



AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS

CANBERRA

**JOB SEARCH EXPERIENCE
OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS,
AUSTRALIA**

JULY 1985

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AUSTRALIA**

JULY 1985

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

The monthly Population Survey (which is described in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)) comprises the monthly labour force survey and supplementary topics. This publication contains some results of a supplementary survey run in association with the July 1985 labour force survey conducted throughout Australia.

2. Of the respondents to the labour force survey, those who fell within the scope of the supplementary survey were asked additional questions. This subset of respondents was asked about their job search experience, including their difficulties in finding work, steps taken to find work and whether they had had offers of employment, as well as about their educational attainment and the particulars of their last job, if any.

Scope

3. The scope of this supplementary survey was the same as that used for the labour force survey (described in full in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)) except that it was restricted to unemployed persons excluding 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.

4. The number of unemployed persons published in *The Labour Force, Australia, July 1985* (6203.0) differs from that published for this survey because persons who were stood down were excluded as it was inappropriate to ask them about their job search experience. Persons who were stood down comprised less than 1.9 per cent of all unemployed persons.

Definitions

5. *Active steps taken to find work* comprise: 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.

6. For this survey *unemployed persons* are those who were not employed during the survey week (i.e. the week immediately preceding that in which the interview took place), 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:

- (a) 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
- (b) 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.

7. *Persons with a post-school qualification* are those who have left school and who answered 'Yes' to the question: 'Since leaving school have you obtained a certificate, diploma, degree or any other qualification?'

8. *Classification of post-school qualifications*. Respondents indicated which one of the following groups best describes their highest qualification:

- (a) *Degree*: a bachelor degree (including honours), a graduate or post-graduate diploma, a masters degree or a doctorate;
- (b) *Trade; technical or other certificate*: completion of an approved trade/technician apprenticeship or training course, other certificate or diploma in secretarial or business studies, administration, teaching, nursing, etc;
- (c) *Other*: completion of other post-secondary education e.g. adult education, preparatory/bridging course or hobby course.

9. It is impracticable to obtain information relating to the whole of the previous twelve months which is strictly comparable with that obtained in the monthly labour force survey for which the reference period is one week. The definitions used in determining duration of current period of unemployment (see paragraph 10 following) depend on a detailed set of questions. The items *time spent looking for work* and *number of spells of looking for work during the previous twelve months* (see paragraphs 11 and 12 following) are based on a more limited set of questions. It is for this reason that the term *looking for work* is used for these items rather than the more rigidly defined term *unemployment*.

10. *Duration of current period of unemployment* is the period from the time the person began looking for work or was laid off to the end of the survey week. Thus this item measures the current (and continuing) period of unemployment rather than a completed spell. For persons who may have begun looking for work while still employed, the duration of current period of unemployment is defined as the period from the time the person last worked full-time for two weeks or more to the end of the survey week. Periods of unemployment are recorded in complete weeks and this results in a slight understatement of duration. *Average (mean) duration* is the duration obtained by dividing the aggregate number of weeks a group has been unemployed by the number of persons in that group. *Median duration* is the duration which divides unemployed persons into two equal groups, one comprising persons whose duration of unemployment is above the median and the other, persons whose duration is below it.

11. *Time spent looking for work in the previous twelve months* is the total number of weeks the person reported having been out of work and looking for a job, including the weeks in the current period.

12. The number of spells of looking for work in the previous twelve months is the number of different periods, including the current period, during which the person reported having been out of work and looking for a job.

13. A job is any paid employment, full-time or part-time, lasting two weeks or more.

14. Estimates of family status in this publication use the classifications 'with' or 'without dependent children present' which are used in the publication *Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families* (6224.0), which contains data compiled from the same survey. In the July supplementary survey more detailed information on family status is collected, enabling the use of this classification. *Dependent children* comprise all family members aged 0 to 14 and all family members aged 15 to 20 who are full-time students. The family status estimates published monthly in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0) use the classifications 'with' or 'without children aged 0 to 14 present' rather than 'with' or 'without dependent children present'. Further information about family status is given in both the above publications. Other supplementary publications also use the same classifications as *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

15. Further definitions of labour force and demographic classifications appearing in this publication are given in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

16. Unless otherwise stated, all characteristics referenced in this publication are as at the survey week.

Results of the Survey

17. Additional tables available but not included in this publication are listed on page 18. A preliminary publication (6221.0) containing a summary of the results was issued on 8 October 1985.

18. Results of similar surveys, the first conducted in May 1976, have been given in previous issues of this publication.

19. It is proposed that this survey will next be conducted in June 1986.

Reliability of the estimates

20. 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 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

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

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)—issued monthly (\$1.20, \$2.10 incl. postage)

Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, July 1984 (6224.0)

Labour Force Experience, Australia, During the Year Ending February 1985 (6206.0)

Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (6220.0)—surveyed twice-yearly (March and September)

Employment, Underemployment and Unemployment 1966-1983, Australia (6246.0) (\$1.90, \$2.80 incl. postage)

Methods of Obtaining Jobs, Australia, July 1982 (6245.0).

22. 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 paragraph 20 above.
- .. not applicable
- CES Commonwealth Employment Service
- r figure or series revised since previous issue

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

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

In July 1985 there were 555,100 unemployed persons (excluding those who were stood down), a decrease from 587,400 in July 1984. Of the unemployed persons in July 1985, 473,200 (85.2 per cent) were looking for full-time work and 81,900 (14.8 per cent) were looking for part-time work. Most persons looking for full-time work were males (323,000 or 68.3 per cent), while most persons looking for part-time work were females (64,000 or 78.1 per cent).

