



**PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE  
AUSTRALIA  
(including discouraged jobseekers)  
MARCH 1982**

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AUSTRALIA  
(including discouraged jobseekers)  
MARCH 1982**

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## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### Introduction

In association with the March 1982 labour force survey conducted throughout Australia, persons aged fifteen to sixty-four years who were not in the labour force were asked about their labour force aspirations and, if appropriate, their availability for work and reasons for not currently seeking employment.

2. During the two weeks beginning Monday 8 March, 1982, carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers asked questions of those of the 69,000 respondents in the March labour force survey who fell within the scope of this survey.

3. Results of similar surveys, the first conducted in November 1975, have been published in previous issues of this publication.

### Scope

4. The survey includes all persons not in the labour force aged fifteen to sixty-four years except:

- (a) certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations;
- (b) overseas visitors holidaying in Australia;
- (c) dependants of non-Australian defence forces personnel stationed in Australia;
- (d) persons who had actively looked for work but were unable to start a job in survey week for reasons other than their own temporary illness or injury;
- (e) persons who have a job but, up to the end of survey week, have been away from work *without pay* for four weeks or longer; and
- (f) persons permanently unable to work, students boarding at school, some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and inmates of reformatories, jails, etc.

Table 1 illustrates the group within the civilian population aged fifteen years and over who are covered by this survey.

### Definitions

5. Definitions of the principal labour force and demographic categories appearing in this publication are given in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

6. *Persons who want a job* are those who:

- (a) in the four weeks before the interview week had not looked for work but in the survey answer '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* to find work.

7. *Active steps to find work* include writing, telephoning or applying in person to an employer for work; answering a newspaper advertisement for a job; checking factory or Commonwealth Employment Service noticeboards; being registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service; checking or registering with any other employment agency, advertising or tendering for work; and contacting friends or relatives.

8. *Highest ranked reason.* Reasons for not actively looking for work were recorded in the order shown in Table 7. Where more than one reason was given, only the highest ranked has been included in the estimates in Tables 7 to 10. The estimates do not therefore reflect the relative importance of the reasons for not looking for work. Tables 11 and 12 show *all responses*, that is, persons who gave more than one reason have been counted against each reason reported.

9. 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.

10. *Discouraged.* Comprises persons who want a job but *are not actively looking for work* because they believe they would not be able to find a job for any of the following reasons: considered by employers to be too young or too old; language or racial difficulties; lack the necessary training, skills or experience; no jobs in their locality or line of work.

11. A *job* is defined for this survey as paid employment, full-time or part-time, for two weeks or more in any job or business.

12. *Main English-speaking countries* comprise the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, the United States of America, South Africa and New Zealand.

### Discontinuities in the series

13. 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 want a job* was widened to include those persons referred to in paragraph 6 (b), some of whom would be classified as *Discouraged*.

14. *This survey excludes* persons who have a job but, up to the end of survey week, have been away from work without pay for four weeks or longer (see paragraph 4 (e)). With the exception of the September 1980 survey when these persons were also excluded, surveys of Persons Not in the Labour Force prior to March 1982 *included* such persons and asked them appropriate questions.

#### Reliability of the estimates

15. Estimates in this publication are subject to two sources of error:

- (a) *sampling error*: since the estimates are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, 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.
- (b) *non-sampling error*: inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents and errors made in the coding and processing of data. These inaccuracies 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.

#### Related publications

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

*The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)-issued monthly

*Labour Force Experience During the Period February 1980 to February 1981, Australia* (6206.0)

*Persons Looking for Work, Australia, June 1981* (6222.0)

17. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

#### Symbols and other usages

- \* subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. See Technical note.
- . . not applicable

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



**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

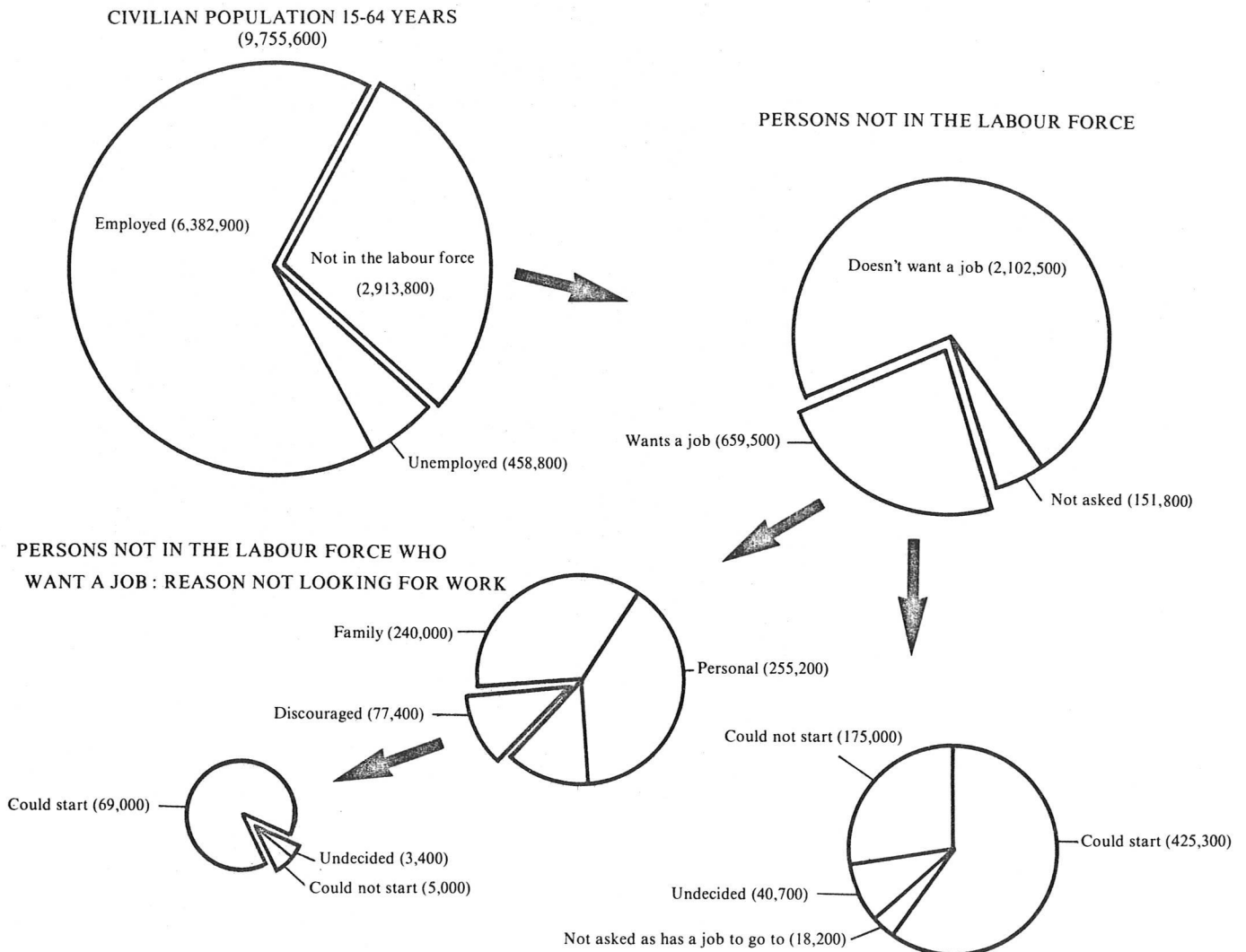
**1. Persons Not in the Labour Force, March 1982—Summary**

Almost thirty per cent of the civilian population of working age (fifteen to sixty-four years) are *not in the labour force*, that is they are neither employed nor unemployed.

