



**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS**  
**Canberra**



**PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED  
THE LABOUR FORCE,  
AUSTRALIA**

**MAY 1987**

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**PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE,  
AUSTRALIA**

**MAY 1987**

**IAN CASTLES**  
**Australian Statistician**

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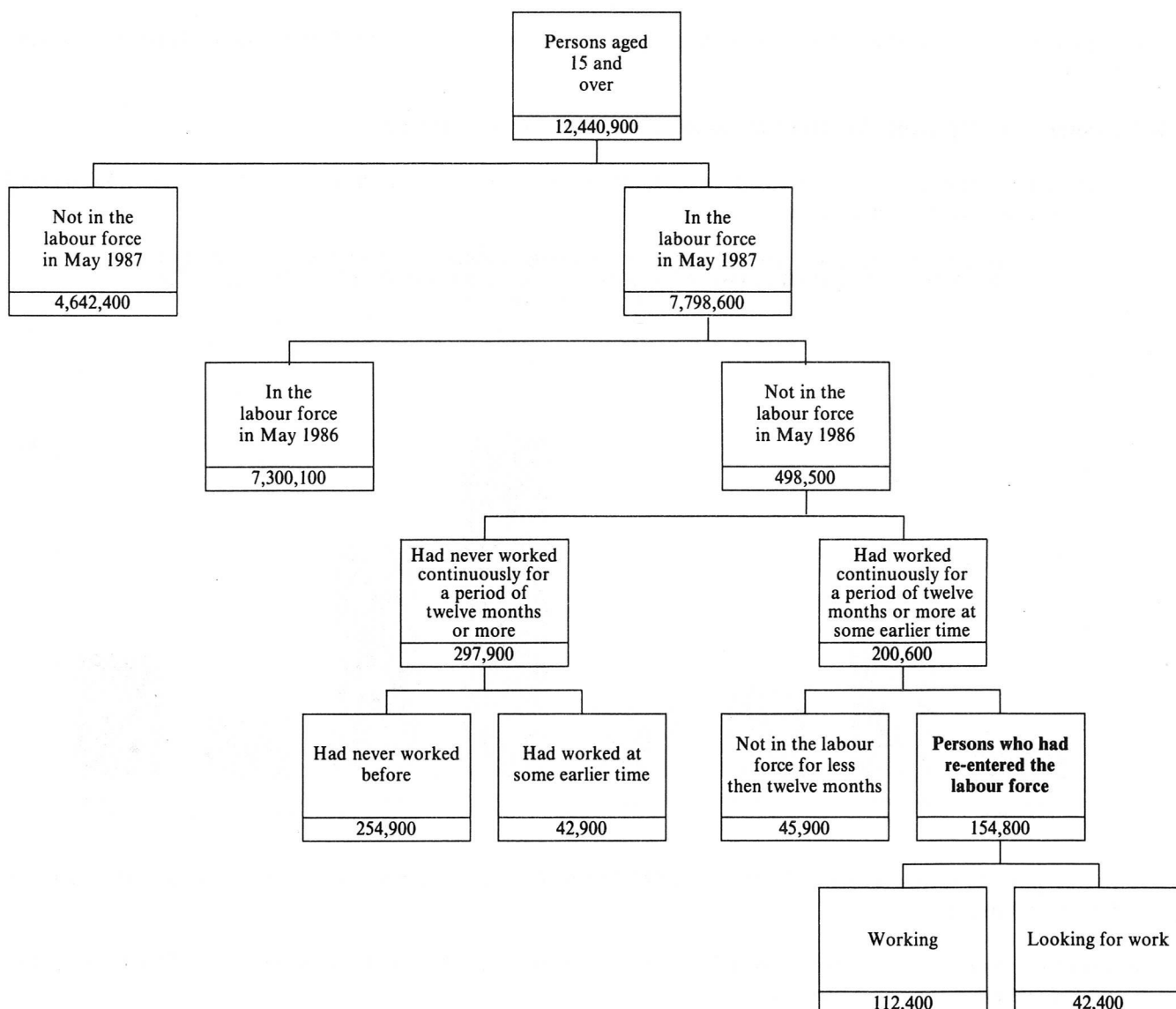
## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

This survey identifies persons who had gained some experience in a previous job, had left the labour force for some period of time and who had recently re-entered the labour force. The aim of this survey is to examine the types of skills, experience and training that these persons have brought back to the labour force, as well as to identify the types of people who have returned to the labour force, their reasons for doing so, the type of jobs they left and the type of jobs they returned to.

In May 1987 there were 7,798,600 persons in the labour force (62.7 per cent of the civilian population aged 15 and over). About 498,500 of these persons were not in the labour force twelve months ago, and of these, 297,900 persons had never worked continuously for a period of twelve months or more.

Of those who had worked continuously for a period of twelve months or more, 154,800 had been not in the labour force for a period of twelve months or more and are defined as persons who had re-entered the labour force. Thus 2.0 per cent of the labour force had re-entered the labour force within the last twelve months. This information is shown schematically in the following diagram.

**DIAGRAM 1. PERSONS AGED 15 AND OVER : SUMMARY OF LABOUR FORCE ACTIVITY AND WHETHER HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE, MAY 1987**  
(Source of data: Table 1)



A similar survey was conducted in May 1985. That survey identified 156,800 re-entrants — 2.1 per cent of the labour force at that time.

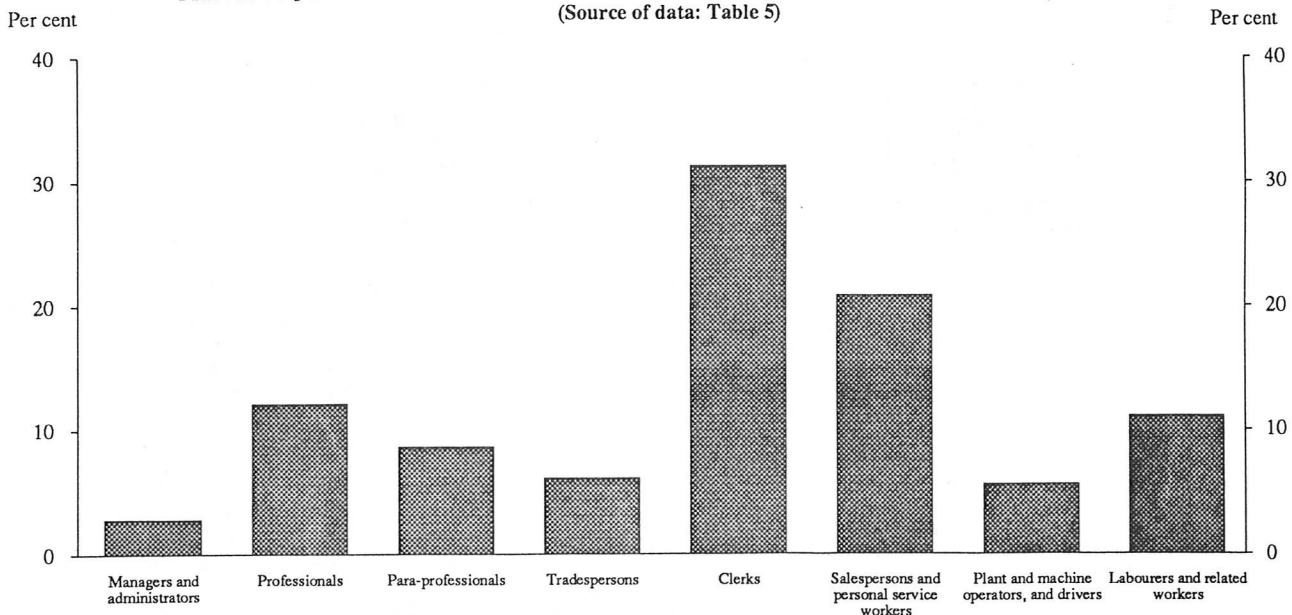
### Characteristics of persons who had re-entered the labour force

