



# **PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK**

## **NOVEMBER 1976**

**AUSTRALIAN  
BUREAU OF  
STATISTICS**

**CANBERRA**

Reference No. 6.60

## INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr Michael Salloom on Canberra 526507 or our State office or write to Information Services, Australian Bureau of Statistics, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616.

Reference No. 6.60

NOON 6 APRIL 1977

## PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK, NOVEMBER 1976

## CONTENTS

<i>Table</i>	<i>Page</i>
Explanatory notes	2
<b>Family Status</b>	
1 May and November 1976	4
2 Duration of current period of unemployment	5
<b>Main difficulty in finding work</b>	
3 Duration of current period of unemployment	6
4 Age	6
5 Six State capital cities and other areas, birthplace	7
<b>All difficulties in finding work</b>	
6 Six State capital cities and other areas, birthplace	8
<b>When last worked</b>	
7 Six State capital cities and other areas	9
<b>Number of periods of unemployment in previous twelve months</b>	
8 Duration of unemployment in previous twelve months, Six State capital cities and other areas	9
9 Duration of unemployment in previous twelve months	10
10 Age	10
<b>Looking for full-time or part-time work</b>	
11 Duration of current period of unemployment, Six State capital cities and other areas	11
<b>Wage and salary earners in last job in 1976</b>	
12 Age, duration of last job, reason for leaving	12
<b>Persons who finished working in last job in 1976</b>	
13 Six State capital cities and other areas, duration of last job, age	13
.. Technical note	14

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

**Introduction**

In November 1976 a survey, based on the quarterly population survey, was conducted throughout Australia in order to obtain information about persons who had recently been looking for work, including particulars of their last job, difficulties experienced in finding a job, family status and duration of last job.

2. Preliminary results of the survey were published in a statement issued on 1 February 1977: *Persons Looking For Work, November 1976, Preliminary* (Reference No. 6.56). The present publication contains final estimates and more detailed information. The results of a similar inquiry conducted in May 1976 were published in *Persons Looking for Work, May 1976* (Reference No. 6.60).

**The population survey**

3. The survey is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (about 30,000 houses, flats, etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.), and covers about two-thirds of one per cent of the population of Australia. The information is obtained each quarter from the occupants of selected dwellings by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers. Interviews are carried out during a period of four weeks, so that in each of the months to which the survey relates, there are four survey weeks, chosen so as to fall within the limits of the calendar month or with minimum encroachment into the adjacent months.

**Scope**

4. The estimates relate to all persons aged 15 years and over, except persons in institutions, members of the permanent armed forces and certain diplomatic personnel customarily excluded from census and estimated populations. Persons in institutions are those who were patients in hospitals and sanatoria, or inmates of gaols, reformatories, etc., and for whom, for the purpose of the survey, the institution was regarded as their dwelling.

**Definitions**

5. For this survey *persons looking for work* were defined as all civilians aged 15 years and over who during the survey week did not work and did not have a job, but could have taken one had it been available, and had been actively looking for full-time or part-time work in the four weeks up to and including the survey week (including persons who would have been prevented from taking a job in the survey week by their own temporary

illness or injury, or by their having made arrangements to start after the survey week in a new job in which they would have preferred to start in the survey week).

6. The number of persons looking for work, as defined above, differs slightly from the number of unemployed persons published in *The Labour Force* November 1976 (Reference No. 6.20), because the latter includes persons waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been temporarily stood down without pay for four weeks or less (including the whole of the survey week).

7. A *family* was generally defined to consist of two or more persons living in the same household at the time of the survey, comprising the head of the family and spouse (if any) and any persons having any of the following relationships to them:

- (i) son or daughter of any age, if unmarried and not accompanied by children of his or her own
- (ii) brother or sister, if unmarried and not accompanied by parents or children of his or her own
- (iii) grandchild, if unmarried and not accompanied by either of his or her parents, nor by children of his or her own
- (iv) ancestor, if not married and not accompanied by children under 15 years of age of his or her own; or
- (v) any child under 15 years of age not accompanied by a parent, unless the child was related to some person in a second family in the household.

8. The following points should be noted in relation to the definition of a family in the previous paragraph:

- (i) family status was determined at the time of the survey. Thus, if members of the family were absent (e.g. children at boarding schools) the family status of the head and other family members could have been affected
- (ii) the term *relationship* includes relationships by blood, marriage or adoption
- (iii) the marriage relationship includes legal and de facto relationships

- (iv) the term *not married* comprises never married, widowed, divorced and permanently separated persons
- (v) a family, as defined, can contain no more than two married persons, and can contain two married persons only if these persons are husband and wife.

9. *Dependent children* comprise all family members under 15 years of age and all family members aged 15 to 20 years who are full-time students.

