



July 1992

JOB SEARCH EXPERIENCE OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS AUSTRALIA



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**JOB SEARCH EXPERIENCE OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS
AUSTRALIA
JULY 1992**

**IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician**

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INQUIRIES

- *for further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Mr Mark Patton on Canberra (06) 252 7204 or the Labour Force section in your ABS State office (see page 23 for contact numbers).*
- *for information about other ABS statistics and services please refer to the last page of this publication.*

ADDITIONAL DATA ON REQUEST The ABS offers a range of unpublished data from this survey upon request. An order form for unpublished data can be found on page 24.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Unemployed persons

In July 1992, the labour force numbered 8,667,900 persons. There were 900,000 unemployed (excluding the small number who were stood down). This represents a 22 per cent increase over the estimate of unemployed persons in June 1991 (740,100). Persons looking for full-time work outnumbered those looking for part-time work by almost seven to one (Table 1).

Duration of current period of unemployment

The average duration of current period of unemployment rose from 44 weeks in June 1991 to 55 weeks in July 1992. The median duration of current period of unemployment also rose from 22 weeks in June 1991 to 29 weeks in July 1992. In July 1982 the average duration of current period of unemployment was 34 weeks (Table 4).

Main difficulty in finding work

The proportion of persons reporting 'No vacancies at all' as their main difficulty increases significantly during periods of high unemployment - diagram 1 below shows the peaks of 1983, and 1991-1992. While the number of persons reporting 'No vacancies at all' as their main difficulty in finding work increased from 247,000 in June 1991 to 287,100 in July 1992, the proportion fell slightly from 35 percent to 32 per cent during this period.

A similar trend was recorded for those persons who stated 'No vacancies in line of work' as their main difficulty. The number of persons reporting this difficulty increased from 136,400 in June 1991 to 154,300 in July 1992 but fell marginally as a proportion of unemployed persons (from 18% to 17%) (Table 2 and Diagram 1).

Language difficulties were reported as the main difficulty of 8.5 per cent and a difficulty by 19.8 per cent of those born outside Australia.

Insufficient work experience was reported as the main difficulty by 8.0 per cent of persons and as a difficulty by 25.3 per cent of persons (Tables 12 and 13).

The average duration of unemployment varies according to the main difficulty in finding work. The largest average duration in 1992 was for 'Own ill health or disability' - 111 weeks, followed by 'Language difficulties' - 83 weeks. The main difficulties reported with the shortest average duration were 'No vacancies in line of work' - 38 weeks and 'Insufficient work experience' - 49 weeks.

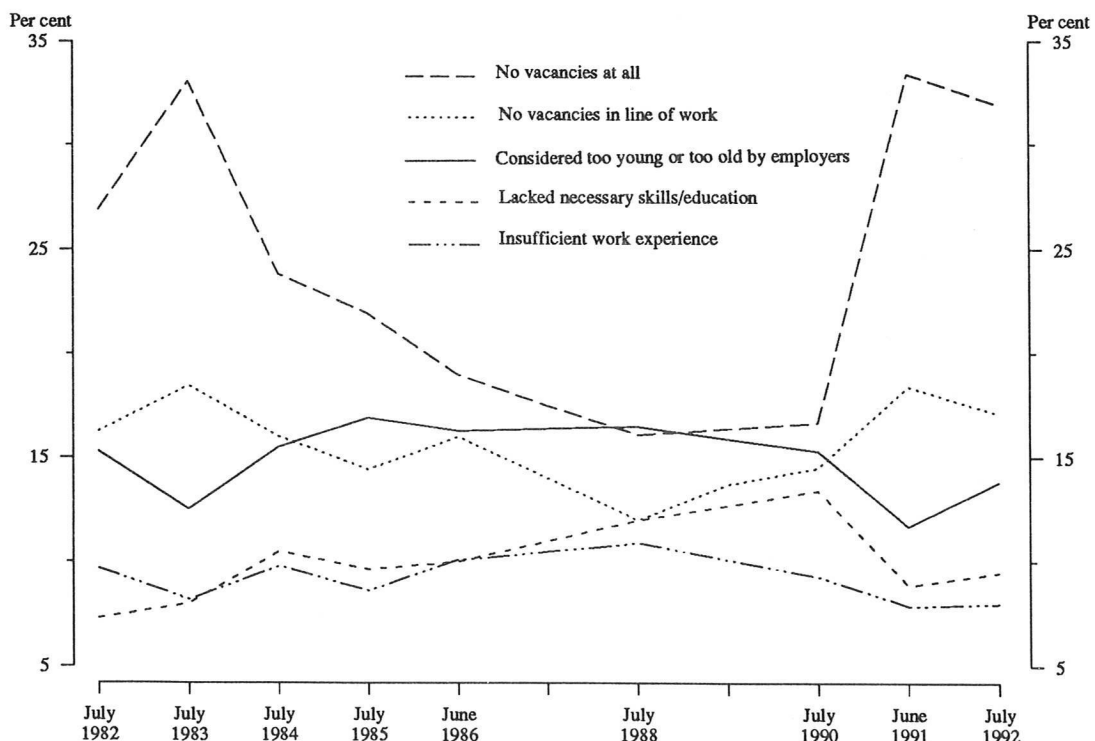
The average duration of unemployment in 1992 compared with 1991 was greater for all main difficulties reported, except 'Considered too young/too old by employers' and 'Lacked necessary skills/education' difficulties. (Diagram 3).

The long term unemployed

There were 331,300 persons (37% of total unemployed) whose current period of unemployment (at July 1992) was one year or more. For this group, the most frequently reported main difficulties in finding work were 'No vacancies' and 'Considered too young or too old by employers'.

Of all the persons reporting 'Own ill health or disability' as the main difficulty in finding work, 60 per cent had been unemployed for one year or more. Similarly, 50 per cent of persons reporting 'age' had been unemployed for one year or more (Table 9).

DIAGRAM 1. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: SELECTED MAIN DIFFICULTIES IN FINDING WORK, JULY 1982 TO JUNE 1992



Age

The percentage of unemployed persons reporting 'Lacked necessary skills/education' or 'Insufficient work experience' as their main difficulties in finding work decreased with age, from 14 per cent of those aged 15 to 19 years to 3 per cent of those aged 45 years and over.

'No vacancies' was the main difficulty reported by 51 per cent of the unemployed persons aged less than 45 years and 43 per cent of those aged 45 years and over.

A further 39 per cent of the unemployed aged 45 years or more reported the main difficulty in finding work as being 'Considered too young or too old by employers' (Diagram 2).

The difficulties unemployed persons face in finding a job vary with age. Persons whose main difficulty was 'No vacancies at all' were predominantly in the 15 to 24 years and 25 to 44 year groups.

Of those who reported that 'Insufficient work experience' was their main difficulty in finding work, 66 per cent were aged 15 to 24 years. This age group also made up 57% of those reporting 'Lacked necessary skills/education' as their main difficulty (Table 11).

Educational attainment

An estimated 524,300 persons (58% of total unemployed) did not have post-school qualifications. Persons without post-school qualifications had been unemployed for 8 weeks more on average than those with post-school qualifications (59 compared to 51 weeks).

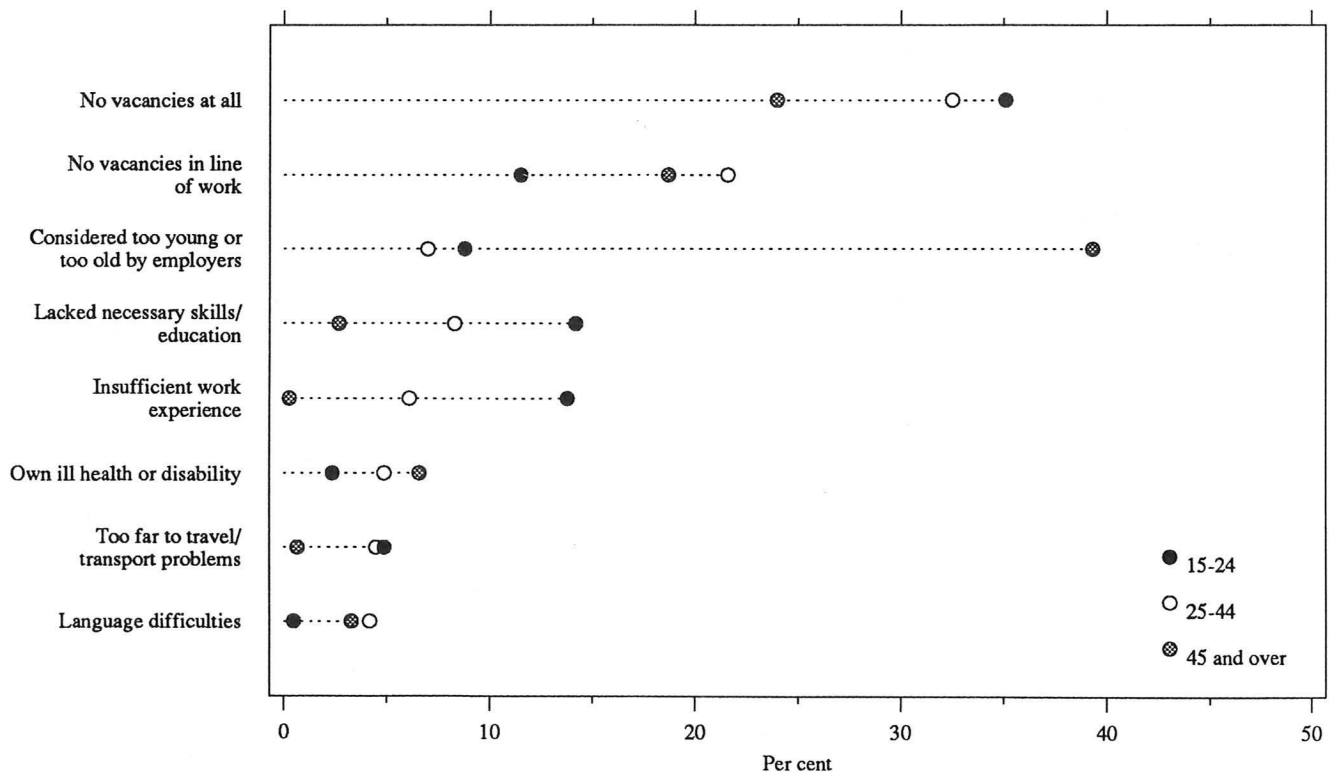
Persons without post-school qualifications who did not attend the highest level of secondary school experienced an average duration of unemployment of 64 weeks. In contrast, unemployed persons with a degree had an average duration of unemployment of 43 weeks (Table 16).

