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**PERSONS WHO HAVE LEFT
THE LABOUR FORCE
AUSTRALIA**

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**PERSONS WHO HAVE LEFT THE LABOUR FORCE,
AUSTRALIA**

NOVEMBER 1985

IAN CASTLES

Australian Statistician

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

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

2. Of the respondents to the labour force survey, those who fell within the scope of the supplementary survey were asked additional questions. This subset of respondents was asked about the time since they left the labour force, their main activity since then, their main source of income and their intentions of returning to the labour force. Respondents who intended to return to the labour force were asked about their educational attainment. Respondents who did not intend to return to the labour force were asked about their housing arrangements. Respondents whose last labour force activity was working were asked details of previous job and reason for leaving that job; respondents whose last labour force activity was looking for work were asked their reason for no longer looking for work.

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 have left the labour force and excluded boarding school pupils, some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and inmates of reformatories, jails, etc.

Definitions

4. *Persons who have left the labour force* are those persons who were working or looking for work at some time in the twelve months prior to the survey and were out of the labour force in the survey week.

5. 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 have left 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.

6. *Persons in the labour force* are those persons who reported having either worked or looked for work as defined in paragraphs 7 and 8.

7. *Persons who worked* are those persons who reported having either worked or been on paid leave.

8. *Persons who looked for work* are those persons who reported having been out of work and looking for a job.

9. *Persons out of the labour force* are persons who reported having neither worked nor looked for work as defined in paragraphs 7 and 8.

10. *Previous job* is the job, full-time or part-time, that a person who left the labour force reported having worked in immediately prior to leaving the labour force.

11. *Time since last left the labour force* is the total time since last leaving the labour force.

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

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

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

(b) *Trade; technical or other certificate:* completion of an approved trade/technician apprenticeship or training course, other certificate or diploma in secretarial or business studies, administration, teaching, nursing, etc.;

(c) *Other:* completion of other post-secondary education, e.g. adult education, preparatory/bridging course or hobby course.

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

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

Results of the survey

16. 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.

17. Additional tables available but not included in this publication are listed on page 17. No preliminary publication was released for this survey.

18. A supplementary survey on this topic was conducted for the first time in November 1985.

19. It is proposed that this survey will next be conducted in November 1987.

Reliability of the estimates

20. Estimates in this publication are subject to two sources of error:

- (a) *sampling error*: Since the estimates are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. More information on this topic is given in the Technical Note.
- (b) *non-sampling error*: inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents and errors made in the coding and processing of data. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient operating procedures.

Related publications

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

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

Labour Force Experience, Australia, During the Year Ending February 1986 (6206.0)—issued annually

Persons who had Re-entered the Labour Force, Australia, May 1985 (6260.0)—issued irregularly

Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (6220.0)—issued twice-yearly

22. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- * Subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. See paragraph 20 above.
- .. not applicable
- n.e.c. not elsewhere classified
- TEAS Tertiary Education Assistance Scheme

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

Electronic services

24. 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.

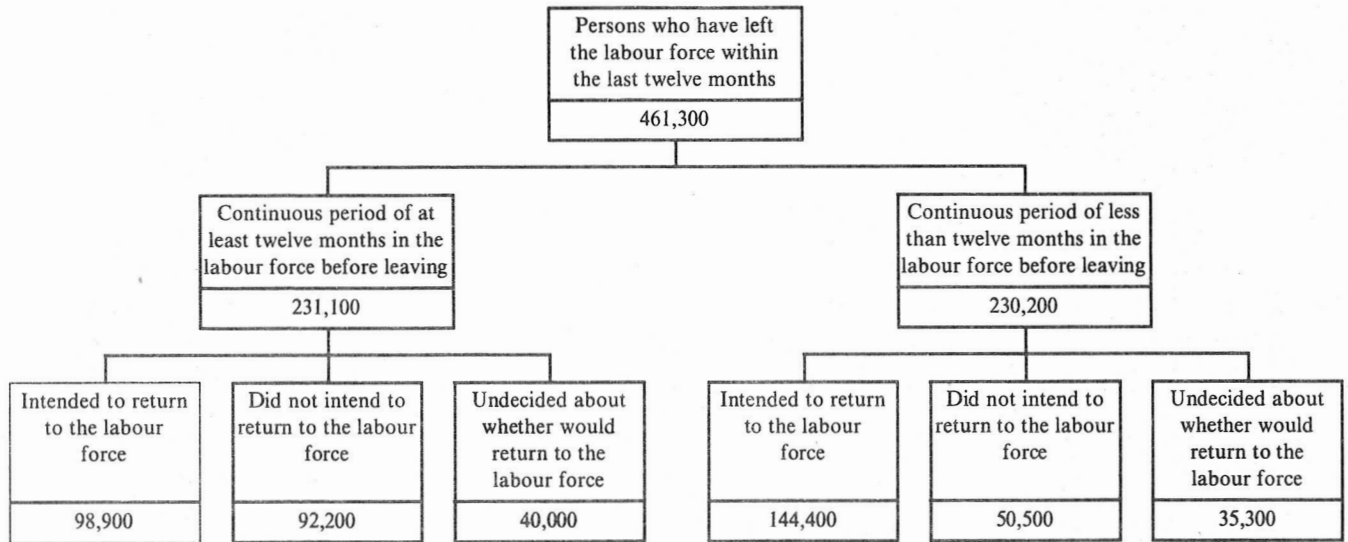
Further information is available on (062) 52 5404.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

As at November 1985, 461,300 persons had left the labour force within the last twelve months with over two-thirds of those being females (70.1 per cent). While about half (52.7 per cent) intended to return to the labour force, 30.9 per cent did not intend to return to the labour force and the remaining 16.3 per cent were undecided.

DIAGRAM 1. PERSONS WHO HAVE LEFT THE LABOUR FORCE WITHIN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS : DURATION OF CONTINUOUS PERIOD IN THE LABOUR FORCE AND WHETHER INTENDED TO RETURN TO THE LABOUR FORCE, NOVEMBER 1985

(Source of data : Table 1)



Persons who have left the labour force within the last twelve months

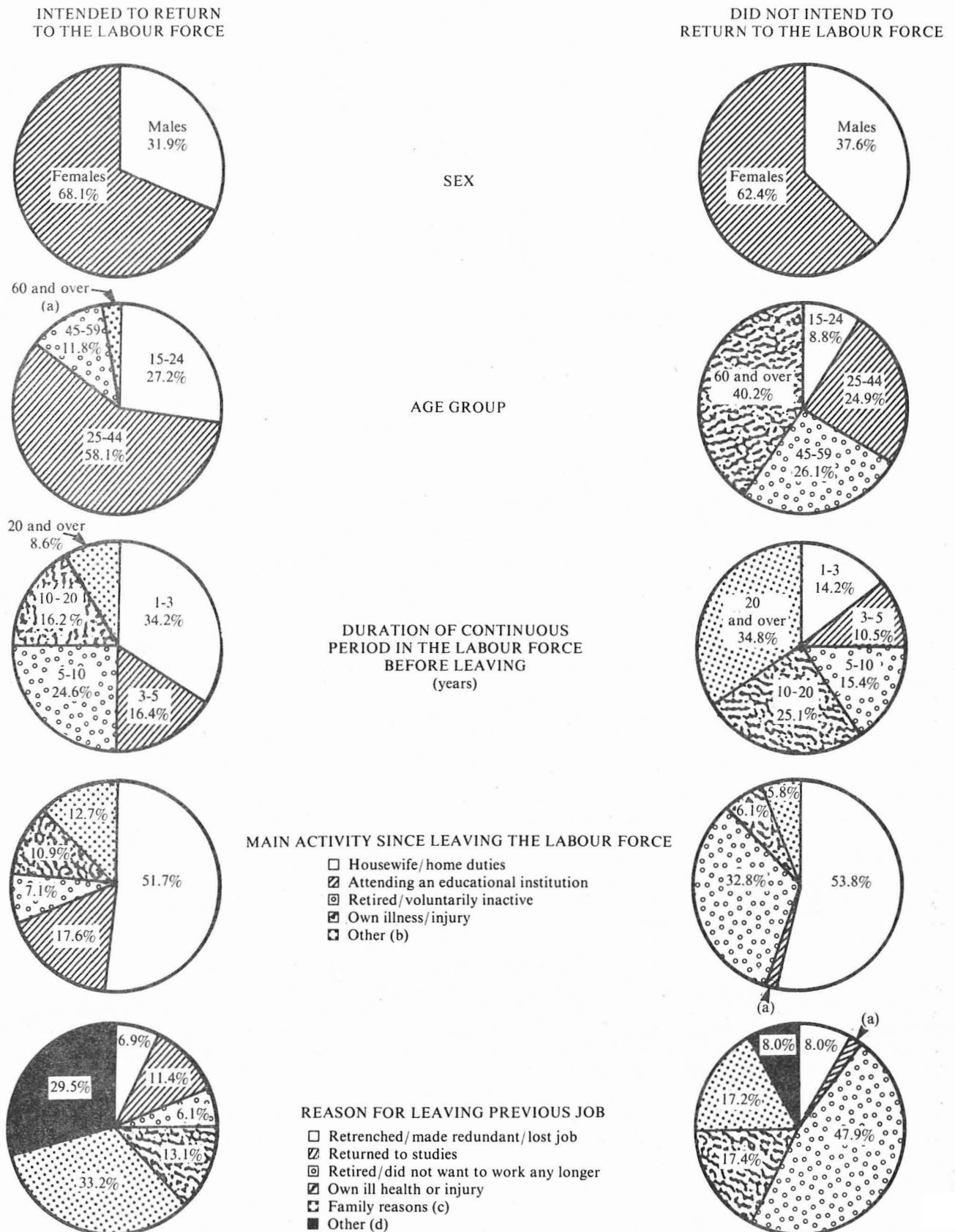
Of all males who have left the labour force within the last twelve months, 43.4 per cent had a continuous period of less than twelve months in the labour force before leaving. This category was dominated by those aged 15 to 24, of whom 75.4 per cent had less than twelve months in the labour force before leaving. By contrast, 61.6 per cent of males aged 60 and over had at least twenty years continuous period in the labour force. For females the distribution was similar, though less extreme. Of females aged 15 to 24 who have left the labour force within the last twelve months, 63.7 per cent left after a continuous period of less than twelve months in the labour force, contributing to an overall female figure of 52.7 per cent with a continuous period of less than twelve months before leaving. For females aged 60 and over, 31.1 per cent had 20 years or more experience and a total of 61.8 per cent had 10 years or more.

