



INQUIRIES

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PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK, MAY 1977 (PRELIMINARY)

MAIN FEATURES

- In May 1977, the number of persons looking for work was analysed according to family status, unemployment experience, main difficulty in finding a job, duration of last job and reason for leaving it.
- Unemployment rates for husbands and wives were —
 - husbands with dependent children present, 1.9 per cent
 - husbands without dependent children present, 1.8 per cent
 - wives with dependent children present, 4.8 per cent
 - wives without dependent children present, 3.1 per cent
- For heads of families who were not married, including those widowed, divorced and permanently separated, the unemployment rate was 7.1 per cent (males 6.2 per cent, females 7.6 per cent).
- 110,300 persons (or 35.5 per cent) reported that they had been unemployed for six months or more during the previous twelve months.
- 16.4 per cent reported that their main difficulty in finding a job was that there were no vacancies in their line of work.
- A further 30.4 per cent reported that there were no vacancies at all. In areas outside the six State capital cities the percentage in this category was 41.7.
- Of the 214,500 persons looking for work who had been wage or salary earners in their last job in 1976 or 1977, 90,500 persons (42.2 per cent) had left for reasons other than loss of job, retrenchment or termination of seasonal work. Of these, 34,300 had worked in their previous job for one year or more and 56,200 had worked less than one year.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

In May 1977 a survey, based on the quarterly population survey, was conducted throughout Australia in order to obtain information about persons who had recently been looking for work, including particulars of their last job, difficulties experienced in finding a job, educational attainment and family status. The results of similar surveys in May and November 1976 were published in *Persons Looking For Work* (Reference No. 6.60).

2. This statement contains only a summary of the more important results of the survey. More detailed estimates, which will be published in a bulletin to be issued as soon as possible, are available on request. The estimates shown are preliminary and are subject to revision.

The population survey

3. The survey is based on a multi-stage area sample of private dwellings (about 30,000 houses, flats, etc.) and non-private dwellings (hotels, motels, etc.), the information being obtained in February, May, August and November from the occupants of selected dwellings by carefully chosen and specially trained interviewers. Interviews are carried out during a period of four weeks, so that in each of the months to which the survey relates, there are four survey weeks, chosen so as to fall within the limits of the calendar month or with minimum encroachment into the adjacent months.

Scope

4. The estimates relate to all persons aged 15 years and over, except persons in institutions, members of the permanent armed forces and certain diplomatic personnel customarily excluded from census and estimated populations. Persons in institutions are those who were patients in hospitals and sanatoria, or inmates of gaols, reformatories, etc., and for whom, for the purpose of the survey, the institution was regarded as their dwelling.

Definitions

5. For this survey *persons looking for work* were defined as all civilians aged 15 years and over who during the survey week did not work and did not have a job, but could have taken one had it been available, and had been actively looking for full-time or part-time work in the four weeks up to and including the survey week (including persons who would have been prevented from taking a job in the survey week by their own temporary illness or injury, or by their having made arrangements to start after the survey week in a new job in which they would have preferred to start in the survey week). They therefore comprise all unemployed persons other than those waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been temporarily stood down without pay for four weeks or less, (including the whole of the survey week). In May 1977 there were an estimated 3,100 persons in this latter category.

6. A *family* was generally defined to consist of two or more persons living in the same household at the time of the survey, comprising the head of the family and spouse (if any) and any persons having any of the following relationships to them:

- (i) son or daughter of any age, if unmarried and not accompanied by children of his or her own
- (ii) brother or sister, if unmarried and not accompanied by parents or children of his or her own
- (iii) grandchild, if unmarried and not accompanied by either of his or her parents, nor by children of his or her own
- (iv) ancestor, if not married and not accompanied by children under 15 years of age of his or her own; or
- (v) any child under 15 years of age not accompanied by a parent, unless the child was related to some person in a second family in the household.

7. The following points should be noted in relation to the definition of a family in the previous paragraph:

- (i) family status was determined at the time of the survey. Thus, if members of the family were absent (e.g. children at boarding schools) the family status of the head and other family members could have been affected
- (ii) the term 'relationship' includes relationships by blood, marriage or adoption
- (iii) the marriage relationship includes legal and de facto relationships
- (iv) the term "not married" comprises never married, widowed, divorced and permanently separated persons

- (v) a family, as defined, can contain no more than two married persons, and can contain two married persons only if these persons are husband and wife.

