

Reference No. 6.32

THE LABOUR FORCE, NOVEMBER 1972 AND FEBRUARY 1973 (PRELIMINARY)

This is the first of a series of preliminary quarterly statements showing summary statistics of the labour force. It contains details for November 1972 and February 1973 with earlier figures included for comparative purposes. More detailed estimates for November 1972 and February 1973 will be published shortly in the regular quarterly bulletin, *The Labour Force* (Reference No. 6.20).

2. Estimates of the civilian labour force are based on the results of the quarterly population sample survey held in February, May, August and November each year. A new sample was phased in over three surveys, May to November 1972, and the November 1972 estimates are based entirely on the new sample. It appears that some discontinuity may have resulted from the change, particularly in the estimates for married women in the labour force. Care should therefore be taken in interpreting changes in the estimates between February and November 1972.

3. The estimates relate to all persons aged fifteen years and over except members of the permanent armed forces, national servicemen enlisted in the Regular Army Supplement and certain diplomatic personnel customarily excluded from census and estimated populations.

4. The labour force category to which a person is assigned depends on his actual activity (i.e. whether working, looking for work, etc.) during a specified week known as 'survey week', which is the week immediately preceding that in which the interview takes place. The interviews are carried out during a period of four weeks, so that there are four survey weeks in each of the months to which the survey relates. These four survey weeks are chosen so as to fall within the limits of the calendar month or with minimum encroachment into the adjacent months. Definitions of the principal categories appearing in this statement are given in the quarterly bulletins.

5. Prior to the November 1972 survey, estimates of employed persons by industry were published according to the 1966 Census Classification of Industries. The basis of industry coding for the November 1972 and subsequent surveys is the Australian Standard Industrial Classification. Estimates for August 1972 according to both industrial classifications will be published so that the effect of this change can be seen. In this publication the effect on the numbers in agriculture is shown. Similar figures for other industries will be published in later issues of *The Labour Force*.

6. The chosen survey periods for February in 1971 and 1972 fell somewhat later than the similar period in other years. Consequently, the numbers of persons who had returned to schools and universities, etc., by the time of the survey might be expected to be greater in 1971 and 1972 than in other years, thus reducing the proportion of the population fifteen years of age and over recorded as being in the labour force. No exact estimate of this effect is available; however, it may be conjectured that had the survey periods been one week earlier, approximately twenty thousand more persons would have been classified as being in the labour force.

7. Since the estimates in this bulletin are based on a sample, they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained from a complete census using the same questionnaires and procedures. 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, and not the whole population, was enumerated. More information on this topic, together with a table of estimated standard errors, is given in the August 1972 issue of *The Labour Force*.

NOTE. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in tables are due to rounding.

