



PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE, MARCH 1981 (including discouraged jobseekers)

PHONE INQUIRIES *for more information about these statistics*—contact Dennis Scoble on Canberra (062) 52 6503 or any of our State offices.

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MAIL INQUIRIES *write to* Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any of our State offices.

MAIN FEATURES

In March 1981 an estimated 2,862,700 persons aged 15 to 64 years were not in the labour force (i.e. were neither employed nor unemployed). Of these:

2,147,100 did not want a full-time or part-time job;

31,500 had actively looked for work in the four weeks before the interview week but could not have started work in the survey week;

607,900 other persons would, or might, have liked a job. Of these:

69,800 were discouraged jobseekers, i.e. they wanted a job but had not actively looked for work because they believed that there were no suitable jobs in their locality, that employers considered them too young or too old, or that they lacked the necessary schooling, experience, etc.;

the remaining 538,100 persons had not actively looked for work, for the following reasons:

personal reasons	253,200
family reasons	216,200
had a job to go to	16,500
no jobs in suitable hours	11,100
other reasons	41,100

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

In March 1981, 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. Results of similar surveys, first conducted in November 1975, were published in previous issues of this publication.

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, 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 9 March 1981.

Scope

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

- members of the permanent defence forces;
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations;
- overseas visitors holidaying in Australia; and
- 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. Among the reasons for not looking for work *personal considerations* include: own ill health, physical disability or pregnancy; studying or returning to studies; and no necessity to work; *family considerations* include such matters as ill health of another person; inability to find child care; children thought to be too young; a preference for looking after children and disapproval by the person's spouse.

8. *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 March 1979 survey. See paragraphs 10 and 11 for the effect of the change.

9. 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 order of priority shown in Table 2. If more than one reason was given, only the higher or highest ranked has been included in the estimates in Tables 2 to 4. Table 5 shows all responses.

Discontinuities in the series

10. The estimates in this publication are not strictly comparable with those obtained from previous surveys. For the September 1980 survey only, persons who had a job but had been away from work without pay for four weeks or more up to the end of the survey week were not included in the category *Had not actively looked for work*. For more information refer to the September 1980 issue of this publication.

11. Estimates for March 1979 and earlier periods are not strictly comparable with those obtained from later surveys because, commencing with the September 1979 survey, the definition of *Persons who wanted a job* was 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 number of such persons for earlier surveys, including those defined as *discouraged jobseekers*, are shown in previous issues of this publication.

Reliability of the estimates

12. 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 8.

Related publications

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

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)—issued monthly

Labour Force Experience, Australia (6206.0)

Labour Mobility, Australia (6209.0)

Persons Looking for Work, Australia (6222.0)

14. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (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 12 above)
- .. not applicable
- n.e.c. not elsewhere classified

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

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TABLE 1. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER : EMPLOYMENT STATUS, MARCH 1981

	Number ('000)			Per cent of total		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Civilian population aged 15 years and over	5,431.2	5,568.6	10,999.8	100.0	100.0	100.0
Employed	4,075.6	2,314.2	6,389.9	75.0	41.6	58.1
Unemployed	203.2	206.6	409.8	3.7	3.7	3.7
Not in the labour force	1,152.3	3,047.7	4,200.1	21.2	54.7	38.2
Aged 65 years and over	529.3	808.1	1,337.4	9.7	14.5	12.2
Aged 15 to 64 years	623.1	2,239.6	2,862.7	11.5	40.2	26.0
Inmate of an institution, permanently unable to work, boarding school student	45.7	30.5	76.2	0.8	0.5	0.7
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	12.7	18.8	31.5	0.2	0.3	0.3
Had not actively looked for work	564.7	2,190.3	2,755.0	10.4	39.3	25.0
Did not want a job	446.2	1,670.2	2,116.4	8.2	30.0	19.2
Did not know whether wanted a job	6.9	23.8	30.7	0.1	0.4	0.3
Wanted a job	111.6	496.3	607.9	2.1	8.9	5.5
Had taken only non-active steps to find a job(a)	12.9	33.0	46.0	0.2	0.6	0.4
Had taken no steps at all to find a job	98.6	463.3	561.9	1.8	8.3	5.1
Would have liked a job	79.7	382.2	461.8	1.5	6.9	4.2
Might have liked a job	19.0	81.1	100.1	0.3	1.5	0.9
Discouraged(a)	10.2	59.5	69.8	0.2	1.1	0.6
Had other reasons for not actively looking for work	101.4	436.8	538.1	1.9	7.8	4.9

(a) See Explanatory Notes, paragraph 9.

