

JOB SEARCH EXPERIENCE

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) THURS 20 JAN 2005

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

NOTES

- ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION** This publication presents information about unemployed persons' experiences in seeking work, in terms of the steps they have taken to find work and the difficulties they have encountered in finding work. Also presented is information about employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months. For this group, data on the steps taken to attain work and their current job details are provided.
- Demographic information is provided about both of these groups.
- JOB SEARCH EXPERIENCE SURVEY** The statistics in this publication are compiled from data collected in the Job Search Experience Survey, conducted throughout Australia in July 2004 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS).
- From July 2002, this survey combined the previously conducted annual Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons Survey and biennial Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience Survey.
- Data from the survey relate to persons who were unemployed in July 2004, and persons employed in July 2004 who started their current job in the previous 12 months.
- NOTES ABOUT ESTIMATES** The data item 'Level of highest educational attainment' used throughout the 2003 publication has been replaced with the data item 'Level of highest non-school qualification' for the 2004 publication. For further information see Appendix 1.
- A change has been made to the category 'considered too young or too old by employers' for the data items 'all difficulties in finding work' and 'main difficulty in finding work'. The category has been split into 'considered too young by employers' and 'considered too old by employers'. For the 2004 publication, these items appear in tables 2, 6, 7 and 8.
- ROUNDING** As estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

Dennis Trewin
Australian Statistician

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

OVERVIEW

In July 2004, there were 528,200 unemployed persons, a 6% decrease since July 2003 and a 26% decrease since July 1997. The median duration of unemployment has dropped from 26 weeks in July 1997 to 16 weeks in July 2004. In July 2004, almost two-thirds (63%) of unemployed persons reported they were without non-school qualifications, while 11% reported a Bachelor Degree or above as their highest level of non-school qualification.

There were 1,554,800 employed persons who started their current job in the 12 months prior to July 2004. The majority (66%) of these were working full time. Of those employed persons who started their current job in the previous year, 46% reported they were without non-school qualifications and 21% reported a Bachelor Degree or above as their highest level of non-school qualification.

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS

Job search experience

The most commonly reported steps taken to find work by unemployed persons in July 2004 were 'looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper' (87%) and 'wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work' (86%). Other steps included 'answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper' (66%), and 'registered with Centrelink as a jobseeker' (56%). Around 53% of unemployed persons stated they had 'registered with a Job Network employment agency'.

In July 2004, 13% of unemployed persons reported their *main* difficulty in finding work as being 'insufficient work experience', followed by 'too many applicants for available jobs' and 'considered too old by employers' (both 11%). The median duration of unemployment for those who reported they were 'considered too old by employers' was 51 weeks compared to 16 weeks for all unemployed persons.

Other characteristics of persons unemployed at July 2004 include:

- 397,400 or 75% of unemployed persons had not started any job in the previous 12 months, while 43,700 (8%) had started two jobs or more
- 81% did not receive any offers of employment during their current period of unemployment
- 113,200 or 21% of unemployed persons spent the whole of the last year looking for work. Almost 25% of those looking for full-time work and 12% of those looking for part-time work spent the whole year looking for work
- 59% had last held a job for two weeks or more, less than two years ago; while 17% had never worked in a job for two weeks or more.

Duration of unemployment

Just over one-fifth (21%) of unemployed persons in July 2004 were long-term unemployed, that is, they had been unemployed for 12 months or longer. Of the unemployed persons who were without non-school qualifications, 15% had been unemployed for two years or more compared to 11% of those with non-school qualifications.

Older unemployed

Approximately one-fifth (21%) of unemployed persons were aged 45 years and over. Over three quarters (81%) of unemployed persons aged 45 years and over were seeking full-time work.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

Older unemployed continued

Nearly half (46%) of unemployed persons aged 55 years and over reported their main difficulty in finding work was 'considered too old by employers'. This was also reported as the main difficulty in finding work by 29% of unemployed persons aged 45–54 years.

Young unemployed

Over one-third (39%) of unemployed persons were aged 15–24 years. Half (50%) of unemployed persons aged 15–19 years and 79% of those aged 20–24 years were seeking full-time work.

Of unemployed persons aged 15–19 years, 25% reported their main difficulty in finding work was 'insufficient work experience'. Around 19% of unemployed persons aged 20–24 years also reported this as their main difficulty.

EMPLOYED PERSONS WHO STARTED THEIR CURRENT JOB IN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS

Of those employed persons who started their current job in the 12 months to July 2004, 43% were out of work prior to starting that job, 44% changed employer to start that job and 13% were employed in their own business. The majority (66%) of employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months were full-time workers in July 2004.

Steps taken to attain a job

Of those who were out of work prior to starting their current job, 64% 'wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work'. Over half (52%) of employed persons who changed employer also took this step to attain a job. The most common among other steps taken to attain a job were 'looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper' (51% of persons out of work prior to starting a job and 37% of persons who changed employer to start a job), 'answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper' (37% and 27% respectively), and 'looked at advertisements for jobs on the internet' (37% and 25% respectively).

Duration of looking for work

Over half (53%) of employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months looked for work for less than one year before being offered that job. A further 6% looked for one year or more, while 41% of persons didn't look for work at all.

Characteristics of current job

The majority (72%) of employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months started one job only, and most (90%) had worked before. Of those who usually work part-time hours, over one-third (38%) would prefer to work more hours.

Of the 533,100 part-time employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months, 30% were aged 15–19 years.

The most common occupation groups of employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months were Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers (19%) and Professionals (16%). Elementary clerical, sales and service workers was the most common occupation group of employed persons aged 15–19 years who started their job in the previous 12 months (37%).

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UNEMPLOYED PERSONS

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	UNEMPLOYED PERSONS				EMPLOYED PERSONS WHO STARTED THEIR CURRENT JOB IN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS			
	Males	Females	Persons		Males	Females	Persons	
	'000	'000	'000	%	'000	'000	'000	%
Total	282.5	245.7	528.2	100.0	834.7	720.1	1 554.8	100.0
Age group (years)								
15-19	52.9	55.3	108.2	20.5	128.2	134.5	262.6	16.9
20-24	53.7	41.9	95.7	18.1	158.5	143.7	302.2	19.4
25-34	62.4	56.1	118.5	22.4	236.0	188.1	424.1	27.3
35-44	48.4	48.6	97.0	18.4	169.3	137.1	306.4	19.7
45-54	36.9	28.1	65.1	12.3	94.5	89.4	183.9	11.8
55 and over	28.1	15.7	43.8	8.3	48.4	27.3	75.6	4.9
Relationship in household								
Family member	208.4	203.3	411.8	78.0	667.2	584.0	1 251.1	80.5
Husband, wife or partner	93.7	87.9	181.6	34.4	410.9	324.7	735.5	47.3
With dependants	49.2	42.3	91.4	17.3	228.7	159.4	388.0	25.0
Without dependants	44.5	45.6	90.1	17.1	182.2	165.3	347.5	22.3
Lone parent	7.4	37.6	45.0	8.5	12.3	54.5	66.7	4.3
Dependent student	27.7	31.5	59.2	11.2	62.1	82.9	145.1	9.3
Non-dependent child	66.5	39.3	105.8	20.0	160.4	104.6	265.0	17.0
Other family person	13.1	7.0	20.1	3.8	21.5	17.3	38.8	2.5
Non-family member	59.1	31.7	90.8	17.2	132.8	105.1	237.9	15.3
Relationship not determined	15.0	10.7	25.7	4.9	34.8	31.0	65.8	4.2
Level of highest non-school qualification								
With non-school qualifications	107.1	89.9	197.0	37.3	444.9	397.8	842.7	54.2
Bachelor Degree or above	34.5	24.5	59.0	11.2	155.1	169.2	324.2	20.9
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	12.0	14.6	26.6	5.0	54.3	66.2	120.5	7.7
Certificate III/IV	33.5	22.0	55.5	10.5	173.0	90.9	263.9	17.0
Certificate I/II(a)	23.8	26.8	50.6	9.6	53.0	69.2	122.2	7.9
Level not determined	*3.3	*2.1	5.4	1.0	9.6	*2.4	12.0	0.8
Without non-school qualifications	175.4	155.8	331.2	62.7	389.8	322.3	712.1	45.8
Number of jobs started in the previous 12 months								
None	204.5	192.9	397.4	75.2	..	..	..	..
One	48.3	38.8	87.1	16.5	592.6	531.1	1 123.7	72.3
Two	13.6	9.5	23.1	4.4	163.4	135.2	298.6	19.2
Three or more	16.1	*4.5	20.6	3.9	78.7	53.8	132.5	8.5
All steps taken to find work/attain job(b)								
Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work	246.6	208.5	455.1	86.2	396.3	385.9	782.2	50.3
Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper	179.0	167.5	346.4	65.6	220.0	213.1	433.2	27.9
Answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet	99.8	95.1	195.0	36.9	137.1	139.0	276.1	17.8
Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens	84.2	51.4	135.6	25.7	49.1	33.5	82.6	5.3
Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards	35.2	26.7	61.9	11.7	19.0	19.8	38.8	2.5
Contacted friends or relatives	139.8	99.9	239.7	45.4	196.6	150.0	346.5	22.3
Advertised or tendered for work	16.6	12.4	28.9	5.5	16.4	17.8	34.2	2.2
Registered with a Job Network employment agency	165.7	112.1	277.9	52.6	125.4	89.5	214.8	13.8
Registered with other employment agency	73.1	55.4	128.5	24.3	92.7	70.3	162.9	10.5
Checked with a Job Network employment agency	147.1	106.5	253.6	48.0	93.5	70.3	163.8	10.5
Checked with other employment agency	79.3	58.8	138.1	26.2	80.3	68.2	148.5	9.6
Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper	245.4	215.6	461.0	87.3	299.5	294.7	594.2	38.2
Looked at advertisements on the Internet	154.3	139.5	293.8	55.6	207.4	209.1	416.5	26.8
Looked at advertisements for jobs on Centrelink touchscreens	141.9	95.2	237.1	44.9	89.0	62.1	151.1	9.7
Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards	75.4	58.2	133.6	25.3	42.3	40.5	82.8	5.3
Registered with Centrelink as a jobseeker	179.5	115.5	294.9	55.8	123.0	86.6	209.6	13.5
Other	36.1	30.2	66.2	12.5	51.6	55.5	107.1	6.9
Employed persons in own business(c)	..	..	..	..	129.2	72.4	201.6	13.0

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

.. not applicable

(a) Includes 'Certificate not further defined'.

(b) Refers to all steps taken to find work/attain job, therefore persons may appear in more than one category. For employed persons, refers to steps taken to attain a job, not necessarily the current job.

(c) Persons employed in their own business were not asked questions about steps taken to find work.

