



Reference No. 6.32

## THE LABOUR FORCE, NOVEMBER 1975 (PRELIMINARY)

## MAIN FEATURES

- In November 1975 the estimated civilian labour force reached 6,078,200 persons, an increase of 156,700 over August 1975.
- Total employed civilians aged 15 years and over rose from 5,688,100 in August 1975 to 5,799,100 in November, an increase of 111,000. This increase comprised 89,900 women (of whom 47,800 were married part-time workers) and 21,100 males.
- The number of unemployed persons increased by 45,600 to a total of 279,100 (4.6 per cent of the civilian labour force).
- Of the unemployed, 46,000 were persons aged 15 – 19 years looking for their first job.
- 41.9 per cent of all married women were in the labour force in November 1975, compared with 40.6 per cent in November 1974.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

## Introduction

This statement contains preliminary estimates of the civilian labour force for November 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 (houses, flats etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.), the information being obtained in February, May, August and November from the occupants of selected dwellings by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers. Interviews are carried out during a period of four weeks, so that in each of the months to which the survey relates, there are four survey weeks, chosen so as to fall within the limits of the calendar month or with minimum encroachment into the adjacent months.

4. The survey normally covers about two-thirds of one per cent of the population of Australia, but because of special circumstances in November 1975 the sample size was reduced to one half of one per cent.

## 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.

## Estimation procedure

7. Estimates are obtained by using a complex ratio estimation procedure which ensures that survey estimates conform to independent population estimates by State, area, age and sex. These population estimates are based on very preliminary information and are subject to revision.

## Reliability of the estimates

8. Since the estimates 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. Because of the reduction in the size of the sample in November 1975, the standard errors are larger than usual. For November 1975 the relative standard error of an estimate of 2,000,000 is approximately 0.6 per cent (12,000) while that of an estimate of 20,000 is approximately 9 per cent (1,800). 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.

9. 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)				
	Agri- culture (d)	Other industries (d)	Total	Number		Per cent of labour force (e)		Number		Per cent of population (g)	Not in labour force (b) ( <i>'000</i> )	Civilian population aged 15 and over (a) ( <i>'000</i> )
				Original	Seasonally adjusted (f)	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Original	Seasonally adjusted (f)			
	( <i>'000</i> )	( <i>'000</i> )	( <i>'000</i> )	( <i>'000</i> )	( <i>'000</i> )	( <i>'000</i> )	( <i>'000</i> )	( <i>'000</i> )	( <i>'000</i> )	( <i>'000</i> )	( <i>'000</i> )	
MALES												
1974 - Aug. (h)	308.0	3,456.9	3,764.8	60.8	72.3	1.6	1.9	3,825.6	3,845.9	80.8	910.3	4,736.0
Nov.	299.5	3,476.7	3,776.2	111.4	106.9	2.9	2.7	3,887.6	3,890.6	81.4	890.1	4,777.6
1975 - Feb. (i)	295.2	3,477.9	3,773.0	143.8	122.3	3.7	3.1	3,916.8	3,892.3	81.6	881.0	4,797.8
May	297.6	3,474.3	3,771.9	124.5	139.5	3.2	3.6	3,896.3	3,897.3	81.1	910.7	4,807.0
Aug.	294.8	3,453.4	3,748.2	124.6	(j)151.0	3.2	3.9	3,872.7	3,893.6	80.4	941.3	4,814.0
Nov.	294.3	3,475.0	3,769.3	149.6	(j)144.4	3.8	3.7	3,918.9	3,921.5	80.9	924.4	4,843.3
MARRIED WOMEN												
1974 - Aug. (h)	51.0	1,194.9	1,246.0	30.5	n.a.	2.4	n.a.	1,276.5	1,283.3	39.7	1,941.3	3,217.8
Nov.	61.1	1,218.4	1,279.6	38.6	n.a.	2.9	n.a.	1,318.2	1,299.2	40.6	1,927.0	3,245.2
1975 - Feb. (i)	61.2	1,166.5	1,227.7	62.0	n.a.	4.8	n.a.	1,289.7	1,294.5	39.9	1,945.0	3,234.7
May	52.1	1,185.5	1,237.6	51.0	n.a.	4.0	n.a.	1,288.6	1,295.7	39.8	1,951.0	3,239.6
Aug.	54.8	1,191.7	1,246.5	46.6	n.a.	3.6	n.a.	1,293.0	1,299.7	40.0	1,940.6	3,233.7
Nov.	62.7	1,241.9	1,304.6	51.9	n.a.	3.8	n.a.	1,356.4	1,337.3	41.9	1,881.6	3,238.1
ALL FEMALES												
1974 - Aug. (h)	61.4	1,865.6	1,927.0	55.0	67.1	2.8	3.4	1,981.7	2,001.2	41.1	2,845.3	4,827.2
Nov.	72.8	1,902.7	1,975.5	89.6	92.1	4.3	4.5	2,065.1	2,043.6	42.3	2,816.0	4,881.1
1975 - Feb. (i)	72.5	1,858.5	1,931.0	128.6	101.9	6.2	5.0	2,059.7	2,044.5	42.1	2,838.0	4,897.7
May	62.4	1,876.3	1,938.7	105.1	120.0	5.1	5.8	2,043.8	2,061.2	41.7	2,861.5	4,905.3
Aug.	67.3	1,872.7	1,939.9	108.9	(j)136.8	5.3	6.6	2,048.8	2,068.7	41.8	2,857.6	4,906.4
Nov.	74.8	1,955.1	2,029.8	129.5	(j)131.6	6.0	6.2	2,159.3	2,136.8	43.7	2,782.6	4,942.0
PERSONS												
1974 - Aug. (h)	369.4	5,322.4	5,691.8	115.7	142.8	2.0	2.4	5,807.6	5,846.3	60.7	3,755.6	9,563.2
Nov.	372.2	5,379.4	5,751.7	201.0	200.2	3.4	3.4	5,952.7	5,936.7	61.6	3,706.1	9,658.7
1975 - Feb. (i)	367.7	5,336.4	5,704.0	272.4	222.3	4.6	3.7	5,976.5	5,938.0	61.6	3,719.0	9,695.5
May	360.0	5,350.6	5,710.6	229.6	259.5	3.9	4.4	5,940.1	5,955.6	61.2	3,772.1	9,712.3
Aug.	362.1	5,326.0	5,688.1	233.5	(j)295.3	3.9	5.0	5,921.5	5,961.1	60.9	3,798.9	9,720.4
Nov.	369.1	5,430.0	5,799.1	279.1	(j)277.2	4.6	4.6	6,078.2	6,061.5	62.1	3,707.1	9,785.3

