

LABOUR FORCE EXPERIENCE

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) TUES 9 SEP 2003

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- For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Cassandra Gligora on Canberra (02) 6252 7206.

NOTES

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication presents information about the labour force experience of the civilian population aged 15–69 years during the 12 months ending February 2003. It presents information about time spent in labour force activities, including episodes of working or looking for work, and time spent out of the labour force.

For this publication, labour force activity over a 12-month period was determined from a more limited set of questions than is used in the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). For this reason, the terms *worked* and *looked for work* are used, rather than the more precisely defined terms *employed* and *unemployed*, as used in the LFS.

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Statistics in this publication were obtained from the Labour Force Experience Survey conducted throughout Australia in February 2003 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly LFS.

Labour force experience relates to a person's labour force activities over a 12-month period. Labour force activity consists of either working or looking for work.

The survey measured the number of weeks persons were engaged in these labour force activities during the year, the number of spells of looking for work during the year and the main activity of persons when not in the labour force.

ROUNDING

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

NOTES ABOUT THE ESTIMATES

A number of changes have occurred since the 2001 survey:

- The introduction in April 2001 of the new Labour Force Survey questionnaire. This has changed the way the data item 'time worked with current employer' has been collected.
- The method used to determine 'number of employers/businesses during the year' has changed and now includes multiple jobs of multiple job-holders. As a result, the data item 'whether ceased a job during the year' is not available for 2003.
- Data items relating to educational attainment have changed following the introduction of the *Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)*.
- Table 12 from the 2001 publication has been dropped from the 2003 publication as the data it contained were based on the LFS 'labour force status at February', rather than the Labour Force Experience Survey concept of 'worked'.

For further information on all of these changes, see paragraphs 16–19 of the Explanatory Notes.

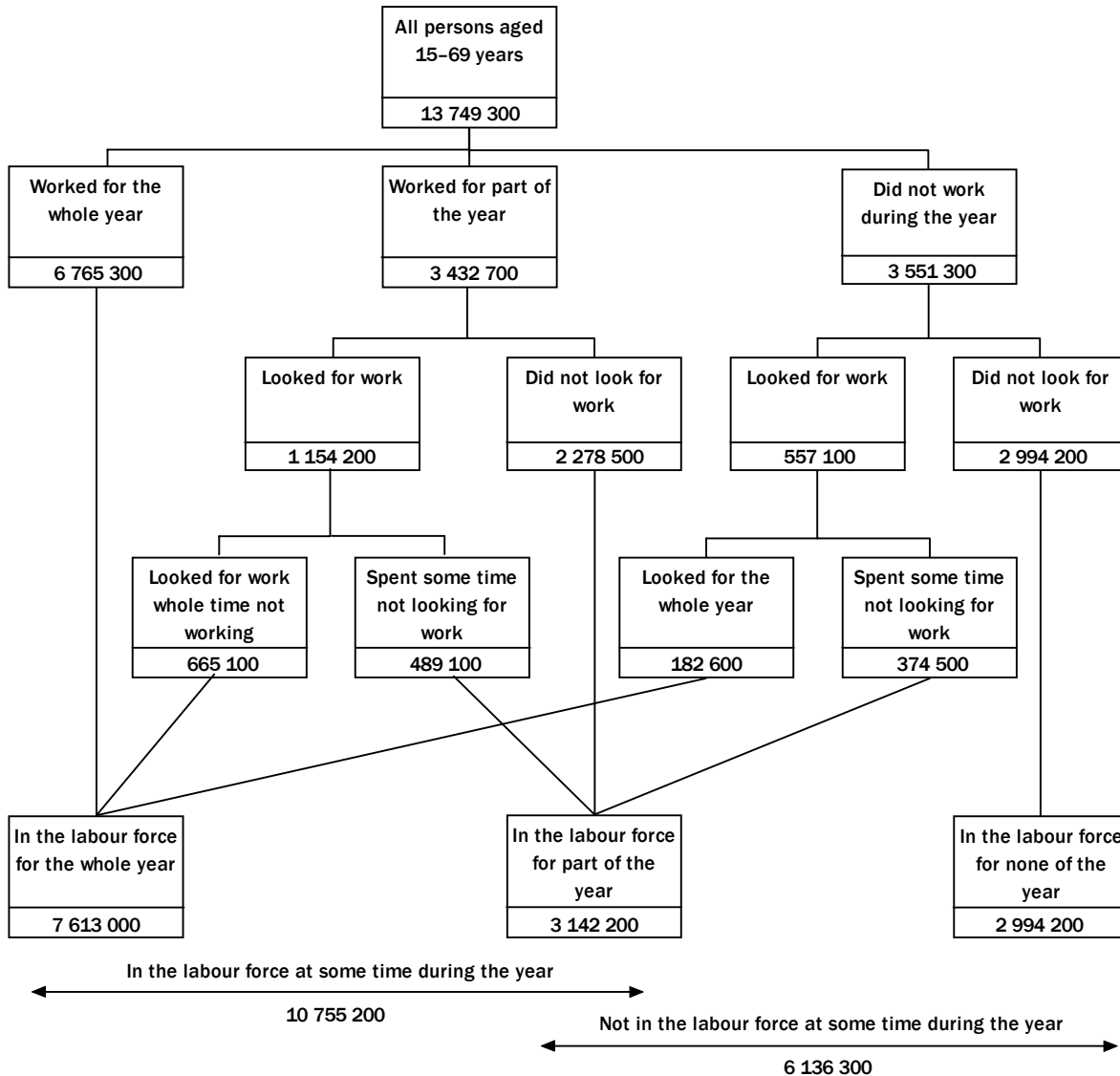
Dennis Trewin
Australian Statistician

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The following diagram illustrates the conceptual framework for the Labour Force Experience Survey. Persons aged 15–69 years were classified according to their labour force activity over a 12-month period, that is, whether they were working or looking for work.

The framework firstly differentiates between persons who worked the whole year, part of the year or did not work during the year. Persons who worked part of the year or did not work during the year were asked whether they looked for work during the year. Persons who looked for work were also asked about the time they spent looking for work.



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

In this publication the terms *worked* and *looked for work* have been used to describe labour force activity throughout the year. Note that these terms are not the same as the more precisely defined terms *employed* and *unemployed*, which are used in the monthly Labour Force Survey to describe current labour force status.

ALL PERSONS AGED 15 TO 69 YEARS

There were 13,749,300 civilian Australians aged 15–69 years in February 2003.

During the year ending February 2003:

- 10,198,000 persons worked at some time during the year, of whom 6,765,300 spent the whole year working
- 1,711,400 persons looked for work at some time during the year, of whom 182,600 spent the whole year looking for work
- 6,136,300 persons were not in the labour force at some time during the year, of whom 2,994,200 spent no time in the labour force.

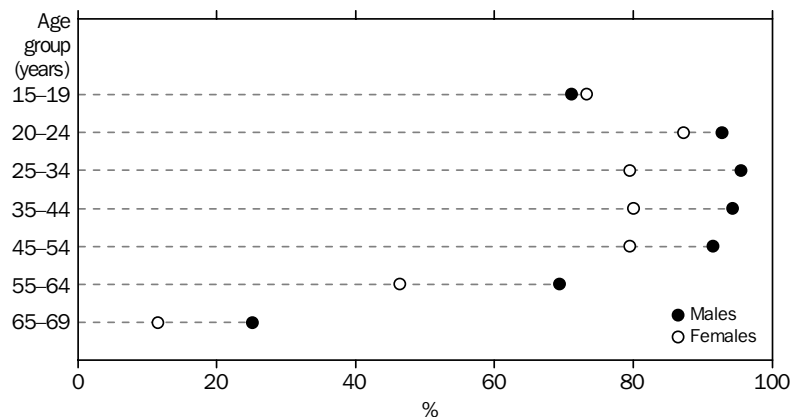
Participation in the labour force

There were 10,755,200 persons aged 15–69 years in the labour force at some time during the year ending February 2003. That is, 78% of Australians aged 15–69 years either worked or looked for work at some time during the year.

Some 85% of males aged 15–69 years participated in the labour force at some time in the 12 months to February 2003. This figure has remained relatively steady since 1993. For females, the proportion participating over the same period has steadily increased from 67% in 1993 to 72% in 2003.

By age group, the highest participation in the labour force in the year ending February 2003 was for persons aged 20–24 years (90%). Labour force participation fell to 48% for persons aged 55–69 years. Males participated at higher rates than females in all age groups except for persons aged 15–19 years in which females participated at a slightly higher rate (73%) than males (71%).

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION IN YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 2003



The majority of people participating in the labour force spent all or most of the year in the labour force. Of the persons who were in the labour force at some time during the year, 71% spent the whole year in the labour force and 16% spent 39 to 51 weeks in the labour force.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

PERSONS WHO WORKED AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR

There were 10,198,000 persons who worked at some time during the year ending February 2003. Of these, 5,561,200 (55%) were male and 4,636,900 (45%) were female. Some 70% of these males worked for the entire 52 weeks, compared to 62% of females.

The proportion of males who worked at some time during the year (81%) has remained relatively stable since 1993. The proportion of females who worked at some time has steadily risen throughout that period from 60% in 1993 to 68% in 2003.

Of those persons who worked at some time during the year ending February 2003:

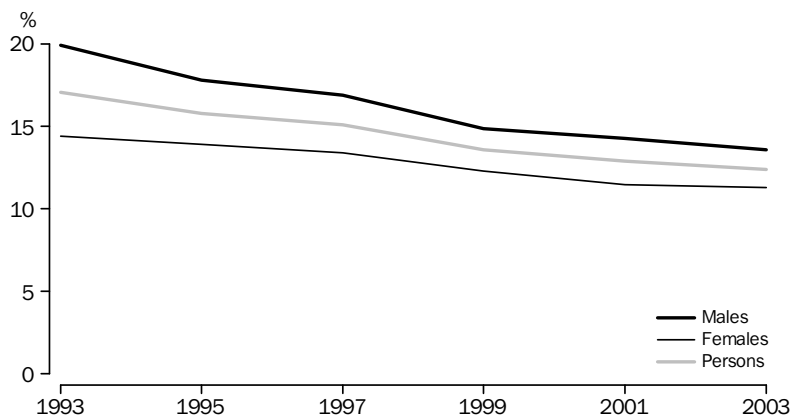
- 79% of males and 48% of females worked full-time only
- 13% of males and 42% of females worked part-time only
- 8% of males and 10% of females worked a combination of full-time and part-time.

PERSONS WHO LOOKED FOR WORK AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR

During the year ending February 2003, 937,800 males and 773,600 females spent some time looking for work.

The proportion of males who looked for work at some time during the year has steadily decreased, from 20% in 1993 to 14% in February 2003. Similarly, the proportion of females has decreased from 14% in 1993 to 11% for the 12 months ending February 2003.

PERSONS WHO LOOKED FOR WORK AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR



Of the 1,711,400 persons who looked for work at some time during the year ending February 2003:

- 53% looked for work for between 1 and 12 weeks
- 28% looked for work for between 13 and 38 weeks
- 8% looked for work for between 39 and 51 weeks
- 11% looked for work for the whole year.

