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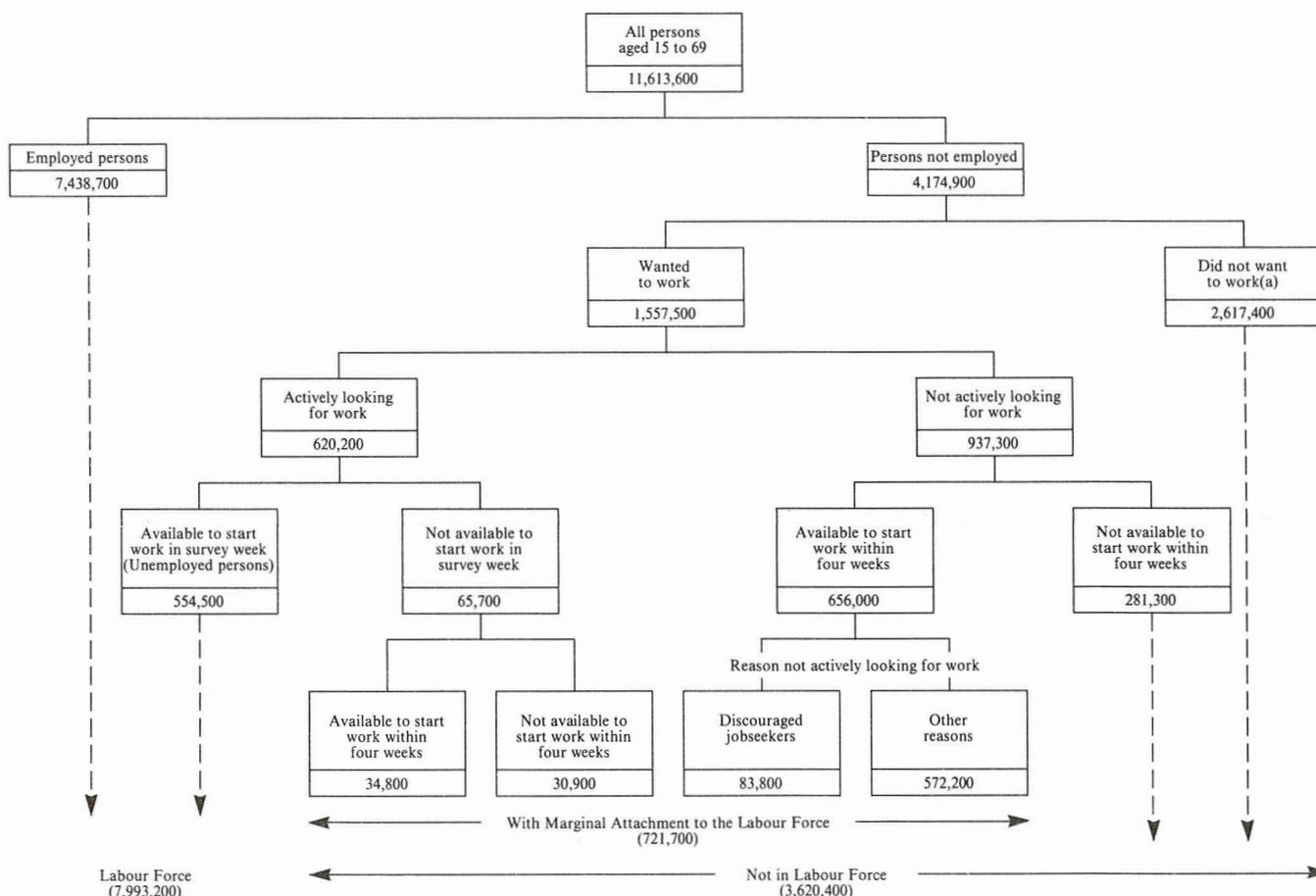
PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE, AUSTRALIA,  
SEPTEMBER 1988, SUMMARY

PHONE INQUIRIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>about these statistics</i>—contact Mr Michael Maynard on Canberra (062) 52 7503 or any ABS State office.</li> <li>• <i>about other statistics and ABS services</i>—contact <b>Information Services</b> on Canberra (062) 52 5402, 52 6007, 52 6627 or any ABS State office.</li> </ul>
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MAIN FEATURES

The scope of this survey has been restricted to persons aged 15 to 69 years. See paragraph 14 of the Explanatory Notes.