TABLE 2. 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, MARCH 1981
(*000)

Reason for not actively looking for work	Age group (years)							Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	
MALES								
Personal considerations	35.3	5.9	7.4	6.1	9.3	8.9	9.0	82.0
Discouraged		5.6		*	*	*	*	10.2
Total(b)(c)	42.1	9.0	14.9	9.8	13.2	10.4	12.1	111.6
FEMALES								
Had a job to go to	*	*	6.1		*	*	*	9.2
Personal considerations	51.4	15.7	27.5	27.2	26.8	15.1	7.7	171.3
Family considerations	5.5	33.5	103.0	45.8	19.0	5.3	*	213.9
Discouraged(b)		6.7	13.6	13.8	16.3	5.8	*	59.5
Considered too young or too old	*	*	*	*	5.5		5.7	13.8
No jobs in locality or line of work		5.5	9.5	10.0	8.6	*	*	36.5
No jobs in suitable hours	*		5.0		4.5	*	*	10.4
Other reasons(c)		5.6	10.0	6.5	6.2	*	*	32.0
Total	64.9	58.1	161.8	99.0	69.5	28.6	14.4	496.3
PERSONS								
Had a job to go to	4.9		7.1	*	*	*	*	16.5
Personal considerations	86.7	21.7	34.9	33.2	36.1	23.9	16.6	253.2
Family considerations	5.8	33.6	103.4	46.6	19.2	5.8	*	216.2
Discouraged(b)	6.3	*	15.3	14.2	18.1	6.4	5.1	69.8
Considered too young or too old	*	*	*	*	6.8		7.8	17.8
No jobs in locality or line of work		7.8	10.7	10.2	8.9	*	*	40.7
No jobs in suitable hours	*		5.0		4.6	*	*	11.1
Other reasons(c)	4.5	*	12.1	8.5	6.9		5.0	41.1
Total	107.0	67.1	176.7	108.8	82.7	39.0	26.5	607.9

(a) Highest ranked reason only. See Explanatory notes, paragraph 9. (b) Includes reasons not shown separately. (c) Includes persons who gave no reason.

**TABLE 3. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE AND WHO WANTED A JOB:
BIRTHPLACE AND REASON(a) FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK, MARCH 1981
(* 000)**

Reason for not actively looking for work	Born overseas							Total	Total
	Born in Australia	Period of arrival			Birthplace		Total		
		Before 1961	1961- 1970	1971- 1981	Main English speaking countries (b)	Other countries			
MALES									
Personal considerations	60.1	8.7	7.3	5.8	8.6	13.3	21.8	82.0	
Discouraged	5.5	*	*	*	*	*	4.7	10.2	
<i>Total(c)(d)</i>	<i>80.3</i>	<i>13.0</i>	<i>9.9</i>	<i>8.4</i>	<i>12.2</i>	<i>19.1</i>	<i>31.3</i>	<i>111.6</i>	
FEMALES									
Had a job to go to	7.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	9.2	
Personal considerations	130.0	14.0	14.5	12.8	18.8	22.5	41.3	171.3	
Family considerations	160.5	15.1	21.3	16.9	23.9	29.5	53.4	213.9	
Discouraged	36.7	9.2	7.4	6.2	8.7	14.1	22.8	59.5	
Considered too young or too old	7.4	5.3		*	*	*	6.4	13.8	
No jobs in locality or line of work	25.0	4.7	*	*	5.4	6.1	11.5	36.5	
No jobs in suitable hours	8.2	*	*	*	*	*	*	10.4	
Other reasons(d)	23.5	6.2		*	*	*	8.4	32.0	
<i>Total</i>	<i>366.0</i>	<i>42.0</i>	<i>48.4</i>	<i>40.0</i>	<i>57.7</i>	<i>72.6</i>	<i>130.3</i>	<i>496.3</i>	
PERSONS									
Had a job to go to	12.8	*	*	*	*	*	*	16.5	
Personal considerations	190.1	22.7	21.8	18.6	27.4	35.7	63.1	253.2	
Family considerations	162.1	15.3	21.5	17.2	24.4	29.7	54.0	216.2	
Discouraged	42.2	11.9	8.3	7.4	10.6	16.9	27.5	69.8	
Considered too young or too old	9.1	5.0	*	*	*	5.0	8.6	17.8	
No jobs in locality or line of work	27.6	5.9	4.5	*	5.9	7.2	13.1	40.7	
No jobs in suitable hours	8.8	*	*	*	*	*	*	11.1	
Other reasons	25.4	6.4		*	*	5.1	9.4	34.8	
No reason given	4.8	*	*	*	*	*	*	6.3	
Total	446.3	54.9	58.3	48.4	70.0	91.6	161.6	607.9	

(a) Highest ranked reason only. See Explanatory notes, paragraph 9. (b) Comprises the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, the United States of America, South Africa and New Zealand. (c) Includes reasons not shown separately. (d) Includes persons who gave no reason.