Two-thirds (67%) of persons looking for work during the year had also worked during the year. This proportion has not changed since 2001.

PERSONS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR

There were 6,136,300 persons who were not in the labour force at some time during the year ending February 2003. Of these, 2,472,700 were male and 3,663,600 were female. Almost half (49%) of the people in this group spent no time in the labour force during the year.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

PERSONS WHO WERE NOT
IN THE LABOUR FORCE AT
SOME TIME DURING THE
YEAR *continued*

The main activities while not in the labour force most commonly reported by males were 'holiday, travel, or leisure activities' (26%), 'attended an educational institution' (25%), and 'retired or voluntarily inactive' (20%). For females, the most commonly reported main activities were 'home duties or child care' (47%) and 'attended an educational institution' (17%).

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	MARCH		FEBRUARY			
	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES						
In the labour force for the whole year	4 314.2	4 234.2	4 318.5	4 345.4	4 357.7	4 420.3
Worked for the whole year	3 463.8	3 516.7	3 616.2	3 748.0	3 799.4	3 893.3
Worked for part of the year(a)	601.3	533.4	533.4	436.9	441.6	415.9
Worked for none of the year	249.1	184.1	168.9	160.4	116.6	111.1
In the labour force for part of the year	978.5	1 122.0	1 121.7	1 211.4	1 351.3	1 412.8
Worked for part of the year	805.0	961.8	964.5	1 057.4	1 205.6	1 252.0
Looked for work at some time	206.1	227.4	215.8	222.4	259.1	250.1
Did not look for work	598.9	734.5	748.7	835.0	946.5	1 001.9
Worked for none of the year	173.5	160.1	157.2	154.0	145.7	160.8
In the labour force for none of the year	901.4	868.3	939.8	971.5	1 013.6	1 059.9
Total	6 194.2	6 224.5	6 380.1	6 528.3	6 722.6	6 893.0
In the labour force at some time during the year	5 292.7	5 356.2	5 440.2	5 556.7	5 709.0	5 833.0
Worked at some time during the year	4 870.2	5 011.9	5 114.1	5 242.3	5 446.7	5 561.2
Looked for work at some time during the year	1 229.9	1 105.0	1 075.3	973.8	963.1	937.8
Not in the labour force at some time during the year	1 879.8	1 990.3	2 061.6	2 182.9	2 364.9	2 472.7
FEMALES						
In the labour force for the whole year	2 665.9	2 657.4	2 851.8	2 881.6	3 052.8	3 192.7
Worked for the whole year	2 259.3	2 295.3	2 465.9	2 533.1	2 762.1	2 872.0
Worked for part of the year(a)	269.2	250.7	277.9	243.0	219.1	249.2
Worked for none of the year	137.4	111.4	107.9	105.5	71.6	71.5
In the labour force for part of the year	1 436.4	r1 627.6	1 574.1	1 639.5	1 705.3	1 729.4
Worked for part of the year	1 175.3	1 365.3	1 328.6	1 401.7	1 464.9	1 515.7
Looked for work at some time	212.4	239.0	219.9	217.3	236.5	239.1
Did not look for work	962.9	1 126.3	1 108.8	1 184.4	1 228.5	1 276.6
Worked for none of the year	261.1	262.3	245.5	237.9	240.4	213.7
In the labour force for none of the year	2 024.8	1 935.5	1 933.4	1 999.9	1 933.2	1 934.2
Total	6 127.1	r6 220.4	6 359.3	6 521.0	6 691.3	6 856.3
In the labour force at some time during the year	4 102.3	4 284.9	4 425.9	4 521.1	4 758.1	4 922.1
Worked at some time during the year	3 703.8	3 911.2	4 072.5	4 177.7	4 446.0	4 636.9
Looked for work at some time during the year	880.1	863.4	851.2	803.7	767.6	773.6
Not in the labour force at some time during the year	3 461.2	3 563.0	3 507.5	3 639.4	3 638.6	3 663.6
PERSONS						
In the labour force for the whole year	6 980.2	6 891.6	7 170.3	7 227.0	7 410.4	7 613.0
Worked for the whole year	5 723.2	5 812.0	6 082.1	6 281.0	6 561.5	6 765.3
Worked for part of the year(a)	870.5	784.1	811.3	679.9	660.7	665.1
Worked for none of the year	386.5	295.5	276.9	266.0	188.3	182.6
In the labour force for part of the year	2 414.8	2 749.5	2 695.8	2 850.9	3 056.7	3 142.2
Worked for part of the year	1 980.3	2 327.1	2 293.1	2 459.1	2 670.6	2 767.6
Looked for work at some time	418.5	466.3	435.7	439.7	495.6	489.1
Did not look for work	1 561.8	1 860.7	1 857.5	2 019.4	2 175.0	2 278.5
Worked for none of the year	434.6	422.5	402.7	391.9	386.1	374.5
In the labour force for none of the year	2 926.2	2 803.8	2 873.2	2 971.4	2 946.8	2 994.2
Total	12 321.2	12 444.9	12 739.3	13 049.3	13 413.9	13 749.3
In the labour force at some time during the year	9 395.0	9 641.1	9 866.1	10 077.9	10 467.1	10 755.2
Worked at some time during the year	8 574.0	8 923.1	9 186.6	9 420.0	9 892.7	10 198.0
Looked for work at some time during the year	2 110.1	1 968.4	1 926.5	1 777.5	1 730.6	1 711.4
Not in the labour force at some time during the year	5 341.0	5 553.3	5 569.0	5 822.3	6 003.5	6 136.3

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(a) Worked for part of the year, looked for work the rest of the year.

	MARCH	FEBRUARY				
	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003
	%	%	%	%	%	%
MALES						
In the labour force for the whole year	69.7	68.0	67.7	66.6	64.8	64.1
Worked for the whole year	55.9	56.5	56.7	57.4	56.5	56.5
Worked for part of the year(a)	9.7	8.6	8.4	6.7	6.6	6.0
Worked for none of the year	4.0	3.0	2.6	2.5	1.7	1.6
In the labour force for part of the year	15.8	18.0	17.6	18.6	20.1	20.5
Worked for part of the year	13.0	15.5	15.1	16.2	17.9	18.2
Looked for work at some time	3.3	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.9	3.6
Did not look for work	9.7	11.8	11.7	12.8	14.1	14.5
Worked for none of the year	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.3
In the labour force for none of the year	14.6	14.0	14.7	14.9	15.1	15.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
In the labour force at some time during the year	85.4	86.0	85.3	85.1	84.9	84.6
Worked at some time during the year	78.6	80.5	80.2	80.3	81.0	80.7
Looked for work at some time during the year	19.9	17.8	16.9	14.9	14.3	13.6
Not in the labour force at some time during the year	30.3	32.0	32.3	33.4	35.2	35.9
FEMALES						
In the labour force for the whole year	43.5	42.7	44.8	44.2	45.6	46.6
Worked for the whole year	36.9	36.9	38.8	38.8	41.3	41.9
Worked for part of the year(a)	4.4	4.0	4.4	3.7	3.3	3.6
Worked for none of the year	2.2	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.1	1.0
In the labour force for part of the year	23.4	26.2	24.8	25.1	25.5	25.2
Worked for part of the year	19.2	21.9	20.9	21.5	21.9	22.1
Looked for work at some time	3.5	3.8	3.5	3.3	3.5	3.5
Did not look for work	15.7	18.1	17.4	18.2	18.4	18.6
Worked for none of the year	4.3	4.2	3.9	3.6	3.6	3.1
In the labour force for none of the year	33.0	31.1	30.4	30.7	28.9	28.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
In the labour force at some time during the year	67.0	68.9	69.6	69.3	71.1	71.8
Worked at some time during the year	60.4	62.9	64.0	64.1	66.4	67.6
Looked for work at some time during the year	14.4	13.9	13.4	12.3	11.5	11.3
Not in the labour force at some time during the year	56.5	57.3	55.2	55.8	54.4	53.4
PERSONS						
In the labour force for the whole year	56.7	55.4	56.3	55.4	55.2	55.4
Worked for the whole year	46.4	46.7	47.7	48.1	48.9	49.2
Worked for part of the year(a)	7.1	6.3	6.4	5.2	4.9	4.8
Worked for none of the year	3.1	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.4	1.3
In the labour force for part of the year	19.6	22.1	21.2	21.8	22.8	22.9
Worked for part of the year	16.1	18.7	18.0	18.8	19.9	20.1
Looked for work at some time	3.4	3.7	3.4	3.4	3.7	3.6
Did not look for work	12.7	15.0	14.6	15.5	16.2	16.6
Worked for none of the year	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.0	2.9	2.7
In the labour force for none of the year	23.7	22.5	22.6	22.8	22.0	21.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
In the labour force at some time during the year	76.3	77.5	77.4	77.2	78.0	78.2
Worked at some time during the year	69.6	71.7	72.1	72.2	73.7	74.2
Looked for work at some time during the year	17.1	15.8	15.1	13.6	12.9	12.4
Not in the labour force at some time during the year	43.3	44.6	43.7	44.6	44.8	44.6

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(a) Worked for part of the year, looked for work the rest of the year.

	Males	Females	Persons
	'000	'000	'000
Time in the labour force during the year			
In the labour force at some time during the year	5 833.0	4 922.1	10 755.2
1 to under 4 weeks	71.1	111.0	182.1
4 to under 13 weeks	179.0	242.5	421.6
13 to under 26 weeks	142.0	222.1	364.2
26 to under 39 weeks	185.0	273.9	458.9
39 to under 52 weeks	835.6	879.8	1 715.4
52 weeks	4 420.3	3 192.7	7 613.0
In the labour force for none of the year	1 059.9	1 934.2	2 994.2
Time worked during the year			
Worked at some time during the year	5 561.2	4 636.9	10 198.0
1 to under 4 weeks	65.9	61.9	127.7
4 to under 13 weeks	175.3	206.6	381.9
13 to under 26 weeks	181.8	239.0	420.8
26 to under 39 weeks	285.9	315.8	601.6
39 to under 52 weeks	958.9	941.7	1 900.6
52 weeks	3 893.3	2 872.0	6 765.3
Worked for none of the year	1 331.8	2 219.5	3 551.3
Full-time or part-time status of time worked			
Worked at some time during the year	5 561.2	4 636.9	10 198.0
All full-time	4 371.5	2 225.1	6 596.6
More full-time than part-time	296.0	235.9	531.9
Full-time same as part-time	30.9	35.5	66.4
More part-time than full-time	126.5	211.1	337.6
All part-time	736.4	1 929.2	2 665.6
Worked for none of the year	1 331.8	2 219.5	3 551.3
Number of employers/businesses during the year(a)			
None	1 331.8	2 219.5	3 551.3
One	4 378.8	3 555.6	7 934.5
Two	921.8	839.8	1 761.6
Three	174.4	167.5	341.9
Four or more	86.1	74.0	160.1
Time spent looking for work during the year			
Looked for work at some time during the year	937.8	773.6	1 711.4
1 to under 4 weeks	139.0	171.2	310.2
4 to under 13 weeks	324.9	276.7	601.6
13 to under 26 weeks	158.2	115.9	274.1
26 to under 39 weeks	125.8	85.3	211.1
39 to under 52 weeks	78.7	53.0	131.7
52 weeks	111.1	71.5	182.6
Did not look for work during the year	5 955.2	6 082.8	12 038.0
Number of spells of looking for work during the year			
None	5 955.2	6 082.8	12 038.0
One	681.6	585.7	1 267.3
Two	89.3	78.1	167.4
Three	64.5	48.9	113.4
Four or more	102.3	60.9	163.2
Total	6 893.0	6 856.3	13 749.3

(a) Calculated differently from previous years. See paragraph 18 of the Explanatory Notes.

