



## THE LABOUR FORCE, AUSTRALIA, MAY 1981 (PRELIMINARY)

**PHONE INQUIRIES** *for more information about these statistics*—contact Mr Godfrey Laurie on Canberra (062) 52 6565 or any of our State offices.  
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### MAIN FEATURES

**NOTES.** 1. *Survey estimates are subject to sampling variability, as explained in paragraphs 17 to 20 below. Standard errors of estimates and of movements are shown in Table 1.*

2. *Statistics of government employment are included in this issue for the first time. See pages 10 to 11.*

In May 1981 the estimated number of persons in the civilian labour force was 6,752,700 (4,257,100 males and 2,495,600 females), comprising 6,377,200 employed persons (4,064,200 males and 2,313,000 females) and 375,500 unemployed persons (192,900 males and 182,600 females).

The estimated number of persons employed part time was 1,042,200 (16.3 per cent of total employed persons). Of these, 635,800 were married females.

### PART 1. LABOUR FORCE ESTIMATES

#### EXPLANATORY NOTES

##### Introduction

Part 1 of 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

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.

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.

#### Reliability of the estimates

17. 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.

18. 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).

19. *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.

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

- (a) From Table A it will be seen that the estimate of 175,500 unemployed males looking for full-time work in May 1981 has a standard error of about 4,900. 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 170,600 to 180,400 and about nineteen chances in twenty that the number will be within the range 165,700 to 185,300.
- (b) The estimate of movement in the number of unemployed males looking for full-time work from April to May 1981 is an increase of 3,800. 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 May 1981 estimate (175,500) is the larger. From Table B it will be seen that the standard error of the monthly movement is about 4,100. 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 -300 to +7,900 and about nineteen chances in twenty that it would have been within the range -4,400 to +12,000.

#### Seasonal adjustment

21. 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

22. 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).

23. 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 19)
- 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.

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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	
									— 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	1,100	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—											
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
April	4,068.3	15.6	171.7	16.2	187.9	4,256.2	n.a.	1,183.1	5,439.3	4.4	78.2
May	4,064.2	15.0	175.5	17.3	192.9	4,257.1	4,248.9	1,190.7	5,447.8	4.5	78.1
Standard error of—											
May 1981 estimates	14.0	1.7	4.9	1.8	5.1	14.2	..	9.6	..	0.1	0.3
April to May 1981 movement	9.8	1.8	4.1	1.9	4.2	9.9	..	7.2	..	0.1	0.2
MARRIED FEMALES											
1980—											
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
April	1,423.8	*	43.9	34.9	78.8	1,502.6	n.a.	2,015.7	3,518.3	5.2	42.7
May	1,423.3	*	44.0	34.5	78.4	1,501.7	1,499.1	2,030.2	3,531.9	5.2	42.5
Standard error of—											
May 1981 estimates	10.2	..	2.8	2.5	3.5	10.3	..	11.4	..	0.2	0.3
April to May 1981 movement	7.5	..	2.6	2.4	3.2	7.6	..	8.2	..	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										Unemployment rate	Participation rate
	Looking for full-time work					Labour force			Civilian population aged 15 years and over			
	Employed	Aged 15-19 years looking for first job	Total	Looking for part-time work	Total	Labour force		Not in labour force				
						Original	Seasonally adjusted					
— '000 —										— per cent —		
ALL FEMALES												
1980—												
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	
April	2,321.1	25.6	134.8	53.3	188.1	2,509.2	n.a.	3,067.7	5,576.9	7.5	45.0	
May	2,313.0	23.9	132.1	50.5	182.6	2,495.6	2,490.0	3,089.8	5,585.4	7.3	44.7	
Standard error of—												
May 1981 estimates	11.8	2.1	4.4	3.0	4.9	12.1	..	12.9	..	0.2	0.2	
April to May 1981 movement	8.5	2.2	3.8	2.8	4.2	8.7	..	9.1	..	0.2	0.2	
PERSONS												
1980—												
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	
April	6,389.4	41.2	306.5	69.5	376.0	6,765.4	n.a.	4,250.8	11,016.2	5.6	61.4	
May	6,377.2	38.8	307.7	67.8	375.5	6,752.7	6,738.4	4,280.5	11,033.2	5.6	61.2	
Standard error of—												
May 1981 estimates	15.8	2.6	6.0	3.3	6.5	16.1	..	14.2	..	0.1	0.1	
April to May 1981 movement	10.8	2.6	4.9	3.1	5.2	11.0	..	9.9	..	0.1	0.1	

(a) Seasonally adjusted figures are available only at quarterly intervals (see paragraph 21). For information on standard errors see paragraphs 17 to 20.

