

THE LABOUR FORCE, FEBRUARY 1978 (PRELIMINARY) (Including revised estimates for the period August 1976 to November 1977)

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr John Tayler on Canberra 526512 or our State office, or write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616
For copies of this publication contact Information Services, Canberra 526627 or State offices.

MAIN FEATURES

NOTE. The survey estimates are subject to sampling variability, as explained in paragraphs 35 to 41. Standard errors are shown in Table 1 and paragraph 38.

- In February 1978 the estimated civilian labour force was 6,409,300 (4,112,400 males and 2,296,900 females).
- 5,932,300 persons were employed, 395,800 were unemployed looking for full-time work and 81,300 were unemployed looking for part-time work.
- The number of persons aged 15 years and over not in the labour force was estimated to be 3,985,000.
- In the twelve months to February 1978, employed persons decreased by 62,500 and unemployed persons increased by 104,700.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This bulletin contains preliminary estimates of the civilian labour force for February 1978 and revised estimates for earlier periods. The estimates are derived from the population survey, which is now being conducted monthly. Previously, surveys were conducted in February, May, August and November each year. More detailed estimates will be published in *The Labour Force* (6203.0).

2. Preliminary unemployment estimates have been issued in advance of this publication in *Unemployment, Preliminary Estimates* (6201.0).

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 from the occupants of selected dwellings by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers, the interviews generally being conducted during the two weeks beginning on the Monday between the 6th and 12th of each month. The information obtained relates to the week

prior to the interview (i.e. the survey week). Before February 1978 the interviews were spread over four weeks, chosen so that the survey weeks generally fell within the limits of the calendar month.

Scope

4. The survey includes all persons aged fifteen years and over except:

- (a) members of the permanent defence forces
- (b) certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations
- (c) non-Australians on tour or holidaying in Australia, and
- (d) members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

Definitions

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 the survey week. The following definitions relate only to those persons within the scope of the survey.

6. *Employed persons* comprise all those aged 15 years and over who, during the survey week:

- (a) worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job or business, or on a farm (including employees, employers and self-employed persons); or
- (b) worked for 15 hours or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. unpaid family helper); or
- (c) were employees who had a job but were not at work, and were on paid leave; on leave without pay for less than four weeks up to the end of the survey week; stood down without pay because of bad weather or plant breakdown at their place of employment for less than four weeks up to the end of the survey week; on strike or locked out; on workers' compensation and expected to be returning to their job; or receiving wages or salary while undertaking full-time study; or
- (d) were employers or self-employed persons who

had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

7. *Unemployed persons* are those aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the survey week, and

- (a) had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the survey week and :
 - (i) were available for work in the survey week, or would have been available except for temporary illness (i.e. lasting for less than four weeks to the end of the survey week); or
 - (ii) were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the survey week and would have started in the survey week if the job had been available then;

or

- (b) were waiting to be called back to a full-time or part-time job from which they had been stood down without pay for less than four weeks up to the end of the survey week (including the whole of the survey week) for reasons other than bad weather or plant breakdown.

8. The *unemployment rate* for any group is the number unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labour force (i.e. employed plus unemployed) in the same group.

9. The *labour force* comprises all persons who, during the survey week, were employed or unemployed, as defined in paragraphs 6 and 7.

10. The *labour force participation rate* for any group is the labour force expressed as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over in the same group.

11. *Full-time workers* are those who usually work 35 hours a week or more and others who, although usually part-time workers worked 35 hours or more during the survey week. *Part-time workers* are those who usually work less than 35 hours a week and who did so during the survey week. When recording hours of work, fractions of an hour are disregarded.

12. *Persons not in the labour force* are those who, during the survey week, were not in the categories 'employed' or 'unemployed'.

13. Although the wording of the above definitions of employed persons and unemployed persons is different from that appearing in the last issue of this bulletin, the changes were made only for clarity; they do not signify any change of substance in the definitions, which still conform to the international standard definitions specified by the I.L.O. The use of an amended questionnaire in February 1978, however, has affected the responses of informants to some extent, as indicated in paragraph 24, and this is one of the reasons for the revision of figures for earlier quarters.