	<i>In the labour force at some time during the year</i>	<i>Worked at some time during the year</i>	<i>Looked for work at some time during the year</i>	<i>Not in the labour force at some time during the year</i>	<i>In the labour force for none of the year</i>	<i>Total</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES						
Age group (years)						
15–19	489.4	410.1	179.9	504.1	199.0	688.4
20–24	651.3	610.1	171.0	261.6	50.5	701.8
25–34	1 361.8	1 315.6	228.0	349.8	64.8	1 426.6
35–44	1 360.1	1 318.8	169.9	315.9	82.4	1 442.5
45–54	1 209.1	1 174.6	122.4	297.9	113.0	1 322.1
55–64	677.2	648.7	65.0	455.2	298.4	975.6
65–69	84.2	83.2	*1.5	288.2	251.8	336.0
Marital status						
Married	3 585.0	3 505.4	362.2	1 210.5	555.8	4 140.7
Not married	2 248.1	2 055.8	575.6	1 262.3	504.2	2 752.3
Relationship in household						
Family member	4 775.7	4 563.4	714.8	1 980.2	844.1	5 619.9
Husband, wife or partner	3 516.7	3 439.0	354.4	1 183.8	543.6	4 060.3
With dependants	1 960.4	1 912.4	208.7	426.8	109.1	2 069.5
Without dependants	1 556.3	1 526.6	145.8	757.0	434.5	1 990.8
Lone parent	103.7	94.2	22.8	52.7	27.4	131.1
With dependants	69.6	62.2	18.3	39.2	19.5	89.1
Without dependants	34.1	32.0	*4.6	13.5	7.9	42.0
Dependent student	289.9	236.6	98.5	402.6	185.2	475.0
Non-dependent child	747.3	686.6	204.9	279.0	64.2	811.5
Other family person	118.2	107.0	34.1	62.0	23.8	141.9
Non-family member	900.2	851.8	184.4	407.3	180.5	1 080.7
Lone person	550.8	520.0	100.6	257.3	129.4	680.2
Not living alone	349.4	331.9	83.9	150.0	51.1	400.5
Relationship not determined	157.1	145.9	38.6	85.2	35.3	192.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>5 833.0</i>	<i>5 561.2</i>	<i>937.8</i>	<i>2 472.7</i>	<i>1 059.9</i>	<i>6 893.0</i>

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

	<i>In the labour force at some time during the year</i>	<i>Worked at some time during the year</i>	<i>Looked for work at some time during the year</i>	<i>Not in the labour force at some time during the year</i>	<i>In the labour force for none of the year</i>	<i>Total</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
FEMALES						
Age group (years)						
15–19	475.6	409.8	164.6	487.0	172.8	648.4
20–24	599.0	556.7	148.8	314.3	87.8	686.8
25–34	1 142.1	1 081.4	185.3	690.3	294.5	1 436.6
35–44	1 172.5	1 107.9	146.1	671.0	291.9	1 464.4
45–54	1 052.2	1 015.1	98.0	530.3	271.1	1 323.3
55–64	440.8	427.5	28.9	647.1	509.4	950.3
65–69	39.8	38.4	*1.7	323.7	306.8	346.6
Marital status						
Married	2 946.7	2 832.3	304.5	2 181.6	1 239.9	4 186.7
Not married	1 975.4	1 804.5	469.1	1 482.0	694.3	2 669.7
Relationship in household						
Family member	4 156.7	3 914.3	631.7	3 153.0	1 649.1	5 805.8
Husband, wife or partner	2 872.5	2 760.6	296.4	2 126.0	1 208.9	4 081.4
With dependants	1 488.6	1 413.8	158.2	1 057.1	504.5	1 993.1
Without dependants	1 383.9	1 346.9	138.2	1 069.0	704.4	2 088.3
Lone parent	405.1	349.3	103.4	379.1	210.3	615.4
With dependants	335.2	284.7	91.9	313.9	159.1	494.3
Without dependants	69.9	64.7	11.5	65.2	51.2	121.1
Dependent student	340.8	297.8	96.1	392.0	143.7	484.5
Non-dependent child	448.3	424.5	108.5	184.5	43.7	492.1
Other family person	89.9	82.0	27.3	71.4	42.5	132.4
Non-family member	628.0	597.4	109.3	405.2	232.6	860.7
Lone person	373.9	357.2	53.4	284.3	193.7	567.6
Not living alone	254.2	240.2	55.8	120.9	38.9	293.1
Relationship not determined	137.4	125.1	32.6	105.4	52.5	189.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>4 922.1</i>	<i>4 636.9</i>	<i>773.6</i>	<i>3 663.6</i>	<i>1 934.2</i>	<i>6 856.3</i>

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

	<i>In the labour force at some time during the year</i>	<i>Worked at some time during the year</i>	<i>Looked for work at some time during the year</i>	<i>Not in the labour force at some time during the year</i>	<i>In the labour force for none of the year</i>	<i>Total</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
PERSONS						
Age group (years)						
15–19	965.0	820.0	344.5	991.1	371.9	1 336.8
20–24	1 250.3	1 166.8	319.8	575.9	138.3	1 388.6
25–34	2 503.9	2 397.0	413.3	1 040.1	359.3	2 863.2
35–44	2 532.6	2 426.6	316.1	987.0	374.3	2 906.9
45–54	2 261.3	2 189.7	220.5	828.2	384.1	2 645.4
55–64	1 118.0	1 076.2	93.9	1 102.3	807.8	1 925.8
65–69	124.1	121.6	*3.3	611.8	558.5	682.6
Marital status						
Married	6 531.7	6 337.7	666.7	3 392.1	1 795.7	8 327.4
Not married	4 223.5	3 860.3	1 044.6	2 744.2	1 198.5	5 421.9
Relationship in household						
Family member	8 932.4	8 477.8	1 346.5	5 133.2	2 493.2	11 425.6
Husband, wife or partner	6 389.2	6 199.6	650.8	3 309.8	1 752.5	8 141.7
With dependants	3 448.9	3 326.1	366.9	1 483.9	613.6	4 062.6
Without dependants	2 940.3	2 873.5	284.0	1 826.0	1 138.9	4 079.1
Lone parent	508.8	443.5	126.3	431.8	237.7	746.6
With dependants	404.8	346.9	110.2	353.1	178.6	583.4
Without dependants	104.0	96.6	16.0	78.7	59.1	163.2
Dependent student	630.7	534.4	194.6	794.6	328.9	959.5
Non-dependent child	1 195.6	1 111.2	313.3	463.5	107.9	1 303.6
Other family person	208.1	189.0	61.5	133.4	66.2	274.3
Non-family member	1 528.3	1 449.2	293.7	812.6	413.1	1 941.4
Lone person	924.7	877.2	154.0	541.6	323.1	1 247.9
Not living alone	603.6	572.1	139.7	270.9	90.0	693.5
Relationship not determined	294.5	271.0	71.2	190.6	87.8	382.3
Total	10 755.2	10 198.0	1 711.4	6 136.3	2 994.2	13 749.3

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

AGE GROUP (YEARS)

	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-69	Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000

MALES

Time in the labour force during the year								
In the labour force at some time during the year	489.4	651.3	1 361.8	1 360.1	1 209.1	677.2	84.2	5 833.0
1 to under 4 weeks	36.2	8.5	5.7	7.0	5.2	5.6	*2.9	71.1
4 to under 13 weeks	86.7	30.9	20.7	11.3	10.5	14.5	*4.4	179.0
13 to under 26 weeks	54.1	26.9	16.7	16.1	10.4	12.3	5.6	142.0
26 to under 39 weeks	38.8	32.0	39.1	25.0	21.0	21.4	7.6	185.0
39 to under 52 weeks	89.4	112.9	202.7	174.1	137.7	102.9	16.0	835.6
52 weeks	184.3	440.2	1 076.8	1 126.6	1 024.2	520.4	47.8	4 420.3
In the labour force for none of the year	199.0	50.5	64.8	82.4	113.0	298.4	251.8	1 059.9
Total	688.4	701.8	1 426.6	1 442.5	1 322.1	975.6	336.0	6 893.0

FEMALES

Time in the labour force during the year								
In the labour force at some time during the year	475.6	599.0	1 142.1	1 172.5	1 052.2	440.8	39.8	4 922.1
1 to under 4 weeks	26.9	14.5	23.3	25.4	10.7	8.3	*2.0	111.0
4 to under 13 weeks	70.0	32.3	53.3	44.8	22.5	16.9	*2.7	242.5
13 to under 26 weeks	55.1	29.9	49.1	46.1	23.3	16.3	*2.4	222.1
26 to under 39 weeks	43.5	34.7	77.7	55.5	35.3	24.5	*2.8	273.9
39 to under 52 weeks	118.6	115.2	192.4	207.4	167.5	71.8	7.0	879.8
52 weeks	161.5	372.5	746.3	793.4	793.0	303.2	22.9	3 192.7
In the labour force for none of the year	172.8	87.8	294.5	291.9	271.1	509.4	306.8	1 934.2
Total	648.4	686.8	1 436.6	1 464.4	1 323.3	950.3	346.6	6 856.3

PERSONS

Time in the labour force during the year								
In the labour force at some time during the year	965.0	1 250.3	2 503.9	2 532.6	2 261.3	1 118.0	124.1	10 755.2
1 to under 4 weeks	63.1	23.0	29.0	32.4	15.9	13.9	*4.9	182.1
4 to under 13 weeks	156.7	63.2	74.0	56.2	33.0	31.4	7.0	421.6
13 to under 26 weeks	109.2	56.8	65.8	62.2	33.7	28.6	7.9	364.2
26 to under 39 weeks	82.3	66.6	116.8	80.5	56.3	45.9	10.4	458.9
39 to under 52 weeks	207.9	228.0	395.1	381.5	305.2	174.7	23.0	1 715.4
52 weeks	345.8	812.7	1 823.1	1 920.0	1 817.1	823.5	70.8	7 613.0
In the labour force for none of the year	371.9	138.3	359.3	374.3	384.1	807.8	558.5	2 994.2
Total	1 336.8	1 388.6	2 863.2	2 906.9	2 645.4	1 925.8	682.6	13 749.3

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

PERSONS IN THE LABOUR FORCE AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1993
TO FEBRUARY 2003, Selected characteristics

