



## THE LABOUR FORCE, AUSTRALIA, DECEMBER 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.  
*other inquiries including copies of publications*—contact Information Services on Canberra (062) 52 6627 or in any of our State offices.

**MAIL INQUIRIES** *write to* Information Services, ABS, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, A.C.T. 2616 or any of our State offices.

### MAIN FEATURES

In December 1981 the estimated number of persons in the civilian labour force was 6,905,900 (4,334,400 males and 2,571,600 females), comprising 6,472,600 employed persons (4,101,700 males and 2,370,900 females) and 433,300 unemployed persons (232,600 males and 200,700 females).

The following increases were recorded between December 1980 and 1981:

	Males	Females	Persons
<b>Employed—</b>			
full-time	36,000	55,100	91,100
total	21,300	61,800	83,100
<b>Unemployed</b>	6,400	†-5,100	1,300
<b>Labour force</b>	27,700	56,700	84,400
<b>Not in the labour force</b>	85,200	57,900	143,100
<b>Population (15 years and over)</b>	113,000	114,600	227,500

† Decrease.

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 labour force survey includes all persons aged 15 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.

## 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

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 full-time for two weeks or more.

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. *Unemployed persons classified by industry and occupation*. Unemployed persons who had worked full-time for two weeks or more in the last two years are classified according to the industry and occupation of their most recent full-time job. Other unemployed persons are not classified by industry and occupation.

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

12. 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.

13. *Full-time workers* are those who usually work 35 hours or more 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.

14. *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.

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

#### Revision of series

16. 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

17. 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

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 206,100 unemployed males looking for full-time work in December 1981 has a standard error of about 5,200. 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 200,900 to 211,300 and about nineteen chances in twenty that the number will be within the range 195,700 to 216,500.
- (b) The estimate of movement in the number of unemployed males looking for full-time work from November to December 1981 is an increase of 20,500. 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 1981 estimate (206,100) 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 +16,200 to +24,800 and about nineteen chances in twenty that it would have been within the range +11,900 to +29,100.

#### 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 is being 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, 1980* (6204.0)

*Job Vacancies, Australia* (6231.0)—issued quarterly

*Overtime, Australia* (6330.0)—issued monthly

*Information Paper : Questionnaires used in the Labour Force Survey, December 1981* (6232.0)

*Information Paper : Review of ABS Employment Statistics* (6239.0)

24. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available 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
- r revised since previous issue