Of the 2,913,800 persons not in the labour force, over twenty per cent (659,500) indicate they want a job. The majority of these persons are not looking for work because of personal or family considerations (495,300), and nearly two-thirds of them (425,300) would be available to start work if a job offer was received.

*Discouraged job seekers* (77,400) comprise approximately one-eighth of persons not in the labour force who want a job and nearly ninety per cent of these persons (69,000) would be available to start work if a job offer was received. In comparison, only sixty-one per cent (309,000) of persons with other reasons for not seeking work would be able to start a job. The difference in availability to start work between discouraged job seekers and others wanting a job reflects their reasons for not seeking work. Persons with personal or family commitments are more likely to need time to make arrangements to start work than are discouraged job seekers whose reasons for not looking for work generally relate to factors outside their control.

**CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS : WHETHER EMPLOYED OR WOULD LIKE TO BE**



## 2. Comparative Profile of Unemployed Persons and Discouraged Job Seekers

The discouraged job seeker series provides a measure of labour under-utilisation additional to that available through the unemployment series. In March 1982, there were 659,500 persons aged fifteen to sixty-four years who were neither employed nor actively looking for work but who indicated they wanted a job. Of these, 77,400 persons were discouraged job seekers. In the same month 458,800 persons aged fifteen to sixty-four years were unemployed.

As shown in the following diagram discouraged job seekers display quite different characteristics from those of unemployed persons. The majority of unemployed persons are young (under twenty-five years) and not married, while discouraged job seekers are mainly older (over thirty-five years) and married. Moreover, despite the high proportion (nineteen per cent) of first job seekers in the unemployed category, unemployed persons are more likely to have had recent work experience than discouraged persons. Almost half the unemployed persons have worked in the last twelve months compared with only twenty per cent of discouraged job seekers.

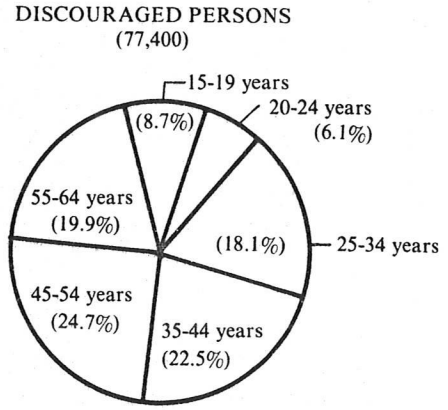
Even though females comprise slightly less than half the number of unemployed persons, they are disproportionately represented in both groups. Female unemployment rates are about one and a half times those of males and a high proportion (eighty-eight per cent) of discouraged job seekers are female. This reflects to some extent the fact that the majority (seventy-seven per cent) of persons aged fifteen to sixty-four years and not in the labour force are female. Nevertheless, the proportion of females not in the labour force who are discouraged job seekers (3.0 per cent) is more than twice the proportion of males (1.4 per cent).



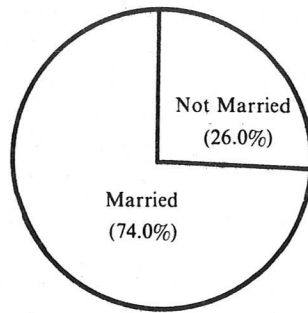
**COMPARATIVE PROFILE OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS AND DISCOURAGED JOBSEEKERS**



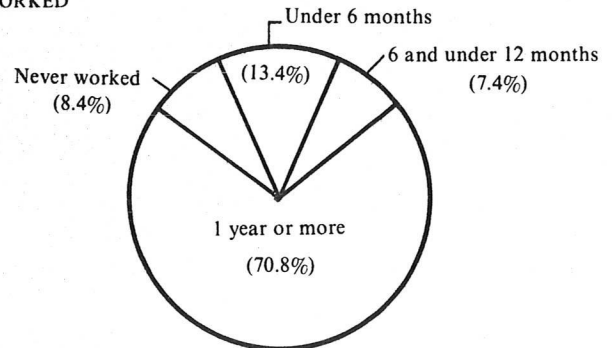
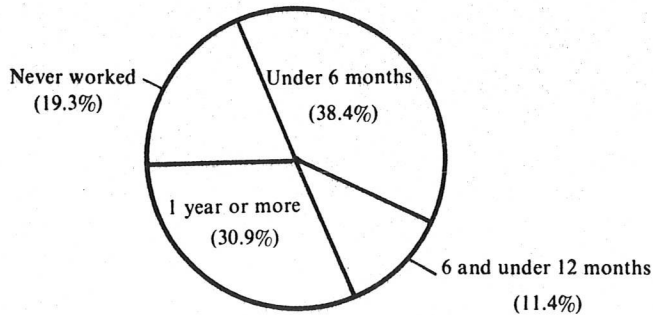
AGE