Intention to return was also highly dependent on age and sex; the proportion intending to return decreasing steadily as age increased. Of the males aged 15 to 24, 89.8 per cent intended to return. This figure dropped to 69.7 per cent for males aged 25 to 44 and to 39.0 per cent for males aged 45 to 59. For males aged 60 and over, 78.8 per cent did not intend to return while another 11.8 per cent were undecided. For females aged 15 to 24, 69.2 per cent intended to return, the figure dropping to 52.1 per cent for those aged 25 to 44. In the latter age group a relatively large 22.3 per cent were undecided about their intentions to return.

In relation to main source of income, 70.9 per cent of females reported 'someone else's income'. This was the main source reported for all age groups other than 60 years and over whose predominant source was pensions. For males, the largest group (23.7 per cent) also reported 'someone else's income' though this was largely due to the dominance of the 15 to 24 year olds. Other sources with large numbers were 'investments/savings' with 19.0 per cent of males and pensions accounting for 17.2 per cent of males most of whom were aged 60 and over. 'Superannuation' was reported as the main source of income by only 7.5 per cent of males.

Consistent with the above observations, 73.0 per cent of males aged 15 to 24 were found to be a 'child of family head' while at the other extreme, 72.5 per cent of males aged 60 and over were husbands with no children present. Over two-thirds of all females were wives and this was the major category for all ages except 15 to 24. In this group 35.2 per cent were children of the family head and 34.8 per cent were wives, most of whom had children present. In the 25 to 44 age group, 69.7 per cent were wives with children present while a further 11.9 per cent were without children present. In the older age groups the vast majority were wives without children present.

DIAGRAM 2. PERSONS WHO HAVE LEFT THE LABOUR FORCE WITHIN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS AFTER A CONTINUOUS PERIOD OF AT LEAST TWELVE MONTHS IN THE LABOUR FORCE AND WHOSE LAST LABOUR FORCE ACTIVITY WAS WORKING : WHETHER INTENDED TO RETURN TO THE LABOUR FORCE COMPARATIVE PROFILE, NOVEMBER 1985
(Source of Data : Table 10)



(a) Estimate subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. (b) Includes travelled/moved house. (c) Comprises to get married; pregnancy/to have children; and to look after family, house or someone else. (d) Includes unsatisfactory work arrangements; travelled/moved house/spouse transferred; sold business/farm; and seasonal or temporary job.

Persons who have left the labour force within the last twelve months after a continuous period of at least twelve months in the labour force and whose last labour force activity was working

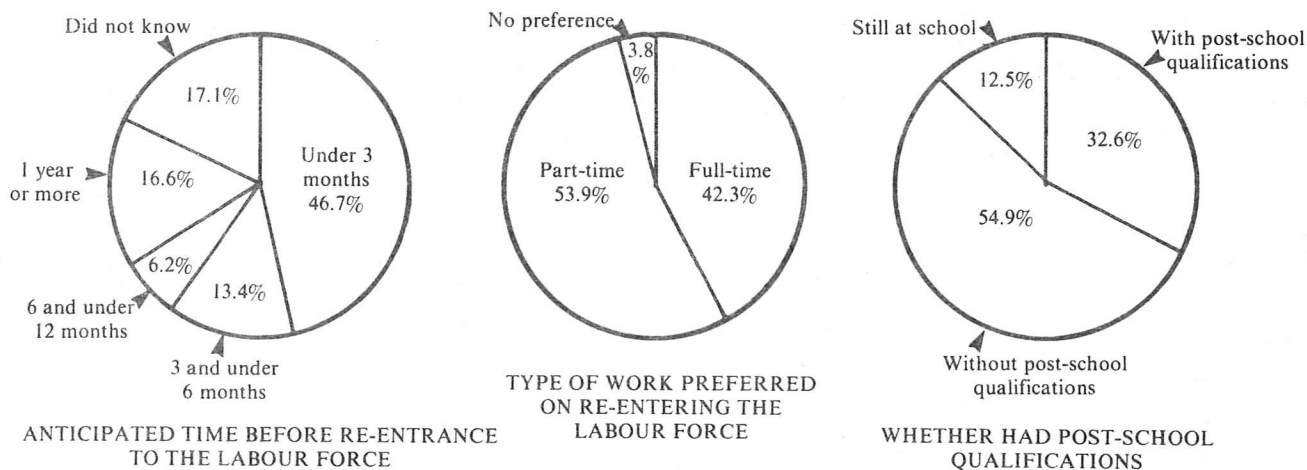
206,900 (89.5 per cent) of those persons who have left the labour force within the last twelve months after a continuous period of at least twelve months in the labour force had been working before they left the labour force. Of these, 84,100 persons (40.6 per cent) intended to return to the labour force, 87,400 did not intend to return to the labour force and 35,500 (17.2 per cent) were undecided about whether they would return to the labour force.

Most persons who intended to return to the labour force and who had been working before they left the labour force were aged 25 to 44 (58.1 per cent or 48,900 persons) and of these 78.3 per cent (38,300 persons) were females. Close to half (50.6 per cent) had been in the labour force between 1 and 5 years, 33.2 per cent (27,900 persons) left the labour force for family reasons and 51.7 per cent (43,500 persons) reported that their main activity was home duties.

The profile of persons who did not intend to return to the labour force who were working before they left the labour force differs to that of those who intended to return. 40.2 per cent (35,000 persons) were aged 60 and over (68.7 per cent of which were male). Most (59.8 per cent) had been in the labour force for 10 years or more and almost half (47.9 per cent) reported retirement as their reason for leaving their previous job.

Most persons who had been working before they left the labour force had been working full-time (70.5 per cent or 145,800 persons) and had a usual gross weekly pay of from \$120 to under \$360 per week (54.0 per cent or 111,800 persons) in their previous job.

DIAGRAM 3. PERSONS WHO HAVE LEFT THE LABOUR FORCE WITHIN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS BUT INTENDED TO RETURN TO THE LABOUR FORCE : SUMMARY OF CHARACTERISTICS, NOVEMBER 1985
(Source of data: Tables 13, 14 and 15)



Persons who have left the labour force within the last twelve months but intended to return to the labour force

Close to half (52.7 per cent, 243,300 persons) the persons who have left the labour force within the last twelve months intended to return to the labour force. 46.7 per cent of these (113,700 persons) anticipated returning to the labour force in under 3 months. More females than males anticipated waiting at least a year before re-entering the labour force (19.7 per cent compared with 9.8 per cent). While slightly more persons who intended to return to the labour force would prefer part-time work (53.9 per cent), type of work preferred differed for males and females. 71.1 per cent of males would prefer full-time work on re-entering the labour force while only 29.1 per cent of females would prefer full-time work. 67.2 per cent of females reported that they would prefer part-time work on re-entering the labour force. 32.6 per cent of persons who intended to return to the labour force had post-school qualifications, including 7.6 per cent who had a degree or higher and 23.6 per cent who had a trade technical or other certificate. 54.9 per cent had no post-school qualifications and 12.5 per cent were still at school.