10. For this survey the *six State capital cities* were the 1971 Population Census State metropolitan Statistical Divisions. Explanatory notes on the delimitation of urban boundaries and maps showing the boundaries of the capital city Statistical Divisions were published in *Census of Population and Housing, 30 June 1971 – Census Bulletin No. 6*.

#### Reliability of the estimates

11. Since the estimates in this statement are based on a sample, they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained from a complete census using the

same questionnaires and procedures. More information on this topic is given in the Technical Note, page 14.

#### Related publications

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

- . *The Labour Force* (Reference 6.20)
- . *Labour Mobility* (Reference 6.43)
- . *Labour Force Experience* (Reference 6.26)

All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Publications of the Australian Bureau of Statistics* (Reference No. 1.8) 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 page 14, paragraph 4.
- . . Not applicable.

Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in tables are due to rounding.

TABLE 1. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK (a) : FAMILY STATUS, MAY AND NOVEMBER 1976

Family status	May 1976			November 1976		
	Number ('000)	Per cent of labour force (b)	Per cent of total	Number ('000)	Per cent of labour force (b)	Per cent of total
MALES						
Member of a family (c)	102.7	2.9	79.1	109.9	3.1	76.8
Husband	43.2	1.6	33.3	44.1	1.6	30.8
With dependent children (d) present	27.4	1.6	21.1	30.8	1.7	21.5
Without dependent children (d) present	15.8	1.7	12.2	13.3	1.4	9.3
Not married (e) head of family	3.5	4.6	2.7	*	*	*
Student 15-20 years of age	5.8	13.1	4.5	10.3	23.0	7.2
Looking for part-time work	3.7	n.a.	2.9	3.2	8.8	2.3
Other child (f) of family head	46.3	7.2	35.7	47.1	7.5	32.9
Other relative (parent, brother, etc.)	3.8	7.5	2.9	5.7	11.9	4.0
Not a member of a family (g)	27.1	6.2	20.9	33.2	7.2	23.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>129.8</i>	<i>3.3</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>143.2</i>	<i>3.6</i>	<i>100.0</i>
FEMALES						
Member of a family (c)	98.1	5.3	86.1	93.5	5.1	85.1
Wife	45.4	3.6	39.8	37.5	2.9	34.2
Looking for full-time work	22.5	n.a.	19.7	19.1	2.6	17.4
Looking for part-time work	23.0	n.a.	20.2	18.4	3.3	16.8
Not married (e) head of family	6.2	5.1	5.4	5.7	5.1	5.2
With dependent children (d) present	4.9	6.5	4.3	4.5	6.3	4.1
Student 15-20 years of age	6.3	15.9	5.5	10.6	22.6	9.7
Looking for part-time work	3.5	n.a.	3.1	4.2	10.3	3.8
Other child (f) of family head	38.3	10.2	33.6	36.3	10.2	33.0
Other relative (parent, sister, etc.)	*	*	*	3.4	11.5	3.1
Not a member of a family (g)	15.8	5.4	13.8	16.4	5.6	14.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>114.1</i>	<i>5.3</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>109.9</i>	<i>5.2</i>	<i>100.0</i>
PERSONS						
Member of a family (c)	200.8	3.7	82.3	203.4	3.8	80.4
Husband or wife	88.6	2.2	36.3	81.7	2.0	32.3
Not married (e) head of family	9.8	4.9	4.0	8.3	4.6	3.3
With dependent children (d) present	5.6	5.5	2.3	5.1	5.4	2.0
Without dependent children (d) present	4.1	4.3	1.7	3.2	3.8	1.3
Student 15-20 years of age	12.1	14.4	5.0	21.0	22.8	8.3
Looking for part-time work	7.2	n.a.	3.0	7.4	9.6	2.9
Other child (f) of family head	84.6	8.3	34.7	83.4	8.5	33.0
Looking for part-time work	3.6	n.a.	1.5	4.3	6.9	1.7
Other relative (parent, brother, etc.)	5.7	7.1	2.3	9.1	11.8	3.6
Not a member of a family (g)	43.0	5.9	17.6	49.6	6.6	19.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>243.9</i>	<i>4.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>253.0</i>	<i>4.2</i>	<i>100.0</i>

(a) For definition see page 2, paragraph 5. (b) The number of persons looking for work in each group as a percentage of the labour force in each group. For the definition of the labour force see *The Labour Force, November 1976* (Reference No. 6.20). (c) See page 2, paragraph 7. (d) See page 3, paragraph 9. (e) Includes widowed, divorced and permanently separated. (f) Of any age. (g) Persons living by themselves or not related to any other member of the household in which they were living.

\* Less than, or based on a figure less than 3,000. See page 14, paragraph 4.

n.a. not available.