Average and median duration of current period of unemployment

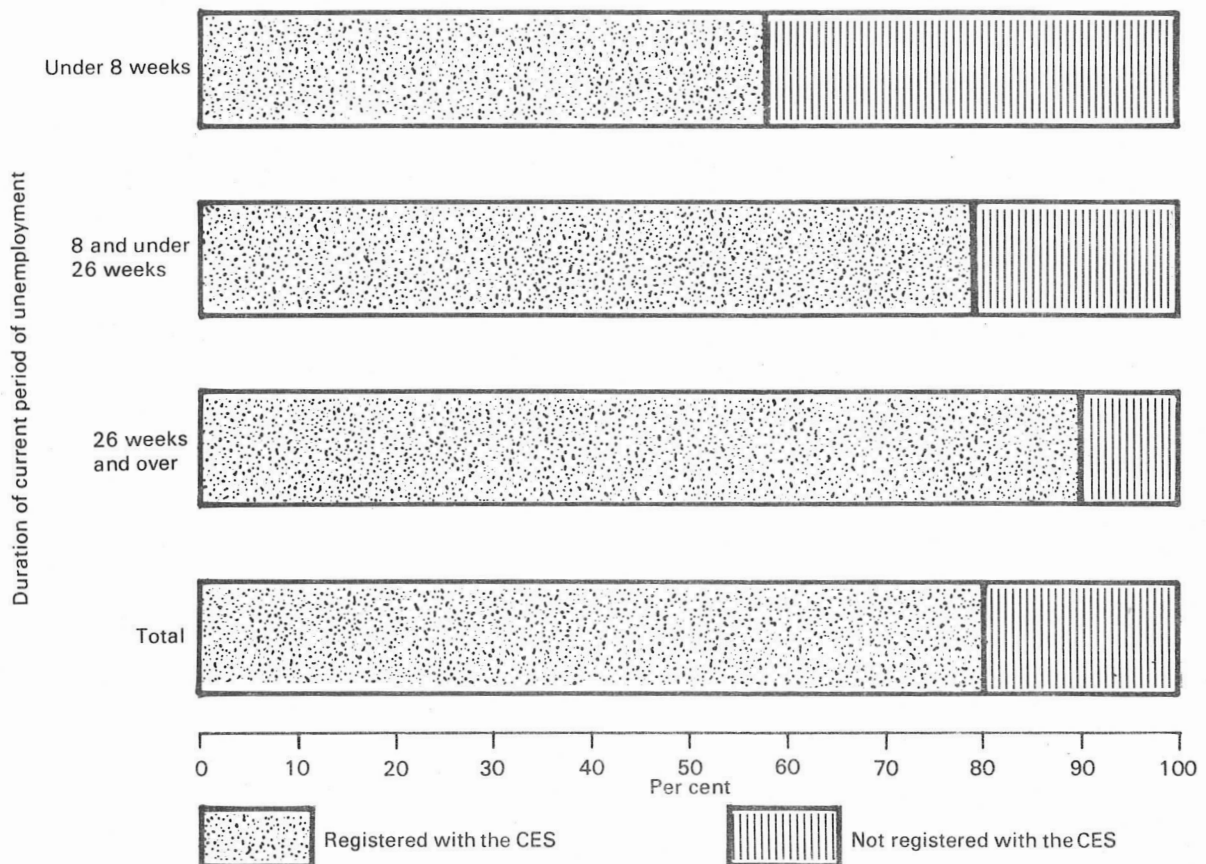
In recent years the average duration of current period of unemployment has been steadily increasing (from 39.9 weeks in July 1983 to 51.9 weeks in July 1985). However, over the same period, the median duration of current period of unemployment has remained steady at 26 weeks. The recent divergence between the average and median durations of unemployment reflect the continuing presence of significant numbers of persons who have been unemployed for very lengthy periods and the high probability of such persons remaining unemployed.

Duration of current period of unemployment and whether registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES)

In July 1985 most unemployed persons (445,200 or 80.2 per cent) were registered with the CES. Of those persons whose current period of unemployment was less than 8 weeks, 75,200 (57.9 per cent) were registered with the CES. The proportion of persons who were registered with the CES increased as the duration of the current period of unemployment increased. 266,700 (90.3 per cent) persons who had been unemployed for 26 weeks or more were registered.

89.8 per cent of unemployed males and 65.0 per cent of unemployed females were registered with the CES. 88.3 per cent of persons looking for full-time work were registered, compared with 33.7 per cent of those looking for part-time work. Of all unemployed persons, 495,400 (89.2 per cent) reported that they had contacted prospective employers to find work.

DIAGRAM 1. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND WHETHER REGISTERED WITH THE CES, JULY 1985
(Source of data: Table 8)



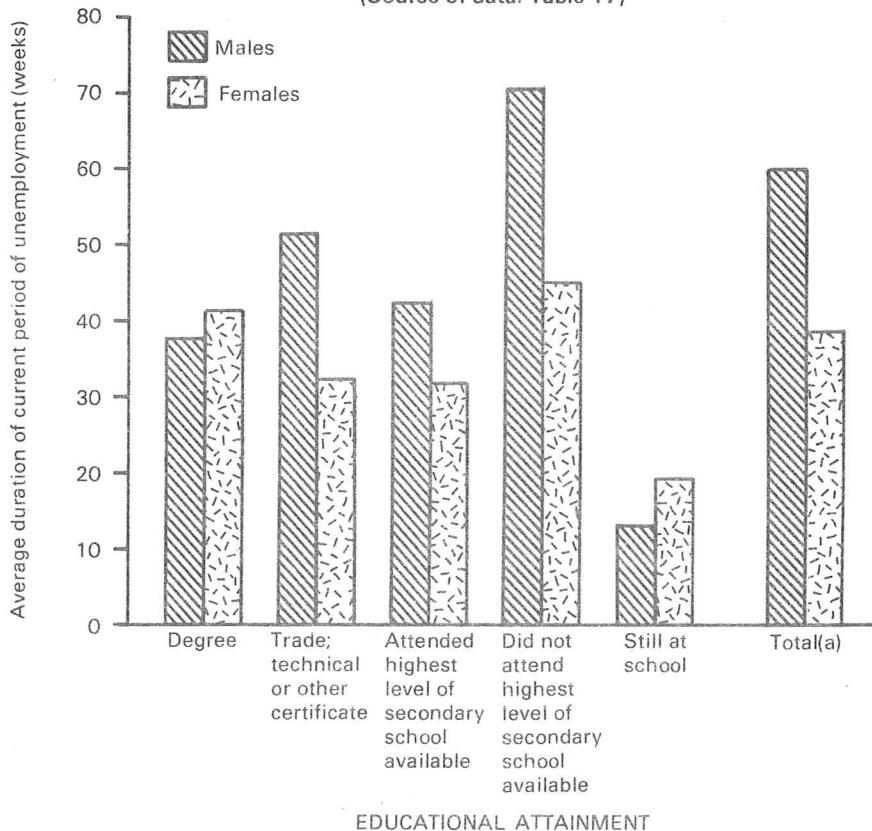
Educational attainment and average duration of current period of unemployment

In July 1985 the average duration of current period of unemployment for persons with post-school qualifications was 44.1 weeks, compared with 56.9 weeks for persons without post-school qualifications and 16.6 weeks for persons still at school. The average duration of current period of unemployment was higher for males than for females (60.0 weeks and 38.9 weeks respectively).

The average durations experienced by males and females with a degree were 37.8 weeks and 41.4 weeks respectively. However, the average duration for males with a trade; technical or other certificate was 51.3 weeks, higher than that for females with such qualifications (32.1 weeks). Males and females who attended the highest level of secondary school available had experienced a lower average duration (42.2 weeks and 31.9 weeks respectively) than males and females who did not attend the highest level of secondary school available (70.6 weeks and 45.0 weeks respectively). The average duration for females still at school (19.1 weeks) was higher than that for males (13.0 weeks).

DIAGRAM 2. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND AVERAGE DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT, JULY 1985

(Source of data: Table 17)



(a) Includes persons with other post-school qualifications and persons who never attended school.

