

THE LABOUR FORCE, AUSTRALIA, DECEMBER 1979 (PRELIMINARY)

INQUIRIES

If you want to know more about these statistics ring Mr Godfrey Laurie on Canberra 526565 or our State office, or write to Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616

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MAIN FEATURES

NOTE: The survey estimates are subject to sampling variability, as explained in paragraphs 16 to 19. Standard errors are shown in Table 1 and on page 4.

The principal labour force aggregates in December 1979 and changes since November were as follows:

	December (⁰⁰⁰)	Change since November (⁰⁰⁰)
Total labour force	6,646.8	+135.6
Employed persons —		
Full-time workers	5,248.5	+94.8
Part-time workers	971.5	-25.4
Unemployed persons —		
Looking for full-time work	353.7	+57.2
Looking for part-time work	73.1	+9.0
Not in the labour force	4,094.9	-112.9

Changes since November for persons aged 15-19 years were: employed +53,000, unemployed +56,200, not in the labour force -109,100.

65,400 part-time workers were actively looking for full-time work.

population of Australia. The information is obtained from the occupants of selected dwellings by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers. The interviews are generally conducted during the two weeks beginning on the Monday between the 6th and 12th of each month. Because of operational problems arising from the Christmas and New Year holidays the December surveys commence a week earlier than usual (with most interviews being conducted during the second week) and the January surveys commence a week later than usual. The information obtained relates to the week before the interview (i.e. the survey week).

Scope

3. The survey includes all persons aged fifteen years and over except : members of the permanent defence forces; certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations; overseas visitors holidaying in Australia; and members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants) stationed in Australia.

Definitions

4. 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 conform closely to the international standard definitions recommended by the ILO.

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

- 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
- worked for 15 hours or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. unpaid family helpers); or
- 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

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication contains preliminary estimates of the civilian labour force derived from the monthly population survey. More detailed estimates will be published in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0). Preliminary unemployment estimates have been issued in advance of this publication in *Unemployment, Australia, Preliminary Estimates* (6201.0).

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

- (d) were employers or self-employed persons who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

6. *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.

7. *Unemployed persons looking for first job* are those who had never worked for two weeks or more in a full-time job.

8. The *unemployment rate* for any group is the number unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labour force in the same group.

9. *Duration of unemployment* is the period from the time the person began looking for work or was laid off to the end of the survey week. Periods of unemployment are recorded in complete weeks and this results in a slight understatement of duration. *Average (mean) duration* is the duration obtained by dividing the aggregate number of weeks a group has been unemployed by the number of persons in that group. *Median duration* is the duration which divides unemployed persons into two equal groups, one comprising persons whose duration of unemployment is above the median and the other persons whose duration is below it. Medians are calculated from group data, linear interpolation being used within the group which contains the median.

10. The *labour force* comprises all persons who, during the survey week, were employed or unemployed, as defined in paragraphs 5 and 6.

11. 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.

12. *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.

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

Revision of series

14. The survey estimates for February 1978 and subsequent months are based on population estimates derived from the 1976 Population Census, adjusted for under-enumeration, and were obtained by using a new sample and revised questionnaire. Estimates from August 1966, revised to the new basis, were published in the February 1979 issue of *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

Comparability of series

15. When comparing labour force estimates for February 1978 and subsequent months 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. The change of timing may affect the level of the figures for any month, but particularly for months during which the employment status of the population may be changing rapidly.

Reliability of the estimates

16. Since the survey estimates 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 by chance 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*. 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.

17. Standard errors of estimates for the latest month and of estimates of movements since the previous month are shown in Table 1. Standard errors of other estimates and other *monthly* movements should be determined by using Tables A and B on page 4. Further information on standard errors is contained in the Technical Note in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

18. *The smaller the estimate the higher is the relative standard error.* Very small estimates are subject to such high relative standard errors as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable uses. Estimates below the levels shown in Table A and percentages based on such estimates 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.