DIAGRAM 1. RELATIONSHIP OF PERSONS WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE TO PERSONS IN OR NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE, SEPTEMBER 1988



(a) Includes institutionalised, boarding school pupils and persons permanently unable to work.

- **Persons Not in the Labour Force.** In September 1988 persons not in the labour force number 3,620,400 comprising 31.2 per cent of the civilian population aged 15 to 69.
- **Marginal Attachment to the Labour Force.** There were an estimated 721,700 persons

with marginal attachment to the labour force in September 1988 comprising 19.9 per cent of persons not in the labour force. The same group numbered 725,000 in March 1988 and 696,400 in March 1987. About 90.9 per cent of persons in this group in September 1988 wanted to work and were available to start

- **Discouraged Jobseekers.** The number of discouraged jobseekers in September 1988, 83,800 compared with 92,000 in March 1988. In September 38.8 per cent of discouraged jobseekers reported that their main reason for not actively looking for work was that they were considered too young or too old by employers, and a further 27.4 per cent reported that there were no jobs in their locality or line of work.
- **Intention-to Look for Work.** Some 40.6 per cent of persons with marginal attachment to the labour force intended to look for work in the next twelve months, while a further 20.8 per cent were undecided. Of the 281,300

persons who wanted to work but were not marginally attached to the labour force, 33.1 per cent stated that they intended to look, while 24.1 per cent were undecided.

- **Type of Work Preferred.** Almost three-quarters of persons with marginal attachment to the labour force preferred to work part-time while 25.6 per cent stated a full-time preference. This distribution was different for persons who wanted to work but were not marginally attached to the labour force (62.7 per cent preferred to work part-time and 31.4 per cent full-time).

DIAGRAM 2. AGE DISTRIBUTION OF PERSONS WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE BY GENDER, SEPTEMBER 1988  
(Source of data: Table 3)

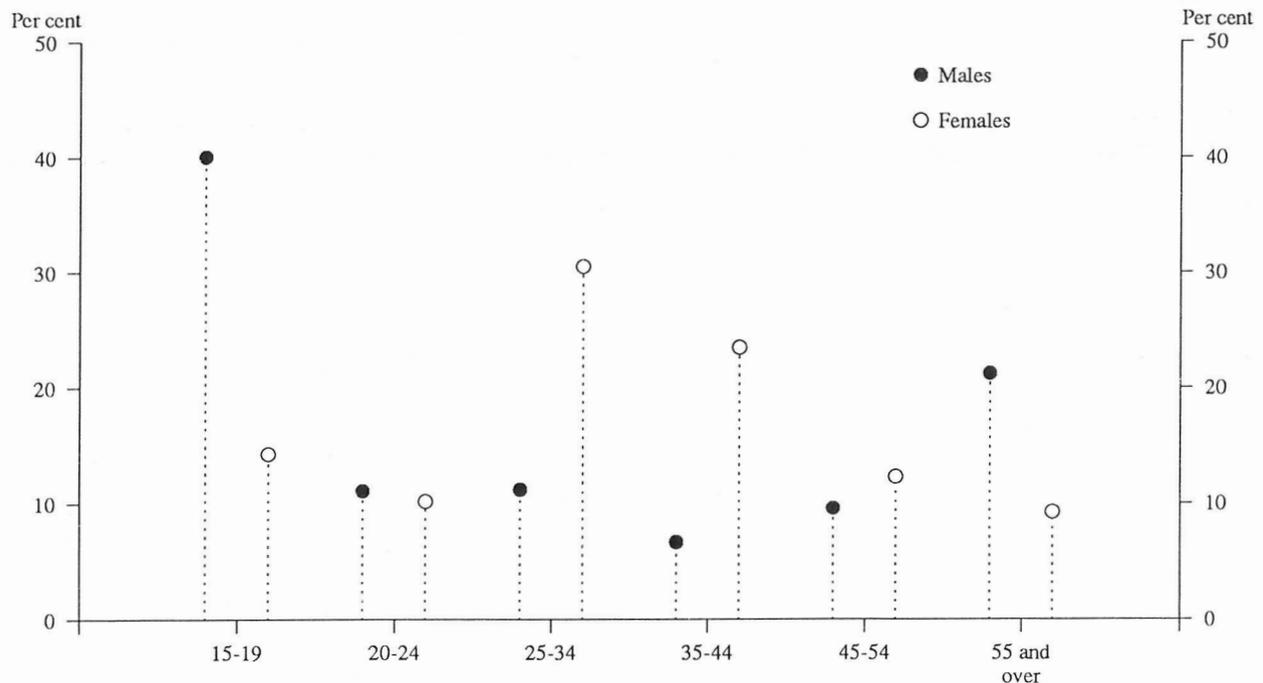


TABLE 1. ALL PERSONS AGED 15 TO 69 : LABOUR FORCE STATUS, SEPTEMBER 1985 TO SEPTEMBER 1988 ('000)

