# aUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS Canberra 

# THE LABOUR FORCE, MARCH 1978 (PRELIMINARY) 

## INQUIRIES

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

## MAIN FEATURES

In March 1978 the estimated civilian labour force was $6,408,200$ - a decrease of 1,100 from February. The male labour force decreased by 24,700 to $4,087,700$ while the female labour force increased by 23,600 to 2,320,500.

- Between February and March the estimated number of employed persons increased by 55,600 ( 12,800 males, 43,000 females) and the number of unemployed decreased by 56,700 ( 37,400 males, 19,400 females). The number of unemployed looking for full-time work decreased by 50,100 and the number of unemployed looking for part-time work decreased by 6,700 .
. The estimated number of full-time workers in March was $5,073,900$ and the number of part-time workers was 914,000 .


## EXPLANATORY NOTES

## Introduction

This bulletin contains preliminary estimates of the civilian labour force derived from the monthly population survey. Until February 1978, 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 being conducted during the two weeks beginning on the Monday between the 6th and 12 th 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 issues of this bulletin, prior to February 1978, the changes were made mainly 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.

## Revision of series

14. Because the February and March 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 issues of this publication prior to February 1978.
15. In order to provide a series for earlier periods as comparable as possible with those on the new basis, the survey estimates for August 1976 to November 1977 were revised. Information concerning the methods used in the revision was given in the previous issue of this publication.

## Population benchmarks

16. 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.
17. The survey estimates for the period from August 1976 are based on population benchmarks derived from 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).

## The new sample and new questionnaire

18. 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.
19. 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.

## Comparability of series

20. When comparing estimates for February and March 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

21. Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings they, and the movements derived from them, 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 surveys. 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 surveys. 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.
22. Space does not allow for the separate indication of the standard errors of all estimates in this bulletin. Standard errors of March estimates and of movements in the estimates between February and March 1978 are shown in Table 1. Standard errors of other estimates and other monthly movements should be determined using Tables A and B below.
23. As the standard errors in the following table show, the smaller the estimate the higher is the relative standard error. Very small estimates are 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 Table A 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.

## TABLE A - STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

| Size of estimate (persons) | N.S. W. No. | Vic. No. | $\underset{\text { No. }}{\text { Qld }}$ | S.A. <br> 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 | 3,000 | 3,200 | 3,000 |
| 1,000,000 | 8,000 | 8,000 | 3,700 |  |  |
| 2,000,000 | 10,500 | 10,500 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | Aust | tralia |
| Size of estimate (persons) | Tas. <br> No. | $\begin{aligned} & \text { N.T. } \\ & \text { No. } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { A.C.T. } \\ \text { No. } \end{gathered}$ | 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 |

TABLE B - STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES OF MONTHLY MOVEMENTS

| Standard error of <br> larger estimate | N.S.W. <br> and Vic. | Qld, S.A. <br> and W.A. | Tas., N.T. <br> and A.C.T. | Australia |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 300 | $\ldots$ | $\ldots$ | 250 | $\cdots$ |
| 400 | $\cdots$ | 480 | 300 | $\ldots$ |
| 500 | $\cdots$ | 610 | 350 | 600 |
| 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 600 | 1,200 |
| 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,300 | 810 | 1,600 |
| 2,000 | 1,800 | 1,600 | 1,000 | 2,000 |
| 2,500 | 2,100 | 1,900 |  | 2,500 |
| 3,000 | 2,500 | 2,100 |  | 2,800 |
| 4,000 | 3,100 | 2,400 |  | 3,500 |
| 5,000 | 3,600 | 2,800 |  | 4,200 |
| 6,000 | 4,000 |  | 4,800 |  |
| 8,000 | 4,800 |  |  | 5,800 |
| 10,000 | 5,400 |  | 6,600 |  |
| 15,000 |  |  | 8,400 |  |