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 —	Per cent of estimate
1,500						300				
1,800						330	440			
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			
1,800						260	370		
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											
	Employed		Looking for full-time work				Labour force		Not in labour force	Civilian population aged 15 years and over	Unemployment rate	Participation rate
	Full-time workers	Total	Aged 15-19 years looking for first job	Total	Looking for part-time work	Total	Original	Seasonally adjusted				
	— 000 —											
— per cent —												
MALES												
1980—												
November	3,780.3	4,006.7	22.4	171.4	11.5	182.8	4,189.6	4,217.1	1,202.5	5,392.1	4.4	77.7
December	3,860.6	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	3,823.7	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	3,855.8	4,051.4	29.8	203.6	16.4	220.0	4,271.4	4,234.2	1,149.2	5,420.6	5.2	78.8
March	3,860.4	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	3,854.2	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	3,842.8	4,064.2	15.0	175.5	17.3	192.9	4,257.1	4,246.9	1,190.7	5,447.8	4.5	78.1
June	3,841.3	4,062.8	12.4	169.2	12.3	181.5	4,244.3	n.a.	1,212.0	5,456.3	4.3	77.8
July	3,853.9	4,065.7	12.5	182.1	14.7	196.8	4,262.5	n.a.	1,203.3	5,465.7	4.6	78.0
August	3,823.8	4,045.3	12.5	187.0	12.7	199.7	4,245.0	4,264.9	1,230.3	5,475.3	4.7	77.5
September	3,869.2	4,088.0	15.1	194.2	15.3	209.5	4,297.5	n.a.	1,188.9	5,486.3	4.9	78.3
October	3,829.5	4,049.7	18.0	185.4	14.3	199.7	4,249.4	n.a.	1,243.7	5,493.1	4.7	77.4
November	3,831.5	4,043.1	18.5	185.6	14.8	200.4	4,243.5	4,271.9	1,263.2	5,506.7	4.7	77.1
December	3,896.6	4,101.7	36.6	206.1	26.5	232.6	4,334.4	n.a.	1,181.9	5,516.3	5.4	78.6
Standard error of—												
December 1981 estimates	13.8	14.0	2.6	5.2	2.2	5.4	14.2	..	9.6	..	0.1	0.3
November to December 1981 movement	9.7	9.8	2.4	4.3	2.2	4.5	9.9	..	7.3	..	0.1	0.2
MARRIED FEMALES												
1980—												
November	780.2	1,419.5	*	42.1	28.4	70.5	1,490.0	1,482.0	1,992.9	3,483.0	4.7	42.8
December	788.9	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	779.3	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	777.0	1,374.5	*	46.8	32.9	79.8	1,454.2	1,461.4	2,056.7	3,510.9	5.5	41.4
March	776.4	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	789.8	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	787.4	1,423.3	*	44.0	34.5	78.4	1,501.7	1,498.3	2,030.2	3,531.9	5.2	42.5
June	779.8	1,411.9	*	39.1	32.8	71.9	1,483.8	n.a.	2,040.9	3,524.7	4.8	42.1
July	794.8	1,437.4	*	43.3	26.3	69.7	1,507.1	n.a.	2,029.7	3,536.7	4.6	42.6
August	777.4	1,417.8	*	42.6	30.1	72.7	1,490.5	1,494.9	2,034.1	3,524.6	4.9	42.3
September	807.8	1,453.1	*	43.8	29.5	73.4	1,526.4	n.a.	1,995.3	3,521.8	4.8	43.3
October	802.8	1,440.2	*	39.6	32.8	72.3	1,512.6	n.a.	2,002.3	3,514.8	4.8	43.0
November	796.0	1,437.5	*	43.2	30.2	73.4	1,510.9	1,502.5	2,022.8	3,533.6	4.9	42.8
December	804.4	1,411.2	*	42.8	28.0	70.7	1,482.0	n.a.	2,047.8	3,529.8	4.8	42.0
Standard error of—												
December 1981 estimates	8.4	10.1	..	2.8	2.3	3.4	10.3	..	11.4	..	0.2	0.3
November to December 1981 movement	6.5	7.5	..	2.6	2.3	3.1	7.6	..	8.3	..	0.2	0.2

For footnote see end of table.