TABLE 2. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS, STATES AND TERRITORIES, MAY 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.	1,429.0	53.6	6.0	59.6	1,488.6	428.8	1,917.3	4.0	77.6
Vic.	1,081.6	46.5	5.6	52.1	1,133.7	301.7	1,435.4	4.6	79.0
Qld	624.7	24.9	*	26.6	651.3	203.2	854.4	4.1	76.2
S.A.	353.4	24.1	*	26.0	379.5	111.1	490.6	6.9	77.4
W.A.	364.3	16.7	*	18.0	382.3	93.6	475.9	4.7	80.3
Tas.	115.7	5.5	*	5.5	121.2	34.2	155.5	4.5	78.0
N.T.	34.3	*	*	*	35.3	7.5	42.8	*	82.5
A.C.T.	61.1	3.4	*	4.1	65.2	10.7	75.9	6.3	85.9
<i>Australia</i>	<i>4,064.2</i>	<i>175.5</i>	<i>17.3</i>	<i>192.9</i>	<i>4,257.1</i>	<i>1,190.7</i>	<i>5,447.8</i>	<i>4.5</i>	<i>78.1</i>
FEMALES									
N.S.W.	800.3	41.3	15.1	56.4	856.7	1,122.1	1,978.7	6.6	43.3
Vic.	639.4	35.5	16.5	52.0	691.4	794.4	1,485.8	7.5	46.5
Qld	336.9	22.8	6.5	29.3	366.2	502.9	869.1	8.0	42.1
S.A.	207.9	16.2	4.4	20.6	228.5	275.6	504.1	9.0	45.3
W.A.	203.4	10.4	4.4	14.8	218.1	251.5	469.6	6.8	46.5
Tas.	63.6	3.4	*	4.6	68.2	92.4	160.6	6.7	42.5
N.T.	19.3	*	*	*	21.1	16.0	37.1	*	56.9
A.C.T.	42.2	*	*	3.2	45.4	34.9	80.3	7.0	56.5
<i>Australia</i>	<i>2,313.0</i>	<i>132.1</i>	<i>50.5</i>	<i>182.6</i>	<i>2,495.6</i>	<i>3089.8</i>	<i>5,585.4</i>	<i>7.3</i>	<i>44.7</i>
PERSONS									
N.S.W.	2,229.2	94.9	21.1	116.0	2,345.2	1,550.9	3,896.1	4.9	60.2
Vic.	1,721.0	82.0	22.1	104.1	1,825.2	1,096.1	2,921.2	5.7	62.5
Qld	961.7	47.7	8.2	55.8	1,017.5	706.1	1,723.6	5.5	59.0
S.A.	561.3	40.3	6.3	46.6	607.9	386.7	994.6	7.7	61.1
W.A.	567.7	27.1	5.7	32.8	600.5	345.0	945.5	5.5	63.5
Tas.	179.4	8.9	*	10.1	189.5	126.6	316.1	5.3	59.9
N.T.	53.7	*	*	2.7	56.4	23.5	79.9	4.9	70.6
A.C.T.	103.2	5.0	2.3	7.3	110.5	45.6	156.2	6.6	70.8
<i>Australia</i>	<i>6,377.2</i>	<i>307.7</i>	<i>67.8</i>	<i>375.5</i>	<i>6,752.7</i>	<i>4,280.5</i>	<i>11,033.2</i>	<i>5.6</i>	<i>61.2</i>

TABLE 3. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND AGE, MAY 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	548.5	150.2	698.7	96.0	20.5	116.6	815.3	459.3	1,274.6
Left school	543.3	71.0	614.4	89.2	6.7	95.9	710.3	117.8	828.1
Before 1980	395.0	39.5	434.4	53.4	*	56.8	491.2	67.2	558.4
1980 to survey date	148.4	31.6	179.9	35.8	*	39.1	219.1	50.6	269.7
20-24	839.7	101.4	941.1	69.0	9.7	78.7	1,019.8	242.9	1,262.7
25 and over	3,946.7	790.6	4,737.4	142.7	37.5	180.2	4,917.6	3,578.3	8,495.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,335.0</b>	<b>1,042.2</b>	<b>6,377.2</b>	<b>307.7</b>	<b>67.8</b>	<b>375.5</b>	<b>6,752.7</b>	<b>4,280.5</b>	<b>11,033.2</b>