Revision of series

14. Because the February 1978 survey estimates are based on revised population estimates derived from the results of the 1976 Population Census and were obtained by using a new sample and new questionnaire, they are not comparable with those in previous issues of this publication.

15. In order to provide a series for earlier periods as comparable as possible with the February 1978 estimates, the survey estimates for August 1976 to November 1977 have been revised.

16. Information concerning the methods used in the revision is given in the following paragraphs.

Population benchmarks

17. The population survey estimates are calculated in such a way as to conform to the independently estimated distribution of the population by age and sex. As a consequence, whenever these population "benchmarks" are revised it becomes necessary to revise the labour force estimates also.

18. The survey estimates for the period from August 1976 have been revised by using population benchmarks based on the results of the 1976 Population Census, adjusted for underenumeration. For information concerning these population estimates see *Population and Vital Statistics (Preliminary) : December Quarter 1976* (3211.0). For November 1977 the estimate of the civilian population 15 years of age and over was increased by 180,100 persons (from 10,153,100 to 10,333,200).

19. The exclusion of short-term overseas arrivals and departures from the population estimates has had some effect on the quarter-to-quarter movements in the survey estimates.

The new sample and new questionnaire

20. In the previous issue of this publication attention was drawn to the fact that a new sample based on the 1976 Population Census would be used in the February 1978 survey and that the survey data would be obtained by means of a new questionnaire.

21. The new sample was selected in order to reflect the changes in the distribution of the population shown by the 1976 Population Census results. The questionnaire, which had undergone little change since 1960 except for the inclusion in 1975 of additional questions on job-seeking, was revised to provide more accurate and more detailed information concerning the labour force.

22. Copies of both the new questionnaire and the one previously used, together with a description of the main features of the new questionnaire, are contained in *Information Paper : Questionnaires used in the Labour Force Survey* (6232.0) issued on 17 March 1978.

23. In order to provide an indication of the effects of the new sample and questionnaire, two surveys were undertaken in November 1977, one using the old sample and questionnaire and the other using the new sample

and questionnaire. The surveys were carried out during the same four-week period. Because of the costs of conducting two surveys concurrently, the sample size of both November surveys was reduced to one-half of one per cent of the population (from the normal two-thirds of one per cent). The results of the two surveys have been used to make adjustments to results of surveys from August 1976 to August 1977 to make them as nearly comparable as possible with results of surveys on the basis now in use.

24. It was expected that the estimates derived from the new sample and questionnaire would differ to some extent from those derived from the old sample and questionnaire, for the following reasons :

- (a) Whilst the new questionnaire was designed to collect data according to basically the same definitions as previously, it was not unexpected that improved wording of some questions aimed at collecting more accurate data would result in some changes.
- (b) A different sample can be expected to produce a different result.
- (c) Dwellings in the old sample had been included in the survey for at least three occasions and up to a maximum of nine, whilst all dwellings in the new sample were included in the survey for the first time. From experience with the old questionnaire it is considered likely that there could be differences in the quality of the data provided by new entrants into the survey and those who had been surveyed several times.

25. In revising the estimates for the period August 1976 to November 1977 the old estimates were first recalculated by incorporating revised population benchmarks, as explained in paragraphs 17 to 19. These adjusted estimates were then further revised to take account of the effect of the new sample and questionnaire. The methods used are summarised below.

Estimates for November 1977

26. *Employed persons.* The estimates adopted were those obtained by using the new sample and questionnaire.

27. *Unemployed persons looking for full-time work.* It was considered that the new questionnaire had relatively little effect on the estimates for this category and the November 1977 estimates were obtained by averaging the results of the two November surveys. The amalgamation of the two results produced estimates based on a sample of one per cent of the population.

28. *Unemployed persons looking for part-time work.* In the old questionnaire only one question was asked in order to establish whether persons had been looking for work, followed by a question on whether full-time or part-time work was being sought. In the new questionnaire two questions were asked : whether they had been looking for full-time work, and if not, whether they had been looking for part-time work. It is clear that the considerable increase in the estimated number of unemployed persons seeking part-time work resulted from the inclusion of a separate question on this aspect

of unemployment. The estimates obtained by using the new sample and questionnaire were therefore adopted.

