



**PERSONS NOT IN THE
LABOUR FORCE
AUSTRALIA
(including discouraged jobseekers)
SEPTEMBER 1979**

CATALOGUE NO. 6220.0

INQUIRIES

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CONTENTS

<i>Table</i>	<i>Page</i>
.. Explanatory notes	2
Civilian population aged 15 years and over	
1 Employment status	4
PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE	
2 Occupation in last regular job (if any) and age	5
3 Whether wanted a job and whether intending to look for work in the next twelve months	6
4 Birthplace, whether wanted a job and whether intending to look for work in the next twelve months	6
Persons who had had a regular job	
5 Time since last regular job and reason for leaving it	7
Persons who were intending to look for work in the next twelve months	
6 Age and whether preferred to work full time or part time	8
Persons who wanted a job	
<i>Reason for not actively looking for work</i>	
7 Whether intending to look for work in the next twelve months	9
8 Age	9
9 States	10
10 Birthplace	11
11 Highest-ranked reason and second reason (if any) for not looking for work	12
12 Age and whether preferred to work full time or part time	13
<i>Discouraged jobseekers</i>	
13 Summary of characteristics	14
14 States and State capital cities, marital status	14
15 Age and reason for believing no work available	15
Females who were responsible for children under 12 years of age	
16 Whether wanted a job and number and age of children for whom responsible	15
17 Females who would have wanted a job if child care had been available : summary of characteristics	16
.. Technical note	17

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

In September 1979 a survey, based on the monthly population survey, was conducted throughout Australia in order to obtain information about persons aged 15 to 64 years who were not in the labour force; in particular whether they wanted a job and, if they did, why they were not looking for work.

2. Preliminary results of the survey were published on 10 January 1980 in *Persons not in the Labour Force, September 1979 (Preliminary), Australia* (6219.0). The present publication contains final and more detailed information. Results of similar surveys conducted in November 1975, May 1977 and March 1979 were published in previous issues.

3. The survey was based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (about 30,000 houses, flats etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, institutions, etc.) and covered about two-thirds of one per cent of the population of Australia. The information was obtained from the occupants of selected dwellings by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers, the interviews being conducted during the two weeks beginning on 10 September 1979.

Scope

4. The survey included all persons aged fifteen years and over except :

- (a) members of the permanent defence forces
- (b) certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations
- (c) overseas visitors holidaying in Australia, and
- (d) members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

Definitions

5. The labour force category to which a person is assigned depends on his *actual activity* (i.e. whether working, looking for work, etc.) during a specified week known as *the survey week*, which is the week immediately preceding that in which the interview takes place. Definitions of the principal labour force categories appearing in this publication are given in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

6. *Persons who wanted a job* are those who were not employed at the time of the survey, and :

- (a) in the four weeks before the interview week had not looked for work but in the survey answered 'yes' or 'maybe' to the question '*Even though you have not been looking for work would you like a full-time or part-time job now?*', or

- (b) although claiming to have looked for work in the four weeks before the interview week, had not taken active steps (as defined below) to find employment.

(*Active steps to find work* include checking or registering with the Commonwealth Employment Service or other employment agencies, writing, telephoning or applying in person to an employer, answering a newspaper advertisement for a job, advertising or tendering for work, contacting friends or relatives and looking on factory or employment service notice boards.)

7. *Discouraged jobseekers* are persons who wanted a job but *were not actively looking for work* because they believed they would not be able to find a job for any of the following reasons : they were considered by employers to be too young or too old; they had language or racial difficulties; they lacked the necessary training, skills or experience; or there were no jobs in their locality or line of work. This definition has been revised since the previous survey. See paragraphs 9 and 10 for the effect of the change.

8. Persons included in the survey who wanted a job but were not actively looking for work were asked to give reasons why they were not doing so. Reasons were ranked in the order of priority shown in Table 10; where more than one reason was given, only the higher or highest ranked has been included in the estimates in Tables 7 to 10. Table 11 includes estimates of the highest ranked reason and the second highest ranked reason (if any).

Discontinuities in the series

9. The estimates in this publication are not strictly comparable with those obtained from previous surveys, because the definition of *persons who wanted a job* has been widened to include those persons referred to in paragraph 6(b), i.e. persons who, although claiming to have looked for work in the four weeks before the interview week, had not taken active steps (as defined above) to find employment. Estimates of the numbers of such persons are :

	Males	Females	Persons
November 1975	*	9,400	11,900
May 1977	5,600	14,800	20,400
March 1979	13,300	33,000	46,300
September 1979	9,100	33,400	42,500

10. Some of these persons are now classified as *discouraged jobseekers*, the additional number in September 1979 being 8,000 persons (7,200 females). Corresponding estimates for earlier periods are not available.

Reliability of the estimates

11. 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 the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. More information on this topic is given in the Technical note, page 17.

Related publications

12. Other ABS publications which may be of interest include :

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)

Labour Force Experience (6206.0)

Persons not in the Labour Force, Australia (6220.0)

Persons Looking for Work, Australia (6222.0)

Labour Mobility, Australia (6209.0)

13. All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications* (1101.0), which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

* subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. (See paragraph 11 above.)