Comparison of persons who had re-entered the labour force with persons who intended to return to the labour force

In May 1985, a separate survey of persons who had re-entered the labour force was conducted. It indicated that they had similar characteristics to those who intended to return to the labour force. Most persons who had re-entered the labour force were female (87.1 per cent) and were aged 25 to 44 (79.4 per cent). 57.1 per cent reported a family reason (to get married; pregnancy/to have children; and to look after family, house or someone else) as their main reason for leaving their previous job and of those who had re-entered the labour force and were working, most (66.3 per cent) were working part-time. Characteristics of persons who have left the labour force within the last twelve months but intended to return to the labour force follow a similar pattern though they are less concentrated in the major groupings discussed. Most were female (68.6 per cent) and 46.8 per cent were aged 25 to 44. Of those who were working before they left the labour force 33.2 per cent reported a family reason (to get married; pregnancy/to have children; and to look after family, house or someone else) as their main reason for leaving their previous job and although only 53.9 per cent of persons who intended to return to the labour force reported that they would prefer part-time work, 67.5 per cent of females reported this preference.

Persons who have left the labour force within the last twelve months and did not intend to return to the labour force

Most (64.6 per cent) persons who have left the labour force within the last twelve months and did not intend to return to the labour force had been in the labour force continuously for at least twelve months. Of these 75.2 per cent of males were retired or voluntarily inactive while only 7.1 per cent of females were retired or voluntarily inactive. Most females (83.1 per cent) were housewives or gave home duties as their main activity since leaving the labour force.

62.5 per cent of males who did not intend to return to work owned their own home (most (78.7 per cent) of whom were aged 60 or over) while only 31.6 per cent of females owned their own home (29.1 per cent of which were aged 60 and over). A further 36.6 per cent of females were paying off their home (68.6 per cent of whom were aged 25 to 44).

TABLE 1. PERSONS WHO HAVE LEFT THE LABOUR FORCE WITHIN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS: DURATION OF CONTINUOUS PERIOD IN THE LABOUR FORCE BEFORE LEAVING, WHETHER INTENDED TO RETURN TO THE LABOUR FORCE AND AGE, NOVEMBER 1985 ('000)

	Age group				Total
	15-24	25-44	45-59	60 and over	
MALES					
Continuous period of at least twelve months in the labour force before leaving	11.7	18.1	17.1	31.1	78.0
Intended to return to the labour force	10.6	12.4	5.9	*	31.1
Did not intend to return to the labour force	*	*	6.9	25.3	34.7
Undecided about whether would return to the labour force		4.4	4.3	*	12.2
Continuous period of less than twelve months in the labour force before leaving	35.9	12.8	4.8	6.3	59.9
Intended to return to the labour force	32.2	9.2	*	*	45.3
Did not intend to return to the labour force	*	*	*	4.1	8.7
Undecided about whether would return to the labour force	*	*	*	*	5.8
Total	47.6	31.0	21.9	37.4	137.9
Intended to return to the labour force	42.8	21.6	8.6	*	76.4
Did not intend to return to the labour force		6.0	8.0	29.4	43.5
Undecided about whether would return to the labour force	*	5.8	5.3	4.4	18.0
FEMALES					
Continuous period of at least twelve months in the labour force before leaving	30.5	82.3	27.7	12.6	153.0
Intended to return to the labour force	17.1	43.9	6.1	*	67.8
Did not intend to return to the labour force	8.1	20.8	17.6	11.0	57.5
Undecided about whether would return to the labour force	5.3	17.5	4.0	*	27.8
Continuous period of less than twelve months in the labour force before leaving	53.4	95.0	18.5	*	170.3
Intended to return to the labour force	41.0	48.3	9.0	*	99.1
Did not intend to return to the labour force	8.2	24.7	7.2	*	41.8
Undecided about whether would return to the labour force	4.3	21.9	*	*	29.5
Total	83.9	177.3	46.2	16.0	323.4
Intended to return to the labour force	58.0	92.3	15.1	*	166.8
Did not intend to return to the labour force	16.3	45.5	24.8	12.7	99.2
Undecided about whether would return to the labour force	9.6	39.5	6.3	*	57.3
PERSONS					
Continuous period of at least twelve months in the labour force before leaving	42.2	100.4	44.8	43.7	231.1
Intended to return to the labour force	27.6	56.3	12.0	*	98.9
Did not intend to return to the labour force	8.6	22.8	24.5	36.3	92.2
Undecided about whether would return to the labour force	5.9	21.3	8.3	4.4	40.0
Continuous period of less than twelve months in the labour force before leaving	89.4	107.8	23.3	9.7	230.2
Intended to return to the labour force	73.2	57.6	11.7	*	144.4
Did not intend to return to the labour force	10.0	26.3	8.3	5.8	50.5
Undecided about whether would return to the labour force	6.1	23.9		5.2	35.3
Total	131.5	208.2	68.2	53.4	461.3
Intended to return to the labour force	100.8	113.9	23.7	4.9	243.3
Did not intend to return to the labour force	18.6	49.1	32.9	42.1	142.7
Undecided about whether would return to the labour force	12.1	45.3	11.6	6.4	75.3

TABLE 2. PERSONS WHO HAVE LEFT THE LABOUR FORCE WITHIN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS: MAIN SOURCE OF INCOME, FAMILY STATUS AND AGE, NOVEMBER 1985 ('000)

	Males					Females				
	Age group				Total	Age group				Total
	15-24	25-44	45-59	60 and over		15-24	25-44	45-59	60 and over	
Main source of income—										
Investments/savings	5.4	8.8	4.1	7.8	26.2	4.2	5.9	5.8	*	18.9
Superannuation	*	*	*	7.9	10.4	*	*	*	*	*
TEAS	8.6	*	*	*	10.7	5.4	*	*	*	6.7
Unemployment/sickness benefit	4.4	8.5	5.0	*	20.1	6.3	5.9	*	*	13.8
Invalid/age/supporting parent's/widow's pension	*	*	*	10.6	17.4	7.0	17.9	7.0	6.0	37.9
War disability/repatriation/service/war widow's pension	*	*	*	5.4	6.3	*	*	*	*	*
Someone else's income	25.9	*	*	*	32.7	58.0	140.2	28.1	*	229.4
Other (a)	*	5.0	4.2	*	14.2	*	5.1	*	*	10.8
Family status—										
Member of a family	39.2	20.8	17.1	29.6	106.6	66.4	163.3	39.9	11.3	280.9
Husband or wife	*	13.6	16.0	28.2	60.1	29.2	144.7	35.0	10.0	218.8
With children aged 0-14 present	*	11.2		4.6	16.5	20.6	123.6		4.1	148.2
Without children aged 0-14 present	4.1		12.5	27.1	43.6	8.6	21.1	31.1	9.8	70.6
Not married family head	*	*	*	*	*	6.3	17.3	4.4	*	29.4
Child of family head	34.8	4.5	*	*	39.5	29.5	*	*	*	30.8
Other relative of family head	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Not a member of a family	6.3	6.3	*	6.3	22.1	7.9	4.5	*	4.3	19.8
Not family coded	6.0		*	*	9.2	9.7	9.4	*	*	22.6
Total	47.6	31.0	21.9	37.4	137.9	83.9	177.3	46.2	16.0	323.4

(a) Includes life assurance, other retirement schemes; and persons permanently unable to work who were not asked their main source of income.

