



THE LABOUR FORCE, AUSTRALIA, MARCH 1981 (PRELIMINARY)

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other inquiries including copies of publications—contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6627 or in any of our State offices.

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MAIN FEATURES

NOTE. Survey estimates are subject to sampling variability, as explained in paragraphs 18 to 21 below. Standard errors of estimates and of movements are shown in Table 1.

As explained in paragraph 17 below, an investigation is being undertaken of methods and procedures used in producing the estimates.

In March 1981 the estimated number of persons in the civilian labour force was 6,799,900 (4,278,900 males and 2,521,000 females) comprising 6,390,100 employed persons (4,075,700 males and 2,314,400 females) and 409,900 unemployed persons (203,200 males and 206,600 females).

Of the 79,200 unemployed persons looking for part-time work, 12,800 were aged 15-19 years and were attending school.

commenced a week earlier than usual (with most interviews being conducted during the second week) and the January 1979 and 1980 surveys commenced 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 International Labour Organisation (ILO).

5. *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 helpers); 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.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

This publication contains 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 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 1978 and 1979 surveys

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. *Hours of work*. The figures of average hours refer to actual hours worked during the survey week, not hours paid for. The figures may be affected by public holidays, leave, absenteeism; temporary absence from work due to sickness, injury, accident and industrial disputes; and stoppages of work due to bad weather, plant breakdown, etc. When hours of work are recorded fractions of an hour are disregarded and this results in slightly lower figures than would be the case if actual time worked was recorded. Persons stood down for the whole of the survey week without pay because of bad weather or plant breakdown at their place of employment are regarded as employed and therefore are included (working no hours) in the calculation of average hours worked. Persons stood down in the survey week for reasons other than bad weather and plant breakdown and waiting to be called back to their jobs are regarded as unemployed and are therefore excluded from the calculation.

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

Revision of series

15. 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 Labour Force, Australia, 1978* (6204.0).

Comparability of series

16. 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.

17. Occasionally the estimates of month-to-month changes in numbers employed are difficult to reconcile with what is known of developments in industry, commerce or government employment. For this reason an investigation is being undertaken of methods and procedures used in producing the estimates.

Reliability of the estimates

18. 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.

19. 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).

20. *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.

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

- (a) From Table A it will be seen that the estimate of 185,800 unemployed males looking for full-time work in March 1981 has a standard error of about 5,000. Therefore there are about two chances in three that the number that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey will be within the range 180,800 to 190,800 and about nineteen chances in twenty that the number will be within the range 175,800 to 195,800.
- (b) The estimate of movement in the number of unemployed males looking for full-time work from February to March 1981 is a decrease of 17,800. 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 February 1981 estimate (203,600) 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 -22,100 to -13,500 and about nineteen chances in twenty that it would have been within the range -26,400 to -9,200.

Seasonal adjustment

22. Seasonally adjusted quarterly estimates of the labour force are shown in Table 1. Calculation of seasonally adjusted monthly figures is not yet possible. 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

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

Unemployment, Australia, Preliminary Estimates (6201.0)—issued monthly

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)—issued monthly

The Labour Force, Australia, 1979 (6204.0)

Job Vacancies, Australia (6231.0)—issued quarterly

Overtime, Australia (6330.0)—issued monthly

Information Paper: Questionnaires used in the Labour Force Survey, February 1978 (6232.0).

24. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (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 20)
- n.a. not available
- .. not applicable
- n.e.c. not elsewhere classified.