	Sept. 1985	March 1986	Sept. 1986	March 1987	March 1988	September 1988
All persons aged 15 to 69	10,921.7	11,028.3	11,141.3	11,267.9	11,487.0	11,613.6
Persons in the labour force	7,353.6	7,520.8	7,589.9	7,771.2	7,966.8	7,993.2
Persons not in the labour force	3,568.1	3,507.5	3,551.4	3,496.7	3,520.2	3,620.4
With marginal attachment to the labour force	727.2	697.4	737.2	696.4	725.0	721.7
Wanted work and were actively looking for work	60.4	35.2	57.0	31.1	33.6	65.7
Were available to start work within four weeks	30.2	25.0	26.7	23.6	26.9	34.8
Were not available to start work within four weeks	30.2	10.2	30.3	7.6	6.7	30.9
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	666.9	662.3	680.2	665.3	691.4	656.0
Discouraged jobseekers	83.0	91.5	83.6	94.4	92.0	83.8
Other	583.8	570.7	596.5	570.9	599.4	572.2
Without marginal attachment to the labour force	2,840.8	2,810.1	2,814.2	2,800.3	2,795.2	2,898.8
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were not available to start work within four weeks	262.5	259.6	259.9	231.8	250.3	281.3
Did not want to work	2,479.8	2,446.6	2,453.8	2,460.9	2,437.8	2,515.7
Permanently unable to work	30.0	33.2	35.5	28.8	37.5	37.2
Institutionalised(a) and boarding school pupils	68.5	70.5	65.0	78.8	69.5	64.7

(a) Includes some patients in hospitals and sanatoriums and inmates of reformatories, gaols etc.

TABLE 2. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE:  
MAIN REASON FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK, SEPTEMBER 1985 TO SEPTEMBER 1988  
(\*000)

