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CAREER PATHS OF PERSONS WITH TRADE QUALIFICATIONS, AUSTRALIA, SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 1982 (PRELIMINARY)

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

MAIN FEATURES

Note: Survey estimates are subject to sampling variability, as explained in paragraph 21 below.

1,090,100 persons (962,100 males and 128,000 females) aged 18 years and over have trade qualifications. Of these, 216,300 (19.8 per cent) are not in the labour force and 873,800 (80.2 per cent) are in the labour force. 55,600 of those in the labour force have never worked as a tradesperson.

Of the remaining 818,300 trades qualified persons in the labour force, 778,300 are employed and 39,900 are unemployed. About three in four of these unemployed are currently looking for work in their trade.

Of the 778,300 employed persons with trade qualifications who have worked as a tradesperson at some time, about one in four are in their own business and:

169,100 do not use their trade skills in their current job or business. 74,000 (43.8 per cent) of these left their trade less than five years after qualifying.

497,800 currently work as tradespersons. 85,800 of these have had a break of a year or longer from their trade.

111,400 use only some trade skills in their current job. 41,600 of these (37.3 per cent) stopped working as a tradesperson because of promotion and a further 28,800 persons (25.9 per cent) because they changed jobs in search of better pay or security.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

As part of a survey conducted throughout Australia during the three months September to November 1982, information was sought enabling identification of persons with trade qualifications. Additional information included how and when they qualified, whether they had ever worked as a tradesperson, whether they use their trade skills in their current job, whether they ever left the trade, if so, when and the reason why.

2. The survey was based on a multi-stage area sample of private and non-private dwellings. Specially trained interviewers asked the questions of 32,000 respondents throughout Australia.

3. This publication contains only a summary of the results of the survey. Estimates shown are preliminary and may be revised. Further information which will be published as soon as possible in *Career Paths of Persons with Trade Qualifications, Australia, September to November 1982* (6243.0) is available on request.

Scope

4. The survey includes all civilians aged fifteen years and over except:

- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations;
- overseas residents in Australia;
- dependants of non-Australian defence forces personnel stationed in Australia;
- some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and inmates of reformatories, jails, etc., and
- persons aged 15 to 20 years still at school.

5. For this survey the term *employee* includes persons who, in their main job, work for wages, salary or payment in kind or without pay in a family business. *In own business* includes all persons working with or without employees in their own business whether or not it is a limited liability company.

6. *A trades qualified person* is a person aged eighteen years or more and:

- who completed in Australia an apprenticeship in one of the fields of trade defined in paragraph 7; or
- has been recognised under the Tradesmens Rights Regulation Act in the metal or electrical fields.

7. *Field of trade.* Respondents indicated which of the following best described their field of trade:

- (a) METAL e.g. fitting and turning, welding, boiler-making;
- (b) ELECTRICAL e.g. electrician;
- (c) BUILDING e.g. carpentry, painting, plumbing;
- (d) FURNITURE e.g. upholstering, cabinet making;
- (e) SERVICE e.g. hairdressing, dental technician;
- (f) FOOD AND DRINK e.g. cooking, butchering;
- (g) PRINTING AND ALLIED e.g. bookbinding, hand and machine composing;
- (h) MECHANICAL, AUTOMOTIVE e.g. motor mechanic, panel beating; or
- (i) FOOTWEAR, CLOTHING, TEXTILES e.g. bootmaking, dress making.

8. *Year in which qualified.* Respondents covered by paragraph 6(a) above were asked in what year they qualified. Respondents covered by paragraph 6(b) above were asked in what year their qualifications were recognised under the Tradesman's Rights Regulation Act.

Trade skills

9. Information was sought on respondents' current usage of skills acquired in obtaining their trade qualifications, separate questions being asked of persons in their own business and employees (as defined in paragraph 5).

10. Employees were asked to indicate which of the following best described the use, in their main job, of those skills related to their nominated field of trade:

- (a) Does not use trade skills;
- (b) Works as a tradesperson; or
- (c) Uses some trade skills in job.

11. For persons in own business the survey did not differentiate between categories (b) and (c) i.e. whether they worked as a tradesperson or only used some trade skills in an advisory or managerial capacity.

12. *Works as a tradesperson* in consequence comprises persons who work in own business as a tradesperson or who only use some trade skills plus employees who work as a tradesperson. Employees who only use some trade skills e.g. in supervisory roles (foremen, inspectors, etc.) or an advisory capacity (salesmen, buyers, etc.) are separately shown as *Uses some trade skills*.

13. *Employed persons* are those who were currently working in a job, business or farm, usually for one hour or more each week. Unpaid voluntary workers are excluded.

14. *Unemployed persons* are those who were not employed and who took active steps (as defined in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)) to find full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks prior to interview and were available for work in the week prior to interview.