.. not applicable

n.e.c. not elsewhere classified

14. Because figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

R. J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER : EMPLOYMENT STATUS,
SEPTEMBER 1979

	Number ('000)			Per cent of total		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Civilian population aged 15 years and over	5,275.7	5,408.9	10,684.6	100.0	100.0	100.0
Employed	3,939.3	2,178.8	6,118.1	74.7	40.3	57.3
Unemployed	201.6	194.9	396.5	3.8	3.6	3.7
Not in the labour force	1,134.7	3,035.2	4,170.0	21.5	56.1	39.0
Aged 65 years and over	506.0	772.0	1,278.0	9.6	14.3	12.0
Aged 15 to 64 years	628.8	2,263.2	2,892.0	11.9	41.8	27.1
Inmate of an institution, permanently unable to work, boarding school student	56.9	34.4	91.4	1.1	0.6	0.9
Had actively looked for work but was unable to start a job in the survey week for reasons other than own temporary illness or injury	26.0	27.9	53.8	0.5	0.5	0.5
Had not actively looked for work	546.0	2,200.9	2,746.9	10.3	40.7	25.7
Did not want a job	423.8	1,689.9	2,113.7	8.0	31.2	19.8
Did not know whether wanted a job	*	20.5	23.2	*	0.4	0.2
Wanted a job	119.4	490.5	609.9	2.3	9.1	5.7
Had taken only non-active steps to find a job (a)	9.1	33.4	42.5	0.2	0.6	0.4
Had taken no steps at all to find a job	110.3	457.1	567.4	2.1	8.5	5.3
Would have liked a job	92.8	386.4	479.2	1.8	7.1	4.5
Might have liked a job	17.5	70.8	88.3	0.3	1.3	0.8
Discouraged (b)	8.6	65.4	74.0	0.2	1.2	0.7
Had other reasons for not actively looking for work (b)	110.9	425.1	535.9	2.1	7.9	5.0

(a) See Explanatory notes, paragraph 6. (b) See Table 7.

TABLE 2. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE : OCCUPATION IN LAST REGULAR JOB (IF ANY) AND AGE, SEPTEMBER 1979 ('000)

Occupation in last regular job (a)	Age group (years)							Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	
MALES								
Professional and technical	*	— 6.6 —	*	*	*		8.6	19.7
Administrative, executive and managerial	*	*	*	*	— 6.4 —		10.0	19.0
Clerical workers	*	— 5.9 —	*	*	— 5.7 —		11.7	25.2
Sales workers	7.8	— 5.3 —	*	*	— 5.9 —		8.3	28.8
Farmers, fishermen, timbergetters etc.	— 7.2 —		*	— 5.7 —		5.1	11.0	31.7
Transport and communication	*	*	— 5.4 —		— 7.1 —		9.7	24.5
Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers n.e.c. (b)	15.4	15.2	12.3	13.4	26.6	22.9	46.8	152.5
Service, sport and recreation	— 6.2 —		*	— 4.5 —		4.8	8.6	26.0
Had not worked in last 10 years	*	*	*	*	5.0	*	6.8	17.8
Never had a regular job	180.7	11.7	4.5	*	*	*	*	200.8
<i>Total</i>	<i>213.9</i>	<i>44.0</i>	<i>32.8</i>	<i>27.4</i>	<i>53.0</i>	<i>52.4</i>	<i>122.4</i>	<i>546.0</i>
FEMALES								
Professional and technical	*	11.1	67.4	19.2	10.8	7.0	11.0	129.2
Administrative, executive and managerial	*	*	— 6.2 —		5.7	— 5.6 —		18.0
Clerical workers	12.4	44.3	172.4	42.7	30.6	25.3	16.1	343.9
Sales workers	18.4	35.4	57.2	21.8	27.8	14.5	16.9	192.0
Farmers, etc.	— 5.5 —		8.4	5.0	6.2	— 7.5 —		32.7
Transport and communication	— 4.7 —		9.8	5.2		— 4.8 —		24.6
Tradeswomen, production-process workers and labourers n.e.c. (b)	5.7	23.6	71.9	39.1	32.2	19.4	12.7	204.5
Service, sport and recreation	10.8	30.9	71.7	40.5	47.4	30.6	29.5	261.4
Had not worked in last 10 years	*	*	67.1	150.5	176.8	129.4	130.6	654.5
Never had a regular job	193.7	18.8	21.8	18.0	30.2	28.0	29.5	339.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>246.2</i>	<i>172.4</i>	<i>551.6</i>	<i>344.7</i>	<i>370.5</i>	<i>261.5</i>	<i>254.1</i>	<i>2,200.9</i>
PERSONS								
Professional and technical	*	15.2	69.9	20.9	12.9	8.4	19.6	148.9
Administrative, executive and managerial	*	*	4.8	*	8.1	6.8	12.8	37.0
Clerical workers	13.7	47.0	175.6	43.4	32.6	29.1	27.7	369.2
Sales workers	26.2	38.2	59.8	23.2	30.6	17.6	25.2	220.9
Farmers, fishermen, timbergetters etc.	6.3	6.4	11.1	7.1	9.8	8.7	14.9	64.4
Transport and communication	*	5.1	11.9	8.6	7.0	*	10.8	49.1
Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers n.e.c. (b)	21.1	38.8	84.2	52.5	58.8	42.2	59.5	357.1
Service, sport and recreation	13.5	34.4	73.7	41.5	50.8	35.4	38.1	287.4
Had not worked in last 10 years	*	*	67.1	152.5	181.8	133.5	137.4	672.3
Never had a regular job	374.4	30.5	26.3	19.8	31.2	28.2	30.4	540.7
<i>Total</i>	<i>460.1</i>	<i>216.4</i>	<i>584.3</i>	<i>372.1</i>	<i>423.5</i>	<i>313.9</i>	<i>376.5</i>	<i>2,746.9</i>

(a) Last regular job lasting two weeks or more. Occupation was asked only of persons who had worked in the last 10 years. (b) Includes miners, quarrymen and related workers.

