



PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE, AUSTRALIA (including discouraged jobseekers) MARCH 1983

PHONE INQUIRIES	<i>for more information about these statistics</i> —contact Ms Susan Purcell on Canberra (062) 52 6503 or any of our State offices. <i>other inquiries including copies of publications</i> —contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6627 or in any of our State offices.
MAIL INQUIRIES	<i>write to</i> Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any of our State offices.

CONTENTS

<i>Table</i>		<i>Page</i>
. .	Explanatory notes	1
. .	Summary of findings	3
1	Relationship of persons included in the supplementary survey to the civilian population aged fifteen years and over	7
2	Summary, Persons Not in the Labour Force, March 1980 to March 1983	7
3	Summary of characteristics, discouraged jobseekers and persons who want a job	8
	Persons Not in the Labour Force—	
	Whether would like a job—	
4	Age and marital status	9
5	Time since last job, States and State capital cities	10
6	Time since last job	11
7	Birthplace	11
	Persons who want a job—	
8	Whether could start work, reason if could not	11
	Highest ranked reason for not actively looking for work—	
9	Whether could start work	12
10	Age	12
11	States and Territories	13
12	Birthplace	13
	All reasons for not actively looking for work—	
13	States and Territories	14
14	Birthplace	14
15	Time since last job and whether looked for work in the last twelve months	15
. .	Technical note	16

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

In association with the March 1983 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 7 March, 1983, specially trained interviewers asked questions of those of the 70,000 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 residents 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 9. Where more than one reason was given, only the highest ranked has been included in the estimates in Tables 9 to 12. The estimates do not therefore reflect the relative importance of the reasons for not looking for work. Tables 13 and 14 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.

Discontinuities in the series

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

12. *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

13. 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

14. 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)

Characteristics of Persons Looking for Work, Australia, July 1982 (6222.0)

15. 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

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

R. J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

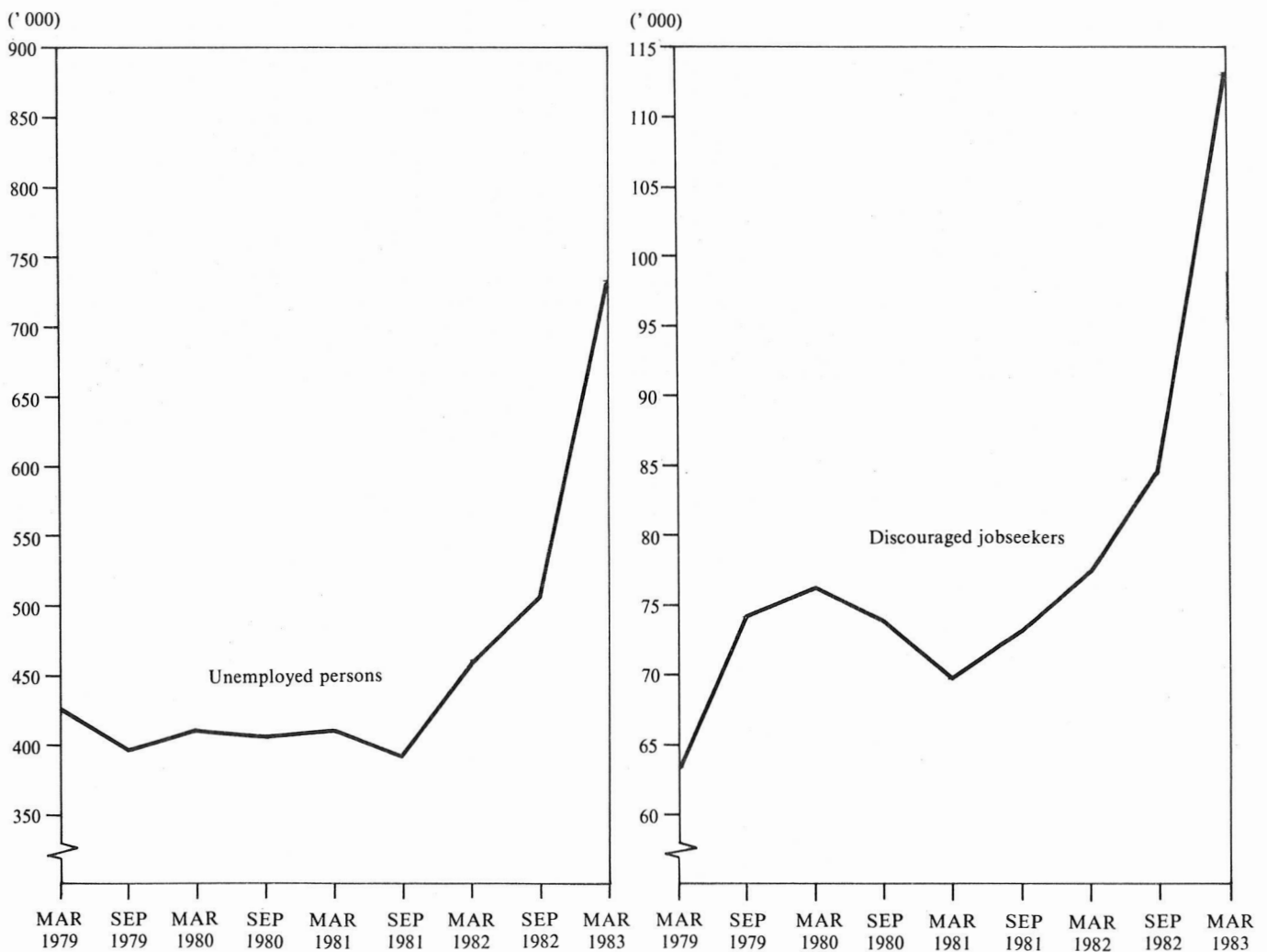
1. Discouraged jobseekers and the unemployed

Measures of unemployment are aimed at providing indicators of the amount of unused labour in the labour market. Persons are deemed to be unemployed if they are not employed, are available to work and are taking active steps to find work. The number of unemployed persons in Australia so derived amounted to approximately 730,000 in March 1983.

In addition to the unemployed there are others who, while not actively searching and available for work, may also be considered to represent unused labour. In particular there are those who are currently outside the labour force because they believe they would not be able to find a job in the prevailing labour market conditions and therefore do not take active steps to find work. The ABS describes these persons as discouraged jobseekers and they are defined as those who want a job but are not actively looking because of any one of the following reasons: considered by employers to be too old or too young; language or racial difficulties; lack the necessary training, skills or experience; no jobs in their locality or line of work. Discouraged jobseekers numbered approximately 113,200 in March 1983.

