

**PERSONS NOT IN THE  
LABOUR FORCE**

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) TUES 25 MAR 2008

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**I N Q U I R I E S**

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

## NOTES

### ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication presents information about people aged 15 years and over who are not in the labour force: that is, neither employed nor unemployed. The data measure the potential supply of labour not reflected in employment and unemployment statistics, and measure the characteristics of that potential supply.

Statistics in this publication were obtained from the Persons Not in the Labour Force Survey, conducted throughout Australia in September 2007 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS).

Information collected in the survey includes details about whether people not in the labour force wanted to work, reasons why they were not actively looking for work, or were not available for work, and their main activity while not in the labour force.

Many people not in the labour force could be considered to have some attachment to the labour force. For example, they may want a job, but for a variety of reasons are not actively looking for work even though they are available to start a job. There is an expectation that many of these people could move into the labour force in the short term, or could do so if labour market conditions changed.

### CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

Changes in survey procedures and question wording have affected the comparability over time of some data items. Users need to exercise caution when comparing estimates from 2007 with previous years data.

More details of these changes, including measures of the impact on the estimates, are provided in paragraphs 18 to 22 of the Explanatory Notes.

Table 11, 'Civilian population aged 15 to 69 years, Labour force status and not in the labour force summary–September 2001 to 2007' was positioned as Table 1 in previous issues of this publication.

### ROUNDING

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

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### ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ANZSCO	Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations
ASCO	Australian Standard Classification of Occupations
ILO	International Labour Organization
LFS	Labour Force Survey
RSE	relative standard error
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
SE	standard error

Brian Pink  
Australian Statistician

## CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

### PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER

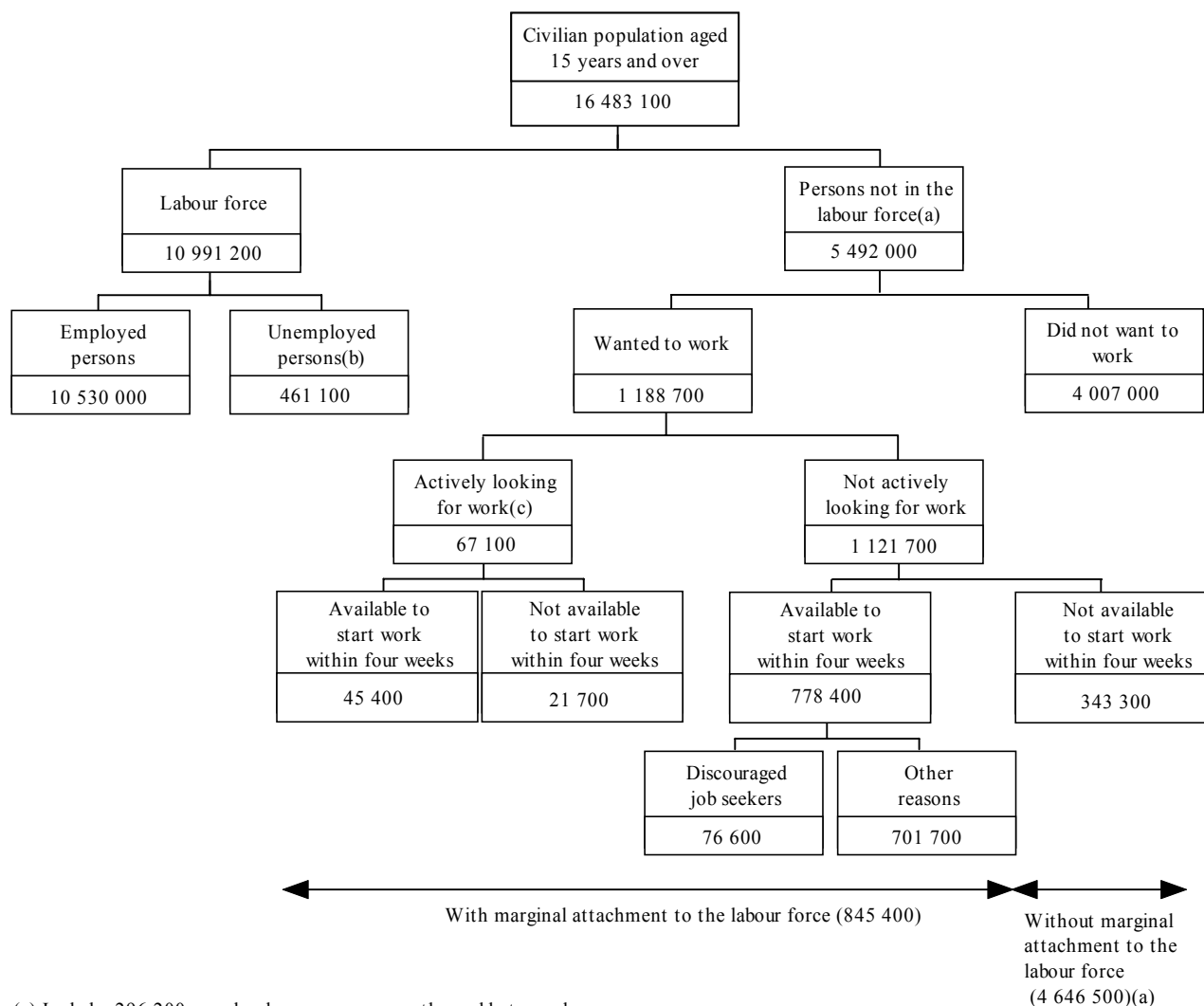
Persons not in the labour force can be divided into those who are marginally attached to the labour force, and those who are not. Persons who are marginally attached to the labour force satisfy some, but not all, of the criteria required to be classified as unemployed.

Persons not in the labour force are considered to be marginally attached to the labour force if they:

- want to work and are actively looking for work but are not available to start work in the reference week, or
- want to work and are not actively looking for work but are available to start work within four weeks.

Persons not in the labour force are not marginally attached to the labour force if they:

- do not want to work, or
- want to work but are not actively looking for work and are not available to start work within four weeks.



(a) Includes 296 200 people who were permanently unable to work.

(b) Includes future starters.

(c) Refers to people who were actively looking for work, but were not available to start work in the reference week.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### OVERVIEW

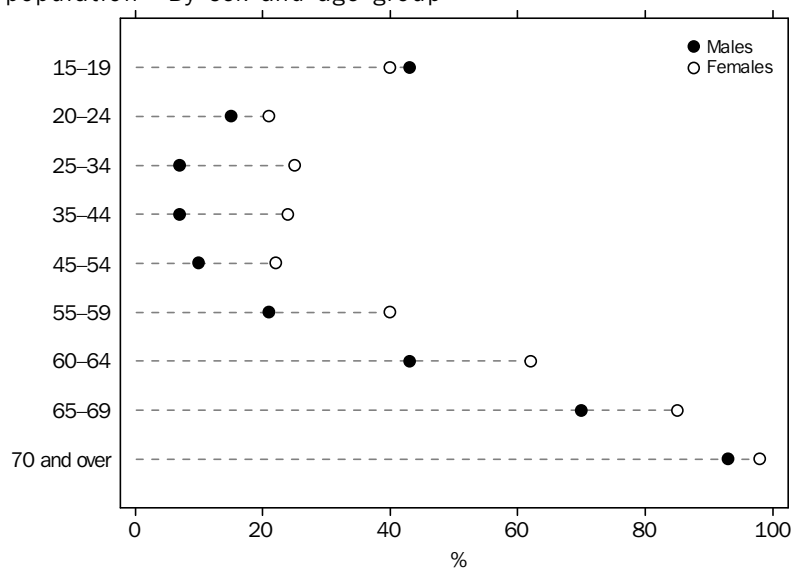
In September 2007, there were just under 5.5 million people aged 15 years and over who were not in the labour force. This represented 33% of the civilian population aged 15 years and over.

Of people not in the labour force:

- 22% wanted to work (23% of women and 19% of men)
- 61% were women
- 31% were aged 70 years and over.

The proportion of men and women who were not in the labour force varied according to age. In the 15–19 year age group, where there are high levels of participation in education, 43% of men and 40% of women were not in the labour force. In each of the remaining age groups there was a higher proportion of women than men not in the labour force. The proportion of men not in the labour force was lowest for those aged 25–34 years and 35–44 years (each 7%), and highest for those aged 70 years and over (93%). The proportion of women not in the labour force was lowest for those aged 20–24 years (21%) and 45–54 years (22%) and highest for those aged 70 years and over (98%).

PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE, Proportion of the civilian population—By sex and age group



There were 845,400 people with marginal attachment to the labour force in September 2007, representing 15% of people not in the labour force. People without marginal attachment to the labour force numbered 4.6 million in September 2007, representing 85% of people not in the labour force.

### WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE

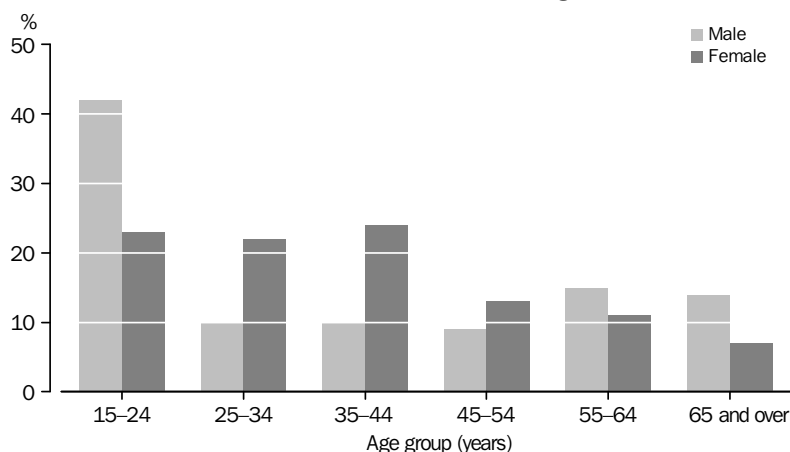
The age structure of those with marginal attachment was quite different to those without marginal attachment to the labour force. People with marginal attachment to the labour force were younger than those without marginal attachment. More than one-quarter (29%) of those with marginal attachment to the labour force were aged 15–24 years and a further 18% were aged 25–34 years. Three-quarters (75%) of 15–24 year olds reported their main activity when not in the labour force was 'attending an educational institution'.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE *continued*

Men aged 15–24 years represented the largest single group of men with marginal attachment (42% of all marginally attached males). In contrast, the proportion of women with marginal attachment was similar for age groups 15–24 years (23% of all marginally attached females), 25–34 years (22%) and 35–44 years (24%).

#### PERSONS WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT, Age and sex distribution



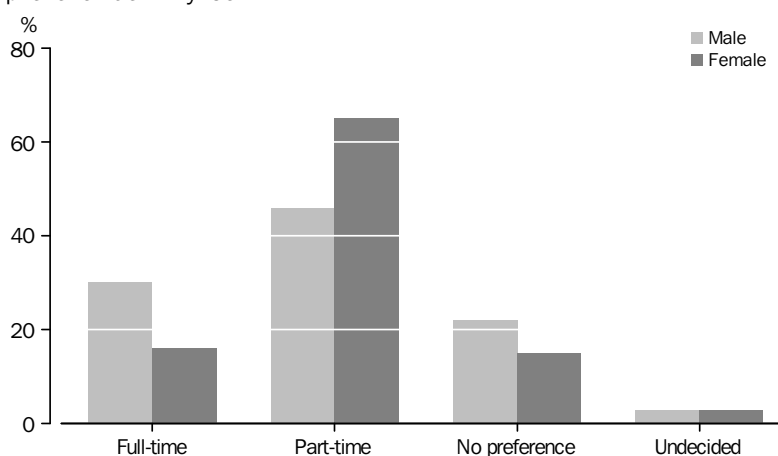
#### Characteristics

Of the 845,400 people with marginal attachment to the labour force:

- 554,800 (66%) were women
- 92% (778,400) were not actively looking for work
- 56% 'intended to enter' the labour force within 12 months
- 25% 'did not intend to enter' the labour force within 12 months (27% of these intended to enter at some time in the future)
- 15% 'might enter' the labour force within 12 months.

Of women with marginal attachment to the labour force, 65% preferred part-time work, while 16% preferred full-time work. For men, 46% preferred part-time work and 30% preferred full-time work. The remainder had no preference, or were undecided.

#### PERSONS WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT, Full-time or part-time preference—By sex

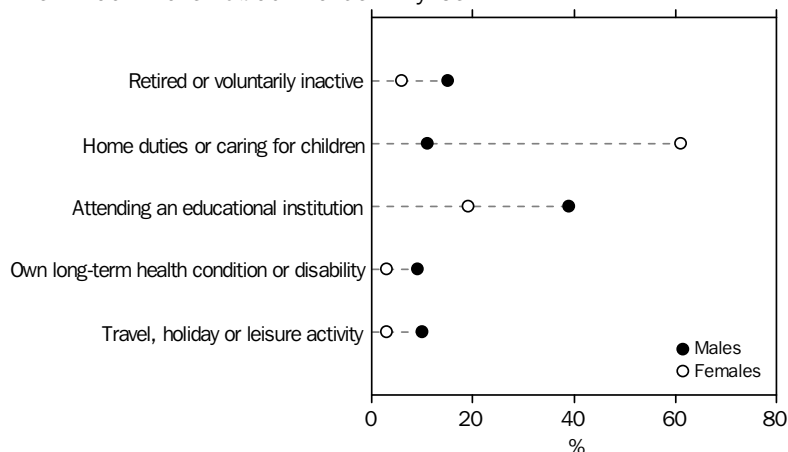


## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### *Main activity when not in the labour force*

For people with marginal attachment to the labour force, the most commonly reported main activity when not in the labour force was 'home duties or caring for children' (61% of women and 11% of men), followed by 'attending an educational institution' (39% of men and 19% of women).

PERSONS WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT, Selected main activities when not in the labour force—By sex



### *Last job*

In September 2007, 679,300 of those with marginal attachment to the labour force had previously had a job. Of these, 33% reported that their last job was less than 12 months ago, and 22% reported their last job was between one and three years ago.

There were 639,000 people (428,600 women and 210,400 men) with marginal attachment to the labour force who had a job less than 20 years ago. The most commonly reported occupation in their last job for these people was Labourers (21%), followed by Clerical and administrative workers (17%) and Sales workers (14%).

