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LEAVERS FROM SCHOOLS, UNIVERSITIES OR OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
MAY 1976

MAIN FEATURES

- Over one third (36.7 per cent) of all civilians aged 15 to 24 years attended an educational institution full time in 1975.
- Of these, 29.7 per cent did not return to full-time education in 1976.
- 94.0 per cent of these leavers were in the labour force in May 1976. Of those in the labour force six out of seven (84.9 per cent) were employed – nearly all full time – and one in seven (15.1 per cent) was unemployed.
- More than one quarter (25.4 per cent) of the school leavers were studying full time at a post-school educational institution in May 1975.
- 9,400 persons returned to school in 1976 because they could not find a suitable full-time permanent job after leaving school at the end of 1975.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

In May 1976 a survey, based on the quarterly population survey sample, was conducted throughout Australia in order to obtain information about persons aged 15 to 24 years who had attended full-time at a school, university or other educational institution at some time during 1975. Separate information was obtained in respect of persons who had returned to full-time education in 1976 and those who had not returned to full-time education (described in this publication as leavers). This survey continued the series of surveys carried out in February of each year from 1964 to 1974, and in May 1975.

2. 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, 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 carried out during a four-week period.

Scope

3. The estimates in this publication relate to all persons aged 15 to 24 years, except members of the permanent armed forces and certain diplomatic personnel customarily excluded from census and estimated populations. Persons who were patients in hospitals and sanatoria or inmates of gaols, reformatories, etc., and for whom, for the purpose of the survey, the institution was regarded as their dwelling, and persons reported as permanently unable to work were not asked the survey questions. An estimate of the total number of such persons is shown in Table 1.

Definitions

4. Each person was assigned to a labour force category on the basis of his actual activity in the *survey week*, i.e. the week immediately preceding that in which the interview took place. The principal categories appearing in the tables in this bulletin are as follows:

- (i) Persons in the labour force comprise those who, during the survey week, were employed or unemployed as defined in (ii) and (iii) below.
- (ii) Employed persons comprise all those who, during the survey week,
 - (a) did any work for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind, in a job or business, or on a farm (including employees, employers and self-employed persons), or
 - (b) worked fifteen hours or more without pay in a family business (or farm), or
 - (c) had a job, business or farm, but were not at work because of illness, accident, leave, holiday, production hold-up due to bad weather, plant breakdown, etc., or because they were on strike.

A person who had a job but was temporarily laid off by his employer for the whole week without pay is excluded, and is classified as unemployed. A person who did some work during the week, however, before he either lost his job or was laid off, is classified as employed. A person who held more than one job is counted only once, in the job at which he worked most hours during the survey week.

(iii) **Unemployed persons** comprise all those who either:

- (a) 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 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) or
- (b) were 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).

Note. This definition differs from that used in previous surveys, but the effect on the estimates is very small.

A person who either lost his job or was laid off *during* the survey week, but did some work at his job during the survey week, is classified as employed.

- (iv) **Persons not in the labour force** are those who, during the survey week, were not in the categories 'employed' or 'unemployed' as defined. This category therefore includes persons without a job, business or farm who were not actively looking for work, and who, during the survey week, were either keeping house (unpaid), attending an educational institution (e.g. school or university), retired or voluntarily idle, permanently unable to work or inmates of institutions. A person who worked less than fifteen hours without pay in a family business during the survey week is also classified as not in the labour force.

5. For this survey, *leavers from schools, universities or other educational institutions* were defined as persons who, at the time of the survey, were not attending an educational institution full-time and

who had completed or withdrawn from a course at an educational institution in 1975 or 1976. *Non-leavers* were defined as persons who, at the time of the survey, were attending an educational institution full-time and who had done so in 1975.

Discontinuity of series

6. As the 1975 and 1976 surveys were conducted in May, information about the type of courses attended in those years related to courses actually attended at the time of the survey. Earlier surveys were conducted in February, generally before the start of the academic year for tertiary courses, and information was, of necessity, partly a reflection of expectations.

7. Most of the estimates in this bulletin are not comparable with those obtained from surveys conducted in 1971 and earlier years because trainee teachers (enrolled at Colleges of Advanced Education and in some cases enrolled also at other institutions), who were then classified as in the labour force are now included in the category "attended an educational institution full time in the previous year". It is estimated that in August 1971 there were about 7,000 males and 17,000 females who were reclassified in population surveys as not in the labour force.