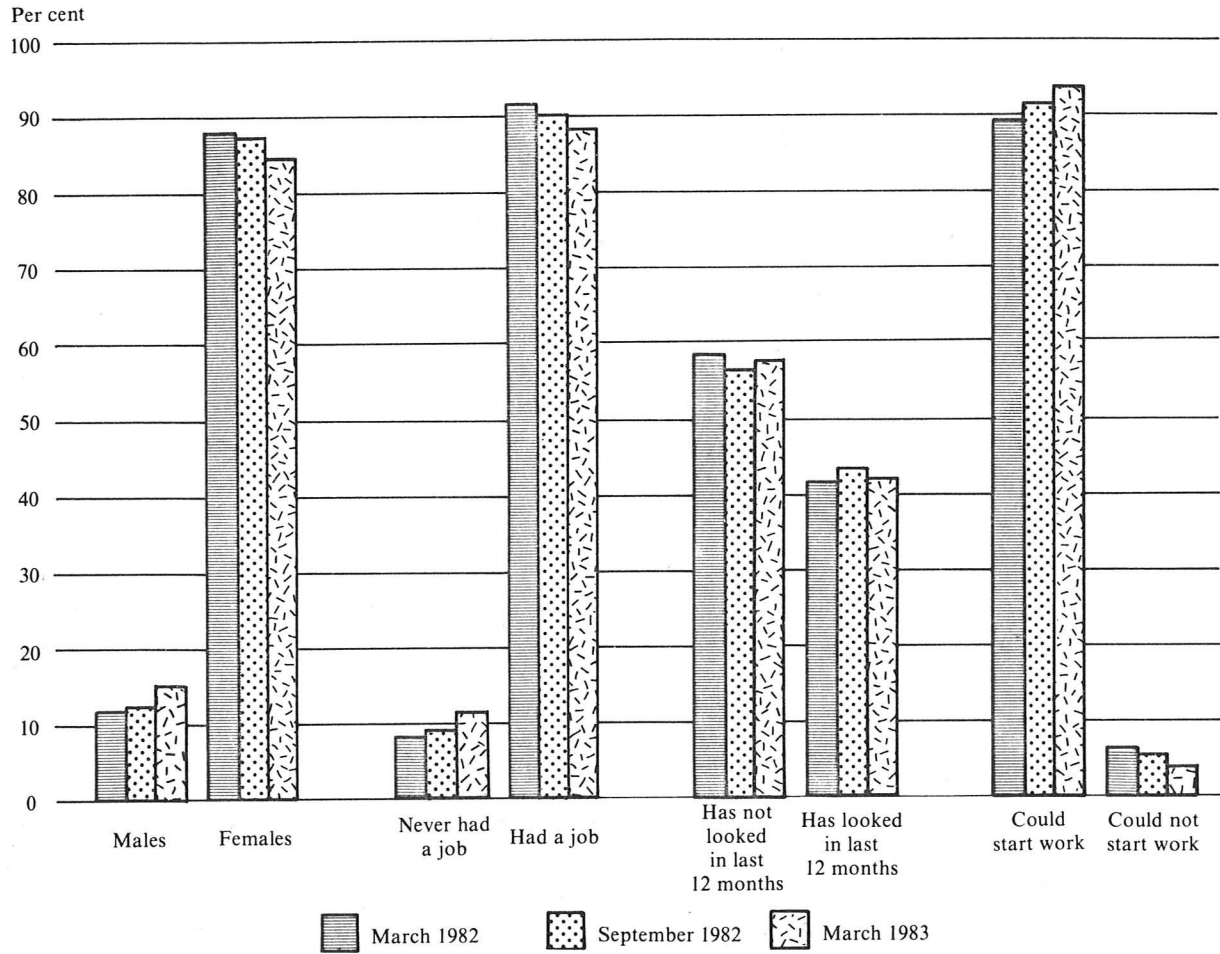
The increase in the number of discouraged jobseekers has generally paralleled the increase in unemployment over the last several years. The number of discouraged jobseekers had been relatively stable in the period from September 1979 to March 1982 but increased by 34 per cent from 84,500 to 113,200 in the six months to March 1983. This compares with a rise of 45 per cent in unemployment over the same period.

DIAGRAM 1. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS AND DISCOURAGED JOBSEEKERS



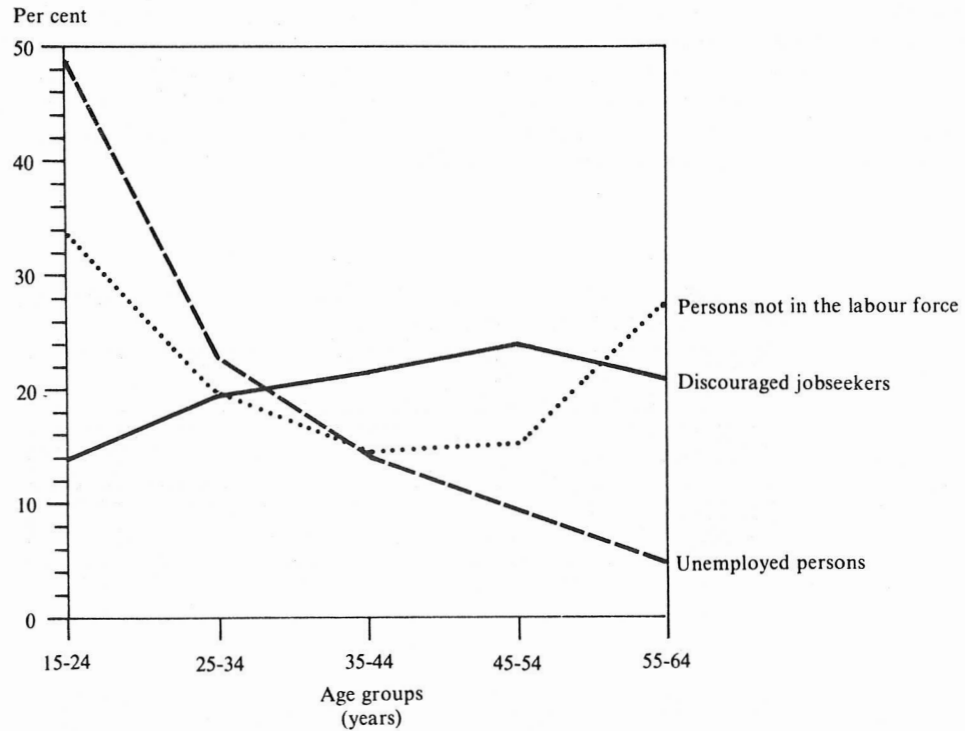
The composition of discouraged jobseekers has not changed substantially with the increase recorded over the period September 1982 to March 1983. The number of male discouraged jobseekers rose from 10,400 to 17,200, a larger percentage increase than that for females, although the discouraged jobseekers continue to be predominantly female. The job experience and job search activities of the discouraged were little changed from earlier periods. About 11 per cent of the discouraged jobseekers in March 1983 had never had a job, a small increase over the 1982 figure. About 58 per cent had not looked for work in the previous twelve months.