The most common occupation in last job for those aged:

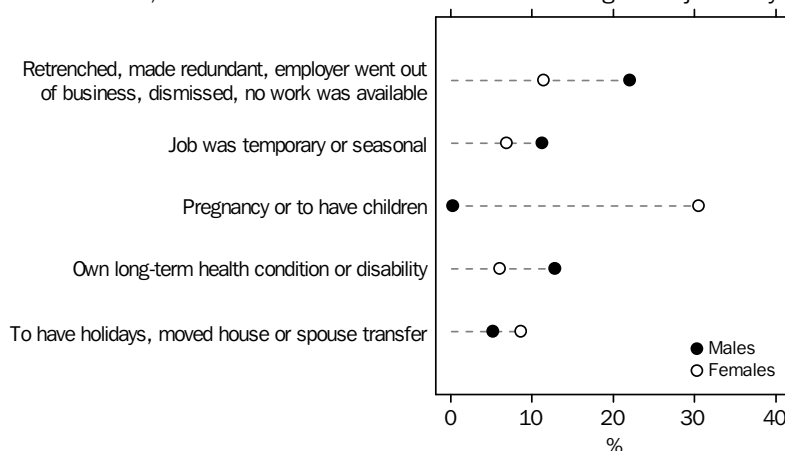
- 15–24 years was Labourers (30%)
- 45–54 years was Clerical and administrative workers (24%)
- 65 years and over was Clerical and administrative workers (18%).

Of those people with marginal attachment to the labour force who had a job less than 20 years ago, 52% reported that their last job was full-time. Some 84% of the 41,900 who reported their occupation in last job was 'Manager' reported they worked full-time in that job, compared to 32% of the 90,000 people who reported 'Sales workers'.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### *Last job continued*

PERSONS WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT, LAST JOB LESS THAN 20 YEARS AGO, Selected main reasons for ceasing last job—By sex



Men and women reported different reasons for ceasing their last job. The most commonly reported main reason for men whose last job was less than 20 years ago was 'retrenched, made redundant, employer went out of business, dismissed, no work was available' (22%), followed by 'own long-term health condition or disability' (13%) and 'job was temporary or seasonal' (11%). While for women, the most commonly reported main reason was 'pregnancy or to have children' (31%), followed by 'retrenched, made redundant, employer went out of business, dismissed, no work was available' (11%) and 'to have holidays, moved house or spouse transferred' (9%). Of women reporting 'pregnancy or to have children', 82% were aged 25–44 years.

### *Not actively looking for work - Discouraged job seekers*

In September 2007 there were 76,600 discouraged job seekers aged 15 years and over.

Characteristics of discouraged job seekers aged 15 years and over in September 2007 include:

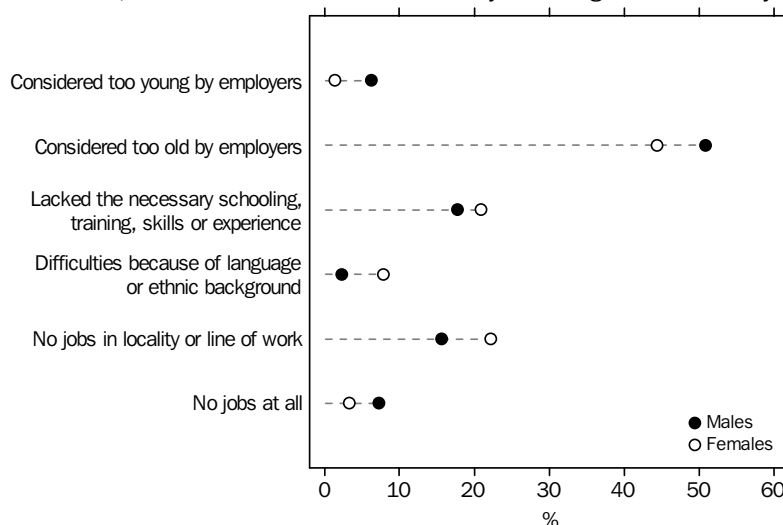
- 37% were aged 65 years and over
- 48,600 (63%) were women
- 69,800 (91%) had worked before
- 10,500 had worked in the previous 12 months (15% of men and 13% of women)
- 22,800 had looked for work in the previous 12 months (29% of men and 30% of women)
- 24,500 intended to enter the labour force in the next 12 months (32% of men and 32% of women).

The main reason most commonly reported by discouraged job seekers for not actively looking for work was 'considered too old by employers' (47%). This was followed by 'no jobs in locality or line of work' and 'lacked necessary training, skills or experience' (each 20%). 'Considered too old by employers' was reported as the main reason by 51% of male discouraged job seekers, compared with 44% of female discouraged job seekers.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

*Not actively looking for work - Discouraged job seekers continued*

PERSONS NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK, DISCOURAGED JOB SEEKERS, Main reason for not actively looking for work—By sex

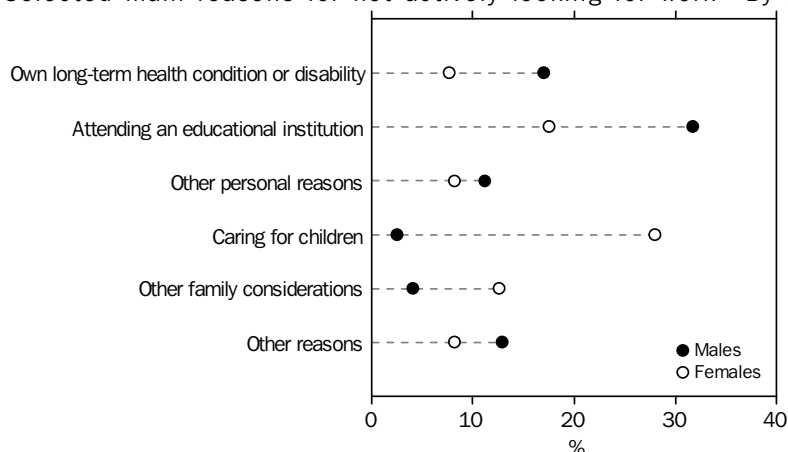


*Not actively looking for work - Other reasons*

There were 701,700 people (83% of all people with marginal attachment to the labour force) other than discouraged job seekers, who wanted to work and were available to start work within four weeks but were not actively looking for work. Of these, 66% (465,800) were women and 34% (235,900) were men.

The most commonly reported main reason for not actively looking for work for such men was 'attending an educational institution' (32%), followed by 'own long-term health condition or disability' (17%). The most commonly reported main reason for women was 'caring for children' (28%), followed by 'attending an educational institution' (18%).

PERSONS NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK, OTHER REASONS, Selected main reasons for not actively looking for work—By sex



WITHOUT MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE

The majority of people not in the labour force are without marginal attachment. In September 2007, there were 4.6 million people (1.9 million men and 2.8 million women) aged 15 years and over without marginal attachment to the labour force.

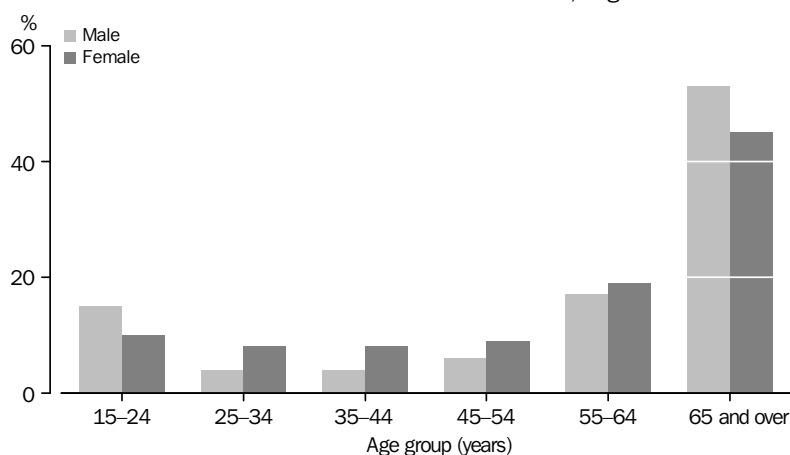
Unlike the age distribution of those with marginal attachment, those without marginal attachment tended to be older. Almost half (48%) were aged 65 years and over (53% of men and 45% of women), followed by 18% who were aged 55–64 years old (17% of men and 19% of women).



## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### WITHOUT MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE *continued*

#### PERSONS WITHOUT MARGINAL ATTACHMENT, Age and sex distribution



#### Characteristics

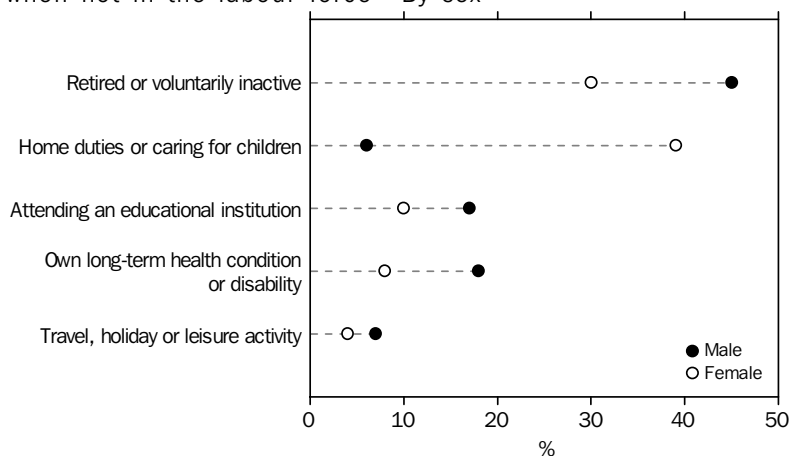
Of those without marginal attachment to the labour force:

- 86% reported that they 'did not want to work', or 'did not know' if they wanted to work
- 7% 'wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks,'
- 6% were 'permanently unable to work'.

#### Main activity when not in the labour force

Over one-third (36%) of people without marginal attachment reported their main activity when not in the labour force as 'retired or voluntarily inactive'. The second most common response was 'home duties or caring for children' (26%). The most common response reported by men without marginal attachment was 'retired or voluntarily inactive' (45%) followed by 'own long-term health condition or disability' (18%) and 'attending an educational institution' (17%). Women without marginal attachment most commonly reported 'home duties and caring for children' (39%) and 'retired or voluntarily inactive' (30%) as their main activity when not in the labour force.

#### PERSONS WITHOUT MARGINAL ATTACHMENT, Selected main activities when not in the labour force—By sex



Of the 1.7 million people without marginal attachment to the labour force who reported 'retired or voluntarily inactive' as their main activity when not in the labour force, 81% (82% of men and 80% of women) were aged 65 years and over.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### *Main reason not available to start work within four weeks*

There were 343,300 people (118,700 men and 224,500 women) without marginal attachment because they wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks. The most commonly reported main reason for not being available for work by these people were:

- Studying or returning to studies (43% of men and 19% of women)
- Own long-term health condition or disability (30% of men and 14% of women).

### *Time since last job*

In September 2007, of those without marginal attachment to the labour force:

- 84% (3.9 million) reported they had previously had a job
  - 57% of these reported that their last job was 10 years ago or more
  - 24% of these reported that their last job was three to nine years ago
- 16% (721,500) reported they had never had a job
  - 61% of these were women.

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# CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, Labour force status and not in the labour force summary–September 2005 to 2007(a)

	Sep 2005	Sep 2006	Sep 2007
	'000	'000	'000
MALES			
Civilian population aged 15 years and over	7 908.3	8 005.2	8 148.8
Persons in the labour force	5 805.3	5 913.8	6 007.7
Employed	5 510.2	5 630.2	5 777.8
Unemployed	295.1	283.7	229.8
Persons not in the labour force(b)	2 103.0	2 091.3	2 141.1
With marginal attachment to the labour force	273.8	250.5	290.6
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	28.3	25.5	26.6
Were available to start work within four weeks	21.3	15.4	18.3
Were not available to start work within four weeks	7.0	10.1	8.3
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	245.4	225.0	264.0
Discouraged job seekers	25.0	20.4	28.0
Other	220.5	204.6	235.9
Without marginal attachment to the labour force(c)	1 829.2	1 840.8	1 850.5
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	100.0	105.4	118.7
Did not want to work(d)	1 579.1	1 571.2	1 569.0
FEMALES			
Civilian population aged 15 years and over	8 115.2	8 216.8	8 334.3
Persons in the labour force	4 764.7	4 895.0	4 983.5
Employed	4 514.9	4 659.8	4 752.2
Unemployed	249.9	235.2	231.3
Persons not in the labour force(b)	3 350.5	3 321.8	3 350.8
With marginal attachment to the labour force	566.5	501.1	554.8
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	40.9	34.7	40.4
Were available to start work within four weeks	29.7	21.9	27.0
Were not available to start work within four weeks	11.1	12.8	13.4
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	525.7	466.4	514.4
Discouraged job seekers	38.2	35.8	48.6
Other	487.5	430.7	465.8
Without marginal attachment to the labour force(c)	2 784.0	2 820.7	2 796.0
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	225.0	214.8	224.5
Did not want to work(d)	2 458.4	2 497.4	2 438.1
PERSONS			
Civilian population aged 15 years and over	16 023.5	16 222.0	16 483.1
Persons in the labour force	10 570.0	10 808.9	10 991.2
Employed	10 025.0	10 290.0	10 530.0
Unemployed	545.0	518.9	461.1
Persons not in the labour force(b)	5 453.5	5 413.1	5 492.0
With marginal attachment to the labour force	840.3	751.6	845.4
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	69.2	60.2	67.1
Were available to start work within four weeks	51.0	37.3	45.4
Were not available to start work within four weeks	18.1	22.9	21.7
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	771.1	691.4	778.4
Discouraged job seekers	63.1	56.1	76.6
Other	708.0	635.3	701.7
Without marginal attachment to the labour force(c)	4 613.2	4 661.5	4 646.5
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	325.0	320.2	343.3
Did not want to work(d)	4 037.5	4 068.7	4 007.0

- (a) From September 2005, the scope of this survey changed to include all people aged 15 years and over. See paragraph 16 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.
- (b) From September 2007 there was a change in the treatment of persons aged 65 years and over who specified they were 'permanently not intending to work' in the Labour Force Survey. As a result of this change, there has been a break in time series. See paragraph 19 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.
- (c) Includes people who were 'permanently unable to work'.
- (d) Includes 'did not know'.

## PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE, Main activity when not in the labour force

## AGE GROUP (YEARS)

	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70 and over	Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000

## MALES

Retired or voluntarily inactive	*2.6	*2.8	*5.8	18.9	42.2	101.5	179.9	522.6	876.3
Home duties or caring for children	*3.4	13.4	17.3	17.4	9.0	17.3	15.2	45.6	138.7
Attending an educational institution	370.4	31.9	10.7	*5.5	*1.9	**0.4	**0.8	**0.1	421.8
Own long-term health condition or disability	9.6	27.5	50.0	71.1	48.7	64.4	33.7	61.5	366.5
Own short-term illness or injury	*3.8	*4.0	*5.9	6.9	*2.8	*3.2	*2.7	*1.6	30.7
Looking after ill or disabled person	*1.9	*3.7	6.7	8.9	8.0	10.1	8.6	14.8	62.8
Travel, holiday or leisure activity	9.3	*5.6	7.3	6.2	9.7	19.1	26.5	65.4	149.1
Working in unpaid voluntary job	**0.8	**0.7	**0.9	**0.8	*4.7	9.0	9.0	21.9	47.9
Other	7.8	*5.7	7.0	*5.2	*4.8	*3.8	*4.2	8.9	47.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>409.7</b>	<b>95.3</b>	<b>111.5</b>	<b>141.0</b>	<b>131.7</b>	<b>228.8</b>	<b>280.7</b>	<b>742.4</b>	<b>2 141.1</b>

## FEMALES

Retired or voluntarily inactive	*2.3	**0.2	*2.4	22.9	45.7	104.8	162.7	530.4	871.5
Home duties or caring for children	66.3	293.3	287.1	184.1	116.2	132.6	110.2	248.3	1 438.0
Attending an educational institution	327.3	31.2	18.4	11.5	*5.1	**0.9	**0.4	—	394.9
Own long-term health condition or disability	9.1	13.9	31.4	48.5	34.7	35.8	17.0	59.9	250.3
Own short-term illness or injury	*2.9	*3.9	7.3	*5.1	*3.1	*3.3	*1.9	*5.0	32.6
Looking after ill or disabled person	*1.7	*5.8	12.7	25.9	28.2	18.0	15.6	22.8	130.8
Travel, holiday or leisure activity	*1.8	*2.7	*4.9	7.1	13.5	19.5	22.2	57.4	129.2
Working in unpaid voluntary job	**0.7	*2.5	*2.3	8.0	9.1	9.9	12.7	28.8	73.9
Other	6.5	*4.5	*3.5	*4.7	*2.9	*3.7	*1.6	*2.3	29.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>418.8</b>	<b>358.0</b>	<b>369.9</b>	<b>317.9</b>	<b>258.5</b>	<b>328.4</b>	<b>344.5</b>	<b>954.9</b>	<b>3 350.8</b>

## PERSONS

Retired or voluntarily inactive	*5.0	*3.1	8.2	41.9	87.9	206.3	342.6	1 053.0	1 747.9
Home duties or caring for children	69.7	306.7	304.4	201.5	125.2	149.8	125.4	293.9	1 576.7
Attending an educational institution	697.7	63.1	29.1	17.0	7.0	*1.4	**1.2	**0.1	816.6
Own long-term health condition or disability	18.7	41.4	81.5	119.6	83.4	100.2	50.7	121.3	616.8
Own short-term illness or injury	6.7	7.8	13.2	11.9	*6.0	6.5	*4.7	6.6	63.3
Looking after ill or disabled person	*3.7	9.5	19.3	34.9	36.2	28.1	24.3	37.7	193.6
Travel, holiday or leisure activity	11.1	8.3	12.1	13.3	23.2	38.6	48.8	122.8	278.3
Working in unpaid voluntary job	*1.6	*3.2	*3.2	8.8	13.7	19.0	21.7	50.7	121.8
Other	14.3	10.1	10.4	9.9	7.7	7.5	*5.8	11.2	77.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>828.5</b>	<b>453.3</b>	<b>481.4</b>	<b>458.8</b>	<b>390.2</b>	<b>557.3</b>	<b>625.2</b>	<b>1 697.3</b>	<b>5 492.0</b>

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

\*\* 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)

	WANTED TO WORK, NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING, BUT WERE AVAILABLE			Total with marginal attachment to the labour force	Total persons not in the labour force	Proportion not in the labour force(a)
	Discouraged job seekers	Other	Total			
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%
MALES						
State or territory of usual residence						
New South Wales	11.8	76.7	88.5	96.6	751.8	27.7
Victoria	6.4	64.1	70.5	78.7	526.5	26.0
Queensland	*3.8	42.2	46.0	49.8	391.2	24.4
South Australia	3.5	20.8	24.3	27.4	189.4	30.7
Western Australia	*2.1	19.4	21.4	23.5	182.9	22.6
Tasmania	**0.3	6.6	7.0	7.6	61.6	32.0
Northern Territory(b)	—	*1.7	*1.7	*2.1	10.1	17.8
Australian Capital Territory	**0.3	4.3	4.5	4.9	27.8	21.4
Age group (years)						
15–19	*4.1	77.4	81.4	89.0	302.5	42.8
20–24	*1.6	25.3	26.9	34.3	107.2	14.5
25–34	**0.9	23.6	24.5	28.3	95.3	6.7
35–44	**0.8	25.0	25.8	28.7	111.5	7.5
45–54	**0.8	21.8	22.6	25.7	141.0	9.9
55–59	*3.7	13.7	17.4	18.2	131.7	20.9
60–64	*4.7	20.2	24.9	26.0	228.8	42.7
65–69	*4.6	13.8	18.4	18.4	280.7	70.5
70 and over	7.0	15.2	22.2	22.2	742.4	92.6
Relationship in household						
Family member	20.5	168.9	189.4	206.9	1 617.5	24.8
Husband, wife or partner	13.3	65.1	78.4	84.3	1 124.3	23.2
Lone parent	**0.3	*5.1	*5.4	*5.4	42.6	27.1
Dependent student	*1.7	69.3	71.0	75.6	281.1	53.0
Non-dependent child	*4.4	21.6	26.0	30.4	103.7	12.7
Other related individual	**0.8	7.7	8.5	11.1	65.8	38.4
Non-family member	7.3	54.6	61.9	69.5	444.4	33.0
Relationship not determined	**0.2	12.5	12.7	14.1	79.2	29.4
Country of birth(c)						
Born in Australia	16.0	168.9	184.9	203.2	1 390.3	24.0
Born overseas	12.1	66.6	78.7	87.0	750.2	32.0
Born in main English-speaking countries	*4.6	23.4	27.9	29.7	240.9	27.1
Born in other than main English-speaking countries	7.5	43.2	50.7	57.3	509.3	35.0
Total	28.0	235.9	264.0	290.6	2 141.1	26.3

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

\*\* 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)

(a) Proportion of people not in the labour force in each corresponding civilian population group.

(b) Refers to mainly urban areas only. See paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

(c) Excludes 'inadequately described'.

	WANTED TO WORK, NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING, BUT WERE AVAILABLE			Total with marginal attachment to the labour force	Total persons not in the labour force	Proportion not in the labour force (a)
	Discouraged job seekers	Other	Total			
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%
FEMALES						
State or territory of usual residence						
New South Wales	21.2	156.9	178.2	192.9	1 169.1	42.1
Victoria	12.9	119.8	132.6	140.7	857.4	41.0
Queensland	7.8	85.8	93.7	102.8	602.4	37.1
South Australia	3.6	36.7	40.3	42.9	268.3	42.1
Western Australia	*1.9	45.8	47.7	52.5	306.2	37.5
Tasmania	*1.0	11.5	12.5	13.1	89.1	44.5
Northern Territory(b)	—	*2.3	*2.3	*2.6	14.4	26.8
Australian Capital Territory	**0.2	7.0	7.2	7.4	43.8	32.3
Age group (years)						
15–19	*1.7	67.3	69.0	75.6	271.8	39.5
20–24	*2.4	39.9	42.3	49.9	147.0	20.6
25–34	*3.2	108.4	111.7	120.8	358.0	25.3
35–44	6.9	119.4	126.3	133.2	369.9	24.3
45–54	*5.7	60.8	66.6	73.1	317.9	22.0
55–59	6.1	29.6	35.7	38.2	258.5	40.3
60–64	*5.7	18.6	24.3	25.5	328.4	62.1
65–69	*5.7	12.5	18.2	18.2	344.5	85.0
70 and over	11.1	9.3	20.4	20.4	954.9	97.7
Relationship in household						
Family member	33.1	406.9	440.0	471.1	2 543.1	37.9
Husband, wife or partner	24.8	254.2	279.0	295.8	1 805.9	38.3
Lone parent	*4.5	74.8	79.3	86.7	302.2	41.1
Dependent student	**1.1	59.9	61.0	66.1	246.0	43.0
Non-dependent child	*1.9	10.7	12.6	14.4	67.0	14.0
Other related individual	**0.8	7.3	8.2	8.2	122.1	58.3
Non-family member	15.1	45.3	60.4	66.6	704.1	52.4
Relationship not determined	**0.4	13.6	14.0	17.1	103.6	37.6
Country of birth(c)						
Born in Australia	30.1	331.7	361.9	389.0	2 222.7	37.2
Born overseas	18.5	133.7	152.2	165.5	1 126.4	47.8
Born in main English-speaking countries	*3.0	43.3	46.3	49.5	341.0	40.2
Born in other than main English-speaking countries	15.5	90.4	105.9	116.0	785.3	52.1
Total	48.6	465.8	514.4	554.8	3 350.8	40.2

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\*\* 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)

(a) Proportion of people not in the labour force in each corresponding civilian population group.

(b) Refers to mainly urban areas only. See paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

(c) Excludes 'inadequately described'.

	WANTED TO WORK, NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING, BUT WERE AVAILABLE			Total with marginal attachment to the labour force	Total persons not in the labour force	Proportion not in the labour force (a)
	Discouraged job seekers	Other	Total			
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%
PERSONS						
State or territory of usual residence						
New South Wales	33.0	233.7	266.7	289.4	1 920.8	35.0
Victoria	19.2	183.9	203.1	219.4	1 383.9	33.6
Queensland	11.6	128.1	139.7	152.6	993.6	30.8
South Australia	7.1	57.5	64.6	70.2	457.7	36.5
Western Australia	3.9	65.2	69.2	76.0	489.1	30.1
Tasmania	*1.3	18.2	19.5	20.8	150.7	38.4
Northern Territory(b)	—	4.0	4.0	4.7	24.5	22.2
Australian Capital Territory	**0.4	11.3	11.7	12.3	71.6	27.0
Age group (years)						
15–19	*5.8	144.6	150.4	164.5	574.3	41.2
20–24	*4.0	65.2	69.2	84.2	254.2	17.5
25–34	*4.1	132.0	136.2	149.0	453.3	16.0
35–44	7.7	144.4	152.1	161.9	481.4	16.0
45–54	6.5	82.6	89.2	98.8	458.8	16.0
55–59	9.8	43.3	53.1	56.4	390.2	30.7
60–64	10.4	38.7	49.1	51.5	557.3	52.3
65–69	10.3	26.3	36.6	36.6	625.2	77.8
70 and over	18.1	24.5	42.6	42.6	1 697.3	95.4
Relationship in household						
Family member	53.6	575.8	629.4	678.0	4 160.7	31.4
Husband, wife or partner	38.1	319.3	357.4	380.1	2 930.2	30.6
Lone parent	*4.8	79.9	84.7	92.1	344.8	38.7
Dependent student	*2.8	129.2	132.0	141.7	527.1	47.8
Non-dependent child	6.3	32.2	38.6	44.8	170.7	13.1
Other related individual	*1.6	15.1	16.7	19.3	187.9	49.3
Non-family member	22.4	99.9	122.3	136.2	1 148.5	42.7
Relationship not determined	**0.6	26.1	26.7	31.2	182.8	33.5
Country of birth(c)						
Born in Australia	46.1	500.7	546.8	592.2	3 613.0	30.7
Born overseas	30.5	200.3	230.8	252.4	1 876.6	39.9
Born in main English-speaking countries	7.5	66.7	74.2	79.2	582.0	33.5
Born in other than main English-speaking countries	23.0	133.7	156.7	173.3	1 294.6	43.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>76.6</b>	<b>701.7</b>	<b>778.4</b>	<b>845.4</b>	<b>5 492.0</b>	<b>33.3</b>

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

\*\* 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)

(a) Proportion of people not in the labour force in each corresponding civilian population group.

(b) Refers to mainly urban areas only. See paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

(c) Excludes 'inadequately described'.



# PERSONS WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE, Time since last job and main activity when not in the labour force

	WANTED TO WORK, NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING, BUT WERE AVAILABLE			Total with marginal attachment to the labour force	Total persons not in the labour force
	Discouraged job seekers	Other	Total		
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES					
Time since last job					
Had a job	25.2	172.9	198.1	219.1	1 785.4
Under 12 months	*4.3	76.9	81.2	95.5	248.8
1 year and under 3 years	*5.7	32.7	38.5	41.0	190.7
3 years and under 5 years	*3.2	16.7	19.9	21.4	159.6
5 years and under 10 years	*5.3	21.9	27.2	29.0	337.5
10 years and under 20 years	*4.1	18.6	22.7	23.5	505.5
20 years or more	*2.6	6.1	8.7	8.7	343.2
Never had a job	*2.8	63.0	65.8	71.5	355.8
Main activity when not in the labour force					
Retired or voluntarily inactive	11.6	32.1	43.7	44.3	876.3
Home duties or caring for children	*3.2	24.9	28.1	30.6	138.7
Attending an educational institution	*3.0	99.2	102.2	114.7	421.8
Own long-term health condition or disability	*1.6	23.8	25.4	27.3	366.5
Own short-term illness or injury	**0.4	7.5	7.8	8.8	30.7
Looking after ill or disabled person	—	8.2	8.2	9.1	62.8
Travel, holiday or leisure activity	*2.2	22.8	25.0	28.3	149.1
Working in unpaid voluntary job	*2.7	*4.8	7.5	8.6	47.9
Other	*3.4	12.7	16.1	18.8	47.3
Total	28.0	235.9	264.0	290.6	2 141.1
FEMALES					
Time since last job					
Had a job	44.6	381.3	425.9	460.2	2 819.0
Under 12 months	6.3	100.6	106.9	127.4	372.8
1 year and under 3 years	7.0	95.5	102.5	108.3	319.3
3 years and under 5 years	*4.3	45.1	49.3	52.7	203.1
5 years and under 10 years	8.4	71.2	79.6	82.6	408.0
10 years and under 20 years	12.0	44.3	56.4	57.6	555.1
20 years or more	6.6	24.5	31.1	31.6	960.6
Never had a job	*4.0	84.5	88.5	94.6	531.9
Main activity when not in the labour force					
Retired or voluntarily inactive	10.4	20.7	31.1	32.0	871.5
Home duties or caring for children	28.0	291.1	319.1	338.0	1 438.0
Attending an educational institution	*2.4	91.6	94.0	107.2	394.9
Own long-term health condition or disability	**1.3	13.8	15.1	16.0	250.3
Own short-term illness or injury	—	11.7	11.7	13.9	32.6
Looking after ill or disabled person	**1.0	12.7	13.7	14.5	130.8
Travel, holiday or leisure activity	*2.2	11.7	14.0	14.4	129.2
Working in unpaid voluntary job	*2.6	6.6	9.2	10.0	73.9
Other	**0.6	*5.8	6.4	8.8	29.7
Total	48.6	465.8	514.4	554.8	3 350.8

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

\*\* 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)

PERSONS WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE, Time since last job and main activity when not in the labour force *continued*

