CATALOGUE NO. 6318.0

## MAIN FEATURES

## DIAGRAM 1. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 74: LABOUR FORCE STATUS AND WHETHER COVERED BY A SUPERANNUATION SCHEME, NOVEMBER 1988 <br> (Source of data: Table 1)



This publication presents results of a survey conducted in November 1988 of persons aged 15 to 74, about superannuation coverage.
An estimated $7,303,600$ persons aged 15 to 74 were employed, and of these, $3,746,100$ persons ( 51 per cent) were covered by a superannuation scheme.
Of full-time workers, 58 per cent had superannuation coverage, and for part-timers, 19 per cent had coverage.
A further 70,100 persons, not employed in November 1988, had superannuation coverage.

Persons covered by a superannuation scheme An estimated $3,816,200$ persons aged 15 to 74 con-
tributed personally to their superannuation scheme and their average weekly contribution was $\$ 28$.
Of the $3,356,600$ employees covered by a superannuation scheme, 80 per cent reported that their scheme was provided by their current employer.

## Expected main source of income

For persons aged 45 to 74,30 per cent reported that they expected superannuation to be their main source of income after ceasing full-time work. A further 26 per cent reported that invalid/age/ supporting parents'/widows' pension would be their main source of income and 12 per cent expected that it would be from investments, etc.

DIAGRAM 2. FULL-TIME WORKERS AGED 15 TO 74: PERCENTAGE COVERED BY A SUPERANNUATION SCHEME AND INDUSTRY NOVEMBER 1988
(Source of data: Table 6)

(a) Standard error of estimate for females too high for most practical uses

## Employed persons

Amongst full-time workers, 63 per cent of males had superannuation coverage, compared with 47 per cent of female full-time workers.
The majority ( 57 per cent) of employed persons aged between 25 and 64 had superannuation coverage. Of the age groups tabulated, the highest coverage was 61 per cent for employed persons aged 45 to 54.
Industries with high proportions of full-time workers covered by superannuation were Communication (93 per cent), Mining ( 88 per cent), Electricity, gas and water ( 88 per cent) and Public administration and defence ( 83 per cent). Industries with less than half
their fuli-time workers having coverage were Recreation, personal and other services ( 34 per cent), Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting ( 38 per cent) and Wholesale and retail trade ( 45 per cent).

Employed persons not covered by a superannuation scheme
An estimated 452,100 employees were eligible for, but had not joined a superannuation scheme provided by their employer. Some 39 per cent of these people reported their reason for not joining as 'had not bothered/not interested/not necessary'.

TABLE 1. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 74: COMPARATIVE PROFILE OF PERSONS COVERED BY A SUPERANNUATION SCHEME AND PERSONS NOT COVERED BY A SUPERANNUATION SCHEME, NOVEMBER 1988 ('000)