19. Examples of the calculation and use of standard errors are given below :

- (a) From Table A it will be seen that the estimate of 202,200 unemployed males looking for full-time work in December 1979 has a standard error of about 5,100. 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 be within the range 197,100 to 207,300 and about nineteen chances in twenty that the value will be within the range 192,000 to 212,400.
- (b) The estimate of movement in the number of unemployed males looking for full-time work from November to December 1979 is an increase of 30,700. Table B relates the standard error of the monthly movement to the larger of the two estimates from which the movement is derived. In this case the December 1979 estimate (202,200) is the larger. From Table B it will be seen that the standard error of the monthly movement is about 4,300. Therefore there are about two chances in three that if all dwellings had been included in the surveys the movement would have been within the range 26,400 to 35,000 and about nineteen chances in twenty that it would have been within the range 22,100 to 39,300.

Seasonal adjustment

20. Seasonally adjusted quarterly estimates of the labour force are shown in Table 1. Calculation of seasonally adjusted monthly figures will not be possible until results of monthly surveys for two or three years are available. 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.

Related publications

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

Unemployment, Australia, Preliminary Estimates (6201.0)

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)

Job Vacancies (6231.0)

Overtime, Australia (6330.0)

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

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

Symbols and other usages

- * Subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. See paragraph 18 of explanatory notes.
- n.a. not available.
- .. not applicable.
- n.e.c. not elsewhere classified.

23. Figures have been rounded and discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

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TABLE A - STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia	
									Per cent of estimate	
									— number —	
1,500						300				
2,000						340	470	440		
2,500				510	510	380	510	480		
3,000				550	560	410	550	510		
3,500			740	590	590	430	590	540		
4,000			780	620	630	460	620	560		
4,500	1,000	1,000	820	650	660	480	650	590	970	21.6
5,000	1,100	1,100	860	680	690	500	680	610	1,000	20.0
6,000	1,200	1,200	930	730	750	530	740	650	1,100	18.0
10,000	1,500	1,400	1,200	900	920	640	910	750	1,400	14.0
20,000	2,000	1,900	1,500	1,200	1,200	810	1,200	910	2,000	10.0
50,000	3,000	2,700	2,200	1,600	1,700	1,100	1,700	1,100	2,900	5.8
100,000	3,900	3,500	2,800	2,100	2,100	1,300		1,300	3,900	3.9
200,000	5,000	4,400	3,600	2,600	2,600	1,500			5,100	2.6
300,000	5,800	5,000	4,100	2,900	2,900				6,000	2.0
500,000	6,900	5,800	4,800	3,300	3,300				7,200	1.4
1,000,000	8,500	7,000	5,900						9,100	0.9
2,000,000	10,000	8,400							11,000	0.6
5,000,000									15,000	0.3

TABLE B - STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES OF MONTHLY MOVEMENTS (a)

Size of larger estimate	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	N.T.	A.C.T.	Australia
1,500						250			
2,000						270	380	370	
2,500				490	490	290	420	390	
3,000				520	530	310	460	410	
3,500			730	540	560	330	490	430	
4,000			760	570	580	340	520	450	
4,500	1,000	1,000	790	590	610	360	550	460	1,100
5,000	1,100	1,100	820	610	630	370	570	480	1,200
6,000	1,200	1,200	880	650	670	390	620	500	1,200
10,000	1,400	1,400	1,000	760	790	460	760	570	1,500
20,000	1,800	1,700	1,300	930	970	550	1,000	670	2,000
50,000	2,500	2,300	1,700	1,200	1,300	690	1,400	790	2,700
100,000	3,200	2,800	2,100	1,400	1,500	810		880	3,400
200,000	3,900	3,300	2,500	1,700	1,800	920			4,300
300,000	4,400	3,700	2,800	1,900	1,900				4,900
500,000	5,100	4,200	3,200	2,100	2,200				5,700
1,000,000	6,100	4,900	3,800						6,800
2,000,000	7,200	5,600							8,200
5,000,000									10,000

(a) Movements between corresponding months of consecutive years, or between two other non-consecutive months will generally be subject to somewhat greater sampling variability than is indicated in Table B. Standard errors of *quarterly* movements can be obtained by multiplying the figures in Table B by 1.4. Standard errors of *annual* movements can be obtained by multiplying the figures in Table A by 1.4.