**TABLE 4. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE AND WHO WANTED A JOB:
REASON(a) FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK, MARCH 1981
(^{' 000})**

<i>Reason(a) for not actively looking for work</i>	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>A.C.T.</i>	<i>Australia (b)</i>
MALES								
Personal considerations	26.6	21.1	13.8	8.9	7.7	1.9	*	82.0
Discouraged	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	10.2
Total(c)(d)	35.5	27.0	18.9	10.9	11.0	2.7	2.6	111.6
FEMALES								
Had a job to go to	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	9.2
Personal considerations	58.3	47.4	29.0	14.8	13.8	3.8	3.2	171.3
Family considerations	78.3	51.3	33.0	19.2	21.3	5.8	3.2	213.9
Discouraged	18.3	18.3	7.6	6.0	6.8	1.7	*	59.5
Considered too young or too old	*	4.9	*	*	*	*	*	13.8
No jobs in locality or line of work	11.8	10.9	5.3	3.5	3.5	*	*	36.5
No jobs in suitable hours	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	10.4
Other reasons(d)	12.1	6.5	5.1	3.3	3.7	*	*	32.0
Total	173.0	129.4	77.8	45.5	46.7	12.3	8.6	496.3
PERSONS								
Had a job to go to	4.8	*	*	*	*	*	*	16.5
Personal considerations	84.9	68.5	42.8	23.7	21.5	5.7	5.0	253.2
Family considerations	79.0	51.8	33.8	19.2	21.6	5.9	3.2	216.2
Discouraged	20.1	21.2	8.5	7.1	8.2	2.1	*	69.8
Considered too young or too old	*	6.0	*	*	2.6	*	*	17.8
No jobs in locality or line of work	12.5	12.1	5.8	3.9	4.0	*	*	40.7
No jobs in suitable hours	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	11.1
Other reasons(d)	16.4	8.2	6.7	4.0	4.3	*	*	41.1
Total	208.5	156.4	96.7	56.4	57.7	15.0	11.2	607.9

(a) Highest ranked reason only. See Explanatory notes, paragraph 9. (b) Includes the Northern Territory. (c) Includes reasons not shown separately. (d) Includes persons who gave no reason.

**TABLE 5. REASONS FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK : ALL RESPONSES(a) OF PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE AND WHO WANTED A JOB, MARCH 1981
(^{' 000} responses)**

<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>A.C.T.</i>	<i>Australia (b)</i>
FEMALES								
Had a job to go to	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	9.2
Personal considerations	58.3	47.4	29.0	14.8	13.8	3.8	3.2	171.3
Family considerations	85.8	55.2	37.3	21.1	23.4	6.5	3.5	234.7
Considered too young or too old	6.0	6.6	*	*	2.9	*	*	19.8
Language or racial difficulties; lacks necessary skills, training etc.	5.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	17.4
No jobs in locality or line of work	18.3	16.5	9.1	5.6	6.1	1.9	*	58.0
No jobs in suitable hours	11.1	11.6	6.6	3.3	2.5	*	*	37.2
Other reasons(c)	15.1	10.3	8.0	4.9	4.7	*	*	44.7
Total reasons(a)	203.3	154.8	95.2	54.6	56.0	15.2	10.1	592.3
PERSONS								
Had a job to go to	4.8	*	*	*	*	*	*	16.5
Personal considerations	84.9	68.5	42.8	23.7	21.5	5.7	5.0	253.2
Family considerations	87.0	56.1	38.3	21.1	23.6	6.6	3.5	238.1
Considered too young or too old	7.1	7.7	*	2.9	3.4	*	*	25.3
Language or racial difficulties; lacks necessary skills, training etc.	6.9	5.4	*	*	2.7	*	*	21.4
No jobs in locality or line of work	19.9	18.1	10.5	6.2	7.3	2.2	*	65.4
No jobs in suitable hours	12.8	13.1	7.2	3.5	3.3	*	*	42.5
Other reasons(c)	19.6	13.4	10.1	5.7	5.8	*	*	56.8
Total reasons(a)	243.0	186.1	116.7	66.7	69.3	18.4	12.9	719.2

(a) Includes all responses for those who gave more than one reason for not looking for work. (b) Includes the Northern Territory. (c) Excludes persons who gave no reason.