15. *The labour force* comprises all persons who were employed or unemployed as defined above.

16. *Full-time workers* are those who usually work 35 hours or more a week in all jobs combined. *Part-time workers* are those who usually work less than 35 hours a week. When recording hours of work, fractions of an hour are disregarded.

17. *Persons not in the labour force* are those who, during the survey week, were not in the categories employed or unemployed, as defined above.

Interpretation of results

18. Information was not collected on the labour force activity of persons aged fifteen to twenty years who were still at school. These 539,000 persons (including approximately 135,000 in the labour force) have therefore been excluded from all estimates in this publication.

19. Definitions pertaining to labour force status are not strictly comparable with those of the monthly labour force survey wherein a person is assigned a labour force status on the basis of a more extensive set of questions than those used in this survey.

20. The definition of trades qualified persons in this survey has been limited by the lack of standard procedures for recognising qualifications in Australia and overseas.

Reliability of the estimates

21. Estimates in this publication are subject to two sources of error:

- (a) *sampling error*: since the estimates are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings they are subject to sampling variability, that is they may differ 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*. More technical information about this topic will be found in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0). For this survey estimates down to 4,000, which have a relative standard error of about 33 per cent, have been published. Users should treat with care estimates in this publication between 7,000 (relative standard error, 25 per cent) and 4,000 (relative standard error, 33 per cent). In some cases estimates less than 4,000, although not shown, are derivable by subtraction. They should be regarded as highly unreliable; and

- (b) *Non-sampling error*: inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents and errors made in the coding and processing of data. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient operating procedures.

Related publications

22. Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)—issued monthly

Labour Force Status and Educational Attainment, Australia, February 1982 (6235.0)

23. 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 21 above.
- n.e.c. not elsewhere classified
- .. not applicable

24. Because figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

A. R. BAGNALL
Acting Australian Statistician

STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate (persons)	Approximate standard error of estimate		Size of estimate (persons)	Approximate standard error of estimate	
	Persons	Per cent of estimate		Persons	Per cent of estimate
4,000	1,300	33	50,000	4,300	8.6
5,000	1,500	30	100,000	5,700	5.7
6,000	1,650	27	200,000	7,400	3.7
7,000	1,750	25	500,000	10,400	2.1
10,000	2,100	21	1,000,000	13,200	1.3
20,000	2,900	15			

TABLE 1. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER(a) : LABOUR FORCE STATUS AND WHETHER QUALIFIED AS A TRADESPERSON

	<i>Employed</i>		<i>Unem- ployed</i>	<i>Labour force</i>	<i>Not in labour force</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Unemploy- ment rate</i>
	<i>Full time</i>	<i>Total</i>					
	— '000—						
	(per cent)						
Trades qualified persons	785.9	827.6	46.3	873.8	216.3	1,090.1	5.3
Worked as a tradesperson at some time since qualified	738.8	778.3	39.9	818.3	(b)	818.3	4.9
Never worked as a tradesperson	47.1	49.2	6.4	55.6	(b)	55.6	11.4
Persons not trades qualified	4,490.9	5,500.0	467.2	5,967.2	3,674.8	9,642.0	7.8
Males	3,050.9	3,200.7	274.2	3,474.9	877.6	4,352.5	7.8
Females	1,440.1	2,299.3	193.0	2,492.3	2,797.2	5,289.5	7.7
Total(a)	5,276.8	6,327.5	513.5	6,841.0	3,891.1	10,732.1	7.5
Males	3,810.1	3,984.4	317.9	4,302.3	1,012.4	5,314.6	7.4
Females	1,466.7	2,343.1	195.6	2,538.7	2,878.7	5,417.4	7.7

(a) For exclusions see Explanatory notes, paragraphs 4 and 18. (b) Trades qualified persons who were not in the labour force were not asked whether they had ever worked as a tradesperson since qualifying.