	WANTED TO WORK, NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING, BUT WERE AVAILABLE			Total with marginal attachment to the labour force	Total persons not in the labour force
	<i>Discouraged job seekers</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>		
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
PERSONS					
Time since last job					
Had a job	69.8	554.2	624.0	679.3	4 604.3
Under 12 months	10.5	177.5	188.1	223.0	621.6
1 year and under 3 years	12.7	128.3	141.0	149.3	510.0
3 years and under 5 years	7.5	61.8	69.2	74.1	362.7
5 years and under 10 years	13.7	93.1	106.8	111.5	745.5
10 years and under 20 years	16.2	62.9	79.1	81.1	1 060.6
20 years or more	9.2	30.6	39.8	40.3	1 303.8
Never had a job	6.8	147.5	154.4	166.1	887.6
Main activity when not in the labour force					
Retired or voluntarily inactive	22.0	52.9	74.9	76.4	1 747.9
Home duties or caring for children	31.2	316.0	347.2	368.5	1 576.7
Attending an educational institution	*5.4	190.8	196.2	221.9	816.6
Own long-term health condition or disability	*3.0	37.5	40.5	43.4	616.8
Own short-term illness or injury	**0.4	19.2	19.6	22.8	63.3
Looking after ill or disabled person	**1.0	20.9	21.9	23.6	193.6
Travel, holiday or leisure activity	*4.4	34.5	39.0	42.7	278.3
Working in unpaid voluntary job	*5.2	11.5	16.7	18.6	121.8
Other	*4.0	18.4	22.5	27.6	77.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>76.6</b>	<b>701.7</b>	<b>778.4</b>	<b>845.4</b>	<b>5 492.0</b>

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

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

# PERSONS WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE, Intention to enter the labour force in the next 12 months and full-time or part-time preference

	INTENTION TO ENTER THE LABOUR FORCE IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS			FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME PREFERENCE		Total(a)(b)
	<i>Intended to enter</i>	<i>Might enter</i>	<i>Did not intend to enter</i>	<i>Full-time</i>	<i>Part-time</i>	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>Sex</b>						
Males	181.3	31.0	66.7	86.3	133.3	290.6
Females	288.8	97.7	143.7	91.0	361.8	554.8
<b>Main reason for not actively looking for work</b>						
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start within four weeks	403.0	128.7	210.4	150.0	460.8	778.4
Discouraged job seekers	24.5	11.9	36.9	13.7	25.4	76.6
Considered too young by employers	**1.3	—	**1.1	*0.3	**1.0	*2.4
Considered too old by employers	*3.5	*3.6	26.8	*2.2	7.3	35.8
Lacked the necessary schooling, training, skills or experience	7.5	*4.2	*2.3	*4.3	7.1	15.1
Difficulties because of language or ethnic background	*2.4	**0.6	**1.0	*2.2	**1.1	*4.5
No jobs in locality or line of work	7.4	*2.6	*5.2	*3.0	7.1	15.2
No jobs at all	*2.4	**0.8	**0.4	*1.6	*1.8	*3.6
Other reasons	378.5	116.9	173.5	136.3	435.4	701.7
Personal reasons	171.4	55.6	81.0	59.9	196.0	326.2
Own short-term illness or injury	15.6	6.3	*2.7	*4.8	16.4	25.4
Own long-term health condition or disability	19.4	15.0	34.3	7.5	36.7	75.8
Pregnancy	**0.8	—	*3.2	*1.7	*2.0	*4.1
Attending an educational institution	112.3	21.1	15.2	41.0	105.7	156.5
Other personal reasons	23.3	13.2	25.6	*4.9	35.1	64.5
Family reasons	98.2	48.5	71.0	31.4	163.8	228.3
Ill health of other than self	11.0	*4.3	6.9	*4.2	13.0	23.8
Caring for children	58.7	31.7	40.2	19.2	103.9	136.2
Other family considerations	28.5	12.4	23.9	8.0	46.8	68.3
No jobs in suitable hours	7.0	**0.6	*2.7	**0.3	9.1	10.3
Other reasons	42.8	9.4	15.0	18.9	33.1	68.5
Had a job to go to	49.3	*1.7	**1.3	22.1	25.4	53.6
Did not know	9.8	**1.1	*2.5	*3.7	8.1	14.8
<b>Total(c)</b>	<b>470.1</b>	<b>128.7</b>	<b>210.4</b>	<b>177.4</b>	<b>495.1</b>	<b>845.4</b>

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

\*\* 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)

(a) Includes those people who 'did not know' whether they intended to enter the labour force in the next 12 months.

(b) Includes people who had no preference for full-time or part-time work or were 'undecided'.

(c) Includes people who wanted to work and were actively looking for work.

# PERSONS WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK, Main reason for not actively looking for work

	AGE GROUP (YEARS)						SEX		Total
	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-69	70 and over	Males	Females	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	
Discouraged job seekers(a)	9.8	*4.1	7.7	6.5	30.5	18.1	28.0	48.6	76.6
Considered too old by employers	—	**0.4	**0.3	*1.6	16.6	17.0	14.3	21.6	35.8
Lacked the necessary schooling, training, skills or experience	*5.4	*1.4	*2.9	*2.5	*3.0	—	*5.0	10.2	15.1
Difficulties because of language or ethnic background	—	**0.9	**1.2	**1.1	**1.3	—	**0.6	*3.8	*4.5
No jobs in locality or line of work	*2.1	**1.1	*2.9	*1.4	7.1	**0.6	*4.4	10.8	15.2
No jobs at all	**0.9	**0.4	**0.3	—	*1.9	—	*2.0	*1.6	*3.6
Other reasons	209.8	132.0	144.4	82.6	108.3	24.5	235.9	465.8	701.7
Personal reasons	144.3	27.5	43.3	34.7	63.0	13.5	149.1	177.2	326.2
Own short-term illness or injury	*3.3	*3.7	*6.0	*4.7	6.4	**1.2	7.7	17.7	25.4
Own long-term health condition or disability	*2.0	8.1	15.5	18.1	27.3	*4.8	40.1	35.7	75.8
Pregnancy	**0.6	*2.2	**1.3	—	—	—	—	*4.1	*4.1
Attending an educational institution	131.3	10.8	9.1	*1.9	*3.4	—	74.8	81.7	156.5
Other personal reasons	7.1	*2.6	11.4	9.9	25.9	7.5	26.5	38.0	64.5
Family reasons	26.1	77.3	77.3	26.9	17.1	*3.4	22.9	205.3	228.3
Ill health of other than self	**1.2	*3.5	*5.8	6.6	*5.5	**1.2	7.4	16.4	23.8
Caring for children	18.0	58.5	49.5	8.7	*1.4	—	*5.9	130.3	136.2
Other family considerations	6.9	15.3	22.0	11.7	10.1	*2.2	9.7	58.6	68.3
No jobs in suitable hours	**0.6	*1.9	*3.6	*2.7	*1.4	**0.1	*1.9	8.4	10.3
Other reasons	17.3	11.2	9.0	7.5	17.7	*5.7	30.4	38.1	68.5
Had a job to go to	15.2	13.4	10.0	7.8	6.8	**0.3	23.0	30.7	53.6
Did not know	6.3	**0.8	**1.1	*3.0	*2.3	*1.4	8.7	6.1	14.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>219.6</b>	<b>136.2</b>	<b>152.1</b>	<b>89.2</b>	<b>138.8</b>	<b>42.6</b>	<b>264.0</b>	<b>514.4</b>	<b>778.4</b>

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

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes 'considered too young by employers'.

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

	Males	Females	Persons
	'000	'000	'000
.....			
Age group (years)			
15-19	*4.1	*1.7	*5.8
20-24	*1.6	*2.4	*4.0
25-34	**0.9	*3.2	*4.1
35-44	**0.8	6.9	7.7
45-54	**0.8	*5.7	6.5
55-59	*3.7	6.1	9.8
60-64	*4.7	*5.7	10.4
65-69	*4.6	*5.7	10.3
70 and over	7.0	11.1	18.1
Whether looked for work in the last 12 months			
Had looked for work	8.1	14.7	22.8
Less than 13 weeks ago	*3.6	9.8	13.4
13 weeks to 52 weeks ago	*4.5	*4.9	9.4
Had not looked for work	20.0	33.9	53.8
Intention to enter the labour force in the next 12 months(a)			
Intended to enter	9.1	15.4	24.5
Might enter	*3.2	8.7	11.9
Did not intend to enter	14.2	22.7	36.9
Time since last job			
Had a job	25.2	44.6	69.8
Under twelve months	*4.3	6.3	10.5
1 year and under 3 years	*5.7	7.0	12.7
3 years and under 5 years	*3.2	*4.3	7.5
5 years and under 10 years	*5.3	8.4	13.7
10 years and under 20 years	*4.1	12.0	16.2
20 years or more	*2.6	6.6	9.2
Never had a job	*2.8	*4.0	6.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>48.6</b>	<b>76.6</b>

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

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

(a) Includes 'did not know'.

	<i>Wanted to work not actively looking and not available</i>	<i>Did not want to work(a)</i>	<i>Total without marginal attachment(b)</i>	<i>Total not in the labour force</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>MALES</b>				
State or territory of usual residence				
New South Wales	42.1	543.7	655.2	751.8
Victoria	29.0	382.6	447.8	526.5
Queensland	16.4	294.9	341.4	391.2
South Australia	14.7	138.0	162.0	189.4
Western Australia	10.5	140.6	159.4	182.9
Tasmania	3.1	43.3	53.9	61.6
Northern Territory(c)	**0.3	6.3	7.9	10.1
Australian Capital Territory	2.6	19.6	22.9	27.8
Age group (years)				
15–19	36.0	174.3	213.5	302.5
20–24	13.1	57.3	72.9	107.2
25–34	15.3	39.6	67.1	95.3
35–44	9.2	49.3	82.8	111.5
45–54	17.4	64.3	115.3	141.0
55–59	8.9	77.4	113.5	131.7
60–64	7.7	158.0	202.8	228.8
65–69	*3.8	252.6	262.3	280.7
70 and over	7.2	696.1	720.3	742.4
Relationship in household				
Family member	86.1	1 206.7	1 410.6	1 617.5
Husband, wife or partner	37.5	923.1	1 040.0	1 124.3
Lone parent	*3.7	30.2	37.2	42.6
Dependent student	35.1	168.4	205.5	281.1
Non-dependent child	6.2	41.7	73.3	103.7
Other related individual	*3.7	43.4	54.7	65.8
Non-family member	27.0	306.4	374.8	444.4
Relationship not determined	*5.6	55.8	65.1	79.2
Country of birth(d)				
Born in Australia	80.9	990.6	1 187.1	1 390.3
Born overseas	37.9	578.1	663.3	750.2
Born in main English-speaking countries	11.5	191.6	211.3	240.9
Born in other than main English-speaking countries	26.4	386.5	452.0	509.3
Time since last job				
Had a job	85.0	1 349.1	1 566.3	1 785.4
Under 12 months	28.8	118.6	153.3	248.8
1 year and under 3 years	20.6	118.1	149.7	190.7
3 years and under 5 years	7.6	115.9	138.2	159.6
5 years and under 10 years	15.4	261.4	308.5	337.5
10 years and under 20 years	7.6	436.0	482.0	505.5
20 years or more	*5.0	299.1	334.5	343.2
Never had a job	33.8	219.8	284.3	355.8
Main activity when not in the labour force				
Retired or voluntarily inactive	10.7	796.6	832.0	876.3
Home duties or caring for children	11.6	90.3	108.1	138.7
Attending an educational institution	54.5	250.9	307.1	421.8
Own long-term health condition or disability	24.9	196.2	339.2	366.5
Own short-term illness or injury	7.2	11.8	21.9	30.7
Looking after ill or disabled person	*2.6	46.7	53.7	62.8
Travel, holiday or leisure activity	*2.8	115.3	120.8	149.1
Working in unpaid voluntary job	*1.9	36.4	39.3	47.9
Other	*2.5	24.7	28.5	47.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>118.7</b>	<b>1 569.0</b>	<b>1 850.5</b>	<b>2 141.1</b>

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

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

(a) Includes 'did not know'.

(b) Includes 296,200 people (162,800 men and 133,400 women) who were 'permanently unable to work'.

(c) Refers to mainly urban areas only. See paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

(d) Excludes 'inadequately described'.

	<i>Wanted to work not actively looking and not available</i>	<i>Did not want to work(a)</i>	<i>Total without marginal attachment(b)</i>	<i>Total not in the labour force</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>FEMALES</b>				
State or territory of usual residence				
New South Wales	74.1	840.6	976.2	1 169.1
Victoria	65.9	625.2	716.7	857.4
Queensland	37.8	436.3	499.7	602.4
South Australia	15.4	201.9	225.4	268.3
Western Australia	21.2	226.8	253.7	306.2
Tasmania	5.4	65.2	76.0	89.1
Northern Territory(c)	*1.2	10.3	11.8	14.4
Australian Capital Territory	3.4	31.9	36.5	43.8
Age group (years)				
15–19	28.8	166.7	196.3	271.8
20–24	19.9	71.4	97.1	147.0
25–34	66.8	163.4	237.2	358.0
35–44	56.3	164.0	236.7	369.9
45–54	26.3	191.1	244.7	317.9
55–59	12.6	187.1	220.3	258.5
60–64	7.3	268.7	303.0	328.4
65–69	*2.6	317.1	326.3	344.5
70 and over	*3.8	908.7	934.4	954.9
Relationship in household				
Family member	197.2	1 776.7	2 072.1	2 543.1
Husband, wife or partner	134.6	1 313.1	1 510.1	1 805.9
Lone parent	26.9	172.6	215.5	302.2
Dependent student	25.9	153.6	180.0	246.0
Non-dependent child	*5.9	35.3	52.6	67.0
Other related individual	*3.9	102.2	113.9	122.1
Non-family member	20.8	582.6	637.5	704.1
Relationship not determined	6.6	78.8	86.5	103.6
Country of birth(d)				
Born in Australia	149.5	1 597.8	1 833.7	2 222.7
Born overseas	75.0	838.9	960.9	1 126.4
Born in main English-speaking countries	14.5	264.7	291.5	341.0
Born in other than main English-speaking countries	60.4	574.2	669.4	785.3
Time since last job				
Had a job	188.4	2 072.1	2 358.8	2 819.0
Under 12 months	71.2	171.4	245.4	372.8
1 year and under 3 years	37.3	166.7	211.1	319.3
3 years and under 5 years	21.4	122.8	150.4	203.1
5 years and under 10 years	29.1	279.4	325.5	408.0
10 years and under 20 years	19.2	453.2	497.5	555.1
20 years or more	10.1	878.6	929.0	960.6
Never had a job	36.2	366.0	437.2	531.9
Main activity when not in the labour force				
Retired or voluntarily inactive	*3.6	814.8	839.5	871.5
Home duties or caring for children	130.9	941.5	1 100.0	1 438.0
Attending an educational institution	46.5	239.9	287.6	394.9
Own long-term health condition or disability	18.0	143.1	234.3	250.3
Own short-term illness or injury	6.5	11.4	18.7	32.6
Looking after ill or disabled person	12.3	97.2	116.3	130.8
Travel, holiday or leisure activity	*2.2	112.3	114.8	129.2
Working in unpaid voluntary job	*2.8	59.4	64.0	73.9
Other	*1.8	18.5	20.9	29.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>224.5</b>	<b>2 438.1</b>	<b>2 796.0</b>	<b>3 350.8</b>

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

(c) Refers to mainly urban areas only. See paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

(a) Includes 'did not know'.