MARITAL STATUS



TIME SINCE LAST WORKED



3. **Persons Not in the Labour Force, September 1979 to March 1982**

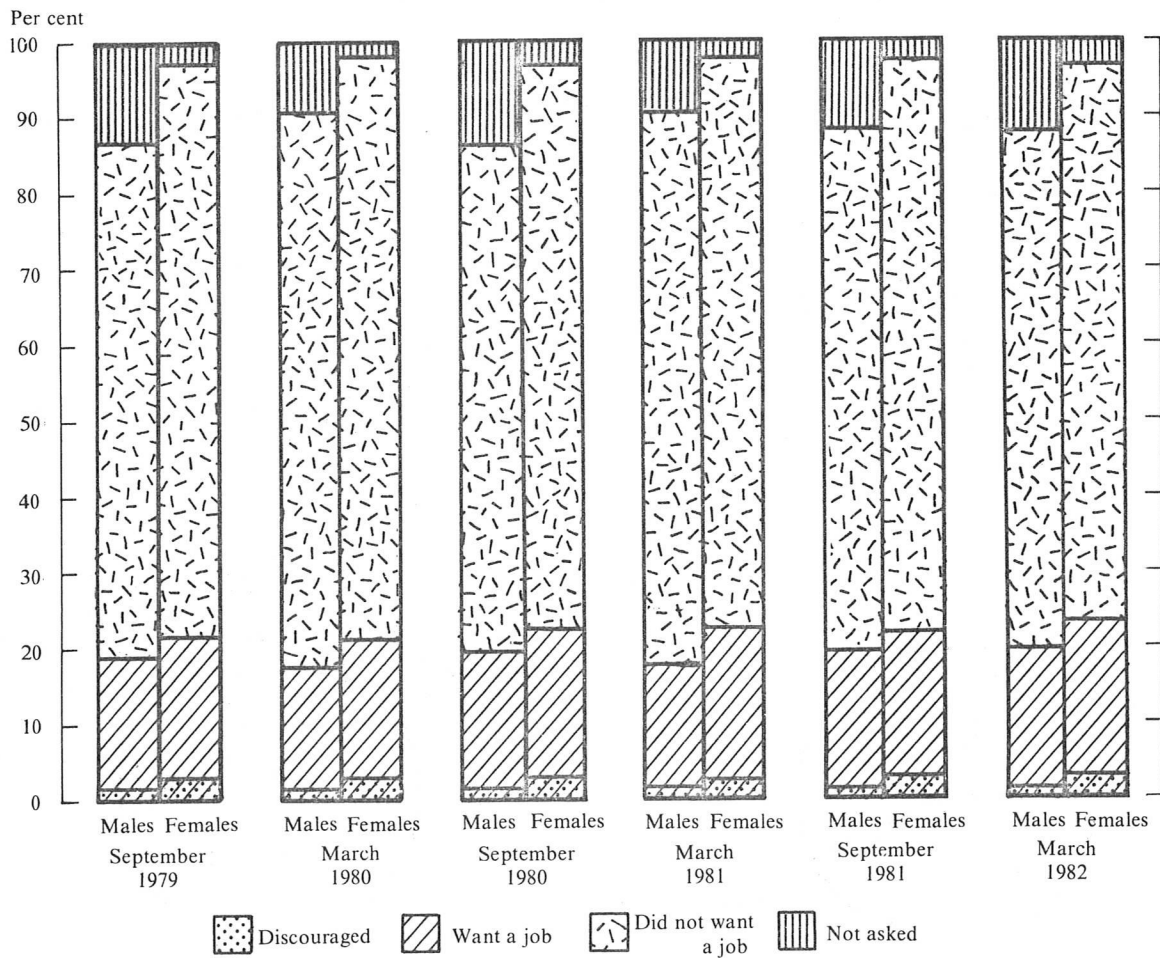
Over the period September 1979 to March 1982 there has been little change in the composition of the not in the labour force group. As expected, this group has mainly comprised persons who do not want a job (around seventy-five per cent in March 1982). However, there has also been a significant proportion of persons who want a job.

Over this period the proportion of persons who want a job has remained at approximately nineteen per cent for males and twenty-two per cent for females.

Discouraged job seekers likewise show little variation over time and furthermore the proportion of males discouraged has been consistently about half that of females.

Similarly, over the period under consideration, unemployment rates in the months in which discouraged jobseekers are measured have generally remained at about six per cent.

**CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 TO 64 YEARS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE  
SEPTEMBER 1979 TO MARCH 1982**



**TABLE 1. RELATIONSHIP OF PERSONS INCLUDED IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEY TO THE CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, MARCH 1982**

	Number (' 000)			Per cent of total		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Civilian population aged 15 years and over	5,545.4	5,680.0	11,225.5	100.0	100.0	100.0
Employed	4,091.8	2,369.3	6,461.1	73.8	41.7	57.6
Unemployed	238.1	221.6	459.7	4.3	3.9	4.1
Not in the labour force	1,215.6	3,089.2	4,304.7	21.9	54.4	38.3
Aged 65 years and over	560.2	831.0	1,391.1	10.1	14.6	12.4
Aged 15 to 64 years	655.4	2,258.2	2,913.6	11.8	39.8	26.0
Unable to work or in institutions(a)	60.3	35.7	96.0	1.1	0.6	0.9
Had a job but away without pay(a)(b)	4.3	17.5	21.8	0.1	0.3	0.2
Took active steps but unable to start(a)	14.3	19.5	33.8	0.3	0.3	0.3
<b>Persons included in this survey(a)</b>	<b>576.5</b>	<b>2,185.5</b>	<b>2,762.0</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>38.5</b>	<b>24.6</b>
Persons who do not want a job	446.3	1,656.2	2,102.5	8.0	29.2	18.7
Persons who want a job(c)	130.2	529.3	659.5	2.3	9.3	5.9

(a) See Explanatory notes, paragraph 4. (b) See Explanatory notes, paragraph 14 regarding comparability with other surveys. (c) For definition see Explanatory notes, paragraph 6.

**TABLE 2. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE(a) : SUMMARY, SEPTEMBER 1979 TO MARCH 1982 (' 000)**

	September 1979	March 1980	September 1980(b)	March 1981	September 1981	March 1981(b)
Persons included in the supplementary survey(a)	2,746.9	2,727.4	2,679.5	2,755.0	2,750.8	2,762.0
Persons who do not want a job	2,136.9	2,151.3	2,057.9	2,147.1	2,131.7	2,076.7
Would not like a job now	2,113.7	2,120.9	2,034.1	2,116.4	2,112.8	2,050.9
Does not know whether would like a job	23.2	30.4	23.8	30.7	18.9	25.8
Persons who want a job	609.9	576.1	621.7	607.9	619.0	659.5
Have taken steps (non-active) to find a job	42.5	52.3	48.0	46.0	43.3	46.5
Have taken no steps to find a job	567.4	523.8	573.6	561.9	575.7	613.2
Yes, would like a job now	479.2	458.9	482.5	461.8	483.6	497.0
Maybe, would like a job now	88.3	64.9	91.1	100.1	92.1	116.1
Highest ranked reason for not actively looking for work—						
Has a job to go to	20.5	17.8	14.3	16.5	20.2	18.2
Personal considerations	250.8	215.0	265.6	253.2	249.9	255.2
Family considerations	217.9	203.7	215.2	216.2	216.4	240.2
Discouraged	74.0	76.0	73.7	69.8	73.3	77.4
Had other reasons	41.0	56.4	46.4	45.9	53.3	57.9
No reason given	5.8	7.1	6.5	6.3	5.8	10.7

(a) For scope see Explanatory notes, paragraph 4. (b) See Explanatory notes, paragraph 14, regarding comparability with other surveys.

TABLE 3. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE: WHETHER WOULD LIKE A JOB, MARITAL STATUS AND AGE, MARCH 1982  
( ' 000)