24. Examples of the calculation and use of standard errors are given below:
(a) From Table A it will be seen that the estimate of $2,117,800$ employed females in March 1978 has a standard error of about 10,900 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 $2,106,900$ to $2,128,700$ and about nineteen chances in twenty that the value will fall within the range $2,096,000$ to $2,139,600$.
(b) The estimate of movement in the number of employed females from February to March 1978 is an increase of 43,000 . As Table B relates the standard error on the monthly movement to the standard error on the larger of the two estimates from which the movement was derived, there are two steps involved in calculating the standard error in this monthly movement.
(i) Calculate the standard error of the larger of the two estimates using Table A, and
(ii) Calculate the standard error of the monthly movement using Table B and the result of (i)

The standard error of the March estimates of employed females $(2,117,800)$ is about 10,900 . Using this figure and Table $B$ the standard error of the monthly movement $(43,000)$ is about 6,900 . Therefore there are about two chances in three that if all dwellings had been included in the surveys the increase would have been within the range 36,100 to 49,900 and about nineteen chances in twenty that it would have been within the range 29,200 to 56,800 .
25. Details of standard errors of quarterly movements 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.
26. 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
27. 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.
28. Seasonally adjusted estimates of the labour force are shown in Table 1. These estimates will continue to be published at quarterly intervals. Seasonally adjusted figures for employed persons, the labour force and labour force participation rates are published at quarterly intervals in The Labour Force (6203.0).
29. Calculation of seasonally adjusted monthly
figures will not be possible until results of monthly surveys for two or three years are available.

## Related publications

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

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Unemployment (Preliminary estimates) (6201.0) } \\
& \text { The Labour Force (6203.0) }
\end{aligned}
$$

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) |  |  |  |  | Labour force (a) |  | Not in labour force (a) | Civilian <br> population aged 15 years and over (a) | Unem- Partiployment cipation rate (c) rate (d) <br> - per cent - |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Looking for full-time work |  |  | Looking for parttime work | $\begin{gathered} \text { Total } \\ -\quad \text { '000 - } \end{gathered}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Employ- <br> ed (a) | Aged <br> 15-19 years looking for first job (b) | Total |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | Original | Seasonally adjusted |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| MALES |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 |
| March | 3,870.2 | 26.1 | 200.2 | 17.3 | 217.6 | 4,087.7 | (g) | 1,056.5 | 5,144.2 | 5.3 | 79.5 |
| landard error of - <br> March estimates ( $f$ ) <br> February to March movement ( $f$ ) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 13.9 | 1.8 | 4.1 | 1.5 | 4.3 | 14.3 | . | 8.2 | $\ldots$ | 0.1 | 0.3 |
|  | 8.0 | 2.1 | 3.9 | 1.6 | 3.9 | 8.2 | . | 5.8 | . | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| MARRIED WOMEN |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 |
| March | 1,352.9 | * | 50.7 | 37.6 | 88.3 | 1,441.1 | (g) | 1,958.2 | 3,399.3 | 6.1 | 42.4 |
| Standard error of - |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| March estimates ( $f$ ) | 9.0 | . | 2.4 | 2.1 | 3.0 | 9.3 | $\ldots$ | 10.6 | . | 0.2 | 0.3 |
| movement ( $f$ ) | 6.2 | . . | 2.4 | 2.1 | 2.8 | 6.3 | . | 6.9 | . | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| ALL FEMALES |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 |
| 978 - |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 |
| March | 2,117.8 | 30.7 | 145.4 | 57.3 | 202.7 | 2,320.5 | (g) | 2,947.5 | 5,268.0 | 8.7 | 44.0 |
| Standard error of - |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| March estimates ( $f$ ) | 10.9 | 1.9 | 3.6 | 2.5 | 4.1 | 11.3 | $\cdots$ | 12.5 | . | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| February to March movement ( $f$ ) | 6.9 | 2.1 | 3.4 | 2.4 | 3.7 | 7.1 | . | 7.6 | . | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| PERSONS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 - (e) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 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 |
| March | 5,987.9 | 56.8 | 345.7 | 74.6 | 420.3 | 6,408.2 | (g) | 4,004.0 | 10,412.2 | 6.6 | 61.5 |
| Standard error of - |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| March estimates ( $f$ ) | 16.6 | 2.4 | 5.2 | 2.8 | 5.6 | 17.0 | - | 14.2 | $\cdots$ | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| February to March movement ( $f$ ) | 8.9 | 2.8 | 4.3 | 2.8 | 4.6 | 9.1 | . | 8.1 | . | 0.1 | 0.1 |