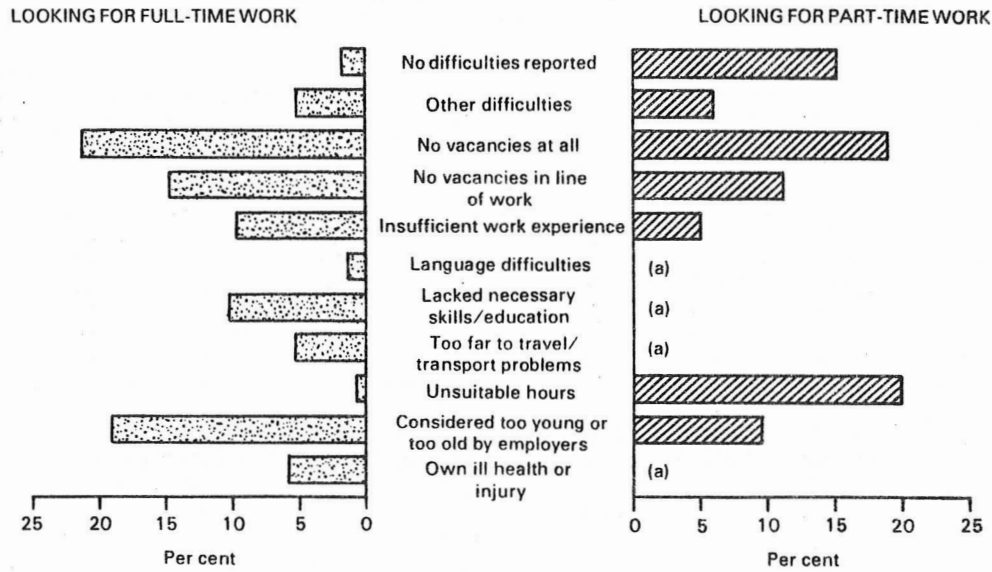
Main difficulty in finding work during current period of unemployment and whether looking for full-time or part-time work

No vacancies at all was the most commonly reported main difficulty in finding work — this was reported by 21.9 per cent of unemployed persons in July 1985, a decrease from 33.1 per cent in July 1983. In July 1985, a further 16.9 per cent reported that they were considered too young or too old by employers and 14.4 per cent that there were no vacancies in their line of work.

Persons looking for full-time work experienced different types of difficulties in finding work from persons looking for part-time work. Being considered too young or too old by employers was reported by a smaller proportion of persons looking for part-time work (9.3 per cent) than those looking for full-time work (18.3 per cent). Unsuitable hours was reported by a smaller proportion of persons looking for full-time work (1.1 per cent) than those looking for part-time work (19.9 per cent).

Although 10.6 per cent of persons looking for full-time work considered their lack of necessary skills/education to be the main difficulty in finding work, very few persons looking for part-time work gave this as their main difficulty. 15.5 per cent of persons looking for part-time work experienced no difficulties at all, compared with 3.6 per cent of persons looking for full-time work.

DIAGRAM 3. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: WHETHER LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME WORK AND MAIN DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WORK DURING CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT, JULY 1985
(Source of data: Table 11)



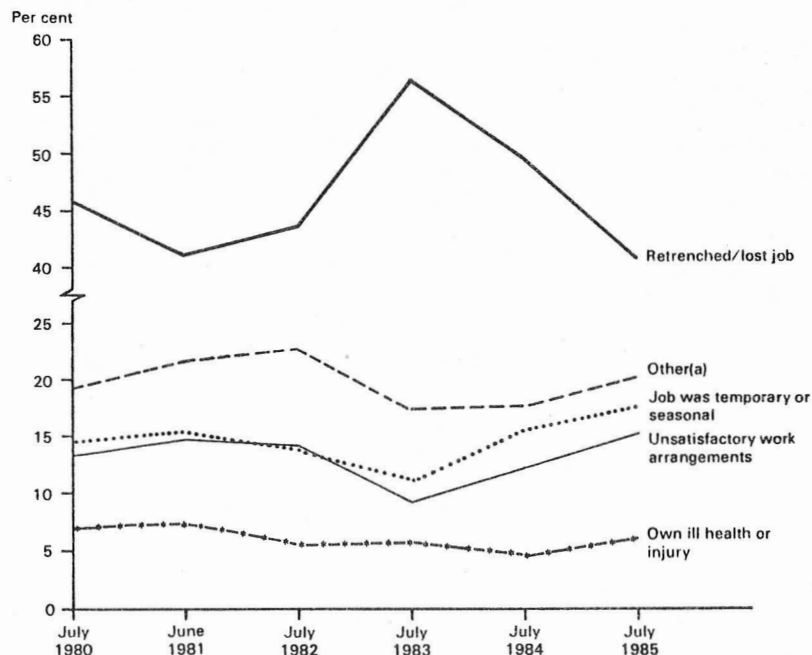
(a) Estimates subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses.

Reason for leaving last full-time job

Of the unemployed persons in July 1985, 269,600 were wage or salary earners in their last full-time job and finished working in that job during the previous two years. Although 'retrenched/lost job' has been the most commonly reported reason for leaving that job for each of the years from 1980 to 1985, the proportion of persons reporting this reason has decreased from 56.5 per cent in July 1983 to 40.9 per cent (110,200 persons) in July 1985. In July 1985, 31,400 (28.5 per cent) of these persons had been retrenched from or lost their job in the wholesale and retail trade industry, while a further 28,500 (25.9 per cent) had last worked full-time in the manufacturing industry.

The proportion of persons who reported unsatisfactory work arrangements as the reason for leaving their last full-time job increased from 9.4 per cent in July 1983 to 15.1 per cent in July 1985. The proportion of persons who reported that their last full-time job was temporary or seasonal also increased over the same period (from 11.2 per cent to 17.7 per cent).

DIAGRAM 4. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS WHO WERE WAGE OR SALARY EARNERS IN THEIR LAST FULL-TIME JOB AND WHO FINISHED WORKING IN THAT JOB DURING THE TWO YEARS PRIOR TO THE SURVEY: REASON FOR LEAVING THAT JOB, JULY 1980 TO JULY 1985
(Source of data: Table 6)



(a) Includes to return to studies; to marry/have children/look after family; move house/spouse transferred; and travel/take a holiday.

TABLE 4. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT, JULY 1980 TO JULY 1985

Duration of current period of unemployment (weeks)	July 1980	June 1981	July 1982	July 1983	July 1984	July 1985	
	—per cent—					(' 000)	
1 and under 4	17.0	19.4	18.3	11.9	12.7	13.6	75.6
4 and under 8	13.9	14.3	14.5	9.3	10.1	9.8	54.3
8 and under 13	12.2	11.4	12.2	10.0	8.7	8.7	48.4
13 and under 26	17.2	18.5	15.5	16.3	14.6	14.7	81.5
26 and under 52	20.1	15.9	19.1	26.1	20.4	20.9	116.0
52 and over	19.6	20.5	20.3	26.3	33.6	32.3	179.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	555.1
	—weeks—						
Average duration	30.8	34.1	34.3	39.9	47.8	51.9	
Median duration	r18	r16	r17	r26	r26	26	

TABLE 5. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: WHETHER WOULD MOVE INTERSTATE OR INTRASTATE, JULY 1980 TO JULY 1985

	July 1980	June 1981	July 1982	July 1983	July 1984	July 1985	
	—per cent—					(' 000)	
WHETHER WOULD MOVE INTERSTATE							
If offered a suitable job—							
Would move interstate	24.6	23.0	27.9	29.4	26.9	24.8	137.5
Would not move interstate	64.8	65.7	60.4	57.9	61.2	62.9	349.4
Moving interstate would depend—							
On job conditions	3.8	4.1	4.0	4.8	5.4	5.3	29.3
On other conditions(a)	4.0	4.9	5.4	5.3	4.4	4.4	24.5
Total	7.9	9.0	9.4	10.2	9.8	9.7	53.8
Undecided	2.8	2.3	2.2	2.5	2.2	2.6	14.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	555.1
WHETHER WOULD MOVE INTRASTATE							
If offered a suitable job—							
Would move intrastate	38.6	36.4	41.1	42.3	40.5	37.4	207.4
Would not move intrastate	50.0	51.0	46.2	43.2	45.5	48.3	267.8
Moving intrastate would depend—							
On job conditions	4.5	4.1	3.3	4.8	5.7	4.8	26.8
On other conditions(a)	4.5	6.5	7.8	7.9	6.6	7.4	41.1
Total	9.0	10.7	11.0	12.7	12.2	12.2	67.9
Undecided	2.4	1.9	1.7	1.9	1.8	2.2	12.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	555.1

(a) Includes personal or family considerations and the specific State/locality.