DIAGRAM 2. CHARACTERISTICS OF DISCOURAGED JOBSEEKERS



The age characteristics of discouraged jobseekers may be highlighted by comparing the age structure of the discouraged with that of the unemployed and of persons not in the labour force. Persons not in the labour force tend to be young (e.g. those completing their studies) or in the older age groups (e.g. retirees) with relatively few in the prime working ages 35 to 54. The number of discouraged jobseekers, however, peaks in this age group.

DIAGRAM 3. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, DISCOURAGED JOBSEEKERS AND PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE: AGE



2. Persons who want a job

The number of persons outside the labour force who want a job was 707,000 in March 1983, up from 649,800 in September 1982. Persons who want a job represent a wide spectrum of potential workers from discouraged jobseekers (113,200 in March 1983) to those who were unable to look for personal reasons (273,900) or for family reasons (239,100). Personal factors which prevent people from looking for work include ill health, current study and having no need to work, while family considerations include inability to find child care and preference for looking after children or the family. Those with personal or family reasons for not looking for work may be considered to be further removed from the labour force than the discouraged jobseekers whose absence from the labour force may be linked to the job market situation.

Some significant changes occurred in the characteristics of those wanting a job over the period September 1982 to March 1983. While the percentage of those wanting a job who gave personal considerations as the major reason for not looking for work, remained steady over the six month period, there appeared to be a switch from family reasons to discouraged reasons. About 16 per cent of those who want a job were discouraged jobseekers in March 1983 compared with 12 per cent six months earlier. Over the same period the proportion giving family reasons dropped from 36 per cent to 34 per cent. There was also an increase in the proportion of those who wanted a job who were also available to start work. In March 1983, some 71 per cent could have started work within the following four weeks compared with 66 per cent in September 1982. This is in line with patterns in previous years.

DIAGRAM 4. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANT A JOB: HIGHEST RANKED REASON FOR NOT LOOKING FOR WORK

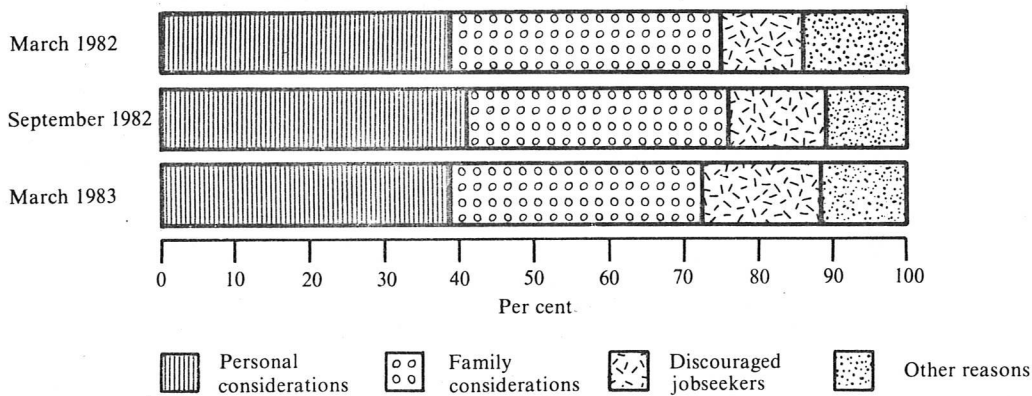


DIAGRAM 5. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANT A JOB: WHETHER COULD START WORK WITHIN FOUR WEEKS

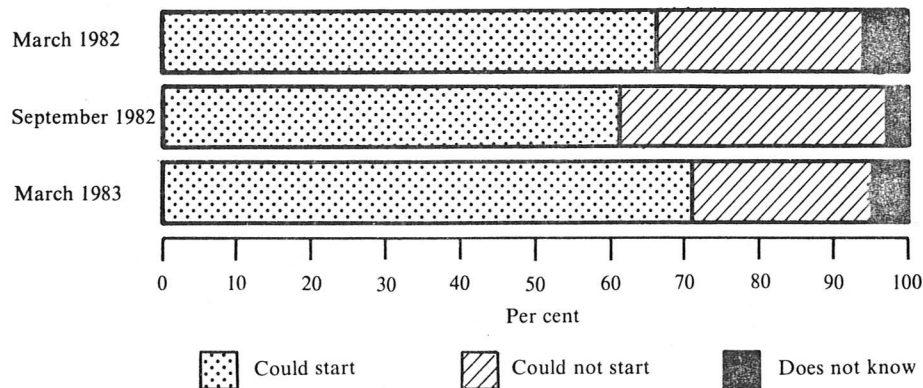


TABLE 1. RELATIONSHIP OF PERSONS INCLUDED IN THE SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEY TO THE CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, MARCH 1983

	Number (' 000)			Per cent of total		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Civilian population aged 15 years and over	5,673.0	5,806.9	11,479.9	100.0	100.0	100.0
Employed	3,951.9	2,348.9	6,300.8	69.7	40.5	54.9
Unemployed	435.3	296.4	731.6	7.7	5.1	6.4
Not in the labour force	1,285.9	3,161.6	4,447.5	22.7	54.4	38.7
Aged 65 years and over	575.0	854.6	1,429.7	10.1	14.7	12.5
Aged 15 to 64 years	710.7	2,307.0	3,017.7	12.5	39.7	26.3
Unable to work or in institutions(a)	59.4	32.2	91.6	1.0	0.6	0.8
Had a job but away without pay(a)(b)	5.1	11.7	16.8	0.1	0.2	0.1
Took active steps but unable to start(a)	11.8	16.8	28.6	0.2	0.3	0.2
Persons included in this survey(a)	634.5	2,246.3	2,880.8	11.2	38.7	25.1
Persons who do not want a job	486.6	1,687.3	2,173.9	8.6	29.1	18.9
Persons who want a job(c)	147.9	559.1	707.0	2.6	9.6	6.2

(a) See Explanatory notes, paragraph 4. (b) See Explanatory notes, paragraph 12 regarding comparability with other surveys. (c) For definition see Explanatory notes, paragraph 6.