29. *Labour force.* Revised estimates were obtained by adding revised estimates of employed and unemployed persons.

30. *Persons not in the labour force.* Revised estimates were obtained by subtracting revised labour force estimates from revised population benchmarks.

Estimates for periods before November 1977

31. The estimates for employed and unemployed persons for August 1976 to August 1977, adjusted to new benchmarks as in paragraph 18, were revised independently by applying to them factors derived from the November 1977 results. For each group the ratio between the estimate adopted for November (see paragraphs 26 to 28) and the adjusted estimate based on new benchmarks was applied to each of the earlier adjusted estimates.

32. Estimates for the labour force and for persons not in the labour force were obtained by addition and subtraction in the same manner as outlined in paragraphs 29 and 30 above.

33. The revision has been made at the broad aggregate level only. Consequently, the revised estimates are preliminary and are subject to further revision when the detailed figures become available.

Comparability of series

34. When comparing estimates for February 1978 with those for earlier periods it should be noted that with the introduction of monthly surveys the interviews are now conducted during a two-week period, whereas formerly the period was four weeks. (See paragraph 3.) This change of timing may affect the level of the figures for any month, but particularly for months such as February, during which unemployment may be changing rapidly.

Reliability of the estimates

35. 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 in the survey. 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 in the survey, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

36. Space does not allow for the separate indication of the standard errors of all estimates in this bulletin. Standard errors are shown in Table 1, ranges of standard errors being shown for months other than the latest. Standard errors for general application are shown in the table in paragraph 38. Because of the reduction in the sample size for November 1977 (see paragraph 23),

the standard errors for all November estimates except those for unemployed persons looking for full-time work are approximately 15 per cent higher than those shown.

37. The size of the standard error increases with the level of the estimate, so that the larger the estimate the larger the standard error. However, it should be noted that the larger the sample estimate the smaller will be the standard error in percentage terms. Thus, larger sample estimates will be relatively more reliable than smaller estimates.

38. As the standard errors in the following table show, *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 bulletin, estimates below the levels shown in the following table have not been included. Although figures for these small components can in some cases be derived by subtraction, they should not be regarded as reliable.

Size of estimate (persons)	N.S.W. No.	Vic. No.	Qld No.	S.A. No.	W.A. No.
1,500					
2,000					400
2,500				500	450
3,000			600	500	450
4,000	900	900	700	500	500
5,000	1,000	1,000	750	550	550
10,000	1,300	1,300	900	800	700
20,000	1,600	1,600	1,200	1,100	1,000
50,000	2,500	2,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
100,000	3,000	3,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
200,000	4,000	4,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
300,000	5,000	5,000	2,500	2,600	2,400
500,000	6,000	6,000	3,500	3,200	3,000
1,000,000	8,000	8,000	3,700		
2,000,000	10,500	10,500			

Size of estimate (persons)	Tas. No.	N.T. No.	A.C.T. No.	Australia	
				No.	Per cent of estimate
1,500	250	300	300		
2,000	250	350	350		
2,500	250	400	400		
3,000	300	400	450		
4,000	300	450	550	800	20.0
5,000	350	500	600	900	18.0
10,000	400	650	800	1,200	12.0
20,000	400	900	1,050	1,600	8.0
50,000	500	1,300	1,500	2,300	4.6
100,000	600		2,000	3,000	3.0
200,000				4,000	2.0
300,000				5,000	1.7
500,000				6,000	1.2
1,000,000				8,000	0.8
2,000,000				10,000	0.5
5,000,000				15,500	0.3

39. An example of the use of standard errors is as follows. The estimate of employed females in South Australia in February 1978 (196,900) has a standard error of about 2,000 and 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 within the range 194,900 to 198,900 and about nineteen chances in twenty that the value will fall within the range 192,900 to 200,900.

40. A change in the level of an estimate between two periods of time is also subject to sampling variability. Details of standard errors of quarter-to-quarter changes for the period August 1976 to November 1977 (old series) can be obtained from the Technical Note included in the November 1977 issue of *The Labour Force* (6203.0). Those standard errors will be sufficiently accurate for use with the revised series.