**TABLE 6. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE AND WHO WANTED A JOB(a):
WHETHER HAD LOOKED FOR WORK AND WHETHER HAD A JOB IN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS, MARCH 1981
(' 000)**

	<i>N.S.W.</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>S.A.</i>	<i>W.A.</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>A.C.T.</i>	<i>Australia</i> (b)
MALES								
Had a job in the last 12 months	9.8	6.5	5.5	2.9	3.2	*	*	29.9
Had looked for work since that job	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	9.3
Had not looked for work since that job	7.3	*	3.7	*	*	*	*	20.7
Did not have a job in the last 12 months	23.6	19.8	12.1	7.8	7.1	1.5	*	74.3
Had looked for work in the last 12 months	9.9	5.6	3.7	2.6	3.2	*	*	26.5
Had not looked for work in the last 12 months	13.7	14.2	8.4	5.2	3.9	*	*	47.8
Had looked for work	12.4	7.9	5.5	3.4	4.1	*	*	35.7
Had not looked for work	21.0	18.4	12.1	7.3	6.2	1.9	*	68.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>33.4</i>	<i>26.3</i>	<i>17.6</i>	<i>10.7</i>	<i>10.3</i>	<i>2.4</i>	<i>2.2</i>	<i>104.2</i>
FEMALES								
Had a job in the last 12 months	28.9	24.5	14.8	6.5	9.7	1.8	*	88.3
Had looked for work since that job	6.1	5.9	*	*	*	*	*	19.4
Had not looked for work since that job	22.8	18.6	11.7	5.3	7.3	*	*	68.8
Did not have a job in the last 12 months	141.4	101.9	61.9	38.0	36.1	10.3	7.2	398.9
Had looked for work in the last 12 months	29.5	24.2	15.2	9.8	9.3	2.5	2.3	93.3
Had not looked for work in the last 12 months	111.9	77.6	46.7	28.2	26.8	7.8	4.9	305.6
Had looked for work	35.5	30.1	18.4	10.9	11.8	2.9	2.5	112.7
Had not looked for work	134.7	96.2	58.4	33.6	34.0	9.2	5.9	374.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>170.3</i>	<i>126.3</i>	<i>76.8</i>	<i>44.5</i>	<i>45.8</i>	<i>12.1</i>	<i>8.3</i>	<i>487.1</i>
PERSONS								
Had a job in the last 12 months	38.7	31.0	20.3	9.4	12.9	2.8	*	118.2
Had looked for work since that job	8.6	8.2	4.9	*	3.3	*	*	28.7
Had not looked for work since that job	30.1	22.8	15.4	7.4	9.6	2.2	*	89.5
Did not have a job in the last 12 months	165.0	121.7	74.0	45.8	43.2	11.7	9.1	473.2
Had looked for work in the last 12 months	39.3	29.9	18.9	12.3	12.5	2.9	2.8	119.8
Had not looked for work in the last 12 months	125.7	91.8	55.1	33.4	30.7	8.8	6.3	353.4
Had looked for work	47.9	38.0	23.8	14.3	15.8	3.5	3.0	148.5
Had not looked for work	155.7	114.6	70.5	40.9	40.2	11.0	7.5	442.9
Total	203.7	152.6	94.3	55.2	56.1	14.5	10.6	591.3

(a) Excluding those who had a job to go to. (b) Includes the Northern Territory.

