



Reference No. 6.32

## THE LABOUR FORCE, AUGUST 1974 PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

### MAIN FEATURES

The following are the main features of the labour force statistics for August 1974

- 60.7 per cent of all civilians aged 15 years and over were in the labour force.
- 80.8 per cent of males and 40.9 of females were in the labour force.
- 39.6 per cent of married women were in the labour force.
- 115,700 (including 21,500 looking for part-time work) or 2.0 per cent of the labour force (2.3 per cent seasonally adjusted) were estimated to have been unemployed.
- Average duration of unemployment was approximately 6.7 weeks.

### Introduction

This statement contains preliminary estimates of the civilian labour force for August 1974 and estimates for the previous five quarters. The estimates are derived from the results of the population surveys conducted in February, May, August and November each year throughout Australia. The quarterly bulletin *The Labour Force* (Reference No. 6.20), which gives information in greater detail, will be published shortly.

### The population survey

2. The survey is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (about 30,000 houses, flats, etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.), and covers about two-thirds of one per cent of the population of Australia. The information is obtained each quarter from the occupants of selected dwellings carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers.

3. 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.

### Scope

4. The estimates relate to all persons aged fifteen years and over except members of the permanent armed forces and certain diplomatic personnel customarily excluded from census and estimated populations.

### Classification of the labour force

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

### Reliability of the estimates

6. Since the estimates in this statement 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. The smaller the estimate the higher is the relative standard error: for example, the relative standard error of an estimate of 2,000,000 is approximately 0.5 per cent (10,000) while that of an estimate of 20,000 is approximately 8 per cent (1,600). 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 from a comparable enumeration, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. More information on this topic, together with a table of estimated standard errors, is given in the quarterly bulletin *The Labour Force*.

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

TABLE 1. - CIVILIAN POPULATION 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER (a), BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS

| Month         | Employed (b) (c)         |                             |              | Unemployed (b)  |                                |                              |                     | Total labour force (b) |                                |                            | Not in labour force (b) ('000) | Civilian population aged 15 and over (a) ('000) |
|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
|               | Agri- culture (d) ('000) | Other industries (d) ('000) | Total ('000) | Number          |                                | Per cent of labour force (e) |                     | Number                 |                                | Per cent of population (g) |                                |   |
|               |                          |                             |              | Original ('000) | Seasonally adjusted (f) ('000) | Original                     | Seasonally adjusted | Original ('000)        | Seasonally adjusted (f) ('000) |                            |                                |   |
| MALES         |                          |                             |              |                 |                                |                              |                     |                        |                                |                            |                                |   |
| 1973 - May    | 309.4                    | 3,453.7                     | 3,763.1      | 50.7            | 52.9                           | 1.3                          | 1.4                 | 3,813.8                | 3,812.3                        | 82.0                       | 839.0                          | 4,652.8   |
| Aug.          | 316.3                    | 3,464.7                     | 3,781.1      | 41.0            | 47.8                           | 1.1                          | 1.2                 | 3,822.1                | 3,839.9                        | 82.0                       | 839.9                          | 4,662.0   |
| Nov. (h)      | 310.2                    | 3,489.1                     | 3,799.3      | 54.3            | 50.8                           | 1.4                          | 1.3                 | 3,853.6                | 3,859.8                        | 82.1                       | 837.8                          | 4,691.4   |
| 1974 - Feb.   | 305.5                    | 3,530.8                     | 3,836.3      | 56.7            | 50.3                           | 1.5                          | 1.3                 | 3,893.0                | 3,870.4                        | 82.4                       | 831.6                          | 4,724.5   |
| May           | 307.4                    | 3,523.1                     | 3,830.5      | 45.3            | 46.3                           | 1.2                          | 1.2                 | 3,875.8                | 3,874.3                        | 81.8                       | 863.9                          | 4,739.7   |
| Aug. (h)      | 311.3                    | 3,477.6                     | 3,788.9      | 61.1            | 70.2                           | 1.6                          | 1.8                 | 3,850.0                | 3,868.1                        | 80.8                       | 917.9                          | 4,767.9   |
| MARRIED WOMEN |                          |                             |              |                 |                                |                              |                     |                        |                                |                            |                                |   |
| 1973 - May    | 54.5                     | 1,099.9                     | 1,154.4      | 25.9            | n.a.                           | 2.2                          | n.a.                | 1,180.3                | 1,189.0                        | 37.3                       | 1,980.8                        | 3,161.1   |
| Aug.          | 58.5                     | 1,114.5                     | 1,173.0      | 21.5            | n.a.                           | 1.8                          | n.a.                | 1,194.5                | 1,199.6                        | 38.0                       | 1,947.8                        | 3,142.3   |
| Nov. (h)      | 60.7                     | 1,151.4                     | 1,212.1      | 19.5            | n.a.                           | 1.6                          | n.a.                | 1,231.5                | 1,211.3                        | 39.0                       | 1,925.3                        | 3,156.8   |
| 1974 - Feb.   | 58.2                     | 1,158.7                     | 1,216.9      | 32.4            | n.a.                           | 2.6                          | n.a.                | 1,249.4                | 1,255.5                        | 39.3                       | 1,933.7                        | 3,183.1   |
| May           | 48.4                     | 1,195.2                     | 1,243.6      | 25.6            | n.a.                           | 2.0                          | n.a.                | 1,269.2                | 1,278.8                        | 39.4                       | 1,949.4                        | 3,218.6   |
| Aug. (h)      | 50.8                     | 1,190.7                     | 1,241.4      | 30.3            | n.a.                           | 2.4                          | n.a.                | 1,271.7                | 1,276.9                        | 39.6                       | 1,943.0                        | 3,214.7   |
| ALL FEMALES   |                          |                             |              |                 |                                |                              |                     |                        |                                |                            |                                |   |
| 1973 - May    | 65.0                     | 1,772.8                     | 1,837.8      | 49.5            | 54.5                           | 2.6                          | 2.9                 | 1,887.3                | 1,900.2                        | 39.9                       | 2,839.9                        | 4,727.2   |
| Aug.          | 69.0                     | 1,796.3                     | 1,865.3      | 40.6            | 48.7                           | 2.1                          | 2.5                 | 1,905.9                | 1,923.2                        | 40.3                       | 2,826.9                        | 4,732.8   |
| Nov. (h)      | 71.8                     | 1,845.4                     | 1,917.2      | 51.3            | 51.0                           | 2.6                          | 2.6                 | 1,968.5                | 1,949.6                        | 41.3                       | 2,802.2                        | 4,770.7   |
| 1974 - Feb.   | 68.0                     | 1,865.8                     | 1,933.8      | 63.7            | 50.6                           | 3.2                          | 2.5                 | 1,997.5                | 1,984.7                        | 41.6                       | 2,800.7                        | 4,798.2   |
| May           | 59.2                     | 1,882.7                     | 1,941.9      | 50.0            | 55.5                           | 2.5                          | 2.8                 | 1,991.8                | 2,006.0                        | 41.4                       | 2,822.3                        | 4,814.1   |
| Aug. (h)      | 61.1                     | 1,859.8                     | 1,920.9      | 54.6            | 65.5                           | 2.8                          | 3.3                 | 1,975.5                | 1,993.2                        | 40.9                       | 2,858.0                        | 4,833.5   |
| PERSONS       |                          |                             |              |                 |                                |                              |                     |                        |                                |                            |                                |   |
| 1973 - May    | 374.4                    | 5,226.5                     | 5,600.9      | 100.2           | 106.3                          | 1.8                          | 1.9                 | 5,701.1                | 5,710.4                        | 60.8                       | 3,678.9                        | 9,380.0   |
| Aug.          | 385.3                    | 5,261.0                     | 5,646.3      | 81.6            | 96.1                           | 1.4                          | 1.7                 | 5,728.0                | 5,764.0                        | 61.0                       | 3,666.8                        | 9,394.8   |
| Nov. (h)      | 382.0                    | 5,334.5                     | 5,716.5      | 105.6           | 101.9                          | 1.8                          | 1.8                 | 5,822.1                | 5,810.0                        | 61.5                       | 3,640.0                        | 9,462.1   |
| 1974 - Feb.   | 373.5                    | 5,396.6                     | 5,770.1      | 120.4           | 101.7                          | 2.0                          | 1.7                 | 5,890.5                | 5,855.9                        | 61.9                       | 3,632.3                        | 9,522.7   |
| May           | 366.6                    | 5,405.8                     | 5,772.4      | 95.3            | 100.9                          | 1.6                          | 1.7                 | 5,867.7                | 5,877.8                        | 61.4                       | 3,686.2                        | 9,553.8   |
| Aug. (h)      | 372.4                    | 5,337.4                     | 5,709.8      | 115.7           | 135.8                          | 2.0                          | 2.3                 | 5,825.5                | 5,862.1                        | 60.7                       | 3,775.9                        | 9,601.5   |

(a) For scope of figures see page 1, paragraph 4. (b) For definitions see *The Labour Force*, (Reference No. 6.20) May 1974 pages 2 and 3, paragraphs 7 to 11. (c) Employed includes employers and 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) Classified according to ASIC. (e) The number of unemployed in each group as a percentage of the labour force in the same group. (f) For details of the methods used in seasonally adjusting these series see *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators*, 1974 (Reference No. 1.10). (g) 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). (h) Affected by industrial dispute.

n.a. Not available.

