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# **PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK**

## **JULY 1978**

CATALOGUE NO. 6222.0

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**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS Canberra**



**INQUIRIES**

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### MAIN FEATURES

- In July 1978, 370,700 persons were looking for work. They included:
  - 47,500 husbands in families with dependent children; 22,700 husbands in families without dependent children; 62,000 wives; and 14,400 not married heads of families. (Table 1).
- Husbands had been looking for work for an average of 26.7 weeks, wives for 22.1 weeks, and not married heads of families for 29.2 weeks. (Table 2).
- 15 per cent of persons looking for work reported that their main difficulty in finding a job was that there were no vacancies in their line of work. A further 38 per cent reported that there were no vacancies at all. (Table 3).
- While looking for work 76 per cent had registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service. Only 7 per cent had taken no other active steps to find a job. (Table 7).
- 237,300 persons who had been wage or salary earners in their last full-time job had ceased working in it in 1977 or 1978. Of these 49 per cent had lost their job or been retrenched, for 12 per cent the job had been temporary or seasonal, and 39 per cent had left for other reasons. (Table 16).

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

#### Introduction

In July 1978 a survey, based on the monthly population survey, was conducted throughout Australia in order to obtain information about unemployed persons who had recently been looking for work, including particulars of their last job, difficulties experienced in finding a job, family status, steps taken to find work and duration of last job. The results of similar inquiries conducted in May 1976, November 1976 and May 1977 were published in *Persons Looking for Work* (6222.0)

#### The population survey

2. 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 month from the occupants of selected dwellings by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers.

#### Scope

3. The estimates relate to all persons aged 15 years and over, except persons in institutions, members of the permanent defence 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

4. For this survey *persons looking for work* were defined as all civilians aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the survey week, and had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the survey week and :

- (i) were available for work in the survey week, or would have been available except for temporary illness (i.e. lasting for less than four weeks to the end of the survey week); or
- (ii) were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the survey week and would have started in the survey week if the job had been available then.

They therefore comprise all unemployed, those who were waiting to be called back to a full-time or part-time job from which they had been stood down without pay for less than four weeks up to the end of the survey week (including the whole of the survey week) for reasons other than bad weather or plant breakdown. In July 1978 there were an estimated 7,200 persons in this latter category.

5. The *State capital cities* were the 1976 Population Census State metropolitan Statistical Divisions.

6. 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) sons or daughters of any age, if not married and not accompanied by children of their own
- (ii) brothers or sisters, if not married and not accompanied by parents or children of their own
- (iii) grandchildren, if not married and not accompanied by either of their parents, nor by children of their own
- (iv) ancestors, if not married and not accompanied by children under 15 years of age of their own; or
- (v) any children under 15 years of age not accompanied by a parent, unless the children were related to some person in a second family in the household.

7. 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.

8. *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.

#### Comparability of series

9. Because the July 1978 survey estimates are based on revised population estimates derived from the results of the 1976 Population Census (adjusted for underenumeration) and a new population survey questionnaire, care should be used in comparing estimates with those shown in previous issues of this publication.

#### Reliability of the estimates

10. Since the estimates in this statement are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the information had been

obtained from occupants of all dwellings. More information on this topic is given in the Technical Note, page 16.

#### Related publications

11. Other ABS publications which are available free of charge from any ABS office and which may be of interest include :

- . *The Labour Force* (6203.0). This publication contains an up-to-date list of population survey reports.
- . *Labour Mobility* (6209.0).
- . *Labour Force Experience* (6206.0).
- . *Persons Not In The Labour Force* (6220.0).

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

#### Symbols and other usages

- \* Subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses.
- .. Not applicable.
- n.a. Not available

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

**R. J. CAMERON**  
Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK : FAMILY STATUS (b), MAY AND NOVEMBER 1976, MAY 1977 AND JULY 1978

Family status	May 1976	November 1976	May 1977	July 1978	
		- per cent -		Number ('000)	Per cent
MALES					
Member of a family	79.1	76.8	80.2	164.0	78.3
Husband	33.3	30.8	30.2	70.2	33.5
with dependent children present	21.1	21.5	20.0	47.5	22.7
without dependent children present	12.2	9.3	10.2	22.7	10.8
Not married head of family	2.7	*	3.0	4.3	2.0
with dependent children present	*	*	*	*	*
without dependent children present	*	*	2.4	*	*
Full-time student 15-20 years of age	4.5	7.2	4.8	7.6	3.6
Other child of family head	35.7	32.9	38.1	73.7	35.2
Other relative (parent, brother, etc.)	2.9	4.0	4.1	8.2	3.9
Not a member of a family (a)	20.9	23.2	19.8	45.5	21.7
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>209.5</i>	<i>100.0</i>
FEMALES					
Member of a family	86.1	85.1	86.8	136.8	84.8
Wife	39.8	34.2	38.5	62.0	38.5
with dependent children present	}	n.a.	26.3	42.6	26.4
without dependent children present			12.3	19.5	12.1
Not married head of family	5.5	5.2	6.4	10.1	6.3
with dependent children present	4.3	4.1	5.2	7.1	4.4
without dependent children present	*	*	*	3.0	1.9
Full-time student 15-20 years of age	5.5	9.7	8.0	8.9	5.5
Other child of family head	33.6	33.0	31.9	51.0	31.6
Other relative (parent, sister, etc.)	*	3.1	*	4.7	2.9
Not a member of a family (a)	13.8	14.9	13.2	24.5	15.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>161.3</i>	<i>100.0</i>
PERSONS					
Member of a family	82.3	80.4	83.2	300.8	81.1
Husband or wife	36.3	32.3	34.0	132.3	35.7
with dependent children present	}	n.a.	22.9	90.1	24.3
without dependent children present			11.1	42.2	11.4
Not married head of family	4.0	3.3	4.5	14.4	3.9
with dependent children present	2.3	2.0	2.6	8.8	2.4
without dependent children present	1.7	1.3	1.9	5.6	1.5
Full-time student 15-20 years of age	5.0	8.3	6.3	16.6	4.5
Other child of family head	34.7	33.0	35.3	124.7	33.6
Other relative (parent, brother, etc.)	2.3	3.6	3.1	12.9	3.5
Not a member of a family (a)	17.6	19.6	16.8	69.9	18.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>370.7</i>	<i>100.0</i>