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, Selected characteristics

		July 1997	July 1998	July 1999	July 2000	July 2001	July 2002	July 2003	July 2004
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS									
Total	'000	717.5	696.4	591.0	544.3	613.0	554.8	564.5	528.2
SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS									
Total	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Main difficulty in finding work									
Too many applicants for available jobs	%	14.5	13.7	12.1	13.1	11.5	14.7	11.9	11.3
Lacked necessary skills or education	%	12.1	11.5	11.2	11.8	10.4	10.6	11.3	9.4
Considered too young or too old by employers(a)	%	14.5	16.0	15.4	13.4	11.7	13.4	13.4	11.7
Insufficient work experience	%	10.4	10.9	10.1	10.0	11.6	11.2	12.2	13.1
No vacancies at all	%	12.7	11.2	10.0	8.3	10.7	6.6	8.7	6.3
No vacancies in line of work	%	9.1	8.5	7.9	7.3	10.4	9.5	9.3	8.0
Too far to travel/transport problems	%	5.3	6.2	5.8	6.7	6.8	7.1	6.4	7.9
Own ill health or disability	%	6.0	5.9	6.9	6.4	5.7	6.6	5.6	6.8
Language difficulties	%	2.6	1.9	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.9	1.4
Unsuitable hours	%	2.3	3.1	3.7	4.0	5.0	4.4	6.0	5.6
Difficulties with finding child care and other family responsibilities	%	2.4	1.7	2.5	2.2	2.0	1.5	1.6	3.1
Other difficulties(b)	%	3.0	2.9	3.7	4.4	3.4	3.2	3.2	4.1
No difficulties at all	%	5.3	6.4	8.4	9.8	8.6	6.8	6.0	9.3
No feedback from employers(c)	%	na	na	na	na	na	1.9	1.6	2.0
Whether looking for full-time or part-time work									
Looking for full-time work	%	83.4	81.9	76.6	76.3	76.3	75.7	74.4	74.4
Looking for part-time work	%	16.5	18.1	23.3	23.7	23.7	24.3	25.6	25.6
Duration of current period of unemployment									
Under 1 year	%	66.8	65.2	68.3	71.1	76.5	73.7	78.2	78.6
1 and under 4 weeks	%	12.0	13.2	18.2	19.2	19.1	20.4	22.7	24.9
4 and under 8 weeks	%	10.4	10.8	11.3	12.1	13.1	10.9	13.6	9.8
8 and under 13 weeks	%	7.9	8.6	10.0	9.4	8.8	10.4	9.1	10.9
13 and under 26 weeks	%	15.5	13.3	11.2	12.7	19.9	17.5	17.9	18.1
26 and under 52 weeks	%	20.9	19.3	17.6	17.6	15.6	14.6	14.9	14.9
1 year and over	%	33.2	34.8	31.7	28.9	23.5	26.3	21.8	21.4
1 and under 2 years	%	15.4	15.2	12.5	10.9	8.9	11.7	8.7	7.7
2 years and over	%	17.8	19.6	19.1	18.1	14.6	14.5	13.2	13.7
DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT									
Mean duration of unemployment	wks	56.0	59.9	55.5	52.9	49.8	50.9	48.8	52.2
Median duration of unemployment	wks	26	26	23	20	18	18	16	16

na not available

(b) Includes persons who reported difficulties because of ethnic background.

(a) From July 2004, this data item has been split into 'considered too young by employers' and 'considered too old by employers'. See paragraph 21 of the Explanatory Notes for further details.

(c) Collected separately for the first time in July 2002.

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, Whether looking for full-time or part-time work

	LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME WORK			LOOKING FOR PART-TIME WORK			TOTAL		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
Total	230.6	162.7	393.2	51.9	83.1	135.0	282.5	245.7	528.2
Age group (years)									
15-19	26.1	28.0	54.1	26.7	27.3	54.0	52.9	55.3	108.2
20-24	44.4	31.2	75.7	9.3	10.7	20.0	53.7	41.9	95.7
25-34	56.5	40.1	96.6	5.9	16.0	21.9	62.4	56.1	118.5
35-44	45.3	33.4	78.7	*3.1	15.2	18.3	48.4	48.6	97.0
45-54	33.3	19.1	52.4	*3.6	9.0	12.6	36.9	28.1	65.1
55 and over	24.8	10.9	35.7	*3.3	*4.8	8.2	28.1	15.7	43.8
Relationship in household									
Family member	167.2	129.1	296.3	41.3	74.2	115.5	208.4	203.3	411.8
Husband, wife or partner	84.3	58.6	142.9	9.3	29.3	38.6	93.7	87.9	181.6
With dependants	43.6	25.0	68.6	5.6	17.3	22.8	49.2	42.3	91.4
Without dependants	40.7	33.6	74.3	*3.8	12.0	15.8	44.5	45.6	90.1
Lone parent	5.7	23.8	29.5	*1.7	13.9	15.5	7.4	37.6	45.0
Dependent student	*3.7	5.8	9.6	24.0	25.7	49.7	27.7	31.5	59.2
Non-dependent child	63.7	35.8	99.5	*2.8	*3.6	6.3	66.5	39.3	105.8
Other family person	9.7	*5.1	14.8	*3.4	*1.8	5.3	13.1	7.0	20.1
Non-family member	51.8	24.8	76.6	7.3	6.9	14.2	59.1	31.7	90.8
Relationship not determined	11.6	8.7	20.4	*3.4	*2.0	5.3	15.0	10.7	25.7
Country of birth									
Born in Australia	171.9	125.5	297.3	34.0	62.1	96.2	205.9	187.6	393.5
Born overseas	58.7	37.2	95.9	17.9	20.9	38.8	76.6	58.1	134.7
Born in main English-speaking countries	22.4	12.0	34.4	*3.4	7.8	11.2	25.9	19.8	45.6
Born in other than main English-speaking countries	36.3	25.2	61.5	14.5	13.1	27.6	50.7	38.3	89.1
Level of highest non-school qualification									
With non-school qualifications	95.8	62.7	158.4	11.3	27.3	38.6	107.1	89.9	197.0
Bachelor Degree or above	30.9	16.9	47.8	*3.6	7.5	11.1	34.5	24.5	59.0
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	9.4	11.7	21.1	*2.7	*2.9	5.5	12.0	14.6	26.6
Certificate III/IV	30.1	16.2	46.3	*3.4	5.8	9.2	33.5	22.0	55.5
Certificate I/II(a)	22.4	16.6	39.0	*1.3	10.2	11.6	23.8	26.8	50.6
Level not determined	*3.0	*1.3	*4.2	**0.4	**0.8	*1.2	*3.3	*2.1	5.4
Without non-school qualifications	134.8	100.0	234.8	40.6	55.8	96.4	175.4	155.8	331.2
All steps taken to find work(b)									
Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work	205.9	139.5	345.3	40.7	69.0	109.7	246.6	208.5	455.1
Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper	155.4	120.3	275.7	23.6	47.1	70.7	179.0	167.5	346.4
Answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet	83.0	71.7	154.7	16.8	23.4	40.3	99.8	95.1	195.0
Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens	81.2	45.8	127.0	*3.0	5.6	8.6	84.2	51.4	135.6
Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards	28.4	20.4	48.8	6.7	6.4	13.1	35.2	26.7	61.9
Contacted friends or relatives	116.7	68.1	184.9	23.1	31.8	54.8	139.8	99.9	239.7
Advertised or tendered for work	14.1	10.3	24.5	*2.4	*2.0	*4.4	16.6	12.4	28.9
Registered with a Job Network employment agency	156.8	92.6	249.4	8.9	19.5	28.5	165.7	112.1	277.9
Registered with other employment agency	68.4	44.5	112.9	*4.6	10.9	15.6	73.1	55.4	128.5
Checked with a Job Network employment agency	138.8	86.2	225.0	8.3	20.3	28.6	147.1	106.5	253.6
Checked with other employment agency	74.5	47.8	122.2	*4.8	11.1	15.9	79.3	58.8	138.1
Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper	205.5	150.6	356.1	39.9	64.9	104.9	245.4	215.6	461.0
Looked at advertisements on the Internet	126.4	101.3	227.7	27.9	38.2	66.1	154.3	139.5	293.8
Looked at advertisements for jobs on Centrelink touchscreens	132.8	78.9	211.6	9.1	16.4	25.5	141.9	95.2	237.1
Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards	65.5	43.2	108.7	9.9	15.0	24.9	75.4	58.2	133.6
Registered with Centrelink as a jobseeker	169.4	97.1	266.5	10.1	18.4	28.5	179.5	115.5	294.9
Other	31.4	19.9	51.3	*4.7	10.3	15.0	36.1	30.2	66.2

* 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 'Certificate not further defined'.

(b) Refers to all steps taken to find work, therefore persons may appear in more than one category.

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, Recent labour market experience

		LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME WORK			LOOKING FOR PART-TIME WORK			TOTAL		
		Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS										
Total	'000	230.6	162.7	393.2	51.9	83.1	135.0	282.5	245.7	528.2
Number of offers of employment in the current period of unemployment										
None	'000	185.3	131.6	317.0	44.7	67.5	112.2	230.0	199.1	429.1
One	'000	30.3	20.1	50.4	6.0	12.7	18.6	36.3	32.7	69.0
Two	'000	8.0	6.0	14.0	*0.7	*1.8	*2.5	8.7	7.9	16.6
Three or more	'000	6.9	*4.9	11.8	**0.6	*1.1	*1.6	7.5	6.0	13.5
Whether has ever worked for two weeks or more										
Has previously worked	'000	209.3	138.7	348.0	30.3	60.5	90.8	239.6	199.2	438.8
Last job less than 2 years ago	'000	154.4	99.0	253.4	23.3	33.9	57.1	177.7	132.9	310.6
Last job 2 years or more ago	'000	54.8	39.8	94.6	7.1	26.6	33.6	61.9	66.4	128.2
Has never worked	'000	21.3	23.9	45.2	21.6	22.6	44.2	42.9	46.5	89.4
Time spent looking for work in the previous 12 months										
1 and under 4 weeks	'000	37.9	34.5	72.4	14.7	25.0	39.7	52.6	59.5	112.1
4 and under 8 weeks	'000	18.1	13.7	31.8	*4.9	8.2	13.1	23.1	21.8	44.9
8 and under 13 weeks	'000	24.0	17.3	41.4	7.3	7.2	14.5	31.4	24.5	55.9
13 and under 26 weeks	'000	40.5	32.3	72.8	9.1	17.2	26.3	49.6	49.5	99.0
26 and under 39 weeks	'000	27.8	19.3	47.1	6.1	12.9	19.0	33.9	32.2	66.1
39 and under 52 weeks	'000	20.5	10.9	31.4	*3.5	*2.1	5.6	24.0	13.0	37.0
52 weeks	'000	61.8	34.7	96.5	6.2	10.5	16.8	68.0	45.2	113.2
Duration of current period of unemployment										
Under 1 year	'000	168.8	128.0	296.8	45.7	72.5	118.2	214.5	200.5	415.0
1 and under 4 weeks	'000	48.2	40.7	88.9	17.3	25.5	42.9	65.5	66.2	131.7
4 and under 8 weeks	'000	22.7	14.5	37.1	5.5	8.9	14.4	28.2	23.3	51.5
8 and under 13 weeks	'000	23.4	18.7	42.1	7.3	8.1	15.4	30.7	26.8	57.5
13 and under 26 weeks	'000	38.6	31.8	70.3	8.0	17.1	25.1	46.6	48.9	95.5
26 and under 39 weeks	'000	21.1	14.5	35.6	6.1	10.8	16.9	27.2	25.3	52.6
39 and under 52 weeks	'000	14.8	7.9	22.7	*1.4	*2.1	*3.5	16.2	10.0	26.2
1 year and over	'000	61.8	34.7	96.5	6.2	10.5	16.8	68.0	45.2	113.2
1 and under 2 years	'000	19.2	11.7	30.9	*3.3	6.5	9.8	22.4	18.2	40.7
2 years and over	'000	42.6	23.0	65.6	*3.0	*4.0	7.0	45.6	27.0	72.6
DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT										
Mean duration of unemployment	wks	62.1	58.0	60.4	27.0	29.0	28.3	55.7	48.2	52.2
Median duration of unemployment	wks	19	16	18	9	12	10	16	14	16