TABLE 2. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK (a) : FAMILY STATUS BY DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT, NOVEMBER 1976

Family status	Duration of current period of unemployment (weeks)								Total	Average duration of current period of unemployment
	1 and under 2	2 and under 4	4 and under 8	8 and under 13	13 and under 26	26 and under 39	39 and under 52	52 and over		
-- '000 --										
-- weeks --										
MALES										
Member of a family (b)	8.4	20.7	19.2	16.2	17.0	8.9	7.3	12.0	109.9	18.5
Husband (c)	3.0	6.2	9.6	5.9	6.4	4.1	3.4	5.6	44.1	20.0
With dependent children (d) present	*	4.5	6.6	3.8	4.5	3.4	*	3.6	30.8	19.8
Student 15-20 years of age and other relatives	*	3.3	*	4.1	3.5				16.1	14.8
Other child (e) of family head	3.0	10.9	5.9	7.5	8.6	3.1	*	5.4	47.1	18.7
Not a member of a family (f)	*	5.7	6.5	5.8	7.8	5.8			33.2	15.8
<i>Total</i>	<i>10.0</i>	<i>26.7</i>	<i>25.7</i>	<i>22.0</i>	<i>24.8</i>	<i>11.6</i>	<i>8.3</i>	<i>14.1</i>	<i>143.2</i>	<i>17.9</i>
FEMALES										
Member of a family (b) (g)	8.8	16.9	16.9	14.4	13.2	7.7	6.3	9.3	93.5	18.0
Wife	3.3	7.6	7.0	6.1	3.9	3.5	4.3		37.5	15.3
Looking for full-time work	*	3.0	3.1	3.6		6.7			19.1	16.2
Looking for part-time work	*	4.6	3.9	*		4.9			18.4	14.4
Student 15-20 years of age and other relatives		4.3	4.0	*		3.7			14.0	13.7
Other child (e) of family head	*	5.8	4.9	4.6	6.6	3.5	3.1	4.8	36.3	22.3
Not a member of a family (f)	*	3.6	*	3.6		5.2			16.4	13.8
<i>Total</i>	<i>10.3</i>	<i>20.5</i>	<i>19.4</i>	<i>18.0</i>	<i>15.3</i>	<i>9.5</i>	<i>6.5</i>	<i>10.3</i>	<i>109.9</i>	<i>17.4</i>
PERSONS										
Member of a family (b) (h)	17.2	37.9	36.1	30.6	30.2	16.6	13.6	21.3	203.4	18.3
Husband or wife	6.3	13.8	16.6	12.0	10.3	7.6	5.1	8.1	81.7	17.8
Student 15-20 years of age and other relatives	3.9	6.1	6.7	4.7	4.9	3.8			30.1	14.3
Other child (e) of family head	5.9	16.7	10.8	12.7	15.1	6.7	5.9	10.2	83.4	20.3
Not a member of a family (f)	3.1	9.3	9.0	9.4	9.9	4.6	*	3.1	49.6	15.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>20.2</i>	<i>47.2</i>	<i>45.1</i>	<i>40.0</i>	<i>40.1</i>	<i>21.1</i>	<i>14.9</i>	<i>24.4</i>	<i>253.0</i>	<i>17.7</i>

(a) For definition, see page 2, paragraph 5. (b) See page 2, paragraph 7. (c) Includes 13,300 husbands with no dependent children present and with an average duration of current period of unemployment of 20.4 weeks. (d) See page 3, paragraph 9. (e) Of any age. (f) Persons living by themselves or not related to any other member of the household in which they were living. (g) Includes 5,700 not married (see page 2, paragraph 8) heads of families with an average duration of current period of unemployment of 19.4 weeks. (h) Includes 8,300 not married (see page 2, paragraph 8) heads of families with an average duration of current period of unemployment of 17.9 weeks.

\* Less than 3,000. See page 14, paragraph 4.

TABLE 3. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK (a) : MAIN DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WORK, BY DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT, NOVEMBER 1976

Main difficulty in finding work	Duration of current period of unemployment (weeks)					Total	Per cent of total	Average duration of current period of unemployment
	1 and under 4	4 and under 8	8 and under 13	13 and under 26	26 and over			
	- '000 -							- weeks -
Own ill health or handicap	3.4		4.7		4.1	12.2	4.8	25.5
Considered by employers to be too young or too old	5.2	*	3.7	4.5	7.9	24.0	9.5	24.8
Unsuitable hours	4.0		*	*	*	6.4	2.5	11.2
Too far to travel/transport problems	4.7	3.8	3.4	3.3	*	17.3	6.8	13.1
Lacked necessary education, training or skills	3.9	3.6	*	3.3	5.4	19.2	7.6	22.7
Insufficient work experience	6.1	3.9	3.0	3.6	6.3	22.8	9.0	18.2
No vacancies in line of work	12.0	8.5	9.0	7.1	8.6	45.1	17.8	15.1
No vacancies at all	18.1	12.6	12.8	12.7	21.8	78.1	30.9	19.0
Other difficulties (b)	*	3.9	*	3.6		11.1	4.4	14.8
No difficulties reported	11.0	3.2	*	*	*	16.8	6.6	4.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>67.4</b>	<b>45.1</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>40.1</b>	<b>60.4</b>	<b>253.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>17.7</b>

(a) For definition, see page 2, paragraph 5. (b) Includes about 3,400 persons whose main difficulty was language problems or discrimination against migrant or racial groups.