TABLE 7. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: ACTIVE STEPS TAKEN TO FIND WORK DURING CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND WHETHER LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME WORK, JULY 1985

Active steps taken to find work	Looking for full-time work				Looking for part-time work			
	Males	Females —'000—	Persons (Per cent)		Males	Females —'000—	Persons (Per cent)	
Registered with the CES and—								
Took no other active steps	5.8	*	7.6	1.6	*	*	*	*
Contacted prospective employers	268.1	110.2	378.2	79.9	5.9	15.2	21.1	25.7
Took other active steps	23.8	8.0	31.8	6.7	*	*	5.2	6.3
Total	297.6	119.9	417.6	88.3	8.4	19.2	27.6	33.7
Not registered with the CES and—								
Contacted prospective employers	22.4	27.8	50.1	10.6	7.5	38.4	45.9	56.0
Took other active steps	*	*	5.4	1.1	*	6.4	8.4	10.3
Total	25.3	30.3	55.6	11.7	9.5	44.8	54.3	66.3
Total	323.0	150.2	473.2	100.0	17.9	64.0	81.9	100.0

TABLE 8. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: ACTIVE STEPS TAKEN TO FIND WORK DURING CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT, DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND AGE, JULY 1985 ('000)

Active steps taken to find work	Duration of current period of unemployment (weeks)			Age group (years)				Total
	Under 8	8 and under 26	26 and over	15-19	20-24	25-34	35 and over	
MALES								
Registered with the CES and—								
Took no other active steps	*	*	4.0	*	*	*	*	6.2
Contacted prospective employers	41.2	61.8	170.9	53.5	57.6	67.5	95.4	273.9
Took other active steps	7.0	5.3	13.6	8.6	4.5	5.6	7.1	25.9
Total	49.0	68.5	188.4	63.5	63.4	74.4	104.7	306.0
Not registered with the CES and—								
Contacted prospective employers	18.3	6.1	5.5	9.3	5.5	6.0	9.0	29.9
Took other active steps	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	5.0
Total	21.1	7.2	6.6	11.5	6.2	7.0	10.2	34.9
Total	70.1	75.8	195.0	75.0	69.6	81.4	114.9	340.9
FEMALES								
Registered with the CES and—								
Took no other active steps	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Contacted prospective employers	19.9	32.7	72.7	43.6	33.8	25.6	22.4	125.4
Took other active steps	5.5	*	4.3	*	3.6	*	*	11.1
Total	26.2	34.7	78.3	47.7	37.6	28.4	25.5	139.2
Not registered with the CES and—								
Contacted prospective employers	29.6	16.7	19.9	13.3	8.0	19.1	25.7	66.2
Took other active steps	4.0	*	*	*	*	3.5	*	8.9
Total	33.6	19.4	22.0	14.6	8.7	22.6	29.1	75.0
Total	59.8	54.1	100.3	62.3	46.3	51.0	54.6	214.2
PERSONS								
Registered with the CES and—								
Took no other active steps	*	*	5.2	*	*	*	*	8.9
Contacted prospective employers	61.2	94.5	243.6	97.1	91.4	93.1	117.8	399.3
Took other active steps	12.5	6.6	17.9	11.7	8.0	7.8	9.5	37.0
Total	75.2	103.2	266.7	111.2	101.0	102.8	130.2	445.2
Not registered with the CES and—								
Contacted prospective employers	47.9	22.8	25.4	22.6	13.5	25.2	34.7	96.1
Took other active steps	6.8	3.8	*	3.5	*	4.4	4.5	13.8
Total	54.7	26.6	28.6	26.1	15.0	29.6	39.3	109.9
Total	129.9	129.8	295.3	137.3	115.9	132.4	169.5	555.1

TABLE 9. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: ACTIVE STEPS TAKEN TO FIND WORK AND MAIN DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WORK DURING CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT, JULY 1985

	Duration of current period of unemployment (weeks)						Total	Average duration	Median duration
	1 and under 4	4 and under 8	8 and under 13	13 and under 26	26 and under 52	52 and over			
	— '000—								
Active steps taken to find work—									
Registered with the CES and—									
Took no other active steps	*	*	*	*	*	*	8.9	64.0	27
Contacted prospective employers	31.3	29.8	30.9	63.7	94.7	148.9	399.3	59.1	30
Took other active steps	7.1	5.4	*	4.2	6.2	11.7	37.0	48.8	23
Total	39.2	36.0	33.9	69.3	103.0	163.8	445.2	58.4	30
Not registered with the CES and—									
Contacted prospective employers	32.0	15.9	11.8	10.9	12.0	13.4	96.1	25.3	8
Took other active steps	4.5	*	*	*	*	*	13.8	27.1	8
Total	36.5	18.2	14.4	12.2	13.1	15.6	109.9	25.5	8
Main difficulty in finding work—									
Own ill health or injury	*	*	*	4.8	5.1	14.3	31.8	76.4	39
Considered too young or too old by employers	5.3	6.9	5.2	11.0	18.4	47.3	94.1	73.1	52
Unsuitable hours	4.3	*	*	3.6	3.7	*	21.3	21.8	12
Too far to travel/transport problems	3.6	4.3	*	4.9	5.5	7.7	29.1	41.0	18
Lacked necessary skills/education	4.7	4.8	4.0	7.3	10.6	22.1	53.5	64.4	31
Language difficulties	*	*	*	*	3.5	7.1	14.8	80.2	34
Insufficient work experience	4.4	*	3.5	7.0	14.4	15.2	47.5	52.0	28
No vacancies in line of work	13.9	9.4	8.6	12.1	19.5	16.3	79.7	34.1	20
No vacancies at all	13.7	12.5	10.6	20.2	27.7	36.6	121.3	50.3	26
Other difficulties	4.9	4.0	4.0	5.6	5.4	8.3	32.2	49.7	20
No difficulties reported	17.0	3.7	*	*	*	*	29.8	10.1	3
Total	75.6	54.3	48.4	81.5	116.0	179.3	555.1	51.9	26

TABLE 10. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : MAIN DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WORK DURING CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, JULY 1985 ('000)

