



Reference No. 6.32

THE LABOUR FORCE, MAY 1975 (PRELIMINARY)

MAIN FEATURES

- In May 1975, 61.1 per cent of civilians aged 15 years and over were in the labour force.
- The estimated number of unemployed persons was 230,000 (3.9 per cent of the labour force), a decrease of 43,200 since February. The average duration of unemployment increased from 10.1 to 12.7 weeks since February. In May, one person in seven of the unemployed had been looking for work for six months or more.
- The estimated number of persons who did no work but would have taken a job during the survey week and who had been actively looking for work at some time in the four weeks before the interview week was 252,500.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This statement contains preliminary estimates of the civilian labour force for May 1975 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.

2. Preliminary unemployment estimates are published several weeks in advance of this statement in *Unemployment, Preliminary Estimates* (Reference No. 6.35).

The population survey

3. 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 by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers.

4. 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

5. 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. For February 1975 the estimates also exclude about 17,000 persons aged 15 years and over who were in Darwin at the time of the survey.

Classification of the labour force

6. 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

7. 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 complete enumeration, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

8. Limitations of space preclude publication of the standard errors of all estimates in this statement. More information on this topic, together with a table of estimated standard errors for States, Territories and Australia, 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)		Original ('000)	Seasonally adjusted (g) (k) ('000)	Per cent of population (h)		
				Original ('000)	Seasonally adjusted (f) (k) ('000)	Original	Seasonally adjusted (k)					
MALES												
1974 - Feb.	305.5	3,530.8	3,836.3	56.7	48.4	1.5	1.3	3,893.0	3,868.8	82.4	831.6	4,724.5
May	307.4	3,523.1	3,830.5	45.3	49.9	1.2	1.3	3,875.8	3,876.5	81.8	863.9	4,739.7
Aug. (i)	311.3	3,477.6	3,788.9	61.1	72.7	1.6	1.9	3,850.0	3,870.5	80.7	917.9	4,767.9
Nov.	301.5	3,497.8	3,799.3	111.6	107.0	2.9	2.7	3,910.9	3,913.9	81.3	898.9	4,809.8
1975 - Feb. (j)	296.6	3,500.5	3,797.2	144.9	123.3	3.7	3.1	3,942.1	3,917.4	81.6	890.5	4,832.6
May	299.7	3,497.6	3,797.3	125.4	140.6	3.2	3.6	3,922.7	3,923.6	81.0	920.0	4,842.7
MARRIED WOMEN												
1974 - Feb.	58.2	1,158.7	1,216.9	32.4	n.a.	2.6	n.a.	1,249.4	1,254.7	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	1,276.1	39.4	1,949.4	3,218.6
Aug. (i)	50.8	1,190.7	1,241.4	30.3	n.a.	2.4	n.a.	1,271.7	1,278.5	39.6	1,943.0	3,214.7
Nov.	60.9	1,214.8	1,275.7	38.6	n.a.	2.9	n.a.	1,314.3	1,295.4	40.5	1,930.1	3,244.3
1975 - Feb. (j)	60.8	1,162.4	1,223.2	61.8	n.a.	4.8	n.a.	1,285.0	1,289.8	39.8	1,948.0	3,233.0
May	52.1	1,183.0	1,235.1	50.8	n.a.	4.0	n.a.	1,285.9	1,293.0	39.6	1,960.1	3,246.0
ALL FEMALES												
1974 - Feb.	68.0	1,865.8	1,933.8	63.7	50.4	3.2	2.5	1,997.5	1,983.4	41.6	2,800.7	4,798.2
May	59.2	1,882.7	1,941.9	50.0	56.4	2.5	2.8	1,991.8	2,007.9	41.4	2,822.3	4,814.1
Aug. (i)	61.1	1,859.8	1,920.9	54.6	66.7	2.8	3.3	1,975.5	1,994.7	40.9	2,858.0	4,833.5
Nov.	72.5	1,899.2	1,971.8	89.6	92.1	4.3	4.5	2,061.4	2,040.0	42.2	2,826.6	4,888.0
1975 - Feb. (j)	72.3	1,853.6	1,925.9	128.3	101.7	6.2	5.0	2,054.2	2,039.0	41.9	2,848.7	4,903.0
May	62.4	1,871.9	1,934.3	104.6	119.4	5.1	5.8	2,038.9	2,056.2	41.5	2,871.9	4,910.8
PERSONS												
1974 - Feb.	373.5	5,396.6	5,770.1	120.4	98.4	2.0	1.7	5,890.5	5,853.1	61.9	3,632.3	9,522.7
May	366.6	5,405.8	5,772.4	95.3	104.9	1.6	1.8	5,867.7	5,882.1	61.4	3,686.2	9,553.8
Aug. (i)	372.4	5,337.4	5,709.8	115.7	143.0	2.0	2.4	5,825.5	5,864.3	60.7	3,775.9	9,601.5
Nov.	374.0	5,397.1	5,771.1	201.2	200.4	3.4	3.4	5,972.2	5,956.2	61.6	3,725.5	9,697.7
1975 - Feb. (j)	368.9	5,354.2	5,723.1	273.2	223.0	4.6	3.7	5,996.3	5,957.6	61.6	3,739.3	9,735.6
May	362.1	5,369.5	5,731.6	230.0	255.9	3.9	4.3	5,961.6	5,977.1	61.1	3,791.9	9,753.5