TABLE 2. TRADES QUALIFIED PERSONS : YEAR IN WHICH QUALIFIED AND CURRENT TRADE STATUS

<i>Current trade status</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Year in which qualified</i>						<i>Total</i>	
			<i>Before 1940</i>	<i>1940 to 1949</i>	<i>1950 to 1959</i>	<i>1960 to 1969</i>	<i>1970 to 1979</i>	<i>1980 to 1982</i>		
	— '000—									
	(per cent)									
Trades qualified persons	962.1	128.0	117.7	147.0	170.2	254.5	305.9	94.8	1,090.1	100.0
Not in the labour force	134.8	81.5	104.6	52.2	23.1	17.3	16.2	*	216.3	19.8
In the labour force	827.4	46.4	13.1	94.8	147.1	237.2	289.7	91.8	873.8	80.2
Never worked as a tradesperson	52.0	*	*	5.6	7.7	18.2	15.2	8.1	55.6	5.1
Worked as a tradesperson at some time since qualified	775.3	42.9	12.2	89.2	139.5	219.1	274.5	83.7	818.3	75.1
Unemployed	37.5	*	*	6.0	4.3	7.1	14.9	7.1	39.9	3.7
Looking for work in trade	28.2	*	*	*	*	4.8	12.1	6.0	29.1	2.7
Employed	737.8	40.5	11.7	83.2	135.2	211.9	259.6	76.6	778.3	71.4
Does not use trade skills	148.2	20.9	4.5	25.4	38.7	48.5	46.1	5.8	169.1	15.5
Uses some trade skills	110.0	*	*	13.4	24.5	37.5	29.7	*	111.4	10.2
Works as a tradesperson	479.6	18.2	4.5	44.5	72.0	125.9	183.8	67.1	497.8	45.7
Had a break from trade	79.8	6.1	*	9.5	15.7	30.1	28.7	*	85.8	7.9
Never had a break	399.9	12.1	*	35.0	56.3	95.8	155.1	67.1	412.0	37.8

TABLE 3. TRADES QUALIFIED PERSONS : FIELD OF TRADE AND CURRENT TRADE STATUS

<i>Current trade status</i>	<i>Metal</i>	<i>Electrical</i>	<i>Building</i>	<i>Furniture</i>	<i>Service</i>	<i>Food and drink</i>	<i>Printing and allied</i>	<i>Mech- anical, Footwear, auto- clothing, textiles</i>		<i>Total</i>
								<i>motive</i>	<i>textiles</i>	
Trades qualified persons	294.2	148.5	220.6	30.1	66.4	65.1	45.5	133.4	86.2	1,090.1
Not in the labour force	42.1	14.9	29.7	8.1	28.4	11.9	8.6	14.0	58.6	216.3
In the labour force	252.2	133.6	190.9	22.0	38.0	53.2	36.9	119.5	27.6	873.8
Never worked as a tradesperson	20.8	5.3	5.0	*	*	4.4	4.0	7.1	4.8	55.6
Worked as a tradesperson at some time since qualified	231.3	128.3	185.9	20.4	35.5	48.8	32.9	112.3	22.8	818.3
Unemployed	12.6	*	14.3	*	*	*	*	4.8	*	39.9
Looking for work in trade	10.1	*	11.6	*	*	*	*	*	*	29.1
Employed	218.8	125.4	171.6	19.6	34.1	46.9	32.9	107.5	21.6	778.3
Does not use trade skills	41.1	19.9	29.3	*	15.5	15.7	12.4	19.2	12.1	169.1
Uses some trade skills	36.5	28.6	17.9	*	*	4.4	4.2	15.3	*	111.4
Works as a tradesperson	141.2	76.8	124.3	14.5	17.9	26.9	16.3	73.0	6.8	497.8
Had a break from trade	19.9	9.1	26.0	*	5.2	5.8	*	11.9	*	85.8
Never had a break	121.3	67.7	98.4	12.2	12.7	21.1	13.9	61.1	*	412.0

TABLE 4. EMPLOYED TRADES QUALIFIED PERSONS : CURRENT OCCUPATION AND LEVEL OF USE OF TRADE SKILLS IN CURRENT JOB

	Professional, technical	Adminis- trative, executive, managerial	Sales, clerical	Trades etc.(a)	Service, sport and recreation	Other(b)	Total	
							(per cent)	
— '000—								
In own business	*	30.5	8.6	116.9	7.7	20.0	186.7	24.0
Does not use trade skills	*	7.6	5.8	8.8	*	15.0	40.3	5.2
Uses trade skills	*	22.8	*	108.1	5.3	5.0	146.4	18.8
Employee	44.1	41.7	40.7	403.1	34.7	27.4	591.7	76.0
Does not use trade skills	11.2	16.1	23.6	40.3	18.8	18.8	128.8	16.6
Uses some trade skills	20.3	17.9	12.4	53.4	*	5.2	111.4	14.3
Works as a tradesperson	12.5	7.7	4.7	309.4	13.7	*	351.4	45.1
Total	47.1	72.1	49.3	520.0	42.4	47.4	778.3	100.0
Does not use trade skills	11.9	23.7	29.4	49.1	21.2	33.8	169.1	21.7
Uses some skills	20.3	17.9	12.4	53.4	*	5.2	111.4	14.3
Works as a tradesperson	14.9	30.5	7.5	417.5	19.1	8.3	497.8	64.0

(a) Includes tradespersons, production-process workers, miners, quarry workers and labourers n.e.c. (b) Includes transport and communication, farmers, fishermen, timbergetters etc.