* 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

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, All steps taken to find work(a)

AGE GROUP (YEARS)

	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over	Total	%
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	

All steps taken to find work

MALES

Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work	46.4	47.0	54.1	40.7	32.5	26.0	246.6	87.3
Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper	27.1	33.8	42.3	31.2	23.3	21.3	179.0	63.3
Answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet	15.3	21.3	25.9	17.7	12.5	7.2	99.8	35.3
Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens	6.3	19.1	24.6	13.6	11.3	9.4	84.2	29.8
Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards	*3.2	8.1	8.5	7.0	*3.9	*4.5	35.2	12.4
Contacted friends or relatives	23.3	29.6	32.7	24.2	17.4	12.5	139.8	49.5
Advertised or tendered for work	*2.8	*2.7	*4.3	*2.4	*3.1	*1.2	16.6	5.9
Registered with a Job Network employment agency	19.7	33.2	40.4	33.0	23.5	16.0	165.7	58.7
Registered with other employment agency	9.6	15.7	18.1	14.5	10.2	*4.9	73.1	25.9
Checked with a Job Network employment agency	16.7	30.0	35.3	28.8	21.7	14.6	147.1	52.1
Checked with other employment agency	7.7	16.1	19.0	15.9	13.8	6.9	79.3	28.1
Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper	44.3	43.6	56.0	41.7	33.7	26.1	245.4	86.9
Looked at advertisements on the Internet	26.7	33.1	35.7	26.8	20.9	11.2	154.3	54.6
Looked at advertisements for jobs on Centrelink touchscreens	14.3	30.8	36.5	24.7	19.3	16.3	141.9	50.2
Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards	10.0	16.6	18.9	13.7	8.7	7.4	75.4	26.7
Registered with Centrelink as a jobseeker	19.3	37.5	41.8	35.4	25.8	19.7	179.5	63.5
Other	6.3	5.7	9.5	7.1	5.4	*2.2	36.1	12.8
Total	52.9	53.7	62.4	48.4	36.9	28.1	282.5	100.0

FEMALES

Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work	48.2	36.2	48.6	39.9	23.0	12.6	208.5	84.8
Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper	32.5	31.2	38.6	36.5	17.7	11.0	167.5	68.1
Answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet	21.0	22.6	25.1	14.7	7.0	*4.7	95.1	38.7
Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens	7.7	12.3	12.1	10.6	5.5	*3.2	51.4	20.9
Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards	*5.1	5.8	*5.1	6.2	*3.2	*1.3	26.7	10.9
Contacted friends or relatives	20.5	16.5	21.3	21.4	13.0	7.3	99.9	40.7
Advertised or tendered for work	*2.5	*1.9	*3.0	*1.7	*2.0	*1.2	12.4	5.0
Registered with a Job Network employment agency	20.6	20.0	26.4	23.6	12.5	9.2	112.1	45.6
Registered with other employment agency	8.1	11.7	14.2	11.7	6.9	*2.8	55.4	22.6
Checked with a Job Network employment agency	16.7	20.5	24.4	23.1	12.9	9.1	106.5	43.4
Checked with other employment agency	7.5	11.2	16.4	12.7	6.9	*4.1	58.8	23.9
Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper	46.1	38.5	48.9	44.4	24.1	13.5	215.6	87.7
Looked at advertisements on the Internet	32.2	29.9	34.4	24.2	11.6	7.2	139.5	56.8
Looked at advertisements for jobs on Centrelink touchscreens	16.2	19.0	20.9	22.6	8.6	7.9	95.2	38.8
Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards	9.9	9.7	13.8	14.4	5.7	*4.8	58.2	23.7
Registered with Centrelink as a jobseeker	20.5	22.8	26.5	24.1	12.7	8.7	115.5	47.0
Other	6.8	5.5	5.5	7.1	*2.7	*2.5	30.2	12.3
Total	55.3	41.9	56.1	48.6	28.1	15.7	245.7	100.0

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

(a) Refers to all steps taken to find work, therefore persons may appear in more than one category.

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, All steps taken to find work(a) *continued*

AGE GROUP (YEARS)

	AGE GROUP (YEARS)						Total	
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over	'000	%
<i>All steps taken to find work</i>	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%
PERSONS								
Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work	94.6	83.1	102.7	80.6	55.5	38.6	455.1	86.2
Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper	59.6	65.0	80.9	67.7	41.0	32.3	346.4	65.6
Answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet	36.3	43.9	51.0	32.4	19.5	11.9	195.0	36.9
Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens	14.0	31.4	36.7	24.1	16.7	12.6	135.6	25.7
Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards	8.4	13.9	13.6	13.1	7.1	5.8	61.9	11.7
Contacted friends or relatives	43.9	46.1	54.0	45.6	30.4	19.7	239.7	45.4
Advertised or tendered for work	5.4	*4.6	7.3	*4.1	5.2	*2.4	28.9	5.5
Registered with a Job Network employment agency	40.3	53.1	66.8	56.6	35.9	25.1	277.9	52.6
Registered with other employment agency	17.8	27.5	32.3	26.2	17.1	7.6	128.5	24.3
Checked with a Job Network employment agency	33.3	50.5	59.7	51.9	34.6	23.7	253.6	48.0
Checked with other employment agency	15.1	27.3	35.3	28.6	20.8	11.0	138.1	26.2
Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper	90.5	82.1	104.9	86.1	57.8	39.5	461.0	87.3
Looked at advertisements on the Internet	58.9	62.9	70.1	51.0	32.5	18.4	293.8	55.6
Looked at advertisements for jobs on Centrelink touchscreens	30.5	49.8	57.4	47.3	27.9	24.2	237.1	44.9
Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards	19.9	26.3	32.7	28.1	14.3	12.2	133.6	25.3
Registered with Centrelink as a jobseeker	39.8	60.4	68.3	59.4	38.6	28.4	294.9	55.8
Other	13.1	11.2	15.0	14.2	8.0	*4.7	66.2	12.5
Total	108.2	95.7	118.5	97.0	65.1	43.8	528.2	100.0

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

(a) Refers to all steps taken to find work, therefore persons may appear in more than one category.

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, Main difficulty in finding work—By duration of unemployment

DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT

	1 and under 8 weeks	8 and under 26 weeks	26 and under 52 weeks	1 and under 2 years	2 years and over	Total	Mean duration	Median duration
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	wks	wks
Main difficulty in finding work								
Too many applicants for available jobs	16.7	21.4	10.3	5.3	5.9	59.6	42.4	19
Lacked necessary skills or education	12.6	15.6	8.2	6.3	6.8	49.5	60.5	22
Considered too old by employers	9.9	12.2	6.9	7.9	19.7	56.6	123.1	51
Insufficient work experience	22.5	20.7	14.7	*4.6	7.0	69.4	43.1	16
No vacancies at all	12.6	10.9	*4.4	*1.7	*3.9	33.5	39.6	11
No vacancies in line of work	20.3	11.1	*5.0	*1.7	*4.2	42.3	34.4	8
Too far to travel/transport problems	12.6	12.0	8.0	*1.7	7.3	41.7	67.4	21
Own ill health or disability	7.1	6.7	6.7	*4.5	11.1	36.1	101.6	40
Language difficulties	*3.1	*1.9	**0.8	**0.5	**0.8	7.1	40.6	13
Unsuitable hours	13.0	10.7	*3.9	*2.0	**0.1	29.8	17.2	8
Difficulties with child care and other family responsibilities	5.6	*3.0	*2.5	*3.3	*1.8	16.2	40.5	22
Other difficulties (a) (b)	8.2	12.6	*4.5	**0.6	*1.0	27.0	21.7	14
No difficulties at all	35.0	10.0	*2.4	**0.4	*1.2	49.0	10.2	2
No feedback from employers	*4.1	*4.0	**0.5	**0.1	*1.7	10.4	28.3	10
Sex								
Males	93.7	77.3	43.4	22.4	45.6	282.5	55.7	16
Females	89.5	75.7	35.3	18.2	27.0	245.7	48.2	14
Total	183.3	153.0	78.7	40.7	72.6	528.2	52.2	16

* 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 5,300 persons who reported difficulties because they were considered too young by employers. See paragraph 21 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Includes 2,100 persons who reported difficulties because of ethnic background.

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UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, Main difficulty in finding work—By duration of unemployment: Proportion

DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT

	1 and under 8 weeks	8 and under 26 weeks	26 and under 52 weeks	1 and under 2 years	2 years and over	Total
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Main difficulty in finding work						
Too many applicants for available jobs	9.1	14.0	13.1	13.1	8.1	11.3
Lacked necessary skills or education	6.9	10.2	10.4	15.6	9.4	9.4
Considered too old by employers	5.4	8.0	8.7	19.4	27.1	10.7
Insufficient work experience	12.3	13.5	18.7	*11.3	9.6	13.1
No vacancies at all	6.9	7.1	*5.6	*4.1	*5.4	6.3
No vacancies in line of work	11.1	7.3	*6.3	*4.1	*5.8	8.0
Too far to travel/transport problems	6.9	7.9	10.2	*4.2	10.1	7.9
Own ill health or disability	3.9	4.4	8.5	*11.0	15.3	6.8
Language difficulties	*1.7	*1.3	**1.0	**1.3	**1.1	1.4
Unsuitable hours	7.1	7.0	*5.0	*5.0	**0.2	5.6
Difficulties with child care and other family responsibilities	3.1	*2.0	*3.1	*8.2	*2.5	3.1
Other difficulties(a)(b)	4.5	8.3	*5.8	**1.6	*1.4	5.1
No difficulties at all	19.1	6.6	*3.0	**0.9	*1.6	9.3
No feedback from employers	*2.2	*2.6	**0.7	**0.3	*2.3	2.0
Sex						
Males	51.1	50.5	55.2	55.1	62.8	53.5
Females	48.9	49.5	44.8	44.9	37.2	46.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* 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) Includes 5,300 persons who reported difficulties because they were considered too young by employers. See paragraph 21 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Includes 2,100 persons who reported difficulties because of ethnic background.