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

R. J. CAMERON
Australian Statistician

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	
	— number —									Per cent of estimate
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	1,100	1,100	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										
	Looking for full-time work					Labour force			Civilian population aged 15 years and over	Unemployment rate	Participation rate
	Employed	Aged 15-19 years looking for first job	Total	Looking for part-time work	Total	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Not in labour force			
		— '000 —		— per cent —							
MALES											
1980—											
February	3,960.1	32.5	215.2	15.3	230.4	4,190.6	4,157.1	1,129.9	5,320.5	5.5	78.8
March	3,971.1	24.1	196.3	15.2	211.5	4,182.6	n.a.	1,145.4	5,328.0	5.1	78.5
April	3,949.6	16.3	192.9	14.1	206.9	4,156.6	n.a.	1,178.5	5,335.1	5.0	77.9
May	3,981.2	18.7	201.0	18.9	219.9	4,201.1	4,192.8	1,140.6	5,341.6	5.2	78.6
June	3,970.3	19.8	193.1	15.8	208.9	4,179.2	n.a.	1,169.8	5,348.9	5.0	78.1
July	3,984.2	17.1	190.0	15.4	205.3	4,189.5	n.a.	1,168.5	5,358.0	4.9	78.2
August	3,970.9	20.0	193.3	15.8	209.1	4,180.0	4,200.8	1,184.3	5,364.2	5.0	77.9
September	4,010.0	24.9	197.9	13.2	211.1	4,221.1	n.a.	1,151.0	5,372.1	5.0	78.6
October	4,000.8	21.7	180.1	14.7	194.8	4,195.6	n.a.	1,184.8	5,380.4	4.6	78.0
November	4,006.7	22.4	171.4	11.5	182.8	4,189.6	4,211.4	1,202.5	5,392.1	4.4	77.7
December	4,080.4	43.2	206.1	20.1	226.2	4,306.7	n.a.	1,096.7	5,403.3	5.3	79.7
1981—											
January	4,017.7	34.4	218.2	15.7	233.9	4,251.6	n.a.	1,161.4	5,413.0	5.5	78.5
February	4,051.4	29.8	203.6	16.4	220.0	4,271.4	4,236.8	1,149.2	5,420.6	5.2	78.8
March	4,075.7	19.7	185.8	17.5	203.2	4,278.9	n.a.	1,152.3	5,431.2	4.8	78.8
Standard error of—											
March 1981 estimates	14.0	2.0	5.0	1.9	5.2	14.2	..	9.5	..	0.1	0.3
February to March 1981 movement	9.8	2.3	4.3	1.9	4.4	9.9	..	7.1	..	0.1	0.2
MARRIED FEMALES											
1980—											
February	1,370.7	*	48.2	36.4	84.6	1,455.3	1,460.6	2,006.5	3,461.9	5.8	42.0
March	1,402.3	*	46.1	36.6	82.7	1,484.9	n.a.	1,971.8	3,456.7	5.6	43.0
April	1,392.1	*	43.2	32.7	75.9	1,467.9	n.a.	1,997.5	3,465.4	5.2	42.4
May	1,394.7	*	39.5	34.1	73.6	1,468.2	1,466.0	1,992.9	3,461.1	5.0	42.4
June	1,400.0	*	42.8	35.4	78.1	1,478.2	n.a.	1,987.1	3,465.3	5.3	42.7
July	1,412.7	*	40.9	29.4	70.3	1,483.0	n.a.	1,968.1	3,451.2	4.7	43.0
August	1,412.4	*	42.2	27.6	69.7	1,482.1	1,483.0	1,982.7	3,464.8	4.7	42.8
September	1,419.8	*	45.0	33.9	78.9	1,498.7	n.a.	1,962.1	3,460.8	5.3	43.3
October	1,407.5	*	39.5	34.7	74.2	1,481.7	n.a.	2,000.1	3,481.8	5.0	42.6
November	1,419.5	*	42.1	28.4	70.5	1,490.0	1,486.1	1,992.9	3,483.0	4.7	42.8
December	1,402.9	*	37.6	30.8	68.4	1,471.3	n.a.	2,017.1	3,488.4	4.7	42.2
1981—											
January	1,320.9	*	39.5	23.0	62.5	1,383.4	n.a.	2,121.7	3,505.1	4.5	39.5
February	1,374.5	*	46.8	32.9	79.8	1,454.2	1,459.9	2,056.7	3,510.9	5.5	41.4
March	1,417.7	*	45.6	44.5	90.0	1,507.7	n.a.	2,005.1	3,512.8	6.0	42.9
Standard error of—											
March 1981 estimates	10.2	..	2.8	2.8	3.7	10.4	..	11.3	..	0.2	0.3
February to March 1981 movement	7.5	..	2.7	2.6	3.3	7.6	..	8.3	..	0.2	0.2

For footnote see page 6.