	Sept. 1985	March 1986	Sept. 1986	March 1987	March 1988	Sept. 1988
MALES						
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	24.9	14.0	26.3	12.1	13.3	34.7
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	132.7	139.9	130.5	151.8	164.3	156.1
<i>Main reason for not actively looking for work—</i>						
Had a job to go to(a)	*3.5	6.8	4.9	8.6	6.6	5.8
Personal reasons	93.1	96.0	93.5	105.7	118.4	110.4
Family reasons	*4.1	*3.5	*3.8	*3.8	5.7	*4.1
Discouraged jobseekers	15.4	21.8	16.2	22.2	19.5	19.7
No jobs in suitable hours	*2.8	*4.0	*1.1	*1.2	*1.3	*2.1
Other reasons	10.1	9.4	10.4	9.7	11.4	12.5
Did not know	*0.7	*1.3	*9.6	*0.8	*1.4	*1.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>157.6</b>	<b>153.9</b>	<b>156.8</b>	<b>163.9</b>	<b>177.6</b>	<b>190.8</b>
FEMALES						
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	35.5	21.1	30.7	19.0	20.3	31.0
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	534.2	522.4	549.6	513.4	527.1	499.9
<i>Main reason for not actively looking for work—</i>						
Had a job to go to(a)	15.7	15.0	15.6	15.1	17.4	13.4
Personal reasons	157.5	151.5	152.4	153.0	161.7	145.8
Own ill health, physical disability, pregnancy	38.6	36.2	33.3	36.5	42.5	35.0
Attending an educational institution	50.9	57.3	55.5	58.0	65.4	55.7
Had no need to work	34.0	31.0	32.3	27.7	25.6	28.3
Give others a chance	6.0	*3.7	6.3	4.6	5.9	*3.6
Welfare payment/pension may be affected	14.5	14.1	12.7	15.2	12.5	10.5
Moved house/holidays	13.4	9.2	12.2	11.1	9.9	12.6
Family reasons	244.1	237.4	263.3	235.1	236.3	239.2
Ill health of other than self	13.2	12.4	10.8	11.6	11.0	10.6
Unable to find suitable childcare	71.8	69.4	71.9	67.6	79.5	83.1
Children too young/preferred to look after children	124.6	116.0	138.7	11.1	106.8	107.7
Other family considerations	34.4	39.5	42.0	39.7	39.0	37.8
Discouraged jobseekers	67.6	69.8	67.4	72.2	72.5	64.1
Considered too young or too old by employers	20.7	22.5	18.1	25.0	25.0	23.5
Difficulties with language or ethnic background	*4.2	*4.2	*3.1	*3.3	5.6	5.3
Lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience	7.4	9.8	8.5	10.4	10.9	12.0
No jobs in locality or line of work	21.6	22.6	27.8	23.7	24.1	17.5
No jobs at all	13.8	10.7	9.7	9.8	7.0	5.7
No jobs in suitable hours	15.6	16.4	15.4	10.7	13.4	8.6
Other reasons	25.5	24.6	29.7	19.2	21.4	24.1
Did not know	7.2	7.8	5.8	8.2	4.5	4.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>569.7</b>	<b>548.5</b>	<b>580.4</b>	<b>532.5</b>	<b>547.4</b>	<b>530.9</b>
PERSONS						
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	60.4	35.2	57.0	31.1	33.6	65.7
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	666.9	662.3	680.2	665.3	691.4	659.0
<i>Main reason for not actively looking for work—</i>						
Had a job to go to(a)	19.2	21.8	20.5	34.7	23.9	19.1
Personal reasons	250.5	247.5	245.9	258.7	280.1	256.2
Own ill health, physical disability, pregnancy	66.6	61.6	55.9	61.1	76.2	69.6
Attending an educational institution	102.3	111.1	106.9	119.8	128.2	111.0
Had no need to work	40.1	37.6	39.6	36.8	32.7	35.9
Give others a chance	6.0	4.3	7.1	5.2	6.4	*3.8
Welfare payment/pension may be affected	18.1	18.2	18.9	20.4	17.7	16.9
Moved house/holidays	17.4	14.7	17.6	15.3	19.0	19.0
Family reasons	248.1	240.9	267.1	238.9	242.0	243.2
Ill health of other than self	14.8	12.9	11.4	12.9	12.7	12.7
Unable to find suitable childcare	72.5	70.1	72.6	68.2	81.0	83.7
Children too young/preferred to look after children	126.1	117.2	140.2	117.2	108.2	108.3
Other family considerations	34.7	40.6	43.0	40.5	40.2	38.6
Discouraged jobseekers	83.0	91.5	83.6	94.4	92.0	83.8
Considered too young or too old by employers	26.7	33.2	25.5	35.1	35.4	32.5
Difficulties with language or ethnic background	4.8	5.2	3.8	4.2	6.0	6.5
Lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience	8.9	11.5	10.2	12.5	12.6	14.6
No jobs in locality or line of work	26.0	28.2	32.7	31.1	29.7	23.0
No jobs at all	16.6	13.4	11.4	11.6	8.4	7.2
No jobs in suitable hours	18.4	17.5	16.5	11.8	14.7	10.7
Other reasons	35.6	34.0	40.2	28.9	32.8	36.7
Did not know	8.0	9.0	6.4	9.0	5.9	6.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>727.2</b>	<b>697.4</b>	<b>737.2</b>	<b>696.4</b>	<b>725.0</b>	<b>721.7</b>

(a) Includes persons who had a job but, up to the end of reference week, had been away from work without pay for four weeks or longer and had not been actively looking for work.

**TABLE 3. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE : SUMMARY OF CHARACTERISTICS, SEPTEMBER 1988**  
(\*000)