(a) For scope of estimates see paragraph 4. For definitions see paragraphs 5 to 13 . (b) Had never worked two weeks or more in a full-time job. (c) The number unemployed in each group as a percentage of the labour force (i.e. employed plus unemployed) in the same group. (d) The labour force in each group as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over in the same group. (e) First of monthly series in contrast to figures for earlier months which relate mainly to four weeks spread throughout the month. See paragraph 3. (f) For information on standard errors see paragraphs 21 to 26,(g) Not available; see paragraphs 28 and 29.

* Less than 4,000. See paragraph 23.

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

| State or Territory | Employed (a) | Unemployed (a) |  |  | Labour <br> force (a) | Not in labour force (a) | Civilian population aged 15 years and over (a) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Unemploy- } \\ & \text { ment } \quad \text { Participation } \\ & \text { rate (b) } \quad \text { rate (c) } \\ & \quad-\text { per cent }- \end{aligned}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Looking for full-time work | Looking for part-time work | Total - '000 - |  |  |  |  |  |
| MALES |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| N.S.W. | 1,351.6 | 71.2 | 5.1 | 76.2 | 1,427.8 | 390.1 | 1,817.9 | 5.3 | 78.5 |
| Vic. | 1,043.4 | 44.1 | 5.3 | 49.3 | 1,092.7 | 276.6 | 1,369.4 | 4.5 | 79.8 |
| Qld | 575.6 | 38.3 | * | 40.9 | 616.5 | 165.1 | 781.6 | 6.6 | 78.9 |
| S.A. | 357.0 | 19.9 | * | 21.8 | 378.8 | 93.6 | 472.4 | 5.8 | 80.2 |
| W.A. | 344.0 | 15.8 | * | 17.1 | 361.1 | 83.4 | 444.5 | 4.7 | 81.2 |
| Tas. | 109.9 | 6.5 | * | 6.8 | 116.7 | 32.1 | 148.7 | 5.8 | 78.4 |
| N.T. | 31.8 | 1.9 | * | 2.0 | 33.9 | 6.0 | 39.9 | 6.0 | 84.9 |
| A.C.T. | 57.0 | 2.7 | * | 3.3 | 60.3 | 9.6 | 69.9 | 5.5 | 86.2 |
| Australia | 3,870.2 | 200.2 | 17.3 | 217.6 | 4,087.7 | 1,056.5 | 5,144.2 | 5.3 | 79.5 |
| FEMALES |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| N.S.W. | 735.5 | 49.9 | 22.5 | 72.5 | 808.0 | 1,073.0 | 1,881.0 | 9.0 | 43.0 |
| Vic. | 586.8 | 40.9 | 13.6 | 54.5 | 641.3 | 775.5 | 1,416.8 | 8.5 | 45.3 |
| Qld | 298.0 | 24.8 | 8.5 | 33.3 | 331.3 | 462.6 | 793.9 | 10.1 | 41.7 |
| S.A. | 204.8 | 12.9 | 4.9 | 17.7 | 222.5 | 264.4 | 486.9 | 8.0 | 45.7 |
| W.A. | 183.7 | 11.3 | 5.3 | 16.6 | 200.3 | 235.0 | 435.3 | 8.3 | 46.0 |
| Tas. | 57.0 | 3.3 | 1.5 | 4.7 | 61.7 | 89.2 | 151.0 | 7.7 | 40.9 |
| N.T. | 14.8 | * | * | * | 15.8 | 15.2 | 31.0 | * | 51.1 |
| A.C.T. | 37.2 | * | * | 2.3 | 39.5 | 32.8 | 72.2 | 5.8 | 54.6 |
| Australia | 2,117.8 | 145.4 | 57.3 | 202.7 | 2,320.5 | 2,947.5 | 5,268.0 | 8.7 | 44.0 |
| PERSONS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| N.S.W. | 2,087.1 | 121.1 | 27.6 | 148.7 | 2,235.8 | 1,463.1 | 3,698.9 | 6.7 | 60.4 |
| Vic. | 1,630.2 | 85.0 | 18.9 | 103.8 | 1,734.1 | 1,052.1 | 2,786.2 | 6.0 | 62.2 |
| Qld | 873.5 | 63.1 | 11.1 | 74.3 | 947.8 | 627.7 | 1,575.5 | 7.8 | 60.2 |
| S.A. | 561.8 | 32.8 | 6.8 | 39.6 | 601.4 | 357.9 | 959.3 | 6.6 | 62.7 |
| W.A. | 527.7 | 27.1 | 6.6 | 33.7 | 561.4 | 318.4 | 879.7 | 6.0 | 63.8 |
| Tas. | 166.9 | 9.8 | 1.8 | 11.5 | 178.4 | 121.3 | 299.7 | 6.5 | 59.5 |
| N.T. | 46.6 | 2.8 | * | 3.1 | 49.7 | 21.2 | 70.9 | 6.1 | 70.1 |
| A.C.T. | 94.1 | 4.0 | 1.6 | 5.6 | 99.7 | 42.4 | 142.1 | 5.6 | 70.2 |
| Australia | 5,987.9 | 345.7 | 74.6 | 420.3 | 6,408.2 | 4,004.0 | 10,412.2 | 6.6 | 61.5 |