\* Less than 3,000. See page 14, paragraph 4.

TABLE 4. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK (a) : MAIN DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WORK, BY AGE, NOVEMBER 1976 ('000)

Main difficulty in finding work	Age group (years)				Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35 and over	
Own ill health or handicap	*	3.7		6.8	12.2
Considered by employers to be too young or too old	6.1	3.7	*	12.5	24.0
Unsuitable hours	*	*	4.3		6.4
Too far to travel/transport problems	5.9	3.8	3.8	3.7	17.3
Lacked necessary education, training or skills	10.0	5.2	*	*	19.2
Insufficient work experience	12.1	5.8	3.3		22.8
No vacancies in line of work	11.2	10.0	11.5	12.4	45.1
No vacancies at all	31.3	20.6	12.3	13.9	78.1
Other difficulties (b)	*	3.3	3.5	*	11.1
No difficulties reported	6.4	3.7	3.3	3.4	16.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>87.6</b>	<b>58.4</b>	<b>46.3</b>	<b>60.7</b>	<b>253.0</b>

(a) For definition, see page 2, paragraph 5. (b) See note (b) to Table 3 above.

\* Less than 3,000. See page 14, paragraph 4.

TABLE 5. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK (a) : MAIN DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WORK,  
BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE AND BIRTHPLACE, NOVEMBER 1976

Main difficulty in finding work	Persons						
	Males	Females	Total	Place of residence		Birthplace	
				State capital cities (b)	Other areas	Australia	Overseas
NUMBER ('000)							
Own ill health or handicap	9.9	*	12.2	7.8	4.4	9.0	3.2
Considered by employers to be too young or too old	11.9	12.1	24.0	16.8	7.2	16.3	7.8
Unsuitable hours	*	5.3	6.4	5.2	*	4.1	*
Too far to travel/transport problems	8.4	8.9	17.3	11.5	5.7	13.3	4.0
Lacked necessary education, training or skills	11.3	7.9	19.2	11.4	7.8	15.0	4.1
Insufficient work experience	8.9	14.0	22.8	17.5	5.4	16.3	6.5
No vacancies in line of work	31.1	14.0	45.1	27.9	17.3	34.2	10.9
No vacancies at all	45.8	32.2	78.1	33.6	44.5	58.5	19.6
Other difficulties (c)	5.8	5.3	11.1	7.8	3.3	5.6	5.5
No difficulties reported	8.9	7.9	16.8	11.9	4.9	12.5	4.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>143.2</b>	<b>109.9</b>	<b>253.0</b>	<b>151.3</b>	<b>101.7</b>	<b>184.8</b>	<b>68.2</b>
PER CENT							
Own ill health or handicap	6.9	*	4.8	5.1	4.3	4.9	4.7
Considered by employers to be too young or too old	8.3	11.0	9.5	11.1	7.1	8.8	11.4
Unsuitable hours	*	4.8	2.5	3.4	*	2.2	*
Too far to travel/transport problems	5.9	8.1	6.8	7.6	5.6	7.2	5.8
Lacked necessary education, training or skills	7.9	7.2	7.6	7.5	7.7	8.1	6.1
Insufficient work experience	6.2	12.7	9.0	11.5	5.3	8.8	9.6
No vacancies in line of work	21.7	12.8	17.8	18.4	17.0	18.5	16.0
No vacancies at all	32.0	29.3	30.9	22.2	43.8	31.7	28.7
Other difficulties (c)	4.1	4.8	4.4	5.2	3.2	3.0	8.1
No difficulties reported	6.2	7.2	6.6	7.8	4.9	6.8	6.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) For definition see page 2, paragraph 5. (b) For definition, see page 3, paragraph 10. (c) See note (b) to Table 3.

\* Less than, or based on a figure less than 3,000. See page 14, paragraph 4.



