



PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK, AUSTRALIA, JULY 1982 (PRELIMINARY)

- PHONE INQUIRIES *for more information about these statistics*—contact Ms Susan Purcell on Canberra (062) 52 6503 or any of our State offices.
other inquiries including copies of publications—contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6627 or in any of our State offices.
- MAIL INQUIRIES *write to* Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any of our State offices.

MAIN FEATURES

Note: Survey estimates are subject to sampling variability, as explained in paragraph 10 below.

In July 1982, 370,900 persons were seeking full-time employment and of these 302,100 (81.5 per cent) were registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service. Most of these registrants (99.0 per cent) had also taken other active steps to find a job.

68,400 persons were looking for a part-time job and 25.4 per cent of these were registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service.

71,700 (16.3 per cent) persons looking for work reported that their main difficulty in finding a job was that there were no vacancies in their line of work and a further 118,000 (26.9 per cent) reported that there were no vacancies at all.

43.8 per cent of persons looking for work who had been wage and salary earners in their last job had been retrenched and a further 13.8 per cent had been in temporary or seasonal work.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

In association with the July 1982 labour force survey conducted throughout Australia, persons who had been recently looking for work were asked about their difficulties in finding a job; educational attainment; steps taken to find work; whether they had had offers of employment and particulars of last job, if any.

2. During the two weeks beginning Monday 12 July 1982 specially trained interviewers asked the questions of those of the 69,000 respondents in the July 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 May 1976 have been published in *Persons Looking for Work, Australia* (6222.0).

Scope

4. The survey includes all persons aged fifteen years and over who were looking for work 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, and
 - (d) students boarding at school, persons permanently unable to work, some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and inmates of reformatories, jails, etc.

Definitions

5. *Active steps to find work* includes 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.

6. For this survey *persons looking for work* are defined as all persons aged 15 years and over within the scope of the survey who were not employed during the survey week (i.e. the week immediately preceding that in which the interview took place), 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:

- (a) 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
- (b) are 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.

7. The number of persons looking for work differs from the number of *unemployed persons* published in *The Labour Force, Australia, July 1982* (6203.0) in that the latter *includes* persons who are waiting to be called back to a full-time or part-time job from which they have 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. Furthermore, for a small number of persons classified as unemployed in the labour force survey the additional information necessary for this survey could not be obtained. Although the estimation procedures take account of this, estimates for some characteristics are affected.

8. *Average (mean) duration* is the duration obtained by dividing the aggregate number of weeks a group has been unemployed by the number of persons in that group.

9. *Median duration* is the duration which divides unemployed persons into two equal groups, one comprising persons whose duration of unemployment is above the median and the other, persons whose duration is below it. Medians are calculated from group data, linear interpolation being used within the group which contains the median.

Reliability of the estimates

10. 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

11. 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 Not in the Labour Force, September 1981 (6220.0).

12. 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 10 above.

.. not applicable

CES Commonwealth Employment Service

13. 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. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK : DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT, MAIN DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WORK AND STEPS TAKEN TO FIND WORK, JULY 1982

	<i>Duration of current period of unemployment (weeks)</i>						<i>Total</i>	<i>Average duration</i>	<i>Median duration</i>
	<i>1 and under 4</i>	<i>4 and under 8</i>	<i>8 and under 13</i>	<i>13 and under 26</i>	<i>26 and under 52</i>	<i>52 and over</i>			
	— '000—						—weeks—		
Main difficulty in finding work—									
Own ill health or handicap	*	*	*	*	3.2	5.9	16.8	57.8	28.9
Employers consider too young/old	6.7	6.9	6.2	9.2	14.7	23.4	67.1	54.3	30.0
Unsuitable hours	4.0	*	*	*	3.8	*	17.7	29.9	12.9
Too far to travel/transport problems	4.0	*	*	4.6	4.8	3.8	20.8	31.3	20.9
Lack necessary skills/education	3.3	4.3	3.7	6.8	5.7	8.5	32.2	43.9	22.3
Language difficulties	*	*	*	*	*	*	10.6	49.2	18.1
Insufficient work experience	5.7	5.8	5.8	8.5	9.9	6.9	42.6	31.6	19.1
No vacancies in line of work	16.7	14.9	9.8	10.0	11.1	9.2	71.7	24.9	10.2
No vacancies at all	20.5	18.2	15.7	16.9	24.3	22.4	118.0	29.6	16.2
Other difficulties	6.1	*	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.7	24.2	24.0	11.9
No difficulties	9.5	4.1	*	*	*	*	17.6	8.1	3.7
Active steps taken to find work—									
Registered with the CES and—									
Contacted prospective employers	35.6	38.5	37.4	51.5	62.1	68.7	293.9	38.4	21.9
Took other steps	5.1	*	3.0	*	3.5	4.5	21.8	29.0	12.9
<i>Total registered with CES(a)</i>	<i>41.1</i>	<i>41.9</i>	<i>40.8</i>	<i>55.0</i>	<i>66.8</i>	<i>73.9</i>	<i>319.4</i>	<i>37.7</i>	<i>21.5</i>
Not registered with the CES and—									
Contacted prospective employers	34.1	20.5	11.6	12.4	16.4	14.1	109.1	25.5	8.0
Checked CES noticeboards	*	*	*	*	*	*	4.3	36.2	3.2
Took other steps	*	*	*	*	*	*	6.5	15.8	6.6
<i>Total not registered with CES</i>	<i>39.4</i>	<i>21.8</i>	<i>13.0</i>	<i>13.1</i>	<i>17.3</i>	<i>15.3</i>	<i>119.9</i>	<i>25.4</i>	<i>7.8</i>
Total	80.5	63.6	53.8	68.1	84.1	89.1	439.3	34.3	17.1

(a) Includes a small number of persons who had taken no other active steps.