|  | Covered |  |  | Not covered |  |  | Total |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Males | Females | Persons | Males | Females | Persons | Males | Females | Persons |
| Labour force status - |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Employed | 2,673.3 | 1,072.8 | 3,746.1 | 1,692.1 | 1,865.4 | 3,557.5 | 4,365.4 | 2,938.2 | 7,303.6 |
| Full-time workers | 2,626.4 | 865.4 | 3,491.8 | 1,509.6 | 983.1 | 2,492.7 | 4,136.1 | 1,848.5 | 5,984.5 |
| Part-time workers | 46.9 | 207.4 | 254.3 | 182.5 | 882.3 | 1,064.8 | 229.4 | 1,089.7 | 1,319.1 |
| Unemployed | 7.8 | * 4.3 | 12.1 | 238.7 | 195.0 | 433.7 | 246.5 | 199.3 | 445.8 |
| Not in labour force | 19.2 | 38.8 | 57.9 | 1,048.8 | 2,509.2 | 3,558.0 | 1,067.9 | 2,548.0 | 3,615.9 |
| Age in November 1988 - |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 15-19 | 70.2 | 29.3 | 99.6 | 302.5 | 303.8 | 606.3 | 372.8 | 333.1 | 705.8 |
| 20-24 | 224.7 | 153.8 | 378.5 | 422.1 | 506.2 | 928.3 | 646.8 | 659.9 | 1,306.8 |
| 25-34 | 786.6 | 326.6 | 1,113.2 | 558.9 | 1,027.3 | 1,586.2 | 1,345.5 | 1,353.9 | 2,699.4 |
| 35-44 | 812.1 | 344.1 | 1,156.2 | 426.3 | 872.5 | 1,298.8 | 1,238.4 | 1,216.6 | 2,455.0 |
| 45-54 | 547.4 | 192.6 | 740.0 | 308.9 | 629.4 | 938.3 | 856.3 | 822.0 | 1,678.4 |
| 55-64 | 247.5 | 68.1 | 315.5 | 473.5 | 657.5 | 1,131.0 | 721.0 | 725.5 | 1,446.5 |
| 65-74 | 11.8 | * 1.4 | 13.2 | 487.2 | 573.0 | 1,060.2 | 499.0 | 574.4 | 1,073.4 |
| Family status -- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Member of a family(a) | 2,281.9 | 902.9 | 3,184.8 | 2,334.8 | 3,793.6 | 6,128.5 | 4,616.7 | 4,696.6 | 9,313.3 |
| Husband or wife | 1,961.7 | 695.0 | 2,656.7 | 1,667.9 | 2,912.1 | 4,580.0 | 3,629.6 | 3,607.1 | 7,236.7 |
| With dependents present | 1,286.5 | 372.8 | 1,659.3 | 699.9 | 1,557.1 | 2,257.0 | 1,986.5 | 1,929.8 | 3,916.3 |
| Without dependents present | 675.2 | 322.2 | 997.4 | 967.9 | 1,355.0 | 2,323.0 | 1,643.1 | 1,677.3 | 3,320.4 |
| Not-married family head | 46.6 | 76.5 | 123.1 | 46.1 | 370.3 | 416.4 | 92.8 | 446.7 | 539.5 |
| With dependents present | 24.6 | 53.0 | 77.5 | 17.6 | 251.1 | 268.7 | 42.2 | 304.1 | 346.3 |
| Without dependents present | 22.1 | 23.5 | 45.5 | 28.5 | 119.1 | 147.7 | 50.6 | 142.6 | 193.2 |
| Other child/relative of family head | 269.2 | 129.8 | 399.0 | 545.8 | 435.0 | 980.8 | 815.0 | 564.7 | 1,379.8 |
| Not a member of a family | 325.9 | 155.0 | 480.9 | 483.5 | 543.3 | 1,026.8 | 809.3 | 698.3 | 1,507.6 |
| Living alone | 175.3 | 79.0 | 254.3 | 236.5 | 350.6 | 587.1 | 411.9 | 429.6 | 841.5 |
| Not living alone | 150.6 | 76.0 | 226.5 | 246.9 | 192.7 | 439.6 | 397.5 | 268.7 | 666.2 |
| Family status not determined | 92.5 | 57.9 | 150.5 | 161.2 | 232.7 | 393.9 | 253.8 | 290.6 | 544.4 |
| Total | 2,700.3 | 1,115.9 | 3,816.2 | 2,979.5 | 4,569.6 | 7,549.2 | 5,679.9 | 5,685.5 | 11,365.4 |

(a)Includes full-time students aged 15 to 24 .

TABLE 2. PERSONS AGED 15 TO 74 COVERED BY A SUPERANNUATION SCHEME: OWN WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUPERANNUATION SCHEME AND AGE IN NOVEMBER 1988

| Own weekly contributions to superannuation scheme (\$) | Age in November 1988 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65-74 | Total |
| -'000- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Under 10 | 21.1 | 48.4 | 74.8 | 63.1 | 40.9 | 20.2 | * 0.4 | 268.9 |
| 10 and under 15 | 22.7 | 62.2 | 160.2 | 129.2 | 72.3 | 32.2 | * 1.2 | 480.1 |
| 15 and under 20 | 13.8 | 58.7 | 144.8 | 108.2 | 71.5 | 34.6 | * 0.7 | 432.4 |
| 20 and under 25 | * 7.0 | 50.7 | 168.0 | 139.0 | 83.9 | 41.8 | * 0.6 | 491.0 |
| 25 and under 30 | * 0.6 | 29.5 | 126.5 | 136.0 | 67.8 | 29.8 | * 0.0 | 390.2 |
| 30 and under 40 | * 2.2 | 22.2 | 119.0 | 184.1 | 104.4 | 32.5 | * 0.7 | 465.1 |
| 40 and over | * 0.4 | 9.2 | 84.2 | 155.0 | 131.8 | 46.7 | * 4.5 | 431.8 |
| Employer pays all contributions | 22.9 | 68.8 | 147.1 | 136.6 | 95.2 | 41.0 | * 2.8 | 514.6 |
| Did not know | 8.8 | 28.9 | 88.5 | 105.1 | 72.1 | 36.6 | * 2.1 | 342.2 |
| Total | 99.6 | 378.5 | 1,113.2 | 1,156.2 | 740.0 | 315.5 | 13.2 | 3,816.2 |
| --dollars- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