	Age group (years)							Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	60-64	
MARRIED								
Males—								
Would like a job	*	*	4.0	6.2	9.5	5.6	7.7	34.5
Might like a job	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	5.8
Would not like a job	*	*	7.3	14.5	29.8	40.6	114.8	208.6
Total(a)	*	*	11.8	22.8	41.2	47.0	124.3	250.1
Females—								
Would like a job	4.3	28.5	119.1	90.7	53.0	16.1	6.5	318.2
Might like a job	*	6.7	23.4	18.1	17.8	6.7	*	76.0
Would not like a job	8.8	84.6	340.6	214.4	234.1	184.2	188.6	1,255.4
Does not know	*	*	3.3	3.5	3.8	*	*	16.2
Total	14.2	120.7	486.5	326.7	308.6	209.3	199.7	1,665.7
Persons—								
Would like a job	4.3	30.0	123.1	97.0	62.4	21.7	14.2	352.7
Might like a job	*	6.7	24.0	20.1	19.3	7.2	3.8	81.8
Would not like a job	9.1	86.0	347.9	229.0	263.9	224.8	303.3	1,464.0
Does not know	*	*	3.3	3.5	4.1	*	*	17.4
Total	14.4	123.6	498.2	349.5	349.8	256.2	324.0	1,915.9
NOT MARRIED								
Males—								
Would like a job	44.9	11.9	7.1	4.6	4.1	*	*	76.1
Might like a job	8.2	*	*	*	*	*	*	13.8
Would not like a job	146.7	28.7	10.7	7.1	11.1	10.2	18.9	233.4
Total(a)	201.3	43.0	19.2	12.5	15.9	13.1	21.4	326.4
Females—								
Would like a job	53.5	16.8	13.9	12.8	7.1	6.1	4.4	114.6
Might like a job	8.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	20.5
Would not like a job	145.8	30.3	30.3	21.0	35.5	41.9	74.4	379.3
Total(a)	209.9	50.2	46.8	36.7	44.8	50.8	80.6	519.8
Persons—								
Would like a job	98.4	28.7	21.0	17.4	11.2	7.8	6.3	190.7
Might like a job	17.1	4.9	3.1	*	*	*	*	34.3
Would not like a job	292.6	59.1	41.0	28.1	46.6	52.1	93.3	612.7
Does not know	3.3	*	*	*	*	*	*	8.4
Total	413.3	93.2	65.9	49.2	60.7	63.9	102.0	846.2
TOTAL								
Males—								
Would like a job	44.9	13.4	11.1	10.8	13.5	7.3	9.6	110.6
Might like a job	8.2	*	*	*	*	*	*	19.6
Would not like a job	146.9	30.1	18.0	21.6	40.9	50.8	133.6	442.0
Total(a)	201.5	46.0	31.0	35.3	57.0	60.1	145.7	576.5
Females—								
Would like a job	57.7	45.2	133.0	103.5	60.1	22.2	10.9	432.8
Might like a job	9.6	9.4	25.5	20.4	19.7	8.3	3.6	96.5
Would not like a job	154.7	114.9	370.9	235.5	269.6	226.1	263.0	1,634.7
Does not know	*	*	3.8	4.1	4.0	3.3	*	21.5
Total	224.2	170.9	533.2	363.5	353.5	260.0	280.3	2,185.5
Persons—								
Would like a job	102.6	58.7	144.1	114.3	73.6	29.5	20.5	543.4
Might like a job	17.8	11.5	27.1	22.7	21.7	10.1	5.1	116.1
Would not like a job	301.6	145.1	388.9	257.0	310.5	277.0	396.6	2,076.7
Does not know	3.7	*	4.1	4.6	4.6	3.6	3.7	25.8
Total	425.7	216.8	564.2	398.7	410.5	320.1	426.0	2,762.0

(a) Includes 'Does not know whether would like a job'.

**TABLE 4. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE: WHETHER WANTS A JOB, TIME SINCE LAST JOB, STATES, TERRITORIES AND STATE CAPITAL CITIES, MARCH 1982**  
( ' 000)

	Time since last job								Total
	Never worked	Under 6 months	6 and under 12 months	1 and under 3 years	3 and under 5 years	5 and under 10 years	10 and under 20 years	20 years and over	
<b>WANTS A JOB</b>									
New South Wales	30.7	37.2	15.4	42.0	26.8	40.5	25.9	7.8	226.3
Sydney	17.1	22.9	8.9	27.2	17.3	23.3	15.6	3.7	136.0
Victoria	28.9	30.1	14.8	31.8	18.3	26.1	17.6	6.8	174.3
Melbourne	20.4	25.4	11.6	23.7	13.5	20.2	14.0	4.1	133.0
Queensland	10.0	20.0	10.3	21.8	10.1	14.4	10.2	5.0	101.9
Brisbane	4.5	8.9	4.3	10.1	5.2	7.9	5.9	3.0	49.8
South Australia	8.6	7.9	3.8	9.9	7.2	11.4	5.7	2.7	57.3
Adelaide	6.9	5.4	2.7	8.5	5.7	8.7	4.3	2.0	44.2
Western Australia	7.5	9.9	5.0	13.9	8.1	9.7	5.0	*	60.8
Perth	5.0	7.6	3.7	9.1	6.7	7.1	4.3	*	44.8
Tasmania	2.0	1.7	1.8	4.1	3.1	3.6	2.8	1.1	20.3
Hobart	*	*	*	1.7	1.2	1.5	1.0	*	7.8
Northern Territory	1.8	1.5	1.5	*	*	1.5	*	*	7.3
Australian Capital Territory	2.0	2.1	1.8	1.7	*	1.7	*	*	11.4
<b>Australia</b>	<b>91.5</b>	<b>110.5</b>	<b>53.7</b>	<b>125.9</b>	<b>75.4</b>	<b>108.9</b>	<b>68.3</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>659.5</b>
Six State capital cities	54.8	71.0	31.6	80.2	49.5	68.7	45.2	14.4	415.4
<b>DOES NOT WANT A JOB(a)</b>									
New South Wales	137.0	58.2	35.1	99.5	87.4	131.2	104.3	111.7	764.4
Sydney	87.7	37.4	22.8	58.2	52.4	79.7	64.6	56.9	459.6
Victoria	102.2	44.6	21.4	78.9	62.9	88.8	75.7	69.7	544.2
Melbourne	73.1	33.4	13.1	54.1	43.3	63.1	52.2	41.9	374.2
Queensland	44.3	32.6	18.5	50.7	35.2	60.7	40.3	58.6	340.9
Brisbane	18.7	17.7	7.4	24.1	16.6	25.7	18.9	23.0	152.0
South Australia	26.1	14.3	8.9	27.3	24.2	29.2	22.3	29.8	182.0
Adelaide	19.1	11.7	7.0	19.6	17.3	20.5	16.0	21.4	132.6
Western Australia	26.1	18.0	10.2	27.6	19.1	28.2	19.9	20.8	169.7
Perth	19.4	14.1	7.1	21.3	14.1	19.3	14.8	14.1	124.2
Tasmania	9.8	5.6	2.4	7.6	7.7	10.6	9.1	11.5	64.3
Hobart	4.8	3.0	1.4	3.3	3.1	3.9	3.1	3.8	26.4
Northern Territory	4.0	*	*	2.2	2.3	1.5	*	*	11.5
Australian Capital Territory	5.9	2.9	*	5.0	3.0	3.8	2.4	*	25.4
<b>Australia</b>	<b>355.3</b>	<b>176.9</b>	<b>97.9</b>	<b>298.8</b>	<b>240.9</b>	<b>353.3</b>	<b>275.5</b>	<b>303.9</b>	<b>2,102.5</b>
Six State capital cities	222.7	117.2	58.8	180.6	146.8	212.2	169.5	161.1	1,268.9
<b>TOTAL</b>									
New South Wales	167.7	95.4	50.5	141.5	114.2	171.7	130.2	119.5	990.7
Sydney	104.7	60.2	31.7	85.3	69.7	103.0	80.2	60.6	595.5
Victoria	131.1	74.7	36.2	110.7	81.2	114.9	93.3	76.5	718.5
Melbourne	93.5	58.9	24.6	77.8	56.8	83.3	66.2	46.0	507.2
Queensland	54.2	52.6	28.8	72.5	45.3	75.1	50.5	63.6	442.7
Brisbane	23.2	26.5	11.7	34.1	21.8	33.6	24.8	25.9	201.8
South Australia	34.7	22.2	12.6	37.3	31.4	40.6	27.9	32.5	239.3
Adelaide	26.0	17.0	9.7	28.2	22.9	29.2	20.3	23.4	176.8
Western Australia	33.5	27.9	15.2	41.4	27.2	37.9	24.9	22.5	230.5
Perth	24.4	21.7	10.8	30.4	20.8	26.4	19.0	15.4	169.0
Tasmania	11.8	7.3	4.3	11.7	10.9	14.2	11.9	12.6	84.6
Hobart	5.6	3.9	1.8	5.0	4.3	5.4	4.1	4.2	34.1
Northern Territory	5.8	2.2	*	2.9	2.3	2.3	1.6	*	18.8
Australian Capital Territory	7.8	5.0	2.9	6.7	3.8	5.5	3.5	1.6	36.9
<b>Australia</b>	<b>446.8</b>	<b>287.4</b>	<b>151.6</b>	<b>424.7</b>	<b>316.3</b>	<b>462.2</b>	<b>343.8</b>	<b>329.3</b>	<b>2,762.0</b>
Six State capital cities	277.5	188.2	90.4	260.8	196.3	280.9	214.7	175.5	1,684.3

