

# **JOB SEARCH EXPERIENCE**

**AUSTRALIA**

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

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

## ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication presents information about the experiences of unemployed people in seeking work, in terms of the steps they have taken to find work and the difficulties they have encountered in finding work. It also presents information about employed people who started their current job in the previous 12 months. For this group, data on the steps taken to attain work and current job details are provided.

Demographic information is provided about both of these groups.

The statistics in this publication were compiled from data collected in the Job Search Experience Survey, conducted throughout Australia in July 2005 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS).

## ABOUT THIS SURVEY

From July 2002, this survey combined the previously conducted annual Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons Survey and the two-yearly Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience Survey.

Data from the survey relate to people who were unemployed in July 2005, and people employed in July 2005 who started their current job in the previous 12 months.

## ROUNDING

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

## 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	Australian Government Department of Social Security
LFS	Labour Force Survey
n.f.d.	not further defined
OMIE	owner manager of incorporated enterprise
RSE	relative standard error
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
SE	standard error
wks	weeks

Dennis Trewin  
Australian Statistician

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

### OVERVIEW

In July 2005, there were 484,800 unemployed people, an 8% decrease since July 2004 and a 30% decrease since July 1998. The median duration of unemployment has dropped from 26 weeks in July 1998, to 16 weeks in July 2004 and to 12 weeks in July 2005. In July 2005, almost two-thirds (61%) of unemployed people reported they were without a non-school qualification, while 10% reported a Bachelor Degree or above as their highest level of non-school qualification.

There were 1,469,900 employed people who started their current job in the 12 months prior to July 2005. Two-thirds (66%) of these were working full time. Of those employed people who started their current job in the previous year, 56% reported they were without a non-school qualification and 21% reported a Bachelor Degree or above as their highest level of non-school qualification.

### UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE

#### *Job search experience*

The most commonly reported steps taken to find work by unemployed people in July 2005 were 'wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work' (87%) and 'looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper' (85%). Other steps included 'answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper' (63%), and 'looked at advertisements on the internet' (56%). Around 54% of unemployed people stated they had 'registered with Centrelink as a jobseeker', while 49% stated they had 'registered with a Job Network employment agency'.

In July 2005, 10% of unemployed people reported their *main* difficulty in finding work as 'insufficient work experience' followed by 'too many applicants for available jobs', 'lacked necessary skills or education' and 'considered too old by employers' (9.5% each). Other characteristics of unemployed people in July 2005 include:

- 367,100 or 76% had not started any job in the previous 12 months, while 42,600 (9%) had started two jobs or more
- 79% did not receive any offers of employment during their current period of unemployment
- 87,200 or 18% spent the whole of the last year looking for work. Around 20% of those looking for full-time work and 12% of those looking for part-time work spent the whole year looking for work
- 58% had last held a job for two weeks or more, less than two years ago; while 19% had never worked in a job for two weeks or more.

#### *Duration of unemployment*

Just under one-fifth (18%) of unemployed people in July 2005 were long-term unemployed, that is, they had been unemployed for 12 months or more. Of the unemployed people who were without non-school qualifications, 12% 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 people were aged 45 years and over. Over three-quarters (79%) of unemployed people aged 45 years and over were seeking full-time work.

Nearly half (49%) of unemployed people 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 26% of unemployed people aged 45–54 years.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS *continued*

### *Older unemployed continued*

The most common reason given by the long-term unemployed was also 'considered too old by employers' (24%). The median duration of unemployment for those who reported they were 'considered too old by employers' was 39 weeks compared to 12 weeks for all unemployed people.

### *Young unemployed*

Over one-third (40%) of unemployed people were aged 15–24 years. Just under half (49%) of unemployed people aged 15–19 years and 76% of those aged 20–24 years were seeking full-time work.

Of unemployed people aged 15–19 years, 17% reported their main difficulty in finding work was 'insufficient work experience'. Around 16% of unemployed people aged 20–24 years also reported this as their main difficulty.

### EMPLOYED PEOPLE WHO STARTED THEIR CURRENT JOB IN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS

Of those employed people who started their current job in the 12 months to July 2005, 41% were out of work prior to starting that job, 47% changed employer to start that job and 12% were employed in their own business. Two-thirds (66%) of employed people, who started their current job in the previous 12 months, were full-time workers in July 2005.

### *Steps taken to attain a job*

Of those who were out of work prior to starting their current job, 66% 'wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work'. Over half (57%) of employed people 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' (50% of people out of work prior to starting a job and 39% of people who changed employer to start a job), 'looked at advertisements for jobs on the internet' (40% and 33% respectively), and 'answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper' (38% and 29% respectively).

### *Duration of looking for work*

Over half (53%) of employed people 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 5% looked for one year or more, while 42% of people did not look for work at all. The median duration of looking for work before being offered their current job was 6 weeks.

### *Characteristics of current job*

The majority (74%) of employed people who started their current job in the previous 12 months started one job only, and most (89%) had worked before. Of the 499,800 part-time employed people who started their current job in the previous 12 months, 29% were aged 15–19 years.

Of the 533,800 employed people who started their current job in the previous 12 months and usually work part-time hours, over one-third (36%) would prefer to work more hours.

The most common occupation groups of employed people who started their current job in the previous 12 months were Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers (20%) and Professionals (17%). Elementary clerical, sales and service workers was the most common occupation group of employed people aged 15–19 years who started their job in the previous 12 months (35%).

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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	%
Age group (years)								
15-19	54.2	57.6	111.8	23.1	119.1	119.3	238.4	16.2
20-24	46.5	34.4	81.0	16.7	126.9	150.5	277.4	18.9
25-34	55.4	50.3	105.7	21.8	214.1	181.6	395.7	26.9
35-44	37.4	45.6	83.0	17.1	154.9	147.2	302.1	20.5
45-54	32.2	37.2	69.4	14.3	97.8	88.2	185.9	12.6
55 and over	25.0	8.9	33.9	7.0	43.5	26.9	70.4	4.8
Relationship in household								
Family member	189.6	193.7	383.4	79.1	602.5	578.1	1 180.6	80.3
Husband, wife or partner	74.6	79.5	154.2	31.8	390.2	334.1	724.3	49.3
With dependants	42.5	51.2	93.7	19.3	210.3	168.6	378.9	25.8
Without dependants	32.1	28.3	60.5	12.5	180.0	165.5	345.4	23.5
Lone parent	7.8	46.2	54.0	11.1	6.9	59.0	65.9	4.5
Dependent student	32.4	29.9	62.3	12.8	59.0	76.6	135.6	9.2
Non-dependent child	62.9	31.0	93.9	19.4	130.0	92.5	222.4	15.1
Other family person	11.9	7.1	19.1	3.9	16.5	15.9	32.4	2.2
Non-family member	48.3	30.8	79.1	16.3	121.3	100.2	221.6	15.1
Relationship not determined	12.9	9.4	22.3	4.6	32.4	35.4	67.8	4.6
Level of highest non-school qualification								
With a non-school qualification	95.6	91.5	187.0	38.6	414.9	404.0	819.0	55.7
Bachelor Degree or above	27.9	22.2	50.1	10.3	147.1	162.2	309.2	21.0
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	12.5	12.6	25.1	5.2	53.0	82.9	135.9	9.2
Certificate III/IV	30.9	25.6	56.5	11.7	153.7	83.0	236.7	16.1
Certificate I/II(a)	21.8	28.4	50.1	10.3	53.1	69.4	122.5	8.3
Level not determined	*2.6	*2.6	5.2	1.1	8.0	6.7	14.7	1.0
Without a non-school qualification	155.3	142.5	297.7	61.4	341.3	309.7	651.0	44.3
Number of jobs started in the previous 12 months								
None	186.2	180.9	367.1	75.7	..	..	..	..
One	37.0	38.1	75.2	15.5	553.1	533.8	1 087.0	73.9
Two	16.6	9.3	25.9	5.3	133.2	125.7	258.8	17.6
Three or more	11.0	5.6	16.7	3.4	69.9	54.2	124.2	8.4
All steps taken to find work/attain job(b)								
Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work	224.2	196.7	420.9	86.8	393.1	395.9	788.9	53.7
Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper	157.5	145.7	303.2	62.5	210.2	216.9	427.1	29.1
Answered an advertisement for a job on the internet	93.6	94.4	188.0	38.8	149.1	168.2	317.3	21.6
Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens	67.2	43.3	110.6	22.8	34.9	24.2	59.1	4.0
Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards	31.9	26.7	58.6	12.1	19.3	19.4	38.6	2.6
Contacted friends or relatives	120.0	97.4	217.4	44.8	177.4	151.3	328.7	22.4
Advertised or tendered for work	13.6	11.2	24.9	5.1	11.3	11.6	22.9	1.6
Registered with a Job Network employment agency	139.6	95.9	235.5	48.6	109.2	82.4	191.6	13.0
Registered with other employment agency	61.1	38.7	99.9	20.6	82.2	73.3	155.5	10.6
Checked with a Job Network employment agency	130.6	94.1	224.7	46.4	84.9	66.8	151.7	10.3
Checked with other employment agency	68.0	45.1	113.1	23.3	77.0	70.3	147.3	10.0
Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper	212.6	200.5	413.1	85.2	280.2	290.5	570.7	38.8
Looked at advertisements on the internet	133.7	138.0	271.7	56.0	216.4	249.5	466.0	31.7
Looked at advertisements for jobs on Centrelink touchscreens	114.9	82.6	197.5	40.7	60.9	50.9	111.8	7.6
Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards	67.8	52.7	120.5	24.9	41.0	39.8	80.9	5.5
Registered with Centrelink as a job seeker	149.0	112.4	261.4	53.9	100.6	79.4	180.0	12.2
Other	37.6	34.7	72.3	14.9	51.9	55.5	107.4	7.3
Employed persons in own business(c)	..	..	..	..	109.8	72.5	182.3	12.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>250.8</b>	<b>233.9</b>	<b>484.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>756.2</b>	<b>713.7</b>	<b>1 469.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* 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 people may appear in more than one category. For employed people, refers to steps taken to attain a job, not necessarily the current job.