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

Month	Unemployed										
	Employed	Looking for full-time work		Looking for part-time work	Total	Labour force		Not in labour force	Civilian population aged 15 years and over	Unemployment rate	Participation rate
		Aged 15-19 years looking for first job	Total			Original	Seasonally adjusted				
- '000 -											
- per cent -											
MALES											
1978											
November	3,846.1	18.0	191.0	15.4	206.4	4,052.4	4,072.9	1,147.5	5,199.9	5.1	77.9
December	3,923.7	40.4	219.9	21.6	241.6	4,165.3	n.a.	1,048.9	5,214.1	5.8	79.9
1979											
January	3,869.2	42.4	235.2	14.8	250.0	4,119.3	n.a.	1,098.9	5,218.2	6.1	78.9
February	3,893.6	33.0	229.5	12.3	241.8	4,135.4	4,101.4	1,091.9	5,227.3	5.8	79.1
March	3,904.2	24.1	206.6	16.5	223.1	4,127.4	n.a.	1,111.3	5,238.6	5.4	78.8
April	3,907.4	25.6	202.1	15.1	217.2	4,124.6	n.a.	1,120.6	5,245.2	5.3	78.6
May	3,908.3	22.0	197.7	13.0	210.6	4,118.9	4,111.4	1,132.4	5,251.3	5.1	78.4
June	3,909.6	19.7	192.8	13.2	206.0	4,115.6	n.a.	1,139.8	5,255.4	5.0	78.3
July	3,910.8	18.1	188.2	13.4	201.6	4,112.4	n.a.	1,149.7	5,262.1	4.9	78.2
August	3,904.5	20.0	182.8	13.3	196.1	4,100.7	4,121.1	1,167.9	5,268.6	4.8	77.8
September	3,939.3	21.2	184.7	16.9	201.6	4,140.9	n.a.	1,134.7	5,275.7	4.9	78.5
October	3,930.9	23.2	178.1	17.8	195.9	4,126.8	n.a.	1,157.2	5,284.1	4.7	78.1
November	3,931.2	20.0	171.5	12.4	183.8	4,115.0	4,136.6	1,177.6	5,292.6	4.5	77.8
December	3,992.3	38.5	202.2	22.0	224.2	4,216.4	n.a.	1,087.4	5,303.8	5.3	79.5
Standard error of -											
December estimates	13.9	2.6	5.1	2.1	5.3	14.1	..	9.3	...	0.1	0.3
November to December movement	9.7	2.5	4.3	2.0	4.5	9.8	..	7.2	..	0.1	0.2
MARRIED WOMEN											
1978											
November	1,373.4	*	34.9	28.5	63.4	1,436.8	1,435.3	1,983.6	3,420.5	4.4	42.0
December	1,373.6	*	31.5	24.0	55.5	1,429.2	n.a.	2,006.7	3,435.9	3.9	41.6
1979											
January	1,281.6	*	38.4	25.4	63.8	1,345.4	n.a.	2,101.9	3,447.4	4.7	39.0
February	1,346.1	*	45.5	40.3	85.7	1,431.8	1,435.4	2,024.9	3,456.7	6.0	41.4
March	1,364.7	*	48.2	36.6	84.8	1,449.5	n.a.	2,002.7	3,452.1	5.8	42.0
April	1,358.5	*	45.4	38.1	83.5	1,442.0	n.a.	2,007.9	3,449.9	5.8	41.8
May	1,356.3	*	40.0	32.2	72.2	1,428.5	1,425.0	2,035.9	3,464.4	5.1	41.2
June	1,362.6	*	38.3	34.7	73.0	1,435.6	n.a.	2,009.4	3,445.0	5.1	41.7
July	1,368.2	*	41.4	33.6	75.0	1,443.2	n.a.	2,004.3	3,447.5	5.2	41.9
August	1,347.2	*	41.7	31.9	73.6	1,420.8	1,421.6	2,020.8	3,441.6	5.2	41.3
September	1,374.8	*	46.8	37.4	84.3	1,459.1	n.a.	1,990.2	3,449.3	5.8	42.3
October	1,392.7	*	45.1	39.0	84.1	1,476.8	n.a.	1,973.1	3,450.0	5.7	42.8
November	1,408.5	*	41.8	34.7	76.5	1,485.0	1,484.6	1,980.7	3,465.7	5.1	42.8
December	1,392.6	*	36.8	31.1	67.9	1,460.5	n.a.	2,011.1	3,471.5	4.6	42.1
Standard error of -											
December estimates	10.1	..	2.6	2.4	3.3	10.2	..	11.3	..	0.2	0.3
November to December movement	7.5	..	2.6	2.4	3.2	7.6	..	8.2	..	0.2	0.2

