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THE LABOUR FORCE, NOVEMBER 1969

Estimates of the civilian labour force are based on the results of the quarterly population survey, which is carried out on a one per cent sample throughout Australia in February, May, August and November each year. About 38,000 private dwellings (houses, flats, etc.) are visited during each survey, as well as a sample of other dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.). The survey information is obtained by means of personal interviews carried out by specially trained enumerators.

Population coverage

2. The sample used in the surveys covers the six States, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. The estimates relate to all persons aged fifteen 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 census and estimated populations.

Classification of the labour force

3. The labour force category to which a person is assigned depends on his actual activity (i.e. whether working, looking for work, etc.) during a specified week, known as "survey week", which is the week immediately preceding that in which the interview takes place. The interviews are carried out during a period of four weeks, so that there are four survey weeks in each of the months to which the survey relates. These survey weeks generally fall within the limits of the calendar month. The principal categories appearing in the tables in this bulletin are as follows:

- (i) The labour force comprises all persons who, during survey week, were employed or unemployed as defined in (ii) and (iii) below.
- (ii) Employed persons comprise all those who, during survey week,
 - (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 were not at work because of illness, accident, leave, holiday or industrial dispute; or because of production hold-up due to bad weather, plant breakdown, etc.

A person who had a job but was temporarily laid off by his employer for the whole week without pay is excluded, and is classified in the tables as unemployed. A person who did some work during the week, however, before he either lost his job or was laid off, is classified as employed. A person who held more than one job is counted only once, in the job at which he worked most hours during survey week.

- (iii) Unemployed persons comprise all those who, during survey week, did no work at all, and who either
 - (a) did not have a job or business and were actively looking for work (including those who stated that they would have looked for work if they had not been temporarily ill or believed no work was available, or had not already made definite arrangements to start work in a new job after survey week), or
 - (b) were laid off from their jobs without pay for the whole week.

A person who either lost his job or was laid off during survey week, but did some work at his job during that week, is classified as employed.

- (iv) Persons not in the labour force are all those who, during survey week, were not in the categories "employed" or "unemployed" as defined. This category therefore includes persons without a job, business or farm who were not actively looking for work, and who, during survey week, were either keeping house (unpaid), attending school, university, etc., retired

or voluntarily idle, permanently unable to work or inmates of institutions. A person who worked less than fifteen hours without pay in a family business during survey week is also classified as not in the labour force.

Reliability of the estimates

4. Since the estimates in this bulletin 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. 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 from a comparable complete enumeration, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

5. Space does not allow for the separate indication of the standard errors of all estimates in this bulletin. A table of standard errors which is intended to be of general application is therefore given below (Table A). Standard errors of estimates of quarter-to-quarter change are given in Table B, and approximate standard errors of estimates of the total number of persons in Australia in each of the principal employment status categories, classified by sex only, in Table C.

6. The standard errors in these tables are averages based on calculations for a limited number of surveys and are also averages over a wide range of labour force characteristics. These figures thus give not a precise measure but an indication of the magnitude of the standard error of any particular estimate for any particular survey. An example of the use of Table A is as follows: if the estimate obtained from the sample is 100,000 and the standard error is 3 per cent of the estimate, i.e. 3,000, there are about two chances in three that the true figure is within the range 97,000 to 103,000 and about nineteen chances in twenty that this figure is between 94,000 and 106,000.

7. The quarter-to-quarter change in the level of an estimate is also subject to sampling variability. The standard error of the change will depend on the standard error of the level of the estimate, rather than on the change itself. Final estimates of standard errors of movement have not yet been calculated, but an indication of the magnitude of standard errors of quarter-to-quarter change is given in Table B, below. The estimates of standard error of quarter-to-quarter change apply only to estimates of change between two consecutive quarters. Changes between corresponding quarters of consecutive years, or between two other non-consecutive quarters, will generally be subject to somewhat greater sampling variability than is indicated in the table below.