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

## UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, Selected characteristics

		July 1998	July 1999	July 2000	July 2001	July 2002	July 2003	July 2004	July 2005
UNEMPLOYED PERSONS									
<b>Total</b>	'000	<b>696.4</b>	<b>591.0</b>	<b>544.3</b>	<b>613.0</b>	<b>554.8</b>	<b>564.5</b>	<b>528.2</b>	<b>484.8</b>
SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS									
Main difficulty in finding work									
Too many applicants for available jobs	%	13.7	12.1	13.1	11.5	14.7	11.9	11.3	9.5
Lacked necessary skills or education	%	11.5	11.2	11.8	10.4	10.6	11.3	9.4	9.5
Considered too young or too old by employers(a)	%	16.0	15.4	13.4	11.7	13.4	13.4	11.7	11.3
Insufficient work experience	%	10.9	10.1	10.0	11.6	11.2	12.2	13.1	10.4
No vacancies at all	%	11.2	10.0	8.3	10.7	6.6	8.7	6.3	5.2
No vacancies in line of work	%	8.5	7.9	7.3	10.4	9.5	9.3	8.0	6.4
Too far to travel/transport problems	%	6.2	5.8	6.7	6.8	7.1	6.4	7.9	9.3
Own ill health or disability	%	5.9	6.9	6.4	5.7	6.6	5.6	6.8	7.6
Language difficulties	%	1.9	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.5	2.9	1.4	2.5
Unsuitable hours	%	3.1	3.7	4.0	5.0	4.4	6.0	5.6	6.1
Difficulties with finding child care and other family responsibilities	%	1.7	2.5	2.2	2.0	1.5	1.6	3.1	3.1
Other difficulties(b)	%	2.9	3.7	4.4	3.4	3.2	3.2	4.1	7.7
No difficulties at all	%	6.4	8.4	9.8	8.6	6.8	6.0	9.3	9.9
No feedback from employers	%	na	na	na	na	1.9	1.6	2.0	1.7
Whether looking for full-time or part-time work									
Looking for full-time work	%	81.9	76.6	76.3	76.3	75.7	74.4	74.4	71.3
Looking for part-time work	%	18.1	23.3	23.7	23.7	24.3	25.6	25.6	28.7
Duration of current period of unemployment									
Under 1 year	%	65.2	68.3	71.1	76.5	73.7	78.2	78.6	82.0
1 and under 4 weeks	%	13.2	18.2	19.2	19.1	20.4	22.7	24.9	27.0
4 and under 8 weeks	%	10.8	11.3	12.1	13.1	10.9	13.6	9.8	11.0
8 and under 13 weeks	%	8.6	10.0	9.4	8.8	10.4	9.1	10.9	12.5
13 and under 26 weeks	%	13.3	11.2	12.7	19.9	17.5	17.9	18.1	16.9
26 and under 52 weeks	%	19.3	17.6	17.6	15.6	14.6	14.9	14.9	14.6
1 year and over	%	34.8	31.7	28.9	23.5	26.3	21.8	21.4	18.0
1 and under 2 years	%	15.2	12.5	10.9	8.9	11.7	8.7	7.7	6.4
2 years and over	%	19.6	19.1	18.1	14.6	14.5	13.2	13.7	11.6
<b>Total</b>	%	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT									
Mean duration of unemployment	wks	59.9	55.5	52.9	49.8	50.9	48.8	52.2	39.7
Median duration of unemployment	wks	26	23	20	18	18	16	16	12

na not available

(b) Includes people 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 22 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

## 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
Age group (years)									
15–19	28.1	26.3	54.4	26.1	31.3	57.4	54.2	57.6	111.8
20–24	38.4	23.1	61.6	8.1	11.3	19.4	46.5	34.4	81.0
25–34	51.7	33.1	84.9	*3.7	17.1	20.8	55.4	50.3	105.7
35–44	34.3	29.0	63.3	*3.1	16.6	19.7	37.4	45.6	83.0
45–54	27.5	27.6	55.1	*4.7	9.6	14.3	32.2	37.2	69.4
55 and over	22.2	*4.3	26.5	*2.8	*4.5	7.4	25.0	8.9	33.9
Relationship in household									
Family member	151.1	115.3	266.4	38.5	78.4	117.0	189.6	193.7	383.4
Husband, wife or partner	68.0	49.0	117.0	6.7	30.5	37.2	74.6	79.5	154.2
With dependants	39.1	29.6	68.7	*3.4	21.6	25.0	42.5	51.2	93.7
Without dependants	28.9	19.4	48.3	*3.3	8.9	12.2	32.1	28.3	60.5
Lone parent	5.9	30.3	36.2	*1.9	15.9	17.8	7.8	46.2	54.0
Dependent student	*5.1	*3.2	8.3	27.3	26.7	54.0	32.4	29.9	62.3
Non-dependent child	61.6	27.6	89.3	*1.2	*3.4	*4.6	62.9	31.0	93.9
Other family person	10.4	5.2	15.6	*1.6	*1.9	*3.5	11.9	7.1	19.1
Non-family member	41.6	21.2	62.7	6.7	9.6	16.3	48.3	30.8	79.1
Relationship not determined	9.6	7.0	16.6	*3.3	*2.5	5.8	12.9	9.4	22.3
Country of birth									
Born in Australia	144.9	105.5	250.4	37.0	68.9	106.0	181.9	174.4	356.3
Born overseas	57.3	38.0	95.3	11.6	21.5	33.1	68.9	59.5	128.4
Born in main English-speaking countries	19.9	12.7	32.6	*3.1	*5.1	8.2	22.9	17.8	40.7
Born in other than main English-speaking countries	37.5	25.3	62.7	8.5	16.4	24.9	46.0	41.7	87.7
Level of highest non-school qualification									
With a non-school qualification	83.1	61.9	145.0	12.5	29.6	42.1	95.6	91.5	187.0
Bachelor Degree or above	23.6	16.0	39.6	*4.3	6.2	10.5	27.9	22.2	50.1
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	10.1	7.7	17.9	*2.3	*4.9	7.2	12.5	12.6	25.1
Certificate III/IV	28.1	18.2	46.3	*2.7	7.5	10.2	30.9	25.6	56.5
Certificate I/II(a)	19.3	18.3	37.6	*2.5	10.1	12.5	21.8	28.4	50.1
Level not determined	*1.9	*1.6	*3.6	**0.6	*1.0	*1.6	*2.6	*2.6	5.2
Without a non-school qualification	119.2	81.6	200.8	36.1	60.9	97.0	155.3	142.5	297.7
All steps taken to find work(b)									
Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work	182.4	126.5	308.9	41.8	70.2	112.0	224.2	196.7	420.9
Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper	140.6	100.3	240.9	16.9	45.4	62.3	157.5	145.7	303.2
Answered an advertisement for a job on the internet	80.9	64.9	145.8	12.8	29.4	42.2	93.6	94.4	188.0
Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens	63.8	38.0	101.8	*3.4	5.4	8.8	67.2	43.3	110.6
Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards	29.6	21.4	50.9	*2.3	5.3	7.6	31.9	26.7	58.6
Contacted friends or relatives	99.7	63.8	163.5	20.3	33.6	53.9	120.0	97.4	217.4
Advertised or tendered for work	11.4	8.0	19.4	*2.2	*3.3	5.5	13.6	11.2	24.9
Registered with a Job Network employment agency	128.6	74.2	202.9	11.0	21.7	32.6	139.6	95.9	235.5
Registered with other employment agency	55.4	29.0	84.3	5.8	9.8	15.5	61.1	38.7	99.9
Checked with a Job Network employment agency	120.5	73.6	194.1	10.1	20.5	30.6	130.6	94.1	224.7
Checked with other employment agency	61.1	34.4	95.4	6.9	10.8	17.7	68.0	45.1	113.1
Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper	179.0	130.8	309.8	33.5	69.8	103.3	212.6	200.5	413.1
Looked at advertisements on the internet	112.2	94.0	206.3	21.5	43.9	65.4	133.7	138.0	271.7
Looked at advertisements for jobs on Centrelink touchscreens	107.7	64.0	171.8	7.2	18.6	25.7	114.9	82.6	197.5
Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards	60.2	39.4	99.7	7.5	13.3	20.8	67.8	52.7	120.5
Registered with Centrelink as a job seeker	137.4	86.8	224.2	11.6	25.6	37.2	149.0	112.4	261.4
Other	31.8	22.5	54.3	5.8	12.2	18.0	37.6	34.7	72.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>202.2</b>	<b>143.5</b>	<b>345.7</b>	<b>48.6</b>	<b>90.5</b>	<b>139.1</b>	<b>250.8</b>	<b>233.9</b>	<b>484.8</b>

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

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

(a) Includes '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

Number of offers of employment in the  
current period of unemployment

None	'000	160.4	108.1	268.6	41.1	71.3	112.4	201.5	179.4	381.0
One	'000	25.5	26.5	52.0	5.6	15.4	21.0	31.1	41.9	73.0
Two	'000	8.5	6.1	14.6	*1.0	*2.5	*3.5	9.4	8.7	18.1
Three or more	'000	7.8	*2.7	10.5	*0.9	*1.3	*2.2	8.7	*4.0	12.7