	<i>Persons who wanted to work and were actively looking for work</i>	<i>Persons who wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks</i>			<i>Persons with marginal attachment to the labour force</i>		
		<i>Discouraged job-seekers</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
<i>Age group--</i>							
15-19	28.9	8.0	115.7	123.7	76.5	76.1	152.6
20-24	11.6	* 3.5	60.0	63.6	21.2	54.0	75.2
25-34	10.9	12.8	159.3	172.1	21.4	161.7	183.0
35-44	7.6	15.3	114.4	129.7	12.8	124.5	137.3
45-54	4.6	14.8	64.0	78.9	18.4	65.1	83.5
55-64	* 2.1	22.3	45.6	67.9	27.5	42.5	69.9
65-69	* 0.0	7.1	13.1	20.2	13.1	7.1	20.2
<i>Family status--</i>							
Member of a family	53.2	69.9	506.9	576.7	152.5	477.4	629.9
Husband or wife	19.5	50.1	325.6	375.7	62.3	332.8	395.1
With dependents present	14.9	25.2	245.6	270.7	26.1	259.5	285.6
Without dependents present	4.6	24.9	80.0	104.9	36.3	73.3	109.5
Not-married family head	* 3.8	8.9	66.8	75.7	* 3.8	75.7	79.5
With dependents present	* 2.7	5.7	61.9	67.6	* 2.3	68.0	70.3
Without dependents present	* 1.1	* 3.2	5.0	8.1	* 1.5	7.6	9.2
Full-time student aged 15-24(a)	25.1	4.8	92.3	97.2	66.8	55.5	122.3
Other child/relative of family head	4.9	6.0	22.1	28.1	19.6	13.4	33.0
Not a member of a family	6.6	9.8	33.6	43.5	25.1	25.0	50.1
Living alone	* 3.0	9.1	21.5	30.6	14.0	19.6	33.6
Not living alone	* 3.6	* 0.8	12.1	12.9	11.1	5.4	16.5
Family status not determined	5.8	* 4.1	31.7	35.8	13.1	28.5	41.6
<i>Type of work preferred--</i>							
Full-time	37.5	23.9	123.7	147.7	90.7	94.4	185.1
Part-time	26.2	54.1	426.4	480.4	91.2	415.5	506.6
No preference	* 2.0	5.8	22.1	27.9	8.9	21.0	29.9
<i>Time since last job--</i>							
Had had a job	45.2	73.7	478.9	552.7	134.7	463.2	597.9
Under 6 months	12.1	6.8	80.0	86.8	36.8	62.1	98.9
6 and under 12 months	11.6	7.4	59.3	66.7	27.1	51.3	78.4
1 and under 3 years	11.2	16.7	106.2	122.9	30.8	103.3	134.1
3 and under 5 years	* 4.2	10.0	67.1	77.0	19.4	61.8	81.2
5 and under 10 years	* 4.3	15.5	88.3	103.7	15.3	92.8	108.1
10 and under 20 years	* 1.3	11.9	58.9	70.9	* 3.9	68.3	72.2
20 years or more	* 0.4	5.5	19.1	24.6	* 1.4	23.6	25.1
Had never had a job	20.4	10.1	93.2	103.3	56.1	67.7	123.7
<i>Reason for ceasing last job--</i>							
Had had a job	45.2	73.7	478.9	552.7	134.7	463.2	597.9
Job loser	15.7	32.1	159.5	191.7	68.1	139.2	207.3
Retrenched	6.8	17.2	59.3	76.5	25.3	58.0	83.3
Job was temporary or seasonal and did not leave to return to studies	* 2.9	6.4	47.5	53.9	11.2	45.6	56.8
Own ill health or injury	5.4	6.6	47.6	54.1	29.1	30.4	59.5
Business closed down for economic reasons	* 0.5	* 2.1	5.1	7.2	* 2.4	5.3	7.7
Job leaver	29.6	41.6	309.4	351.0	63.7	316.8	380.5
Unsatisfactory work arrangements	* 3.3	4.9	24.7	29.6	11.0	21.8	32.8
Job was temporary or seasonal and left to return to studies	* 3.5	* 0.3	9.2	9.5	6.5	6.6	13.1
Retired/did not want to work any longer	* 1.4	8.1	29.9	38.0	16.2	23.2	39.4
Returned to studies	6.6	* 0.4	15.5	15.8	13.6	8.8	22.4
To get married	* 0.2	* 3.9	22.0	25.9	* 0.1	25.9	26.0
Pregnancy/to have children	6.9	8.3	119.7	128.0	* 0.0	134.9	134.9
To look after family, house or someone else	* 1.0	* 3.1	24.8	28.0	* 1.5	27.4	28.9
To have holidays/to move house/spouse transferred	* 4.0	8.6	45.0	53.6	6.1	51.6	57.7
Business closed down for other reasons	* 0.9	* 1.7	7.3	9.1	* 3.3	6.6	9.9
Other	* 1.8	* 2.2	11.3	13.5	5.3	10.0	15.4
Not asked(b)	..	..	10.0	10.0	* 2.9	7.2	10.0
Had never had a job	20.4	10.1	93.2	103.3	56.1	67.7	123.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>65.7</b>	<b>83.8</b>	<b>572.2</b>	<b>656.0</b>	<b>190.8</b>	<b>530.9</b>	<b>721.7</b>

( a ) Excludes persons aged 20 to 24 attending school. ( b ) Persons who had a job but, up to the end of reference week, had been away from work without pay for four weeks or longer and had not been actively looking for work.