TABLE 2. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE(a) : SUMMARY, MARCH 1980 TO MARCH 1983 (' 000)

	March 1980(b)	Sept. 1980	March 1981(b)	Sept. 1981(b)	March 1982	Sept. 1982	March 1983
Persons included in the supplementary survey(a)	2,727.4	2,679.5	2,755.0	2,750.8	2,762.0	2,841.3	2,880.8
Persons who do not want a job	2,151.3	2,057.9	2,147.1	2,131.7	2,102.5	2,191.5	2,173.9
Would not like a job now	2,120.9	2,034.1	2,116.4	2,112.8	2,076.7	2,170.5	2,149.7
Does not know whether would like a job	30.4	23.8	30.7	18.9	25.8	21.0	24.1
Persons who want a job	576.1	621.7	607.9	619.0	659.5	649.8	707.0
Have taken steps (non-active) to find a job	52.3	48.0	46.0	43.3	46.5	44.7	53.2
Have taken no steps to find a job	523.8	573.6	561.9	575.7	613.2	605.1	653.8
Yes, would like a job now	458.9	482.5	461.8	483.6	497.0	517.6	558.5
Maybe, would like a job now	64.9	91.1	100.1	92.1	116.1	87.5	95.3
Highest ranked reason for not actively looking for work—							
Has a job to go to	17.8	14.3	16.5	20.2	18.2	13.6	14.5
Personal considerations	215.0	265.6	253.2	249.9	255.2	264.6	273.9
Family considerations	203.7	215.2	216.2	216.4	240.2	230.3	239.1
Discouraged	76.0	73.7	69.8	73.3	77.4	84.5	113.2
No jobs in suitable hours	13.6	11.9	11.1	9.2	12.4	12.9	9.1
Other reasons	42.8	34.5	34.8	44.1	45.5	36.0	50.2
No reason given	7.1	6.5	6.3	5.8	10.7	7.3	7.0

(a) For scope see Explanatory notes, paragraph 4. (b) See Explanatory notes, paragraph 12, regarding comparability with other surveys.

**TABLE 3. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANT A JOB:
SUMMARY OF CHARACTERISTICS, MARCH 1983
(' 000)**

	<i>Discouraged jobseekers</i>			<i>All persons who want a job</i>		
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Total	17.2	96.0	113.2	147.9	559.1	707.0
Marital status—						
Married	8.0	75.3	83.3	51.6	417.7	469.3
Not married	9.2	20.7	29.9	96.3	141.4	237.7
Age (years)—						
15-19	3.4	7.1	10.5	61.7	69.6	131.3
20-24	*	4.9	5.3	13.9	59.5	73.4
25-34	*	20.2	22.0	12.0	172.8	184.8
35-44	*	22.8	24.3	13.8	127.4	141.3
45-54	*	24.4	27.2	15.8	84.1	99.8
55-64	7.3	16.7	23.9	30.6	45.7	76.3
Place of residence—						
New South Wales	7.4	35.8	43.2	50.4	191.7	242.1
Sydney	4.1	18.5	22.6	29.7	112.9	142.6
Victoria	4.4	23.0	27.4	36.6	141.0	177.6
Melbourne	3.3	16.7	20.0	26.9	103.7	130.6
Queensland	3.0	16.1	19.2	26.5	95.2	121.7
Brisbane	*	8.0	8.7	12.0	49.3	61.2
South Australia	*	8.9	9.4	12.8	49.0	61.9
Adelaide	*	6.8	7.1	9.8	36.3	46.1
Western Australia	*	8.3	9.5	12.3	52.5	64.8
Perth	*	5.8	6.5	9.1	40.0	49.1
Tasmania	*	2.2	2.6	3.9	17.5	21.5
Hobart	*	*	*	1.4	7.5	8.8
Six State capital cities	9.2	56.5	65.6	88.8	349.7	438.5
Other areas(a)	8.0	39.5	47.6	59.1	209.4	268.5
Birthplace—						
Australia	10.8	62.5	73.2	109.8	414.2	524.0
Main English-speaking countries	*	13.0	15.9	15.3	60.2	75.5
Other countries	3.5	20.5	24.1	22.8	84.6	107.5
Whether looked for work in the last 12 months(b)-						
Has not looked for work	7.4	58.1	65.5	96.8	411.8	508.6
Has looked for work	9.8	37.9	47.7	45.9	138.1	184.0
Within last 4 weeks	3.1	10.5	13.6	11.9	40.1	52.0
5 to 7 weeks ago	3.5	10.4	13.9	16.0	36.7	52.7
8 to 12 weeks ago	*	8.2	10.2	11.7	25.8	37.5
13 to 52 weeks ago	*	8.8	10.0	6.3	35.4	41.7
Has a job to go to	..	..	..	5.3	9.2	14.5
Whether had a job(c)—						
Has never had a job(c)	*	10.4	13.0	46.4	64.1	110.5
Has had a job(c)	14.6	85.6	100.2	101.5	495.0	596.5
Time since last job—						
Under 6 months	*	7.7	10.3	35.8	67.5	103.3
6 and under 12 months	*	7.9	10.7	14.6	46.2	60.8
1 and under 3 years	5.8	19.3	25.1	28.5	113.9	142.4
3 and under 10 years	*	29.0	31.9	19.8	170.9	190.7
10 years or more	*	21.7	22.2	*	96.4	99.3
Availability to start work—						
Could start work	16.2	90.1	106.3	95.0	397.4	492.4
Could not start work	*	3.8	4.5	41.1	125.7	166.8
Does not know	*	*	*	6.5	26.8	33.3
Has a job to go to	..	..	..	5.3	9.2	14.5

(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. (c) Paid employment, for two weeks or more, in any job or business.

TABLE 4. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE: WHETHER WOULD LIKE A JOB, MARITAL STATUS AND AGE, MARCH 1983
 (' 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	*	*	4.1	9.1	9.2	8.2	10.6	42.6
Might like a job	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	9.0
Would not like a job	*	*	10.7	17.4	32.4	46.7	119.8	228.6
Total(a)	*	*	16.1	27.6	44.7	57.6	134.3	283.3
Females—								
Would like a job	4.8	35.1	133.6	100.2	59.9	18.7	9.8	362.1
Might like a job	*	4.0	18.5	15.0	12.4	3.3	*	55.6
Would not like a job	8.4	85.7	329.2	223.4	250.6	175.4	200.5	1,273.3
Does not know	*	*	3.1	3.5	3.6	*	*	14.0
Total	13.8	125.2	484.4	342.0	326.4	199.3	213.9	1,705.0
Persons—								
Would like a job	4.8	36.5	137.6	109.3	69.0	27.0	20.4	404.6
Might like a job	*	4.0	19.4	15.9	15.0	5.5	4.5	64.6
Would not like a job	8.7	87.0	339.9	240.8	283.0	222.2	320.4	1,501.9
Does not know	*	*	3.6	3.7	4.0	*	*	17.1
Total	14.0	128.0	500.5	369.6	371.1	256.9	348.2	1,988.3
NOT MARRIED								
Males—								
Would like a job	53.5	11.3	6.8	*	3.7	*	3.4	84.4
Might like a job	8.2	*	*	*	*	*	*	12.0
Would not like a job	155.6	30.1	13.1	7.9	11.7	12.4	21.7	252.6
Total(a)	218.3	42.9	20.6	12.0	15.8	16.2	25.3	351.2
Females—								
Would like a job	58.1	17.8	17.7	10.0	9.3	5.4	4.5	122.7
Might like a job	6.4	*	3.1	*	*	*	*	18.7
Would not like a job	157.6	31.7	24.9	21.9	35.8	45.9	77.4	395.3
Total(a)	223.8	52.4	46.0	34.6	48.0	52.1	84.5	541.4
Persons—								
Would like a job	111.5	29.1	24.4	12.9	13.0	8.4	7.8	207.1
Might like a job	14.6	3.8	3.4	3.2	*	*	*	30.7
Would not like a job	313.2	61.8	38.1	29.8	47.5	58.3	99.1	647.9
Does not know	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	7.0
Total	442.1	95.3	66.6	46.6	63.8	68.3	109.8	892.6
TOTAL								
Males—								
Would like a job	53.5	12.7	10.8	12.0	12.8	11.2	14.0	127.0
Might like a job	8.2	*	*	*	*	3.0	*	21.0
Would not like a job	155.9	31.4	23.8	25.3	44.1	59.1	141.6	481.2
Total(a)	218.6	45.7	36.7	39.7	60.5	73.8	159.6	634.5
Females—								
Would like a job	62.9	52.9	151.2	110.2	69.2	24.2	14.2	484.7
Might like a job	6.8	6.6	21.6	17.2	14.9	3.7	3.5	74.3
Would not like a job	166.0	117.3	354.2	245.3	286.4	221.4	278.0	1,668.6
Does not know	*	*	3.4	3.9	4.0	*	*	18.7
Total	237.6	177.6	530.4	376.6	374.4	251.4	298.4	2,246.3
Persons—								
Would like a job	116.4	65.6	162.0	122.2	82.0	35.3	28.2	611.7
Might like a job	15.0	7.8	22.8	19.1	17.8	6.7	6.1	95.3
Would not like a job	321.9	148.8	378.0	270.6	330.5	280.5	419.5	2,149.7
Does not know	*	*	4.2	4.4	4.5	*	4.1	24.1
Total	456.1	223.3	567.1	416.3	434.9	325.2	458.0	2,880.8