TABLE 4. EMPLOYED PERSONS, MAY 1981

	Females			Total	Persons
	Males	Married	Not married(a)		
NUMBER (' 000)					
All employed persons	4,064.2	1,423.3	889.8	2,313.0	6,377.2
Full-time workers	3,842.8	787.4	704.7	1,492.2	5,335.0
Part-time workers	221.4	635.8	185.0	820.9	1,042.2
Preferred not to work more hours	176.7	576.2	141.5	717.7	894.5
Preferred to work more hours	44.6	59.6	43.5	103.1	147.8
Had actively looked for full-time work(b)	19.0	12.1	17.4	29.6	48.6
AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS WORKED (c)					
All employed persons	39.2	27.4	31.6	29.0	35.5
Full-time workers	40.6	37.3	36.3	36.8	39.5
Part-time workers	15.9	15.1	13.9	14.9	15.1

(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, MAY 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	150.2	101.4	790.6	133.2	197.4	626.2	85.4	1,042.2
Preferred not to work more hours	113.2	77.1	704.1	108.0	168.4	541.1	77.0	894.5
Preferred to work more hours	37.0	24.3	86.5	25.3	29.0	85.1	8.4	147.8
Had actively looked for full-time work (b)	14.7	11.2	22.6	6.8	10.2	30.3	*	48.6

(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, MAY 1981

	Number (' 000)			Unemployment rate (per cent)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME WORK						
Total	175.5	132.1	307.7	4.4	8.1	5.5
Married	66.3	44.0	110.3	2.4	5.3	3.1
Not married(a)	109.2	88.2	197.4	8.5	11.1	9.5
Aged 15-19 years	44.2	51.8	96.0	12.1	18.6	14.9
Attending school	*	*	6.8	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Aged 20-24 years	36.8	32.2	69.0	6.8	8.8	7.6
Looking for first job	*	*	5.7	..	..	..
Aged 25 years and over	94.5	48.1	142.7	3.0	4.9	3.5
Born in Australia	120.0	97.0	217.0	4.1	8.1	5.3
Born outside Australia	55.5	35.1	90.7	5.1	8.4	6.0
Arrived before 1971	32.9	16.0	48.9	4.1	5.8	4.5
1971 to 1975	8.9	6.6	15.5	5.8	8.7	6.7
1976 to 1979	6.8	5.9	12.7	8.1	13.0	9.8
1980 to survey date	7.0	6.6	13.6	13.4	30.5	18.4
LOOKING FOR PART-TIME WORK						
Total	17.3	50.5	67.8	7.3	5.8	6.1
Aged 15-19 years	9.9	10.6	20.5	13.7	10.8	12.0
Attending school	7.2	6.7	13.9	16.8	13.3	14.9
Aged 20-24 years	*	7.2	9.7	*	9.7	8.8
Aged 25 years and over	4.9	32.6	37.5	3.8	4.7	4.5

(a) Comprises never married, widowed and divorced.

TABLE 7. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, STATE CAPITAL CITIES, STATES AND TERRITORIES, MAY 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.	55.2	13.5	68.7	4.3	5.8	4.5	94.9	21.1	116.0	4.8	5.7	4.9
Vic.	56.3	17.9	74.2	5.0	8.6	5.6	82.0	22.1	104.1	5.3	7.6	5.7
Qld	21.7	5.3	27.0	5.5	6.3	5.7	47.7	8.2	55.8	5.7	4.7	5.5
S.A.	32.8	5.0	37.8	9.1	6.5	8.7	40.3	6.3	46.6	8.1	5.7	7.7
W.A.	20.9	4.7	25.6	6.0	6.0	6.0	27.1	5.7	32.8	5.5	5.3	5.5
Tas.	3.6	*	4.2	5.6	*	5.4	8.9	*	10.1	5.6	*	5.3
N.T.	..	..	..	..	..	..	*	*	2.7	*	*	4.9
A.C.T.	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.0	2.3	7.3	5.4	12.8	6.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>190.7</b>	<b>46.9</b>	<b>237.6</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>307.7</b>	<b>67.8</b>	<b>375.5</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>5.6</b>