	MARCH	FEBRUARY				
	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
.....						
Sex						
Males	5 292.7	5 356.2	5 440.2	5 556.7	5 709.0	5 833.0
Females	4 102.3	4 284.9	4 425.9	4 521.1	4 758.1	4 922.1
Age group (years)						
15-19	871.1	921.8	897.5	930.7	982.6	965.0
20-24	1 285.4	1 287.6	1 223.1	1 195.4	1 224.2	1 250.3
25-34	2 405.9	2 425.7	2 474.1	2 464.7	2 502.8	2 503.9
35-44	2 327.1	2 342.4	2 412.9	2 474.6	2 522.1	2 532.6
45-54	1 690.3	1 803.0	1 955.0	2 063.0	2 165.6	2 261.3
55-64	734.4	764.4	799.4	845.5	960.7	1 118.0
65-69	81.0	96.2	104.2	104.1	109.2	124.1
State or territory of usual residence						
New South Wales	3 078.8	3 211.0	3 282.5	3 342.5	3 456.0	3 586.2
Victoria	2 414.0	2 414.1	2 483.1	2 537.5	2 668.3	2 716.9
Queensland	1 674.6	1 765.5	1 818.6	1 879.1	1 953.9	2 039.3
South Australia	781.0	779.3	782.0	778.9	784.4	803.4
Western Australia	943.0	951.4	994.3	1 026.2	1 085.5	1 087.2
Tasmania	233.4	242.9	241.6	238.4	239.7	238.5
Northern Territory(a)	88.6	95.9	81.9	95.6	87.5	90.2
Australian Capital Territory	181.5	181.0	182.3	179.9	191.9	193.4
Level of highest non-school qualification						
With non-school qualifications(b)	na	r4 514.2	5 066.3	5 300.6	5 353.9	5 773.4
Bachelor degree or above	na	1 315.3	1 541.7	1 730.6	1 903.1	2 226.9
Advanced diploma/Diploma or below	na	3 195.9	3 489.4	3 517.1	3 365.2	3 454.4
Without non-school qualifications	na	4 809.3	r4 499.6	4 433.5	4 752.6	4 981.8
Total(c)	9 395.0	9 641.1	9 866.3	10 077.9	10 467.1	10 755.2

na not available

r revised

(a) Refers to mainly urban areas only. For further information see paragraph 7 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) For 1995-2001 includes nursing level unknown and non-school qualifications n.e.c. For 2003 includes level not determined.

(c) For 1995-2001, persons still at school were not asked their highest non-school qualification, but were included in the total. In 2003, persons still at school were asked their level of highest non-school qualification.

PERSONS WHO WORKED AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 1993 TO
FEBRUARY 2003, Selected characteristics

	MARCH	FEBRUARY				
	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
.....						
Sex						
Males	4 870.2	5 011.9	5 114.1	5 242.3	5 446.7	5 561.2
Females	3 703.8	3 911.2	4 072.5	4 177.7	4 446.0	4 636.9
Age group (years)						
15-19	678.5	752.6	729.3	771.2	825.5	820.0
20-24	1 145.6	1 180.2	1 116.8	1 098.3	1 140.6	1 166.8
25-34	2 232.1	2 276.2	2 338.3	2 334.8	2 392.2	2 397.0
35-44	2 177.7	2 208.8	2 285.5	2 348.8	2 415.6	2 426.6
45-54	1 590.7	1 711.1	1 867.6	1 964.6	2 090.6	2 189.7
55-64	670.9	702.2	747.2	800.0	922.6	1 076.2
65-69	78.5	92.0	101.9	102.3	105.6	121.6
State or territory of usual residence						
New South Wales	2 792.4	2 953.7	3 049.3	3 125.5	3 276.4	3 389.6
Victoria	2 173.2	2 215.1	2 297.7	2 364.6	2 526.8	2 602.0
Queensland	1 555.4	1 657.2	1 702.1	1 760.7	1 834.0	1 922.4
South Australia	711.7	718.3	723.0	724.1	736.9	758.4
Western Australia	880.1	897.3	944.2	968.3	1 031.6	1 035.5
Tasmania	210.4	220.1	222.0	215.9	220.7	217.9
Northern Territory(a)	83.0	90.7	77.5	92.2	83.5	87.2
Australian Capital Territory	167.8	170.6	170.6	168.7	182.7	185.1
Level of highest non-school qualification						
With non-school qualifications(b)	na	4 315.6	4 852.5	5 082.6	5 201.8	5 599.7
Bachelor degree or above	na	1 266.8	1 495.9	1 683.8	1 870.2	2 175.1
Advanced diploma/Diploma or below	na	3 045.8	3 323.6	3 347.0	3 247.9	3 334.7
Without non-school qualifications	na	4 366.4	4 107.8	4 074.8	4 407.7	4 598.3
Total(c)	8 574.0	8 923.1	9 186.6	9 420.0	9 892.7	10 198.0

na not available

r revised

(a) Refers to mainly urban areas only. For further information see paragraph 7 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) For 1995-2001 includes nursing level unknown and non-school qualifications n.e.c. For 2003 includes level not determined.

(c) For 1995-2001, persons still at school were not asked their highest non-school qualification, but were included in the total. In 2003, persons still at school were asked their level of highest non-school qualification.

PERSONS WHO WORKED AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 2003,
Full-time or part-time status—By employment characteristics

FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME STATUS OF TIME WORKED

	All full-time '000	More full-time than part-time '000	Full-time same as part-time '000	More part-time than full-time '000	All part-time '000	Total '000
MALES						
Time worked during the year						
1 to under 4 weeks	27.7	**0.8	—	**0.4	37.0	65.9
4 to under 13 weeks	66.1	6.0	*1.8	5.3	96.1	175.3
13 to under 26 weeks	80.7	14.4	*1.7	9.5	75.6	181.8
26 to under 39 weeks	150.5	25.4	*4.1	18.1	87.8	285.9
39 to under 52 weeks	571.1	136.8	*3.4	47.2	200.4	958.9
52 weeks	3 475.2	112.7	19.9	46.0	239.5	3 893.3
Number of employers/businesses during the year(a)						
One	3 616.5	146.6	12.4	55.2	548.1	4 378.8
Two	628.5	98.2	11.4	46.4	137.3	921.8
Three	87.5	32.1	*4.9	16.5	33.4	174.4
Four or more	39.0	19.1	*2.2	8.3	17.6	86.1
Total	4 371.5	296.0	30.9	126.5	736.4	5 561.2
FEMALES						
Time worked during the year						
1 to under 4 weeks	15.4	**0.2	**0.6	—	45.7	61.9
4 to under 13 weeks	49.5	*4.7	*1.8	*3.7	146.9	206.6
13 to under 26 weeks	62.4	11.1	*1.3	11.0	153.1	239.0
26 to under 39 weeks	89.4	21.7	*3.7	28.6	172.4	315.8
39 to under 52 weeks	264.8	85.6	*2.6	67.9	520.9	941.7
52 weeks	1 743.6	112.6	25.7	99.9	890.2	2 872.0
Number of employers/businesses during the year(a)						
One	1 842.9	110.8	19.2	108.8	1 474.0	3 555.6
Two	315.5	78.1	12.0	73.6	360.5	839.8
Three	49.0	30.9	*2.5	19.9	65.3	167.5
Four or more	17.8	16.1	*1.9	8.8	29.4	74.0
Total	2 225.1	235.9	35.5	211.1	1 929.2	4 636.9
PERSONS						
Time worked during the year						
1 to under 4 weeks	43.1	*1.0	**0.6	**0.4	82.6	127.7
4 to under 13 weeks	115.6	10.7	*3.6	9.0	243.0	381.9
13 to under 26 weeks	143.2	25.5	*2.9	20.5	228.7	420.8
26 to under 39 weeks	239.9	47.1	7.8	46.7	260.2	601.6
39 to under 52 weeks	835.9	222.4	6.0	115.1	721.3	1 900.6
52 weeks	5 218.8	225.3	45.5	145.9	1 129.7	6 765.3
Number of employers/businesses during the year(a)						
One	5 459.4	257.4	31.6	164.0	2 022.1	7 934.5
Two	944.0	176.3	23.4	120.1	497.8	1 761.6
Three	136.4	63.0	7.4	36.4	98.7	341.9
Four or more	56.8	35.2	*4.1	17.1	47.0	160.1
Total	6 596.6	531.9	66.4	337.6	2 665.6	10 198.0

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

(a) Calculated differently from previous years. See paragraph 18 of the Explanatory Notes.

PERSONS WHO LOOKED FOR WORK AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR ENDING MARCH
1993 TO FEBRUARY 2003, Selected characteristics

	MARCH		FEBRUARY			
	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
.....						
Sex						
Males	1 229.9	1 105.0	1 075.3	973.8	963.1	937.8
Females	880.1	863.4	851.2	803.7	767.6	773.6
Age group (years)						
15-19	396.9	378.2	360.8	348.7	358.0	344.5
20-24	421.0	400.2	369.1	333.5	296.3	319.8
25-34	531.2	468.8	480.7	425.0	402.5	413.3
35-44	400.0	365.6	360.8	329.9	339.8	316.1
45-54	244.1	231.2	248.6	240.1	237.8	220.5
55-64	112.4	118.8	101.7	97.1	90.0	93.9
65-69	4.5	5.7	4.8	*3.3	6.3	*3.3
State or territory of usual residence						
New South Wales	686.3	633.1	606.1	557.4	502.6	552.6
Victoria	552.6	501.3	497.4	435.2	427.8	409.6
Queensland	395.0	374.1	380.2	357.0	391.5	359.5
South Australia	165.7	168.4	156.7	149.0	130.9	127.2
Western Australia	205.7	183.3	190.3	185.3	189.4	179.6
Tasmania	50.8	56.3	49.7	52.2	46.9	44.2
Northern Territory(a)	20.6	20.4	14.6	13.8	14.6	12.7
Australian Capital Territory	33.4	31.6	31.5	27.5	26.9	26.1
Level of highest non-school qualification						
With non-school qualifications(b)	na	719.8	798.1	731.8	671.3	728.3
Bachelor degree or above	na	170.7	176.7	181.3	183.9	231.3
Advanced diploma/Diploma or below	na	548.9	615.7	545.9	473.3	486.5
Without non-school qualifications	na	1 126.2	1 012.3	914.5	928.0	983.0
Total(c)	2 110.1	1 968.4	1 926.5	1 777.5	1 730.6	1 711.4

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

na not available

r revised

(a) Refers to mainly urban areas only. For further information see paragraph 7 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) For 1995-2001 includes nursing level unknown and non-school qualifications n.e.c. For 2003 includes level not determined.

(c) For 1995-2001, persons still at school were not asked their highest non-school qualification, but were included in the total. In 2003, persons still at school were asked their level of highest non-school qualification.