**TABLE 4. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WITH MARGINAL ATTACHMENT TO THE LABOUR FORCE : MAIN REASON FOR NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK, INTENTION TO LOOK FOR WORK IN THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS AND TYPE OF WORK PREFERRED, SEPTEMBER 1988 ('000)**

	<i>Intention to look for work in the next twelve months</i>				<i>Type of work preferred</i>			<i>Total</i>
	<i>Intended to look</i>	<i>Did not intend to look</i>	<i>Did not know</i>	<i>Not asked(a)</i>	<i>Full-time</i>	<i>Part-time</i>	<i>No preference</i>	
Wanted to work and were actively looking for work	..	..	..	65.7	37.5	26.2	* 2.0	65.7
Were available to start work within four weeks	..	..	..	34.8	17.1	16.0	* 1.7	34.8
Were not available to start work within four weeks	..	..	..	30.9	20.4	10.2	* 0.3	30.9
Wanted to work but were not actively looking for work and were available to start work within four weeks	293.2	193.7	150.0	19.1	147.7	480.4	27.9	656.0
<i>Main reason for not actively looking for work--</i>								
Had a job to go to(b)	..	..	..	19.1	8.7	10.0	* 0.4	19.1
Personal reasons	139.9	63.1	53.2	..	70.9	174.4	10.8	256.2
Own ill health, physical disability, pregnancy	29.8	18.8	21.0	..	22.8	40.9	5.8	69.6
Attending an educational institution	77.1	15.7	18.2	..	33.3	74.5	* 3.1	111.0
Had no need to work	9.4	19.2	7.3	..	* 3.2	31.8	* 0.8	35.9
Give others a chance	* 0.1	* 1.7	* 2.0	..	* 0.0	* 3.8	* 0.0	* 3.8
Welfare payments/pension may be affected	5.1	7.7	* 4.2	..	* 2.4	13.8	* 0.8	16.9
Moved house/holidays	18.4	* 0.0	* 0.6	..	9.2	9.6	* 0.3	19.0
Family reasons	82.6	96.4	64.2	..	31.9	202.9	8.4	243.2
Ill health of other than self	6.1	* 4.4	* 2.2	..	* 3.4	8.8	* 0.5	12.7
Unable to find suitable childcare	21.5	39.7	22.5	..	11.3	69.0	* 3.4	83.7
Children too young/preferred to look after children	40.9	39.5	27.9	..	12.3	92.2	* 3.7	108.3
Other family considerations	14.2	12.8	11.6	..	4.9	32.9	* 0.8	38.6
Discouraged jobseekers	40.5	24.3	19.1	..	23.9	54.1	5.8	83.8
Considered too young or too old by employers	9.0	16.0	7.5	..	7.8	21.2	* 3.5	32.5
Difficulties with language or ethnic background	* 4.3	* 0.4	* 1.8	..	* 2.8	* 3.1	* 0.6	6.5
Lacked necessary schooling, training, skills or experience	8.2	* 2.3	* 4.1	..	4.9	9.4	* 0.4	14.6
No jobs in locality or line of work	13.8	4.5	4.7	..	6.4	15.8	* 0.8	23.0
No jobs at all	5.3	* 1.0	* 1.0	..	* 2.0	4.7	* 0.5	7.2
No jobs in suitable hours	6.1	* 1.6	* 3.0	..	* 0.5	10.1	* 0.0	10.7
Other reasons	20.0	6.9	9.8	..	10.1	24.5	* 2.1	36.7
Did not know	* 4.1	* 1.4	* 0.8	..	* 1.6	* 4.4	* 0.3	6.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>293.2</b>	<b>193.7</b>	<b>150.0</b>	<b>84.8</b>	<b>185.1</b>	<b>506.6</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>721.7</b>

( a ) Comprises persons who had a job to go to, persons who took active steps to find work, and persons as defined in footnote(b). ( b ) Includes persons who had a job but, up to the end of reference week, had been away from work without pay for four weeks or longer and had not been actively looking for work.