TABLE 3. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE : WHETHER WANTED A JOB AND WHETHER INTENDING TO LOOK FOR WORK IN THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS, SEPTEMBER 1979 ('000)

Wanted a job or not	Intention to look for work in the next twelve months					Had a job to go to	Total
	Intending to look	Might look	Would not look	Did not know			
MALES							
Yes	57.7	12.9	21.7	*	7.8	101.9	
Maybe	*	5.8	5.9	*	*	17.5	
No	79.8	25.8	309.5	8.7	*	423.8	
Did not know	*	*	*	*	*	*	
<i>Total</i>	<i>142.3</i>	<i>44.6</i>	<i>338.0</i>	<i>12.8</i>	<i>8.2</i>	<i>546.0</i>	
FEMALES							
Yes	198.3	77.4	120.1	12.5	11.5	419.7	
Maybe	10.5	21.3	35.1	*	*	70.8	
No	117.4	67.2	1,479.8	25.4	*	1,689.9	
Did not know	*	*	8.4	*	*	20.5	
<i>Total</i>	<i>330.0</i>	<i>170.2</i>	<i>1,643.5</i>	<i>45.0</i>	<i>12.2</i>	<i>2,200.9</i>	
PERSONS							
Yes	256.0	90.3	141.7	14.3	19.3	521.7	
Maybe	14.6	27.1	41.1	*	*	88.3	
No	197.2	93.1	1,789.3	34.1	*	2,113.7	
Did not know	4.5	*	9.4	5.0	*	23.2	
<i>Total</i>	<i>472.3</i>	<i>214.7</i>	<i>1,981.5</i>	<i>57.8</i>	<i>20.5</i>	<i>2,746.9</i>	

TABLE 4. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE : BIRTHPLACE, WHETHER WANTED A JOB AND WHETHER INTENDING TO LOOK FOR WORK IN THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS, SEPTEMBER 1979 ('000)

	Born overseas			Total
	Born in Australia	Main English-speaking countries (a)	Other countries	
Wanted a job or not –				
Yes	384.6	60.9	76.2	521.7
Maybe	64.6	9.6	14.1	88.3
No	1,650.7	184.9	278.0	2,113.7
Did not know	15.9	*	5.9	23.2
Intention to look for work in the next twelve months –				
Intending to look	358.7	50.1	63.5	472.3
Might look	152.2	21.0	41.5	214.7
Would not look	1,549.0	178.5	253.9	1,981.5
Did not know	40.4	*	13.0	57.8
Had a job to go to	15.4	*	*	20.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>2,115.8</i>	<i>257.0</i>	<i>374.1</i>	<i>2,746.9</i>

(a) Comprises the U.K., Ireland, Canada, U.S.A., New Zealand and South Africa.

TABLE 5. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE AND WHO HAD HAD A REGULAR JOB : TIME SINCE LAST REGULAR JOB AND REASON FOR LEAVING IT, SEPTEMBER 1979 ('000)

Reason for leaving last regular job (a)	Time since last regular job (a)							Total
	Under 6 months	6 months and under 1 year	1 year and under 3 years	3 years and under 5 years	5 years and under 10 years	10 years and under 20 years	20 years and over	
MALES								
Dismissed, retrenched	6.8	*	8.8	— 5.9 —	*	*	*	26.3
Seasonal/temporary job/returned to studies	14.7	30.8	15.4	— 4.5 —	*	*	*	65.8
Retired/did not want to work any longer	10.2	10.3	30.9	18.7	7.8	*	*	80.1
Own ill health or injury	16.2	9.5	45.4	28.7	28.6	11.2	*	141.6
Other reasons	13.0	*	8.2	— 4.8 —	*	*	*	31.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>60.8</i>	<i>59.0</i>	<i>108.6</i>	<i>57.5</i>	<i>41.4</i>	<i>14.8</i>	<i>*</i>	<i>345.2</i>
FEMALES								
Dismissed, retrenched	12.2	13.7	28.9	23.7	16.4	6.9	5.3	107.1
Seasonal/temporary job/returned to studies	39.9	38.8	37.4	20.4	15.9	10.0	*	165.6
Retired/did not want to work any longer	15.4	17.3	41.4	37.2	46.1	36.6	12.7	206.7
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	7.6	5.8	10.6	6.2	7.2	*	*	41.4
Own ill health or injury	15.0	10.2	31.0	25.7	35.0	24.1	8.1	149.0
Left to get married	*	*	10.9	13.8	43.2	89.5	221.3	381.3
Pregnancy/to have children	25.8	30.1	92.5	83.1	110.5	97.1	49.8	488.9
To look after family or other person	10.0	8.9	28.3	21.3	30.8	31.9	21.6	152.8
Travel, changed residence, spouse transferred	11.9	8.9	24.0	22.3	30.7	18.1	6.7	122.6
Other reasons	8.8	*	9.8	7.1	9.0	4.9	*	45.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>147.6</i>	<i>138.6</i>	<i>314.7</i>	<i>260.7</i>	<i>344.9</i>	<i>322.2</i>	<i>332.3</i>	<i>1,861.0</i>
PERSONS								
Dismissed, retrenched	19.0	17.8	37.7	27.8	18.2	7.5	5.5	133.4
Seasonal/temporary job/returned to studies	54.5	69.6	52.7	24.1	16.7	10.4	*	231.4
Retired/did not want to work any longer	25.6	27.7	72.2	55.9	53.9	38.5	13.0	286.2
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	10.8	6.8	12.9	6.7	7.9	*	*	49.1
Own ill health or injury	31.2	19.7	76.4	54.4	63.6	35.3	10.1	290.6
Left to get married	*	*	10.9	14.0	43.2	89.5	221.5	381.9
Pregnancy/to have children	25.8	30.1	92.7	83.1	110.5	97.2	49.8	489.3
To look after family or other person	10.6	9.7	29.5	21.7	31.4	31.9	21.8	156.5
Travel, changed residence, spouse transferred	14.3	10.3	25.3	23.1	31.1	18.1	6.7	129.0
Other reasons	15.5	4.5	12.8	7.5	9.9	5.4	*	58.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>208.4</i>	<i>197.6</i>	<i>423.3</i>	<i>318.2</i>	<i>386.3</i>	<i>336.9</i>	<i>335.4</i>	<i>2,206.2</i>