41. Further details on the sampling variability of the estimates will be published in the February 1978 issue of *The Labour Force* (6203.0).

Seasonally adjusted estimates

42. As explained in previous issues of this publication, the move to the higher level of unemployment since 1974 appears to have been accompanied by shifts in the pattern of seasonal variation. For this reason the publication of seasonally adjusted quarterly figures of unemployment was suspended as from November 1977. The matter will be kept under review. Calculation of seasonally adjusted monthly figures will not be possible until results for two or three years are available.

43. Seasonally adjusted labour force estimates are shown in Table 1. These estimates will continue to be published at quarterly intervals.

Related publications

44. Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available on request :

Unemployment (Preliminary estimates) (6201.0)

The Labour Force (6203.0)

Information Paper : Questionnaires used in the Labour Force Survey (6232.0)

All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Catalogue of Publications 1977* (1101.0), which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

NOTES : 1. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in the tables are due to rounding.

2. . . Figures not available or not applicable.

R. J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician

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

Month	Unemployed (a)											
	Looking for full-time work					Total labour force (a)			Not in labour force (a)	Civilian population aged 15 years and over (a)	Unemployment rate (b)	Participation rate (c)
	Employed (a)	Aged 15-19 years looking for first job		Looking for part-time work	Total	Total		Seasonally adjusted				
		Original	Adjusted			Original	Adjusted					
- '000 -												
- per cent -												
MALES												
1976 -												
August (d)	3,840.9	10.0	142.7	13.9	156.6	3,997.5	4,015.1	995.5	4,993.0	3.9	80.1	
November	3,871.2	12.7	137.6	17.6	155.2	4,026.4	4,038.9	986.5	5,012.9	3.9	80.3	
1977 -												
February	3,898.7	21.7	166.1	20.0	186.1	4,084.8	4,055.4	954.6	5,039.4	4.6	81.1	
May	3,900.1	13.1	163.0	21.7	184.7	4,084.8	4,084.0	977.2	5,062.0	4.5	80.7	
August	3,873.9	12.5	168.5	21.6	190.1	4,064.0	4,081.7	1,017.8	5,081.8	4.7	80.0	
November	3,867.3	16.5	165.2	18.0	183.2	4,050.5	4,063.2	1,055.7	5,106.2	4.5	79.3	
1978 -												
February (e)	3,857.4	40.2	235.4	19.5	255.0	4,112.4	4,083.0	1,023.2	5,135.6	6.2	80.1	
Standard error of -												
February estimates (f)	14.2	2.1	4.5	1.5	4.6	14.6	14.5	8.2	..	0.1	0.3	