(d) Excludes 'inadequately described'.

(b) Includes 296,200 people (162,800 men and 133,400 women) who were 'permanently unable to work'.

	<i>Wanted to work not actively looking and not available</i>	<i>Did not want to work(a)</i>	<i>Total without marginal attachment(b)</i>	<i>Total not in the labour force</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000
PERSONS				
State or territory of usual residence				
New South Wales	116.2	1 384.3	1 631.4	1 920.8
Victoria	94.9	1 007.8	1 164.5	1 383.9
Queensland	54.2	731.1	841.0	993.6
South Australia	30.1	339.9	387.4	457.7
Western Australia	31.7	367.4	413.1	489.1
Tasmania	8.6	108.4	129.9	150.7
Northern Territory(c)	*1.5	16.6	19.8	24.5
Australian Capital Territory	6.0	51.5	59.4	71.6
Age group (years)				
15–19	64.9	341.1	409.8	574.3
20–24	33.1	128.7	170.0	254.2
25–34	82.1	202.9	304.2	453.3
35–44	65.6	213.3	319.5	481.4
45–54	43.6	255.3	360.1	458.8
55–59	21.6	264.5	333.8	390.2
60–64	15.0	426.7	505.8	557.3
65–69	6.4	569.7	588.6	625.2
70 and over	11.0	1 604.8	1 654.7	1 697.3
Relationship in household				
Family member	283.3	2 983.4	3 482.7	4 160.7
Husband, wife or partner	172.0	2 236.2	2 550.1	2 930.2
Lone parent	30.5	202.8	252.6	344.8
Dependent student	61.0	321.9	385.4	527.1
Non-dependent child	12.1	77.0	125.9	170.7
Other related individual	7.6	145.6	168.6	187.9
Non-family member	47.8	888.9	1 012.3	1 148.5
Relationship not determined	12.2	134.7	151.6	182.8
Country of birth(d)				
Born in Australia	230.4	2 588.4	3 020.8	3 613.0
Born overseas	112.9	1 417.0	1 624.2	1 876.6
Born in main English-speaking countries	26.1	456.3	502.8	582.0
Born in other than main English-speaking countries	86.8	960.7	1 121.3	1 294.6
Time since last job				
Had a job	273.3	3 421.2	3 925.0	4 604.3
Under 12 months	100.0	290.0	398.7	621.6
1 year and under 3 years	57.9	284.9	360.7	510.0
3 years and under 5 years	29.0	238.7	288.6	362.7
5 years and under 10 years	44.5	540.8	634.0	745.5
10 years and under 20 years	26.8	889.2	979.5	1 060.6
20 years or more	15.2	1 177.6	1 263.6	1 303.8
Never had a job	70.0	585.8	721.5	887.6
Main activity when not in the labour force				
Retired or voluntarily inactive	14.3	1 611.3	1 671.5	1 747.9
Home duties or caring for children	142.5	1 031.8	1 208.1	1 576.7
Attending an educational institution	101.0	490.8	594.7	816.6
Own long-term health condition or disability	42.9	339.3	573.5	616.8
Own short-term illness or injury	13.7	23.2	40.6	63.3
Looking after ill or disabled person	14.9	144.0	170.0	193.6
Travel, holiday or leisure activity	*5.0	227.6	235.6	278.3
Working in unpaid voluntary job	*4.7	95.8	103.2	121.8
Other	*4.3	43.2	49.3	77.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>343.3</b>	<b>4 007.0</b>	<b>4 646.5</b>	<b>5 492.0</b>

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

(c) Refers to mainly urban areas only. See paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

(a) Includes 'did not know'.

(d) Excludes 'inadequately described'.

(b) Includes 296,200 people (162,800 men and 133,400 women) who were 'permanently unable to work'.



# PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE, BECAUSE THEY WERE CARING FOR CHILDREN—Selected characteristics

	NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING BUT AVAILABLE FOR WORK		NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING AND NOT AVAILABLE FOR WORK(a)		Total
	<i>All reasons not actively looking for work included 'caring for children'</i>	<i>Main reason not actively looking for work was 'caring for children'</i>	<i>All reasons not available to start work included 'caring for children'(b)</i>	<i>Main reason not available to start work was 'caring for children'</i>	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
FEMALES					
Age group (years)					
15–24	19.1	17.1	*5.3	*4.5	24.3
25–34	66.8	57.7	41.1	36.5	108.0
35–44	56.8	46.7	25.6	24.3	82.4
45–54	10.5	7.6	*2.8	*2.1	13.2
55 and over	**1.2	**1.2	**0.9	**0.5	*2.1
Age of youngest child(c)					
0–2 years	82.9	70.6	53.4	49.6	136.3
3–5 years	35.6	31.1	12.2	10.1	47.8
6–12 years	23.5	18.8	6.1	*4.7	29.6
Relationship in household(d)					
Family member(e)	149.2	127.4	74.4	67.1	223.5
Husband, wife or partner	108.8	91.8	63.1	58.0	171.9
Lone parent	39.3	34.5	10.3	8.2	49.7
Relationship not determined	*4.4	*2.1	**0.6	**0.5	*5.0
Country of birth(f)					
Born in Australia	111.9	92.8	51.7	46.7	163.5
Born overseas	42.5	37.5	24.0	21.2	66.5
Born in main English-speaking countries	12.9	11.7	6.5	*5.5	19.5
Born in other than main English-speaking countries	29.6	25.8	17.4	15.8	47.0
Total	154.4	130.3	75.6	67.9	230.0

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

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

(a) People who were not actively looking and not available for work were not asked the reasons why they were not actively looking for work. They were only asked the reasons why they were not available.

(b) From September 2007 all reasons not available to start work within four weeks were collected in addition to main reason not available to start work within four weeks.

(c) Excludes people whose youngest child was aged 13 years or over, and 'not applicable'.

(d) Excludes 'non-family member'.

(e) Includes 'non-dependent child'.

(f) Excludes 'inadequately described'.

PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE, BECAUSE THEY WERE CARING FOR  
CHILDREN—Selected characteristics *continued*

	NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING BUT AVAILABLE FOR WORK		NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING AND NOT AVAILABLE FOR WORK(a)		Total
	<i>All reasons not actively looking for work included 'caring for children'</i>	<i>Main reason not actively looking for work was 'caring for children'</i>	<i>All reasons not available to start work included 'caring for children'(b)</i>	<i>Main reason not available to start work was 'caring for children'</i>	
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
PERSONS (c)					
Age group (years)					
15–24	20.5	18.0	*5.3	*4.5	25.7
25–34	67.9	58.5	42.5	37.1	110.4
35–44	59.7	49.5	26.8	25.5	86.5
45–54	12.2	8.7	*3.0	*2.3	15.2
55 and over	*1.4	*1.4	*2.9	*2.3	*4.3
Age of youngest child(d)					
0–2 years	85.6	73.2	55.3	51.4	140.9
3–5 years	39.1	33.8	12.6	10.1	51.6
6–12 years	23.9	19.2	7.0	*5.1	30.9
Relationship in household(e)					
Family member(f)	156.4	133.2	78.7	70.4	235.1
Husband, wife or partner	114.0	96.1	66.0	60.2	180.0
Lone parent	41.1	35.7	11.2	8.8	52.3
Relationship not determined	*4.4	*2.1	**0.6	**0.5	*5.0
Country of birth(g)					
Born in Australia	116.4	96.0	54.1	48.4	170.5
Born overseas	45.2	40.2	26.4	23.4	71.6
Born in main English-speaking countries	14.2	12.9	7.4	6.1	21.6
Born in other than main English-speaking countries	31.0	27.3	19.0	17.3	50.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>161.6</b>	<b>136.2</b>	<b>80.5</b>	<b>71.8</b>	<b>242.1</b>

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

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

(a) People who were not actively looking and not available for work were not asked the reasons why they were not actively looking for work. They were only asked the reasons why they were not available.

(b) From September 2007 all reasons not available to start work within four weeks were collected in addition to main reason not available to start work within four weeks.

(c) Includes males.

(d) Excludes people whose youngest child was aged 13 years or over, and 'not applicable'.

(e) Excludes 'non-family member'.

(f) Includes 'non-dependent child'.

(g) Excludes 'inadequately described'.

	STATUS IN EMPLOYMENT		FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME STATUS		
	Employee	Own account worker/Employer	Full-time	Part-time	Total(a)
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES					
Reason for ceasing last job					
Job loser	299.4	22.9	220.4	96.5	322.4
Retrenched, made redundant, employer went out of business, dismissed, no work was available	179.7	*3.6	145.9	34.9	183.4
Job was temporary or seasonal	65.5	*3.6	21.4	46.2	69.3
Own short-term illness or injury	47.6	*3.7	38.8	11.6	51.3
Own business closed down for economic reasons	6.5	11.9	14.4	*3.8	18.5
Job leaver	918.8	199.3	924.1	181.3	1 119.7
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	37.7	*2.0	22.2	16.9	39.7
Retired, did not want to work any longer	425.8	103.9	476.2	48.2	530.2
Own long-term health condition or disability	278.7	58.6	288.7	44.1	337.8
Returned to studies	57.8	*1.5	21.3	38.3	59.8
To look after family, house or someone else	40.7	6.4	39.2	6.7	47.1
To have holidays, moved house or spouse transferred	26.1	*4.3	19.8	10.2	30.4
Own business closed down for other than economic reasons	10.9	18.5	26.5	*2.9	29.5
Other	38.5	*3.8	27.7	13.6	42.4
Occupation in last job(b)					
Managers	131.6	73.4	193.0	12.4	206.1
Professionals	155.7	26.0	140.8	39.0	181.9
Technicians and trades workers	262.2	61.3	284.3	34.7	323.5
Community and personal service workers	59.2	*2.5	41.0	19.9	61.6
Clerical and administrative workers	107.0	6.7	92.8	20.5	113.7
Sales workers	68.5	6.8	43.1	32.2	75.3
Machinery operators and drivers	181.6	17.6	168.2	27.1	199.2
Labourers	252.4	27.9	181.3	92.2	280.8
Whether looked for work in the last 12 months					
Had looked for work	102.2	9.2	59.3	49.5	111.4
Less than 13 weeks	72.1	7.2	40.5	36.6	79.3
13 weeks and less than 26 weeks ago	12.3	**0.7	6.5	*6.0	13.0
26 weeks to 52 weeks ago	17.9	**1.3	12.3	6.9	19.2
Had not looked for work	1 116.0	213.0	1 085.1	228.3	1 330.7
Time since last job					
Under twelve months	219.5	29.2	135.7	107.5	248.8
1 year and under 3 years	163.5	26.7	129.5	59.7	190.7
3 years and under 5 years	128.4	31.2	126.1	31.0	159.6
5 years and under 10 years	273.7	63.3	289.6	42.8	337.5
10 years and under 20 years	433.2	71.8	463.6	36.7	505.5
Total	1 218.2	222.2	1 144.5	277.8	1 442.1

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

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

- (a) Includes people who were 'contributing family workers' and 'unpaid voluntary workers', and whose full-time or part-time status in their last job was 'varied' or they 'did not know'.
- (b) Excludes 'inadequately described'.

	STATUS IN EMPLOYMENT		FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME STATUS		
	Employee	Own account worker/Employer	Full-time	Part-time	Total(a)
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
FEMALES					
Reason for ceasing last job					
Job loser	298.6	24.6	143.7	175.3	324.7
Retrenched, made redundant, employer went out of business, dismissed, no work was available	169.5	*4.4	90.0	82.5	174.4
Job was temporary or seasonal	77.8	*3.1	21.3	58.4	81.8
Own short-term illness or injury	44.1	*5.2	19.8	28.5	49.3
Own business closed down for economic reasons	7.3	11.9	12.7	*5.8	19.2
Job leaver	1 399.7	131.3	885.8	622.9	1 533.6
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	79.5	*1.8	27.2	53.1	81.7
Retired, did not want to work any longer	378.6	52.9	268.8	153.9	431.5
Own long-term health condition or disability	197.0	16.8	126.9	84.2	214.7
Returned to studies	72.9	**1.1	25.2	49.3	74.5
Pregnancy or to have children	373.1	12.2	248.3	132.7	385.7
To get married	13.9	**0.6	12.9	*1.6	14.6
To look after family, house or someone else	124.7	9.9	68.1	64.8	134.6
To have holidays, moved house or spouse transferred	93.3	*6.0	53.4	45.1	99.3
Own business closed down for other than economic reasons	12.6	23.2	25.0	8.9	36.0
Other	53.9	6.7	29.9	29.3	61.0
Occupation in last job(b)					
Managers	94.8	57.9	121.9	28.5	153.7
Professionals	263.7	16.6	173.1	102.7	280.3
Technicians and trades workers	83.1	14.7	61.8	36.1	98.7
Community and personal service workers	237.1	9.7	104.8	137.7	247.0
Clerical and administrative workers	398.8	22.2	269.0	147.2	422.4
Sales workers	241.9	11.0	90.9	158.1	253.2
Machinery operators and drivers	57.3	*4.2	47.2	13.7	61.6
Labourers	321.6	19.6	160.7	174.2	341.5
Whether looked for work in the last 12 months					
Had looked for work	148.8	6.3	62.8	88.9	155.2
Less than 13 weeks	109.0	*5.4	48.2	64.6	114.4
13 weeks and less than 26 weeks ago	14.8	**0.4	6.3	8.0	15.1
26 weeks to 52 weeks ago	25.1	**0.6	8.3	16.3	25.7
Had not looked for work	1 549.5	149.6	966.7	709.3	1 703.2
Time since last job					
Under twelve months	353.3	19.0	143.7	225.0	372.8
1 year and under 3 years	292.6	25.7	152.4	162.1	319.3
3 years and under 5 years	186.4	15.9	109.9	88.9	203.1
5 years and under 10 years	362.5	44.1	258.6	142.4	408.0
10 years and under 20 years	503.6	51.1	364.9	179.7	555.1
Total	1 698.3	155.9	1 029.5	798.1	1 858.3
<p>* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution</p> <p>** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use</p>					
<p>(a) Includes people who were 'contributing family workers' and 'unpaid voluntary workers', and whose full-time or part-time status in their last job was 'varied' or they 'did not know'.</p> <p>(b) Excludes 'inadequately described'.</p>					