For footnotes see page 6.

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

Month	Employed	Unemployed				Labour force		Not in labour force	Civilian population aged 15 years and over	Unemployment rate	Participation rate
		Looking for full-time work		Looking for part-time work	Total	Original	Seasonally adjusted				
		Aged 15-19 years looking for first job	Total								
- '000 -											
- per cent -											
ALL FEMALES											
1978											
November	2,151.2	20.3	117.9	45.5	163.3	2,314.6	2,321.3	3,014.5	5,329.1	7.1	43.4
December	2,173.8	47.1	153.9	45.8	199.7	2,373.5	n.a.	2,970.9	5,344.3	8.4	44.4
1979											
January	2,070.7	45.3	155.9	40.2	196.1	2,266.8	n.a.	3,081.1	5,347.9	8.7	42.4
February	2,125.4	36.1	152.2	59.9	212.1	2,337.5	2,326.4	3,019.6	5,357.1	9.1	43.6
March	2,157.4	30.8	146.9	54.9	201.8	2,359.2	n.a.	3,006.5	5,365.7	8.6	44.0
April	2,149.0	30.0	144.2	55.3	199.5	2,348.5	n.a.	3,027.2	5,375.7	8.5	43.7
May	2,135.0	28.9	137.5	48.5	186.0	2,321.0	2,315.3	3,061.3	5,382.3	8.0	43.1
June	2,148.0	27.2	130.7	52.6	183.3	2,331.3	n.a.	3,055.4	5,386.7	7.9	43.3
July	2,156.8	24.3	131.3	49.7	181.0	2,337.7	n.a.	3,056.2	5,394.0	7.7	43.3
August	2,136.9	25.2	130.1	47.5	177.7	2,314.6	2,323.7	3,086.4	5,401.0	7.7	42.9
September	2,178.8	27.7	138.3	56.6	194.9	2,373.7	n.a.	3,035.2	5,408.9	8.2	43.9
October	2,194.4	25.1	133.5	58.4	191.8	2,386.2	n.a.	3,031.3	5,417.5	8.0	44.0
November	2,219.4	22.7	125.1	51.7	176.8	2,396.2	2,404.9	3,030.2	5,426.4	7.4	44.2
December	2,227.7	45.6	151.6	51.1	202.7	2,430.4	n.a.	3,007.5	5,437.9	8.3	44.7
Standard error of -											
December estimates	11.7	2.8	4.6	3.0	5.1	12.0	..	12.8	..	0.2	0.2
November to December movement	8.4	2.6	3.9	2.8	4.3	8.6	..	9.1	..	0.2	0.2
PERSONS											
1978											
November	5,997.3	38.3	308.8	60.9	369.7	6,367.0	6,393.9	4,162.0	10,529.1	5.8	60.5
December	6,097.5	87.5	373.8	67.4	441.2	6,538.7	n.a.	4,019.8	10,558.5	6.7	61.9
1979											
January	5,939.9	87.7	391.1	55.0	446.2	6,386.1	n.a.	4,180.0	10,566.1	7.0	60.4
February	6,018.9	69.1	381.7	72.3	453.9	6,472.9	6,427.9	4,111.5	10,584.4	7.0	61.2
March	6,061.6	54.9	353.5	71.4	425.0	6,486.6	n.a.	4,117.7	10,604.3	6.6	61.2
April	6,056.4	55.6	346.4	70.4	416.8	6,473.1	n.a.	4,147.8	10,621.0	6.4	60.9
May	6,043.3	51.0	335.1	61.4	396.6	6,439.9	6,426.9	4,193.6	10,633.5	6.2	60.6
June	6,057.6	46.9	323.6	65.8	389.3	6,446.9	n.a.	4,195.2	10,642.1	6.0	60.6
July	6,067.6	42.4	319.5	63.0	382.5	6,450.1	n.a.	4,205.9	10,656.1	5.9	60.5
August	6,041.5	45.2	312.9	60.8	373.8	6,415.3	6,444.5	4,254.3	10,669.6	5.8	60.1
September	6,118.1	48.8	323.0	73.5	396.5	6,514.6	n.a.	4,170.0	10,684.6	6.1	61.0
October	6,125.2	48.3	311.6	76.2	387.8	6,513.0	n.a.	4,188.5	10,701.5	6.0	60.9
November	6,150.6	42.7	296.5	64.1	360.6	6,511.2	6,541.4	4,207.8	10,719.0	5.5	60.7
December	6,219.9	84.0	353.7	73.1	426.9	6,646.8	n.a.	4,094.9	10,741.7	6.4	61.9
Standard error of -											
December estimates	15.7	3.6	6.3	3.4	6.8	16.0	..	14.0	..	0.1	0.1
November to December movement	10.8	3.3	5.1	3.1	5.4	10.9	..	9.8	..	0.1	0.1