TABLE A
STANDARD ERRORS OF QUARTERLY ESTIMATES

Size of estimate (persons)	Approximate standard error of estimates	
	Persons	Per cent of estimate
4,000	750	19
5,000	850	17
10,000	1,100	11
20,000	1,400	7
50,000	2,000	4
100,000	3,000	3
200,000	4,000	2
500,000	5,000	1
1,000,000	5,500	0.5
2,000,000	8,000	0.4

TABLE B
STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES OF QUARTER-TO-QUARTER CHANGE
(Persons)

Standard error of quarterly level	Standard error of quarter-to-quarter change
1,000	1,300
2,000	2,500
3,000	3,600
4,000	4,300
5,000	4,700
6,000	5,000
7,000	5,200
8,000	5,300

TABLE C
STANDARD ERRORS OF PRINCIPAL EMPLOYMENT STATUS CATEGORIES

Category	Approximate standard error of estimates					
	Males		Females		Persons	
	'000	Per cent	'000	Per cent	'000	Per cent
Employed -						
Agriculture	12	3.2	3	6.3	14	3.2
Other industries	8	0.3	10	0.7	12	0.3
Total	8	0.2	10	0.7	12	0.3
Unemployed	2	6.1	2	5.7	3	4.4
Labour force	7	0.2	10	0.7	12	0.3
Not in the labour force	7	1.1	10	0.4	12	0.4

8. It should be noted that the standard errors of estimates relating to agricultural employment are generally somewhat higher than the standard errors of other estimates of the same magnitude. Estimates for females also tend to have higher standard errors relative to estimates of equivalent size for males in similar employment categories.

9. The reliability of an estimated percentage, computed by using sample data for both numerator and denominator, depends upon both the size of the percentage and the size of the denominator. Percentages quoted in this bulletin, and any other percentages calculated from figures presented herein, have generally somewhat lower standard errors (proportionally) than have the estimates which form the numerators of the percentages, particularly where the percentages are large.

10. As the standard errors in Tables A and B show, the smaller the estimate the higher is the relative standard error. Very small estimates would thus be 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 bulletin, estimates less than 4,000 have not been shown. Although figures for these small components can be derived by subtraction, they should not be regarded as reliable.

11. 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. 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 only 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.

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

TABLE 1. - CIVILIAN POPULATION 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER (a), BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS, AUSTRALIA