(a) 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 Technical Note, paragraph 5.

TABLE 2. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK : FAMILY STATUS BY DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT , JULY 1978

Family status	Duration of current period of unemployment (weeks)							Total	Average duration of current period of unemployment weeks
	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 over		
- '000 -									
MALES									
Member of a family (a)	9.9	16.8	25.4	21.5	32.8	26.3	31.3	164.0	24.8
Husband	5.0	9.0	9.6	9.0	13.9	7.6	16.3	70.2	26.7
With dependent children present	3.9	5.6	6.4	6.5	9.3	5.3	10.5	47.5	23.9
Without dependent children present	*	3.4	3.2	*	4.6	*	5.7	22.7	32.7
Student 15-20 years of age or other relative	*	3.8	4.2	4.4	*	15.9	24.0		
Other child of family head	4.1	6.3	12.6	10.6	15.0	13.5	11.7	73.7	22.9
Not a member of a family (b)	*	5.3	7.8	6.1	7.7	5.5	10.7	45.5	28.5
Total	12.4	22.1	33.1	27.6	40.6	31.8	41.9	209.5	25.6
FEMALES									
Member of a family	14.6	12.9	22.5	15.2	22.9	21.0	27.6	136.8	27.8
Wife	9.2	6.4	10.4	7.2	9.5	8.3	10.9	62.0	22.1
Looking for full-time work	4.8	3.0	5.6	4.4	5.1	6.1	8.9	37.9	26.1
Looking for part-time work	4.4	3.4	4.8	*	4.4	4.2	24.2	15.8	
Not married head of family	*	3.1	3.3	3.1	3.1	10.1	29.9		
Student 15-20 years of age or other relative	*	4.1	3.6	3.1	*	13.6	25.8		
Other child of family head	4.5	3.5	7.8	5.3	9.2	8.5	12.2	51.0	34.9
Not a member of a family (b)	3.5	4.8	*	5.7	3.7	4.6	24.5	28.9	
Total	15.8	15.2	27.3	17.4	28.7	24.7	32.2	161.3	28.0
PERSONS									
Member of a family	24.5	29.7	47.9	36.7	55.7	47.4	58.9	300.8	26.2
Husband or wife	14.2	15.4	20.0	16.2	23.4	15.9	27.2	132.3	24.6
With dependent children present	10.7	10.0	13.9	11.3	16.1	11.4	16.7	90.1	22.4
Without dependent children present	3.5	5.4	6.0	4.9	7.4	4.5	10.5	42.2	29.2
Not married head of family	*	3.9	*	3.3	*	3.0	14.4	29.2	
With dependent children present	*	*	3.0	3.3	*	8.8	23.2		
Student 15-20 years of age or other relative	*	3.0	5.1	3.0	4.8	7.5	4.9	29.5	27.0
Other child of family head	8.6	9.8	20.4	15.8	24.2	22.0	23.8	124.7	27.8
Not a member of a family (b)	3.6	7.6	12.5	8.2	13.5	9.2	15.2	69.9	28.6
Total	28.2	37.3	60.4	45.0	69.2	56.5	74.1	370.7	26.6

(a) Includes 4,300 not married heads of families whose average duration of current period of unemployment was 27.8 weeks. (b) Persons living by themselves or not related to any other member of the household in which they were living.

\* Less than 3,000. See Technical Note, paragraph 5.