Reliability of the estimates

8. Since the estimates are based on a sample they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained from a complete census using the same questionnaires and procedures. An indication of the likely differences is given in the Technical Note, page 7.

Rounding

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

NOTE. *Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr Michael Salloom on 52 6503 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.*

TABLE 1. - PERSONS AGED 15 TO 24 YEARS (a) : FULL-TIME ATTENDANCE OR NON-ATTENDANCE AT AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

	Attended an educational institution full time in the previous year (b)			Total (^{'000})	Did not attend an educational institution full time in the previous year (b) (^{'000})	In hospitals, etc. (d) (^{'000})	Total persons aged 15 to 24 years (^{'000})
	Leavers (c) (^{'000})	Non-leavers (c) (^{'000})	Per cent of total				
MALES							
Feb. - 1971	103.3	247.9	70.6	351.2	741.8	11.6	1,104.6
1972	101.2	262.8	72.2	364.0	744.6	11.6	1,120.1
1973	114.8	281.0	71.0	395.9	719.2	15.6	1,130.7
1974	119.4	283.3	70.3	402.7	722.7	12.1	1,137.5
May - 1975	123.1	316.0	72.0	439.2	726.0	12.5	1,177.7
1976	137.1	316.8	69.8	453.9	729.2	13.4	1,196.4
FEMALES							
Feb. - 1971	100.5	194.0	65.9	294.5	784.0	5.5	1,084.0
1972	92.0	225.4	71.0	317.3	774.1	7.0	1,098.4
1973	103.7	245.2	70.3	348.9	750.2	8.3	1,107.3
1974	109.9	246.9	69.2	356.8	753.7	*	1,114.3
May - 1975	115.3	283.6	71.1	398.9	748.0	4.3	1,151.2
1976	120.1	292.3	70.9	412.4	745.9	4.3	1,162.5
PERSONS							
Feb. - 1971	203.8	441.9	68.4	645.6	1,525.8	17.1	2,188.6
1972	193.1	488.2	71.7	681.3	1,518.7	18.6	2,218.5
1973	218.5	526.2	70.7	744.7	1,469.4	23.9	2,238.0
1974	229.4	530.2	69.8	759.6	1,476.5	15.8	2,251.8
May - 1975	238.4	599.6	71.5	838.1	1,474.0	16.8	2,328.9
1976	257.2	609.0	70.3	866.3	1,475.0	17.6	2,358.9

(a) At the time of the survey. (b) Excludes some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and some inmates of gaols, reformatories, etc., at the time of the survey, and persons permanently unable to work, who were not asked the survey questions. (c) For definitions see page 2, paragraphs 5 and 6. (d) Estimated numbers of persons for whom the hospital, sanatorium, gaol, reformatory, etc., was regarded as their dwelling and persons who were reported as permanently unable to work. Particulars of attendance at schools, etc., were not obtained in respect of such persons.

* Less than 4,000 see page 7, paragraph 5.

NOTE. See page 2, paragraphs 6 and 7 regarding discontinuities of the series.

TABLE 2. - PERSONS AGED 15 TO 24 YEARS (a) : TYPE OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION ATTENDED FULL TIME IN 1975, AGE AND BIRTHPLACE, MAY 1976
(^{'000})

	Males			Females			Persons		
	Aged 15 to 19 years	Aged 20 to 24 years	Total	Aged 15 to 19 years	Aged 20 to 24 years	Total	Aged 15 to 19 years	Aged 20 to 24 years	Total
BORN IN AUSTRALIA									
Attended an educational institution full time in 1975	336.5	51.8	388.3	312.4	41.9	354.3	649.0	93.7	742.7
School	302.9	*	305.5	275.2	*	275.9	578.0	*	581.3
University	14.8	29.1	43.9	8.9	18.0	26.9	23.6	47.1	70.8
College of Advanced Education (b)	10.6	14.7	25.3	12.8	18.0	30.8	23.3	32.7	56.1
Other	8.3	5.4	13.7	15.7	5.1	20.8	24.0	10.5	34.5
Did not attend full time in 1975	200.7	406.7	607.5	206.3	409.4	615.7	407.1	816.2	1,223.2
Total	537.3	458.6	995.8	518.8	451.3	970.1	1,056.0	909.9	1,965.9
BORN OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA									
Attended an educational institution full time in 1975	51.2	14.3	65.5	47.8	10.2	58.0	99.0	24.6	123.6
School	46.6	*	47.1	43.4	*	43.8	90.0	*	90.9
University	*	9.3	11.7	*	5.4	6.2	*	14.7	18.0
Other (c)	*	4.6	6.7	*	4.4	8.0	5.8	9.0	14.8
Did not attend full time in 1975	29.4	92.3	121.7	31.2	98.9	130.1	60.6	191.2	251.8
Total	80.6	106.6	187.2	79.1	109.1	188.2	159.7	215.7	375.4