Main difficulty in finding work	Educational attainment							Total(b)	Total(c)
	With post-school qualifications			Without post-school qualifications					
	Degree	Trade, technical or other certificate	Total(a)	Attended highest level of secondary school available	Did not attend highest level of secondary school available and left at age		Total(b)		
					16 or over	15 or under			
Own ill health or injury	*	7.5	8.8	*	7.8	11.8	22.4	31.8	
Considered too young or too old by employers	*	23.8	26.8	8.2	14.7	42.9	66.0	94.1	
Unsuitable hours	*	*	4.6	4.4	4.9	4.5	13.7	21.3	
Too far to travel/transport problems	*	5.1	5.2	*	8.6	12.0	23.3	29.1	
Lacked necessary skills/education	*	6.2	8.1	6.5	12.6	25.8	44.9	53.5	
Language difficulties	*	*	*	*	*	6.3	11.8	14.8	
Insufficient work experience	*	7.8	12.5	9.4	11.3	12.5	33.2	47.5	
No vacancies in line of work	5.3	22.9	29.3	12.7	17.0	18.1	48.1	79.7	
No vacancies at all	*	14.7	17.9	15.6	30.3	46.9	93.1	121.3	
Other difficulties	*	9.1	10.7	4.7	7.1	8.1	20.0	32.2	
No difficulties reported	*	7.8	9.9	4.6	4.5	7.2	16.2	29.8	
Total	18.5	109.7	136.5	74.6	120.6	196.1	392.7	555.1	

(a) Includes persons with other post-school qualifications. (b) Includes persons who never attended school. (c) Includes persons still at school.

TABLE 11. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : MAIN DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WORK DURING CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND WHETHER LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME WORK, JULY 1985
(' 000)

Main difficulty in finding work	Looking for full-time work			Looking for part-time work		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Own ill health of injury	23.1	6.6	29.7	*	*	*
Considered too young or too old by employers	57.5	29.0	86.5	*	6.1	7.6
Unsuitable hours	*	*	5.0	*	13.9	16.3
Too far to travel/transport problems	18.1	7.9	26.0	*	*	*
Lacked necessary skills/education	36.6	13.6	50.2	*	*	*
Language difficulties	8.8	4.8	13.6	*	*	*
Insufficient work experience	21.6	21.8	43.3	*	*	4.2
No vacancies in line of work	55.0	14.1	69.1	*	8.5	10.6
No vacancies at all	76.0	30.4	106.4	5.4	9.5	14.9
Other difficulties	15.8	10.6	26.3	*	4.7	5.9
No difficulties reported	8.7	8.3	17.0	*	11.0	12.7
Total	323.0	150.2	473.2	17.9	64.0	81.9

TABLE 12. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: MAIN DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WORK DURING CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND BIRTHPLACE, JULY 1985
(' 000)

Main difficulty in finding work	Born in Australia			Born outside Australia			Total		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Own ill health of injury	14.7	6.1	20.8	9.5	*	11.0	24.2	7.7	31.8
Considered too young or too old by employers	36.3	26.1	62.4	22.7	9.0	31.7	58.9	35.1	94.1
Unsuitable hours	*	13.0	16.1	*	4.1	5.1	4.2	17.0	21.3
Too far to travel/transport problems	14.2	7.2	21.4	4.5	*	7.7	18.7	10.4	29.1
Lacked necessary skills/education	29.3	13.2	42.6	7.7	*	10.9	37.1	16.4	53.5
Language difficulties	*	*	*	9.2	5.3	14.5	9.2	5.6	14.8
Insufficient work experience	16.4	20.0	36.4	6.3	4.9	11.1	22.7	24.8	47.5
No vacancies in line of work	42.5	16.9	59.4	14.6	5.7	20.3	57.1	22.6	79.7
No vacancies at all	62.9	32.4	95.3	18.4	7.6	26.0	81.4	40.0	121.3
Other difficulties	12.4	11.4	23.8	4.6	3.9	8.5	16.9	15.3	32.2
No difficulties reported	7.9	14.8	22.8	*	4.5	7.0	10.5	19.3	29.8
Total	239.8	161.4	401.2	101.1	52.8	153.9	340.9	214.2	555.1

TABLE 13. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : ALL DIFFICULTIES IN FINDING WORK DURING CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT AND BIRTHPLACE, JULY 1985
(' 000)

All difficulties in finding work	Born in Australia			Born outside Australia			Total		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Own ill health or injury	31.0	11.0	41.9	16.9	3.5	20.4	47.8	14.5	62.4
Considered too young or too old by employers	78.4	61.1	139.5	45.1	18.8	63.9	123.6	79.9	203.5
Unsuitable hours	10.1	27.7	37.8	4.4	9.2	13.6	14.5	36.9	51.4
Too far to travel/transport problems	50.8	33.1	83.9	15.8	12.1	27.9	66.6	45.2	111.8
Lacked necessary skills/education	79.2	54.0	133.1	30.2	13.0	43.2	109.4	67.0	176.4
Language difficulties	*	*	3.9	18.8	8.0	26.8	20.6	10.1	30.7
Insufficient work experience	63.0	52.9	115.8	24.8	14.2	38.9	87.7	67.0	154.8
No vacancies in line of work	113.2	55.6	168.8	38.1	18.3	56.4	151.2	74.0	225.2
No vacancies at all	121.6	64.9	186.5	38.3	17.3	55.6	159.9	82.1	242.1
Other difficulties	20.6	18.1	38.7	9.3	7.9	17.3	29.9	26.1	56.0

TABLE 14. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : NUMBER OF SPELLS OF LOOKING FOR WORK IN THE PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS AND AGE, JULY 1985
(' 000)

Number of spells of looking for work in the previous twelve months	Age group (years)						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over	
MALES							
One	59.5	53.2	68.8	41.3	31.6	30.4	284.7
Two	12.4	13.2	6.9	3.8	3.8	*	41.8
Three or more	*	*	5.7	*	*	*	14.4
Total	75.0	69.6	81.4	46.5	36.0	32.5	340.9
FEMALES							
One	52.2	38.9	45.7	32.9	13.7	3.7	187.2
Two	7.4	6.1	3.5	*	*	*	19.7
Three or more	4.0	*	*	*	*	*	7.3
Total	62.3	46.3	51.0	35.6	15.2	3.7	214.2
PERSONS							
One	111.6	92.1	114.5	74.2	45.4	34.1	471.9
Two	19.9	19.3	10.4	5.5	4.8	*	61.5
Three or more	5.8	4.5	7.4	*	*	*	21.7
Total	137.3	115.9	132.4	82.1	51.2	36.2	555.1

TABLE 15. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : NUMBER OF SPELLS OF LOOKING FOR WORK AND TIME SPENT LOOKING FOR WORK IN THE PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS, JULY 1985 ('000)