TABLE 3. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK : MAIN DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WORK,  
BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE AND BIRTHPLACE, JULY 1978

Main difficulty in finding work	Persons						
	Males	Females	Total	Place of residence		Birthplace	
				State capital cities	Other areas	Australia	Overseas
NUMBER ('000)							
Own ill health or handicap	10.3	3.5	13.8	9.7	4.1	9.0	4.8
Considered by employers to be too young or too old	20.0	20.4	40.4	28.5	12.0	27.9	12.5
Unsuitable hours	*	7.5	9.1	6.8	*	6.8	*
Too far to travel/transport problems	10.7	9.2	19.9	14.6	5.3	14.7	5.2
Lacked necessary education, training or skills	13.5	10.2	23.6	17.1	6.6	17.9	5.8
Insufficient work experience	13.9	15.5	29.3	19.9	9.4	22.7	6.7
No vacancies in line of work	36.5	19.6	56.1	38.0	18.1	38.3	17.7
No vacancies at all	85.4	56.1	141.5	65.8	75.7	102.8	38.6
Other difficulties (a)	12.7	11.0	23.7	16.3	7.4	15.2	8.5
No difficulties reported	5.0	8.3	13.4	9.5	3.9	10.1	3.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>209.5</b>	<b>161.3</b>	<b>370.7</b>	<b>226.2</b>	<b>144.6</b>	<b>265.4</b>	<b>105.4</b>
PER CENT							
Own ill health or handicap	4.9	2.2	3.7	4.3	2.8	3.4	4.6
Considered by employers to be too young or too old	9.6	12.6	10.9	12.6	8.3	10.5	11.9
Unsuitable hours	*	4.7	2.4	3.0	*	2.6	*
Too far to travel/transport problems	5.1	5.7	5.4	6.5	3.6	5.5	4.9
Lacked necessary education, training or skills	6.4	6.3	6.4	7.5	4.5	6.7	5.5
Insufficient work experience	6.6	9.6	7.9	8.8	6.5	8.5	6.3
No vacancies in line of work	17.4	12.1	15.1	16.8	12.5	14.4	16.8
No vacancies at all	40.8	34.8	38.2	29.1	52.3	38.7	36.7
Other difficulties (a)	6.0	6.8	6.4	7.2	5.1	5.7	8.0
No difficulties reported	2.4	5.2	3.6	4.2	2.7	3.8	3.1
<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) Includes about 5,800 persons whose main difficulty was language problems or discrimination against migrant or racial groups.

\* Less than or based on a figure less than 3,000. See Technical Note, paragraph 5.

TABLE 4. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK : MAIN DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WORK, BY AGE  
AND PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS, JULY 1978  
( '000)

Main difficulty in finding work	Total							
	Age group (years)				Periods of unemployment in previous 12 months		Total	
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35 and over	One	Two or more		
Own ill health or handicap	—	3.9	—	3.1	6.7	11.1	*	13.8
Considered by employers to be too young or too old	9.8	6.1	3.3	21.2	34.0	6.4	40.4	
Unsuitable hours	*	—	4.6	—	3.7	8.1	*	9.1
Too far to travel/transport problems	10.1	4.3	*	3.2	12.9	7.1	19.9	
Lacked necessary education, training or skills	9.5	7.2	3.8	3.2	18.4	5.2	23.6	
Insufficient work experience	14.1	9.1	4.3	*	21.7	7.6	29.3	
No vacancies in line of work	10.4	11.8	15.1	18.7	43.0	13.1	56.1	
No vacancies at all	51.8	27.6	30.4	31.7	102.8	38.6	141.5	
Other difficulties (a)	3.8	5.6	5.6	8.7	17.0	6.7	23.7	
No difficulties reported	3.4	4.5	—	5.5	11.7	*	13.4	
<b>Total</b>	<b>116.0</b>	<b>79.3</b>	<b>73.4</b>	<b>102.0</b>	<b>280.8</b>	<b>90.0</b>	<b>370.7</b>	

For footnotes see Table 3, above.

TABLE 5. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK : MAIN DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WORK,  
BY DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT, JULY 1978

Main difficulty in finding work	Duration of current period of unemployment (weeks)						Total	Per cent of total	Average duration of current period of unemploy- ment
	1 and under 4	4 and under 8	8 and under 13	13 and under 26	26 and under 39	39 and over			
	- '000 -							- % -	- weeks -
Own ill health or handicap	3.9		3.8		*	4.5	13.8	3.7	37.1
Considered by employers to be too young or too old	3.8	3.4	3.2	8.2	6.4	15.4	40.4	10.9	43.5
Unsuitable hours	4.9		*	3.0	*	9.1	24.4	2.4	19.6
Too far to travel/transport problems	*	3.4	*	4.1	*	5.1	19.9	5.4	29.8
Lacked necessary education, training or skills	*	5.1	*	3.8	4.1	6.1	23.6	6.4	39.7
Insufficient work experience	4.6	5.7	3.1	4.5	7.3	4.0	29.3	7.9	24.0
No vacancies in line of work	11.5	9.1	8.3	12.5	6.5	8.2	56.1	15.1	19.9
No vacancies at all	22.0	24.1	19.8	27.0	22.3	26.3	141.5	38.2	23.8
Other difficulties (a)	4.8	3.0	3.3	4.5	4.3	3.7	23.7	6.4	27.6
No difficulties reported	9.8	*	*	*	*	*	13.4	3.6	3.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>65.5</b>	<b>60.4</b>	<b>45.0</b>	<b>69.2</b>	<b>56.5</b>	<b>74.1</b>	<b>370.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>26.6</b>

For footnotes, see Table 3.