(a) At the time of the survey. See also footnote (b) to Table 1. (b) Includes teacher training college. (c) Includes College of Advanced Education.

* Less than 4,000. See page 7, paragraph 5.

TABLE 3. - PERSONS AGED 15 TO 24 YEARS (a) : TYPE OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION ATTENDED FULL TIME IN 1975, LEAVERS AND NON-LEAVERS (b), MAY 1976 ('000)

	Institution attended full time in 1975					Total
	School	University	College of Advanced Education (c)	Technical College	Other	
MALES						
Leavers (b)	102.3	14.0	10.6	8.6	*	137.1
Non-leavers (b)	250.2	41.6	18.5	*	*	316.8
Attending -						
Same type of institution in 1976	(d)223.8	40.0	18.3	*	*	287.6
Different type of institution in 1976	26.5	*	*	*	*	29.2
Total	352.5	55.6	29.1	12.2	4.4	453.9
FEMALES						
Leavers (b)	80.4	9.3	10.5	11.3	8.6	120.1
Non-leavers (b)	239.3	23.8	23.6	*	*	292.3
Attending -						
Same type of institution in 1976	(d)203.5	23.0	22.6	*	*	253.8
Different type of institution in 1976	35.8	*	*	*	*	38.5
Total	319.6	33.1	34.1	14.9	10.6	412.4
PERSONS						
Leavers (b)	182.7	23.3	21.0	19.9	10.3	257.2
Non-leavers (b)	489.5	65.4	42.1	7.2	4.8	609.0
Attending -						
Same type of institution in 1976	(d)427.3	63.0	40.8	6.6	*	541.4
Different type of institution in 1976	62.2	*	*	*	*	67.6
Total	672.2	88.7	63.2	27.1	15.1	866.3

(a) At the time of the survey. See also footnote (b) to Table 1. (b) For definition see page 2, paragraph 5. (c) Includes teacher training college. (d) Includes persons who had intended leaving school at the end of 1975 but had returned to school because they could not find a suitable full-time permanent job (6,500 males, 9,400 persons).

* Less than 4,000. See page 7, paragraph 5.

TABLE 4. - LEAVERS (a) : TIME OF LEAVING, MAY 1976 ('000)

Time of leaving	Persons aged 15-19 years			Persons aged 15-24 years		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
January-June 1975	11.2	9.9	21.1	12.3	11.4	23.6
July-October 1975	10.4	12.9	23.3	11.8	14.1	25.9
November 1975	41.9	35.8	77.8	57.4	47.5	104.9
December 1975 (b)	48.6	39.1	87.7	55.6	47.2	102.8
Total	112.1	97.7	209.8	137.1	120.1	257.2

(a) Persons aged 15 to 24 years in May 1976 who had attended school, university, etc., full time during 1975 and who were not returning to full-time education. See also footnote (b) to Table 1. (b) Includes a small number of persons who left school, university, etc., in early 1976.

TABLE 5. - LEAVERS (a) : AGE AT TIME OF LEAVING, MAY 1976 ('000)

Age at time of leaving (years)	Attended school in 1975			Attended any educational institution (b) in 1975		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
14	4.6	4.3	9.0	4.6	4.3	9.0
15	34.1	27.4	61.4	35.4	28.8	64.2
16	34.1	24.9	59.0	35.3	29.9	65.2
17	18.9	15.4	34.4	21.0	21.6	42.6
18	8.3	7.4	15.7	13.2	11.2	24.3
19 and over	*	*	*	27.6	24.4	51.9
Total	102.3	80.4	182.7	137.1	120.1	257.2

(a) See footnote (a) to Table 4. (b) Includes schools.