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

TABLE 5. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE: WHETHER WANT A JOB(a), TIME SINCE LAST JOB(a), STATES, TERRITORIES AND STATE CAPITAL CITIES, MARCH 1983 ('000)

	Time since last job(a)								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	
WANT A JOB									
New South Wales	34.8	32.2	20.6	47.8	29.1	39.7	27.6	10.2	242.1
Sydney	19.3	23.1	14.7	25.9	16.5	22.4	15.7	5.1	142.6
Victoria	36.7	25.0	14.0	34.8	23.3	22.8	16.1	4.9	177.6
Melbourne	27.1	19.9	9.7	24.8	17.3	16.9	11.2	3.8	130.6
Queensland	15.4	18.8	10.4	24.9	13.1	20.2	14.0	5.0	121.7
Brisbane	7.7	9.4	4.5	12.2	6.8	9.1	8.5	3.1	61.2
South Australia	9.1	8.7	6.0	12.7	6.6	9.0	6.7	3.0	61.9
Adelaide	6.7	7.0	4.1	9.1	4.9	7.3	5.2	*	46.1
Western Australia	8.3	11.7	6.3	14.6	6.5	10.0	5.5	*	64.8
Perth	6.7	9.8	4.7	11.3	4.3	7.3	4.0	*	49.1
Tasmania	2.9	2.5	1.9	3.8	3.4	4.3	2.1	*	21.5
Hobart	1.1	1.3	*	1.5	1.4	1.7	*	*	8.8
Northern Territory	*	2.5	*	1.8	*	*	*	*	7.7
Australian Capital Territory	2.2	1.7	*	2.0	*	*	*	*	9.7
<i>Australia</i>	<i>110.5</i>	<i>103.3</i>	<i>60.8</i>	<i>142.4</i>	<i>83.3</i>	<i>107.4</i>	<i>73.4</i>	<i>25.9</i>	<i>707.0</i>
<i>Six State capital cities</i>	<i>68.5</i>	<i>70.4</i>	<i>38.6</i>	<i>84.8</i>	<i>51.2</i>	<i>64.7</i>	<i>45.3</i>	<i>15.0</i>	<i>438.5</i>
DO NOT WANT A JOB(b)									
New South Wales	149.5	52.8	40.1	106.4	85.3	118.2	97.0	111.1	760.7
Sydney	92.5	36.7	26.5	66.9	51.4	73.3	58.0	59.8	465.1
Victoria	118.7	46.9	28.3	84.6	69.5	96.6	84.8	64.5	593.9
Melbourne	89.0	33.7	20.9	60.3	48.5	70.5	54.6	40.7	418.1
Queensland	47.6	28.1	16.1	47.3	38.9	58.4	50.0	58.8	345.3
Brisbane	19.9	14.7	8.1	19.4	16.3	24.8	18.7	26.4	148.3
South Australia	29.7	17.8	9.8	30.9	21.8	32.3	23.1	27.2	192.6
Adelaide	22.3	13.1	7.7	22.9	15.5	24.4	15.8	18.2	139.7
Western Australia	26.1	17.4	13.1	24.2	20.7	31.1	19.6	23.6	175.9
Perth	19.7	12.4	8.8	17.6	14.8	21.3	14.1	17.1	125.9
Tasmania	12.8	3.5	2.4	9.1	7.5	12.1	9.2	11.1	67.8
Hobart	5.0	1.6	*	3.4	3.7	3.7	3.5	4.6	26.2
Northern Territory	3.0	1.6	*	3.0	*	*	1.5	*	12.3
Australian Capital Territory	6.5	1.8	*	3.0	3.8	5.1	2.6	*	25.6
<i>Australia</i>	<i>393.9</i>	<i>170.0</i>	<i>112.2</i>	<i>308.5</i>	<i>248.5</i>	<i>354.9</i>	<i>287.9</i>	<i>298.1</i>	<i>2,173.9</i>
<i>Six State capital cities</i>	<i>248.4</i>	<i>112.2</i>	<i>72.7</i>	<i>190.5</i>	<i>150.1</i>	<i>217.9</i>	<i>164.6</i>	<i>166.9</i>	<i>1,323.3</i>
TOTAL									
New South Wales	184.3	85.1	60.8	154.3	114.4	157.9	124.6	121.4	1,002.8
Sydney	111.8	59.8	41.2	92.8	67.9	95.7	73.7	64.9	607.7
Victoria	155.5	71.9	42.3	119.3	92.7	119.4	100.9	69.4	771.5
Melbourne	116.1	53.5	30.6	85.1	65.7	87.4	65.8	44.5	548.7
Queensland	63.0	46.9	26.5	72.2	52.0	78.6	64.0	63.7	467.0
Brisbane	27.6	24.2	12.6	31.6	23.1	33.9	27.1	29.5	209.5
South Australia	38.8	26.5	15.8	43.7	28.4	41.3	29.7	30.2	254.5
Adelaide	29.0	20.1	11.8	31.9	20.3	31.7	21.0	20.0	185.8
Western Australia	34.5	29.1	19.4	38.8	27.2	41.1	25.2	25.5	240.7
Perth	26.4	22.1	13.5	28.9	19.2	28.6	18.1	18.2	175.0
Tasmania	15.7	6.0	4.4	13.0	11.0	16.4	11.3	11.6	89.2
Hobart	6.1	2.9	1.5	4.9	5.1	5.4	4.3	4.8	35.0
Northern Territory	3.9	4.1	1.7	4.8	*	1.8	1.7	*	20.0
Australian Capital Territory	8.7	3.5	2.0	5.0	4.8	5.8	3.9	1.5	35.3
<i>Australia</i>	<i>504.4</i>	<i>273.3</i>	<i>172.9</i>	<i>450.9</i>	<i>331.8</i>	<i>462.3</i>	<i>361.3</i>	<i>324.0</i>	<i>2,880.8</i>
<i>Six State capital cities</i>	<i>316.9</i>	<i>182.6</i>	<i>111.2</i>	<i>275.2</i>	<i>201.3</i>	<i>282.6</i>	<i>210.0</i>	<i>181.8</i>	<i>1,761.7</i>

(a) Paid employment, for two weeks or more, in any job or business. (b) Includes 'Does not know whether would like a job'.