Preparedness to move if offered a suitable job

In July 1992, a greater proportion of persons were prepared to move interstate or intrastate if offered a suitable job compared with the same period last year. Some 32 per cent of unemployed persons reported they would move interstate if offered a suitable job, and 55 per cent reported they would not move interstate. In June 1991, the corresponding proportions were 29 per cent and 58 per cent respectively.

Unemployed persons were more inclined to move intrastate than interstate, with 45 per cent being prepared to move intrastate if offered a suitable job and 40 per cent not prepared to move. In June 1991, the proportion not prepared to move intrastate was 43 per cent (Table 5).

DIAGRAM 2. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: MAIN DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WORK AND AGE, JULY 1992



Source: Table 11

Active steps taken to find work

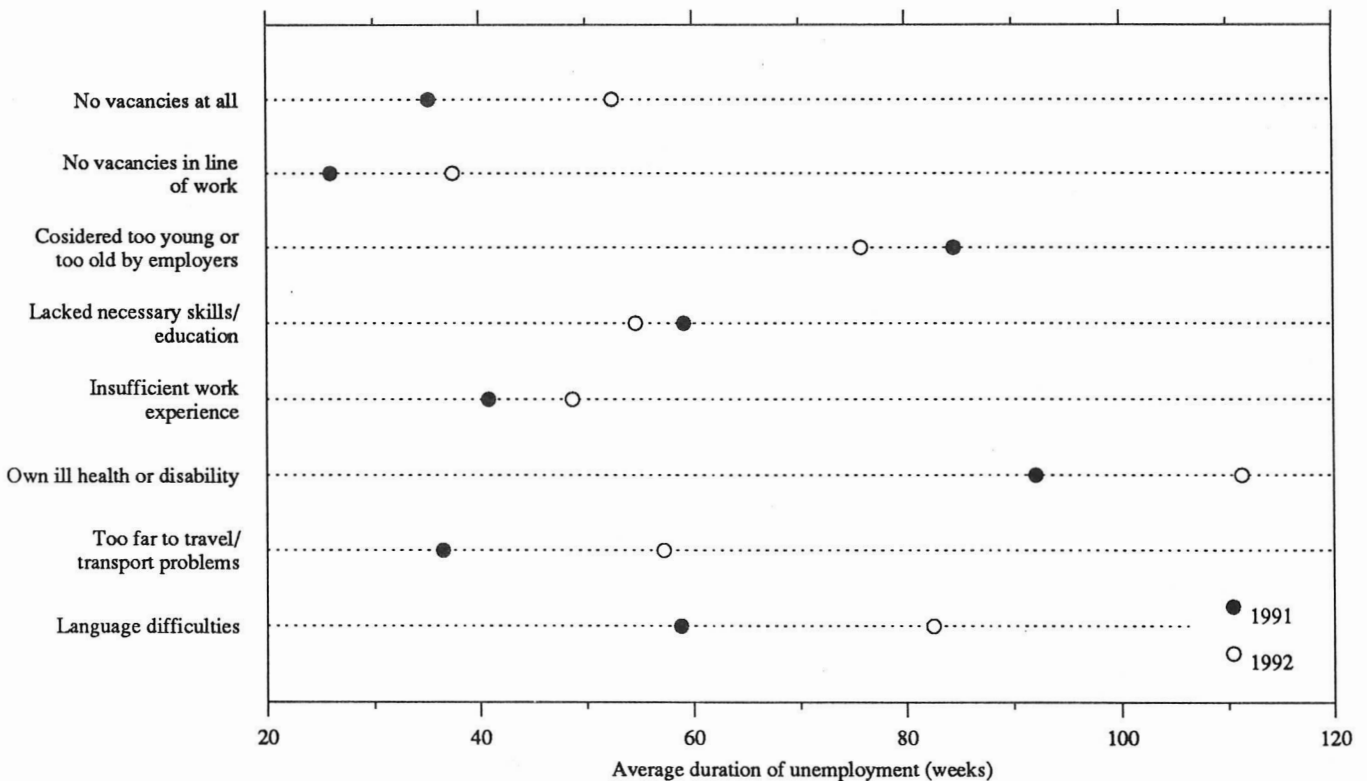
In July 1992, of the estimated 900,000 unemployed persons, 741,500 (82%) reported that they were registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service (CES). Over the last decade, this percentage has been within the range of 73 per cent (July 1982) to 82 per cent (July 1992) (Table 3). The July 1992 percentage registered with the CES is the highest recorded since the survey was first conducted in May 1976.

Of persons looking for full-time work, some 89 per cent were registered with the CES (Table 7).

Of the 741,500 unemployed persons registered with the CES —

- 26 per cent were in the 25 to 34 year age group with 22 per cent aged 20 to 24 and 17 per cent aged 15 to 19. These percentages broadly correspond to the age distribution of the unemployed generally (Table 8).
- 94% were looking for full-time work.
- A higher proportion of males looking for full-time work were registered with the CES (92.5%) compared with females looking for full-time work (82.5%) (Table 7).
- 78 per cent contacted prospective employers to find work.
- Only 1 per cent reported that they took no other active steps to find work (Table 3).

DIAGRAM 3. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: AVERAGE DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BY SELECTED MAIN DIFFICULTIES IN FINDING WORK, JUNE 1991 AND JULY 1992



Source: Table 9

NOTE:

Estimates of unemployed persons in this publication exclude persons classed as unemployed who had been stood down without pay for less than four weeks, and will therefore differ from those published in *The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)*.

TABLE 1. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: WHETHER LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME WORK, JULY 1982 TO JULY 1992

	July 1982	July 1984	June 1986	July 1988	July 1990	June 1991	July 1992
— '000 —							
<i>Looking for full-time work</i>							
Males	229.2	338.8	290.0	275.1	287.8	420.8	529.1
Females	141.7	174.6	161.1	151.6	166.1	212.7	255.3
Persons	370.9	513.4	451.2	426.7	453.9	633.5	784.5
<i>Looking for part-time work</i>							
Males	18.9	16.8	25.9	19.2	30.4	32.4	36.2
Females	49.6	57.2	70.4	57.5	64.0	74.2	79.4
Persons	68.4	74.0	96.3	76.8	94.4	106.6	115.5
<i>Total</i>							
Males	248.1	355.6	315.9	294.3	318.2	453.2	565.3
Females	191.3	231.8	231.5	209.1	230.1	286.9	334.7
Persons	439.3	587.4	547.5	503.5	548.3	740.1	900.0
Total in the labour force	6,842.2	7,121.8	7,534.6	7,877.0	8,502.3	8,480.8	8,667.9
PROPORTION OF THE LABOUR FORCE							
— per cent —							
<i>Looking for full-time work</i>							
Males	3.3	4.8	3.8	3.5	3.4	5.0	6.1
Females	2.1	2.5	2.1	1.9	2.0	2.5	2.9
Persons	5.4	7.2	6.0	5.4	5.3	7.5	9.1
<i>Looking for part-time work</i>							
Males	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4
Females	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.9
Persons	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.3
<i>Total</i>							
Males	3.6	5.0	4.2	3.7	3.7	5.3	6.5
Females	2.8	3.3	3.1	2.7	2.7	3.4	3.9
Persons	6.4	8.2	7.3	6.4	6.4	8.7	10.4

TABLE 2. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: MAIN DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WORK, JULY 1982 TO JULY 1992

	July 1982	July 1984	June 1986	July 1988	July 1990	June 1991	July 1992	
— per cent —								
<i>Main difficulty in finding work</i>							('000)	
No vacancies at all	26.9	23.8	19.0	16.1	16.7	33.4	287.1	
No vacancies in line of work	16.3	16.0	16.0	12.0	14.5	18.4	154.3	
Considered too young or too old by employers	15.3	15.5	16.3	16.5	15.3	11.7	124.2	
Lacked necessary skills/education	7.3	10.5	10.0	12.0	13.4	8.9	85.7	
Insufficient work experience	9.7	9.8	10.1	10.9	9.3	7.9	71.7	
Own ill health or injury	3.8	4.1	5.8	6.6	6.7	3.8	38.1	
Too far to travel/transport problems	4.7	4.9	5.7	6.9	5.2	3.6	35.1	
Language difficulties	2.4	2.8	2.1	3.2	4.4	2.2	23.4	
Unsuitable hours	4.0	2.8	4.0	3.6	3.4	2.2	17.5	
Difficulties with childcare/other family responsibilities(a)	1.2	
Other difficulties(b)	5.5	5.3	5.0	6.1	5.5	5.1	2.6	
No difficulties reported	4.0	4.4	6.1	6.2	5.6	2.7	28.4	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	900.0	

(a) Collected separately for the first time in 1992. (b) Includes persons who reported difficulties with ethnic background.