(a) For scope of estimates see page 1, paragraph 5. (b) For definitions see *The Labour Force*, (Reference No. 6.20) August 1975 pages 2 and 3, paragraphs 7 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) For details of the methods used in seasonally adjusting these series see *Seasonally Adjusted Indicators*, 1975 (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. (i) Excludes Darwin. See page 1, paragraph 5. (j) All adjustment methods which compute seasonal factors as some average of the seasonal pattern for previous years are subject to inherent limitations when the pattern changes. The method currently used assumes that seasonal variations (such as that which occurs in November when young people leave school and seek employment) are proportional to the level of the series. However, when the number of unemployed becomes exceptionally high this proportional relationship may change. If it does, the change cannot be accommodated quickly enough by the current method. Such a change has been occurring in recent quarters and as a result the seasonally adjusted estimates for August are overstated while those for November are understated. It is difficult in these circumstances to draw any reliable conclusions from the movement in the seasonally adjusted estimates between August and November 1975.

n.a. Not available.

TABLE 2. – EMPLOYED PERSONS (a), NOVEMBER 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)	3,616.6	761.9	592.7	1,354.7	4,971.3
Part-time workers (a)	152.6	542.6	132.6	675.2	827.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,769.3</b>	<b>1,304.6</b>	<b>725.3</b>	<b>2,029.8</b>	<b>5,799.1</b>
AVERAGE HOURS WORKED (c)					
Agriculture	57.4	30.5	36.3	31.4	52.1
Manufacturing	39.9	33.4	37.3	34.4	38.4
Construction	39.9	19.0	37.3	21.6	38.6
Wholesale and retail trade	41.7	30.6	30.8	30.7	37.0
Community services (d)	39.4	28.7	34.9	31.1	34.3
<b>All industries</b>	<b>41.2</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>33.4</b>	<b>31.0</b>	<b>37.6</b>
Full-time workers (a)	42.2	38.5	37.9	38.2	41.2
Part-time workers (a)	15.9	17.0	13.4	16.3	16.2

(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), NOVEMBER 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)	138.4	27.0	66.4	93.4	231.8
Looking for part-time work (d)	11.2	24.8	11.2	36.1	47.3
Aged 15-19 years –					
Looking for first job	20.3	*	25.4	25.7	46.0
Other	32.6	*	28.3	30.9	63.5
Total aged 15-19 years	52.9	*	53.7	56.5	109.4
Aged 20 years and over	96.7	49.0	24.0	73.0	169.7
Unemployed for (e) –					
Under 2 weeks	17.7	8.3	11.5	19.7	37.4
2 weeks and under 4 weeks	30.6	12.8	16.2	29.0	59.5
4 weeks and under 8 weeks	30.7	8.8	15.8	24.6	55.3
8 weeks and under 13 weeks	23.1	7.2	13.6	20.7	43.8
13 weeks and under 26 weeks	23.2	7.5	7.9	15.4	38.6
26 weeks and over	24.4	7.4	12.7	20.1	44.5
<b>All unemployed persons</b>	<b>149.6</b>	<b>51.9</b>	<b>77.6</b>	<b>129.5</b>	<b>279.1</b>
AVERAGE DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT (f) (weeks)					
Aged 15-19 years	10.5	*	12.3	12.2	11.4
Aged 20 years and over	15.5	11.7	12.9	12.1	14.0
<b>All unemployed persons</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>13.0</b>
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES (g) (per cent)					
Looking for full-time work (c)	3.7	3.4	10.1	6.5	4.5
Looking for part-time work (d)	6.8	4.4	7.8	5.1	5.4
Aged 15-19 years	14.6	*	16.9	16.7	15.6
Aged 20 years and over	2.7	3.7	4.9	4.0	3.2
<b>All unemployed persons</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>4.6</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.