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, Main difficulty in finding work—By age

Main difficulty in finding work	AGE GROUP (YEARS)						SEX		Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over	Males	Females	
PERSONS ('000)									
Too many applicants for available jobs	15.3	10.3	12.3	12.6	5.6	*3.7	30.5	29.1	59.6
Lacked necessary skills or education	10.2	11.8	12.2	9.9	*2.9	*2.5	24.1	25.4	49.5
Considered too old by employers	*2.6	*2.0	*4.3	8.9	18.8	20.1	32.6	24.0	56.6
Insufficient work experience	26.6	18.0	16.0	6.8	*1.7	**0.4	32.5	36.9	69.4
No vacancies at all	9.7	5.7	7.9	*4.4	*3.4	*2.5	24.0	9.5	33.5
No vacancies in line of work	5.7	8.3	8.1	8.5	8.2	*3.5	29.1	13.2	42.3
Too far to travel/transport problems	9.9	9.8	9.7	7.3	*3.9	*1.2	26.1	15.7	41.7
Own ill health or disability	*2.0	*3.6	10.0	9.4	6.2	*4.8	21.7	14.3	36.1
Language difficulties	**0.2	**0.3	*1.7	*3.1	**0.7	*1.0	*3.5	*3.6	7.1
Unsuitable hours	7.3	6.9	9.6	5.4	—	**0.5	10.2	19.6	29.8
Difficulties with child care and other family responsibilities	—	*3.0	6.7	*4.9	*1.6	**0.1	*4.6	11.7	16.2
Other difficulties(a)(b)	7.3	*3.6	6.5	*4.9	*3.7	*1.1	13.4	13.6	27.0
No difficulties at all	10.2	11.1	11.2	7.3	6.5	*2.6	23.2	25.8	49.0
No feedback from employers	*1.3	*1.3	*2.3	*3.5	*1.9	**0.1	6.9	*3.5	10.4
Total	108.2	95.7	118.5	97.0	65.1	43.8	282.5	245.7	528.2

Main difficulty in finding work	AGE GROUP (YEARS)						SEX		Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over	Males	Females	
PERSONS (%)									
Too many applicants for available jobs	14.1	10.8	10.3	12.9	8.6	*8.4	10.8	11.9	11.3
Lacked necessary skills or education	9.5	12.3	10.3	10.2	*4.5	*5.7	8.5	10.3	9.4
Considered too old by employers	*2.4	*2.1	*3.6	9.2	28.8	45.7	11.5	9.8	10.7
Insufficient work experience	24.6	18.8	13.5	7.0	*2.5	**0.8	11.5	15.0	13.1
No vacancies at all	8.9	5.9	6.6	*4.5	*5.2	*5.6	8.5	3.8	6.3
No vacancies in line of work	5.3	8.6	6.8	8.8	12.7	*7.9	10.3	5.4	8.0
Too far to travel/transport problems	9.1	10.3	8.2	7.6	*5.9	*2.6	9.2	6.4	7.9
Own ill health or disability	*1.8	*3.8	8.5	9.7	9.6	*11.0	7.7	5.8	6.8
Language difficulties	**0.2	**0.3	*1.5	*3.2	**1.1	*2.3	*1.3	*1.5	1.4
Unsuitable hours	6.8	7.2	8.1	5.6	—	**1.1	3.6	8.0	5.6
Difficulties with child care and other family responsibilities	—	*3.2	5.6	*5.0	*2.4	**0.2	*1.6	4.7	3.1
Other difficulties(a)(b)	6.7	*3.7	5.5	*5.1	*5.6	*2.5	4.7	5.5	5.1
No difficulties at all	9.5	11.6	9.4	7.6	10.1	*5.9	8.2	10.5	9.3
No feedback from employers	*1.2	*1.4	*1.9	*3.6	*2.9	**0.3	2.4	*1.4	2.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* 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

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes 5,300 persons who reported difficulties because they were considered too young by employers. See paragraph 21 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Includes 2,100 persons who reported difficulties because of ethnic background.

UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, Level of highest non-school qualification

WITH NON-SCHOOL QUALIFICATIONS

<i>Duration of current period of unemployment</i>	<i>Bachelor Degree or above</i>	<i>Advanced Diploma/Diploma</i>	<i>Certificate III/IV</i>	<i>Certificate I/II(a)</i>	<i>Level not determined</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Without non-school qualifications</i>	<i>Total</i>
MALES ('000)								
Less than 1 year	28.7	9.6	23.8	17.7	*3.3	83.0	131.5	214.5
1 and under 8 weeks	12.4	*4.8	10.8	7.3	*2.0	37.3	56.5	93.7
8 and under 26 weeks	11.9	*3.0	9.0	7.0	**0.2	31.2	46.2	77.3
26 and under 52 weeks	*4.4	*1.7	*3.9	*3.4	*1.1	14.6	28.8	43.4
1 and under 2 years	*2.5	**0.7	*3.3	*2.5	—	9.0	13.4	22.4
2 years and over	*3.3	*1.8	6.4	*3.5	—	15.1	30.6	45.6
Total	34.5	12.0	33.5	23.8	*3.3	107.1	175.4	282.5
FEMALES ('000)								
Less than 1 year	22.2	12.2	18.3	19.9	*1.5	74.1	126.4	200.5
1 and under 8 weeks	13.8	5.5	9.2	8.7	**0.8	37.8	51.7	89.5
8 and under 26 weeks	7.3	5.3	5.3	6.9	**0.6	25.5	50.2	75.7
26 and under 52 weeks	*1.2	*1.4	*3.8	*4.4	**0.1	10.9	24.4	35.3
1 and under 2 years	*1.0	*1.7	*2.4	*2.8	**0.5	8.4	9.8	18.2
2 years and over	*1.2	**0.8	*1.4	*4.0	—	7.4	19.6	27.0
Total	24.5	14.6	22.0	26.8	*2.1	89.9	155.8	245.7
PERSONS ('000)								
Less than 1 year	50.9	21.7	42.0	37.6	*4.9	157.2	257.8	415.0
1 and under 8 weeks	26.2	10.3	19.9	15.9	*2.8	75.1	108.2	183.3
8 and under 26 weeks	19.2	8.4	14.3	13.9	**0.8	56.6	96.4	153.0
26 and under 52 weeks	5.6	*3.1	7.7	7.8	*1.3	25.5	53.3	78.7
1 and under 2 years	*3.6	*2.3	5.7	5.4	**0.5	17.4	23.2	40.7
2 years and over	*4.5	*2.6	7.8	7.6	—	22.4	50.1	72.6
Total	59.0	26.6	55.5	50.6	5.4	197.0	331.2	528.2
PERSONS (%)								
Less than 1 year	86.4	81.5	75.7	74.4	*90.3	79.8	77.8	78.6
1 and under 8 weeks	44.4	38.6	35.9	31.5	*51.5	38.1	32.7	34.7
8 and under 26 weeks	32.5	31.4	25.8	27.5	**15.5	28.7	29.1	29.0
26 and under 52 weeks	9.5	*11.6	13.9	15.5	*23.3	12.9	16.1	14.9
1 and under 2 years	*6.0	*8.7	10.2	10.6	**9.7	8.9	7.0	7.7
2 years and over	*7.6	*9.8	14.1	14.9	—	11.4	15.1	13.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* 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

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes 'Certificate not further defined'.

AGE GROUP (YEARS)

	AGE GROUP (YEARS)						Total	
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over	'000	%
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%
Total	262.6	302.2	424.1	306.4	183.9	75.6	1 554.8	100.0
Sex								
Males	128.2	158.5	236.0	169.3	94.5	48.4	834.7	53.7
Females	134.5	143.7	188.1	137.1	89.4	27.3	720.1	46.3
Level of highest non-school qualification								
With non-school qualifications	32.0	167.4	287.0	196.5	114.2	45.6	842.7	54.2
Bachelor degree or above	**0.7	68.4	121.3	73.9	44.7	15.2	324.2	20.9
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	*1.7	21.1	40.1	32.8	18.8	6.0	120.5	7.7
Certificate III/IV	11.7	48.4	88.3	64.7	33.1	17.6	263.9	17.0
Certificate I/II(a)	17.2	27.5	33.4	22.1	16.7	5.2	122.2	7.9
Level not determined	**0.7	*2.1	*3.9	*2.9	*1.0	*1.5	12.0	0.8
Without non-school qualifications	230.6	134.7	137.1	110.0	69.7	30.1	712.1	45.8
Whether had prior knowledge that job was available								
Employed persons not in own business	259.0	289.7	362.4	239.9	145.2	57.0	1 353.3	87.0
Had prior knowledge that job or work was available	159.4	195.7	244.9	155.0	96.0	35.0	886.1	57.0
Did not have prior knowledge that job was available	99.7	94.0	117.5	84.9	49.2	22.0	467.2	30.0
Employed persons in own business	*3.6	12.4	61.7	66.5	38.7	18.7	201.6	13.0
Whether out of work prior to starting job								
Out of work prior to starting job	176.5	134.0	152.4	110.2	69.9	29.7	672.7	43.3
Changed employer to start job	82.6	155.8	210.0	129.7	75.3	27.2	680.6	43.8
Employed persons in own business(b)	*3.6	12.4	61.7	66.5	38.7	18.7	201.6	13.0
Whether first job ever held lasting two weeks or more								
First job ever held	103.9	26.2	15.2	9.2	*4.9	*1.5	161.0	10.4
Had worked before	158.7	276.0	408.9	297.2	179.0	74.2	1 393.8	89.6
Duration of looking for work before being offered job								
Less than 1 year	161.3	191.9	232.2	136.4	80.8	24.8	827.3	53.2
1 and under 4 weeks	56.9	72.6	87.1	48.5	24.3	8.8	298.3	19.2
4 and under 8 weeks	32.4	42.0	53.0	27.1	11.4	*3.1	169.0	10.9
8 and under 13 weeks	30.8	31.8	38.6	23.7	17.6	*4.6	147.1	9.5
13 and under 26 weeks	27.1	25.1	31.0	21.2	13.1	*4.3	121.7	7.8
26 and under 52 weeks	14.0	20.4	22.5	15.8	14.5	*4.0	91.2	5.9
1 and under 2 years	7.5	9.4	12.0	13.8	9.3	*3.0	55.0	3.5
2 and under 5 years	*2.0	*4.7	7.7	7.7	6.1	*2.8	31.0	2.0
5 years and over	—	—	*2.5	*2.6	*2.1	*1.0	8.1	0.5
Did not look for work	91.8	96.2	169.7	146.0	85.6	44.1	633.5	40.7

* 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 'Certificate not further defined'.

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

(b) Includes 70,800 persons who were out of work prior to starting current business.