TABLE 3. PERSONS WHO HAVE LEFT THE LABOUR FORCE WITHIN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS: WHETHER INTENDED TO RETURN TO THE LABOUR FORCE AND SUMMARY OF CHARACTERISTICS, NOVEMBER 1985 ('000)

	<i>Whether intended to return to the labour force</i>							<i>Total</i>		
	<i>Intended to return</i>			<i>Did not intend to return</i>			<i>Un- decided</i>			
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
<i>Family status—</i>										
Member of a family	58.9	141.2	200.1	34.8	88.7	123.5	63.9	106.6	280.9	387.5
Husband or wife	20.0	97.6	117.6	31.5	77.6	109.1	52.3	60.1	218.8	278.9
With children aged 0-14 present	9.7	74.0	83.7	*	43.0	45.8	35.2	16.5	148.2	164.7
Without children aged 0-14 present	10.3	23.5	33.8	28.7	34.6	63.3	17.1	43.6	70.6	114.3
Not married family head	*	17.2	19.3	*	6.3	6.9	6.8	*	29.4	33.0
With children aged 0-14 present	*	14.4	15.7	*	4.2	4.4	5.0	*	23.2	25.1
Without children aged 0-14 present	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	6.2	7.9
Child of family head	35.0	25.2	60.2	*	4.1	6.1	4.1	39.5	30.8	70.3
Other relative of family head	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	5.3
Not a member of a family	11.3	11.1	22.4	6.4	5.7	12.1	7.5	22.1	19.8	41.9
Living alone	4.1	*	6.8	4.6	*	8.4	5.1	12.3	8.0	20.3
Not living alone	7.1	8.4	15.6	*	*	*	*	9.8	11.9	21.7
Not family coded	6.3	14.5	20.8	*	4.8	7.1	*	9.2	22.6	31.8
<i>Birthplace—</i>										
Born in Australia	58.9	130.1	188.9	29.3	73.8	103.1	54.0	99.7	246.3	346.0
Born outside Australia	17.6	36.8	54.3	14.2	25.4	39.6	21.3	38.2	77.0	115.3
<i>Area—</i>										
Metropolitan	53.3	106.4	159.7	29.0	57.5	86.4	43.8	94.4	195.5	289.9
Non-metropolitan	23.1	60.5	83.6	14.5	41.8	56.3	31.5	43.5	127.9	171.4
<i>Duration of continuous period in the labour force before leaving (years)—</i>										
Less than 1	45.3	99.1	144.4	8.7	41.8	50.5	35.3	59.9	170.3	230.2
1 and under 3	11.2	27.2	38.5	*	12.5	15.2	8.7	15.5	46.8	62.4
3 and under 5	5.0	11.5	16.5	*	7.9	9.8	7.3	8.7	24.8	33.5
5 and under 10	5.3	16.5	21.8	*	12.7	13.9	11.0	8.3	38.4	46.7
10 and under 20	*	11.0	14.4	5.2	16.8	22.0	7.1	10.6	32.8	43.4
20 or more	6.2	*	7.8	23.7	7.6	31.3	5.9	34.9	10.2	45.0
<i>Time since last left the labour force (weeks)—</i>										
1 and under 4	11.7	22.2	33.9	*	10.1	13.5	7.5	16.1	38.8	54.9
4 and under 8	11.4	25.3	36.8	*	10.3	13.0	7.2	15.3	41.6	56.9
8 and under 13	10.1	26.3	36.3	5.2	9.6	14.8	10.1	18.0	43.2	61.2
13 and under 26	11.9	35.6	47.5	13.5	21.8	35.3	16.2	29.2	69.8	99.0
26 and under 39	12.1	24.3	36.3	9.9	22.3	32.2	17.6	26.3	59.9	86.2
39 and under 52	19.3	33.1	52.4	8.8	25.1	33.9	16.7	33.0	70.1	103.1
<i>Main source of income—</i>										
Investments/savings	15.9	9.8	25.6	8.2	6.3	14.5	5.0	26.2	18.9	45.1
Superannuation	*	*	*	8.6	*	10.7	*	10.4	*	13.7
TEAS	9.6	6.2	15.8	*	*	*	*	10.7	6.7	17.4
Unemployment/sickness benefit	13.0	8.7	21.7	*	*	7.3	4.9	20.1	13.8	33.9
Inval/age/supporting parent's/widow's pension	*	16.5	18.8	12.5	14.2	26.7	9.9	17.4	37.9	55.3
War disability/repatriation/service/ war widow's pension	*	*	*	5.1	*	7.1	*	6.3	*	8.9
Someone else's income	28.0	120.0	148.0	*	68.1	70.4	43.6	32.7	229.4	262.1
Other (a)	5.9	4.6	10.6	*	*	5.4	9.0	14.2	10.8	24.9
Total	76.4	166.8	243.3	43.5	99.2	142.7	75.3	137.9	323.4	461.3

(a) Includes life assurance, other retirement schemes; and persons permanently unable to work who were not asked their main source of income.

TABLE 4. PERSONS WHO HAVE LEFT THE LABOUR FORCE WITHIN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS: WHETHER INTENDED TO RETURN TO THE LABOUR FORCE, ANTICIPATED TIME BEFORE RE-ENTRANCE TO THE LABOUR FORCE AND MARITAL STATUS, NOVEMBER 1985 ('000)

<i>Whether intended to return to the labour force</i>	<i>Married</i>			<i>Not-married</i>			<i>Total</i>		
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Intended to return	22.5	105.0	127.5	53.9	61.8	115.7	76.4	166.8	243.3
Under 3 months	10.2	35.3	45.5	33.3	34.9	68.1	43.4	70.2	113.7
3 and under 6 months	*	20.2	23.1	*	6.3	9.5	6.1	26.5	32.6
6 and under 12 months	*	9.4	11.1	*	*	*	*	11.5	15.0
1 and under 3 years	*	15.0	15.8	5.2	8.5	13.8	6.0	23.6	29.6
3 and under 5 years	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	5.1	6.4
5 years or more	*	*	4.0	*	*	*	*	4.2	4.5
Did not know	6.8	17.3	24.1	9.2	8.3	17.5	16.0	25.6	41.6
Did not intend to return	33.0	81.7	114.8	10.4	17.5	27.9	43.5	99.2	142.7
Undecided about whether would return	9.0	46.3	55.3	9.0	11.0	20.0	18.0	57.3	75.3
Total	64.6	233.1	297.6	73.4	90.3	163.6	137.9	323.4	461.3

TABLE 5. PERSONS WHO HAVE LEFT THE LABOUR FORCE WITHIN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS: MAIN SOURCE OF INCOME AND DURATION OF CONTINUOUS PERIOD IN THE LABOUR FORCE BEFORE LEAVING, NOVEMBER 1985
(* 000)

Main Source of income	Duration of continuous period in the labour force before leaving (years)				Total
	Less than 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 20	20 or more	
MALES					
Investments/savings	8.1	5.0	6.0	7.0	26.2
Superannuation	*	*	*	8.1	10.4
TEAS	7.2	*	*	*	10.7
Unemployment/sickness benefit	7.7	5.5	4.1	*	20.1
Invalid/age/supporting parent's/widow's pension	4.6	4.5		8.3	17.4
War disability/repatriation/service/war widow's pension	*	*	*	4.1	6.3
Someone else's income	23.9	5.6	*	*	32.7
Other (a)	5.6	5.9		*	14.2
Total	59.9	24.3	18.9	34.9	137.9
FEMALES					
Investments/savings	5.3	4.9	5.6	*	18.9
Superannuation	*	*	*	*	*
TEAS	5.0	*	*	*	6.7
Unemployment/sickness benefit	6.5	4.4	*	*	13.8
Invalid/age/supporting parent's/widow's pension	21.9	6.9	7.8	*	37.9
War disability/repatriation/service/war widow's pension	*	*	*	*	*
Someone else's income	124.8	52.0	49.7	*	229.4
Other (a)	5.2	4.8		*	10.8
Total	170.3	71.6	71.2	10.2	323.4
PERSONS					
Investments/savings	13.4	9.9	11.6	10.1	45.1
Superannuation	*	*	*	9.7	13.7
TEAS	12.3	4.0	*	*	17.4
Unemployment/sickness benefit	14.1	9.9	6.8	*	33.9
Invalid/age/supporting parent's/widow's pension	26.5	9.3	9.9	9.7	55.3
War disability/repatriation/service/war widow's pension	4.7			4.2	8.9
Someone else's income	148.7	57.6	50.9	4.9	262.1
Other (a)	10.9	*	6.9	*	24.9
Total	230.2	95.9	90.1	45.0	461.3

(a) Includes life assurance, other retirement schemes; and persons permanently unable to work who were not asked their main source of income.