TABLE 6. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: SUMMARY OF CHARACTERISTICS AND WHETHER LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME WORK, JULY 1992

	Looking for full-time work			Looking for part-time work			Total		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
	— '000 —								
<i>State of usual residence —</i>									
New South Wales	168.6	79.1	247.7	12.9	28.4	41.3	181.5	107.5	289.0
Victoria	141.8	75.0	216.7	10.1	17.1	27.2	151.9	92.1	243.9
Queensland	92.2	45.0	137.2	6.6	15.0	21.6	98.8	60.0	158.8
South Australia	51.9	20.3	72.1	2.2	4.8	7.0	54.1	25.1	79.2
Western Australia	51.1	23.2	74.3	*2.4	8.2	10.5	53.5	31.3	84.8
Tasmania	14.8	5.8	20.7	*0.7	2.9	3.6	15.5	8.7	24.3
Northern Territory	3.7	2.7	6.4	*0.6	*0.1	*0.7	4.3	2.8	7.1
Australian Capital Territory	5.0	4.3	9.3	*0.8	2.8	3.6	5.7	7.1	12.9
<i>Age —</i>									
15-19	68.5	56.3	124.8	20.4	22.5	42.9	88.9	78.8	167.7
20-24	106.6	57.5	164.1	*2.7	11.5	14.2	109.2	69.0	178.3
25-34	143.8	61.1	204.9	4.9	19.8	24.7	148.8	80.9	229.7
35-44	91.0	44.2	135.2	*1.3	17.0	18.3	92.3	61.2	153.5
45-54	66.3	31.5	97.8	*2.4	5.8	8.2	68.7	37.3	106.0
55 and over	53.0	4.7	57.7	4.4	*2.8	7.2	57.4	7.5	64.9
<i>Family status —</i>									
Member of a family	403.2	190.0	593.2	27.4	70.4	97.8	430.6	260.4	691.0
Husband or wife	234.5	88.3	322.7	6.6	34.9	41.5	241.0	123.2	364.2
With dependents present	152.5	51.1	203.7	*2.5	29.2	31.7	155.0	80.4	235.4
Without dependents present	81.9	37.1	119.0	4.1	5.7	9.8	86.0	42.8	128.8
Sole parent	*2.5	18.7	21.2	*0.0	8.8	8.8	*2.5	27.5	30.1
Other family member(a)	166.2	83.0	249.3	20.8	26.7	47.4	187.0	109.7	296.7
Not a member of a family	95.6	49.4	145.0	4.4	5.2	9.7	100.0	54.6	154.6
Living alone	39.7	18.2	57.9	*2.1	*1.3	*3.4	41.8	19.6	61.3
Not living alone	55.9	31.1	87.0	*2.4	3.9	6.3	58.3	35.0	93.3
Family status not determined	30.3	16.0	46.3	4.4	3.7	8.1	34.7	19.7	54.3
<i>Birthplace —</i>									
Born in Australia	362.0	177.3	539.3	28.6	58.3	86.9	390.6	235.6	626.2
Born outside Australia	167.2	78.0	245.2	7.6	21.1	28.6	174.7	99.1	273.8
Born in main English-speaking countries	60.8	23.8	84.7	*1.8	7.3	9.1	62.7	31.1	93.8
Born in other countries	106.3	54.2	160.5	5.7	13.8	19.5	112.1	68.0	180.1
<i>Educational attainment —</i>									
With post-school qualifications	207.7	105.4	313.2	7.8	19.7	27.5	215.5	125.1	340.6
Degree	29.2	15.2	44.4	*1.9	*3.0	4.9	31.1	18.1	49.2
Trade qualification/apprenticeship	110.2	8.3	118.4	*2.5	*1.1	*3.6	112.7	9.4	122.0
Certificate or diploma	64.0	78.0	142.1	*3.2	15.2	18.4	67.3	93.2	160.5
Other	4.3	3.9	8.3	*0.2	*0.5	*0.6	4.5	4.4	8.9
Without post-school qualifications(b)	319.0	147.0	466.0	14.4	43.9	58.3	333.4	190.9	524.3
Attended highest level of secondary school available	62.0	39.6	101.6	10.2	15.9	26.1	72.2	55.5	127.7
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	255.5	105.6	361.2	4.2	27.9	32.1	259.7	133.6	393.3
Left at age									
16 and over	109.3	48.7	158.0	*1.1	12.7	13.7	110.4	61.4	171.7
15 and under	146.2	57.0	203.2	*3.1	15.3	18.4	149.4	72.2	221.6
Still at school	*2.4	*2.9	5.3	14.0	15.8	29.8	16.3	18.7	35.1
<i>Duration of current period of unemployment —</i>									
Under 1 year	320.0	160.8	480.8	27.3	60.6	87.9	347.3	221.4	568.7
1 and under 4 weeks	39.9	17.9	57.8	6.3	15.8	22.2	46.2	33.7	80.0
4 and under 8 weeks	45.4	18.7	64.1	5.3	6.8	12.1	50.7	25.5	76.2
8 and under 13 weeks	36.4	18.7	55.1	*2.7	7.9	10.6	39.1	26.6	65.7
13 and under 26 weeks	74.9	43.5	118.4	5.6	12.3	17.9	80.5	55.9	136.3
26 and under 39 weeks	85.6	46.6	132.2	6.5	14.8	21.3	92.1	61.5	153.5
39 and under 52 weeks	37.9	15.4	53.2	*0.9	*2.8	3.7	38.7	18.2	57.0
1 year and over	209.1	94.5	303.7	8.8	18.8	27.6	218.0	113.3	331.3
1 and under 2 years	114.4	54.3	168.7	5.5	11.3	16.8	119.9	65.6	185.4
2 years and over	94.8	40.2	135.0	*3.3	7.5	10.8	98.1	47.8	145.9
Total	529.1	255.3	784.5	36.2	79.4	115.5	565.3	334.7	900.0
	— weeks —								
<i>Average duration</i>	59.3	54.0	57.6	36.4	34.4	35.0	57.8	49.3	54.7
<i>Median duration</i>	33.6	29.6	31.9	19.2	20.3	20.2	31.7	26.5	29.5

(a) Comprises other family head, full-time student aged 15-24 and other child/relative of married couple or family head. (b) Includes persons who never attended school and those for whom secondary school qualifications could not be determined.

TABLE 7. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: ACTIVE STEPS TAKEN TO FIND WORK AND WHETHER LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME WORK, JULY 1992
(*000)

Active steps taken to find work	Looking for full-time work			Looking for part-time work			Total		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Registered with the CES and —									
Took no other active steps	*3.5	*2.0	5.5	*0.5	*0.6	*1.1	4.0	*2.6	6.6
Contacted prospective employers	466.9	200.0	667.0	10.9	23.2	34.1	477.8	223.2	701.0
Took other active steps	19.3	8.5	27.8	*2.3	3.7	6.0	21.6	12.2	33.9
Total	489.8	210.6	700.3	13.7	27.5	41.2	503.5	238.0	741.5
Not registered with the CES and —									
Contacted prospective employers	33.4	41.3	74.7	18.7	46.1	64.8	52.2	87.4	139.6
Took other active steps	6.0	*3.5	9.4	3.7	5.8	9.5	9.6	9.3	18.9
Total	39.4	44.8	84.2	22.4	51.9	74.3	61.8	96.7	158.5
Total	529.1	255.3	784.5	36.2	79.4	115.5	565.3	334.7	900.0

TABLE 8. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: ACTIVE STEPS TAKEN TO FIND WORK AND AGE, JULY 1992

Active steps taken to find work	Age group						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over	
	— '000 —						
Registered with the CES and —							
Took no other active steps	*1.4	*0.4	*1.3	*1.9	*0.8	*0.9	6.6
Contacted prospective employers	116.4	154.5	182.8	116.6	83.2	47.6	701.0
Took other active steps	5.7	7.1	6.4	4.9	4.0	5.8	33.9
Total	123.5	161.9	190.5	123.3	88.0	54.4	741.5
Not registered with the CES and —							
Contacted prospective employers	40.6	15.2	34.6	26.1	14.9	8.1	139.6
Took other active steps	3.7	*1.1	4.5	4.0	*3.1	*2.4	18.9
Total	44.2	16.4	39.2	30.2	18.0	10.5	158.5
Total	167.7	178.3	229.7	153.5	106.0	64.9	900.0
	— per cent —						
Registered with the CES	16.6	21.8	25.7	16.6	11.9	7.3	100.0
Not registered with the CES	27.9	10.3	24.7	19.0	11.4	6.6	100.0
Total	18.6	19.8	25.5	17.1	11.8	7.2	100.0

