.3	230.9	74.7	26.4	67.2	141.9	197.3	70.1	175.5	372.8

(a) In a full-time job lasting two weeks or more.

TABLE 4. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK : ACTIVE STEPS TAKEN TO FIND WORK, BY WHETHER LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME WORK, JULY 1979 ('000)

Active steps taken to find work during current period of unemployment	Looking for full-time work			Looking for part-time work		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES) and –						
Took no other active steps	11.8	8.1	19.9	*	*	*
Applied to prospective employers in person or by post or telephone	146.2	89.5	235.7	*	8.4	10.8
Took other active steps (a)	6.6	3.6	10.2	*	*	*
Total registered with the CES	164.6	101.2	265.8	3.8	10.3	14.1
Not registered with the CES and –						
Applied to prospective employers in person or by post or telephone	19.4	26.5	45.9	7.4	31.6	39.0
Took other active steps (a)	*	*	3.4	*	4.3	4.5
Total not registered with the CES	21.3	28.0	49.3	7.5	35.9	43.5
Total	185.9	129.2	315.1	11.4	46.3	57.6

(a) Includes persons who contacted friends, relatives or other persons and those who registered with an employment agency other than the CES.

TABLE 5. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK WHO WERE WAGE OR SALARY EARNERS IN THEIR LAST FULL-TIME JOB LASTING TWO WEEKS OR MORE AND WHO FINISHED WORKING IN THAT JOB IN 1978 OR 1979 : AGE (a), DURATION OF JOB AND REASON FOR LEAVING, JULY 1979 ('000)

Duration of last full-time job (b)	Age group (years)				Total		
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35 and over	Males	Females	Persons
LOST LAST JOB, RETRENCHED, OR JOB TEMPORARY OR SEASONAL							
Under 8 weeks	14.2	8.4	6.5	4.9	22.6	11.2	33.9
8 weeks and under 26 weeks	15.8	13.8	7.0	4.8	28.4	13.1	41.5
26 weeks and under 52 weeks	7.6	5.6	4.4	4.2	15.4	6.5	21.9
Total under 1 year	37.6	27.8	17.9	13.9	66.4	30.8	97.2
1 year and under 2 years	3.4	3.1	3.5	5.5	9.5	6.1	15.5
2 years and under 3 years	*	*	*	*	4.6	*	6.9
3 years and under 5 years	*	*	*	*	3.6	*	6.3
5 years and over	*	*	*	6.6	6.5	*	7.9
Total	43.2	34.5	26.4	29.8	90.5	43.4	133.8
LEFT LAST JOB FOR OTHER REASONS (c)							
Under 8 weeks	5.0	*	*	*	6.6	4.8	11.4
8 weeks and under 26 weeks	7.3	5.8	3.5	*	9.4	9.0	18.5
26 weeks and under 52 weeks	4.4	6.2	*	*	9.3	6.6	15.9
Total under 1 year	16.8	14.4	8.7	5.9	25.3	20.4	45.8
1 year and under 2 years	3.1	4.6	4.5	*	5.9	8.0	14.0
2 years and under 3 years	*	*	*	*	4.6	*	7.5
3 years and under 5 years	*	3.2	*	*	*	5.1	7.2
5 years and over	*	*	4.0	4.5	5.7	4.7	10.5
Total	21.2	26.4	21.5	15.8	43.7	41.1	84.9
ALL REASONS							
Under 8 weeks	19.2	10.8	9.1	6.2	29.2	16.0	45.3
8 weeks and under 26 weeks	23.2	19.6	10.5	6.7	37.8	22.1	59.9
26 weeks and under 52 weeks	12.0	11.8	7.0	6.9	24.7	13.1	37.8
Total under 1 year	54.4	42.2	26.6	19.8	91.7	51.2	143.0
1 year and under 2 years	6.5	7.7	8.1	7.3	15.4	14.1	29.5
2 years and under 3 years	*	3.3	4.4	4.4	9.2	5.2	14.4
3 years and under 5 years	*	5.6	3.7	3.0	5.7	7.9	13.5
5 years and over	*	*	5.3	11.0	12.2	6.2	18.3
Total	64.4	60.8	48.0	45.5	134.2	84.5	218.7

(a) In July 1979. (b) Lasting two weeks or more. (c) Includes unsatisfactory work arrangements such as pay or hours; own ill health or injury; to marry; to have children; to look after family; spouse transferred; to travel or take a holiday; to return to studies.