AGE GROUP (YEARS)

15-19 20-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-69 Total

MALES

		15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-69	Total
Time spent looking for work during the year								
1 to under 4 weeks	'000	38.8	27.2	31.0	20.9	12.4	8.8	139.0
4 to under 13 weeks	'000	69.8	62.1	85.5	60.3	32.3	14.9	324.9
13 to under 26 weeks	'000	27.7	30.0	33.7	31.9	24.7	10.3	158.2
26 to under 39 weeks	'000	18.0	22.4	36.2	19.1	22.5	7.7	125.8
39 to under 52 weeks	'000	13.0	15.4	17.0	14.7	10.4	8.3	78.7
52 weeks	'000	12.6	13.9	24.7	23.1	20.3	16.5	111.1
Number of spells of looking for work during the year								
One	'000	140.6	122.2	162.2	117.5	88.4	50.6	681.6
Two	'000	13.5	17.5	27.5	16.0	10.8	*4.0	89.3
Three	'000	11.4	14.9	13.7	13.0	7.5	*3.9	64.5
Four or more	'000	14.3	16.4	24.6	23.4	15.6	8.0	102.3
Time worked during the year								
Worked at some time during the year								
1 to under 4 weeks	'000	11.1	*4.1	*4.3	6.2	*1.9	*2.6	30.1
4 to under 13 weeks	'000	22.7	17.1	14.8	11.0	7.4	*3.5	76.4
13 to under 26 weeks	'000	20.2	20.5	23.7	12.8	15.9	*3.8	96.9
26 to under 39 weeks	'000	21.5	32.2	43.9	34.6	26.3	10.5	169.1
39 to under 52 weeks	'000	25.1	56.0	95.1	64.0	36.5	16.7	293.4
Worked for none of the year	'000	79.2	41.2	46.2	41.4	34.5	29.5	271.9
Total	'000	179.9	171.0	228.0	169.9	122.4	66.5	937.8
Mean duration of time spent looking for work	weeks	15.6	18.1	19.2	20.4	23.8	26.6	19.7
Median duration of time spent looking for work	weeks	10	12	12	13	22	23	13

FEMALES

Time spent looking for work during the year								
1 to under 4 weeks	'000	44.9	34.0	43.1	27.2	17.3	*4.8	171.2
4 to under 13 weeks	'000	63.4	55.3	68.9	48.7	29.4	11.0	276.7
13 to under 26 weeks	'000	20.9	24.0	28.7	23.0	14.1	5.3	115.9
26 to under 39 weeks	'000	15.6	17.0	18.2	20.2	11.0	*3.3	85.3
39 to under 52 weeks	'000	8.5	10.1	13.3	9.8	9.9	*1.4	53.0
52 weeks	'000	11.4	8.5	13.1	17.3	16.4	*4.8	71.5
Number of spells of looking for work during the year								
One	'000	126.6	117.4	135.7	107.3	76.8	21.9	585.7
Two	'000	16.0	14.4	18.0	17.2	10.5	*1.9	78.1
Three	'000	9.9	9.2	13.9	10.0	*2.8	*3.1	48.9
Four or more	'000	12.2	7.8	17.8	11.7	7.9	*3.6	60.9
Time worked during the year								
Worked at some time during the year								
1 to under 4 weeks	'000	*4.9	*3.4	*2.8	*2.8	*2.1	**0.7	16.6
4 to under 13 weeks	'000	15.9	10.3	14.7	9.3	8.1	*2.2	60.4
13 to under 26 weeks	'000	21.7	14.6	16.5	19.5	9.5	*1.7	83.6
26 to under 39 weeks	'000	22.2	25.8	32.3	19.5	14.0	5.4	119.1
39 to under 52 weeks	'000	34.2	52.5	58.4	30.4	27.3	5.8	208.6
Worked for none of the year	'000	65.8	42.3	60.7	64.7	37.1	14.8	285.3
Total	'000	164.6	148.8	185.3	146.1	98.0	30.6	773.6
Mean duration of time spent looking for work	weeks	14.0	14.9	15.4	18.7	21.4	19.2	16.5
Median duration of time spent looking for work	weeks	7	9	8	12	13	12	10

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use

		AGE GROUP (YEARS)						
		15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-69	Total
PERSONS								
Time spent looking for work during the year								
1 to under 4 weeks	'000	83.7	61.2	74.1	48.0	29.6	13.7	310.2
4 to under 13 weeks	'000	133.2	117.5	154.4	109.0	61.6	25.9	601.6
13 to under 26 weeks	'000	48.6	54.0	62.4	54.8	38.8	15.6	274.1
26 to under 39 weeks	'000	33.6	39.3	54.4	39.3	33.4	11.0	211.1
39 to under 52 weeks	'000	21.5	25.5	30.3	24.5	20.4	9.6	131.7
52 weeks	'000	24.0	22.4	37.8	40.4	36.6	21.3	182.6
Number of spells of looking for work during the year								
One	'000	267.2	239.6	297.9	224.8	165.2	72.6	1 267.3
Two	'000	29.6	31.9	45.5	33.2	21.4	5.9	167.4
Three	'000	21.3	24.1	27.6	23.0	10.4	7.0	113.4
Four or more	'000	26.5	24.3	42.3	35.0	23.5	11.6	163.2
Time worked during the year								
Worked at some time during the year								
1 to under 4 weeks	'000	16.0	7.4	7.1	9.0	*4.0	*3.2	46.7
4 to under 13 weeks	'000	38.7	27.3	29.5	20.2	15.5	5.7	136.9
13 to under 26 weeks	'000	41.9	35.1	40.2	32.3	25.4	5.6	180.4
26 to under 39 weeks	'000	43.7	58.0	76.2	54.2	40.3	15.9	288.2
39 to under 52 weeks	'000	59.3	108.5	153.5	94.3	63.8	22.5	502.0
Worked for none of the year	'000	145.0	83.5	106.8	106.0	71.5	44.2	557.1
Total	'000	344.5	319.8	413.3	316.1	220.5	97.1	1 711.4
Mean duration of time spent looking for work	weeks	14.8	16.6	17.5	19.6	22.7	24.3	18.2
Median duration of time spent looking for work	weeks	8	10	11	13	18	19	12

* estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution

PERSONS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR
ENDING FEBRUARY 2003, Main activity

TIME NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE DURING THE YEAR

	1 to under 4 weeks '000	4 to under 13 weeks '000	13 to under 26 weeks '000	26 to under 39 weeks '000	39 to under 52 weeks '000	52 weeks '000	Total '000
MALES							
Main activity when not in the labour force							
Retired or voluntarily inactive	15.2	27.1	15.7	20.0	22.4	392.7	493.0
Home duties or child care	15.6	26.5	17.6	13.3	16.1	65.5	154.5
Attended an educational institution	14.2	51.5	51.1	79.1	180.3	251.6	627.9
Own illness or injury	30.3	34.6	22.7	18.0	15.4	135.7	256.8
Own disability or handicap	**0.4	*1.1	*1.3	*2.7	6.7	130.9	143.0
Looking after ill or disabled person	*5.1	*5.1	*3.2	*2.4	*2.7	26.4	44.9
Holiday, travel, or leisure activities	286.4	244.3	36.2	21.9	20.6	30.2	639.7
Worked in an unpaid voluntary job	*1.0	*3.8	*5.0	*3.1	*3.7	16.5	33.0
Other	15.7	29.4	10.3	8.3	5.7	10.4	79.9
Total	383.8	423.5	163.0	168.8	273.6	1 059.9	2 472.7
FEMALES							
Main activity when not in the labour force							
Retired or voluntarily inactive	8.9	11.4	9.2	12.8	14.2	353.9	410.4
Home duties or child care	43.1	157.1	117.8	127.9	180.5	1 099.6	1 726.1
Attended an educational institution	16.7	80.6	54.5	86.4	150.5	229.6	618.3
Own illness or injury	26.2	29.6	13.0	7.6	10.3	75.1	161.8
Own disability or handicap	**0.2	*0.9	**0.6	*1.3	**0.4	55.0	58.4
Looking after ill or disabled person	*2.9	8.9	*3.0	5.7	*3.0	59.5	83.0
Holiday, travel, or leisure activities	222.2	202.8	33.8	17.0	14.8	29.1	519.8
Worked in an unpaid voluntary job	*1.0	*4.2	**0.8	5.5	5.2	28.5	45.2
Other	8.1	13.7	6.1	*4.7	*4.1	*3.8	40.5
Total	329.3	509.3	238.9	269.0	382.9	1 934.2	3 663.6
PERSONS							
Main activity when not in the labour force							
Retired or voluntarily inactive	24.1	38.4	24.9	32.8	36.6	746.6	903.5
Home duties or child care	58.7	183.6	135.4	141.2	196.5	1 165.1	1 880.6
Attended an educational institution	30.9	132.1	105.6	165.6	330.8	481.3	1 246.2
Own illness or injury	56.5	64.3	35.8	25.6	25.7	210.8	418.6
Own disability or handicap	**0.6	*2.1	*1.9	*4.0	7.0	185.9	201.5
Looking after ill or disabled person	8.0	14.0	6.1	8.1	5.7	86.0	127.9
Holiday, travel, or leisure activities	508.6	447.2	70.0	38.9	35.5	59.3	1 159.5
Worked in an unpaid voluntary job	*2.0	7.9	5.8	8.6	8.9	45.0	78.2
Other	23.8	43.2	16.5	13.0	9.8	14.2	120.4
Total	713.1	932.8	401.9	437.8	656.5	2 994.2	6 136.3
**	estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use						
*				estimate has a relative standard error of between 25% and 50% and should be used with caution			

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT(a)</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES									
Population 1									
All persons aged 15–69 years	2 339.3	1 746.3	1 271.7	521.0	684.4	161.1	56.1	113.0	6 893.0
Population 2									
Persons aged 15–69 years in the labour force at some time during the year ending February 2003	1 961.1	1 469.7	1 091.2	434.6	597.4	128.6	50.3	100.1	5 833.0
Population 3									
Persons aged 15–69 years who worked at some time during the year ending February 2003	1 866.9	1 409.2	1 041.8	411.5	571.3	116.3	48.5	95.5	5 561.2
Population 4									
Persons aged 15–69 years who looked for work at some time during the year ending February 2003	296.4	221.8	194.0	70.1	105.3	27.0	8.6	14.6	937.8
Population 5									
Persons aged 15–69 years who were not in the labour force at some time during the year ending February 2003	823.8	631.0	460.0	198.1	242.0	61.9	18.4	37.5	2 472.7
FEMALES									
Population 1									
All persons aged 15–69 years	2 303.5	1 748.1	1 282.1	522.1	667.9	164.8	52.1	115.7	6 856.3
Population 2									
Persons aged 15–69 years in the labour force at some time during the year ending February 2003	1 625.1	1 247.3	948.0	368.8	489.8	109.9	39.8	93.3	4 922.1
Population 3									
Persons aged 15–69 years who worked at some time during the year ending February 2003	1 522.7	1 192.8	880.6	346.8	464.1	101.6	38.7	89.6	4 636.9
Population 4									
Persons aged 15–69 years who looked for work at some time during the year ending February 2003	256.2	187.8	165.5	57.1	74.3	17.2	4.1	11.4	773.6
Population 5									
Persons aged 15–69 years who were not in the labour force at some time during the year ending February 2003	1 240.5	909.5	689.6	292.6	361.4	94.1	23.8	52.1	3 663.6
PERSONS									
Population 1									
All persons aged 15–69 years	4 642.9	3 494.4	2 553.8	1 043.0	1 352.3	325.9	108.3	228.7	13 749.3
Population 2									
Persons aged 15–69 years in the labour force at some time during the year ending February 2003	3 586.2	2 716.9	2 039.3	803.4	1 087.2	238.5	90.2	193.4	10 755.2
Population 3									
Persons aged 15–69 years who worked at some time during the year ending February 2003	3 389.6	2 602.0	1 922.4	758.4	1 035.5	217.9	87.2	185.1	10 198.0
Population 4									
Persons aged 15–69 years who looked for work at some time during the year ending February 2003	552.6	409.6	359.5	127.2	179.6	44.2	12.7	26.1	1 711.4
Population 5									
Persons aged 15–69 years who were not in the labour force at some time during the year ending February 2003	2 064.3	1 540.5	1 149.6	490.7	603.4	156.0	42.2	89.6	6 136.3

(a) Refers to mainly urban areas only. For further information see paragraph 7 of the Explanatory Notes.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 The statistics in this publication were compiled from data collected in the Labour Force Experience Survey conducted throughout Australia in February 2003 as a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). Respondents to the LFS who fell within the scope of the supplementary survey were asked further questions.