TABLE 6. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE: TIME SINCE LAST JOB(a) AND WHETHER WOULD LIKE A JOB, MARCH 1983 ('000)

Whether would like a job	Time since last job(a)								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	
MALES									
Would like a job	40.0	31.5	13.2	24.0	8.2	8.0	*	*	127.0
Might like a job	6.5	4.3	*	4.6	*	*	*	*	21.0
Would not like a job	142.8	63.7	35.2	93.7	64.1	59.0	19.1	3.7	481.2
Does not know	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	5.4
Total	189.9	100.2	50.5	123.8	74.7	69.4	22.0	3.9	634.5
FEMALES									
Would like a job	56.5	59.9	39.7	100.9	64.1	83.2	58.7	21.8	484.7
Might like a job	7.6	7.6	6.5	13.0	9.2	14.4	12.1	3.9	74.3
Would not like a job	247.2	104.6	74.4	210.6	182.2	292.4	265.0	292.2	1,668.6
Does not know	3.2	*	*	*	*	*	3.6	*	18.7
Total	314.5	173.0	122.4	327.1	257.1	392.8	339.3	320.1	2,246.3
PERSONS									
Would like a job	96.4	91.4	52.8	124.9	72.2	91.2	60.7	22.0	611.7
Might like a job	14.1	11.8	7.9	17.6	11.1	16.2	12.7	3.9	95.3
Would not like a job	389.9	168.3	109.6	304.3	246.3	351.4	284.0	295.8	2,149.7
Does not know	3.9	*	*	4.1	*	3.5	3.8	*	24.1
Total	504.4	273.3	172.9	450.9	331.8	462.3	361.3	324.0	2,880.8

(a) Paid employment, for two weeks or more, in any job or business.

TABLE 7. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE: BIRTHPLACE AND WHETHER WOULD LIKE A JOB, MARCH 1983 ('000)

Whether would like a job	Born overseas			Total
	Born in Australia	Main English-speaking countries	Other countries	
Yes	455.6	65.5	90.6	611.7
Maybe	68.4	10.0	16.9	95.3
No	1,620.8	190.7	338.2	2,149.7
Does not know	17.5	*	4.8	24.1
Total	2,162.4	268.0	450.5	2,880.8

TABLE 8. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANT A JOB: WHETHER COULD START WORK(a), MARCH 1983 ('000)

Whether could start work within four weeks	Number '000			Per cent of total		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Could start work	95.0	397.4	492.4	64.2	71.1	69.6
Could not start work because—						
Own illness or injury	19.7	21.2	40.9	13.3	3.8	5.8
Attending educational institution	17.1	14.7	31.8	11.6	2.6	4.5
Secondary school	12.0	9.6	21.6	8.1	1.7	3.1
Other	5.1	5.1	10.2	3.4	0.9	1.4
Personal, family reasons	3.1	84.2	87.3	2.1	15.1	12.4
Other reasons	*	5.6	6.7	*	1.0	1.0
Total	41.1	125.7	166.8	27.8	22.5	23.6
Does not know	6.5	26.8	33.3	4.4	4.8	4.7
Has a job to go to(b)	5.3	9.2	14.5	3.6	1.6	2.0
Total	147.9	559.1	707.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(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 9. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANT A JOB: REASON FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK AND WHETHER COULD START WORK(a), MARCH 1983
(' 000)

<i>Highest ranked reason for not actively looking for work</i>	Females			<i>Total</i>	Persons			<i>Total</i>
	<i>Could start work</i>	<i>Could not start work</i>	<i>Does not know</i>		<i>Could start work</i>	<i>Could not start work</i>	<i>Does not know</i>	
Has a job to go to(b)	..	..	..	9.2	..	..	..	14.5
Personal considerations	110.8	47.7	8.7	167.1	174.0	85.8	14.2	273.9
Family considerations	152.3	69.1	13.2	234.7	155.1	70.6	13.3	239.1
Discouraged	90.1	3.8	*	96.0	106.3	4.5	*	113.2
Considered too young or too old	27.8	*	*	29.8	33.5	*	*	35.5
Language or racial difficulties	3.1	*	*	3.3	3.1	*	*	3.3
Lack necessary training, experience	5.9	*	*	6.0	7.8	*	*	8.1
No jobs in locality or line of work	53.4	*	*	56.9	61.9	*	*	66.3
No jobs in suitable hours	7.3	*	*	8.4	8.0	*	*	9.1
Other reasons	32.5	4.1	*	37.9	43.7	5.0	*	50.2
No reason given	4.4	*	*	5.8	5.2	*	*	7.0
Total	397.4	125.7	26.8	559.1	492.4	166.8	33.3	707.0

(a) See footnote(a) to Table 8. (b) See footnote(b) to Table 8.

TABLE 10. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANT A JOB: AGE AND REASON FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK, MARCH 1983
(' 000)