Number of spells of looking for work in the previous twelve months	Time spent looking for work in the 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	6.5	17.2	15.6	16.9	37.3	44.3	20.8	126.1	284.7
Two	..	3.9		4.7	11.5	12.7	9.0	..	41.8
Three or more	..	*	*	4.1		5.1	3.7	..	14.4
Total	6.5	18.7	19.5	22.6	51.9	62.1	33.5	126.1	340.9
FEMALES									
One	13.1	16.2	17.4	15.2	25.8	32.7	13.6	53.2	187.2
Two	..	*	*	*	4.3	8.1	3.7	..	19.7
Three or more	..	*	*	*	5.2		*	..	7.3
Total	13.1	16.3	19.2	17.8	32.4	43.6	18.5	53.2	214.2
PERSONS									
One	19.6	33.4	33.0	32.1	63.1	77.0	34.4	179.3	471.9
Two	..	*	4.5	6.4	15.8	20.8	12.7	..	61.5
Three or more	..	*	*	*	5.5	7.9	4.9	..	21.7
Total	19.6	35.1	38.6	40.4	84.4	105.7	52.0	179.3	555.1

TABLE 16. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : FAMILY STATUS AND DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT, JULY 1985

Family status	Duration of current period of unemployment (weeks)						Total	Average duration	Median duration
	1 and under 4	4 and under 8	8 and under 13	13 and under 26	26 and under 52	52 and over			
— '000—									
Member of a family	58.1	39.4	37.2	62.6	92.5	136.3	426.1	51.6	26
Husband or wife	26.4	19.0	17.7	31.2	37.0	76.5	207.8	58.8	27
With dependent children present	18.2	13.0	11.3	22.5	25.8	49.9	140.7	58.2	26
Without dependent children present	8.2	6.0	6.4	8.7	11.2	26.6	67.1	59.8	28
Not-married family head	3.6	4.5		4.2	4.7	7.3	24.2	45.8	25
With dependent children present	4.7		4.2		*	5.0	16.7	42.1	18
Without dependent children present	*	*	*	*	4.2		7.6	53.9	27
Full-time student aged 15-20	9.5	4.1	4.3	*	9.5	*	33.6	20.1	10
Other child(a) of family head	16.9	13.2	11.2	21.6	38.5	43.7	145.1	49.7	26
Other relative of family head	*	*	*	5.4		5.5	15.4	50.7	27
Not a member of a family	10.0	10.5	7.0	13.0	18.0	30.5	89.1	50.7	26
Living alone	3.7	4.6		4.2	4.8	13.4	30.7	62.0	39
Not living alone	6.3	7.7	5.2	8.9	13.2	17.1	58.3	44.8	26
Not family coded	7.5	4.4	4.1	5.9	5.5	12.5	39.9	57.2	18
Total	75.6	54.3	48.4	81.5	116.0	179.3	555.1	51.9	26

(a) Aged 15 and over.

TABLE 17. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT, JULY 1985

	<i>Duration of current period of unemployment (weeks)</i>						<i>Total</i>	<i>Average duration</i>	<i>Median duration</i>
	<i>1 and under 4</i>	<i>4 and under 8</i>	<i>8 and under 13</i>	<i>13 and under 26</i>	<i>26 and under 52</i>	<i>52 and over</i>			
<i>Educational attainment</i>	—'000—							—weeks—	
MALES									
With post-school qualifications	11.5	9.2	5.8	15.1	16.3	27.5	85.4	50.0	26
Degree	3.5		*	*	5.4		10.5	37.8	26
Trade; technical or other certificate	8.4	7.8	4.9	13.6	12.4	23.1	70.2	51.3	26
Other	*	*	*	*	*	*	4.7	58.1	30
Without post-school qualifications(a)	23.7	20.3	19.0	33.8	50.2	98.0	245.0	65.5	32
Attended highest level of secondary school available	7.2	4.3	*	7.9	11.9	11.0	45.7	42.2	26
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	16.3	16.0	15.6	25.9	38.3	86.1	198.2	70.6	36
Left at age—									
18 or more	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
16 or 17	6.6	6.0	5.6	9.3	14.2	24.1	65.8	59.5	30
14 or 15	8.2	8.6	9.3	13.2	21.0	49.9	110.2	73.6	39
13 or under	*	*	*	5.6		10.5	18.8	92.3	52
Still at school	3.6	*	*	*	*	*	10.5	13.0	6
Total	38.8	31.3	26.1	49.7	68.9	126.1	340.9	60.0	28
FEMALES									
With post-school qualifications	10.8	5.6	5.4	9.0	9.1	11.3	51.1	34.3	17
Degree	*	*	*	*	*	*	8.1	41.4	17
Trade; technical or other certificate	9.0	4.6	4.1	6.3	7.1	8.4	39.5	32.1	16
Other	*	*	*	*	*	*	3.5	42.8	20
Without post-school qualifications(a)	21.5	15.8	14.8	21.5	33.6	40.6	147.8	42.5	26
Attended highest level of secondary school available	4.9	*	3.6	4.0	7.7	5.3	28.9	31.9	20
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	16.6	12.4	11.2	17.5	25.9	34.8	118.4	45.0	26
Left at age—									
18 or more	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
16 or 17	5.6	5.4	4.8	8.3	11.6	13.0	48.8	40.0	26
14 or 15	10.1	5.5	5.7	8.3	12.9	19.5	61.9	48.1	26
13 or under	*	*	*	*	*	*	5.1	64.6	26
Still at school	4.6	*	*	*	4.4	*	15.3	19.1	9
Total	36.9	22.9	22.3	31.8	47.1	53.2	214.2	38.9	21
PERSONS									
With post-school qualifications	22.3	14.8	11.1	24.1	25.4	38.8	136.5	44.1	22
Degree	3.7	*	4.1		4.0	4.6	18.5	39.4	20
Trade; technical or other certificate	17.3	12.4	9.0	19.9	19.5	31.5	109.7	44.4	22
Other	*	*	*	*	4.5		8.3	51.6	26
Without post-school qualifications(a)	45.2	36.1	33.8	55.3	83.8	138.6	392.7	56.9	27
Attended highest level of secondary school available	12.1	7.6	7.0	11.8	19.6	16.4	74.6	38.2	24
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	32.9	28.5	26.8	43.4	64.2	120.9	316.6	61.0	30
Left at age—									
18 or more	*	*	*	*	*	*	5.9	50.5	22
16 or 17	12.2	11.5	10.4	17.6	25.7	37.2	114.6	51.2	26
14 or 15	18.3	14.2	15.0	21.5	33.9	69.4	172.1	64.4	31
13 or under	3.6		4.1		3.8	12.4	23.9	86.4	52
Still at school	8.1	6.7		*	6.9	*	25.8	16.6	8
Total	75.6	54.3	48.4	81.5	116.0	179.3	555.1	51.9	26

(a) Includes persons who never attended school.

TABLE 18. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND NUMBER OF OFFERS OF EMPLOYMENT DURING CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT, JULY 1985 (' 000)

<i>Educational attainment</i>	<i>Number of offers of employment</i>							<i>Total</i>
	<i>Males</i>		<i>Females</i>		<i>Persons</i>			
	<i>None</i>	<i>One or more</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>One or more</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>One</i>	<i>Two or more</i>	
With post-school qualifications	68.3	17.2	39.6	11.5	107.9	17.9	10.7	136.5
Degree	8.0	*	5.5	*	13.5	3.8	*	18.5
Trade; technical or other certificate	56.7	13.5	31.1	8.4	87.8	13.1	8.8	109.7
Other	3.6	*	*	*	6.6	*	*	8.3
Without post-school qualifications(a)	217.1	27.9	124.3	23.5	341.4	36.4	14.9	392.7
Attended highest level of secondary school available	38.7	7.0	23.0	6.0	61.6	8.3	4.7	74.6
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	177.4	20.9	100.9	17.5	278.2	28.2	10.3	316.6
Left at age—								
18 or more	*	*	*	*	5.7	*	*	5.9
16 or 17	57.6	8.2	40.4	8.4	98.0	12.9	3.8	114.6
14 or 15	98.3	11.9	53.5	8.5	151.8	14.1	6.2	172.1
13 or under	18.0	*	4.7	*	22.7	*	*	23.9
Still at school	10.2	*	13.4	*	23.6	*	*	25.8
Total	295.6	45.3	177.3	36.9	472.8	56.5	25.8	555.1

(a) Includes persons who never attended school.