(a) Last regular job lasting two weeks or more

TABLE 6. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE AND WHO WERE INTENDING TO LOOK FOR WORK IN THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS (a) : AGE AND WHETHER PREFERRED TO WORK FULL TIME OR PART TIME, SEPTEMBER 1979 ('000)

Whether preferred to work full time or part time	Age group (years)							Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	
MALES								
Preferred to work full time	72.9	17.9	13.2	8.0	7.7	6.4		126.1
Preferred to work part time	27.7	8.6	*	6.7		4.5	4.7	54.6
Total (b)	102.0	27.1	16.4	11.9	12.6	8.6	8.3	186.9
MARRIED WOMEN (c)								
Preferred to work full time	*	8.0	17.2	9.1	7.1	*	*	46.2
Preferred to work part time	*	23.7	106.0	64.5	40.7	12.3	*	253.5
Total (b)	6.0	33.4	126.2	76.0	51.4	14.9	*	311.5
OTHER FEMALES								
Preferred to work full time	79.2	16.7	6.2	5.0			*	107.6
Preferred to work part time	36.7	11.3	9.6	5.8	6.3	5.4		75.1
Total (b)	119.5	28.7	16.3	8.3	8.9	7.0		188.7
ALL FEMALES								
Preferred to work full time	81.5	24.7	23.4	11.2	9.4	*	*	153.7
Preferred to work part time	40.2	35.0	115.6	70.3	47.0	14.9	5.7	328.6
Total (b)	125.5	62.2	142.5	84.3	60.2	18.5	7.0	500.2
PERSONS								
Preferred to work full time	154.4	42.6	36.6	19.1	17.1	6.2	*	279.8
Preferred to work part time	67.9	43.6	117.9	72.9	51.0	19.4	10.5	383.2
No preference	5.2	*	8.5		4.7	*	*	24.0
Total	227.5	89.2	158.9	96.2	72.8	27.1	15.3	687.1

(a) Includes persons who stated that they might look for work in the next twelve months. (b) Includes persons who did not state a preference. (c) Includes permanently separated.

TABLE 7. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE AND WHO WANTED A JOB :
REASONS FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK (a) AND WHETHER INTENDING TO LOOK FOR
WORK IN THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS, SEPTEMBER 1979
(^{'000})

Reason for not actively looking for work (a)	Intention to look for work in the next twelve months				Total		
	Intending to look	Might look	Would not look	Did not know	Males	Females	Persons
Had a job to go to	(b)	(b)	(b)	(b)	8.2	12.2	20.5
Own ill health, disability, pregnancy	38.0	19.0	28.6	*	33.6	54.8	88.4
Attending an educational institution	75.0	12.3	22.2	*	50.6	60.1	110.7
Had no need to work	15.9	11.5	21.6	*	7.4	44.2	51.6
Family considerations (c)	76.2	51.2	81.7	8.7	*	214.4	217.9
Ill health of other than self	5.4	*	*	*	*	13.1	13.6
Unable to find child care	14.4	8.9	7.8	*	*	32.1	32.4
Preferred to look after children	38.6	24.9	56.6	5.0	*	124.7	125.2
Other family considerations	16.6	11.1	9.5	*	*	36.3	38.5
Discouraged	38.3	16.2	17.6	*	8.6	65.4	74.0
Considered too young or too old by employers	7.4	*	5.6	*	*	15.7	17.7
Language or racial difficulties, lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience	6.6	*	*	*	*	8.2	10.1
No jobs in locality or line of work	24.4	9.5	11.0	*	4.8	41.5	46.3
No jobs in suitable hours	5.6	*	*	*	*	9.5	10.1
Other reasons (d)	21.5	*	9.5	*	6.9	29.8	36.7
Total							
Males	61.8	18.7	27.6	*	119.4
Females	208.8	98.6	155.2	15.6	..	490.5	..
Persons	270.6	117.4	182.8	18.7	609.9

(a) Highest ranked reason only. See Explanatory notes, paragraph 8. (b) Intention to look for work in the next twelve months was not asked of persons who were not looking for work because they already had a job to go to. (c) Includes 8,200 females whose spouses disapproved of their taking a job. (d) Includes 5,800 persons who gave no reason.

TABLE 8. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE AND WHO WANTED A JOB :
AGE AND REASON (a) FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK, SEPTEMBER 1979
(^{'000})

Reason (a) for not looking for work	Age group (years)							Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	
MALES								
Personal considerations	45.7	7.6	6.3	6.8	8.9	8.9	7.6	91.7
Discouraged	— 4.5 —	*	*	*	*	*	*	8.6
Total (b)(c)	53.8	11.4	10.6	9.2	11.9	11.4	11.1	119.4
FEMALES								
Had a job to go to	*	*	5.5	4.5	*	*	*	12.2
Personal considerations	54.9	11.4	23.6	22.9	25.9	14.0	6.3	159.1
Family considerations	6.1	29.7	100.7	48.2	21.8	6.1	*	214.4
Discouraged (b)	— 8.6 —	*	14.4	13.3	18.5	7.6	*	65.4
Considered too young or too old	*	*	*	*	6.3	— 6.0 —	*	15.7
No jobs in locality or line of work	— 5.3 —	*	11.6	10.3	9.9	*	*	41.5
No jobs in suitable hours	*	*	— 6.3 —	*	*	*	*	9.5
Other reasons (c)	— 4.6 —	*	8.5	7.1	5.4	*	*	29.8
Total	69.1	49.9	156.5	96.1	75.3	31.2	12.4	490.5
PERSONS								
Had a job to go to	— 5.6 —	7.2	— 7.0 —	*	*	*	*	20.5
Personal considerations	100.6	19.0	29.9	29.7	34.8	22.9	13.9	250.8
Family considerations	7.0	29.8	101.4	48.3	22.3	6.3	*	217.9
Discouraged (b)	7.5	5.7	15.1	13.9	18.5	8.3	5.2	74.0
Considered too young or too old	*	*	*	*	6.3	— 7.8 —	*	17.7
No jobs in locality or line of work	— 8.4 —	*	12.0	10.7	9.9	— 5.4 —	*	46.3
No jobs in suitable hours	*	*	— 6.3 —	*	*	*	*	10.1
Other reasons (c)	— 7.0 —	*	9.8	7.6	6.5	— 5.8 —	*	36.7
Total	122.9	61.3	167.1	105.3	87.3	42.5	23.5	609.9