**TABLE 5. PERSONS NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE WHO WANTED TO WORK BUT WERE NOT ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR WORK AND WERE NOT AVAILABLE TO START WORK WITHIN FOUR WEEKS : REASON NOT AVAILABLE TO START WORK WITHIN FOUR WEEKS, INTENTION TO LOOK FOR WORK IN THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS AND TYPE OF WORK PREFERRED, SEPTEMBER 1988 ('000)**

<i>Reason not available to start work within four weeks</i>	<i>Intention to look for work in the next twelve months</i>				<i>Type of work preferred</i>			<i>Total</i>
	<i>Intended to look</i>	<i>Did not intend to look</i>	<i>Did not know</i>	<i>Not asked(a)</i>	<i>Full-time</i>	<i>Part-time</i>	<i>No preference</i>	
Personal reasons	64.7	51.7	37.9	4.9	69.2	80.0	10.1	159.3
Own ill health or injury, physical disability, or pregnancy	20.8	34.0	22.3	* 3.9	32.9	40.3	7.8	81.0
Studying	36.6	14.4	12.7	* 0.9	34.5	28.1	* 1.9	64.5
At school	25.5	12.1	10.4	* 0.4	26.8	20.7	* 0.9	48.4
Other educational institution	11.0	* 2.3	* 2.3	* 0.5	7.7	7.4	* 1.0	16.1
Moved house/holidays	7.4	* 3.3	* 2.9	* 0.1	* 1.8	11.6	* 0.3	13.7
Family reasons	23.6	45.7	26.1	8.2	14.3	85.2	* 4.2	103.6
Ill health of other than self	* 2.3	5.3	* 4.3	* 0.2	* 3.6	7.8	* 0.7	12.1
Unable to find suitable childcare	6.5	4.8	5.7	* 0.3	* 2.7	13.9	* 0.8	17.4
Children too young/preferred to look after children	14.7	35.6	16.1	7.7	8.0	63.4	* 2.7	74.1
Other reasons	4.9	8.9	* 3.7	* 1.0	4.8	11.4	* 2.1	18.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>93.2</b>	<b>106.3</b>	<b>67.7</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>88.4</b>	<b>176.5</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>281.3</b>
Males	29.6	24.8	17.7	* 1.8	42.3	25.5	6.1	73.9
Females	63.6	81.5	50.0	12.3	46.1	151.0	10.3	207.4

( a ) Persons who had a job but, up to the end of reference week, had been away from work without pay for four weeks or longer and had not been actively looking for work.

## APPENDIX A

## GLOSSARY

*Actively looking for work:* those persons who were taking active steps to find work.

*Active steps taken to find work:* they comprise:

- (a) writing, telephoning or applying in person to an employer for work;
- (b) answering a newspaper advertisement for a job;
- (c) checking factory or Commonwealth Employment Service noticeboards;
- (d) being registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service;
- (e) checking or registering with any other employment agency;
- (f) advertising or tendering for work; or
- (g) contacting friends or relatives.

*Available to start work within four weeks:* those persons who were available to start work within four weeks or could start work if childcare was available.

*Discouraged jobseekers:* persons with marginal attachment to the labour force who wanted to work and were available to start work within the next four weeks but whose main reason for not taking active steps to find work was that they believed they would not find a job for any of the following reasons—

- (a) considered to be too young or too old by employers;
- (b) difficulties with language or ethnic background;
- (c) lacked the necessary schooling, training, skills or experience;
- (d) no jobs in their locality or line of work; or
- (e) no jobs available at all.

*Job:* any employment, full-time or part-time, lasting two weeks or more.

*Job leavers:* persons who voluntarily ceased their last job.

*Job losers:* persons who involuntarily ceased their last job.

*Marginal attachment to the labour force:* persons who were not in the labour force in the reference week, wanted to work and—

(a) were actively looking for work but did not meet the criteria to be classified as unemployed; or

(b) were not actively looking for work but were available to start work within four weeks or could start work within four weeks if childcare was available.

The criteria determining those in the labour force are based on actual activity (i.e. working or looking for work) during the reference week. The criteria associated with marginal attachment to the labour force, in particular the concepts of wanting to work, reasons for not actively looking for work and availability to start work, are more subjective and are not based on the respondents' actual activity. Hence, the measurement of these criteria is affected by the respondents' own interpretation of the concepts used. An individual respondent's interpretation is affected by such factors as the respondent's work aspirations, as well as family, economic and other commitments.