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

Month	Unemployed											
	Employed		Looking for full-time work				Labour force			Civilian population aged 15 years and over	Unemployment rate	Participation rate
	Full-time workers	Total	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—												
ALL FEMALES												
1980—												
November	1,472.1	2,301.8	21.1	131.3	42.8	174.1	2,476.0	2,473.3	3,052.4	5,528.4	7.0	44.8
December	1,507.8	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	1,489.8	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	1,485.2	2,269.3	33.4	154.7	49.4	204.1	2,473.4	2,465.3	3,084.7	5,558.2	8.3	44.5
March	1,479.0	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	1,500.7	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	1,492.2	2,313.0	23.9	132.1	50.5	182.6	2,495.6	2,491.4	3,089.8	5,585.4	7.3	44.7
June	1,497.2	2,316.2	20.6	120.5	48.3	168.7	2,484.9	n.a.	3,109.1	5,594.0	6.8	44.4
July	1,502.0	2,323.3	23.3	132.8	45.2	178.0	2,501.3	n.a.	3,102.1	5,603.4	7.1	44.6
August	1,484.7	2,311.0	17.9	133.8	43.5	177.4	2,488.4	2,504.0	3,124.3	5,612.7	7.1	44.3
September	1,539.6	2,378.1	21.2	133.9	47.7	181.6	2,559.7	n.a.	3,063.6	5,623.3	7.1	45.5
October	1,524.3	2,356.8	19.5	118.7	52.0	170.6	2,527.4	n.a.	3,102.6	5,630.0	6.8	44.9
November	1,513.4	2,356.4	19.6	125.1	46.4	171.5	2,527.9	2,524.5	3,115.3	5,643.2	6.8	44.8
December	1,562.9	2,370.9	38.1	152.6	48.1	200.7	2,571.6	n.a.	3,080.9	5,652.5	7.8	45.5
Standard error of—												
December 1981 estimates	10.5	11.9	2.6	4.6	2.9	5.1	12.2	..	12.9	..	0.2	0.2
November to December 1981 movement	7.7	8.6	2.5	3.9	2.7	4.3	8.7	..	9.2	..	0.2	0.2
PERSONS												
1980—												
November	5,252.4	6,308.5	43.5	302.7	54.3	357.0	6,665.5	6,687.1	4,254.9	10,920.5	5.4	61.0
December	5,368.4	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	5,313.5	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	5,341.0	6,320.7	63.2	358.4	65.8	424.1	6,744.8	6,700.6	4,233.9	10,978.8	6.3	61.4
March	5,339.4	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	5,354.9	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	5,335.0	6,377.2	38.8	307.7	67.8	375.5	6,752.7	6,739.3	4,280.5	11,033.2	5.6	61.2
June	5,338.5	6,379.0	33.0	289.7	60.6	350.2	6,729.2	n.a.	4,321.1	11,050.3	5.2	60.9
July	5,355.9	6,388.9	35.8	314.9	59.9	374.8	6,763.8	n.a.	4,305.4	11,069.2	5.5	61.1
August	5,308.5	6,356.3	30.4	320.9	56.2	377.1	6,733.4	6,770.0	4,354.7	11,088.0	5.6	60.7
September	5,408.8	6,466.1	36.3	328.1	63.0	391.1	6,857.2	n.a.	4,252.5	11,109.6	5.7	61.7
October	5,353.8	6,406.5	37.4	304.1	66.3	370.4	6,776.9	n.a.	4,346.3	11,123.1	5.5	60.9
November	5,344.8	6,399.5	38.1	310.7	61.2	371.9	6,771.4	6,793.2	4,378.5	11,149.9	5.5	60.7
December	5,459.5	6,472.6	74.8	358.7	74.6	433.3	6,905.9	n.a.	4,262.8	11,168.7	6.3	61.8
Standard error of—												
December 1981 estimates	15.2	15.9	3.5	6.4	3.5	6.8	16.2	..	14.2	..	0.1	0.1
November to December 1981 movement	10.5	10.9	3.1	5.1	3.1	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, DECEMBER 1981