Dependent children comprise all family members under 15 years of age and all family members aged 15 to 20 years who are full-time students.

Reliability of the estimates

8. Since the estimates in this statement are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if the information had been obtained from occupants of all dwellings. 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 in the survey. The smaller the estimate the higher is the relative standard error: for example, the relative standard error of an estimate of 300,000 is approximately 1.6 per cent (4,800) while that of an estimate of 3,000 is approximately 24 per cent (720). 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. Estimates less than 3,000 have not been shown as they would be subject to such high standard errors as to detract seriously from their value for most reasonable uses. More information on this topic, together with a table of estimated standard errors, is given in the quarterly bulletin *The Labour Force* (Reference No. 6.20).

Related publications

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

- . *The Labour Force* (Reference 6.20)
- . *Labour Mobility* (Reference 6.43)
- . *Labour Force Experience* (Reference 6.26)

10. An up-to-date list of population survey reports is given in *The Labour Force* (Reference No. 6.20) each quarter.

11. All publications produced by the ABS are listed in *Publications of the Australian Bureau of Statistics* (Reference No. 1.8) which is available free of charge from any ABS office.

Symbols and other usages

- * Subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses.
- .. Not applicable.

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

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Australian Statistician

TABLE 1. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK (a) : FAMILY STATUS (b), MAY 1976, NOVEMBER 1976 AND MAY 1977

Family status	May 1976			November 1976			May 1977		
	Number ('000)	Per cent of labour force (c)	Per cent of total	Number ('000)	Per cent of labour force (c)	Per cent of total	Number ('000)	Per cent of labour force (c)	Per cent of total
MALES									
Member of a family (b)	102.7	2.9	79.1	109.9	3.1	76.8	135.3	3.8	80.2
Husband	43.2	1.6	33.3	44.1	1.6	30.8	51.0	1.9	30.2
with dependent children (d) present	27.4	1.6	21.1	30.8	1.7	21.5	33.8	1.9	20.0
without dependent children (d) present	15.8	1.7	12.2	13.3	1.4	9.3	17.2	1.8	12.2
Not married (e) head of family	3.5	4.6	2.7	*	*	*	5.0	6.2	3.0
with dependent children (d) present	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
without dependent children (d) present	*	*	*	*	*	*	4.0	7.8	2.4
Full-time students 15-20 years of age	5.8	13.1	4.5	10.3	23.0	7.2	8.1	15.9	4.8
Other child (f) of family head	46.3	7.2	35.7	47.1	7.5	32.9	64.2	10.2	38.1
Other relative (parent, brother, etc.)	3.8	7.5	2.9	5.7	11.9	4.0	6.9	12.0	4.1
Not a member of a family (g)	27.1	6.2	20.9	33.2	7.2	23.2	33.4	7.1	19.8
Total	129.8	3.3	100.0	143.2	3.6	100.0	168.6	4.2	100.0
FEMALES									
Member of a family (b)	98.1	5.3	86.1	93.5	5.1	85.1	123.2	6.5	86.8
Wife	45.4	3.6	39.8	37.5	2.9	34.2	54.1	4.1	38.1
with dependent children (d) present	}			n.a.			36.7	4.8	25.8
without dependent children (d) present							17.4	3.1	12.3
Not married (e) head of family	6.2	5.1	5.5	5.7	5.1	5.2	9.7	7.6	6.8
with dependent children (d) present	4.9	6.5	4.3	4.5	6.3	4.1	7.4	9.5	5.2
without dependent children (d) present	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Full-time students 15-20 years of age	6.3	15.9	5.5	10.6	22.6	9.7	11.3	20.6	8.0
Other child (f) of family head	38.3	10.2	33.6	36.3	10.2	33.0	45.3	12.3	31.9
Other relative (parent, sister, etc.)	*	*	*	3.4	11.5	3.1	*	*	*
Not a member of a family (g)	15.8	5.4	13.8	16.4	5.6	14.9	18.8	6.3	13.2
Total	114.1	5.3	100.0	109.9	5.2	100.0	142.0	6.4	100.0
PERSONS									
Member of a family (b)	200.8	3.7	82.3	203.4	3.8	80.4	258.4	4.8	83.2
Husband or wife	88.6	2.2	36.3	81.7	2.0	32.3	105.1	2.6	33.8
with dependent children (d) present	}			n.a.			70.5	2.8	22.7
without dependent children (d) present							34.6	2.3	11.1
Not married (e) head of family	9.8	4.9	4.0	8.3	4.6	3.3	14.6	7.1	4.7
with dependent children (d) present	5.6	5.5	2.3	5.1	5.4	2.0	8.3	7.9	2.7
without dependent children (d) present	4.1	4.3	1.7	3.2	3.8	1.3	6.3	6.2	2.0
Full-time students 15-20 years of age	12.1	14.4	5.0	21.0	22.8	8.3	19.5	18.3	6.3
Other child (f) of family head	84.6	8.3	34.7	83.4	8.5	33.0	109.5	11.0	35.3
Other relative (parent, brother, etc.)	5.7	7.1	2.3	9.1	11.8	3.6	9.7	10.8	3.1
Not a member of a family (g)	43.0	5.9	17.6	49.6	6.6	19.6	52.2	6.8	16.8
Total	243.9	4.0	100.0	253.0	4.2	100.0	310.6	5.0	100.0