(a) For scope of estimates see page 1, paragraph 5. (b) For definitions see *The Labour Force*, (Reference No. 6.20) February 1975 pages 2 and 3, paragraphs 8 to 12. (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) The method used in seasonally adjusting estimates for unemployed persons is to adjust estimates for unemployed persons aged 15 to 19 years looking for their first job and estimates for the remainder of unemployed persons separately and to add the two figures to obtain total estimates for unemployed persons. Estimates for unemployed males and females are treated similarly. (g) For details of the methods used in seasonally adjusting these series see *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators*, 1975 (Reference No. 1.10). (h) 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). (i) Affected by industrial dispute. (j) Excludes Darwin. See explanatory notes, page 1. (k) Revised following annual re-analysis of the series.

n.a. Not available.

TABLE 2. - EMPLOYED PERSONS (a), MAY 1975

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Married women</i>	<i>Other females (b)</i>	<i>All females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
NUMBER EMPLOYED ('000)					
Full-time workers (a)	3,653.8	755.1	591.6	1,346.7	5,000.5
Part-time workers (a)	143.5	480.0	107.6	587.6	731.1
Total	3,797.3	1,235.1	699.2	1,934.3	5,731.6
AVERAGE HOURS WORKED (c)					
Agriculture	53.0	25.8	37.5	27.7	48.6
Manufacturing	38.6	32.5	36.5	33.5	37.3
Construction	39.3	22.4	36.9	25.2	38.5
Wholesale and retail trade	41.1	30.3	32.7	31.2	37.0
Community services (d)	35.3	25.0	32.2	27.7	30.6
All industries	39.8	28.2	33.4	30.1	36.5
Full-time workers (a)	40.8	36.4	37.1	36.7	39.7
Part-time workers (a)	15.5	15.4	13.2	15.0	15.1

(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 breakdown, 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.

TABLE 3. - UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (a), MAY 1975

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Married women</i>	<i>Other females (b)</i>	<i>All females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
NUMBER UNEMPLOYED ('000)					
Looking for full-time work (c)	118.2	25.7	48.0	73.7	191.9
Looking for part-time work (d)	7.2	25.1	5.8	30.9	38.1
Aged 15-19 years	31.0	*	36.1	38.5	69.5
Aged 20 years and over	94.4	48.3	17.8	66.1	160.5
Unemployed for (e) -					
Under 2 weeks	12.2	7.4	6.1	13.5	25.7
2 weeks and under 4 weeks	21.6	10.6	7.1	17.7	39.3
4 weeks and under 8 weeks	26.2	9.2	9.4	18.6	44.8
8 weeks and under 13 weeks	22.6	8.3	9.3	17.7	40.3
13 weeks and under 26 weeks	25.4	7.5	14.2	21.8	47.2
26 weeks and over	17.5	7.8	7.6	15.3	32.8
All unemployed persons	125.4	50.8	53.8	104.6	230.0
AVERAGE DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT (f) (weeks)					
Aged 15-19 years	14.0	*	14.5	14.4	14.2
Aged 20 years and over	12.4	11.9	11.1	11.7	12.1
All unemployed persons	12.8	11.9	13.4	12.7	12.7
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (g) (Per cent)					
Looking for full-time work (c)	3.1	3.3	7.5	5.2	3.7
Looking for part-time work (d)	4.7	5.0	5.1	5.0	5.0
Aged 15-19 years	8.5	*	11.8	11.7	10.0
Aged 20 years and over	2.7	3.8	4.0	3.9	3.1
All unemployed persons	3.2	4.0	7.2	5.1	3.9

(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.