Other estimates (f)	14.0-14.2	1.2-1.6	3.4-3.9	1.3-1.6	3.7-4.0	14.4-14.5	14.5	7.8-8.3	..	0.1	0.3	
MARRIED WOMEN												
1976 -												
August (d)	1,333.9	*	35.6	28.6	64.2	1,398.1	1,410.5	1,979.5	3,377.6	4.6	41.4	
November	1,359.3	*	28.1	24.2	52.3	1,411.6	1,393.7	1,971.9	3,383.5	3.7	41.7	
1977 -												
February	1,355.0	*	44.2	40.3	84.5	1,439.5	1,440.3	1,964.6	3,404.1	5.9	42.3	
May	1,381.4	*	45.0	31.7	76.7	1,458.1	1,463.1	1,953.2	3,411.3	5.3	42.7	
August	1,373.2	*	43.8	34.5	78.3	1,451.5	1,464.2	1,956.1	3,407.6	5.4	42.6	
November	1,368.9	*	34.2	33.4	67.6	1,436.5	1,418.7	1,993.7	3,430.2	4.7	41.9	
1978 -												
February (e)	1,320.9	*	53.2	39.6	92.8	1,413.6	1,414.1	1,994.4	3,408.1	6.6	41.5	
Standard error of -												
February estimates (f)	9.0	..	2.4	2.1	3.0	9.3	9.3	10.8	..	0.2	0.3	
Other estimates (f)	9.1-9.2	..	1.8-2.2	1.7-2.1	2.4-2.9	9.2-9.6	9.2-9.6	10.6-10.8	..	0.2	0.3	
ALL FEMALES												
1976 -												
August (d)	2,057.8	10.6	94.2	42.0	136.1	2,193.9	2,221.3	2,913.5	5,107.4	6.2	43.0	
November	2,085.3	12.3	87.4	38.9	126.3	2,211.6	2,190.2	2,918.6	5,130.2	5.7	43.1	
1977 -												
February	2,096.1	25.7	124.4	61.8	186.2	2,282.3	2,263.2	2,872.9	5,155.2	8.2	44.3	
May	2,132.2	16.1	112.8	56.3	169.1	2,301.3	2,315.0	2,878.9	5,180.2	7.3	44.4	
August	2,126.3	16.6	114.8	54.4	169.3	2,295.6	2,323.7	2,906.6	5,202.2	7.4	44.1	
November	2,128.2	15.5	112.2	51.4	163.6	2,291.8	2,270.0	2,935.2	5,227.0	7.1	43.8	
1978 -												
February (e)	2,074.8	40.5	160.3	61.8	222.1	2,296.9	2,277.8	2,961.8	5,258.7	9.7	43.7	
Standard error of -												
February estimates (f)	10.8	2.1	3.8	2.5	4.2	11.5	11.4	12.7	..	0.2	0.2	
Other estimates (f)	10.7-10.8	1.2-1.8	2.9-3.4	2.1-2.5	3.4-4.0	11.2-11.5	11.2-11.6	12.4-12.6	..	0.2	0.2	
PERSONS												
1976 -												
August (d)	5,898.7	20.6	236.9	55.8	292.7	6,191.4	6,236.6	3,909.0	10,100.4	4.7	61.3	
November	5,956.5	25.0	225.0	56.5	281.5	6,238.0	6,229.6	3,905.1	10,143.1	4.5	61.5	
1977 -												
February	5,994.8	47.4	290.5	81.8	372.3	6,367.1	6,318.2	3,827.6	10,194.7	5.8	62.5	
May	6,032.4	29.2	275.8	78.0	353.8	6,386.2	6,398.0	3,856.0	10,242.2	5.5	62.4	
August	6,000.3	29.1	283.3	76.0	359.3	6,359.6	6,405.6	3,924.4	10,284.0	5.6	61.8	
November	5,995.4	32.0	277.4	69.4	346.8	6,342.2	6,334.1	3,991.0	10,333.2	5.5	61.4	
1978 -												
February (e)	5,932.3	80.6	395.8	81.3	477.0	6,409.3	6,360.3	3,985.0	10,394.3	7.4	61.7	
Standard error of -												
February estimates (f)	16.9	2.9	5.3	2.9	5.7	17.3	17.2	14.4	..	0.1	0.2	
Other estimates (f)	16.8-16.9	1.6-2.3	4.3-4.8	2.4-2.9	4.5-5.2	17.0-17.2	17.1-17.3	14.2-14.4	..	0.1	0.2	