<i>Highest ranked reason for not actively looking for work</i>	<i>Age group (years)</i>							<i>Total</i>
	<i>15-19</i>	<i>20-24</i>	<i>25-34</i>	<i>35-44</i>	<i>45-54</i>	<i>55-59</i>	<i>60-64</i>	
MALES								
Personal considerations	53.3	9.6	7.1	8.6	10.8	8.1	9.3	106.8
Discouraged	3.4	*	*	*	*	3.2	4.1	17.2
<i>Total(a)</i>	<i>61.7</i>	<i>13.9</i>	<i>12.0</i>	<i>13.8</i>	<i>15.8</i>	<i>14.1</i>	<i>16.5</i>	<i>147.9</i>
FEMALES								
Has a job to go to	*	*	3.4	3.4	*	*	*	9.2
Personal considerations	50.2	16.4	24.5	29.0	30.1	10.0	6.9	167.1
Family considerations	6.5	33.3	109.9	57.5	19.9	4.5	3.1	234.7
Discouraged	7.1	4.9	20.2	22.8	24.4	10.2	6.5	96.0
Considered too young or too old	*	*	*	3.9	10.6	6.2	5.6	29.8
No jobs in locality or line of work	5.0	3.4	15.9	16.1	11.9	3.7	*	56.9
No jobs in suitable hours	*	*	*	3.3	*	*	*	8.4
Other reasons(a)	3.5	3.6	12.5	12.4	7.6	*	*	43.7
<i>Total</i>	<i>69.6</i>	<i>59.5</i>	<i>172.8</i>	<i>127.4</i>	<i>84.1</i>	<i>27.9</i>	<i>17.8</i>	<i>559.1</i>
PERSONS								
Has a job to go to	*	*	4.8	3.2	*	*	*	14.5
Personal considerations	103.5	26.0	31.6	37.6	40.9	18.1	16.2	273.9
Family considerations	6.8	33.4	110.5	59.2	20.1	4.9	4.1	239.1
Discouraged	10.5	5.3	22.0	24.3	27.2	13.4	10.6	113.2
Considered too young or too old	*	*	*	3.9	12.0	7.8	7.6	35.5
No jobs in locality or line of work	7.2	3.4	17.2	17.6	13.1	5.1	*	66.3
No jobs in suitable hours	*	*	*	3.3	*	*	*	9.1
Other reasons(a)	6.7	5.9	13.6	13.7	9.0	5.1	3.2	57.2
Total	131.3	73.4	184.8	141.3	99.8	42.0	34.3	707.0

(a) Includes persons who gave no reason.

**TABLE 11. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANT A JOB:
REASON FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK, MARCH 1983
(' 000)**

<i>Highest ranked 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. Australia(a)</i>	
MALES								
Personal considerations	35.0	27.6	18.5	10.1	8.8	3.0	2.4	106.8
Discouraged	7.4	4.4	3.0	*	*	*	*	17.2
Total(b)	50.4	36.6	26.5	12.8	12.3	3.9	2.4	147.9
FEMALES								
Has a job to go to	3.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	9.2
Personal considerations	51.1	48.0	29.7	13.6	16.9	4.2	2.7	167.1
Family considerations	84.7	55.1	40.2	20.5	21.3	8.9	2.9	234.7
Discouraged	35.8	23.0	16.1	8.9	8.3	2.2	*	96.0
Considered too young or too old	9.4	8.1	5.8	3.5	2.6	*	*	29.8
No jobs in locality or line of work	24.1	12.5	9.3	4.1	4.1	1.7	*	56.9
No jobs in suitable hours	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	8.4
Other reasons(b)	14.3	11.2	5.9	4.1	4.6	1.3	*	43.7
Total	191.7	141.0	95.2	49.0	52.5	17.5	7.3	559.1
PERSONS								
Has a job to go to	4.8	*	3.7	2.2	*	*	*	14.5
Personal considerations	86.2	75.6	48.1	23.7	25.7	7.2	5.1	273.9
Family considerations	86.5	55.7	41.1	21.0	21.4	9.2	2.9	239.1
Discouraged	43.2	27.4	19.2	9.4	9.5	2.6	*	113.2
Considered too young or too old	11.6	9.4	7.2	3.7	2.9	*	*	35.5
No jobs in locality or line of work	28.3	14.8	10.8	4.4	4.8	2.0	*	66.3
No jobs in suitable hours	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	9.1
Other reasons(b)	18.2	14.5	8.4	5.1	6.0	1.5	*	57.2
Total	242.1	177.6	121.7	61.9	64.8	21.5	9.7	707.0

(a) Includes the Northern Territory. (b) Includes persons who gave no reason.

**TABLE 12. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANT A JOB:
BIRTHPLACE AND REASON FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK, MARCH 1983
(' 000)**

<i>Highest ranked 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- 1983</i>					
MALES									
Personal considerations	81.6	6.6	8.5	10.2	9.9	15.3	25.3	106.8	
Discouraged	10.8	3.9	*	*	*	3.5	6.5	17.2	
Total(a)	109.8	12.0	11.8	14.3	15.3	22.8	38.1	147.9	
FEMALES									
Has a job to go to	7.6	*	*	*	*	*	*	9.2	
Personal considerations	132.4	9.9	13.8	11.0	15.5	19.2	34.7	167.1	
Family considerations	173.7	16.3	20.0	24.7	23.5	37.5	61.0	234.7	
Discouraged	62.5	15.6	8.6	9.3	13.0	20.5	33.5	96.0	
Considered too young or too old	18.2	7.3	4.2	4.2	5.0	6.6	11.5	29.8	
No jobs in locality or line of work	40.1	7.6	4.6	4.6	7.3	9.5	16.8	56.9	
No jobs in suitable hours	6.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	8.4	
Other reasons(a)	31.2	4.6	3.1	4.8	6.6	6.0	12.5	43.7	
Total	414.2	47.1	46.5	51.3	60.2	84.6	144.8	559.1	
PERSONS									
Has a job to go to	11.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	14.5	
Personal considerations	214.0	16.5	22.2	21.2	25.4	34.5	59.9	273.9	
Family considerations	177.2	16.8	20.3	24.8	23.6	38.3	61.9	239.1	
Discouraged	73.2	19.5	10.5	10.0	15.9	24.1	40.0	113.2	
Considered too young or too old	21.1	9.6	4.8	4.8	6.6	7.7	14.3	35.5	
No jobs in locality or line of work	46.4	9.3	6.1	4.6	8.4	11.4	19.9	66.3	
No jobs in suitable hours	7.4	*	*	*	*	*	*	9.1	
Other reasons	35.9	4.5	3.3	6.5	7.1	7.2	14.3	50.2	
No reason given	4.4	*	*	*	*	*	*	7.0	
Total	524.0	59.1	58.2	65.6	75.5	107.5	183.0	707.0	

(a) Includes persons who gave no reason.

TABLE 13. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANT A JOB: ALL REASONS REPORTED(a) FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK, STATES AND TERRITORIES, MARCH 1983
(* 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(b)</i>
FEMALES								
Has a job to go to	3.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	9.2
Personal considerations	51.1	48.0	29.7	13.6	16.9	4.2	2.7	167.1
Family considerations	90.1	58.0	43.1	20.9	22.4	9.7	3.1	248.6
Considered too young or too old	11.3	9.4	7.0	4.0	3.1	*	*	35.5
Language or racial difficulties; lack necessary training, experience	7.4	5.7	*	2.0	2.4	*	*	20.5
No jobs in locality or line of work	37.5	19.6	13.3	6.5	5.3	2.6	*	86.1
No jobs in suitable hours	11.2	8.0	5.2	2.2	2.1	1.1	*	30.4
Other reasons(a)	16.2	16.6	8.5	5.9	6.1	1.5	*	57.4
PERSONS								
Has a job to go to	4.8	*	3.7	2.2	*	*	*	14.5
Personal considerations	86.2	75.6	48.1	23.7	25.7	7.2	5.1	273.9
Family considerations	92.3	58.8	44.2	21.4	22.5	10.1	3.2	254.3
Considered too young or too old	13.8	11.1	8.4	4.6	3.6	*	*	42.5
Language or racial difficulties; lack necessary training, experience	9.2	8.0	*	2.0	2.5	*	*	24.9
No jobs in locality or line of work	45.6	23.2	15.6	7.3	6.4	2.9	*	102.5
No jobs in suitable hours	13.1	9.1	6.1	2.5	2.4	1.2	*	34.8
Other reasons(a)	21.1	20.8	11.4	6.9	7.8	1.8	*	73.7

(a) Excludes persons who gave no reason. (b) Includes the Northern Territory.