	AGE GROUP (YEARS)						WHETHER EMPLOYED IN OWN BUSINESS		Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over	Employed not in own business	Employed in own business	
PERSONS ('000)									
Total	262.6	302.2	424.1	306.4	183.9	75.6	1 353.3	201.6	1 554.8
Occupation of current job									
Managers and administrators	**0.8	*3.6	18.8	24.5	12.1	6.8	47.3	19.2	66.5
Professionals	8.6	48.6	84.5	58.2	36.8	12.7	209.8	39.6	249.4
Associate professionals	7.6	26.8	57.6	48.4	29.6	10.1	136.0	44.1	180.1
Tradespersons and related workers	38.5	29.7	58.2	29.1	15.3	8.9	149.3	30.2	179.6
Advanced clerical and service workers	**0.8	12.5	13.6	9.5	6.6	*3.1	37.4	8.6	46.0
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	49.6	77.9	76.0	54.2	27.8	11.2	277.1	19.6	296.7
Intermediate production and transport workers	17.7	21.3	33.1	34.0	20.2	7.4	117.6	16.1	133.7
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	96.0	40.7	34.2	17.4	12.6	8.2	200.2	9.0	209.2
Labourers and related workers	43.0	41.1	48.1	31.3	22.9	7.3	178.6	15.1	193.7
Full-time or part-time status of employment									
Full-time worker	102.7	212.4	320.4	210.6	129.4	46.2	874.8	147.0	1 021.8
Part-time worker	159.9	89.7	103.7	95.8	54.5	29.4	478.5	54.6	533.1
Whether prefers to work more hours than usually works									
Usually works part-time hours	169.5	99.8	111.8	99.4	57.8	32.3	512.9	57.6	570.6
Would prefer to work more hours	61.7	45.2	45.4	35.5	19.9	9.6	195.6	21.8	217.4
Would not prefer to work more hours	104.4	50.0	63.3	60.2	37.2	21.7	303.5	33.3	336.8
Did not know	*3.4	*4.6	*3.1	*3.7	**0.6	*0.9	13.8	*2.5	16.3
Usually works full-time hours	93.1	202.4	312.3	207.0	126.1	43.4	840.4	143.9	984.3
PERSONS (%)									
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Occupation of current job									
Managers and administrators	**0.3	*1.2	4.4	8.0	6.6	9.0	3.5	9.5	4.3
Professionals	3.3	16.1	19.9	19.0	20.0	16.8	15.5	19.6	16.0
Associate professionals	2.9	8.9	13.6	15.8	16.1	13.3	10.1	21.9	11.6
Tradespersons and related workers	14.6	9.8	13.7	9.5	8.3	11.7	11.0	15.0	11.5
Advanced clerical and service workers	**0.3	4.1	3.2	3.1	3.6	*4.1	2.8	4.3	3.0
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	18.9	25.8	17.9	17.7	15.1	14.8	20.5	9.7	19.1
Intermediate production and transport workers	6.7	7.0	7.8	11.1	11.0	9.8	8.7	8.0	8.6
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	36.6	13.5	8.1	5.7	6.8	10.9	14.8	4.5	13.5
Labourers and related workers	16.4	13.6	11.3	10.2	12.4	9.6	13.2	7.5	12.5
Full-time or part-time status of employment									
Full-time worker	39.1	70.3	75.6	68.7	70.4	61.1	64.6	72.9	65.7
Part-time worker	60.9	29.7	24.4	31.3	29.6	38.9	35.4	27.1	34.3
Whether prefers to work more hours than usually works									
Usually works part-time hours	64.6	33.0	26.4	32.4	31.4	42.6	37.9	28.6	36.7
Would prefer to work more hours	23.5	15.0	10.7	11.6	10.8	12.7	14.5	10.8	14.0
Would not prefer to work more hours	39.7	16.5	14.9	19.6	20.2	28.7	22.4	16.5	21.7
Did not know	*1.3	*1.5	*0.7	*1.2	**0.3	*1.2	1.0	*1.2	1.0
Usually works full-time hours	35.4	67.0	73.6	67.6	68.6	57.4	62.1	71.4	63.3

* 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

EMPLOYED PERSONS WHO STARTED THEIR CURRENT JOB IN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS, All steps taken to attain job(a)

	OUT OF WORK PRIOR TO STARTING JOB			CHANGED EMPLOYER TO START JOB			TOTAL		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
PERSONS ('000)									
Employed persons not in own business(b)	273.4	256.2	529.6	231.8	221.3	453.0	505.1	477.5	982.6
Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work	215.9	212.9	428.8	180.4	173.0	353.4	396.3	385.9	782.2
Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper	131.3	119.1	250.4	88.7	94.1	182.8	220.0	213.1	433.2
Answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet	83.2	82.4	165.5	53.9	56.6	110.5	137.1	139.0	276.1
Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens	38.8	25.0	63.8	10.3	8.5	18.8	49.1	33.5	82.6
Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards	12.2	13.9	26.0	6.8	5.9	12.8	19.0	19.8	38.8
Contacted friends or relatives	120.0	90.5	210.5	76.6	59.4	136.0	196.6	150.0	346.5
Advertised or tendered for work	9.5	12.4	21.9	6.9	5.4	12.3	16.4	17.8	34.2
Registered with a Job Network employment agency	96.6	61.2	157.8	28.8	28.3	57.1	125.4	89.5	214.8
Registered with other employment agency	56.6	43.6	100.2	36.1	26.7	62.8	92.7	70.3	162.9
Checked with a Job Network employment agency	72.5	47.8	120.3	21.0	22.5	43.5	93.5	70.3	163.8
Checked with other employment agency	54.3	44.1	98.4	26.0	24.1	50.1	80.3	68.2	148.5
Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper	177.3	167.7	344.9	122.2	127.1	249.3	299.5	294.7	594.2
Looked at advertisements on the Internet	124.1	122.0	246.2	83.3	87.1	170.4	207.4	209.1	416.5
Looked at advertisements for jobs on Centrelink touchscreens	70.1	45.1	115.2	18.9	17.0	35.9	89.0	62.1	151.1
Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards	29.5	29.3	58.8	12.8	11.3	24.1	42.3	40.5	82.8
Registered with Centrelink as a jobseeker	95.6	61.9	157.5	27.4	24.7	52.1	123.0	86.6	209.6
Other	29.9	34.7	64.6	21.8	20.8	42.6	51.6	55.5	107.1
Employed persons in own business(c)	..	..	..	..	..	..	129.2	72.4	201.6
Total(d)	346.0	326.7	672.7	359.6	321.0	680.6	834.7	720.1	1 554.8

PERSONS (%)									
Employed persons not in own business(b)	79.0	78.4	78.7	64.4	68.9	66.6	60.5	66.3	63.2
Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work	62.4	65.2	63.7	50.2	53.9	51.9	47.5	53.6	50.3
Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper	37.9	36.4	37.2	24.7	29.3	26.9	26.4	29.6	27.9
Answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet	24.0	25.2	24.6	15.0	17.6	16.2	16.4	19.3	17.8
Answered Centrelink advertisement	11.2	7.7	9.5	2.9	2.6	2.8	5.9	4.6	5.3
Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards	3.5	4.2	3.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.3	2.8	2.5
Contacted friends or relatives	34.7	27.7	31.3	21.3	18.5	20.0	23.6	20.8	22.3
Advertised or tendered for work	2.8	3.8	3.3	1.9	1.7	1.8	2.0	2.5	2.2
Registered with a Job Network employment agency	27.9	18.7	23.5	8.0	8.8	8.4	15.0	12.4	13.8
Registered with other employment agency	16.4	13.3	14.9	10.0	8.3	9.2	11.1	9.8	10.5
Checked with a Job Network employment agency	21.0	14.6	17.9	5.9	7.0	6.4	11.2	9.8	10.5
Checked with other employment agency	15.7	13.5	14.6	7.2	7.5	7.4	9.6	9.5	9.6
Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper	51.2	51.3	51.3	34.0	39.6	36.6	35.9	40.9	38.2
Looked at advertisements on the Internet	35.9	37.3	36.6	23.2	27.1	25.0	24.8	29.0	26.8
Looked at advertisements for jobs on Centrelink touchscreens	20.3	13.8	17.1	5.2	5.3	5.3	10.7	8.6	9.7
Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards	8.5	9.0	8.7	3.6	3.5	3.5	5.1	5.6	5.3
Registered with Centrelink as a jobseeker	27.6	18.9	23.4	7.6	7.7	7.7	14.7	12.0	13.5
Other	8.6	10.6	9.6	6.1	6.5	6.3	6.2	7.7	6.9
Employed persons in own business(c)	..	..	..	..	..	..	15.5	10.1	13.0
Total(d)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

.. not applicable

(a) Refers to all steps taken to attain job, therefore persons may appear in more than one category. For employed persons, refers to steps taken to attain a job, not necessarily the current job.

(b) Excludes 370,600 persons who did not take any steps to attain a job.

(c) Persons employed in own business were not asked questions about steps taken to attain a job.

(d) Includes 370,600 persons who did not take any steps to attain a job.

WITH NON-SCHOOL QUALIFICATIONS

Duration of looking for work before being offered a job	Bachelor Degree or above	Advanced Diploma/Diploma	Certificate III/IV	Certificate I/III(a)	Level not determined	Total	Without non-school qualifications	Total
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES								
Less than 1 year	82.4	22.6	80.3	28.6	*5.1	219.0	221.1	440.2
1 and under 4 weeks	23.2	7.3	34.0	11.8	*2.2	78.5	86.5	165.0
4 and under 8 weeks	16.9	*3.9	17.6	*5.1	*1.5	45.0	42.6	87.6
8 and under 13 weeks	17.8	5.5	11.4	*4.7	**0.7	40.2	36.9	77.1
13 and under 26 weeks	14.2	*3.0	9.7	*4.3	**0.6	31.9	33.3	65.2
26 and under 52 weeks	10.3	*2.9	7.6	*2.6	—	23.4	21.8	45.2
1 and under 2 years	*4.0	*1.7	5.2	*4.1	**0.2	15.2	14.3	29.5
2 and under 5 years	*2.6	*2.2	*3.0	*1.2	**0.4	9.5	10.6	20.1
5 years and over	—	—	*1.4	**0.6	—	*2.0	*1.4	*3.4
Did not look for work	66.0	27.7	83.1	18.6	*3.9	199.2	142.4	341.7
Total	155.1	54.3	173.0	53.0	9.6	444.9	389.8	834.7

FEMALES

Less than 1 year	87.5	35.1	50.6	40.1	*1.9	215.2	172.0	387.2
1 and under 4 weeks	25.6	12.9	20.4	13.4	**0.5	72.8	60.4	133.3
4 and under 8 weeks	16.7	6.8	9.8	9.9	**0.1	43.3	38.1	81.4
8 and under 13 weeks	19.0	6.2	9.1	*5.0	**0.6	39.9	30.0	69.9
13 and under 26 weeks	13.7	*5.1	7.9	6.5	**0.5	33.6	22.9	56.5
26 and under 52 weeks	12.5	*4.1	*3.4	5.3	**0.2	25.5	20.5	46.1
1 and under 2 years	6.4	*2.5	*1.8	*2.8	—	13.5	12.0	25.5
2 and under 5 years	*0.9	*1.1	*1.9	*2.4	—	6.3	*4.6	10.9
5 years and over	*0.9	*1.3	**0.5	**0.4	—	*3.0	*1.7	*4.7
Did not look for work	73.5	26.2	36.1	23.5	**0.5	159.8	132.0	291.8
Total	169.2	66.2	90.9	69.2	*2.4	397.8	322.3	720.1

PERSONS

Less than 1 year	169.9	57.7	130.9	68.7	7.0	434.2	393.1	827.3
1 and under 4 weeks	48.9	20.1	54.4	25.3	*2.7	151.3	146.9	298.3
4 and under 8 weeks	33.5	10.8	27.5	15.0	*1.6	88.4	80.7	169.0
8 and under 13 weeks	36.8	11.8	20.5	9.7	*1.4	80.1	66.9	147.1
13 and under 26 weeks	27.9	8.1	17.6	10.8	*1.1	65.5	56.2	121.7
26 and under 52 weeks	22.9	6.9	11.0	7.9	**0.2	48.9	42.3	91.2
1 and under 2 years	10.4	*4.2	7.0	6.8	**0.2	28.7	26.3	55.0
2 and under 5 years	*3.5	*3.3	*4.9	*3.6	**0.4	15.7	15.2	31.0
5 years and over	*0.9	*1.3	*1.9	*0.9	—	*5.0	*3.2	8.1
Did not look for work	139.5	53.9	119.2	42.1	*4.4	359.1	274.4	633.5
Total	324.2	120.5	263.9	122.2	12.0	842.7	712.1	1 554.8

* 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)
(a) Includes 'Certificate not further defined'.