- *Gender* The majority (130,800 or 84.5 per cent) were females.
- *Age* Some 72,900 or 47.1 per cent were aged from 25 to 34 years. A further 40,500 (26.2 per cent) were in the 35 to 44 age group. Of females who had re-entered the labour force 86.7 per cent were aged 15 to 44, while 71.7 per cent of male re-entrants were in this age group.
- *Family status* Approximately sixty per cent of re-entrants were married and had dependent children.
- *Reason for ceasing previous job* About 19,900 re-entrants had lost their previous job — 9,200 due to their own ill health or injury while a further 7,800 were retrenched. The remaining 134,800 re-entrants had left their job. The most commonly reported reason for leaving was due to pregnancy or to have children — reported by 65,400 persons.
- *Main activity while not in the labour force since previous job* Home duties or childcare was reported by 74.0 per cent of re-entrants as their main activity. A further 11,100 or 7.2 per cent reported their main activity as attending an educational institution.
- *Main reason for wanting to work again* Approximately sixty per cent returned to the labour force for financial reasons.

### Skills, training and experience brought back to the labour force by these persons

- *Occupation in previous job* Some 46,500 re-entrants previously worked in clerical jobs and a further 31,400 worked as salespersons or personal service workers.

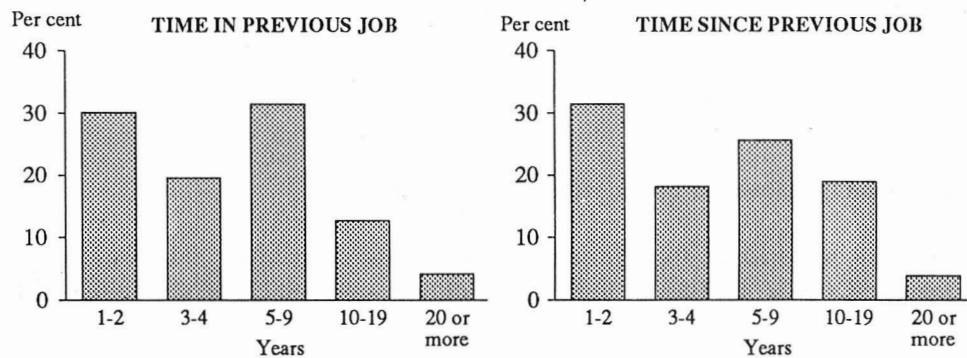
DIAGRAM 2: PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE AND WHO CEASED THEIR PREVIOUS JOB LESS THAN TWENTY YEARS AGO : OCCUPATION IN PREVIOUS JOB, MAY 1987  
(Source of data: Table 5)



- *Status of worker in previous job* An estimated 140,300 or 90.6 per cent of re-entrants were wage or salary earners in their previous job.
- *Time in previous job* Approximately half the re-entrants brought back to the labour force the benefits of five or more years experience in a previous job.
- *Time since previous job* Almost a third (31.8 per cent) of re-entrants had ceased their previous job as recently as one to two years ago. Only 23.8 per cent had left 10 or more years ago.



DIAGRAM 3. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE: TIME IN PREVIOUS JOB AND TIME SINCE PREVIOUS JOB, MAY 1987  
(Source of data: Table 2)

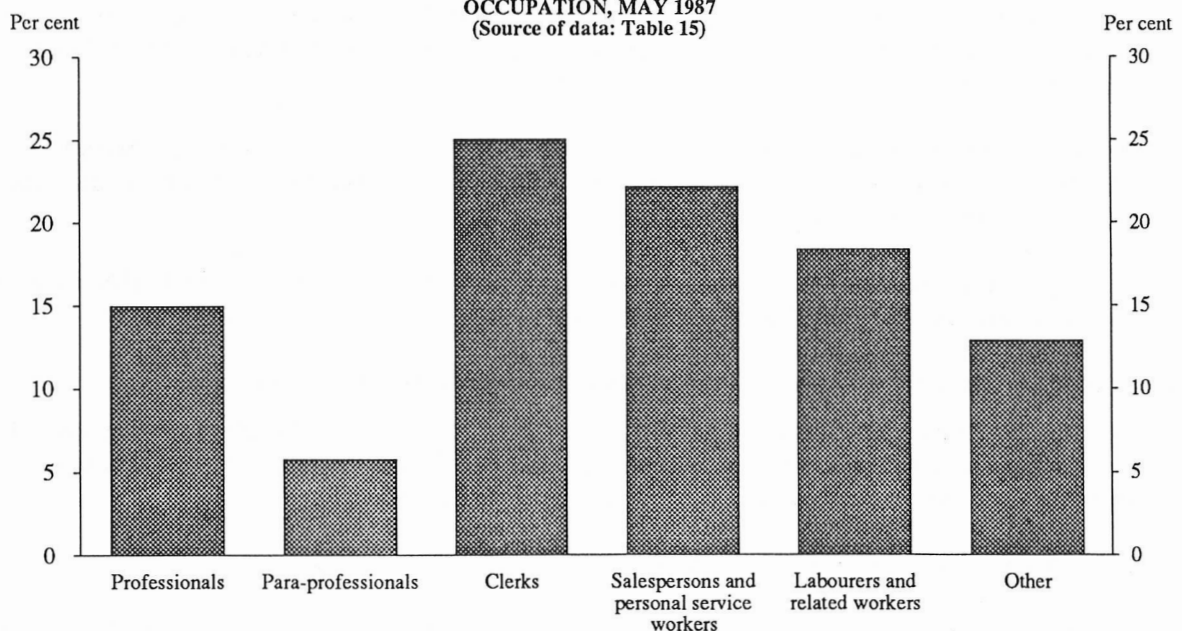


- *Highest educational qualification gained since previous job* Only 10.7 per cent of re-entrants had gained an educational qualification since ceasing their previous job.
- *Educational attainment in May 1987* Some 66,600 re-entrants had post-school qualifications — of whom 13,300 had a degree, 9,700 had a trade qualification or apprenticeship and 43,100 had a certificate or diploma.

#### Details of job of persons who had re-entered the labour force and were working

- *Occupation* Most were working as clerks (28,300), salespersons and personal service workers (25,100), labourers and related workers (20,800) and professionals (17,000) in May 1987. Almost half had returned to an occupation similar to the occupation of their previous job.
- *Part-time workers* Approximately two-thirds were working part-time in May 1987.

DIAGRAM 4. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE AND WERE WORKING : OCCUPATION, MAY 1987  
(Source of data: Table 15)



### **Persons who had re-entered the labour force and were working as employees**

- *Method of job attainment* About 90,100 re-entrants were working as employees in May 1987. Of the 64,000 who had approached their employer to obtain their job, 39,200 had prior knowledge that the job was available — 16,300 gained this knowledge through friends, relatives or company contacts and 13,700 through newspaper advertisements.
- *Usual gross weekly pay* The average usual gross weekly pay reported by full-time employees was \$301, compared with \$129 for part-time employees.

### **Persons who had re-entered the labour force and were looking for work**

- Of the 40,900 persons who had left their previous job less than twenty years ago, 34,800 or 85.1 per cent had worked full-time in that job. Of these, 16,900 were looking for full-time work and 17,900 were looking for part-time work in May 1987.

### **Comparison of persons who had re-entered the labour force and were working with those who were looking for work**

Of those who had re-entered the labour force 112,400 persons were working in May 1987 (72.6 per cent), while 42,400 were looking for work. The chances of a re-entrant having found employment were improved by various factors. These factors are discussed below.