(a) For scope of estimates see paragraph 4. For definitions see paragraphs 5 to 13. (b) The number unemployed in each group as a percentage of the labour force (i.e. employed plus unemployed) in the same group. (c) The labour force in each group as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over in the same group. (d) Affected by industrial dispute. (e) First of monthly series. Figures relate mainly to two weeks ending February 5 and 12 in contrast to figures for earlier months which relate mainly to four weeks spread throughout the month. (f) For information on standard errors see paragraphs 35 to 41.

* Less than 4,000. See paragraph 38.

TABLE 2. CIVILIAN POPULATION 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER (a), BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS, STATES AND TERRITORIES, FEBRUARY 1978

State or Territory	Employed (a)	Unemployed (a)		Total - '000 -	Labour force (a)	Not in labour force (a)	Civilian population aged 15 years and over (a)	Unemployment rate (b) - per cent -	Participation rate (c)
		Looking for full-time work	Looking for part-time work						
MALES									
N.S.W.	1,354.8	85.9	7.1	93.0	1,447.8	367.8	1,815.6	6.4	79.7
Vic.	1,037.9	53.5	5.4	58.9	1,096.8	270.6	1,367.4	5.4	80.2
Qld	567.5	42.1	3.1	45.2	612.8	166.7	779.5	7.4	78.6
S.A.	356.8	21.4	*	22.9	379.6	91.9	471.5	6.0	80.5
W.A.	344.3	19.5	*	20.4	364.7	78.7	443.4	5.6	82.3
Tas.	111.5	7.0	*	7.4	118.9	29.6	148.5	6.2	80.1
N.T.	29.1	2.8	*	2.8	31.9	8.0	39.9	8.7	80.0
A.C.T.	55.6	3.1	*	4.3	59.9	9.9	69.8	7.2	85.8
<i>Australia</i>	<i>3,857.4</i>	<i>235.4</i>	<i>19.5</i>	<i>255.0</i>	<i>4,112.4</i>	<i>1,023.2</i>	<i>5,135.6</i>	<i>6.2</i>	<i>80.1</i>
FEMALES									
N.S.W.	735.7	58.0	20.1	78.1	813.8	1,064.5	1,878.3	9.6	43.3
Vic.	568.1	40.5	14.3	54.8	622.9	791.9	1,414.8	8.8	44.0
Qld	292.9	24.2	9.7	33.9	326.8	465.0	791.8	10.4	41.3
S.A.	196.9	16.4	6.2	22.6	219.4	266.6	486.0	10.3	45.2
W.A.	175.4	13.3	8.0	21.3	196.8	237.4	434.1	10.8	45.3
Tas.	54.2	4.5	1.5	6.0	60.2	90.5	150.7	9.9	39.9
N.T.	13.3	1.1	*	1.7	15.1	15.9	31.0	11.3	48.6
A.C.T.	38.3	2.3	*	3.7	42.0	30.1	72.0	8.8	58.3
<i>Australia</i>	<i>2,074.8</i>	<i>160.3</i>	<i>61.8</i>	<i>222.1</i>	<i>2,296.9</i>	<i>2,961.8</i>	<i>5,258.7</i>	<i>9.7</i>	<i>43.7</i>
PERSONS									
N.S.W.	2,090.5	143.9	27.2	171.1	2,261.6	1,432.3	3,693.9	7.6	61.2
Vic.	1,606.0	94.0	19.7	113.7	1,719.8	1,062.5	2,782.2	6.6	61.8
Qld	860.4	66.4	12.8	79.1	939.6	631.8	1,571.3	8.4	59.8
S.A.	553.6	37.7	7.7	45.4	599.1	358.5	957.5	7.6	62.6
W.A.	519.7	32.8	8.9	41.8	561.4	316.0	877.5	7.4	64.0
Tas.	165.7	11.5	1.8	13.4	179.1	120.1	299.2	7.5	59.8
N.T.	42.5	3.9	*	4.5	47.0	23.9	70.8	9.5	66.3
A.C.T.	93.9	5.4	2.6	8.0	101.9	40.0	141.8	7.9	71.8
<i>Australia</i>	<i>5,932.3</i>	<i>395.8</i>	<i>81.3</i>	<i>477.0</i>	<i>6,409.3</i>	<i>3,985.0</i>	<i>10,394.3</i>	<i>7.4</i>	<i>61.7</i>

For footnotes see Table 1.

* Subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. See paragraph 38.

TABLE 3. EMPLOYED PERSONS (a), FEBRUARY 1978

	Males	Married women	Other females (b)	All females	Persons
NUMBER ('000)					
All employed persons	3,857.4	1,320.9	754.0	2,074.8	5,932.3
Full-time workers (a)	3,669.6	774.2	609.9	1,384.1	5,053.7
Part-time workers (a)	187.8	546.7	144.0	690.8	878.5
Preferred not to work more hours	149.9	491.2	118.7	610.0	759.9
Preferred to work more hours	37.9	55.5	25.3	80.8	118.6
Had actively looked for full-time work	17.9	9.2	10.8	19.9	37.8
AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS WORKED (c)					
All employed persons	36.8	26.3	29.9	27.6	33.6
Full-time workers (a)	37.8	34.5	33.6	34.1	36.8
Part-time workers (a)	16.6	14.6	14.0	14.5	14.9

(a) For definitions see paragraphs 5 to 13. (b) Comprises never married, widowed and divorced. (c) Averages have been calculated by using actual hours worked during the survey week, not hours paid for. All employed persons, including those who did not work during the 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.