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

Month	Unemployed										
	Looking for full-time work				Labour force			Not in labour force	Civilian population aged 15 years and over	Unemployment rate	Participation rate
	Employed	Aged 15-19 years looking for first job	Total	Looking for part-time work	Total	Labour force					
		Seasonally adjusted				Original					
— '000 —											
— per cent —											
ALL FEMALES											
1980—											
February	2,213.9	40.0	160.5	53.5	214.1	2,428.0	2,416.4	3,026.9	5,454.9	8.8	44.5
March	2,272.1	31.5	142.8	58.1	200.9	2,473.0	n.a.	2,989.2	5,462.2	8.1	45.3
April	2,242.4	28.5	146.3	51.3	197.5	2,440.0	n.a.	3,030.6	5,470.6	8.1	44.6
May	2,256.6	29.8	141.6	52.1	193.7	2,450.3	2,445.1	3,027.2	5,477.5	7.9	44.7
June	2,262.4	26.6	144.7	52.5	197.1	2,459.6	n.a.	3,025.9	5,485.5	8.0	44.8
July	2,295.8	25.6	134.8	45.2	180.0	2,475.9	n.a.	3,017.8	5,493.7	7.3	45.1
August	2,275.8	26.5	139.4	43.8	183.2	2,459.0	2,474.1	3,041.4	5,500.4	7.5	44.7
September	2,315.3	23.6	137.6	56.8	194.4	2,509.7	n.a.	2,999.2	5,508.9	7.7	45.6
October	2,285.2	24.1	127.0	53.9	180.9	2,466.1	n.a.	3,050.6	5,516.7	7.3	44.7
November	2,301.8	21.1	131.3	42.8	174.1	2,476.0	2,478.4	3,052.4	5,528.4	7.0	44.8
December	2,309.1	39.2	151.2	54.5	205.8	2,514.9	n.a.	3,023.0	5,537.9	8.2	45.4
1981—											
January	2,201.3	43.0	158.7	37.7	196.5	2,397.8	n.a.	3,151.8	5,549.5	8.2	43.2
February	2,269.3	33.4	154.7	49.4	204.1	2,473.4	2,461.9	3,084.7	5,558.2	8.3	44.5
March	2,314.4	28.4	144.9	61.7	206.6	2,521.0	n.a.	3,047.6	5,568.6	8.2	45.3
Standard error of—											
March 1981 estimates	11.8	2.3	4.5	3.2	5.2	12.1	..	12.8	..	0.2	0.2
February to March 1981 movement	8.5	2.4	4.0	2.9	4.3	8.7	..	9.1	..	0.2	0.2
PERSONS											
1980—											
February	6,174.1	72.5	375.7	68.8	444.5	6,618.6	6,571.5	4,156.8	10,775.4	6.7	61.4
March	6,243.2	55.6	339.1	73.3	412.4	6,655.6	n.a.	4,134.6	10,790.2	6.2	61.7
April	6,192.1	44.7	339.1	65.3	404.5	6,596.5	n.a.	4,209.1	10,805.7	6.1	61.0
May	6,237.8	48.4	342.6	71.0	413.6	6,651.4	6,637.5	4,167.7	10,819.1	6.2	61.5
June	6,232.7	46.4	337.7	68.3	406.0	6,638.8	n.a.	4,195.7	10,834.4	6.1	61.3
July	6,280.0	42.7	324.8	60.6	385.4	6,665.4	n.a.	4,186.3	10,851.7	5.8	61.4
August	6,246.7	46.5	332.6	59.7	392.3	6,639.0	6,673.9	4,225.7	10,864.7	5.9	61.1
September	6,325.3	48.6	335.5	70.0	405.5	6,730.8	n.a.	4,150.2	10,881.0	6.0	61.9
October	6,286.0	45.9	307.1	68.6	375.7	6,661.7	n.a.	4,235.4	10,897.1	5.6	61.1
November	6,308.5	43.5	302.7	54.3	357.0	6,665.5	6,693.5	4,254.9	10,920.5	5.4	61.0
December	6,389.5	82.3	357.4	74.6	432.0	6,821.5	n.a.	4,119.7	10,941.2	6.3	62.3
1981—											
January	6,219.1	77.4	377.0	53.4	430.4	6,649.4	n.a.	4,313.2	10,962.6	6.5	60.7
February	6,320.7	63.2	358.4	65.8	424.1	6,744.8	6,696.6	4,233.9	10,978.8	6.3	61.4
March	6,390.1	48.1	330.7	79.2	409.9	6,799.9	n.a.	4,200.0	10,999.9	6.0	61.8
Standard error of—											
March 1981 estimates	15.9	2.9	6.2	3.6	6.7	16.1	..	14.1	..	0.1	0.1
February to March 1981 movement	10.8	3.0	5.1	3.2	5.4	11.0	..	9.9	..	0.1	0.1

(a) Seasonally adjusted figures are available only at quarterly intervals (see paragraph 22). For information on standard errors see paragraphs 18 to 21.