TABLE 6. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK (a) : ALL DIFFICULTIES REPORTED IN FINDING WORK,  
BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE AND BIRTHPLACE, NOVEMBER 1976

Difficulty in finding work	Persons						
				Place of residence		Birthplace	
	Males	Females	Total	State capital cities (b)	Other areas	Australia	Overseas
NUMBER ('000)							
Own ill health or handicap	17.3	5.3	22.6	13.4	9.2	16.8	5.8
Considered by employers to be too young or too old	29.8	30.0	59.8	39.6	20.2	44.6	15.1
Unsuitable hours	5.0	10.2	15.2	11.0	4.1	9.4	5.8
Too far to travel/transport problems	27.1	22.8	49.9	32.8	17.1	35.5	14.4
Lacked necessary education, training or skills	29.4	22.5	52.0	31.7	20.3	38.8	13.2
Insufficient work experience	24.0	28.3	52.3	37.6	14.7	38.0	14.3
No vacancies in line of work	51.8	29.2	81.0	48.4	32.6	60.1	20.9
No vacancies at all	63.3	43.3	106.6	50.4	56.2	78.0	28.6
Language difficulties	4.4	3.2	7.6	5.8	*	*	7.0
Other difficulties (c)	8.0	6.0	14.0	9.3	4.7	10.0	4.1

PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK WHO REPORTED SPECIFIC DIFFICULTIES

Own ill health or handicap	12.1	4.8	8.9	8.9	9.1	9.1	8.5
Considered by employers to be too young or too old	20.8	27.3	23.6	26.2	19.9	24.1	22.1
Unsuitable hours	3.5	9.3	6.0	7.3	4.0	5.1	8.5
Too far to travel/transport problems	18.9	20.7	19.7	21.7	16.8	19.2	21.1
Lacked necessary education, training or skills	20.5	20.5	20.6	21.0	20.0	21.0	19.4
Insufficient work experience	16.8	25.8	20.7	24.9	14.5	20.6	21.0
No vacancies in line of work	36.2	26.6	32.0	32.0	32.1	32.5	30.6
No vacancies at all	44.2	39.4	42.1	33.3	55.3	42.2	41.9
Language difficulties	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.8	*	*	10.3
Other difficulties (c)	5.6	5.5	5.5	6.1	4.6	5.4	6.0

(a) For definition see page 2, paragraph 5. (b) For definition see page 3, paragraph 10. (c) Includes discrimination against migrants or racial groups.

\* Less than or based on a figure less than 3,000. See page 14, paragraph 4.

NOTE: Because some respondents experienced more than one difficulty in finding work, the estimates in this table do not agree with those in Tables 3, 4 and 5, which show only the main difficulty.

TABLE 7. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK (a) : WHEN LAST WORKED, BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE, NOVEMBER 1976 ('000)

When last worked	Six State capital cities (b)				Other areas				Total			
	Males	Married women	All females	Persons	Males	Married women	All females	Persons	Males	Married women	All females	Persons
During 1976	60.6	13.5	38.1	98.6	41.0	6.9	20.9	61.9	101.6	20.4	58.9	160.5
Before 1976	15.3	11.0	17.4	32.8	9.9	8.5	14.3	24.2	25.3	19.5	31.7	57.0
Never worked	9.0	*	11.0	19.9	7.3	*	8.3	15.6	16.3	*	19.2	(c)35.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>84.9</b>	<b>25.4</b>	<b>66.5</b>	<b>151.3</b>	<b>58.3</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>43.4</b>	<b>101.7</b>	<b>143.2</b>	<b>41.6</b>	<b>109.9</b>	<b>253.0</b>

(a) For definition, see page 2, paragraph 5. (b) For definition, see page 3, paragraph 10. (c) Includes 15,300 males and 15,800 females aged 15 to 19 years.

\* Less than 3,000. See page 14, paragraph 4.

TABLE 8. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK (a) : NUMBER OF PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT (b) AND DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT (b) IN PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS (c), AND PLACE OF RESIDENCE, NOVEMBER 1976 ('000)

Number of periods of unemployment (b) in previous twelve months (c)	Duration of unemployment (b) in previous twelve months (weeks)								Total	
	1 and under 2	2 and under 4	4 and under 8	8 and under 13	13 and under 26	26 and under 39	39 and under 52	52		
SIX STATE CAPITAL CITIES (d)										
One	13.7	17.2	19.8	13.6	13.6	9.4	7.1	14.9	109.3	
Two	..	*	} 3.9	{ 4.3	8.9	6.1	3.8	..	27.6	
Three and over	..	*			*	5.5	3.8	*	..	14.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>151.3</b>	
OTHER AREAS										
One	7.3	7.8	8.6	9.6	11.9	6.7	7.1	12.7	71.7	
Two	..	*	} *	{ 3.3	{ 4.8	5.1	5.8	..	20.2	
Three and over	..	*				*	3.4	3.5	*	..
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>101.7</b>	
TOTAL										
One	21.0	25.1	28.4	23.2	25.5	16.1	14.2	27.6	181.0	
Two	..	*	4.3	7.1	13.7	11.2	9.6	..	47.7	
Three and over	..	*	*	*	8.9	7.3	4.0	..	24.3	
<b>Total</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>27.2</b>	<b>34.3</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>48.2</b>	<b>34.6</b>	<b>27.8</b>	<b>27.6</b>	<b>253.0</b>	

(a) For definition see page 2, paragraph 5. (b) Includes the current period of unemployment. (c) The twelve months up to and including the end of survey week. (d) For definition, see page 3, paragraph 10.