TABLE 9. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: MAIN DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WORK AND DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT, JULY 1992

Main difficulty in finding work	Duration of current period of unemployment							Total	Average duration (weeks)	Median duration (weeks)
	1 and under 4 weeks	4 and under 8 weeks	8 and under 13 weeks	13 and under 26 weeks	26 and under 52 weeks	1 and under 2 years	2 years and over			
	— '000 —									
No vacancies at all	24.4	25.5	22.9	42.9	65.9	59.8	45.6	287.1	52.5	29.6
No vacancies in line of work	16.5	17.4	14.9	28.4	38.0	24.7	14.3	154.3	37.5	24.5
Considered too young or too old by employers	5.5	7.4	6.7	14.7	27.1	29.8	32.9	124.2	75.8	51.1
Lacked necessary skills/education	4.0	7.2	4.4	13.4	23.3	20.4	12.9	85.7	54.6	32.9
Insufficient work experience	*2.8	4.3	*3.3	12.9	23.6	16.4	8.5	71.7	48.7	30.7
Own ill health or disability	*2.6	*2.8	*1.1	*2.3	6.5	9.0	13.8	38.1	111.3	60.4
Too far to travel/transport problems	*3.4	*2.4	*3.1	4.4	7.8	8.4	5.7	35.1	57.2	30.8
Language difficulties	*1.1	*0.8	*1.3	*3.4	6.2	4.7	5.9	23.4	82.5	39.5
Unsuitable hours	*3.6	*1.4	*1.6	4.9	*3.3	*1.5	*1.0	17.5	24.3	13.9
Difficulties with childcare/other family responsibilities	*1.6	*1.4	*0.6	*3.2	*1.0	*2.1	*1.1	10.9	34.1	*18.5
Other difficulties(a)	*1.5	*1.6	*3.5	*3.6	4.1	6.4	*3.0	23.7	52.2	31.7
No difficulties reported	13.0	4.0	*2.2	*2.2	3.7	*2.2	*1.1	28.4	19.3	3.6
Total	80.0	76.2	65.7	136.3	210.5	185.4	145.9	900.0	54.7	29.5

(a) Includes persons who reported difficulties with ethnic background.

TABLE 10. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: MAIN DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WORK AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, JULY 1992 ('000)

Main difficulty in finding work	Educational attainment							Total(b)	Total(c)
	With post-school qualifications				Without post-school qualifications				
	Degree	Trade qualification/apprenticeship	Certificate or diploma	Total(a)	Attended highest level of secondary school available	Did not attend highest level of secondary school available and left at age -			
					16 and over	15 and under			
No vacancies at all	5.0	35.6	40.1	83.0	43.5	66.9	78.3	189.9	287.1
No vacancies in line of work	16.3	36.3	33.7	87.1	18.2	20.7	26.0	65.1	154.3
Considered too young or too old by employers	*1.8	19.5	23.8	46.9	13.8	15.1	43.4	73.7	124.2
Lacked necessary skills/education	4.3	5.3	14.2	24.2	14.6	21.8	22.3	58.7	85.7
Insufficient work experience	8.0	4.7	17.2	31.0	14.3	14.5	9.3	38.3	71.7
Own ill health or disability	*0.4	5.5	6.3	12.7	5.4	6.4	13.4	25.2	38.1
Too far to travel/transport problems	*0.3	4.7	4.8	10.8	*3.6	10.5	9.9	23.9	35.1
Language difficulties	4.5	*2.1	3.8	10.7	*2.3	4.1	6.1	12.4	23.4
Unsuitable hours	*1.1	*0.5	3.8	5.4	3.9	*2.9	*2.1	8.9	17.5
Difficulties with childcare/other family responsibilities	*0.0	*0.8	3.7	4.8	*1.6	*2.8	*1.7	6.1	10.9
Other difficulties(d)	4.4	*3.2	5.1	13.1	*2.3	*2.6	5.0	10.0	23.7
No difficulties reported	*3.1	3.7	3.9	10.9	4.2	*3.5	4.3	12.0	28.4
Total	49.2	122.0	160.5	340.6	127.7	171.7	221.6	524.3	900.0

(a) Includes persons with other post-school qualifications. (b) Includes persons who never attended school and those for whom secondary school qualifications could not be determined. (c) Includes persons still at school. (d) Includes persons who reported difficulties with ethnic background.

TABLE 11. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: MAIN DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WORK AND AGE, JULY 1992 ('000)

Main difficulty in finding work	Age group						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over	
No vacancies at all	64.5	56.9	73.1	51.6	28.8	12.2	287.1
No vacancies in line of work	13.0	26.7	48.8	33.8	22.3	9.6	154.3
Considered too young or too old by employers	16.0	14.4	10.2	16.5	32.3	34.9	124.2
Lacked necessary skills/education	23.3	26.0	21.9	9.8	3.7	*0.9	85.7
Insufficient work experience	23.2	24.4	15.9	7.6	*0.5	*0.0	71.7
Own ill health or disability	*2.6	5.6	10.3	8.3	6.9	4.4	38.1
Too far to travel/transport problems	8.7	8.1	13.4	3.7	*0.9	*0.3	35.1
Language difficulties	*0.4	*1.2	10.0	6.1	3.8	*1.9	23.4
Unsuitable hours	3.9	4.1	5.9	*3.2	*0.3	*0.0	17.5
Difficulties with childcare/other family responsibilities	*0.0	*2.1	5.0	*3.0	*0.8	*0.0	10.9
Other difficulties(a)	*3.3	5.1	8.2	5.1	*2.0	*0.0	23.7
No difficulties reported	8.7	*3.6	7.0	4.7	3.7	*0.7	28.4
Total	167.7	178.3	229.7	153.5	106.0	64.9	900.0

(a) Includes persons who reported difficulties with ethnic background.

TABLE 12. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: MAIN DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WORK AND BIRTHPLACE, JULY 1992

Main difficulty in finding work	Born in Australia			Born outside Australia			Total		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
— '000 —									
No vacancies at all	141.0	74.0	214.9	46.0	26.2	72.1	186.9	100.1	287.1
No vacancies in line of work	72.6	27.7	100.3	39.5	14.5	54.0	112.1	42.2	154.3
Considered too young or too old by employers	45.7	36.2	81.9	28.8	13.4	42.3	74.5	49.7	124.2
Lacked necessary skills/education	41.3	24.0	65.3	13.5	6.9	20.4	54.8	30.9	85.7
Insufficient work experience	26.0	27.3	53.4	10.5	7.8	18.4	36.6	35.2	71.7
Own ill health or disability	17.8	6.5	24.3	10.8	*3.0	13.8	28.5	9.6	38.1
Too far to travel/transport problems	21.7	8.2	29.9	*3.1	*2.2	5.3	24.8	10.4	35.1
Language difficulties	*0.0	*0.0	*0.0	10.9	12.5	23.4	10.9	12.5	23.4
Unsuitable hours	*2.8	9.4	12.1	*0.6	4.7	5.3	*3.4	14.1	17.5
Difficulties with childcare/other family responsibilities	*0.9	7.6	8.6	*0.3	*2.0	*2.3	*1.3	9.6	10.9
Other difficulties(a)	8.5	6.3	14.8	5.5	*3.4	8.9	14.1	9.7	23.7
No difficulties reported	12.3	8.5	20.7	5.2	*2.4	7.6	17.5	10.8	28.4
Total	390.6	235.6	626.2	174.7	99.1	273.8	565.3	334.7	900.0
— per cent —									
No vacancies at all	36.1	31.4	34.3	26.3	26.4	26.3	33.1	29.9	31.9
No vacancies in line of work	18.6	11.8	16.0	22.6	14.6	19.7	19.8	12.6	17.1
Considered too young or too old by employers	11.7	15.4	13.1	16.5	13.6	15.4	13.2	14.8	13.8
Lacked necessary skills/education	10.6	10.2	10.4	7.7	7.0	7.5	9.7	9.2	9.5
Insufficient work experience	6.7	11.6	8.5	6.0	7.9	6.7	6.5	10.5	8.0
Own ill health or disability	4.5	2.8	3.9	6.2	*3.1	5.0	5.0	2.9	4.2
Too far to travel/transport problems	5.6	3.5	4.8	*1.8	*2.2	1.9	4.4	3.1	3.9
Language difficulties	*0.0	*0.0	*0.0	6.2	12.6	8.5	1.9	3.7	2.6
Unsuitable hours	*0.7	4.0	1.9	*0.3	4.8	1.9	*0.6	4.2	1.9
Difficulties with childcare/other family responsibilities	*0.2	3.2	1.4	*0.2	*2.0	*0.8	*0.2	2.9	1.2
Other difficulties(a)	2.2	2.7	2.4	3.2	*3.4	3.3	2.5	2.9	2.6
No difficulties reported	3.1	3.6	3.3	3.0	*2.4	2.8	3.1	3.2	3.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Includes persons who reported difficulties with ethnic background.