* Less than or based on a figure less than 4,000. See *The Labour Force* November 1974 (Reference No. 6.20) page 18, paragraph 7.

TABLE 4. - CIVILIAN POPULATION 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER (a), BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS
STATES AND TERRITORIES, MAY 1975

State or Territory	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 indus- tries (d) ('000)	Total ('000)	Number ('000)	Per cent of labour force (e)	Number ('000)	Per cent of popula- tion (h)		
MALES									
New South Wales	87.8	1,278.2	1,366.0	48.3	3.5	1,414.3	80.8	335.2	1,749.5
Victoria	64.8	949.3	1,014.1	32.7	3.2	1,046.8	80.7	250.1	1,296.9
Queensland	61.9	493.3	555.2	21.4	3.9	576.6	80.7	138.0	714.6
South Australia	32.6	326.8	359.4	9.2	2.6	368.6	81.8	82.1	450.7
Western Australia	40.4	275.2	315.6	9.1	2.9	324.7	82.1	70.6	395.3
Tasmania	10.6	101.7	112.3	3.4	3.0	115.7	79.8	29.2	144.9
Northern Territory	1.3	17.9	19.2	*	*	19.7	76.1	6.2	25.9
Australian Capital Territory	*	55.3	55.6	*	*	56.3	86.9	8.5	64.8
Australia	299.7	3,497.6	3,797.3	125.4	3.2	3,922.7	81.0	920.0	4,842.7
FEMALES									
New South Wales	20.2	672.4	692.6	38.0	5.5	730.6	40.9	1,055.0	1,785.6
Victoria	13.1	519.9	533.0	32.1	6.0	565.1	42.7	758.5	1,323.6
Queensland	9.6	251.7	261.3	12.2	4.7	273.5	38.1	443.5	717.0
South Australia	7.3	178.3	185.6	9.3	5.0	194.9	42.6	262.6	457.5
Western Australia	8.9	153.8	162.7	8.7	5.3	171.4	44.0	218.4	389.8
Tasmania	2.8	50.5	53.3	3.4	6.4	56.7	38.4	91.0	147.7
Northern Territory	*	10.4	10.9	*	*	11.1	45.9	13.1	24.2
Australian Capital Territory	*	34.9	34.9	*	*	35.7	54.5	29.8	65.5
Australia	62.4	1,871.9	1,934.3	104.6	5.1	2,038.9	41.5	2,871.9	4,910.8
PERSONS									
New South Wales	108.0	1,950.6	2,058.6	86.3	4.2	2,144.9	60.7	1,390.2	3,535.1
Victoria	77.9	1,469.2	1,547.1	64.8	4.2	1,611.9	61.5	1,008.6	2,620.5
Queensland	71.5	745.0	816.5	33.6	4.1	850.1	59.4	581.5	1,431.6
South Australia	39.9	505.1	545.0	18.5	3.4	563.5	62.0	344.7	908.2
Western Australia	49.3	429.0	478.3	17.8	3.7	496.1	63.2	289.0	785.1
Tasmania	13.4	152.2	165.6	6.8	4.1	172.4	58.9	120.2	292.6
Northern Territory	1.8	28.3	30.1	*	*	30.8	61.5	19.3	50.1
Australian Capital Territory	*	90.2	90.5	*	*	92.0	70.6	38.3	130.3
Australia	362.1	5,369.5	5,731.6	230.0	3.9	5,961.6	61.1	3,791.9	9,753.5

For footnotes see Table 1.

* Subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses.

NOTE. State estimates for periods prior to November 1974, and standard errors of the estimates, are available from the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics in each State capital. See also paragraph 8, page 1.

n.a. Not available.

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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.