(a) Highest ranked reason only. See Explanatory notes, paragraph 8. (b) Includes reasons not shown separately. (c) Includes persons who gave no reason.

TABLE 9. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE AND WHO WANTED A JOB :
REASON FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK, STATES, SEPTEMBER 1979
(^{'000})

<i>Reason for not actively looking for work (a)</i>	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>Aust. (b)</i>
MALES							
Own ill health or physical disability	13.7	7.8	5.2	2.9	3.1	*	33.6
Attending an educational institution	19.3	13.3	7.4	4.0	3.8	*	50.6
<i>Total (c)</i>	<i>43.9</i>	<i>30.1</i>	<i>19.7</i>	<i>8.7</i>	<i>11.5</i>	<i>2.3</i>	<i>119.4</i>
FEMALES							
Own ill health, disability, pregnancy	22.3	15.0	6.7	4.0	4.2	1.9	54.8
Attending an educational institution	19.5	18.2	7.8	6.4	4.2	1.6	60.1
Had no need to work	14.1	9.9	7.6	4.4	5.9	1.6	44.2
Family considerations (c)	74.4	55.3	35.5	19.1	20.4	4.9	214.4
Unable to find child care	14.2	8.0	4.0	*	2.7	*	32.1
Preferred to look after children	41.6	32.8	20.7	10.9	12.7	2.9	124.7
Discouraged (c)	21.6	19.8	10.5	5.8	5.9	*	65.4
No jobs in locality or line of work	13.5	11.6	7.4	3.6	4.2	*	41.5
No jobs in suitable hours	*	*	*	*	*	*	9.5
Other reasons (d)	16.3	9.4	5.9	4.2	3.5	*	41.9
Total	170.9	130.7	75.2	44.9	44.8	12.4	490.5

(a) Highest ranked reason only. See Explanatory notes, paragraph 8. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (c) Includes reasons not shown separately. (d) Includes 12,200 females who had a job to go to and females who gave no reason.

TABLE 10. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE AND WHO WANTED A JOB :
BIRTHPLACE AND REASON FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK (a), SEPTEMBER 1979
(^{'000})

Reason for not actively looking for work	Born overseas							Total	Total
	Born in Australia	Period of arrival			Birthplace		Total		
		Before 1961	1961- 1969	1970- 1979	Main English speaking countries (b)	Other countries			
FEMALES									
Had a job to go to	9.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	12.2
Own ill health, disability, pregnancy	38.1	5.9	5.8	4.9	6.8	9.9	16.7	54.8	
Attending an educational institution	49.9	*	4.6	*	5.5	4.7	10.2	60.1	
Had no need to work	33.8	5.8	*	*	6.3	*	10.4	44.2	
Family considerations	153.7	20.4	22.3	18.1	24.4	36.3	60.8	214.4	
Ill health of other than self	9.6	*	*	*	*	*	*	13.1	
Unable to find child care	22.1	— 6.3 —		*	*	6.2	9.9	32.1	
Preferred to look after children	89.0	12.1	13.2	10.5	13.5	22.3	35.8	124.7	
Husband disapproved	6.7	*	*	*	*	*	*	8.2	
Other family considerations	26.3	— 7.2 —		*	5.7	*	10.1	36.3	
Discouraged	43.7	11.6	5.7	4.5	10.1	11.7	21.8	65.4	
Considered too young or too old by employers	9.3	— 5.5 —		*	*	*	6.5	15.7	
Language or racial difficulties, lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	8.2	
No jobs in locality or line of work	30.2	6.3	*	*	5.9	5.3	11.3	41.5	
No jobs in suitable hours	6.5	*	*	*	*	*	*	9.5	
Other reasons (c)	22.4	— 5.4 —		*	*	*	7.4	29.8	
Total	357.1	51.1	45.3	37.0	59.6	73.8	133.4	490.5	
PERSONS									
Had a job to go to	15.4	*	*	*	*	*	5.1	20.5	
Own ill health, disability, pregnancy	61.1	11.4	8.0	7.9	11.1	16.2	27.3	88.4	
Attending an educational institution	89.4	*	9.7	10.2	9.3	12.0	21.4	110.7	
Had no need to work	40.1	6.6	— 4.9 —		7.0	4.5	11.5	51.6	
Family considerations	156.6	20.7	22.3	18.3	24.6	36.6	61.3	217.9	
Ill health of other than self	10.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	13.6	
Unable to find child care	22.5	— 6.3 —		*	*	6.2	9.9	32.4	
Preferred to look after children	89.4	12.1	13.2	10.5	13.5	22.3	35.8	125.2	
Spouse disapproved	6.7	*	*	*	*	*	*	8.2	
Other family considerations	28.0	— 7.5 —		*	6.0	4.5	10.5	38.5	
Discouraged	51.0	12.2	5.8	5.0	10.4	12.6	23.0	74.0	
Considered too young or too old by employers	10.7	4.6	*	*	*	*	7.0	17.7	
Language or racial difficulties, lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience	5.5	*	*	*	*	*	4.6	10.1	
No jobs in locality or line of work	34.9	6.3	*	*	6.0	5.3	11.4	46.3	
No jobs in suitable hours	7.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	10.1	
Other reasons (c)	28.6	— 5.8 —		*	*	*	8.1	36.7	
Total	449.2	59.4	53.2	48.1	70.5	90.2	160.7	609.9	

(a) Highest ranked reason only. See Explanatory notes, paragraph 8. (b) Comprises the U.K., Ireland, Canada, U.S.A., New Zealand and South Africa. (c) Includes persons who gave no reason.