	STATUS IN EMPLOYMENT		FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME STATUS		
	Employee	Own account worker/Employer	Full-time	Part-time	Total(a)
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
PERSONS					
Reason for ceasing last job					
Job loser	598.1	47.5	364.1	271.7	647.1
Retrenched, made redundant, employer went out of business, dismissed, no work was available	349.2	8.1	235.8	117.5	357.8
Job was temporary or seasonal	143.3	6.6	42.6	104.6	151.1
Own short-term illness or injury	91.7	8.9	58.6	40.1	100.6
Own business closed down for economic reasons	13.8	23.9	27.0	9.6	37.7
Job leaver	2 318.5	330.6	1 809.9	804.2	2 653.3
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	117.2	*3.8	49.4	70.0	121.4
Retired, did not want to work any longer	804.4	156.8	745.0	202.1	961.7
Own long-term health condition or disability	475.7	75.4	415.6	128.3	552.6
Returned to studies	130.7	*2.6	46.5	87.5	134.2
Pregnancy or to have children	375.4	12.5	250.5	133.0	388.3
To get married	14.3	**0.6	13.2	*1.6	14.9
To look after family, house or someone else	165.4	16.3	107.3	71.5	181.6
To have holidays, moved house or spouse transferred	119.5	10.3	73.3	55.3	129.8
Own business closed down for other than economic reasons	23.5	41.8	51.5	11.8	65.5
Other	92.5	10.5	57.6	42.9	103.4
Occupation in last job(b)					
Managers	226.5	131.3	314.9	40.9	359.8
Professionals	419.4	42.6	313.9	141.7	462.2
Technicians and trades workers	345.3	76.0	346.1	70.8	422.2
Community and personal service workers	296.2	12.2	145.8	157.6	308.7
Clerical and administrative workers	505.7	28.9	361.8	167.6	536.1
Sales workers	310.4	17.8	134.0	190.3	328.5
Machinery operators and drivers	239.0	21.8	215.4	40.8	260.8
Labourers	574.1	47.5	342.0	266.3	622.3
Whether looked for work in the last 12 months					
Had looked for work	251.1	15.5	122.1	138.4	266.6
Less than 13 weeks	181.1	12.5	88.7	101.2	193.6
13 weeks and less than 26 weeks ago	27.1	**1.0	12.8	14.0	28.1
26 weeks to 52 weeks ago	42.9	*1.9	20.6	23.2	44.9
Had not looked for work	2 665.5	362.6	2 051.8	937.6	3 033.9
Time since last job					
Under twelve months	572.7	48.2	279.3	332.6	621.6
1 year and under 3 years	456.1	52.4	281.9	221.8	510.0
3 years and under 5 years	314.7	47.2	236.1	120.0	362.7
5 years and under 10 years	636.2	107.4	548.2	185.2	745.5
10 years and under 20 years	936.8	122.9	828.5	216.4	1 060.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 916.6</b>	<b>378.1</b>	<b>2 174.0</b>	<b>1 075.9</b>	<b>3 300.5</b>

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

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

(a) Includes people who were 'contributing family workers' and 'unpaid voluntary workers', and whose full-time or part-time status in their last job was 'varied' or they 'did not know'.

(b) Excludes 'inadequately described'.

	Sep 2001	Sep 2002	Sep 2003	Sep 2004	Sep 2005	Sep 2006	Sep 2007
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES							
Civilian population aged 15 to 69 years	6 791.8	6 901.1	6 993.4	6 989.9	7 142.2	7 218.9	7 346.9
Persons in the labour force	5 461.5	5 514.0	5 594.4	5 631.6	5 753.0	5 857.5	5 948.2
Employed	5 067.7	5 160.6	5 275.2	5 321.1	5 457.9	5 574.5	5 718.8
Unemployed	393.8	353.4	319.2	310.5	295.1	283.0	229.3
Persons not in the labour force(b)	1 330.3	1 387.1	1 399.0	1 358.3	1 389.1	1 361.4	1 398.7
With marginal attachment to the labour force	259.7	263.0	262.7	269.5	268.3	246.4	268.4
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	31.3	30.0	28.8	28.9	28.3	25.5	26.6
Were available to start work within four weeks	21.5	20.9	17.1	20.4	21.3	15.4	18.3
Were not available to start work within four weeks	9.8	9.2	11.7	8.6	7.0	10.1	8.3
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	228.4	232.9	233.9	240.6	240.0	220.8	241.8
Discouraged job seekers	28.3	24.4	26.6	28.4	21.8	18.9	21.1
Other	200.1	208.5	207.3	212.2	218.2	202.0	220.7
Without marginal attachment to the labour force(c)	1 070.6	1 124.2	1 136.4	1 088.9	1 120.8	1 115.0	1 130.3
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	111.2	129.6	123.1	120.4	99.0	105.2	111.5
Did not want to work(d)	843.5	894.0	881.7	857.8	884.5	858.7	872.8
FEMALES							
Civilian population aged 15 to 69 years	6 763.9	6 866.9	6 972.6	7 081.4	7 168.7	7 248.2	7 357.4
Persons in the labour force	4 329.0	4 427.2	4 509.0	4 600.5	4 745.9	4 872.7	4 961.4
Employed	4 055.3	4 154.8	4 242.1	4 348.5	4 496.0	4 637.5	4 730.1
Unemployed	273.6	272.4	266.9	252.0	249.9	235.2	231.3
Persons not in the labour force(b)	2 434.9	2 439.7	2 463.5	2 480.8	2 422.8	2 375.5	2 396.0
With marginal attachment to the labour force	556.8	545.2	572.0	585.8	562.8	497.5	534.4
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	34.1	36.0	30.4	36.5	40.9	34.7	40.4
Were available to start work within four weeks	23.6	23.0	22.3	26.3	29.7	21.9	27.0
Were not available to start work within four weeks	10.5	13.0	8.1	10.2	11.1	12.8	13.4
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	522.7	509.2	541.6	549.3	521.9	462.8	494.0
Discouraged job seekers	53.3	53.6	53.2	53.6	37.5	34.0	37.5
Other	469.4	455.6	488.4	495.8	484.4	428.8	456.5
Without marginal attachment to the labour force(c)	1 878.1	1 894.6	1 891.6	1 895.0	1 860.0	1 878.0	1 861.6
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	202.5	231.6	255.3	213.0	223.9	214.4	220.7
Did not want to work(d)	1 615.5	1 607.2	1 567.9	1 618.3	1 547.0	1 565.6	1 529.4
PERSONS							
Civilian population aged 15 to 69 years	13 555.7	13 768.1	13 966.0	14 071.3	14 310.8	14 467.1	14 704.3
Persons in the labour force	9 790.4	9 941.2	10 103.4	10 232.1	10 498.9	10 730.2	10 909.6
Employed	9 123.0	9 315.4	9 517.3	9 669.6	9 953.9	10 212.0	10 449.0
Unemployed	667.5	625.8	586.1	562.5	545.0	518.3	460.6
Persons not in the labour force(b)	3 765.2	3 826.8	3 862.6	3 839.2	3 811.9	3 736.9	3 794.7
With marginal attachment to the labour force	816.5	808.1	834.6	855.3	831.1	743.9	802.8
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	65.4	66.0	59.2	65.4	69.2	60.2	67.1
Were available to start work within four weeks	45.1	43.9	39.4	46.6	51.0	37.3	45.4
Were not available to start work within four weeks	20.3	22.1	19.8	18.8	18.1	22.9	21.7
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	751.1	742.1	775.5	789.9	761.9	683.6	735.8
Discouraged job seekers	81.7	78.0	79.8	82.0	59.3	52.9	58.6
Other	669.5	664.1	695.7	707.9	702.6	630.8	677.2
Without marginal attachment to the labour force(c)	2 948.7	3 018.7	3 028.0	2 983.9	2 980.9	2 993.0	2 991.9
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	313.7	361.2	378.4	333.4	322.9	319.7	332.3
Did not want to work(d)	2 458.9	2 501.2	2 449.6	2 476.1	2 431.6	2 424.3	2 402.2

(a) For information about comparability between years, see paragraphs 14 to 22 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) From September 2007 there was a change in the treatment of persons aged 65 years and over who specified they were 'permanently not intending to work' in the Labour Force Survey. As a result of this change, there has been a break in time series. See paragraph 19 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

(c) Includes people who were 'permanently unable to work'.

(d) Includes 'did not know'.

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT(b)	ACT	Aust.
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES									
<b>Population 1:</b>									
Persons not in the labour force	751.8	526.5	391.2	189.4	182.9	61.6	10.1	27.8	2 141.1
<b>Population 2:</b>									
Persons not in the labour force who wanted to work	138.6	107.7	66.3	42.1	34.0	10.7	*2.5	7.5	409.3
<b>Population 3:</b>									
Persons not in the labour force with marginal attachment to the labour force	96.6	78.7	49.8	27.4	23.5	7.6	*2.1	4.9	290.6
<b>Population 4:</b>									
Persons not in the labour force who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	88.5	70.5	46.0	24.3	21.4	7.0	*1.7	4.5	264.0
<b>Population 5:</b>									
Persons not in the labour force who were discouraged job seekers	11.8	6.4	*3.8	3.5	*2.1	**0.3	—	**0.3	28.0
<b>Population 6:</b>									
Persons not in the labour force who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	42.1	29.0	16.4	14.7	10.5	3.1	**0.3	2.6	118.7
<b>Population 7:</b>									
Persons not in the labour force because they were caring for children, who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work	*4.0	*2.5	*2.3	*1.2	*1.2	**0.5	**0.2	**0.2	12.1
<b>Population 8:</b>									
Persons not in the labour force who previously had a job	611.5	427.9	338.1	163.7	159.9	53.2	8.5	22.6	1 785.4
<b>Population 9:</b>									
Persons not in the labour force without marginal attachment to the labour force	655.2	447.8	341.4	162.0	159.4	53.9	7.9	22.9	1 850.5
<b>Population 10:</b>									
Persons not in the labour force whose job was less than 20 years ago	488.7	342.8	280.3	128.4	131.7	42.2	7.5	20.5	1 442.1
* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution	(a) From September 2007 there was a change in the treatment of persons aged 65 years and over who specified they were 'permanently not intending to work'. See paragraph 19 of the Explanatory Notes.								
** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use	(b) Refers to mainly urban areas only. See paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.								
— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)									

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT(b)	ACT	Aust.
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
FEMALES									
<b>Population 1:</b>									
Persons not in the labour force	1 169.1	857.4	602.4	268.3	306.2	89.1	14.4	43.8	3 350.8
<b>Population 2:</b>									
Persons not in the labour force who wanted to work	267.0	206.6	140.6	58.3	73.7	18.6	3.8	10.8	779.4
<b>Population 3:</b>									
Persons not in the labour force with marginal attachment to the labour force	192.9	140.7	102.8	42.9	52.5	13.1	*2.6	7.4	554.8
<b>Population 4:</b>									
Persons not in the labour force who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	178.2	132.6	93.7	40.3	47.7	12.5	*2.3	7.2	514.4
<b>Population 5:</b>									
Persons not in the labour force who were discouraged job seekers	21.2	12.9	7.8	3.6	*1.9	*1.0	—	**0.2	48.6
<b>Population 6:</b>									
Persons not in the labour force who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	74.1	65.9	37.8	15.4	21.2	5.4	*1.2	3.4	224.5
<b>Population 7:</b>									
Persons not in the labour force because they were caring for children, who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work	88.2	57.2	36.6	15.9	23.0	5.2	*1.3	2.5	230.0
<b>Population 8:</b>									
Persons not in the labour force who previously had a job	957.1	708.9	527.8	231.8	268.2	77.0	10.5	37.6	2 819.0
<b>Population 9:</b>									
Persons not in the labour force without marginal attachment to the labour force	976.2	716.7	499.7	225.4	253.7	76.0	11.8	36.5	2 796.0
<b>Population 10:</b>									
Persons not in the labour force whose job was less than 20 years ago	622.5	473.5	355.5	138.3	183.8	47.3	8.8	28.6	1 858.3
* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution	(a) From September 2007 there was a change in the treatment of persons aged 65 years and over who specified they were 'permanently not intending to work'. See paragraph 19 of the Explanatory Notes.								
** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use	(b) Refers to mainly urban areas only. See paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.								
— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)									



	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT(b)	ACT	Aust.
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
PERSONS									
<b>Population 1:</b> Persons not in the labour force	1 920.8	1 383.9	993.6	457.7	489.1	150.7	24.5	71.6	5 492.0
<b>Population 2:</b> Persons not in the labour force who wanted to work	405.7	314.3	206.8	100.4	107.7	29.3	6.2	18.3	1 188.7
<b>Population 3:</b> Persons not in the labour force with marginal attachment to the labour force	289.4	219.4	152.6	70.2	76.0	20.8	4.7	12.3	845.4
<b>Population 4:</b> Persons not in the labour force who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	266.7	203.1	139.7	64.6	69.2	19.5	4.0	11.7	778.4
<b>Population 5:</b> Persons not in the labour force who were discouraged job seekers	33.0	19.2	11.6	7.1	3.9	*1.3	—	**0.4	76.6
<b>Population 6:</b> Persons not in the labour force who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	116.2	94.9	54.2	30.1	31.7	8.6	*1.5	6.0	343.3
<b>Population 7:</b> Persons not in the labour force because they were caring for children, who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work	92.3	59.7	38.9	17.1	24.2	5.7	*1.5	2.8	242.1
<b>Population 8:</b> Persons not in the labour force who previously had a job	1 568.6	1 136.8	865.9	395.5	428.2	130.2	18.9	60.2	4 604.3
<b>Population 9:</b> Persons not in the labour force without marginal attachment to the labour force	1 631.4	1 164.5	841.0	387.4	413.1	129.9	19.8	59.4	4 646.5
<b>Population 10:</b> Persons not in the labour force whose job was less than 20 years ago	1 111.2	816.3	635.7	266.8	315.6	89.5	16.3	49.1	3 300.5
* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution	(a) From September 2007 there was a change in the treatment of persons aged 65 years and over who specified they were 'permanently not intending to work'. See paragraph 19 of the Explanatory Notes.								
** estimate has a relative standard error greater than 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use	(b) Refers to mainly urban areas only. See paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.								
— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)									

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### INTRODUCTION

**1** The statistics in this publication were compiled from data collected in the Persons Not in the Labour Force Survey that was conducted throughout Australia in September 2007 as a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). Respondents to the LFS who were in 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 relevant to both the monthly LFS and supplementary surveys.

### CONCEPTS SOURCES AND METHODS

**3** The conceptual framework used in Australia's LFS 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. 6102.0.55.001).

### SCOPE

**4** The scope of the LFS is restricted to people aged 15 years and over and excludes the following people:

- 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).