TABLE 4. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (a), FEBRUARY 1978

	Number ('000)			Unemployment rate (b) (per cent)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME WORK						
Total	235.4	160.3	395.8	6.0	10.4	7.3
Married	87.9	53.2	141.2	3.2	6.4	4.0
Not married (c)	147.5	107.1	254.6	12.5	14.9	13.4
Aged 15-19 years	74.6	72.4	147.0	20.0	23.5	21.6
Attending school	6.5	6.0	12.5
Aged 20-24 years	48.6	36.1	84.7	9.4	10.3	9.8
Aged 25 years and over	112.2	51.9	164.1	3.7	5.8	4.2
Born in Australia	163.3	115.2	278.5	5.8	10.2	7.1
Born outside Australia	72.1	45.1	117.2	6.6	11.0	7.8
Arrived before 1971	52.9	29.6	82.5	6.0	9.7	6.9
1971 to 1976	15.8	9.5	25.3	8.9	10.8	9.5
1977 and 1978	3.4	6.0	9.4	10.5	32.5	18.5
LOOKING FOR PART-TIME WORK						
Total	19.5	61.8	81.3	9.4	8.2	8.5
Aged 15-19 years	11.9	16.6	28.5	18.9	19.2	19.1
Attending school	9.0	9.5	18.5
Aged 20-24 years	*	6.5	8.8	*	10.7	10.5
Aged 25 years and over	5.4	38.7	44.0	4.4	6.4	6.1

(a) For definition see paragraph 7. (b) The number employed in each group as a percentage of the labour force (i.e. employed plus unemployed) in the same group. (c) Comprises never married, widowed and divorced.

* Subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. See paragraph 38.

TABLE 5. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (a) : DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT, FEBRUARY 1978

	Persons						
	Looking for -						Total
	Males	Married women	Other females (c)	All females	Full-time work	Part-time work	
NUMBER ('000)							
Duration of unemployment (weeks) -							
Under 2	20.6	19.6	11.4	31.0	33.8	17.8	51.6
2 and under 4	26.8	13.9	16.3	30.1	41.8	15.1	56.9
4 and under 8	50.7	20.2	26.1	46.3	80.7	16.2	97.0
8 and under 13	53.9	11.0	30.5	41.5	81.3	14.1	95.4
13 and under 26	39.6	10.0	19.2	29.2	62.4	6.4	68.8
26 and under 39	25.2	6.0	7.6	13.6	34.4	4.4	38.8
39 and under 52	6.5	*	5.4	7.4	12.9	*	13.8
52 and over	31.8	10.2	12.8	23.1	48.5	6.3	54.8
Total	255.0	92.8	129.3	222.1	395.8	81.3	477.0
AVERAGE DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT (weeks)							
All unemployed persons	21.6	16.9	17.7	17.4	20.9	13.4	19.7
Aged 15-19 years	15.1	*	16.4	16.3	16.5	12.0	15.7
Aged 20 years and over	25.0	17.0	20.4	18.1	23.6	14.2	21.9

For footnotes see Table 4.

TABLE 6. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (a) : STATE CAPITAL CITIES, FEBRUARY 1978

Capital city	Number ('000)			Unemployment rate (b) (per cent)		
	Looking for full-time work	Looking for part-time work	Total	Looking for full-time work	Looking for part-time work	Total
Sydney	87.1	16.8	103.9	6.9	7.8	7.0
Melbourne	69.5	16.1	85.5	6.4	9.3	6.8
Brisbane	29.7	7.0	36.7	7.8	9.9	8.1
Adelaide	29.8	5.7	35.6	8.2	8.2	8.2
Perth	24.7	7.0	31.7	7.5	10.7	8.0
Hobart	4.9	*	6.0	7.7	*	8.0
Total	245.7	53.7	299.4	7.1	8.9	7.3

For footnotes see Table 4.