(a) Includes 'Does not know whether would like a job'.

**TABLE 5. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE: TIME SINCE LAST JOB AND WHETHER WOULD LIKE A JOB, MARCH 1982**  
( ' 000)

<i>Whether would like a job</i>	<i>Time since last job</i>								<i>Total</i>
	<i>Never worked</i>	<i>Under 6 months</i>	<i>6 and under 12 months</i>	<i>1 and under 3 years</i>	<i>3 and under 5 years</i>	<i>5 and under 10 years</i>	<i>10 and under 20 years</i>	<i>20 years and over</i>	
<b>MALES</b>									
Would like a job	28.6	34.3	11.5	20.4	7.0	6.5	*	*	110.6
Might like a job	7.0	3.7	*	3.8	3.4		*	*	19.6
Would not like a job	132.2	63.3	22.3	92.6	56.1	53.5	17.8	4.2	442.0
Does not know	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	4.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>169.0</i>	<i>101.8</i>	<i>35.0</i>	<i>118.2</i>	<i>66.4</i>	<i>61.2</i>	<i>20.2</i>	<i>4.8</i>	<i>576.5</i>
<b>FEMALES</b>									
Would like a job	47.7	64.6	33.9	82.8	53.3	81.7	51.5	17.4	432.8
Might like a job	8.2	7.9	7.1	18.9	12.6	19.8	14.7	7.3	96.5
Would not like a job	218.6	111.7	74.2	202.6	181.4	296.6	253.4	296.2	1,634.7
Does not know	3.2	*	*	*	*	3.0	4.0	3.6	21.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>277.7</i>	<i>185.6</i>	<i>116.6</i>	<i>306.5</i>	<i>249.9</i>	<i>401.0</i>	<i>323.6</i>	<i>324.5</i>	<i>2,185.5</i>
<b>PERSONS</b>									
Would like a job	76.3	98.9	45.4	103.2	60.3	88.2	53.3	17.8	543.4
Might like a job	15.3	11.6	8.3	22.7	15.1	20.7	15.0	7.5	116.1
Would not like a job	350.8	175.0	96.6	295.2	237.5	350.1	271.2	300.3	2,076.7
Does not know	4.4	3.3		3.5	3.5	3.2	4.3	3.6	25.8
<i>Total</i>	<i>446.8</i>	<i>287.4</i>	<i>151.6</i>	<i>424.7</i>	<i>316.3</i>	<i>462.2</i>	<i>343.8</i>	<i>329.3</i>	<i>2,762.0</i>

**TABLE 6. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANT A JOB: WHETHER COULD START WORK(a), MARCH 1982**  
( ' 000)

<i>Whether could start work within four weeks</i>	<i>Number ' 000</i>			<i>Per cent of total</i>		
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Could start work	73.3	352.1	425.3	56.3	66.5	64.5
Could not start work because—						
Own illness or injury	20.0	19.2	39.2	15.3	3.6	5.9
Attending educational institution	18.8	20.5	39.3	14.4	3.9	6.0
Secondary school	14.5	14.0	28.6	11.2	2.6	4.3
Other	4.2	6.5	10.7	3.2	1.2	1.6
Personal, family reasons	*	85.9	87.9	*	16.2	13.3
Other reasons	*	6.7	9.0	*	1.3	1.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>43.0</i>	<i>132.4</i>	<i>175.4</i>	<i>33.0</i>	<i>25.0</i>	<i>26.6</i>
Does not know	6.3	34.4	40.7	4.8	6.5	6.2
Has a job to go to(b)	7.7	10.5	18.2	5.9	2.0	2.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>130.2</b>	<b>529.3</b>	<b>659.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Responses to the question 'If offered a job are there any reasons you could not start work in the next four weeks?'. (b) Persons who have a job to go to are not asked whether they could start work.



**TABLE 7. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANT A JOB: REASON FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK AND WHETHER COULD START WORK(a), MARCH 1982**  
( ' 000)

Highest ranked reason for not actively looking for work	Females			Total	Persons			Total
	Could start work	Could not start work	Does not know		Could start work	Could not start work	Does not know	
Has a job to go to(b)	..	..	..	10.5	..	..	..	18.2
Personal considerations	99.9	49.6	10.4	159.9	151.4	88.4	15.4	255.2
Family considerations	145.7	72.4	18.5	236.6	147.7	73.9	18.7	240.2
Discouraged	61.0	4.0	3.2	68.2	69.0	5.0	3.4	77.4
Considered too young or too old	16.9	*	*	19.8	19.4	*	*	22.9
Language or racial difficulties	3.4	*	*	3.5	4.2	*	*	4.5
Lack necessary training, experience	5.9	*	*	6.4	6.2	*	*	6.7
No jobs in locality or line of work	34.8	*	*	38.5	39.2	*	*	43.2
No jobs in suitable hours	10.8	*	*	12.3	10.9	*	*	12.4
Other reasons	28.1	4.9	*	33.4	38.2	6.7	*	45.5
No reason given	6.6	*	*	8.5	8.1	*	*	10.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>352.1</b>	<b>132.4</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>529.3</b>	<b>425.3</b>	<b>175.4</b>	<b>40.7</b>	<b>659.5</b>

(a) See footnote(a) to Table 6. (b) See footnote(b) to Table 6.