TABLE 6. PERSONS WHO HAVE LEFT THE LABOUR FORCE WITHIN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS AFTER A CONTINUOUS PERIOD OF AT LEAST TWELVE MONTHS IN THE LABOUR FORCE: MAIN ACTIVITY SINCE LEAVING THE LABOUR FORCE AND AGE, NOVEMBER 1985
(* 000)

Main activity since leaving the labour force	Age group				Total
	15-24	25-44	45-59	60 and over	
MALES					
Housewife/home duties	*	*	*	*	*
Attending an educational institution	7.7	*	*	*	11.6
Retired/voluntarily inactive	*	*	7.3	25.0	35.0
Own illness/injury	*	6.7	6.3	*	16.8
Travelled/moved house	*	*	*	*	*
Other (a)	4.7		4.3		9.1
Total	11.7	18.1	17.1	31.1	78.0
FEMALES					
Housewife/home duties	20.6	71.5	20.2	8.1	120.5
Attending an educational institution	5.3	*	*	*	9.5
Retired/voluntarily inactive	*	*	4.6		5.7
Own illness/injury	4.4		*	*	7.8
Travelled/moved house	*	*	*	*	*
Other (a)	4.2		*	*	6.0
Total	30.5	82.3	27.7	12.6	153.0
PERSONS					
Housewife/home duties	20.6	73.0	21.3	9.0	123.9
Attending an educational institution	13.0	6.6	*	*	21.1
Retired/voluntarily inactive	*	*	9.9	27.0	40.7
Own illness/injury	*	10.0	8.8	*	24.5
Travelled/moved house	*	*	*	*	5.8
Other(a)	*	5.5	6.2		15.1
Total	42.2	100.4	44.8	43.7	231.1

(a) Includes unpaid leave; and worked in an unpaid voluntary job.

TABLE 7. PERSONS WHO HAVE LEFT THE LABOUR FORCE WITHIN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS AFTER A CONTINUOUS PERIOD OF AT LEAST TWELVE MONTHS IN THE LABOUR FORCE: MAIN ACTIVITY SINCE LEAVING THE LABOUR FORCE AND DURATION OF CONTINUOUS PERIOD IN THE LABOUR FORCE BEFORE LEAVING, NOVEMBER 1985
(*000)

Main activity since leaving the labour force	Duration of continuous period in the labour force before leaving (years)					Total
	1 and under 3	3 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 20	20 or more	
Housewife/home duties	35.9	20.3	31.3	27.7	8.7	123.9
Attending on educational institution	12.8	*	*	*	*	21.1
Retired/voluntarily inactive	5.6		*	7.1	25.7	40.7
Own illness/injury	5.0	4.1	5.9	4.6	4.9	24.5
Travelled/moved house			4.4		*	5.8
Other(a)	5.8		4.1	*	*	15.1
Total	62.4	33.5	46.7	43.4	45.0	231.1

(a) Includes unpaid leave; and worked in an unpaid voluntary job.

TABLE 8. PERSONS WHO HAVE LEFT THE LABOUR FORCE WITHIN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS AFTER A CONTINUOUS PERIOD OF AT LEAST TWELVE MONTHS IN THE LABOUR FORCE AND WHOSE LAST LABOUR FORCE ACTIVITY WAS WORKING: OCCUPATION IN PREVIOUS JOB, DURATION OF CONTINUOUS PERIOD IN THE LABOUR FORCE BEFORE LEAVING AND FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME STATUS OF PREVIOUS JOB, NOVEMBER 1985
(*000)

Occupation in previous job	Duration of continuous period in the labour force before leaving (years)					Full-time or Part-time status of previous job			Total
	1 and under 3	3 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 20	20 or more	Full-time	Part-time	Varied/did not know	
	Professional, technical, etc	7.1	4.4	9.4	5.4	6.8	23.4	8.8		*	33.1
Administrative, executive and managerial	*	*	4.1		4.1	11.0	*	*	12.0
Clerical	9.3	6.4	11.9	13.3	5.7	32.9	13.1	*	46.6
Sales	7.8	*	5.1	4.0	*	11.4	10.5	*	21.9
Farmers, fisherpersons and timbergetters	*	*	*	*	4.3	5.6	*	*	7.7
Transport and communication	*	*	*	*	*	6.1	*	*	7.3
Trades and production-process workers and labourers n.e.c., and miners and quarry workers	8.9	6.9	7.9	6.6	15.1	39.9	4.7	*	45.4
Service, sport and recreation	11.0	4.4	6.1	8.3	*	15.6	16.7	*	32.9
Total	48.7	28.3	44.6	41.8	43.5	145.8	58.1	*	206.9

TABLE 9. PERSONS WHO HAVE LEFT THE LABOUR FORCE WITHIN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS AFTER A CONTINUOUS PERIOD OF AT LEAST TWELVE MONTHS IN THE LABOUR FORCE AND WHOSE LAST LABOUR FORCE ACTIVITY WAS WORKING: REASON FOR LEAVING PREVIOUS JOB AND AGE, NOVEMBER 1985
(*000)

Reason for leaving previous job	Age group				Total
	15-24	25-44	45-59	60 and over	
Retrenched/made redundant/lost job	*	4.9	4.0	*	14.5
Returned to studies	8.0	*	*	*	11.1
Retired/did not want to work any longer	*	8.2	12.9	29.5	51.9
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	*	4.0	*	*	5.8
Own ill health or injury	*	13.2	14.3	7.0	37.2
To get married; pregnancy/to have children; to look after family, house or someone else	13.3	39.6	*	*	54.8
Travelled/moved house/spouse transferred	*	6.9	*	*	12.1
Sold business/farm	*	4.2	*	*	6.4
Other(a)	*	6.4	4.0		13.3
Total	35.9	89.8	39.9	41.3	206.9

(a) Includes seasonal or temporary job.

TABLE 10. PERSONS WHO HAVE LEFT THE LABOUR FORCE WITHIN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS AFTER A CONTINUOUS PERIOD OF AT LEAST TWELVE MONTHS IN THE LABOUR FORCE AND WHOSE LAST LABOUR FORCE ACTIVITY WAS WORKING: WHETHER INTENDED TO RETURN TO THE LABOUR FORCE AND SUMMARY OF CHARACTERISTICS, NOVEMBER 1985 ('000)

	<i>Whether intended to return to the labour force</i>							<i>Un-decided</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>Intended to return</i>			<i>Did not intend to return</i>					
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>			
<i>Age group—</i>									
15-24	9.2	13.7	22.9	*	7.4	7.7	5.3	35.9	
25-44	10.6	38.3	48.9	*	19.7	21.8	19.1	89.8	
45-59	5.0	4.9	9.9	6.5	16.3	22.8	7.3	39.9	
60 and over	*	*	*	24.1	11.0	35.1	*	41.3	
<i>Main activity since leaving the labour force—</i>									
Housewife/home duties	*	42.4	43.5	*	45.6	47.0	21.1	111.6	
Attending an educational institution	8.8	6.0	14.8	*	*	*	*	16.7	
Retired/voluntarily inactive	4.9	*	6.0	24.9	*	28.7	*	38.4	
Own illness/injury	6.5	*	9.2	*	*	5.3	6.7	21.2	
Travelled/moved house	*	*	4.0	*	*	*	*	5.8	
Other(a)	4.1	*	6.7	*	*	*	*	13.1	
<i>Duration of continuous period in the labour force before leaving (years)—</i>									
1 and under 3	8.4	20.5	28.8	*	10.7	12.4	7.4	48.7	
3 and under 5	4.6	9.3	13.8	*	7.3	9.2	5.3	28.3	
5 and under 10	5.0	15.7	20.7	*	12.6	13.5	10.5	44.6	
10 and under 20	*	10.5	13.6	5.2	16.7	21.9	6.4	41.8	
20 or more	5.8	*	7.2	23.1	7.3	30.4	5.9	43.5	
<i>Reason for leaving previous job—</i>									
Retrenched/made redundant/lost job	*	*	5.8	*	5.3	7.0	*	14.5	
Returned to studies	5.9	*	9.6	*	*	*	*	11.1	
Retired/did not want to work any longer	*	*	5.1	21.1	20.7	41.9	4.9	51.9	
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	*	*	4.2	*	*	*	*	5.8	
Own ill health or injury	6.3	4.7	11.0	8.0	7.2	15.2	11.0	37.2	
To get married; pregnancy/to have children; to look after family, house or someone else	*	27.5	27.9	*	14.7	15.0	11.9	54.8	
Travelled/moved house/spouse transferred	*	6.4	8.3	*	*	*	*	12.1	
Sold business/farm	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	6.4	
Other(b)	4.2	4.8	9.0	*	*	*	*	13.3	
<i>Occupation in previous job—</i>									
Professional, technical, etc	4.0	15.7	19.8	4.1	5.5	9.7	*	33.1	
Administrative, executive and managerial	*	*	4.9	*	*	5.1	*	12.0	
Clerical	*	17.4	19.5	*	16.7	19.0	8.1	46.6	
Sales	*	6.2	9.3	*	7.2	9.0	*	21.9	
Farmers, fisherpersons and timbergetters	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	7.7	
Transport and communication	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	7.3	
Trades and production-process workers and labourers n.e.c., and miners and quarry workers	9.4	4.3	13.6	14.3	7.6	21.8	10.0	45.4	
Service, sport and recreation	*	9.8	12.9	*	12.4	15.2	4.8	32.9	
<i>Usual gross weekly pay before leaving(\$)—</i>									
Wage and salary earners(c)	22.6	53.8	76.4	27.8	50.0	77.8	31.2	185.5	
Under 120	} 5.5 {	9.1	12.2	} 4.3 {	9.1	10.8	4.2	27.3	
120 and under 240		13.7	16.1		19.7	22.3	9.5	47.9	
240 and under 360	7.1	19.8	26.9	11.6	14.4	26.0	11.1	63.9	
360 and under 480	4.1	7.4	11.5	7.8	4.1	11.9	4.6	28.0	
480 and under 600	} 4.5 {	*	6.0	} 4.2 {	*	*	*	10.0	
600 and over		*	*		*	*	6.4	*	5.5
Other(d)	4.2	*	7.7	5.1	4.4	9.5	4.2	21.4	
<i>Full-time or part-time status of previous job—</i>									
Full-time	22.5	36.6	59.2	29.4	32.7	62.1	24.6	145.8	
Part-time	4.1	19.5	23.6	*	20.7	24.2	10.3	58.1	
Varied/did not know	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Total	26.8	57.3	84.1	32.9	54.5	87.4	35.5	206.9	