TABLE 2. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK : WHETHER LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME WORK AND STEPS TAKEN TO FIND WORK, JULY 1982 ('000)

<i>Active steps taken to find work</i>	<i>Looking for full-time work</i>			<i>Looking for part-time work</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>
Registered with the CES and—									
Contacted prospective employers	181.0	99.5	280.5	3.8	9.7	13.5	184.7	109.2	293.9
Took other steps	11.0	7.6	18.6	*	*	3.2	12.5	9.3	21.8
<i>Total registered with CES(a)</i>	<i>194.0</i>	<i>108.0</i>	<i>302.1</i>	<i>5.2</i>	<i>12.2</i>	<i>17.4</i>	<i>199.2</i>	<i>120.2</i>	<i>319.4</i>
Not registered with the CES and—									
Contacted prospective employers	32.3	31.5	63.8	11.8	33.5	45.3	44.1	65.0	109.1
Checked CES noticeboards	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	4.3
Took other steps	*	*	*	*	*	4.3	*	3.6	6.5
<i>Total not registered with CES</i>	<i>35.2</i>	<i>33.6</i>	<i>68.8</i>	<i>13.7</i>	<i>37.4</i>	<i>51.1</i>	<i>48.8</i>	<i>71.1</i>	<i>119.9</i>
Total	229.2	141.7	370.9	18.9	49.6	68.4	248.1	191.2	439.3

(a) Includes a small number of persons who had taken no other active steps.

**TABLE 3. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK : DURATION AND NUMBER OF PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT(a)
IN PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS(b), JULY 1982
(' 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	10.5	18.7	20.5	18.3	22.8	31.1	14.5	55.2	191.6
Two	..	*	3.2	4.3	12.3	9.2	6.5	..	36.3
Three or more	..	..	*	4.1	6.6	6.7	*	..	20.2
Total	10.5	19.4	24.7	26.8	41.8	46.9	22.8	55.2	248.1
FEMALES									
One	9.1	17.8	20.3	12.7	22.7	30.2	9.6	38.3	160.8
Two	..	*	3.4	*	7.0	7.4	3.3	..	21.5
Three or more	..	..	*	*	*	4.0	*	..	9.0
Total	9.1	18.4	22.2	14.8	32.4	41.5	14.5	38.3	191.2
PERSONS									
One	19.6	36.5	40.8	31.0	45.6	61.3	24.1	93.6	352.3
Two	..	*	4.6	6.4	19.3	16.5	9.7	..	57.8
Three or more	..	..	*	4.3	9.3	10.7	3.5	..	29.2
Total	19.6	37.8	46.9	41.6	74.2	88.5	37.2	93.6	439.3

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

**TABLE 4. 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 1981 OR 1982 : DURATION OF
JOB AND REASON FOR LEAVING, JULY 1982
(' 000)**

Reason for leaving	Duration of last full-time job(a)							Total
	Less than one year (weeks)				Total	under 5 years	1 and 5 years and over	
	Under 4	4 and under 8	8 and under 26	26 and under 52				
MALES								
Retrenched/lost job	4.9	9.8	19.1	16.2	49.9	20.6	9.7	80.2
Job was temporary or seasonal	4.1	4.6	10.8	*	21.8	*	*	23.0
Other reasons(b)	4.8	5.3	13.1	8.7	31.8	20.3	9.8	61.9
All reasons	13.8	19.6	43.0	27.2	103.5	42.0	19.6	165.2
FEMALES								
Retrenched/lost job	*	3.2	10.6	5.6	22.0	9.3	*	33.4
Job was temporary or seasonal	3.5	*	5.4	*	12.5	*	*	12.9
Other reasons(b)	3.6	3.7	10.5	7.7	25.6	17.3	5.2	48.1
All reasons	9.7	9.6	26.6	14.2	60.1	27.0	7.3	94.3
PERSONS								
Retrenched/lost job	7.4	12.9	29.7	21.8	71.9	29.9	11.8	113.6
Job was temporary or seasonal	7.6	7.3	16.2	3.2	34.3	*	*	35.9
Other reasons(b)	8.4	9.0	23.6	16.4	57.4	37.6	15.0	110.0
All reasons	23.5	29.2	69.6	41.3	163.6	69.1	26.9	259.5

(a) Lasting two weeks or more. (b) Includes unsatisfactory work arrangements; 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.