\* Less than 3,000. See page 14, paragraph 4.

TABLE 9. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK (a) : NUMBER OF PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT (b) AND DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT (b) IN PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS (c), NOVEMBER 1976 ('000)

Number of periods of unemployment (b) in previous twelve months (c)	Duration of unemployment (b) in previous twelve months (weeks)							52	Total
	1 and under 2	2 and under 4	4 and under 8	8 and under 13	13 and under 26	26 and under 39	39 and under 52		
MALES									
One	9.5	12.0	15.3	13.6	14.5	9.5	7.4	14.8	96.6
Two	..	*	3.9	4.0	7.0	7.4	5.8	..	27.8
Three and over	..	*			7.1	5.6	3.0	..	18.7
<i>Total</i>	9.5	13.1	19.2	19.2	28.6	22.5	16.1	14.8	143.2
FEMALES									
One	11.5	13.1	13.1	9.6	11.0	6.6	6.8	12.8	84.5
Two	..	*	*	3.1	6.7	3.8	3.8	..	19.9
Three and over	..	*	*	*	*	*	*	..	5.6
<i>Total</i>	11.5	14.1	15.2	13.1	19.5	12.1	11.7	12.8	109.9
PERSONS									
One	21.0	25.1	28.4	23.2	25.5	16.1	14.2	27.6	181.0
Two	..	*	4.3	7.1	13.7	11.2	9.6	..	47.7
Three and over	..	*	*	*	8.9	7.3	4.0	..	24.3
<i>Total</i>	21.0	27.2	34.3	32.3	48.2	34.6	27.8	27.6	253.0

(a) For definition see page 2, paragraph 5. (b) Includes the current period of unemployment. (c) The twelve months up to and including the end of survey week.

\* Less than 3,000. See page 14, paragraph 4.

TABLE 10. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK (a) : NUMBER OF PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT (b) IN PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS, BY AGE, NOVEMBER 1976 ('000)

Number of periods of unemployment (b) in previous twelve months (c)	Age group (years)						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over	
MALES							
One	28.0	19.8	18.0	11.8	9.8	9.1	96.6
Two	10.1	7.4	5.1	3.0	3.2	*	27.8
Three and over	4.1	6.5	3.2	*		..	
<i>Total</i>	42.2	33.7	26.3	16.2	13.0	11.8	143.2
FEMALES							
One	33.2	19.5	16.2	8.5	4.9	*	84.5
Two	10.3	3.9	3.7	*	*	*	19.9
Three and over	*	*		..	..	..	
<i>Total</i>	45.4	24.8	20.0	10.0	7.0	*	109.9
PERSONS							
One	61.2	39.3	34.2	20.3	14.7	11.3	181.0
Two	20.4	11.2	7.5	4.4	5.3	3.2	47.7
Three and over	6.0	7.9	4.5	*		..	
<i>Total</i>	87.6	58.4	46.3	26.2	20.0	14.5	253.0

For footnotes see previous table.

\* Less than 3,000. See page 14, paragraph 4.

TABLE 11. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK (a) : LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME WORK BY DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND PLACE OF RESIDENCE, NOVEMBER 1976 ('000)

	Duration of current period of unemployment (weeks)							Total
	1 and under 4	4 and under 8	8 and under 13	13 and under 26	26 and under 39	39 and under 52	52 and over	
<i>Looking for full-time work –</i>								
Six State capital cities (b)								
Males	22.9	14.6	10.6	13.5	5.1	3.4	8.0	78.3
Females	15.4	8.7	7.9	5.8	4.1	*	*	47.2
Persons	38.3	23.4	18.5	19.3	9.2	6.3	10.5	125.5
Other areas								
Males	9.8	9.7	9.6	10.8	5.6	4.3	5.3	55.0
Females	5.4	3.9	5.6	7.0	3.7	*	5.1	33.1
Persons	15.2	13.5	15.2	17.9	9.3	6.7	10.4	88.2
Total								
Males	32.8	24.3	20.2	24.3	10.7	7.7	13.3	133.3
Females	20.8	12.6	13.5	12.8	7.7	5.3	7.6	80.3
Persons	53.5	36.9	33.7	37.2	18.5	13.0	20.9	213.6
<i>Looking for part-time work –</i>								
Six State capital cities (b)								
Males	*	*	*				*	6.6
Females	6.2	5.0	*				5.3	19.3
Persons	8.7	5.8	4.0				7.3	25.9
Other areas								
Males	*	*	*				*	3.3
Females	3.9	*	*				*	10.3
Persons	5.2	*	*				3.6	13.5
Total								
Males	3.8	*	*				*	9.8
Females	10.0	6.8	4.5				8.2	29.6
Persons	13.9	8.2	6.3				11.0	39.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>67.4</b>	<b>45.1</b>	<b>40.0</b>	<b>40.1</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>253.0</b>

(a) For definition, see page 2, paragraph 5. (b) For definition see page 3, paragraph 10.