(a) For definition see page 2, paragraph 5. (b) See page 2, paragraphs 6 and 7. (c) The number of persons looking for work in each group as a percentage of the labour force in the same group. (d) Comprises all family members under 15 years of age and all family members aged 15 to 20 years who were full-time students. (e) Includes widowed, divorced and permanently separated. (f) Of any age. (g) Persons living by themselves or not related to any other member of the household in which they were living. n.a. — not available.

* Less than or based on a figure less than 3,000. See page 2, paragraph 8.

TABLE 2. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK (a) : NUMBER OF PERIODS OF UNEMPLOYMENT (b) AND DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT (b) IN PREVIOUS TWELVE MONTHS, MAY 1977 ('000)

Number of periods of unemployment in previous twelve months (b)	Duration of unemployment (b) in previous twelve months (weeks)								Total
	1 and under 2	2 and under 4	4 and under 8	8 and under 13	13 and under 26	26 and under 39	39 and under 52	52	
MALES									
One	7.8	12.4	13.4	14.2	24.7	14.0	6.2	20.0	112.6
Two	..	*	4.9	5.1	9.9	7.9	6.3	..	35.9
Three and over	..	*	*	*	7.6	6.3	3.6	..	20.1
Total	7.8	14.3	19.2	20.8	42.2	28.2	16.2	20.0	168.6
FEMALES									
One	8.8	15.4	14.5	14.5	26.9	8.8	5.4	15.6	110.0
Two	..	*	*	3.5	5.3	6.5	5.4	..	23.7
Three and over	..	*	*	*	*	*	*	..	8.3
Total	8.8	16.0	17.2	19.1	34.9	18.2	11.9	15.6	142.0
PERSONS									
One	16.6	27.7	27.9	28.7	51.5	22.8	11.6	35.7	222.6
Two	..	*	7.5	8.6	15.2	14.4	11.8	..	59.7
Three and over	..	*	*	*	10.4	9.2	4.7	..	28.3
Total	16.6	30.3	36.4	39.9	77.1	46.5	28.1	35.7	310.6

(a) For definition see page 1, paragraph 5. (b) Includes current period of unemployment.

* Less than 3,000. See page 2, paragraph 8.

TABLE 3. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK (a) : MAIN DIFFICULTY IN FINDING WORK, BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE AND BIRTHPLACE, MAY 1977