TABLE 2. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS, STATES AND TERRITORIES, MARCH 1981

State or Territory	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					
— '000 —									
— per cent —									
MALES									
N.S.W.	1,434.2	60.1	5.1	65.2	1,499.4	411.0	1,910.4	4.3	78.5
Vic.	1,086.4	48.5	5.2	53.7	1,140.1	292.0	1,432.1	4.7	79.6
Qld	620.9	27.7	*	31.0	651.9	200.1	852.1	4.8	76.5
S.A.	358.1	21.5	*	22.9	381.0	108.5	489.5	6.0	77.8
W.A.	366.3	17.9	*	19.3	385.6	88.7	474.3	5.0	81.3
Tas.	115.5	6.2	*	6.6	122.1	33.1	155.2	5.4	78.7
N.T.	33.5	*	*	*	34.8	7.4	42.2	*	82.4
A.C.T.	60.7	2.6	*	3.4	64.1	11.5	75.6	5.2	84.8
Australia	4,075.7	185.8	17.5	203.2	4,278.9	1,152.3	5,431.2	4.8	78.8
FEMALES									
N.S.W.	804.7	45.4	19.8	65.2	869.9	1,102.2	1,972.1	7.5	44.1
Vic.	644.6	41.0	17.6	58.6	703.1	779.1	1,482.2	8.3	47.4
Qld	333.0	23.3	8.2	31.5	364.5	502.4	866.9	8.7	42.0
S.A.	210.2	16.3	5.8	22.1	232.3	271.6	503.9	9.5	46.1
W.A.	199.9	11.8	6.3	18.1	218.0	249.6	467.5	8.3	46.6
Tas.	62.8	4.9	1.7	6.7	69.5	90.5	160.0	9.6	43.4
N.T.	18.2	*	*	*	18.9	17.3	36.3	*	52.2
A.C.T.	41.0	*	2.2	3.7	44.8	35.0	79.8	8.3	56.1
Australia	2,314.4	144.9	61.7	206.6	2,521.0	3,047.6	5,568.6	8.2	45.3
PERSONS									
N.S.W.	2,238.9	105.5	24.9	130.3	2,369.3	1,513.1	3,882.4	5.5	61.0
Vic.	1,730.9	89.5	22.7	112.3	1,843.2	1,071.1	2,914.3	6.1	63.2
Qld	953.9	51.0	11.5	62.6	1,016.5	702.5	1,719.0	6.2	59.1
S.A.	568.3	37.8	7.2	45.0	613.3	380.1	993.4	7.3	61.7
W.A.	566.3	29.7	7.6	37.3	603.6	338.3	941.9	6.2	64.1
Tas.	178.3	11.1	2.2	13.3	191.6	123.5	315.1	6.9	60.8
N.T.	51.7	*	*	2.0	53.7	24.7	78.4	3.7	68.5
A.C.T.	101.7	4.2	2.9	7.1	108.8	46.6	155.4	6.5	70.0
Australia	6,390.1	330.7	79.2	409.9	6,799.9	4,200.0	10,999.9	6.0	61.8

TABLE 3. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND AGE, MARCH 1981 ('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	556.3	151.7	708.1	106.1	21.5	127.6	835.6	441.1	1,276.7
Left school	555.6	76.4	632.1	100.0	8.6	108.7	740.7	123.9	864.6
Before 1980	427.5	42.2	469.7	59.8	5.7	65.6	535.2	71.5	606.8
1980 to survey date	128.2	34.2	162.4	40.2	*	43.1	205.5	52.4	257.9
20-24	839.4	93.9	933.3	78.2	11.0	89.2	1,022.5	235.2	1,257.7
25 and over	3,943.7	805.1	4,748.8	146.4	46.7	193.1	4,941.8	3,523.6	8,465.5
Total	5,339.4	1,050.7	6,390.1	330.7	79.2	409.9	6,799.9	4,200.0	10,999.9