TABLE 13. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: ALL DIFFICULTIES IN FINDING WORK AND BIRTHPLACE, JULY 1992

All difficulties in finding work	Born in Australia			Born outside Australia			Total		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
— '000 —									
No vacancies at all	227.8	130.6	358.4	81.4	49.0	130.4	309.2	179.6	488.9
No vacancies in line of work	180.2	89.1	269.4	81.9	37.7	119.6	262.1	126.9	389.0
Considered too young or too old by employers	120.0	89.2	209.2	62.4	30.0	92.4	182.4	119.2	301.6
Lacked necessary skills/education	129.8	82.9	212.8	43.6	30.5	74.0	173.4	113.4	286.8
Insufficient work experience	93.9	74.4	168.2	34.9	24.7	59.6	128.8	99.1	227.8
Own ill health or disability	38.7	16.0	54.8	16.9	7.5	24.4	55.6	23.5	79.1
Too far to travel/transport problems	71.5	44.4	115.9	15.2	15.1	30.3	86.8	59.5	146.2
Language difficulties	*2.1	*2.2	4.3	28.8	23.0	51.8	30.9	25.2	56.1
Unsuitable hours	12.3	25.6	37.9	3.9	11.5	15.4	16.2	37.1	53.3
Difficulties with childcare/other family responsibilities	4.0	13.9	17.9	*1.0	5.7	6.7	5.0	19.6	24.6
Other difficulties(a)	23.3	15.7	39.0	14.6	8.0	22.5	37.8	23.7	61.5
— per cent —									
No vacancies at all	58.3	55.4	57.2	46.6	49.4	47.6	54.7	53.7	54.3
No vacancies in line of work	46.1	37.8	43.0	46.9	38.1	43.7	46.4	37.9	43.2
Considered too young or too old by employers	30.7	37.9	33.4	35.7	30.3	33.7	32.3	35.6	33.5
Lacked necessary skills/education	33.2	35.2	34.0	24.9	30.7	27.0	30.7	33.9	31.9
Insufficient work experience	24.0	31.6	26.9	20.0	24.9	21.8	22.8	29.6	25.3
Own ill health or disability	9.9	6.8	8.7	9.7	7.5	8.9	9.8	7.0	8.8
Too far to travel/transport problems	18.3	18.8	18.5	8.7	15.2	11.1	15.3	17.8	16.2
Language difficulties	*0.5	*0.9	0.7	16.5	23.2	18.9	5.5	7.5	6.2
Unsuitable hours	3.2	10.9	6.0	2.2	11.6	5.6	2.9	11.1	5.9
Difficulties with childcare/other family responsibilities	1.0	5.9	2.9	*0.5	5.8	2.4	0.9	5.9	2.7
Other difficulties(a)	6.0	6.7	6.2	8.3	8.0	8.2	6.7	7.1	6.8

(a) Includes persons who reported difficulties with ethnic background.

TABLE 14. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: NUMBER OF SPELLS OF LOOKING FOR WORK IN THE PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS AND AGE, JULY 1992
(^{'000})

Number of spells of looking for work in the previous twelve months	Age group						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over	
MALES							
One	74.3	89.1	127.0	82.4	61.4	55.1	489.2
Two or more	14.6	20.1	21.7	9.9	7.4	*2.3	76.1
Total	88.9	109.2	148.8	92.3	68.7	57.4	565.3
FEMALES							
One	70.7	59.7	71.7	57.0	36.8	7.5	303.4
Two or more	8.1	9.3	9.2	4.2	*0.5	*0.0	31.3
Total	78.8	69.0	80.9	61.2	37.3	7.5	334.7
PERSONS							
One	145.0	148.8	198.7	139.4	98.1	62.6	792.6
Two	18.1	23.6	22.6	10.5	5.2	*1.4	81.5
Three or more	4.6	5.8	8.4	*3.6	*2.6	*0.9	25.9
Total	167.7	178.3	229.7	153.5	106.0	64.9	900.0

TABLE 15. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: NUMBER OF OFFERS OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS AND DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT, JULY 1992

Number of offers of employment in the previous twelve months	Duration of current period of unemployment							Total	Average duration (weeks)	Median duration (weeks)
	1 and under 4 weeks	4 and under 8 weeks	8 and under 13 weeks	13 and under 26 weeks — '000 —	26 and under 52 weeks	1 and under 2 years	2 years and over			
MALES										
None	37.8	41.7	33.7	70.8	119.4	110.1	92.0	505.5	60.2	34.0
One or more	8.4	9.1	5.4	9.6	11.4	9.8	6.1	59.8	38.1	19.1
Total	46.2	50.7	39.1	80.5	130.8	119.9	98.1	565.3	57.8	31.7
FEMALES										
None	29.7	21.9	23.2	47.7	71.2	58.4	45.1	297.3	51.0	27.2
One or more	4.0	*3.6	*3.4	8.2	8.5	7.2	*2.6	37.3	35.9	24.1
Total	33.7	25.5	26.6	55.9	79.7	65.6	47.8	334.7	49.3	26.5
PERSONS										
None	67.5	63.6	56.9	118.5	190.6	168.5	137.1	802.8	56.8	30.7
One	9.0	9.7	7.3	12.7	13.2	10.2	5.8	67.9	34.9	17.9
Two or more	*3.4	*2.9	*1.5	5.1	6.7	6.8	*2.9	29.3	42.7	27.0
Total	80.0	76.2	65.7	136.3	210.5	185.4	145.9	900.0	54.7	29.5

TABLE 16. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT, JULY 1992

Educational attainment	Duration of current period of unemployment							Total	Average duration (weeks)	Median duration (weeks)
	1 and under 4 weeks	4 and under 8 weeks	8 and under 13 weeks	13 and under 26 weeks —'000—	26 and under 52 weeks	1 and under 2 years	2 years and over			
MALES										
With post-school qualifications(a)	19.8	18.9	18.1	30.2	52.8	43.4	32.3	215.5	51.6	29.5
Degree	*3.2	*3.4	*1.9	3.7	8.5	6.9	*3.5	31.1	43.4	29.1
Trade qualification/apprenticeship	10.6	8.7	9.4	17.4	26.7	21.8	18.1	112.7	51.7	29.4
Certificate or diploma	5.8	6.4	6.4	8.4	16.7	13.8	9.8	67.3	53.5	29.6
Without post-school qualifications(b)	22.8	29.1	19.3	48.1	74.2	75.0	65.1	333.4	63.4	35.9
Attended highest level of secondary school available	6.8	8.0	4.8	11.2	18.4	14.7	8.2	72.2	46.3	26.5
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	16.0	20.9	14.5	36.5	55.1	60.3	56.4	259.7	68.2	41.2
Left at age —										
16 and over	6.9	8.8	5.5	17.4	26.5	27.3	17.9	110.4	56.7	35.6
15 and under	9.0	12.0	9.0	19.1	28.6	33.0	38.6	149.4	76.8	46.9
Still at school	3.7	*2.7	*1.6	*2.2	3.8	*1.5	*0.8	16.3	26.6	12.1
Total	46.2	50.7	39.1	80.5	130.8	119.9	98.1	565.3	57.8	31.7
FEMALES										
With post-school qualifications(a)	11.2	9.3	9.2	21.5	30.3	27.2	16.4	125.1	50.9	27.4
Degree	*1.5	*1.1	*0.9	3.7	5.7	*3.1	*2.1	18.1	42.1	26.4
Trade qualification/apprenticeship	*0.7	*0.3	*0.9	*2.2	*2.2	*1.4	*1.6	9.4	58.6	*27.3
Certificate or diploma	8.7	7.9	7.5	14.8	21.5	21.4	11.5	93.2	50.7	27.1
Without post-school qualifications(b)	18.1	14.6	14.5	31.0	45.0	36.5	31.1	190.9	51.2	27.7
Attended highest level of secondary school available	7.0	*3.3	4.8	10.7	16.4	8.7	4.5	55.5	40.3	25.1
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	11.0	11.1	9.3	19.8	28.7	27.7	26.0	133.6	55.7	33.1
Left at age —										
16 and over	5.5	5.4	4.5	9.7	13.3	13.4	9.6	61.4	50.6	29.7
15 and under	5.5	5.7	4.8	10.1	15.4	14.3	16.4	72.2	60.1	35.2
Still at school	4.5	*1.6	*2.8	*3.3	4.4	*1.9	*0.3	18.7	19.7	12.5
Total	33.7	25.5	26.6	55.9	79.7	65.6	47.8	334.7	49.3	26.5
PERSONS										
With post-school qualifications(a)	31.0	28.3	27.4	51.7	83.1	70.6	48.7	340.6	51.3	29.0
Degree	4.7	4.5	*2.8	7.4	14.2	10.0	5.6	49.2	42.9	28.4
Trade qualification/apprenticeship	11.3	9.1	10.3	19.6	28.9	23.2	19.7	122.0	52.2	29.4
Certificate or diploma	14.5	14.2	13.9	23.2	38.2	35.2	21.3	160.5	51.9	27.8
Without post-school qualifications(b)	40.8	43.7	33.9	79.1	119.2	111.5	96.2	524.3	59.0	32.8
Attended highest level of secondary school available	13.8	11.4	9.6	21.9	34.8	23.4	12.7	127.7	43.7	25.9
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	27.0	32.0	23.8	56.3	83.8	87.9	82.5	393.3	64.0	38.4
Left at age —										
16 and over	12.5	14.2	10.0	27.1	39.8	40.6	27.4	171.7	54.5	33.6
15 and under	14.5	17.8	13.8	29.2	44.0	47.3	55.0	221.6	71.3	42.7
Still at school	8.2	4.2	4.5	5.6	8.2	*3.4	*1.0	35.1	22.9	12.3
Total	80.0	76.2	65.7	136.3	210.5	185.4	145.9	900.0	54.7	29.5

(a) Includes persons with other post-school qualifications. (b) Includes persons who never attended school and those for whom secondary school qualifications could not be determined.