STATE OR TERRITORY OF USUAL RESIDENCE, Populations

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT(a)	ACT	Aust.
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
MALES									
Population 1:									
Unemployed persons	90.1	73.0	56.6	24.2	23.8	9.4	2.3	3.1	282.5
Population 2:									
Employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months	259.2	189.2	195.3	58.9	96.7	15.5	6.1	13.8	834.7
FEMALES									
Population 1:									
Unemployed persons	83.9	63.5	46.2	19.7	22.1	6.1	1.5	2.7	245.7
Population 2:									
Employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months	226.1	164.1	155.0	54.8	83.6	14.2	6.9	15.4	720.1
PERSONS									
Population 1:									
Unemployed persons	174.0	136.5	102.8	43.9	46.0	15.5	3.8	5.7	528.2
Population 2:									
Employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months	485.3	353.3	350.3	113.7	180.3	29.8	13.0	29.2	1 554.8

(a) Refers to mainly urban areas only. For more information see paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 The statistics in this publication were compiled from data collected in the Job Search Experience Survey (JSE) that was conducted throughout Australia in July 2004 as a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). Respondents to the LFS who fell within the scope of the supplementary survey were asked further questions.

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

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

CAI IMPLEMENTATION

4 In October 2003, the ABS began the progressive implementation of computer assisted interviewing (CAI) into the LFS (and its supplementary surveys). Under CAI, interviewers record responses directly onto an electronic questionnaire in a notebook computer.

5 In the July 2004 survey, the CAI method was used on a random sub-sample of 70% of survey interviews in all states and territories. The remaining 30% of interviews were conducted using the traditional 'pen and paper' method. The change in interviewing method is not expected to have affected JSE estimates in any meaningful way.

CONCEPTS, SOURCES AND METHODS

6 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) which is available on the ABS web site <<http://www.abs.gov.au>> (About Statistics—Concepts and Classifications).

SCOPE

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

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

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

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

COVERAGE

10 The estimates in this publication relate to persons covered by the survey in July 2004. 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.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

- 11** Estimates in this publication are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors:
- Sampling error is the difference between the published estimate and the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. For further information refer to the Technical Note.
 - 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

- 12** 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

- 13** Occupation data are classified according to the *ASCO—Australian Standard of Classification of Occupations, Second Edition, 1997* (cat. no. 1220.0).

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

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

- 16** Educational attainment data are classified according to the *Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)* (cat. no. 1272.0). See Appendix 1 for further information.

COMPARABILITY WITH MONTHLY LFS STATISTICS

- 17** 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.

COMPARABILITY OF TIME SERIES

- 18** 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.

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

COMPARABILITY WITH PREVIOUS SURVEYS

Change in derivation for 'whether out of work prior to starting job'

- 20** From July 2003, persons employed in their own business are treated differently in the data item 'whether out of work prior to starting job'. In 2002, 69,400 persons employed in their own business were classified as 'out of work prior to starting job'. There were 67,000 and 70,800 persons similarly classified in 2003 and 2004 respectively. From 2003, all persons employed in their own business are shown in a separate category. As a result, the proportion of persons who were out of work prior to starting their current job is lower than in 2002 (43% in 2004 and 44% in 2003, compared to 52% in 2002).

Change in data items 'all difficulties in finding work' and 'main difficulty in finding work'

- 21** From July 2004, a change has been made to the category 'considered too young or too old by employers' for the data items 'all difficulties in finding work' and 'main difficulty in finding work'. The category has been split into 'considered too young by employers' and 'considered too old by employers'. Data for 'considered too young by employers' are not published separately but are available on request.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

Changes to employment services to the community

22 The Government made significant changes to the manner in which it provided employment services to the community between September 1997 and May 1998. As a result, the nature of job search activity undertaken by jobseekers changed.

23 Prior to the change in employment service arrangements, the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES) provided jobseekers with access to labour market assistance, and offices of the then Department of Social Security (DSS) provided jobseekers with access to income support.

24 Centrelink progressively replaced the CES and DSS shopfronts from September 1997. A competitive employment services market, the Job Network, was launched on 1 May 1998. The Job Network consists of private, community and government organisations on contract to the government to provide employment services to the community. As from that date, jobseekers register with Centrelink for job search assistance and can choose to go to any of the Job Network employment agencies. The agency then attempts to match jobseekers with jobs that are registered with them by employers.

25 During the transition to the new employment services market, Centrelink performed a similar role to the CES. Jobseekers registered at either a CES or Centrelink office, depending on which was operating in their area, for income support and/or job search assistance.

26 Due to the changes in the nature of employment services, caution should be used in comparing results for periods prior to the introduction of the changes with results from surveys conducted after the changes occurred.

PREVIOUS SURVEYS

27 JSE was first conducted in July 2002. Results of similar surveys on the job search experience of unemployed persons conducted in July 1984, July 1985, June 1986, July 1988, July 1990, June 1991, and annually from July 1992 to July 2001 were published in previous issues of *Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Australia* (cat. no. 6222.0). Information on persons who had started work for an employer for wages or salary during the 12 months up to the end of the reference week was collected in June 1986, and two-yearly from July 1990 to July 2000 and were published in *Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience, Australia* (cat. no. 6245.0).

NEXT SURVEY

28 The ABS plans to conduct this survey again in July 2005.

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*.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

- 30** Other publications which may be of interest include:
- *Australian Labour Market Statistics*, cat. no. 6105.0
 - *Career Experience, Australia*, cat. no. 6254.0
 - *Labour Force, Australia*, cat. no. 6202.0
 - *Labour Force Experience, Australia*, cat. no. 6206.0
 - *Labour Mobility, Australia*, cat. no. 6209.0
 - *Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods*, cat. no. 6102.0.55.001
 - *Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia*, cat. no. 6220.0
 - *Retrenchment and Redundancy, Australia*, cat. no. 6266.0
 - *Underemployed Workers, Australia*, cat. no. 6265.0.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

RELATED PUBLICATIONS *continued*

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

ABBREVIATIONS

'000	thousand
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ABSCQ	Australian Bureau of Statistics Classification of Qualifications
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
ASCED	Australian Standard Classification of Education
ASCO	Australian Standard Classification of Occupations
CAI	computer assisted interviewing
CES	Commonwealth Employment Service
DSS	Department of Social Security
JSE	Job Search Experience Survey
LFS	Labour Force Survey
n.f.d.	not further defined
RSE	relative standard error
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
SE	standard error
wks	weeks

APPENDIX 1 CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION

CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION

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

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

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

Decision Table: Level of Highest Educational Attainment							
ASCED LEVEL OF EDUCATION CODES	Certificate n.f.d. (500)	Certificate III or IV n.f.d. (510)	Certificate IV (511)	Certificate III (514)	Certificate I or II n.f.d. (520)	Certificate II (521)	Certificate I (524)
Secondary Education n.f.d. (600)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I
Senior Secondary Education n.f.d. (610)	Senior Secondary n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Senior Secondary n.f.d.	Senior Secondary n.f.d.	Senior Secondary n.f.d.
Year 12 (611)	Year 12	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Year 12	Year 12	Year 12
Year 11 (613)	Year 11	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Year 11	Year 11	Year 11
Junior Secondary Education n.f.d. (620)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I
Year 10 (621)	Year 10	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Year 10	Certificate II	Year 10
Year 9 (622)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I
Year 8 (623)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I
Year 7 (624)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I

The decision table is also used to rank the information provided in a survey about the qualifications and attainments of a single individual. It does not represent any basis for comparison between differing qualifications. For example, a person whose Highest Year of School Completed was Year 12, and whose Level of Highest Non-school Qualification was a Certificate III, would have those responses crosschecked on the decision table and

APPENDIX 1 CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION *continued*

CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION
continued

would as a result have their Level of Highest Educational Attainment output as Certificate III. However, if the same person answered 'Certificate' to the highest non-school qualification question, without offering any further detail, it would be crosschecked against Year 12 on the decision table as 'Certificate not further defined'. The output would then be 'Year 12'. The decision table, therefore, does not necessarily imply that one qualification is 'higher' than the other.

APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST

DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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

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

For more information about ABS data available on request, contact David Blair on Canberra (02) 6252 7206, or by facsimile (02) 6252 5260, or by email to <david.blair@abs.gov.au>.

Population 1

Unemployed persons.

Population 2

Employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months.

APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>
1 State or territory of usual residence	All	7C Country of birth (2)	All
New South Wales		Born in Australia	
Victoria		Born overseas	
Queensland		Oceania and Antarctica	
South Australia		North-West Europe	
Western Australia		Southern and Eastern Europe	
Tasmania		North Africa and the Middle East	
Northern Territory		South-East Asia	
Australian Capital Territory		North-East Asia	
		Southern and Central Asia	
2 Area of usual residence	All	Americas	
State capital city		Sub-Saharan Africa	
Balance of state/territory			
3 Region of usual residence	All	8 Age group (years)	All
Standard labour force dissemination regions		15–19	
4 Sex	All	20–24	
Males		25–34	
Females		35–44	
5 Marital status	All	45–54	
Married		55 and over	
Not married		Note: Age collected in single years.	
6 Relationship in household	All	9 Level of highest educational attainment	All
Family member		Postgraduate Degree	
Husband, wife or partner		Graduate Diploma/Graduate Certificate	
With dependants		Bachelor Degree	
Without dependants		Advanced Diploma/Diploma	
Lone parent		Certificate III/IV	
With dependants		Certificate I/II	
Without dependants		Certificate not further defined	
Dependent student		Year 12	
Non-dependent child		Year 11	
Other family person		Year 10 and below	
Non-family member		Level not determined	
Lone person		No educational attainment	
Not living alone			
Relationship not determined		10 Level of highest non-school qualification	All
7A Country of birth and period of arrival	All	With non-school qualifications	
Born in Australia		Postgraduate Degree	
Born overseas		Graduate Diploma/Graduate Certificate	
Arrived before 1971		Bachelor Degree	
Arrived 1971–1980		Advanced Diploma/Diploma	
Arrived 1981–1990		Certificate III/IV	
Arrived 1991–2000		Certificate I/II	
Arrived 2001 to survey date		Certificate not further defined	
7B Country of birth (1)	All	Level not determined	
Born in Australia		Without non-school qualifications	
Born overseas			
Born in main English-speaking countries			
Born in other than main English speaking countries			

APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>
11 Highest year of school completed	All	14 All steps taken to find work/attain job	All
Year 12		<i>cont.</i>	
Year 11		Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper	
Year 10		Looked at advertisements for jobs on the internet	
Year 9		Looked at advertisements for jobs on Centrelink touchscreens	
Year 8 or below		Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards	
Never attended school		Registered with Centrelink as a job seeker	
12 Highest non-school qualification and whether qualification obtained overseas or within Australia	All	Other	
Born in Australia		Did not take steps to find work/attain job	
Born overseas		Employed persons in own business(a)	
With non-school qualifications		Note: Multiple response category. Persons may appear in more than one category.	
Qualification obtained overseas			
Qualification obtained in Australia		15 Whether looking for full-time or part-time work	1
Without non-school qualifications		Looking for full-time work	
13A Number of jobs started in the previous 12 months	All	Looking for part-time work	
None		16 Number of hours of work sought	1
One		1 to 15 hours	
Two		16 to 29 hours	
Three or more		30 to 34 hours	
13B Number of jobs lasting two weeks or more started in the previous 12 months	All	35 to 39 hours	
None		40 hours	
One		41 to 44 hours	
Two		45 to 48 hours	
Three or more		49 hours or more	
14 All steps taken to find work/attain job	All	Did not know	
Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work		Note: Collected in single hours.	
Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper		17 Duration of current period of unemployment	1
Answered an advertisement for a job on the internet		Under 1 year	
Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens		1 and under 4 weeks	
Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards		4 and under 8 weeks	
Contacted friends or relatives		8 and under 13 weeks	
Advertised or tendered for work		13 and under 26 weeks	
Registered with a Job Network employment agency		26 and under 39 weeks	
Registered with other employment agency		39 and under 52 weeks	
Checked with a Job Network employment agency		1 year and over	
Checked with other employment agency		1 and under 2 years	
		2 years and over	
		18 Whether registered with Centrelink as a jobseeker	1
		Registered with Centrelink as a jobseeker	
		Not registered with Centrelink as a jobseeker	

(a) Persons employed in own business were not asked questions about steps taken to attain a job.

APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>
19A All steps taken to find work Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper Answered an advertisement for a job on the internet Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards Contacted friends or relatives Advertised or tendered for work Registered with a Job Network employment agency Registered with other employment agency Checked with a Job Network employment agency Checked with other employment agency Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper Looked at advertisements for jobs on the internet Looked at advertisements for jobs on Centrelink touchscreens Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards Registered with Centrelink as a job seeker Other Did not take steps to find work Note: Multiple response category. Persons may appear in more than one category.	1	19B Active steps taken to find work <i>cont.</i> Registered with a Job Network employment agency Registered with other employment agency Registered with Centrelink as a job seeker Took no active steps Note: Multiple response category. Persons may appear in more than one category.	1
19B Active steps taken to find work Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper Answered an advertisement for a job on the internet Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards Contacted friends or relatives Advertised or tendered for work	1	19C Active steps taken to find work while registered with a Job Network employment agency Registered with a Job Network employment agency Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper Answered an advertisement for a job on the internet Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards Contacted friends or relatives Advertised or tendered for work Took no other active steps Not registered with a Job Network employment agency Note: Multiple response category. Persons may appear in more than one category.	1
19D Whether registered with a Job Network employment agency Registered with a Job Network employment agency Not registered with a Job Network employment agency	1	20 Number of offers of employment in the current period of unemployment None One Two Three or more	1

APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>
21A All difficulties in finding work Too many applicants for available jobs Lacked necessary skills or education Considered too young by employers Considered too old by employers Insufficient work experience No vacancies at all No vacancies in line of work Too far to travel/transport problems Own ill health or disability Language difficulties Unsuitable hours Difficulties with child care Other family responsibilities Difficulties because of ethnic background Other difficulties No difficulties at all No feedback from employers Note: Multiple response category. Persons may appear in more than one category.	1	22 Number of spells of looking for work in the previous 12 months One Two Three or more	1
21B Main difficulty in finding work Too many applicants for available jobs Lacked necessary skills or education Considered too young by employers Considered too old by employers Insufficient work experience No vacancies at all No vacancies in line of work Too far to travel/transport problems Own ill health or disability Language difficulties Unsuitable hours Difficulties with child care Other family responsibilities Difficulties because of ethnic background Other difficulties No difficulties at all No feedback from employers	1	23 Time spent looking for work in the previous 12 months 1 and under 2 weeks 2 and under 4 weeks 4 and under 8 weeks 8 and under 13 weeks 13 and under 26 weeks 26 and under 39 weeks 39 and under 52 weeks 52 weeks	1
		24 Whether has ever worked for two weeks or more Has previously worked Last job less than 2 years ago Last job 2 years or more ago Has never worked	1
		25 Status in employment of last job Last job less than 2 years ago Employee Employer Own account worker Contributing family worker Unpaid voluntary worker Last job 2 or more years ago Has never worked	1
		26 Occupation of last job Last job less than 2 years ago Managers and administrators Professionals Associate professionals Tradespersons and related workers Advanced clerical and service workers Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers Intermediate production and transport workers Elementary clerical, sales and service workers Labourers and related workers Unpaid voluntary worker Last job 2 or more years ago Has never worked	1

APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>
27 Industry of last job	1	29 Duration of last job <i>cont.</i>	1
Last job less than 2 years ago		Last job less than 2 years ago <i>cont.</i>	
Agriculture, forestry and fishing		Unpaid voluntary worker	
Mining		Last job 2 or more years ago	
Manufacturing		Has never worked	
Electricity, gas and water supply			
Construction		30 Reason for ceasing last job	1
Wholesale trade		Last job less than 2 years ago	
Retail trade		Job loser	
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants		Laid off or retrenched	
Transport and storage		Job was temporary or seasonal	
Communication services		Own ill health or disability	
Finance and insurance		Own business closed down for economic reasons	
Property and business services		Job leaver	
Government administration and defence		Unsatisfactory work arrangements	
Education		Holiday job/returned to studies	
Health and community services		Other	
Cultural and recreational services		Unpaid voluntary worker	
Personal and other services		Last job 2 or more years ago	
Unpaid voluntary worker		Has never worked	
Last job 2 or more years ago		31 Whether has job to go to lasting two weeks or more	1
Has never worked		Has a job to go to	
28 Whether worked full-time or part-time in last job	1	Does not have a job to go to	
Worked full-time		32 Whether out of work prior to starting job	2
Worked part-time		Out of work prior to starting job	
Has never worked		Changed employer to start job	
29 Duration of last job	1	Employed in own business	
Last job less than 2 years ago		33 Whether first job ever held lasting two weeks or more	2
Less than 1 year		First job ever held	
2 and under 4 weeks		Had worked before	
4 and under 8 weeks		34 Whether employed in own business	2
8 and under 26 weeks		Employed persons not in own business	
26 and under 52 weeks		Employed persons in own business	
1 and under 2 years			
2 and under 5 years			
5 years and over			

APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>
35 All steps taken to attain job Employed persons not in own business Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper Answered an advertisement for a job on the internet Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards Contacted friends or relatives Advertised or tendered for work Registered with a Job Network employment agency Registered with other employment agency Checked with a Job Network employment agency Checked with other employment agency Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper Looked at advertisements for jobs on the internet Looked at advertisements for jobs on Centrelink touchscreens Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards Registered with Centrelink as a job seeker Other Did not take steps to attain job Employed persons in own business(a) Note: Multiple response category. Persons may appear in more than one category.	2	37 Whether had prior knowledge that job was available Employed persons not in own business Had prior knowledge that job or work was available—through: Job Network employment agency Other employment agency School programs Careers service at educational institution Advertisements in a newspaper Advertisements on the internet Advertisements on Centrelink touchscreens Advertisements on workplace noticeboards Friends, relatives or company contacts Other sources Did not have prior knowledge that job was available Employed persons in own business	2
36 Whether jobseeker approached employer Employed persons not in own business Jobseeker approached employer Employer approached jobseeker Employed persons in own business	2	38 Role of Job Network in job attainment Employed persons not in own business Job Network helped jobseeker to obtain job in some way Job Network did not help jobseeker to obtain job in any way Did not know Did not use job network in job attainment Employed persons in own business	2
		39 Month started job July 2003 August 2003 September 2003 October 2003 November 2003 December 2003 January 2004 February 2004 March 2004 April 2004 May 2004 June 2004 July 2004	2

(a) Persons employed in own business were not asked questions about steps taken to find attain a job.

APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>
40 Duration of looking for work before being offered job Less than 1 year 1 and under 4 weeks 4 and under 8 weeks 8 and under 13 weeks 13 and under 26 weeks 26 and under 52 weeks 1 and under 2 years 2 and under 5 years 5 years and over Did not look for work Note: Available in single weeks/years.	2	42 Full-time or part-time status of employment Full-time worker Part-time worker	2
41 Occupation of current job	2	43 Whether prefers to work more hours than usually works Usually works part-time hours Would prefer to work more hours Would not prefer to work more hours Did not know Usually works full-time hours	2
Managers and administrators Professionals Associate professionals Tradespersons and related workers Advanced clerical and service workers Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers Intermediate production and transport workers Elementary clerical, sales and service workers Labourers and related workers		44 Owner manager of incorporated enterprise (OMIE) status (main job) Employee (not OMIE) Owner manager of incorporated enterprise Owner manager of unincorporated enterprise Contributing family worker	2
		45 Owner manager of incorporated enterprise (OMIE) status (current job) Employee (not OMIE) Owner manager of incorporated enterprise Owner manager of unincorporated enterprise Contributing family worker	2

APPENDIX 3 SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

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

	<i>cat. no.</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Latest issue</i>
Career Experience, Australia	6254.0	Irregular	November 2002
Career Paths of Persons with Trade Qualifications, Australia	6243.0	Discontinued	Final issue 1993
Child Care, Australia	4402.0	Irregular	June 2002
Education and Work, Australia	6227.0	Annual	May 2004
Employee Earnings, Benefits, and Trade Union Membership, Australia	6310.0	Annual	August 2003
Forms of Employment, Australia	6359.0	Irregular	November 2001
Job Search Experience, Australia	6222.0	Annual	July 2004
Labour Force Experience, Australia	6206.0	Biennial	February 2003
Labour Force Status and Educational Attainment, Australia	6235.0	Discontinued	Final issue 1994
Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, Australia(a)	6224.0	Discontinued	Final issue 2000
Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants, Australia	6250.0	Irregular	November 1999
Labour Mobility, Australia	6209.0	Biennial	February 2004
Locations of Work, Australia	6275.0	Irregular	June 2000
Multiple Jobholding, Australia(b)	6216.0	Irregular	August 1997
Participation in Education, Australia	6272.0	Discontinued	Final issue 1999
Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia	6220.0	Annual	September 2003
Persons Who had Re-entered the Labour Force, Australia	6264.0.40.001	Discontinued	Final issue 1995
Persons Who Have Left the Labour Force, Australia	6267.0.40.001	Discontinued	Final issue 1994
Retirement and Retirement Intentions, Australia	6238.0	Irregular	November 1997
Retrenchment and Redundancy, Australia	6266.0	Irregular	July 2001
Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience, Australia	6245.0	Discontinued	Final issue 2000
Superannuation, Australia	6319.0	Discontinued	Final issue 1995
Underemployed Workers, Australia	6265.0	Annual	September 2003
Working Arrangements, Australia	6342.0	Irregular	November 2003
Work-Related Injuries, Australia	6324.0	Irregular	September 2000

(a) Latest data available June 2003, from the ABS web site cat. no. 6291.0.55.001 annual, or on request. (b) Latest data available on request July 2001.