- Of those aged 15 to 34, 74.5 per cent had found a job, while 68.7 per cent aged 35 to 54 and 81.3 per cent aged 55 and over had done so.
- Persons previously employed less than twenty years ago as managers and administrators, professionals, tradespersons, para-professionals and salespersons and personal service workers were most likely to be working in May 1987.
- Re-entrants were more likely to be working if they left their last job than those who lost their last job (75.1 per cent and 55.8 per cent respectively). Leavers who had left to return to studies (90.5 per cent) or to retire or because they didn't want to work any longer (86.7 per cent) were most likely to have found employment. About 73.5 per cent of persons who had left due to pregnancy or to have children had found a job.
- Of the 56,500 persons with post-school qualifications when they ceased their previous job 73.8 per cent were working, compared with 81.6 per cent of persons without post-school qualifications who attended the highest level of secondary school available and 69.1 per cent of those who did not attend the highest level of secondary school available. A job had been found by 77.0 per cent of re-entrants who had gained a qualification since their previous job and by 72.2 per cent of those who had not.
- Persons with more recent work experience were more likely to be working — 78.9 per cent of those who ceased their previous job within the last two years were working, while only 69.7 per cent of persons who ceased their previous job more than two years ago were working.
- More than ninety per cent of persons who wanted to work again because they had completed their studies had found a job, while only two-thirds of those wanting to work again for financial reasons had done so.

### **Comparison of persons who had re-entered the labour force with other labour force groups**

The May 1987 survey also identified persons in the labour force in May who, although they did not satisfy the criteria to be defined as re-entrants, were not in the labour force twelve months ago and so were similar to re-entrants in this respect. Such persons were not defined as re-entrants because they either:

- had not had substantial previous work experience; or
- were not in the labour force for only a short period of time prior to moving back into the labour force.

**Persons who were not in the labour force twelve months ago and had never worked continuously for a period of twelve months or more: Comparison with re-entrants**

There were 297,900 persons in this group — 254,900 had never worked before while 42,900 had some previous work experience.

- About half (53.9 per cent) were females, compared with around eighty five per cent of re-entrants.
- They were younger than re-entrants — 88.7 per cent were aged 15 to 24, compared with only 11.1 per cent of re-entrants.
- While 72.5 per cent of re-entrants were married, only 9.5 per cent of these persons were married.
- A much higher proportion of re-entrants had post-school qualifications (43.0 per cent compared with 12.1 per cent).
- Most of the persons in this group (85.1 per cent) had been attending an educational institution while not in the labour force while most re-entrants (74.0 per cent) reported their main activity since previous job as home duties or childcare.
- About two-thirds of these persons were working in May 1987, compared with around seventy per cent of re-entrants.

**Persons who were not in the labour force twelve months ago, had worked continuously for a period of twelve months or more at some earlier time but who were not in the labour force for less than twelve months: Comparison with re-entrants**

There were 45,900 persons in this group. While this group has more in common with re-entrants than persons who had never worked continuously for a period of twelve months or more (as discussed above), comparison does reveal some differences.

- About 63.8 per cent were females (compared with 84.5 per cent of re-entrants).
- They also were younger than re-entrants, with 24.4 per cent being in the 15 to 24 age group (compared with 11.1 per cent).
- Approximately sixty per cent were married (compared with about seventy per cent).
- More than half of this group (59.3 per cent) had post-school qualifications (compared with 43.0 per cent of re-entrants).
- Less than half reported their main activity as home duties or childcare, although this was still the most commonly reported activity.
- Approximately ninety per cent of these persons were working (compared with about seventy per cent of re-entrants).

**TABLE 1. PERSONS AGED 15 AND OVER : SUMMARY OF LABOUR FORCE ACTIVITY AND WHETHER HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE, MAY 1985 AND MAY 1987**  
( ' 000)

Summary of labour force activity and whether had re-entered the labour force	May 1985			May 1987		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Persons aged 15 and over	5,871.3	6,056.1	11,927.4	6,127.6	6,313.3	12,440.9
Not in labour force in May	1,402.2	3,205.6	4,607.8	1,482.0	3,160.4	4,642.4
In labour force in May	4,469.1	2,850.5	7,319.5	4,645.6	3,152.9	7,798.6
In labour force twelve months ago				4,467.9	2,832.2	7,300.1
Not in labour force twelve months ago				177.7	320.7	498.5
Had never worked continuously for a period of twelve months or more				137.2	160.7	297.9
Had never worked before				120.7	134.2	254.9
Had worked at some earlier time		n.a.		16.5	26.4	42.9
Had worked continuously for a period of twelve months or more at some earlier time				40.5	160.1	200.6
Not in labour force for less than twelve months				16.5	29.3	45.9
Working in May				14.8	26.3	41.1
Looking for work in May				*	*	4.8
Persons who had re-entered the labour force	20.3	136.5	156.8	24.0	130.8	154.8
Working in May	14.6	97.3	111.8	17.0	95.4	112.4
Looking for work in May	5.7	39.3	45.0	7.0	35.4	42.4

**TABLE 2. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE : AGE, BIRTHPLACE AND PERIOD OF ARRIVAL, SELECTED DETAILS OF PREVIOUS JOB AND WHETHER WORKING OR LOOKING FOR WORK, MAY 1985 AND MAY 1987**  
( ' 000)

	May 1985			May 1987		
	Working	Looking for work	Total	Working	Looking for work	Total
<i>Age group—</i>						
15-24	9.6	4.6	14.2	13.0	4.2	17.2
25-34	57.1	23.5	80.6	54.1	18.8	72.9
35-44	32.1	11.8	43.9	27.4	13.1	40.5
45-54	8.8	5.1	12.2	11.4	4.6	16.0
55 and over	4.2			6.0	6.5	*
<i>Birthplace and period of arrival—</i>						
Born in Australia	84.0	32.1	116.0	91.4	28.8	120.2
Born outside Australia	27.9	12.9	40.8	21.0	13.5	34.6
Arrived before 1971	16.6	8.2	24.8	13.7	7.4	21.1
Arrived 1971 — survey date	11.3	4.7	16.0	7.3	6.2	13.5
Born in main English speaking countries(a)	16.3	7.5	23.8	10.7	5.1	15.8
Born in other countries	11.6	5.5	17.0	10.3	8.5	18.8
<i>Full-time or part-time worker in previous job—</i>						
Previous job less than 20 years ago(b)	107.4	43.5	150.9	107.2	40.9	148.0
Full-time workers	88.1	38.8	126.9	82.7	34.8	117.5
Part-time workers	17.2	4.5	21.7	23.1	4.6	27.7
Previous job 20 or more years ago	4.4	*	5.9	5.2	*	6.7
<i>Time in previous job (years)—</i>						
1-2	32.5	12.9	45.3	32.7	14.5	47.2
3-9	57.5	25.1	82.6	59.3	20.9	80.2
3-4	22.3	8.6	31.0	21.3	9.6	30.9
5-9	35.2	16.4	51.6	37.9	11.3	49.3
10 or more	21.9	7.1	29.0	20.4	6.9	27.4
10-19	18.9	5.5	24.4	15.5	4.8	20.3
20 or more	*	*	4.6	4.9	*	7.1
<i>Time since previous job (years)—</i>						
1-2	37.6	12.9	50.5	38.8	10.4	49.2
3-9	52.1	21.8	73.9	48.0	20.8	68.8
3-4	25.4	6.4	31.8	19.7	8.8	28.6
5-9	26.7	15.4	42.1	28.3	12.0	40.2
10 or more	22.2	10.3	32.4	25.6	11.2	36.8
10-19	17.7	8.8	26.5	20.3	9.7	30.1
20 or more	4.4	*	5.9	5.2	*	6.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>111.8</b>	<b>45.0</b>	<b>156.8</b>	<b>112.4</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>154.8</b>

(a) Comprises United Kingdom and Ireland, Canada, South Africa, U.S.A. and New Zealand. (b) Includes varied/did not know.