TABLE 17. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS: FAMILY STATUS AND TIME SPENT LOOKING FOR WORK IN THE PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS, JULY 1992 ('000)

Family status	Time spent looking for work in the previous twelve months							Total
	1 and under 4 weeks	4 and under 8 weeks	8 and under 13 weeks	13 and under 26 weeks	26 and under 39 weeks	39 and under 52 weeks	52 weeks	
Member of a family	45.2	45.7	47.0	101.9	129.5	61.7	259.9	691.0
Husband or wife	20.8	24.6	22.0	52.3	58.6	33.4	152.5	364.2
With dependents present	15.0	16.6	13.5	36.9	37.5	20.5	95.3	235.4
Without dependents present	5.8	7.9	8.5	15.4	21.1	12.8	57.2	128.8
Sole parent	*2.8	*2.1	*2.3	4.4	6.0	*1.5	10.9	30.1
Other family head	*1.0	*0.6	*0.6	*1.9	*1.5	*2.0	5.8	13.4
Full-time student aged 15-24	9.5	5.8	5.0	8.3	10.7	*2.7	9.4	51.3
Other child of married couple or family head	9.8	11.0	15.7	30.1	48.9	20.0	74.1	209.7
Other relative of married couple or family head	*1.3	*1.6	*1.4	4.9	3.8	*2.1	7.2	22.3
Not a member of a family	10.0	11.7	11.2	24.2	29.9	15.1	52.5	154.6
Living alone	*3.1	4.8	5.4	9.4	8.4	4.4	25.8	61.3
Not living alone	6.9	6.9	5.8	14.8	21.5	10.6	26.7	93.3
Family status not determined	4.6	*3.5	3.7	9.3	9.7	4.6	18.9	54.3
Total	59.9	60.9	62.0	135.4	169.1	81.4	331.3	900.0

TABLE 18. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS WHO WERE WAGE OR SALARY EARNERS IN THEIR LAST FULL-TIME JOB AND WHO CEASED THAT JOB IN THE LAST TWO YEARS: AGE AND DURATION OF LAST FULL-TIME JOB, JULY 1992 ('000)

Age group	Duration of last full-time job							Total
	Under 1 year				Total	1 and under 5 years	5 years and over	
	2 and under 4 weeks	4 and under 8 weeks	8 and under 26 weeks	26 and under 52 weeks				
15-19	7.4	7.3	20.6	8.9	44.2	12.0	*0.3	56.5
20-24	5.9	10.0	26.7	16.4	59.1	46.7	3.9	109.6
25-34	5.4	12.2	24.7	23.9	66.2	54.1	20.4	140.7
35-44	4.4	5.4	13.2	11.5	34.6	33.7	14.3	82.5
45-54	*3.1	*3.0	6.9	4.5	17.5	17.6	14.8	50.0
55 and over	*0.8	*1.0	*2.6	*0.6	5.1	8.8	15.5	29.4
Total	27.0	39.0	94.7	65.9	226.7	172.8	69.2	468.7

TABLE 19. POPULATIONS BY STATE OR TERRITORY OF USUAL RESIDENCE, JULY 1992 ('000)

	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
<i>Population 1:</i>									
Unemployed persons	289.0	243.9	158.8	79.2	84.8	24.3	7.1	12.9	900.0
<i>Population 2:</i>									
Unemployed persons who were wage or salary earners in their last full-time job and who ceased that job in the last two years	146.7	126.6	86.1	41.8	46.9	11.4	3.3	5.9	468.7

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 1992 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. They were 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 reference week for reasons other than bad weather or plant breakdown. Students at boarding school, some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and inmates of reformatories, goals etc were also excluded.

4. The number of unemployed persons published in *The Labour Force, Australia, July 1992* (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 2.7 per cent of all unemployed persons.

Coverage

5. In the population survey, coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling, and hence has only one chance of selection. See *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0) for more details.

Definitions

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

7. Unless otherwise stated, all characteristics referenced in this publication relate to the week before the interview (i.e. the reference week).

Results of the survey

8. Estimates of unemployed persons are also published in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0). However, more detailed information is contained in this publication.

9. The estimates in this publication refer to information collected in the survey month and, due to seasonal factors, may not be representative of other months of the year.

10. Results of similar surveys, conducted in May 1976, November 1976, annually from May 1977 to June 1986, July 1988 and annually from July 1990, have been given in previous issues of this publication.

11. This survey is scheduled to be conducted next in July 1993.

Comparability of series

12. 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 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* 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 precisely defined term *unemployed*.

Unpublished statistics

13. As well as the statistics included in this and related publications, the ABS may have other relevant unpublished data available. Inquiries should be made to the contact in the Inquiries box at the front of this publication.

Estimation procedure

14. 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, sex and labour force status rather than to the corresponding distribution within the sample itself.

Reliability of the estimates

15. Estimates in this publication are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors. For further information refer to the Technical Notes, page 15.

Related publications

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

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0) — issued monthly
Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, Australia (6224.0) — issued annually

Labour Force Experience, Australia (6206.0) — issued annually

Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (6220.0) — issued annually

Underemployed Workers, Australia (6265.0) — issued irregularly

Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience, Australia (6245.0) — issued irregularly

17. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products*, (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 the Technical Notes, page 15.
- . . not applicable

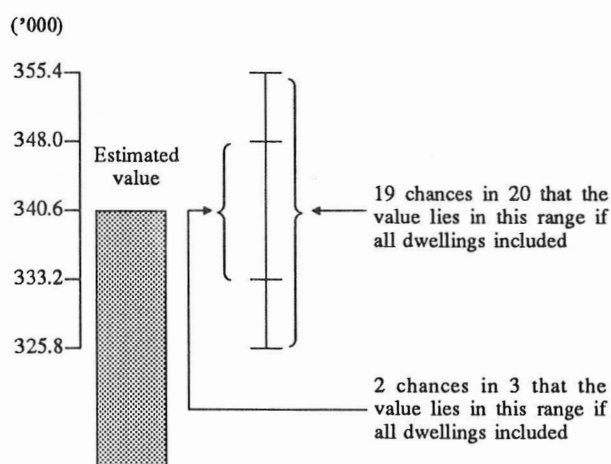
18. Because estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

TECHNICAL NOTES

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 those 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 number 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.

2. 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 numbers will not give a precise measure of the standard error of a particular estimate but they will provide an indication of its magnitude.

3. An example of the calculation and the use of standard errors in relation to estimates of persons is as follows. Table 16 shows the estimated number of unemployed persons in Australia who had a post-school qualification was 340,600. Since this estimate is between 300,000 and 500,000, the table below shows the standard error for Australia will be between 7,100 and 8,700 and can be approximated by interpolation as 7,400 (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 333,200 to 348,000 and about nineteen chances in twenty that the value will fall within the range 325,800 to 355,400. This example is illustrated in the following diagram.



4. 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, only estimates with relative standard errors of 25 per cent or less and percentages based on such estimates are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. However, estimates with larger relative standard errors have been included and are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. *3.4) to indicate they are subject to high standard errors and should be used with caution.

5. The relative standard errors of estimates of *average duration of unemployment*, and *median duration of unemployment* are obtained by first finding the relative standard error of the estimate of the total number of persons contributing to the average or median and then multiplying the number so obtained by the following relevant factors:

Average duration of unemployment: 1.3
Median duration of unemployment: 2.0

6. An example of the calculation of standard errors by the use of those factors is as follows. If an estimate of median duration of unemployment for unemployed males is 19 weeks and the number of unemployed males is estimated as 300,000, from the table on the following page it can be calculated that this estimate (300,000) has a standard error of about 7,100 and therefore a relative standard error of about 2.4 per cent. The *relative standard error* of the estimate of median duration of unemployment is calculated by multiplying this number (2.4) by the appropriate factor shown in the previous paragraph (in this case 2.0): $2.4 \times 2.0 = 4.8$ per cent. The *standard error* of this estimate of median duration of unemployment is therefore 4.8 per cent of 19, i.e. about 1. Therefore there are about two chances in three that the median duration of unemployment for unemployed males that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey would have been within the range 18 to 20 weeks and about nineteen chances in twenty that it would have been within the range 17 to 21 weeks.

