

NEWS RELEASE

November 29 1993

148/93

"NO VACANCIES" STILL THE MAIN DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WORK

In July 1993, the main difficulty in finding work most frequently reported by unemployed persons continued to be that there were "no vacancies at all". Some 216,300 (25 per cent of total) unemployed persons gave this as their main difficulty, a decrease of 7 percentage points since July 1992.

These findings, released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, come from a survey on the job search experience of Australia's unemployed persons.

The proportion of unemployed persons who reported their main difficulty in finding work was that they were "considered too young or too old by employers" increased over the past two years from 12 per cent in June 1991 to 17 per cent in July 1993. For the 169,700 unemployed persons aged 45 and over, nearly half reported age related reasons as their main difficulty in finding work.

Other results of the survey show that in July 1993:

- there were an estimated 871,300 unemployed persons, excluding the small number who were "stood down"
- the average duration of unemployment was 59 weeks, compared with 55 weeks in July 1992 and 44 weeks in July 1991
- unemployed persons without post-school qualifications had, on average, been unemployed for 15 weeks more than those with post-school qualifications (65 weeks compared to 50 weeks)
- 83 per cent of unemployed persons were registered with the CES. Of these, 90 per cent were looking for full-time work
- unemployed persons were more inclined to move intrastate (42 per cent) than interstate (28 per cent), if offered a suitable job
- there were 331,200 persons (38 per cent of total unemployed) who had been unemployed for a year or more. For this group the most frequently reported main difficulties in finding work were "no vacancies at all" (26 per cent) and age related reasons (22 per cent).

Details are in *Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Australia, July 1993* (CatNo. 6222.0) available from ABS bookshops in all capital cities at \$12.50 a copy.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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