TABLE 6. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK : ALL DIFFICULTIES REPORTED IN FINDING WORK,  
BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE AND BIRTHPLACE, JULY 1978

Difficulty in finding work	Persons						
	Males	Females	Total	Place of residence		Birthplace	
				State capital cities	Other areas	Australia	Overseas
	NUMBER ('000)						
Own ill health or handicap	24.7	9.0	33.7	21.9	11.8	23.7	10.0
Considered by employers to be too young or too old	59.7	51.0	110.7	73.3	37.4	80.4	30.3
Unsuitable hours	6.2	19.3	25.5	19.1	6.4	17.6	7.9
Too far to travel/transport problems	42.1	33.6	75.7	55.7	20.0	58.8	16.9
Lacked necessary education, training or skills	49.4	39.1	88.5	58.1	30.4	68.1	20.4
Insufficient work experience	44.8	39.7	84.6	54.9	29.6	62.4	22.1
No vacancies in line of work	88.6	52.3	140.9	86.4	54.5	99.4	41.5
No vacancies at all	132.0	91.0	223.0	118.6	104.4	162.3	60.7
Language difficulties	4.6	5.9	10.5	8.9	*	*	8.9
Other difficulties (a)	21.9	14.3	36.2	25.0	11.2	26.3	9.9

PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK WHO REPORTED SPECIFIC DIFFICULTIES

Own ill health or handicap	11.8	5.6	9.1	9.7	8.2	8.9	9.5
Considered by employers to be too young or too old	28.5	31.6	29.9	32.4	25.9	30.3	28.8
Unsuitable hours	3.0	11.9	6.9	8.4	4.4	6.6	7.5
Too far to travel/transport problems	20.1	20.9	20.4	24.6	13.8	22.2	16.0
Lacked necessary education, training or skills	23.6	24.3	23.9	25.7	21.0	25.7	19.4
Insufficient work experience	21.4	24.6	22.8	24.3	20.5	23.5	21.0
No vacancies in line of work	42.3	32.4	38.0	38.2	37.7	37.4	39.4
No vacancies at all	63.0	56.4	60.1	52.4	72.2	61.1	57.6
Language difficulties	2.2	3.7	2.8	3.9	*	*	8.5
Other difficulties (a)	10.4	8.9	9.8	11.1	7.7	9.9	9.4

(a) Includes discrimination against migrants or racial groups.

\* Less than or based on a figure less than 3,000. See Technical Note, paragraph 5.

NOTE: Because some respondents reported more than one difficulty in finding work, the estimates in this table do not agree with those in Tables 3 to 5 and 8, which show only the main difficulty.

TABLE 7. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK : ACTIVE STEPS TAKEN TO FIND WORK  
BY DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT, AGE AND  
PLACE OF RESIDENCE, JULY 1978  
(<sup>'000</sup>)

Active steps taken to find work during current period of unemployment	Duration of current period of unemployment (weeks)			Age group (years)		Place of residence		Total
	Under 8	8 and under 26	26 and over	15-24	25 and over	State capital cities	Other areas	
MALES								
Registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES) and –								
Took no other active steps	7.0	5.0	4.5	7.8	8.7	10.3	6.2	16.5
Applied to prospective employers in person or by post or telephone	41.4	53.3	61.5	75.0	81.2	94.3	61.9	156.2
Took other active steps (a)	*	3.7	*	3.1	5.6	4.6	4.1	8.7
Total registered with the CES	51.0	61.9	68.5	85.8	95.6	109.1	72.2	181.4
Not registered with the CES and –								
Applied to prospective employers in person or by post or telephone	14.4	5.8	4.7	13.3	11.6	17.4	7.5	24.9
Took other active steps (a)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	3.2
Total not registered with the CES	16.6	6.2	5.3	14.9	13.2	19.3	8.8	28.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>67.6</b>	<b>68.2</b>	<b>73.7</b>	<b>100.7</b>	<b>108.7</b>	<b>128.4</b>	<b>81.1</b>	<b>209.5</b>
FEMALES								
Registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES) and –								
Took no other active steps	4.8	*	*	6.8	3.1	5.8	4.1	9.9
Applied to prospective employers in person or by post or telephone	21.6	25.2	38.3	59.3	25.9	47.8	37.3	85.1
Took other active steps (a)	*	3.1	*	3.3	*	*	*	5.0
Total registered with the CES	28.4	29.0	42.6	69.3	30.7	56.0	44.1	100.0
Not registered with the CES and –								
Applied to prospective employers in person or by post or telephone	25.5	15.3	13.4	22.7	31.6	36.8	17.4	54.2
Took other active steps (a)	4.4	*	*	*	4.4	5.0	*	7.0
Total not registered with the CES	29.9	17.0	14.3	25.3	35.9	41.8	19.5	61.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>58.3</b>	<b>46.0</b>	<b>56.9</b>	<b>94.6</b>	<b>66.6</b>	<b>97.8</b>	<b>63.5</b>	<b>161.3</b>
PERSONS								
Registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES) and –								
Took no other active steps	11.8	7.5	7.0	14.6	11.8	16.1	10.3	26.3
Applied to prospective employers in person or by post or telephone	63.1	78.4	99.9	134.3	107.1	142.1	99.3	241.3
Took other active steps (a)	4.5	5.0	4.2	6.3	7.4	7.0	6.7	13.7
Total registered with the CES	79.4	90.9	111.1	155.1	126.3	165.1	116.3	281.4
Not registered with the CES and –								
Applied to prospective employers in person or by post or telephone	39.9	21.0	18.2	36.0	43.1	54.2	24.9	79.1
Took other active steps (a)	6.6	*	*	4.2	6.0	6.9	3.4	10.2
Total not registered with the CES	46.5	23.2	19.6	40.2	49.1	61.1	28.3	89.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>125.9</b>	<b>114.2</b>	<b>130.7</b>	<b>195.4</b>	<b>175.4</b>	<b>226.2</b>	<b>144.6</b>	<b>370.7</b>