Whether has ever worked for two weeks  
or more

Has previously worked	'000	177.9	124.1	302.0	27.7	64.7	92.3	205.6	188.8	394.3
Last job less than 2 years ago	'000	138.2	86.3	224.6	19.7	38.2	57.8	157.9	124.5	282.4
Last job 2 years or more ago	'000	39.7	37.8	77.5	8.0	26.5	34.5	47.7	64.3	112.0
Has never worked	'000	24.3	19.4	43.7	20.9	25.8	46.7	45.2	45.2	90.4

Time spent looking for work in the  
previous 12 months

1 and under 4 weeks	'000	38.6	34.5	73.1	15.6	28.4	44.1	54.2	63.0	117.2
4 and under 8 weeks	'000	19.8	17.2	37.0	5.5	8.6	14.2	25.4	25.8	51.2
8 and under 13 weeks	'000	25.0	15.8	40.8	5.3	11.8	17.1	30.3	27.6	57.9
13 and under 26 weeks	'000	33.6	22.1	55.7	6.6	18.9	25.5	40.2	41.1	81.3
26 and under 39 weeks	'000	26.8	19.2	46.0	7.0	9.4	16.4	33.7	28.6	62.3
39 and under 52 weeks	'000	13.4	9.6	22.9	*2.1	*2.6	*4.7	15.5	12.2	27.7
52 weeks	'000	45.1	25.0	70.1	6.4	10.7	17.1	51.5	35.7	87.2

Duration of current period of  
unemployment

Under 1 year	'000	157.2	118.5	275.6	42.2	79.8	121.9	199.3	198.2	397.5
1 and under 4 weeks	'000	47.2	37.6	84.8	17.2	28.7	45.9	64.4	66.4	130.8
4 and under 8 weeks	'000	19.9	17.4	37.4	5.6	10.5	16.1	25.6	27.9	53.5
8 and under 13 weeks	'000	26.2	16.1	42.3	6.9	11.6	18.5	33.1	27.7	60.7
13 and under 26 weeks	'000	33.3	24.6	57.8	5.7	18.3	24.0	39.0	42.9	81.9
26 and under 39 weeks	'000	21.4	16.8	38.2	5.4	9.0	14.5	26.9	25.9	52.7
39 and under 52 weeks	'000	9.1	6.0	15.0	*1.3	*1.7	*3.0	10.4	7.6	18.0
1 year and over	'000	45.1	25.0	70.1	6.4	10.7	17.1	51.5	35.7	87.2
1 and under 2 years	'000	15.3	8.9	24.3	*2.3	*4.5	6.8	17.7	13.5	31.1
2 years and over	'000	29.7	16.1	45.8	*4.1	6.2	10.3	33.9	22.2	56.1

**Total** '000 **202.2** **143.5** **345.7** **48.6** **90.5** **139.1** **250.8** **233.9** **484.8**

### DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Mean duration of unemployment	wks	47.9	40.2	44.7	25.2	28.6	27.4	43.5	35.7	39.7
Median duration of unemployment	wks	14	13	14	8	10	9	13	12	12

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

## 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	46.3	41.7	50.6	32.5	30.9	22.0	224.2	89.4
Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper	21.3	33.0	38.1	23.7	22.8	18.5	157.5	62.8
Answered an advertisement for a job on the internet	19.7	22.4	22.3	13.1	11.6	*4.5	93.6	37.3
Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens	7.7	15.4	20.6	10.7	7.9	*4.9	67.2	26.8
Answered advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards	*3.6	*5.0	8.6	6.5	*4.9	*3.5	31.9	12.7
Contacted friends or relatives	21.5	23.4	26.0	18.6	18.7	11.8	120.0	47.8
Advertised or tendered for work	*2.9	*1.5	*1.8	*3.2	*2.3	*2.0	13.6	5.4
Registered with a Job Network employment agency	18.8	24.2	37.6	24.5	19.9	14.7	139.6	55.7
Registered with other employment agency	*3.9	11.0	17.0	11.4	10.3	7.5	61.1	24.4
Checked with a Job Network employment agency	15.1	23.3	35.1	23.6	20.0	13.4	130.6	52.1
Checked with other employment agency	*4.8	10.0	17.6	14.2	13.2	8.2	68.0	27.1
Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper	37.3	41.4	50.0	32.5	28.9	22.4	212.6	84.7
Looked at advertisements on the internet	29.9	31.0	30.1	18.5	15.6	8.6	133.7	53.3
Looked at advertisements for jobs on Centrelink touchscreens	14.7	22.8	29.7	20.5	15.2	12.0	114.9	45.8
Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards	7.8	12.4	18.0	12.4	10.6	6.6	67.8	27.0
Registered with Centrelink as a job seeker	16.6	28.5	39.2	25.9	21.1	17.8	149.0	59.4
Other	6.0	5.3	6.7	7.2	8.3	*4.0	37.6	15.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>54.2</b>	<b>46.5</b>	<b>55.4</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>250.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## FEMALES

Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work	50.3	28.9	40.9	38.0	32.4	6.1	196.7	84.1
Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper	28.1	22.2	34.8	29.4	26.8	*4.3	145.7	62.3
Answered an advertisement for a job on the internet	25.5	13.5	23.3	17.1	13.8	*1.2	94.4	40.3
Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens	9.0	7.2	8.1	7.0	10.3	*1.7	43.3	18.5
Answered advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards	6.0	*4.3	6.4	*3.2	6.4	**0.3	26.7	11.4
Contacted friends or relatives	22.7	12.4	20.0	20.3	18.2	*3.7	97.4	41.6
Advertised or tendered for work	*2.8	*3.5	*2.4	*1.1	*1.1	**0.3	11.2	4.8
Registered with a Job Network employment agency	17.1	14.5	20.0	22.2	18.0	*4.1	95.9	41.0
Registered with other employment agency	5.6	5.9	10.7	7.9	7.9	**0.8	38.7	16.6
Checked with a Job Network employment agency	14.6	15.1	18.7	21.5	20.5	*3.8	94.1	40.2
Checked with other employment agency	5.5	7.3	12.3	11.1	8.0	*0.9	45.1	19.3
Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper	44.9	28.4	45.4	41.8	33.1	6.9	200.5	85.7
Looked at advertisements on the internet	38.1	20.5	32.8	24.8	19.4	*2.4	138.0	59.0
Looked at advertisements for jobs on Centrelink touchscreens	16.1	13.4	18.2	16.4	14.8	*3.6	82.6	35.3
Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards	10.3	8.2	13.0	9.0	10.5	*1.7	52.7	22.5
Registered with Centrelink as a job seeker	20.8	17.0	22.6	25.4	21.4	5.2	112.4	48.0
Other	8.9	6.8	7.0	5.9	*5.1	*1.1	34.7	14.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>57.6</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>50.3</b>	<b>45.6</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>233.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

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

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

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

## 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

## PERSONS

Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work	96.7	70.7	91.6	70.5	63.3	28.1	420.9	86.8
Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper	49.4	55.2	72.9	53.2	49.6	22.8	303.2	62.5
Answered an advertisement for a job on the internet	45.3	35.9	45.5	30.2	25.4	5.7	188.0	38.8
Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens	16.7	22.7	28.7	17.6	18.3	6.6	110.6	22.8
Answered advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards	9.5	9.3	15.0	9.6	11.3	*3.8	58.6	12.1
Contacted friends or relatives	44.1	35.8	46.1	38.9	36.9	15.5	217.4	44.8
Advertised or tendered for work	5.7	*5.0	*4.2	*4.4	*3.4	*2.3	24.9	5.1
Registered with a Job Network employment agency	35.9	38.6	57.6	46.8	37.9	18.7	235.5	48.6
Registered with other employment agency	9.5	17.0	27.7	19.3	18.2	8.3	99.9	20.6
Checked with a Job Network employment agency	29.7	38.4	53.8	45.0	40.5	17.3	224.7	46.4
Checked with other employment agency	10.3	17.3	29.9	25.3	21.2	9.1	113.1	23.3
Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper	82.2	69.8	95.4	74.4	62.0	29.4	413.1	85.2
Looked at advertisements on the internet	68.0	51.5	62.9	43.3	34.9	11.0	271.7	56.0
Looked at advertisements for jobs on Centrelink touchscreens	30.8	36.3	47.9	36.9	30.0	15.5	197.5	40.7
Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards	18.1	20.6	31.0	21.4	21.0	8.3	120.5	24.9
Registered with Centrelink as a job seeker	37.3	45.5	61.8	51.3	42.4	23.1	261.4	53.9
Other	14.9	12.1	13.7	13.1	13.4	*5.1	72.3	14.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>111.8</b>	<b>81.0</b>	<b>105.7</b>	<b>83.0</b>	<b>69.4</b>	<b>33.9</b>	<b>484.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* 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 people 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
<b>Main difficulty in finding work</b>								
Too many applicants for available jobs	14.7	18.2	9.4	*1.8	*1.9	46.0	24.6	14
Lacked necessary skills or education	13.9	13.9	7.7	*4.5	5.9	45.9	42.7	18
Considered too old by employers	9.9	10.1	5.3	5.5	15.0	45.8	85.9	39
Insufficient work experience	19.2	16.9	7.7	*2.3	*4.2	50.3	36.4	12
No vacancies at all	11.6	7.3	*4.5	*1.2	**0.6	25.3	19.4	8
No vacancies in line of work	11.0	10.8	*3.7	*1.6	*3.8	30.9	47.8	12
Too far to travel/transport problems	14.3	15.8	6.9	*2.4	5.6	45.1	45.8	12
Own ill health or disability	10.7	9.1	5.4	*3.6	8.0	36.8	62.0	22
Language difficulties	*3.1	*3.0	*1.7	**0.6	*3.7	12.2	71.3	25
Unsuitable hours	13.1	9.3	*3.1	*1.7	*2.3	29.6	29.3	8
Difficulties with finding child care and other family responsibilities	7.2	*4.7	*2.6	**0.3	—	14.8	12.7	8
Other difficulties(a)(b)	18.8	12.7	6.5	*3.8	*4.0	45.8	31.5	12
No difficulties at all	34.2	7.3	*4.3	*1.7	**0.5	47.9	11.1	2
No feedback from employers	*2.5	*3.5	*1.8	**0.1	**0.4	8.3	22.6	13
<b>Sex</b>								
Males	90.0	72.1	37.3	17.7	33.9	250.8	43.5	13
Females	94.3	70.5	33.5	13.5	22.2	233.9	35.7	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>184.2</b>	<b>142.6</b>	<b>70.7</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>56.1</b>	<b>484.8</b>	<b>39.7</b>	<b>12</b>