State or Territory	Employed		Unemployed			Labour force	Not in labour force	Civilian population aged 15 years and over	Unemployment rate	Participation rate
	Full-time workers	Total	Looking for full-time work	Looking for part-time work	Total					
MALES										
N.S.W.	1,372.3	1,438.0	66.1	9.8	75.9	1,513.9	430.5	1,944.4	5.0	77.9
Vic.	1,028.8	1,089.1	51.0	7.6	58.6	1,147.7	303.9	1,451.6	5.1	79.1
Qld	605.8	638.9	29.3	*	32.3	671.2	194.0	865.2	4.8	77.6
S.A.	338.2	355.9	27.0	*	29.4	385.2	108.7	493.9	7.6	78.0
W.A.	353.2	368.7	20.3	*	22.6	391.3	90.9	482.2	5.8	81.1
Tas.	108.5	113.1	9.1	*	9.5	122.6	33.3	155.9	7.7	78.6
N.T.	30.9	35.0	*	*	*	36.0	9.3	45.4	*	79.4
A.C.T.	58.9	63.0	2.2	*	3.3	66.4	11.3	77.7	5.0	85.4
<i>Australia</i>	<i>3,896.6</i>	<i>4,101.7</i>	<i>206.1</i>	<i>26.5</i>	<i>232.6</i>	<i>4,334.4</i>	<i>1,181.9</i>	<i>5,516.3</i>	<i>5.4</i>	<i>78.6</i>
FEMALES										
N.S.W.	563.5	830.3	46.4	14.6	60.9	891.2	1,111.6	2,002.8	6.8	44.5
Vic.	443.5	645.2	36.6	13.3	49.9	695.1	806.7	1,501.7	7.2	46.3
Qld	220.3	347.4	27.7	7.1	34.8	382.2	496.8	879.1	9.1	43.5
S.A.	129.4	213.7	15.3	5.1	20.4	234.0	271.8	505.8	8.7	46.3
W.A.	121.8	205.8	16.3	5.5	21.8	227.6	250.0	477.6	9.6	47.7
Tas.	37.8	61.7	6.4	1.6	8.0	69.7	92.8	162.4	11.5	42.9
N.T.	15.7	21.4	*	*	*	22.6	18.0	40.5	*	55.7
A.C.T.	30.9	45.5	2.9	*	3.8	49.3	33.3	82.5	7.6	59.7
<i>Australia</i>	<i>1,562.9</i>	<i>2,370.9</i>	<i>152.6</i>	<i>48.1</i>	<i>200.7</i>	<i>2,571.6</i>	<i>3,080.9</i>	<i>5,652.5</i>	<i>7.8</i>	<i>45.5</i>
PERSONS										
N.S.W.	1,935.9	2,268.2	112.5	24.4	136.8	2,405.1	1,542.2	3,947.2	5.7	60.9
Vic.	1,472.3	1,734.3	87.6	20.8	108.5	1,842.8	1,110.5	2,953.3	5.9	62.4
Qld	826.1	986.3	57.0	10.1	67.1	1,053.4	690.8	1,744.2	6.4	60.4
S.A.	467.5	569.5	42.3	7.4	49.8	619.3	380.4	999.7	8.0	61.9
W.A.	475.0	574.5	36.5	7.8	44.4	618.9	340.9	959.8	7.2	64.5
Tas.	146.3	174.8	15.5	1.9	17.5	192.3	126.1	318.3	9.1	60.4
N.T.	46.6	56.4	2.2	*	2.2	58.6	27.3	85.9	3.7	68.2
A.C.T.	89.8	108.5	5.0	2.1	7.1	115.6	44.6	160.2	6.1	72.2
<i>Australia</i>	<i>5,459.5</i>	<i>6,472.6</i>	<i>358.7</i>	<i>74.6</i>	<i>433.3</i>	<i>6,905.9</i>	<i>4,262.8</i>	<i>11,168.7</i>	<i>6.3</i>	<i>61.8</i>

TABLE 3. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND AGE, DECEMBER 1981 ('000)

Age group (years)	Employed		Unemployed			Labour force	Not in labour force	Civilian population	
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Total	Looking for full-time work	Looking for part-time work				
15-19	543.7	158.2	702.0	137.5	30.9	168.4	870.4	399.0	1,269.4
Attending school(a)	20.0	87.0	107.0	20.8	21.4	42.3	149.3	284.3	433.6
Left school(a)	523.7	71.2	594.9	116.7	9.5	126.2	721.1	110.4	831.5
Before 1981	465.1	44.7	509.8	76.1	6.9	83.0	592.8	68.7	661.5
1981 to survey date	58.6	26.5	85.1	40.6	*	43.2	128.3	41.7	169.9
20-24	875.1	97.0	972.1	77.3	8.7	86.0	1,058.1	226.7	1,284.9
25 and over	4,040.6	758.0	4,798.6	143.9	35.0	178.8	4,977.4	3,637.1	8,614.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,459.5</b>	<b>1,013.1</b>	<b>6,472.6</b>	<b>358.7</b>	<b>74.6</b>	<b>433.3</b>	<b>6,905.9</b>	<b>4,262.8</b>	<b>11,168.7</b>

(a) Excludes persons in institutions.