\* Less than 3,000. See page 14, paragraph 4.

TABLE 12. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK (a) WHO WERE WAGE OR SALARY EARNERS IN THEIR LAST JOB AND WHO FINISHED WORKING IN THAT JOB IN 1976 : AGE (b), DURATION OF LAST JOB AND REASON FOR LEAVING, NOVEMBER 1976

Duration of last job	Age group (years)				Total			
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35 and over	Males	Females	Persons	
LOST LAST JOB OR RETRENCHED (c)								
Number looking for work ('000) –								
Under 2 weeks	*	*	3.4	{	*	*	6.2	
2 weeks and under 8 weeks	7.8	5.3			3.9	3.8		7.6
8 weeks and under 26 weeks	8.7	7.5	5.4	5.6	18.8	8.3	27.1	
26 weeks and under 52 weeks	4.9	3.2	*	3.5	9.4	4.0	13.4	
<i>Total under 1 year</i>	<i>23.0</i>	<i>18.0</i>	<i>10.6</i>	<i>14.9</i>	<i>44.2</i>	<i>22.3</i>	<i>66.5</i>	
1 year and under 2 years	} 3.1	3.2	4.5	4.3	{ 6.7	} 5.1	{ 9.4	
2 years and under 3 years		*	*	*				3.5
3 years and under 5 years	*	*	3.0	{ 4.4	4.3	} 3.2	6.0	
5 years and over	*	*	*		4.7		6.2	
<i>Total</i>	<i>26.6</i>	<i>23.1</i>	<i>18.1</i>	<i>26.1</i>	<i>63.3</i>	<i>30.6</i>	<i>93.9</i>	
<i>Per cent of all reasons</i>	<i>56.9</i>	<i>57.2</i>	<i>62.2</i>	<i>70.7</i>	<i>65.9</i>	<i>53.7</i>	<i>61.3</i>	
OTHER REASONS								
Number looking for work ('000) –								
Under 2 weeks	*	*	} 4.2	3.6	{	*	*	3.3
2 weeks and under 8 weeks	4.6	*				5.3	3.3	
8 weeks and under 26 weeks	6.5	5.5	*	*	8.3	8.0	16.3	
26 weeks and under 52 weeks	3.6	*	*	*	4.2	5.3	9.5	
<i>Total under 1 year</i>	<i>16.2</i>	<i>10.4</i>	<i>6.0</i>	<i>5.2</i>	<i>20.3</i>	<i>17.4</i>	<i>37.7</i>	
1 year and under 2 years	} 3.3	{	3.4	} 4.9	{	5.9	3.0	8.9
2 years and under 3 years			*			*	4.2	3.0
3 years and under 5 years	*	} 3.5	*	*	*	*	*	4.6
5 years and over	*		*	*	*	*	*	3.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>20.1</i>	<i>17.3</i>	<i>11.0</i>	<i>10.8</i>	<i>32.8</i>	<i>26.4</i>	<i>59.2</i>	
<i>Per cent of all reasons</i>	<i>43.1</i>	<i>42.8</i>	<i>37.8</i>	<i>29.3</i>	<i>34.1</i>	<i>46.3</i>	<i>38.7</i>	
ALL REASONS								
Number looking for work ('000) –								
Under 2 weeks	3.1	*	*	*	6.3	3.2	9.5	
2 weeks and under 8 weeks	12.4	7.2	4.1	4.7	17.5	10.9	28.4	
8 weeks and under 26 weeks	15.1	13.0	7.8	7.5	27.2	16.2	43.4	
26 weeks and under 52 weeks	8.6	5.7	3.6	5.1	13.6	9.3	23.0	
<i>Total under 1 year</i>	<i>39.2</i>	<i>28.3</i>	<i>16.6</i>	<i>20.1</i>	<i>64.5</i>	<i>39.7</i>	<i>104.2</i>	
1 year and under 2 years	4.7	5.7	4.1	3.8	12.6	5.7	18.3	
2 years and under 3 years	*	} 5.4	{ 3.1	3.0	5.0	5.4	10.4	
3 years and under 5 years	*			3.5	3.5	7.0	3.6	10.6
5 years and over	*	*	*	6.5	7.0	*	9.5	
<i>Total</i>	<i>46.7</i>	<i>40.3</i>	<i>29.1</i>	<i>37.0</i>	<i>96.1</i>	<i>56.9</i>	<i>153.1</i>	
<i>Per cent of all reasons</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	

(a) For definition see page 2, paragraph 5. (b) In November 1976. (c) Includes termination of seasonal jobs.