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

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

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes 8,500 people who reported difficulties because they were considered too young by employers. See paragraph 22 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

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

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

## DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT

<i>1 and under 8 weeks</i>	<i>8 and under 26 weeks</i>	<i>26 and under 52 weeks</i>	<i>1 and under 2 years</i>	<i>2 years and over</i>	<i>Total</i>
%	%	%	%	%	%

### Main difficulty in finding work

Too many applicants for available jobs	8.0	12.8	13.2	*5.9	*3.4	9.5
Lacked necessary skills or education	7.5	9.8	10.9	*14.4	10.6	9.5
Considered too old by employers	5.4	7.1	7.5	17.7	26.8	9.5
Insufficient work experience	10.4	11.8	10.9	*7.5	*7.5	10.4
No vacancies at all	6.3	5.1	*6.4	*3.7	**1.2	5.2
No vacancies in line of work	6.0	7.6	*5.2	*5.2	*6.7	6.4
Too far to travel/transport problems	7.8	11.1	9.8	*7.8	10.0	9.3
Own ill health or disability	5.8	6.4	7.6	*11.6	14.3	7.6
Language difficulties	*1.7	*2.1	*2.4	**1.8	*6.6	2.5
Unsuitable hours	7.1	6.5	*4.4	*5.3	*4.1	6.1
Difficulties with finding child care and other family responsibilities	3.9	*3.3	*3.7	**1.1	—	3.1
Other difficulties(a)(b)	10.2	8.9	9.2	*12.3	*7.2	9.5
No difficulties	18.6	5.1	*6.1	*5.4	**0.8	9.9
No feedback from employers	*1.4	*2.5	*2.6	**0.3	**0.7	1.7

### Sex

Males	48.8	50.5	52.7	56.7	60.4	51.7
Females	51.2	49.5	47.3	43.3	39.6	48.3

*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

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes 8,500 people who reported difficulties because they were considered too young by employers. See paragraph 22 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

(b) Includes 2,100 people 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		
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over	Males	Females	Total
PERSONS ('000)									
Too many applicants for available jobs	16.5	5.5	11.0	5.6	*5.0	*2.3	27.0	19.0	46.0
Lacked necessary skills or education	10.1	10.7	11.1	9.1	*4.0	*0.9	23.1	22.9	45.9
Considered too old by employers	*1.9	*1.7	*3.9	*3.5	18.4	16.6	28.8	17.0	45.8
Insufficient work experience	19.4	13.3	9.9	*3.2	*3.8	**0.7	22.4	27.9	50.3
No vacancies at all	8.5	*4.7	*3.8	*4.4	*3.6	**0.4	14.8	10.5	25.3
No vacancies in line of work	*2.9	*3.7	7.3	8.6	6.3	*2.1	16.5	14.4	30.9
Too far to travel/transport problems	10.8	11.7	11.8	5.5	*4.7	**0.5	27.9	17.1	45.1
Own ill health or disability	*2.0	*3.9	10.5	8.5	8.1	*3.7	23.8	13.0	36.8
Language difficulties	—	**0.8	*3.6	*4.6	*2.1	*1.1	*4.3	7.9	12.2
Unsuitable hours	7.2	*4.9	7.8	8.0	*1.7	—	8.0	21.6	29.6
Difficulties with finding child care and other family responsibilities	*1.0	*2.0	6.7	*3.9	*1.3	—	*3.2	11.6	14.8
Other difficulties(a)(b)	15.4	6.4	8.7	8.2	5.5	*1.6	22.0	23.9	45.8
No difficulties at all	14.0	10.2	7.6	8.5	*4.4	*3.2	24.4	23.5	47.9
No feedback from employers	*2.3	*1.5	*1.7	*1.4	**0.6	*0.9	*4.6	*3.7	8.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>111.8</b>	<b>81.0</b>	<b>105.7</b>	<b>83.0</b>	<b>69.4</b>	<b>33.9</b>	<b>250.8</b>	<b>233.9</b>	<b>484.8</b>

PERSONS (%)									
Too many applicants for available jobs	14.8	6.8	10.4	6.8	*7.2	*6.8	10.8	8.1	9.5
Lacked necessary skills or education	9.1	13.2	10.5	11.0	*5.7	*2.5	9.2	9.8	9.5
Considered too old by employers	*1.7	*2.1	*3.7	*4.2	26.4	48.9	11.5	7.3	9.5
Insufficient work experience	17.4	16.4	9.4	*3.8	*5.4	**2.0	8.9	11.9	10.4
No vacancies at all	7.6	*5.8	*3.6	*5.3	*5.1	**1.1	5.9	4.5	5.2
No vacancies in line of work	*2.6	*4.6	6.9	10.4	9.0	*6.1	6.6	6.2	6.4
Too far to travel/transport problems	9.6	14.4	11.2	6.7	*6.8	**1.6	11.1	7.3	9.3
Own ill health or disability	*1.8	*4.9	10.0	10.2	11.7	*11.0	9.5	5.6	7.6
Language difficulties	—	**1.0	*3.4	*5.5	*3.1	*3.3	*1.7	3.4	2.5
Unsuitable hours	6.4	*6.1	7.4	9.7	*2.4	—	3.2	9.2	6.1
Difficulties with finding child care and other family responsibilities	*0.9	*2.4	6.4	*4.6	*1.8	—	*1.3	4.9	3.1
Other difficulties(a)(b)	13.7	7.9	8.3	9.9	7.9	*4.8	8.8	10.2	9.5
No difficulties at all	12.5	12.6	7.2	10.2	*6.4	*9.5	9.7	10.0	9.9
No feedback from employers	*2.1	*1.8	*1.6	*1.7	**0.9	*2.6	*1.8	*1.6	1.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

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

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes 8,500 people who reported difficulties because they were considered too young by employers. See paragraph 22 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

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

## UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, Level of highest non-school qualification

## WITH A NON-SCHOOL QUALIFICATION

<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 a non-school qualification</i>	<i>Total</i>
MALES ('000)								
Under 1 year	20.7	9.5	24.7	17.6	*2.0	74.5	124.8	199.3
1 and under 8 weeks	7.4	*4.6	12.0	8.5	*1.4	33.9	56.0	90.0
8 and under 26 weeks	9.9	*3.2	10.5	*4.8	**0.7	29.1	43.0	72.1
26 and under 52 weeks	*3.4	*1.7	*2.2	*4.2	—	11.5	25.7	37.3
1 and under 2 years	*3.1	*0.9	*1.8	*2.4	**0.2	8.4	9.3	17.7
2 years and over	*4.1	*2.1	*4.4	*1.8	**0.3	12.7	21.2	33.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>30.9</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>*2.6</b>	<b>95.6</b>	<b>155.3</b>	<b>250.8</b>

## FEMALES ('000)

Under 1 year	20.1	10.7	21.1	23.2	*2.2	77.2	121.0	198.2
1 and under 8 weeks	11.8	5.6	11.1	9.2	*1.1	38.8	55.5	94.3
8 and under 26 weeks	5.5	*3.4	7.6	7.8	**0.6	25.0	45.6	70.5
26 and under 52 weeks	*2.8	*1.7	*2.4	6.2	**0.4	13.5	20.0	33.5
1 and under 2 years	*1.4	**0.6	*2.5	*1.4	—	5.8	7.7	13.5
2 years and over	**0.8	*1.4	*2.1	*3.7	**0.4	8.5	13.8	22.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>22.2</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>28.4</b>	<b>*2.6</b>	<b>91.5</b>	<b>142.5</b>	<b>233.9</b>

## PERSONS ('000)

Under 1 year	40.7	20.2	45.8	40.8	*4.2	151.8	245.8	397.5
1 and under 8 weeks	19.2	10.2	23.1	17.7	*2.5	72.7	111.5	184.2
8 and under 26 weeks	15.4	6.6	18.1	12.6	*1.3	54.0	88.6	142.6
26 and under 52 weeks	6.2	*3.3	*4.6	10.5	**0.4	25.0	45.7	70.7
1 and under 2 years	*4.5	*1.4	*4.2	*3.8	**0.2	14.2	16.9	31.1
2 years and over	*4.9	*3.5	6.5	5.5	**0.7	21.1	35.0	56.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>50.1</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>56.5</b>	<b>50.1</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>187.0</b>	<b>297.7</b>	<b>484.8</b>

## PERSONS (%)

Under 1 year	81.3	80.4	81.1	81.4	*81.5	81.1	82.6	82.0
1 and under 8 weeks	38.3	40.7	40.9	35.4	*47.8	38.9	37.4	38.0
8 and under 26 weeks	30.7	26.3	32.0	25.2	*25.7	28.9	29.8	29.4
26 and under 52 weeks	12.3	*13.3	*8.2	20.9	**8.0	13.4	15.4	14.6
1 and under 2 years	*8.9	*5.6	*7.5	*7.6	**4.5	7.6	5.7	6.4
2 years and over	*9.8	*14.0	11.4	11.0	**14.0	11.3	11.8	11.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes 'Certificate not further defined'.