TABLE 3. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE : JOB SEARCH EXPERIENCE AND OTHER RELATED CHARACTERISTICS AND WHETHER WORKING OR LOOKING FOR WORK, MAY 1985 AND MAY 1987  
(\* 000)

	May 1985			May 1987		
	Working	Looking for work	Total	Working	Looking for work	Total
<i>Main reason for wanting to work again—</i>						
Completed studies	5.1	*	5.8	4.4	*	4.7
Financial reasons	62.4	33.1	95.5	64.7	30.1	94.7
Returned after own illness or injury	*	*	4.1	*	*	4.3
Children gone to school/no longer needed to look after children	6.9	3.9	10.7	4.2	*	6.4
Boredom/needed another interest	11.5	*	14.3	15.8	5.5	21.4
To help in family business/bought business	8.2	*	8.2	10.7	*	10.7
Other	15.6	*	18.3	10.6	*	12.6
<i>Time spent not in labour force since previous job (years)—</i>						
1-2	46.0	14.8	60.8	43.9	12.1	56.0
3-9	45.0	21.1	66.1	46.6	19.8	66.4
3-4	21.6	6.4	28.0	19.3	9.7	29.1
5-9	23.4	14.7	38.1	27.2	10.1	37.3
10 or more	20.9	9.1	30.0	21.9	10.4	32.3
10-19	17.0	8.0	25.0	17.0	9.1	26.1
20 or more	3.9	*	5.0	4.9	*	6.3
<i>Highest educational qualification gained since previous job—</i>						
Had gained an educational qualification since previous job	11.9	*	14.2	12.7	3.9	16.5
Degree	4.2	*	4.3	*	*	3.7
Other	7.7	*	9.9	9.6	*	12.8
Had not gained an educational qualification since previous job	99.9	42.7	142.6	99.7	38.3	138.0
Never attended school	*	*	*	*	*	*
Still at school	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>Active steps taken to find work during the last twelve months—</i>						
Registered with the CES and—						
Took no other active steps	*	*	*	*	*	*
Contacted prospective employers	10.0	10.9	20.9	14.6	12.0	26.6
Took other active steps	*	*	*	*	*	3.9
Total	12.3	13.5	25.8	17.0	15.3	32.3
Not registered with the CES and—						
Took only inactive steps	*	4.0	7.1	*	4.1	6.4
Contacted prospective employers	31.5	22.2	53.6	30.5	19.4	49.9
Took other active steps	4.8	5.4	10.2	7.5	3.6	11.0
Total	39.4	31.5	70.9	40.3	27.0	67.4
Had not looked for work	60.1	..	60.1	55.1	..	55.1
<i>Main difficulty in finding work during the last twelve months—</i>						
Own ill health or disability	*	*	3.9	*	3.8	4.8
Considered too young or too old by employers	*	4.5	7.3	*	3.5	5.5
Unsuitable hours	4.5	7.9	12.5	6.4	8.0	14.4
Lacked necessary skills/education	*	4.0	5.9	*	4.4	7.2
No vacancies in line of work	4.3	4.6	9.0	*	5.3	8.4
No vacancies at all	*	3.8	5.6	*	3.9	6.8
Other difficulties	6.6	8.7	15.3	7.6	8.9	16.6
No difficulties at all	29.3	8.1	37.3	31.6	4.4	36.0
Had not looked for work	60.1	..	60.1	55.1	..	55.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>111.8</b>	<b>45.0</b>	<b>156.8</b>	<b>112.4</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>154.8</b>

**TABLE 4. PERSONS WHO WERE IN THE LABOUR FORCE IN MAY 1987 BUT WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE TWELVE MONTHS AGO: SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS, WHETHER WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR A PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS OR MORE AT SOME EARLIER TIME AND WHETHER NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE FOR A PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS OR MORE, MAY 1987 ('000)**

	<i>Had never worked continuously for a period of twelve months or more</i>			<i>Had worked continuously for a period of twelve months or more at some earlier time</i>			<i>Total</i>
	<i>Had never worked before</i>	<i>Had worked at some earlier time</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Not in labour force for less than twelve months</i>	<i>Persons who had re-entered the labour force</i>	<i>Total</i>	
<i>Age group—</i>							
15-24	236.6	27.6	264.1	11.2	17.2	28.5	292.6
25-34	9.4	9.2	18.5	21.7	72.9	94.6	113.2
35-44	5.3	4.0	9.3	9.0	40.5	49.5	58.8
45-54	*	*	4.5	*	16.0	18.3	22.9
55 and over	*	*	*	*	8.0	9.6	11.0
<i>Family status—</i>							
Member of a family	227.7	32.1	259.7	35.9	136.0	171.9	431.6
Husband or wife	16.6	11.7	28.3	27.2	112.3	139.5	167.8
With dependents present	12.5	8.3	20.8	20.5	92.6	113.2	134.0
Without dependents present	4.1	*	7.5	6.7	19.7	26.3	33.8
Not-married family head	4.3	4.3	8.6	*	16.0	18.5	27.1
Full-time student aged 15-24(a)	88.3	6.3	94.5	*	*	*	96.5
Other child of family head	113.0	9.4	122.4	4.9	5.3	10.2	132.6
Other relative of family head	5.4	*	5.9	*	*	*	7.6
Not a member of a family	12.6	7.9	20.5	7.5	9.9	17.4	37.9
Family status not determined	14.6	*	17.6	*	8.9	11.4	29.0
<i>Birthplace and period of arrival—</i>							
Born in Australia	218.2	33.1	251.3	32.4	120.2	152.6	403.9
Born outside Australia	36.7	9.9	46.6	13.4	34.6	48.0	94.6
Arrived before 1971	7.7	4.1	11.8	5.8	21.1	26.9	38.7
Arrived 1971-1987	29.0	5.7	34.8	7.6	13.5	21.1	55.9
Born in main English speaking countries(b)	12.2	4.1	16.3	8.4	15.8	24.2	40.5
Born in other countries	24.6	5.7	30.3	5.0	18.8	23.8	54.1
<i>Educational attainment in May 1987—</i>							
With post-school qualifications(c)	22.0	14.1	36.0	27.2	66.6	93.8	129.8
Degree	7.3	6.7	13.9	6.4	13.3	19.7	33.6
Trade qualification or apprenticeship	*	*	*	6.6	9.7	16.2	19.2
Certificate or diploma	12.6	6.3	18.9	14.2	43.1	57.3	76.1
Without post-school qualifications(d)	155.8	27.1	182.9	18.5	88.2	106.7	289.6
Attended highest level of secondary school available	61.7	14.1	75.8	6.5	19.2	25.7	101.5
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	94.1	13.0	107.1	12.0	69.0	81.1	188.1
Left at age—							
16 or over	49.3	6.4	55.7	5.3	25.4	30.7	86.4
15 or under	44.7	6.6	51.3	6.8	43.4	50.2	101.5
Still at school	77.2	*	79.0	*	*	*	79.1
<i>Main activity before working/while not in labour force, since previous job—</i>							
Home duties/childcare	17.5	13.0	30.5	19.8	114.5	134.3	164.9
Attending an educational institution	229.3	24.1	253.5	6.5	11.1	17.5	271.0
Retired/voluntarily inactive	*	*	*	*	5.3	6.3	7.8
Own illness/injury; own disability/handicap	*	*	*	4.7	8.8	13.5	15.7
Travelled/moved house/holiday	*	*	4.0	11.7	8.4	20.1	24.1
Other	4.1	*	6.0	*	6.7	8.9	15.0
<i>Whether working or looking for work—</i>							
Working	167.7	31.4	199.1	41.1	112.4	153.5	352.6
Looking for work	87.2	11.6	98.8	4.8	42.4	47.2	145.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>254.9</b>	<b>42.9</b>	<b>297.9</b>	<b>45.9</b>	<b>154.8</b>	<b>200.6</b>	<b>498.5</b>

(a) Excludes persons aged 15 to 24 attending school. (b) Comprises United Kingdom and Ireland, Canada, South Africa, U.S.A. and New Zealand. (c) Includes persons with other post-school qualifications. (d) Includes persons who never attended school.