2 The publication *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) contains information about survey design, sample redesign, scope, coverage and population benchmarks relevant to the monthly LFS, which also apply to supplementary surveys. It also contains definitions of demographic and labour force characteristics, and information about telephone interviewing which are relevant to both the monthly LFS and supplementary surveys.

3 From April 2001 the LFS has been conducted using a redesigned questionnaire containing additional questions and some minor definitional changes. These changes also affect the supplementary surveys. For further details, see *Information Paper: Implementing the Redesigned Labour Force Survey Questionnaire* (cat. no. 6295.0) and *Information Paper: Questionnaires Used in the Labour Force Survey* (cat. no. 6232.0).

CONCEPTS, SOURCES AND METHODS

4 The conceptual framework used in Australia's Labour Force Survey aligns closely with the standards and guidelines set out in Resolutions of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians. Descriptions of the underlying concepts and structure of Australia's labour force statistics, and the sources and methods used in compiling these estimates, are presented in *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 6102.0) which is also available on the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>> (About Statistics—Statistical Concepts and Classifications).

SCOPE

5 The scope of the LFS was restricted to persons aged 15 years and over and excluded the following persons:

- members of the permanent defence forces
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations
- overseas residents in Australia
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants).

6 Students at boarding schools, patients in hospitals, residents of homes (e.g. retirement homes, homes for persons with disabilities), and inmates of prisons are excluded from all supplementary surveys.

7 This supplementary survey was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, but excluded approximately 120,000 persons living in very remote parts of Australia who would otherwise have been within the scope of the survey. The exclusion of these persons will have only a minor impact on any aggregate estimates that are produced for individual states and territories, except the Northern Territory where such persons account for around 20% of the population.

8 In addition to those already excluded from the LFS, persons aged 70 years and over and visitors to private dwellings are excluded from this survey.

COVERAGE

9 The estimates in this publication relate to persons covered by the survey in February 2003. In the LFS, 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 in the survey. See *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) for more details.

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

10 Estimates in this publication are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors:

- Sampling error is the difference between the published estimate and the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. For further information refer to the Technical Note.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES *continued*

- Non-sampling errors are inaccuracies that occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents and interviewers, and errors made in coding and processing data. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or 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 processing procedures.

SEASONAL FACTORS

- 11** The estimates are based on information collected in the survey month and, due to seasonal factors, may not be representative of other months of the year.

CLASSIFICATIONS USED

- 12** Occupation data are classified according to the ASCO—*Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, Second Edition* (cat. no. 1220.0).

- 13** Industry data are classified according to the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 1993* (cat. no. 1292.0).

- 14** Country of birth data are classified according to the *Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 1998* (cat. no. 1269.0).

- 15** In 2001, the *ABS Classification of Qualifications (ABSCQ)* (cat. no. 1262.0) was replaced by the *Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)* (cat. no. 1272.0). The ASCED is a national standard classification which can be applied to all sectors of the Australian education system including schools, vocational education and training and higher education. ASCED replaces a number of classifications previously used in administrative and statistical systems, including the ABSCQ. The ASCED comprises two classifications: Level of Education and Field of Education. See Appendix 1 for further information.

NOTES ABOUT THE ESTIMATES

Time worked with current employer/business

- 16** A number of changes have occurred since the 2001 survey.

- 17** With the introduction of the new Labour Force Survey questionnaire in April 2001, 'time worked with current employer/business' is now collected in units of months for most persons who had been with their current employer/business for less than 12 months. Previously, this information was collected in units of weeks for all of those who had been with their current employer/business for less than 12 months. As a result, the data item is now available in units of months where it was previously available in weeks.

Number of employers/businesses during the year

- 18** The data item 'number of employers/businesses during the year' has been derived differently from previous surveys. Prior to 2003, where they could be identified, multiple jobs of multiple job-holders were excluded from this data item. For 2003, all employers/businesses held by all persons are now included. As a result of this change, the data item 'whether ceased a job during the year', which was based on the derivation of 'number of employers/businesses during the year', is not available for 2003.

Implementation of ASCED

- 19** Data items relating to educational attainment have been affected by the implementation of the *Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)*. Time series comparisons are available in an aggregated format as presented in tables 6, 7 and 9. Data for 2003, classified according to ASCED, are available at a more detailed level for level of highest non-school qualification, level of highest educational attainment and highest year of school completed. See Appendix 1 for more information on ASCED.

COMPARABILITY OF TIME SERIES

- 20** Revisions are made to population benchmarks for the LFS after each five-yearly Census of Population and Housing. The last such revision was made in February 1999 to take account of the results of the 1996 Census of Population and Housing. Estimates from supplementary surveys conducted from and including February 1999 are therefore based on these revised population benchmarks.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

COMPARABILITY OF TIME SERIES *continued*

21 Supplementary surveys are not always conducted on the full LFS sample. Since August 1994 the sample for supplementary surveys has been restricted to no more than seven-eighths of the LFS sample. Therefore the reduction in sample size means that the standard errors for this survey differ from those applicable to surveys conducted prior to August 1994.

COMPARABILITY WITH MONTHLY LFS STATISTICS

22 Due to differences in the scope and sample size of this supplementary survey and that of the LFS, the estimation procedure may lead to some small variations between labour force estimates from this survey and those from the LFS.

PREVIOUS SURVEYS

23 Results of similar surveys, conducted in February 1969, 1973, 1975, 1976, 1977, annually from February 1979 to February 1989, annually from March 1990 to March 1994, and in February 1995, 1997, 1999 and 2001 have been given in previous issues of the publication *Labour Force Experience, Australia* (cat. no. 6206.0) and the Standard Data Service *Labour Force Experience on Hardcopy, Australia* (cat. no. 6206.0.40.001).

NEXT SURVEY

24 The ABS plans to conduct this survey again in February 2005.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

25 ABS surveys draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated: without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

26 Other publications which may be of interest include:

- *Career Experience, Australia*, cat. no. 6254.0
- *Job Search Experience, Australia*, cat. no. 6222.0
- *Labour Force, Australia*, cat. no. 6202.0
- *Labour Mobility, Australia*, cat. no. 6209.0
- *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods*, cat. no. 6102.0
- *Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia*, cat. no. 6220.0

27 Current publications and other products released by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products* (cat. no. 1101.0). The Catalogue is available from any ABS office or the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the web site which details products to be released in the week ahead.

ABBREVIATIONS

'000	thousand
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ABSCQ	Australian Bureau of Statistics Classification of Qualifications
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
ASCED	Australian Standard Classification of Education
ASCO	Australian Standard Classification of Occupations
LFS	Labour Force Survey
n.e.c.	not elsewhere classified
RSE	relative standard error
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
SE	standard error

APPENDIX 1 CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION

CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION

In 2001, the *ABS Classification of Qualifications (ABSCQ)* (cat. no. 1262.0) was replaced by the *Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)* (cat. no. 1272.0). The ASCED is a national standard classification which can be applied to all sectors of the Australian education system including schools, vocational education and training and higher education. ASCED replaces a number of classifications previously used in administrative and statistical systems, including the ABSCQ. The ASCED comprises two classifications: Level of Education and Field of Education.

Level of Highest Educational Attainment can be derived from information on Highest Year of School Completed and Level of Highest Non-school Qualification. The derivation process determines which of the 'non-school' or 'school' attainments will be regarded as the highest. Usually the higher ranking attainment will be self-evident, but in some cases some Secondary Education is regarded, for the purposes of obtaining a single measure, as higher than some Certificate level attainments.

The following decision table is used to determine which of the responses to questions on Highest Year of School Completed (coded to ASCED Broad Level 6) and Level of Highest Non-school Qualification (coded to ASCED Broad Level 5) will be regarded as the highest. It is emphasised that this table was designed for the purpose of obtaining a single value for the output variable Level of Highest Educational Attainment and is not intended to convey any other ordinality.

DECISION TABLE: ASCED LEVEL OF EDUCATION							
	Certificate not further defined (500)	Certificate III or IV not further defined (510)	Certificate IV (511)	Certificate III (514)	Certificate I or II not further defined (520)	Certificate II (521)	Certificate I (524)
Secondary Education not further defined (600)	Certificate not further defined	Certificate III or IV not further defined	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate II or I not further defined	Certificate II	Certificate I
Senior Secondary Education not further defined (610)	Senior Secondary not further defined	Certificate III or IV not further defined	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Senior Secondary not further defined	Senior Secondary not further defined	Senior Secondary not further defined
Year 12 (612)	Year 12	Certificate III or IV not further defined	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Year 12	Year 12	Year 12
Year 11 (613)	Year 11	Certificate III or IV not further defined	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Year 11	Year 11	Year 11
Junior Secondary Education not further defined (620)	Certificate not further defined	Certificate III or IV not further defined	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II not further defined	Certificate II	Certificate I
Year 10 (621)	Year 10	Certificate III or IV not further defined	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Year 10	Certificate II	Year 10
Year 9 (622)	Certificate not further defined	Certificate III or IV not further defined	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II not further defined	Certificate II	Certificate I
Year 8 (623)	Certificate not further defined	Certificate III or IV not further defined	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II not further defined	Certificate II	Certificate I
Year 7 (624)	Certificate not further defined	Certificate III or IV not further defined	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II not further defined	Certificate II	Certificate I

APPENDIX 1 CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION *continued*

CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION *continued*

The decision table is also used to rank the information provided in a survey about the qualifications and attainments of a single individual. It does not represent any basis for comparison between differing qualifications. For example, a person whose Highest Year of School Completed was Year 12, and whose Level of Highest Non-school Qualification was a Certificate III, would have those responses crosschecked on the decision table and would as a result have their Level of Highest Educational Attainment output as Certificate III. However, if the same person answered 'Certificate' to the highest non-school qualification question, without offering any further detail, it would be crosschecked against Year 12 on the decision table as 'Certificate not further defined'. The output would then be 'Year 12'. The decision table, therefore, does not necessarily imply that one qualification is 'higher' than the other.

APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST

DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

The ABS has a range of data available on request from the Labour Force Experience Survey. This section lists the data items and populations which relate to the survey. More detailed breakdowns of some data items may also be available on request.