(a) Seasonally adjusted figures are available only at quarterly intervals. See paragraph 20. For information on standard errors see paragraphs 16 to 19 of the explanatory notes.

TABLE 2. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS
STATES AND TERRITORIES, DECEMBER 1979

State or Territory	Employed	Unemployed		Total — '000 —	Labour force	Not in labour force	Civilian population aged 15 years and over	Unemployment rate	Participation rate
		Looking for full-time work	Looking for part-time work						
— per cent —									
MALES									
N.S.W.	1,404.7	66.8	7.0	73.9	1,478.6	393.0	1,871.6	5.0	79.0
Vic.	1,080.1	46.8	5.8	52.6	1,132.6	276.9	1,409.6	4.6	80.4
Qld	592.7	32.7	*	35.9	628.6	181.5	810.1	5.7	77.6
S.A.	355.3	20.3	*	22.5	377.7	103.2	480.9	5.9	78.5
W.A.	350.2	23.2	3.3	26.4	376.6	86.1	462.7	7.0	81.4
Tas.	113.8	6.9	*	7.1	120.9	31.4	152.3	5.9	79.4
N.T.	33.6	2.1	*	2.1	35.7	6.4	42.1	5.9	84.9
A.C.T.	61.9	3.4	*	3.7	65.6	9.0	74.6	5.7	87.9
Australia	3,992.3	202.2	22.0	224.2	4,216.4	1,087.4	5,303.8	5.3	79.5
FEMALES									
N.S.W.	777.3	45.3	16.2	61.6	838.8	1,097.8	1,936.7	7.3	43.3
Vic.	617.5	37.5	13.8	51.3	668.8	789.3	1,458.1	7.7	45.9
Qld	315.4	24.1	8.0	32.1	347.5	478.1	825.6	9.2	42.1
S.A.	206.9	17.7	4.4	22.2	229.1	268.4	497.5	9.7	46.0
W.A.	194.7	17.6	5.8	23.4	218.1	235.5	453.7	10.7	48.1
Tas.	59.0	5.3	1.7	7.0	66.1	89.1	155.1	10.7	42.6
N.T.	16.6	*	*	*	17.9	15.4	33.2	*	53.8
A.C.T.	40.3	3.1	*	3.8	44.1	34.0	78.1	8.6	56.5
Australia	2,227.7	151.6	51.1	202.7	2,430.4	3,007.5	5,437.9	8.3	44.7
PERSONS									
N.S.W.	2,182.0	112.2	23.3	135.5	2,317.5	1,490.8	3,808.2	5.8	60.9
Vic.	1,697.6	84.3	19.6	103.9	1,801.4	1,066.2	2,867.6	5.8	62.8
Qld	908.1	56.8	11.2	67.9	976.1	659.6	1,635.7	7.0	59.7
S.A.	562.2	38.0	6.6	44.6	606.8	371.6	978.4	7.4	62.0
W.A.	544.9	40.8	9.1	49.9	594.8	321.6	916.4	8.4	64.9
Tas.	172.8	12.2	1.9	14.2	187.0	120.4	307.4	7.6	60.8
N.T.	50.2	3.0	*	3.4	53.6	21.7	75.3	6.4	71.2
A.C.T.	102.2	6.5	*	7.6	109.7	43.0	152.7	6.9	71.9
Australia	6,219.9	353.7	73.1	426.9	6,646.8	4,094.9	10,741.7	6.4	61.9