\*\* 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, Summary of characteristics

## AGE GROUPS (YEARS)

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

## PERSONS

Sex								
Males	119.1	126.9	214.1	154.9	97.8	43.5	756.2	51.4
Females	119.3	150.5	181.6	147.2	88.2	26.9	713.7	48.6
Level of highest non-school qualification								
With a non-school qualification	34.6	158.4	268.1	201.8	115.5	40.6	819.0	55.7
Bachelor Degree or above	**0.2	54.2	123.7	77.1	43.1	10.9	309.2	21.0
Advanced Diploma/Diploma	*3.7	27.4	41.9	34.6	20.2	8.1	135.9	9.2
Certificate III/IV	9.5	46.3	71.1	60.6	35.6	13.5	236.7	16.1
Certificate I/II(a)	20.4	27.5	27.9	27.0	14.3	5.3	122.5	8.3
Level not determined	**0.8	*3.0	*3.5	*2.4	*2.3	*2.8	14.7	1.0
Without a non-school qualification	203.8	119.0	127.6	100.3	70.5	29.8	651.0	44.3
Whether had prior knowledge that job was available								
Employed persons not in own business	234.5	262.8	341.6	246.9	150.5	51.4	1 287.7	87.6
Had prior knowledge that job or work was available	158.9	198.3	244.6	168.0	98.6	29.7	898.1	61.1
Did not have prior knowledge that job was available	75.5	64.5	97.0	79.0	52.0	21.7	389.6	26.5
Employed persons in own business	*3.9	14.6	54.1	55.1	35.4	19.0	182.3	12.4
Whether out of work prior to starting job								
Out of work prior to starting job	161.5	114.3	135.8	102.3	60.2	25.2	599.3	40.8
Changed employer to start job	73.0	148.5	205.7	144.6	90.4	26.1	688.4	46.8
Employed persons in own business(b)	*3.9	14.6	54.1	55.1	35.4	19.0	182.3	12.4
Whether first job ever held lasting two weeks or more								
First job ever held	103.0	25.3	16.3	14.9	6.0	*1.6	167.1	11.4
Had worked before	135.4	252.1	379.4	287.2	180.0	68.8	1 302.8	88.6
Duration of looking for work before being offered job								
Less than 1 year	152.2	180.2	211.9	134.3	77.3	28.1	783.9	53.3
1 and under 4 weeks	53.6	65.3	83.3	46.7	24.0	11.5	284.4	19.3
4 and under 8 weeks	42.9	42.8	47.1	31.6	14.2	5.7	184.3	12.5
8 and under 13 weeks	21.6	30.9	32.1	28.4	14.4	*4.0	131.4	8.9
13 and under 26 weeks	18.8	23.4	28.6	15.4	12.0	*4.1	102.3	7.0
26 and under 52 weeks	15.4	17.7	20.9	12.2	12.5	*2.8	81.6	5.5
1 and under 2 years	*4.5	6.1	*4.5	10.7	6.6	**0.6	33.1	2.3
2 and under 5 years	*1.2	*4.8	5.2	*4.8	5.9	*2.3	24.1	1.6
5 years and over	—	*0.9	*3.1	*3.9	*3.2	—	11.0	0.8
Did not look for work	80.5	85.5	170.9	148.5	93.0	39.4	617.8	42.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>238.4</b>	<b>277.4</b>	<b>395.7</b>	<b>302.1</b>	<b>185.9</b>	<b>70.4</b>	<b>1 469.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## DURATION OF LOOKING FOR WORK BEFORE BEING OFFERED JOB (WEEKS)

Mean duration of looking for work before being offered job	9.8	11.0	10.9	14.0	18.4	13.1	12.2	..
Median duration of looking for work before being offered job	4	5	4	6	10	5	6	..

- \* 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
- .. not applicable
- nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
- (a) Includes 'Certificate not further defined'.
- (b) Includes 59,300 persons who were out of work prior to starting current business.



# EMPLOYED PERSONS WHO STARTED THEIR CURRENT JOB IN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS, Characteristics of current job

	AGE GROUP (YEARS)						WHETHER EMPLOYED IN OWN BUSINESS		
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over	Employed persons not in own business	Employed persons in own business	Total
PERSONS ('000)									
Occupation of current job									
Managers and administrators	*1.0	6.5	26.4	25.3	14.3	5.5	58.0	21.0	79.0
Professionals	*4.7	48.5	88.2	61.7	32.7	13.8	213.4	36.2	249.5
Associate professionals	6.8	25.8	47.4	34.8	25.6	13.4	121.9	31.9	153.8
Tradespersons and related workers	36.8	29.5	46.3	33.0	19.7	6.3	143.7	27.8	171.6
Advanced clerical and service workers	*1.4	7.3	16.4	9.1	5.2	**0.5	35.3	*4.7	40.0
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	47.4	70.4	67.9	57.2	36.8	10.3	272.7	17.3	290.0
Intermediate production and transport workers	17.8	19.0	34.3	25.3	15.4	5.8	102.9	14.7	117.7
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	83.5	42.8	33.1	27.8	15.6	6.4	194.3	14.9	209.2
Labourers and related workers	38.9	27.8	35.6	27.9	20.6	8.4	145.5	13.6	159.2
Full-time or part-time status of employment									
Full-time worker	93.3	191.0	304.1	205.4	132.3	44.1	838.7	131.5	970.2
Part-time worker	145.1	86.5	91.6	96.6	53.6	26.3	449.0	50.8	499.8
Whether prefers to work more hours than usually works									
Usually works part-time hours	152.9	93.9	98.4	104.0	57.6	27.0	479.4	54.3	533.8
Would prefer to work more hours	50.5	37.5	34.3	37.3	22.6	7.1	166.4	22.9	189.3
Would not prefer to work more hours	99.9	54.4	62.5	64.0	34.7	18.8	303.2	31.3	334.4
Does not know	*2.4	*2.0	*1.6	*2.8	**0.2	*1.1	9.9	**0.2	10.1
Usually works full-time hours	85.5	183.6	297.3	198.0	128.4	43.4	808.3	127.9	936.2
Total	238.4	277.4	395.7	302.1	185.9	70.4	1 287.7	182.3	1 469.9

PERSONS (%)									
Occupation of current job									
Managers and administrators	*0.4	2.3	6.7	8.4	7.7	7.7	4.5	11.5	5.4
Professionals	*2.0	17.5	22.3	20.4	17.6	19.6	16.6	19.8	17.0
Associate professionals	2.9	9.3	12.0	11.5	13.7	19.0	9.5	17.5	10.5
Tradespersons and related workers	15.4	10.6	11.7	10.9	10.6	8.9	11.2	15.3	11.7
Advanced clerical and service workers	*0.6	2.6	4.2	3.0	2.8	**0.8	2.7	*2.6	2.7
Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	19.9	25.4	17.2	18.9	19.8	14.7	21.2	9.5	19.7
Intermediate production and transport workers	7.5	6.8	8.7	8.4	8.3	8.3	8.0	8.1	8.0
Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	35.0	15.4	8.4	9.2	8.4	9.1	15.1	8.2	14.2
Labourers and related workers	16.3	10.0	9.0	9.2	11.1	11.9	11.3	7.5	10.8
Full-time or part-time status of employment									
Full-time worker	39.1	68.8	76.8	68.0	71.2	62.7	65.1	72.1	66.0
Part-time worker	60.9	31.2	23.2	32.0	28.8	37.3	34.9	27.9	34.0
Whether prefers to work more hours than usually works									
Usually works part-time hours	64.1	33.8	24.9	34.4	31.0	38.3	37.2	29.8	36.3
Would prefer to work more hours	21.2	13.5	8.7	12.3	12.2	10.1	12.9	12.6	12.9
Would not prefer to work more hours	41.9	19.6	15.8	21.2	18.7	26.8	23.5	17.1	22.8
Does not know	*1.0	*0.7	*0.4	*0.9	**0.1	*1.5	0.8	**0.1	0.7
Usually works full-time hours	35.9	66.2	75.1	65.6	69.0	61.7	62.8	70.2	63.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