**TABLE 5. PERSONS WHO WERE IN THE LABOUR FORCE IN MAY 1987 BUT WERE NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE TWELVE MONTHS AGO AND HAD WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR A PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS OR MORE AT SOME EARLIER TIME : SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS AND WHETHER NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE FOR A PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS OR MORE, MAY 1987 ('000)**

	<i>Whether not in labour force for a period of twelve months or more</i>		<i>Total</i>		
	<i>Not in labour force for less than twelve months</i>	<i>Persons who had re-entered the labour force</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
<i>Time in previous job (years)—</i>					
1-2	17.8	47.2	13.6	51.4	65.0
3-9	21.4	80.2	15.6	86.0	101.6
3-4	10.7	30.9	6.1	35.5	41.6
5-9	10.7	49.3	9.5	50.5	59.9
10 or more	6.6	27.4	11.3	22.7	34.0
10-19	5.4	20.3	5.7	20.0	25.7
20 or more	*	7.1	5.6	*	8.3
<i>Full-time or part-time worker in previous job—</i>					
Previous job less than 20 years ago(a)	45.6	148.0	40.5	153.2	193.7
Full-time workers	35.6	117.5	36.8	116.3	153.1
Part-time workers	9.5	27.7	3.5	33.7	37.2
Previous job 20 or more years ago	*	6.7	*	6.9	6.9
<i>Occupation in previous job—</i>					
Previous job less than 20 years ago	45.6	148.0	40.5	153.2	193.7
Managers and administrators	3.6	4.4	4.3	3.7	8.0
Professionals	5.6	18.2	6.3	17.5	23.9
Para-professionals	4.8	13.0	*	14.5	17.7
Tradespersons	4.5	9.3	8.5	5.3	13.9
Clerks	10.6	46.5	4.6	52.5	57.0
Salespersons and personal service workers	8.6	31.4	*	37.2	40.0
Plant and machine operators, and drivers	*	8.6	*	7.2	10.4
Labourers and related workers	6.2	16.7	7.5	15.4	22.8
Previous job 20 or more years ago	*	6.7	*	6.9	6.9
<i>Status of worker in previous job—</i>					
Previous job less than 20 years ago(b)	45.6	148.0	40.5	153.2	193.7
Self-employed	*	4.4	*	4.0	6.4
Wage and salary earners	42.8	140.3	36.0	147.1	183.1
Previous job 20 or more years ago	*	6.7	*	6.9	6.9
<i>Reasons for ceasing previous job—</i>					
Job loser(c)	8.7	19.9	12.8	15.8	28.6
Retrenched	*	7.8	4.0	7.0	11.1
Own ill health or injury	4.4	9.2	7.6	6.1	13.6
Job leaver	37.2	134.8	27.7	144.3	172.0
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	*	7.1	*	6.8	9.2
Retired/didn't want to work any longer	*	8.3	3.6	6.8	10.4
Returned to studies	3.7	7.4	6.1	4.9	11.1
To get married	*	13.0	*	14.0	14.2
Pregnancy/to have children	11.9	65.4	*	77.2	77.3
To look after family, house or someone else	*	6.9	*	7.2	8.2
To have holiday/to move house/spouse transferred	10.4	18.9	8.7	20.7	29.4
Other	4.5	7.7	5.5	6.8	12.3
<i>Main reason for wanting to work again—</i>					
Financial reasons	29.6	94.7	20.8	103.6	124.3
Boredom/needed another interest	4.6	21.4	3.9	22.1	25.9
To help in family business/bought business	*	10.7	*	11.7	12.5
Other(d)	9.9	28.0	15.1	22.7	37.8
<i>Whether working or looking for work—</i>					
Working	41.1	112.4	31.8	121.7	153.5
Looking for work	4.8	42.4	8.8	38.4	47.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>45.9</b>	<b>154.8</b>	<b>40.5</b>	<b>160.1</b>	<b>200.6</b>

(a) Includes varied/did not know. (b) Includes employers; and unpaid family helpers. (c) Includes job was temporary or seasonal and did not leave to return to studies; and business closed down for economic reasons. (d) Includes completed studies; returned after own illness or injury; and children gone to school or no longer needed to look after children.

TABLE 6. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE : AGE, FAMILY STATUS, SELECTED DETAILS OF PREVIOUS JOB AND WHETHER WORKING OR LOOKING FOR WORK, MAY 1987  
(' 000)

	Whether working or looking for work								
	Working			Looking for work			Total		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
<i>Age group—</i>									
15-24	3.9	9.1	13.0	} 4.2	{ *	4.2	5.7	11.5	17.2
25-34	6.6	47.5	54.1			16.4	18.8	9.0	63.9
35-44	*	26.2	27.4	*	11.9	13.1	} 4.5	{ 38.0	40.5
45-54	*	9.7	11.4	*	4.3	4.6			14.0
55 and over	3.5	*	6.5	*	*	*	4.7	*	8.0
<i>Family status—</i>									
Member of a family(a)	13.1	85.2	98.3	5.8	32.0	37.7	18.9	117.1	136.0
Husband or wife	8.8	73.8	82.6	3.5	26.3	29.8	12.3	100.0	112.3
With dependents present	3.5	63.2	66.7	*	24.1	25.9	5.3	87.3	92.6
Without dependents present	5.3	10.6	15.8	*	*	3.8	7.0	12.7	19.7
Not-married family head	*	9.7	10.2	*	5.3	5.8	*	15.1	16.0
Not a member of a family	*	4.1	7.0	*	*	*	4.0	5.9	9.9
Family status not determined	*	6.1	7.1	*	*	*	*	7.8	8.9
<i>Occupation in previous job—</i>									
Previous job less than 20 years ago	17.0	90.2	107.2	7.0	33.9	40.9	24.0	124.1	148.0
Managers and administrators	*	*	3.9	*	*	*	*	*	4.4
Professionals	*	12.1	15.2	*	*	*	3.7	14.5	18.2
Para-professionals	*	8.6	10.2	*	*	*	*	10.9	13.0
Tradespersons	3.7	3.5	7.3	*	*	*	4.9	4.4	9.3
Clerks	*	28.2	30.3	*	15.1	16.2	*	43.2	46.5
Salespersons and personal service workers	*	22.8	23.7	*	7.1	7.7	*	29.8	31.4
Plant and machine operators, and drivers	*	4.6	5.9	*	*	*	*	6.3	8.6
Labourers and related workers	*	8.7	10.8	*	4.1	5.9	3.9	12.7	16.7
Previous job 20 or more years ago	*	5.2	5.2	*	*	*	*	6.7	6.7
<i>Status of worker in previous job—</i>									
Previous job less than 20 years ago(b)	17.0	90.2	107.2	7.0	33.9	40.9	24.0	124.1	148.0
Self-employed	*	*	4.0	*	*	*	*	*	4.4
Wage and salary earners	14.1	86.5	100.6	6.8	33.0	39.7	20.9	119.5	140.3
Previous job 20 or more years ago	*	5.2	5.2	*	*	*	*	6.7	6.7
<i>Reason for ceasing previous job—</i>									
Job loser(c)	4.0	7.1	11.1	3.8	5.1	8.9	7.8	12.1	19.9
Retrenched	*	*	4.4	*	*	*	*	5.5	7.8
Own ill health or injury	*	*	4.6	*	*	4.6	4.8	4.4	9.2
Job leaver	13.0	88.4	101.3	*	30.3	33.5	16.2	118.7	134.8
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	*	4.6	5.6	*	*	*	*	5.8	7.1
Retired/didn't want to work any longer	*	4.4	7.2	*	*	*	*	5.4	8.3
Returned to studies	3.7	*	6.7	*	*	*	4.4	*	7.4
To get married	*	9.7	9.7	*	3.7	3.7	*	13.0	13.0
Pregnancy/to have children	*	48.0	48.1	*	17.3	17.3	*	65.3	65.4
To look after family, house or someone else	*	4.5	4.9	*	*	*	*	6.2	6.9
To have holiday/to move house/spouse transferred	*	10.8	13.9	*	4.5	5.1	3.6	15.3	18.9
Other	*	3.5	5.3	*	*	*	*	4.7	7.7
<i>Educational attainment when ceased previous job—</i>									
With post-school qualifications(d)	7.7	34.0	41.7	*	12.1	14.8	10.4	46.2	56.5
Degree	*	6.2	8.2	*	*	*	*	7.9	10.3
Trade qualification or apprenticeship	3.6	*	6.7	*	*	*	4.7	4.0	8.7
Certificate or diploma	*	24.5	26.6	*	9.5	10.7	*	34.0	37.3
Without post-school qualifications(e)	9.3	61.4	70.7	4.3	23.3	27.6	13.6	84.6	98.3
Attended highest level of secondary school available	5.0	13.6	18.6	*	*	4.2	5.9	16.9	22.8
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	4.3	47.8	52.1	*	19.9	23.4	7.7	67.7	75.4
Left at age—									
16 or over	*	18.8	20.3	*	6.7	7.9	*	25.6	28.2
15 or under	*	28.9	31.8	*	13.2	15.2	4.9	42.1	47.0
Still at school	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Total</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>95.4</b>	<b>112.4</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>35.4</b>	<b>42.4</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>130.8</b>	<b>154.8</b>