For footnotes see Table 1.

* Subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. See paragraph 23.

TABLE 3. EMPLOYED PERSONS (a), MARCH 1978

|  | Males | Married women | Other females (b) | All <br> females | Persons |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| NUMBER ('000) |  |  |  |  |  |
| All employed persons | 3,870.2 | 1,352.9 | 764.9 | 2,117.8 | 5,987.9 |
| Full-time workers (a) | 3,676.2 | 779.2 | 618.5 | 1,397.7 | 5,073.9 |
| Part-time workers (a) | 193.9 | 573.7 | 146.4 | 720.1 | 914.0 |
| Preferred not to work more hours | 158.0 | 517.2 | 120.5 | 637.7 | 795.7 |
| Preferred to work more hours | 35.9 | 56.5 | 25.9 | 82.4 | 118.3 |
| Had actively looked for full-time work | 17.8 | 10.0 | 12.0 | 22.0 | 39.8 |
| AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS WORKED (c) |  |  |  |  |  |
| All employed persons | 40.3 | 29.1 | 32.5 | 30.3 | 36.8 |
| Full-time workers (a) | 41.5 | 38.7 | 36.9 | 37.9 | 40.5 |
| Part-time workers (a) | 17.5 | 16.2 | 13.9 | 15.7 | 16.1 |