TABLE 5. EMPLOYED TRADES QUALIFIED PERSONS WHO DO NOT USE TRADE SKILLS IN CURRENT JOB : FIELD OF TRADE, TIME IN TRADE BEFORE FIRST LEFT AND REASON FIRST LEFT TRADE ('000)

Highest ranked reason first left trade	Field of trade					Time in trade before first left			Total (a)
	Metal	Electrical	Building	Mechan- ical, Auto- motive	Other	Less than 5 years	5 and under 10 years	10 years or more	
Laid off	*	*	*	*	4.1	*	*	4.9	9.0
Seeking more pay/security	14.9	6.2	6.8	9.0	12.2	24.0	12.3	10.8	49.0
Seeking better work conditions	5.6		*	*	4.1	6.5	5.7		12.2
Promoted	5.9		5.2		*	4.4	7.1		12.9
Wanted a change	8.2	5.5	6.8	*	16.4	16.4	11.4	11.2	40.4
Family/personal/health	4.3	*	*	*	14.3	9.9	*	7.3	24.6
Decline of trade	*	*	4.7	*	4.5	4.7	*	4.8	11.3
Other	4.7		*	*	*	5.5	*	*	9.9
Total	41.1	19.9	29.3	19.2	59.5	74.0	38.1	47.9	169.1

(a) Includes 9,100 persons who left their trade before 1950.

TABLE 6. EMPLOYED TRADES QUALIFIED PERSONS WHO USE SOME SKILLS IN CURRENT JOB(a) : FIELD OF TRADE, TIME IN TRADE BEFORE FIRST LEFT AND REASON LEFT TRADE ('000)

Highest ranked reason first stopped working as a tradesperson	Field of trade					Time in trade before first left			Total (b)
	Metal	Electrical	Building	Mechan- ical, Auto- motive	Other	Less than 5 years	5 and under 10 years	10 years or more	
Laid off	4.4			*	*	*	*	4.4	
Seeking more pay/security	8.9	7.7	4.4	*	*	9.8	10.0	7.8	28.8
Seeking better work conditions	4.7		*	*	*	*	5.6		7.8
Promoted	15.2	11.1	5.7	7.0	*	12.0	11.0	18.6	41.6
Wanted a change	4.9	6.2		5.8		9.0	*	4.0	16.9
Family/personal/health	4.3		*	*	*	*	*	*	5.3
Decline of trade	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Other	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	4.0
Total	36.5	28.6	17.9	15.3	13.1	40.0	31.3	37.5	111.4

(a) See Explanatory notes, paragraph 9. (b) Includes a small number of persons who left their trade before 1950.

TABLE 7. EMPLOYED TRADES QUALIFIED PERSONS WHO CURRENTLY WORK AS A TRADESPERSON AND HAVE HAD A BREAK OF A YEAR OR MORE FROM THEIR TRADE : FIELD OF TRADE, TIME IN TRADE BEFORE FIRST HAD A BREAK AND REASON HAD FIRST BREAK FROM TRADE (' 000)

Highest ranked reason for first break from trade	Field of trade					Time in trade before break			Total (a)
	Metal	Electrical	Building	Mechanical, Automotive	Other	Less than 5 years	5 and under 10 years	10 years or more	
Laid off	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Seeking more pay/security	6.5	*	4.6	4.8	*	10.3	6.9	*	19.1
Seeking better work conditions	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Promoted	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wanted a change	6.6	*	8.3	4.2	7.0	16.9	7.3	4.3	28.4
Family/personal/health	4.2	4.4	4.8	*	6.1	7.0	*	4.7	15.1
Decline of trade	*	*	4.8	*	*	4.4	*	*	5.8
Other	*	*	4.8	*	*	6.9	*	*	8.4
Total	19.9	9.1	26.0	11.9	19.0	50.5	16.2	15.1	85.8

(a) Includes a small number of persons who started their first break before 1950.

TABLE 8. EMPLOYED TRADES QUALIFIED PERSONS WHO CURRENTLY WORK AS A TRADESPERSON AND HAVE NEVER HAD A BREAK FROM THEIR TRADE : FIELD OF TRADE, TIME SINCE QUALIFIED AND AGE AT TIME OF SURVEY (' 000)

Age at time of survey (years)—	Field of trade					Time since qualified			Total
	Metal	Electrical	Building	Mechanical, Automotive	Other	Less than 5 years	5 and under 10 years	10 years or more	
15-24	23.9	14.3	17.3	21.8	21.6	89.5	9.4	..	98.9
25-34	33.8	27.9	30.6	19.7	15.0	14.8	62.2	50.0	127.0
35-44	26.2	13.9	23.2	12.1	10.7	*	*	81.4	86.0
45-54	18.7	8.6	18.9	4.0	9.2	*	*	56.9	59.4
55 and over	18.8	*	8.3	*	7.0	*	*	39.6	40.7
Total	121.3	67.7	98.4	61.1	63.5	108.7	75.4	227.9	412.0