*Not in the labour force and wanted to work:* persons who—

(a) in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week had taken *active steps* to find work but did not meet the criteria to be classified as unemployed;

(b) although claiming to have looked for work (in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week), had not taken active steps to find work;

(c) in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week had not looked for work but in the survey answered 'yes' or 'maybe' to the question '*Even though you have not been looking for work would you like a full-time or part-time job?*'; or

(d) in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week, had not looked for work but were responsible for children under twelve years of age and answered 'yes' or 'maybe' to the question '*If you had childcare arrangements for your child(ren) under 12, would you like a job?*'.

*Persons not in the labour force:* persons who do not meet the criteria that would enable them to be classified as being in the labour force. To be classified as being in the labour force, a person must be aged 15 or over and be either *employed* or *unemployed*. Persons not in the labour force, therefore, include all persons aged 15 and over who are not employed, who want to work but do not meet the criteria to be classified as unemployed; who do not want to work; or who, through incapacity or infirmity, cannot work.

## APPENDIX B

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

#### Introduction

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 September 1988 labour force survey conducted throughout Australia.

2. Of the respondents to the labour force survey, those who fell within the scope of the supplementary survey were asked additional questions. They were asked about their labour force aspirations and, if appropriate, their reasons for not actively looking for work and their availability for work.

#### 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 not in the labour force aged 15 to 69.

4. In the Tables, "All Persons" refers to all persons within the scope of the survey.

#### Coverage

5. 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

6. Definitions of labour force and demographic classifications appearing in this publication are given in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

7. Unless otherwise stated, all characteristics referenced in this publication related to the week before the interview (i.e. the reference week).

#### Results of the survey

8. Estimates of persons not in the labour force are also published in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0). However, more detailed information is contained in this publication.

9. Due to differences in the method of estimation used in this supplementary survey and that used in the labour force survey and the differences in the scope of this survey, there are some small variations between estimates in this publication and those in the corresponding issue of *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0).

10. 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.

11. This publication contains only a summary of the results of the survey. A more detailed publication *Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia* (6220.0) will be released as soon as possible. Tables of unpublished data may be purchased on request.

12. Results of similar surveys, which have been conducted each March and September since March 1979 (except September 1987), and also in May 1977 and November 1975, have been published in *Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia* (6220.0).

13. It is proposed that this survey will be conducted next in September 1989.

#### Discontinuities in the series

14. The scope of surveys run before September 1988 included all persons aged 15 and over. In September 1988 the survey was restricted to exclude all persons aged 70 and over. Historical estimates contained in this publication have been revised to enable comparisons of estimates from this survey with those from surveys conducted prior to September 1988.

#### Survey sample redesign

15. The labour force survey sample has been redesigned and reselected using information collected in the 1986 Population Census. The new sample was phased in over the period September 1987 to December 1987. For details, see *Information Paper—Labour Force Survey—Sample design* (6269.0).

#### Reliability of the estimates

16. 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.

17. 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 percent-

ages 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.

18. 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

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

*The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)—issued monthly

*Labour Force Experience, Australia* (6206.0)—issued annually

*Underemployed Workers, Australia, May 1985* (6265.0)—issued irregularly

*Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Australia, July 1988* (6222.0)—issued two yearly

*Employment, Underemployment and Unemployment 1966-1983, Australia* (6246.0)—issued irregularly

*Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience, Australia, June 1986* (6245.0)—issued irregularly

20. 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 16 above.
- . . . not applicable.

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

#### Electronic services

VIATEL. Key \*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) 52 6017.

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

Further information is available on (062) 52 5404.

#### Floppy disk service.

Selected ABS statistics are available on floppy disk. Further information is available on (062) 52 6684.

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#### STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate	Number	Relative standard error (per cent)	Size of estimate	Number	Relative standard error (per cent)
1,000	500	49.8	50,000	3,500	7.0
1,500	620	41.4	100,000	4,700	4.7
2,500	820	32.7	200,000	6,300	3.1
3,500	970	27.8	300,000	7,300	2.4
4,500	1,100	24.6	500,000	8,900	1.8
5,000	1,150	23.4	1,000,000	11,500	1.2
6,000	1,300	21.4	2,000,000	14,600	0.7
10,000	1,650	16.5	5,000,000	19,700	0.4
20,000	2,300	11.5	10,000,000	24,200	0.2