* Less than 4,000. See page 7, paragraph 5.

TABLE 6. - LEAVERS (a) : EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND BIRTHPLACE, MAY 1976

State	Employment status				Total leavers			
	Employed (b) ('000)	Unemployed ('000)	Total in the labour force ('000)	Not in the labour force ('000)	Aged 15-19 years ('000)	Aged 20-24 years ('000)	Total Number ('000)	Participation rate (c) (per cent)
MALES								
New South Wales	39.6	6.3	45.9	*	38.2	10.6	48.8	94.0
Victoria	32.2	4.5	36.7	*	30.3	7.2	37.5	98.0
Queensland	18.6	*	21.0	*	18.1	3.1	21.2	99.3
South Australia	10.5	*	12.4	*	11.3	*	13.0	95.4
Western Australia	8.1	*	8.7	*	8.2	*	9.3	93.2
Tasmania	3.5	*	4.4	*	3.9	*	4.4	100.0
Australian Capital Territory	1.6	*	2.4	*	1.6	*	2.4	100.0
<i>Australia (d)</i>	<i>114.8</i>	<i>17.3</i>	<i>132.1</i>	<i>5.0</i>	<i>112.1</i>	<i>25.0</i>	<i>137.1</i>	<i>96.3</i>
Born in Australia	99.0	14.1	113.1	4.5	98.2	19.4	117.6	96.2
Born outside Australia	15.8	*	19.0	*	13.9	5.6	19.5	97.3
FEMALES								
New South Wales	34.1	6.5	40.6	*	34.6	9.2	43.8	92.7
Victoria	22.6	6.1	28.7	*	26.3	5.2	31.5	90.9
Queensland	11.4	*	13.6	*	12.7	*	15.1	89.7
South Australia	10.5	*	12.0	*	10.1	2.6	12.7	94.6
Western Australia	8.1	*	9.3	*	8.3	2.0	10.2	90.6
Tasmania	3.1	*	4.3	*	4.5	*	5.0	86.9
<i>Australia (e)</i>	<i>90.5</i>	<i>19.1</i>	<i>109.6</i>	<i>10.5</i>	<i>97.7</i>	<i>22.4</i>	<i>120.1</i>	<i>91.3</i>
Born in Australia	76.9	15.7	92.6	8.6	82.7	18.5	101.2	91.5
Born outside Australia	13.6	*	17.0	*	15.0	*	19.0	89.9
PERSONS								
New South Wales	73.7	12.8	86.5	6.1	72.8	19.8	92.6	93.4
Victoria	54.8	10.6	65.4	*	56.6	12.4	69.0	94.8
Queensland	30.0	4.6	34.6	*	30.8	5.6	36.3	95.3
South Australia	21.1	3.3	24.4	*	21.3	4.3	25.6	95.0
Western Australia	16.2	*	18.0	*	16.4	3.1	19.5	91.8
Tasmania	6.6	2.0	8.7	*	8.4	*	9.4	93.0
Australian Capital Territory	1.9	*	3.3	*	2.1	*	3.3	100.0
<i>Australia (d)</i>	<i>205.3</i>	<i>36.4</i>	<i>241.7</i>	<i>15.5</i>	<i>209.8</i>	<i>47.4</i>	<i>257.2</i>	<i>94.0</i>
Born in Australia	175.9	29.8	205.6	13.1	180.9	37.9	218.7	94.0
Born outside Australia	29.4	6.7	36.0	*	29.0	9.5	38.5	93.6

(a) For definitions see page 2, paragraphs 5 and 6. See also footnote (b) to Table 1. (b) Includes wage and salary earners, employers, self-employed persons and unpaid family helpers. (c) Leavers in the labour force as a percentage of total leavers. (d) Includes the Northern Territory. (e) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory.

* Subject to sampling variability too high for most practical purposes. See page 7, paragraph 5.

NOTE. See page 1, paragraph 4, for revised definitions of unemployed persons, persons in the labour force and persons not in the labour force.