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

	Number ('000)			Unemployment rate (per cent)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Had worked for two weeks or more in a full-time job in the last two years	132.0	83.0	215.0	3.1	3.5	3.3
<i>Industry division or subdivision(a)—</i>						
Agriculture and services to agriculture	7.9	*	12.0	2.6	*	3.0
Manufacturing	38.5	16.9	55.4	3.9	5.1	4.2
Food, beverages and tobacco	8.2	*	11.6	6.1	*	6.2
Metal products	7.0	*	7.4	3.3	*	3.0
Other manufacturing	23.3	13.1	36.4	3.7	5.2	4.1
Construction	25.1	*	25.8	5.4	*	5.0
Wholesale trade	9.5	*	13.8	3.3	*	3.4
Retail trade	18.3	19.2	37.5	4.0	4.2	4.1
Transport and storage	6.1	*	8.6	2.0	*	2.4
Finance, property and business services	*	7.0	10.5	*	2.7	1.8
Community services	*	10.7	14.6	*	1.7	1.4
Recreation, personal and other services	9.4	11.5	20.8	5.2	4.9	5.0
Other industries	9.9	6.1	16.0	1.9	4.1	2.4
<i>Occupation group—</i>						
Professional, technical, etc.	5.4	7.1	12.4	1.1	1.7	1.4
Administrative, executive, and managerial	*	*	4.7	*	*	1.2
Clerical	4.8	24.3	29.1	1.4	3.0	2.5
Sales	9.8	12.3	22.2	3.4	4.0	3.7
Farmers, fishermen, timber-getters, etc.	11.1	*	14.4	3.0	*	3.0
Miners, quarrymen, etc.	*	*	*	*	*	*
Transport and communication	7.3	*	9.6	2.5	*	2.8
Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c.	80.0	17.5	97.5	4.4	6.5	4.7
Service, sport and recreation	7.9	15.5	23.4	3.5	4.1	3.9
<i>Other(b)</i>	60.1	94.2	154.3	..	..	..
Looking for first job	27.7	38.7	66.4	..	..	..
Looking for full-time work	19.2	28.6	47.8	..	..	..
Other	32.4	55.5	87.9	..	..	..
Stood down	*	5.4	6.2	..	..	..
<b>Total</b>	<b>192.9</b>	<b>182.6</b>	<b>375.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>5.6</b>

(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, MAY 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	18.0	8.9	6.6	15.5	22.1	11.4	33.5
2 and under 4	19.2	13.7	10.9	24.6	29.5	14.2	43.8
4 and under 8	25.1	13.5	14.2	27.7	42.2	10.6	52.8
8 and under 13	21.8	10.6	12.5	23.2	36.8	8.1	44.9
13 and under 26	40.4	12.3	25.6	38.0	66.7	11.7	78.4
26 and under 39	20.3	7.1	10.9	18.0	33.6	4.7	38.3
39 and under 52	4.5	*	*	4.7	8.6	*	9.2
52 and over	43.7	10.5	20.5	31.0	68.2	6.5	74.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>192.9</b>	<b>78.4</b>	<b>104.2</b>	<b>182.6</b>	<b>307.7</b>	<b>67.8</b>	<b>375.5</b>
AVERAGE (MEAN) DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT (weeks)							
<b>All unemployed persons</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>36.0</b>	<b>18.0</b>	<b>32.7</b>
Aged 15-19 years	22.3	*	24.6	24.4	25.4	14.3	23.4
Aged 20 years and over	43.0	23.5	40.7	29.9	40.8	19.6	36.9
MEDIAN DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT (weeks)							
<b>All unemployed persons</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>15.1</b>
Aged 15-19 years	13.4	*	17.1	16.9	17.0	6.7	15.3
Aged 20 years and over	19.1	9.4	16.6	11.4	17.9	7.3	14.9

(a) Comprises never married, widowed and divorced.

## PART 2. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

This part contains details of the numbers of employees of government bodies. More information will be published in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0). Figures for months prior to May 1980 were published in *Civilian Employees, Australia* (6213.0) but, as that publication was suspended following the April 1980 issue (see paragraphs 4 to 6 of the Explanatory notes in that issue), government employment figures will now be included in publications 6202.0 and 6203.0.

2. Government employees comprise not only administrative employees but also all other employees of government bodies (Commonwealth, State, local and semi-government) on services such as railways, road transport, banks, postal and telecommunications, air transport, education (including universities, colleges of advanced education, etc), radio, television, police, public works, factories, marketing authorities, public hospitals (other than those run by charitable or religious organisations) and departmental hospitals and institutions.

3. The numbers of employees shown in Table 10 have been derived from returns obtained from government bodies. Generally, Commonwealth government employees are included in the figures if they are on the

payroll on the last working day of the month, whereas for State and local government the reporting date is usually the last day of the last pay period ending in the month.

4. Data shown for defence forces include all permanent defence personnel in Australia and overseas. Other government employees based overseas are excluded, as are employees of foreign governments in Australia.