TABLE 11. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE AND WHO WANTED
A JOB : HIGHEST RANKED REASON AND SECOND REASON (IF ANY)
FOR NOT LOOKING FOR WORK, SEPTEMBER 1979
(^{'000})

Highest-ranked reason for not looking for work	Second reason for not looking for work (a)									
	Family considerations				Discouraged			No second reason given		
	Had no need to work	Preferred to look after children	Spouse dis- approved	Total (b)	No jobs in locality or line of work	Total (b)	No jobs in suitable hours	Total (b)	No second reason given	Total
FEMALES										
Had a job to go to	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	11.0	12.2
Own ill health, disability, pregnancy	*	5.3	*	8.8	*	5.6	*	19.7	35.1	54.8
Attending an educational institution	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	10.8	49.4	60.1
Had no need to work	..	6.7	*	13.2	*	6.8	*	24.3	19.9	44.2
Family considerations	*	16.1	6.2	33.4	12.8	21.1	10.2	73.6	140.8	214.4
Unable to find child care	*	13.1	*	14.1	*	*	*	19.8	12.3	32.1
Preferred to look after children	*	..	5.8	12.7	6.7	10.5	5.6	33.2	91.5	124.7
Other family considerations	*	*	*	6.6	*	8.5	*	20.6	37.0	57.6
Discouraged (b)	*	*	*	*	8.2	12.2	10.3	28.5	36.9	65.4
No jobs in locality or line of work	*	*	*	*	..	*	9.6	14.2	27.3	41.5
Other reasons (c)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	37.6	39.3
<i>Total</i>	*	29.5	8.1	58.4	29.9	50.2	23.5	159.9	330.6	490.5
PERSONS										
Had a job to go to	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	18.7	20.5
Own ill health, disability, pregnancy	*	5.3	*	9.6	*	7.6	*	27.6	60.9	88.4
Attending an educational institution	*	*	*	*	*	7.7	*	19.9	90.8	110.7
Had no need to work	..	6.7	*	13.2	4.5	7.8	*	26.3	25.3	51.6
Family considerations	*	16.3	6.2	33.5	12.9	21.2	10.3	74.3	143.5	217.9
Unable to find child care	*	13.2	*	14.3	*	*	*	19.9	12.5	32.4
Preferred to look after children	*	..	5.8	12.7	6.7	10.5	5.6	33.2	91.9	125.2
Other family considerations	*	*	*	6.6	*	8.6	*	21.2	39.1	60.3
Discouraged (b)	*	*	*	*	10.1	14.3	10.4	32.2	41.8	74.0
No jobs in locality or line of work	*	*	*	*	..	*	9.8	15.2	31.0	46.3
Other reasons (c)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	45.0	46.8
<i>Total</i>	6.2	29.7	8.3	60.3	35.9	59.5	25.7	184.0	425.9	609.9

(a) See Explanatory notes, paragraph 8. (b) Includes reasons not shown separately. (c) Includes persons who gave no reason and persons who answered "No jobs in suitable hours".

TABLE 12. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE AND WHO WANTED A JOB : AGE AND WHETHER PREFERRED TO WORK FULL TIME OR PART TIME, SEPTEMBER 1979 ('000)

Whether preferred to work full time or part time	Age group (years)							Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	
MALES								
Preferred to work full time	28.4	5.5	6.1	4.6	5.3	—6.4—		56.3
Preferred to work part time	22.2	—6.3—		—6.1—		6.3	6.6	47.6
Total (a)(b)	53.8	11.4	10.6	9.2	11.9	11.4	11.1	119.4
MARRIED WOMEN (c)								
Preferred to work full time	*	7.3	12.0	8.4	6.5	*	*	37.3
Preferred to work part time	*	26.0	120.2	74.1	52.9	20.8	5.6	302.9
No preference	*	—6.3—		—5.8—		*	*	13.9
Total (b)	*	36.9	141.4	87.5	64.9	24.7	6.3	365.9
OTHER FEMALES								
Preferred to work full time	31.7	—7.8—		—5.4—			*	45.4
Preferred to work part time	30.7	7.3	9.3	6.3	7.2	4.7	5.0	70.5
Total (a)(b)	64.8	13.0	15.1	8.7	10.4	6.5	6.1	124.6
ALL FEMALES								
Preferred to work full time	32.1	11.3	15.8	10.1	9.1	*	*	82.8
Preferred to work part time	34.0	33.3	129.5	80.4	60.1	25.5	10.5	373.4
No preference		—4.7—	5.2	—6.7—		*	*	18.7
Total (b)	69.1	49.9	156.5	96.1	75.3	31.2	12.4	490.5
PERSONS								
Preferred to work full time	60.5	16.8	21.9	14.7	14.4	7.6	*	139.0
Preferred to work part time	56.3	37.3	131.8	82.7	64.0	31.8	17.1	421.0
No preference		—5.7—	5.5	4.6	4.5	—4.6—		24.9
Total (b)	122.9	61.3	167.1	105.3	87.3	42.5	23.5	609.9

(a) Includes persons who did not state a preference. (b) Includes persons who had a job to go to and a small number of persons who took only non-active steps to find work. These persons were not asked whether they preferred full-time or part-time work. (c) Includes permanently separated.