TABLE 7. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE DISCOURAGED JOBSEEKERS : MARITAL STATUS, STATES AND STATE CAPITAL CITIES, MARCH 1981
(' 000)

	<i>Females</i>		<i>Persons</i>	
	<i>Married</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Total</i>
STATES				
New South Wales	15.5	18.3	15.9	20.1
Victoria	13.1	18.3	13.6	21.2
Queensland	5.9	7.6	6.6	8.5
South Australia	4.8	6.0	5.4	7.1
Western Australia	5.1	6.8	5.5	8.2
Tasmania	1.5	1.7	1.6	2.1
Australia(a)	46.7	59.5	51.0	69.8
STATE CAPITAL CITIES				
Sydney	5.6	6.5	5.6	7.3
Melbourne	9.7	12.3	10.2	14.6
Brisbane	*	*	*	*
Adelaide	3.1	4.3	3.4	5.1
Perth	3.7	5.1	4.1	6.5
Total(b)	24.1	31.1	25.4	36.6

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

TABLE 8. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS WHO WERE DISCOURAGED JOBSEEKERS : WHETHER HAD LOOKED FOR WORK AND WHETHER HAD A JOB IN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS, MARCH 1981
(' 000)

	<i>Females</i>		<i>Persons</i>	
	<i>Married</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Total</i>
Had a job in the last 12 months	6.9	9.1	8.7	12.2
Had looked for work since that job	*	4.9	*	6.7
Had not looked for work since that job	*	*	*	5.5
Did not have a job in the last 12 months	39.8	50.4	42.3	57.6
Had looked for work in the last 12 months	13.2	18.1	14.8	22.3
Had not looked for work in the last 12 months	26.5	32.2	27.4	35.3
Had looked for work	16.4	23.0	19.2	29.0
Had not looked for work	30.3	36.5	31.8	40.8
Total	46.7	59.5	51.0	69.8

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 in the survey. 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. 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, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. Another measure of the likely difference is the *relative standard error* which is obtained by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the estimate.

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 on the following page. 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 errors 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 607,900 (Table 1). From the standard error table 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 600,300 to 615,500 and about nineteen chances in twenty that it will fall within the range 592,700 to 623,100.

4. The reliability of an estimated percentage or rate, computed by using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends upon both the size of the numerator and the size of the denominator. For small percentages the relative standard error of the percentage is approximated by the relative standard error of the numerator, which may be obtained from the standard error table.

5. As shown in the standard error table, *the smaller the estimate the higher is the relative standard error*. Very small estimates are 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 standard error table have not been published. Although figures for these small components can in some cases be derived by subtraction, they should not be regarded as reliable.

6. Published figures may also be used to estimate the difference between two survey estimates (numbers, rates or percentages). Such a figure is itself an estimate and is therefore subject to sampling error. The sampling error of the difference between two survey estimates depends on the standard errors of the original estimates and on the relationship (correlation) between the two original estimates. An approximate standard error (SE) of the difference between two estimates (x-y) may be calculated by the following formula:

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

While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and uncorrelated characteristics or sub-populations it is expected to provide a good approximation for all differences likely to be of interest in this publication.

An example of the use of the above formula is as follows: the difference between the estimates of the number of males and females in Australia aged 20-24 who wanted a job (Table 2) is 49,100 (58,100 - 9,000). The standard error of this estimate may be calculated as follows: from the standard error table, the standard errors of the two original estimates can be approximated as 3,100 and 1,300 respectively. Therefore the standard error of the difference (49,100) is:

$$\sqrt{(3,100)^2 + (1,300)^2}, \quad \text{or } 3,400$$

(rounded to the nearest 100). Thus there are about two chances in three that the difference that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey is within the range 45,700 to 52,500 and about nineteen chances in twenty it is between 42,300 and 55,900.

7. 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 (a)

Size of estimate	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia	
									Relative standard error	(per cent)
—number—										
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	—	—	820	650	660	480	650	590	—	—
5,000	1,000	1,000	860	680	690	500	680	610	970	21.6
6,000	1,100	1,100	930	730	750	530	740	650	1,000	20.0
10,000	1,200	1,200	930	730	750	530	740	650	1,100	18.0
20,000	1,500	1,400	1,200	900	920	640	910	750	1,400	14.0
50,000	2,000	1,900	1,500	1,200	1,200	810	1,200	910	2,000	10.0
100,000	3,000	2,700	2,200	1,600	1,700	1,100	1,700	1,100	2,900	5.8
200,000	3,900	3,500	2,800	2,100	2,100	1,300		1,300	3,900	3.9
300,000	5,000	4,400	3,600	2,600	2,600	1,500			5,100	2.6
500,000	5,800	5,000	4,100	2,900	2,900				6,000	2.0
1,000,000	6,900	5,800	4,800	3,300	3,300				7,200	1.4
2,000,000	8,500	7,000	5,900						9,100	0.9
5,000,000	10,000	8,400							11,000	0.6
									15,000	0.3

Note. Estimates below the level indicated have not been published. See paragraph 5.

