



NEW ISSUE

PERSONS CEASING FULL-TIME WORK, AUSTRALIA, MAY 1980 (PRELIMINARY)

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr Eric Hubbard on Canberra (062) 526507 or our State office, or write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616.

For copies of this publication contact Information Services, Canberra (062) 526627 or State offices.

MAIN FEATURES

Note: Survey estimates are subject to sampling variability, as explained in paragraph 8 below.

In May 1980 there were an estimated 2,559,500 non-institutionalised civilians aged 50 to 69 years. Of these:

1,371,000 (53.6 per cent) had permanently ceased full-time work.

950,600 intended to retire from full-time work at some time in the future. Of these, 493,600 (51.9 per cent) expected their main source of income to be a government pension and 182,600 (19.2 per cent) expected superannuation to be the main source.

78,200 claimed that they intended never to retire from full-time work.

159,800 had never worked in a full-time job.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

In May 1980 a survey, based on the monthly population survey, was conducted throughout Australia in order to obtain information about persons aged 50 to 69 years who had permanently ceased full-time work and about the retirement intentions of other persons in this age group. Data collected included the age, or expected age, at retirement; superannuation or life insurance coverage and payments derived from these sources; housing arrangements; and main source of income after retirement.

2. This publication contains only a summary of the more important results of the survey. More detailed estimates, which will be published as soon as possible, are available on request. The estimates shown are preliminary and are subject to revision.

3. The survey was based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (about 30,000 houses, flats, etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.) and covered about two-thirds of one per cent of the population of Australia. The information was obtained

from the occupants of selected dwellings by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers; the interviews being conducted during the two weeks beginning on Monday, 12 May 1980.

Scope

4. The survey included all persons aged 50 to 69 years except:

- (a) members of the permanent defence forces
- (b) certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations
- (c) overseas visitors holidaying in Australia
- (d) members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia
- (e) some patients in hospitals and sanatoria, inmates of gaols, reformatories, etc. and persons reported as permanently unable to work.

Definitions

5. The labour force category to which a person is assigned depends on his *actual activity* (i.e. whether working, looking for work, etc.) during a specified week known as the *survey week*, which is the week immediately preceding that in which the interview takes place. Definitions of the principal labour force categories appearing in this publication are given in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

Interpretation of results

6. Because of the limited age range of respondents for whom information was obtained, care should be taken when interpreting data relating to persons who had permanently ceased full-time work (see Table 2).

7. To avoid problems of recall, information relating to circumstances at the time of ceasing full-time work was obtained only in respect of persons aged 50-69 years who had ceased full-time work in the previous 20 years.

Reliability of the estimates

8. 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*. 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. A table of estimated standard errors for this survey is shown below. Estimates with a standard error of more than about 22 per cent have not been shown in this publication, as the degree of sampling variability would seriously detract from their value for most reasonable uses. Although figures for these small components can, in some cases, be derived by subtraction they should not be regarded as reliable. More information about this topic will be found in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

Related publications

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

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0) – issued monthly

Survey of Superannuation, February 1974 (6319.0)

Employment Benefits, Australia, February to May 1979 (6334.0)

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

Symbols and other usages

* Subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. See paragraph 8 above.

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

R. J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES (a)

Size of estimate	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia	
									Per cent of estimate	
									– number –	
1,500						300				
2,000						340	470	440		
2,500				510	510	380	510	480		
3,000				550	560	410	550	510		
3,500			740	590	590	430	590	540		
4,000			780	620	630	460	620	560		
4,500	1,000	1,000	820	650	660	480	650	590	970	21.6
5,000	1,100	1,100	860	680	690	500	680	610	1,000	20.0
6,000	1,200	1,200	930	730	750	530	740	650	1,100	18.0
10,000	1,500	1,400	1,200	900	920	640	910	750	1,400	14.0
20,000	2,000	1,900	1,500	1,200	1,200	810	1,200	910	2,000	10.0
50,000	3,000	2,700	2,200	1,600	1,700	1,100	1,700	1,100	2,900	5.8
100,000	3,900	3,500	2,800	2,100	2,100	1,300		1,300	3,900	3.9
200,000	5,000	4,400	3,600	2,600	2,600	1,500			5,100	2.6
300,000	5,800	5,000	4,100	2,900	2,900				6,000	2.0
500,000	6,900	5,800	4,800	3,300	3,300				7,200	1.4
1,000,000	8,500	7,000	5,900						9,100	0.9
2,000,000	10,000	8,400							11,000	0.6
5,000,000									15,000	0.3

(a) Estimates below the level indicated have not been published. See paragraph 8.