CIVILIAN POPULATION 15 YEARS AND OVER (a), BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Month	Employed (b) (c)			Unemployed (b)				Total labour force (b)			Not in labour force ('000)	Civilian population aged 15 and over (a) ('000)
	Agriculture ('000)	Other industries ('000)	Total ('000)	Number		Per cent of labour force		Original ('000)	Seasonally adjusted (d) ('000)	Per cent of population (f)		
				Original ('000)	Seasonally adjusted (d) ('000)	Original (e)	Seasonally adjusted (d)					
MALES												
1971 - Aug.	333.8	3,336.3	3,670.1	39.3	45.2	1.1	1.2	3,709.4	3,725.2	82.3	799.6	4,509.0
Nov.	344.1	3,333.4	3,677.5	57.0	56.1	1.5	1.5	3,734.6	3,745.6	82.3	804.4	4,539.0
1972 - Feb. (g)	355.8	3,350.6	3,706.4	74.8	66.4	2.0	1.8	3,781.3	3,755.9	82.8	784.3	4,565.6
May	345.3	3,371.3	3,716.6	61.0	61.8	1.6	1.6	3,777.6	3,775.9	82.5	800.1	4,577.7
Aug.	351.4	3,342.6	3,701.0	67.4	77.7	1.8	2.1	3,768.4	3,784.5	82.3	809.9	4,578.3
Aug. (h)	344.4	3,356.6										
Nov. (h)	315.8	3,415.0										
1973 - Feb. (h)	311.2	3,452.2	3,763.4	67.9	60.4	1.8	1.6	3,831.3	3,805.6	82.6	806.8	4,638.1
MARRIED WOMEN												
1971 - Aug.	54.5	991.2	1,045.7	21.4	n.a.	2.0	n.a.	1,067.1	1,075.0	35.3	1,954.3	3,021.4
Nov.	54.6	1,023.7	1,078.2	19.5	n.a.	1.8	n.a.	1,097.7	1,077.6	35.9	1,955.9	3,053.6
1972 - Feb. (g)	58.7	988.5	1,047.2	33.1	n.a.	3.1	n.a.	1,080.3	1,087.5	35.2	1,989.8	3,070.1
May	51.7	1,012.8	1,064.5	27.8	n.a.	2.5	n.a.	1,092.3	1,097.5	35.2	2,011.8	3,104.1
Aug.	55.8	1,047.8	1,103.6	27.6	n.a.	2.4	n.a.	1,131.2	1,139.9	36.5	1,971.3	3,102.5
Nov. (h)	61.7	1,079.9	1,141.6	28.1	n.a.	2.4	n.a.	1,169.7	1,147.9	37.5	1,951.0	3,120.7
1973 - Feb. (h)	59.4	1,068.4	1,127.8	39.3	n.a.	3.4	n.a.	1,167.1	1,175.1	37.2	1,971.2	3,138.4
ALL FEMALES												
1971 - Aug.	66.3	1,669.1	1,735.3	35.8	43.0	2.0	2.4	1,771.1	1,790.2	38.7	2,801.6	4,572.7
Nov.	66.6	1,686.0	1,752.6	42.7	45.4	2.4	2.5	1,795.2	1,784.1	39.0	2,810.3	4,605.5
1972 - Feb. (g)	71.3	1,669.0	1,740.3	61.0	48.3	3.4	2.8	1,801.3	1,791.5	38.9	2,833.3	4,634.6
May	62.8	1,683.0	1,745.8	49.2	50.9	2.7	2.8	1,794.9	1,796.7	38.6	2,851.2	4,646.1
Aug.	68.0	1,710.0	1,778.0	53.9	64.9	2.9	3.5	1,831.9	1,852.2	39.4	2,816.8	4,648.7
Aug. (h)	65.6	1,712.4										
Nov. (h)	73.9	1,761.0										
1973 - Feb. (h)	70.7	1,763.0	1,833.7	75.6	59.7	4.0	3.1	1,909.4	1,899.3	40.5	2,788.2	4,688.5
PERSONS												
1971 - Aug.	400.1	5,005.3	5,405.4	75.1	88.2	1.4	1.6	5,480.5	5,516.6	60.3	3,601.2	9,081.7
Nov.	410.6	5,019.5	5,430.1	99.7	102.0	1.8	1.9	5,529.8	5,527.7	60.5	3,614.7	9,144.5
1972 - Feb. (g)	427.2	5,019.6	5,446.8	135.8	113.3	2.4	2.1	5,582.6	5,547.1	60.7	3,617.6	9,200.2
May	408.1	5,054.3	5,462.4	110.2	113.3	2.0	2.0	5,572.6	5,573.8	60.4	3,651.2	9,223.8
Aug.	419.4	5,059.6	5,478.9	121.3	142.8	2.2	2.5	5,600.3	5,637.8	60.7	3,626.7	9,227.0
Aug. (h)	410.0	5,068.9										
Nov. (h)	389.7	5,176.0										
1973 - Feb. (h)	382.0	5,215.2	5,597.2	143.5	119.8	2.5	2.1	5,740.7	5,704.4	61.4	3,614.3	9,355.0

(a) For a note on persons excluded see paragraph 3. (b) For definitions see *The Labour Force August 1972*, page 3, paragraphs 2 to 6. (c) Employed includes self-employed in addition to wage and salary earners. For monthly statistics of wage and salary earners see *Employment and Unemployment* (Reference No. 6.4). (d) For details of methods used in seasonally adjusting these series see *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators 1972* (Reference No. 1.10). (e) Original unemployed as a percentage of original labour force. (f) The labour force (original) in each group as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over in the same group (labour force participation rate). (g) See paragraph 6. (h) The industry estimates for employed persons are based on the Australian Standard Industrial Classification. See paragraph 5.

n.a. not available.

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NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 639111 extension 2347 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.