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

**6** This supplementary survey was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, but excluded approximately 120,000 people living in very remote parts of Australia who would otherwise have been within the scope of the survey. The exclusion of these people will have only a minor impact on any aggregate estimates that are produced for individual states and territories, except the Northern Territory where such people account for around 23% of the population.

### COVERAGE

**7** The estimates in this publication relate to people covered by the survey in September 2007. 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.

### SAMPLE SIZE

**8** Supplementary surveys are not 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.

**9** The initial sample for the September 2007 LFS consisted of 41,694 private dwelling households and special dwelling units. Of the 33,915 private dwelling households and special dwelling units that remained in the survey after sample loss (e.g. households selected in the survey which had no residents in scope for the LFS, vacant or derelict dwellings and dwellings under construction), approximately 32,106 or 94.7% were fully responding to the Persons Not in the Labour Force Survey. The number of completed interviews obtained from these private dwelling households and special dwelling units (after taking into account scope, coverage and subsampling exclusions) was 17,609.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### 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 more information see the Technical Note.
  - 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** From 2006, occupation data are classified according to the *ANZSCO–Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, First Edition, 2006* (cat. no. 1220.0). This new classification replaces the *ASCO–Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, Second Edition, 1997* (cat. no. 1220.0). Data classified according to ASCO can be obtained on request.

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

### COMPARABILITY OF TIME SERIES

- 14** 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 2004 to take account of the results of the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. Estimates from supplementary surveys conducted from and including February 2004 are therefore based on revised population benchmarks.

- 15** Persons Not in the Labour Force Surveys conducted up to and including September 1987 included all people aged 15 years and over. From September 1988 to September 2004, the survey excluded all people aged 70 years and over.

- 16** The scope of the Persons Not in the Labour Force Survey was expanded in September 2005 to include all people aged 15 years and over. This change resulted in about 1.6 million extra people coming within the scope of this survey. Users need to exercise caution when comparing the estimates prior to 2005 with subsequent years. Direct comparisons should only be made where the populations are the same.

- 17** From September 2006 estimates of the number of people not in the labour force because they were caring for children, include people whose youngest child was aged 12 years and under. Previously questions relating to the care of children were only asked of people with children aged 11 years and under. This change was made to ensure consistency with other ABS surveys. Users need to exercise care when comparing the estimates in Table 9 of this publication with publications prior to September 2006.

- 18** Following a review of the Persons Not in the Labour Force Survey, a number of changes were implemented in the 2007 cycle. Users need to exercise caution when comparing estimates from 2007 with previous years data. The changes are documented below.

- 19** Between September 2001 and September 2006 people who reported in the LFS that they were 'permanently not intending to work' were not asked questions about wanting to work and looking for work in the Persons Not in the Labour Force Survey. As such, these people were classified as 'Did not want to work'. It is likely, however, that if they had been asked these questions, then some of these people may have been classified differently and may have been included in one of the 'wanted to work' categories. From September 2007, people who specified that they were 'permanently not intending to

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### COMPARABILITY OF TIME SERIES *continued*

work' were asked questions about wanting to work and looking for work. As a result of this change, there has been a break in time series. Users need to exercise caution when comparing estimates from 2007 with previous years data. The table below shows how these people were classified in 2007 compared with how they would have been classified between 2001 and 2006.

### CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, Persons not in the labour force status—comparison of key estimates based on current and previous survey procedures

	2007 Published	2007 Previous classification	DIFFERENCE .....	
	'000	'000	'000	%
Persons not in the labour force	5 492.0	5 492.0	—	—
With marginal attachment to the labour force	845.4	787.1	58.3	7.4
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	67.1	67.1	—	—
Were available to start work within four weeks	45.4	45.4	—	—
Were not available to start work within four weeks	21.7	21.7	—	—
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	778.4	720.0	58.3	8.1
Discouraged job seekers	76.6	55.6	21.1	37.9
Other	701.7	664.5	37.3	5.6
Without marginal attachment to the labour force	4 646.5	4 704.9	-58.3	-1.2
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	343.3	330.0	13.3	4.0
Did not want to work	4 007.0	4 078.7	-71.6	-1.8
Permanently unable to work	296.2	296.2	—	—

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

**20** Prior to September 2007, the data items 'All reasons for not actively looking for work', 'Main reason for not actively looking for work' and 'Main reason not available to start work within four weeks' included the category 'own ill health, physical disability or pregnancy'. From September 2007, this category has been split into three separate categories; 'own short-term illness or injury', 'own long-term health condition or disability' and 'pregnancy'.

**21** Prior to September 2007, the data items 'Reason for ceasing last job' and 'Main activity when not in the labour force' included the categories 'own ill-health or injury' and 'own disability or handicap'. From September 2007, these categories were renamed to ensure they were consistent with those in other data items and have been collected as 'own short-term illness or injury' and 'own long-term health condition or disability' respectively. While the way interviewers were instructed to code the responses to the relevant categories did not conceptually change, the renaming has caused a break in time series. Users need to exercise caution when comparing estimates from 2007 with previous years data. The following table shows a comparison of the renamed categories between 2006 and 2007.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE, Change in Reason for ceasing last job and Main activity when not in the labour force, 2006–2007

	2007			2006	
	'000	%		'000	%
<b>Reason for ceasing last job</b>					
Own long-term health condition or disability	11.6	13.6	Own disability or handicap	551.4	67.4
Own short-term illness or injury	736.8	86.4	Own illness or injury	267.1	32.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>852.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>818.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Main activity when not in the labour force</b>					
Own long-term health condition or disability	63.3	9.3	Own disability or handicap	301.6	46.6
Own short-term illness or injury	616.8	90.7	Own illness or injury	345.2	53.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>680.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>646.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>

COMPARABILITY OF TIME  
SERIES *continued*

**22** From September 2007, a new data item, 'All reasons not available to start work within four weeks', has been collected in addition to 'Main reason not available to start work within four weeks'.

COMPARABILITY WITH  
MONTHLY LFS STATISTICS

**23** 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.

**24** For the years 1988 to 2004, the difference between the estimates appearing in this publication and in *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0) is chiefly the result of excluding people aged 70 years and over from the sample of this supplementary survey. In these years, over one-quarter (29%) of the civilian population aged 15 years and over who were not in the labour force were excluded from answering questions because they were aged 70 years and over.

**25** Core LFS series from April 1986 to March 2001 have been revised on the basis of the redesigned LFS questionnaire. Supplementary survey data have not been revised.

**26** Further information on persons not in the labour force is available in *Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6202.0).

PREVIOUS SURVEYS

**27** The Persons Not in the Labour Force Survey was first conducted in May 1975 and again in May 1977. From 1979 to 1987 the survey was collected twice a year (March and September). Since then it has been conducted annually in September. Results of previous surveys were published in:

- *Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6220.0)
- standard data service *Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia* (cat. no. 6220.0.40.001) for 1994 and 1995 (available in hardcopy only).

NEXT SURVEY

**28** The ABS plans to conduct this survey again in September 2008.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

**29** ABS publications 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*.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES  
*Spreadsheets*

**30** Additional tables with time series data will be released in spreadsheet format. These tables will be made available from the ABS website.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### RELATED PUBLICATIONS

**31** ABS publications which may be of interest include:

- *Australian Labour Market Statistics* (cat. no. 6105.0)
- *Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation, Australia* (cat. no. 6239.0)
- *Job Search Experience, Australia* (cat. no. 6222.0)
- *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001)
- *Underemployed Workers, Australia* (cat. no. 6265.0)

**32** Current publications and other products released by the ABS are available from the Statistics Page on the ABS website. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the website which details products to be released in the week ahead.

## APPENDIX 1 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST

### DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

The ABS has a range of data available on request from the Persons Not in the Labour Force 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 person in the survey to whom the data item relates.

For more information about ABS data available on request, contact Tracey Chester on Canberra (02)6252 5609, or by facsimile on (02)6252 5066, or by email to <tracey.chester@abs.gov.au>.

<i>Population 1:</i>	Persons not in the labour force
<i>Population 2:</i>	Persons not in the labour force who wanted to work
<i>Population 3:</i>	Persons not in the labour force with marginal attachment to the labour force
<i>Population 4:</i>	Persons not in the labour force who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks
<i>Population 5:</i>	Persons not in the labour force who were discouraged job seekers
<i>Population 6:</i>	Persons not in the labour force who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks
<i>Population 7:</i>	Persons not in the labour force because they were caring for children, who wanted to work but not actively looking for work
<i>Population 8:</i>	Persons not in the labour force who previously had a job
<i>Population 9:</i>	Persons not in the labour force without marginal attachment to the labour force
<i>Population 10:</i>	Persons not in the labour force whose last job was less than twenty years ago

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

## APPENDIX 1 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
<b>7A Country of birth of person and year of arrival in Australia</b>	All	<b>9A Persons not in the labour force summary variable <i>cont.</i></b>	1, 8, 10
Born in Australia		With marginal attachment to the labour force <i>cont.</i>	
Born overseas		Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	
Arrived before 1971		Discouraged job seekers	
Arrived 1971–1980		Other	
Arrived 1981–1990			
Arrived 1991–2000			
Arrived 2001 to survey date			
<b>7B Country of birth of person</b>	All	Without marginal attachment to the labour force	
Born in Australia		Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	
Born overseas		Did not want to work	
Oceania and Antarctica		Permanently unable to work	
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			
<b>7C Country of birth of person (MESC)</b>	All	<b>9B Marginal attachment summary variable</b>	3
Born in Australia		Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	
Born overseas		Were available to start work within four weeks	
Born in main English-speaking countries		Were not available to start work within four weeks	
Born in other than main English-speaking countries		Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	
		Discouraged job seekers	
<b>8 Age group (years)</b>	All	Other	
15–19			
20–24			
25–34			
35–44			
45–54			
55–59			
60–64			
65–69			
70 and over			
<b>9A Persons not in the labour force summary variable</b>	1, 8, 10	<b>10 Whether wanted to work</b>	1, 8, 10
With marginal attachment to the labour force		Wanted to work	
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work		Might want to work	
Were available to start work within four weeks		Did not want to work	
Were not available to start work within four weeks		Did not know	
		<b>11 Whether looked for work in the last 12 months</b>	All
		Had looked for work	
		Less than 5 weeks ago	
		5 weeks and less than 8 weeks ago	
		8 weeks and less than 13 weeks ago	
		13–52 weeks ago	
		13 weeks and less than 26 weeks ago	
		26 weeks and less than 39 weeks ago	
		39–52 weeks ago	
		Had not looked for work	



## APPENDIX 1 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
<b>12 Main activity when not in the labour force</b>	All	<b>14 Reason for ceasing last job <i>cont.</i></b>	All
Retired or voluntarily inactive		Had a job <i>cont.</i>	
Home duties or caring for children		Job leaver	
Attending an educational institution		Unsatisfactory work arrangements	
Own long-term health condition or disability		Retired, did not work any longer	
Own short-term illness or injury		Own long-term health condition or disability	
Looking after ill or disabled person		Returned to studies	
Travel, holiday or leisure activity		Pregnancy or to have children	
Working in unpaid voluntary job		To get married	
Other		To look after family, house or someone else	
<b>13A Time since last job</b>	All	To have holidays, moved house or spouse transferred	
Had a job		Own business closed down for other than economic reasons	
Under 12 months		Other	
1 week and under 4 weeks		Never had a job	
4 weeks and under 8 weeks		<b>15 Occupation in last job</b>	All
8 weeks and under 13 weeks		Last job less than 20 years ago	
13 weeks and under 26 weeks		Managers	
26 weeks and under 39 weeks		Professionals	
39 weeks and under 52 weeks		Technicians and trades workers	
1 year and under 3 years		Community and personal service workers	
3 years and under 10 years		Clerical and administrative workers	
3 years and under 5 years		Sales workers	
5 years and under 10 years		Machinery operators and drivers	
10 years or more		Labourers	
10 years and under 20 years		Last job 20 or more years ago	
20 years or more		Never had a job	
Never had a job		<b>16A Status in employment in last job (1)</b>	All
<b>13B Whether had a job in the last 20 years</b>	All	Last job less than 20 years ago	
Had a job		Employer	
Last job less than 20 years ago		Own account worker	
Last job 20 or more years ago		Employee	
Never had a job		Contributing family worker	
<b>14 Reason for ceasing last job</b>	All	Unpaid voluntary worker	
Had a job		Last job 20 or more years ago	
Job loser		Never had a job	
Retrenched, made redundant, employee went out of business, dismissed, no work was available		<b>16B Status in employment in last job (2)</b>	All
Job was temporary or seasonal		Last job less than 20 years ago	
Own short-term illness or injury		Employee	
Own business closed down for economic reasons		Own account worker/Employer	
		Other	

## APPENDIX 1 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
<b>16B Status in employment in last job (2)</b>	All	<b>20 Main reason for not actively looking for work <i>cont.</i></b>	3
Last job 20 or more years ago		Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks <i>cont.</i>	
Never had a job		Discouraged job seekers <i>cont.</i>	
<b>17 Full-time or part-time status in last job</b>	All	Lacked the necessary schooling, training, skills or experience	
Last job less than 20 years ago		Difficulties because of language or ethnic background	
Full-time		No jobs in locality or line of work	
Part-time		No jobs at all	
Varied/Did not know		Other reasons	
Last job 20 or more years ago		Personal reasons	
Never had a job		Own short-term illness or injury	
<b>18A Intention to enter the labour force</b>	All	Own long-term health condition or disability	
Intended to enter the labour force		Pregnancy	
Might enter the labour force		Attending an educational institution	
Did not intend to enter the labour force		Had no need to work	
Did not know		Welfare payments or pension may be affected	
Permanently unable to work		Moved house or holidays	
Not applicable (full-time student)		Family reasons	
<b>18B Intention to enter the labour force in the next 12 months</b>	All	Ill health of other than self	
Intended to enter the labour force in the next 12 months		Caring for children	
Might enter the labour force in the next 12 months		No child care in locality	
Did not intend to enter the labour force in the next 12 months		No child care available at all	
Did not know		Cost or too expensive	
Permanently unable to work		Booked out or no places available	
<b>19 Full-time or part-time preference</b>	2-7	Children too young or too old	
Full-time		Prefers to look after children	
Part-time		Quality of child care unsuitable	
No preference		Other reasons	
Undecided		Other family considerations	
<b>20 Main reason for not actively looking for work</b>	3	No jobs in suitable hours	
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work		Other reasons	
Were available to start work within four weeks		Had a job to go to	
Were not available to start work within four weeks		Did not know	
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks			
Discouraged job seekers			
Considered too young by employers			
Considered too old by employers			

## APPENDIX 1 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Populations</i>
<b>21 All reasons for not actively looking for work</b>	4	<b>23A Main reason not available to start work within four weeks <i>cont.</i></b>	6
Discouraged job seekers		Personal reasons <i>cont.</i>	
Considered too young by employers		Own long-term health condition or disability	
Considered too old by employers		Pregnancy	
Lacked the necessary schooling, training, skills or experience		Studying or returning to studies	
Difficulties because of language or ethnic background		Moved house or holidays	
No jobs in locality or line of work		Family reasons	
No jobs at all		Ill health of other than self	
Other reasons		Unable to find suitable child care	
Personal reasons		Children too young or preferred to look after children	
Own short-term illness or injury		On a job-related training program	
Own long-term health condition or disability		Other reasons	
Pregnancy		<b>23B All reasons not available to start work within four weeks</b>	6
Attending an educational institution		Personal reasons	
Had no need to work		Own short-term illness or injury	
Welfare payments or pension may be affected		Own long-term health condition or disability	
Moved house or holidays		Pregnancy	
Family reasons		Studying or returning to studies	
Ill health of other than self		Moved house or holidays	
Caring for children		Family reasons	
Other family considerations		Ill health of other than self	
No jobs in suitable hours		Caring for children	
Other reasons		On a job-related training program	
Had a job to go to		Other reasons	
Did not know		<b>24 Age of youngest child</b>	7
<b>22 Main reason not working due to caring for children</b>	7	0–2 years	
No child care in locality		3–4 years	
No child care available at all		5 years	
Cost or too expensive		6–9 years	
Booked out or no places available		10–12 years	
Children too young or too old		<b>25 Number of children</b>	7
Prefers to look after children		Aged 0–2 years	
Quality of child care unsuitable		Aged 3–4 years	
Other child care reasons		Aged 5 years	
<b>23A Main reason not available to start work within four weeks</b>	6	Aged 6–9 years	
Personal reasons		Aged 10–12 years	
Own short-term illness or injury		<b>26 Full-time study status (15–24 year olds)</b>	All
		Was a full-time student	
		Was not a full-time student	
		Did not know	

## APPENDIX 2 SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS LIST

### SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

The Monthly Population Survey program and Multi-Purpose Household Survey program collect data on particular aspects of the labour force. The following is an historical list of labour surveys collected in these programs. Data from these surveys are available on request and can be obtained by contacting the ABS.