TABLE 4. EMPLOYED PERSONS, MARCH 1981

	Females			Total	Persons
	Males	Married	Not married(a)		
NUMBER (' 000)					
All employed persons	4,075.7	1,417.7	896.7	2,314.4	6,390.1
Full-time workers	3,860.4	776.4	702.6	1,479.0	5,339.4
Part-time workers	215.3	641.3	194.1	835.4	1,050.7
Preferred not to work more hours	172.9	578.9	146.5	725.4	898.3
Preferred to work more hours	42.4	62.4	47.6	110.0	152.4
Had actively looked for full-time work(b)	19.5	10.7	20.0	30.6	50.1
AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS WORKED(c)					
All employed persons	39.5	28.0	31.9	29.5	35.9
Full-time workers	40.8	38.0	37.0	37.5	39.9
Part-time workers	15.9	15.8	13.7	15.3	15.4

(a) Comprises never married, widowed and divorced. (b) In the four weeks up to the end of the survey week. (c) See paragraph 13.

TABLE 5. PART-TIME WORKERS : WHETHER PREFERRED TO WORK MORE HOURS AND WHETHER LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME WORK : AGE AND HOURS WORKED, MARCH 1981 (' 000)

	Age group (years)			Persons who worked in the survey week			Persons who did not work in the survey week(a)	Total
	15-19	20-24	25 and over	Hours worked in the survey week				
				1-5	6-10	11 and over		
Total	151.7	93.9	805.1	146.9	208.0	648.8	47.0	1,050.7
Preferred not to work more hours	114.4	69.4	714.6	119.0	173.5	565.0	40.9	898.3
Preferred to work more hours	37.4	24.5	90.5	27.8	34.5	83.9	6.1	152.4
Had actively looked for full-time work(b)	18.2	10.4	21.5	9.0	11.3	28.3	*	50.1

(a) Persons who had a part-time job from which they were absent for the whole of the survey week. (b) In the four weeks up to the end of the survey week.

TABLE 6. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, MARCH 1981

	Number (' 000)			Unemployment rate (per cent)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME WORK						
Total	185.8	144.9	330.7	4.6	8.9	5.8
Married	74.3	45.6	119.9	2.7	5.5	3.3
Not married(a)	111.5	99.3	210.8	8.7	12.4	10.1
Aged 15-19 years	46.7	59.4	106.1	12.5	20.7	16.0
Attending school	*	*	6.1	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Aged 20-24 years	44.7	33.5	78.2	8.1	9.1	8.5
Looking for first job	*	4.6	6.2	..	..	..
Aged 25 years and over	94.4	52.0	146.4	3.0	5.4	3.6
Born in Australia	130.7	105.1	235.8	4.4	8.8	5.7
Born outside Australia	55.1	39.8	94.9	5.1	9.4	6.3
Arrived before 1971	34.1	18.7	52.8	4.2	6.7	4.8
1971 to 1975	9.1	6.5	15.7	6.3	9.2	7.3
1976 to 1979	5.9	6.9	12.8	6.9	14.1	9.5
1980 to survey date	5.9	7.7	13.6	14.1	33.2	20.9
LOOKING FOR PART-TIME WORK						
Total	17.5	61.7	79.2	7.5	6.9	7.0
Aged 15-19 years	9.0	12.5	21.5	12.5	12.3	12.4
Attending school	5.9	6.9	12.8	14.8	14.4	14.6
Aged 20-24 years	*	8.0	11.0	*	10.7	10.5
Aged 25 years and over	5.5	41.2	46.7	4.2	5.7	5.5

(a) Comprises never married, widowed and divorced.