(a) Includes full-time student aged 15 to 24; other child of family head; and other relative of family head. (b) Includes employers; and unpaid family helpers. (c) Includes job was temporary or seasonal and did not leave to return to studies; and business closed down for economic reasons. (d) Includes persons with other post-school qualifications. (e) Includes persons who never attended school.



**TABLE 7. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE : REASON FOR CEASING PREVIOUS JOB AND AGE, MAY 1987**  
( ' 000)

Reason for ceasing previous job	Age group					Total
	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over	
Job loser(a)	*	5.9	6.3	*	*	19.9
Retrenched	*	*	*	*	*	7.8
Own ill health or injury	*	*	4.0	*	*	9.2
Job leaver	15.3	67.0	34.3	13.1	5.2	134.8
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	*	3.7	*	*	*	7.1
Retired/didn't want to work any longer	*	*	4.3	*	*	8.3
Returned to studies	3.7	*	*	*	*	7.4
To get married	*	4.6	3.7	*	*	13.0
Pregnancy/to have children	4.5	39.9	17.8	*	*	65.4
To look after family, house or someone else	*	*	*	*	*	6.9
To have holiday/to move house/spouse transferred	*	9.6	6.3	*	*	18.9
Other	*	*	*	*	*	7.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>72.9</b>	<b>40.5</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>154.8</b>

(a) Includes job was temporary or seasonal and did not leave to return to studies; and business closed down for economic reasons.

**TABLE 8. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE : REASON FOR CEASING PREVIOUS JOB AND MAIN REASON FOR WANTING TO WORK AGAIN, MAY 1987**  
( ' 000)

Reason for ceasing previous job	Main reason for wanting to work again				Total
	Financial reasons	Boredom/ needed another interest	To help in family business/ bought business	Other	
Job loser(a)	9.4	*	*	6.7	19.9
Retrenched	4.2	*	*	*	7.8
Own ill health or injury	*	*	*	4.0	9.2
Job leaver	85.3	18.6	9.6	21.3	134.8
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	5.2	*	*	*	7.1
Retired/didn't want to work any longer	3.5	*	*	*	8.3
Returned to studies	*	*	*	4.1	7.4
To get married	8.4	*	*	*	13.0
Pregnancy/to have children	44.0	8.1	6.2	7.2	65.4
To look after family, house or someone else	3.7	*	*	*	6.9
To have holiday/to move house/spouse transferred	12.6	*	*	*	18.9
Other	4.8	*	*	*	7.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>94.7</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>154.8</b>

(a) Includes job was temporary or seasonal and did not leave to return to studies; and business closed down for economic reasons.

**TABLE 9. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE : TIME SPENT NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE SINCE PREVIOUS JOB AND TIME SINCE PREVIOUS JOB, MAY 1987**  
( ' 000)

Time spent not in labour force since previous job (years)	Time since previous job (years)				Total
	1-2	3-4	5-9	10 or more	
1-2	49.2	4.3	*	*	56.0
3-4	..	24.3	3.9	*	29.1
5-9	..	..	34.3	*	37.3
10 or more	..	..	..	32.3	32.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>28.6</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>36.8</b>	<b>154.8</b>

**TABLE 10. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE : OCCUPATION IN PREVIOUS JOB AND TIME SINCE PREVIOUS JOB, MAY 1987**  
( ' 000)

Occupation in previous job	Time since previous job (years)					10 or more	Total
	1-2	3-9			Total		
		3-4	5-9	Total			
Previous job less than 20 years ago	49.2	28.6	40.2	68.8	30.1	148.0	
Managers and administrators	*	*	*	*	*	4.4	
Professionals	7.5	3.9	4.4	8.3	*	18.2	
Para-professionals	3.9	*	3.7	6.1	*	13.0	
Tradespersons	4.0	*	*	4.4	*	9.3	
Clerks	12.2	8.5	13.2	21.7	12.6	46.5	
Salespersons and personal service workers	10.6	5.4	8.9	14.2	6.6	31.4	
Plant and machine operators, and drivers	*	*	*	3.8	*	8.6	
Labourers and related workers	5.8	4.1	4.0	8.1	*	16.7	
Previous job 20 or more years ago	*	*	*	*	6.7	6.7	
<b>Total</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>28.6</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>68.8</b>	<b>36.8</b>	<b>154.8</b>	

**TABLE 11. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE : MAIN REASON FOR WANTING TO WORK AGAIN AND TIME SINCE PREVIOUS JOB, MAY 1987**  
( ' 000)

Main reason for wanting to work again	Time since previous job (years)					10 or more	Total
	1-2	3-9			Total		
		3-4	5-9	Total			
Financial reasons	31.7	17.5	23.7	41.2	21.9	94.7	
Boredom/needed another interest	4.8	4.4	5.5	9.9	6.6	21.4	
To help in family business/bought business	*	*	4.5	7.2	*	10.7	
Other	11.9	3.9	6.6	10.5	5.5	28.0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>28.6</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>68.8</b>	<b>36.8</b>	<b>154.8</b>	

**TABLE 12. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE : MAIN REASON FOR WANTING TO WORK AGAIN AND FAMILY STATUS, MAY 1987**  
( ' 000)

Main reason for wanting to work again	Family status							Total
	Member of a family				Not-married family head	Not a member of a family	Family status not determined	
	Husband or wife		Total	Total(a)				
	With dependents present	Without dependents present						
	Financial reasons	60.1	6.8	66.9	12.5	82.6	6.7	
Boredom/needed another interest	12.3	4.9	17.2	*	18.5	*	*	21.4
To help in family business/bought business	7.8	*	10.0	*	10.2	*	*	10.7
Other	12.5	5.8	18.3	*	24.7	*	*	28.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>92.6</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>112.3</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>136.0</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>154.8</b>

(a) Includes full-time student aged 15 to 24; other child of family head; and other relative of family head.