7. 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. A formula to approximate the relative standard error (RSE) of a proportion is:

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

8. Considering the example from paragraph 3 above, the 340,600 persons with post-school qualifications represent 37.8 per cent of the 900,000 unemployed persons. The standard error of 900,000 is approximately 10,900 so the relative standard error is 1.2 per cent. The relative standard error for 340,600 is 2.2 per cent. Applying the above formula, the relative standard error of the proportion is $\sqrt{(2.2)^2 - (1.2)^2}$ or 1.8 per cent, giving a standard error for the proportion (37.8%) of 0.7 percentage points. Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the proportion of unemployed persons who had a post-school qualification is between 37.1 per cent and 38.5 per cent and nineteen chances in twenty that the proportion is within the range 36.4 per cent to 39.2 per cent.

9. Published estimates may also be used to calculate the difference between two survey estimates (of numbers or percentages). Such an estimate is 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 subpopulations it is expected to provide a good approximation for all differences likely to be of interest in this publication.

10. 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 coding and processing 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. 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	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Australia	
									—number—	Relative standard error (per cent)
100			130	120	130	90	130	90	120	121.1
200		230	190	170	180	130	170	130	180	91.7
300	310	290	230	210	230	160	200	150	230	77.5
400	360	340	270	240	260	190	230	180	270	68.6
500	410	380	300	270	290	210	260	190	310	62.3
600	450	420	330	290	320	230	280	210	350	57.6
800	520	480	380	340	360	260	320	240	410	50.7
1,000	580	540	430	380	410	290	350	270	460	45.9
1,300	660	620	490	430	460	330	400	300	530	40.7
1,500	710	660	520	460	490	350	420	320	570	38.2
1,800	770	730	570	500	530	380	460	340	630	35.1
2,000	810	770	600	520	560	400	480	360	670	33.4
2,500	910	850	670	580	620	440	530	400	750	30.1
3,000	990	930	730	630	670	480	580	430	830	27.6
3,500	1,050	1,000	780	680	720	510	620	460	900	25.6
4,000	1,150	1,050	830	720	770	540	660	480	960	24.0
4,500	1,200	1,150	880	760	810	560	700	510	1,000	22.7
5,000	1,250	1,200	920	790	850	590	730	530	1,100	21.5
6,000	1,350	1,300	1,000	860	920	630	790	570	1,200	19.7
8,000	1,550	1,500	1,150	980	1,050	700	910	640	1,350	17.1
10,000	1,750	1,650	1,250	1,050	1,150	760	1,000	700	1,550	15.3
20,000	2,350	2,250	1,700	1,450	1,550	970	1,400	920	2,150	10.7
50,000	3,450	3,300	2,500	2,100	2,250	1,300	2,150	1,300	3,250	6.5
100,000	4,600	4,400	3,350	2,750	2,950	1,550	2,950	1,650	4,450	4.4
200,000	6,100	5,700	4,400	3,550	3,850	1,850	4,100	2,150	6,000	3.0
300,000	7,100	6,700	5,100	4,100	4,450	2,000	4,950	2,450	7,100	2.4
500,000	8,600	8,100	6,200	4,900	5,400	2,200	6,400	2,900	8,700	1.7
1,000,000	11,000	10,300	7,900	6,200	6,900	2,500	8,900	3,600	11,400	1.1

GLOSSARY

Active steps taken to find work: steps taken during the current period of unemployment. They 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.

All difficulties in finding work: all difficulties experienced during the current period of unemployment.

Average duration of current period of unemployment: the duration obtained by dividing the aggregate number of weeks a group has been unemployed by the number of persons in that group.

Ceased last full-time job: left or lost last full-time job.

Certificate or diploma: completion of an approved certificate or diploma in secretarial or business studies, administration, teaching, nursing, etc.

CES: Commonwealth Employment Service.

Degree: a bachelor degree (including honours), a graduate or post-graduate diploma, masters degree or a doctorate.

Duration of current period of unemployment: the period from the time the person began looking for work to the end of the reference 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 reference week. Periods of unemployment are recorded in complete weeks and this results in a slight understatement of duration.

Educational attainment: measures the highest educational qualification obtained. Qualifications may include those obtained at other than educational institutions (e.g. nursing qualifications obtained at a hospital).

Highest level of secondary school available: the highest level of secondary schooling (or equivalent) offered by the education system at the time the respondent left school.

Interstate: between States/Territories.

Intrastate: within the State/Territory.

Job: any paid employment, full-time or part-time, lasting two weeks or more.

Job leavers: persons who voluntarily ceased their last full-time job.

Job losers: persons who involuntarily ceased their last full-time job.

Looking for part-time work: actively looking for part-time work only.

Main difficulty in finding work: the main difficulty experienced during the current period of unemployment.

Main field of study: for those persons whose highest qualification is a degree, trade qualification/apprenticeship,

certificate or diploma, it is the main field of study for that qualification.

Median duration of current period of unemployment: 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.

Number of offers of employment: the number of separate offers of employment received during the current period of unemployment.

Number of spells of looking for work in the previous twelve months: the number of different periods, including the current period, during which persons reported having been out of work and looking for a job.

Other post-school qualification: completion of other types of education, e.g. adult education, preparatory/bridging course or non-vocational course.

Persons with post-school qualifications: persons who have obtained a trade qualification, certificate, diploma, degree or any other qualification, since leaving school. Respondents indicated which of the following groups best described their highest qualification: Degree; Trade qualification or apprenticeship; Certificate or diploma; Other post-school qualification.

Still at school: current school attendance was recorded only for persons aged fifteen to twenty years.

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

Trade qualification or apprenticeship: completion of an approved trade/technical apprenticeship in fitting and turning, hairdressing, plumbing, carpentry, etc.

Unemployed persons: those persons who were not employed during the reference 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 reference week, and:

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

In this publication, persons who were stood down are excluded from estimates of unemployed persons. Refer also to paragraph 4 of the Explanatory Notes.

Usual gross weekly pay: the amount of usual total weekly pay (i.e. before taxation and other deductions have been made).

SPECIAL DATA SERVICES

DATA ITEMS AND HOW TO ORDER SPECIAL TABLES FROM THIS SURVEY

The ABS offers a range of unpublished data from this survey upon request. When ordering special tables from this survey, please ensure you identify the **population(s)** and the **data item(s)** that you require.

This section specifies the data items, categories and populations which relate to the survey and includes an order form for special tables. More detailed breakdowns of some data items are available on request.

The population(s) for a particular data item refers to the persons in the survey to whom the data item relates.

Refer to the glossaries in this publication and in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0) for definitions of data items.

POPULATIONS

POPULATION 1: Unemployed persons (excluding those who were stood down)

POPULATION 2: Unemployed persons who were wage or salary earners in their last full-time job and who ceased that job in the last two years (excluding those who were stood down)

DATA ITEM	POPULATION	DATA ITEM	POPULATION
1 STATE OF USUAL RESIDENCE	ALL	6B FAMILY STATUS (2)	ALL
New South Wales		Member of a family	
Victoria		Husband or wife	
Queensland		With children aged 0-14 present	
South Australia		Without children aged 0-14 present	
Western Australia		Sole parent	
Tasmania		With children aged 0-14 present	
Northern Territory		Without children aged 0-14 present	
Australian Capital Territory		Other family head	
		Full-time student aged 15-24(a)	
2 AREA OF USUAL RESIDENCE	ALL	Other child(b) of married couple or family head	
Metropolitan		Other relative of married couple or family head	
Non-metropolitan		Not a member of a family	
		Living alone	
3 REGION OF USUAL RESIDENCE	ALL	Not living alone	
Standard labour force dissemination regions		Family status not determined	
		(a) Excludes persons aged 20-24 attending school	
4 SEX	ALL	(b) Aged 15 and over	
Males		7A BIRTHPLACE AND PERIOD OF ARRIVAL	ALL
Females		Born in Australia	
		Born outside Australia	
5 MARITAL STATUS	ALL	Arrived before 1961	
Married		Arrived 1961-1970	
Not-married		Arrived 1971-1980	
		Arrived 1981-1990	
6A FAMILY STATUS (1)	ALL	Arrived 1991 to survey date	
Member of a family		7B BIRTHPLACE (1)	ALL
Husband or wife		Born in Australia	
With dependents present		Born outside Australia	
Without dependents present		Born in main English-speaking countries (a)	
Sole parent		Born in other countries	
Other family head		(a) Comprises United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada,	
Full-time student aged 15-24(a)		South Africa, USA and New Zealand.	
Other child(b) of married couple or family head			
Other relative of married couple or family head			
Not a member of a family			
Living alone			
Not living alone			
Family status not determined			
(a) Excludes persons aged 20-24 attending school			
(b) Aged 15 and over			