INTRODUCTION

1 Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they are subject to sampling variability. That is, they may differ from those estimates that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about 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.

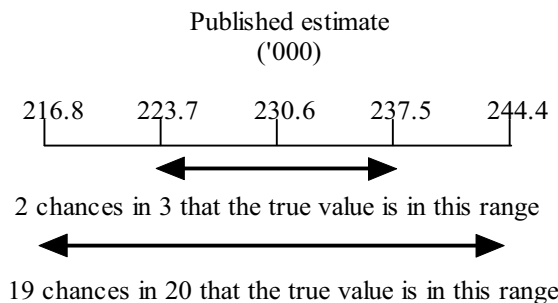
2 Due to space limitations, it is impractical to print the SE of each estimate in the publication. Instead, a table of SEs is provided to enable readers to determine the SE for an estimate from the size of that estimate (see table T1). The SE table is derived from a mathematical model, referred to as 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 ERROR

3 An example of the calculation and the use of SEs in relation to estimates of persons is as follows. Table 4 shows the estimated number of unemployed males in Australia who were looking for full-time work was 230,600. Since this estimate is between 200,000 and 300,000, table T1 shows that the SE for Australia will lie between 6,550 and 7,650 and can be approximated by interpolation using the following general formula:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & SE \text{ of estimate} \\
 &= \text{lower SE} + \left(\left(\frac{\text{size of estimate} - \text{lower estimate}}{\text{upper estimate} - \text{lower estimate}} \right) \times (\text{upper SE} - \text{lower SE}) \right) \\
 &= 6,550 + \left(\left(\frac{230,600 - 200,000}{300,000 - 200,000} \right) \times (7,650 - 6,550) \right) \\
 &= 6,900 \text{ (rounded to the nearest 100)}
 \end{aligned}$$

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 within the range 223,700 to 237,500 and about 19 chances in 20 that the value will fall within the range 216,800 to 244,400. 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%,

CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERROR *continued*

preceded by a double asterisk (e.g. **0.3), are considered too unreliable for general use and should only be used to aggregate with other estimates to provide derived estimates with RSEs of less than 25%.

MEANS AND MEDIANS

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

- mean duration of unemployment: 1.5
- median duration of unemployment: 1.7

7 The following is an example of the calculation of SEs where the use of a factor is required. Table 4 shows that the estimated median duration of unemployment for unemployed males in Australia was 16 weeks and shows that the number of unemployed males was estimated as 282,500. The SE of 282,500 can be calculated from table T1 (by interpolation) as 7,500. To convert this to an RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate or $7,500/282,500 = 2.7\%$.

8 The RSE of the estimate of median duration of unemployment for unemployed males is calculated by multiplying this number (2.7%) by the appropriate factor shown in the previous paragraph (in this case 1.7): $2.7 \times 1.7 = 4.6\%$. The SE of this estimate of median duration of unemployment for unemployed males is therefore 4.6% of 16, i.e. almost one week. Therefore, there are two chances in three that the median duration of unemployment for males that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey would have been within the range 15 weeks to 17 weeks, and about 19 chances in 20 that it would have been within the range 14 weeks to 18 weeks.

PROPORTIONS AND PERCENTAGES

9 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.

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

10 Considering the example from the previous page, of the 230,600 unemployed males who were looking for full-time work, 61,800 or 26.8% had been unemployed for one year or more. The SE of 61,800 may be calculated by interpolation as 4,200. To convert this to an RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate, or $4,200/61,800 = 6.8\%$. The SE for 230,600 was calculated previously as 6,900, which converted to an RSE is $6,900/230,600 = 3.0\%$. Applying the above formula, the RSE of the proportion is $RSE = \sqrt{(6.8)^2 - (3.0)^2} = 6.1\%$

11 Therefore, the SE for the proportion of unemployed males looking for full-time work who had been unemployed for one year or more is 1.6 percentage points ($= (26.8/100) \times 6.1$). Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the proportion of unemployed males looking for full-time work who have been unemployed for one year or more is between 25.2% and 28.4% and 19 chances in 20 that the proportion is within the range 23.6% to 30.0%.

DIFFERENCES

12 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:

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

TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY *continued*

DIFFERENCES *continued*

13 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.

STANDARD ERRORS

T1 STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

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

.. not applicable

TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY *continued*

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

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.
25% RSE									
Mean duration of unemployment	11 800	10 800	8 200	4 600	5 600	2 000	1 500	2 100	12 000
Median duration of unemployment	18 900	14 300	12 200	6 700	8 000	3 200	3 100	2 900	16 300
All other estimates	6 800	5 200	4 600	2 600	3 200	1 300	1 300	1 200	5 100
50% RSE									
Mean duration of unemployment	2 800	2 800	2 400	1 400	1 700	600	500	700	2 500
Median duration of unemployment	5 000	3 900	3 500	2 100	2 400	1 000	1 000	1 000	3 700
All other estimates	1 300	1 100	1 300	800	900	400	400	400	800

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

GLOSSARY

Active steps taken to find work	Active steps taken by unemployed persons in their search for work during the current period of unemployment include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work■ answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper■ answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet■ answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens■ answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards■ contacted friends or relatives■ advertised or tendered for work■ registered with a Job Network employment agency■ registered with other employment agency■ registered with Centrelink as a jobseeker.
All difficulties in finding work	All difficulties in finding work experienced by unemployed persons during the current period of unemployment.
All steps taken to find work	All steps taken by unemployed persons in their search for work during the current period of unemployment.
All steps taken to attain a job	All steps taken to attain a job by persons who started their current job in the last 12 months, but not necessarily only the steps taken to attain their current job.
Bachelor Degree or above	Bachelor Degree or above includes qualifications at the Post Graduate Degree Level, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate Level and Bachelor Degree Level.
Centrelink	Centrelink is a statutory authority responsible for delivering a range of Commonwealth Government services, including the registration of persons for job search assistance and income support.
Certificate not further defined	Survey responses are coded to Certificate not further defined (n.f.d.) when there is not enough information to code them to Certificate I, II, III or IV in the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), Level of Education Classification.
Contributing family workers	A person who works without pay, in an economic enterprise operated by a relative.
Current job	A job that a person is currently working in, was started in the last 12 months and has lasted or is likely to last for a period of two weeks or more. For persons who have commenced more than one job in the last 12 months, it is the job most recently started.
Duration of current period of unemployment	The elapsed period to the end of the reference week since a person began looking for work, or since a person last worked for two weeks or more, whichever is the shorter. Brief periods of work (of less than two weeks) since the person began looking for work are disregarded.
Employed	Persons aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind, in a job or business or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or■ worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or■ were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or■ away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week; or■ away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or■ on strike or locked out; or■ on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or■ were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Employed in own business Persons who worked in their own business, with or without employees, whether the business is incorporated or not. Those who work in their own incorporated enterprise are classified as employees under 'status in employment'. Those who work in their own unincorporated enterprise are classified under 'status in employment' as employers if their business has employees, or own account workers if they do not. In this survey, these people are not asked about their job search experience.

Employed not in own business All persons excluding those employed in their own business.

Employee A person who works for a public or private employer and receives remuneration in wages, salary, a retainer fee from their employer while working on a commission basis, tips, piece rates, or payment in kind, or a person who operates their own incorporated enterprise with or without hiring employees.

Full-time workers Employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and others who, although usually working less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.

Incorporated enterprise An enterprise which is registered as a separate legal entity to its members or owners (also known as a limited liability company).

Industry All occurrences of industry in this publication refer to Division, as classified by the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 1993* (cat. no. 1292.0).

Job leavers Unemployed persons who have worked for two weeks or more in the past two years and left that job voluntarily, for example, because of unsatisfactory work arrangements/pay/hours; the job was a holiday job or they left the job to return to studies; or their last job was running their own business and they closed down or sold that business for reasons other than financial difficulties.

Job losers Unemployed persons who have worked for two weeks or more in the past two years and left that job involuntarily, that is, were laid off or retrenched from that job; left that job because of their own ill-health or injury; the job was seasonal or temporary; or their last job was running their own business and the business closed down because of financial difficulties.

Job Network employment agency The Job Network is a national network of private, community and government organisations on contract to the government to provide employment placement services to the community. Jobseekers who are registered with Centrelink for job search assistance are able to contact any Job Network provider in their area to receive this service.

Level of highest educational attainment Level of highest educational attainment identifies the highest achievement a person has attained in any area of study. It is defined as the highest educational attainment a person has achieved, and is not a measurement of relative importance of different fields of study.

Level of highest non-school qualification Non-school qualifications are awarded for educational attainments other than those of pre-primary, primary or secondary education. They include qualifications at the Post Graduate Degree Level, Master Degree Level, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate Level, Bachelor Degree Level, Advanced Diploma and Diploma level, and Certificates I, II, III and IV levels. Non-school qualifications may be attained concurrently with school qualifications.

Looking for full-time work Unemployed persons who:

- actively looked for full-time work; or
- were waiting to start a new full-time job.

Looking for part-time work Unemployed persons who:

- actively looked for part-time work only; or
- were waiting to start a new part-time job.

GLOSSARY *continued*

Main difficulty in finding work	The main difficulty in finding work experienced during the current period of unemployment.
Main English-speaking countries	Main English-speaking countries are the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, South Africa, the United States of America and New Zealand.
Main job	The job in which most hours are usually worked.
Mean duration of current period of unemployment	The duration obtained by dividing the aggregate number of weeks a group has been unemployed by the number of persons in that group.
Median duration of current period of unemployment	The duration which divides unemployed persons into two equal size groups, one comprising persons whose duration of unemployment is above the median, and the other, persons whose duration is below it.
Number of offers of employment	The number of separate offers of employment received during the current period of unemployment.
Occupation	All occurrences of occupation in this publication relate to Major Group as defined by the ASCO— <i>Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, Second Edition, 1997</i> (cat. no. 1220.0).
Number of spells of looking for work in the previous 12 months	The number of times the person reported being out of work and looking for a job during the 12 months up to the end of the reference week.
Part-time workers	Employed persons who usually worked less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and who did so during the reference week, or were not at work in the reference week.
Prefers to work more hours	Whether an employed person who usually works part-time hours would prefer to work more hours.
Status in employment	Employed persons classified by whether they were employees, employers, own account workers or contributing family workers.
Time spent looking for work in the previous 12 months	The total number of weeks a person has been both out of work and looking for work at the same time during the 12 months up to the end of the reference week.
Unemployed	Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or■ were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week, and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.
Whether had prior knowledge that job was available	Whether an employed person knew that a job was available with their current employer before making an approach to the employer for a job.
Whether first job ever held lasting two weeks or more	Whether the job currently held by an employed person is the first job they have ever held lasting two weeks or more.
Whether has ever worked for two weeks or more	Whether an unemployed person has previously held a job lasting two weeks or more.
Whether out of work prior to starting job	Whether an employed person was unemployed prior to starting the job they currently held.

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ISSN 1832 164X

RRP \$25.00