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

# 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)	232.1	242.1	474.2	239.6	249.2	488.8	471.7	491.3	963.0
Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work	197.4	198.1	395.5	195.7	197.8	393.4	393.1	395.9	788.9
Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper	114.4	110.7	225.1	95.8	106.2	202.0	210.2	216.9	427.1
Answered an advertisement for a job on the internet	79.9	81.8	161.7	69.1	86.4	155.6	149.1	168.2	317.3
Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens	25.2	14.8	40.0	9.7	9.4	19.1	34.9	24.2	59.1
Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards	12.0	10.3	22.3	7.3	9.0	16.3	19.3	19.4	38.6
Contacted friends or relatives	98.4	86.2	184.6	79.1	65.1	144.1	177.4	151.3	328.7
Advertised or tendered for work	7.4	6.3	13.6	*3.9	5.3	9.2	11.3	11.6	22.9
Registered with a Job Network employment agency	74.3	53.8	128.1	35.0	28.6	63.6	109.2	82.4	191.6
Registered with other employment agency	45.4	37.5	82.8	36.8	35.9	72.7	82.2	73.3	155.5
Checked with a Job Network employment agency	58.1	42.6	100.7	26.8	24.2	51.0	84.9	66.8	151.7
Checked with other employment agency	46.7	34.5	81.2	30.3	35.9	66.1	77.0	70.3	147.3
Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper	149.8	150.6	300.4	130.4	139.9	270.3	280.2	290.5	570.7
Looked at advertisements on the internet	112.8	124.4	237.2	103.6	125.2	228.8	216.4	249.5	466.0
Looked at advertisements for jobs on Centrelink touchscreens	44.4	32.8	77.1	16.6	18.1	34.7	60.9	50.9	111.8
Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards	28.8	23.3	52.1	12.3	16.5	28.8	41.0	39.8	80.9
Registered with Centrelink as a job seeker	74.3	54.5	128.9	26.3	24.9	51.2	100.6	79.4	180.0
Other	29.2	29.3	58.5	22.7	26.3	49.0	51.9	55.5	107.4
Employed persons in own business(c)	..	..	..	..	..	..	109.8	72.5	182.3
<b>Total(d)</b>	<b>296.8</b>	<b>302.5</b>	<b>599.3</b>	<b>349.7</b>	<b>338.7</b>	<b>688.4</b>	<b>756.2</b>	<b>713.7</b>	<b>1 469.9</b>
PERSONS (%)									
Employed persons not in own business(b)	78.2	80.0	79.1	68.5	73.6	71.0	62.4	68.8	65.5
Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work	66.5	65.5	66.0	56.0	58.4	57.2	52.0	55.5	53.7
Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper	38.6	36.6	37.6	27.4	31.4	29.3	27.8	30.4	29.1
Answered an advertisement for a job on the internet	26.9	27.0	27.0	19.8	25.5	22.6	19.7	23.6	21.6
Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens	8.5	4.9	6.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	4.6	3.4	4.0
Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards	4.0	3.4	3.7	2.1	2.7	2.4	2.5	2.7	2.6
Contacted friends or relatives	33.1	28.5	30.8	22.6	19.2	20.9	23.5	21.2	22.4
Advertised or tendered for work	2.5	2.1	2.3	*1.1	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.6
Registered with a Job Network employment agency	25.0	17.8	21.4	10.0	8.4	9.2	14.4	11.5	13.0
Registered with other employment agency	15.3	12.4	13.8	10.5	10.6	10.6	10.9	10.3	10.6
Checked with a Job Network employment agency	19.6	14.1	16.8	7.7	7.1	7.4	11.2	9.4	10.3
Checked with other employment agency	15.7	11.4	13.5	8.7	10.6	9.6	10.2	9.9	10.0
Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper	50.5	49.8	50.1	37.3	41.3	39.3	37.1	40.7	38.8
Looked at advertisements on the internet	38.0	41.1	39.6	29.6	37.0	33.2	28.6	35.0	31.7
Looked at advertisements for jobs on Centrelink touchscreens	14.9	10.8	12.9	4.7	5.3	5.0	8.1	7.1	7.6
Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards	9.7	7.7	8.7	3.5	4.9	4.2	5.4	5.6	5.5
Registered with Centrelink as a job seeker	25.0	18.0	21.5	7.5	7.3	7.4	13.3	11.1	12.2
Other	9.8	9.7	9.8	6.5	7.8	7.1	6.9	7.8	7.3
Employed persons in own business(c)	..	..	..	..	..	..	14.5	10.2	12.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution .. not applicable (a) Refers to steps taken to attain a job, not necessarily the current job, therefore persons may appear in more than one category. (b) Excludes 291,800 people 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 291,800 people who did not take any steps to attain a job.									

# EMPLOYED PERSONS WHO STARTED THEIR CURRENT JOB IN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS, Level of highest non-school qualification—By duration of looking for work

## WITH A NON-SCHOOL QUALIFICATION

<i>Duration of looking for work before being offered job</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 a non-school qualification</i>	<i>Total</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>MALES</b>								
Less than 1 year	78.5	28.3	70.5	26.5	*3.1	207.0	193.6	400.6
1 and under 4 weeks	17.6	10.9	33.2	11.3	*1.1	74.1	71.1	145.3
4 and under 8 weeks	18.3	5.3	14.0	5.2	**0.7	43.5	47.9	91.4
8 and under 13 weeks	18.0	6.2	9.4	*3.6	*0.9	38.2	30.8	69.0
13 and under 26 weeks	12.0	*3.1	8.1	*2.6	**0.3	26.1	24.1	50.3
26 and under 52 weeks	12.6	*2.7	5.7	*3.9	—	25.0	19.5	44.5
1 and under 2 years	*3.3	*2.0	*4.1	*1.0	—	10.4	8.2	18.6
2 and under 5 years	*2.7	*1.0	*1.5	*1.4	*1.0	7.6	6.6	14.3
5 years and over	—	**0.7	*0.9	**0.7	**0.3	*2.6	*3.3	5.8
Did not look for work	62.5	21.0	76.8	23.5	*3.6	187.4	129.6	316.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>147.1</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>153.7</b>	<b>53.1</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>414.9</b>	<b>341.3</b>	<b>756.2</b>

## FEMALES

Less than 1 year	92.6	45.5	42.7	34.5	*4.2	219.5	163.8	383.4
1 and under 4 weeks	28.9	17.4	14.9	13.5	*1.8	76.4	62.7	139.1
4 and under 8 weeks	24.2	11.0	10.2	8.4	*1.5	55.4	37.5	92.9
8 and under 13 weeks	18.3	6.1	8.4	*4.0	**0.2	37.0	25.3	62.3
13 and under 26 weeks	11.5	7.2	6.6	*3.7	**0.3	29.4	22.6	52.0
26 and under 52 weeks	9.7	*3.8	*2.7	*5.0	**0.3	21.4	15.7	37.0
1 and under 2 years	*2.6	*1.3	*2.5	*3.1	—	9.5	*5.0	14.5
2 and under 5 years	*2.2	**0.3	*2.5	*1.0	**0.4	6.4	*3.4	9.8
5 years and over	**0.8	**0.7	**0.3	**0.4	—	*2.3	*2.9	5.2
Did not look for work	63.9	35.1	34.8	30.4	*2.1	166.3	134.5	300.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>162.2</b>	<b>82.9</b>	<b>83.0</b>	<b>69.4</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>404.0</b>	<b>309.7</b>	<b>713.7</b>

## PERSONS

Less than 1 year	171.2	73.8	113.2	61.0	7.3	426.5	357.4	783.9
1 and under 4 weeks	46.5	28.4	48.1	24.7	*2.9	150.5	133.9	284.4
4 and under 8 weeks	42.5	16.4	24.3	13.5	*2.2	98.9	85.4	184.3
8 and under 13 weeks	36.4	12.3	17.8	7.6	*1.2	75.2	56.1	131.4
13 and under 26 weeks	23.6	10.3	14.8	6.3	**0.7	55.5	46.7	102.3
26 and under 52 weeks	22.3	6.5	8.4	8.9	**0.3	46.4	35.2	81.6
1 and under 2 years	5.9	*3.3	6.6	*4.1	—	19.9	13.2	33.1
2 and under 5 years	*4.9	*1.3	*4.0	*2.4	*1.4	14.0	10.1	24.1
5 years and over	**0.8	*1.4	*1.2	*1.1	**0.3	*4.8	6.2	11.0
Did not look for work	126.4	56.1	111.6	53.8	5.7	353.7	264.1	617.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>309.2</b>	<b>135.9</b>	<b>236.7</b>	<b>122.5</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>819.0</b>	<b>651.0</b>	<b>1 469.9</b>

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

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

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes '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									
<b>Population 1:</b>									
Unemployed persons	83.1	63.9	46.0	19.8	25.3	8.0	*1.8	*3.0	250.8
<b>Population 2:</b>									
Employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months	213.8	179.8	171.0	55.6	99.2	16.3	7.1	13.4	756.2
FEMALES									
<b>Population 1:</b>									
Unemployed persons	70.1	67.9	49.6	13.4	22.7	5.6	*1.9	*2.8	233.9
<b>Population 2:</b>									
Employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months	207.4	162.9	163.0	58.0	87.1	14.6	5.8	14.9	713.7
PERSONS									
<b>Population 1:</b>									
Unemployed persons	153.2	131.8	95.6	33.2	48.0	13.6	*3.7	5.8	484.8
<b>Population 2:</b>									
Employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months	421.2	342.7	334.0	113.6	186.3	30.9	12.9	28.3	1 469.9
* estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution           (a) Refers to mainly urban areas only. See paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.									

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### INTRODUCTION

**1** The statistics in this publication were compiled from data collected in the Job Search Experience Survey that was conducted throughout Australia in July 2005 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). Respondents to the LFS who fell within the scope of the supplementary survey were asked further questions.

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

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

### CAI IMPLEMENTATION

**4** Information for this survey was collected using computer assisted interviewing (CAI), whereby interviewers record responses directly onto an electronic questionnaire in a notebook computer. In the July 2004 survey, the CAI method was used on a random 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. In the July 2005 survey all interviews were conducted using the CAI method.

**5** The change of interviewing method is not expected to have affected the 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>> (Methods, Classifications, Concepts & Standards).

### SCOPE

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

- members of the permanent defence forces
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from 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 people 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 people living in very remote parts of Australia who would otherwise have been within the scope of the survey. The exclusion of these people will have only a minor impact on any aggregate estimates produced for individual states and territories, except the Northern Territory where such people account for around 23% of the population.