TABLE 19. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND AGE, JULY 1985 (' 000)

<i>Educational attainment</i>	<i>Age group (years)</i>						<i>55 and over</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>15-19</i>	<i>20-24</i>	<i>25-34</i>	<i>35-44</i>	<i>45-54</i>			
With post-school qualifications	11.3	29.4	37.4	27.3	17.0	14.2	136.5	
Degree	3.5		7.1	4.4	*	*	18.5	
Trade; technical or other certificate	9.2	22.3	29.1	21.8	15.2	12.2	109.7	
Other	5.6		*	*	*	*	8.3	
Without post-school qualifications(a)	100.5	86.2	94.9	54.8	34.2	22.0	392.7	
Attended highest level of secondary school available	21.6	19.5	20.0	7.5	3.7	*	74.6	
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	78.9	66.7	74.8	46.9	30.1	19.3	316.6	
Left at age—								
18 or more	*	*	*	*	*	*	5.9	
16 or 17	39.7	30.3	25.6	11.9	3.9	*	114.6	
14 or 15	38.2	32.7	43.0	26.9	19.7	11.6	172.1	
13 or under	*	*	5.0	6.6	5.7	4.4	23.9	
Still at school	25.5	*	*	*	*	*	25.8	
Total	137.3	115.9	132.4	82.1	51.2	36.2	555.1	

(a) Includes persons who never attended school.

TABLE 20. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : WHETHER WOULD MOVE INTERSTATE OR INTRASTATE AND FAMILY STATUS, JULY 1985 (' 000)

Family status	If offered a suitable job—						
	Moving would depend—						Total
	Would move	Would not move	On job conditions	On other conditions(a)	Undecided	Total	
WHETHER WOULD MOVE INTERSTATE							
Member of a family	96.2	279.0	21.8	19.0	40.8	10.1	426.1
Husband or wife	34.7	151.2	6.5	11.2	17.7	4.2	207.8
With dependent children present	22.3	102.9	5.0	7.8	12.9	*	140.7
Without dependent children present	12.4	48.3	*	*	4.8	*	67.1
Not-married family head	3.9	17.3	*	*	*	*	24.2
With dependent children present	*	11.2	*	*	*	*	16.7
Without dependent children present	*	6.1	*	*	*	*	7.6
Full-time student aged 15-20	4.0	28.5	*	*	*	*	33.6
Other child(b) of family head	47.4	75.2	12.2	5.8	18.0	4.5	145.1
Other relative of family head	6.2	6.8	*	*	*	*	15.4
Not a member of a family	26.4	50.6	5.3	4.1	9.4	*	89.1
Living alone	9.6	18.4	*	*	*	*	30.7
Not living alone	16.7	32.2	4.7	*	7.8	*	58.3
Not family coded	14.9	19.8	*	*	3.6	*	39.9
Total	137.5	349.4	29.3	24.5	53.8	14.4	555.1
WHETHER WOULD MOVE INTRASTATE							
Member of a family	147.5	218.5	20.6	31.2	51.8	8.3	426.1
Husband or wife	57.3	123.8	8.5	16.0	24.5	*	207.8
With dependent children present	37.6	84.6	5.7	11.4	17.1	*	140.7
Without dependent children present	19.7	39.2	*	4.7	7.4	*	67.1
Not-married family head	7.7	13.5	*	*	*	*	24.2
With dependent children present	5.6	8.9	*	*	*	*	16.7
Without dependent children present	*	4.6	*	*	*	*	7.6
Full-time student aged 15-20	5.4	26.6	*	*	*	*	33.6
Other child(b) of family head	69.1	49.8	9.5	11.6	21.1	5.0	145.1
Other relative of family head	8.1	4.7	*	*	*	*	15.4
Not a member of a family	39.4	34.8	5.4	7.7	13.1	*	89.1
Living alone	12.6	13.0	*	*	4.4	*	30.7
Not living alone	26.7	21.8	3.9	4.9	8.8	*	58.3
Not family coded	20.5	14.6	*	*	*	*	39.9
Total	207.4	267.8	26.8	41.1	67.9	12.0	555.1

(a) Includes personal or family considerations and the specific State/locality. (b) Aged 15 and over.

TABLE 21 UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : WHETHER WOULD MOVE INTERSTATE OR INTRASTATE AND STATE, JULY 1985 (' 000)

	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Aust.
WHETHER WOULD MOVE INTERSTATE									
If offered a suitable job—									
Would move interstate	53.7	20.9	28.0	13.8	13.8	4.7	*	*	137.5
Would not move interstate	128.7	80.7	61.4	31.7	31.2	9.0	2.9	3.7	349.4
Moving interstate would depend—									
On job conditions	9.0	7.3	7.3	1.9	2.6	1.1	*	*	29.3
On other conditions(a)	6.7	6.4	6.2	1.9	2.1	*	*	*	24.5
Total	15.7	13.6	13.5	3.9	4.7	1.9	*	*	53.8
Undecided	6.5	4.5	*	*	*	*	*	*	14.4
Total	204.6	119.7	104.3	50.4	50.3	16.0	4.5	5.3	555.1
WHETHER WOULD MOVE INTRASTATE									
If offered a suitable job—									
Would move intrastate	72.5	36.4	45.0	19.1	23.3	8.1	*	1.9	207.4
Would not move intrastate	102.1	65.4	42.5	24.0	21.0	6.1	3.3	3.4	267.8
Moving intrastate would depend—									
On job conditions	11.0	5.6	6.9	*	*	*	*	*	26.8
On other conditions(a)	13.5	9.3	8.9	4.7	4.0	*	*	*	41.1
Total	24.5	14.9	15.8	6.3	5.3	1.2	*	*	67.9
Undecided	5.6	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	12.0
Total	204.6	119.7	104.3	50.4	50.3	16.0	4.5	5.3	555.1

(a) Includes personal or family considerations and the specific State/locality.