(a) Includes unpaid leave; and worked in an unpaid voluntary job. (b) Includes seasonal or temporary job. (c) Includes not paid in Australian currency and payment in kind. (d) Comprises employers, self-employed and unpaid family helpers.

TABLE 11. PERSONS WHO HAVE LEFT THE LABOUR FORCE WITHIN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS AFTER A CONTINUOUS PERIOD OF AT LEAST TWELVE MONTHS IN THE LABOUR FORCE AND WHOSE LAST LABOUR FORCE ACTIVITY WAS LOOKING FOR WORK : WHETHER INTENDED TO RETURN TO THE LABOUR FORCE AND SUMMARY OF CHARACTERISTICS, NOVEMBER 1985 ('000)

	<i>Whether intended to return to the labour force</i>			<i>Total</i>
	<i>Intended to return</i>	<i>Did not intend to return</i>	<i>Un-decided</i>	
<i>Age group—</i>				
15-24	4.7	*	*	6.3
25-44	7.4	*	*	10.6
45 and over	*	*	*	7.3
<i>Whether looked for full-time or part-time work before leaving—</i>				
Full-time	7.3	*	*	11.3
Part-time	4.9	*	*	8.0
Varied	*	*	*	4.8
<i>Reason ceased looking for work—</i>				
Returned to studies	*	*	*	*
Own ill health or injury	*	*	*	5.5
To get married; pregnancy/ to have children; to look after family, house, or someone else	4.0	*	*	5.9
Became discouraged(a)	*	*	*	*
Other(b)	*	*	*	5.9
<i>Main activity since leaving the labour force—</i>				
Housewife/home duties	7.8	*	*	12.2
Attending an educational institution	4.0	*	*	4.3
Retired/voluntarily inactive	*	*	*	*
Own illness/injury	*	*	*	*
Travelled/moved house	*	*	*	*
Other(c)	*	*	*	*
Total	14.8	4.8	4.5	24.1
Males	4.3	*	*	7.6
Females	10.5	*	*	16.5

(a) Comprises: considered too young or too old by employers; difficulties with language or ethnic background; lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience; no jobs in locality or line of work; and no jobs at all. (b) Includes decided to retire/did not want to work any longer; travelled/moved house/spouse transferred; and no jobs in suitable hours. (c) Includes unpaid leave; and worked in unpaid voluntary job.

TABLE 12. PERSONS WHO HAVE LEFT THE LABOUR FORCE WITHIN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS BUT INTENDED TO RETURN TO THE LABOUR FORCE : MAIN ACTIVITY SINCE LEAVING THE LABOUR FORCE AND ANTICIPATED TIME BEFORE RE-ENTRANCE TO THE LABOUR FORCE, NOVEMBER 1985 ('000)

<i>Main activity since leaving the labour force</i>	<i>Anticipated time before re-entrance to the labour force</i>					<i>Total</i>
	<i>Under 3 months</i>	<i>3 and under 6 months</i>	<i>6 and under 12 months</i>	<i>1 year and over</i>	<i>Did not know</i>	
At least twelve months continuous period in the labour force before leaving	40.9	12.4	8.9	17.5	19.2	98.9
Housewife/home duties	16.2	8.2	5.3	12.7	8.9	51.3
Attending an educational institution	10.9	*	*	4.0	*	18.7
Retired/voluntarily inactive	*	*	*	*	*	6.3
Own illness/injury		4.6	*	*	5.2	11.0
Travelled/moved house	*	*	*	*	*	4.0
Other(a)	4.5	*	*	*	*	7.7
Less than twelve months continuous period in the labour force before leaving	72.8	20.2	6.1	22.9	22.4	144.4
Total	113.7	32.6	15.0	40.4	41.6	243.3

(a) Includes unpaid leave; and worked in unpaid voluntary job.

TABLE 13. PERSONS WHO HAVE LEFT THE LABOUR FORCE WITHIN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS BUT INTENDED TO RETURN TO THE LABOUR FORCE : MAIN SOURCE OF INCOME AND ANTICIPATED TIME BEFORE RE-ENTRANCE TO THE LABOUR FORCE, NOVEMBER 1985
(' 000)

Main source of income	Anticipated time before re-entrance to the labour force					Total
	Under 3 months	3 and under 6 months	6 and under 12 months	1 year and over	Did not know	
MALES						
Investments/savings	9.9	*	*	*	*	15.9
Superannuation	*	*	*	*	*	*
TEAS	5.8	*	*	*	*	9.6
Unemployment/sickness benefit	5.1	*	*	*	4.8	13.0
Invalid/age/supporting parent's/widow's pension	*	*	*	*	*	*
War disability/repatriation/service/war widow's pension	*	*	*	*	*	*
Someone else's income	18.3	*	*	*	4.7	28.0
Other(a)	*	*	*	*	*	5.9
Total	43.4	6.1	*	7.5	16.0	76.4
FEMALES						
Investments/savings	6.2	*	*	*	*	9.8
Superannuation	*	*	*	*	*	*
TEAS	4.0	*	*	*	*	6.2
Unemployment/sickness benefit	*	*	*	*	*	8.7
Invalid/age/supporting parent's/widow's pension	6.3	*	4.2	*	*	16.5
War disability/repatriation/service/war widow's pension	*	*	*	*	*	*
Someone else's income	48.6	20.4	8.4	25.1	17.5	120.0
Other(a)	*	*	*	*	*	4.6
Total	70.2	26.5	11.5	32.9	25.6	166.8
PERSONS						
Investments/savings	16.1	*	*	*	*	25.6
Superannuation	*	*	*	*	*	*
TEAS	9.8	*	4.5	*	*	15.8
Unemployment/sickness benefit	7.3	*	*	*	7.0	21.7
Invalid/age/supporting parent's/widow's pension	7.2	*	4.7	*	4.7	18.8
War disability/repatriation/service/war widow's pension	*	*	*	*	*	*
Someone else's income	66.9	21.5	8.6	28.8	22.2	148.0
Other(a)	5.1	*	*	*	*	10.6
Total	113.7	32.6	15.0	40.4	41.6	243.3

(a) Includes life assurance, other retirement schemes; and persons permanently unable to work who were not asked their main source of income.