**TABLE 8. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANT A JOB: AGE AND REASON FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK, MARCH 1982**  
( ' 000)

Highest ranked 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	
<b>MALES</b>								
Personal considerations	45.5	8.9	7.2	7.8	11.8	7.1	6.9	95.3
Discouraged		4.6		*	*	3.2		9.1
<b>Total(a)</b>	<b>53.1</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>130.2</b>
<b>FEMALES</b>								
Has a job to go to		3.2	3.5		3.1	*	*	10.5
Personal considerations	51.1	13.8	25.4	26.7	24.6	12.7	5.5	159.9
Family considerations	6.7	31.6	103.0	61.3	25.4	6.5	*	236.6
Discouraged	4.2	3.8	12.8	16.7	18.5	8.1	4.1	68.2
Considered too young or too old	*	*	*	*	8.0	5.5	3.1	19.8
No jobs in locality or line of work	*	3.1	9.8	12.6	8.1	*	*	38.5
No jobs in suitable hours	*	*	4.2	4.9	*	*	*	12.3
Other reasons(a)	3.0	4.1	9.5	12.0	8.3	*	*	41.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>67.3</b>	<b>54.6</b>	<b>158.5</b>	<b>123.9</b>	<b>79.8</b>	<b>30.6</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>529.3</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>								
Has a job to go to	3.9	3.3	5.1	3.7	*	*	*	18.2
Personal considerations	96.6	22.7	32.6	34.6	36.4	19.8	12.5	255.2
Family considerations	6.7	32.1	103.5	62.4	26.3	6.7	*	240.2
Discouraged	6.7	4.7	14.0	17.4	19.1	8.7	6.7	77.4
Considered too young or too old	*	*	*	*	8.1	6.1	4.7	22.9
No jobs in locality or line of work	4.0	3.3	10.8	13.0	8.6	*	*	43.2
No jobs in suitable hours	*	*	4.2	4.9	*	*	*	12.4
Other reasons(a)	6.3	7.1	11.8	14.1	10.1	3.2	3.6	56.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>120.4</b>	<b>70.2</b>	<b>171.2</b>	<b>137.0</b>	<b>95.4</b>	<b>39.6</b>	<b>25.7</b>	<b>659.5</b>

(a) Includes persons who gave no reason.

**TABLE 9. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANT A JOB:  
BIRTHPLACE AND REASON FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK, MARCH 1982  
( ' 000)**

Highest ranked reason for not actively looking for work	Born overseas						Total	Total
	Born in Australia	Period of arrival			Main English speaking countries	Other countries		
		Before 1961	1961- 1970	1971- 1982				
MALES								
Personal considerations	67.4	8.9	11.5	7.6	11.1	16.8	27.9	95.3
Discouraged	6.1	*	*	*	*	*	3.0	9.1
<b>Total(a)</b>	<b>92.1</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>38.2</b>	<b>130.2</b>
FEMALES								
Has a job to go to	8.5	*	*	*	*	*	*	10.5
Personal considerations	116.6	14.2	15.0	14.1	17.2	26.1	43.2	159.9
Family considerations	174.6	18.0	24.3	19.7	22.5	39.5	62.0	236.6
Discouraged	43.4	9.4	8.1	7.3	12.1	12.7	24.8	68.2
Considered too young or too old	11.8	3.5	4.4		4.5	3.4	7.9	19.8
No jobs in locality or line of work	27.2	4.6	4.2	*	6.2	5.2	11.3	38.5
No jobs in suitable hours	8.7		3.5		*	*	3.5	12.3
Other reasons(a)	30.5	4.3	4.0	3.1	5.9	5.5	11.3	41.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>382.5</b>	<b>48.5</b>	<b>52.9</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>61.4</b>	<b>85.5</b>	<b>146.8</b>	<b>529.3</b>
PERSONS								
Has a job to go to	14.7	*	*	*	*	*	3.5	18.2
Personal considerations	184.0	23.0	26.5	21.6	28.3	42.9	71.2	255.2
Family considerations	177.1	18.4	24.8	19.8	22.6	40.4	63.1	240.2
Discouraged	49.5	10.6	8.5	8.7	12.9	15.0	27.9	77.4
Considered too young or too old	14.2	4.1	4.6		5.0	3.7	8.7	22.9
No jobs in locality or line of work	30.7	5.3	4.6	*	6.4	6.1	12.6	43.2
No jobs in suitable hours	8.7		3.7		*	*	3.7	12.4
Other reasons	32.4	5.2	4.2	3.6	5.8	7.3	13.1	45.5
No reason given	8.1	*	*	*	*	*	*	10.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>474.6</b>	<b>61.0</b>	<b>67.5</b>	<b>56.4</b>	<b>75.6</b>	<b>109.4</b>	<b>185.0</b>	<b>659.5</b>

(a) Includes persons who gave no reason.

**TABLE 10. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANT A JOB:  
REASON FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK, MARCH 1982  
( ' 000)**

Highest ranked reason for not actively looking for work	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	A.C.T.	Australia
MALES								
Personal considerations	30.8	28.3	14.0	9.6	7.4	2.3	2.4	95.3
Discouraged	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	9.1
<b>Total(a)</b>	<b>44.3</b>	<b>35.9</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>130.2</b>
FEMALES								
Has a job to go to	3.6	*	*	*	*	*	*	10.5
Personal considerations	52.7	45.5	22.3	15.4	13.3	4.7	3.9	159.9
Family considerations	83.6	59.2	38.4	19.9	21.9	7.9	3.3	236.6
Discouraged	25.6	17.7	8.7	4.9	7.4	3.0	*	68.2
Considered too young or too old	6.4	5.1	2.8	2.0	2.8	*	*	19.8
No jobs in locality or line of work	14.0	11.3	4.9	2.5	3.2	2.2	*	38.5
No jobs in suitable hours	4.8	*	*	*	*	*	*	12.3
Other reasons(a)	11.7	10.4	8.9	3.6	4.6	1.0	*	41.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>182.0</b>	<b>138.4</b>	<b>82.3</b>	<b>44.9</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>529.3</b>
PERSONS								
Has a job to go to	5.9	4.9	3.2	*	*	*	*	18.2
Personal considerations	83.5	73.8	36.4	25.0	20.7	7.1	6.3	255.2
Family considerations	85.8	59.6	38.6	20.2	22.2	8.0	3.3	240.2
Discouraged	29.0	19.7	10.4	5.8	8.4	3.1	*	77.4
Considered too young or too old	7.5	5.3	3.5	2.6	3.4	*	*	22.9
No jobs in locality or line of work	15.7	12.9	5.8	2.6	3.6	2.3	*	43.2
No jobs in suitable hours	4.8	3.2	*	*	*	*	*	12.4
Other reasons(a)	17.3	13.1	10.9	4.8	6.7	1.2	*	56.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>226.3</b>	<b>174.3</b>	<b>101.9</b>	<b>57.3</b>	<b>60.8</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>659.5</b>

(a) Includes persons who gave no reason.