TABLE 7. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : STATES AND TERRITORIES, STATE CAPITAL CITIES, MARCH 1981

	State capital city						State or Territory					
	Number (' 000)			Unemployment rate (per cent)			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	Looking for full-time work	Looking for part-time work	Total	Looking for full-time work	Looking for part-time work	Total
N.S.W.	60.9	13.9	74.8	4.7	5.7	4.9	105.5	24.9	130.3	5.3	6.4	5.5
Vic.	68.5	18.3	86.9	6.1	8.5	6.5	89.5	22.7	112.3	5.8	7.5	6.1
Qld	22.8	5.3	28.1	5.7	6.8	5.9	51.0	11.5	62.6	6.0	7.1	6.2
S.A.	30.6	5.2	35.8	8.4	6.9	8.1	37.8	7.2	45.0	7.5	6.6	7.3
W.A.	22.2	6.3	28.5	6.3	7.8	6.6	29.7	7.6	37.3	6.0	7.1	6.2
Tas.	4.5	*	5.7	6.9	*	7.1	11.1	2.2	13.3	6.9	6.9	6.9
N.T.	..	..	..	..	..	..	*	*	2.0	*	*	3.7
A.C.T.	..	..	..	..	..	..	4.2	2.9	7.1	4.7	14.3	6.5
Total	209.6	50.1	259.7	5.8	7.1	6.0	330.7	79.2	409.9	5.8	7.0	6.0

TABLE 8. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, BY INDUSTRY AND OCCUPATION OF LAST FULL-TIME JOB, MARCH 1981 (' 000)

	Males	Females	Persons
Had worked for two weeks or more in a full-time job in the last two years	137.4	89.4	226.8
Industry division or subdivision(a)—			
Agriculture and services to agriculture	11.6	*	14.0
Manufacturing	41.1	21.5	62.7
Food, beverages and tobacco	8.3	*	12.4
Metal products	8.3	*	9.2
Other manufacturing	24.5	16.6	41.0
Construction	19.3	*	19.4
Wholesale trade	9.7	*	13.4
Retail trade	23.4	20.3	43.6
Transport and storage	7.3	*	8.7
Finance, property and business services	*	7.6	11.8
Community services	5.2	13.6	18.8
Recreation, personal and other services	6.9	13.1	20.0
Other industries	8.8	5.6	14.4
Occupation group—			
Professional, technical, etc.	5.1	8.2	13.3
Administrative, executive, and managerial	4.8	*	6.1
Clerical	4.8	25.6	30.4
Sales	9.9	15.6	25.6
Farmers, fishermen, timber-getters, etc.	13.9	*	16.3
Miners, quarrymen, etc.	*	*	*
Transport and communication	9.1	*	10.2
Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c.	80.7	18.9	99.5
Service, sport and recreation	7.1	16.1	23.3
Other(b)	60.5	112.3	172.8
Looking for first job	28.2	46.6	74.9
Looking for full-time work	22.6	35.1	57.7
Other	32.3	65.7	98.0
Stood down	5.3	4.9	10.2
Total	203.2	206.6	409.9

(a) Classified according to the Australian Standard Industrial Classification, 1978. in the last two years. Industry and occupation were not obtained for these persons.

(b) Had never worked for two weeks or more in a full-time job or had not done so

TABLE 9. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT, MARCH 1981

	Persons						
	Females				Looking for—		
	Males	Married	Not married(a)	Total	Full-time work	Part-time work	Total
NUMBER (' 000)							
Duration of unemployment (weeks)—							
Under 2	19.3	13.5	13.0	26.5	32.4	13.4	45.8
2 and under 4	23.1	15.2	9.6	24.8	31.4	16.5	47.9
4 and under 8	26.3	16.4	15.6	32.0	43.3	15.0	58.2
8 and under 13	31.1	14.1	18.5	32.6	50.7	13.0	63.7
13 and under 26	33.8	8.4	23.0	31.4	58.6	6.5	65.1
26 and under 39	19.7	7.2	8.0	15.2	30.8	} 5.8 {	34.9
39 and under 52	7.0	*	4.7	6.8	12.2		13.8
52 and over	42.8	13.1	24.2	37.4	71.2	9.0	80.2
Total	203.2	90.0	116.6	206.6	330.7	79.2	409.9
AVERAGE (MEAN) DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT (weeks)							
All unemployed persons	33.4	23.8	29.9	27.2	33.1	18.6	30.3
Aged 15-19 years	21.0	*	23.5	22.9	23.9	12.9	22.0
Aged 20 years and over	38.0	24.3	38.8	29.5	37.4	20.7	34.0
MEDIAN DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT (weeks)							
All unemployed persons	13.7	8.0	13.9	11.1	14.6	6.6	12.2
Aged 15-19 years	11.4	*	13.7	12.9	13.5	7.4	12.1
Aged 20 years and over	16.3	8.0	14.5	10.0	15.5	6.3	12.2

(a) Comprises never married, widowed and divorced.