**TABLE 13. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE AND WERE WORKING: MAIN REASON FOR WANTING TO WORK AGAIN AND FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME WORKERS, MAY 1987**  
( ' 000)

Main reason for wanting to work again	Full-time and part-time workers in May 1987		Total
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	
Financial reasons	20.0	44.7	64.7
Boredom/needed another interest	3.6	12.2	15.8
To help in family business/bought business	*	8.5	10.7
Other	10.3	10.9	21.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>76.2</b>	<b>112.4</b>

**TABLE 14. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE AND WERE WORKING : FAMILY STATUS AND FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME WORKERS, MAY 1987**  
( ' 000)

Family status	Full-time and part-time workers in May 1987		Total
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	
Member of a family(a)	28.6	69.7	98.3
Husband or wife	21.0	61.5	82.6
With dependents present	14.1	52.6	66.7
Without dependents present	7.0	8.9	15.8
Not-married family head	3.5	6.7	10.2
Not a member of a family	5.4	*	7.0
Family status not determined	*	4.9	7.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>76.2</b>	<b>112.4</b>

(a) Includes full-time student aged 15 to 24; other child of family head; and other relative of family head.

**TABLE 15. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE AND WERE WORKING : OCCUPATION IN PREVIOUS JOB, FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME WORKERS IN PREVIOUS JOB, OCCUPATION AND FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME WORKERS, MAY 1987**  
( ' 000)

Occupation, and full-time and part-time workers in previous job	Occupation in May 1987						Full-time and part-time workers in May 1987		Total
	Pro- fessionals	Para- pro- fessionals	Clerks	Sales- persons and personal service workers	Labourers and related workers	Other	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	
Previous job less than 20 years ago	16.8	6.2	26.7	24.1	19.2	14.3	34.5	72.6	107.2
Professionals	11.7	*	*	*	*	*	6.0	9.2	15.2
Para-professionals	*	4.4	*	*	*	*	3.7	6.5	10.2
Clerks	*	*	14.8	7.1	4.6	*	7.7	22.6	30.3
Salespersons and personal service workers	*	*	5.8	10.1	4.9	*	4.5	19.2	23.7
Labourers and related workers	*	*	*	*	5.2	*	*	7.6	10.8
Other	*	*	*	*	*	8.2	9.5	7.6	17.1
Full-time workers	13.4	5.5	20.2	17.2	14.4	12.0	29.9	52.8	82.7
Part-time workers	*	*	6.1	6.5	4.4	*	4.4	18.8	23.1
Varied/did not know	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Previous job 20 or more years ago	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	3.6	5.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>36.2</b>	<b>76.2</b>	<b>112.4</b>

**TABLE 16. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE AND WERE WORKING : DETAILS OF JOB AND AGE, MAY 1987**  
( ' 000)

	Age group					Total
	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over	
<i>Occupation in May 1987—</i>						
Professionals	*	11.1	3.9	*	*	17.0
Para-professionals		4.1	*	*	*	6.6
Clerks	3.8	12.4	6.7	*	*	28.3
Salespersons and personal service workers	*	13.0	6.4	*	*	25.1
Labourers and related workers	*	9.3	4.9	*	*	20.8
Other	*	4.9		5.8	*	14.6
<i>Full-time and part-time workers in May 1987—</i>						
Full-time workers	6.2	16.7	7.0	3.8	2.5	36.2
Part-time workers	6.8	37.4	20.4	7.6	4.0	76.2
<i>Status of worker in May 1987—</i>						
Employers	*	*	*	*	*	*
Self-employed	*	6.3	3.6	*	*	13.9
Wage and salary earners	11.0	44.7	21.2	9.0	4.1	90.1
Unpaid family helpers	*	*	*	*	*	6.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>54.1</b>	<b>27.4</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>112.4</b>

**TABLE 17. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE AND WERE WORKING AS EMPLOYEES: METHOD OF JOB ATTAINMENT AND FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME WORKERS, MAY 1987**  
( ' 000)

Method of job attainment	Full-time and part-time workers in May 1987		Total
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	
Jobseeker approached employer	23.3	40.7	64.0
Had no prior knowledge that job was available	7.2	17.6	24.8
First step taken—			
Contacted likely employers	4.4	11.8	16.2
Other	*	5.8	8.6
Had prior knowledge that job was available	16.1	23.1	39.2
Through newspaper advertisements	7.0	6.7	13.7
Through friends/relatives/company contacts	3.8	12.5	16.3
Other	5.4	3.9	9.2
Employer approached jobseeker	6.7	18.9	25.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>59.8</b>	<b>90.1</b>

**TABLE 18. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE AND WERE WORKING AS EMPLOYEES: USUAL GROSS WEEKLY PAY AND FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME WORKERS, MAY 1987**

Usual gross weekly pay(\$)	Full-time and part-time workers in May 1987		Total
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	
	— ' 000—		
Under 120	*	27.9	29.7
120 and under 160	*	9.9	10.5
160 and under 200	*	8.9	9.6
200 and under 240	*	4.8	6.8
240 and under 280	3.8	*	6.0
280 and under 320	5.1	*	5.8
320 and under 360	3.8	*	4.4
360 and under 400	*	*	3.8
400 and over	6.5	*	7.9
Did not know	*	*	5.3
<b>Total(a)</b>	<b>30.3</b>	<b>59.8</b>	<b>90.1</b>
	—dollars—		
<b>Average usual gross weekly pay(b)</b>	<b>300.8</b>	<b>129.2</b>	<b>186.9</b>

(a) Includes persons who worked for payment in kind. (b) Excludes persons who worked for payment in kind and persons who did not know.

**TABLE 19. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE AND WERE LOOKING FOR WORK: FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME WORKERS IN PREVIOUS JOB AND WHETHER LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME WORK, MAY 1987**  
( ' 000)

Full-time and part-time workers in previous job	Whether looking for full-time or part-time work in May 1987		Total
	Looking for full-time work	Looking for part-time work	
Previous job less than 20 years ago(a)	19.6	21.2	40.9
Full-time workers	16.9	17.9	34.8
Part-time workers	*	*	4.6
<b>Total(b)</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>42.4</b>

(a) Includes varied/did not know. (b) Includes previous job 20 or more years ago.

**TABLE 20. PERSONS WHO HAD RE-ENTERED THE LABOUR FORCE AND WERE LOOKING FOR WORK: FAMILY STATUS AND WHETHER LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME WORK, MAY 1987**  
( ' 000)

Family status	Whether looking for full-time or part-time work in May 1987		Total
	Looking for full-time work	Looking for part-time work	
Member of a family(a)	17.2	20.5	37.7
Husband or wife	12.2	17.5	29.8
With dependents present	10.3	15.7	25.9
Without dependents present	*	*	3.8
Not-married family head	*	*	5.8
<b>Total(b)</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>42.4</b>

(a) Includes full-time student aged 15-24; other child of family head; and other relative of family head. (b) Includes not a member of a family; and family status not determined.

## APPENDIX 1

## GLOSSARY

*Ceased previous job* : persons who left or lost their previous job.

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

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

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

*Employees*: persons who worked—

- (a) for an employer for wages or salary; or
- (b) in their own business, either with or without employees, if that business was a limited liability company; or
- (c) for payment in kind.

*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.

*Job leavers* : persons who voluntarily ceased their last job.

*Job losers* : persons who involuntarily ceased their last job.

*Labour force* : persons in the labour force are those who were reported as having worked or looked for work (as defined).