Month	Employed (b)			Unemployed (b)		Total labour force (b)		Not in labour force (b) ('000)	Civilian population aged 15 and over (a) ('000)
	Agri-culture ('000)	Other Industries ('000)	Total ('000)	Number ('000)	Per cent of labour force	Number ('000)	Per cent of population (c)		
MALES									
1968 Aug.	363.3	3,104.5	3,467.8	32.1	0.9	3,499.9	83.0	715.7	4,215.6
Nov.	371.2	3,121.2	3,492.4	35.2	1.0	3,527.6	83.1	719.5	4,247.1
1969 Feb.	367.7	3,172.9	3,540.6	43.6	1.2	3,584.2	83.9	687.4	4,271.6
May	361.9	3,182.5	3,544.4	35.4	1.0	3,579.8	83.3	715.1	4,294.9
Aug.	361.9	3,188.1	3,550.0	31.8	0.9	3,581.8	83.0	733.6	4,315.4
Nov.	367.1	3,201.2	3,568.2	43.3	1.2	3,611.5	83.1	735.4	4,346.9
MARRIED WOMEN									
1968 Aug.	45.4	787.2	832.6	18.7	2.2	851.2	30.5	1,943.3	2,794.6
Nov.	47.2	806.7	854.0	16.6	1.9	870.6	31.0	1,941.4	2,812.0
1969 Feb.	49.3	819.0	868.2	22.9	2.6	891.1	31.3	1,957.6	2,848.7
May	41.3	835.2	876.6	23.2	2.6	899.7	31.4	1,964.0	2,863.7
Aug.	53.0	850.1	903.1	19.2	2.1	922.3	32.0	1,961.8	2,884.1
Nov.	54.7	898.8	953.5	19.8	2.0	973.3	33.5	1,928.1	2,901.4
OTHER FEMALES (d)									
1968 Aug.	10.3	692.8	703.2	16.2	2.3	719.5	48.5	763.9	1,483.4
Nov.	11.8	687.9	699.7	21.0	2.9	720.6	48.1	778.1	1,498.7
1969 Feb.	13.0	693.4	706.4	25.8	3.5	732.2	49.1	758.6	1,490.8
May	11.8	689.6	701.4	16.5	2.3	717.9	48.1	774.5	1,492.4
Aug.	13.8	681.4	695.2	15.0	2.1	710.2	47.6	780.9	1,491.1
Nov.	14.4	687.7	702.1	23.4	3.2	725.5	48.0	786.0	1,511.5
ALL FEMALES									
1968 Aug.	55.7	1,480.0	1,535.7	35.0	2.2	1,570.7	36.7	2,707.3	4,278.0
Nov.	59.1	1,494.6	1,553.7	37.5	2.4	1,591.2	36.9	2,719.5	4,310.7
1969 Feb.	62.3	1,512.3	1,574.6	48.7	3.0	1,623.3	37.4	2,716.2	4,339.5
May	53.1	1,524.9	1,578.0	39.7	2.5	1,617.6	37.1	2,738.5	4,356.1
Aug.	66.7	1,531.6	1,598.3	34.2	2.1	1,632.5	37.3	2,742.7	4,375.2
Nov.	69.1	1,586.5	1,655.6	43.2	2.5	1,698.7	38.5	2,714.2	4,412.9
PERSONS									
1968 Aug.	419.0	4,584.5	5,003.5	67.1	1.3	5,070.6	59.7	3,423.0	8,493.6
Nov.	430.3	4,615.8	5,046.1	72.7	1.4	5,118.8	59.8	3,439.0	8,557.8
1969 Feb.	430.0	4,685.2	5,115.2	92.3	1.8	5,207.5	60.5	3,403.6	8,611.1
May	415.0	4,707.4	5,122.4	75.1	1.4	5,197.4	60.1	3,453.6	8,651.0
Aug.	428.7	4,719.6	5,148.3	66.0	1.3	5,214.3	60.0	3,476.3	8,690.6
Nov.	436.2	4,787.6	5,223.8	86.5	1.6	5,310.3	60.6	3,449.5	8,759.8

(a) For a note on persons excluded see page 1, paragraph 2. (b) For definitions see page 1, paragraph 3.
(c) The labour force in each group as a percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over in the same group (labour force participation rate). (d) Never married, widowed and divorced.

TABLE 2. - CIVILIAN LABOUR FORCE (a), BY AGE AND MARITAL STATUS, AUSTRALIA, NOVEMBER 1969

Age group (years)	Married			Not married (b)			Total		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
NUMBER ('000)									
15-19	6.1	15.9	22.0	321.5	291.5	613.0	327.6	307.4	635.0
20-24	169.7	141.5	311.2	304.9	180.8	485.7	474.6	322.3	796.8
25-34	642.3	242.8	885.1	164.5	68.7	233.2	806.8	311.4	1,118.2
35-44	680.3	274.1	954.4	79.3	51.1	130.4	759.6	325.2	1,084.8
45-54	598.6	215.5	814.1	75.8	64.6	140.4	674.3	280.1	954.4
55-59	240.5	55.8	296.3	35.9	32.5	68.4	276.4	88.3	364.7
60-64	163.1	20.1	183.2	24.7	18.7	43.4	187.8	38.8	226.6
65 and over	85.1	7.5	92.7	19.3	17.7	37.0	104.4	25.2	129.6
Total	2,585.7	973.3	3,558.9	1,025.9	725.5	1,751.3	3,611.5	1,698.7	5,310.3
PER CENT OF POPULATION (c)									
15-19	96.5	37.6	45.3	59.1	59.0	59.1	59.6	57.3	58.4
20-24	98.5	45.3	64.2	89.9	90.8	90.2	92.8	63.0	77.9
25-34	99.0	34.7	65.7	93.0	82.0	89.5	97.7	39.8	69.5
35-44	98.6	41.3	70.5	87.4	73.9	81.5	97.3	44.4	71.7
45-54	97.2	36.6	67.6	84.2	59.4	70.7	95.5	40.2	68.0
55-59	93.7	24.3	60.9	80.8	44.5	58.3	91.8	29.2	60.4
60-64	80.6	12.7	50.7	65.4	21.7	35.1	78.2	15.9	46.7
65 and over	27.6	3.6	18.0	15.6	4.4	7.1	24.2	4.2	12.5
Total	89.1	33.5	61.3	70.9	48.0	59.2	83.1	38.5	60.6

