



Reference No. 6.38

LABOUR FORCE EXPERIENCE DURING 1972 (PRELIMINARY STATEMENT)

In February 1973 a survey, based on the quarterly population survey, was conducted throughout Australia in order to obtain information about the labour force experience during 1972 of civilians aged fifteen years and over. Information obtained included the length of time (in 1972) during which persons were employed, unemployed or not in the labour force, the number of times they were unemployed and other aspects of labour force experience. The results of a similar survey in February 1969 were published in *Labour Force Experience During 1968* (Reference No. 6.26).

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

- Two out of three people in the civilian non-institutional population aged 15 years and over in February 1973 had been in the labour force sometime in 1972, either employed or looking for work. The proportion for males was 86.3 per cent.
- Of those persons who had been in the labour force, 77 per cent had been in for the whole year.
- One in ten (614,600) of those who had been in the labour force had had at least one period of unemployment lasting a week or more. For teenagers the figure was one in four.
- Almost 200,000 persons had been unemployed for eight weeks or more in 1972 and about 50,000 of these had been out of work for six months or more.
- 45.5 per cent of married women in the survey had been in the labour force sometime in 1972. In 1968 the percentage was 38.3.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

2. The sample used in the survey covered the six States, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. About 27,000 private dwellings as well as a sample of other dwellings were enumerated, the information being obtained by personal interviews during a four-week period.
3. The estimates relate to all persons aged 15 years and over, except members of the permanent armed forces, national servicemen enlisted in the Regular Army Supplement and certain diplomatic personnel customarily excluded from censuses and population estimates. Patients in hospitals and sanatoria, and inmates of gaols, reformatories, etc., for whom, for the purposes of the survey, the institution was regarded as their dwelling, were excluded from the survey.
4. Since the estimates in this statement are based on a sample, they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained from a complete census using the same questionnaires and procedures. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample, and not the whole population, was enumerated. More information on this topic, together with a table of standard errors, is given in the August 1973 issue of *The Labour Force* (Reference No. 6.20).
5. This statement contains only a summary of the more important results of the survey. More detailed estimates, which will be published in a bulletin to be issued as soon as possible, are available on request. The estimates shown are preliminary and are subject to revision.

DEFINITIONS

6. Each person was assigned to a labour force category for each week in 1972, on the basis of his actual activity (i.e. whether working, looking for work, etc.) during that week. The principal categories appearing in the tables in this bulletin are as follows:

- (i) *Persons in the labour force.* A person was classified as having been in the labour force during any week in which he was employed or unemployed as defined in (ii) and (iii) below.
- (ii) *Employed persons.* A person was classified as having been employed during a week if, in that week, he:
 - (a) did any work 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 fifteen hours or more without pay in a family business (or farm), or
 - (c) had a job, business or farm, but was on paid leave (including sick leave).
- (iii) *Unemployed persons.* A person was classified as having been unemployed during a week if, in that week, he did no work at all, and either
 - (a) did not have a job or business and was looking for work, or
 - (b) was laid off from his job without pay for the whole week.
- (iv) *Persons out of the labour force* are all those who, in any week, were not in the categories "employed" or "unemployed", as defined above. For the purposes of this survey a person who was on strike and who did no work during a week was classified as out of the labour force in that week.

7. A person was classified as having worked mostly full time in 1972 if the number of weeks in which he worked 35 hours or more (*full-time work*) exceeded or was equal to the number of weeks in which he worked less than 35 hours (*part-time work*). If the number of weeks worked full time was less than the number of weeks worked part time he was classified as having worked mostly part time. When absent on paid leave (including paid sick leave) he was classified according to the usual hours worked in the job from which he was absent.

NOTE. Any discrepancies between totals and sums of components in tables are due to rounding.