(a) Includes persons who contacted friends, relatives or other persons and those who registered with an employment agency other than the CES.

\* Less than 3,000. See Technical Note, paragraph 5.

TABLE 8. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK : ACTIVE STEPS TAKEN TO FIND WORK,  
BY MAIN DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WORK, JULY 1978  
(<sup>000</sup>)

Active steps taken to find work during current period of unemployment	Main difficulty in finding work						No difficul- ties reported	Total
	Considered to be too young/old	Lacked education/ training/ skills	In- sufficient work experience	No vacancies in line of work	No vacancies at all	Other difficul- ties(b)		
Registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES) and –								
Took no other active steps	*	*	*	4.3	11.3	4.2	*	26.3
Applied to prospective employers in person or by post or telephone	29.0	16.5	22.4	35.7	95.2	40.6	*	241.3
Took other active steps (a)	*	*	*	*	4.5	3.1	*	13.7
Total registered with the CES	32.7	18.7	24.5	42.8	111.1	47.9	3.7	281.4
Not registered with the CES and –								
Applied to prospective employers in person or by post or telephone	7.2	4.9	4.3	11.7	27.6	15.5	8.0	79.1
Took other active steps (a)	*	*	*	*	*	3.0	*	10.2
Total not registered with the CES	7.7	5.0	4.9	13.2	30.3	18.5	9.7	89.3
Total	40.4	23.6	29.3	56.1	141.5	66.4	13.4	370.7

(a) Includes persons who contacted friends, relatives or other persons and those who registered with an employment agency other than the CES. (b) Includes own ill health or handicap, unsuitable hours, transport problems, language problems and discrimination against migrant or racial groups.

\* Less than 3,000. See Technical Note, paragraph 5.

TABLE 9. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK : ACTIVE STEPS TAKEN TO FIND WORK BY  
WHETHER LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME WORK, JULY 1978  
(<sup>000</sup>)

Active steps taken to find work during current period of unemployment	Looking for full-time work			Looking for part-time work		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES) and –						
Took no other active steps	16.4	9.0	25.3	*	*	*
Applied to prospective employers in person or by post or telephone	154.8	77.0	231.8	*	8.2	9.6
Took other active steps (a)	8.5	4.4	12.9	*	*	*
Total registered with the CES	179.7	90.3	270.0	*	9.7	11.4
Not registered with the CES and –						
Applied to prospective employers in person or by post or telephone	19.0	30.1	49.2	5.9	24.1	30.0
Took other active steps (a)	*	*	4.3	*	4.9	5.9
Total not registered with the CES	21.2	32.3	53.5	6.9	29.0	35.9
Total	200.9	122.6	323.5	8.6	38.6	47.2

For footnotes see Table 8.

\* Less than 3,000. See Technical Note, paragraph 5.

TABLE 10. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK : WHETHER LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME WORK,  
DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND PLACE OF RESIDENCE, JULY 1978  
(<sup>'000</sup>)

	Duration of current period of unemployment (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 over	
<i>Looking for full-time work –</i>								
State capital cities								
Males	7.2	13.8	21.5	17.1	21.4	17.5	24.1	122.6
Females	6.6	6.7	11.2	9.3	12.1	11.9	15.3	73.1
Persons	13.9	20.5	32.7	26.3	33.5	29.4	39.4	195.7
Other areas								
Males	4.2	6.2	10.4	9.9	18.1	12.9	16.6	78.3
Females	3.5	3.2	8.2	3.7	9.4	8.9	12.7	49.5
Persons	7.7	9.4	18.6	13.5	27.5	21.8	29.2	127.8
Total								
Males	11.5	20.0	31.9	26.9	39.5	30.4	40.6	200.9
Females	10.1	9.9	19.4	12.9	21.5	20.8	28.0	122.6
Persons	21.6	29.9	51.3	39.9	61.1	51.2	68.6	323.5
<i>Looking for part-time work –</i>								
State capital cities								
Males	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	5.8
Females	3.1	3.8	4.8	3.0	4.4	3.1	*	24.6
Persons	3.8	5.3	5.7	3.5	5.0	3.9	3.3	30.4
Other areas								
Males	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Females	— 4.1 —	—	3.1	— 4.2 —	—	*	*	14.0
Persons	— 4.9 —	—	3.4	*	3.2	— 3.7 —	—	16.8
Total								
Males	*	— 3.3 —	—	*	*	*	*	8.6
Females	5.7	5.3	7.9	4.4	7.1	3.9	4.2	38.6
Persons	6.6	7.4	9.1	5.1	8.2	5.3	5.5	47.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>28.2</b>	<b>37.3</b>	<b>60.4</b>	<b>45.0</b>	<b>69.2</b>	<b>56.5</b>	<b>74.1</b>	<b>370.7</b>

\* Less than 3,000. See Technical Note, paragraph 5.