Main difficulty in finding work	Place of residence		Birthplace		Males	Females	Persons
	State capital cities (b)	Other areas	Australia	Overseas			
NUMBER ('000)							
Own ill health or handicap	10.1	5.3	9.4	6.1	12.4	3.0	15.4
Considered by employers to be too young or too old	17.2	12.7	20.3	9.5	13.9	15.9	29.8
Unsuitable hours	11.3	3.0	10.8	3.5	3.3	11.0	14.3
Too far to travel/transport problems	15.0	4.9	14.3	5.6	10.7	9.3	19.9
Lacked necessary education, training or skills	15.6	8.7	18.6	5.7	16.6	7.7	24.3
Insufficient work experience	23.1	7.6	24.0	6.7	13.2	17.5	30.7
No vacancies in line of work	31.3	19.7	36.4	14.6	32.0	19.0	51.0
No vacancies at all	43.8	50.6	69.4	24.9	51.2	43.2	94.4
Other difficulties (c)	10.8	3.8	7.1	7.5	6.1	8.5	14.6
No difficulties reported	11.1	5.1	12.0	4.2	9.4	6.8	16.2
Total	189.3	121.3	222.4	88.2	168.6	142.0	310.6
PER CENT							
Own ill health or handicap	5.3	4.4	4.2	6.9	7.3	2.1	5.0
Considered by employers to be too young or too old	9.1	10.4	9.1	10.8	8.2	11.2	9.6
Unsuitable hours	6.0	2.5	4.9	3.9	2.0	7.7	4.6
Too far to travel/transport problems	7.9	4.0	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.5	6.4
Lacked necessary education, training or skills	8.2	7.2	8.4	6.4	9.8	5.4	7.8
Insufficient work experience	12.2	6.2	10.8	7.6	7.8	12.4	9.9
No vacancies in line of work	16.6	16.2	16.4	16.5	19.0	13.4	16.4
No vacancies at all	23.1	41.7	31.2	28.3	30.4	30.4	30.4
Other difficulties (c)	5.7	3.1	3.2	8.5	3.6	6.0	4.7
No difficulties reported	5.9	4.2	5.4	4.7	5.6	4.8	5.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) For definition see page 2, paragraph 5. (b) The figures relate to persons residing within the boundaries of the relevant Statistical Divisions. Explanatory notes on the definition of urban boundaries and maps showing the boundaries of the capital city Statistical Divisions were published in *Census of Population and Housing, 30 June 1971 - Census Bulletin No. 6*. (c) Includes about 5,800 persons who reported their main difficulty was language problems or discrimination against migrants or racial groups.

* Less than, or based on a figure less than 3,000. See page 2, paragraph 8.

TABLE 4. PERSONS LOOKING FOR WORK (a) WHO WERE WAGE OR SALARY EARNERS IN THEIR LAST JOB
AND WHO FINISHED WORKING IN THAT JOB IN 1976 OR 1977 : AGE (b),
DURATION OF JOB AND REASON FOR LEAVING
(c'000)

Duration of last job	Age group (years)				Total		
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35 and over	Males	Females	Persons
LOST LAST JOB OR RETRENCHED (c)							
Under 2 weeks	4.8	*	3.2	*	5.7	*	8.4
2 weeks and under 8 weeks	14.5	6.4		5.2	17.6	10.8	28.5
8 weeks and under 26 weeks	14.5	7.9	6.3	5.5	23.9	10.4	34.2
26 weeks and under 52 weeks	7.2	5.5	*	4.4	13.2	5.8	19.0
1 year and under 2 years	4.2	4.1	4.5	5.4	8.9	4.5	13.4
2 years and under 3 years				3.1	4.1	3.7	7.8
3 years and under 5 years	*	*	*	3.0	3.9	*	6.3
5 years and over	*	*	*	5.3	4.7	*	6.4
Total	46.0	26.8	17.8	33.5	82.1	42.0	124.0
OTHER REASONS							
Under 2 weeks	*	*	*	*	*	*	4.0
2 weeks and under 8 weeks	6.4	3.0	5.1	*	7.2	6.2	13.4
8 weeks and under 26 weeks	9.1	7.1		4.2	12.1	10.9	23.0
26 weeks and under 52 weeks	3.2	5.7	3.2	3.6	7.7	8.1	15.8
1 year and under 2 years	3.0	3.7	3.0	3.0	5.7	7.0	12.7
2 years and under 3 years	*	3.0	3.8	3.0	3.6	4.7	8.3
3 years and under 5 years	*	*			*	3.6	5.1
5 years and over	*	*	*	5.2	6.6	*	8.3
Total	26.0	25.4	17.8	21.4	46.7	43.8	90.5
TOTAL							
Under 2 weeks	7.4	*	*	*	8.0	4.3	12.4
2 weeks and under 8 weeks	20.8	9.4	5.0	6.6	24.8	17.0	41.8
8 weeks and under 26 weeks	23.7	15.0	8.9	9.7	36.0	21.3	57.3
26 weeks and under 52 weeks	10.5	11.3	5.0	8.0	20.9	13.9	34.8
1 year and under 2 years	5.8	6.5	5.5	8.4	14.6	11.5	26.1
2 years and under 3 years	3.8	4.3	4.6	4.6	7.7	8.4	16.1
3 years and under 5 years			*	4.5	5.4	6.0	11.4
5 years and over	*	*	3.3	10.5	11.3	3.4	14.7
Total	71.9	52.1	35.6	54.9	128.7	85.6	214.5

(a) For definition see page 2, paragraph 5. (b) In May 1977. (c) Includes termination of seasonal jobs.

* Less than 3,000. See page 2, paragraph 8.