\* Less than 3,000. See page 14, paragraph 4.

NOTE. The estimates in this table were derived from the question "Did you lose that job, were you retrenched or did you quit that job?".

TABLE 13. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK (a) WHO FINISHED WORKING IN THEIR LAST JOB IN 1976 :  
DURATION OF LAST JOB BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE AND AGE (b), NOVEMBER 1976  
(<sup>'000</sup>)

Duration of last job	Age group (years)		Place of residence		Total
	15-19	20 and over	Six State capital cities (c)	Other areas	
MALES					
Under 2 weeks	*	10.3	7.1	4.6	11.7
2 weeks and under 8 weeks	6.9	10.6	8.0	9.4	17.5
8 weeks and under 26 weeks	7.7	19.5	15.5	11.7	27.2
26 weeks and under 1 year	3.7	9.9	8.4	5.2	13.6
<i>Total under 1 year</i>	<i>19.7</i>	<i>50.2</i>	<i>39.0</i>	<i>31.0</i>	<i>70.0</i>
1 year and under 2 years	}	{	9.7	3.4	12.6
2 years and under 5 years			11.2	3.8	12.0
5 years and over			*	*	7.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>23.7</i>	<i>77.9</i>	<i>60.6</i>	<i>41.0</i>	<i>101.6</i>
FEMALES					
Under 2 weeks	*	3.3	3.0	*	5.2
2 weeks and under 8 weeks	5.5	5.4	7.1	3.8	10.9
8 weeks and under 26 weeks	7.4	8.8	11.3	4.9	16.2
26 weeks and under 1 year	4.8	4.5	6.0	3.3	9.3
<i>Total under 1 year</i>	<i>19.7</i>	<i>22.0</i>	<i>27.5</i>	<i>14.2</i>	<i>41.7</i>
1 year and under 2 years	}	{	3.9	*	5.7
2 years and under 5 years			7.4	3.4	9.0
5 years and over			*	*	*
<i>Total</i>	<i>23.3</i>	<i>35.7</i>	<i>38.1</i>	<i>20.9</i>	<i>58.9</i>
PERSONS					
Under 2 weeks	3.3	13.6	10.1	6.8	16.9
2 weeks and under 8 weeks	12.4	16.0	15.1	13.3	28.4
8 weeks and under 26 weeks	15.1	28.3	26.8	16.6	43.4
26 weeks and under 1 year	8.6	14.4	14.4	8.5	23.0
<i>Total under 1 year</i>	<i>39.4</i>	<i>72.3</i>	<i>66.5</i>	<i>45.2</i>	<i>111.7</i>
1 year and under 2 years	4.7	13.6	12.7	5.6	18.3
2 years and under 5 years	*	18.5	13.9	7.1	21.0
5 years and over	*	9.2	5.6	3.9	9.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>46.9</i>	<i>113.6</i>	<i>98.6</i>	<i>61.9</i>	<i>160.5</i>

(a) For definitions, see page 2, paragraph 5. (b) Age in November 1976. (c) For definition, see page 3, paragraph 10.

\* Less than 3,000. See page 14, paragraph 4.

## TECHNICAL NOTE

### Estimation procedure

Estimates derived from the quarterly population survey are obtained by using a ratio estimation procedure. This procedure ensures that survey estimates conform to the independently estimated distribution of the population by age and sex, rather than the age and sex distribution within the sample itself.

### Reliability of estimates

2. Since the estimates in this bulletin are based on a sample, they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained from a complete census using the same questionnaires and procedures. 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, and not the whole population, was enumerated. 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 from a comparable complete enumeration, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. A table of standard errors which is intended to be of general application is given below. An example of the use of this table is as follows : if the estimate obtained from the sample is 100,000, the standard error is 3.0 per cent of the estimate, i.e. 3,000. There are about two chances in three that the true figure is within the range 97,000 to 103,000 and about nineteen chances in twenty that this figure is between 94,000 and 106,000.

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate (Persons)	Approximate standard error of estimates		Size of estimate (Persons)	Approximate standard error of estimates	
	Persons	Per cent of estimate		Persons	Per cent of estimate
3,000	700	24.0	50,000	2,300	4.6
4,000	800	20.0	100,000	3,000	3.0
5,000	900	18.0	200,000	4,000	2.0
10,000	1,200	12.0	500,000	6,000	1.2
20,000	1,600	8.0	1,000,000	8,000	0.8

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

4. In the tables in this bulletin only estimates of 3,000 or over have been shown, as smaller estimates would be subject to such high standard errors (relative to the size of the estimate) as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable uses. Although, in some

cases, figures for these small components can be derived by subtraction, they should not be regarded as reliable.

5. 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.

**R.J. CAMERON**  
Australian Statistician