(a) Aged 15 years and over. For definitions see page 1, paragraph 3. (b) Never married, widowed and divorced. (c) The labour force in each group as a percentage of the civilian population in the same group.

TABLE 3. - CIVILIAN LABOUR FORCE (a), FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME, AUSTRALIA, NOVEMBER 1969

Employment status		Males	Married women	Other females (b)	All females	Persons
FULL-TIME LABOUR FORCE						
Employed (c)	'000	3,444.0	602.5	615.0	1,217.6	4,661.6
Unemployed, looking for full-time work (d)	'000	38.7	10.4	20.4	30.8	69.5
Total	'000	3,482.8	612.9	635.4	1,248.3	4,731.1
Unemployment rate (e) per cent		1.1	1.7	3.2	2.5	1.5
PART-TIME LABOUR FORCE						
Employed (f)	'000	124.2	351.0	87.0	438.0	562.2
Unemployed, looking for part-time work (g)	'000	4.5	9.4	*	12.4	16.9
Total	'000	128.8	360.3	90.1	450.4	579.2
Unemployment rate (h) per cent		3.5	2.6	*	2.8	2.9

(a) Aged 15 years and over. For definitions see page 1, paragraph 3. (b) Never married, widowed and divorced. (c) Persons who usually work 35 hours a week or more and others who, although usually part-time workers, worked 35 hours or more during survey week. (d) Includes persons laid off for the whole week from full-time jobs. (e) Percentage of the full-time labour force. (f) Persons who usually work less than 35 hours a week and who did so during survey week. (g) Includes persons laid off for the whole week from part-time jobs. (h) Percentage of the part-time labour force. * Less than or based on a figure less than 4,000. See page 3, paragraph 10.

TABLE 4. - EMPLOYED PERSONS (a) BY OCCUPATION, AUSTRALIA, NOVEMBER 1969

('000)

Occupation group	Males	Married women	Other females (b)	All females	Persons
Professional, technical and related workers	329.5	94.3	126.5	220.8	550.3
Administrative, executive and managerial workers	288.7	31.5	12.1	43.6	332.2
Clerical workers	315.9	251.3	274.9	526.3	842.2
Sales workers	213.4	132.5	82.5	215.0	428.4
Farmers, fishermen, timber getters, etc.	407.1	49.6	12.9	62.5	469.6
Transport and communication workers	275.9	25.1	18.8	43.9	319.8
Craftsmen, production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c. (c)	1,583.5	178.6	75.5	254.1	1,837.6
Service, sport and recreation workers	154.3	190.5	98.9	289.4	443.6
Total	3,568.2	953.5	702.1	1,655.6	5,223.8

(a) Civilians aged 15 years and over. For definitions see page 1, paragraph 3. (b) Never married, widowed and divorced. (c) Includes miners, quarrymen and related workers.