TABLE 3. PERSONS AGED 45 TO 74 COVERED BY A SUPERANNUATION SCHEME: EXPECTED MAIN SOURCE OF INCOME AFTER CEASING FULL-TIME WORK AND TIME IN SUPERANNUATION SCHEME, NOVEMBER 1988 ('000)

|  | Time in superannuation scheme (years) |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Under 5 | 5 and under 10 | 10 and under 15 | 15 and under 20 | $\begin{gathered} 20 \text { and } \\ \text { over } \end{gathered}$ | Total |
| Expected main source of income after ceasing full-time work | 380.1 | 210.8 | 145.3 | 96.5 | 165.3 | 997.9 |
| Superannuation | 81.0 | 57.4 | 51.2 | 43.0 | 91.2 | 323.9 |
| Invalid/age/supporting parents'/widows' pension | 138.8 | 67.1 | 33.2 | 20.8 | 17.8 | 277.8 |
| Investments/interest/stocks/debentures, etc. | 40.4 | 25.6 | 17.1 | 14.1 | 26.9 | 124.2 |
| Dependent on someone else's income | 39.0 | 10.8 | * 5.7 | * 2.3 | * 1.2 | 59.0 |
| Other | 35.7 | 18.0 | 14.5 | * 6.8 | 14.8 | 90.0 |
| Did not know | 45.1 | 31.9 | 23.4 | 9.5 | 13.3 | 123.1 |
| Will never cease full-time work | 15.9 | 8.6 | * 5.0 | * 3.4 | * 2.4 | 35.3 |
| Had already ceased full-time work | 18.9 | 9.0 | * 3.9 | * 2.0 | * 1.7 | 35.5 |
| Total | 414.8 | 228.4 | 154.2 | 101.9 | 169.5 | 1,068.8 |

TABLE 4. PERSONS AGED 45 TO 74 COVERED BY A SUPERANNUATION SCHEME: AGE INTENDED TO CEASE FULL-TIME WORK AND EXPECTED TYPE OF PAYMENT FROM SUPERANNUATION SCHEME, NOVEMBER 1988 ('000)

|  | Expected type of payment |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Lump sum only | Regular payments only | Lump sum and regular payments | Did not know all payment types | Total(a) |
| MALES |  |  |  |  |  |
| Age intended to cease full-time work | 300.8 | 48.9 | 167.5 | 243.1 | 767.1 |
| 45-54 | * 1.8 | * 0.4 | * 1.5 | * 2.2 | * 5.8 |
| 55-59 | 30.1 | * 6.0 | 33.4 | 20.5 | 91.1 |
| 60-64 | 59.1 | 15.4 | 43.6 | 32.1 | 150.8 |
| 65 and over | 125.8 | 14.6 | 45.3 | 71.8 | 260.2 |
| Did not know | 84.0 | 12.5 | 43.8 | 116.5 | 259.2 |
| Will never cease full-time work | 12.8 | * 0.8 | * 2.1 | 12.4 | 29.3 |
| Had already ceased full-time work | * 6.7 | * 0.6 | * 1.1 | * 2.0 | 10.3 |
| Total | 320.3 | 50.4 | 170.7 | 257.5 | 806.7 |
| FEMALES |  |  |  |  |  |
| Age intended to cease full-time work | 113.3 | 11.9 | 32.2 | 69.8 | 230.9 |
| 45-54 | 9.9 | * 0.7 | * 1.1 | * 2.7 | 15.0 |
| 55-59 | 22.5 | * 1.6 | 9.6 | 12.0 | 46.3 |
| 60-64 | 33.0 | * 2.5 | * 5.4 | 9.7 | 51.0 |
| 65 and over | 14.1 | * 2.7 | * 5.8 | * 4.8 | 27.4 |
| Did not know | 33.8 | * 4.3 | 10.4 | 40.6 | 91.2 |
| Will never cease full-time work | * 2.9 | * 0.0 | * 1.1 | * 1.5 | * 6.1 |
| Had already ceased full-time work | 11.4 | * 0.8 | * 3.0 | 9.4 | 25.1 |
| Total | 127.7 | 12.7 | 36.4 | 80.7 | 262.1 |
| PERSONS |  |  |  |  |  |
| Age intended to cease full-time work | 414.2 | 60.9 | 199.8 | 312.9 | 997.9 |
| 45-54 | 11.7 | * 1.1 | * 2.5 | * 4.9 | 20.8 |
| 55-59 | 52.7 | 7.7 | 43.0 | 32.5 | 137.4 |
| 60-64 | 92.1 | 18.0 | 49.0 | 41.9 | 201.9 |
| 65 and over | 139.9 | 17.4 | 51.1 | 76.6 | 287.5 |
| Did not know | 117.8 | 16.8 | 54.2 | 157.1 | 350.4 |
| Will never cease full-time work | 15.7 | * 0.8 | * 3.1 | 13.9 | 35.3 |
| Had already ceased full-time work | 18.1 | * 1.4 | * 4.1 | 11.4 | 35.5 |
| Total | 447.9 | 63.1 | 207.0 | 338.2 | 1,068.8 |