(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), MARCH 1978

|  | Number ('000) |  |  | Unemployment rate (b) (per cent) |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Males | Females | Persons | Males | Females | Persons |
| LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME WORK |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total | 200.2 | 145.4 | 345.7 | 5.2 | 9.4 | 6.4 |
| Married | 77.8 | 50.7 | 128.5 | 2.8 | 6.1 | 3.6 |
| Not married (c) |  | 94.8 | 217.2 | 10.7 | 13.3 | 11.7 |
| Aged 15-19 years | 54.8 | 62.1 | 116.9 | 15.7 | 21.2 | 18.2 |
| Attending school | * | * | 6.3 | . | , |  |
| Aged 20-24 years | 42.9 | 33.5 | 76.4 | 8.5 | 9.7 | 9.0 |
| Aged 25 years and over | 102.5 | 49.8 | 152.3 | 3.4 | 5.5 | 3.9 |
| Born in Australia | 134.1 | 104.5 | 238.6 | 4.8 | 9.3 | 6.1 |
| Born outside Australia | 66.1 | 41.0 | 107.0 | 6.0 | 9.8 | 7.1 |
| Arrived before 1971 | 49.4 | 26.2 | 75.6 | 5.6 | 8.5 | 6.3 |
| 1971 to 1976 | 13.3 | 8.6 | 21.9 | 7.8 | 9.9 | 8.5 |
| 1977 and 1978 | * | 6.2 | 9.6 | * | 29.2 | 16.6 |
| LOOKING FOR PART-TIME WORK |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total | 17.3 | 57.3 | 74.6 | 8.2 | 7.4 | 7.5 |
| Aged 15-19 years | 8.6 | 13.5 | 22.1 | 13.6 | 16.1 | 15.0 |
| Attending school | 5.4 | 8.0 | 13.4 | . | .. | . |
| Aged 20-24 years | 4.3 | 7.3 | 11.6 | 15.4 | 11.2 | 12.5 |
| Aged 25 years and over | 4.4 | 36.4 | 40.8 | 3.7 | 5.8 | 5.5 |

(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 23.

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

|  |  |  |  |  |  | Persons |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | Loo | for - |  |
|  | Males | Married women | Other females (c) | All females | Full-time work | Part-time work | Total |
| NUMBER ('000) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Duration of unemployment (weeks) - |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Under 2 | 20.3 | 14.0 | 11.2 | 25.3 | 31.4 | 14.1 | 45.5 |
| 2 and under 4 | 23.9 | 13.0 | 12.1 | 25.1 | 35.1 | 13.9 | 49.0 |
| 4 and under 8 | 33.8 | 19.6 | 18.2 | 37.7 | 53.7 | 17.8 | 71.5 |
| 8 and under 13 | 36.0 | 12.9 | 21.7 | 34.6 | 58.8 | 11.8 | 70.6 |
| 13 and under 26 | 51.7 | 10.1 | 27.1 | 37.1 | 81.5 | 7.2 | 88.8 |
| 26 and under 39 | 17.9 | 8.5 | 9.2 | 17.7 | 31.5 | 4.1 | 35.6 |
| 39 and under 52 | 5.8 | * | 4.1 | 5.1 | 10.1 | * | 10.8 |
| 52 and over | 28.3 | 9.2 | 10.9 | 20.1 | 43.6 | 4.9 | 48.5 |
| Total | 217.6 | 88.3 | 114.4 | 202.7 | 345.7 | 74.6 | 420.3 |
| AVERAGE DURATION QF UNEMPLOYMENT (weeks) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| All unemployed persons | 21.5 | 17.5 | 18.6 | 18.1 | 21.5 | 12.2 | 19.9 |
| Aged 15-19 years | 1.6 .6 | * | 16.7 | 16.5 | 18.0 | 9.2 | 16.6 |
| Aged 20 years and over | 23.5 | 17.7 | 21.9 | 19.1 | 23.4 | 13.5 | 21.5 |

For footnotes see Table 4.
TABLE 6. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (a) : STATE CAPITAL CITIES, MARCH 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 | 76.0 | 18.6 | 94.7 | 6.2 | 8.5 | 6.5 |
| Melbourne | 63.2 | 15.7 | 78.8 | 5.9 | 8.6 | 6.3 |
| Brisbane | 29.1 | 5.6 | 34.6 | 7.7 | 7.6 | 7.7 |
| Adelaide | 25.1 | 5.6 | 30.8 | 6.9 | 7.7 | 7.1 |
| Perth | 21.0 | 5.5 | 26.6 | 6.5 | 7.8 | 6.7 |
| Hobart | 2.9 | * | 3.6 | 4.6 | * | 4.9 |
| Total | 217.3 | 51.8 | 269.1 | 6.3 | 8.2 | 6.6 |