The population(s) for a particular data item refers to the persons in the survey to whom the data relates. Where alternative output categories are available for the same data item, these are shown and the data item name is followed by a bracketed numeral (e.g. Country of birth (2)).

For more information about ABS data available on request, contact Cassandra Gligora on Canberra (02) 6252 7206, or by facsimile on (02) 6252 7784, or by email to <cassandra.gligora@abs.gov.au>.

<i>Population 1</i>	All persons aged 15–69 years.
<i>Population 2</i>	Persons aged 15–69 years in the labour force at some time during the year ending February 2003.
<i>Population 3</i>	Persons aged 15–69 years who worked at some time during the year ending February 2003.
<i>Population 4</i>	Persons aged 15–69 years who looked for work at some time during the year ending February 2003.
<i>Population 5</i>	Persons aged 15–69 years who were not in the labour force at some time during the year ending February 2003.

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
1 State or territory of usual residence	All	6 Relationship in household	All
New South Wales		Family member	
Victoria		Husband, wife or partner	
Queensland		With dependants	
South Australia		Without dependants	
Western Australia		Lone Parent	
Tasmania		With dependants	
Northern Territory		Without dependants	
Australian Capital Territory		Dependent student	
		Non-dependent child	
2 Area of usual residence	All	Other family person	
Capital city		Non-family member	
Balance of state/territory		Lone person	
3 Region of usual residence	All	Not living alone	
Standard labour force dissemination regions		Relationship not determined	
4 Sex	All		
Males			
Females			
5 Marital status	All		
Married			
Not married			

APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

continued

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
7A	Country of birth and period of arrival All Born in Australia Born overseas Arrived before 1971 Arrived 1971–1980 Arrived 1981–1990 Arrived 1991–2000 Arrived 2001 to survey date	10	Status in employment at February 2003 All Working at February 2003 Employee Employer Own account worker Contributing family worker Not working at February 2003
7B	Country of birth (1) All Born in Australia Born overseas Born in main English-speaking countries Born in other than main English-speaking countries	11	Full-time or part-time status at February 2003 All Working at February 2003 Full-time Part-time Not working at February 2003
7C	Country of birth (2) All Born in Australia Born overseas Oceania and Antarctica North-West Europe Southern and Eastern Europe North Africa and the Middle East South-East Asia North-East Asia Southern and Central Asia Americas Sub-Saharan Africa	12	Industry at February 2003 All Working at February 2003 Agriculture, forestry and fishing Mining Manufacturing Electricity, gas and water supply Construction Wholesale trade Retail trade Accommodation, cafes and restaurants Transport and storage Communication services Finance and insurance Property and business services Government administration and defence Education Health and community services Cultural and recreational services Personal and other services Not working at February 2003
8	Age group (years) All 15–19 20–24 25–34 35–44 45–54 55–59 60–64 65–69 Note: Age collected in single years		
9	Labour force status at February 2003 All In the labour force Working Looking for work Not in the labour force		

APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

continued

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
13 Occupation at February 2003 Working at February 2003 Managers and administrators Professionals Associated professionals Tradespersons and related workers Advanced clerical and service workers Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers Intermediate production and transport workers Elementary clerical, sales and service workers Labourers and related workers Not working at February 2003	All	16 Time not in the labour force during the year Not in the labour force at some time during the year 1 to under 4 weeks 4 to under 13 weeks 13 to under 26 weeks 26 to under 39 weeks 39 to under 52 weeks 52 weeks In the labour force for the whole year	All
14 Time in the labour force during the year In the labour force at some time during the year 1 to under 4 weeks 4 to under 13 weeks 13 to under 26 weeks 26 to under 39 weeks 39 to under 52 weeks 52 weeks In the labour force for none of the year	All	17 Number of employers/businesses during the year None One Two Three Four or more	All
15 Time worked during the year Worked at some time during the year 1 to under 4 weeks 4 to under 13 weeks 13 to under 26 weeks 26 to under 39 weeks 39 to under 52 weeks 52 weeks Worked for none of the year	All	18 Full-time or part-time status of time worked Worked at some time during the year All full-time More full-time than part-time Full-time same as part-time More part-time than full-time All part-time Worked for none of the year	All
(Continued from previous page)		19 Time spent looking for work during the year Looked for work at some time during the year 1 to under 4 weeks 4 to under 13 weeks 13 to under 26 weeks 26 to under 39 weeks 39 to under 52 weeks 52 weeks Did not look for work during the year	All

APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

continued

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
20	All	24	All
Number of spells of looking for work during the year None One Two Three Four or more		Whether worked at some time during the year Worked at some time during the year For whole year For part of year Worked for none of the year	
21	All	25	All
Main activity when not in the labour force Not in the labour force at some time during the year Retired or voluntarily inactive Home duties or child care Attended an educational institution Own illness or injury Own disability or handicap Looking after ill or disabled person Holiday, travel, or leisure activities Worked in an unpaid voluntary job Other In the labour force for the whole year		Time worked part-time during the year Worked part-time at some time during the year 1 to under 4 weeks 4 to under 13 weeks 13 to under 26 weeks 26 to under 39 weeks 39 to under 52 weeks 52 weeks Did not work part-time during the year	
22	All	26	All
Whether in the labour force at some time during the year In the labour force at some time during the year For whole year For part of year In the labour force for none of the year		Time worked full-time during the year Worked full-time at some time during the year 1 to under 4 weeks 4 to under 13 weeks 13 to under 26 weeks 26 to under 39 weeks 39 to under 52 weeks 52 weeks Did not work full-time during the year	
23	All	27	All
Whether looked for work at some time during the year Looked for work at some time during the year For whole year For part of year Did not look for work during the year		Whether had an unpaid absence from work during the year Working at February 2003 With current employer for one year or more Had an unpaid absence from work Did not have an unpaid absence from work With current employer for less than one year Had an unpaid absence from work Did not have an unpaid absence from work Not working at February 2003	

APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

continued

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
28 Time worked with current employer/business Working at February 2003 Under 1 year Under 3 months 3 to under 6 months 6 to under 9 months 9 to under 12 months 1 to under 2 years 2 to under 3 years 3 to under 5 years 5 to under 10 years 10 years and over 10 to under 20 years 20 years and over Not working at February 2003	All	30 Level of highest non-school qualification With non-school qualifications Post graduate degree Graduate diploma/ Graduate certificate Bachelor degree Advanced diploma/ Diploma Certificate III/IV Certificate I/II Certificate not further defined Level not determined Without non-school qualifications	All
29 Level of highest educational attainment Post graduate degree Graduate diploma/ Graduate certificate Bachelor degree Advanced diploma/Diploma Certificate III/IV Certificate I/II Certificate not further defined Year 12 Year 11 Year 10 or below Level not determined No educational attainment	All	31 Highest year of school completed Year 12 Year 11 Year 10 Year 9 Year 8 or below Never attended school	All
		32 State or territory of usual residence 12 months ago New South Wales Victoria Queensland South Australia Western Australia Tasmania Northern Territory Australian Capital Territory Overseas	All

APPENDIX 3 SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

The Monthly Population Survey program collects data on particular aspects of the labour force. The following is an historical list of supplementary surveys to the monthly labour force surveys. Data are available from these surveys in publication form, by subscription or on request.

SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

	<i>cat. no.</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Latest issue</i>
Career Experience, Australia	6254.0	Irregular	November 1998
Career Paths of Persons with Trade Qualifications, Australia	6243.0	Discontinued	Final issue 1993
Child Care, Australia	4402.0	Irregular	June 2002
Education and Work, Australia	6227.0	Annual	May 2002
Employee Earnings, Benefits, and Trade Union Membership, Australia	6310.0	Annual	August 2002
Forms of Employment, Australia	6359.0	Irregular	November 2001
Job Search Experience, Australia(a)	6222.0	Annual	July 2002
Labour Force Experience, Australia	6206.0	Biennial	February 2003
Labour Force Status and Educational Attainment, Australia	6235.0	Discontinued	Final issue 1994
Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, Australia(b)	6224.0	Discontinued	Final issue 2000
Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants, Australia	6250.0	Irregular	November 1999
Labour Mobility, Australia	6209.0	Biennial	February 2002
Locations of Work, Australia	6275.0	Irregular	June 2000
Multiple Jobholding, Australia(c)	6216.0	Irregular	August 1997
Participation in Education, Australia	6272.0	Discontinued	Final issue 1999
Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia	6220.0	Annual	September 2002
Persons Who had Re-entered the Labour Force, Australia	6264.0.40.001	Discontinued	Final issue 1995
Persons Who Have Left the Labour Force, Australia	6267.0.40.001	Discontinued	Final issue 1994
Retirement and Retirement Intentions, Australia	6238.0	Irregular	November 1997
Retrenchment and Redundancy, Australia	6266.0	Irregular	July 2001
Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience, Australia	6245.0	Discontinued	Final issue 2000
Superannuation, Australia	6319.0	Discontinued	Final issue 1995
Underemployed Workers, Australia	6265.0	Annual	September 2002
Working Arrangements, Australia	6342.0	Irregular	November 2000
Work-Related Injuries, Australia	6324.0	Irregular	September 2000

(a) This product replaces the publications *Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Australia* (cat. no. 6222.0) and *Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience, Australia* (cat. no. 6245.0).

(b) Latest data available June 2003, from the ABS web site cat. no. 6291.0.55.001 annual, or on request.

(c) Latest data available on request July 2001.

INTRODUCTION

1 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 estimates 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 (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about 2 chances in 3 (67%) that a sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the number that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two SEs. Another measure of the likely difference is the relative standard error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate.

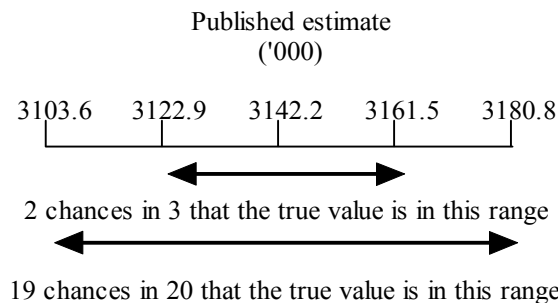
2 Due to space limitations, it is impractical to print the SE of each estimate in the publication. Instead, a table of SEs is provided to enable readers to determine the SE for an estimate from the size of that estimate (see table T1). The SE table is derived from a mathematical model, referred to as the 'SE model', which is created using data from a number of past Labour Force Surveys. It should be noted that the SE model only gives an approximate value for the SE for any particular estimate, since there is some minor variation between SEs for different estimates of the same size.

CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERRORS

3 An example of the calculation and the use of SEs in relation to estimates of persons is as follows. Table 1 shows that the estimated number of persons in the labour force for part of the year was 3,142,200. Since this estimate is between 2,000,000 and 5,000,000, table T1 shows that the SE for Australia will lie between 16,050 and 24,600 and can be approximated by interpolation using the following general formula:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & SE \text{ of estimate} \\
 &= \text{lower SE} + \left(\left(\frac{\text{size of estimate} - \text{lower estimate}}{\text{upper estimate} - \text{lower estimate}} \right) \times (\text{upper SE} - \text{lower SE}) \right) \\
 &= 16,050 + \left(\left(\frac{3,142,200 - 2,000,000}{5,000,000 - 2,000,000} \right) \times (24,600 - 16,050) \right) \\
 &= 19,300 \text{ (rounded to the nearest 100)}
 \end{aligned}$$

4 Therefore, there are about 2 chances in 3 that the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey will fall within the range 3,122,900 to 3,161,500 and about 19 chances in 20 that the value will fall within the range 3,103,600 to 3,180,800. This example is illustrated in the diagram below.



CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERRORS *continued*

5 In general, the size of the SE increases as the size of the estimate increases. Conversely, the RSE decreases as the size of the estimate increases. Very small estimates are thus subject to such high RSEs that their value for most practical purposes is unreliable. In the tables in this publication, only estimates with RSEs of 25% or less are considered reliable for most purposes. Estimates with RSEs greater than 25% but less than or equal to 50% are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. *3.4) to indicate they are subject to high SEs and should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs of greater than 50%, preceded by a double asterisk (e.g. **0.3), are considered too unreliable for general use and should only be used to aggregate with other estimates to provide derived estimates with RSEs of 25% or less.

MEANS AND MEDIANS

6 The RSEs of estimates of mean duration of time spent looking for work and median duration of time spent looking for work are obtained by first finding the RSE of the estimate of the total number of persons contributing to the mean or median (see table T1) and then multiplying the resulting number by the following factors:

- mean duration of time spent looking for work: 0.76
- median duration of time spent looking for work: 1.63

7 The following is an example of the calculation of SEs where the use of a factor is required. Table 10 shows that the estimated number of males looking for work at some time during the year was 937,800 with a median duration of time spent looking for work of 13 weeks. The SE of 937,800 can be calculated from table T1 (by interpolation) as 11,800. To convert this to an RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate, or $11,800/937,800 = 1.3\%$.

8 The RSE of the estimate of median duration of time spent looking for work for males is calculated by multiplying this number (1.3%) by the appropriate factor shown in the previous paragraph (in this case 1.63): $1.3 \times 1.63 = 2.1\%$. The SE of this estimate of median duration of time spent looking for work for males is therefore 2.1% of 13, i.e. about 0.3 weeks. Therefore, there are 2 chances in 3 that the median duration of time spent looking for work for males that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey would have been within the range 12.7 weeks to 13.3 weeks, and about 19 chances in 20 that it would have been within the range 12.4 weeks to 13.6 weeks.

9 Estimates of means and medians produced from population estimates smaller than the values provided in table T2 have RSEs larger than 25% and should be used with caution. Table T2 also indicates the size of population estimates that would produce means and medians with RSEs greater than 50%, which are considered too unreliable for general use.

PROPORTIONS AND PERCENTAGES

10 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 RSE of a proportion is given below. This formula is only valid when x is a subset of y.

$$RSE\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \sqrt{[RSE(x)]^2 - [RSE(y)]^2}$$

11 Considering the example from the previous page, of the 3,142,200 persons in the labour force for part of the year, 489,100, or 15.6%, looked for work at some time during the year. The SE of 489,100 may be calculated by interpolation as 9,200. To convert this to an RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate, or $9,200/489,100 = 1.9\%$. The SE for 3,142,200 was calculated previously as 19,300, which converted to an RSE is $19,300/3,142,200 = 0.6\%$. Applying the above formula, the RSE of the proportion is:

$$RSE = \sqrt{(1.9)^2 - (0.6)^2} = 1.8\%$$

TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY *continued*

PROPORTIONS AND PERCENTAGES *continued*

12 Therefore, the SE for the proportion of persons in the labour force for part of the year who looked for work at some time during the year is 0.3 percentage points (= (15.6/100)x1.8). Therefore, there are about 2 chances in 3 that the proportion of persons in the labour force for part of the year who looked for work at some time during the year is between 15.3% and 15.9%, and 19 chances in 20 that the proportion is within the range 15.0% to 16.2%.

DIFFERENCES

13 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 SEs and the relationship (correlation) between them. An approximate SE of the difference between two estimates (x-y) may be calculated by the following formula:

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

14 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.

T1 STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

	AUST.									
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	SE	RSE
Size of estimate (persons)	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	%
100	100	110	190	170	160	110	110	140	80	80.0
200	170	180	270	220	230	150	150	170	140	70.0
300	230	240	330	270	280	180	180	190	200	66.7
500	340	340	420	330	350	220	220	230	290	58.0
700	430	420	490	380	410	250	260	250	370	52.9
1,000	550	530	580	440	480	290	290	280	470	47.0
1,500	720	670	690	520	570	340	350	330	610	40.7
2,000	860	790	790	590	650	380	390	360	730	36.5
2,500	1 000	900	850	650	700	400	400	400	850	34.0
3,000	1 100	1 000	950	700	750	450	450	400	950	31.7
3,500	1 200	1 050	1 000	750	800	500	500	450	1 050	30.0
4,000	1 300	1 150	1 100	800	850	500	500	450	1 100	27.5
5,000	1 450	1 250	1 200	850	950	550	550	500	1 250	25.0
7,000	1 700	1 500	1 400	1 000	1 100	650	650	600	1 550	22.1
10,000	2 050	1 750	1 600	1 150	1 250	700	700	650	1 850	18.5
15,000	2 450	2 100	1 900	1 350	1 500	850	850	800	2 250	15.0
20,000	2 800	2 350	2 200	1 500	1 650	950	950	900	2 600	13.0
30,000	3 300	2 750	2 600	1 800	1 950	1 100	1 050	1 050	3 150	10.5
40,000	3 650	3 100	2 900	2 000	2 200	1 250	1 200	1 150	3 550	8.9
50,000	3 950	3 300	3 200	2 200	2 350	1 350	1 300	1 300	3 900	7.8
100,000	4 950	4 200	4 250	2 900	3 050	1 750	1 650	1 750	5 100	5.1
150,000	5 600	4 850	5 050	3 400	3 500	2 000	1 900	2 100	5 900	3.9
200,000	6 150	5 450	5 650	3 800	3 900	2 250	..	2 400	6 550	3.3
300,000	7 200	6 450	6 650	4 450	4 450	2 600	..	2 850	7 650	2.6
500,000	8 900	8 100	8 150	5 450	5 300	3 100	..	..	9 300	1.9
1,000,000	12 450	11 350	10 700	7 150	6 600	..	..	..	12 150	1.2
2,000,000	18 300	16 450	13 950	9 350	8 150	..	..	..	16 050	0.8
5,000,000	32 850	28 350	19 650	..	..	..	..	..	24 600	0.5
10,000,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43 150	0.4

.. not applicable

TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY *continued*

T2 LEVELS AT WHICH ESTIMATES HAVE RELATIVE STANDARD ERRORS OF 25% AND 50%(a)

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
25% RSE									
Mean duration of time spent looking for work	3 950	3 110	2 890	1 510	2 250	660	910	650	2 650
Median duration of time spent looking for work	17 060	12 860	10 940	6 070	7 280	2 880	2 930	2 600	14 510
All other estimates	6 790	5 190	4 580	2 650	3 150	1 270	1 310	1 220	5 150
50% RSE									
Mean duration of time spent looking for work	610	590	810	460	650	200	290	230	300
Median duration of time spent looking for work	4 410	3 430	3 170	1 870	2 210	900	940	890	3 160
All other estimates	1 330	1 130	1 300	810	920	390	410	430	810

(a) Refers to the number of persons contributing to the estimate.

GLOSSARY

Advanced diploma/Diploma or below	Advanced diploma/Diploma or below includes qualifications at the Advanced Diploma and Diploma Level, and Certificates I, II, III and IV levels.
Bachelor degree or above	Bachelor degree or above includes qualifications at the Post graduate degree Level, Graduate diploma and graduate certificate Level and Bachelor degree Level.
Employed	<p>All persons aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or ■ worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or ■ were employees who had a job but were not at work and were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or ■ away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week; or ■ away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or ■ on strike or locked out; or ■ on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or ■ were employers or own account workers, who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.
Family	<p>Two or more related persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering; and who are usually resident in the same household. The basis of a family is formed by identifying the presence of a couple relationship, lone parent-child relationship or other blood relationship. Some households will therefore contain more than one family. Further details on the determination of family relationships are given in <i>Australian Labour Market Statistics</i> (cat. no. 6105.0).</p>
Full-time status of weeks worked during the year	Any weeks of the year that a person perceived that they had worked full-time.
In the labour force at some time during the year	Persons who had worked or looked for work for one week or more during the year.
In the labour force for the whole year	Persons who had either worked or looked for work every week for the whole year.
In the labour force for part of the year	Persons who had either worked or looked for work for one week or more during the year, but had some weeks when neither activity was undertaken.
Level of highest educational attainment	<p>Level of highest educational attainment identifies the highest achievement a person has attained in any area of study. It is defined as the highest educational attainment a person has achieved, and is not a measurement of relative importance of different fields of study.</p> <p>Higher levels of education are typically characterised by the greater significance of theoretical learning and greater complexity of factual and practical learning. It is derived from a person's highest year of school completed and level of highest non-school educational qualification. The highest qualification completed by the respondent is classified according to the <i>Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)</i> (cat. no. 1272.0). See Appendix 1 for further information.</p>
Level of highest non-school qualification	Non-school qualifications are awarded for educational attainments other than those of pre-primary, primary or secondary education. They include qualifications at the Post Graduate Degree Level, Master Degree Level, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate Level, Bachelor Degree Level, Advanced Diploma and Diploma Level, and Certificates I, II, III and IV levels. Non-school qualifications may be attained concurrently with school qualifications.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Level of highest non-school qualification <i>continued</i>	In this publication, prior to 2003 those who were still at school were not asked their level of highest non-school qualification.
Looked for work at some time during the year	Persons who looked for work for one week or more during the year.
Main English-speaking countries	Main English-speaking countries are the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, South Africa, the United States of America and New Zealand.
Mean 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.
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 is below it.
Multiple job-holders	Employed persons who worked in two or more jobs or held multiple jobs from which they were absent because of holidays, sickness or any other reason. Multiple job-holders exclude those who changed employer.
Not in the labour force at some time during the year	Persons who had neither worked nor looked for work for one week or more during the year.
Number of employers/businesses during the year	The number of employers/businesses a person worked for during the year.
Number of spells of looking for work during the year	The number of different periods, including the current period, during which a person was not working but was looking for a job.
Part-time status of weeks worked during the year	Any weeks of the year that a person perceived they had worked part-time.
Time in the labour force during the year	The total number of weeks a person reported as having either worked or looked for work.
Time not in the labour force during the year	The total number of weeks a person reported as having neither worked nor looked for work.
Time spent looking for work during the year	The total number of weeks a person spent looking for work, while not working.
Time worked during the year	The total number of weeks a person 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 time worked.
Unemployed	Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ were available for work in the reference week; or ■ were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.
Worked	Activity in a job, business or farm, for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind; or any activity in a family business that contributed to the operation of that business although no payment was received. Includes being absent, but on paid leave, from such activity.
Worked at some time during the year	Persons who reported having worked and/or been on paid leave for one week or more during the year.
Worked for part of the year	Persons who reported having worked and/or been on paid leave for part of the year.

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