DATA ITEM	POPULATION	DATA ITEM	POPULATION
7C BIRTHPLACE (2)	ALL	11B ACTIVE STEPS TAKEN TO FIND WORK	ALL
Born in Australia		Registered with the CES and —	
Born outside Australia		Took no other active steps	
Oceania		Contacted prospective employers	
New Zealand		Took other active steps	
Europe and the former USSR		Not registered with the CES and —	
Germany		Contacted prospective employers	
Greece		Took other active steps	
Italy			
Netherlands			
UK and Ireland			
Yugoslavia and the former Yugoslav Republics			
The Middle East and North Africa			
Lebanon			
Southeast Asia		12 WHETHER WOULD MOVE INTERSTATE IF OFFERED A SUITABLE JOB	ALL
Malaysia		Would move interstate	
Philippines		Would not move interstate	
Viet Nam		Moving interstate would depend —	
Northeast Asia		On job conditions	
China		On other conditions	
The Americas		Undecided	
Other(a)			
India		13 WHETHER WOULD MOVE INTRASTATE IF OFFERED A SUITABLE JOB	ALL
(a) Includes Southern Asia and Africa (excluding North Africa).		Would move intrastate	
		Would not move intrastate	
		Moving intrastate would depend —	
		On job conditions	
		On other conditions	
		Undecided	
8 AGE	ALL	14 NUMBER OF OFFERS OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS	ALL
15-19		None	
20-24		One or more	
25-34		One	
35-44		Two or more	
45-54			
55 and over		15 ALL DIFFICULTIES IN FINDING WORK	ALL
9 WHETHER LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME WORK	ALL	No vacancies at all	
Looking for full-time work		No vacancies in line of work	
Looking for part-time work		Considered too young or too old by employers	
10 DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT	ALL	Lacked necessary skills/education	
Under 1 year		Insufficient work experience	
1 and under 4 weeks		Own ill health or disability	
4 and under 8 weeks		Too far to travel/transport problems	
8 and under 13 weeks		Language difficulties	
13 and under 26 weeks		Unsuitable hours	
26 and under 39 weeks		Difficulties with child care	
39 and under 52 weeks		Other family responsibilities	
1 year and over		Difficulties with ethnic background	
1 and under 2 years		Other difficulties	
2 years and over			
11A ALL ACTIVE STEPS TAKEN TO FIND WORK	ALL		
Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work			
Answered a newspaper advertisement for a job			
Checked factory or Commonwealth Employment Service noticeboards			
Been registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service			
Checked or registered with any other employment agency			
Advertised or tendered for work			
Contacted relatives or friends			

DATA ITEM	POPULATION	DATA ITEM	POPULATION
16 MAIN DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WORK	ALL	20 MAIN FIELD OF STUDY	ALL
No vacancies at all		Degree	
No vacancies in line of work		Administration, business studies, commerce	
Considered too young or too old by employers		Law	
Lacked necessary skills/education		Education	
Insufficient work experience		Medicine	
Own ill health or disability		Science, mathematics, computing	
Too far to travel/transport problems		Veterinary science, agriculture, forestry	
Language difficulties		Engineering	
Unsuitable hours		Architecture	
Difficulties with child care		Social sciences, arts, humanities	
Other family responsibilities		Other	
Difficulties with ethnic background		Trade qualification/apprenticeship	
Other difficulties		Metal	
No difficulties reported		Service	
17 NUMBER OF SPELLS OF LOOKING FOR WORK IN THE PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS	ALL	Building	
One		Electrical	
Two		Food and drink	
Three or more		Wood and furniture	
18 TIME SPENT LOOKING FOR WORK IN THE PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS	ALL	Printing and allied	
1 and under 2 weeks		Automotive, mechanical	
2 and under 4 weeks		Footwear, clothing, textiles	
4 and under 8 weeks		Other	
8 and under 13 weeks		Certificate or diploma	
13 and under 26 weeks		Business, administration, commerce	
26 and under 39 weeks		Secretarial, typing, data processing	
39 and under 52 weeks		Education, teacher training	
52 weeks		Nursing	
19 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT	ALL	Other health, para-medical	
With post-school qualifications		Science, computing, agriculture	
Degree		Engineering, architecture	
Trade qualification/apprenticeship		Transport, communication	
Certificate or diploma		Social studies, arts, crafts	
Other		Other	
Without post-school qualifications		Other	
Attended highest level of secondary school available		Without post-school qualifications	
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available		Still at school	
Left at age —		21 WHETHER HAD WORKED FULL TIME	1
18 and over		Had never worked full time	
16 or 17		Had worked full time	
14 or 15		22A INDUSTRY OF LAST FULL-TIME JOB (1)	1
13 and under		Last full-time job less than 2 years ago	
Never attended school		Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	
Secondary school qualifications not determined		Mining	
Still at school		Manufacturing	
		Electricity, gas and water	
		Construction	
		Wholesale and retail trade	
		Transport and storage	
		Communication	
		Finance, property and business services	
		Public administration and defence	
		Community services	
		Recreation, personal and other services	
		Has not worked full time in the last 2 years	
		Has never worked	

DATA ITEM	POPULATION	DATA ITEM	POPULATION
22B INDUSTRY OF LAST FULL-TIME JOB (2)	2	24 USUAL GROSS WEEKLY PAY IN LAST FULL-TIME JOB	2
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting		Australian currency (\$)	
Mining		Under 40	
Manufacturing		40 and under 80	
Electricity, gas and water		80 and under 120	
Construction		120 and under 160	
Wholesale and retail trade		160 and under 200	
Transport and storage		200 and under 240	
Communication		240 and under 280	
Finance, property and business services		280 and under 320	
Public administration and defence		320 and under 360	
Community services		360 and under 400	
Recreation, personal and other services		400 and under 440	
23A OCCUPATION OF LAST FULL-TIME JOB (1)	1	440 and under 480	
Last full-time job less than 2 years ago		480 and under 520	
Managers and administrators		520 and under 560	
Professionals		560 and under 600	
Para-professionals		600 and under 640	
Tradespersons		640 and under 680	
Clerks		680 and under 720	
Salespersons and personal service workers		720 and under 760	
Plant and machine operators, and drivers		760 and under 800	
Labourers and related workers		800 and under 840	
Has not worked full time in the last 2 years		840 and under 880	
Has never worked		880 and under 920	
23B OCCUPATION OF LAST FULL-TIME JOB (2)	2	920 and under 960	
Managers and administrators		960 and under 1000	
Professionals		1000 and over	
Para-professionals		Non-Australian currency	
Tradespersons		Payment in kind	
Clerks		25A DURATION OF LAST FULL-TIME JOB (1)	1
Salespersons and personal service workers		Last full-time job less than 2 years ago (a)	
Plant and machine operators, and drivers		Less than 1 year	
Labourers and related workers		2 and under 4 weeks	
		4 and under 8 weeks	
		8 and under 26 weeks	
		26 and under 52 weeks	
		1 and under 2 years	
		2 and under 5 years	
		5 years and over	
		Has not worked full time in the last 2 years	
		Has never worked	
		(a) Includes unpaid voluntary workers.	
		25B DURATION OF LAST FULL-TIME JOB (2)	2
		Less than 1 year	
		2 and under 4 weeks	
		4 and under 8 weeks	
		8 and under 26 weeks	
		26 and under 52 weeks	
		1 and under 2 years	
		2 and under 5 years	
		5 years and over	

<p>26A REASON FOR CEASING LAST FULL-TIME JOB (1) 1</p> <p>Last full-time job less than 2 years ago (a)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Job loser Retrenched Job was temporary or seasonal and did not leave to return to studies Own ill health or disability Job leaver Unsatisfactory work arrangements Job was temporary or seasonal and left to return to studies Other <p>Has not worked full time in the last 2 years</p> <p>Has never worked</p> <p>(a) Includes unpaid voluntary workers.</p>	<p>26B REASON FOR CEASING LAST FULL-TIME JOB (2) 2</p> <p>Job loser</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retrenched Job was temporary or seasonal and did not leave to return to studies Own ill health or disability <p>Job leaver</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unsatisfactory work arrangements Job was temporary or seasonal and left to return to studies Other <p>27 STATUS OF WORKER IN LAST FULL-TIME JOB 1</p> <p>Last full-time job less than 2 years ago</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wage or salary earner In own business, with employees In own business, without employees Other <p>Has not worked full time in the last 2 years</p> <p>Has never worked</p>
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SUPPLEMENTARY AND SPECIAL SURVEYS

The supplementary and special surveys collect data on particular aspects of the labour force. It may be possible to order Unit Record Tapes on the following supplementary and special surveys by contacting the ABS (see below for contact numbers).

<i>Title of Publication</i>	<i>Catalogue No.</i>
Alternative Working Arrangements, Australia, March to May 1982, September to November 1986	6341.0
Annual and Long Service Leave Taken, Australia, May 1988 to April 1989	6317.0
Career Paths of Persons with Trade Qualifications, Australia, 1989	6243.0
Career Paths of Qualified Nurses, Australia, 1989	6277.0
Child Care, Australia, May 1969, 1973, 1977; June 1980; November 1984; June 1987; November 1990	4402.0
Employment Benefits, Australia. Annually. Latest issue July 1991	6334.0
How Workers Get Their Training, Australia, 1989	6278.0
Income Distribution Survey, Australia, Persons with Earned Income, 1986, 1990	6546.0
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