TABLE 4. EMPLOYED PERSONS, DECEMBER 1981

	Females			Total	Persons
	Males	Married	Not married(a)		
NUMBER (' 000)					
All employed persons	4,101.7	1,411.2	959.6	2,370.9	6,472.6
Full-time workers	3,896.6	804.4	758.5	1,562.9	5,459.5
Part-time workers	205.1	606.9	201.1	808.0	1,013.1
Preferred not to work more hours	144.7	553.4	138.3	691.8	836.5
Preferred to work more hours	60.4	53.4	62.8	116.3	176.7
Had actively looked for full-time work(b)	33.8	10.7	30.7	41.4	75.2
AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS WORKED(c)					
All employed persons	41.4	29.4	33.3	31.0	37.6
Full-time workers	42.7	39.4	38.0	38.7	41.6
Part-time workers	16.5	16.1	15.3	15.9	16.0

(a) Comprises never married, widowed, and divorced. (b) In the four weeks up to the end of the survey week. (c) See paragraph 14.

TABLE 5. PART-TIME WORKERS : WHETHER PREFERRED TO WORK MORE HOURS AND WHETHER LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME WORK : AGE AND HOURS WORKED, DECEMBER 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		
<b>Total</b>	<b>158.2</b>	<b>97.0</b>	<b>758.0</b>	<b>119.2</b>	<b>188.5</b>	<b>655.9</b>	<b>49.4</b>	<b>1,013.1</b>
Preferred not to work more hours	98.0	64.5	674.0	87.6	148.2	557.4	43.3	836.5
Preferred to work more hours	60.2	32.5	84.0	31.7	40.3	98.5	6.1	176.7
Had actively looked for full-time work(b)	33.0	18.3	23.8	13.8	17.8	41.8	*	75.2

(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, DECEMBER 1981

	Number (' 000)			Unemployment rate (per cent)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
LOOKING FOR FULL-TIME WORK						
<b>Total</b>	<b>206.1</b>	<b>152.6</b>	<b>358.7</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>6.2</b>
Married	68.8	42.8	111.6	2.5	5.0	3.1
Not married(a)	137.3	109.8	247.2	10.3	12.6	11.2
Aged 15-19 years	68.7	68.8	137.5	17.9	23.2	20.2
Attending school	12.3	8.6	20.8	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Aged 20-24 years	43.1	34.3	77.3	7.5	9.0	8.1
Looking for first job	*	*	6.4	..	..	..
Aged 25 years and over	94.3	49.6	143.9	3.0	4.8	3.4
Born in Australia	146.3	115.7	262.1	4.9	9.1	6.2
Born outside Australia	59.8	36.8	96.7	5.3	8.2	6.1
Arrived before 1971	35.0	20.1	55.1	4.3	7.2	5.1
1971 to 1975	9.0	6.4	15.4	5.5	7.6	6.2
1976 to 1979	5.9	*	10.2	6.4	*	7.2
1980 to survey date	9.9	6.1	16.0	14.1	17.3	15.1
LOOKING FOR PART-TIME WORK						
<b>Total</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>48.1</b>	<b>74.6</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>6.9</b>
Aged 15-19 years	16.9	14.0	30.9	21.7	12.6	16.4
Attending school	12.2	9.3	21.4	25.4	15.3	19.8
Aged 20-24 years	*	5.3	8.7	*	7.5	8.2
Aged 25 years and over	6.2	28.8	35.0	5.2	4.3	4.4

(a) Comprises never married, widowed, and divorced.