*Looked for work* : persons who were reported as having been out of work and looking for a job.

*Method of job attainment*: determined by the respondents' answer to the question: 'How did you find out that a job was available?' and is described according to whether an employer approached the jobseeker or a jobseeker approached the employer. In the latter case, the job is described according to whether or not the jobseeker knew that a job was available before approaching the employer.

*Not in labour force* : persons who were reported as having neither worked nor looked for work (as defined).

*Other post-school qualifications* : completion of other types of education, e.g. adult education, preparatory/bridging course or hobby course.

*Persons who had re-entered the labour force* : persons who were working or looking for work in the reference week (i.e. week before the interview), had a period not in the labour force of at least twelve months duration that finished within the last twelve months and had worked continuously for a period of twelve months or more at some earlier time.

*Persons with a post-school qualification* : those who had left school and answered 'YES' to the question : 'Since leaving school have you obtained a trade qualification, certificate, diploma, degree or any other qualification?'. Respondents indicated which one of the following groups best described their highest qualification : Degree; Trade qualification or apprenticeship; Certificate or diploma; Other post-school qualification.

*Previous job* : the last job that a person reported having worked in continuously for a period of twelve months or more.

*Re-entrants* : see 'Persons who had re-entered the labour force'.

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

*Time since previous job* : the total time since previous job.

*Time spent not in labour force since previous job* : the time spent neither working or looking for work since previous job. For some persons, this is the same as *time since previous job*. However, for those who have worked for periods of less than twelve continuous months and/or have looked for work since leaving their previous job, this time will be less than *time since previous job*.

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

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

*Worked* : persons who were reported as having either worked or been on paid leave.

## APPENDIX 2

### 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 May 1987 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 details of previous job, educational attainment when ceased previous job, highest educational qualification gained since previous job, main activity while out of the labour force since previous job, main reason for wanting to work again and details of current job, if appropriate.

#### 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 persons who had entered or re-entered the labour force in the last twelve months.

#### Coverage

4. 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

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

6. Unless otherwise stated, all characteristics referenced in this publication relate to the week before the interview.

#### Results of the survey

7. 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.

8. No summary publication was issued for this survey.

9. Results of the only other similar survey, conducted in May 1985, were given in a previous issue of this publication.

10. It is proposed that this survey will be conducted next in May 1990.

#### Unpublished tables

11. In some cases, the ABS can also make available information which is not published. This information may be made available in one or more of the following

forms: microfiche, photocopy, data tape, computer printout, manually-extracted tabulation. In general, a charge is made for providing unpublished information. Inquiries should be made to the officer whose name appears in the *Phone Inquiries* section at the front of this publication, or to Information Services in the nearest ABS Office.

#### Comparability of series

12. It is impracticable to obtain information relating to a long period of time 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 the labour force status of persons in the monthly survey depend on a detailed set of questions asked about a person's labour force activity during the reference period. For the survey of persons who had re-entered the labour force a person is assigned to labour force categories at various points in time on the basis of a more limited set of questions. It is for this reason that the terms *worked* and *looked for work* are used in this survey rather than the rigidly defined terms *employed* and *unemployed* used in the monthly labour force survey.

#### Discontinuities in the series

13. For this survey, an expanded classification of post-school qualifications was used. As a result a small number of persons previously categorised as 'Degree' or 'Other' may now be included in the categories 'Trade qualification or apprenticeship' or 'Certificate or diploma'.

14. Classification of occupation according to the Australian Standard Classification of Occupations (ASCO 1986) was introduced in the August 1986 labour force survey, replacing the Classification and Classified List of Occupations (CCLO) used in previous surveys. The main difference between these classifications is that ASCO occupations are classified on the basis of the level and specialisation of skill required for the satisfactory performance of primary tasks. For a more detailed explanation of ASCO see the appendix to *The Labour Force, Australia, August 1986* (6203.0).

15. To provide a link between the two classifications, a matrix has been produced and is shown in Table 41 of *The Labour Force, Australia, August 1986* (6203.0). It shows the relationship between ASCO and CCLO at the broadest classification level (the Major Group). The estimates in the matrix are based on a sub-sample of respondents to the May 1986 labour force survey.

16. The family status classification in this publication varies from that shown in the May 1985 issue of this publication. Dependents are now identified rather than children aged 0 to 14. *Dependents* comprise all family members under 15 years of age; all family members aged 15 to 19 attending school; and all family members aged 15 to 24 who are full-time students at a tertiary or further educational institution.

**Reliability of the estimates**

17. Estimates in this publication are subject to sampling and non-sampling error. For more information refer to the Technical Note, Appendix 3.

**Related publications**

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

*The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)—issued monthly

*Labour Force Experience, Australia* (6206.0)—issued annually

*Labour Mobility, Australia* (6209.0)—issued annually

*Persons who have Left the Labour Force, Australia, November 1985* (6267.0)—issued irregularly

*Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Australia, June 1986* (6222.0)—issued two-yearly

*Transition from Education to Work, Australia* (6227.0)—issued annually

*Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience, Australia, June 1986* (6245.0)—issued irregularly

19. 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 the Technical Note, Appendix 3.
- .. not applicable
- n.a. not available
- CES Commonwealth Employment Service.

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

**Electronic services**

- VIATEL. Key \*656# for selected current economic, social and demographic statistics.
- AUSSTATS. Thousands of up-to-date time series are available on this ABS on-line service through CSIRONET.  
For further information phone the AUSSTATS Help Desk on (062) 52 6017.
- TELESTATS. This service provides foreign trade statistics tailored to users' requirements.  
Further information is available on (062) 52 5404.

**Floppy disk service**

Selected ABS statistics are available on floppy disk. Further information is available on (062) 52 6684.

## APPENDIX 3

## TECHNICAL NOTE

**Estimation procedure**

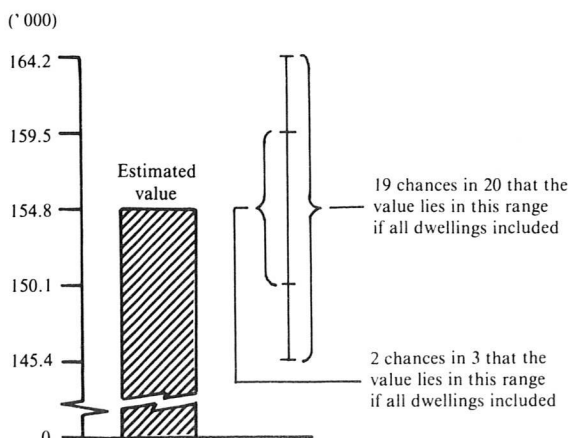
The estimates are derived from the population survey by use of a ratio estimation procedure, which ensures that the estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population for each capital city and remainder of State by age and sex, rather than to the corresponding distribution 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 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.

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 1 shows the estimated number of persons in Australia who had re-entered the labour force in May 1987 was 154,800. 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 4,700 (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 150,100 to 159,500 and about nineteen chances in twenty that the value will fall within the range 145,400 to 164,200. 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 estimates, in some cases, for these small components can 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, of the 154,800 persons who had re-entered the labour force 130,800 or 84.5 per cent were females. The standard error of 130,800 is approximately 4,400 so the relative standard error is 3.4 per cent. The relative standard error for 154,800 is 3.0 per cent. Applying the above formula, the relative standard error of the proportion is  $\sqrt{(3.4)^2 - (3.0)^2}$  or 1.6 per cent, giving a standard error for the proportion (84.5 per cent) of 1.4 percentage points. Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the proportion of females who had re-entered the labour force who were looking for work was between 83.1 per cent and 85.9 per cent and nineteen chances in twenty the proportion was within the range 81.7 per cent to 87.3 per cent.

8. 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.

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 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 non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient operating procedures.





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