TABLE 3. EMPLOYED PERSONS, DECEMBER 1979

	Males	Married women	Other females (a)	All females	Persons
NUMBER ('000)					
All employed persons	3,992.3	1,392.6	835.1	2,227.7	6,219.9
Full-time workers	3,782.4	803.3	662.8	1,466.1	5,248.5
Part-time workers	209.8	589.3	172.3	761.6	971.5
Preferred not to work more hours	155.8	531.7	122.3	654.0	809.8
Preferred to work more hours	54.0	57.6	50.0	107.7	161.7
Were actively looking for full-time work	29.9	11.2	24.3	35.5	65.4
AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS WORKED (b)					
All employed persons	41.6	29.9	33.3	31.2	37.8
Full-time workers	42.9	39.9	38.2	39.1	41.9
Part-time workers	16.7	16.3	14.2	15.8	16.0

(a) Comprises never married, widowed and divorced. (b) 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. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND AGE, DECEMBER 1979 ('000)

Age group (years)	Employed			Unemployed			Labour force	Not in labour force	Civilian population aged 15 years and over
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Looking for full-time work	Looking for part-time work	Total			
15-19	542.0	151.2	693.1	146.9	29.5	176.4	869.5	413.0	1,282.5
Left school – 1978	173.3	18.9	192.2	33.1	*	36.5	228.6	25.0	253.6
1979 to survey date	51.6	27.9	79.5	45.1	*	47.8	127.3	40.0	167.3
20-24	818.4	91.9	910.3	76.9	8.8	85.7	996.1	221.1	1,217.1
25 and over	3,888.1	728.4	4,616.5	129.9	34.9	164.8	4,781.2	3,460.8	8,242.0
Total	5,248.5	971.5	6,219.9	353.7	73.1	426.9	6,646.8	4,094.9	10,741.7

TABLE 5. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, DECEMBER 1979

	Number ('000)			Unemployment rate (per cent)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME WORK						
Total	202.2	151.6	353.7	5.1	9.4	6.3
Married	62.4	36.8	99.2	2.3	4.4	2.8
Not married (a)	139.7	114.8	254.5	11.3	14.8	12.6
Aged 15-19 years	70.0	77.0	146.9	18.2	25.2	21.3
Attending school	11.6	10.5	22.1	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Aged 20-24 years	46.2	30.7	76.9	8.6	8.5	8.6
Aged 25 years and over	86.0	43.9	129.9	2.8	4.6	3.2
Born in Australia	146.4	114.7	261.1	5.0	9.5	6.3
Born outside Australia	55.7	36.9	92.6	5.2	9.0	6.2
Arrived before 1971	36.6	23.0	59.6	4.4	7.9	5.3
1971 to 1977	14.8	9.6	24.4	7.5	10.1	8.3
1978 to survey date	*	*	8.6	*	*	12.0
LOOKING FOR PART-TIME WORK						
Total	22.0	51.1	73.1	9.5	6.3	7.0
Aged 15-19 years	14.5	15.0	29.5	17.9	15.0	16.3
Attending school	10.8	9.0	19.9	21.0	17.6	19.3
Aged 20-24 years	*	6.2	8.8	*	8.9	8.8
Aged 25 years and over	4.9	30.0	34.9	4.1	4.7	4.6

(a) Comprises never married, widowed and divorced.