TABLE 1. PERSONS AGED 50 TO 69 YEARS (a) : AGE AND FULL-TIME WORK STATUS, MAY 1980 ('000)

Age (years)	Had permanently ceased full-time work			Had not permanently ceased full-time work (b)	Had never worked full time	Total
	More than 20 years ago	20 years ago or less	Total			
MALES						
50-54	*	29.2	30.8	358.8	*	390.6
55-59	*	56.4	58.8	293.6	*	353.7
60-64	*	129.8	132.5	144.0	*	278.2
65-69	*	195.8	199.4	31.1	*	231.3
Total	10.2	411.2	421.5	827.5	4.9	1,253.9
FEMALES						
50-54	129.0	108.5	237.5	105.9	29.8	373.2
55-59	139.5	120.8	260.3	66.2	33.2	359.6
60-64	134.7	97.4	232.2	24.5	45.8	302.5
65-69	136.3	83.3	219.6	4.8	46.0	270.3
Total	539.5	410.0	949.5	201.3	154.8	1,305.6
PERSONS						
50-54	130.6	137.7	268.3	464.7	30.8	763.8
55-59	141.9	177.1	319.1	359.7	34.6	713.4
60-64	137.4	227.3	364.6	168.5	47.6	580.7
65-69	139.9	279.1	419.0	35.9	46.8	501.6
Total	549.7	821.2	1,371.0	1,028.8	159.8	2,559.5

(a) Civilian non-institutional population, excluding persons permanently unable to work. (b) Comprises persons working full time and others who, although not working full time, intended to do so at some time in the future.

TABLE 2. PERSONS AGED 50 TO 69 YEARS WHO HAD PERMANENTLY CEASED FULL-TIME WORK WITHIN THE PREVIOUS 20 YEARS : CURRENT AGE AND AGE AT WHICH CEASED FULL-TIME WORK, MAY 1980 ('000)

Current age (years)	Age at which ceased full-time work (years)					Total
	Under 50	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	
MALES						
50-54	18.1	11.1	..	..	..	29.2
55-59	7.4	23.9	25.1	..	..	56.4
60-64	*	7.1	44.7	75.0	..	129.8
65-69	*	4.8	18.0	85.2	86.6	195.8
Total	29.7	46.9	87.8	160.2	86.6	411.2
FEMALES						
50-54	82.8	25.7	..	..	..	108.5
55-59	46.7	42.7	31.4	..	..	120.8
60-64	17.1	25.5	35.0	19.9	..	97.4
65-69	5.0	10.7	24.1	35.7	7.9	83.3
Total	151.5	104.6	90.4	55.7	7.9	410.0
PERSONS						
50-54	101.0	36.8	..	..	..	137.7
55-59	54.1	66.6	56.4	..	..	177.1
60-64	20.1	32.6	79.7	95.0	..	227.3
65-69	6.1	15.5	42.1	120.9	94.5	279.1
Total	181.2	151.4	178.2	215.9	94.5	821.2

TABLE 3. PERSONS AGED 50 TO 69 YEARS WHO WERE WORKING FULL TIME OR INTENDED TO DO SO AT SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE : SUMMARY OF CHARACTERISTICS, MAY 1980
('000)

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Total	827.5	201.3	1,028.8
Claimed that they would never retire	62.4	15.8	78.2
Intended to retire from full-time work	765.1	185.5	950.6
Intended age of retirement –			
50-54 years	*	7.8	9.5
55-59 years	14.7	28.0	42.7
60-64 years	181.9	63.5	245.3
65-69 years	369.6	19.2	388.8
70 years and over	17.1	*	20.0
Not known	180.2	64.1	244.3
Employment status –			
Employed	734.0	171.1	905.1
Full time (a)	728.6	163.4	892.0
Employer	46.3	9.9	56.2
Self-employed	79.1	15.9	95.0
Employee	602.5	137.0	739.5
Part time	5.4	7.6	13.1
Unemployed	18.6	4.9	23.5
Not in the labour force	12.4	9.6	22.0
Expected main source of income after retirement –			
Government pension	399.9	93.6	493.6
Superannuation	163.3	19.4	182.6
Investments	76.1	15.7	91.8
Savings, sale of assets	26.8	*	31.2
Life assurance, etc.	10.9	*	12.3
Part-time work	18.6	*	22.2
Other	*	(b)37.0	(b)41.1
Not known	65.4	10.4	75.7
Intended to work part time after retirement	160.0	33.4	193.4
Did not intend to work	396.7	108.4	505.1
Undecided or not known	208.4	43.7	252.2

(a) Includes a small number of unpaid family helpers. (b) Most of these persons expected to be dependent on the income of their spouses.