TABLE 14. PERSONS WHO HAVE LEFT THE LABOUR FORCE WITHIN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS BUT INTENDED TO RETURN TO THE LABOUR FORCE : MAIN ACTIVITY SINCE LEAVING THE LABOUR FORCE AND TYPE OF WORK PREFERRED ON RE-ENTERING THE LABOUR FORCE, NOVEMBER 1985
(' 000)

Main activity since leaving the labour force	Type of work preferred on re-entering the labour force								Total		
	Full-time			Part-time			No preference				
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons		Males	Females	Persons	
At least twelve months continuous period in the labour force before leaving	23.9	19.3	43.1	5.8	45.9	51.7	4.0	31.4	67.8	98.9	
Housewife/home duties	*	11.0	12.1	*	37.4	37.7	*	*	49.8	51.3	
Attending an educational institution	7.4	*	10.8	*	*	6.6	*	10.7	8.0	18.7	
Retired/voluntarily inactive	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	5.2	*	6.3	
Own illness/injury	6.9	*	8.0	*	*	*	*	7.7	*	11.0	
Travelled/moved house	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	4.0	
Other(a)	*	*	5.1	*	*	*	*	4.7	*	7.7	
Less than twelve months continuous period in the labour force before leaving	30.4	29.2	59.6	12.8	66.6	79.5	5.3	45.3	99.1	144.4	
Total	54.3	48.5	102.8	18.6	112.6	131.2	9.3	76.4	166.8	243.3	

(a) Includes unpaid leave; and worked in unpaid voluntary job.

TABLE 15. PERSONS WHO HAVE LEFT THE LABOUR FORCE WITHIN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS BUT INTENDED TO RETURN TO THE LABOUR FORCE : EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND AGE, NOVEMBER 1985
(' 000)

Educational attainment	Age group				Total
	15-24	25-44	45-59	60 and over	
MALES					
With post-school qualifications	5.9	8.5	5.3	*	19.7
Degree	4.9	*	*	*	6.0
Trade; technical or other certificate	4.2	4.9	*	*	13.0
Other	*	*	*	*	*
Without post-school qualifications(a)	22.0	13.1	4.9	*	41.9
Attended the highest level of secondary school available	17.2	*	*	*	20.6
Did not attend the highest level of secondary school available	4.8	10.5	4.4	*	21.2
Left at age — 16 and over	6.2	*	*	*	7.1
15 and under	*	7.0	5.0	*	14.1
Still at school	14.8	..	..	..	14.8
Total	42.8	21.6	8.6	*	76.4
FEMALES					
With post-school qualifications	8.4	44.8	5.6	*	59.7
Degree	*	10.3	*	*	12.4
Main field of study—					
Education	*	4.3	*	*	4.4
Arts, humanities, etc.	*	*	*	*	*
Other(b)	4.3	*	*	*	4.8
Trade; technical or other certificate	7.6	32.1	4.6	*	44.3
Main field of study—					
Typing, etc	4.4	9.4	*	*	15.7
Health, para-medical	*	9.9	*	*	12.6
Teacher training	*	5.4	*	*	6.2
Trade(c)	*	*	*	*	*
Other(d)	*	4.7	*	*	6.3
Other	*	*	*	*	*
Without post-school qualifications(a)	34.0	47.5	9.5	*	91.5
Attended the highest level of secondary school available	17.4	9.5	*	*	28.1
Did not attend the highest level of secondary school available	16.6	38.0	8.4	*	63.5
Left at age — 16 and over	8.4	16.3	*	*	25.7
15 and under	8.2	21.6	7.4	*	37.8
Still at school	15.6	..	..	..	15.6
Total	58.0	92.3	15.1	*	166.8
PERSONS					
With post-school qualifications	14.4	53.2	9.3	*	79.4
Degree	*	13.8	*	*	18.5
Main field of study—					
Education	*	4.6	*	*	5.3
Arts, humanities, etc	*	*	*	*	4.3
Other(b)	*	6.3	*	*	9.0
Trade; technical or other certificate	11.8	37.0	6.7	*	57.3
Main field of study—					
Typing, etc.	4.4	9.4	*	*	15.7
Health, para-medical	*	10.0	*	*	13.0
Teacher training	*	5.4	*	*	6.2
Trade(c)	*	6.4	*	*	12.0
Other(d)	*	5.7	*	*	10.5
Other	*	*	*	*	*
Without post-school qualifications(a)	56.0	60.6	14.4	*	133.5
Attended the highest level of secondary school available	34.6	12.2	*	*	48.7
Did not attend the highest level of secondary school available	21.4	48.4	12.8	*	84.7
Left at age — 16 and over	11.1	19.7	*	*	32.8
15 and under	10.3	28.7	11.3	*	51.9
Still at school	30.4	..	..	..	30.4
Total	100.8	113.9	23.7	4.9	243.3

(a) Includes persons who never went to school. (b) Includes administration; law; medicine; science, mathematics, computing; engineering; and architecture, town planning. (c) Includes metal; electrical; building; and automotive. (d) Includes engineering, telecommunications; administration, law, commerce; and science, computing, humanities.

TABLE 16. PERSONS WHO HAVE LEFT THE LABOUR FORCE WITHIN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS BUT INTENDED TO RETURN TO THE LABOUR FORCE : FAMILY STATUS AND TIME SINCE LAST LEFT THE LABOUR FORCE, NOVEMBER 1985 ('000)

Family status	Time since last left the labour force (weeks)						Total
	1 and under 4	4 and under 8	8 and under 13	13 and under 26	26 and under 39	39 and under 52	
Member of a family	26.2	30.3	29.1	41.3	29.3	43.9	200.1
Husband or wife	18.2	21.1	16.9	24.1	17.5	19.8	117.6
With children aged 0-14 present	12.0	14.3	12.8	17.8	12.7	14.2	83.7
Without children aged 0-14 present	6.2	6.8	4.1	6.4	4.8	5.6	33.8
Not married family head		4.2	*	4.3	*	4.5	19.3
With children aged 0-14 present	*	*		5.6	*	4.2	15.7
Without children aged 0-14 present	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Child of family head	5.9	6.8	9.1	12.1	8.1	18.2	60.2
Other relative of family head	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Not a member of a family	4.0	*		6.4	4.7	4.5	22.4
Living alone	*	*			5.0		6.8
Not living alone		5.0		4.3		6.3	15.6
Not family coded		7.4		7.0			20.8
Total	33.9	36.8	36.3	47.5	36.3	52.4	243.3

TABLE 17. PERSONS WHO HAVE LEFT THE LABOUR FORCE WITHIN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS AND DID NOT INTEND TO RETURN TO THE LABOUR FORCE : MAIN ACTIVITY SINCE LEAVING THE LABOUR FORCE AND AGE, NOVEMBER 1985 ('000)

Main activity since leaving the labour force	Age group				Total
	15-24	25-44	45-59	60 and over	
MALES					
At least twelve months continuous period in the labour force before leaving	*	*	6.9	25.3	34.7
Housewife/home duties	*	*	*	*	*
Retired/voluntarily inactive	*	*	4.2	21.2	26.1
Own illness/injury	*	*	*	*	*
Other(a)	*	*	*	*	*
Less than twelve months continuous period in the labour force before leaving	*	*	*	4.1	8.7
Total	*	*	8.0	29.4	43.5
FEMALES					
At least twelve months continuous period in the labour force before leaving	8.1	20.8	17.6	11.0	57.5
Housewife/home duties	7.5	19.1	14.1	7.2	47.8
Retired/voluntarily inactive	*	*	*	*	4.1
Own illness/injury	*	*	*	*	*
Other(a)	*	*	*	*	*
Less than twelve months continuous period in the labour force before leaving	8.2	24.7	7.2	*	41.8
Total	16.3	45.5	24.8	12.7	99.2
PERSONS					
At least twelve months continuous period in the labour force before leaving	8.6	22.8	24.5	36.3	92.2
Housewife/home duties	7.5	19.5	14.3	8.1	49.3
Retired/voluntarily inactive	*	*	6.3	23.1	30.1
Own illness/injury	*	*		4.5	5.7
Other(a)	*	*		4.6	7.0
Less than twelve months continuous period in the labour force before leaving	10.0	26.3	8.3	5.8	50.5
Total	18.6	49.1	32.9	42.1	142.7

(a) Includes unpaid leave; worked in unpaid voluntary job; attending an educational institution; and travelled/moved house.