TABLE 22. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : WHETHER WOULD MOVE INTERSTATE OR INTRASTATE AND AGE, JULY 1985
(' 000)

	Age group(years)						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over	
WHETHER WOULD MOVE INTERSTATE							
If offered a suitable job—							
Would move interstate	36.5	39.2	30.8	14.5	10.4	6.0	137.5
Would not move interstate	84.5	57.9	85.0	58.9	36.1	27.1	349.4
Moving interstate would depend—							
On job conditions	9.1	8.1	7.7	3.7		*	29.3
On other conditions(a)	4.9	5.5	6.2	4.0	3.9		24.5
Total	13.9	13.6	13.9	6.9	5.5		53.8
Undecided	*	5.3	4.4		*	*	14.4
Total	137.3	115.9	132.4	82.1	51.2	36.2	555.1
WHETHER WOULD MOVE INTRASTATE							
If offered a suitable job—							
Would move intrastate	56.1	55.9	47.0	21.9	16.9	9.5	207.4
Would not move intrastate	62.2	41.0	63.9	49.3	28.5	23.0	267.8
Moving intrastate would depend—							
On job conditions	5.1	6.2	9.4	3.6	*	*	26.8
On other conditions(a)	10.4	8.6	10.4	6.3	5.4		41.1
Total	15.5	14.7	19.7	9.9	4.9	*	67.9
Undecided	3.5	4.3	*	*	*	*	12.0
Total	137.3	115.9	132.4	82.1	51.2	36.2	555.1

(a) Includes personal or family considerations and the specific State/locality.

TABLE 23. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS WHO WERE WAGE OR SALARY EARNERS IN THEIR LAST FULL-TIME JOB AND WHO FINISHED WORKING IN THAT JOB DURING THE TWO YEARS ENDING JULY 1985: DURATION OF AND REASON FOR LEAVING THAT JOB, JULY 1985
(' 000)

Reason for leaving last full-time job	Duration of last full-time job							Total
	Less than one year(weeks)				Total	1 and under 5 years	5 years and over	
	2 and under 4	4 and under 8	8 and under 26	26 and under 52				
MALES								
Retrenched/lost job	4.9	7.3	21.4	17.3	50.8	23.3	12.3	86.4
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	5.1		7.7	5.3	18.2	6.5	*	26.5
Job was temporary or seasonal	5.7	6.4	13.5	5.0	30.6	*	*	32.2
Other(a)	5.3		7.2	6.8	19.3	11.5	8.8	39.6
Total	15.3	19.4	49.7	34.4	118.9	42.8	23.1	184.7
FEMALES								
Retrenched/lost job	5.6		7.3	4.8	17.6	5.2	*	23.7
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	*	*	3.6	*	8.5	4.5	*	14.2
Job was temporary or seasonal	*	3.8	6.1	*	14.6	*	*	15.5
Other(a)	*	*	7.7	3.4	14.3	13.7	*	31.5
Total	7.1	10.3	24.7	13.0	55.1	24.2	5.6	84.9
PERSONS								
Retrenched/lost job	7.3	10.4	28.7	22.0	68.4	28.4	13.3	110.2
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	*	4.9	11.3	7.6	26.7	11.0	*	40.7
Job was temporary or seasonal	8.0	10.2	19.6	7.6	45.2	*	*	47.6
Other(a)	4.4	4.1	14.9	10.3	33.7	25.2	12.2	71.1
Total	22.4	29.7	74.4	47.4	174.0	67.0	28.6	269.6

(a) Includes own ill health or injury; to return to studies; to marry/have children/look after family; move house/ spouse transferred; and travel/take a holiday.

ADDITIONAL TABLES

The following is a list of additional tables of results from the survey which are available to users on request. These tables show a selection of estimates on an Australia-wide basis. Tables disaggregated by State/Territory and other tables may also be available. Most tables are dissected by sex.

Unemployed persons

- Active steps taken to find work during current period of unemployment—
 - Number of offers of employment during current period of unemployment
 - Industry of last full-time job
 - Birthplace and year of arrival
 - Duration of current period of unemployment and number of spells of looking for work in the previous twelve months
 - Duration of current period of unemployment and whether would move interstate or intrastate
 - Educational attainment and whether had worked full-time
- Main difficulty in finding work during current period of unemployment—
 - Age and educational attainment
 - Birthplace and year of arrival
 - Duration of current period of unemployment and whether would move interstate or intrastate
 - Time spent looking for work in the previous twelve months
- All difficulties in finding work during current period of unemployment—
 - Birthplace and year of arrival
 - Educational attainment
- Number of spells of looking for work in the previous twelve months—
 - Age and duration of current period of unemployment
 - Family status
- Duration of current period of unemployment and age
- Whether would move interstate or intrastate, birthplace and year of arrival
- Time spent looking for work in the previous twelve months—
 - Birthplace, year of arrival and occupation of last full-time job
 - Age and educational attainment
 - Whether looking for full-time or part-time work
- Age—
 - Whether had worked full-time
 - Number of offers of employment during current period of unemployment
- Birthplace and year of arrival—
 - Industry of last full-time job and marital status
 - Occupation of last full-time job and marital status

Unemployed persons who were age or salary earners in their last full-time job and who finished working in that job during the two years ending July 1985

- All difficulties in finding work during current period of unemployment and birthplace
- Duration of last full-time job and duration of current period of unemployment
- Reason for leaving last full-time job, educational attainment and whether would move interstate or intrastate
- Duration of current period of unemployment and family status
- Birthplace—
 - Gross weekly pay in last full-time job
 - Occupation of last full-time job

TECHNICAL NOTE

Estimation procedure

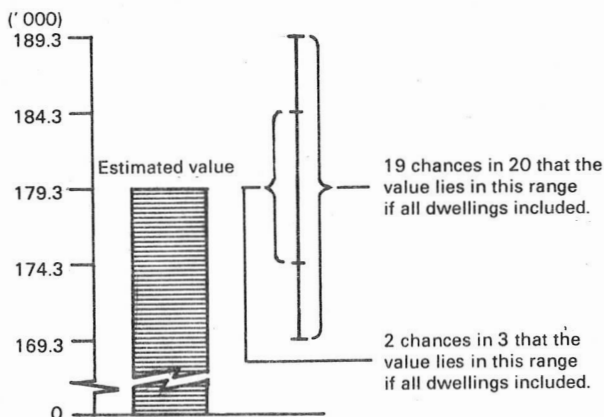
The estimates are derived from the population survey by use of a ratio estimation procedure which ensures that the estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population for each capital city and remainder of State by age and sex, rather than to the corresponding distribution 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. Table 17 shows the estimated number of unemployed persons in Australia who had a duration of current period of unemployment of 52 weeks or over was 179,300. Since this estimate is between 100,000 and 200,000, the standard error for Australia will be between 3,950 and 5,300 in the standard error table and can be approximated as 5,000 (rounded to the nearest 100). 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 174,300 to 184,300 and about nineteen chances in twenty that the value will fall within the range 169,300 to 189,300. 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 179,300 persons represent 32.3 per cent of the 566,100 unemployed persons. The standard error on 555,100 is approximately 7,700 so the relative standard error is 1.4 per cent. The relative standard error for 179,300 is 2.8 per cent. Applying the above formula, the relative standard error of the proportion is $\sqrt{(2.8)^2 - (1.4)^2}$ or 2.4 per cent, giving a standard error for the proportion (32.3 per cent) of 0.8 percentage points. Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the proportion of unemployed persons who had a duration of current period of unemployment of 52 weeks or over is between 31.5 per cent and 33.1 per cent and nineteen chances in twenty the proportion is within the range 30.7 per cent to 33.9 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 a sample.