\* Less than or based on a figure less than 4,000. See *The Labour Force* August 1975 (Reference No. 6.20) page 17, paragraph 7.



TABLE 4. — CIVILIAN POPULATION 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER (a), BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS  
STATES AND TERRITORIES, NOVEMBER 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 industries (d) ('000)	Total ('000)	Number ('000)	Per cent of labour force (e)	Number ('000)	Per cent of population (g)		
MALES									
New South Wales	84.5	1,254.3	1,338.9	63.6	4.5	1,402.5	80.9	331.1	1,733.6
Victoria	64.8	960.6	1,025.5	36.8	3.5	1,062.2	81.2	246.0	1,308.2
Queensland	63.1	477.0	540.1	19.2	3.4	559.3	78.8	150.6	709.9
South Australia	31.5	316.4	347.9	12.5	3.5	360.4	80.8	85.9	446.3
Western Australia	38.1	286.2	324.4	11.9	3.5	336.3	82.6	71.1	407.3
Tasmania	10.3	99.2	109.5	3.9	3.5	113.4	79.1	29.9	143.3
Northern Territory	1.7	25.8	27.5	*	*	28.1	86.7	4.3	32.4
Australian Capital Territory	*	55.4	55.6	*	*	56.8	91.1	5.5	62.3
<b>Australia</b>	<b>294.3</b>	<b>3,475.0</b>	<b>3,769.3</b>	<b>149.6</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3,918.9</b>	<b>80.9</b>	<b>924.4</b>	<b>4,843.3</b>
FEMALES									
New South Wales	23.7	702.7	726.4	50.1	6.4	776.4	43.6	1,006.0	1,782.4
Victoria	17.1	550.1	567.2	33.7	5.6	600.9	44.6	747.3	1,348.2
Queensland	14.1	251.8	265.9	17.0	6.0	283.0	39.4	434.3	717.3
South Australia	7.9	187.9	195.8	10.5	5.1	206.4	45.1	251.4	457.8
Western Australia	8.0	164.1	172.1	11.4	6.2	183.4	46.3	212.7	396.1
Tasmania	2.9	52.4	55.2	4.1	6.9	59.3	40.5	87.2	146.6
Northern Territory	*	13.4	14.6	*	*	14.9	52.4	13.6	28.5
Australian Capital Territory	*	32.7	32.7	2.3	6.6	35.0	53.8	30.1	65.1
<b>Australia</b>	<b>74.8</b>	<b>1,955.1</b>	<b>2,029.8</b>	<b>129.5</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>2,159.3</b>	<b>43.7</b>	<b>2,782.6</b>	<b>4,942.0</b>
PERSONS									
New South Wales	108.2	1,957.1	2,065.3	113.7	5.2	2,179.0	62.0	1,337.0	3,516.0
Victoria	81.9	1,510.7	1,592.6	70.5	4.2	1,663.1	62.6	993.3	2,656.4
Queensland	77.2	728.9	806.0	36.2	4.3	842.2	59.0	585.0	1,427.2
South Australia	39.4	504.4	543.8	23.0	4.1	566.7	62.7	337.3	904.1
Western Australia	46.1	450.3	496.4	23.3	4.5	519.7	64.7	283.7	803.4
Tasmania	13.2	151.5	164.7	8.1	4.7	172.8	59.6	117.2	289.9
Northern Territory	2.9	39.2	42.1	*	*	43.0	70.6	17.9	60.9
Australian Capital Territory	*	88.0	88.3	3.5	3.8	91.7	72.0	35.6	127.3
<b>Australia</b>	<b>369.1</b>	<b>5,430.0</b>	<b>5,799.1</b>	<b>279.1</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>6,078.2</b>	<b>62.1</b>	<b>3,707.1</b>	<b>9,785.3</b>

For footnotes see Table 1.

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

- NOTE. 1. Standard errors of State estimates are available from the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics in each State capital. See also paragraph 8, page 1.  
2. Estimates may not be strictly comparable with those shown in issues prior to August 1975. Earlier estimates have not yet been revised to incorporate revised population figures. See paragraph 7, page 1.

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NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr D. Power on 52 7911 extension 6654 or, in each State capital by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.