TABLE 11. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK : WHEN LAST WORKED (a),  
BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE, JULY 1978  
(<sup>0</sup>000)

When last worked (a)	State capital cities				Other areas				Total			
	Males	Married women	All females	Persons	Males	Married women	All females	Persons	Males	Married women	All females	Persons
During 1978	72.5	10.3	30.1	102.6	44.4	6.3	20.6	65.0	116.9	16.7	50.7	167.6
During 1977	33.5	9.5	20.0	53.6	20.7	5.0	11.7	32.4	54.2	14.5	31.7	85.9
Before 1977	11.0	24.4	30.9	41.9	7.3	10.9	17.3	24.6	18.3	35.3	48.2	66.5
Never worked	11.4	*	16.7	28.1	8.6	*	13.9	22.6	20.0	*	30.7	50.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>128.4</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>97.8</b>	<b>226.2</b>	<b>81.1</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>63.5</b>	<b>144.6</b>	<b>209.5</b>	<b>69.3</b>	<b>161.3</b>	<b>370.7</b>

(a) In a full-time job lasting two weeks or more.

\* Less than 3,000. See Technical Note, paragraph 5.

TABLE 12. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK : NUMBER OF PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT (a)  
IN PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS (b) AND AGE, JULY 1978  
(<sup>0</sup>000)

Number of periods of unemployment in previous twelve months	Age group (years)						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over	
MALES							
One	38.2	26.7	29.7	18.3	19.4	16.4	148.5
Two	13.9	11.0	9.9	4.1	4.2	*	43.0
Three or more	5.6	5.4	3.6	*		*	
<b>Total</b>	<b>57.6</b>	<b>43.1</b>	<b>43.1</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>209.5</b>
FEMALES							
One	44.8	29.4	26.2	17.4	10.7	3.8	132.3
Two	10.4	5.3	3.1	*	*	*	21.9
Three or more	3.1	*	*	*	*	*	7.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>58.4</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>19.4</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>161.3</b>
PERSONS							
One	83.0	56.1	55.8	35.7	30.0	20.1	280.8
Two	24.3	16.3	13.0	5.8	3.7	3.0	64.9
Three or more	8.7	6.9	4.6	*	*		
<b>Total</b>	<b>116.0</b>	<b>79.3</b>	<b>73.4</b>	<b>43.0</b>	<b>35.8</b>	<b>23.1</b>	<b>370.7</b>

(a) Includes the current period of unemployment. (b) The twelve months up to and including the end of survey week.

\* Less than 3,000. See Technical Note, paragraph 5.

TABLE 13. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK : DURATION AND NUMBER OF PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT (a)  
IN PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS (b), AND PLACE OF RESIDENCE, JULY 1978  
(<sup>'000</sup>)

Number of periods of unemployment in previous twelve months	Duration of unemployment 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	
STATE CAPITAL CITIES									
One	12.9	17.7	24.3	20.3	25.5	25.5	11.9	34.5	172.6
Two	..	*	4.2	5.0	12.0	10.5	6.2	..	38.5
Three or more	..	*	*	*	4.5	5.2	3.7	..	15.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>26.1</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>41.1</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>34.5</b>	<b>226.2</b>
OTHER AREAS									
One	8.0	5.4	11.8	8.1	17.4	22.0	8.5	27.0	108.2
Two	..	*	4.0	7.0	8.4	6.7	..	26.4	
Three or more	..	*	*	3.4	5.1	*	..	10.0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>26.8</b>	<b>35.5</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>27.0</b>	<b>144.6</b>
TOTAL									
One	21.0	23.2	36.1	28.4	42.9	47.4	20.4	61.5	280.8
Two	..	*	6.0	7.1	19.1	18.9	12.9	..	64.9
Three or more	..	*	3.0	6.8	10.3	4.9	..	25.0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>24.2</b>	<b>43.1</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>68.8</b>	<b>76.6</b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>61.5</b>	<b>370.7</b>

For footnotes see Table 12.