TABLE 13. DISCOURAGED JOBSEEKERS : SUMMARY OF CHARACTERISTICS, SEPTEMBER 1979

	<i>Females</i>		<i>Persons</i>	
	('000)		(per cent)	
Total	65.4	74.0	100.0	100.0
Marital status —				
Married (a)	52.2	55.6	79.7	75.1
Not married	13.3	18.5	20.3	24.9
Age (years) —				
15-19	*	7.5	*	10.1
20-24	*	5.7	*	7.7
25-34	14.4	15.1	21.9	20.3
35-44	13.3	13.9	20.3	18.8
45-54	18.5	18.5	28.2	24.9
55-64	10.7	13.5	16.4	18.2
Place of residence —				
New South Wales	21.6	24.5	33.0	33.2
Victoria	19.8	22.6	30.2	30.6
Queensland	10.5	11.4	16.0	15.4
South Australia	5.8	6.1	8.9	8.2
Western Australia	5.9	7.4	9.0	9.9
Tasmania	*	*	*	*
Six State capital cities	35.8	39.9	54.8	53.9
Other areas (b)	29.6	34.2	45.2	46.1
Birthplace —				
Australia	43.7	51.0	66.7	69.0
Main English-speaking countries (c)	10.1	10.4	15.4	14.1
Other countries	11.7	12.6	17.8	17.0
Had looked for work in the last 12 months	26.9	30.2	41.2	40.8
Had not looked for work in the last 12 months	38.5	43.8	58.8	59.1
Had never had a regular job	5.1	7.5	7.8	10.1
Had had a regular job	60.4	66.5	92.2	89.9
Time since last regular job —				
Under 6 months	5.6	7.2	8.6	9.7
6 months and under 1 year	7.4	9.2	11.3	12.4
1 year and under 3 years	11.6	13.7	17.8	18.5
3 years and under 10 years	20.7	21.4	31.6	29.0
10 years and under 20 years	10.2	10.2	15.6	13.8
20 years or more	4.8	4.8	7.4	6.5
Reason for leaving last regular job —				
Dismissed, retrenched	9.7	11.0	14.8	14.9
Seasonal/temporary/returned to studies	8.7	10.7	13.2	14.4
Retired, did not need to work any longer	*	*	*	*
Own ill health or injury	5.0	5.6	7.6	7.6
Family considerations	19.1	19.4	29.1	26.2
Left to get married	7.3	7.3	11.2	9.9
Left to have children	7.2	7.5	11.0	10.1
Other family considerations	4.6	4.6	7.0	6.2
Travel, changed residence, spouse transferred	9.3	9.9	14.2	13.4
Other reasons (d)	6.2	7.0	9.5	9.5

(a) Includes permanently separated. (b) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (c) Comprises the U.K., Ireland, Canada, U.S.A., New Zealand and South Africa. (d) Includes 4,800 persons whose reason was unsatisfactory work arrangements.

TABLE 14. DISCOURAGED JOBSEEKERS : STATES AND STATE CAPITAL CITIES, SEPTEMBER 1979 ('000)

	<i>Females</i>		<i>Persons</i>	
	<i>Married</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Total</i>
STATES				
New South Wales	16.1	21.6	17.5	24.5
Victoria	16.4	19.8	17.6	22.6
Queensland	8.9	10.5	9.3	11.4
South Australia	4.6	5.8	4.6	6.1
Western Australia	4.8	5.9	5.3	7.4
Australia (a)	52.2	65.4	55.6	74.0
STATE CAPITAL CITIES				
Sydney	7.8	10.2	8.9	12.0
Melbourne	11.4	12.9	11.8	14.2
Brisbane	4.1	5.1	4.1	5.1
Adelaide	2.7	3.3	2.7	3.5
Perth	3.2	3.9	3.4	4.6
Total (b)	29.5	35.8	31.3	39.9

(a) Includes Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (b) Includes Hobart.

TABLE 15. DISCOURAGED JOBSEEKERS : AGE AND REASON FOR BELIEVING NO WORK AVAILABLE (a), SEPTEMBER 1979 ('000)

Reason for believing no work available (a)	Age group (years)					Total
	15-19	20-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	
Considered too young or too old by employers	*	*	*	6.3	7.8	17.7
Language or racial difficulties, lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience	5.6		*	*	*	10.1
No jobs in locality or line of work	*	16.2	10.7	9.9	5.4	46.3
Total	7.5	20.7	13.9	18.5	13.5	74.0

(a) Highest-ranked reason only. See Explanatory notes, paragraph 8.

TABLE 16. FEMALES AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE AND WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE : WHETHER WANTED A JOB BY NUMBER AND AGE OF CHILDREN FOR WHOM RESPONSIBLE, SEPTEMBER 1979 ('000)

Number and age of children for whom responsible		Wanted a job		Did not want a job (c)	Total
Under 6 years	6-11 years	If child care available (a)	Other (b)		
None	1	8.3	40.3	93.0	141.6
	2	9.5	38.5	56.4	104.4
	3 or more	*	8.6	14.3	24.8
	Total	19.8	87.4	163.6	270.8
1	none	25.5	45.6	127.2	198.3
	1	18.3	31.5	64.3	114.0
	2	6.7	13.7	33.4	53.8
	3 or more	*	*	7.5	11.7
Total	52.0	93.5	232.3	377.8	
2	none	25.5	36.8	100.2	162.4
	1	6.8	9.8	29.2	45.8
	2 or more	*	*	12.1	18.6
Total	35.5	49.9	141.4	226.9	
3 or more	none	5.5	5.5	19.5	30.5
	Total	6.9	7.6	27.7	42.2
Total	none	56.6	87.8	246.8	391.2
	1	34.5	82.6	191.6	308.7
	2	19.1	55.7	101.0	175.7
	3 or more	*	12.2	25.7	42.0
	Total	114.2	238.4	565.1	917.7

(a) Comprises 103,000 females who initially stated that they would not like a job or did not know whether they would, but later stated that they would or might like a job if they had suitable child care arrangements for all their children under 12 years of age and 11,200 females (6,300 responsible only for children under 5 years of age) who stated that they would or might like a job and whose *only reason* for not looking for work was that they were unable to find child care. (b) Comprises females who would or might have liked a job and whose reasons for not looking for work either did not include lack of suitable child care arrangements or included some other reason in conjunction with lack of suitable child care arrangements. (c) Comprises females who would not have liked a job or did not know whether they would, even if suitable child care arrangements were available.