(a)Includes persons who expected to receive neither a lump sum nor regular payments.

TABLE 5. EMPLOYED PERSONS AGED 15 TO 74: COMPARATIVE PROFILE OF PERSONS COVERED BY A SUPERANNUATION SCHEME AND PERSONS NOT COVERED BY A SUPERANNUATION SCHEME, NOVEMBER 1988
('000)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

(a)Includes full-time students aged 15 to 24 .

TABLE 6. FULL-TIME WORKERS AGED 15 TO 74: COMPARATIVE PROFILE OF PERSONS COVERED BY A SUPERANNUATION SCHEME AND PERSONS NOT COVERED BY A SUPERANNUATION SCHEME, NOVEMBER 1988
('000)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

[^0]TABLE 7. EMPLOYED PERSONS AGED 15 TO 74 NOT COVERED BY A SUPERANNUATION SCHEME: REASON HAD NOT JOINED A SUPERANNUATION SCHEME, NOVEMBER 1988
('000)

| Reason had not joined a superannuation scheme | Males | Females | Persons |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Employees eligible for scheme provided by employer | 191.5 | 260.6 | 452.1 |
| Reason had not joined employer scheme - |  |  |  |
| Planned to join soon/had applied to join | 42.6 | 36.5 | 79.1 |
| Could not afford it | 34.9 | 31.5 | 66.4 |
| Return not worthwhile | 14.0 | 21.0 | 35.0 |
| Had not bothered/not interested/not necessary | 64.1 | 112.4 | 176.5 |
| Other | 35.9 | 59.3 | 95.1 |
| Other employed persons | 1,500.6 | 1,604.8 | 3,105.4 |
| Reason had not joined a private scheme - |  |  |  |
| Planned to join soon/had applied to join | 69.4 | 38.1 | 107.5 |
| Waiting to become eligible for employer scheme | 45.7 | 46.5 | 92.2 |
| Could not afford it | 323.8 | 285.2 | 609.0 |
| Had life assurance/other superannuation scheme | 101.7 | 42.3 | 144.0 |
| Had other investments | 63.7 | 29.9 | 93.6 |
| Return not worthwhile | 44.2 | 30.0 | 74.1 |
| Had not bothered/not interested/not necessary | 636.0 | 800.9 | 1,436.9 |
| Too young/too old | 94.8 | 69.3 | 164.1 |
| Spouse had cover | * 1.5 | 160.4 | 161.9 |
| Did not think available | 15.3 | 22.5 | 37.9 |
| Other | 104.5 | 79.7 | 184.1 |
| Total | 1,692.1 | 1,865.4 | 3,557.5 |

TABLE 8. EMPLOYEES AGED 15 TO 74: USUAL GROSS WEEKLY PAY IN MAIN JOB AND WHETHER COVERED BY A SUPERANNUATION SCHEME, NOVEMBER 1988