TABLE 1. – CIVILIAN POPULATION (a), FEBRUARY 1973, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS IN 1972 ('000)

<i>Employment status (b)</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Married women</i>	<i>All females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
Civilian population in February 1973 (a)	4,576.7	3,127.3	4,650.8	9,227.5
In the labour force at some time during 1972	3,949.4	1,422.9	2,215.7	6,165.1
For the whole year	3,411.8	831.3	1,362.7	4,774.5
For part of the year	537.6	591.6	853.1	1,390.7
Employed at some time during 1972	3,919.8	1,402.5	2,174.0	6,093.8
Mostly full time	3,779.6	921.8	1,590.5	5,370.2
Mostly part time	140.2	480.7	583.5	723.6
Unemployed at some time during 1972	338.7	138.7	275.9	614.6
One period of unemployment	251.3	116.7	228.3	479.5
Two periods	40.1	10.1	25.3	65.4
Three periods	20.1	6.1	11.9	32.0
Four or more periods	27.3	5.8	10.5	37.7
Out of the labour force for the whole of 1972	627.3	1,704.4	3,435.1	3,062.4

(a) Non-institutional population aged 15 years and over. (b) For definitions see page 2.

NOTE. The estimates relate to the labour force experience in 1972 of persons covered by the survey in February 1973. Because of emigration, deaths and other exits not all persons with 1972 labour force experience were covered. Labour force experience may relate to experience outside Australia.

TABLE 2. – PERSONS IN THE LABOUR FORCE (a), BY AGE (b), 1972 ('000)

<i>Age group (years)</i>	<i>In the labour force at some time during the year (c)</i>				<i>Average labour force (d)</i>			
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Married women</i>	<i>All females</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Married women</i>	<i>All females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
15–19	379.7	30.9	359.7	739.3	334.6	20.8	310.6	645.1
20–24	523.4	226.0	396.6	920.0	500.2	163.7	329.5	829.7
25–34	933.1	383.6	464.7	1,397.8	904.6	286.2	360.7	1,265.3
35–44	757.4	356.6	411.4	1,168.8	757.1	305.3	352.8	1,109.9
45–54	724.0	306.1	377.2	1,101.2	709.2	249.4	315.1	1,024.3
55–59	280.7	77.0	113.6	394.2	278.1	62.2	94.4	372.5
60–64	214.6	32.0	58.2	272.8	197.2	23.5	44.7	241.9
65 and over	136.7	10.8	34.3	171.1	101.2	7.5	24.7	125.9
Total	3,949.4	1,422.9	2,215.7	6,165.1	3,782.2	1,118.6	1,832.4	5,614.7

(a) For definitions see page 2. (b) In February 1973. (c) See footnote (a) and NOTE to Table 1. (d) Average for February, May, August and November 1972 Labour Force Surveys.



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NOTE: Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr. D. Power on 632111 extension 3343 or in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

TABLE 3. — PERSONS EMPLOYED (a) AT SOME TIME DURING 1972, BY DURATION OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE YEAR ('000)

Duration of employment (weeks)		Males	Married women	All females	Persons
1 and under	4	48.8	39.2	74.9	123.6
4 "	13	96.6	120.8	185.9	282.6
13 "	26	72.2	121.7	158.2	230.5
26 "	39	126.5	150.9	205.4	331.9
39 "	49	227.3	137.0	202.1	429.4
49 "	52	99.1	29.5	51.0	150.1
52		3,249.2	803.5	1,296.5	4,545.7
Total		3,919.8	1,402.5	2,174.0	6,093.8

(a) For definitions see page 2. See also footnote (a) and NOTE to Table 1.

TABLE 4. — PERSONS UNEMPLOYED (a) AT SOME TIME DURING 1972 BY DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT ('000)

Duration of unemployment (weeks)		Males	Married women	All females	Persons
1 and under	2	52.0	34.4	64.7	116.7
2 "	4	81.5	32.4	69.0	150.5
4 "	8	84.6	31.6	65.1	149.8
8 "	13	53.4	16.7	29.5	82.8
13 "	26	40.0	12.5	25.7	65.7
26 and over		27.2	11.1	21.9	49.1
Total		338.7	138.7	275.9	614.6

(a) For definitions see page 2. See also footnote (a) and NOTE to Table 1.

TABLE 5. — PROPORTION OF PERSONS IN THE LABOUR FORCE (a) IN 1972 WHO WERE UNEMPLOYED (a) AT SOME TIME DURING THE YEAR, BY AGE (Per cent)

	Age group (years)						Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over	
Males	26.5	13.9	8.0	5.5	3.8	3.4	8.6
Females	27.0	15.2	11.7	8.2	6.1	3.5	12.5
Persons	26.7	14.5	9.3	6.5	4.6	3.4	10.0

(a) For definitions see page 2. See also footnote (a) and NOTE to Table 1.

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