TABLE 14. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK : DURATION AND NUMBER OF PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT (a)  
IN PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS (b), JULY 1978  
(<sup>'000</sup>)

Number of periods of unemployment in previous twelve months	Duration of unemployment 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	
MALES									
One	7.8	11.7	19.0	14.4	24.3	26.1	11.5	33.8	148.5
Two	..	*	4.4	5.3	11.5	11.9	9.1	..	43.0
Three or more	..	*	*	*	5.8	7.6	*	..	17.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>24.1</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>41.6</b>	<b>45.6</b>	<b>22.8</b>	<b>33.8</b>	<b>209.5</b>
FEMALES									
One	13.2	11.5	17.1	13.9	18.6	21.4	8.9	27.7	132.3
Two	..	*	3.4	7.6	7.0	3.7	..	21.9	
Three or more	..	..	*	*	*	5.3	..	7.1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>27.2</b>	<b>31.0</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>161.3</b>

For footnotes see Table 12.

TABLE 15. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK WHO FINISHED WORKING IN THEIR LAST  
FULL-TIME JOB, LASTING TWO WEEKS OR MORE, IN 1977 OR 1978 :  
DURATION OF JOB BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE AND AGE (a), JULY 1978  
(<sup>000</sup>)

Duration of last full-time job (b)	Place of residence		Total	Age group (years)	
	State capital cities	Other areas		15-19	20 and over
MALES					
Under 8 weeks	21.7	13.3	35.0	12.8	22.2
8 weeks and under 26 weeks	25.3	19.6	44.9	11.9	33.0
26 weeks and under 1 year	18.6	9.3	27.8	6.7	21.1
<i>Total under 1 year</i>	<i>65.7</i>	<i>42.1</i>	<i>107.7</i>	<i>31.5</i>	<i>76.3</i>
1 year and under 2 years	12.3	6.4	18.7	3.6	15.1
2 years and under 5 years	14.5	10.5	25.0	*	22.8
5 years and over	13.5	6.2	19.6	*	19.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>106.0</i>	<i>65.1</i>	<i>171.1</i>	<i>37.5</i>	<i>133.6</i>
FEMALES					
Under 8 weeks	8.3	8.0	16.3	7.5	8.8
8 weeks and under 26 weeks	12.1	8.1	20.2	9.7	10.5
26 weeks and under 1 year	8.5	5.4	13.9	5.8	8.1
<i>Total under 1 year</i>	<i>28.9</i>	<i>21.5</i>	<i>50.4</i>	<i>23.0</i>	<i>27.4</i>
1 year and under 2 years	7.7	3.8	11.5	4.8	6.7
2 years and under 5 years	10.4	5.4	15.7	*	13.6
5 years and over	3.1	*	4.8	*	4.8
<i>Total</i>	<i>50.2</i>	<i>32.3</i>	<i>82.4</i>	<i>30.0</i>	<i>52.4</i>
TOTAL					
Under 8 weeks	30.1	21.2	51.3	20.4	30.9
8 weeks and under 26 weeks	37.4	27.6	65.1	21.6	43.5
26 weeks and under 1 year	27.1	14.7	41.8	12.5	29.2
<i>Total under 1 year</i>	<i>94.6</i>	<i>63.5</i>	<i>158.1</i>	<i>54.5</i>	<i>103.7</i>
1 year and under 2 years	20.0	10.2	30.2	8.4	21.8
2 years and under 5 years	24.9	15.8	40.8	4.4	36.4
5 years and over	16.6	7.8	24.4	*	24.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>156.2</i>	<i>97.4</i>	<i>253.5</i>	<i>67.5</i>	<i>186.0</i>

(a) Age in July 1978. (b) Lasting two weeks or more.

\* Less than 3,000. See Technical Note, paragraph 5.

TABLE 16. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK WHO WERE WAGE OR SALARY EARNERS IN THEIR LAST FULL-TIME JOB LASTING TWO WEEKS OR MORE AND WHO FINISHED WORKING IN THAT JOB IN 1977 OR 1978 : REASON FOR LEAVING, JULY 1978

<i>Reason for leaving</i>	<i>Number ('000)</i>			<i>Per cent</i>		
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Retrenched/lost job	86.6	29.1	115.7	55.0	36.4	48.8
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	17.6	12.6	30.2	11.2	15.8	12.7
Own ill health or injury	9.9	6.6	16.4	6.3	8.2	6.9
Job was temporary or seasonal	20.7	8.7	29.5	13.2	10.9	12.4
Returned to studies	3.1	*	5.0	2.0	*	2.1
To marry/have children/look after family	*	4.7	5.6	*	5.9	2.4
Moved house/spouse transferred	3.9	8.6	12.4	2.4	10.7	5.2
Travel/take a holiday	4.8	3.3	8.0	3.0	4.1	3.4
Other	10.0	4.3	14.3	6.4	5.4	6.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>157.4</b>	<b>79.9</b>	<b>237.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Less than or based on a figure less than 3,000. See Technical Note, paragraph 5.