TABLE 2. — EMPLOYED PERSONS (a), AUGUST 1974 †

|                            | Males          | Married women  | Other females (b) | All females    | Persons        |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| NUMBER EMPLOYED ('000)     |                |                |                   |                |                |
| Full-time workers (a)      | 3,656.3        | 784.2          | 576.0             | 1,360.2        | 5,016.6        |
| Part-time workers (a)      | 132.6          | 457.2          | 103.4             | 560.7          | 693.2          |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>3,788.9</b> | <b>1,241.4</b> | <b>679.5</b>      | <b>1,920.9</b> | <b>5,709.8</b> |
| AVERAGE HOURS WORKED (c)   |                |                |                   |                |                |
| Agriculture                | 51.2           | 29.0           | 33.9              | 29.8           | 47.6           |
| Manufacturing              | 39.8           | 33.9           | 36.8              | 34.6           | 38.4           |
| Construction               | 39.7           | 23.4           | 36.8              | 25.9           | 38.9           |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 42.1           | 31.6           | 32.7              | 32.0           | 37.9           |
| Community services (d)     | 37.4           | 27.4           | 33.6              | 29.7           | 32.6           |
| <b>All industries</b>      | <b>40.7</b>    | <b>30.1</b>    | <b>33.9</b>       | <b>31.4</b>    | <b>37.5</b>    |
| Full-time workers (a)      | 41.6           | 37.8           | 37.5              | 37.7           | 40.5           |
| Part-time workers (a)      | 15.8           | 16.7           | 14.1              | 16.2           | 16.1           |

(a) See footnote (b), Table 1. (b) Never married, widowed and divorced. (c) Averages have been calculated using actual hours worked during survey week, not hours paid for. All employed persons, including those who did not work during survey week, have been included in the calculations. When recording hours worked, fractions of an hour are disregarded. This procedure results in a slight lowering of the average hours figures. The figures may be affected by public holidays, leave, absenteeism; temporary absence from work due to sickness, accidents and industrial disputes; and work stoppages due to bad weather, plant break down, etc. (d) Comprises health, education, libraries, etc., welfare and religious institutions; and other community services. In May and August each year estimates of average hours are low because hours worked by school teachers are affected by school holidays. † Affected by industrial dispute.

TABLE 3. — UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (a), AUGUST 1974†

|  | Males       | Married women | Other females (b) | All females | Persons      |
|--|-------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------|
| NUMBER UNEMPLOYED ('000)                     |             |               |                   |             |              |
| Looking for full-time work (c)               | 56.6        | 16.4          | 21.2              | 37.6        | 94.2         |
| Looking for part-time work (d)               | 4.5         | 13.9          | *                 | 17.0        | 21.5         |
| Aged 15-19 years                             | 15.2        | *             | 17.0              | 18.3        | 33.4         |
| Aged 20 years and over                       | 45.9        | 29.1          | 7.3               | 36.4        | 82.3         |
| Unemployed for (e) —                         |             |               |                   |             |              |
| Under 2 weeks                                | 13.3        | 7.3           | *                 | 11.3        | 24.5         |
| 2 weeks and under 4 weeks                    | 19.3        | 10.3          | 8.2               | 18.4        | 37.7         |
| 4 weeks and under 8 weeks                    | 12.1        | 6.4           | 4.6               | 11.0        | 23.2         |
| 8 weeks and under 13 weeks                   | 8.3         | *             | *                 | 7.2         | 15.5         |
| 13 weeks and over                            | 8.1         | *             | 4.0               | 6.7         | 14.8         |
| <b>All unemployed persons</b>                | <b>61.1</b> | <b>30.3</b>   | <b>24.3</b>       | <b>54.6</b> | <b>115.7</b> |
| AVERAGE DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT (f) (weeks) |             |               |                   |             |              |
| Aged 15-19 years                             | 8.2         | *             | 8.7               | 8.4         | 8.3          |
| Aged 20 years and over                       | 6.4         | 5.0           | 7.8               | 5.6         | 6.0          |
| <b>All unemployed persons</b>                | <b>6.9</b>  | <b>5.0</b>    | <b>8.5</b>        | <b>6.5</b>  | <b>6.7</b>   |
| UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (g) (Percent)             |             |               |                   |             |              |
| Looking for full-time work (c)               | 1.5         | 2.0           | 3.6               | 2.7         | 1.8          |
| Looking for part-time work (d)               | 3.3         | 3.0           | *                 | 3.0         | 3.0          |
| Aged 15-19 years                             | 4.5         | *             | 6.0               | 6.0         | 5.2          |
| Aged 20 years and over                       | 1.3         | 2.3           | 1.7               | 2.2         | 1.6          |
| <b>All unemployed persons</b>                | <b>1.6</b>  | <b>2.4</b>    | <b>3.5</b>        | <b>2.8</b>  | <b>2.0</b>   |

(a) See footnote (b), Table 1. (b) Never married, widowed and divorced. (c) Includes persons laid off for the whole week from full-time jobs. (d) Includes persons laid off for the whole week from part-time jobs. (e) Period from the time the person began looking for work, or was laid off, to the end of survey week. (f) Periods of unemployment are recorded only in complete weeks; the averages shown are affected accordingly. (g) The number of unemployed in each group as a percentage of the labour force in the same group. † Affected by industrial dispute.

\* Less than or based on a figure less than 4,000. See *The Labour Force* May 1974 (Reference No. 6.20) page 16, paragraph 10.

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NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr D. Power on 63 9111 extension 2346 or, in each State capital by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.