TABLE 14. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANT A JOB: ALL REASONS REPORTED(a) FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK AND BIRTHPLACE, MARCH 1983
(* 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>1971-1983</i>					
FEMALES									
Has a job to go to	7.6	*	*	*	*	*	*	9.2	
Personal considerations	132.4	9.9	13.8	11.0	15.5	19.2	34.7	167.1	
Family considerations	185.6	16.7	20.9	25.4	24.1	38.9	63.0	248.6	
Considered too young or too old	21.7	8.3	3.8	*	6.0	7.8	13.8	35.5	
Language or racial difficulties; lack necessary training, experience	9.3	*	3.8	5.4	*	9.4	11.2	20.5	
No jobs in locality or line of work	61.9	11.3	6.5	6.4	9.6	14.6	24.2	86.1	
No jobs in suitable hours	24.1	*	*	*	3.2	3.0	6.2	30.4	
Other reasons(a)	42.9	5.7	4.0	4.7	7.1	7.4	14.5	57.4	
PERSONS									
Has a job to go to	11.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	14.5	
Personal considerations	214.0	16.5	22.2	21.2	25.4	34.5	59.9	273.9	
Family considerations	190.4	17.1	21.2	25.5	24.2	39.7	63.9	254.3	
Considered too young or too old	25.6	10.7	3.9	*	7.9	8.9	16.8	42.5	
Language or racial difficulties; lack necessary training, experience	12.3	*	4.2	6.4	*	10.7	12.7	24.9	
No jobs in locality or line of work	73.9	14.2	8.1	6.4	11.4	17.3	28.7	102.5	
No jobs in suitable hours	27.7	*	*	*	3.3	3.8	7.1	34.8	
Other reasons(a)	54.7	6.7	4.5	7.8	8.9	10.1	19.0	73.7	

(a) Excludes persons who gave no reason.

**TABLE 15. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANT A JOB: TIME SINCE LAST JOB(a)
AND WHETHER LOOKED FOR WORK IN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS, MARCH 1983
(' 000)**

<i>Time since last job</i>	<i>Has looked for work in the last 12 months(b)</i>				<i>Total</i>	<i>Has not looked for work in the last 12 months</i>	<i>Not asked as has a job to go to</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>Within last 4 weeks</i>	<i>5 to 7 weeks ago</i>	<i>8 to 12 weeks ago</i>	<i>13 to 52 weeks ago</i>				
FEMALES								
Has never had a job	4.1	6.3	5.3	3.5	19.3	44.0	*	64.1
Under 6 months	6.6	6.6	*	*	16.4	46.1	4.9	67.5
6 and under 12 months	4.6	4.7	*	3.3	15.1	29.7	*	46.2
1 and under 3 years	9.8	7.4	6.7	12.7	36.6	76.5	*	113.9
3 and under 10 years	9.5	9.2	7.3	10.4	36.4	133.2	*	170.9
10 years or more	5.4	*	*	3.9	14.2	82.2	*	96.4
Total	40.1	36.7	25.8	35.4	138.1	411.8	9.2	559.1
PERSONS								
Has never had a job	7.0	10.8	11.3	5.1	34.2	75.0	*	110.5
Under 6 months	9.7	10.8	*	*	25.6	68.7	8.9	103.3
6 and under 12 months	5.9	7.3	3.3	4.1	20.6	38.2	*	60.8
1 and under 3 years	13.4	10.8	9.1	15.1	48.4	93.1	*	142.4
3 and under 10 years	10.7	10.5	8.1	11.2	40.6	148.9	*	190.7
10 years or more	5.4	*	*	3.9	14.6	84.7	*	99.3
Total	52.0	52.7	37.5	41.7	184.0	508.6	14.5	707.0

(a) Paid employment, for two weeks or more, in any job or business. (b) Persons who had left a job in the last twelve months were only asked whether they had looked for work since that job.

TECHNICAL NOTE

Estimation procedure

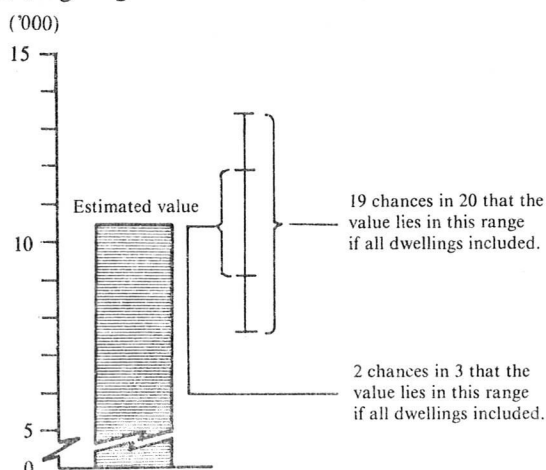
The estimates are derived from the population survey by use of a ratio estimation procedure, which ensures that the estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population for each capital city and remainder of State by age and sex, rather than to the corresponding distribution 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 14 on the previous page, the estimated number of discouraged jobseekers in the age group fifteen to nineteen years is 10,500. Since this estimate is between 10,000 and 20,000 the standard error for Australia will be between 1,400 and 2,000 in the standard error table and can be approximated as 1,450 (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 9,050 to 11,950 and about nineteen chances in twenty that the value will fall within the range 7,600 to 13,400. 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 10,500 fifteen to nineteen year olds are about 9.3 per cent of the 113,200 discouraged jobseekers aged fifteen to sixty-four years. The standard error for 113,200 is approximately 4,060 so the relative standard error is 3.6 per cent. The relative standard error for 10,500 is 13.8 per cent. Applying the above formula, the relative standard error of the proportion is $\sqrt{(13.8)^2 - (3.6)^2}$ or 13.3 per cent, giving a standard error for the proportion (9.3 per cent) of 1.2 percentage points. Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the proportion of discouraged jobseekers in the age group fifteen to nineteen years is between 7.5 per cent and 9.9 per cent and nineteen chances in twenty the proportion is within the range 6.3 per cent to 11.1 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	
									—number—	Relative standard error (per cent)
1,000						250				
1,500						300	410	390		
2,000						340	470	440		
2,500						380	510	480		
3,000						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.