**10** The survey only relates to people who were unemployed in July 2005, and people employed in July 2005 who started their current job in the previous 12 months.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

COVERAGE	<p><b>11</b> The estimates in this publication relate to people covered by the survey in July 2005. 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 <i>Labour Force, Australia</i> (cat. no. 6202.0) for more details.</p>
SAMPLE SIZE	<p><b>12</b> 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.</p> <p><b>13</b> The initial sample for the July 2005 LFS consisted of 41,269 private dwelling households and non-private dwelling units. Of the 33,484 private dwelling households and non-private dwelling units that remained in the survey after sample loss (e.g. households selected in the survey which had no residents in scope for the LFS, vacant or derelict dwellings and dwellings under construction), approximately 31,379 or 93.7% were fully responding to the Job Search Experience survey. The number of completed interviews obtained from these private dwellings and non-private dwelling units (after taking into account scope, coverage and subsampling exclusions) was 6,436.</p>
RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES	<p><b>14</b> Estimates in this publication are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ 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.</li><li>■ 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.</li></ul>
SEASONAL FACTORS	<p><b>15</b> 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.</p>
CLASSIFICATIONS USED	<p><b>16</b> Country of birth data are classified according to the <i>Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 1998</i> (cat. no. 1269.0).</p> <p><b>17</b> Occupation data are classified according to the <i>ASCO—Australian Standard of Classification of Occupations, Second Edition, 1997</i> (cat. no. 1220.0).</p> <p><b>18</b> Industry data are classified according to the <i>Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 1993</i> (cat. no. 1292.0).</p> <p><b>19</b> Educational attainment data are classified according to the <i>Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)</i> (cat. no. 1272.0). See Appendix 1 for further information.</p>
COMPARABILITY OF TIME SERIES	<p><b>20</b> 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.</p>
COMPARABILITY WITH MONTHLY LFS STATISTICS	<p><b>21</b> 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.</p>

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### COMPARABILITY WITH PREVIOUS SURVEYS

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

*Changes to employment services to the community*

**22** 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.

**23** 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 job seekers changed.

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

**25** 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. From that date, job seekers 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 job seekers with jobs that are registered with them by employers.

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

**27** 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

**28** 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 various 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

**29** The ABS plans to conduct this survey again in July 2006.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

**30** 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

**31** ABS publications which may also 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)

## EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

### RELATED PUBLICATIONS

*continued*

- *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)

**32** 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.



## 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 would as a result have their Level of Highest Educational Attainment output as

## APPENDIX 1 CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION *continued*

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### CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION *continued*

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 Tracey Chester on Canberra (02) 6252 7206, or by facsimile (02) 6252 7512, or by email to <tracey.chester@abs.gov.au>.

#### Population 1

Unemployed persons.

#### Population 2

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

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>
<b>1 State or territory of usual residence</b>	All	<b>6 Relationship in household</b>	All
New South Wales		Family member	
Victoria		Husband, wife or partner	
Queensland		With dependants	
South Australia		Without dependants	
Western Australia		Lone parent	
Tasmania		With dependants	
Northern Territory		Without dependants	
Australian Capital Territory		Dependent student	
<b>2 Area of usual residence</b>	All	Non-dependent child	
State capital city		Other family person	
Balance of state/territory		Non-family member	
<b>3 Region of usual residence</b>	All	Lone person	
Standard labour force dissemination regions		Not living alone	
<b>4 Sex</b>	All	Relationship not determined	
Males		<b>7A Country of birth and period of arrival</b>	All
Females		Born in Australia	
<b>5 Marital status</b>	All	Born overseas	
Married		Arrived before 1971	
Not married		Arrived 1971–1980	
		Arrived 1981–1990	
		Arrived 1991–2000	
		Arrived 2001 to survey date	

## APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>
<b>7B Country of birth (1)</b>	All	<b>10 Level of highest non-school qualification</b>	All
Born in Australia		With a non-school qualification	
Born overseas		Postgraduate Degree	
Born in main English-speaking countries		Graduate Diploma/Graduate Certificate	
Born in other than main English-speaking countries		Bachelor Degree	
<b>7C Country of birth (2)</b>	All	Advanced Diploma/Diploma Certificate III/IV	
Born in Australia		Certificate I/II	
Born overseas		Certificate not further defined	
Oceania and Antarctica		Level not determined	
North-West Europe		Without a non-school qualification	
Southern and Eastern Europe		<b>11 Highest year of school completed</b>	All
North Africa and the Middle East		Year 12	
South-East Asia		Year 11	
North-East Asia		Year 10	
Southern and Central Asia		Year 9	
Americas		Year 8 or below	
Sub-Saharan Africa		Never attended school	
<b>8 Age group (years)</b>	All	<b>12 Highest non-school qualification and whether qualification obtained overseas or within Australia</b>	All
15–19		Born in Australia	
20–24		Born overseas	
25–34		With a non-school qualification	
35–44		Qualification obtained overseas	
45–54		Qualification obtained in Australia	
55 and over		Without a non-school qualification	
Note: Age collected in single years.		<b>13A Number of jobs started in the previous 12 months</b>	All
<b>9 Level of highest educational attainment</b>	All	None	
Postgraduate Degree		One	
Graduate Diploma/Graduate Certificate		Two	
Bachelor Degree		Three or more	
Advanced Diploma/Diploma Certificate III/IV			
Certificate I/II			
Certificate not further defined			
Year 12			
Year 11			
Year 10 and below			
Level not determined			
No educational attainment			

## APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>
<b>13B Number of jobs lasting two weeks or more started in the previous 12 months</b>	All	<b>14 All steps taken to find work/attain job</b> <i>cont.</i>	All
None		Did not take steps to find work/attain job	
One		Employed persons in own business(a)	
Two		Note: Multiple response category. Persons may appear in more than one category.	
Three or more			
<b>14 All steps taken to find work/attain job</b>	All	<b>15 Whether looking for full-time or part-time work</b>	1
Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work		Looking for full-time work	
Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper		Looking for part-time work	
Answered an advertisement for a job on the internet		<b>16 Number of hours of work sought</b>	1
Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens		1 to 15 hours	
Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards		16 to 29 hours	
Contacted friends or relatives		30 to 34 hours	
Advertised or tendered for work		35 to 39 hours	
Registered with a Job Network employment agency		40 hours	
Registered with other employment agency		41 to 44 hours	
Checked with a Job Network employment agency		45 to 48 hours	
Checked with other employment agency		49 hours or more	
Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper		Did not know	
Looked at advertisements for jobs on the internet		Note: Collected in single hours.	
Looked at advertisements for jobs on Centrelink touchscreens		<b>17 Duration of current period of unemployment</b>	1
Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards		Under 1 year	
Registered with Centrelink as a job seeker		1 and under 4 weeks	
Other		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	
		1 year and over	
		1 and under 2 years	
		2 years and over	
		<b>18 Whether registered with Centrelink as a job seeker</b>	1
		Registered with Centrelink as a job seeker	
		Not registered with Centrelink as a job seeker	

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

## APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

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

## APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

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

## APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

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



## APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>
<b>34 Whether employed in own business</b>	2	<b>36 Whether job seeker approached employer</b>	2
Employed persons not in own business		Employed persons not in own business	
Employed persons in own business		Job seeker approached employer	
		Employer approached job seeker	
<b>35 All steps taken to attain job</b>	2	Employed persons in own business	
Employed persons not in own business		<b>37 Whether had prior knowledge that job was available</b>	2
Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work		Employed persons not in own business	
Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper		Had prior knowledge that job or work was available through:	
Answered an advertisement for a job on the internet		Job Network employment agency	
Answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens		Other employment agency	
Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards		School programs	
Contacted friends or relatives		Careers service at educational institution	
Advertised or tendered for work		Advertisements in a newspaper	
Registered with a Job Network employment agency		Advertisements on the internet	
Registered with other employment agency		Advertisements on Centrelink touchscreens	
Checked with a Job Network employment agency		Advertisements on workplace noticeboards	
Checked with other employment agency		Friends, relatives or company contacts	
Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper		Other sources	
Looked at advertisements for jobs on the internet		Did not have prior knowledge that job was available	
Looked at advertisements for jobs on Centrelink touchscreens		Employed persons in own business	
Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards		<b>38 Role of Job Network in job attainment</b>	2
Registered with Centrelink as a job seeker		Employed persons not in own business	
Other		Job Network helped job seeker to obtain job in some way	
Did not take steps to attain job		Job Network did not help job seeker to obtain job in any way	
Employed persons in own business(a)		Did not know	
Note: Multiple response category. Persons may appear in more than one category.		Did not use job network in job attainment	
		Employed persons in own business	

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

## APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST *continued*

<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Data items</i>	<i>Population</i>
<b>39 Month started job</b>	2	<b>41 Occupation of current job <i>cont.</i></b>	2
July 2004		Intermediate clerical, sales and service workers	
August 2004		Intermediate production and transport workers	
September 2004		Elementary clerical, sales and service workers	
October 2004		Labourers and related workers	
November 2004			
December 2004		<b>42 Full-time or part-time status of employment</b>	2
January 2005		Full-time worker	
February 2005		Part-time worker	
March 2005			
April 2005		<b>43 Whether prefers to work more hours than usually works</b>	2
May 2005		Usually works part-time hours	
June 2005		Would prefer to work more hours	
July 2005		Would not prefer to work more hours	
<b>40 Duration of looking for work before being offered job</b>	2	Did not know	
Less than 1 year		Usually works full-time hours	
1 and under 4 weeks			
4 and under 8 weeks		<b>44 Owner manager of incorporated enterprise (OMIE) status (main job)</b>	2
8 and under 13 weeks		Employee (not OMIE)	
13 and under 26 weeks		Owner manager of incorporated enterprise	
26 and under 52 weeks		Owner manager of unincorporated enterprise	
1 and under 2 years		Contributing family worker	
2 and under 5 years			
5 years and over		<b>45 Owner manager of incorporated enterprise (OMIE) status (current job)</b>	2
Did not look for work		Employee (not OMIE)	
Note: Available in single weeks/years.		Owner manager of incorporated enterprise	
<b>41 Occupation of current job</b>	2	Owner manager of unincorporated enterprise	
Managers and administrators		Contributing family worker	
Professionals			
Associate professionals			
Tradespersons and related workers			
Advanced clerical and service workers			

## 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 survey. Data from these surveys are available on request and can be obtained by contacting the ABS.