TABLE 17. FEMALES AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE, WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE AND WOULD HAVE WANTED A JOB IF CHILD CARE HAD BEEN AVAILABLE (a) : SUMMARY OF CHARACTERISTICS, SEPTEMBER 1979 ('000)

	<i>Responsible only for –</i>		<i>Responsible for children aged 0-5 years and 6-11 years</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>Children aged 0-5 years</i>	<i>Children aged 6-11 years</i>		
Total	56.6	19.8	37.8	114.2
Age of female responsible (years) –				
15-24	20.9	*	*	23.2
25-34	31.7	6.2	28.6	66.6
35 and over	*	13.1	7.4	24.4
Marital status –				
Married (b)	50.3	17.0	35.8	103.1
Not married	6.3	*	*	11.1
Place of residence –				
New South Wales	24.4	8.4	15.1	47.9
Sydney	17.4	4.9	10.3	32.5
Other	7.0	*	4.8	15.4
Victoria	13.1	*	8.0	24.9
Melbourne	8.5	*	5.5	17.2
Other	4.6	*	*	7.7
Queensland	5.4	*	7.1	15.8
Brisbane	*	*	*	6.8
Other	*	*	4.0	9.0
South Australia	4.7	*	3.2	9.5
Adelaide	3.2	*	*	6.6
Other	*	*	*	2.9
Western Australia	5.6	*	3.0	10.5
Perth	4.2	*	*	6.7
Other	*	*	*	3.8
Tasmania	*	*	*	2.9
Total Six State capital cities	36.1	11.8	23.3	71.1
Total other areas (c)	20.5	8.0	14.6	43.0
Birthplace –				
Australia	43.0	15.1	29.4	87.5
Overseas	13.6	4.7	8.4	26.7
Main English-speaking countries (d)	4.5	*	*	9.8
Other overseas countries	9.1	*	4.9	16.9
Period of arrival –				
Before 1961	*	*	*	8.1
1961 to 1969	*	*	*	6.9
1970 to September 1979	7.0	*	*	11.7
Preferred work arrangements –				
Full-time work	9.8	*	*	15.4
Part-time work	44.4	17.2	32.8	94.4
No preference	*	*	*	*

(a) See footnote (a) to Table 16. (b) Includes permanently separated. (c) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (d) Comprises the U.K., Ireland, Canada, U.S.A., New Zealand and South Africa.

TECHNICAL NOTE

Estimation procedure

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

Reliability of the estimates

2. Since the estimates in this 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 the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included. One measure of the likely difference is given by the *standard error*, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included in the survey. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

3. Space does not allow for the separate indication of the standard errors of all estimates in this publication. A table of standard errors for general application is given below. These figures will not give a precise measure of the standard error of a particular estimate since they are averages based on calculations for a limited number of past surveys over a wide range of labour force characteristics. However, they will provide an indication of the magnitude of the standard error. An example of the calculation and use of standard error is as follows: the estimated number of persons aged 15 to 64 years who were not in the labour force and who wanted a job is 609,900 (Table 1). From the table below it will be seen that the estimate has a standard error of about

7,600 and 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 602,300 to 617,500 and about nineteen chances in twenty that it will fall within the range 594,700 to 625,100.

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

5. As the standard errors in the table show, *the smaller the estimate the higher is the relative standard error*. Very small estimates are thus subject to such high standard errors (relative to the size of the estimate) as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable uses. In the tables in this publication estimates less than the lowest levels shown in the table below have not been included. Although figures for these small components can in some cases be derived by subtraction, they should not be regarded as reliable.

6. The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the standard error, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as the *non-sampling error*, and they may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or only a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient operating procedures.

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia	
									(number)	Per cent of estimate
1,500						300				
2,000						340	470	440		
2,500				510	510	380	510	480		
3,000				550	560	410	550	510		
3,500			740	590	590	430	590	540		
4,000			780	620	630	460	620	560		
4,500	1,000	1,000	820	650	660	480	650	590	970	21.6
5,000	1,100	1,100	860	680	690	500	680	610	1,000	20.0
6,000	1,200	1,200	930	730	750	530	740	650	1,100	18.0
10,000	1,500	1,400	1,200	900	920	640	910	750	1,400	14.0
20,000	2,000	1,900	1,500	1,200	1,200	810	1,200	910	2,000	10.0
50,000	3,000	2,700	2,200	1,600	1,700	1,100	1,700	1,100	2,900	5.8
100,000	3,900	3,500	2,800	2,100	2,100	1,300		1,300	3,900	3.9
200,000	5,000	4,400	3,600	2,600	2,600	1,500			5,100	2.6
300,000	5,800	5,000	4,100	2,900	2,900				6,000	2.0
500,000	6,900	5,800	4,800	3,300	3,300				7,200	1.4
1,000,000	8,500	7,000	5,900						9,100	0.9
2,000,000	10,000	8,400							11,000	0.6
5,000,000									15,000	0.3

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