| Usual gross weekly pay in main job (\$) | Covered |  |  | Not covered |  |  | Total |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Males | Females | Persons | Males | Females | Persons | Males | Females | Persons |
|  | -'000- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Under 200 | 42.5 | 69.2 | 111.7 | 186.1 | 532.8 | 718.9 | 228.6 | 602.0 | 830.6 |
| 200 and under 240 | 27.8 | 47.2 | 75.0 | 72.3 | 159.7 | 232.0 | 100.1 | 206.9 | 307.0 |
| 240 and under 280 | 54.2 | 71.7 | 126.0 | 88.3 | 153.6 | 241.9 | 142.6 | 225.3 | 367.9 |
| 280 and under 320 | 111.2 | 101.0 | 212.2 | 120.0 | 166.9 | 286.9 | 231.2 | 267.9 | 499.1 |
| 320 and under 360 | 198.8 | 134.4 | 333.2 | 139.2 | 148.4 | 287.6 | 338.0 | 282.8 | 620.8 |
| 360 and under 400 | 218.9 | 110.8 | 329.7 | 120.3 | 115.2 | 235.5 | 339.2 | 226.0 | 565.2 |
| 400 and under 440 | 228.2 | 94.9 | 323.1 | 113.1 | 81.5 | 194.6 | 341.3 | 176.4 | 517.7 |
| 440 and under 480 | 206.5 | 77.8 | 284.3 | 82.6 | 48.2 | 130.8 | 289.1 | 126.0 | 415.1 |
| 480 and under 520 | 207.4 | 73.4 | 280.8 | 61.0 | 43.2 | 104.2 | 268.4 | 116.6 | 384.9 |
| 520 and under 560 | 154.8 | 58.9 | 213.7 | 48.5 | 22.3 | 70.8 | 203.3 | 81.2 | 284.5 |
| 560 and under 600 | 138.1 | 35.2 | 173.3 | 30.2 | 18.1 | 48.4 | 168.4 | 53.3 | 221.7 |
| 600 and under 640 | 145.8 | 36.2 | 182.0 | 26.0 | 11.5 | 37.5 | 171.7 | 47.7 | 219.5 |
| 640 and under 680 | 105.2 | 26.8 | 131.9 | 17.8 | * 7.1 | 24.9 | 122.9 | 33.9 | 156.8 |
| 680 and under 720 | 87.6 | 14.8 | 102.4 | 14.2 | * 2.6 | 16.7 | 101.7 | 17.4 | 119.1 |
| 720 and under 760 | 70.2 | * 6.9 | 77.1 | 15.6 | * 1.8 | 17.4 | 85.7 | 8.8 | 94.5 |
| 760 and under 800 | 67.7 | * 6.9 | 74.7 | 11.1 | * 2.6 | 13.7 | 78.8 | 9.5 | 88.4 |
| 800 and over | 250.3 | 17.0 | 267.3 | 39.9 | * 3.8 | 43.7 | 290.2 | 20.8 | 311.0 |
| Did not know | 42.2 | 16.0 | 58.2 | 47.0 | 45.0 | 92.0 | 89.2 | 61.0 | 150.2 |
| Total | 2,357.4 | 999.2 | $\begin{gathered} \text { 3,356.6 } \\ \text {-dollars- } \end{gathered}$ | 1,233.1 | 1,564.4 | 2,797.5 | 3,590.5 | 2,563.5 | 6,154.0 |
| Average usual gross weekly pay in main job | 547 | 408 | 505 | 381 | 266 | 317 | 491 | 322 | 420 |

TABLE 9. EMPLOYEES AGED 15 TO 74 COVERED BY A SUPERANNUATION SCHEME: PROVIDER OF SUPERANNUATION SCHEME AND SECTOR, NOVEMBER 1988
('000)

| Provider of superannuation scheme | Public | Private | Sector not <br> determined |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Current employer | $1,116.8$ | $1,571.8$ | $* 7.3$ | Total |

[^1]
## APPENDIX A

## GLOSSARY

Average usual gross weekly pay: the amount obtained by dividing the total usual gross weekly pay of a group by the number of individuals in that group.

Average own weekly contributions: the amount obtained by dividing the total weekly contributions of a group by the number of individuals who make their own weekly contributions in that group.

Employed persons: comprise all persons aged 15 and over who, during the reference 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 (comprising employees, employers and self employed persons); or
(b) worked for one hour 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 reference 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 reference 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, self-employed persons or unpaid family helpers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Full-time workers: are those who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and others who, although usually part-time workers, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week. Part-time workers are those who usually worked less than 35 hours a week and who
did so during the reference week. When recording hours of work, fractions of an hour are disregarded.

Employees: employed persons who worked -
(a) for an employer for wages or salary; or
(b) in their own business, either with or without employees, if that business was a limited liability company.

Persons covered by a superannuation scheme: persons who, at the time of the survey, belonged to a superannuation scheme towards which contributions were being made.

If persons were covered by more than one superannuation scheme, details were collected about the scheme to which they contributed most.