	<i>cat. no.</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Latest issue</i>
Career Experience, Australia	6254.0	Discontinued	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 2005
Employee Earnings, Benefits, and Trade Union Membership, Australia	6310.0	Annual	August 2004
Forms of Employment, Australia	6359.0	Irregular	November 2004
Job Search Experience, Australia	6222.0	Annual	July 2005
Labour Force Experience, Australia	6206.0	Biennial	February 2005
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 2004
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 2004
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	Discontinued	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 2004
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.

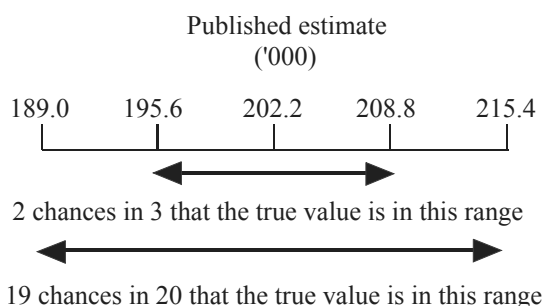
**2** Due to space limitations, it is impractical to print the SE of each estimate in the publication. Instead, a table of SEs is provided to enable readers to determine the SE for an estimate from the size of that estimate (see table T1). The SE table is derived from a mathematical model, referred to 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 202,200. 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:

$$\begin{aligned}
 &SE \text{ of estimate} \\
 &= \text{lower SE} + \left( \left( \frac{\text{size of estimate} - \text{lower estimate}}{\text{upper estimate} - \text{lower estimate}} \right) \times (\text{upper SE} - \text{lower SE}) \right) \\
 &= 6,550 + \left( \left( \frac{202,200 - 200,000}{300,000 - 200,000} \right) \times (7,650 - 6,550) \right) \\
 &= 6,600 \text{ (rounded to the nearest 100)}
 \end{aligned}$$

**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 195,600 to 208,800 and about 19 chances in 20 that the value will fall within the range 189,000 to 215,400. 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 13 weeks and shows that the number of unemployed males was estimated as 250,800. The SE of 250,800 can be calculated from table T1 (by interpolation) as 7,100. To convert this to an RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate or  $7,100/250,800 = 2.8\%$ .

**8** The RSE of the estimate of median duration of unemployment for unemployed males is calculated by multiplying this number (2.8%) by the appropriate factor shown in the previous paragraph (in this case 1.7):  $2.8 \times 1.7 = 4.8\%$ . The SE of this estimate of median duration of unemployment for unemployed males is therefore 4.8% of 13, 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 12 weeks to 14 weeks, and about 19 chances in 20 that it would have been within the range 11 weeks to 15 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 202,200 unemployed males who were looking for full-time work, 45,100 or 22.3% had been unemployed for one year or more. The SE of 45,100 may be calculated by interpolation as 3,700. To convert this to an RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate, or  $3,700/45,100 = 8.2\%$ . The SE for 202,200 was calculated previously as 6,600, which converted to an RSE is  $6,600/202,200 = 3.3\%$ . Applying the above formula, the RSE of the proportion is  $RSE = \sqrt{(8.2)^2 - (3.3)^2} = 7.5\%$

**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 1.7 percentage points ( $= (22.3/100) \times 7.5$ ). 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 20.6% and 24.0% and 19 chances in 20 that the proportion is within the range 18.9% to 25.7%.

## 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

	AUST. .....								
Size of estimate (persons)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	SE RSE
	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	no. %
100	100	110	190	170	160	110	120	140	80 80.0
200	170	180	270	220	230	150	160	170	140 70.0
300	230	240	330	270	280	180	180	190	200 66.7
500	340	340	420	330	350	220	230	230	290 58.0
700	430	420	490	380	410	250	260	250	370 52.9
1,000	550	530	580	440	480	290	300	280	470 47.0
1,500	720	670	690	520	570	340	350	330	610 40.7
2,000	860	790	790	590	650	380	400	360	730 36.5
2,500	1 000	900	850	650	700	400	450	400	850 34.0
3,000	1 100	1 000	950	700	750	450	450	400	950 31.7
3,500	1 200	1 050	1 000	750	800	500	500	450	1 050 30.0
4,000	1 300	1 150	1 100	800	850	500	500	450	1 100 27.5
5,000	1 450	1 250	1 200	850	950	550	550	500	1 250 25.0
7,000	1 700	1 500	1 400	1 000	1 100	650	650	600	1 550 22.1
10,000	2 050	1 750	1 600	1 150	1 250	700	750	650	1 850 18.5
15,000	2 450	2 100	1 900	1 350	1 500	850	850	800	2 250 15.0
20,000	2 800	2 350	2 200	1 500	1 650	950	950	900	2 600 13.0
30,000	3 300	2 750	2 600	1 800	1 950	1 100	1 100	1 050	3 150 10.5
40,000	3 650	3 100	2 900	2 000	2 200	1 250	1 200	1 150	3 550 8.9
50,000	3 950	3 300	3 200	2 200	2 350	1 350	1 300	1 300	3 900 7.8
100,000	4 950	4 200	4 250	2 900	3 050	1 750	1 700	1 750	5 100 5.1
150,000	5 600	4 850	5 050	3 400	3 500	2 000	1 950	2 100	5 900 3.9
200,000	6 150	5 450	5 650	3 800	3 900	2 250	2 150	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

### 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	3 300	2 900	16 300
All other estimates	6 800	5 200	4 600	2 600	3 200	1 300	1 400	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	1 100	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

<b>Active steps taken to find work</b>	<p>Active steps taken by unemployed people in their search for work during the current period of unemployment include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work</li> <li>■ answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper</li> <li>■ answered an advertisement for a job on the internet</li> <li>■ answered an advertisement for a job on Centrelink touchscreens</li> <li>■ answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards</li> <li>■ contacted friends or relatives</li> <li>■ advertised or tendered for work</li> <li>■ registered with a Job Network employment agency</li> <li>■ registered with other employment agency</li> <li>■ registered with Centrelink as a job seeker.</li> </ul>
<b>All difficulties in finding work</b>	All difficulties in finding work experienced by unemployed people during the current period of unemployment.
<b>All steps taken to find work</b>	All steps taken by unemployed people in their search for work during the current period of unemployment.
<b>All steps taken to attain a job</b>	All steps taken to attain a job by people who started their current job in the last 12 months, but not necessarily only the steps taken to attain their current job.
<b>Bachelor Degree or above</b>	Bachelor Degree or above includes qualifications at the Post Graduate Degree Level, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate Level and Bachelor Degree Level.
<b>Centrelink</b>	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.
<b>Certificate not further defined</b>	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.
<b>Contributing family workers</b>	A person who works without pay, in an economic enterprise operated by a relative.
<b>Current job</b>	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 people who have commenced more than one job in the last 12 months, it is the job most recently started.
<b>Duration of current period of unemployment</b>	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.
<b>Employed</b>	<p>People aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind, in a job or business or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or</li> <li>■ worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or</li> <li>■ were employees who had a job but were not at work and were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or</li> <li>■ away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week; or</li> <li>■ away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or</li> <li>■ on strike or locked out; or</li> <li>■ on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.</li> </ul>

## GLOSSARY *continued*

<b>Employed in own business</b>	People 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.
<b>Employed not in own business</b>	All employed people excluding those employed in their own business.
<b>Employee</b>	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.
<b>Full-time workers</b>	Employed people 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.
<b>Incorporated enterprise</b>	An enterprise which is registered as a separate legal entity to its members or owners (also known as a limited liability company).
<b>Industry</b>	All occurrences of industry in this publication refer to Division, as classified by the <i>Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 1993</i> (cat. no. 1292.0).
<b>Job leavers</b>	Unemployed people 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.
<b>Job losers</b>	Unemployed people 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.
<b>Job Network employment agency</b>	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. Job seekers who are registered with Centrelink for job search assistance are able to contact any Job Network provider in their area to receive this service.
<b>Level of highest educational attainment</b>	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.
<b>Level of highest non-school qualification</b>	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.
<b>Long term unemployed</b>	People who were unemployed for 12 months or more.
<b>Looking for full-time work</b>	Unemployed people who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ actively looked for full-time work and were available for work in the reference week; or</li> <li>■ actively looked for work and were not available for work in the reference week because they were waiting to start a new full-time job.</li> </ul>



## GLOSSARY *continued*

Looking for part-time work	Unemployed people who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ actively looked for part-time work only and were available for work in the reference week; or</li> <li>■ actively looked for work and were not available for work in the reference week because they were waiting to start a new part-time job.</li> </ul>
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 people in that group.
Median duration of current period of unemployment	The duration which divides unemployed people into two equal size groups, one comprising people whose duration of unemployment is above the median, and the other, people whose duration is below it.
Mean duration of looking for work before being offered job	The duration obtained by dividing the aggregate number of weeks a group was looking for work before being offered their current job by the number of people in that group.
Median duration of looking for work before being offered job	The duration which divides people into two equal size groups, one comprising people whose duration of looking for work before being offered their current job is above the median, and the other, people whose duration is below it.
Number of offers of employment	The number of separate offers of employment received during the current period of unemployment.
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.
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).
Part-time workers	Employed people 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 people 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	People aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or</li> <li>■ were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week, and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.</li> </ul>
Usually worked part-time hours	Employed people who usually worked less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs).
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.

**GLOSSARY** *continued*

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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