TABLE 7. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, STATE CAPITAL CITIES(a), STATES AND TERRITORIES, DECEMBER 1981

	State capital city(a)						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.	62.0	15.4	77.4	4.7	6.5	4.9	112.5	24.4	136.8	5.5	6.8	5.7
Vic.	63.9	16.2	80.1	5.6	8.0	5.9	87.6	20.8	108.5	5.6	7.4	5.9
Qld	27.1	5.1	32.2	6.6	6.5	6.6	57.0	10.1	67.1	6.5	5.9	6.4
S.A.	34.2	6.3	40.5	9.3	8.2	9.1	42.3	7.4	49.8	8.3	6.8	8.0
W.A.	30.2	6.8	37.1	8.4	8.6	8.4	36.5	7.8	44.4	7.1	7.3	7.2
Tas.	7.4	*	8.0	10.7	*	9.9	15.5	1.9	17.5	9.6	6.4	9.1
N.T.	..	..	..	x..	..	..	2.2	*	2.2	4.4	*	3.7
A.C.T.	..	..	..	..	..	..	5.0	2.1	7.1	5.3	10.0	6.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>224.9</b>	<b>50.4</b>	<b>275.3</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>358.7</b>	<b>74.6</b>	<b>433.3</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>6.3</b>

(a) Comprises Capital City Statistical Divisions, as defined for the Census of Population and Housing, 1976.

TABLE 8. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, BY INDUSTRY AND OCCUPATION OF LAST FULL-TIME JOB, DECEMBER 1981

	Number (' 000)		
	Males	Females	Persons
Had worked full-time for two weeks or more in the last two years	140.3	87.3	227.5
<i>Industry division or subdivision(a)—</i>			
Agriculture and services to agriculture	10.4	*	12.3
Manufacturing	40.2	15.1	55.3
Food, beverages and tobacco	7.0	*	11.4
Metal products	8.3	*	9.1
Other manufacturing	24.9	9.9	34.9
Construction	25.7	*	26.6
Wholesale trade	8.3	5.5	13.8
Retail trade	19.0	23.7	42.8
Transport and storage	7.1	*	8.6
Finance, property and business services	4.7	5.3	10.0
Community services	7.4	15.2	22.6
Recreation, personal and other services	7.7	12.1	19.8
Other industries	9.7	6.1	15.8
<i>Occupation group—</i>			
Professional, technical, etc.	5.6	8.5	14.1
Administrative, executive, and managerial	*	*	6.0
Clerical	5.4	23.6	29.1
Sales	10.4	18.6	29.0
Farmers, fishermen, timber-getters, etc.	14.3	*	16.7
Miners, quarrymen, etc.	*	*	*
Transport and communication	6.7	*	8.3
Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c.	82.1	13.6	95.7
Service, sport and recreation	9.3	17.2	26.5
Other(b)	89.1	108.4	197.5
Looking for first job	57.0	59.5	116.5
Looking for full-time work	41.3	44.5	85.8
Other	32.2	48.8	81.0
Stood down	*	5.1	8.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>232.6</b>	<b>200.7</b>	<b>433.3</b>

(a) Classified according to the Australian Standard Industrial Classification, 1978. (b) See paragraph 10.

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

Duration of unemployment (weeks)—	Persons						
	Males	Females			Looking for—		Total
		Married	Not married(a)	Total	Full-time work	Part-time work	
NUMBER ('000)							
Under 2	32.2	9.5	24.4	33.9	45.8	20.3	66.0
2 and under 4	33.5	8.6	22.9	31.4	48.4	16.6	65.0
4 and under 8	34.6	9.4	22.2	31.6	56.0	10.3	66.2
8 and under 13	23.6	10.0	11.7	21.7	38.1	7.2	45.3
13 and under 26	30.0	10.8	15.4	26.3	49.7	6.6	56.3
26 and under 39	26.0	7.2	7.7	14.9	37.0	} 7.0 {	40.9
39 and under 52	12.2	*	5.7	8.9	18.1		21.1
52 and under 65	10.9	5.7	7.6	13.3	20.7	} 4.9 {	24.3
65 and under 78	*	*	*	*	*		*
78 and under 91	5.0	*	*	} 5.2 {	7.2	} 4.9 {	8.0
91 and under 104	*	*	*		*		*
104 and over	20.2	} 4.6 {	9.3	13.5	32.2	*	33.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>232.6</b>		<b>70.7</b>	<b>130.0</b>	<b>200.7</b>	<b>358.7</b>	<b>74.6</b>
AVERAGE (MEAN) DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT (weeks)							
<b>All unemployed persons</b>	<b>31.0</b>	<b>25.2</b>	<b>24.2</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>30.6</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>28.0</b>
Aged 15-19 years	14.2	*	17.5	17.6	17.5	8.4	15.8
Aged 20 years and over	40.8	25.3	35.2	29.4	38.8	20.2	35.7
MEDIAN DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT (weeks)							
<b>All unemployed persons</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>10.1</b>
Aged 15-19 years	6.2	*	5.9	6.0	7.1	3.2	6.1
Aged 20 years and over	18.3	12.0	11.6	11.9	17.4	7.0	14.5