TABLE 18. PERSONS WHO HAVE LEFT THE LABOUR FORCE WITHIN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS AND DID NOT INTEND TO RETURN TO THE LABOUR FORCE : FAMILY STATUS AND DURATION OF CONTINUOUS PERIOD IN THE LABOUR FORCE BEFORE LEAVING, NOVEMBER 1985
(' 000)

Family status	Duration of continuous period in the labour force before leaving (years)						Total
	Less than 1	1 and under 3	3 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 20	20 or more	
Member of a family	46.4	12.5	9.0	12.2	18.8	24.6	123.5
Husband or wife	38.1	10.4	8.5	11.3	17.9	22.8	109.1
With children aged 0-14 present	24.1	5.5	4.6	6.2	4.4	*	45.8
Without children aged 0-14 present	14.1	4.8	4.0	5.1	13.5	21.9	63.3
Not married family head	*	*	*	*	*	*	6.9
Child of family head	4.8	*	*	*	*	*	6.1
Other relative of family head	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Not a member of a family			4.7		*	5.2	12.1
Not family coded			4.6		*	*	7.1
Total	50.5	15.2	9.8	13.9	22.0	31.3	142.7

TABLE 19. PERSONS WHO HAVE LEFT THE LABOUR FORCE WITHIN THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS AND DID NOT INTEND TO RETURN TO THE LABOUR FORCE : HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS AND AGE, NOVEMBER 1985
(' 000)

Housing arrangements	Age group				Total
	15-24	25-44	45-59	60 and over	
MALES					
Owned home	*	*	5.0	21.4	27.2
Paying off home	*	*		4.8	5.5
Renting	*	*		5.1	7.7
From housing commission	*	*	*	*	*
From other	*	*	*	*	6.1
Rent free	*	*	*	*	*
Other	*	*	*	*	*
Total	*	*	8.0	29.4	43.5
FEMALES					
Owned home	*	7.2	14.2	9.1	31.3
Paying off home	*	24.9	5.3	*	36.3
Renting	6.3	12.1	4.1	*	23.6
From housing commission	*	*	*	*	5.0
From other	5.8	8.8		4.0	18.6
Rent free		4.6	*	*	5.4
Other	*	*	*	*	*
Total	16.3	45.5	24.8	12.7	99.2
PERSONS					
Owned home	*	8.0	19.2	30.5	58.5
Paying off home	4.1	25.4	6.8	5.5	41.8
Renting	6.6	14.4	5.6	4.7	31.3
From housing commission		4.2	*	*	6.6
From other	6.1	10.7	*	4.0	24.7
Rent free	5.0	*	*	*	7.3
Other	*	*	*	*	*
Total	18.6	49.1	32.9	42.1	142.7

ADDITIONAL TABLES

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

Persons who have left the labour force within the last twelve months

Birthplace—

- A1 Time since last left the labour force
 - A2 Main source of income
 - A3 Duration of continuous period in the labour force before leaving
 - A4 Age
- ##### Age—
- A5 Time since last left the labour force
 - A6 Duration of continuous period in the labour force before leaving
 - A7 Main source of income and family status

Persons who have left the labour force within the last twelve months after a continuous period of at least twelve months in the labour force

Birthplace—

- A8 Main activity since leaving the labour force
 - A9 Main source of income
- ##### Age—
- A10 Duration of continuous period in the labour force before leaving
 - A11 Main source of income
 - A12 Duration of continuous period in the labour force before leaving and marital status

Persons who have left the labour force within the last twelve months after a continuous period of at least twelve months in the labour force and whose last labour force activity was working

Birthplace—

- A13 Status of worker in previous job
 - A14 Full-time or part-time status of previous job
 - A15 Occupation of previous job
 - A16 Industry of previous job
- ##### Reason for leaving previous job—
- A17 Full-time or part-time status of previous job
 - A18 Birthplace
 - A19 Industry of previous job
 - A20 Family status

Persons who have left the labour force within the last twelve months but intended to return to the labour force

Birthplace—

- A21 Anticipated time before re-entrance to the labour force
 - A22 Type or work preferred on re-entering the labour force
- ##### Educational attainment—
- A23 Anticipated time before re-entrance to the labour force
 - A24 Main activity
 - A25 Duration of continuous period in the labour force before leaving

Persons who have left the labour force within the last twelve months and did not intend to return to the labour force

Housing arrangements—

- A26 Birthplace
- A27 Family status

TECHNICAL NOTE

Estimation procedure

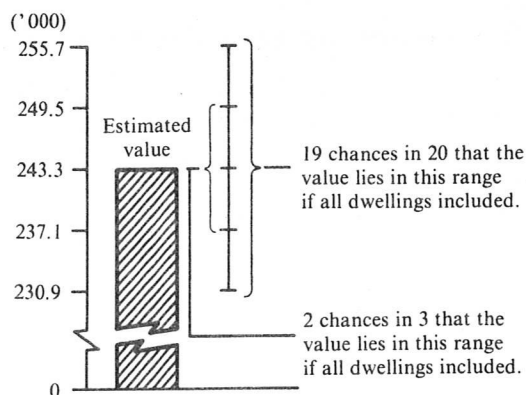
The estimates are derived from the population survey by use of a ratio estimation procedure, which ensures that the estimates conform to an independently estimated distribution of the population for each capital city and remainder of state by age and sex, rather than to the corresponding distribution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

Reliability of the estimates

2. Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they are subject to sampling variability: that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the *standard error*, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. Another measure of the likely difference is the *relative standard error*, which is obtained by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the estimate.

3. Space does not allow for the separate indication of the standard errors of all estimates in this publication. A table of standard errors for general application is given on the following page. Since they are averages based on calculations for a limited number of past surveys over a wide range of labour force characteristics these figures will not give a precise measure of the standard error of a particular estimate but they will provide an indication of its magnitude.

4. An example of the calculation and the use of standard errors in relation to estimates of persons is as follows. Table 15 shows the estimated number of persons in Australia who have left the labour force within the last twelve months but intended to return to the labour force was 243,300. Since this estimate is between 200,000 and 300,000 the standard error for Australia will be between 5,800 and 6,800 in the standard error table and can be approximated as 6,200 (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 237,100 to 249,500 and about nineteen chances in twenty that the value will fall within the range 230,900 to 255,700. This example is illustrated in the following diagram.



5. As can be seen from the standard error table, *the smaller the estimate the higher is the relative standard error*. Very small estimates are thus subject to such high standard errors (relative to the size of the estimate) as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable uses. In the tables in this publication, estimates less than the lowest levels shown in the standard error table have not been published. Although figures for these small components can in some cases be derived by subtraction, they should not be regarded as reliable.

6. Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling errors. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. The formula for the relative standard error (RSE) of a proportion is given below:

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

7. Considering the example from paragraph 4 above, of the 243,300 persons who have left the labour force within the last twelve months but intended to return to the labour force 166,800 or 68.6 per cent were females. The standard error of 166,800 is approximately 5,300 so the relative standard error is 3.2 per cent. The relative standard error for 243,300 is 2.5 per cent. Applying the above formula, the relative standard error of the proportion is $\sqrt{(3.2)^2 - (2.5)^2}$ or 2.0 per cent, giving a standard error for the proportion (68.6 per cent) of 1.4 percentage points. Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the proportion of females who have left the labour force within the last twelve months but intended to return to the labour force was between 67.2 per cent and 70.0 per cent and nineteen chances in twenty the proportion was within the range 65.8 per cent to 71.4 per cent.

8. Published figures may also be used to estimate the difference between two survey estimates (of numbers or percentages). Such a figure is itself an estimate and is therefore subject to sampling error. The sampling error of the difference between two estimates depends on their standard errors and the relationship (correlation) between them. An approximate standard error (SE) of the difference between two estimates (x-y) may be calculated by the following formula:

$$SE(x-y) = \sqrt{[SE(x)]^2 + [SE(y)]^2}$$

While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and uncorrelated characteristics or 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 the coding and processing of data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as the *non-sampling error*, and they may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or only a sample.

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia	
									—number—	Relative standard error (per cent)
1,500						360		350		
1,800						390		380		
2,000						400		390		
2,500				560	580	450		430		
3,000			740	610	630	480	700	460		
3,500			790	650	680	510	740	480		
4,000			840	690	720	540	780	510	970	24.3
4,500	1,100	1,100	890	730	750	570	810	530	1,050	23.3
5,000	1,150	1,200	940	760	790	600	850	550	1,100	22.0
6,000	1,250	1,300	1,000	820	850	640	910	590	1,200	20.0
10,000	1,600	1,600	1,300	1,000	1,050	780	1,100	700	1,550	15.5
20,000	2,150	2,150	1,750	1,350	1,400	1,000	1,450	870	2,150	10.8
50,000	3,200	3,150	2,500	1,900	1,950	1,400	2,000	1,150	3,250	6.5
100,000	4,250	4,100	3,250	2,400	2,550	1,700		1,350	4,400	4.4
200,000	5,600	5,300	4,150	3,050	3,200	2,100			5,800	2.9
300,000	6,500	6,100	4,800	3,450	3,650				6,800	2.3
500,000	7,900	7,200	5,600	4,050	4,250				8,300	1.7
1,000,000	10,100	8,900	7,000						10,700	1.1
2,000,000	12,800	11,000							13,600	0.7
5,000,000									18,300	0.4