Provider of superannuation scheme: determined by whether the employer/union -
(a) pays contributions into the scheme; or
(b) had established the superannuation scheme; or
(c) had negotiated with an insurance company to provide a suitable scheme.

Superannuation scheme: any fund, association or organisation set up for the purpose of providing financial cover for members when they retire from full-time work. Overseas superannuation funds are excluded.
Usual gross weekly pay: the amount of usual total weekly pay (i.e. before taxation and other deductions have been made).

## APPENDIX B

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

## Introduction

1. The monthly population survey (which is described in The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)) comprises the monthly labour force survey and supplementary topics. This publication contains some results of a supplementary survey run in association with the November 1988 labour force survey conducted throughout Australia.
2. For a sub-sample of respondents to the labour force survey, those who fell within the scope of the supplementary survey were asked additional questions. They were asked whether they were covered by a superannuation scheme and, if so, details of that scheme.

## Scope

3. The scope of this supplementary survey was the same as that used for the labour force survey (described in full in The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)) except that it was restricted to persons aged 15 to 74 , excluding some patients in hospitals and sanatoriums and inmates of reformatories, gaols, etc. and persons aged 15 to 20 still at school.

## Coverage

4. In the population survey, coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling, and hence has only one chance of selection. See The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0) for more details.

## Definitions

5. Definitions of labour force and demographic classifications appearing in this publication are given in The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0).
6. Unless otherwise stated, all characteristics referenced in this publication relate to the week before the interview (i.e. the reference week).

## Results of the survey

7. Due to differences in the method of estimation used in this supplementary survey and that used in the labour force survey, there are some small variations between estimates in this publication and those in the corresponding issue of The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0).
8. The estimates in this publication refer to information collected in the survey month and, due to seasonal factors, may not be representative of other months of the year.
9. This publication contains only a summary of the results of the survey. A more detailed publication Superannuation, Australia (6319.0) will be released as soon as possible.
10. As well as the statistics included in this and related publications, the $A B S$ may have other relevant unpublished data available. Inquiries should be made to the contact in the Phone Inquiries box at the front of this publication.
11. Results of similar surveys, which have been conducted in February 1974 and September to November 1982, have been published in Survey of Superannuation, Australia, February 1974 (6319.0) and Superannuation, Australia, September to November 1982 (6319.0).
12. It is proposed that this survey will be conducted next in November 1991.

## Discontinuities in the series

13. Due to considerable changes in scope, collection methodology and content, care should be taken in any comparisons with previous surveys.

## Reliability of the estimates

14. Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from those 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, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the number that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. Another measure of the likely difference is the relative standard error, which is obtained by expressing the standard error as a percentage of the estimate.
15. As can be seen from the standard error table, the smaller the estimate, the higher the relative standard error. Very small estimates are thus subject to such high standard errors (relative to the size of the estimate) as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable uses. In the tables in this publication only estimates with relative standard errors of 25 per cent or less and percentages based on such estimates are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. However, estimates and percentages with larger relative standard errors have been included and are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. *3.4) to indicate they are subject to high standard errors and should be used with caution.
16. The imprecision due to sampling variability, which is measured by the standard error, should not be confused with inaccuracies that may occur because of imperfections
in reporting by interviewers and respondents and errors made in coding and processing data. Inaccuracies of this kind are referred to as the non-sampling error and they 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

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

The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0)-issued monthly
Employment Benefits, Australia (6334.0)-issued annually
Retirement and Retirement Intentions, Australia (6238.0) -issued irregularly

Public Sector Superannuation Funds and Schemes (5511.0)-issued irregularly

1986 Income Distribution Survey, Australia, Preliminary
Results (6545.0)-issued irregularly
18. 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 15 above.

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

## Electronic services

VIATEL. Kcy *656\# for selected current economic, social and demographic statistics.

AUSSTATS. Thousands of up-to-date time series are available on this ABS on-line service through CSIRONET.

For further information phone the AUSSTATS Help Desk on (062) 526017.

TELESTATS. This service provides foreign trade statistics tailored to users' requirements.

Further information is available on (062) 525404.

Floppy disk service.
Selected ABS statistics are available on floppy disk. Further information is available on (062) 526684.

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STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

| Size of | Number | Relative <br> standard <br> error <br> (per cent) | Relative <br> standard <br> error |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| estimate |  |  |  |




[^0]:    (a)Includes full-time students aged 15 to 24 .

[^1]:    (a)Includes persons whose superannuation scheme was provided by union only ( 16,700 persons) and previous employer/business $(19,200)$.