**Comparability of Labour Force Survey Estimates and Government Employment Figures**

5. The government employment figures shown in Table 10 are not strictly comparable with the labour force survey estimates included in Part 1 of this publication and in other ABS publications. Persons in the survey are allocated to an appropriate labour force category according to their activity during the survey week. If they had more than one job in that week only the job in which they usually worked the greater number of hours is considered. The government employment figures are derived from payroll data, and although some returns are adjusted to exclude some part-time employees considered to have full-time jobs elsewhere, some persons will be included even though their government job is not their main one. Other reasons for difference are that the survey estimates are subject to sampling variability, and the reference periods of the two collections are different.



**TABLE 10. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES—AUSTRALIA(a)**  
(Excluding agriculture and private domestic service)  
(<sup>'000</sup>)

Month	Civilian employees				Total	Defence forces(c)	Total Government
	Commonwealth	State(b)	Northern Territory	Local(b)			
MALES							
1980—							
March	276.1	580.6	7.5	104.5	968.7	66.7	1,035.4
April	276.2	581.1	7.5	104.3	969.0	67.0	1,036.0
May	276.2	582.2	7.5	103.9	969.7	67.1	1,036.8
June	275.8	582.3	7.5	103.7	969.4	67.3	1,036.7
July	275.8	582.7	7.5	103.3	969.3	67.5	1,036.8
August	276.1	583.0	7.5	103.0	969.6	67.5	1,037.1
September	276.1	582.7	7.5	103.0	969.3	67.6	1,036.9
October	276.4	581.8	7.5	102.9	968.6	67.7	1,036.3
November	276.4	581.5	7.6	102.9	968.3	67.6	1,035.9
December	277.9	580.7	7.5	103.4	969.5	67.3	1,036.8
1981—							
January	278.2	580.2	7.6	103.8	969.6	67.9	1,037.5
February	278.3	581.8	7.5	103.2	970.8	68.0	1,038.8
March	278.3	582.7	7.6	103.7	972.3	68.1	1,040.4
April	278.3	583.3	7.7	103.1	972.5	68.1	1,040.6
FEMALES							
1980—							
March	120.8	405.4	6.3	25.9	558.3	4.2	562.5
April	121.1	407.6	6.4	25.9	561.1	4.2	565.3
May	121.3	408.0	6.4	25.9	561.6	4.3	565.9
June	120.7	409.0	6.5	26.1	562.3	4.3	566.6
July	121.6	410.5	6.6	26.1	564.8	4.3	569.1
August	122.4	411.8	6.6	26.3	567.1	4.3	571.4
September	122.4	415.0	6.6	26.5	570.4	4.4	574.8
October	122.8	416.4	6.6	26.8	572.6	4.4	577.0
November	123.3	416.6	6.6	27.3	573.8	4.5	578.3
December	124.5	413.4	6.6	27.5	571.9	4.4	576.3
1981—							
January	124.3	402.1	6.5	26.6	559.5	4.4	563.9
February	124.9	415.7	6.5	27.6	574.7	4.4	579.1
March	125.6	420.2	6.6	27.8	580.1	4.4	584.5
April	125.6	422.2	6.6	27.7	582.1	4.4	586.5
PERSONS							
1980—							
March	396.9	986.0	13.7	130.4	1,527.0	70.9	1,597.9
April	397.3	988.7	13.9	130.2	1,530.1	71.2	1,601.3
May	397.4	990.2	13.9	129.8	1,531.3	71.4	1,602.7
June	396.5	991.3	14.1	129.8	1,531.7	71.5	1,603.2
July	397.5	993.2	14.1	129.4	1,534.1	71.8	1,605.9
August	398.5	994.8	14.1	129.3	1,536.7	71.8	1,608.5
September	398.5	997.7	14.1	129.4	1,539.7	72.0	1,611.7
October	399.2	998.2	14.1	129.7	1,541.2	72.1	1,613.3
November	399.7	998.1	14.1	130.2	1,542.1	72.1	1,614.2
December	402.4	994.1	14.1	130.9	1,541.4	71.7	1,613.1
1981—							
January	402.5	982.2	14.1	130.3	1,529.1	72.3	1,601.4
February	403.2	997.5	14.1	130.8	1,545.5	72.4	1,617.9
March	403.9	1,002.9	14.2	131.4	1,552.4	72.5	1,624.9
April	403.9	1,005.6	14.3	130.8	1,554.6	72.5	1,627.1

(a) See Explanatory notes, page 10. Figures for States and Territories will be included in the May 1981 issue of *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0). (b) Excludes State and local government employees (3.8 thousand persons in June 1980) engaged in agriculture or in private homes as employees of government emergency housekeeper services. (c) Permanent defence forces in Australia and overseas.