TABLE 5. - EMPLOYED PERSONS (a) BY HOURS WORKED (b), AUSTRALIA, NOVEMBER 1969

('000)

Hours worked	Males	Married women	Other females (c)	All females	Persons
0(d)	129.5	36.9	25.6	62.6	192.0
1-15	57.7	141.2	35.5	176.7	234.4
16-29	118.6	163.6	45.0	208.6	327.2
30-34	159.5	82.6	48.7	131.4	290.9
35-39	293.1	110.6	141.0	251.6	544.7
40	1,424.2	305.8	313.2	619.0	2,043.2
41-44	209.9	26.5	35.1	61.6	271.5
45-48	344.7	25.3	24.9	50.2	394.9
49 and over	831.2	60.8	33.0	93.9	925.1
Total	3,568.2	953.5	702.1	1,655.6	5,223.8
Average hours worked (e)	42.6	31.3	35.9	33.2	39.6

(a) Civilians aged 15 years and over. For definitions see page 1, paragraph 3. (b) Actual hours worked during survey week, not hours paid for. The figures may be affected by public holidays, leave, absenteeism; temporary absence from work due to sickness, accidents and industrial disputes; and work stoppages due to bad weather, plant breakdowns, etc. (c) Never married, widowed and divorced. (d) Excludes persons laid off without pay for the whole of survey week; these persons are classified as unemployed. (e) Persons with jobs who did not work during survey week have been included in the calculation of average hours worked.

TABLE 6. - EMPLOYED PERSONS (a) WHO WORKED LESS THAN 35 HOURS (b), BY REASON,

AUSTRALIA, NOVEMBER 1969

('000)

Reason for working less than 35 hours	Males	Married women	Other females (c)	All females	Persons
USUALLY WORK 35 HOURS OR MORE					
Leave or holiday	163.8	32.4	37.8	70.2	234.1
Own illness or injury	83.8	18.7	16.1	34.7	118.5
Bad weather, breakdown, etc.	23.2	*	*	*	24.7
Began or lost job in survey week	9.3	*	*	6.2	15.5
On short time	4.3	*	*	*	5.4
Other reasons	56.6	17.8	9.6	27.4	84.0
Total	341.0	73.5	67.8	141.2	482.2
USUALLY WORK LESS THAN 35 HOURS					
Prefer part-time work	112.0	332.8	80.0	412.8	524.8
Lack of work	6.4	10.9	4.4	15.3	21.7
Other reasons	5.8	7.3	*	10.0	15.7
Total	124.2	351.0	87.0	438.0	562.2

(a) Civilians aged 15 years and over. For definitions see page 1, paragraph 3. (b) See note (b) to Table 5. (c) Never married, widowed and divorced. * Less than 4,000. See page 3, paragraph 10.

TABLE 7. - PART-TIME WORKERS (a) BY AGE, AUSTRALIA, NOVEMBER 1969

('000)

Age group (years)	Males	Married women	Other females (b)	All females	Persons
15-19	27.6	*	21.6	23.5	51.1
20-24	12.4	21.9	13.1	35.0	47.3
25-34	14.2	94.6	6.9	101.5	115.7
35-44	10.3	112.9	8.7	121.7	132.0
45-54	10.3	81.5	14.8	96.3	106.6
55-59	6.8	24.5	8.5	32.9	39.7
60-64	11.9	9.3	5.0	14.3	26.2
65 and over	30.7	4.4	8.4	12.8	43.5
Total	124.2	351.0	87.0	438.0	562.2

(a) Civilians aged 15 years and over who usually work less than 35 hours and who did so during survey week. In previous surveys, some school teachers were classified according to standard hours, not actual hours worked as in this survey. (b) Never married, widowed and divorced. * Less than 4,000. See page 3, paragraph 10.