	<i>cat. no.</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Latest issue</i>
<b>Monthly Population Supplementary Surveys</b>			
Child Care, Australia	4402.0	Irregular	June 2005
Child Employment, Australia	6211.0	Irregular	June 2006
Education and Work, Australia	6227.0	Annual	May 2006
Employee Earnings, Benefits, and Trade Union Membership, Australia	6310.0	Annual	August 2006
Forms of Employment, Australia	6359.0	Annual	November 2006
Job Search Experience, Australia	6222.0	Annual	July 2007
Labour Force Experience, Australia	6206.0	Biennial	February 2007
Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants, Australia	6250.0	Irregular	November 2004
Labour Mobility, Australia	6209.0	Biennial	February 2006
Locations of Work, Australia	6275.0	Irregular	November 2005
Multiple Jobholding, Australia(a)	6216.0	Irregular	August 1997
Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia	6220.0	Annual	September 2007
Underemployed Workers, Australia	6265.0	Annual	September 2007
Working Time Arrangements, Australia(b)	6342.0	Irregular	November 2006
<b>Multi-Purpose Household Surveys</b>			
Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation, Australia	6239.0	Biennial	2006–07
Retirement and Retirement Intentions, Australia	6238.0	Biennial	2006–07
Work-Related Injuries, Australia	6324.0	Irregular	2005–06

(a) Latest data available on request, July 2001.

(b) This product replaces the publication *Working Arrangements, Australia* (cat. no. 6342.0).

## 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 two chances in three (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.

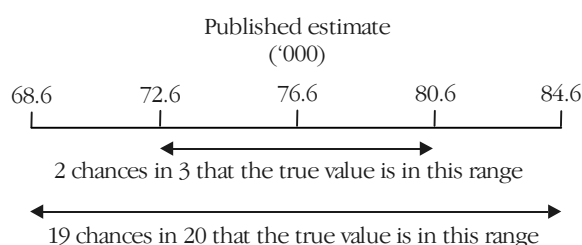
**2** Due to space limitations, it is impractical to print the SE of each estimate in the publication. Instead, a table of SEs is provided to enable readers to determine the SE for an estimate from the size of that estimate (see table T1). The SE table is derived from a mathematical model, referred to 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 people is as follows. Table 1 shows that the estimated number of people in Australia who were discouraged job seekers was 76,600. Since this estimate is between 50,000 and 100,000, table T1 shows the SE for Australia will be between 3,450 and 4,550, and can be approximated by interpolation using the following general formula:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & SE \text{ of estimate} \\
 &= \text{lower SE} + \left( \left( \frac{\text{size of estimate} - \text{lower estimate}}{\text{upper estimate} - \text{lower estimate}} \right) \times (\text{upper SE} - \text{lower SE}) \right) \\
 &= 3,450 + \left( \left( \frac{76,600 - 50,000}{100,000 - 50,000} \right) \times (4,550 - 3,450) \right) \\
 &= 4,000 \text{ (rounded to the nearest 100)}
 \end{aligned}$$

**4** Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey will fall in the range 72,600 to 80,600, and about 19 chances in 20 that the value will fall within the range 68,600 to 84,600. This example is illustrated in the diagram below.



**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

## CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERRORS *continued*

and should only be used to aggregate with other estimates to provide derived estimates with RSEs of 25% or less. Table T2 presents the levels at which estimates have RSEs of 25% and 50%.

## PROPORTIONS AND PERCENTAGES

**6** 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.

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

**7** Considering the example above, of the 76,600 people in Australia who were discouraged job seekers, 28,000 or 36.6% were males. The SE of 28,000 may be calculated by interpolation as 2,800. To convert this to an RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate, or  $2,800/28,000 = 10\%$ . The SE for 76,600 was calculated previously as 4,000, which converted to an RSE is  $4,000/76,600 = 5.2\%$ . Applying the above formula, the RSE of the proportion is

$$RSE = \sqrt{(10.0)^2 - (5.2)^2} = 8.5\%$$

**8** Therefore, the SE for the proportion of discouraged job seekers who were male is 3.1 percentage points ( $= (36.6/100) \times 8.5$ ). Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the proportion of males who were discouraged job seekers is between 33.5% and 39.7% and 19 chances in 20 that the proportion is within the range 30.4% to 42.8%.

## DIFFERENCES

**9** 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:

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

**10** 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.

# TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY *continued*

## STANDARD ERRORS

## T1 STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

									AUST. .....	
Size of estimate (persons)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	SE	RSE
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	%
100	150	160	130	140	130	100	140	80	100	100.0
200	240	240	210	200	200	150	190	130	180	90.0
300	320	310	270	250	250	190	220	180	240	80.0
500	440	420	370	320	330	240	290	230	350	70.0
700	530	500	460	380	400	280	340	280	440	62.9
1,000	650	610	560	450	480	320	400	320	550	55.0
1,500	810	750	700	530	580	370	490	370	710	47.3
2,000	940	860	810	610	660	410	560	400	840	42.0
2,500	1 050	950	900	650	700	450	650	400	950	38.0
3,000	1 150	1 050	1 000	700	800	450	700	450	1 050	35.0
3,500	1 250	1 100	1 050	750	850	500	750	450	1 150	32.9
4,000	1 300	1 200	1 100	800	900	500	850	500	1 250	31.3
5,000	1 450	1 300	1 250	900	950	550	950	550	1 350	27.0
7,000	1 700	1 500	1 400	1 000	1 100	650	1 250	650	1 600	22.9
10,000	1 950	1 750	1 650	1 150	1 250	800	1 650	800	1 900	19.0
15,000	2 300	2 050	1 900	1 350	1 450	1 000	2 400	1 100	2 250	15.0
20,000	2 550	2 250	2 100	1 500	1 650	1 150	3 000	1 300	2 500	12.5
30,000	2 950	2 600	2 400	1 900	2 050	1 450	4 150	1 550	2 900	9.7
40,000	3 250	2 900	2 700	2 200	2 450	1 650	..	1 750	3 200	8.0
50,000	3 550	3 150	3 000	2 500	2 800	1 850	..	1 900	3 450	6.9
100,000	4 950	4 600	4 450	3 550	4 100	2 550	..	2 100	4 550	4.6
150,000	6 300	5 900	5 600	4 250	5 050	3 000	..	..	5 450	3.6
200,000	7 550	7 000	6 600	4 800	5 800	3 400	..	..	6 250	3.1
300,000	9 500	8 900	8 100	5 650	6 950	..	..	..	7 600	2.5
500,000	12 300	11 900	10 250	6 800	8 600	..	..	..	9 900	2.0
1,000,000	16 450	17 500	13 400	..	..	..	..	..	14 700	1.5
2,000,000	20 450	25 350	..	..	..	..	..	..	21 250	1.1
5,000,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30 650	0.6
10,000,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	36 750	0.4

.. not applicable

## 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.
RSE of 25%	6 700	5 400	4 900	2 800	3 200	1 500	2 600	1 500	6 000
RSE of 50%	1 800	1 500	1 300	800	900	500	600	400	1 300

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

## GLOSSARY

<b>Actively looking for work</b>	<p>People who were taking active steps to find work. Active steps comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ registering with a Job Network employment agency</li> <li>■ contacting an employment agency</li> <li>■ contacting prospective employers</li> <li>■ answering a newspaper advertisement for a job</li> <li>■ checking Centrelink touch screens</li> <li>■ checking factory noticeboards</li> <li>■ advertising or tendering for work</li> <li>■ contacting friends or relatives.</li> </ul>
<b>Age of youngest child</b>	Age of the youngest child, 12 years and under, in the household.
<b>Available to start work within four weeks</b>	People who were available to start work within four weeks or, for people with children aged 12 years and under, could start work within four weeks if suitable child care was available.
<b>Did not want to work</b>	People who were not classified as employed or unemployed who answered 'no' when asked if they would like a job.
<b>Discouraged job seekers</b>	<p>People with marginal attachment to the labour force who wanted to work and were available to start work within the next four weeks but whose main reason for not actively looking for work was that they believed they would not find a job for any of the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ considered to be too young by employers</li> <li>■ considered to be too old by employers</li> <li>■ lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience</li> <li>■ difficulties because of language or ethnic background</li> <li>■ no jobs in their locality or line of work</li> <li>■ no jobs at all.</li> </ul>
<b>Employed</b>	<p>People who, during the reference week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 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</li> <li>■ worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or</li> <li>■ were employees who had a job but were not at work and were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or</li> <li>■ 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</li> <li>■ away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or</li> <li>■ on strike or locked out; or</li> <li>■ on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.</li> </ul>
<b>Family</b>	Two or more people, 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.
<b>Family reasons for not actively looking for work</b>	Includes ill health of someone other than themselves, caring for children and other family considerations.
<b>Full-time or part-time preference</b>	A person's perception of whether they would prefer to work full-time or part-time when/if they go to work, regardless of whether they are able to start work.



## GLOSSARY *continued*

<b>Full-time or part-time status in last job</b>	A person's perception of whether they worked full-time or part-time in their last job.
<b>Future starters</b>	People waiting to start, within four weeks of the end of the reference week, a new job that they have already obtained (and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then). Under International Labour Organisation (ILO) guidelines these persons do not have to be actively looking for work to be classified as unemployed.
<b>Had a job to go to</b>	People who were waiting to start a job, but would not be starting within four weeks. Also includes people who had a job but, up to the end of the reference week, had been away from work without pay for four weeks or longer and had not been actively looking for work.
<b>Intention to enter the labour force in the next 12 months</b>	A person's intention to work or look for work in the 12 months following the interview.
<b>Job</b>	Any employment, full-time or part-time, lasting two weeks or more.
<b>Job leavers</b>	People who are classified as voluntarily ceasing their last job.
<b>Job losers</b>	People who are classified as involuntarily ceasing their last job.
<b>Labour force</b>	The civilian population can be split into two mutually exclusive groups: the labour force (employed and unemployed people) and persons not in the labour force.
<b>Main activity when not in the labour force</b>	The main activity of people who are not in the labour force since they last worked or looked for work (or in the last year if they haven't worked in that time).
<b>Marginal attachment to the labour force</b>	<p>People who were not in the labour force in the reference week, wanted to work and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ were actively looking for work but did not meet the availability criteria to be classified as unemployed; or</li> <li>■ were not actively looking for work but were available to start work within four weeks.</li> </ul> <p>The criteria for determining those in the labour force are based on activity (i.e. working or looking for work) and availability to start work during the reference week. The criteria associated with marginal attachment to the labour force, in particular the concepts of wanting to work and reasons for not actively looking for work, are more subjective. Hence, the measurement against these criteria is affected by the respondent's own interpretation of the concepts used. An individual respondent's interpretation may be affected by their work aspirations, as well as family, economic and other commitments.</p>
<b>Main English-speaking countries</b>	The list of main English-speaking countries provided here is not an attempt to classify countries on the basis of whether or not English is the predominant or official language of each country. It is a list of the main countries from which Australia receives, or has received, significant numbers of overseas settlers who are likely to speak English. These countries comprise the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and the United States of America.
<b>Occupation in last job</b>	An occupation is a collection of jobs that are sufficiently similar in their title and tasks, skill level and skill specialisation which are grouped together for the purposes of classification. In this publication occupation refers to Major Group as defined by ANZSCO— <i>Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, First Edition, 2006</i> (cat. no. 1220.0). Relates to persons who have had a job less than 20 years ago only.
<b>Personal reasons for not actively looking for work</b>	Includes 'own short-term illness or injury' or 'long-term health condition or disability', 'pregnancy', 'attending an educational institution', 'had no need to work', 'welfare payments or pension may be affected', and 'moved house or on holidays'.
<b>Persons in the labour force</b>	People who were classified as being in the labour force, that is, either employed or unemployed.
<b>Persons not in the labour force</b>	People who were not in the categories 'employed' or 'unemployed' as defined.

## GLOSSARY *continued*

<b>Persons not in the labour force because they were caring for children</b>	People who wanted to work and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ were not actively looking for work because they were caring for children, but were available to start work within four weeks; or</li><li>■ were not actively looking for work and reported that they were not available to start work within four weeks because they were caring for children.</li></ul>
<b>Reference week</b>	The week preceding the week in which the interview was conducted.
<b>Status in employment in last job</b>	People who had a job in the last 20 years classified by whether they were employees, employers, own account workers, contributing family workers or unpaid voluntary workers in their last job.
<b>Time since last job</b>	The elapsed time since ceasing last job.
<b>Unemployed</b>	People aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ 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 were available for work in the reference week; or</li><li>■ 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.</li></ul>
<b>Wanted to work</b>	People who were not classified as employed or unemployed and who answered 'yes' or 'maybe' when asked if they would like a job.



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