TABLE 6. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : STATE CAPITAL CITIES, DECEMBER 1979

Capital city	Number ('000)			Unemployment rate (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	63.7	15.6	79.4	5.0	7.0	5.3
Melbourne	60.1	14.6	74.7	5.4	7.4	5.7
Brisbane	25.8	5.8	31.6	6.6	8.6	6.9
Adelaide	30.3	5.1	35.4	8.4	6.5	8.0
Perth	32.0	6.7	38.7	9.3	8.7	9.2
Hobart	5.6	*	6.3	8.2	*	7.9
Total	217.5	48.5	266.1	6.1	7.4	6.3

TABLE 7. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, BY INDUSTRY AND OCCUPATION OF LAST FULL-TIME JOB, DECEMBER 1979

<i>Industry division or sub-division (a)</i>	<i>Number ('000)</i>	<i>Occupation group</i>	<i>Number ('000)</i>
Had worked for two weeks or more in a full-time job in the last two years	225.3	Had worked for two weeks or more in a full-time job in the last two years	225.3
Agriculture and services to agriculture	14.1	Professional, technical, etc.	14.7
Manufacturing	60.7	Administrative, executive, and managerial	4.5
Food, beverages and tobacco	14.2	Clerical	26.4
Metal products	8.8	Sales	26.6
Other manufacturing	37.7	Farmers, fishermen, timber-getters, etc.	16.5
Construction	21.3	Miners, quarrymen, etc.	*
Wholesale trade	12.2	Transport and communication	11.9
Retail trade	38.6	Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c.	91.4
Transport and storage	9.4	Service, sport and recreation	32.6
Finance, property and business services	11.0		
Community services	20.6		
Recreation, personal and other services	23.0		
Other industries	14.5		
Stood down (b)	6.7		
Other (c)	194.9		
Total	426.9		

(a) Classified according to the Australian Standard Industrial Classification, 1978. (b) For definition, see paragraph 6(b) of the explanatory notes. (c) Had never worked for two weeks or more in a full-time job or had not done so in the last two years. Industry and occupation were not obtained for these persons.

TABLE 8. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT, DECEMBER 1979

	Males	Married women	Other females (a)	All females	Persons		
					Looking for -		Total
					Full-time work	Part-time work	
NUMBER ('000)							
Duration of unemployment (weeks) -							
Under 2	31.7	8.3	21.9	30.2	43.5	18.5	61.9
2 and under 4	34.0	10.2	22.9	33.1	52.2	14.9	67.1
4 and under 8	32.8	10.4	19.3	29.7	51.4	11.1	62.5
8 and under 13	22.5	8.1	13.8	21.9	37.6	6.8	44.4
13 and under 26	31.6	8.6	14.8	23.4	47.1	7.9	55.0
26 and under 39	18.8	8.0	12.2	20.2	34.7	5.9	38.9
39 and under 52	10.4	*	7.5	11.0	19.7		21.3
52 and over	42.4	10.9	22.3	33.2	67.7	8.0	75.6
Total	224.2	67.9	134.8	202.7	353.7	73.1	426.9
AVERAGE (MEAN) DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT (weeks)							
All unemployed persons	27.1	24.8	25.4	25.2	28.1	16.8	26.2
Aged 15-19 years	16.1	*	20.8	20.6	20.3	9.1	18.4
Aged 20 years and over	33.7	25.3	34.4	29.1	33.7	22.0	31.7
MEDIAN DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT (weeks)							
All unemployed persons	11.0	11.1	9.2	9.9	12.0	5.1	10.5
Aged 15-19 years	6.4	*	7.7	7.6	8.0	3.3	7.0
Aged 20 years and over	15.9	11.3	14.4	12.1	16.8	7.4	14.0

(a) Comprises never married, widowed and divorced.