TABLE 7. - EMPLOYED LEAVERS (a) : INDUSTRY, MAY 1976
(^{'000})

<i>Industry division</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	5.1	*	5.7
Manufacturing	29.8	9.9	39.7
Construction	13.7	*	15.0
Wholesale and retail trade	27.8	23.9	51.7
Transport, storage and communication	6.6	*	7.9
Finance, insurance, real estate and business services	11.0	16.4	27.3
Community services (b)	8.6	23.5	32.1
Entertainment, recreation, restaurants, hotels and personal services	4.8	8.2	13.0
Other (c)	7.3	5.6	12.9
Total	114.8	90.5	205.3
Full-time workers	107.7	82.7	190.4
Part-time workers	7.1	7.7	14.9

(a) For definitions see page 2, paragraph 5. See also footnote (b) to Table 1. Includes wage and salary earners, employers, self-employed persons and unpaid family helpers. (b) Comprises health, education, libraries, etc.; welfare and religious institutions; and other community services. (c) Comprises mining; electricity, gas and water; and public administration and defence.

* Less than 4,000. See page 7, paragraph 5.

TABLE 8. - EMPLOYED LEAVERS (a) : OCCUPATION, MAY 1976
(^{'000})

<i>Occupation group</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Professional and technical	12.4	19.1	31.5
Administrative, executive managerial and clerical	18.3	38.0	56.3
Sales	8.8	15.6	24.4
Farmers, fishermen, timber-getters, etc.	5.8	*	6.3
Transport and communication	*	*	*
Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers (n.e.c.) (b)	63.3	6.8	70.1
Service, sport and recreation	*	10.0	13.9
Total	114.8	90.5	205.3

(a) For definitions see page 2, paragraph 5. See also footnote (b) to Table 1. Includes wage and salary earners, employers, self-employed persons and unpaid family helpers. (b) Includes miners, quarry workers, etc.

* Less than 4,000. See page 7, paragraph 5.

TECHNICAL NOTE

Estimation procedure

The estimates are derived from the quarterly population survey by use of a complex ratio estimation procedure, which ensures that the survey estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population by age and sex, rather than to the age and sex distribution within the sample itself.

Reliability of the estimates

2. Since the estimates in this bulletin are based on a sample they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained from a complete census using the same questionnaires 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. 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.

3. Space does not allow for the separate indication of the standard errors of all estimates in this bulletin. A table of *standard errors* for general application is given below. These figures will not give a precise measure of standard error of a particular estimate since they are averages based on calculations for a limited number of quarterly labour force surveys over a wide range of labour force characteristics. However, they will provide an indication of the magnitude of the standard error of any particular estimate. An example of the use of the table is as follows: if the estimate obtained from the sample is 100,000 and the standard error is 3 per cent of the estimate i.e. 3,000; there are then about two chances

in three that the true figure is within the range 97,000 to 103,000 and about nineteen chances in twenty that this figure is between 94,000 and 106,000.

4. The reliability of an estimated percentage, computed by using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends upon both the size of the numerator and the size of the denominator. However, the per cent standard error of the estimated percentage will generally be lower than the per cent standard error of the estimate of the numerator. The per cent standard errors of the numerator can be obtained from the table below.

5. As the standard errors in the table below show *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 the tables in this bulletin, estimates less than the lowest levels shown in the table below have not been included. Although figures for these small components can in some cases be derived by subtraction, they should not be regarded as reliable.

6. 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. 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 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.

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate (persons)	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia	
									Number	per cent of estimate
1,500						250	300	300		
2,000					400	250	350	350		
2,500				500	450	250	400	400		
3,000			600	500	450	300	400	450		
4,000	900	900	700	500	500	300	450	550	800	20.0
5,000	1,000	1,000	750	550	550	350	500	600	900	18.0
10,000	1,300	1,300	900	800	700	400	650	800	1,200	12.0
20,000	1,600	1,600	1,200	1,100	1,000	400	900	1,050	1,600	8.0
50,000	2,500	2,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	500	1,300	1,500	2,300	4.6
100,000	3,000	3,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	600		2,000	3,000	3.0
200,000	4,000	4,000	2,000	2,000	2,000				4,000	2.0
500,000	5,000	5,000	3,500	3,200	3,000				6,000	1.2
1,000,000	8,000	8,000							8,000	0.8
2,000,000									10,000	0.5

— Estimates below the levels indicated have not been published — see paragraph 5 above.