TABLE 8. - EMPLOYED MARRIED WOMEN (a) BY INDUSTRY AND HOURS WORKED (b), AUSTRALIA, NOVEMBER 1969

('000)

Industry group	Part-time (c)				Full-time (d)	Total
	Hours worked (b)			Total		
	Under 16	16-29	30-34			
Agriculture	11.2	15.1	*	28.8	25.9	54.7
Manufacturing	16.5	19.3	8.6	44.5	191.8	236.2
Commerce	34.9	34.9	7.9	77.8	145.0	222.8
Community and business services (e)	35.7	35.0	(f)23.1	93.9	105.1	199.0
Amusement, hotels, personal service	35.9	25.9	6.8	68.6	64.8	133.3
Other industries (g)	20.6	12.3	4.6	37.5	69.9	107.4
Total	155.0	142.6	53.4	351.0	602.5	953.5

(a) Civilians aged 15 years and over. For definitions see page 1, paragraph 3. (b) See note (b) to Table 5. (c) Those who usually work less than 35 hours a week and who did so during survey week. (d) Those who usually work 35 hours a week or more and others who, although usually part-time workers, worked 35 hours or more during survey week. (e) Comprises law, order and public safety; religion and social welfare; health, hospitals, etc.; education; and other community and business services (including professional). (f) In previous surveys, some school teachers were classified according to standard hours, not actual hours worked as in this survey. (g) Forestry, fishing, etc.; mining and quarrying; electricity, gas, water; building and construction; transport and storage; communication; finance and property; and public authority activities (n.e.i.). * Less than 4,000. See page 3, paragraph 10.

TABLE 9. - UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (a), BY AGE, AUSTRALIA, NOVEMBER 1969

Age group (years)	Number unemployed ('000)			Per cent of labour force (b)		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
15-19	18.8	18.7	37.5	5.7	6.1	5.9
20-24	7.8	9.1	16.9	1.6	2.8	2.1
25-34	5.0	5.6	10.6	0.6	1.8	0.9
35-44	4.6	4.5	9.1	0.6	1.4	0.8
45-54	7.2	5.2	6.8	0.6	1.2	0.7
55 and over			5.6			0.8
Total	43.3	43.2	86.5	1.2	2.5	1.6

(a) Civilians aged 15 years and over. For definitions see page 1, paragraph 3. (b) The unemployed in each group as a percentage of the civilian labour force in the same group.

TABLE 10. - UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (a), BY DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT (b), AUSTRALIA, NOVEMBER 1969

('000)

Duration of unemployment (b) (weeks)	Age (years)		Married	Not married (c)	Looking for -		Total
	15-19	20 and over			Full-time work (d)	Part-time work (e)	
MALES							
Under 2	8.4	7.6	7.6	12.2	13.6	*	16.0
2 and under 4	5.8	7.8			4.5	6.0	12.5
4 and under 13	4.6	6.0	4.5	*			8.6
13 and over		*			4.0	*	4.3
Total	18.8	24.5	12.1	31.2	38.7	4.5	43.3
FEMALES							
Under 2	7.3	8.3	6.6	9.0	10.8	4.8	15.6
2 and under 4	5.9	5.6	4.4	7.1	8.6	*	11.5
4 and under 13	5.6	6.0	4.9	4.6	7.1	4.7	9.6
13 and over		4.5	*	*	4.3		6.5
Total	18.7	24.5	19.8	23.4	30.8	12.4	43.2
PERSONS							
Under 2	15.7	16.0	10.5	21.1	24.4	7.2	31.6
2 and under 4	11.7	13.4	8.1	17.0	21.1	4.0	25.1
4 and under 13	6.9	12.0	8.2	10.7	15.6	5.8	18.9
13 and over	*	7.6	5.0	5.9	8.3		10.9
Total	37.5	49.0	31.9	54.6	69.5	16.9	86.5

(a) Civilians aged 15 years and over. For definitions see page 1, paragraph 3. (b) Period from the time the person began looking for work, or was laid off, to the end of survey week. (c) Never married, widowed and divorced. (d) Includes persons laid off for the whole week from full-time jobs. (e) Includes persons laid off for the whole week from part-time jobs. * Less than 4,000. See page 3, paragraph 10.

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ACTING COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

CANBERRA, A.C.T. 2600

10 APRIL 1970

NOTE : Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning 63 9111 extension 2347 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Bureau of Census and Statistics.