TABLE 17. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK WHO WERE WAGE OR SALARY EARNERS IN THEIR LAST FULL-TIME JOB LASTING TWO WEEKS OR MORE AND WHO FINISHED WORKING IN THAT JOB IN 1977 OR 1978 : AGE (a), DURATION OF JOB AND REASON FOR LEAVING, JULY 1978

Duration of last full-time job (b)	Age group (years)				Total		
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35 and over	Males	Females	Persons
LOST LAST JOB, RETRENCHED OR JOB TEMPORARY OR SEASONAL							
— '000 —							
Under 8 weeks	13.6	8.6	7.1	5.9	24.9	10.4	35.2
8 weeks and under 26 weeks	14.6	12.7	7.5	7.1	31.1	10.8	41.8
26 weeks and under 52 weeks	7.9	5.5	5.1	6.8	19.1	6.1	25.2
<i>Total under 1 year</i>	<i>36.1</i>	<i>26.8</i>	<i>19.7</i>	<i>19.8</i>	<i>75.1</i>	<i>27.3</i>	<i>102.3</i>
1 year and under 2 years	4.7	3.7	3.5	3.8	10.9	4.8	15.7
2 years and under 3 years	*	*	*	*	4.9	*	7.1
3 years and under 5 years	*	3.2	3.3	4.4	6.1	3.6	8.1
5 years and over	*						
<i>Total</i>	<i>43.4</i>	<i>35.4</i>	<i>27.8</i>	<i>38.7</i>	<i>107.3</i>	<i>37.9</i>	<i>145.2</i>
— per cent —							
<i>Per cent of all reasons</i>	<i>64.3</i>	<i>58.0</i>	<i>59.0</i>	<i>62.7</i>	<i>68.2</i>	<i>47.4</i>	<i>61.2</i>
LEFT LAST JOB FOR OTHER REASONS							
— '000 —							
Under 8 weeks	6.7	*	*	*	9.3	5.3	14.7
8 weeks and under 26 weeks	7.0	6.4	4.4	3.7	12.1	9.4	21.5
26 weeks and under 52 weeks	4.7	4.7	3.3	*	6.7	7.4	14.0
<i>Total under 1 year</i>	<i>18.4</i>	<i>13.9</i>	<i>10.6</i>	<i>7.3</i>	<i>28.1</i>	<i>22.1</i>	<i>50.2</i>
1 year and under 2 years	3.7	3.5	5.2	4.4	5.8	6.5	12.2
2 years and under 3 years	*	3.5			6.0	6.3	12.3
3 years and under 5 years	*	3.8	3.6	3.0	4.4	4.4	8.8
5 years and over	*	*			5.5	5.8	8.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>24.1</i>	<i>25.6</i>	<i>19.3</i>	<i>23.0</i>	<i>50.0</i>	<i>42.1</i>	<i>92.1</i>
— per cent —							
<i>Per cent of all reasons</i>	<i>35.7</i>	<i>42.0</i>	<i>41.0</i>	<i>37.3</i>	<i>31.8</i>	<i>52.6</i>	<i>38.8</i>
ALL REASONS							
— '000 —							
Under 8 weeks	20.4	11.4	10.0	8.1	34.2	15.7	49.9
8 weeks and under 26 weeks	21.6	19.1	11.9	10.8	43.2	20.2	63.4
26 weeks and under 52 weeks	12.5	10.2	8.4	8.2	25.8	13.5	39.3
<i>Total under 1 year</i>	<i>54.5</i>	<i>40.7</i>	<i>30.3</i>	<i>27.1</i>	<i>103.2</i>	<i>49.4</i>	<i>152.5</i>
1 year and under 2 years	8.4	7.2	5.8	6.6	16.7	11.3	27.9
2 years and under 3 years	3.3	5.2	4.2	6.8	10.9	8.5	19.4
3 years and under 5 years	*	6.1	*	7.4	10.5	6.3	16.8
5 years and over	*	*	4.6	13.8	16.1	4.5	20.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>67.5</i>	<i>61.0</i>	<i>47.1</i>	<i>61.7</i>	<i>157.4</i>	<i>79.9</i>	<i>237.3</i>
— per cent —							
<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) In July 1978. (b) Lasting two weeks or more.

\* Less than 3,000. See Technical Note, paragraph 5.

### TECHNICAL NOTE

#### Estimation procedure

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

#### Reliability of the estimates

2. Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, the estimates and the movements derived from them are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ by chance from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the surveys. One measure of the likely difference is given by the *standard error*. 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.

3. Space does not allow for the separate indication of the standard errors of all estimates in this bulletin. A table of standard errors for general application to sample estimates is given below. These figures will not give a precise measure of the standard error of a particular estimate since they are averages based on calculations for a limited number of past surveys over a wide range of labour force characteristics. However, they will provide an indication of the magnitude of the standard error of any particular estimate for any particular survey. An example of the use of the table is as follows: if an estimate for Australia obtained from the sample is 100,000 then the standard error is 3,900 and there are about two chances in three that the true figure is within

the range 96,100 to 103,900 and about nineteen chances in twenty that this figure is between 92,200 and 107,800.

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

5. As the standard errors in the table below show, the *smaller the estimate the higher is the relative standard error*. In the Tables in this bulletin estimates under 3,000 have not been shown, as they 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 figures for these small components can in some cases be derived by subtraction, they should not be regarded as reliable.

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

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate (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	800	26.7	50,000	2,900	5.8
4,000	900	22.5	100,000	3,900	3.9
5,000	1,000	20.0	200,000	5,100	2.6
10,000	1,400	14.0	500,000	7,200	1.4
20,000	2,000	10.0			