**TABLE 11. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANT A JOB: ALL REASONS REPORTED(a) FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK, STATES AND TERRITORIES, MARCH 1982**  
(\* 000 responses)

<i>Reason 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</i>
<b>FEMALES</b>								
Has a job to go to	3.6	*	*	*	*	*	*	10.5
Personal considerations	52.7	45.5	22.3	15.4	13.3	4.7	3.9	159.9
Family considerations	88.8	63.4	41.2	21.4	23.6	8.7	3.9	253.9
Considered too young or too old	9.2	6.9	3.4	2.6	3.4	*	*	26.7
Language or racial difficulties; lack necessary training, experience	8.5	*	*	*	2.7	*	*	18.0
No jobs in locality or line of work	22.0	17.8	6.8	3.6	5.4	3.6	*	59.7
No jobs in suitable hours	16.1	12.1	5.8	2.2	2.6	2.5	*	42.8
Other reasons(a)	14.3	13.5	11.3	4.6	6.4	1.7	*	53.5
<b>Total reasons(a)</b>	<b>215.2</b>	<b>164.1</b>	<b>94.2</b>	<b>51.6</b>	<b>58.5</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>625.0</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>								
Has a job to go to	5.9	4.9	3.2	*	*	*	*	18.2
Personal considerations	83.5	73.8	36.4	25.0	20.7	7.1	6.3	255.2
Family considerations	91.6	64.3	41.5	21.9	23.9	8.9	4.0	258.9
Considered too young or too old	10.7	7.1	4.3	3.3	4.2	1.0	*	31.0
Language or racial difficulties; lack necessary training, experience	9.5	*	*	*	2.9	1.0	*	20.0
No jobs in locality or line of work	25.3	20.1	8.3	4.2	6.1	3.8	*	68.4
No jobs in suitable hours	16.8	12.6	5.8	2.4	2.7	2.6	*	44.4
Other reasons(a)	19.9	17.1	13.4	6.3	9.2	1.9	*	70.2
<b>Total reasons(a)</b>	<b>263.2</b>	<b>202.6</b>	<b>114.9</b>	<b>66.5</b>	<b>71.6</b>	<b>26.9</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>766.1</b>

(a) Excludes persons who gave no reason.

**TABLE 12. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANT A JOB: ALL REASONS REPORTED(a) FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK AND BIRTHPLACE, MARCH 1982**  
(\* 000 responses)

<i>Reason for not actively looking for work</i>	<i>Born overseas</i>							<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>Born in Australia</i>	<i>Period of arrival</i>			<i>Main English speaking countries</i>	<i>Other countries</i>	<i>Total</i>		
		<i>Before 1961</i>	<i>1961-1970</i>	<i>1971-1982</i>					
<b>FEMALES</b>									
Has a job to go to	8.5	*	*	*	*	*	*	10.5	
Personal considerations	116.6	14.2	15.0	14.1	17.2	26.1	43.2	159.9	
Family considerations	186.3	20.8	26.0	20.8	24.4	43.2	67.6	253.9	
Considered too young or too old	15.8	5.2	4.0	*	5.7	5.2	10.9	26.7	
Language or racial difficulties; lack necessary training, experience	7.6	5.6		4.8	*	8.4	10.5	18.0	
No jobs in locality or line of work	42.2	6.6	7.3	3.6	8.7	8.9	17.6	59.7	
No jobs in suitable hours	33.4	3.5	*	3.1	5.0	4.3	9.3	42.8	
Other reasons(a)	36.9	6.9	5.0	4.7	7.6	9.0	16.6	53.5	
<b>Total reasons(a)</b>	<b>447.3</b>	<b>61.1</b>	<b>63.5</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>71.7</b>	<b>105.9</b>	<b>177.6</b>	<b>625.0</b>	
<b>PERSONS</b>									
Has a job to go to	14.7	*	*	*	*	*	3.5	18.2	
Personal considerations	184.0	23.0	26.5	21.6	28.2	42.9	71.2	255.2	
Family considerations	190.1	21.3	26.6	20.9	24.5	44.3	68.8	258.9	
Considered too young or too old	18.5	6.3	4.3	*	6.7	5.7	12.5	31.0	
Language or racial difficulties; lack necessary training, experience	8.1	*	3.1	5.8	*	9.9	11.9	20.0	
No jobs in locality or line of work	48.6	7.6	8.0	4.2	9.3	10.4	19.7	68.4	
No jobs in suitable hours	34.8	3.6	*	3.1	5.2	4.3	9.5	44.4	
Other reasons(a)	48.2	9.0	6.3	6.7	9.5	12.4	21.9	70.2	
<b>Total reasons(a)</b>	<b>547.1</b>	<b>75.0</b>	<b>79.2</b>	<b>64.8</b>	<b>87.4</b>	<b>131.6</b>	<b>219.0</b>	<b>766.1</b>	

(a) Excludes persons who gave no reason.

**TABLE 13. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANT A JOB: TIME SINCE LAST JOB AND WHETHER LOOKED FOR WORK IN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS, MARCH 1982 ('000)**

Time since last job	Has looked for work in the last 12 months(a)				Total	Has not looked in the last 12 months	Not asked as has a job to go to	Total
	Within last 4 weeks	5 to 7 weeks ago	8 to 12 weeks ago	13 to 52 weeks ago				
<b>FEMALES</b>								
Has never had a job	7.4	*	4.6	3.9	18.3	36.8	*	55.9
Under 6 months	9.2	*	3.4	*	14.0	52.5	6.0	72.5
6 and under 12 months	4.3	*		4.9	11.1	28.9	*	41.1
1 and under 3 years	11.7	4.6	5.9	6.3	28.5	72.0	*	101.6
3 and under 10 years	12.7	5.0	4.8	9.7	32.2	133.6	*	167.3
10 years or more	4.7	*	*	4.1	13.4	77.4	*	90.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>26.8</b>	<b>117.5</b>	<b>401.3</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>529.3</b>
<b>PERSONS</b>								
Has never had a job	10.8	4.6	7.1	5.1	27.6	62.3	*	91.5
Under 6 months	14.9	*	4.7	*	23.1	76.0	11.4	110.5
6 and under 12 months	6.5	*	3.7	3.2	16.1	35.9	*	53.7
1 and under 3 years	15.8	5.4	7.3	8.4	36.9	87.0	*	125.9
3 and under 10 years	13.8	6.0	5.4	10.9	36.1	146.7	*	184.3
10 years or more	4.7	*	3.0	4.1	13.6	79.9	*	93.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>66.5</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>32.5</b>	<b>153.4</b>	<b>488.0</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>659.5</b>

(a) Persons who had left a job in the last twelve months were only asked whether they had looked for work since that job.

**TABLE 14. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANT A JOB: WHETHER HAD LOOKED FOR WORK AND WHETHER HAVE HAD A JOB, MARCH 1982 ('000)**

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	A.C.T.	Australia
<i>Has worked in the last 12 months(a)</i>	52.6	44.9	30.4	11.7	14.9	3.5	3.9	164.2
Has looked for work since that job	11.2	10.4	7.9	3.9	3.9	1.0	*	39.2
Has not looked for work since that job	36.8	31.7	19.7	7.3	9.6	2.1	2.7	111.9
Not asked whether had looked(b)	4.6	*	2.8	*	*	*	*	13.1
<i>Last worked more than 12 months ago(c)</i>	143.0	100.5	61.5	37.0	38.4	14.7	5.5	403.8
Has looked for work in the last 12 months	31.9	22.8	12.6	6.8	7.2	2.9	*	86.6
Has not looked for work in the last 12 months	110.2	76.2	48.6	29.9	30.7	11.7	4.1	313.7
<i>Never worked(c)</i>	30.8	28.9	10.0	8.6	7.5	2.0	2.0	91.5
Has looked for work in the last 12 months	9.9	9.1	*	2.9	2.2	*	*	27.6
Has not looked for work in the last 12 months	20.4	19.2	7.4	5.4	5.2	1.4	1.5	62.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>226.3</b>	<b>174.3</b>	<b>101.9</b>	<b>57.3</b>	<b>60.8</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>659.5</b>
Has looked for work(a)	53.0	42.3	22.9	13.6	13.3	4.5	2.7	153.4
Has not looked for work	167.4	127.1	75.7	42.6	45.6	15.2	8.3	488.0
Not asked whether had looked(b)	5.9	4.9	3.2	*	*	*	*	18.2

(a) Persons who had left a job in the last twelve months were only asked whether they had looked for work since that job. (b) Because they have a job to go to.  
(c) Includes persons who were not asked whether they were looking for work as they have a job to go to.