(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 services to agriculture)  
( ' 000)

Month	Civilian employees				Total	Defence forces(b)	Total Government
	Commonwealth	State	Northern Territory	Local			
MALES							
1980—							
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
May	277.9	583.0	7.7	103.0	971.6	68.1	1,039.7
June	277.8	582.0	7.7	102.5	970.0	68.2	1,038.2
July	276.9	579.3	7.7	102.8	966.7	68.1	1,034.8
August	276.7	578.8	7.7	103.0	966.2	68.0	1,034.2
September	276.3	579.3	7.7	103.0	966.3	68.0	1,034.3
October	276.2	578.2	7.8	102.8	965.0	68.1	1,033.1
FEMALES							
1980—							
September	122.4	414.5	6.6	26.5	570.0	4.4	574.4
October	122.8	415.8	6.6	26.8	572.1	4.4	576.5
November	123.3	415.9	6.6	27.3	573.1	4.5	577.6
December	124.5	412.5	6.6	27.5	571.1	4.4	575.5
1981—							
January	124.3	401.0	6.5	26.6	558.5	4.4	562.9
February	124.9	414.5	6.5	27.6	573.6	4.4	578.0
March	125.6	418.9	6.6	27.8	578.8	4.4	583.2
April	125.6	420.8	6.6	27.7	580.7	4.4	585.1
May	125.5	419.1	6.6	27.7	579.0	4.3	583.3
June	125.0	418.2	6.6	27.7	577.6	4.3	581.9
July	126.1	418.1	6.7	27.9	578.7	4.4	583.1
August	126.6	419.2	6.7	28.0	580.4	4.4	584.8
September	126.7	420.4	6.6	28.2	582.0	4.5	586.5
October	128.0	419.5	6.6	28.3	582.3	4.5	586.8
PERSONS							
1980—							
September	398.5	997.2	14.1	129.4	1,539.3	72.0	1,611.3
October	399.2	997.7	14.1	129.7	1,540.6	72.1	1,612.7
November	399.7	997.4	14.1	130.2	1,541.4	72.1	1,613.5
December	402.4	993.2	14.1	130.9	1,540.6	71.7	1,612.3
1981—							
January	402.5	981.1	14.1	130.3	1,528.1	72.3	1,600.4
February	403.2	996.4	14.1	130.8	1,544.3	72.4	1,616.7
March	403.9	1,001.6	14.2	131.4	1,551.1	72.5	1,623.6
April	403.9	1,004.1	14.3	130.8	1,553.1	72.5	1,625.6
May	403.4	1,002.1	14.3	130.7	1,550.5	72.4	1,622.9
June	402.8	1,000.2	14.3	130.2	1,547.5	72.5	1,620.0
July	403.0	997.4	14.3	130.7	1,545.4	72.5	1,617.9
August	403.4	997.9	14.4	131.0	1,546.6	72.5	1,619.1
September	403.0	999.7	14.3	131.2	1,548.2	72.5	1,620.7
October	404.1	997.7	14.4	131.2	1,547.4	72.6	1,620.0

(a) See Explanatory notes, page 10. Figures for States and Territories will be published in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0). (b) Permanent defence forces in Australia and overseas.