TABLE 15. DISCOURAGED JOBSEEKERS: SUMMARY OF CHARACTERISTICS, MARCH 1982

	Number ('000)		Per cent of total	
	Females	Persons	Females	Persons
<b>Total</b>	<b>68.2</b>	<b>77.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Marital status—				
Married	53.2	57.2	77.9	73.9
Not married	15.1	20.2	22.1	26.1
Age (years)—				
15-19	4.2	6.7	6.1	8.7
20-24	3.8	4.7	5.6	6.0
25-34	12.8	14.0	18.8	18.1
35-44	16.7	17.4	24.5	22.5
45-54	18.5	19.1	27.1	24.7
55-64	12.2	15.4	17.9	19.9
Place of residence—				
New South Wales	25.6	29.0	37.5	37.4
Sydney	14.2	15.3	20.8	19.8
Victoria	17.7	19.7	25.9	25.5
Melbourne	12.6	14.2	18.4	18.3
Queensland	8.7	10.4	12.7	13.5
Brisbane	3.2	3.7	4.6	4.7
South Australia	4.9	5.8	7.2	7.5
Adelaide	3.5	4.2	5.2	5.5
Western Australia	7.4	8.4	10.9	10.8
Perth	5.2	5.8	7.6	7.5
Tasmania	3.0	3.1	4.4	4.0
Hobart	*	*	*	*
Six State capital cities	39.5	44.1	57.9	56.9
Other areas(a)	28.7	33.3	42.1	43.1
Birthplace—				
Australia	43.4	49.5	63.6	64.0
Main English-speaking countries	12.1	12.9	17.8	16.6
Other countries	12.7	15.0	18.6	19.4
Whether looked for work in the last 12 months(b)—				
Has not looked for work	40.4	45.3	59.2	58.5
Has looked for work	27.9	32.1	40.8	41.5
Within last 4 weeks	11.0	12.6	16.1	16.3
5 to 7 weeks ago	5.2	6.2	7.6	8.1
8 to 12 weeks ago	5.6	6.4	8.2	8.3
13 to 52 weeks ago	6.1	6.9	8.9	8.9
Has never had a job	4.8	6.5	7.0	8.3
Has had a job	63.5	70.9	93.0	91.7
Time since last job—				
Under 6 months	7.4	10.4	10.9	13.4
6 and under 12 months	5.0	5.7	7.4	7.4
1 and under 3 years	13.9	15.8	20.4	20.4
3 and under 10 years	22.5	24.4	33.0	31.6
10 years or more	14.6	14.6	21.4	18.8
Availability to start work—				
Could start work	61.0	69.0	89.4	89.1
Could not start work	4.0	5.0	5.9	6.4
Does not know	3.2	3.4	4.7	4.4

(a) Includes the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. (b) Persons who had left a job in the last twelve months are asked only whether they have looked for work since that job.

## TECHNICAL NOTE

**Estimation procedure**

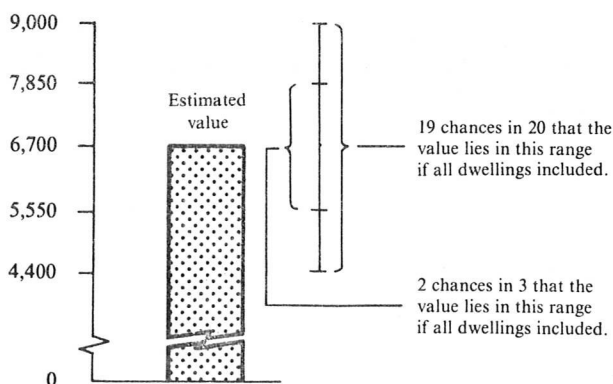
The estimates are derived from the population survey by use of a ratio estimation procedure, which ensures that the estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population for each capital city and remainder of State by age and sex, rather than to the corresponding distribution 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. Since they are averages based on calculations for a limited number of past surveys over a wide range of labour force characteristics these figures will not give a precise measure of the standard error of a particular estimate but they will provide an indication of its magnitude.

4. An example of the calculation and the use of standard errors in relation to estimates of persons is as follows. From Table 15 on the previous page, the estimated number of discouraged job seekers in the age group fifteen to nineteen years is 6,700. Since this estimate is between 6,000 and 10,000 the standard error for Australia will be between 1,100 and 1,400 in the standard error table and can be approximated as 1,150 (rounded to the nearest 50). Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey will fall in the range 5,550 to 7,850 and about nineteen chances in twenty that the value will fall within the range 4,400 to 9,000. This example is illustrated in the following diagram.



5. As can be seen from the standard error table, *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 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. 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. The formula for the relative standard error (RSE) of a proportion is given below:

$$RSE (x/y) = \sqrt{[RSE (x)]^2 + [RSE (y)]^2}$$

7. Considering the example from paragraph 4 above, the 6,700 fifteen to nineteen year olds are about 8.7 per cent of the 77,400 discouraged job seekers aged fifteen to sixty-four years. The standard error for 77,400 is approximately 3,450 so the relative standard error is 4.5 per cent. The relative standard error for 6,700 is 17.2 per cent. Applying the above formula, the relative standard error of the proportion is  $\sqrt{(17.2)^2 + (4.5)^2}$  or 16.6 per cent, giving a standard error for the proportion (8.7 per cent) of 1.4 percentage points. Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the proportion of discouraged job seekers in the age group fifteen to nineteen years is between 7.3 per cent and 10.1 per cent and nineteen chances in twenty the proportion is within the range 5.9 per cent to 11.5 per cent.

8. Published figures may also be used to estimate the difference between two survey estimates (of numbers or percentages). Such a figure is itself an estimate and is therefore subject to sampling error. The sampling error of the difference between two estimates depends on their standard errors and the relationship (correlation) between them. 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.

9. 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 and errors made in the coding and processing of data. 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.

## STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

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—						
1,000						250				
1,500						300	410	390		
2,000				460	460	340	470	440		
2,500			630	510	510	380	510	480		
3,000			690	550	560	410	550	510	800	26.7
3,500	920	910	740	590	590	430	590	540	860	24.6
4,000	980	960	780	620	630	460	620	560	920	23.0
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 on page 16.







